

Fall 2017

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THE LOUIS FRIEBERG CENTER
for East Asian Studies

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Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to present this new issue of the newsletter of the Louis Frieberg Center for East Asian Studies. The newsletter highlights some of the Center's activities over the past academic year (2016-17), and introduces next year's main events. Once more, the scale and variety of the activities presented below attests to the Center's burgeoning activity and the growing interest in Asia in general, and East-Asia in particular, within the academic community in Israel.

Founded in 2006, the Frieberg Center is an interdisciplinary forum of faculty at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem aiming to promote and broaden teaching and research on issues relating to East Asia. The Center has set itself the ambitious goal of establishing the Hebrew University as a world-renowned hub of East Asian Studies by catalyzing high-level research; promoting international cooperation, creative teaching experiences, and a wide variety of cultural and scientific activities; as well as developing scholarly infrastructure.

As in previous years, the Center continued to support innovative international workshops and conferences. In 2016-17, the two main projects were the week-long *Animals and Human Societies in Asia* conference (February 26-March 2, 2017, in conjunction with the Asian Sphere program) and the *Chinese Documentary Films workshop* (April 17-21, 2017) taught by two leading Chinese directors and a HUJI-alumni professor from the University of Washington, which included two screenings at the Jerusalem Cinemateque.

Another major international conference dealt with Japanese militarism (May 2017), while more specialized workshops were dedicated to Korean Diasporas and the Arts (May 2017); Chinese intellectual history (*After 100 Years: Revisiting Hu Shi and the New Culture Movement*, November 2016); the 25th anniversary of China-Israel diplomatic relations (January 2017); and various aspects of the history of the Mongol Empire (*Animals in Mongol Eurasia*-February 2017, and *Networks, Regions and Institutions: Towards a Meso-History of Mongol Eurasia* - May 2017).

Summer 2017 was the occasion of three unique and highly successful traveling seminars. The first, *Silk Roads' Encounters in Northwest China*, led by Professors Yuri Pines, Gideon Shelach and Michal Biran, went along the Gansu corridor and in the lands of the Tanguts (1038-1227) up to the starting point of the Silk Roads in Xian. The second, titled *Local Histories in Hokkaido and Tohoku*, led by Prof. Nissim Otmazgin and Dr. Danny Orbach, visited shrines, temples and other local ritual sites in Northern Japan and met with Japanese scholars and students. A third seminar took the students of the joint Asian Studies-

Business Administration program to Shanghai and Beijing. There, the students visited some of today's most innovative Chinese companies and met with Chinese and Israeli entrepreneurs. In addition, a highly successful summer course in Chinese took place, for the 6th time (!) at Jilin University, China, under the direction of our language teacher, Ms. Lin Qian.

This issue also introduces the Frieberg Center's post-docs. We are especially proud that both last year's fellows decided to extend their stay: Dr. Sayuri Arai for another research year while Dr. Dima (David) Mironenko has decided to make Israel his new home!

This issue also highlights a new and exciting development in Asian Studies in Israel—the Shagan Collection of Japanese art. Donated in 2016 by Mr. Ofer Shagan in memory of his sister Oranit, the collection features more than 150 items from the 15th to the 19th centuries, including ukiyo-e prints, scrolls, books, shunga, silk paintings, and masks. In June 2017, the Japanese art historian Dr. Kazuko Kameda-Madar annotated the various items and conducted a special graduate seminar based on the collection's materials. The unique collection, which is currently in the process of digitalization, is a gold mine for research and teaching and will surely attract much scholarly attention.

Several of next year's main events are also featured in this issue. First of all, the *Bi-Annual Israeli Asian Studies Conference (ASI18)* is coming back to Jerusalem after seven years (!). Save the date: May 23-24 2018, and note that the [Call for Papers](#) is open until November 15 (see last page)

Even before, however, this fall is going to be a busy time for Asianists, featuring the first ever Israeli Conference on Indonesia (November 28-30); continuing with The international workshop *Societal Consequences of Climatic Changes*, a significant part of which is dedicated to East Asia (December 3-7), The 'End of History' Reversed? *Comparative Perspectives on Renationalization, Populism, and Political Communication in East Asian, European and Israeli Democracies* (a joint HUJI-Freie Universität Berlin Seminar, December 3-4), *East Asia's Security Dilemmas* (December 13), and culminating with the *Migrations in Mongol Eurasia* international conference (December 18-20).

Lastly, it is a pleasure to congratulate several of the Center's affiliates: Prof. Andrew Plaks, who was elected to the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities; Prof. Meron Medzini, who was awarded Japan's prestigious Order of the Rising Sun Decoration; Prof. Ronnit Ricci, whose edited volume *Exile in Colonial Asia. Kings, Convicts,*

Commemoration (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2016) won the Edited Volume Accolade in the Humanities category at the recent ICAS 2017 held in Chiang Mai. We would especially like to congratulate Dr. Lihi Yariv-Laor, one of the Center's founding members, upon her retirement, and hope that despite it she will continue to be involved in the Center's committee and activities.

We would also like to thank Ms. Tal Dranitzki, our legendary administrative officer, who left us to study in China; Ms. Amit Niv and Mr. Edi Naiman, who look after the Center's soon-to-be-launched new website, and Ms. Michal Saminski who succeeded Tal as the Center's administrator and is also the editor of this issue.

With best wishes for an amazing new year, academic and otherwise,
Prof. Michal Biran

Prof. Nissim Otmazgin



Prof. Michal Biran, Director



Prof. Nissim Otmazgin, Chair of the Academic Committee

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Meet Our Post-Doctoral Fellows

Dr. Dima Mironenko, Frieberg Center Post-Doctoral Fellow

Last September, I found myself in a real bind—for the first time since I had entered the job market four years ago, I finally had three amazing offers to choose from for the academic year 2016-17. One of them was an offer for a permanent position in Europe. It was truly one of

was the students, many of whom brought unmatched curiosity and passion for the subject to the classroom. My favorite day of the workweek was Wednesday, because on Wednesdays I had my seminar and the pleasure of spending two amazing hours with my

by the University's many institutes and centers were augmented by unforgettable sightseeing tours and phenomenal gastronomic outings, which helped seal collegial bonds with newfound "partners-in-crime" over breathtaking ancient vistas and exceptional wine.



"The Hebrew University has a very vibrant academic life and is a major intellectual center that produces cutting-edge scholarship both in the humanities and in the sciences not only in the Middle East, but also in Europe."



the most difficult decisions I had ever made: which one should I accept and which should I decline? After much thinking and deliberation, I chose to take a postdoc at the Frieberg Center and come to Israel for a year. I must admit it was one of the best decisions of my life.

