

The David Patterson Lectures Week 7

Dr Danjing Ma
(Henan University)

‘The Rise and Decline of the Jewish Community in Kaifeng’

Dr Danjing Ma is a researcher at the Center for Israel Studies, Henan University (Kaifeng, China) and an Associate Professor of the School of History and Culture, Henan University. She received her BA and MA from Henan University and her PhD from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. From 2014-2016, she pursued her post-doctoral research at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. She is one of the two Chinese translators of Simon Sebag Montefiore’s book *Jerusalem: The Biography*; this translated work has sold over a million copies in China and was awarded the Wenjin prize by the National Library of China. She is also the Associate Editor of a series of books called *Bluebook of Israel: Annual Report on Israel’s National Development*.

Abstract: This lecture discusses when the Jews came to China and settled in Kaifeng, their origin place, their development and accommodation in the cultural context of China, and the signs and causes of their decline in the late Qing dynasty. Although many articles have been written on the Jews of Kaifeng, there are still some divergences of opinions between Chinese and foreign scholars on this issue. The lecturer will trace the history of the Kaifeng Jewish community from the perspective of cultural interaction, explore the reasons for the sinification of Kaifeng Jews, and talk about their present situation based on many years’ contacts with the descendants of Kaifeng Jews.

**Thursday, 29 February 2024
6 – 7 pm (UK time)**

This lecture will be a hybrid session which will be accessible both online (see below) and in person in the Catherine Lewis Lecture Theatre.

No need to register if attending in person.

In order to participate in this lecture online, please register at this link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/joining/register/tZcqduuqpzwwjGNchTALjobSslynCBBGoB_vN

**ALL LECTURES ARE OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC
Refreshments to follow**