

Maritime Religious Networks: Aesthetic Sources of Flora and Fauna Motifs from India and China on Tomb Elaborations in Taiwan

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Top University Project in Digital Humanities

International Doctoral & Master's Program in Asia-Pacific Studies

National Chengchi University, Taipei

International Symposium on Grids and Clouds (ISGC)

**ECAI Workshop Atlas of Maritime Buddhism, Digital Humanities Support
Technology, Cultural Mapping, and Text Translation and Analysis**

Academia Sinica, Taiwan

6th–7th March 2017

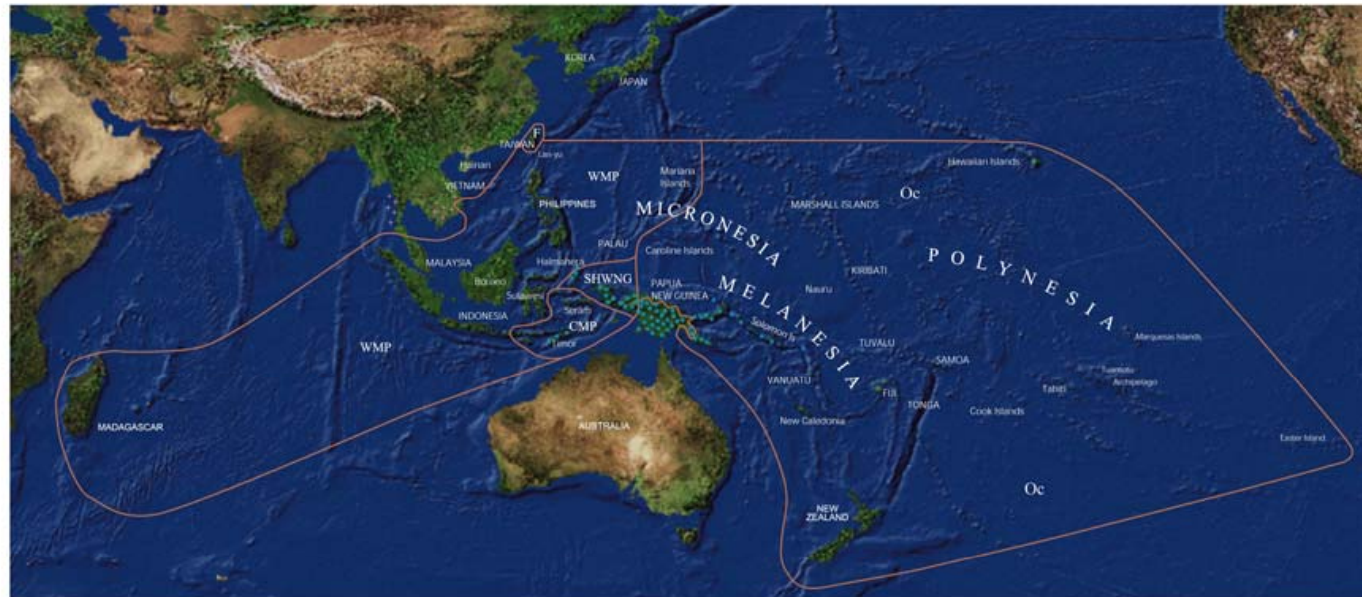
Maritime Routes



Languages & Cultures

The Austronesian language family prevails across the vast expanses of the Indo-Pacific as an essentially island-based languages and was the most wide spread linguistic dispersal of languages prior to European colonial languages.

Network of Resources



Key to the Austronesian Language Map

F	Formosan Languages
WMP	Western Malayo-Polynesian Languages
CMP	Central Malayo-Polynesian Languages
SHWNG	South Halmahera West New Guinea
Oc	Oceanic Languages
	Papuan Languages

Structure of the Austronesian Language Family

AN	Austronesian Language Family
F	Formosan Languages
MP	Malayo-Polynesian Languages
WMP	Western Malayo-Polynesian Languages
CMP	Central Malayo-Polynesian Languages
EMP	Eastern Malayo-Polynesian Languages
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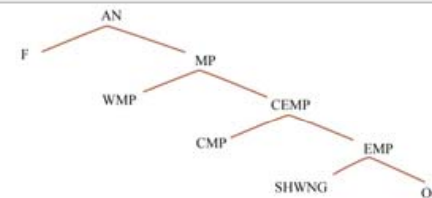


Figure 1
Distribution of the Austronesian Language Family and Major Subgroupings. Adapted from the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies,
National Australian University. Structure of the Austronesian Language Family from Blust.

Diversities of Peoples & Cultures



Cultural elements seemingly unrelated, yet connected –

We are looking for *cultural elements seemingly unrelated, yet connected.*

The aim is to recount narratives from historical records of religious transmissions, aesthetics, and partnerships.

Finding linkages with –

Ships & Navigation –

Routes & Timelines –

Trade Winds –

Ocean & Estuary Ports –

Travelling Merchants & Monks –

Early Indic Stories –

Use of Google Earth



Time-enabled Map Displays

This enables display of multiple language area boundaries including contemporary languages areas. It uses dynamic map display techniques capable of visually showing change.

