



EARLY CHINA SEMINAR  
LECTURE SERIES

## *Yueling* and *Yueling* Commentary during the Han in Light of Xuanquanzhi

Charles Sanft • University of Tennessee



The best-known text from Xuanquanzhi, a Han-era post near Dunhuang, is a set of *yueling* (monthly ordinances) dated to 5 CE and inscribed on a plaster wall within the site. *Yueling* generally are familiar from the “Yueling”

chapter of *Liji* and elsewhere. The Xuanquanzhi set takes the form of legal statutes, but the content is close to that of the transmitted examples, which do not. The excavated set is also accompanied by internal commentary explaining the ordinances’ intended purposes. In this presentation, I will compare the Xuanquanzhi *yueling* with excavated and transmitted Han texts on related topics, showing points of similarity and contrast among them. I will also examine the Xuanquanzhi *yueling* commentary in light of transmitted exegeses to highlight how the Xuanquanzhi version changes our understanding of early commentary.

**April 14, 2023, 4:30–6:30pm**

**Faculty House, 64 Morningside Drive, Columbia University**

\*Please check the announcement board in the first-floor lobby for room information

**Seminar Co-Chairs:**

Glenda Chao, Ursinus College

Ethan Harkness, New York University