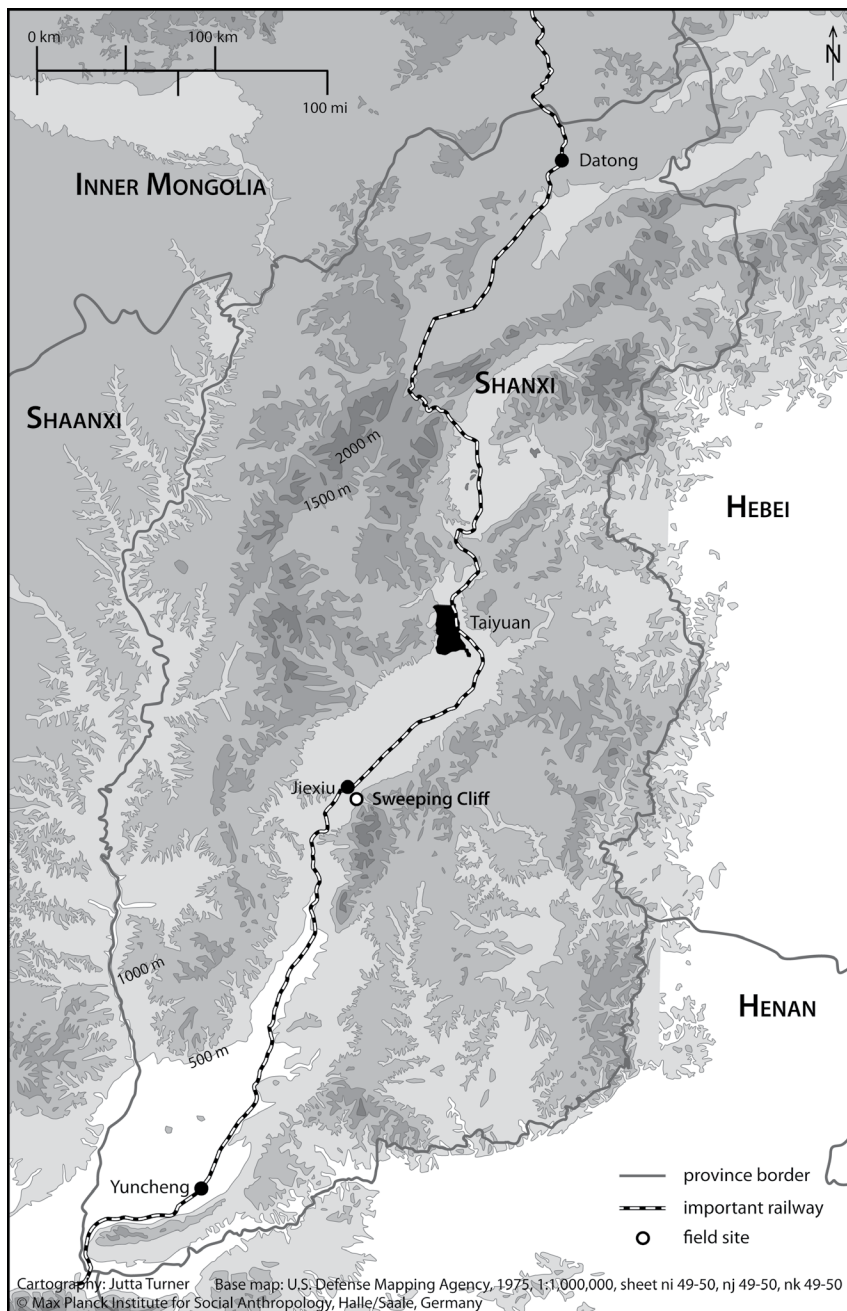


NOTES ON TRANSLITERATION

Although a predominantly Han ethnic province, the linguistic diversity of Shanxi is palpable, and its dialects are not only numerous but also frequently mutually unintelligible. Shanxi dialects, or *Jin yu*, are enriched by a diverse and ancient vocabulary, a shifting Sandhi tonal system, and glottal stops that punctuate guttural flows of melodic rises and falls of the human voice.

Sinitic languages are usually divided into six or seven groups of Mandarin, Wu, Xiang, Yue, Min, and Gan, with Kejia being either separate or part of the Gan group. The renowned linguist and dialectologist Li Rong (1987) revised this classification with three additional groupings, including a separate classification of the Jin dialect found in Shanxi and Inner Mongolia due to its retention of the “entering tone” (*rusheng*). The *rusheng* does not refer to a “tone” per se, but to a syllable that ends abruptly in a sharp consonant or a voiceless glottal stop made by suddenly cutting off the air in the vocal tract.

I have transliterated from Chinese characters using the Pinyin system of Romanization for standard Mandarin (Putonghua). Where crucial terms or phrases were transcribed from local *Jin*, the spelling reflects the original sound as closely as possible following the Pinyin system. The difference is denoted through transcription of the local dialect term or phrase, followed by the Putonghua term.



Map of Shanxi. Map created by Jutta Turner.