

EARLY KOREA AND JAPAN IN THE SINOGRAPHIC COSMOPOLIS

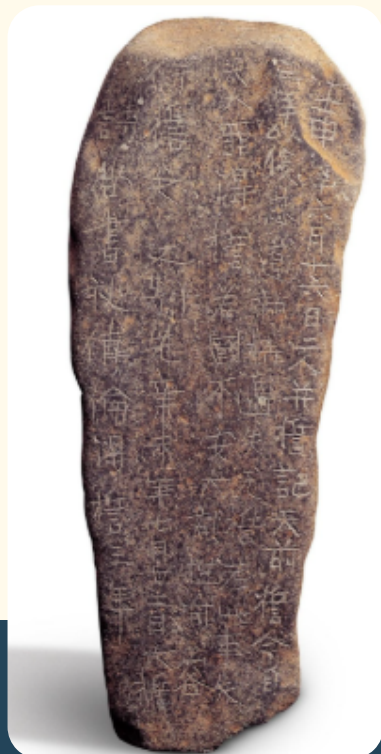
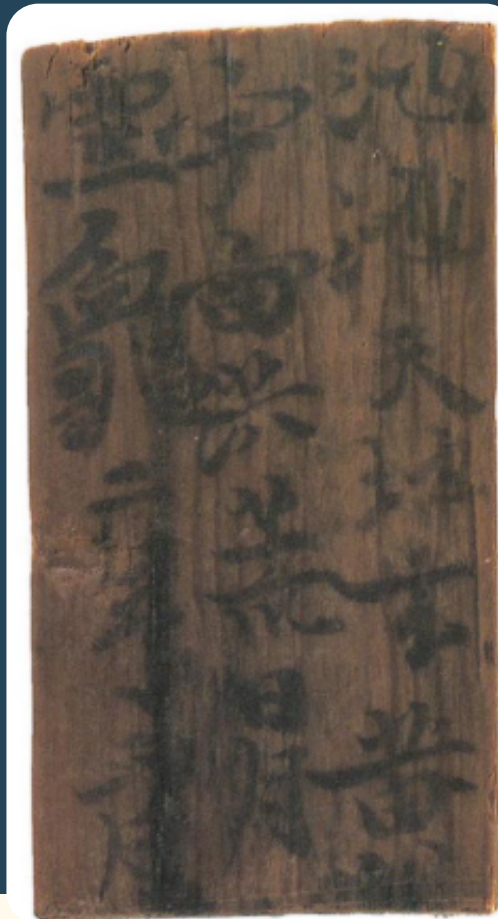


3:30-4:50pm

October 9 (Thursday)



Lecture Hall 1, Wang Center



SUMMARY

This talk examines the place of early Korea and Japan (6th–8th centuries) within the Sinographic cosmopolis—the greater East Asian world united by the written lingua franca of Literary Sinitic (Classical Chinese). Although writing originated in China around 1000 BCE, Sinographs only reached Korea and Japan in the early first millennium CE and became widespread several centuries later as administrative states expanded. Focusing on inscribed artifacts, epigraphy, and wooden documents (*mokkan*), the talk highlights how 6th-century innovations in Korea addressed the gap between local spoken languages and Literary Sinitic. These strategies became foundational to the development of early Japanese written culture. By tracing these connections, the lecture demonstrates that the shared features of Korean and Japanese writing were not coincidental but reflected common challenges faced by emerging literate societies on the peripheries of the Sinographic world.

GUEST SPEAKER

Dr. Marjorie Burge
University of Colorado at Boulder

Dr. Marjorie Burge is Assistant Professor of Japanese at the University of Colorado, Boulder. Her forthcoming book, *Unearthing Written Cultures of Early Korea and Japan*, explores writing in the Korean kingdoms of Paekche (ca. third century CE-660CE) and Silla (ca. third century CE-935CE) and in early Japan through inscriptions on archaeologically excavated wood slips known as mokkan. Her research interests also include poetic practice in both vernacular languages and Literary Sinitic, the development of literary conventions, and the impact of peninsular immigrants on the society and culture of early Japan.



Questions? Please Contact: sophia.yoon@stonybrook.edu