

*Oriental Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences invites you to
a Power Seminar Series Lecture*

"Guided by Common Deities:"

The Qing Adjudication of the Feud between the Rma Lho Mongols and the Mdo ba Tibetans, 1862-1882

by

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DATE: 25 September 2023 at 4:30 PM

VENUE: Room N.206, The Czech Academy of Sciences, Národní 3

STREAM: <https://cesnet.zoom.us/j/99445991601>

ABSTRACT:

This presentation investigates a complex, violent, and protracted conflict between the banner communities of the Mongol junwang based in the high-altitude pasturelands to the south of the Yellow River (Tib. Rma lho, Ch. Henan 河南, much of which is now divided between Rste khog County and the Rma lho Mongol Autonomous County, Qinghai Province) and the neighboring Tibetan Mdo ba (Ch. Duo wa 多哇) community, during the years 1862 to 1882. The reconstruction of this conflict using contemporaneous archival materials from the local administration of Qinghai and Gansu province, as well as other related historical materials, supports several interrelated arguments about the presence of Qing civil and military officials in local society and indigenous strategies of governance and dispute management (legal culture). First, the case illuminates the ways in which local actors effected changes to legal and governing norms by utilizing Qing state resources. Second, the case exposed institutional and personal conflicts between Qing officials--the "Qing state" was not a unitary or monolithic actor in the Tibeto-Mongol borderlands. And third, it complicates anachronistic interpretations of Tibetan and Mongol conflict based on modern notions of ethnicity. This presentation summarizes the findings of a collaborative project undertaken by Max Oidtmann (LMU), Zhang Rong (张荣, Chang'an University), and Yang Hongwei (杨红伟, Lanzhou University).