

VOLUME 9 | ISSUE 2 | JULY 2025 | ISSN 2059-1632

journal of  
CHINESE  
HISTORY

---

中國歷史學刊



CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

**JOURNAL OF CHINESE HISTORY 中國歷史學刊**

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

Hilde De Weerd, *KU Leuven, Belgium*

**ASSOCIATE EDITORS**

Pre-Tang,  
Charles Sanft,  
UT Knoxville

Ming Qing,  
Eric Schluessel,  
The George Washington University

Tang-Song-Yuan,  
Beverly Bossler,  
University of California, USA

Twentieth Century,  
Zhao Ma,  
Washington University, St. Louis, USA

**BOOK REVIEW EDITORS**

Micah Muscolino, *University of California, San Diego*  
Sarah Schneewind, *University of California San Diego, USA*

**EDITORIAL BOARD**

*Pre-Tang*

Erica Fox Brindley, *Pennsylvania State University*  
Constance Cook, *Lehigh University, USA*  
Maria Khayutina, *LMU Munich*  
Keith Knapp, *The Citadel, USA*  
Garret Olberding, *University of Oklahoma, USA*  
Charles Sanft, *University of Tennessee, Knoxville*  
Hou Xudong, *Tsinghua University, China*

*Tang-Song-Yuan*

Zhang Cong, *University of Virginia, USA*  
Tomoyasu Iiyama, *Waseda University, Japan*  
Wang Jinping, *National University of Singapore, Singapore*  
Ari Levine, *University of Georgia, USA*  
Ruth Mostern, *University of Pittsburgh, USA*  
Tansen Sen, *New York University, Shanghai, China*  
Nicolas Tackett, *University of California, Berkeley, USA*

*Ming-Qing*

Anne Gerritsen, *University of Warwick, UK*  
Dorothy Ko, *Barnard College, USA*  
Tobie Meyer-Fong, *Johns Hopkins University, USA*  
Emily Mokros, *University of Kentucky, USA*  
Bruce Rusk, *University of British Columbia, Canada*  
Matthew Sommer, *Stanford University, USA*  
Nathan Vedat, *University of Toronto, Canada*

*Since 1900*

Janet Chen, *Princeton University, USA*  
Xu Guoqi, *University of Hong Kong, China*  
Max Oidtman, *LMU Munich, Germany*  
Shellen Wu, *Lehigh University, USA*  
Peter Zarrow, *University of Connecticut, USA*

# Journal of Chinese History 中國歷史學刊

VOLUME 9

NUMBER 2

JULY 2025

## Special Issue: On Their Own Terms: Experts in Chinese History

### Introduction

Introduction: Experts in Imperial China in Sociological Terms ■ Sarah Schneewind and Qiao Yang	200
--	-----

### Research Articles

Discerning Patterns in Medieval Chinese Polymathy Through Bibliometrics: Astronomy, Mathematics, and their Historical Sister Sciences ■ Daniel Patrick Morgan	206
Between Ningbo and Nara: Traveling Chinese Artisans in Medieval Japan and Their Networks ■ Yiwen Li	232
Becoming An Astronomer in Late Medieval China ■ Qiao Yang	251
Communications and “Communicators” in the Yuan and Early Ming ■ Morris Rossabi	271
Ability and Authority in the Context of Crisis and Conflict: The Mid-Fifteenth Century ■ David M. Robinson	286
The Ability and Authority of Servants in a Ming Lineage Plan ■ Sarah Schneewind	301
Sailing the Waters of East and Southeast Asia: Chinese Navigators and their Material and Mental Tools ■ Elke Papelitzky	322
Bureaucracy from the Bottom Up: Diviners in Qing Local Governance ■ Tristan Brown	345
An Expert in the Field: Discovering the Traditional Borders of Late-Qing Geo-knowledge in the Himalayas ■ Sayantani Mukherjee	379

### Book Reviews

Jennifer Bond. <i>Dreaming the New Woman: An Oral History of Missionary Schoolgirls in Republican China</i>	
Fang Yu Hu. <i>Good Wife, Wise Mother: Educating Taiwanese Girls under Japanese Rule</i>	
Reviewed by Emma J. Teng	404
Angelina Y. Chin. <i>Unsettling Exiles: Chinese Migrants in Hong Kong and the Southern Periphery During the Cold War</i>	
Reviewed by Gina Anne Tam	409
Constance A. Cook, Christopher J. Foster, and Susan Blader. <i>Metaphor and Meaning: Thinking Through Early China with Sarah Allan</i>	
Reviewed by Paul Fischer	412

Hilde De Weerd and Franz-Julius Morche. <i>Political Communication in Chinese and European History, 800–1600</i> Reviewed by Wenkai He	416
Brian DeMare. <i>Tiger, Tyrant, Bandit, Businessman: Echoes of Counterrevolution from New China</i> Reviewed by Lei Duan	420
Brian R. Dott. <i>The Chile Pepper in China: A Cultural Biography</i> Reviewed by Ian M. Miller	423
Vincent Goossaert. <i>Making the Gods Speak: The Ritual Production of Revelation in Chinese Religious History</i>	
Matthias Schumann and Elena Valussi. <i>Communicating with the Gods: Spirit-Writing in Chinese History and Society</i> Reviewed by Xiaofei Kang	426
Scott W. Gregory. <i>Bandits in Print: "The Water Margin" and the Transformations of the Chinese Novel</i> Reviewed by S. E. Kile	431
Li Guo, Douglas Eyman, and Hongmei Sun. <i>Games &amp; Play in Chinese &amp; Sinophone Cultures</i> Reviewed by Joseph S.C. Lam	435
Wenkai He. <i>Public Interest and State Legitimation: Early Modern England, Japan, and China</i> Reviewed by Taisu Zhang	439
Thomas Kelly. <i>The Inscription of Things: Writing and Materiality in Early Modern China</i> Reviewed by He Bian	442
Jie Li. <i>Cinematic Guerrillas: Propaganda, Projectionists, and Audiences in Socialist China</i>	
Ying Qian. <i>Revolutionary Becomings: Documentary Media in Twentieth-Century China</i> Reviewed by Brian DeMare	445
Michele Matteini. <i>The Ghost in the City: Luo Ping and the Craft of Painting in Eighteenth-Century China</i> Reviewed by Andrea S. Goldman	448
Thomas S. Mullaney. <i>The Chinese Computer: A Global History of the Information Age</i> Reviewed by Ulug Kuzuoglu	452
Gil Raz and Anna M. Shields. <i>Religion and Poetry in Medieval China: The Way and the Words</i> Reviewed by Richard G. Wang	457
Jeffrey Riegel. <i>A Journal of My Misgivings: Liang Yusheng, Sima Qian, and the History of Qin</i> Reviewed by Q. Edward Wang	461
Musa Sayrami. <i>Tarikh i-Hamidi: A Late Qing Uyghur History</i> Reviewed by Tristan Brown	464
Xin Wen. <i>The King's Road: Diplomacy and the Remaking of the Silk Road</i> Reviewed by James A. Millward	469
Shuchen Xiang. <i>Chinese Cosmopolitanism: The History and Philosophy of an Idea</i> Reviewed by Don J. Wyatt	473
Fan J. Zhang and Jay Xu. <i>Phoenix Kingdoms: The Last Splendors of China's Bronze Age</i> Reviewed by Li Feng	477