The Social Networks of Antiquities Collectors in Northern-Song China: An Experiment in Digital Humanities

Talk by Prof. Ya-hwei Hsu
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The Northern Song dynasty (960-1127) of China has often been compared with the Renaissance in the West. Scholar-officials began to collect and study remains from antiquity, especially bronze ritual objects which had become an important category in Emperor Huizong’s (r. 1100-1125) imperial collections. This presentation by Prof. Ya-hwei Hsu investigates this fervent development by examining five extant catalogs and treatises. By drawing data from the Chinese Biographical Database (CBDB) and employing the digital tools of Social Network Analysis (SNA), this study reconstructs the networks of the antiquities collectors and delineates their development from the 1090s to the 1120s.

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