

READING THE QINGMING

**Was the Song Dynasty
(960-1276)
Modern Before Europe?**



Valerie Hansen teaches world and premodern Chinese history at Yale, where she is the Stanley Woodward Professor of History. Her most recent book, *The Year 1000: When Explorers Connected the World—and Globalization Began* (Scribner, 2020) has been translated into fifteen languages.

MARCH 26

FROM 11.30 AM TO 1.30 PM

Room 118 AFA Building,
3301 Netherton Dr,
NOVA Community College
Alexandria, VA 22311

Free parking available for attendees

10:30 AM to 2:30 PM

At Dawes Parking Garage (AP – 2) 5001 Dawes
Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22311

Please contact Dr. Dali Tan at dtan@nvcc.edu
for any public lecture-related questions

SCROLL:

**A LECTURE BY
DR. VALERIE HANSEN**

Starting in the early twentieth century with the Japanese scholar Naitō Konan, historians have tried to identify the aspects of Song dynasty China that seemed modern: meritocratic recruitment of government officials by civil service examinations, the rise of an empire-wide system of markets, the widespread use of printing technology and the resulting information explosion, and general access to education.

This talk will read Zhang Zeduan's scroll as a primary source to assess whether life in the Song dynasty was modern. To do this, it is necessary first to identify Zhang's point of view and then to identify both those elements of Song society that he altered to fit into his design and those that he omitted completely.

Curated exhibition of Chinese artworks related to famous Chinese scroll entitled: "Along the River During Qingming Festival Day."

**NOVA Alexandria Campus Library,
February 17 to March 31, 2026**