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## **Mongol loyalty networks: cultural transmission and Chinggisid innovation**

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Propositions:

1. Ritual and ceremony were key to expressions of loyalty in the Mongol world.
2. The role of the *aqā* was that of adviser and guide to the khans.
3. The bias towards the descendants of Abaqa is not based on Persian custom but Mongol rulers' wishes.
4. The ruthlessness of Ilkhans such as Arghun and Ghazan fatally undermined the ruling elites' charismatic and inertial loyalties to the Hülegüid house.
5. Understanding nomadic cultures and the states they created involves precise study of their rituals of power.
6. The relationship between Turco-Mongol conqueror and Persian subject was a complex one, not easily reduced to assumptions about difference in religion or lifestyle.
7. Cultural norms regarding loyalty decisions could have a powerful legacy, even after the society which produced these norms had lost its realistic power.
8. Understanding people's ideals is often as important as understanding their concrete desires in explaining their political actions.
9. COVID-19 and PhD work make for strange bedfellows.