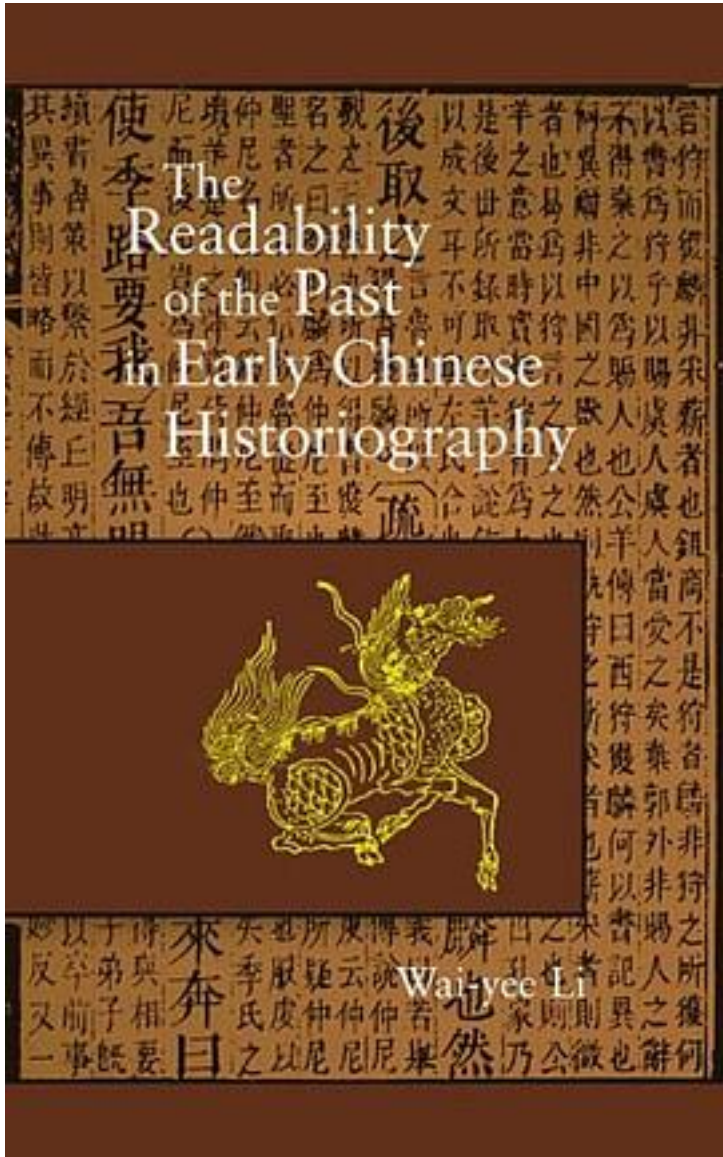


The Readability of the Past in Early Chinese Historiography



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著者:Wai-yee Li

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The past becomes readable when we can tell stories and make arguments about it. When we can tell more than one story or make divergent arguments, the readability of the past then becomes an issue. Therein lies the beginning of history, the sense of inquiry that heightens our awareness of interpretation. How do interpretive structures develop and disintegrate? What are the possibilities and limits of historical knowledge? This book explores these issues through a study of the Zuo zhuan, a foundational text in the Chinese tradition, whose rhetorical and analytical self-consciousness reveals much about the contending ways of thought unfolding during the period of the text's formation (ca. 4th c. BCE). But in what sense is this vast collection of narratives and speeches covering the period from 722 to 468 BCE "historical"? If one can speak of an emergent sense of history in this text, Wai-yee Li argues, it lies precisely at the intersection of varying conceptions of interpretation and rhetoric brought to bear on the past, within a larger context of competing solutions to the instability and disintegration represented through the events of the 255 years covered by the Zuo zhuan. Even as its accounts of proliferating disorder and disintegration challenge the boundaries of readability, the deliberations on the rules of reading in the Zuo zhuan probe the dimensions of historical self-consciousness.

作者介绍:

李惠仪 (Wai-Yee Li)，哈佛大学东亚语言与文明系教授，中央研究院院士。1987年获得普林斯顿大学博士学位，主要研究晚明与清代文学、先秦两汉历史著作等。著有《引幻与警幻：中国文学的情爱与梦幻》、《〈左传〉的书写与解读》、《明清之际的女子与国难及其回响》。编有《清初文学中的创伤与超越》。另与杜润德、史嘉柏合作英译了《左传》。2016年，她因《帝国晚期中国文学中的女性与国难》(Women and National Trauma in Late Imperial Chinese Literature, 2014)一书获得“约瑟夫·列文森图书奖”(Joseph Levenson Book Prize)。

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评论

这是一本研究《左传》历史叙事的有趣著作。作者作为中国文学研究者，关心的并不是《左传》的史实性，或者如流行的历史叙事研究一样，探讨《左传》的历史建构和时代政治、文化的种种关系，而是单纯从叙事学入手，探讨《左传》书写、再现、解读过去的事件的内在逻辑，或者说，研究对当时的历史书写者的历史意识或者历史观。导论和第一章中对《左传》内部“众声喧哗”的挖掘，显然挑战了其作为儒家正统历史书写的内部统一性和传统延续性，而后面几章对于“符征读解”怎么被解释成历史发生机制，即构建叙事中事件间的因果联系的研究，更是大胆的解读。Carlos的意见是，对Li Wai-yee来说，历史本身的文本性自然成立，更重要的是，她要借此探索中国古人的历史世界观，即现实，或历史世界本体的文本性，这才是关键的理论进阶之处。

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书评

p32 左传其实是口传与书写的逐步积累。 p91
在道德训诫和历史偶然性之间的摇摆。聚集象征意义和推动叙事发展形成两个极端。
p135

对于左传中各个主题的总结和归纳是比较全面的，这与传统学术喜欢举例的模式很不相同。 p166徒劳无功的行为却能使情感变得更加强烈，更能感染读者...

(刊于《中华读书报》2017年6月21日) 文/俞耕耘
在中国古代典籍中,《左传》无疑聚合了多重繁复的价值意义。一方面,它位列五经,代表了经典雅正的史学品格;另一面,它又是言辞、故事的汇编,处处彰显史家对“文”(修辞)的追求。李惠仪的《<左传>的书写与解读》一书...

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