



Italian-Chinese Dialogues 2.0

Looking Sideways: Medieval and Early Modern History in Italian and Chinese perspectives



December 2025 – July 2026
(online)

This second cycle of Italian-Chinese seminars aims to understand different perspectives on Medieval and Early Modern topics, by bringing together PhD students and young scholars to explore major themes in historical research — from power and legitimacy to networks, minorities, and cross-cultural encounters — in a comparative and truly global framework. Each of the eight sessions features paired presentations by Chinese and Italian scholars, followed by discussion moderated by senior scholars. The series aims to foster intellectual exchange, encourage joint research projects, and strengthen the cultural and academic ties between Europe and China through the study of history in its broadest and most interconnected dimensions.

Organizers

Donato Sitaro (Naples)

Jiawei Weng (Tübingen/Beijing)

Qianyu Wang (Ghent)



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI
DI NAPOLI FEDERICO II



Historical Studies

Italian-Chinese Dialogues 2.0

Calendar

December 2025 – July 2026

Month	Topic	Chinese speaker	Italian speaker
Dec 2025	Ethnic identities	Jiaming Zheng (Beijing)	Riccardo D'Ascenzi (Tübingen)
Jan 2026	Communities and minorities I	Jiaren Liu (Jilin)	Andrea Petruccione (UNIMOL)
Feb 2026	Legitimacy and authority	Qianyu Wang (Ghent)	Stefano De Vita (UNINA)
Mar 2026	Communities and minorities II	Zijie Li (Beijing)	Martina Gargiulo (UNINA)
Apr 2026	Carolingian transitions	Jamin Zhang (Guangzhou)	Manuel Fauliri (Trento)
May 2026	Places of Power and Legitimacy	Jiawei Weng (Tübingen)	Simona Puca (UNINA)
Jun 2026	Neighbours and Borders in the Early Middle Ages	Xuke Wang (Beijing)	Donato Sitaro (UNINA)
Jul 2026	Imperial Ideology and Eschatology	Hao Wu (Beijing)	Francesco Sicilia (UNINA)

All seminars will be held online on Microsoft Teams.

To attend the seminars, please register through the form below:



Registration form:

[https://forms.office.com/e/](https://forms.office.com/e/LYbhiX9jDU)

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or scan here



Organisers

Donato Sitaro



Postdoctoral Researcher specializing in Early Medieval History at the University of Naples 'Federico II'. His work addresses how post-Roman ethnic identities were constructed, especially in the Western Atlantic peripheries. He is also interested in medieval epigraphy, patterns of long-distance connectivity, and the legacy and modern reception of the Early Middle Ages. He has published various contributions, while he is currently working on his first book on the ethnic identities of Western Britain.



Qianyu Wang (王騫禹)

PhD candidate at Ghent University, Belgium. He obtained his BA and MA from Peking University, China. His research explores the relationship between local bishops and Benedictine communities in eleventh- and early twelfth-century France. He has published several articles in Chinese and has an English article forthcoming in the *Revue d'histoire ecclésiastique* (2026).



Jiawei Weng (翁嘉蔚)

PhD candidate at Beijing Normal University and currently a visiting student at the University of Tübingen. Her doctoral research focuses on the feudal system and land tenure in medieval Germany, with particular attention to Duke Henry the Lion's leasing practices and the transmission of legal knowledge north of the Alps. She also explores medieval religious culture and royal authority through the study of charters and ecclesiastical records, and has presented her work at the IMC Leeds and published in peer-reviewed journals such as *World Religious Cultures* and *Review of Economic and Social History*.





December 2025



19 December

h. 10-12 (CET) / 17-19 (CST)

Ethnic Identities in Late Antique West: Power, Religion, Literature

This inaugural session of our seminar series plunges into the complex, contested landscape of identity formation, loyalty, and distinction in Late Antiquity. Moving beyond essentialist definitions, the discussion centers on two crucial case studies from the late and post-Roman West: the Visigothic Kingdom in Spain and Vandal North Africa. Different approaches and methodologies will emerge from the analysis of the varied strategies of self-definition employed by these *gentes*, the persistent influence of the Roman cultural substratum, and the decisive impact of divergent Christian affiliations on fifth- and sixth-century political and social cohesion.

Speakers

Jiaming Zheng



(Beijing Normal University)

Riccardo D'Ascenzi



(Karls Eberhard Universität Tübingen)

Chair: Donato Sitaro (UNINA)

Opening Remarks by **Prof. Roberto Delle Donne**, Coordinator of the PhD in Historical Studies at UNINA.

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January 2026



19 January

h. 10-12 (CET) / 17-19 (CST)

Communities and Minorities I: Medieval and Modern minorities in a long-durée perspective

This second session investigates strategies of governance and social cohesion within minority groups across the centuries. By comparing 11th-century Norman Italy with 18th-century German settlements in the Volga region, the discussion explores how numerical minorities negotiate power in "othered" landscapes. From the Norman "conquest of souls" through strategic hagiography to Catherine II's state-sponsored migration, these case studies illuminate the tension between force and compromise and the methodologies used to transform small groups into governing or productive majorities.

Speakers



Andrea Petruccione
(UNIMOL)



Jiaren Liu
(Jilin University)

Chair: Salvatore Liccardo (University of Vienna)

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February 2026



13th February

h. 10-12 (CET) / 17-19 (CST)

Legitimacy and Authority: The bishops in times of change

This session examines the negotiation of **legitimacy and authority** within the ecclesiastical landscapes of the early medieval West. By discussing cases from **8th-century Naples** to **11th-century Normandy**, the session explores how local powers responded to the fragmentation of central imperial and episcopal control. From the **militarized duchies of Italy** forging survival strategies through city-episcopates to the **shifting balance of power** between Norman bishops and monastic houses, these case studies illuminate the evolution of peripheral governance. The session reevaluates narratives of institutional autonomy, highlighting how mutual influence and local responses redefined the structures of authority in a transforming Roman and post-Roman world.

Speakers



Stefano De Vita
(UNINA)



Qianyu Wang
(Ghent University)

Chair: Jeffrey Berland (Tübingen)

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