



3RD INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON GLOBAL SOUTH STUDIES

Emotional Worlds in Zhuang Border Manuscripts

Boge Xiao | University of Washington

Border manuscripts make relations legible

Question



How do multiscript Zhuang manuscripts organize belonging when one national, linguistic, or historical frame is insufficient?
Emotionality names socially organized attachment.

Cultural rhythm explains selective renewal through copying, recitation, keeping, and annotation.

Two scales: archive and working catalogue

Scale	Accepted abstract	Current status
Background archive	139 manuscripts	unchanged
Explicit Vietnam-linked subset	40 texts	unchanged

Working layer	First pass	Second pass	Current total
Catalogue records	43	+34	77
Explicit / candidate markers	43	+9	≥52

Catalogue records ≠ physical codices. The Guangxi baseline remains incomplete, so the update adds resolution—not a new closed denominator.

Emotionality organizes attachment as relation

Relation	Textual device	Emotional work
Living ↔ dead	invocation · offering	loss becomes actionable
Descendants ↔ ancestors	lineage geography	remembered authority

Relation	Device	Practice	Limit
Readers ↔ languages	later glosses	re-pronounce	not origin
Practitioners ↔ books	repertoire	select + copy	not private intent

The claim concerns public, repeatable relations—not recovered private feeling.

Cultural rhythm is selective renewal through practice

Five operations

Repertoire maintenance · functional books remain available

Active persistence · stable frame, repeated use

Functional differentiation · scripts and genres do different work

Re-anchoring · dates, places, ancestral geographies

Reactivation · later notes restore use

Practice-coupled differential synchronization

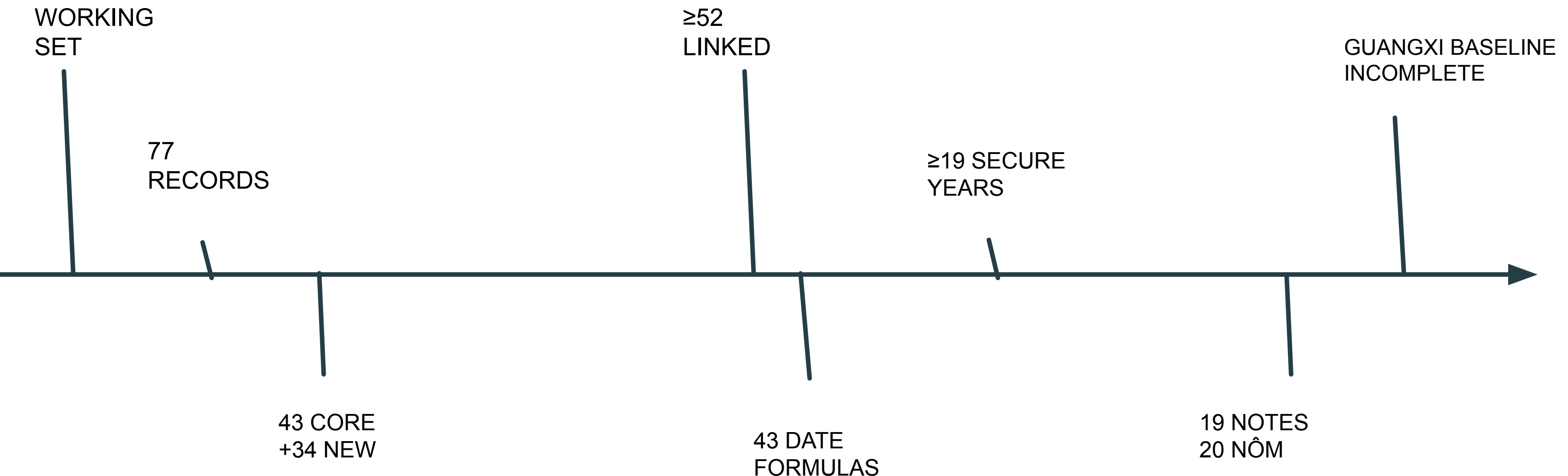
Four layers keep evidence and inference distinct

Four layers

- 1 · **Verbatim record** · retain doubtful readings
- 2 · **Normalized metadata** · person/role · date · place · layer
- 3 · **Textual function** · what does the marker do here?
- 4 · **Bounded interpretation** · relation · mechanism · alternatives

If one link is missing, the conclusion must shrink.

