The World in the Year 1000:
The View from Beijing
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On or around the year 1000, several different regions of the world came into direct contact for the first time. Most notably, the Vikings touched down in present-day Newfoundland, Canada. In 1005, the Song and the Liao signed the Treaty of Chanyuan, which brought a century of peace and divided East Asia in a few ways: to the north, the Liao dynasty received gifts from the peoples of Siberia and the Arctic, while the Song re-oriented their foreign trade to face Southeast Asia. This talk will consider the different types of contact that ensued and how they affected the people living in different parts of what is now modern China.

Author of the Silk Road: A New History, Valerie Hansen teaches Chinese and world history at Yale. Over her career, she has spent a total of six years in China and most recently spent fall 2015 as a visiting faculty member at Yale-NUS in Singapore, giving her a chance to visit many of the sites she writes about.