

China and the Middle East: Historical Connections and Comparisons Along and Beyond the Silk Roads

3-5 June 2018

Gilman Bldg. 496

Sunday, June 3:

09:30-09:40 Opening Remarks

09:40-11:00

Panel#1: Between Persia and China: First Millennium Contacts

Chair: **Domenico Agostini**, Tel Aviv University

Sören Stark, New York University

“Trade and Canals: Some thoughts on Sogdian-Chinese Relations during the 3rd Century CE and their Consequences in Sogdiana”

Matteo Comparati, Shaanxi Normal University

“The Wild Boar Head in Sasanian Persia and Tang China: The Fortunes of an Enigmatic Symbol”

11:00-11:30 Coffee Break

11:30-13:15

Panel#2: Mutual Religious Perceptions of East and West Asia

Jonathan Brack, Hebrew University

“Arguing *without* Scripture: Comparing Notes between William of Rubruk and Rashid al-Din on Buddhism at the Mongol Courts”

Dror Weil, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science

“Beyond Fantasy - Images of Arabia and Early Islam in Popular Chinese Encyclopedias”

Ori Sela, Tel Aviv University

“Before the Opium: The Threat from the West in the Eighteenth Century”

13:15-14:45 Lunch

14:45-15:45

Screening of: *Junk History* [Gilman Bldg. room 223]

Produced by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, this video critically examines the creation and marketing of Gavin Menzies' book *1421: the Year China Discovered the World*. The panel which follows the screening will discuss some aspects relating to the film.

15:45-16:15 Coffee Break

16:15-18:15

Panel#3: The Maritime ‘Silk Road’ and the South Asia

Connection: Chinese Envoys and the Cosmopolitan Indian

Ocean: 8th-15th Century

Angela Schottenhammer, University of Salzburg

“Why did Tang Dezong want to send a eunuch to the Abbasids?”

Tansen Sen, NYU Shanghai

“Encountering Cosmopolitanism: Zheng He and the Maritime World of South Asia”

Geoff Wade, Australian National University

“Ming Envoys to Southeast Asia in the 15th Century”

Monday, June 4:

09:30-11:00

Panel#4: Political and Literary Perceptions and Conceptualizations

Kaveh Hemmat, Benedictine University

“The Evidentiary Basis for Early Modern Islamic Perceptions of East Asia”

Ron Sela, Indiana University

“China in Central Asian Popular Lore”

11:00-11:30 Coffee Break



11:30-13:00

Panel#5: Contacts and Comparisons in the History of Medicine/Dealing with Epidemics

Asaf Goldschmidt, Tel Aviv University

“From Southern Epidemics to Cold Damage Disorders: The Epidemics that Transformed Medicine during the Northern Song Dynasty (960-1127)”

Stuart Borsch, Assumption College

“Dreadful Disaster, Dutiful Diligence: Counting Cairo’s Corpses during the Black Death”

13:15-14:45 Lunch

14:45-16:45

Panel#6: Arab Science in Qing China: Facts and Fantasy

Andrea Breard, Université Paris Sud

“Conics in late Imperial China Was the Arab tradition forgotten?”

Chen Jiang-ping (Jeff), St. Cloud State University & Université Paris Diderot

“A comparative analysis of certain ‘algebraic techniques’ in China, Europe, and Middle East”

Shi Yunli, University of Science and Technology of China

“Chinese Image of Astronomy from the Middle East in the Qing Period”

16:45-17:00 Coffee Break

17:00-18:00

Round Table

18:30

Opening Ceremony of the Exhibition: “Cultural Exchanges: Dun Huang and the Silk Road”

At: Chinese Cultural Center, Habarzel 30 (first floor), Ramat Hahayal, Tel Aviv

Tuesday, June 5:

09:30-11:30

Panel#7: Dunhuang: New Perspectives

Zhang Yuanlin, Dunhuang Academy

“Dialogues among civilizations: Some References Related to the Middle East found in Dunhuang Grottoes”

Wu Yang, Renmin University

“Eastern Old School meets Western Modern Academy in Early 20th Century”

Li Wei, China Central Academy of Fine Arts

“Study of Portrait Draft Lines in Dunhuang Murals”