

Nicolas Tackett

Professor, Department of History, University of California, Berkeley
3229 Dwinelle Hall, Berkeley, CA 94720-2550
tackett@berkeley.edu

Education

Columbia University, New York, NY
Ph.D. 2006, M.Phil. 2002, M.A. 2002
East Asian Languages and Cultures (Chinese History)

Stanford University, Stanford, CA
B.S. 1998
Biology

Academic Appointments

University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA
Professor, Department of History, 2018-present

University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA
Associate Professor, Department of History, 2013-2018

University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA
Assistant Professor, Department of History, 2009-2013

Stanford University, Stanford, CA
Teaching Fellow, Introduction to the Humanities Program, 2008-2009

University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Knoxville, TN
Visiting Lecturer, Department of History, 2006-2007

Hunter College, City University of New York, New York, NY
Adjunct Lecturer, Department of Classical and Oriental Studies, 2001-2002

Work in Progress

Books:

“The Rise of the Chinese Meritocracy: The Transformation of Elite Culture in Tenth-Century China”

“Imperial China and the World”

Articles:

“Confucian Statecraft and Northeast Asian Interstate Relations, 900-1400.”
Commissioned article for *The Cambridge History of Confucianism*.

Completed Manuscripts Not Yet in Press

“Changing Social Structure in Sui-T’ang China.” Commissioned article for *The Cambridge History of China*, Vol. 4.

“The Evolution of the Tang Political Elite and Its Marriage Network.” Commissioned article for a special issue of the *Journal of Chinese History* on digital methodologies.

Publications and Theses

“Violence and the 1 Percent: The Fall of the Medieval Chinese Aristocracy in Comparison to the Fall of the French Nobility.” Forthcoming in *American Historical Review* (June 2019).

“Imperial Elites, Bureaucracy, and the Transformation of the Geography of Power in Tang-Song China.” In *Die Interaktion von Herrschern und Eliten in imperialen Ordnungen des Mittelalters*, edited by Wolfram Drews, 170-190. Berlin: De Gruyter, 2018.

“Spatial Organization of Chinese Imperial Government and Society.” In *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Asian History*. Oxford University Press, 2018. doi: 10.1093/acrefore/9780190277727.013.200

***The Origins of the Chinese Nation: Song China and the Forging of an East Asian World Order.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2017.**

中古中國門閥大族的消亡 (Chinese translation of *The Destruction of the Medieval Chinese Aristocracy*), trans. Hu Yaofei. Beijing: Social Science Academic Press, 2017.

“A Tang-Song Turning Point.” In *A Companion to Chinese History*, edited by Michael Szonyi, 118-128. Hoboken: John Wiley & Sons, 2017.

“Late Antiquity in the East, 200 CE – 1000 CE.” Part of Globalyceum’s on-line textbook of world history. 2017.

***The Destruction of the Medieval Chinese Aristocracy.* Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Asia Center, 2014.**

“晚唐河北人對宋初文化的影響：以喪葬文化、語音、以及新興精英風貌為例” (The Impact of Late Tang Hebei on the Development of Early Song Elite Culture). *Tang yanjiu* 唐研究 19 (2013): 251-281.

“The Great Wall and Conceptualizations of the Border under the Northern Song.” *Journal of Song Yuan Studies* 38 (2008): 99-138.

“Great Clansmen, Bureaucrats, and Local Magnates: The Structure and Circulation of the Elite in Late-Tang China.” *Asia Major* 3rd ser. 21.2 (2008): 101-152.

Tomb Epitaphs from the Tang-Song Transition. Shanghai: by author, 2005.

Ph.D. Thesis: “The Transformation of Medieval Chinese Elites (850-1000 C.E).” Columbia University, 2006. Available for free download at <www.ntackett.com>

M.A. Thesis: “The Story of Xu Xuan: Survival and Transformation of the South Chinese Elite.” Columbia University, 2002.

Databases

唐五代人物傳記與社會網絡資料庫, 1.0 版 (Prosopographical and Social Network Database of the Tang and Five Dynasties, version 1.0). Includes data on over 32,000 individuals culled from biographies, genealogical tables, and over 3,000 excavated tomb epitaphs.

唐宋遼墓葬數據庫, 1.0 版 (Database of Tang, Song, and Liao Tombs, version 1.0). Includes data on over 1,700 excavated tombs.

Database of Song Policymakers and Diplomats.

Book Reviews

Review of Michael Szonyi, *The Art of Being Governed: Everyday Politics in Late Imperial China*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2017, in *American Historical Review*, forthcoming.