Several years ago, the Department of Asian Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem launched a brand new program in Korean Studies. It has been a great honor and even greater pleasure for me to be part of this fledgling program during its formative period. Although Israel is by no means an easy place to live in, it has proved against all odds to be just perfect for me both on a professional and personal level. As a Frieberg postdoc, I got an opportunity to teach a new course, "War and Sex: Koreans in World History," and benefit from the advice and experience of my colleagues in the department and beyond. The best part, of course,

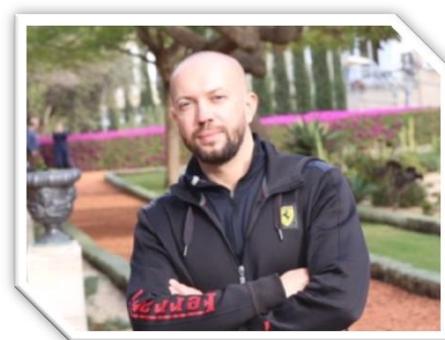
students, which often ran overtime.

The Hebrew University has a very vibrant academic life and is a major intellectual center that produces cutting-edge scholarship both in the humanities and in the sciences not only in the Middle East, but also in Europe. A crossroads between East and West, it brings together top scholars from all over the world and maintains a busy public events schedule. I was very fortunate to get a chance to participate in numerous eye-opening and highly stimulating talks, seminars, workshops, and conferences, too many to list all of them here. I met many wonderful Israeli scholars here who work on Asia and made many dear new friends.

Israelis are amazing hosts who know how to show great hospitality and a fantastic time to their guests, and the University was brimming with that energy all the time I was here. Almost all intellectual events hosted

Perhaps, as a result of all this, my long-drawn-out book project got the kick-start it so needed, and the writing finally began to flow. Before I came to Israel, I spent a few years teaching in the United States, after defending my doctoral dissertation on modern Korean history at Harvard University. Since my graduation, I have been lucky enough to have spent time at Columbia and Yale, but it was here, in Jerusalem, that the vision of my future book I've been working on for many years came to me, at last, in all its clarity, and it was under the Israeli sun that my project truly began to blossom.

I will be spending next year in Korea, writing my book manuscript, *Chasing the Black Rabbit in Postwar North Korea: Schopenhauer, Laughter, and Everyday Agency*, which is a study of the culture of non-conformism in the well-known pariah state, before coming back to Israel—now for good—to a place I am proud to call my new home.



Dr. Sayuri Arai, Frieberg Center Post-Doctoral Fellow

I am a postdoctoral fellow at the Louis Frieberg Center for East Asian Studies. I moved to Israel in October 2016 and started my postdoctoral fellowship at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem immediately after completing my dissertation entitled "Memories of Race: Representations of Mixed Race People in Girls'

work on identity issues related to Black-Japanese GI babies in post-occupation Japan was recently published in the edited collection *Hapa Japan: Constructing Global Mixed Race and Mixed Roots Japanese Identities and Representations*, Vol. 2 (2017). While in residence at the Hebrew



"I was very impressed by my students' performance in class. They were quite knowledgeable about Japanese culture and language. Most importantly, they were eager to learn more about Japan."

Comic Magazines in Post-Occupation Japan." I received my Ph.D. in Communications and Media from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2016. Located at the intersection of Japanese studies, cultural studies, critical race studies, and visual culture, my research addresses issues related to a largely neglected group in scholarly literature: racially mixed people in Japan, including GI babies born during and after the U.S. occupation of Japan. Through a close textual analysis of visual images of mixed race people in major Japanese girls' comic magazines published during the 1950s and the 1960s, my current book project illuminates the ways in which the meanings of mixed race people were remade from negative to ambivalent, or even positive, in the context of postwar economic growth. It shows that the image of racially mixed people was dissociated from the stigma of being "occupation babies" intimately entangled with the memory of Japan's defeat in the war. Also, my

University during the 2016-2017 academic year, I taught the course "Japanese Popular Culture: Race, Identity, and Representation." This course examined the politics of visual representation within Japanese media and popular culture by focusing on issues of race, alongside exploration of gender, sexuality, and class in broader Japanese contexts. This was my first time teaching in Israel, and I really enjoyed it. I was very impressed by my students' performance in class. They were quite knowledgeable about Japanese culture and language. Most importantly, they were eager to learn more about Japan. As a scholar and teacher trained in the United States, it was certainly a special experience for me. In addition to the teaching experience, I have derived enormous benefit from the opportunities afforded by the Frieberg Center to establish networks for future collaborations with scholars from various academic backgrounds. For example, I was able to participate

in many cultural and public events, such as the Kokuji Shodo workshop, the Third Biennial IAJIS Conference, and the opening of the exhibition of the Shagan Collection at the Tikotin Museum of Japanese Art. Also, the Asian Studies community at Hebrew University has allowed me to get to know several professors and other scholars and to learn about their research. I specifically appreciate the inspiration and support given by Prof. Nissim Otmazgin, Dr. Jooyeon Rhee, and Dr. Danny Orbach.

I have very much enjoyed the academic environment in Israel. The time I so far spent in Jerusalem has enriched my academic experience and helped me build new bridges between different languages and different academic traditions. I have decided to stay in Jerusalem for another year. I will continue to work on my book project and complete my manuscript. I am very excited about my second year in Israel.

Past Events

Animals and Human Society in the Asian Sphere

by Prof. Gideon Shelach, Dept. of Asian Studies

The conference “Animals and Human Society in the Asian Sphere” was held as part of the Asian Sphere program – an interdisciplinary and inter-university graduate program funded by the Humanities Fund of the Planning and Budgeting Committee of the Council for Higher Education in Israel (VATAT) and Yad Hanadiv. The conference took place between February 26th and March 2nd. On the first day, we held three workshops – in Jerusalem, Haifa and Tel-Aviv- the Jerusalem workshop dealt with [Animals in Mongol Eurasia](#). The main conference was held at the Hebrew University between February 27th and March 1st. During those three days, some 25 scholars presented their research on a variety of topics ranging from the archaeology and prehistory of human interactions with animals, to animals in contemporary Asian societies, and from animals as food resource to animals in human art, culture and religions (see program information [here](#)). On March 2nd we held a study tour to animal-related sites in southern Israel.