Recurrent practices in 77 catalogue records



Dates and places mark horizons, not routes

Record	Internal formula	Current reading
01	bingchen + old Tuyên Quang hierarchy	1856 stronger only if same layer
65	Guangxu 18 → xinchou	1892 → 1901

Manuscript wording	Conditional reconstruction	Function	Limit
Đại Nam → Tuyên Quang → Tương An → Đẻ Định	older hierarchy	historical anchoring	not a route
Great France · Hà Giang · Bảo Lạc	colonial place-world	re-anchoring	not provenance

Historically responsible geography keeps two columns: manuscript wording + conditional reconstruction.

Same copyist, same date, different ritual books

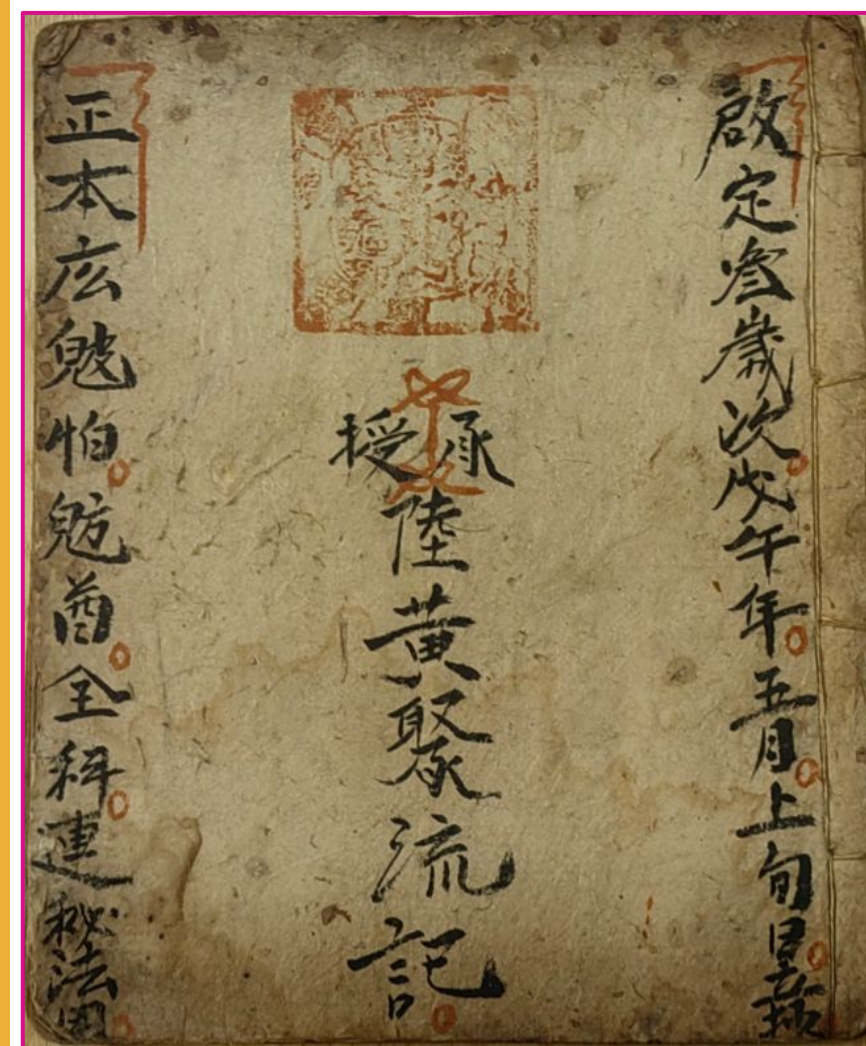
Copyist · Lu Huangju (陆黄聚)

Date formula · 启定三岁次戊午年五月上旬
日立抄 · 1918—Khải Định 3 yrs wuwu (戊午)