The Dispersal of the Formosan Aborigines in Taiwan

臺灣南島民族遷移圖

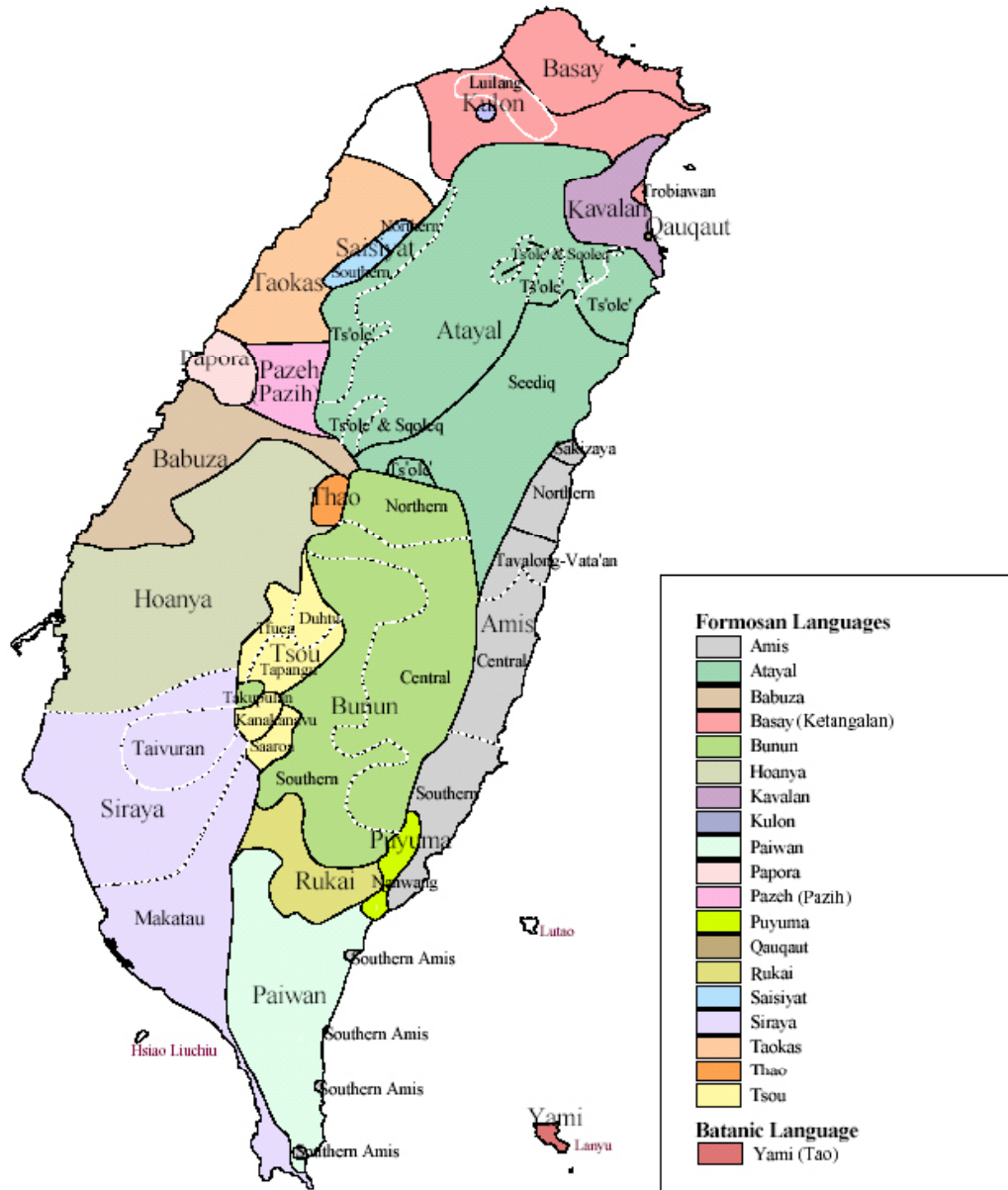


Thao Village and District Names around 1850
十九世紀中葉南島民族部落分布圖

- Legend**
- Basic Settlement
 - Kavalan Settlement
 - Atayal Settlement
 - Saisiyat
 - Seediq/Misping
 - Ts'ole'
 - Thao Settlement
 - Bunun Settlement
 - Siraya Settlement
 - Makatau
 - Siraya
 - Thao
 - Rukai Settlement
 - Amis Settlement
 - Yami Settlement
 - Present Place-name
 - Present Place-name
 - Bun Moon Lake
 - Dispersal of Basic
 - Dispersal of Kavalan
 - Dispersal of Atayal
 - Dispersal of Seediq
 - Dispersal of Siraya
 - Dispersal of Thao
 - Dispersal of Bunun
 - Dispersal of Tsou
 - Dispersal of Rukai
 - Dispersal of Paiwan
 - Dispersal of Puyuma
 - Dispersal of Amis
 - Dispersal of Yami
 - Migration of Yami



詳細說明請參見 李壬癸：《臺灣原住民族史—語言篇》
中央研究院語言學研究所



Formosan Languages

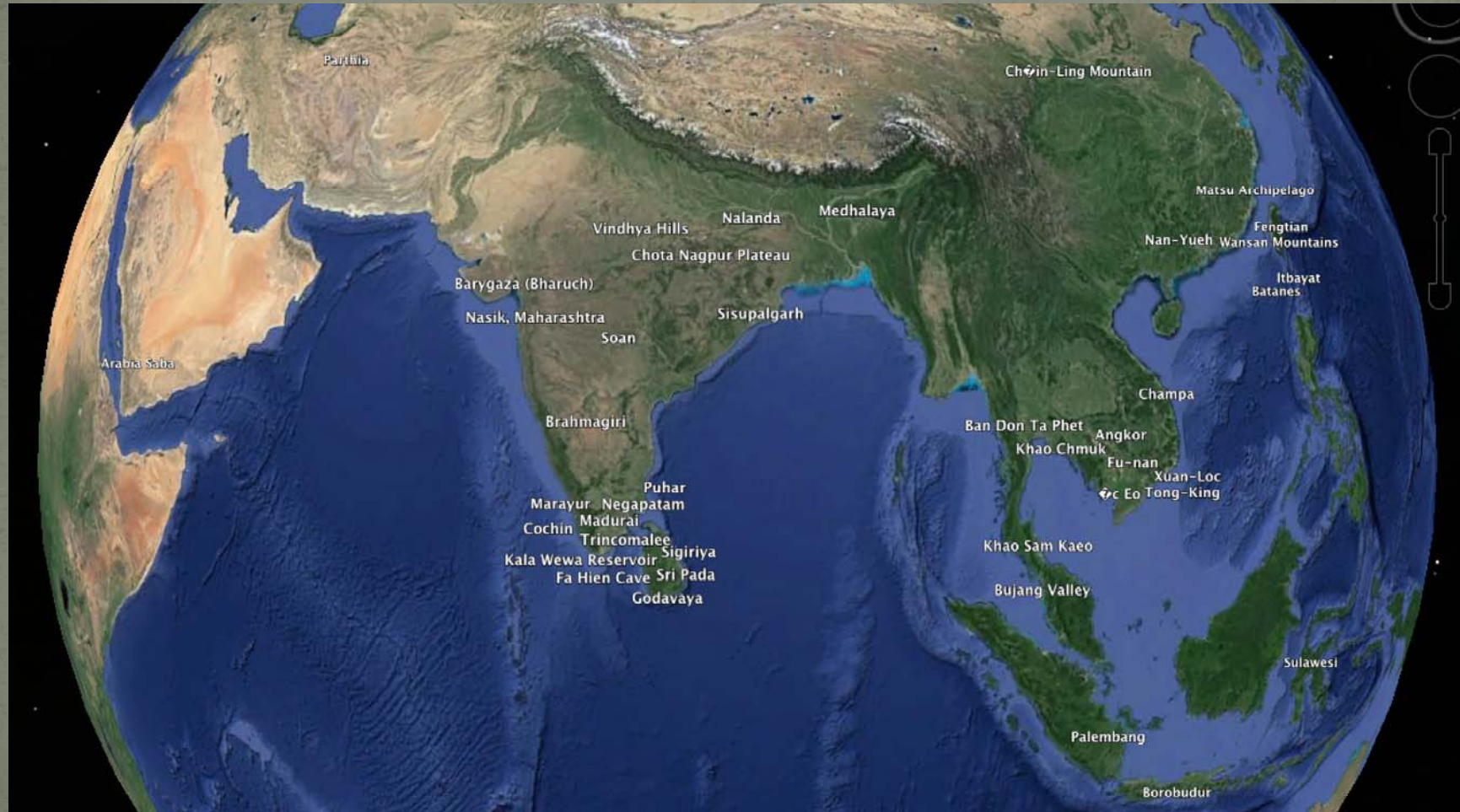
- Amis
- Atayal
- Babuzza
- Basay (Ketangalan)
- Bunun
- Hoanya
- Kavalan
- Kulon
- Paiwan
- Papora
- Pazeh (Pazih)
- Puyuma
- Qauqat
- Rukai
- Saisiyat
- Siraya
- Taokas
- Thao
- Tsou

Batanic Language

- Yami (Tao)

