

Eulogy for our dear friend and (fellow) student, Chen Zhenxiu!

First of all, we would all like to express our sincere condolences, in the name of our History Department – where Chen Zhenxiu (1991–2019) was my student beginning in March, 2018 – as well as on behalf of the entire University of Salzburg. Her death has been truly sad for us, and a tragedy hard to endure. That Chen Zhenxiu so suddenly left us has been enormously grievous news that has left us all shocked. When I first heard of her having passed away, I, at first, thought the report wrong, a mistake. I could not believe it was true. That she has so suddenly left us is a huge loss for us all. In our minds we will stay with her forever!

Chen Zhenxiu came to our department less than a year ago. She became my PhD student, investigating the relationship between maritime trade and local development in the Lingnan region (present-day Guangzhou and parts of Guangxi) during the Tang period (618–906). The working title of her PhD thesis was “Local Development and Foreign/Maritime Trade in Tang Period Lingnan (ca. 600–900) in the Context of Human-Environment Interaction”. This topic also formed part of a larger research project that I am carrying out in cooperation with my partners in the Indian Ocean World Centre at McGill University, one entitled “Appraising Risk, Past and Present: Interrogating Historical Data to Enhance Understanding of Environmental Crises in the Indian Ocean World”.

Chen Zhenxiu was always very hard working, and an industrious and ambitious student. During the short period she spent in our department, she read extensively in the historical sources related to her research. Although the topic was completely new to her, she quickly presented her first research results. She had begun to trace the genealogies and activities of non-Han officials with a migratory background working in the Lingnan Region. Every time she discovered some new, interesting historical record, she immediately reported to me, very happy with her progress! Our “Crossroads research group” – founded during summer 2015 (see also <https://www.facebook.com/crossroads.research.centre/>) – greatly profited from her critical questions, and from many discussions with her.

June of last year we went to Napoli in Italy together, to attend a workshop and Summer School organized by my colleague Patrizia Carioti (“Frontiers in Asia”). At the end of 2018, in November, we all went on an excursion to Uzbekistan, with students of Salzburg University, exploring traces and relics of the former Silk Road through Central Asia, and visiting various cities, including Tashkent, Bukhara, and Samarkand. Various students made good friends with Chen Zhenxiu during this trip.

Chen Zhenxiu was a very good, diligent, and open-minded student with a very promising future in the academic world. She showed herself to be one of my best and most compassionate students!

We will forever remember Chen Zhenxiu. She was a good friend, and a competent colleague and student! She will forever remain in our hearts, and in our memories!

We wish to dedicate this special issue of *Crossroads* to our friend Chen Zhenxiu. In the introduction Dr. Li Man and myself will introduce the research she had been carrying out so far, and discuss local migratory patterns, and the relationships between local developments, central Tang politics, and maritime trade.

To conclude, to commemorate her, I would like to cite a poem, a death elegy by the famous Chinese poet, Tao Yuanming (365?–427):

“*Wange shi*” 輓歌詩 Elegy¹

¹ Literally this means “Coffin puller’s song”.

Overgrown plants, how boundless,
Poplar limbs rustle.
Severe frost 9th month,
Sending me beyond habitation.
All directions no people,
Tall graves rise up.
Horse calls Heaven for me,
Wind moans for me.
Dark chamber once closed,
No dawn a thousand years!
No dawn a thousand years!
Does not matter who, can do nothing!
Those just my entourage,
Now gone back home.
Kin maybe still with grief,
Others done with burial song.
Where do the dead go?
Bodies entrusted to the mountains.²

首先，我想代表陈朕秀曾在这里工作和生活过的历史系和整个大学，再次表达我最深切的哀悼。她如此突然离世，让我们非常悲伤。这是难以承受的悲剧，是一个巨大的噩耗，令人震惊。当我第一次听到她去世的消息时，我以为自己听错了，或者消息就是错误的。我简直不敢相信。

她的离世对我们所有人来说都是一种很大的损失，我们都很想念她！

陈朕秀到我们系还不到一年。她去年刚刚成为我的博士生，开始读博士，研究唐代岭南海外贸易与当地发展之间的关系。她正式的研究课题是在人与环境的互动中唐代岭南海外贸易与当地发展之间的关系。这个课题也是我们更大的研究项目的一部分。

她一直都很努力做研究，读了很多古代历史资料。虽然这对她来说是一个新课题，她很快就给我发了她初次的阶段研究成果。每次发现新的有关历史资料，她都很高兴，立刻都向我报告！我们的研究小组（成立于2015夏（参见 <https://www.facebook.com/crossroads.research.centre/>））都从她的问题和对话中获益良多。

我们去年还一起去了意大利的纳波利，参加一个我的同事 Patrizia Carioti 组织的工作坊及暑期学习班（亚洲的边疆）。年底，11月，跟学生们一起参观乌兹别克斯坦沿着古代丝绸之路的一些城市和遗址，比如撒马尔罕。几个学生们与她成为了好朋友。

陈朕秀是一位非常严谨、心胸开阔、善良、有前途的年轻学者，她的表现证明了她是我最优秀，最有同情心的博士学生之一！

我们想念朕秀，她是一位好朋友，也是能力突出的同事和学者！她会永远留在我们心中，留在我们的记忆中！

² *Wange shi* (3). 輓歌詩 (三). Poem in the Form of a Coffin-Puller's Song, No. 3. Poem by Tao Yuanming 陶淵明. Translation by Paul D. Buell.

我们希望在《纵横》学术杂志为她筹划一期特刊。在引言中，李漫博士和我自己会介绍她已经完成的部分研究成果，并将讨论地方发展，唐中央政治以及海上贸易与地方移民模式之间的关系，

我最后想诵一首诗纪念她

陶渊明《挽歌》：

荒草何茫茫，白杨亦萧萧。
严霜九月中，送我出远郊。
四面无人居，高坟正崔嵬。
马为仰天鸣，风为自萧条。
幽室一已闭，千年不复朝。
千年不复朝，贤达无奈何！
向来相送人，各自还其家。
亲戚或余悲，他人亦已歌。
死去何所道，托体同山阿。

Angela Schottenhammer 萧婷

Salzburg, January 2019