

FACULTY PROFILE



Prof. Benjamin Ridgway, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Chinese

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Biography

EDUCATION Ph.D. -- University of Michigan

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Chinese poetry of the Song dynasty My area of specialization is Chinese poetry of the Song dynasty (960-1279). More broadly I am interested in the intersections between geography and literature. My dissertation research was on the interaction between practices of official travel during the Song dynasty and imagined travel through memory and the historical past in the song lyrics of Su Shi (1037-1101). Recently, I have begun work on a cultural history of the city of Hangzhou during the 12th and 13th centuries, a period of massive population displacement from North to South, examining the city through a range of genres, including song lyrics, shi poetry, local gazetteers, strange tales, maps, as well as painting.

RECENT PRESENTATIONS, PUBLICATIONS, AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES •

Contributed entries for two Song dynasty poets, Su Shi and Xin Qiji (1140-1270), as well as an entry on the song lyric genre to the *Berkshire Encyclopedia of China*, ed. Linsun Cheng (Berkshire Publishing Group, forthcoming). • In Spring 2007 presented the paper "Strange Tales of Two Cities: The Movement of Populations and Memories between

Department of Foreign Languages & Literatures - Valparaiso University
Kaifeng and Hangzhou in 12th century
China" at the Annual Association for
Asian Studies Conference held in
Boston, MA. • In Spring 2005 presented
the paper "Restoration Aesthetics: The
Reception of Su Shi's Song Lyrics (Ci)
by Early Southern Song (1127-1279)
Literati" at the Annual Association
for Asian Studies Conference held
in Chicago, IL. • In Summer 2004
presented the paper "Two Frameworks
for Remembrance: Travelers in the
Song Lyrics (Ci) of Liu Yong (987-1053)
and Su Shi (1037-1101)" at the Asian
Studies Conference Japan (ASCJ)
hosted by Sophia University, Tokyo,
Japan. • In Spring 2003 presented a
paper in Chinese while studying at
the International Chinese Language
Program in Taipei, Taiwan, entitled,
"Dreams and Historical Reverie in
the Song Lyrics (Ci) of Su Dongpo
(1037-1101)" • Coordinated the Chinese
Film Series for the Center for Chinese
Studies at the University of Michigan
for four semesters as a graduate
student, designing theme-based films
series, contacting film distributors, and
introducing the films to the public. I
look forward to participating in Valpo's
[International Film Series](#) organized by
faculty members of the Department of
Foreign Languages and Literatures.

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