

Institute for Chinese Studies Lecture Series

Creative Environment, Creative Prisoners: Life in Confinement in the Ming

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1969–2019
EAST ASIAN
STUDIES
CENTER

Friday Sept 13, 4-5:30 pm
Mendenhall Lab 115



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Imprisoned Ming officials are often associated with torture and gruesome deaths inflicted on them by autocratic emperors and evil eunuchs. This simplistic narrative prevents us from understanding accurately the experiences of the Confucian-educated elite, many of whom lived culturally rich lives in confinement. To them, the space of confinement, far from being an isolated, lifeless environment, was full of meanings and movements. This talk will discuss how the material aspects of prison—such as nature and objects—inspired their artistic production, which sheds interesting light on these men's self-understanding and self-expression as Confucian subjects. It also shows how the non-elite contributed to their artistic production and spiritual exploration



Free and open to the public
easc.osu.edu/events/ics/y-zhang

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