Interactions between humans and animals is fast becoming a hot topic in the humanities and social sciences and among the public as well. Thus, our conference generated a lot of interest not only among scholars who presented their research but also among the many people – students, professors and interested members of the public – who attended the lectures. The “Animals and Human Society in the Asian Sphere” conference was the biggest of its kind ever to be held in Israel. More than half of the scholars presenting papers at the conference came from prestigious international universities and research institutions. The different panels of the conference addressed such varied topics as “Humans and Wild Animals in Asia”, “Animals and Animal Domestication in Prehistoric Societies in Asia”, “Animals in Wars and Diplomacy across Asian History”, “Animals and Their Representations in Asian Cultures, Religions and Ideology”, “Animal Products and the Industrialization of Animal Farming in Asia”, and more. Following the

conference's success, the organizing committee is now working on the publication of a selection of the lectures presented in the conference in an edited volume. Along with the Asian Sphere program and the Frieberg Center, we received support for the conference from the Hebrew University, the University of Haifa, Tel-Aviv University, and the Mobility, Empire and Cross-Cultural Contacts in Mongol Eurasia project.



Meron Medzini, Adjunct Associate Professor of Japanese history at the Hebrew University since 1964, recently received the Order of the Rising Sun Decoration from the Ambassador of Japan for his long service in promoting Israel-Japan relations. Professor Medzini has been associated with the Frieberg Center for many years. The Center supported the publication of his latest book, *Under The Shadow of the Rising Sun – Japan and the Jews During the Holocaust Era* (Academic Studies Press, 2016). He also edited two bibliographies of materials in Hebrew on Japan and China, both published by the Frieberg Center. He joins Prof. Ben-Ami Shillony and Prof. Ehud Harari, Frieberg Associates, who in 2000 received the Japanese Imperial Decorations for their long-term academic and cultural achievements.



Documentary Film in China by Dr. Min Zhang, The Louis Frieberg Center & The Harry S. Truman Institute for the Advancement of Peace

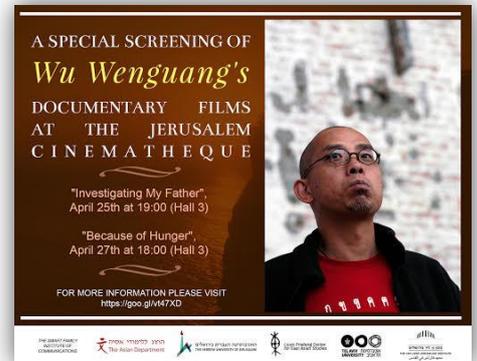
A special workshop titled "Documentary Film in China," sponsored by the Louis Frieberg Center, the Department of Asian Studies, and the Department of Communication and Journalism, took place at Rabin Building from April 17-21, 2017.

The five-day workshop primarily featured invited lectures and seminars from the different generations of filmmakers in China's documentary cinema. Mr. Wu Wenguang, acclaimed director and one of the founding figures of Chinese independent documentary film, provided an at once intimate and comprehensive account of the New Chinese Documentary Film Movement. Mr. Wu also offered his insights on the meaning of real-time documentation (xianchang). On the last day of the workshop, Ms. Zhang Mengqi, one of Mr. Wu's young collaborators, joined Mr. Wu to co-host a seminar for an in-depth discussion with HUJI's faculty, graduate students and advanced undergraduates on their ongoing collaborative documentary theater/oral history projects: The Village Documentary Project, and The Folk Memory Project of China's

the editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Chinese Cinemas* and HUJI alumni.

In addition to academic discussions, during the workshop the Jerusalem Cinematheque presented a public screening and discussions of two of Wu Wenguang's films — *Investigating My Father* and *Because of Hunger*.

This well-attended workshop brought together experts on Chinese documentary film, Chinese and Israeli documentarians, as well as general audience interested in Chinese cinema, to engage in lively discussions about documentary filmmaking in China.



"This well-attended workshop brought together experts on Chinese documentary film, Chinese and Israeli documentarians."



Great Famine (1958-1961) Project.

This special workshop also featured a short course on the history, themes, and stylistic innovation in China's independent documentary cinema, given by Prof. Yomi Braester, of the University of Washington, Seattle,

SPECIAL WORKSHOP:
"DOCUMENTARY FILM IN CHINA" (46853)

APRIL 24TH-27TH, 14:30-18:00
AT THE RABIN BUILDING, MT. SCOPUS CAMPUS, THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY
THE WORKSHOP LECTURES ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FREE OF CHARGE

Taught by
Professor Yomi Braester, University of Washington, Seattle
Chinese Documentary filmmaker Wu Wenguang
Chinese Documentary filmmaker Zhang Mengqi
Professor Raya Morag, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

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Reconsidering Japanese Militarism: Conference Report by Dr. Danny Orbach, Dept. of Asian Studies



A specter haunts East Asia: the specter of Japanese militarism. For many, the Japanese Empire was a force of repression and indescribable atrocities, such as the Rape of Nanjing, the sack of Manila and the trafficking of "comfort women." The Japanese Empire was always brutal, yet before its worst period in the 1930s and WWII, it symbolized for many also progress, modernity and the hope for Pan-Asian solidarity. These disillusioned hopes, and the bitter memory of Japanese imperialism, are present in East Asia to this very day, and haunt the relationship between Japan, China and the two Koreas. It is impossible to understand modern East Asian politics without taking this history into account.

"Militarism" was the ideology that tied the Japanese Empire together, signifying the paramount role of the army in the process of imperial expansion. Our conference, "Officers, Adventurers and Statesmen: Reconsidered Militarism in Twentieth Century Japan," convened leading scholars from Israel, the United States, Japan, Europe, Australia and Vietnam in order to reexamine this key historical phenomenon. It met on the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's Mount Scopus Campus, between 18 and 20 June 2017, under the auspices of our Asian Studies Department, and was generously supported by the Azrieli

Foundation, the Louis Frieberg Center for Asian Studies and the Harry S. Truman Institute for the Advancement of Peace.

We aimed to bring together new perspectives and scholarship in order to comprehend the role that statesmen, officers and adventurers played in Japan's turn towards war and empire. In the keynote lectures,



"Militarism" was the ideology that tied the Japanese Empire together, signifying the paramount role of the army in the process of imperial expansion. Our conference."



Prof. Ben Ami Shillony (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem) and Prof. Andrew Gordon (Harvard University) located Japanese militarism in history, defined it and delineated its contours.

Drawing on newly accessible materials from political, military, diplomatic, and intelligence archives, the participants then approached prewar Japanese militarism and adventurism in comparative and global perspectives. We discussed events both in Japan itself and on the frontiers of the Japanese Empire: China, Manchuria and Mongolia. Specifically, we examined the

following questions: What was the relationship between the changing shape of war and changes in domestic politics and the right of supreme command in the 1930s? Were conspiratorial field officers and right-wing ideologues truly able to control and determine the foreign policy of the empire? What was the process of decision-making and policy control in prewar Japan? Did the control system of the Imperial Army truly disintegrate in the 1920s and 1930s? And what role did Japanese military institutions play in giving East Asia its particular shape and identity?

