

Joint Research Seminar in Northeast Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

国立民族学博物館北東アジア地域研究拠点・現代中東地域研究拠点共催研究会

BETWEEN LINGUISTICS AND MAGIC

言語学と魔術のはざままで

THE 'POWER' OF CHINESE CHARACTERS LINKING
MEDIEVAL EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST AND NORTHEAST ASIA

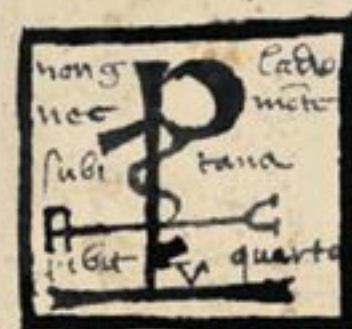
中世ヨーロッパ・中東・北東アジアをつなぐ漢字の「力」

Lecturer: **Benoît Grévin**

(Directeur de recherches, CNRS : Laboratoire de Médiévisiologie occidentale de Paris, UMR 8589)

講師：ブノワ・グレヴァン

(フランス国立科学研究センター、研究ディレクター、西洋中世研究・パリユニット)



Summary

The history of the first contacts between Europe and Chinese characters, during the period of the great Mongol conquests, has been rather neglected. The first news from the world of Chinese Characters reached Western Europe through the Roads of Inner Asia, brought by diplomats that travelled back from the Mongol court. It provoked an attempt to explain the nature of this writing system that used the most advanced linguistic tools of the time. Chinese characters were assimilated with western characters used for medicinal or magical operations in Medieval Europe. A detour by the first Arabic description of the Chinese writing system in the Fihrist of ibn al-Nadīm allows us to compare the reception of the characters in classical Islam and the Latin Christian world. Can we affirm that the perception of Chinese characters as a magical writing technique is but one part of a broader Eurasian tendency to use foreign writing systems as tools for magic?

ARS
ROLI

Date & Venue: 15:30-17:00 14 November, 2017

Seminar Room 3, 2F National Museum of Ethnology

日時・会場：2017年11月14日(火) 15:30～17:00

国立民族学博物館本館2階、第3セミナー室

会場へのアクセスはQRコード参照



About the Lecturer

Benoît Grévin is a long-time member of the French Historical Institute for Italian History (Ecole française de Rome, 2003-2007). His main research fields are the comparative history of rhetoric, communication and linguistic cultures in Medieval Europe and the Mediterranean, with a particular focus on political, administrative and literary rhetoric, and on the inculturation of originally non-European languages such as Arabic in medieval Europe. He is the author of: *Le parchemin des cieux. Essai sur le Moyen Âge du langage*, Paris, Seuil, 2012, an essay in comparative history on the linguistic and textual cultures of medieval Islam and Latin Europe.

