

Research Notes

“Cult Crimes” and Fake News: Eye-Gouging in Shanxi

Holly Folk

Western Washington University

Holly.Folk@wwu.edu

In 2017, a group of Western scholars, including CESNUR’s Massimo Introvigne and Holly Folk, were invited to participate in a dialogue in China’s Henan province in June, followed by a conference in Hong Kong in September, involving Chinese law enforcement officers, leaders of China’s official “anti-xie-jiao” association, and Chinese academics. The dialogue was about the notion of xie jiao (an expression difficult to translate, and not exactly equivalent to the English “cult”) and one particular group classified in China as xie jiao, the Church of Almighty God, also known as Eastern Lightning. The dialogue led Western scholars to further investigate accusations against the Church of Almighty God. So far, the accusations investigated appear to be false.

ABSTRACT: On August 24, 2013, a six-year old boy called Guo Xiaobin was kidnapped by a woman who gouged out his eyes. The investigation on the horrific crime was followed with considerable emotion by Chinese public opinion, and was concluded by the police early in September 2013. The crime had been perpetrated by the boy’s aunt, Zhang Huiyeng, who had committed suicide on August 30, 2013. There were no references to religion in the Chinese media until the homicide committed in a McDonald’s diner in Zhaoyuan on May 28, 2014 was attributed by the Chinese authorities (falsely, as it later came out) to the Church of Almighty God. In June 2014, the attack on Guo Xiaobin was presented by Chinese anti-cult sources as perpetrated by the Church of Almighty God. No evidence of any involvement of the Church of Almighty God on the crime exists, and the government seems to have created the accusation after the McDonald’s incident to further justify its persecution of the Church, exploiting a century-old Chinese anti-Christian theme of accusing Christians of gouging out eyes.

KEYWORDS: Church of Almighty God, Eastern Lightning, Xie Jiao, New Religious Movements in China, Eye-Gouging Themes in China, Eye-Gouging Accusations Against Christians, Guo Xiaobin.

Massimo Introvigne’s research into the McDonald’s killing in Zhaoyuan (2014: Introvigne 2017) should throw into question other allegations of atrocious crimes made by the Chinese government against controversial religious

groups. Along with the McDonald’s accusation, and frequently reported in tandem with that “rumor,” is that the Church of Almighty God was responsible for the blinding of a 6-year-old boy in the Shanxi province in 2013. As with the McDonald’s case in Zhaoyuan, an examination of reports in the press raise questions about the involvement of the Church of Almighty God, or any other group, in this horrific crime.

The Case of “Little Bin Bin” in Shanxi

The maiming of a boy in Shanxi province was an international news story when it happened at the end of August 2013. I have reconstructed it based on the media reports mentioned in the bibliography. At the center of the case was an extended family in Linfen, Fenxi County: two brothers and their spouses and children. Guo Zhiping is the father of Guo Xiaobin, the boy who was blinded. His brother, Guo Zhicheng, was married to Zhang Huiyeng (1972–2013), identified by the police as the attacker. Originally, the families of Guo Zhiping and Guo Zhicheng lived in the same village, in houses that shared a yard. In 2007, to obtain a better education for his children, Guo Zhicheng rented a house in Quaojiashuang village, about twenty kilometers away.

The Zhang and Guo families had suffered ample hardship previously. Guo Xiaobin had been born with a cleft palate, and a neighbor told reporters his sister had drowned in a well around 2007. The elderly father of the Guo siblings had a medical condition (hemiplegia) that left him bedridden. For a while, the brothers and their sister shared in the care of the father. He lived with Guo Zhiping, but Guo Zhicheng and his wife, Zhang Huiyeng, contributed to his upkeep by paying 5,000 yuan a year for his care.

At the time of the maiming, the whole family was under considerable strain. In early 2013, Guo Zhiping injured his foot in a car accident, and became unable to work. Guo Zhiping’s wife found herself caring for her husband and paralyzed father-in-law. Soon thereafter, the other brother, Guo Zhicheng (Zhang Huiyeng’s husband) also was injured, leaving Zhang Huiyeng’s salary as the only income for both families. Zhang Huiyeng was likely under considerable stress as the sole earner. Nor was Zhang Huiyeng very much suited to her job as a chicken-gutter in a poultry-processing plant. It was widely reported that she had been psychologically damaged in childhood by the experience of being bitten by a

snake. Several reports on her mental instability noted she had a lifelong fear of blood. Despite her employment at a poultry plant, Zhang Huiyeng did not like to kill chickens.

