DEPARTMENT FÜR ASIENSTUDIEN

INSTITUT FÜR SINOLOGIE

LUDWIG-MAXIMILIANS-

UNIVERSITÄT MÜNCHEN



From Chang'an to Athens: Prestige Gold and the Crossroads of Civilizations

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VORTRAG AM INSTITUT FÜR SINOLOGIE

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As a portable wealth, gold was highly valued by mobile pastoralists for its monetary and aesthetic values in Eurasian antiquity. In early Iron Age China, gold-making evolved through the adoption of foreign motifs and techniques. Comparative analysis of gold artifacts (9th–1st c. BCE) from China, Central Asia, and the Mediterranean world reveals long-distance contacts predating the Silk Roads, while technological studies underscore local innovations. Drawing from scientific data, the archaeological record, and epigraphic evidence, this interdisciplinary research investigates how material culture informs us of the changing patterns in the transnational flows of people, objects, technologies, and ideas over time through individual case studies.

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