



# Empire Marches South: New Evidence on How Southern East Asia Became Chinese

Dr. Maxim Korolkov (Universität Heidelberg)

VORTRAG AM INSTITUT FÜR SINOLOGIE

Am 26.01.2023 um 18 Uhr c.t.,  
Kaulbachstr 53, Raum E04



Along with the construction of the Great Wall, the Qin Empire (221–207 BCE) shaped the Chinese imperial geography by conquering southern East Asia and making it part of China. The discovery of the official archive of Qianling County in the present-day township of Liye in western Hunan Province has shed light on the tumultuous first decade of early Chinese empires south of the Yangzi River. Seventeen thousand inscribed wooden tablets and bamboo slips reveal how the Qin officials explored new environments, mapped landscapes, engineered communities, and found ways to make their remote locale relevant to the imperial project. They also faced formidable odds of rough terrain, inefficient communication, indigenous resistance, and a lack of local knowledge. Qianling documents allow a glimpse into the gigantic experiment of integrating the newly conquered territories into a political entity of unprecedented scale. This talk addresses the organization of Qin governance in the South, including territorial control, population management, and resource exploitation, to answer why the Qin experiment, despite its failure, laid down a more sustainable foundation for Chinese empires in southern East Asia.

MZAW

Münchner Zentrum für  
Antike Welten