



EARLY CHINA SEMINAR
LECTURE SERIES

Digital Mawangdui: Visualizing the Art of Transformation through Scientific Imaging and Multimedia Storytelling

Chenchen Lü · Harvard University



This talk explores how cutting-edge imaging technologies and immersive media are transforming our understanding of the Han dynasty Mawangdui tombs. Drawing from CAMLab's interdisciplinary research and the recent publication *Cosmic Cycle of Life* 生命时空, the project *Digital Mawangdui* reinterprets the material, cosmological, and spiritual dimensions of Mawangdui through a multisensory lens. From XRF pigment mapping to high-resolution textile reconstruction, from 3D visualization of funerary objects to AI-driven interactive storytelling, the project reveals the dynamic processes of *hua* (化)—transformation—that define Han concepts of life, death, and the cosmos. This talk presents the development of a digital platform and immersive exhibition that reimagines the tomb not as a static burial site, but as a generative space where philosophical imagination, alchemical knowledge, and sensory experience converge. By bridging scientific analysis with artistic expression, *Digital Mawangdui* offers a new model for multimedia storytelling in cultural heritage interpretation.

November 7th, 2025, 4:30–6:30 pm

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

Co-sponsored by The Tang Center for Early China, Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, and The Columbia University Seminars, Columbia University