



Arts & Humanities
Research Council



Call for applications: Graduate Workshop
'Research Training in Old Chinese Philosophy and Palaeography'
Funded by AHRC & BICC

Collaborate Research Training in Old Chinese (by Dirk Meyer, The Queen's College, University of Oxford)

We invite applications from graduate students (at any level) for participation in a graduate workshop *Research Training in Old Chinese Philosophy and Palaeography*, to be held in Oxford from 25 August to 03 September. The workshop is funded by the Arts & Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and British Inter-university the China Centre (BICC). For UK-based graduate students, we cover travel expenses, accommodation and board. For this workshop, we accept up to 20 participants, 10 of which from the UK.

The Oxford workshop is the second of a series of five workshops on different aspects of Early China and Old Chinese. This meeting will to a comparatively large extent have the structure of a taught class and will be held partly in Chinese. The specialists of this meeting are William H. Baxter (Michigan), world leading expert in Old Chinese Phonology, and Chén Jiàn 陳劍 (Shànghǎi), world leading expert in Old Chinese Palaeography. The programme for this workshop can be found on the following URL:

<http://bicc.banksidesystems.net/BICCRsearchProjects/ResearchTraininginOldChinese/OxfordOldChinesePhonologyandPalaeography/tabid/576/Default.aspx>

Applications should include a brief CV, detailing gender, university and departmental affiliation (no longer than one page), proficiency in English and Chinese as well as a brief letter stating your interest in participating (no longer than one page). Letters of recommendation are welcome but not obligatory. The deadline for applications is 26 July 2009. Successful candidates will be informed soon thereafter.

The workshop series *Collaborate Research Training in Old Chinese* arose from concerns that the study of Old Chinese, Chinese philosophy and classical Chinese literature are under serious threat in the United Kingdom. Classical Sinology in the UK has become marginalised, and its international visibility is minimal. As individual institutions in the UK tend to be rather small, no institution, if operating in isolation, can host the critical mass of experts in the different fields of traditional Sinology, or is equipped with the relevant research tools needed to provide substantial

training in Old Chinese. The workshops series for intensive graduate research training aims to correct this state of affairs. Our idea is to connect the various UK centres for the study of Old Chinese into a nationwide network to facilitate specialised research-training in Old Chinese phonology, palaeography, grammar, literature, philosophy, and religion, and strengthen the international visibility of traditional Sinology in the UK at large.

An essential element of our programme is to open up research areas for graduate students that until recently were little studied in the UK. All in all, five research clusters that constitute the basis for a comprehensive study of Old Chinese will be covered in a series of five workshops over the period of two years (January 2009 to September 2010). These are (1) Philosophy and Religion; (2) Old Chinese Phonology and Palaeography, (3) Text and Textuality; (4) History and Historiography; (5) Art and Archaeology.

Twice a year, workshops of three to ten days will be held at different institutions across the UK. Each of these meetings will focus on one research cluster. Recognised specialists will each cover one of the different aspects that constitute such a research cluster. Depending on the complexity, each specialist will be given up to half a day to introduce the relevant research tools, read a selection of texts with the participants, and discuss the texts' theoretical implications. Each meeting will close with a round-table discussion involving all the specialists and participants. This will fuse the various research fields to create an integrated picture describing the different aspects and problems of the field. We invite both UK-based and international specialists to introduce their field of research. It will thus be possible to inform participants regarding the latest issues and research strategies in the study of Old Chinese, and train them to be competent researchers in a way that could never happen in one individual institution in the UK.

Meetings will be held in Edinburgh, Oxford, Cambridge and London. The workshop outputs will be digitised and embedded in the online learning and research tools of the British Inter-university China Centre (BICC). This archive will make the workshop materials accessible to students at all UK Higher Education Institutions.

The workshop series is especially geared towards masters' and doctoral students of Old Chinese in the UK, but it should also appeal to post-doctoral researchers. To facilitate student participation, this programme covers travel expenses, food and board for each meeting. Students from abroad are also welcome to participate, as this programme should be a platform that enables UK graduate students to build up international connections, which can be vital for carrying out further research. Overseas students will be expected to meet their own costs, or have their institutions do so.

Each meeting will invite up to 20 participants. Participant groups will be fluid over the duration of the programme, matching different students to their specific training needs. It is the particular strength of this programme not only to inform its participants about the latest trends in scholarship, but also to introduce them to and train them in the use of the relevant research tools, to which most students would otherwise have no access since only few institutions can host the critical mass of specialists necessary to allow such multi-faceted research training.

The research clusters are organised as follows.

- (1) Philosophy and Religion in Premodern China (held in Edinburgh, 29.01-02.02. 2009)
- (2) Old Chinese Phonology and Palaeography (to be held in Oxford, 25.08-03.09.2009)**
- 3) History and Historiography (to be held in Cambridge, Spring 2010)
- (4) Text and Textuality (to be held in Oxford, 24.06-27.06.2010)
- d) Art and Archaeology (to be held in London, Autumn 2010)

Convenor of this programme is Dr Dirk Meyer, BICC CDF University Lecturer in Chinese Philosophy, University of Oxford.

Co-ordinators of this programme are Dr Dirk Meyer, Oxford, and Professor Joachim Gentz, Edinburgh, Research Fellow and Senior Lecturer in Chinese Studies.

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Applications for the workshop **Old Chinese Phonology and Palaeography (to be held in Oxford, 25.08-03.09.2009)** should go to Dr Dirk Meyer