How do people understand their connections to the world outside and inside of themselves? What do they do to give that understanding substance in practice? This is the prolegomena to a study of “learning,” as five fields of knowledge, theory, and practice that unfolded from the late 8th century into the Qing. Professor Bol is interested in conceptualizations of fields and norms of practice. The five fields—the physical world, living organisms, institutions, language, and behavior—were cumulative and contestatory. Cumulative because practice created an ever-growing body of artifacts that constituted a field. Contestatory because new conceptualizations challenged the work of earlier figures and contemporaries. Within a field there were shared modes of practice, but there were also problematics that cut across-fields and conceptualization from one field that penetrated others. Professor Bol's project is also intended to broaden one's practice of “intellectual history.”