



EARLY CHINA SEMINAR LECTURE SERIES

Sponsored by
The Tang Center for Early China, Columbia University;
Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, Columbia University;
The Columbia University Seminars

Dependency vs. Vulnerability in Early China-Steppe Interaction: New Data for Old Problems

Nicola Di Cosmo, Institute for Advanced Study

Time and Location:

4:30-6:30pm
February 26th, 2016 (Friday)

Seminar Room 2, Second Floor
Faculty House
Columbia University
64 Morningside Drive
New York, NY 10027

Abstract:

The “steppe economy” has been traditionally associated with pastoral activities. Historical interpretations of the relations between China and nomadic peoples have also been profoundly influenced by assumptions about the economic activities of nomads and their political relevance. Available proxy data and other science-based studies of the arid region to the north and northwest of the Yellow river zone (especially Inner Mongolia, Mongolia, and Gansu) have shed new light on nomadic societies and the economic constraints they lived under, thus allowing us to review historical questions and redefine methodological approaches. This talk will address the possibilities presented by new data in relation to ancient China.

Seminar Co-Chairs:

Jue Guo
Barnard College, Columbia University
Roderick Campbell
Institute for the Study of Ancient World, New York University