Sogdians in the east – Looking at new discoveries from China

BI Bo
Renmin University
10 February, 2016 (Wednesday), 5pm, Rooms 8 & 9, FAMES (tea served at 4:45pm)

As the famous caravan merchants along the Silk Road, the Sogdians travelled eastward and settled in many towns along the trade-routes connecting China and Central Asia. In the past twenty years quite a few documents and items about Sogdians have been discovered in China, from the ancient capitals Xi’an and Luoyang to the oases in Xinjiang, such as Khotan and Karashahr. In this talk the speaker will use these new findings to show their trading activities and migration in China from about fourth to tenth century, and to explore their interaction with Chinese.

BI Bo is an Associate Professor in the Research Institute of Historical and Philological Studies of China’s Western Regions at School of Chinese Classics, Renmin University of China. Her research interest is the history and culture of the Silk Road and the Western Regions, especially the Sogdian immigrants in Medieval China. On this subject she has published a dozen of articles and a book Sogdians in Medieval China: With Special Reference to the Sogdian Presence in the Capital Chang’an (in Chinese, 2011). In recent years she has focused on the Sogdian and Chinese documents discovered from Xinjiang. BI Bo is currently a visiting scholar at the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, she will be here for one year.

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.