Interviewed by *Beijing News*, Zhang Huiyeng's supervisor, "Manager Liu," explained that Zhang Huiyeng lived at the chicken farm during the week, because it was a forty-minute drive from her village of Quaojiaxhuang (*Beijing News* 2013). The chicken processing plant closed at 3 pm on August 24, which was a Saturday. The timing explained how she could commit the attack.

Guo Xiaobin was kidnapped at 6:30 pm on August 24. He was playing at home when a woman approached the yard, asking if anyone played mahjong at his house. The woman lured the boy away from his house. Allegedly, the attacker told the boy, "Don't cry, and I will not gouge out your eyes." She then did remove his eyes, with an unknown tool. Guo Xiaobin was found in a field about 11 pm that night. He may have been drugged before the attack.

Traumatized and disoriented, Guo Xiaobin seemed not to appear to understand what had happened to him, repeatedly asking his mother, "Why is it so dark?" He described the woman who abducted him as having "yellow hair," which the police suspected might have been a wig. She spoke with a foreign accent, perhaps to disguise her voice. Wang Wenli, Xiaobin's mother, said she did not know anyone who would want to hurt her son. She and Guo Zhiping ran a mahjong parlor at their home, but it appears to have been a small operation, patronized mostly by their neighbors—not a source of friction in the village.

Investigating the Murder

At first, the police thought they were investigating a ring of organ traffickers, and they offered a reward of more than \$16,000 for the capture of the attacker. Bin Bin's eyes were found at the scene, however, and organ theft soon was ruled out as a motive. On August 25, Zhang Huiyeng and Guo Zhicheng brought his father back to Quaojiaxhuang, because Xiaobin's family was tied up caring for him. This likely put additional pressure on Zhang Huiyeng as a caregiver.

Soon after the attack, a reporter from *Beijing News* visited the hometown of Xiaobin, and included commentary on the "wife of Guo Zhicheng" in the article, before she was named as a suspect. The reporter saw little that was unusual, but

later learned from villagers that the day before she died, Zhang Huiyeng had been speaking very strangely, saying “I am a ghost,” and “I am God.” Villagers speculated that the strange behavior of Zhang Huiyeng was triggered by the police investigation (*Beijing News* 2013). Guo Zhicheng also said she acted abnormally after the police inquiry.

On August 29, Zhang Huiyeng’s father was brought over to see her. He reported that Zhang Huiyeng was acting strangely, very scared, and he said someone had drugged her so that she could not control her body.

On August 30, Zhang Huiyeng committed suicide by jumping in a well. At around 6:30 in the morning, as Guo Zhicheng was making bread for breakfast, Zhang Huiyeng said she was not feeling well. She left the house, ostensibly to go to the neighbor’s. The family heard her jump, and Guo Zhicheng screamed for help. A man went down the well with a hemp rope, but he could not raise her out by himself. It took the help of a second villager, and Zhang Huiyeng had been submerged for ten minutes before she was pulled out. She went into cardiac arrest as they tried to rescue her. Despite attempts at resuscitation, Zhang Huiyeng was declared dead at the scene. Zhang Huiyeng was 41 years old when she died. A small woman, she was known to be quiet and not fond of talking. She was one of five adult children. Her brother and sister, Zhang Ruihua and Zhang Huihua, reported that Zhang Huiyeng had been timid and frightened to leave home since childhood. As mentioned earlier, she had been bitten by a snake when she was ten, and afraid of the outside after that. Zhang Huiyeng also was afraid of rain. She is said to have fainted when she heard news of her niece’s death in the well.