Formosan Languages and Yami

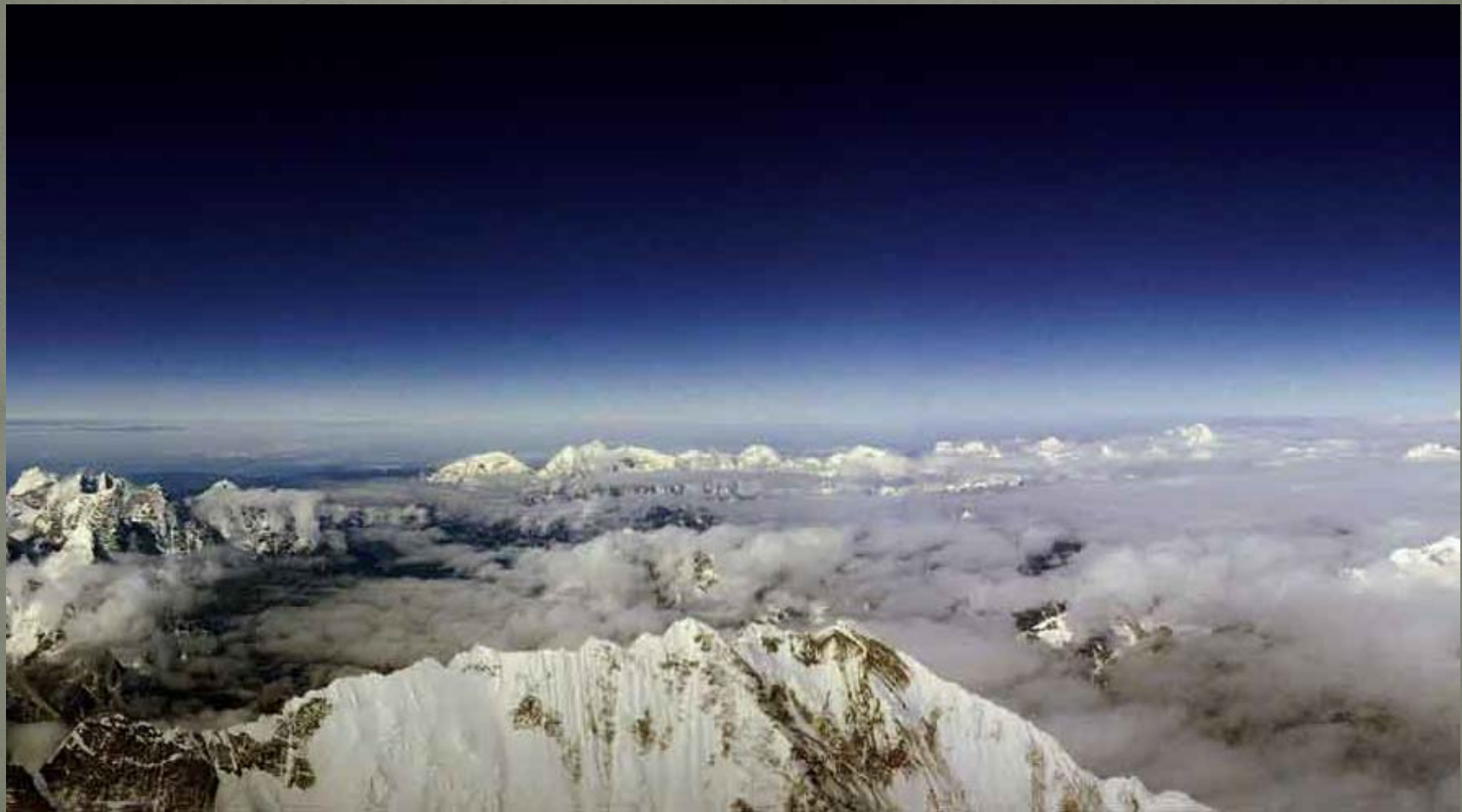
Our Research Sites of Religious Networks & Navigation



<http://ecai.org/projects>

This paper is about integrating an atlas of historical data through our mutual trans-disciplinary synergies. It is a collaborative project with the Electronic Cultural Atlas Initiative (ECAI) Austronesia Team and Atlas of Maritime Buddhism, University of California, Berkeley.

Landing in Taiwan ...









Formosan Languages and Maps





Location 文山

文山
文山

MAP of Wenshan District

Region of belief systems ...



Hilly District of South Taipei



Research Innovation-Incubation Center

研究暨創新育成總中心



Asia-Pacific SpatioTemporal Institute
Top University Project in Digital Humanities

頂尖大學數位人文計畫

亞太時空資訊研究室

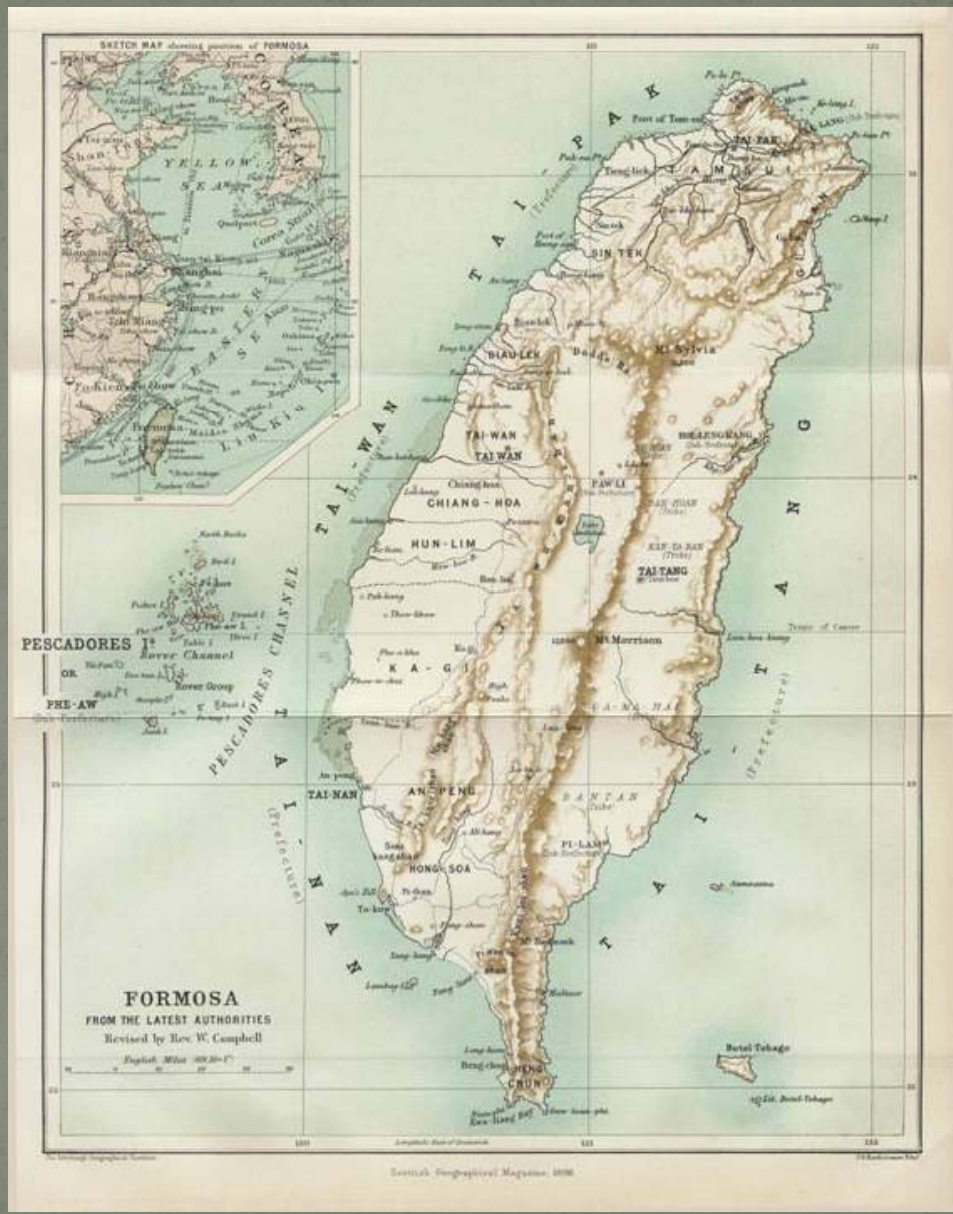


*facilitating capacity building and
innovative ways of sharing information
by digital methods for visualizing
spatiotemporal aspects of human
experience*

