



The Empire of Sacrifice: The Great City Yong and the Archaeology of Religion

The 4th Tang Special Annual Lecture in Archeology

Friday, March 13, 2020 | 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM | 403 Kent Hall
Columbia University | 1140 Amsterdam Ave (W. 116th St.)

In recent years, archaeological research at the city Yong 雍 has made important progress to uncover the ecologic system as well as the religious dimension of this great pre-imperial Qin capital. Of the five sacrificial altars of Qin (秦五時) located in the vicinity of Yong, the most famous altars to Heaven of all time, archaeologists believe that they have found at least three and possibly four. While two (including the Blood Pool 血池) have been excavated in the past two years, excavations are undergoing on the other two in 2019-2020. There is little doubt that these new works will shed important light on the mentality of the Qin Empire and on the religious tradition of early China in general. While the political and military history of the Qin Empire were the subjects of numerous studies, we are only now beginning of understand the role of religion in the formation of that empire.

Keynote Speakers

From Shaanxi Academy of Archaeology, China

Tian Yaqi

Recent Archaeological Reserach on the City Yong of the Qin Empire

Chen Aidong

Archaeological Studies of the State Sacrifice of Qin in the Vicinity of the Great City Yong

Forum Commentators

Robin D.S. Yates

James McGill Professor, McGill University

David W. Pankenier

Professor Emeritus of Chinese, Lehigh University

Terence N. D'Altroy

Loubat Professor of American Archaeology, Columbia University

Li Feng

Professor of Early Chinese History and Archaeology, Columbia University