Review of Sukhee Lee, *Negotiated Power: The State, Elites, and Local Governance in Twelfth- to Fourteenth-Century China*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Asia Center, 2014, in *Journal of Song-Yuan Studies* 45 (2015).

Review of Wang Zhenping, *Tang China in Multi-Polar Asia: A History of Diplomacy and War*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2013, in *Journal of Chinese Military History* 3 (2014).

Review of Peter Lorge, ed., *Five Dynasties and Ten Kingdoms*. Hong Kong: The Chinese University of Hong Kong, 2011, in *Journal of Song-Yuan Studies* 43 (2014).

Review of Ruth Mostern, *Dividing the Realm in order to Govern*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Asia Center, 2011, in *Law and History Review* 31.2 (2013).

Review of Michael Brose, *Subjects and Masters: Uyghurs in the Mongol Empire*. Bellingham, WA: Western Washington University, 2007, in *Journal of Song-Yuan Studies* 39 (2009).

Presentations and Invited Lectures

“Creating Han Ethnicity in Eleventh-Century Northeast Asia: The Impact of Liao Ethnic Politics and Song-Liao Diplomatic Practice.” University of Washington, May 2, 2019.

“Political Elites and Marriage Networks in Tang China (7th-9th c.)” Conference for *Studies in Late Antiquity*, Santa Barbara, May 18, 2018.

“Political Fragmentation, Elite Migrations, and Cultural Change across the Tang-Song Interregnum.” Tang-Song Transition Workshop, Columbia University, April 7, 2018.

“Mortuary Culture and Ethnic Politics in Eleventh-Century Northeast Asia,” Archaeological Research Facility, University of California, Berkeley, October 25, 2017.

“中古中国社会与门阀大族” (Medieval Chinese Society and the Great Aristocratic Families) (in Chinese). Book talk organized by the Social Sciences Academic Press, Beijing, June 19, 2017.

“唐帝国的覆灭与门阀大族” (The Collapse of the Tang Empire and the Great Aristocratic Families) (in Chinese). Book talk organized by the Social Sciences Academic Press, Beijing, June 18, 2017.

“宋辽时代丧葬文化与族群意识” (Mortuary Culture and Ethnic Consciousness during the Song-Liao Period) (in Chinese). Department of Anthropology, Sun Yat-sen University, June 5, 2017.

“Approaches to the Geography of Political Power in Tang China.” Conference for *Studies in Late Antiquity*, Santa Barbara, May 20, 2017.

“Elite Culture, Cosmopolitan Travel, and the Origins of a National Consciousness in Northern Song (960-1127) China.” Princeton University, January 19, 2017

“黄巢兵亂後政治精英移民: 反映在 10 世紀與宋初的筆記” (Migration of Political Elites Post-Huang Chao Rebellion: As Reflected in Tenth-Century and Early Song *Biji*) (in Chinese). Tsing-hua University (Taiwan), December 18, 2016

“唐宋的政治權力地理: 數據化歷史的方法” (Tang-Song Geography of Political Power: A Digital History Approach) (in Chinese). Tsing-hua University (Taiwan), December 16, 2016 [Transcript to be published in journal 早期中國史研究 (*Early and Medieval Chinese History*)]

- “The Changing Geography of Power from the Late Tang to the Tenth Century.”
Conference “Making Connections: Contemporary Approaches to the Tang Dynasty,”
Sarasota, FL, November 12, 2016
- “Representing the Localist Turn with GIS.” Conference “In Song and Story” at Columbia
University, June 2, 2016.
- “Elite Families, Political Legitimation, and the Geography of Power across the Tang-
Song Transition.” Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, April 2, 2016.
- “The Structure of the Medieval Chinese Aristocracy, with a Particular Focus on Marriage
Networks and Geographic Dispersal during the Tang Dynasty (618-907).” Princeton
University, March 9, 2016.
- “Elite Culture, Cosmopolitan Travel, and the Origins of a National Consciousness in
Northern Song (960-1127) China.” Department of History Colloquium, January 25,
2016.
- “Book Talk: The Destruction of the Medieval Chinese Aristocracy.” Center for Chinese
Studies, University of California, Berkeley, October 9, 2015.
- “Bureaucracy, Imperial Elites, and the Geography of Political Power in Tang-Song
China.” Conference on “The Interaction between Rulers and Elites in Imperial
Systems between Late Antiquity and the Early Modern Period,” University of
Münster, June 12, 2015.
- “Cosmopolitan Travelers and the Origins of a National Consciousness among Elites of
Northern Song China.” University of Leiden, June 8, 2015.
- “Les voyageurs cosmopolites et l’origine d’une conscience nationale chinoise” (in
French). École des hautes études en sciences sociales, June 3, 2015.
- “Les frontières militaires et politiques au cours du XIe siècle” (in French). École des
hautes études en sciences sociales, May 22, 2015.
- “La paix et l’esprit de revanche dans les discours des élites des Song du Nord” (in
French). École des hautes études en sciences sociales, May 20, 2015.
- “Les réseaux sociaux des fonctionnaires chinois au neuvième siècle” (in French). École
des hautes études en sciences sociales, May 13, 2015.
- “The Geography of Power in Late Tang China.” University of Melbourne, July 29, 2014.
- “A New Perspective on the Great Clans of the Late Tang.” Australian National
University, July 21, 2014.