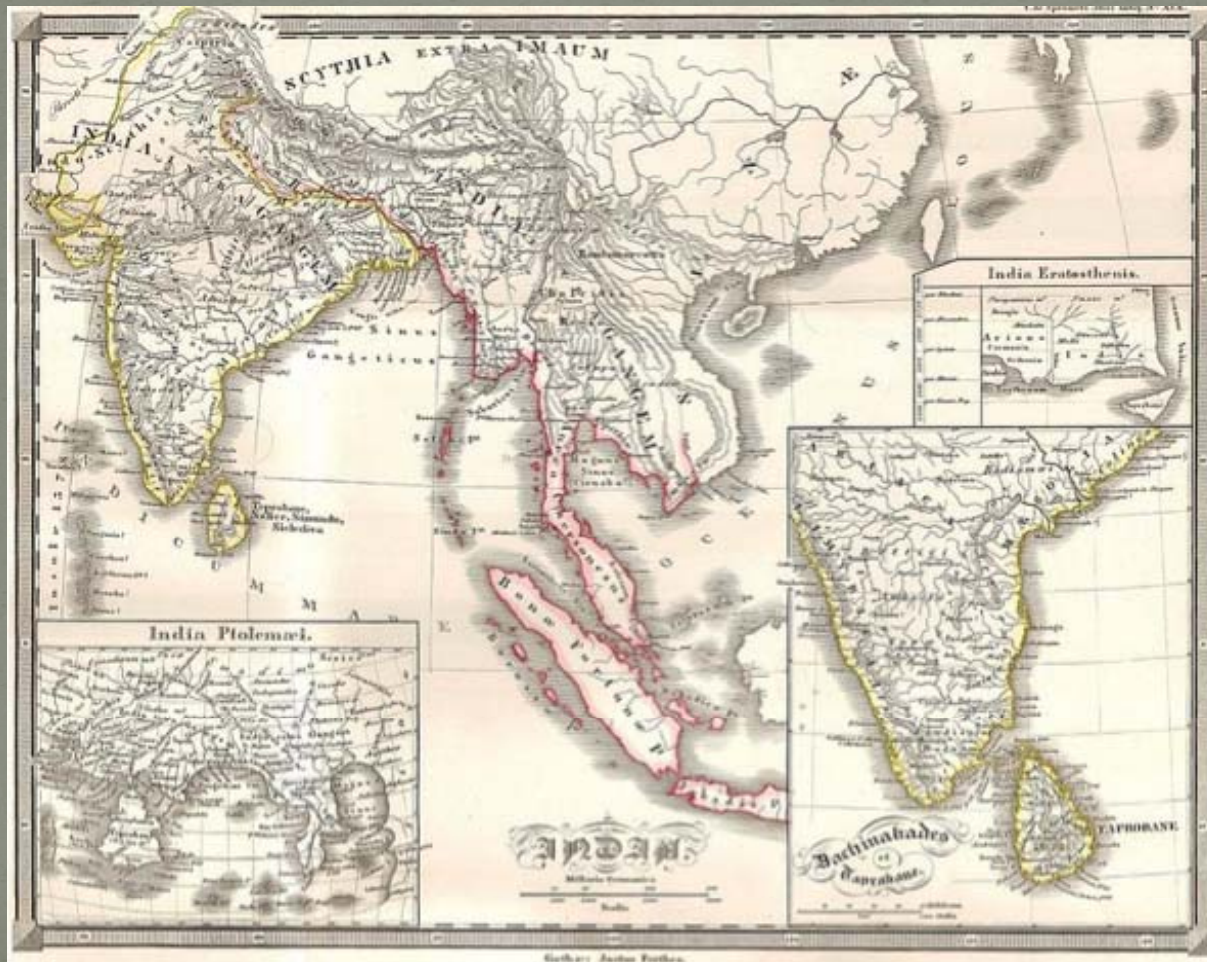


ApSTi

We offer a range of project services to facilitate new ways of configuring data based on the tools of geo-referencing and interfacing of spatiotemporal systems creating dynamic maps of unique information possibilities.



Monsoon Asia. Spruner's composite map of India and Southeast Asia in ancient times, including Ptolemy's *Geography* (c. 150 CE) in lower left corner, 1855.



Jambudvipa –

Terrestrial world as envisioned in the cosmologies of Hindu, Buddhist, and Jain. At the center of trade and transportation, we argue Jambudvipa was a circulation hub of Indic influence, it served as a cultural, political, and religious force in the region.

Early Mapped Region

The region was mapped as a complete entity since the time of Ptolemy.

Its importance was about its centralized location in Indo-Pacific Monsoon Asia with advanced civilizational infrastructure and port system.

Lands of Ganga, Islands, and China



Buddha, Mara, & Goddess of Ganga





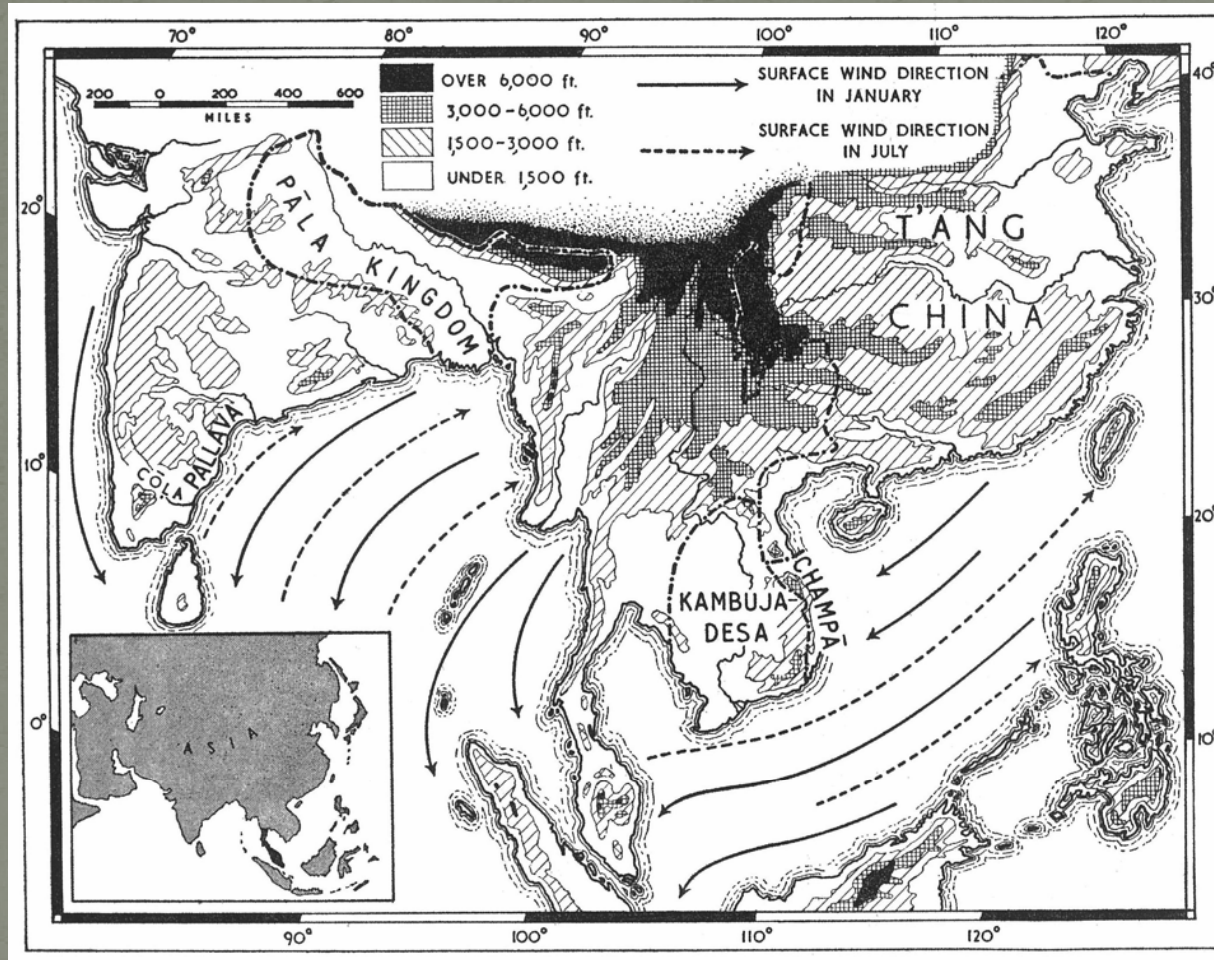
ATLAS OF
**Maritime
Buddhism**
ELECTRONIC CULTURAL ATLAS INITIATIVE

Stories from Tamil and Sinhala texts combined with Indian Ocean navigation practices to distant harbors, tell of people in the trappings the *dharma* sailing across the region forming a network of connections as part of a world trade system within a tropical region of peninsulas and islands.

