

**Bio**

André Bueno is an adjunct professor of Oriental History at the State University of Rio de Janeiro-UERJ, having experience in the areas of Ancient History, Confucianism, Classical Chinese Thought, Intercultural Dialogues and History Teaching. Is member of the Latin American Association of Afro-Asian Studies ALADAA, the Brazilian Network of Chinese Studies and the Iberoamerican Sinology Network. He coordinates the Orientalism Project, for the dissemination of Asian cultures in Brazil.

**Title**

Confucius, spiritual mentor of Spiritism in Brazil

**Abstract**

During the period of the Second Empire of Brazil (1840-1889), Allan Kardec's Spiritism quickly spread among several layers of Brazilian society. In 1873, the first official Spiritist group was founded in the city of Rio de Janeiro, capital of the Empire: and the name of this group was “Society of Spiritist Studies – Confucius Group”, in honor of the spirit that transmitted the first spiritual messages to mediums. At a time of deep social and political conflicts, motivated by the debate on whether or not to bring thousands of Chinese workers to Brazil, the appearance of the Confucian spirit can be understood as a powerful sign about how many intellectuals understood the importance of Chinese culture for the Brazilian society. The Confucius Group would work for three years, translating Allan Kardec's works into Portuguese and strongly promoting Homeopathy as an accessible health alternative. In this presentation, we intend to discuss the reasons that could lead the Confucius spirit to manifest itself in Brazil in 1873, the implications for the dissemination of Kardecist Spiritism in Brazil and the religious and cultural clashes that involved Brazilian Orientalism and the reception of Chinese religiosities.