Ciclo di conferenze CARC - Eurasia

CULTURE, LINGUE E LETTERATURE IN ASIA

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Tradizione letteraria e identità culturale:
Il caso del Wen Xin Diao Long

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Why is a literary work that is more than 1500 years old still being studied in today’s China? And why do “dragologists” (longxuejia) still exist in China? In fact, Wen Xin Diao Long (The literary mind and the carving of dragons) is unanimously regarded as the most important work of literary theory and criticism in Chinese history, and it is widely quoted as an authoritative voice in studies of literature of all periods and genres. In this lecture, we will understand why this masterpiece constitutes a milestone in the construction of Chinese cultural identity: it is the first and unquestioned systematic compendium of Chinese literary thinking, and the first categorization of literary knowledge. Within Chinese tradition, Wen Xin Diao Long is not only the essential “reordering of the literary world as a first catalogue of literary genres and forms, but also a marvelous gallop over the course of literature, in peering into the house of the poetic art.”