In his disoriented state, Guo Xiaobin had given conflicting descriptions of his attacker, at least once asserting her hair was long and black, not “yellow.” But Guo Xiaobin also described his attacker as wearing a purple shirt (“the color of grapes”), and the police traced a shirt belonging to Zhang Huiyeng matching that description. It was stained with blood that DNA testing revealed to be that of the boy. The police quickly closed their investigation after the suicide of Zhang Huiyeng, without citing religion as a potential motive. The family told reporters that the Guo brothers generally got along. Nor had there been previous conflict with Zhang Huiyeng, who like the rest of the family doted on Xiaobin. Rather, the aunt was remembered for giving her nephew choice pieces of food, like the best bits of sweet potato. Xiaobin’s father told the media he did not believe his sister was capable of the crime. Guo Zhiping attested to his sister-in-law’s weak

psychological state, but says relations with his brother and sister-in-law were “harmonious,” noting that Zhang Huiyeng loved her nephew.

Guo Xiaobin was treated at Shanxi Eye Hospital. A fundraising campaign led by Shanxi Provincial Women’s Association raised more than 160,000 yuan toward his medical care. He was released in December 2013, after being surgically fitted with prosthetic eyeballs. By that time, he had started to adjust to his blindness, and was learning basic tasks. Doctors expressed hope that, as he grew older, it might be possible to compensate for his lost vision with adaptive technologies or even “bionic eyes.”

Accusing the Church of Almighty God

It is worth noting that none of the reports mentioned the Church of Almighty God or any other religious group at the time of the incident. The first time the Church of Almighty God was mentioned in connection with the case of “little Bin Bin” was early June 2014, soon after the May 28 McDonald’s murder of Wu Shuoyan (1977–2014) in Zhaoyuan.

The earliest reports, the ones that launched the story, can be traced to official propaganda organizations. One of the first news stories accusing the Church of Almighty God was a report issued by the Henan Province Anti-Cult Association on June 5, 2014. In an article based on a news release from *Legal Evening News* (part of the Chinese state media), the report maintained that Xiaobin’s village had many Church of Almighty God’s followers, and framed attacks like that on Bin Bin as retaliation for his family’s desire to leave the group: “Boy’s eyes... is the price of retreat.” The story was also published in the pro-Chinese Taiwan daily *Want China Times*, from where it found its way to Wikipedia. The *Want China Times* has closed, though the original article can be read on archived sites.

Few Westerners are aware of the long history in China of associating Christians with eye-gouging. Furthermore, behind the association of Christians with eye gouging is a longer history of seeing it as religiously meaningful. Eye-gouging (*Kongyan*) is one of the tortures in the eighteen levels of Hell in Chinese mythology (Chen 2007, 163; Buckley Ebrey 2010, 178). Eye-gouging also is associated with Zhong Kui, a Taoist deity venerated as an expeller of demons (Huang 2012; Little and Eichman 2000, 272). Furthermore, one of the most

important legends about Kuan Yin revolves around Princess Miao Shan, who sacrificed her arms, hands and eyes (Dudbridge 1978).

In the 19th century, opponents of Western missionaries warned that Christians tore out the eyes and internal organs of Chinese, especially children, either as punishment for apostasy or alchemical purposes (Griffith 1891; Clark 2011, 53 and 226; Clark 2013, 97; Doyle 2015, 5; *The University of Hong Kong Bulletin* 2015). In one source, Chinese readers were warned that Europeans needed the eyes of Chinese to refine silver from lead (Vaudagna 1892). Eye-gouging was popularized during the Boxer Rebellion through pamphlets and didactic cartoon posters (Cleveland 1900; *The Literary Digest* 1900; Cohen 1997, 164–170; Preston 2000, 25–28).

The horrifying incident in Shanxi closely tracked the imagined horrors of anti-Christian rhetoric, to present a golden moment for anti-cult propaganda. Scholars and journalists should be aware that charges of atrocities made by the Chinese government against banned *xie jiao* religious groups often cannot be substantiated. To date, the Chinese government has not produced any evidence to support the accusation that the Church of Almighty God was involved in the attack on Guo Xiaobin. The accusation surfaced only after the McDonald’s murder, some nine months after the investigation had been closed. This incident seems to be a second instance, after the McDonald’s murder in Zhaoyuan, of the government falsely accusing the Church of Almighty God of violent crimes.

