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*The Tanguts: A Non-Mongol Military and Civil Elite in Yuan China*

In 1227, the Mongols abolished the Tangut state and many Tanguts were annihilated during this campaign. However, quite a few Tanguts lived through this calamity and entered the service of the United Empire and later the Yuan. While the leadership joined the Mongols, part of the population was Sinicized, others joined the Mongol army and a Tangut guard was even established in 1281. In this presentation, I will use sources from different parts of the empire as well as digital-humanities-supported prosopographical tools, including the Jerusalem Prosopography Project, to shed new light on mobility in the Yuan establishments. I will examine a Tangut family that served the Yuan from the first to the last emperor; Ambai (fl.1280-1290s), served in the military under Qubilai Qa'an (r. 1260-1294) and took part in campaigns against rebels in the early years of the dynasty. His sons, Aqila and Irinjibal (d.1354), both inherited their father's posts in the Bureau of Military affairs. While Aqila was probably involved in corruptions around 1348, Irinjibal served as a commander in the Tangut guard like his father and was very powerful in the military and civil administrations during the last years of the dynasty. This family exemplifies the different career paths of the new-elites during the Yuan period; from serving in the military establishment to changing positions frequently between the civil administration and the military system. From their histories, we can also learn about the guard system and the role of Semu generals in the Yuan army.