
E001 - Distance, Dispute, and Distaste: New Perspectives on the Formation and Dissolution of Social Relationships in Middle Period China

 Friday, March 15, 2024

 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM

 Room 211 (Level 2, Convention Center)

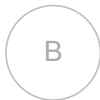
This panel investigates the ways in which social relationships deteriorated and collapsed and how such breakdowns contributed to personal, communal, political, and social structural changes in middle-period China (960-1279). Diverging from existing scholarship that emphasizes patronage and bonding within society at the time, this panel addresses three key questions: (1) How did historical actors perceive hostility and alienation? (2) In what ways did various factors—emotional, institutional, and political—impact and transform public and private relationships? (3) How did these "negative" relationships, in turn, drive historical changes? Zoe Lin demonstrates the ways in which commoners deployed state policies to legitimately express hostility and challenge local officials and government. Lik Hang Tsui investigates the role of geographical distance in shaping educated elites' perceptions of social connections and its impact on the sense of alienation and estrangement. Ellen Zhang examines the eventful histories of two powerful statesmen, illustrating the interplay of friendship and rivalry in elite life within both public and personal spheres. Yung-chang Tung explores how personal emotions, particularly resentment, functioned as a political discourse in times of conflict. By delving into the history of "breaking-up," these four papers highlight the uncertainties and contingency of public and personal relationships that were constantly threatened by structural and contingent factors. By emphasizing the role of emotion, distance, rivalry, and hostility, this panel thus proposes a new multidimensional framework to reconsider the mechanisms through which social and emotional connections were shaped, reshaped, and broken not only in Song times but in broader Chinese history.

Organizer



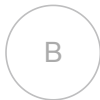
Yung-chang Tung
Academia Sinica

Chair



Beverly Bossler
Brown University

Discussant



Beverly Bossler
Brown University

Presentations

The Ups and Downs of a Relationship: Fu Bi and Han Qi As Friends, Allies, Rivals, and Strangers (1030s-1070s)

Cong Ellen Zhang, *University of Virginia*

 Room 211 (Level 2, Convention Center)

Beyond Physical Realities: Interpreting Narratives of Distance and Space from the Southern Song

Lik Hang Tsui, *City University of Hong Kong*

 Room 211 (Level 2, Convention Center)


Legalized Hostility: Lawsuits Against Local Governments in Southern Song China

Zoe Shan Lin, Colby College

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Nothing Personal, until It Was: The Politics of Resentment in Middle Period China

Yung-chang Tung, Academia Sinica

 *Room 211 (Level 2, Convention Center)*

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