

LFGC Summer Workshop: Discernment in Aesthetic Categories
The Ohio State University—Columbus, OH—July 7, 2018
Discussion leader: Levi Gibbs, Dartmouth College

This workshop aims to increase sensitivity to folk genres among scholars of Chinese studies across literature, religious studies, anthropology, history, linguistics, and language pedagogy. We observed that in Chinese studies not enough attention has been brought to folklore theory and method. We ran into colleagues who are interested in folkloristic topics but have not yet reached a consensus on how to approach those topics in a systematic manner. As a result, they understand folk genres only on the surface, mislabel a text with a genre that cannot reflect the hallmark of the text or overlook the interconnectedness between folk and literary genres. This program will set up a dialogue between graduate students whose research (un)consciously touched upon Chinese folk genres and an alumnus who pioneers in both Chinese literature and folklore. This workshop is particularly suitable for those who are working on topics that involve patterned discourses but have no access to “The Philology of Vernacular” offered by English Department.

Potential participants are encouraged to read Dorothy Noyes’s “[Aesthetic is the Opposite of Anaesthetic](#)” to understand the basics of generic designation and aesthetic categorization. They should consult with their adviser in choosing a genre to study and notify the workshop coordinator at shao.192@osu.edu **no later than May 17, 2018**. Given the constraints of time and space, the topic should come from a preexisting paper in which there is a section could be expanded or revised through the lens of sociolinguistic pattern, ideological frame or generic convention. Each presenter is required to submit an annotated bibliography of 10-20 entries on the genre of his/her choice by June 8, 2018 and a 5-page review on this genre by June 22, 2018. Participants should make use of research databases on EBSCOhost, Google Books, Scripta Sinica, CHANT, Wikisource, etc.; and back volumes of [MCLC](#), [CLEAR](#), Oral Tradition, CHINOPERL, Asian Ethnology, etc. to find relevant literature. On July 7, 2018 each participant will give a 15-minute presentation and will receive feedback from the discussion leader and the audience. Participants can join the discussion either in person at Hagerty Hall 145 or remotely via BlueJeans. Participants who cannot join the live discussion can drop off their work by the same deadlines and expect to receive written comments from the discussion leader after the presentation day.

We plan to accommodate 5-10 participants in this workshop. Students from Chinese studies are encouraged to use keywords provided in “[The AFS Ethnographic Thesaurus](#)” to make their presentations resonate better with scholarships on other parts of the world. Students from various comparative studies on religion, folklore, and education are encouraged to include as many Chinese examples as possible to widen horizons and sparkle interactions.