

## **East Asian Readings of Inner Asian Lives? Editors, Ancestors and Status in Yuanshi Biographies**

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The biographies of the Yuanshi, the Chinese-language History of the Yuan Dynasty, compiled in haste between 1368 and 1370 under the newly established reign of the Ming emperor Hongwu, are key sources on Inner and East Asian history. This paper will, by focusing on selected stories of ancestors' careers within these biographical narratives, expose and interrogate elements of editorial input affecting our reading of these, and thus of Yuan and imperial Mongol historiography more generally. By setting the scene before the appearance of the primary subject in many of these narratives, the selection and arrangement of these career sketches frame our reading of subjects' lives. Close comparison of a selection of these, where we possess Yuan-era inscriptions on which they were based, will expose some of the layers of editorial involvement in this process. We can thus compare approaches to social and political capital between two key groups. On the one hand, individuals and families of broad Eurasian origin living under Inner Asian rule who nonetheless commissioned Chinese language memorials, and on the other editors seeking to define both the end of that rule and establish a historical framework for a successor polity based on East Asian territory and norms.