

Bio

Guilherme Amaral Luz is PhD in Cultural History (UNICAMP) and Full Professor at the History Institute of Uberlandia Federal University (UFU) in Brazil. He has been developing studies on the global diffusion of Asian martial culture and its local/regional transformation in Brazil.

Title

The Mysterious Warriors: Aikido and Taijiquan in the beginning of the 20th Century

Abstract:

The aim of this paper is to present preliminary results of a recently started research project on religion and modern Eastern-Asian martial culture in the first half of the 20th Century. By comparing both the writings and the martial systems developed by Sun Lutang (China, 1861-1933) and by Morihei Ueshiba (Japan, 1883-1969), we focus on their aesthetic-spiritual dimensions to set light on the role of concepts such as myth, marvel and mystery in modern martial systems. This paper specifically investigates the connections between the figure of Xuan Wu in Sun Lutang's Taijiquan and Ueshiba's Aikido mysterious hierophany.