Confirmed pair · same copyist and time;
different contents

Mechanism · repertoire maintenance +
functional differentiation

Boundary · repertoire inference, not proof
of direct copying between the books



CASE 1 · REPERTOIRE

A graph becomes evidence through five tests

Unit · structure × reading/tone × meaning ×
textual position × distribution

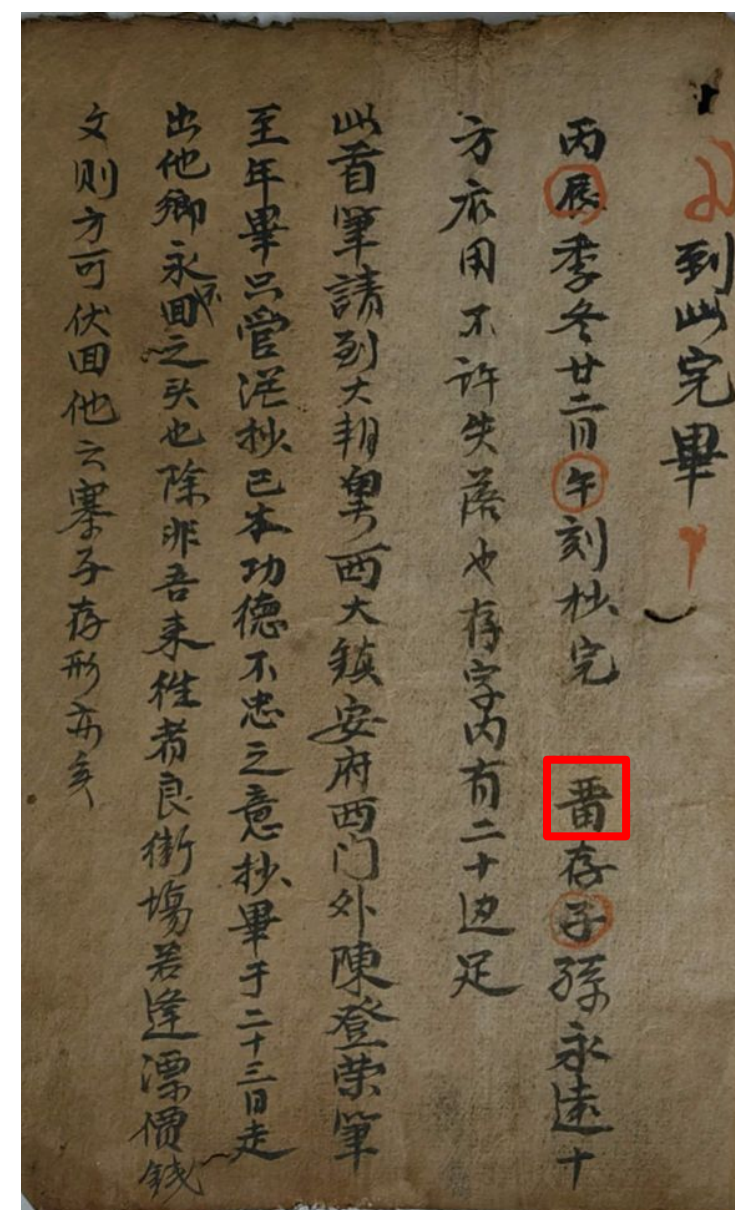
Protocol · page/line → component analysis →
dictionary candidates → context

Dictionaries · candidate-reading repositories,
not final judges

Confidence · A: convergent + repeated · B:
contextual · C: graphic only

Limit · shared sinographic resources ≠ shared
etymology or direction

METHOD · FIVE-TEST PROTOCOL



畱

Yatian
← U+2DECD (Ext F) →

6 paintings by Tabe, 11 paintings in total
Full Font Library

Sources (Examples of each source)

GZ-4101201 T7-6661

(α: from the sound of "亚" and "留") (β: variant of "留")	
Asia	Keep
Asia	field
County	field
County	County
Mao	Mao

Meaning

(strong) The character "畱" is used interchangeably with "倮" (lou), and "亚" is a phonetic loan for "我" (wo). (See "A Study of Square Zhuang Characters," p. 225; the explanation is far-fetched.)

→ Hip

(strong) raeuz We; us

(strong) raeuz <dialect> (chicken entering) nest

(Unified) Same as "留" (liú). From *SaSa Pian*, Volume 1, "The Story of the Agate Hairpin": "One day, Sheng again went to drink, and drank pungent drinks..." 畱 Staying at the inn.