References

Articles, Arranged Chronologically (all accessed December 2–5, 2017)

— 27 August 2013

Osborne, Hannah. “China: Organ Trafficker Drugs Boy, 6, and Gouges out His Eyes for Buyer.” *International Business Times*.

<http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/china-boy-eyes-gouged-organ-trafficking-501815>.

Reuters. “Chinese Boy Has Eyes Gouged Out, Possibly for Corneas.”

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-crime/chinese-boy-has-eyes-gouged-out-possibly-for-corneas-idUSBRE97R0A920130828>.

— 28 August 2013

Associated Press, Beijing. “Chinese Police Hunt Woman Who Gouged out Boy’s Eyes.” Reprinted in *The Guardian*.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/aug/28/chinese-boy-eyes-gouged-out>.

BBC News. “Young Chinese Boy’s Eyes Gouged out in Attack.”

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-23846633>.

Cheng, Zheng, and Fan Meiling. “Shanxi 6-Year-Old with Eyes Gouged: Attending Doctor Wept While Discussing his Condition.” *China News*.

<http://www.chinanews.com/sh/2013/08-28/5217032.shtml>.

Sheridan, Michael. “Woman Rips out 6-Year-Old Boy’s Eyes in China, Leaving Child Blind for Life: Authorities.” *New York Daily News*.

<http://www.nydailynews.com/news/world/woman-rips-6-year-old-boy-eyes-china-leaving-child-blind-life-authorities-article-1.1439124>.

Taylor, Adam. “Chinese Police Offer \$16,000 Reward to Catch Woman Suspected of Gouging 6-Year-Old’s Eyes Out.” *Business Insider*.

<http://www.businessinsider.com/chinese-woman-gouges-6-year-olds-eyes-out-2013-8>.

Xinhua News. “China Police Hunt for Woman Gouging Boy’s Eyes.” Reposted on *Capital News – Kenya*.

<https://www.capitalfm.co.ke/news/2013/08/china-police-hunt-for-woman-gouging-boys-eyes>.

— 29 August 2013

Hou, Liqiang, and Cheng Hong. “Searching for Clues in Eye-Gouging Attack.” *China Daily*.

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2013-08/29/content_16927875.htm.

— 30 August 2013

AsiaNews. “Reward for the Arrest of Organ Trafficker Who Gouged out Child’s Eyes.”

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Reward-for-the-arrest-of-organ-trafficker-who-gouged-out-child%27s-eyes-28877.html>.

— 31 August 2013

Beijing News. “Aunt of Eye-Gouged Boy in Shanxi Jumps to Her Death; Called Herself a Ghost and God.” Posted on *Sina Wuxi*.

<http://wx.sina.com.cn/news/s/2013-08-31/084124784.html>.

— 1 September 2013

Beijing Daily. “Boy’s Aunt Who Jumped in Well Was Mentally Ill.”

<http://news.163.com/13/0901/02/97LEBV8200014AED.html>.

NetEase. “Bin Bin Case—The Latest Progress.” *Evening News Shandong*.

<http://health.qlwb.com.cn/2013/0901/33484.shtml>.

— 3 September 2013

ABC News Australia. “Chinese Boy Who Had His Eyes Gouged out May Regain Sight Through ‘Electronic’ Vision.”

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-09-04/chinese-boy-in-eye-gouging-attack-to-get-electronic-eyes/4936238>.

Bond, Anthony. “Aunt of Chinese Boy, 6, Who Had His Eyes Gouged out Becomes Prime Suspect after She Jumps to Her Death down Village Well Covered in His Blood.” *The Daily Mail*.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2410172/Aunt-Chinese-boy-6-eyes-gouged-prime-suspect-jumped-death-village-covered-blood.html#ixzz508JYOM2a>.

Hongpeng, Li (for *Legal Evening News*). “Revenge Claimed for Boy With Gouged Eyes: Reporters Verify there is no Dispute or Grievances.” *China News*.

<http://www.chinanews.com/fz/2013/09-03/5239007.shtml>.

Reuters. “Chinese Police Suspect Aunt of Gouging Out Boy’s Eyes.” *Reuters World News*.