Trade Winds –

Monsoons, important by season for sailing across the Indian Ocean, made the trade predicable and profitable in accordance with winds and the annual shift of direction that marked the trade calendar for ocean shipments.

Monsoon Winds Patterns



Austronesian Navigation Out of Taiwan





Austronesian Voyaging



We are Looking at:

religious networks

attributes and motifs

multilingual scripts

Landscapes, sea to mountains

materials: stone, wood, earthenware, tiles,

water systems and flows with depths to

mud flats



Totems



Seat (Authority), Tree, Sun or Star



sites with locational 'sense of place'
(localities), geomancy, sacred sites

mapped points, and point clusters
(spatiotemporal points)

migrations and movements (pathways)

We comprehensively search for spatiotemporal points to where religious networks were transmitted through sea voyaging.

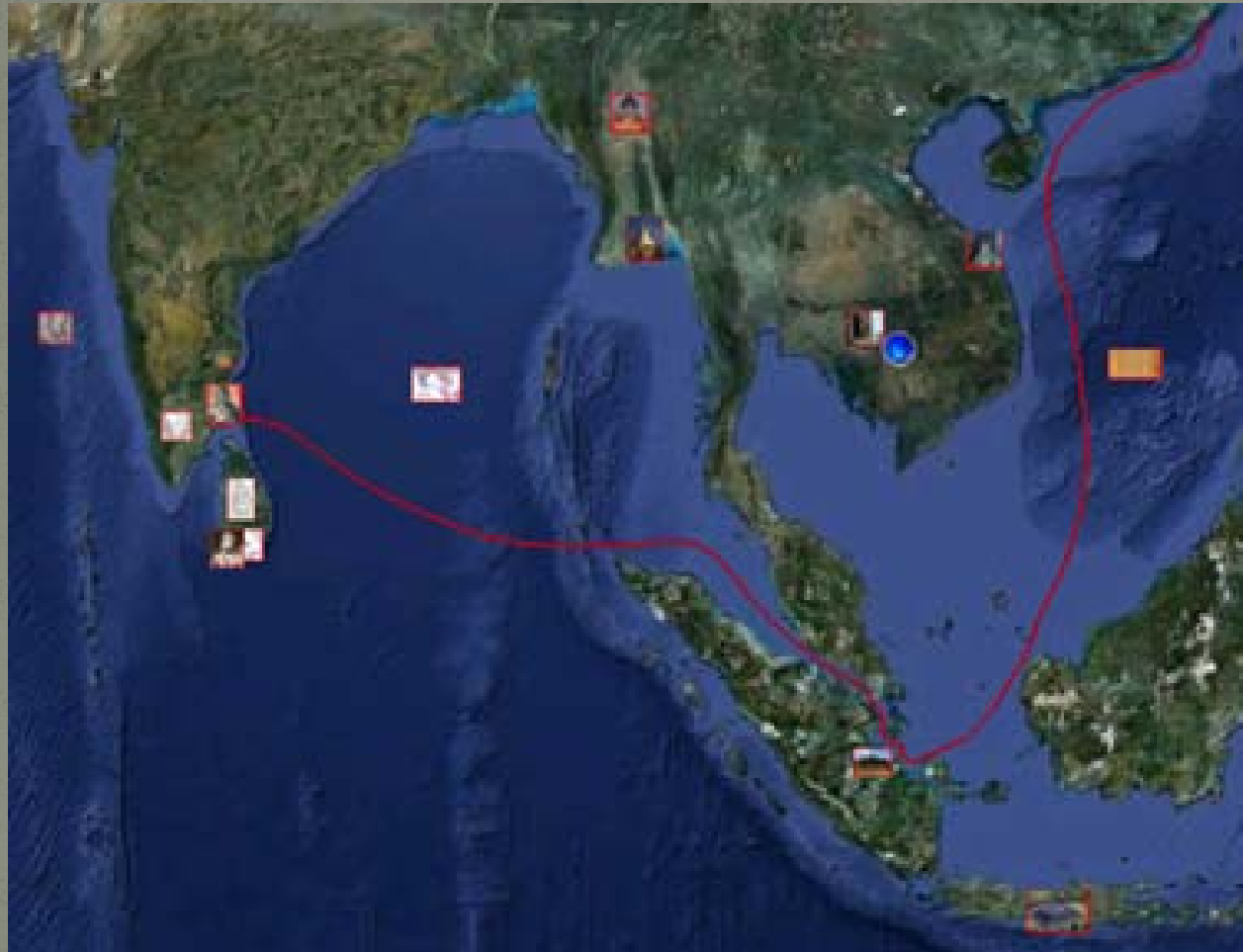
We are research systems of religious aesthetic symbolic networks. These cultural arenas have spatiotemporal dimensions. Their attributes that can be expressed in GIS maps time enabled, and 3D visualization.

My MoST project '**Mariners, Merchants, Monks**' 2015-2016 funded GIS mapping and historical narratives in Indonesia.

Mariners, Merchants, Monks

Merchants and monks commissioned Austronesian-speaking mariners to sail in sea craft—wood plank hull lashed and stitched together with outrigger—across the Indian Ocean.

Contributing to ECAI



1491



Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO
© 2013 Cnes/Spot Image
Image © 2013 TerraMetrics
Image IBCAO

Google earth

Eye alt 6272.71 km

Buddhism Circulated by Ships



Destinations, Suvarnabhūmi

Suvarnabhūmi was the Golden Chersonese of mainland Southeast Asia with its expansive river systems. Also Suvarnadvīpa was mentioned referring to peninsula and islands of Southeast Asia. They were tropical overseas destinations, eastward places where trade prospered beyond the Ganges.

Chinese literary sources –

Chinese literary sources of the first millennia CE enrich the South Asian literature with eastern perspectives describing in other ways the ports and merchandising of Monsoon Asia.

The Chinese traced seafaring routes along coasts to deltas and up rivers such as the Pearl, Mekong, Irrawaddy, Mahaweli, and many other regional port centers of trade. Chinese reported on the Malay Peninsula, crossed into Indonesia then to the Bay of Bengal to Sri Lanka and India.

Literature and archaeology mutually recount the story of maritime Buddhism from rivers and ports of Southern Asia and circulating in ships according to the rhythm of the Monsoon seasonal winds across the ocean to other peninsulas and islands.

Aesthetic Ethos

For **Mariners**, the objective is locating where navigators voyaged, from what ports, and to trace routes. For example tracing Indian Ocean navigation: a type of ship, outrigger 'oru' of Austronesian design found on the stone relief panel of Borobudhar, Java, Indonesia.

