



# Mastering Meaning: Self-Exegesis in Medieval Chinese Poetic Writings

Thursday, May 23, 2024, 16:15–17:45

University of Zurich, Institute of Asian and Oriental Studies, Room ZUB 416, Zürichbergstrasse 4, 8032 Zürich

**Public Lecture by Professor Tian Xiaofei, Ph.D. (Harvard University)**

Self-exegesis or auto-commentary (*zizhu*) represents the author's conscious control over the meaning and reception of their work and blurs the boundary between author and reader, text and paratext. Although not unique to the Chinese tradition, self-exegesis has been prevalent in classical Chinese poetry from the late eighth century onward. This talk reconstructs a

history of auto-commentary in medieval poetic writings through the eighth century and examines the implications of adding exegetical notes to one's own writings.

Prof. Wolfgang Behr (Traditional China Chair) welcomes you to this event.