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Nestorian remains of Inner Mongolia : discovery, reconstruction and appropriation

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BIOGRAPHY

Tjalling Halbertsma (Doorn - The Netherlands, 1969) graduated in Dutch law at the University of Limburg (1988-1994) and social anthropology at the University of Amsterdam (1990-1995). In 1995 he moved to China to work with an English environmental NGO. From 1999 he advised a number of general and presidential election campaigns in Mongolia, and started to work as an advisor to the Mongolian prime minister. In 2005 he became the first foreigner to work in the Office of the President of Mongolia. Between projects he documented a number of previously unrecorded Nestorian remains in Inner Mongolia, which resulted in a popularized historic account, *De verloren lotuskruisen*, and an exhibition at the National Museum of Ethnology in Leiden. He has published a number of travelogues on China and Mongolia, including *Steppeland*, which also appears in Czech and Chinese, and *Sprong naar het Westen* and regularly contributes to public radio and periodicals such as *South China Morning Post*, *Asian Art*, *Trouw* and *NRC Handelsblad*. He is currently writing a popularized book on the yeti's, yeren and almas of Central Asia. Tjalling Halbertsma is married to Ulrike Herold with whom he has two daughters.