



EARLY CHINA SEMINAR  
LECTURE SERIES

# Communities and Practice in Early China – Social Action in the Zhou World

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Great advancements have been made in the study of the Western Zhou period over the past few decades. They have brought to light key historical events during the dynasty's almost 300 year reign, advanced our understandings of changes in ritual customs, elite artistic tastes and kinship ties as well as presented the sophistication of the Western Zhou bureaucratic system. Scholarship has been slower, however, to investigate regional outcomes of the Western Zhou expansion that took place during its early period.

This paper investigates the ways individual communities engaged with the spread of Zhou culture and influence by focusing on how material culture was incorporated into local-specific social practices. The presentation of daily activities on the one hand – culinary preferences – and those that encapsulate specific ritualized events – mortuary customs – provides for an in-depth investigation of community action as products of intensified interaction and contact during the Western Zhou expansion.



**November 17th, 2017 (Friday)**  
**4:30-6:30pm**

**403 Kent Hall,  
1140 Amsterdam Avenue  
Columbia University**

**Seminar Co-Chairs:**  
Jue Guo, Barnard College, Columbia University  
Roderick Campbell, Institute for the Study of  
Ancient World, New York University

**Co-sponsored by The Tang Center for Early China, Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, and The Columbia University Seminars, Columbia University.**