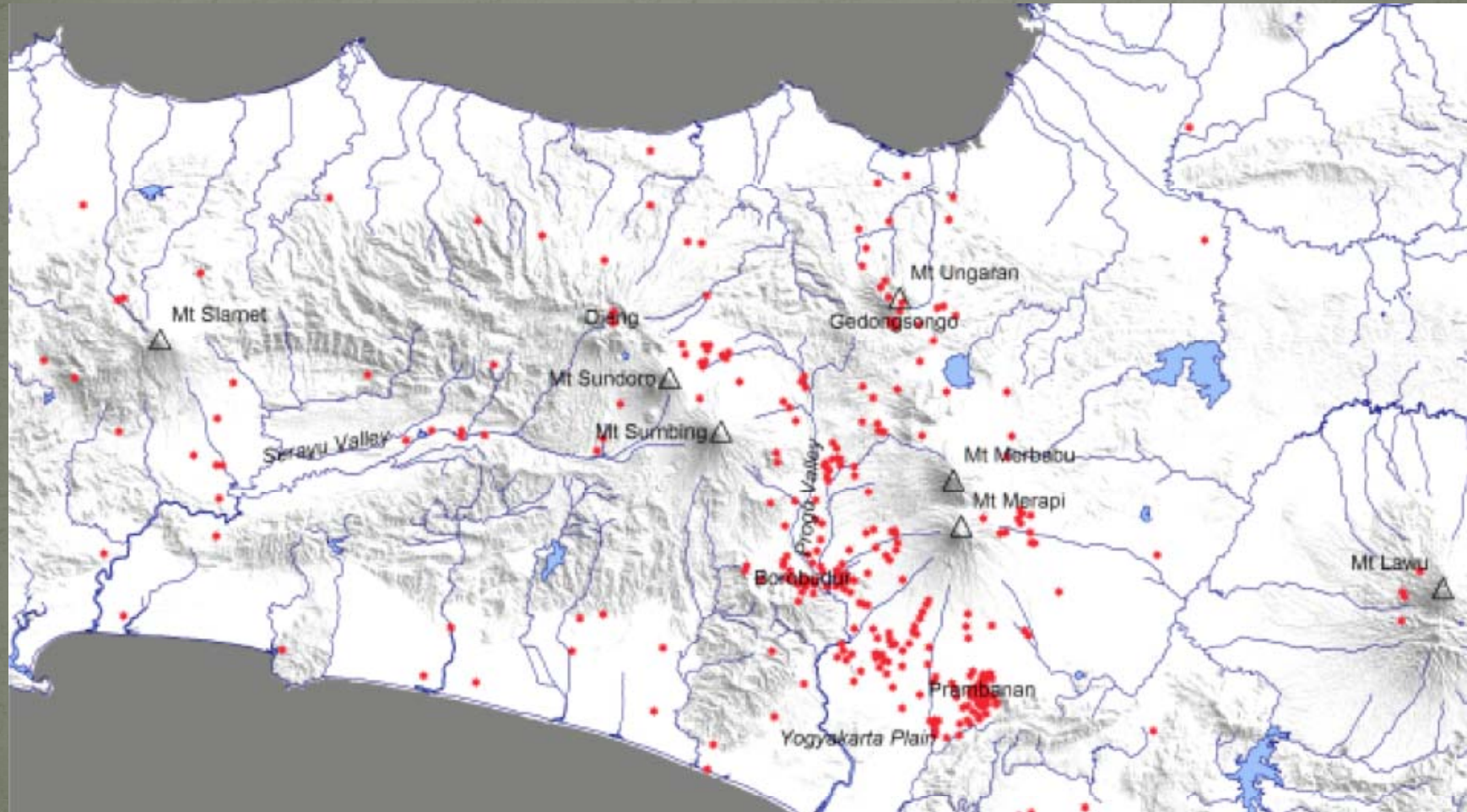
Navigation

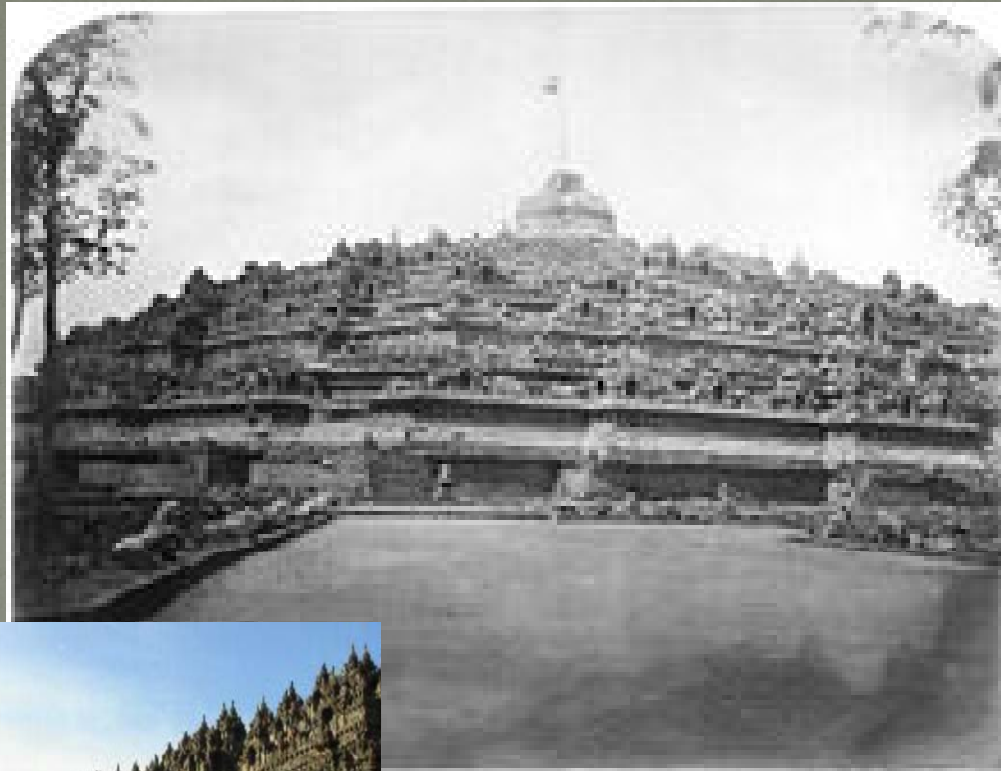






Central Java





Borobudur, is a 9th cen.
CE
Buddhist monument, Java.







Orang Laut, Bugis, People of Ships



For **Merchants**, what trade goods are found, such as pottery, metal, and other items to be identified: a bronze bowl est. 2nd-century BCE of South Asian design found at Khao Sam Kaeo, Muang District, Chumphon Province, peninsular Thailand.

Trade Beads





For **Monks**, there are religious *dharma* artifacts, temples, and other evidence of the beliefs found in images, symbols, and motifs.

In Southeast Asia, people received literacy
with the *dharma* into their daily life.



Candi and Relics

New evidence points to Singharaja in Bali where Buddhism entered at this northern port in the 1st cen. CE.

In Sulawesi, discovered isolated bronzes and lesser *candi*, 1st to 9th cen. CE.

Candi



Sulawesi, Buddhist Points



In Sulawesi, Color-coded Sites

So, we have 5 Buddhist locations identified on the map color-coded.

- **Blue** – Sempaga, bronze statue
- **Green** – Wotu, candi
- **Red** – Bonebone, candi
- **Orange** – Boku, Marek, candi
- **Purple** – Benteng, Selayar, bronze statue

Connected with Taiwan

These auspicious symbols have been a component of the symbolic matrix of Taiwan for centuries. Research from the early history of Taiwan is an objective of this project to quantify the growth and spread of aesthetic symbolic forms related to tombs.

Oliver Streiter's Taiwan area tombs research has a digital collection of tens of thousands of tombs' data including imagery. This will be utilized as a prime database to study and mine for locations, dates, size, materials, and iconographic attributes. This will generate an interactive spatiotemporal map of tomb motifs information.

Once the religious elements are classified and categorized, the project will proceed to source motif attributes to sources in India and China in terms of points of origin and transformations to become tomb elaborations in Taiwan.

A far-reaching goal of the project is to further standards in cartographic strategies through the utility of digitalization content and format giving new possibilities for local and international collaborators.

3D mapping for the project could provide new guidance for developing best practice standards applied to databases giving interactive multimedia utility aspects.

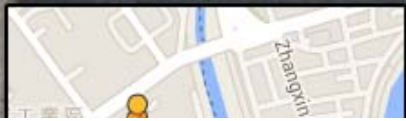
This allows uniting the context of environmental landscapes with cultural data for making new enhanced possibilities in spatial humanities of scholarly results.

