

# New Archaeological Evidence for the **Origins** of Chinese Civilization

**Speaker: Jianping Yi**

**Tuesday, November 27**

**3:30 to 5:00PM**

**UA Student Union Rincon Room**

**Sponsors**

Department of East Asian Studies  
School of Anthropology  
Confucius Institute

**Jianping Yi 易建平**

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Scholar of the Great Wall  
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Research on the origins of Chinese civilization is one of the hottest topics in China. After the completion of the Xia, Shang, and Zhou Chronology Project 夏商周断代工程, in 2001 Chinese scholars (most of them archeologists) initiated another large-scale endeavor to investigate the origins of Chinese civilization 中华文明探源工程. Several dozens of Chinese universities are involved in this project. At present, the research focuses on the timing, locations, and causes for the rise of Chinese civilization. Before 2006, most research was conducted in the Central Plain focusing on the period between 2,500 BC and 1,500 BC. After 2006, research has been extended to the upper, middle, and lower reaches of the Yellow River, the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtze River, and the West Liao River basin prior to 3,500 BC. What accomplishments have been achieved by Chinese scholars? What difficulties have the researchers encountered? Have they found sufficient evidence to support the claim that Chinese civilization has a history of 5,000 years? In this fascinating talk, Professor Yi Jianping from Beijing will answer these questions based on new discoveries from excavations at sites such as Lingjiatan 凌家滩, Niulianghe 牛河梁, Liangzhu 良渚, Shijiahe 石家河, Xinmi Xinzhai 新密新砦, Dengfeng Wangchenggang 登封王城岗, Taosi 陶寺, and Erlitou 二里头 during the past few decades.