

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910828476203321
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Titolo	Mandarins and heretics : the construction of "heresy" in Chinese state discourse // by Junqing Wu
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Leiden ; ; Boston : , : Brill, , [2017] ©2017
ISBN	90-04-33140-9
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (190 pages)
Collana	Religion in Chinese societies, , 1877-6264 ; ; volume 11
Disciplina	299.5/1165
Soggetti	Religion and state - China - History Cults - China - History Sects - China - History Religion and politics - China - History China Religion History
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Mandarin wine in Western wineskins: terminological problems -- A pre-history: black magic and Messianism in early political and -- Legal discourse -- Landscape of late imperial religious life -- Black magic in the heresy construct -- Messianism in the heresy construct -- Victims of the heresy construct -- Heresy in the modern era: transmission and transformation.
Sommario/riassunto	"In Mandarins and Heretics, Wu Junqing explores the denunciation and persecution of lay religious groups in late imperial (14th to 20th century) China. These groups varied greatly in their organisation and teaching, yet in official state records they are routinely portrayed as belonging to the same esoteric tradition, stigmatised under generic labels such as "White Lotus" and "evil teaching", and accused of black magic, sedition and messianic agitation. Wu Junqing convincingly demonstrates that this "heresy construct" was not a reflection of historical reality but a product of the Chinese historiographical tradition, with its uncritical reliance on official sources. The imperial heresy construct remains influential in modern China, where it contributes to shaping policy towards unlicensed religious groups."--

