

## **Revival and Controversy of Chinese Popular Religions in Central Java: A Heritage Renovation Project of Sam Poo Kong Temple in Semarang**

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### **Bio-data:**

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### **Abstract:**

Sam Poo Kong Temple is a famous Chinese temple located in Semarang, a city is on the north coast of central Java, where is believed that Zheng He and his armada once laid off and landed on that area in the early 15th century, during an occasion in his diplomatic missions (AD 1405-1433). Zheng He's legendary debarkation point later became a sacred site and was gradually built as a Chinese temple, Sam Po Kong for worship. The fall of Suharto in May 1998 brought about the empowerment of Chinese-Indonesians, encouraging the local Chinese community to renovate the temple since 2000. This paper intends to discuss controversies about two issues: how the temple decided to enclose the public space for renovating it as a new site of cultural heritage by charging admission and why the local community was aggravated by this project, trying to claim their "public worship sphere."