



# **Jiangxi Sites and the Material Culture of a Local/Global Past**

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In this paper I will reflect on my experience of research on Jiangxi sites over the last 13 years. My aim is to connect the local historical research I did on Ji'an prefecture with the research in global perspective I have done on Jingdezhen. This comparison will highlight a number of contrasts. The elite residents of Ji'an prefecture between the Song and the mid to late Ming dynasty left a tangible legacy by means of the texts they wrote. Jingdezhen, or to make it comparable in terms of scale, Raozhou prefecture, left a legacy of material goods. If in Ji'an prefecture the vast majority of the population was sustained by means of agriculture, the Raozhou population, who had less fertile fields to work with, had the potteries and their numerous related industries to work in. One might argue that one place is 'local' and one is 'global'. However, I will not only seek to rethink these contrasts as continuities, but also attempt to extend the continuities beyond the boundaries of the Chinese cultural realm.

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