In addition to our discussion of Japanese militarism, we also held comparative panels on similar phenomena of militarism and adventurism elsewhere in Asia (South Korea and Pakistan) and in global perspective. At the end of conference, Prof. Sheldon Garon (Princeton University) summed up the discussion by bringing new insights on the surrender of Imperial Japan in August 1945.

Our aim is to publish an edited volume of the conference proceedings, bringing the fascinating discussions we had in Jerusalem to the knowledge of the international scholarly community.



Korean Diaspora and the Arts Conference by Dr. Jooyeon Rhee, Dept. of Asian Studies

On May 21-23, 2017, the Department of Asian Studies, The Harry S. Truman Institute for the Advancement of Peace and the Korean Studies Forum hosted an international conference with the theme of "Korean Diaspora and the Arts." The conference aimed to contribute to the burgeoning scholarly interest in the study of the Korean diaspora by focusing on artworks and artists concerned with historical, social, and cultural experiences of the Korean diaspora. Participants presented their research on Korean diasporic art that showcases a shared history of trauma, suffering or displacement, reconstructed affectively or reimagined nostalgically to explore creative expressions of the Korean diaspora through paintings, film, literature, performance art, and TV dramas produced in North America, East Asia, and Europe. They raised critical questions about the concept of Korean diaspora, diaspora subjectivity, and the relationship between the state and diasporic communities, all of which have been understudied so far.

Some of the critical questions that were explored are: How, for example, can we categorize North Korean refugees in the study of Korean diaspora? What can artists tell us about diaspora and art that does not neatly fit into the official narrative about nation and ethnic identity? What are the living experiences of Korean adoptees overseas and mixed-race children? What makes the experiences of multiculturalism of Koreans living in Canada different from those of Koreans living in the USA?

Followed by Dr. Theodore Jun Yoo's keynote speech on the history of Korean diaspora in many parts of the world including Africa, sixteen

presenters shared their research findings and sought ways to better articulate Korean identity through art. The conference participants concluded that artworks possess great potential to lead us beyond dichotomies, embodying a wide range of experiences that traverse multiple realms of diasporic life, including the physical, psychological,



national, transnational, emotional, material, and spiritual, while at the same time possessing great potential to criticize the homogenization of Korean identity. Questioning the homogeneity of Korean identity naturally brings up the issue of the definition of Korean diasporic art that must be investigated further with the plurality of Korean diasporas in mind. In this sense, the special lecture, "The Jewish Diaspora in Siberia," delivered by Dr. Anna Berezina (The Center for Jewish Art at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem) provided the conference a critical space to engage in diaspora study from a comparative angle

and to re-think the value of diaspora art. The conference would like to thank Dr. Berezina for sharing her fascinating research and providing a

rare opportunity to conduct cross-cultural dialogue on diaspora study.

Selected papers are now being edited by Dr. Jooyeon Rhee and Dr. Hijoo Son to be published in a peer-reviewed journal with three specific aims: to comprehend the plurality of diasporic subjectivity; to scrutinize the concept of Korean identity; and to consider local conditions as an important element in comprehending the formation of diasporic art and cultural identity. The participants believe that the conference will contribute to the study of diaspora significantly beyond Korean studies through sensitive and insightful discussions of creative expressions that enrich our understanding of the history of human mobility.



After 100 Years: Revisiting Hu Shi and the New Culture

Movement by Prof. Yuri Pines, Dept. of Asian Studies



The 1916/1917 academic year marked the centennial anniversary of the New Culture Movement (

新文化運動), which reshaped the intellectual, cultural, and political landscape of China. One of the central figures of this movement, and one of the most celebrated and controversial public intellectuals in modern China, was Hu Shi (胡適, 1891-1962). To celebrate the anniversary, the Department of Asian Studies, the Confucius Institute and the Frieberg Center for East Asian Studies, organized a mini-symposium titled *After 100 Years: Revisiting Hu Shi and the New Culture Movement*, that took place on January 11, 2017.

The symposium brought together scholars from different generations, affiliations, and academic backgrounds who were united by their fascination with the figure and the legacy of Hu Shi. Professor Thomas Fröhlich (Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg and Hamburg Universität) presented a paper, "Hu Shi and His Attempt to Cope with Political Violence," which focused on Hu's complex political thought. Dr. Selena Orly (recent PhD holder from Hong Kong University and one of Frieberg post-docs for 2017-18) spoke on "Hu Shi and His Evolving Views of Chinese Tradition," demonstrating that Hu Shi's views of China's cultural past were more nuanced than sometimes assumed. Prof. (Emerita) Irene Eber, a member of the founding generation of East Asian

studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem presented a paper on "Hu Shi, Exile and Tradition" (due to Professor Eber's health problems, the paper was read by Dr. Lih Yariv-Laor, Hebrew University). Prof. Gad Isay (Tel-Hai College) investigated the question of "What Religion Meant to Hu Shi."



"The symposium brought together scholars from different generations, different affiliations, and different academic backgrounds who were united by their fascination with the figure and the legacy of Hu Shi."



The papers were discussed by Prof. Vera Schwarcz (Wesleyan University) who addressed the complexity of Hu Shi's personality, the richness of his legacy and the reasons for which he continues to attract scholars from different generations, in China and abroad. The symposium was chaired by Prof. Yuri Pines (Hebrew University).



The Frieberg Center for East Asian Studies and the Asian Studies Department congratulate Prof. Andrew Plaks on his election to the Israeli Academy of Sciences and Humanities



Professor Andrew Plaks (born 1945) is one of the world's leading experts on Chinese classical literature and philosophy. A