- “Chinese Bureaucratic Elites, Their Social Networks, and the Geography of Power across the Tang-Song Transition.” International Medieval Congress, University of Leeds, July 9, 2014.
- “Mapping Localism: New Data on the Geographic Redistribution of Political Elites across the Tang-Song Transition.” Conference on Middle Period China, Harvard University, June 6, 2014.
- “The Late Tang Geography of Power.” University of California, Los Angeles, May 15, 2014.
- “The Deimperialization of the Tang-Song State.” Imperial Declines Seminar, University of California, Berkeley, March 3, 2014.
- “Marriage Networks and the Geography of Power in Ninth-Century China.” University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, October 22, 2013.
- “晚唐河北对宋初文化的影响” (The Impact of Late Tang Hebei on Early Song Culture) (in Chinese). Peking University, June 29, 2013.
- “十一世纪东北亚的丧葬文化与族群认同” (Mortuary Culture and Ethnic Identity in Eleventh-Century Northeast Asia) (in Chinese). Minzu University of China, June 6, 2013.
- “晚唐的权力地理” (The Geography of Power in the Late Tang) (in Chinese). Minzu University of China, May 16, 2013.
- “Description of Tang Prosopographic Data / Using Data in Research.” Association of Asian Studies Annual Meeting, March 23, 2013.
- “Social Networks and Factional Strife among the Bureaucratic Aristocracy of Ninth-Century China.” American Historical Association Annual Meeting, January 5, 2013.
- “Political Power and the Social Network of Late Tang Elites.” China Humanities Seminar, Harvard University, October 15, 2012.
- “The Great Wall in History and Memory.” Beijing Language and Culture University, June 6, 2012.
- “Geographic Relocation and the Exploitation by Late Tang Elites of Capital-Based Social Networks.” Association of Asian Studies Annual Meeting, March 16, 2012.
- “Upheavals in Medieval China: Assessing the Impacts of the An Lushan and Huang Chao Rebellions.” East Asia Center, University of Virginia, November 18, 2011.

- “Tang Colonialism and Song Localism: An Alternative Model of Elite-State Competition.” Melbourne Conference on China (on theme of “Chinese Elites and their Rivals), July 20, 2010.
- “Travelers through a Contested Landscape: Eleventh-Century Yan and the Bounding of the Chinese Ecumene.” American Oriental Society Annual Meeting, March 13, 2010.
- “Delimiting the Chinese Realm: International Borders in Eleventh-Century North Asia.” Stanford University, October 29, 2009.
- “Cultural Diffusion and Hybridization along the Song-Liao Frontier.” Silkroad Foundation Traveling Seminar on “China’s Northern Frontier,” Chaoyang, Liaoning Province, China, July 31, 2009.
- “Harvesting and Interpreting Biographic, Epigraphic, and Genealogic Data for Middle-Period Prosopography.” First International Workshop on Biographical Databases for China’s History, Harvard University, November 21, 2008.
- “The People of Yan: Regional Identity in a Trans-Cultural and Trans-Ethnic Zone.” Conference on Translocal and Transregional Dynamics in Chinese History, National University of Singapore, May 13, 2008.
- “Demic Diffusion and Trans-Cultural Innovation in Middle Period Chinese Mortuary Culture.” Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles, April 14, 2008.
- “The Great Wall and the Cosmotopography of the Northern Song-Khitans Border.” Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, April 5, 2008.
- “Power in the Provinces: Local Elites and the State in Late Tang China.” Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, March 24, 2007.
- “The Making of the Chinese Mandarin: A New Look at the Tang-Song Transition.” University of California, Santa Barbara, February 16, 2007.
- “The Great Wall, Border Linearization, and the Topography of the Song Frontier.” University of Tennessee, Knoxville, January 26, 2007.
- “The Transformation of Elites in Medieval China: A Culture of Survival.” University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, February 9, 2006.

