

Translocal and Transregional Dynamics in Chinese History, 960-1911

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Over the past few decades, it has become apparent for historians of China that any historical analysis would have to take regional variations into account. In fact, some has begun to question the usefulness of “China” as an analytical concept. We have also witnessed a surge in the number of microscopic studies being done on the social, economic and cultural history of different localities and regions. But it is only until recently that scholars are becoming more alert to the various translocal and transregional factors that shaped the socio-cultural landscape of a particular locale or region. Such translocal and transregional interactions tied localities and regions together on a “higher level”, but were still lower than the empire. This intermediate level need not be geographical or administrative; and the interacting localities and regions may not even be connected in geographical terms. This conference, based on the assumption that these factors would play out differently in different places and in different periods, hopes to bring together scholars who are studying the histories of different regions and localities to explore the working of these factors in different spatial settings. It is hoped that through the findings of the conference papers, we could establish a basis for studying local history in a comparatively manner; and achieve a better understanding of how different places interacted in the history of China and the space that the interactions took place. Some topics that we are interested in (but not limited to) include:

- 1) The construction of local or regional identities amid translocal and transregional interactions.
- 2) The founding and development of trans-regional intellectual traditions.
- 3) The social, cultural, and language factors behind common religious practices and pilgrimages across regions.
- 4) The space of cross regional literati networks and literary productions.
- 5) Shared historical memories across regions and its meaning.
- 6) Trans-regional political practices and the state.
- 7) The social and cultural meaning of trans-regional migrations, commercial traveling, and official postings.
- 8) Translocal economic factors and regional trade.

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