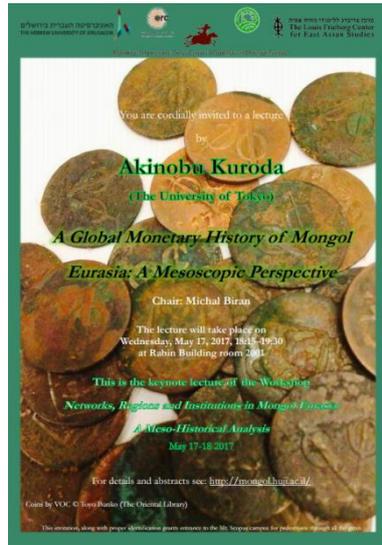
master of Chinese, Japanese and other 13 languages, he taught East Asian Studies and Comparative literature at Princeton University for 34 years, during the last 25 of them in a special split arrangement with one semester each year at the Hebrew University and Tel-Aviv University. In Jerusalem he gave courses on comparative analysis of essential concepts in Chinese and Western (including Jewish) texts, as well as directed readings with the most advanced students of Chinese and Japanese. He is best known for his groundbreaking study *The Four Masterworks of the Ming Novel* (Princeton, 1987; extended Chinese version Beijing, 1993). Over the years, however, the central focus of Professor Plaks' interests shifted from literary works of the Imperial period to seminal texts in the history of Chinese thought. His annotated translations to Hebrew of two of the canonic "Four Books" of the Confucian tradition especially deserve to be mentioned (The Great Learning -Torat Ha-Gadol- Da Xue [Jerusalem, 1997] and The Doctrine of the Mean- Derech ha'emtsa vekiyuma- Zhongyong [Jerusalem, 2004]). Together with Ms. Amira Katz, he is currently nearing completion of a monumental Hebrew translation of the 18th-century masterpiece *Dream of Red Mansions*. Prof. Plaks is the fourth (!) member of the department of Asian Studies to be elected to the Israeli Academy of Sciences and Humanities, and was preceded by Profs. David Shulman, Ben Ami Shillony and Michal Biran.

Networks, Regions and Institutions in Mongol Eurasia: A Meso-Historical Analysis by Dr.

Yoichi Isahaya, Post-Doctoral Fellow, Mobility, Empire and Cross Cultural Contacts in Mongol Eurasia ERC Project



On May 17-18, 2017, an international workshop on “Networks, Regions and Institutions in Mongol Eurasia: A Meso-Historical Analysis” was held by the ERC project *Mobility, Empire and Cross-Cultural Contacts in Mongol Eurasia* at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, co-organized by Yoichi Isahaya and Francesca Fiaschetti. In this workshop, we aimed to cultivate the potential of “meso-historical analysis” for Eurasian history during the period of the Mongol Empire up to the end of the fourteenth century. The choice of this subject was inspired by a lecture by Akinobu Kuroda (The University of Tokyo)—the keynote speaker of this workshop—on “Locality and Global Monetary History from Mesoscopic Viewpoint” (UTokyo Forum, Ecole normale supérieure, Lyon, 20th October, 2011). The “meso-historical analysis” we proposed is one which combines a world history perspective



with close reading and minute analysis of the relevant primary sources, similar to the “humanistic approach to world history” of Sanjay Subrahmanyam (S. Subrahmanyam, “Intertwined Histories: Cronica and Tarikh in the Sixteenth-Century Indian Ocean World,” *History and Theory* 49/4 (2010): 118–145).

For “meso-historical analysis,” in particular, we investigated the following three factors: regions, networks, and institutions. By taking this approach, our workshop revealed the importance of Mongol indigenous norms and institutions, for

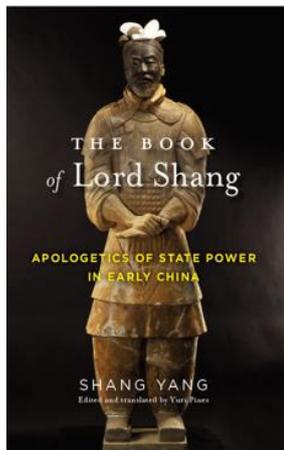
elucidating similarities and differences in the adaptation of their polities in different cultural contexts.

The workshop brought together established researchers and emerging scholars from Asia, Europe, The US and Israel, who discussed various aspects of economic, social legal and religious institutions of the Mongol empire in their Eurasian context. Covering space stretching from East Asia via Siberia and into Iran and Western Europe, one of the issues highlighted by the workshop was the role of the appanages in the Mongol Empire.

For details and abstracts click [here](#).



New Books



The Book of Lord Shang: Apologetics of State Power in Early China. Edited and translated by Yuri Pines. Columbia University Press, 2017

Compiled in China in the fourth–third centuries B.C.E., *The Book of Lord Shang* argues for a new powerful government to penetrate society and turn every man into a diligent tiller and valiant soldier. Creating a “rich state and a strong army” will be the first step toward the unification of “All-under-Heaven.” These ideas served the state of Qin that eventually created the first imperial polity on Chinese soil. In this new translation, *The Book of Lord Shang*’s intellectual boldness and surprisingly modern-looking ideas shine through, underscoring the text’s vibrant contribution to global political thought. For more information click [here](#).

25 years of Israel-China Diplomatic Relations by Prof. Yuri Pines, Dept. of Asian Studies



In 1992, Israel and China established diplomatic ties. To celebrate the 25th anniversary of this milestone event, the Department of Asian Studies, the Confucius Institute and the Frieberg Center for East Asian Studies, organized an event on January 24, 2017, titled *Israel-China Relations: Future Prospects*. The event attracted a huge crowd of students, guests of the university, and journalists, who were greeted by the then-Rector, and now President, of the Hebrew University, Professor Asher Cohen. Professor Cohen emphasized the burgeoning ties between the Hebrew University and the Chinese academy, including the rapidly increasing influx of Chinese students into the Hebrew University, research collaboration with Chinese universities, and the like.

Five speakers attended the event. H.E. Ambassador Zhan Yonxing

(China's ambassador to Israel) talked of "Israel-China Relations: The Chinese Perspective." He emphasized the complementary nature of the Chinese and Israeli economies and the huge potential for further development of bilateral ties. Mr. Hagai Shagrir (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) spoke of "Israel-China Relations: The Israeli Perspective." His talk showed the growing importance of China for Israeli foreign relations and an accelerating degree of bilateral cooperation in various fields. Dr. Lihi Yariv-Laor (Chair of Confucius Institute, Hebrew University) spoke on "How Did Israel Come to Know China?" She discussed the earliest efforts in Israel to understand the



giant East Asian country and the impact of the establishment of the Department of East Asian Studies at the Hebrew University back in the 1960s on the proliferation of

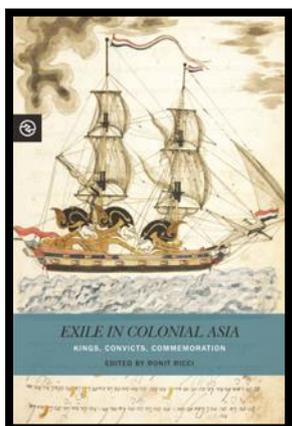


knowledge about China in Israel. Economic relations between the two sides were explored in the talks by Roi Feder, Managing Director, APCO Worldwide, Israel, who spoke on "The Next 25 Years, The Rise of Israel's Strategic Importance to China," and Ilan Maor, Managing Partner, Sheng-BDO and Vice Chairman of the Israel-China & Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce, whose topic was "China in the Year of the Rooster – A View from Tel-Aviv & Shanghai." Both speakers captivated the student audience by outlining multiple avenues of future cooperation between Israel and China.