Grants and Awards

ACLS Fellowship, 2019
NEH Fellowship, 2019
Guggenheim Fellowship, 2018
James Henry Breasted Prize (for best book in English in any field of history prior to CE 1000), 2015

ACLS Digital Innovation Fellowship, 2014-2015
Humanities Research Fellowship, Spring 2012
UC President's Faculty Research Fellowship, 2011-2012
Residential Faculty Research Grant, Institute of East Asian Studies, UC Berkeley,
Fall 2011
Postdoctoral Fellowship, Introduction to the Humanities Program, Stanford
University, 2008-2009
Postdoctoral Fellowship in East and Southeast Asian Archaeology and Early History,
American Council of Learned Societies, 2008-2009 (declined)
Postdoctoral Fellowship, Getty Research Institute, Getty Foundation, 2007-2008
Postdoctoral Fellowship, Center for East Asian Studies, Stanford University, 2007-
2008 (declined)
Fulbright Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship, 2004-2005
Columbia University Traveling Fellowship for dissertation research abroad, 2002-
2003
Chen Kueng Scholarship, Columbia University, 2001
Weatherhead Fellowship, Columbia University, 1999-2001
L. Carrington Goodrich Fellowship, Columbia University, 1998-1999
Phi Beta Kappa, Stanford University, 1997
President's Award for Academic Excellence in the Freshman Year, Stanford
University, 1994

Professional Service

Participant, "Tang-Song Transition Workshop," Princeton University, April 22, 2017
Discussant for panel "Beyond the Tang-Song Transition," Association for Asian
Studies Annual Meeting, March 17, 2017
Member, Editorial Board, *Studies in Late Antiquity*, 2016-
Member, Tang Studies Society Board, 2013-2016
Member, Nominating Committee, Tang Studies Society, 2010
Referee for *Journal of Song-Yuan Studies*, *Ars Orientalis*, *Tang Studies*, *Asia Major*,
Transactions in GIS
Referee for University of Hawai'i Press, Institute of East Asian Studies (Berkeley)
Publications, Cambridge University Press

Departmental and University Service

Member, Advisory Board, Institute of East Asian Studies (Berkeley), 2013-
Member, DH Academic Advisory Board, 2017-2018
Member, Personnel Committee (Dept. of History), 2017-2018
Panelist, Stanford / Berkeley / Davis Dinner (History Departments), October 26, 2016
Organizer, Berkeley Undergraduate Conference on China, September 17, 2016
Member, Graduate Admissions Committee (Dept. of History), 2016-2017
Member, Curriculum Committee (Dept. of History), 2016-2017
Member *ex officio*, Advisory Committee (Dept. of History), 2016-2017
Member, Charlene Conrad Liebau Library Prize for Undergraduate Research Judging
Panel, Spring 2016

Member, FLAS Review Committee (IEAS), Spring 2016
Member, Honors Committee (Dept. of History), Spring 2016
Member, Graduate Admissions Committee (Dept. of History), 2013-2014
Member, Personnel Committee (Dept. of History), 2013-2014
Member, Committee for the History Undergraduate Major (Dept. of History), 2010-2011
Co-Organizer, Winter Institute for graduate student study of Chinese documents, Academia Sinica, Taiwan, January 2010

Community Lectures

“GIS and the Visualization of Archaeology.” LAUC-B Conference “Focus on the Visual: Digital Humanities and Libraries,” Berkeley, CA, October 20, 2017.

“Death and Death Rituals in Early and Mid-Imperial China.” San Francisco Asian Art Museum, March 11, 2017

“History and Nationalism in China.” Presentation for the “Columbia Beijing Alumni Salon Series,” Beijing, July 4, 2015

“Imperial China and the Traditional East Asian World Order.” History Social Science Project seminar on “China and the World,” Berkeley, CA, December 4, 2013

“Thoughts on the Civil Service Examination in Song Dynasty China.” Oakland Unified School District in-service for 7th-grade world history teachers, Oakland, CA, October 9, 2013

“The Civil Service Examination in Song Dynasty China.” Oakland Unified School District in-service for 7th-grade world history teachers, Oakland, CA, November 14, 2012

“Technological Breakthroughs during China's Song Dynasty.” History Social Science Project seminar on “Technological Revolutions in World History,” Berkeley, CA, November 6, 2010

“Civil Service Examinations under the Song Dynasty.” Oakland Unified School District in-service for 7th-grade medieval world history teachers, Oakland, CA, October 21, 2010

“Tang and Song China: Two Models of Empire.” 2010 ORIAS Summer Teacher's World History Institute, Berkeley, CA, July 29, 2010

Languages

English and French (native speaker), Chinese (fluent), Classical Chinese and Japanese (fluent reading), Spanish (advanced reading), Russian and Arabic (elementary reading)