Abstract

Modern scholars generally neglect the contribution and influence of Cai Qing (1453-1508) when they discuss about Neo-Confucianism. This Honours Thesis wishes to re-examine in particular, the scholarship network of Cai Qing and his students as Neo-Confucians and scholars of the Ming Dynasty after Cai Qing’s death. The thesis first examined how China understood Cai Qing in early and mid-Qing dynasty. Then through various first hand sources, the thesis will demonstrate how Cai Qing’s scholarship network had been constructed since his death in 1508 and reached a general consensus in the mid 18th century among the Southern Fujian scholars and Neo-Confucians. It also examined how various scholars and Neo-Confucians understood Cai Qing’s school and its scholarship network from the perspective of local history.