The event was moderated by Dr. Orna Naftali (Hebrew University). It was accompanied by an artistic performance by two Hebrew University students, Noam Rose Weiss and Gal Litani.

New Books

Prof. Ronit Ricci was awarded the Edited Volume Accolade in the Humanities category at the recent International Convention of Asian Scholars (ICAS) 2017 held in Chiang Mai: for her edited book titled *Exile in Colonial Asia. Kings, Convicts, Commemoration* (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2016), a fascinating global narrative of differently situated subjects forced to move.



Exile in Colonial Asia: Kings, Convicts, Commemoration explores the phenomenon of exile within and from colonial Asia between the 17th and early 20th centuries from several disciplinary perspectives: anthropology, gender studies, literature, history, and Asian, Australian, and Pacific studies. Chapters cover myriad contexts from Colombo to Cape Town, from New Caledonia to New South Wales, from Burma to Banda; French, British, and Dutch policies toward, and practices of, banishment; various categories of people whose lives were touched or shaped by exile in the colonial period, among them royalty, slaves, convicts, rebels, soldiers and officials; the condition of exile and the ways it was remembered, reconfigured, and commemorated after the fact. Rather than confining themselves to the European colonial archives, the authors, whenever possible, put special emphasis on the use of indigenous primary sources hitherto little explored. For details see [here](#).

The Shagan Collection of Japanese Art at the Hebrew University by Naama Eliraz, MA Student, History of Art and Asian Studies Departments, Curator.



The Shagan Collection of Japanese Art was established in 2016, thanks to a special donation by Mr. Ofer

Foundation, advanced students read some of the scripts on the scrolls, and discussed and documented the art motifs and iconography of some of the items.

For more information on the Shagan Collection please contact: shagan.collection@mail.huji.ac.il



Shagan in memory of his sister Oranit. The collection features more than one hundred and fifty items from the 15th to the 19th centuries, including ukiyo-e prints, scrolls, books, shunga, silk paintings, and masks. The collection includes the artwork of well-known artists such as Hiroshige, Chikanobu, Kunichika and Kunisada, as well as art works which have yet to be researched.



Managed by the Department of Asian Studies with the support of the university's central library, part of the collection is to be used as

research and teaching material in our classes on Japanese and East Asian art. We are now working to digitize the collection and upload it to a special website where it will be freely available for students and scholars of Japan from around the world.



In June 2017, Dr. Kazuko Kameda-Madar, a specialist on Edo Period art and Kanbun reading from Hawaii Pacific University, conducted a special seminar in Jerusalem using the Shagan Collection. In this seminar, supported by the Japan



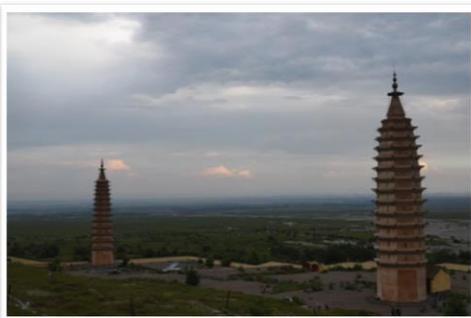
Summer Traveling Course by Tal Nizan, MA Student, Dept. of Asian Studies



The much-anticipated travelling seminar **“Silk Road Encounters: Multi-Cultural Interactions in Northwest China”** took place in August-September 2017, as part of the Asian Sphere Program, aiming to introduce students and other participants to the special dynamics of this area throughout history and at the present time. On August 17th, nine students and twenty-five other participants (professors, teachers, tour guides and more), set out for this 17-day expedition.

The seminar started from Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, travelled to Gansu and Inner Mongolia provinces and finally arrived in Shaanxi, the cradle of Chinese civilization, and the historical capital city of Xi'an. Guided by Professors Michal Biran, Yuri Pines and Gideon Shelach, we enjoyed a small but satisfying taste of this multi-cultural, multi-religious and multi-ethnic region. We discovered China's ancient history through some great museums and archeological sites as well as through several impressive remains of the Great Wall from different periods; explored Buddhist culture and art; made acquaintance with the Tangut civilization (1038-1227) that once ruled this part of China; met with Muslims, Mongols, Tibetans, and Chinese; learned about Daoism, Islam, Buddhism and Lamaism; but most of all we discussed how all of these interacted and (some) continue to interact with each other.

The seminar was also a great opportunity to enjoy China's stunning and diversified landscape, as we travelled by plane, train, bus and boat along the ancient Silk Roads from the riches of the Yellow River in the Ningxia Plain to the parched lands of the desert in Hexi Corridor and from the foothills of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau in Xiahe to the Loess Plateau and the Wei river in Shaanxi.



HUJAPAN 2017: Japan Seminar Tour by Prof. Nissim Otmazgin, Chair of the Academic Committee

This year's honors seminar focused on local history and folklore in Hokkaido and Japan's northern region of Tohoku. Led by Prof. Nissim Otmazgin, Dr. Danny Orbach and PhD student Hadas Kushlevitch, the students explored local customs, visited Ainu settlements, met with students from Hokkaido University, and ended the tour with a two-day meditation practice at a Zen monastery. Next year's seminar will deal with island identity and will include a two-week visit to Jeju and Okinawa. To read about this experience click [here](#).



Hebrew University Confucius Institute Key Accomplishments 2016-2017 by Dr. Lihi Yariv-Laor, Israeli Co-Head of the Confucius Institute

The third year of our research-oriented Confucius Institute was marked by an overall upsurge of its activities.



Research-related activities that were initiated and supported by the Confucius Institute included international conferences, as well as lectures by visiting scholars. Most significant were the conferences “After 100 Years: Revisiting Hu Shi and the New Culture Movement” (January 11, 2017); “Movement, Temporality and Exchange: Animals in Mongol Eurasia” (international workshop, February 2, 2017); “Animals and Human Society in the Asian Sphere” (February 27-March 1, 2017); “Networks, Regions and Institutions in Mongol Euroasia: a Meso-historical Analysis” (May 17-18, 2017). Lectures by visiting scholars in 2016-2017 focused on diverse topics such as “The Origin and Evolution of China’s Institutions: a Comparative Institutional Analysis” by Prof. Xu Chenggang (December 2016); “Competition or Conflict in Sino-American Relations?” by Prof. David Zweig (April 2017); and “Chinese Shadow Puppets: the Village Cinema” by Dr. Richard Hardiman (June 2017). Also, throughout the year the Confucius Institute continued supporting the lecture series “Silk Road Encounters: Multi-Cultural Interactions in Northwestern China,” (December 2016, March 2017, May 2017) which culminated in the 2017

Travelling Summer Seminar to North-West China.

