

**研究題目 (Title of the project):**

Market System at the Conjunction of the Imperial Interregional Network: An Archaeological Study of Metal Objects in the Jingnan Region of the Han Empire

**負責人 (Principal investigator):**

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**要旨 (Abstract):**

**不多於 300 字 (300 words max.)**

Trade and commodity exchange played an important role in the Han state, as is clearly evidenced archaeologically in both the capital region and periphery. However, the nature of the market system in most intermediate regions within the Han Empire is still poorly understood. In order to investigate the market in frontier regions and interregional interaction, this project focuses on the Jingnan (荊南) region (southern Jingzhou province) as a case study to shed new light on this long-overlooked issue.

Jingnan is a geographical unit bounded by the Yangtze River to the north and lies mostly within present-day Hunan. Being an important intermediate region, Jingnan includes major communication routes connecting the imperial core to the Lingnan region where major maritime ports were found. Although metal artifacts, whose supply was closely controlled by the Han state, are often found in tombs in imperial peripheries, their distribution mechanism has not been explored before. For this reason, the PI launches a project to focus on metal objects in order to enhance our understanding of the Han Empire's control over the transportation network.

This project will integrate its results with the "distribution models" previously proposed by the PI in order to address the issue of regional markets. The project will employ various methodologies, including digital database, non-destructive chemical analysis and 3D-scanner recording, and cross-regional comparison and statistical analysis, to determine if discoveries of metal objects can be correlated with distance from production centres, distance from centres of different ranks, and the ethnic affiliation of tomb owners. Ultimately, the PI hopes to understand the mechanism through which Han style materials was circulated in the Jingnan region, and provide a new perspective to explain the extent to which the Han Empire integrated trade on various geographical scales.

