



EARLY CHINA SEMINAR
LECTURE SERIES

On the Creation of the Warring States: An Exploration of a Historiographical Staple

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For almost a century, scholars have debated about what happened during the Warring States (Zhanguo) period. Was this a period of great intellectual foment and social mobility -- unlike earlier eras, was this actually a time talented men of obscure origin could rise to the height of state power based on their hard work, ability, or sheer cunning? Or was this simply a time of political violence and social upheaval? This paper attempts to reframe the question -- by shifting the attention from the events to the time period itself. It asks when did historians and Chinese first recognize the Warring States as a discrete historical moment, and why?

April 20th, 2018 (Friday) 4:30-6:30pm

**Faculty House
64 Morningside Drive**

Seminar Co-Chairs:

Jue Guo, Barnard College, Columbia University

Roderick Campbell, Institute for the Study of Ancient World, New York University

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