Sky and Earth: Exploring the Non-Buddhist Religious Traditions of Mongolia
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Dates and Chronology for pre-Buddhist cultures in Mongolia:

Prehistoric period, 40,000 BCE
Neolithic, 5,000 BCE ~ 1,000 BCE
Bronze Age, First Millennium BCE, 13th c. – 3rd c. BCE

Early Steppe States (empires, confederations):

Xiongnu (Hunnu), 3rd c. BCE-1st c. CE
Juan-Juan (Rouran, Nirun), 4th c. – 6th c. CE
Turkic state, 6th c. – 8th c.
Uighur, 8th c. – 9th c.
Khitan, 9th – 11th c.
Mongols, 1206-present

Terms and concepts used in the lecture

Early Nomads – early people inhabiting Eurasian steppes in the area of Altai Mountains and modern-day Mongolia
Deer stones – steles with carved images of stylized animals
Khirigsur – stone configurations in either a circular or square arrangement
Stonemen – ancient Turkic stones, ca. 7th – 8th c.
Balbal – row of small stones at Turkic burial complexes
Animal style – images with motifs based on stylized animals
Sülde – vital energy
Onggho – spirit
Ongghon – spirit support
Shanyu – ruler in Xiongnu state

Suggested Bibliography:

Andreeva, Petya and Christopher Atwood, “Camp and audience scenes in late iron age rock drawings from Khawtsagait, Mongolia,” in Archaeological Research in Asia (2017)