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-china-boy/chinese-police-suspect-aunt-of-gouging-out-boys-eyes-idUKBRE98307X20130904>.

Xinhua News. “Late Aunt Suspected in Eye-gouged Boy Case.” Posted on *China.org.cn*.

http://www.china.org.cn/china/2013-09/03/content_29916177.htm.

— 4 September 2013

Associated Press (a). “Aunt Who ‘Gouged out Kid’s Eyes’ Kills Self in Well Jump.” Reprinted in *The New York Post*.

<https://nypost.com/2013/09/04/aunt-who-gouged-out-kids-eyes-kills-self-in-well-jump>.

Associated Press (b). “China Police Say Aunt Likely Gouged out Boy’s Eyes.” Reprinted in *Philadelphia Inquirer*.

- <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/480871/china-police-say-aunt-likely-gouged-out-boys-eyes>.
- Associated Press* (c). “China Police Say Aunt Likely Gouged out Boy’s Eyes, Then Killed Herself.” Posted on Fox News
<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/09/04/police-in-china-suspect-woman-who-gouged-out-boy-eyes-was-aunt-who-later-killed.html>.
- Associated Press* (d). “Chinese Police Suspect Woman Who Gouged out Boy’s Eyes Was Aunt Who Later Killed Herself.” Reprinted in *National Post*.
<http://nationalpost.com/news/chinese-police-suspect-woman-who-gouged-out-boys-eyes-was-aunt-who-later-killed-herself>.
- Associated Press*, Beijing (a). “Aunt Gouged out Boy’s Eyes, Chinese Authorities Say.” Reprinted in *The Guardian*.
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/sep/04/aunt-gouged-boys-eyes-chinese>.
- Associated Press*, Beijing (b). “Aunt Suspected of Gouging out Chinese Boy’s Eyes.” Reprinted in *The Guardian*.
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/sep/04/aunt-suspected-gouging-chinese-boy-eyes>.
- BBC News*. “China Eye-gouge Case: Boy’s Late Aunt Named as Suspect.”
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-23940501>.
- Emirates 24/7 News*. “Did Evil Aunt Gouge out 6-year-old Boy’s Eyes?”
<http://www.emirates247.com/news/did-evil-aunt-gouge-out-6-year-old-boy-s-eyes-2013-09-04-1.519834>.
- George, Steve. “Police Close Case on Eye Attack but Questions Remain.” *That’s Beijing*.
<http://www.thatsmags.com/beijing/post/1256/police-close-case-on-eye-attack-but-questions-remain>.
- Hou, Liqiang. “Police Name Attacker Who Took Boy’s Eyes.” *China Daily*.
http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2013-09/04/content_16941830.htm.
- Reuters*. “Chinese Police Suspect Aunt of Gouging out Boy’s Eyes.” Reprinted in *The Chicago Tribune*.
http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2013-09-04/news/sns-rt-china-boy-20130903_1_chinese-police-six-year-old-boy-corneas.
- The Malay Mail Online*. “Hong Kong Doctor Offers Implants to Eye-gouged Boy.”
<http://www.themalaymailonline.com/world/article/hong-kong-doctor-offers-implants-to-eye-gouged-boy#jyHWJiQOFxmWVJxr.99>.
- The Weekend Australian*. “Aunt Gouged out Boy’s Eyes: Chinese Police.”

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/latest-news/aunt-gouged-out-boys-eyes-china-police/news-story/2f364b3ff38adef1c06b44f4f8e57478>.

Wong, Gillian (for Associated Press). “China Police Say Aunt Likely Gouged Out Boy’s Eyes.” *San Diego Union Tribune*.

<http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/sdut-china-police-say-aunt-likely-gouged-out-boys-eyes-2013sep04-story.html>.

Yan, Yanhua. “Shanxi Boy’s Eyes Were Gouged; Aunt Announced as Suspect.” *Xinhuanet.com*.

http://news.xinhuanet.com/photo/2013-09/04/c_125316346.htm.

— 5 September 2013

China Daily.com. “Police Disclose Details of Blinded Boy Case.”

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2013-09/05/content_16947100.htm.

