



BIWEEKLY COLLOQUIUM
Monday, July 18th, 4:15 p.m.

**EVOLUTION OF SALINE LAKES IN THE WEIHE RIVER BASIN
(CHINA) DURING THE PAST 2000 YEARS**

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The Weihe River is the largest affluent of the Yellow River. Enclosed in this study we attempted to extrapolate the possible existence of saline lakes in the Weihe River Basin during the past 2000 years. Using the Chinese historical sources as well as archaeological materials, we uncovered a total of five historical saline lake bodies which had existed in this region, including Lakes Yanchize, Xiluchi, Dongluchi, Zhuyanze and Xiaoyanchi.

Among them, Lake Zhuyanze dried up over a time spanning the 12-17th centuries, and Lake Yanchize dried up during 1584-1735 AD. Lakes Xiluchi and Dongluchi dried up during the timeframe 1666-1791 AD, and Lake Xiaoyanchi dried up during 1712-1906 AD. It is very interesting that the lakes in the west of this region possibly dried up relatively early, and the lakes in the east dried up relatively late.

The direct cause of the dry up of Lakes Yanchize, Xiluchi and Dongluchi was silt sedimentation. The potential causes of the dry up of all the five historical saline lakes would be increased population and soil erosion. The direct cause of the dry up of Lakes Zhuyanze and Xiaoyanchi would possibly be river flooding and resulting silt sedimentation. Some of the saline lakes dried up during the population explosion of the 18-19th centuries, and all the five lakes dried up during periods of increased soil erosion.

Venue: Leibnizstraße 1, Seminar Room 204