→ Leave liu2

(1) to remain; to stop

(2) To ask somebody to stay; to prevent

(3) stay; stay to leave behind

(4) To keep; to preserve

Matched texts make rhythm measurable

Pair · 《都三千一句》(1906) + 《三千字解音》
(1917)-- Three Thousand Characters

Stable · content and lexical order

Variable · some Han–Nôm
correspondences

Measures · structure-retention rate +
local-replacement rate

Claim · a curriculum persists while reading
technology changes

CASE 2 · TEXT PAIR



Vietnamese glosses reactivate an older text

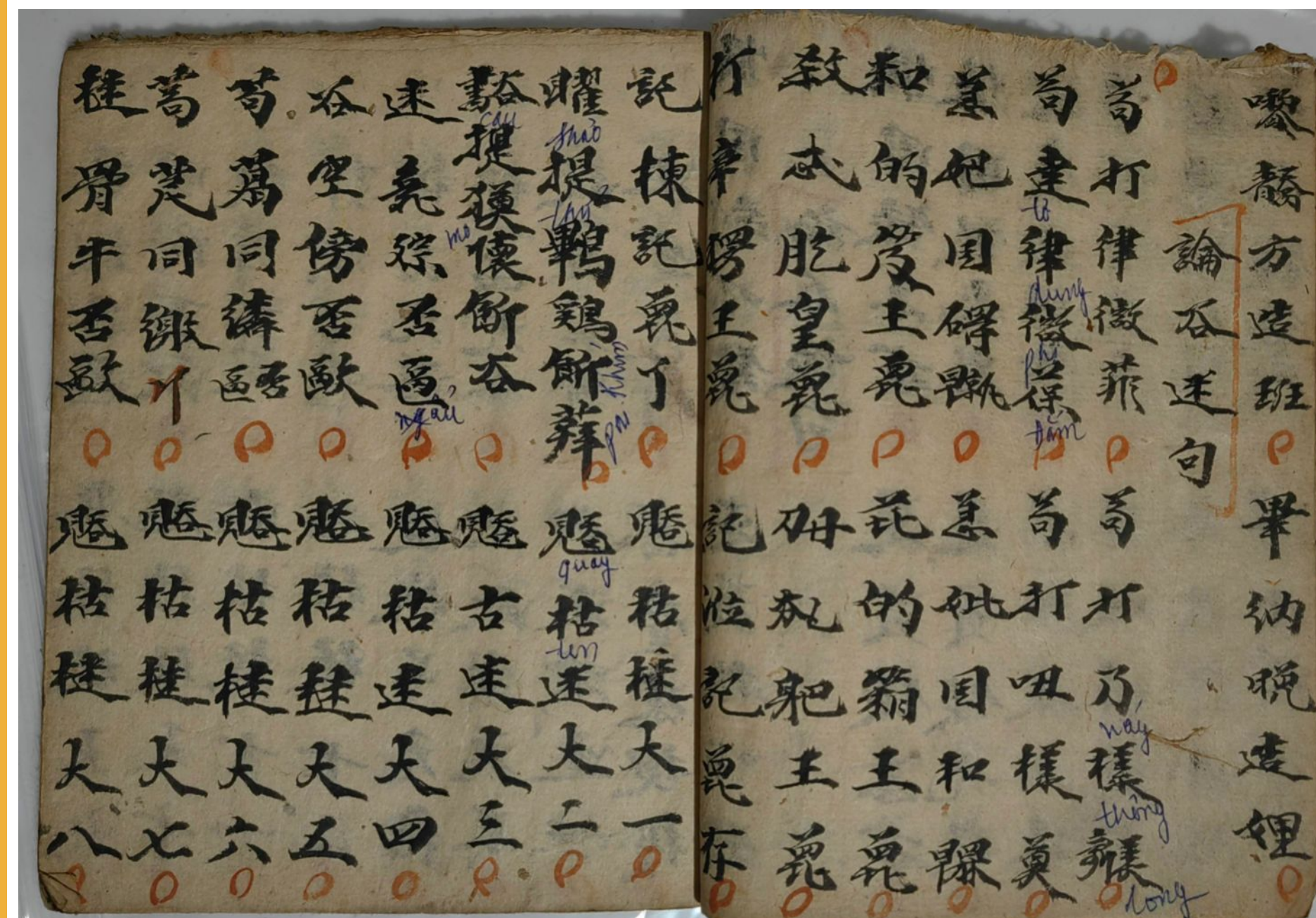
Primary case · 《正一巫送见在科》

Main layer · Nôm + Sawndip in a Zhuang ritual chant

Later layer · blue Vietnamese spelling marks pronunciation

