

**Wednesday, January 25, 4pm, Hamilton 569, Yongtao DU, "Contesting Spatial Order: Merchant Geography in Late Ming China."** Du is currently a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He received his BA in History from Henan University, and an MA in World History from Beijing University, both in China. He is completing his dissertation titled "Locality, Identity, and Geography: Translocal Practices of Huizhou Merchants in Late Imperial China." Challenging the predominantly "local history" approach in the field of Chinese history, Du's research emphasizes the interconnectedness of the diverse local places and explores those social spaces created by the movement of people. As he puts it, his work "sheds light on the dynamic process by which the understanding of locality, the formation of place-related identities, the modes of geographical imagination, and the state's administration of spatial order were all transformed" in China from about the seventeenth to the nineteenth centuries.

**Wednesday, February 1, 3:30pm, Hamilton 569, Seonmin KIM, "Ginseng and the Border between Qing China and Choson Korea."** Kim received both her BA and MA in History from Koryo University in South Korea, and is currently a Ph.D. candidate at Duke University, where she also received a certificate in Women's Studies. Kim is completing her dissertation titled "Borders and Crossings: Trade, Diplomacy and Ginseng, Qing China and Choson Korea." Focusing on the traffic of ginseng -- a key item of trade in Northeastern Asia, Kim uses it as a lens to explain the complex process of Qing China's empire building through negotiating borders with its neighbors and the dynamic crossing of travelers and commodities during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Most earlier studies explored the history of the construction of the Qing empire from the perspective of the center (read China); Kim's work challenges that by examining the process from the borderlands. Kim has command, in addition to English, of four other languages: Korean, Chinese, Japanese as well as Manchu.

**Wednesday, February 8, 3:30pm, Hamilton 569, Michelle KING, title to be announced.** King is currently a Ph.D. candidate at the University of California at Berkeley, after receiving her BA from Yale and MA from Stanford. King came to the study of Chinese history through interests in colonial and gender studies after serving as a school teacher in China for two years. Her dissertation is titled "Infanticide as an Object of Knowledge in Late Nineteenth Century China." King's work examines the social practice of female infanticide -- which has become an emblem of the "barbarity" of Chinese civilization in the Western imagination over the last century -- as it was understood, discussed and managed by both Chinese and Westerners in an earlier period. By looking at the competing views of the issue, her research brings into focus the different discourses on infanticide, and how and why they were articulated in the nineteenth century prior to the practice becoming a part of "population studies" decades later. In doing so, her work aims, as she puts it, to "offer a broader theoretical framework regarding culturally accepted standards of evidence in the creation of knowledge."