

EAST ASIAN ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY

RESEARCH SEMINARS

Department of the History of Art & Archaeology, SOAS
convened by Dr Lukas Nickel, ln2@soas.ac.uk

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Movements along the Eastern Rim of the Tibetan Plateau *The Prehistoric Liangshan Region as a Multi-Cultural 'Intersection'*

Located at the intersection of the Qinghai-Tibet- and the Yunnan-Guizhou-Plateau and bordering on the Sichuan Plain, the Liangshan area is a connection point of several



different cultural-geographic regions. It is furthermore criss-crossed by a multitude of rivers opening up contacts out of the towering Hengduanshan mountain range, which channeled the early exchange along the eastern area of Central Asia. Accordingly, the archaeological material from this region shows a wide range of connections with different areas far north, south, and east, intermingled with

objects and features exhibiting strong local particularities.

This paper will give an overview of the local archaeological record, focusing on the different signs of outside influence, their origin and chronological position. Furthermore, I will suggest some possible routes and types of contact and exchange, their motivations and geographic preconditions. In this brief contribution, it will not be possible to answer these questions conclusively. Instead, the main aim of this paper is to give a rough impression of the material at hand and show its potential as a case study for theoretical and methodical considerations for research on mechanisms of and reasons for cultural contact, exchange, and influence.

Friday, 14 December 2012, at 3 pm, in room B111, Brunei Gallery, SOAS.

All welcome.