

Legal Education, the Circulation of Legal Texts, and Judicial Administration in Ming-Qing Gansu.

Paper to be presented at Academic Sinica, November 3, 2011.

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This paper is not ready to be cited.

Introduction.

Legal education and what people knew about law in the Ming and early-Qing are not well understood even in the core areas of the empires. Even less is known about how people in border regions learned about the law. This paper presents information on legal education gleaned from Ming and Qing gazetteers from what is now Gansu Province. In the summer of 2010, I spent three months working on Gansu gazetteers collected by Paul Pelliot that are stored in the Bibliothèque nationale de France. I have drawn on additional Gansu gazetteers from the *Zhongguo difangzhi jicheng*, *Gansu fu xian ji* 中國地方志集成, 甘肅府縣志輯. My original idea was to see what we could learn from gazetteers about judicial administration and legal education in Gansu. Over the years I had come across occasional references in local gazetteers that reveal small bits of information about the circulation of legal texts. By focusing on many gazetteers from one province with a high concentration of people who were not culturally Chinese, I hoped to create a better picture of the circulation of legal texts, legal education, and their connections to judicial administration in Ming-Qing borderlands. The paper has two parts: an analysis of legal texts in Gansu school library book collections, and a case study of promotion of law and education in Xining 西寧, a region with a large Mongol, Tibetan, and Hui Muslim population in Ming and Qing.