Joint activities with delegations from China that were held during 2016-2017 included the Global Youth Leadership Delegation (from Hong-Kong and Beijing) of about 50 students and their teachers, who toured the Mt. Scopus Campus and attended the lecture “Conflicts in Israeli Society” by Dr. Batia Sibzehner (Truman Institute); a delegation from the Beijing Film Group that was hosted by the Confucius Institute and held interviews with Chinese-language students as well as with Chinese overseas students (February 26, 2017); and an academic delegation from Fudan University that participated in the workshop “Globalization and Social Change in China” (May 10, 2017).

Of the dominant cultural activities performed during 2016-2017 I will mention the “Confucius Institute Day,” which focused on the theme of Chinese Medicine, with four lectures, three workshops, a martial arts performance and other activities (December 2016); the conference “Israel-China Relations: Future Prospects,” held in celebration of the 25th anniversary of Israel-China diplomatic relations in the presence of China’s ambassador to Israel (January 24, 2017); the Chinese New Year events that comprised two separate parties (January 1, 2017 and February 2, 2017); a Chinese New Year workshop for Chinese language teachers and other educators (February 19, 2017); the “Asian Nights” activity – business lectures and networking event (March 30, 2017); the Israel Dragon Boat Festival, with the collaboration of the Chinese Embassy in Israel (May 5, 2017); and a colorful “Asia

Day” – a major event that included lectures, workshops, stalls and food (May 10, 2017) – as the grand finale of the entire academic year.

In addition to these very fruitful research and cultural activities, the Confucius Institute, with the active involvement of Hanban headquarters, managed to allocate a variety of Study-in-China scholarships. Besides one-year scholarships for graduates and advanced students of the Department of Asian Studies, this year we conducted two summer programs in China: an intensive Chinese Language Summer Course: 11 second-year students of the Hebrew University were awarded Hanban scholarships for a 4-week summer course on Chinese language at Jilin University (August 2017); and a study tour to Beijing of students of the Joint Program in Business Administration and Asian Studies. The group participated in a 2-week’ study tour in Beijing, where they were introduced to various aspects of Chinese culture and visited renowned commercial companies (September 2017).

Activities to promote acquaintance with China, its culture and its people among school children were conducted this year at full scale.



- HUJI Confucius Institute supported a “Chinese Cultural Experience” in five high schools in Jerusalem and its vicinity. Students of the department

of Asian Studies lectured on Chinese culture and Chinese society, and organized cultural activities such as Chinese calligraphy and making Chinese kites and lanterns. This kind of activity was warmly welcomed not only by the pupils themselves but also by the school authorities.

- Reaching out to the north of Israel: Hebrew University students went as far as the town of Metula in the northern border of Israel to introduce aspects of Chinese culture to children and Chinese thought to adults (May 11, 2017).

- “Scientists’ Night”: in the framework of the European Union’s initiative to promote topics of science and culture among the general public, HUJI Confucius Institute introduced China and Chinese culture, looking toward the future: a lecture on Chinese Language and Society (which took place at the HUJI School of

Medicine), as well as activities such as calligraphy, “Chinese in One Second,” Mongolian dance, and



Chinese martial arts and music (September 19, 2017).

With the active partnership of Peking University and with the constant support of Hanban, the activities described above and others, both purely research activities and cultural-educational ones, whether intended for academia or for the general public in Israel, whether aimed at school children or at adults – all are part

and parcel of the ongoing efforts of the Confucius Institute at the Hebrew University to encourage knowledge of China in Israel and to promote mutual understanding between the Chinese and Israeli communities.

In February 2017, Dr. Wang Yu, who had served as co-director of our Confucius Institute since its inauguration in 2014, completed her three-year term of service and returned to Peking University. Dr. Wang Yu, whose achievements were acknowledged well beyond the realms of the Hebrew University, has constantly been extremely active and most productive in promoting all sorts of activities related to the Confucius Institute at the Hebrew University. We appreciate her immense contribution and look forward to our future cooperation.

“Doing Business in China” Summer Course by May Elgrabli, BA Student, Dept. of Asian Studies

This September, an unprecedented student-led seminar to Beijing took place, co-organized by the Department of Asian Studies and the Business School, and supported by the University's Confucius Institute. A group of 14 students from the joint program in Business Administration and Asian Studies visited business ventures Beijing, met with Chinese and Israeli entrepreneurs, and witnessed first-hand some of the developments in the Chinese economy they had previously learned about in class.

The seminar aimed to provide a better understanding of the Chinese culture, economy and business world, to create the best ambassadors between Chinese companies and the future generation of Israeli leadership. The participating students are devoted to expanding the business partnerships between Israeli and Chinese companies and arrived eager to learn.

In Beijing, the students spent considerable time at Peking University, learning Chinese and engaging in culture-related classes and workshops, thus deepening their understanding of Chinese culture. They had also visited some of the historical and cultural sights China’s capital city has to offer, such as the Great Wall of China, the Forbidden City and the Temple of Heaven. Moreover, the students had the extraordinary opportunity of visiting some of Beijing’s top companies – Ofo, JD, Vanke, Shengjing, IronSource, Perfect World, to name just a few – and to hear from executive VPs and the Israeli economic attaché about the Chinese market.

Students showed their personal initiative not only by organizing the seminar and coordinating with leading companies, but through following up on those visits and pursuing further cooperation and job offers from some of the companies. The seminar was an outstanding success, exposing the students to the vast Chinese business world, representing the Hebrew University, enhancing their personal networks and giving them a sense of direction and a taste of the Asian world.



Asia in the International Arena Program Celebrates One Year by Dr. Ira Lyan, Dept. of Asian Studies



The opening year of the *Asia in the International Arena Program* occurred together with the celebration of 25 years of



“The goal of the Program is to address the emerging need for a better understanding of international relations with Asian countries”



diplomatic relations with China and India, 55 years with South Korea and 65 years with Japan. The first cohort of students had an opportunity to take a part in these

celebrations – among other distinguished guests, the Program hosted the Chinese and Japanese ambassadors for fascinating lectures on their development of cultural, economic and diplomatic ties with Israel. These and other lectures by Israeli and Asian diplomats and academic experts clarified the overwhelming importance of Asia, not only to the Israeli economy, politics and culture but to the global ones, too.

