



The Dark World in the Founding of the Ming Dynasty with Dr. Sarah Schneewind (UC San Diego) Friday, February 2, 2018, 12pm, PL-4005

The Ming dynasty was founded in 1368 and called “Bright.” The emperor was called “The Son of Heaven,” meaning that as long as he governed rightly he would enjoy the support of Heaven and Earth, high and benevolent gods who were the parents of all the people. But the Ming dynasty also relied on some very dark spiritual forces, as this talk will show.

Sarah Schneewind holds degrees from Cornell University, Yale University, and Columbia University. She has published two books on the relations between state and society during the Ming era (1368-1644): *Community Schools and the State in Ming China*, which studies change over time in the local implementation of one central policy, and *A Tale of Two Melons*, which traces the way the first Ming emperor, his advisors, and others wrote about one lucky omen, and what it meant at the local level. She has also edited a collection of essays on the creation and use of the image of the Ming founder through today, called *Long Live the Emperor!* She teaches lower-division survey courses on Chinese, Japanese, and Korean history from 1200 BC to AD 1895, and upper division and graduate courses on Chinese history. She has been President of the [Society for Ming Studies](#), and runs a website called ["The Ming History English Translation Project."](#) Her current major project is on shrines to living officials in Ming and what they show about popular involvement in the autocratic, bureaucratic Ming monarchy. She has also developed a digital tool called The Late Imperial Primer Literacy Sieve (<http://ccontext.org/tools/literacy-sieve>), and researches some transnational comparisons and connections of China with the West.

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