Sheridan, Michael. “6-year-old Boy’s Aunt Cut out His Eyes in Gruesome Attack in China, Cops Say, as More than \$160,000 in Donations Go to Help Child.” *New York Daily News*.

<http://www.nydailynews.com/news/world/6-year-old-boy-aunt-cut-eyes-gruesome-attack-china-police-article-1.1446625>.

Sydney Morning Herald. “Boy’s Eyes Gouged Out: Suspect Dead, Say Police.”

<http://www.smh.com.au/world/boys-eyes-gouged-out-suspect-dead-say-police-20130904-2t666>.

The Wimmera Times. “Boy’s Eyes Gouged Out: Suspect Dead, Say Police.”

<http://www.mailtimes.com.au/story/1755267/boys-eyes-gouged-out-suspect-dead-say-police/?cs=224>.

Xinhua. “Police Disclose Details of Blinded Boy Case.” Reprinted in *Shanghai Daily*.

<http://mobile.shanghaidaily.com/nation/Police-disclose-details-of-blinded-boy-case/shdaily.shtml>.

Zhou, Laura. “Boy’s Eyes Gouged out by His Aunt, Police Say.” *South China Morning Post*.

<http://www.scmp.com/news/china/article/1303505/boys-eyes-gouged-out-his-aunt-police-say>.

— 17 September 2013

Hu, Zhaohui. “Liu Xiwei: The Case of Eye-Gouged Boy—Female Suspect was Mentally Ill.” *Guangzhou Hu Zhaohui Lawyer's Blog*.

http://blog.sina.com.cn/s/blog_5dec1610102env6.html.

— 19 September 2013

Li, Li. “Watching Over Our Children.” *Beijing Review*.

http://www.bjreview.com/nation/txt/2013-09/16/content_568053.htm.

— 12 December 2013

Miller, Tracy. “Chinese Boy Whose Eyes Were Gouged out Recovers from Prosthetic Eye Surgery.” *New York Daily News*.

<http://www.nydailynews.com/life-style/health/chinese-boy-eyes-gouged-receives-prosthetic-eyes-article-1.1545445>.

Ng, Naomi. “Chinese Boy, Whose Eyes Were Gouged Out, Leaves Hospital.” *CNN*.

<http://www.cnn.com/2013/12/12/world/asia/guo-bin-hospital-release/index.html>.

— 16 December 2013

New China TV. “Eye Gouging Victim Leaves Hospital.”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7VTesTSSfKs>.

— 1 June 2014

Network of Shanxi Rule of Law. “News that Eye-gouged 6-Year-Old in Linfen was in Almighty God Cult.” *Rule of Law Shandong Network*

<http://www.fzsdzk.com/shengshi/shanxi/2014-06-01/20572.html>.

Lai, Ting-Heng and Staff Reporter. “Chinese Doomsday Cult Expands to Taiwan.” *Want China Times*.

<http://www.wantchinatimes.com/news-subclass-cnt.aspx?id=20140602000109&cid=1103>

[The link has been removed, but can be found archived at <https://archive.li/http://www.wantchinatimes.com/news-subclass-cnt.aspx?id=20140602000109&cid=1103>].

— 5 June 2014

Henan Province Anti-Cult Association. “Eye-gouged Boy in Shanxi Quit Almighty God for the Local Church.”

<http://www.hnfxj.org/html/xwpd/xjdg/sjs/zhaoyuan/5120.html>.

— 20 June 2014

Hong, Brendon. “Is This the Scariest Doomsday Sect in China?” *The Daily*

Beast.

<https://www.thedailybeast.com/is-this-the-scariest-doomsday-sect-in-china>.

— 7 August 2014

Tsang, Emily. “Blind Bin-Bin Gets Futuristic Glasses to Help Him ‘See’ via Pulses on Tongue.” *South China Morning Post*.

<http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/article/1568287/new-orientation-technology-offers-help-young-eye-gouging-victim-bin>.

— 14 August 2015

Wolfe, Vitamin. “Wishing for the Apocalypse: Ushering in the End Times with Fringe Religions.” *Myanmar Times*.

<https://www.mmtimes.com/lifestyle/15979-wishing-for-the-apocalypse-ushering-in-the-end-times-with-fringe-religions.html>.