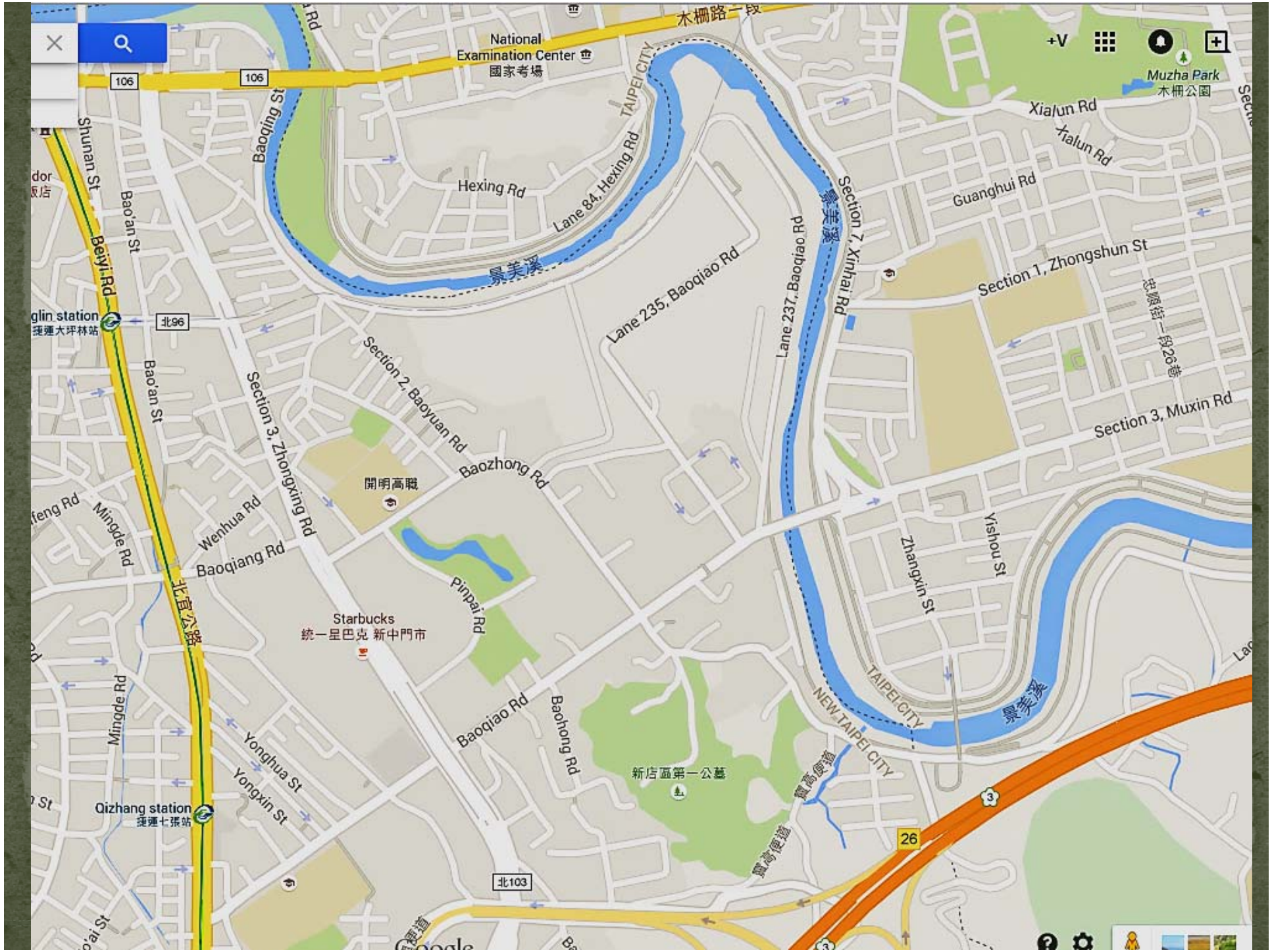
What are the attributes?

- Contextual location if finding (provenience)
 - Present location (collection)
 - Date of origin (approx.)
 - Size (dimensions)
 - Weight (if applicable)
 - Material content
 - Inscription (if applicable)
 - Art motifs.

Xindian Cemetery







Search bar with magnifying glass icon and a close button (X).