Operation · the inherited book becomes pronounceable again

Limit · later engagement ≠ original copying place



CASE 3 · REACTIVATION

Ritual language makes loss addressable

Text · 《送圣母小儿用》

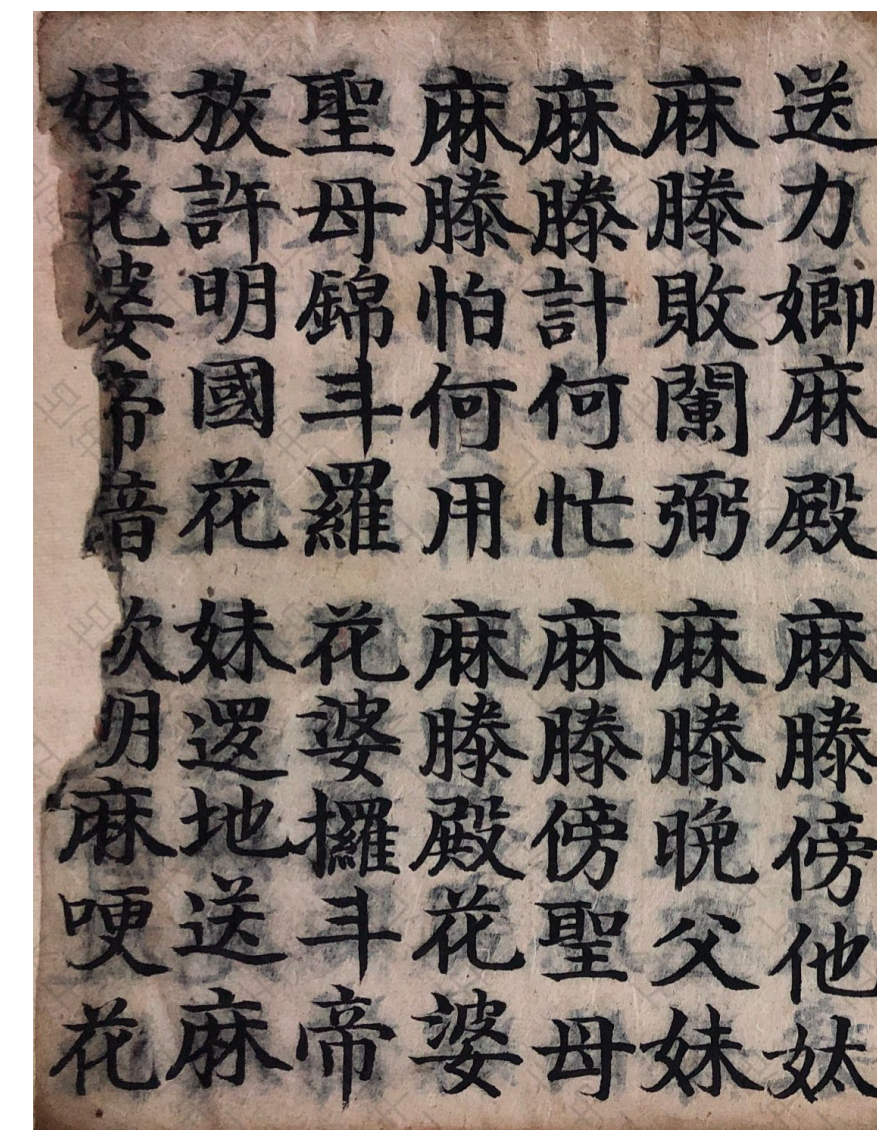
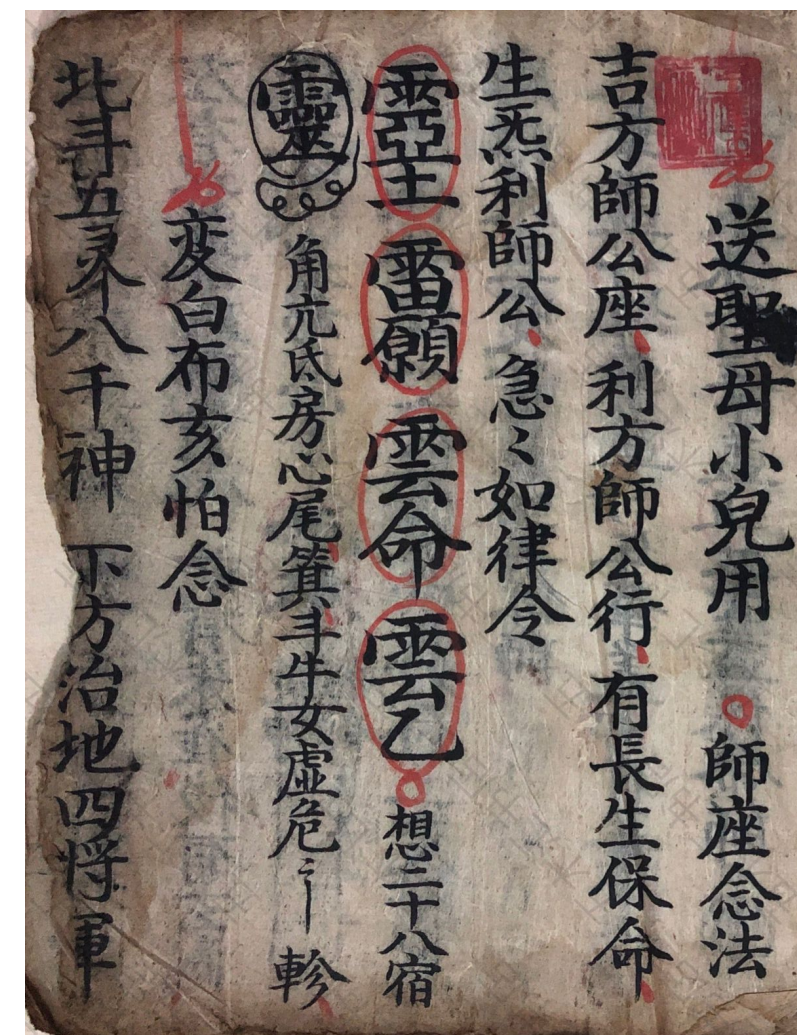
World · Holy Mother · Flower Goddess ·
child · hell-breaking

