

B008 - Revisiting the Jin from Digital, Political, Geocultural, and Long-Term Perspectives

📅 Friday, March 17, 2023

🕒 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

📍 *Hynes Convention Center - Meeting Room 111 (Plaza Level)*

Much is yet to be told about the Jurchen Jin dynasty (1115–1234). Dismissed as either an illegitimate, alien regime compared to the Chinese-ruled Song dynasty (960–1279), or a scaled-down predecessor of the Mongol Yuan empire (1271–1368), the Jin dynasty is often mentioned in passing. Our panel, however, argues for its persistent presence in both space (North China) and time (middle and late imperial periods), whose cultural achievement and historical significance deserve a re-evaluation in modern scholarship. Getting rid of the conventional notion of a “(semi-)nomadic” or “barbarian” polity, we want to revisit the Jin by adopting interdisciplinary, cultural-historical, and long-term perspectives.

Shoufu Yin traces rhetorical training and political imagination under Jurchen rule, situating the Jin intellectual breakthroughs in broader contexts of Eurasian transformations. Julia C. Schneider addresses the issue of how Jurchen Jin history was narrated by Ming historians, and why Qing censors found some of their histories worth censoring. In the realm of Jin poetry, Lili Xia applies Digital Humanities tools to envision the social networks of a full-fledged Jin literati community. Finally, Wanmeng Li uses literary works and the ArcGIS StoryMaps to showcase Jin literati’s efforts in emplacing themselves in Chinese cultural geography after the Mongol conquest.

On the whole, our panel demonstrates the Jurchen polity’s aptitude for appropriating Chinese claims to their own versions of civilization. Eventually, we not only want to draw an in-depth picture of Jin dynasty history and culture, but also ponder over the multivalency of “China” via this alternative model.

Organizers



Lili Xia
Princeton University



Shoufu Yin
University of British Columbia

Chair



Stephen West
Arizona State University

Discussant





Soojung Han
Southwestern University

Presentations

Eloquence Studies and Political Imagination Under Jurchen Rule

Shoufu Yin, *University of British Columbia*

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Telling Jurchen Jin History: The Qianlong Emperor's Censorship of Ming Books

Julia Schneider, *University College Cork*

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Networking Late Jin Poets and Poetry: Interpersonal Communication and Intergenerational Genealogy As Two Approaches

Lili Xia, *Princeton University*

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Yuan Haowen's Representation of the Jinan Landscape and His Cultural Geographical Orientation upon the Fall of Jin

Wanmeng Li, *Occidental College*

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