

Understanding Authenticity in China's Cultural Heritage

Conference at the University of Oxford, 16-20 March, 2021

Organized by Christopher Foster and Anke Hein

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What we deem to be genuine or fake is not an objective determination, but something that we agree upon as communities. Debates about authenticity, moreover, are often intimately bound to question who owns the past and its representation. The "Understanding Authenticity in China's Cultural Heritage" conference this March will explore these issues and more. From contesting narratives about the mother trees of Big Red Robe tea, to the restoration of Qin terracotta soldiers; from the experience of visiting a replica Eiffel Tower in Hangzhou, to US-China diplomatic tensions over "originality" and "*shanzhai* 山寨 (imitation)" – "Understanding Authenticity in China's Cultural Heritage" brings together specialists from a broad range of fields and backgrounds, to explore how questions about "authenticity" impact their work on objects, texts, and intangible cultural heritage in China.

Please join us online March 16th- 20st, 2021, for a discussion on the construction of "authenticity," both historically and today, in relation to China's cultural heritage. Registration is free, attendance is open to all, via submission of a short survey at the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/X8T7T2C>

FORMAT & DATES

The conference will be hosted virtually via the Zoom platform. The **keynote by Prof. Lothar von Falkenhausen** will be live. Video recordings of all other presentations will be made available ~1 week prior to the start of the conference. Attendees are expected to view these recordings beforehand. The live panel sessions will then be dedicated solely to **questions & discussion** on each of the presentations. Please see the full schedule below.

16 March, 2021

14:00-15:30 GMT Keynote Lecture

Lothar von Falkenhausen (UCLA): The Irresistible Allure of Patina and Pedigree: A Case Study

17 March, 2021, 13:00 GMT

13:00-13:20 GMT Opening Remarks

Dr Christopher Foster (University of Oxford)

Dr Anke Hein (University of Oxford)

Session 1: Art and Material Culture

Chair and Discussant: Prof. Craig Clunas (University of Oxford)

13:20-13:40 David Scott (UCLA): Constructions and Deconstructions of Authenticity in Chinese Art

13:40-14:00 Celia Carrington Riely (Independent Scholar): The Two Versions of Dong Qichang's River in Mist and Piled Peaks and the Impact of High-Resolution Photography on the Question of Authenticity

14:00-14:20 Zhang Yanzhuang (Gillian) (Ohio State University): Authenticating Su Shi's Snowy Wave Stone in Premodern China

14:20-14:40 Coffee break

14:40-15:00 Jean DeBernardi (University of Alberta): The Modern Invention of Big Red Robe Tea: History, Story, and Performance

15:00-15:20 Robin Wilson (University of Oxford): Karamono (Chinese Things): Authenticity, legitimacy and mimetics in the production and use of Chinese-inspired Japanese ceramic tea utensils, past and present

15:20-15:40 Gao Xuyang (University of Oxford): Problems of authenticity: reflections on contemporary *zisha* teapot-making techniques

15:40-16:00 General discussion

18 March, 2021, 13:00 GMT

Session 2: Texts and Manuscripts

Chair and Discussant: Dr Dirk Meyer (University of Oxford)

13:00-13:20 Paul Goldin (University of Pennsylvania): The Spread of Virtue and the Fallacy of Authenticity in Classical Chinese Aesthetics

13:20-13:40 Kevin (Kuan-yu) Huang (City University of Hong Kong): Authenticity and the Authenticating of Ancient Chinese Texts

13:40-14:00 Nick Vogt (Indiana University): The "Real" Life (and Death) of King Wen: Biography as Authentication in the *Yizhoushu*

14:00-14:20 Corina Smith (Oxford): *Venerated Documents*: What are *shu*, and what is at stake?