Sequence · the dead is refined; the child
enters a celestial realm

Relation · child · family · ritual specialist ·
sacred world

Boundary · authorized care, not recovered
private grief

CASE 4 · RITUAL CARE



Familiar immortals enter a Holy Mother frame

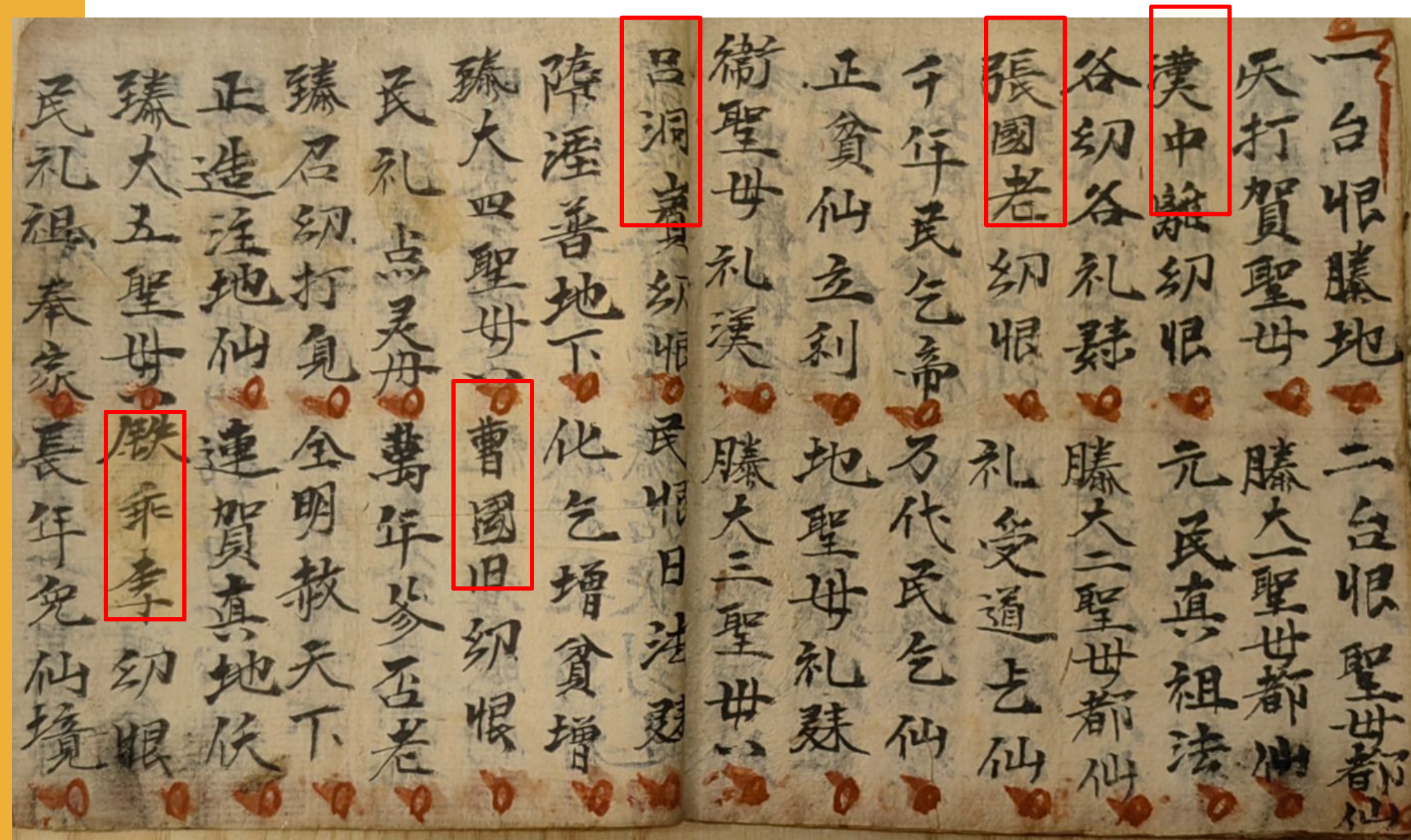
Text/date · 《正本送小儿沃化巫送通用》· Lu Huangju · 1918

Sequence · ‘八圣母都仙’ · 腾大一/二/三圣母都仙

Named figures · Han Zhongli · Zhang Guolao · Lü Dongbin ...

Operation · mostly male Eight-Immortal names enter a repeated shengmu frame

Limit · re-framing ≠ demonstrated literal gender conversion



CASE 5 · RITUAL RE-FRAMING

Ancestral geographies authorize belonging

Current catalogue	Formula	Occurrences
77 records	Jiangxia	5
77 records	Yanmen / Longxi	1 / 1

Scope	Textual work	Emotional relation	Limit
Current 77	surname + prestige geography	descendants · ancestors	not migration
Broader 139	Hejian also in abstract	aspiration · authority	needs genealogy

A lineage formula can authorize belonging without proving biological origin or a Central Plains itinerary.

Five mechanisms connect texts to belonging

Five modes

Maintain · keep a functional repertoire available

Persist · repeat a frame through practice

Differentiate · assign scripts and genres distinct jobs

Re-anchor · cite reigns, places, and ancestors

Reactivate · annotate for a later reader

Micro-level philology becomes a theory of relational belonging.

Competing explanations make the model testable

Testable model

ALTERNATIVES

Independent construction · same character resources

Common template · shared formula without direct copying

Later layer · address or gloss added after copying

Same surname · not necessarily the same person

SUPPORT + PREDICTION

Multi-variable cluster · sequence + hand + material layer + date + function

Prediction · a maintained repertoire clusters across more than one variable

**Global South manuscript studies begin
with connected knowledge worlds—
locally grounded, internationally testable.**

Relations become durable when texts can be selected, copied, read, and activated again.

