

**Religious Atlas of China and the Himalayas:
Sources and Georeferencing Methodologies for the Daoist, Buddhist,
and Islamic Sites**

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This presentation covers the textual sources and georeferencing methodologies for religious sites mapped in the Religious Atlas of China and the Himalayas. 2407 Buddhist sites, founded from the Han to the Qing period, were already available at the start of this project, having been digitized from the Yajima Genryo index "Chugoku ji'in" which was compiled from *Da Qing yitongzhi* (circa 1820 CE). Temple point locations are not exact; they are georeferenced to the nearest known point in the CHGIS (China Historical Geographic Information System) database (usually a county seat).

1030 mosques, founded from the Tang to the PRC period, were digitized from a 1994 compendium of mosques across China, compiled by a team of researchers, and then edited by a noted Chinese Islamic historian in Ningxia. Textual locational information was matched as closely as possible to China 2000 township-level census GIS points. A similar methodology was also applied to 243 Daoist temples digitized from their descriptions in three different but recent books on Daoist sites published in China.

These newly integrated GIS data on religious sites will be mapped to study the historical core areas of each religious tradition. This effort will focus on how these sites overlapped and concentrated across China historically.