— 26 August 2016

Shuang, Feng. “Do You Still Remember the Eyes-Gouged Boy?” *All China Women’s Federation / Women of China*.

<http://www.womenofchina.cn/womenofchina/html1/news/newsmakers/1608/3472-1.htm>.

— 30 July 2017

Cina Oggi. “Videos and Propaganda Images of the Chinese Doomsday Cult ‘Church of Almighty God.’” Reprinted in *China Underground*.

<https://china-underground.com/2017/07/30/videos-propaganda-images-chinese-doomsday-cult-church-almighty-god>.

Eye-Gouging Themes in China

A. Eye-Gouging in Chinese Mythology

Buckley Ebrey, Patricia. 2010. *The Cambridge Illustrated History of China*. 2nd edition. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Chen, Fan Pen Li. 2007. *Chinese Shadow Theatre: History, Popular Religion, and Women Warriors*. Montreal: McGill-Queen’s Press.

Dudbridge, Glen. 1978. *The Legend of Miao-Shan*. London: Ithaca Press.

Huang, Amy. 2012. “Zhong Kui, The Demon Queller.” *Shape of Good Fortune*, January 21. Accessed December 10, 2017. <https://blogs.brown.edu/hiaa->

1040h-s01/2012/01/21/zhong-kui-the-demon-queller.

Little, Stephen, and Shawn Eichman. *Taoism and the Arts of China*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

B. Anti-Christian Eye-Gouging Themes

Cleveland, Harold Irwin. 1900. *Massacres of Christians by Heathen Chinese and Horrors of the Boxers*. Philadelphia: National Publishing Company.

Clark, Anthony E. 2011. *China's Saints: Catholic Martyrdom During the Qing (1644–1911)*. Lanham (Maryland): Lexington Books.

Clark, Anthony E. 2013. "Mandarins and Martyrs of Taiyuan, Shanxi, in Late Imperial China." In *A Voluntary Exile: Chinese Christianity and Cultural Confluence Since 1552*, edited by Anthony E. Clark, 93–116. Lanham (Maryland): Rowman & Littlefield.

Cohen, Paul A. 1997. *History in Three Keys: The Boxers as Event, Experience, and Myth*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Doyle, G. Wright. 2015. *Builders of the Chinese Church: Pioneer Protestant Missionaries and Chinese Church Leaders*. Eugene (Oregon): Wipf and Stock Publishers.

Griffith, John. 1891. *The Cause of the Riots in the Yangtse [Yangzi] Valley: 'A Complete Picture Gallery.'* [Chinese – In Accord with the Imperial Edict: Complete Illustrations of the Heretical Religion]. Hankow, China: n.p. Available online at *MIT–Visualizing Cultures*. Accessed December 5, 2017. https://ocw.mit.edu/ans7870/21f/21f.027/cause_of_the_riots/cr_book_02.html.

Preston, Dana. 2000. *The Boxer Rebellion: The Dramatic Story of China's War on Foreigners That Shook the World in the Summer of 1900*. New York: Bloomsbury Publishing USA.

The Literary Digest. 1900. "Chinese Anti-Christian Cartoons." *The Literary Digest* 21,7:199.

The University of Hong Kong Bulletin. 2015. "Grisly Rumours and Secret Spaces." *The University of Hong Kong Bulletin* 26, 2 (May). Accessed December 5, 2017.

https://www4.hku.hk/pubunit/Bulletin/2015_May_Vol.16_No.2/research/page2.html.

Vaudagna, [Father] Angelo. 1892. "Notizie—Nu-Pè (Cina)." *Le Missioni Cattoliche. Bullettino Settimanale Illustrato dell'opera La Propagazione Della Fede* 21:218–219.

“Fake News” About The Church of Almighty God

Introvigne, Massimo. 2017. “‘Cruel Killing, Brutal Killing, Kill the Beast’: Investigating the 2014 McDonald’s ‘Cult Murder’ in Zhaoyuan.” *The Journal of CESNUR* 1:61–73. Accessed December 12, 2017. http://cesnur.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/tjoc_1_1_6_introvigne_ter.pdf.