Fenye is an astral-terrestrial correspondence system that associates constellations (heaven) with regions (earth) based on the ancient Chinese cosmology of inseparable heaven, earth, and the human world. It first emerged during the Spring and Autumn and Warring States periods (from the eighth to the third century BCE) for political prognostication, then continued to develop throughout the long course from Han (202 BCE–220 CE) to Song (960–1279). Scholars believe that fenye gradually lost its political prognostication function after the Song dynasty. However, in the genre of local gazetteers that documented local information and emerged after the Song dynasty and flourished in the late imperial period, fenye somehow obtained a crucial status: not only do 80% have a dedicated section on fenye, but almost all of them start the gazetteer by identifying the region in the vast empire through its associated lodge. We question why fenye, which started as a divination system, became such an essential part of local gazetteers.

After the seventeenth century, as western astronomy became popular in China, fenye was heavily criticized by literati for its imprecise and illogical correspondence. The 1781 public criticism from the Qianlong emperor is considered by scholars a major sign of the decline of fenye. However, with quantitative analysis, we found many gazetteers still kept fenye afterwards. In this workshop, we bring together historians from different domains and time periods to examine how fenye became a popular chapter in Chinese local gazetteers, how gazetteer compilers resisted removing fenye, and what eventually replaced fenye at the time of crisis—when Chinese knowledge systems were eventually torn down and replaced by western epistemologies in the transition from imperial to republican China.
PROGRAM

THURSDAY, 25 MAY

09:15–09:30  Welcome  Shih-Pei Chen

09:30–10:50  PANEL 1  Chair: Shih-Pei Chen
Yang Qiao  Astronomy as a Science of the Archive in Imperial China (221 BCE–1911 CE)  Commentators: Catherine Jami, David Pankenier
Zhu Haohao & Zhou Qi  The "Intermediary Status" of Fenye in Local Gazetteer: Study on Mei Wendongs Ningguo fuzhi xingye in Early Qing China  Commentators: Christopher Cullen, Ping-Ying Chang

10:50–11:20  COFFEE BREAK

11:20–12:40  PANEL 2  Chair: Qiao Yang
Qiu Jingjia  From the Astrological Mysteries to the General Knowledge of Geography: The Transmission of the "Field Allocation" Astrology in the Perspective of Intellectual History  Commentators: Ping-ying Chang, Shi Yunli
Zhang Jiajing  From Astrological Correlation to the Coordinate System: The Transformation of Fenye Knowledge in Chinese Local Gazetteers after the Introduction of Western Sciences  Commentators: Shi Yunli, Mario Cams

13:40–15:00  PANEL 3  Chair: Mario Cams
Wu Huiyi  Tracing Western Learning in the Fenye Chapters of Qing Dynasty Local Gazetteers (1660–1820)  Commentators: David Pankenier, Christopher Cullen
Tristan Brown  The Long Arm of the Calendar: Western Learning's Impact on Astrology and Fengshui in Qing China  Commentators: Christopher Cullen, Catherine Jami

15:00–16:00  DISCUSSION  Chair: Shih-Pei Chen

FRIDAY, 26 MAY

09:30–10:50  PANEL 1  Chair: Shih-pei Chen
Lyu Chuanyi  From Outline to Discipline: The Transmutation and Construction of Fenye Models in the Process of Great Unification  Commentators: David Pankenier, Shi Yunli

10:50–11:20  COFFEE BREAK

11:20–12:40  PANEL 2  Chair: Qiao Yang
Vera Dorofeeva-Lichtmann  Spatial Framework Underlying the Fenye Maps in the Household Encyclopedia  Commentators: Mario Cams, David Pankenier
Sun Mengmeng  Heaven, Earth, and Hou at Places: A Study on the "Fenye-Qihou" Sections in Local Gazetteers of the Ming and Qing Dynasty  Commentators: Christopher Cullen, Tristan Brown

13:40–15:00  PANEL 3  Chair: Qiao Yang
Shih-Pei Chen  Fenye by the Numbers: A Quantitative Analysis of Astrological Contents in Chinese Local Gazetteers  Commentators: Daniel Morgan, Catherine Jami

15:00–16:00  DISCUSSION  Chair: Dagmar Schäfer, Shih-Pei Chen  General Comments from Sarah Schneewind

12:40–13:40  LUNCH BREAK