106

北96

北103

26

3

National Examination Center
國家考場

Muzha Park
木柵公園

Starbucks
統一星巴克 新中門市

新店區第一公墓

開明高職

Beitou station
捷運大坪林站

Qizhang station
捷運七張站

木柵路一段

Lane 237, Baoqiao Rd

Lane 84, Hexing Rd

北宜公路

景美溪

景美溪

Section 1, Zhongshun St

Section 3, Muxin Rd

Section 7, Xinhai Rd

Section 2, Baoyuan Rd

Section 3, Zhongxing Rd

Shunan St

Bao'an St

Bao'an St

Mingde Rd

Mingde Rd

Yonghua St

Yongxin St

Wenhua Rd

Baoqiang Rd

Baozhong Rd

Baoqiao Rd

Baoqiao Rd

Baoqiao Rd

Zhangxin St

Yishou St

Xialun Rd

Xialun Rd

Guanghui Rd

定遠街一段26巷

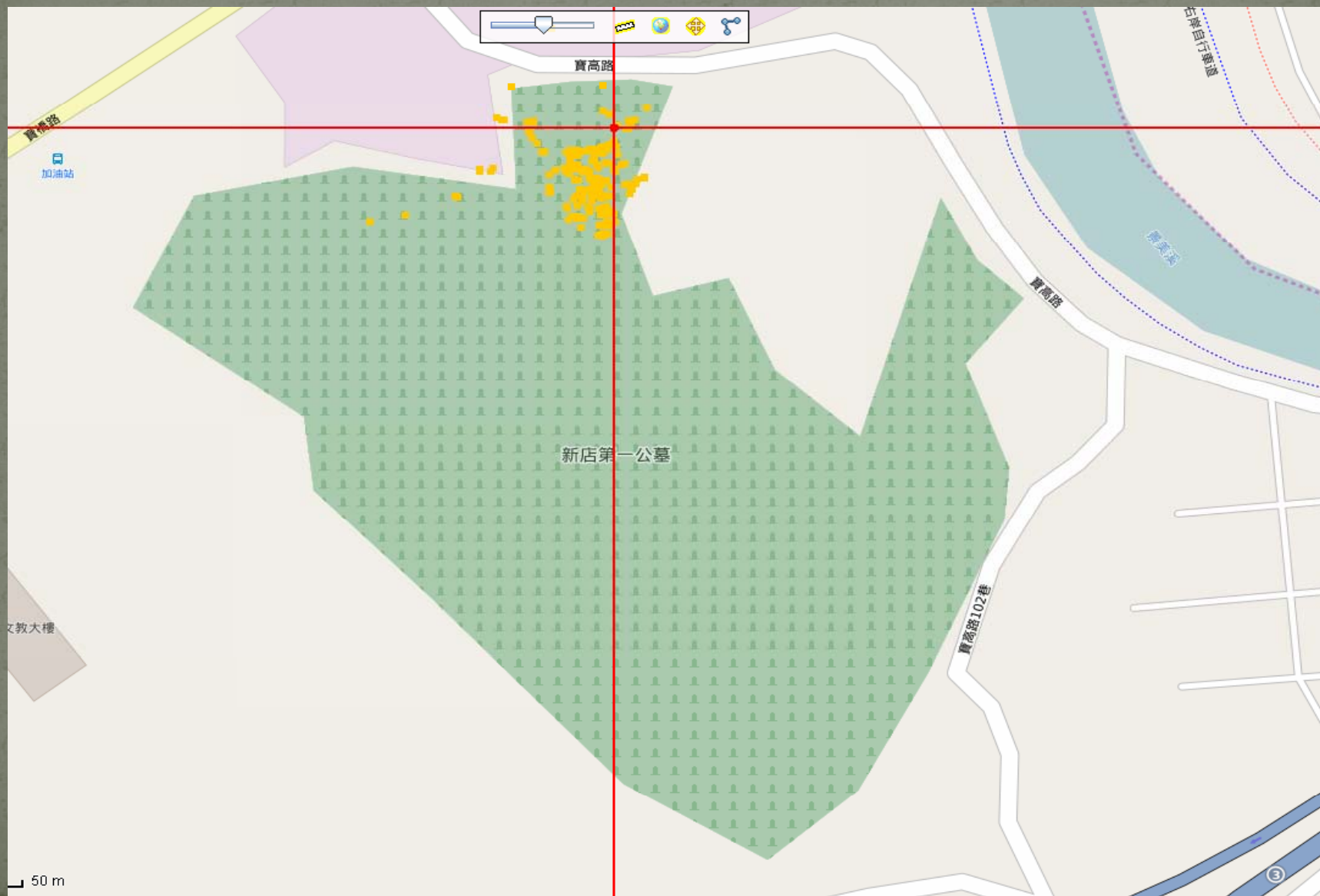
Section 1, Zhongshun St

Lao...

+V [Grid] [Location] [Zoom In]

[Compass] [Settings] [Layers] [Map Style]

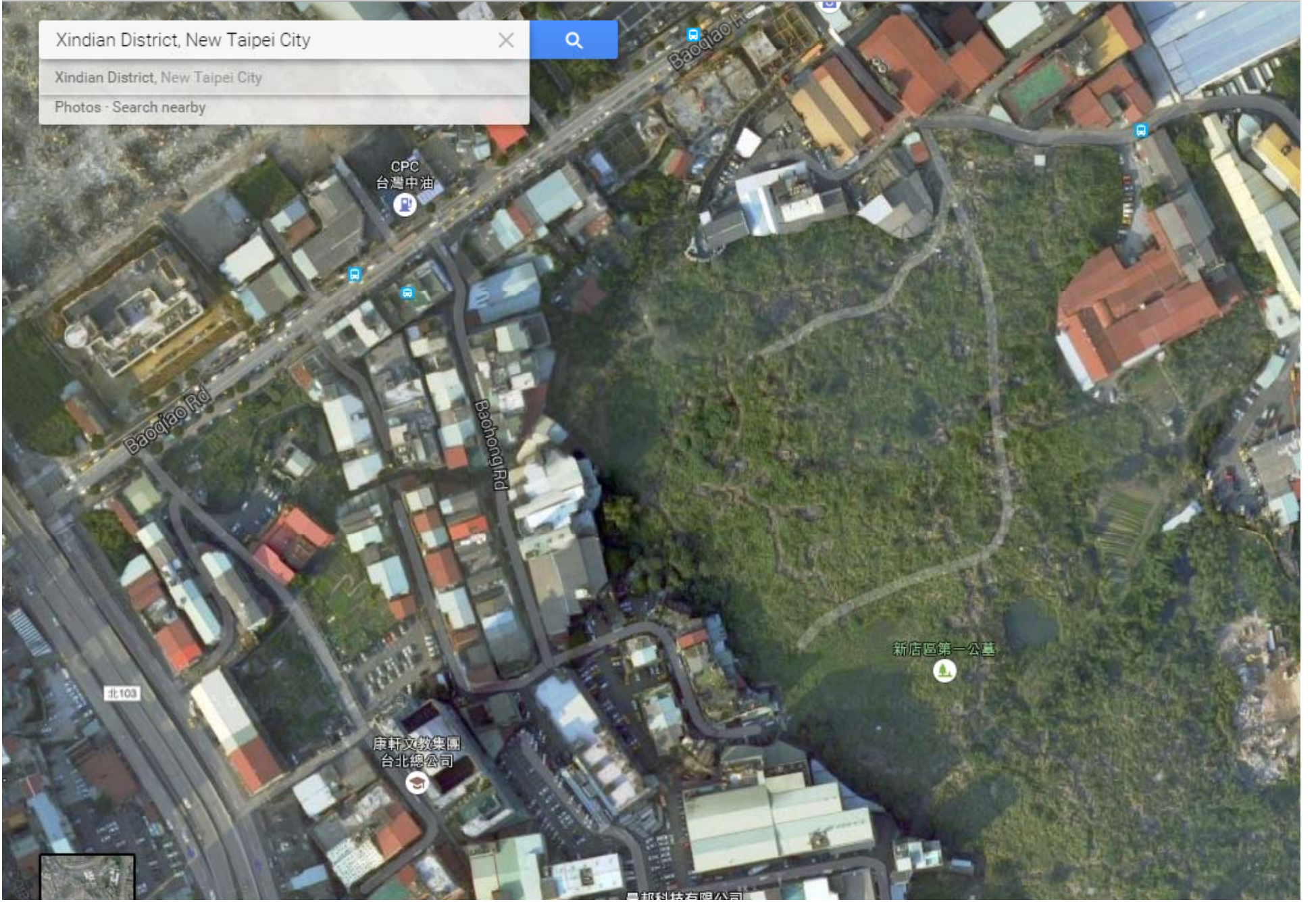
2015年5月15日的田野調查



Xindian District, New Taipei City

Xindian District, New Taipei City

Photos · Search nearby















Earth Deity





Tombs



Aesthetic Symbolic Motifs

When exploring cemeteries in Taiwan, religious elements in the form of aesthetic symbolic motifs occur in figures (1.) lion, (2.) elephant, (3.) dragon and phoenix, (4.) spotted deer, (5.) crane, (6.) bamboo, (7.) black pine, and (8.) lotus.

Lion



Lion, motif

Originated from the grasslands of Northwest India, Sind. In Buddhist and Daoist iconography we find the lions in their role of *dharma* protectors also found at the entrance of the monasteries and shrines.

Elephant



Elephant, motif

Originated from India. Earlier incarnation of the Buddha. Characteristics are his strength and steadfastness. A prime symbol of physical and mental strength, as well as responsibility and earthiness.

Dragon and Phoenix



Dragon and Phoenix, motif

Originated from imperial China. The mythical dragon and phoenix are coupled in determining beneficial *feng shui*, geomancy. Dragon is male, *yang*, and phoenix is female, *yin*, creating a *yin-yang* unity of balance in nature and society.

Crane and Black Pine



Crane and Black Pine, motif

Originated from northern China as a symbol of longevity associated with the northern winter resistant black pine.

Spotted Deer and Bamboo



Spotted Deer, motif

Seems to represent southern China and Taiwan. A local endemic motif of geography representing forest and earth associated with bamboo.

Bamboo



Bamboo, motif

Originated from southern China. A motif of flexibility and strength.

Lotus



Lotus, motif

Originated from India as a symbol of purity blooming out of the murky pond rising from a muddy place, growing through water, facing up to the sky, in beauty and rebirth.

It is to study the interplay of ancient cultural pursuits in the archaeological and textual records.

The research examines what extent did international religious systems, such as beliefs in the *dharma*, beginning about 2,300 years ago, spread into ocean island areas of Monsoon Asia facilitated by Austronesian navigation?

Our spatiotemporal interfaces provide new methods of integrating primary source materials into crosswalks of interactive visualizations.

Expected Outcome

(1.) annotated chart of Taiwan tomb religious symbolic motifs, (2.) dynamic interactive spatiotemporal maps of religious networks linking Taiwan with an overseas aesthetic infrastructure of sourced tombs materials, (3.) archive of Taiwan area tombs research digital data collection of tens of thousands of tombs including imagery, and (4.) academic publications of the research results.



Our focus is on heritage, as a cultural resource that defines a people's ethos and facilitates consciousness of a spatiotemporal area to communicate with others.

Thus defining a "sense of place."

Contact

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