

“Sanxingdui Bronzes and Metallurgical Network in the Shang Dynasty”

【Speaker】 Prof. Jianjun Mei

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【Date and Time】 10:00-12:00, 4th of February (Wen), 2026

【Language】 English, Chinese

【Venue】 Main Conference Room, Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia, University of Tokyo

※This event will also be held online. Please register using the URL below.

<https://u-tokyo-ac-jp.zoom.us/meeting/register/ixvLLuZgRNK1Bq7A5eNFPQ>



【Abstract】 In recent years, a research trend of “Second look at Joseph Needham” has emerged in academia. Why is it necessary to have a second look at Joseph Needham now? How should we re-examine Needham? What is the contemporary significance of Needham’s intellectual heritage? In this lecture, based on a review of relevant research papers on “Second look at Joseph Needham,” I shall offer some preliminary thoughts on the study of Needham’s intellectual heritage and its contemporary significance, hoping to enhance our understanding and awareness of Needham’s overviews on the development of science and civilization not only in ancient China, but also in the world. This talk will first review previous scientific research work on the Sanxingdui bronzes, especially the research results obtained in recent years, and will then discuss the regional characteristics of bronze metallurgy in the Shang Dynasty and the technical connections and cultural interactions between different regions. Finally, it will examine the position of the Sanxingdui bronzes in the metallurgical network of the Shang Dynasty, and point out that the regional metallurgical innovations based on the local religious or ideological systems could have acted as a driving force behind the emergence and prosperity of the Sanxingdui bronzes.

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