



Taiwan Lectures on
Chinese Studies

臺灣漢學講座

On the Materiality of the Cultural Identity of the Tang Dynasty: East Asian Buddhist Networks behind a Royal Portrait

30 April, 2021 12:00 PM (Belgium)

ZOOM: <https://bre.is/oVPHkQh7> (Meeting ID: 859 1614 6768 / Passcode: 720673)

This presentation compares a number of seventh-to-eighth-century Tang royal murals, as well a Dunhuang cave (Mogao Cave 130). The main enquiry is on what impression of Tang culture would the murals have conferred and how it represented the Tang dynasty from the aspects of material culture and ethnic identity. Prof. Peiyong Lin will draw the audience's attention to a Japanese portrait, the *Tōhon miei* ("Tang-edition royal portrait"), which is traditionally claimed to be the earliest portrait of Japanese Prince Shōtoku. This study will discuss these paintings from two viewpoints: the cultural identity of its artists (and the narrators), comparing the painting style with the Tang murals, and the historical background of the eighth century. The conclusion sheds light on cultural interaction in eighth-century East Asia in cases of these royal paintings and the complexity of mutual understanding between Tang China and her neighbours.

About the Speaker:

Prof. Peiyong LIN 林佩瑩 is Assistant Professor at Fu Jen Catholic University, Taiwan. She received her doctorate from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. Her thesis brought together a wide range of documents from ninth-century China, Japan and Korea, and examined the textual transmission at the early stage of the history of Chan Buddhism. Prof. Lin's research interests include Chan/Zen/Seon Buddhism, bodhisattva precepts, and medieval Buddhist travelers. Her current project discusses medieval Buddhist networks and their cultural exchanges between East Asia and the Silk Road.

Event Organizers:

