“New Qing History,” a new wave of historical studies has emerged as the new paradigm for the study of the Qing Empire in the last two decades. In what way does this body of scholarship challenge previous works in its representation of the history of the Manchus in relation to the achievements and failings of the Qing Empire? Please discuss and evaluate debates over critical issues and approaches that define this “school” of Qing historians. It is important to make reference to the major works exemplary of this new scholarship.

What is ethnicity? During the last two decades, discussions of ethnicity and ethnic group formation have occupied a central place in the historiography of late imperial China. Do you think it appropriate to use “ethnicity” as an analytic tool to Qing History? (In your answer, please include subfields of legal, gender, and cultural history of Qing Dynasty, and give at least 3 examples of recent publications on Qing history to support your argument.)

What approaches do you think are the most important to your understanding of borders and borderlands? How has the concept of the borderland been used to study Chinese history? How has the use of this concept altered our understanding of Chinese history, especially in regards to issues of ethnicity and imperialism?