

Exercising Power in Early Empires: A Comparative Perspective

University of Notre Dame
McKenna Hall (room 200)
October 25-26, 2018

Thurs. Oct 25: Day One

8:00-12:00: Continental Breakfast (East Lounge, McKenna Hall), Registration for Speakers

9:00-10:45: Panel 1

Power of Ideas

Akhenaten, Wang Mang, and The Limits of Reform

Anthony Barbieri-Low (UCSB)

Tutor to the Crown Prince and Chancellor of the Empire: Confucian Dream and Political Reality in Western Han China (206 BCE-8 CE)

Liang Cai (Notre Dame)

Classical Chinese Words for “Power”

Paul R. Goldin (UPenn)

- Panel Chair: Felipe Fernandez-Armesto (Notre Dame)

10:45-11:00: Coffee Break

11:00-12:10: Panel 2

Power of the Dead

Evoking the Power of the (Roman) Dead

W. Martin Bloomer (Notre Dame)

The Dead of the Empire: Appropriating and Negotiating State Authority seen in the Funeral “Relocation Document” from the Western Han

Guo Jue (Barnard College)

- Panel Chair: Hildegund Müller (Notre Dame)

12:30: Lunch and Public Talk at Jenkins Nanovic Halls, 1050

Work, Wealth and Want: A View from Ancient China

Roel Sterckx

3:00- 4:10: Panel 3

Power of Narratives and Power of Urban Space

Translating Empire: Herodotus' Histories, Persia, and the Greeks

Christopher A. Baron (Notre Dame)

Elite Mobility and the Creation of Western Han Chang'an

Griet Vankeerberghen (McGill)

- Panel Chair: Elisabeth Koll (Notre Dame)

6:00: Dinner at Morris Inn

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Fri. October 26: Day Two

8:00-12:00: Continental Breakfast East Lounge, McKenna Hall

9:00-10:45: Panel 4

Power of Wealth

“Look gracious on thy prostrate thrall”: Wealth and Absolute Power; a Re-Examination of Islamic Elite Slavery in the Classical Islamic Empire

Deborah Tor (Notre Dame)

Markets and Morals in Warring States and Han China

Roel Sterckx (Cambridge)

Tributary Empire, Universal Order and the Formation of a Ruling Class of Prestige and Honour: Rome and Han Dynasty China in Global History

Peter Fibiger Bang (Copenhagen)

- Panel Chair: Michel Hockx

10:45-11:00: Coffee Break

11:00-12:45: Panel 5

Power of Nomads

Enemies of Order or Noble Savages?: Steppe Nomads in the Greco-Roman and Chinese Imagination

Randolph Ford (Notre Dame)

Byzantine-Turkish Encounter, State Building, and Political Transformation in Asia Minor

Alex Beihammer (Notre Dame)

Heartland of Empires? Some Observations on the so-called 'Orkhon Tradition' among the Turks and other Inner Asian Polities

Sören Stark (NYU)

- Panel Chair: Margaret Meserve

1:00: Lunch at Morris Inn