

State power and social control in ancient China and Rome

An international conference of the Stanford Ancient Chinese and Mediterranean Empires
Comparative History Project

Sponsored by

the American Council of Learned Societies, with the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation,
the Division of International, Comparative and Area Studies, Stanford University,
and the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies, Stanford University

Organized by Walter Scheidel

Stanford University, March 17-19, 2008

Provisional roster of sessions and contributors

March 17 Rulers, elites, and administration

Walter Scheidel (Stanford University): Introduction

Enno Giele (University of Münster) (Han political institutions)

Corey Brennan (Rutgers University) (Emperors and policy in Rome and China)

Peter Eich (University of Potsdam) and Dingxin Zhao (University of Chicago) (Han and Roman bureaucratization)

Peter Bang (University of Copenhagen): “Imperial élites – militarism and literati culture in Rome and Han China”

Karen Turner (College of the Holy Cross) and Joe Manning (Stanford University): “The imposition of state law in ancient China and the Roman empire”

Discussant: Victoria Tin-bor Hui (University of Notre Dame)

March 18 Religion and the state

Mu-chou Poo (Academia Sinica): “The public and the private in the religious culture of Han China”

Guolong Lai (University of Florida): “Religion and empire in early China and ancient Rome”

Michael Puett (Harvard University): “Religious aspects of emperors in ancient China and Rome”

Michele Salzman (UC Riverside): “Transcendent religion and empire”

Discussant: Yiqun Zhou (Stanford University)

Frontiers

Nicola Di Cosmo (Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton): “Han frontiers”

Mei-yu Hsieh (Stanford University): tba

Nathan Rosenstein (Ohio State University): “Roman frontiers”

Discussant: Albert Dien (Stanford University)

March 19 Urbanism

Yung-ti Li (Academia Sinica): “Urban centers or city-states? Defining walled settlements in Neolithic and Early Bronze Age China”

Mark Lewis (Stanford University): “Urbanism in early imperial China”

Carlos Noreña (UC Berkeley): “Geography, state power, and urbanization in the Roman empire”

I-tien Hsing (Academia Sinica): “The Han capital Chang’an”

Anna Razeto (University College London): “Life in the ghetto: urban living in Han China and the Roman Mediterranean”

Ian Morris (Stanford University): “Pre-modern cities: China and the Mediterranean”

Discussant: Hsin-Mei Agnes Hsu (Stanford University)