



EARLY CHINA SEMINAR  
LECTURE SERIES

**Who is the Barbarian in *Zuozhuan*?**

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It has often been said that the difference between “Chinese” and “barbarians” is cultural (pertaining to, for example, the adoption or rejection of ritual standards) rather than ethnic. However, the notion of cultural transformation cannot contain the sense of malleable boundaries between “us” and “them” in *Zuozhuan*. In this talk, I will explore questions of cultural identity and cultural difference in *Zuozhuan* from three perspectives: the need for differentiation when differences seem tenuous and arbitrary, the function of historical retrospection in establishing claims of cultural identity or difference, and the rhetorical contexts of moralizing cultural difference. I will conclude with preliminary thoughts on the grounds of comparison between *Zuozhuan* and other Warring States texts on the question of barbarians.

**March 31st, 2017 (Friday) 4:30-6:30pm**

**1754 Boardroom, 3rd floor, Faculty House  
64 Morningside Drive, MC 2302  
Columbia University**

**Seminar Co-Chairs:**

Jue Guo, Barnard College, Columbia University

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