Oct 15, 2014 (Wednesday), 5pm, Rooms 8 & 9, FAMES (tea served at 4:45pm)

Literary Uses of Correspondence: Discovering Early Epistolary Fiction in China

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Defining epistolary fiction broadly to include the “imitation of the letter by the letter” (Claudio Guillén) in all its forms allows us to discover a broad and diverse range of epistolary fictionality in early and medieval Chinese literature. This talk will explore literary phenomena that are promising with regard to the identification of early epistolary fiction: apparently inauthentic correspondences as well as embedded letters in prose narratives and poetry.

Antje Richter is Associate Professor in the Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations at the University of Colorado, Boulder. Richter studies the culture of early and medieval China. Her research interests cross several areas including literature, art history, and medicine. Her first book in English, Letter Writing and Epistolary Culture in Early Medieval China, was published in 2013. Richter is associate editor for East Asia at The Journal of the American Oriental Society and secretary-treasurer of the American Oriental Society’s Western Branch.

All seminars take place on Wednesdays (unless otherwise arranged) at 5pm in rooms 8 & 9 in the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, Sidgwick Avenue, Cambridge. Tea will be served at the same venue at 4:45pm. All are welcome.