Thank you · Questions?

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Contact email theglobalsouthcollective@gmail.com

Appendix · Current coding status (77 records)

43 + 34 · first-pass core + second-pass additions

43 / ≥19 · internal date expressions / relatively secure years

19 / 20 · Vietnamese annotations / explicit or identified Nôm

17 / 18 · place-geopolitical formulas / Buluotuo-Mo markers

7 · ancestral-geography records: Jiangxia 5, Yanmen 1, Longxi 1

1 · modern continuation witness: 1989 chicken divination book

Categories overlap. Catalogue records are not a physical-codex count.

Appendix · Chronology risks remain visible

Formula	Problem	Status
Duy Tân 5 · wuwu	year / cycle conflict	do not normalize
Thành Thái · yiyou	no matching year	recheck graph

Record	Candidate(s)	Why unresolved	Next test
34	1818→1833 / 1878→1893	both fit sequence	paper + hand
44	1890 if red note is same layer	ink-layer condition	ink + hand

Also retain alternatives for ‘gold pig,’ malformed ‘jia...xu,’ guimao, and xinyou until the original pages supply an independent anchor.

Appendix · Three geography cases to verify

01 · Đại Nam → Tuyên Quang → Tương An? → Đẻ Định · plus Zhen'an, Guangxi

Keep the two spaces separate; 1856 is conditional on the address being contemporaneous.

65 · dated 1892→1901; retains an older Tuyên Quang–Tương An formula

Treat as possible administrative memory / copied formula, not a travel route.

73 · ‘Great Qing ... Yên Bình Prefecture ... Bảo Lạc chuan/zhou’ is internally anomalous

Preserve the original wording; verify the page before any normalized hierarchy.

Four distinct fields: textual address ≠ copying place ≠ findspot ≠ movement route.

Appendix · A replicable graph-identification protocol

- 1 · **Record** · page · column · line · ink · damage
- 2 · **Decompose** · whole graph · phonetic · semantic component
- 3 · **Search** · Sawndip candidates + creation-type coding
- 4 · **Test** · sound/tone · meaning · syntax · ritual parallelism
- 5 · **Replicate** · another line, book, or dictionary witness
- 6 · **Grade** · A convergent · B contextual · C graphic resemblance

Only structural strategy is directly comparable; contact requires a separate historical chain.

Appendix · Verified images still needed

Slide 9 · two 1918 Lu Huangju title pages at equal scale

Slide 10 · one full rare-graph line + matching dictionary entries

Slide 11 · matched passage from both Three Thousand texts

Slide 12 · blue Vietnamese glosses with the main text visible

Slide 13 · Holy Mother title/context + transformation sequence

Slide 14 · ‘Eight Holy Mothers’ heading and surrounding names

Optional slide 15 · Jiangxia, Yanmen, and Longxi with surname context

Use flat scans/crops; preserve page context; remove phone/PDF interface.

Selected references · Theory and method

Fei, X. 1997. 'Reflections, Dialogues, and Cultural Self-Awareness.'

Kopytoff, I. 1986. 'The Cultural Biography of Things.'

Lefebvre, H. 2004. Rhythmanalysis: Space, Time and Everyday Life.

Qiu, X. 2013. Wenzixue Gaiyao / Chinese Writing, revised edition.

Scheer, M. 2012. 'Are Emotions a Kind of Practice?' History and Theory 51(2).

Xiao, B. 2026. 77-record working catalogue and cultural-rhythm formulation.

Selected references · Corpus and lexica

Boge Xiao. 《壮族喃字整理》, 77-record Google Drive working catalogue, 20 Aug. 2026.
Qin Xiaohang. 方块壮字研究; 古壮字字典 / Sawndip Sawloih / Sawndip Sawdenj.
Vũ Văn Kính. Đại Tự Điển Chữ Nôm; Trần Văn Kiệm. Giúp Đọc Nôm Và Hán Việt.
Lạc Thiện. Sách Tra Chữ Nôm Thường Dùng.
Vietnam National Archives Center I; Báo Cao Bằng historical-administration materials.
Abstract 332; GSS 2026 official theme and presentation template.