

## Call for Papers: Teaching Classical Chinese Literary, Philosophical, and Cultural Texts

A Forum Session at the 2018 MLA in Chicago, January 3-6, 2019

The LLC Pre-14th-Century Chinese Forum at MLA proposes a panel with a focus on teaching classical Chinese texts to undergraduate and graduate students in North American universities. Proposals from all academic disciplines and engaging various methodological approaches are most welcome. Papers might address (but are not limited to) such topics as:

- Curriculum design and the availability of texts in editions suitable for student use
- The proper balance between original texts and translations at different levels
- The teaching of genre and classical styles, and teaching literary hermeneutics through genres alien to most students' expectations
- The role of commentarial traditions in the classroom, and to what degree the centrality of commentary to reading in traditional China can be taught in North American classrooms
- Accommodating students of different demographic backgrounds in approaching classical Chinese texts

Please send proposals including a title, an abstract, and a short biography in MS Word format by email attachment to Xiaowen Xu (xiaowen.xu@ubc.ca) by March 7, 2018. Presenters must be current members of the MLA.

### Short listing:

The session looks at the pedagogical aspects of presenting the pre-14th century Chinese literature in university classrooms to heritage and non-heritage students. Papers discussing text selection and presentation will be welcome.

## Call for Papers: Transitions in pre-14<sup>th</sup> century Chinese Literary History

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This session calls for papers on the topic of transitions in pre-14<sup>th</sup> century Chinese literature. From the Warring States to the Qin unification, to the disintegration of the late Han leading to the Six Dynasties, or the much-debated social transformations of the Tang-Song period, transitions play a major role in Chinese literary history. Often marked by political disruptions, intellectual ferment, and the rise of new social groups, they are also periods of great literary innovation. During periods of transition writers may adapt old genres or invent new ones, critique hallowed truths or create new systems of cultural knowledge, all the while dispersing their literary works in various new media, as they struggle to respond to the changing times. We welcome paper proposals from different time periods and diverse approaches to the question of transitions in pre-14<sup>th</sup> century Chinese literature.

Please send proposals including a title, an abstract, and a short biography in MS Word format by email attachment to Benjamin Ridgway (benjamin.ridgway@gmail.com) by March 7, 2018. Presenters must be current members of the MLA.

### Short listing:

Papers are invited on the topic of period transitions in pre-14<sup>th</sup> century Chinese literature. Topics might include: literary historiography and periodization, generic evolution, reorganization of systems of knowledge, social disintegration and cultural reformation, etc.

## Call for Papers: Tang Poetry, Then and Now

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The Tang Dynasty (618-907) has long been considered the great age of Chinese *shi* poetry. However, scholars increasingly have become aware that “Tang poetry” is an unstable construct. From the very beginning, both the textual corpora and the interpretive frameworks shaping “Tang poetry” have shifted to reflect contemporary literary, cultural, and social concerns. Successive generations of Tang poets sought to define and build upon the legacy of their predecessors, while the Song dynasty (960-1280) cultural elite and—as printing became more pervasive—a broader reading public worked to assemble, edit, shape, and interpret the extant writings from the Tang to create a range of specifically Song versions of the received tradition. This process of editing and interpreting has continued until today. While a modern narrative of an unbroken cultural transmission has to a large extent elided this crucial role of editing and interpreting in shaping what we know as “Tang poetry,” recent scholarship has begun to explore the many modes and moments of editorial and interpretive mediations informing the construction of “Tang poetry.” This forum session highlights the emerging scholarship on the roles of editorial and interpretive interventions in the reading of Tang poetry. We seek proposals of approximately 300 words, with a title and abstract, that explore such issues as Tang dynasty writers’ readings of their contemporaries’ poetry, the creation and transmission of poetic collections, the interpretation of specific poets through time, the nature of scholarly annotation of collections, the role of the genre of “discussions of poetry,” among other related themes.

Please send proposals including a title, an abstract, and a short biography in MS Word format by email attachment to Daniel Fried (dfried@ualberta.ca) by March 7, 2018. Presenters must be current members of the MLA.

### Short listing:

The session explores changing approaches to poetry written in the Tang Dynasty from the time of its composition to the present that reflect the shifting meaning of experience and literature.