14:20-14:40 Coffee break

14:40-15:00 Rachel McVeigh (University of Oxford): (Mis)remembering the Tang? The attribution of the 'Twenty Four Categories of Poetry' to Sikong Tu

15:00-15:20 Timothy Thurston (Leeds): Multiple Authenticities of the Tibetan Gesar Epic

15:20-15:40 Alexandra Forrester (University of Cambridge): Constructing authenticity in the case of Chinese Zhengyi Daoist priests

15:40-16:00 General discussion

19 March, 2021, 13:00 GMT

Session 3: Museums, Collections, and Displays

Chair and Discussant: Prof. JP Park (University of Oxford)

13:00-13:20 Li Xiuzhen (Janice) (University of Oxford): Revisiting Authenticity: Restoration and Conservation of the Qin First Emperor's Terracotta Army

13:20-13:40 Gao Qian (University of Stirling): Authenticity and Heritage Conservation: Seeking Common Complexities beyond the 'Eastern' and 'Western' Dichotomy

14:00-14:20 Cornelius Holtorf (Linnaeus University), Ma Qingkai (Hangzhou Normal University), Chen Xian (Zhejiang University), and Zhang Yu (Zhejiang University): Paris, China. Some thoughts about the value of simulated heritage

14:20-14:40 Coffee break

14:40-15:00 Patrycja Pendrakowska (University of Warsaw): Can a copy deliver an authentic experience? An interdisciplinary approach to fieldwork conducted in Southeast China

15:00-15:20 Jennifer Kreder (Northern Kentucky University): Shanzai and Fuzhi Tensions in U.S.-Chinese Diplomacy

15:20-16:00 General discussion

20 March, 2021, 13:00 GMT

Session 4: Cultural Heritage Management

Chair and Discussant: Dr Yitzchak Jaffe (University of Haifa)

13:00-13:20 Tao Li (Shanghai Normal University): Attraction or Distraction? Exploring tourism implication for Heritage interpretation at National Archaeological Park of Qi Capital sites, China

13:20-13:40 Wei Qiaowei (Shanghai University): Touched by the past? Re-articulating the Longxing temple sites as community heritage at Qingzhou County, China

13:40-14:00 Mark Hoskin (SOAS): Rebuilding the visual to aid in reconstructing memories of the past

14:00-14:20 Coffee break

14:20-14:40 Jie Hao (University of Birmingham): Who decides? The Authenticity of Traditional Rural Settlement Heritagization Practices: A Case Study of a Chinese Traditional Village

14:40-15:00 Stefan Gruber (Kyoto University): Socio-legal Perspectives on Authenticity in China's Cultural Heritage

15:00-15:20 Phillip Grimberg (University of Erlangen): UNESCO World Heritage and the Problem of Authenticity – The Case of "Built Structures" and China's Tangible Cultural Heritage

15:20-16:00 Final discussion



UNDERSTANDING AUTHENTICITY IN CHINA'S CULTURAL HERITAGE CONFERENCE



Keynote for the Understanding Authenticity in China's Cultural Heritage Conference

The Irresistible Allure of Patina and Pedigree: A Case Study

Lothar von Falkenhausen (University of California Los Angeles)



Ritual bronze vessels and bells were among the earliest objects to be systematically collected, curated, and published in China. The reasons for this are not exclusively esthetic—their association with textual records of the Confucian canon, the presence (at least in many cases) of inscriptions that could complement the historical record, and their status as surviving testimony from the “Age of Confucius” were arguably more important to early collectors than their often elaborate zoomorphic decoration. Unsurprisingly, as the market in antiques took off, bronzes and their inscriptions were also among the first objects to be reproduced and forged in China. As a consequence, issues of authenticity have continued to plague the study of Chinese bronzes to the present day. As a case study, this lecture focuses on a single bronze vessel that was published for the first time fairly recently; if genuine, it would have a chance of being the only still-extant vessel documented in the pioneering bronze catalogues from the Song Dynasty. The discussion of the object and of its inscription will reveal some of the complexities involved in authenticating unproven bronzes in private collections, as well as the ethical issues involved in their study.

Tuesday, 16 March, 2021, 14:00-15:30 GMT

The keynote and the entire conference will be held **online via Zoom**. To receive the link, please register via <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/X8T7T2C>. If you are experiencing difficulties with signing up or if you have any questions, please contact Drs Chris Foster & Anke Hein at: understandingauthenticity@gmail.com.

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