

# SCHEDA ALTRE ATTIVITÀ FORMATIVE

A.A. 2024-2025

Corso di Laurea	Lingue e Culture dell'Asia e dell'Africa
Titolo	Sources and Methods: Exploring Chinese History in the Digital Age
Delibera di autorizzazione del Corso di Laurea	
Tipologia attività (conferenze, seminari, laboratori ecc.)	Seminario
Docente responsabile	Prof. Donatella Guida
A cura di	Dr. Liu Jialong
Numero ore	12
Numero CFU	2
Data inizio attività	5.05.2025
Calendario	<p><b>Topics and Readings for Each Session:</b></p> <p><b>May 5- 1. Introduction: An Overview of Digital Methods in Chinese History Studies</b> Readings: Paul Vierthaler, "Digital Humanities and East Asian Studies in 2020," <i>History Compass</i>, Volume 18, Issue 11, November 2020.</p> <p><b>May 7 - 2. Studying Epitaphs (Muzhiming) with Databases: Build Your Own Database for Your Research</b> Readings: Nicolas Tackett, <i>The Destruction of the Medieval Chinese Aristocracy</i>, 70-106.</p> <p><b>May 9- 3. Networks behind Name Lists: Network Analysis of Literary Collections and Political Monographs</b> Readings: Hilde De Weerdt, Brent Ho, Allon Wagner, Qiao Jiyan and Chu Mingkin, "Is There a Faction in This List?" <i>Journal of Chinese History</i> (2020), 4, 347-389. Xiong Huei-Lan, "Path toward the Top Leadership: A Network Analysis of the Civil Service System in the Early Southern Song (1131-1164)," <i>Journal of Historical Network Research</i> 5 (2021), 33-86.</p> <p><b>May 12- 4. Local Gazetteers (Difangzhi) and GIS: Metadata, Text Annotation, and Geographical Issues in Chinese History</b> Readings: Hilde De Weerdt, Xiong Huei-lan and Liu Jialong, "Rethinking Space and Power in East Asia: Digital Approaches to the History of Infrastructure," <i>Ming Studies</i> 2020:81, 76-87.</p> <p><b>May 14- 5. Bibliographic Information and Quantitative Research: The Use of Born-digital Chinese Historical Sources</b> Readings: Paul Vierthaler, "Analyzing Printing Trends in Late Imperial China Using Large Bibliometric Datasets," <i>Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies</i>, Volume 76, No. 1/2 (2016), 87-133.</p>

	<p><b>May 16- 6. Reflections and Prospects: Understanding “Data” in History Studies</b></p> <p>Readings: Peter K. Bol, “Chinese Historical Data in the Social Sciences: Three Cases,” <i>Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies</i>, Volume 83, No. 2 (2023), 365-377.</p>
Destinatari	Max 20 students. Graduate Students who have basic knowledge of Chinese dynasties and historical materials. The ability to read classical Chinese is beneficial but not required.
Prenotazione richiesta (si/no) e-mail	Prenotazioni entro il 15 aprile dguida@unior.it
Modalità di verifica	Elaborato scritto Registered students must submit a short essay of approximately 1,000 words, either reviewing one of the articles read in this seminar or discussing the possibility of applying digital methods to their own research.
Note	<p>The application of digital methods in history studies enables us to pose new questions to old sources or to approach old questions from new perspectives. This seminar aims to introduce students to the development of digital methods in the field of Chinese history studies. Essential concepts and methods of digital humanities, such as databases, text mining, network analysis, GIS, data visualization, and metadata, will be covered in this seminar. Furthermore, we will explore how these concepts and methods have been applied to analyze different types of historical sources. We will read one or two journal articles or book chapters in each session and will particularly examine the following six questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the research questions of each article, and why are these research questions valuable?</li> <li>• What historical sources are used by the author?</li> <li>• What digital methods have been employed by the author?</li> <li>• Why are digital methods necessary to address the research questions?</li> <li>• Why are the sources suitable for exploration with digital methods?</li> <li>• What new insights have been gained through the use of these methods?</li> </ul> <p>By the end of the seminar, students are expected to be able to “talk” to their own research data and to realize the advantages and disadvantages of digital methods.</p>