

QUESTIONING BOUNDARIES

Contemporary Approaches to Tang China

Through the generous support of the Tang Research Foundation
and the Elling Eide Center.

April 25-26, 2025
Elling Eide Center Research Library, Sarasota, Florida

Conference Schedule

Friday, April 25, 2025 (Eide Library)

8:00-8:15 a.m. **Opening Remarks**

Anthony DEBLASI, President, T'ang Studies Society
Nicholas WILLIAMS, Editor, *Tang Studies*

8:15-10:15 **Framing Identity during the T'ang Dynasty**
(Chair: LUO Manling, Indiana University)

Christopher I. BECKWITH, Indiana University: "How Did T'ang Chinese Sound?
New Research on Phonetic Transcriptions in and of Central Eurasian Languages
Nikita KUZMIN, Independent Scholar: "Early Tanguts and the Tang Dynasty: Case
Study of Tangut Odes, Tibetan Annals, and Chinese Chronicles"
ZHOU Jingyi, Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, NYU: "Multifaceted
Identity of Exile and Diaspora: Textiles from the Tomb of Murong Zhi in Tang
China"
ZHOU Shiwei, University of Washington: "Boundaries Eroded: The Late Tang's
Novel Approach to the Literary Practice of Remonstrance"

10:15-10:30 Coffee Break

10:30-12:30 **Poetic History in Tang China**
(Chair: Nicholas Williams, Arizona State University)

Zach BERGE-BECKER, University of Michigan: "Poets' (*shiren* 詩人) Who Didn't
Know It: Categorizing Poetry Writers in Tang China (618 – 907)
Yuanqiu JIANG, The Chinese University of Hong Kong: "Echoes of a Moribund
State: Tang Rewritings of Two Sets of Heterometric Lyrics from the Liang
Court"
LI Jiaxuan, National University of Singapore: "Writing Poems about Not Being Able
to Write Poems: Questioning the Boundaries of Poetry in the Late Tang Period
(827—907)"
Thomas MAZANEC, University of California, Santa Barbara: "The Late, Late Tang:
Notes Toward a New Literary History of the Tang-Song Transition"

12:30-1:30 Lunch catered for registered participants on-site.

1:30-3:30 **Religious Diversity during the Tang Era**

(Chair: Jessey CHOO, Rutgers University)

WU Wei, Arizona State University: “From Garden to Paradise: Li Deyu’s 李德裕
Pingquan Mountainous Villa 平泉山莊”

Elsa CUIILLÉ, University of Strasbourg: “Omens Experts: Diviners in Tang Dynasty
Tales”

HUANG Rong, New York University: “Apophatic Theology in Jingjiao Dunhuang
Texts: The Interaction Between East Syriac Christianity, Buddhism, and
Daoism”

Keith KNAPP, The Citadel: “The Birth of Popular Confucianism: Evidence from
Dunhuang of the Creation of the Twenty-four Filial Exemplars”

3:30-3:45 Coffee Break

3:45-5:15 **Writing the History of the Tang**

(Chair: Anthony DeBlasi, University at Albany)

Frankie Hin Ming CHIK, University of Pittsburgh: “Questioning the Confucian
Classics: Liu Zhiji’s Skepticism on Accounts of Abdication and Early Tang
Political Culture”

HAN Zhonghui, Fudan University: “From ‘Karmic Retribution’ to ‘Blaming
Empress Wu Zhao’: Narrative Shift in the Historical Memory of Zhangsun Wuji
(594-659)”

Alexei DITTER, Reed College: “The Stuff of Memory: Oral and Written Sources of
Late Medieval *Muzhiming*”

5:30-7:30 **Welcome Reception & Introduction to the Elling Eide Center**

All Participants and Invited Guests

Saturday, April 26, 2025 (Eide Library)

8:15-10:15 **Culture and the Senses in the Tang and Five Dynasties Period**
(Chair: Xin WEN, Princeton University)

Leslie WALLACE, Coastal Carolina University: “The Caged Bird Speaks: An Animal-Studies Approach to the History of Parrots during the Tang Dynasty”
Flavia Xi FANG, Institute of Historical Research, University of London: “Sensorial Perceptions and Ethnocultural Identities in Tang China”
Linda FENG, University of Toronto: “Aromatics and the Language of Sensorial Connoisseurship in Late Tang and Five Dynasties Literature”
Michael FULLER, University of California, Irvine (Emeritus): “Welcoming Neuroscience in the Reading of Tang Poetry”

10:15-10:30 Coffee Break

10:30-12:30 **Boundary-crossing in Tang and Five Dynasties Literary Culture**
(Chair: Anna M. SHIELDS, Princeton University)

DU Yalin, Princeton University: “To Break the Circle of Boundary-breaking: Taizong’s Silenced Amnesty and the Silencing of a Historical Trope”
Filippo UGOLINI, Princeton University: “Between *nei* 内 and *wai* 外: Tang Women and Class Boundaries”
Anna SHIELDS, Princeton University: “The Textual Diaspora of the Tang-Song Interregnum: Literary Transmission Across Social & Geographic Boundaries”
ZHENG Yiwen, Indiana University: “Awkward Encounters: Intellectuals Meeting the Xia in A Five Dynasties Tale”

12:30-1:30 Lunch catered for registered participants on-site.

- 1:30-3:45 **The Tang Empire and Its World**
(Chair: Jonathan SKAFF, Shippensburg University)
- Maddalena BARENGHI, Ca' Foscari University: "Shifting Borders, State Spaces, and Military Resources in the Late Eighth-Century Tang Western Peripheries"
Andrew CHITTICK, Eckerd College: "Sino-Southeast Asian Exchange in the 7th-8th centuries CE"
Michael DROMPP, Rhodes College (Emeritus): "Sogdian Frontier Crossings between Inner Asia and China"
HAN Soojung, Southwestern University: "To Become Friendly with One's Neighbor: Changes to Diplomatic Relations through Marriage Alliance Systems in Middle Period China (304-907)"
Shao-yun YANG, Denison University: "The Iron Pass and the Country of Giants: An Imaginary Boundary in Tang Lore"
- 3:45-4:00 Coffee Break
- 4:00-5:00 **Plenary Discussion: Trends and Challenges in the Study of the Tang Dynasty**
Moderated discussion including all registered participants.
- 6:00-9:00 **Closing Banquet at Mattison's Forty-One**
7275 South Tamiami Trail Sarasota, FL 34231