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Re-assessing Wang shi-fu and "The Four Masters of Yuan Drama."

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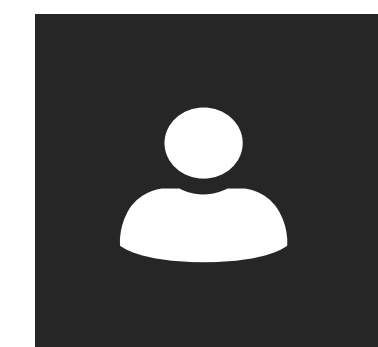
Recommended Citation

Bian, Yao, "Re-assessing Wang shi-fu and "The Four Masters of Yuan Drama."" (2022). *Research Days Posters 2022*. 143.

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Four Masters and A Genius



PRESENTER:
Yangzhou Bian

INTRODUCTION

Conducted through comparative dramaturgical analysis and historiographical compilation, the project pursues the historical paradox why Wang shi-fu, the author of the most celebrated Yuan zaju *The West Chamber* 《西厢记》 has been perpetually denied the honor of top four zaju composers.



Political, social and cultural factors lead to Wang shi-fu 王实甫's continuous "exclusion" from "The Four Masters of Yuan Drama 元曲四大家".



The Recluse and The Four Masters of Yuan Drama

- Wang shi-fu 王实甫—one of all kind
- Guan han-qing 关汉卿—an unrelenting activist
- Bai pu 白朴—a romantic artist
- Ma zhi-yuan 马致远—a disillusioned Taoist
- Zheng guang-zu 郑光祖—a Neo-Confucian avant-garde

Discriminating Factors

Political:

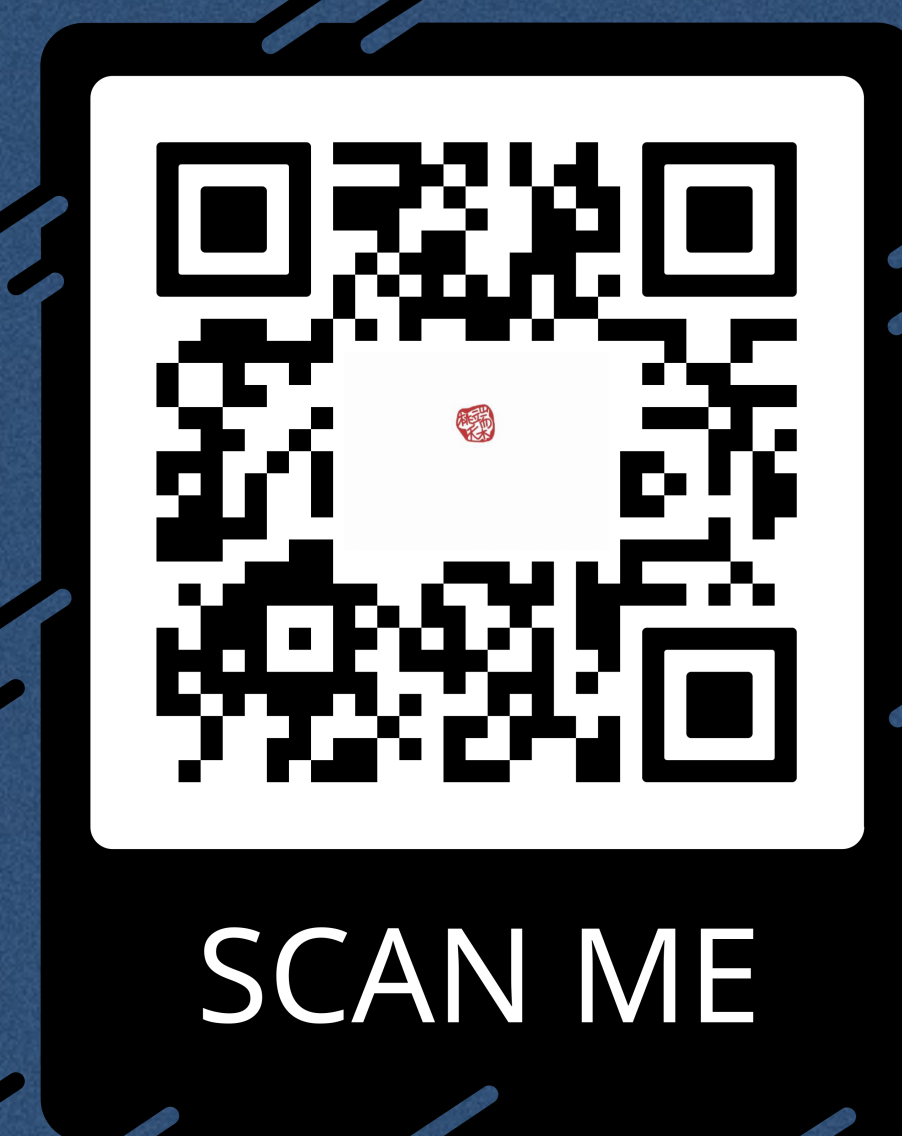
Yuan: The Building of Dynastic High Culture

Social:

Ming/Qing: Return Confucian precept of "Loyalty and Filial Piety"

Cultural:

Inheritance and educational purposes



Take a picture to know more about Yuan Drama and its playwrights