



EARLY CHINA SEMINAR
LECTURE SERIES

Localizing Sagehood: Cultural Memory of Yao, Shun, and Yu in Shanxi

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Temple of Yao in Linfen, Shanxi

Yao, Shun, and Yu have long been revered as the quintessential sage kings, not only in China but also throughout premodern East Asia, including Korea and Japan. This study examines the process by which the cultural memory of these sage kings was established in Shanxi from the Warring States period to the 19th century. Shanxi, known as a historical stage of Yao, Shun, and Yu, preserves the most significant traces of their legacy. I begin by analyzing pre-Qin texts to explore how the cultural memory of Yao, Shun, and Yu emerged in the region. Then, I focus on the historical sites associated with these sage kings as recorded in major geographical texts. This examination will reveal the fluidity of cultural memory, “an ongoing, ever-evolving process of renewed acts of both erasure and remembrance.”

October 11, 2024, 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

Registration required. Please RSVP at www.tangcenter-columbia.org by October 6

Seminar Co-Chairs:

Glenda Chao, Ursinus College

Ethan Harkness, New York University

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