The goal of the Program is to address the emerging need for a better understanding of international relations with Asian countries by combining the study of diplomatic history, international security, political economy, and international law with the language, history and culture of China, Japan, India, and Korea. Academically, the program aims to train a selected group of outstanding students with advanced research methods in the field of International Relations together with deep cultural knowledge and with proficiency in one or two of the modern languages offered at the department of Asian Studies



(Chinese, Japanese, Hindi, or Korean). We expect that this Program's graduates will contribute to the growing relations between Israel and Asian countries in academia, government, and business.

Program website is available [here](#).

Dr. Ira Lyan is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Leonard Davis Institute for International Relations and The Truman Institute for the Advancement of Peace at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Ira is the academic advisor of the Asia in the International Arena Program.



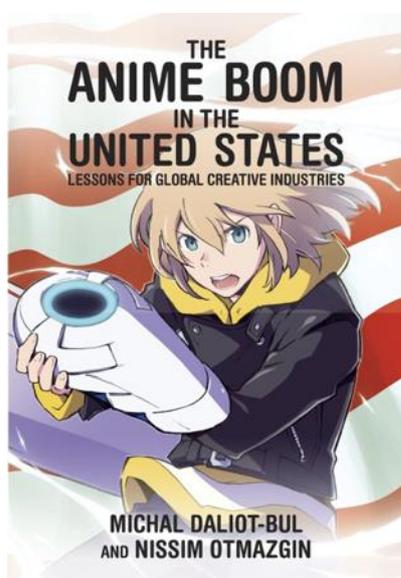
New Books

The Anime Boom in the United States: Lessons for Global Creative Industries (Harvard East Asian Monographs) by Michal Daliot-Bul and Nissim Otmazgin

The Anime Boom in the United States provides a comprehensive and empirically-grounded study of the various stages of anime marketing and commercial expansion into the United States. It also examines the supporting organizational and cultural processes, thereby describing a transnational, embedded system for globalizing and localizing commodified culture.

Focusing primarily on television anime series but also treating significant theatrical releases, the book draws on several sources, including in-depth interviews with Japanese and American professionals in the animation industry, field research, and a wide-scale market survey. The authors investigate the ways in which anime has been exported to the United States since the 1960s, and explore the transnational networks of anime production and marketing. They also investigate the many cultural and artistic processes anime has inspired.

The analysis of the rise and fall of the U.S. anime boom is the starting point for a wider investigation of the multidirectional globalization of contemporary culture and the way in which global creative industries operate in an age of media digitalization and convergence. This story carries broad significance for those interested in understanding the dynamics of power structures in cultural and media globalization. For more details click [here](#).



Asia Day by Noam Rose Weiss, BA student, Dept. of Asian Studies



On May 10, 2017, the annual event of "Asia Day" was held at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. This year's Asia Day was a huge success, with the attendance of hundreds of people who were interested in Asian cultures from all over the country. All the different branches at the Asian Studies Department (China, Japan, Korea, India and SE Asia) offered an amazing opportunity to explore Asia's unique and fascinating cultures.

This entire day was designed by students from the different branches of the department who volunteered in order to make this day a great success. The students received the full cooperation of the academic staff, who aided with lectures and participation, while demonstrating the close and family-like nature of the department. Additional support was given by the different embassies, the Student Union, the Confucius Institute and the Louis Freiberg Centre for East Asian Studies.

The Chinese branch offered a Tai Chi (Taiji) workshop; a lecture by Mr. Eliran Elimelech, a graduate of the department and a former economic attaché in Beijing, on where is China going; tips and recommendations for a future trip to China by Professor Yuri Pines; a Mongolian dance workshop; and a panel with a delegation of professors from Fudan University, Shanghai.

The Korean branch presented a Taekwondo workshop; lectures by Dr. Alon Levkovich on winners and losers in Asia and the US; by Ms. Naomi Adi on tourism in Korea; by Dr. Ira Lyan on the Korean wave; and a traditional Korean craft workshop.

The Japanese branch offered lectures by Mr. Uri Elyashar, one of the founders of the Shiatsu

shadow world; and a lecture by Ms. Neta Weiss on Japanese popular culture in Israel.



The Indian branch introduced a Yoga workshop; a Buddhist meditation workshop; and a screening of an Indian movie. In addition, we held two active breaks that included a Karate demonstration, classical Indian music and a K-pop performance. During these active breaks, the students operated various booths, which featured calligraphy, traditional food and clothing, tourism in Asia, Korean beauty products and much more.

Over all, the 2017 Asia Day was a great celebration of the different aspects of the main countries studied in the department. We look forward to many more Asian festivals in the future.


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 success"

Association in Israel, on healing and fighting in Japan; and by Ms. Sofia Brezansky, director of the Israel-Japan Friendship Association, on trends in Japan; a Bonsai demonstration; a lecture by Dr. Danny Orbach on the Japanese



Upcoming Events

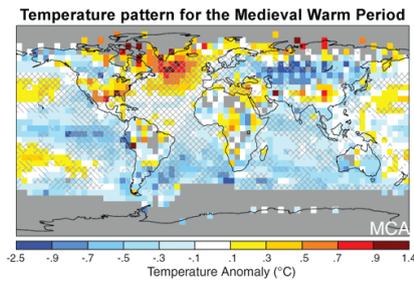
The Societal Consequences of Climatic Changes- The Medieval Climate Anomaly

by Prof. Gideon Shelach, Dept. of Asian Studies

A workshop entitled "The Societal Consequences of Climatic Changes-The Medieval Climate Anomaly," will be held on December 3-7, 2017 at the Mandel-Scholion Interdisciplinary Research Center in the Humanities of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The conference is organized by Prof. Ronnie Ellenblum (Dept. of Geography), Prof. Gidi Shelach (Dept. of Asian Studies), Prof. Gideon Avni (Dept. of Archaeology and the Israeli Antiquity Authority) and Dr. Leigh Chipman (Rothberg International School), all at the Hebrew University. The workshop is open to the public. It addresses the climatic history of the turbulent period of the Medieval Climate Anomaly (c. 950-1250 CE) and its short- and long-term effects on human societies in Eurasia. It will bring together scholars who study the climate history of the relevant period and experts on its history and archaeology. The international and Israeli participants (see a preliminary list below) are renowned experts working on diverse regions, from China and Mongolia in the East to the Mediterranean and Europe in the west.

The workshop will deal with questions such as:

- ⇒ Which extreme climatic phenomena influence complex civilizations, how long do they last, and what climatic system causes them?
- ⇒ What are the provincial and regional aspects of the domino effects that follow climate change? Are they global, Eurasian or regional?
- ⇒ What is the influence of climate change on the decline of the great cities of the eastern Mediterranean basin, central Asia and China – Fustat, Jerusalem, Antioch, Rome, Baghdad and the cities of North China?
- ⇒ How can we best combine the experimental system with the historical epistemic system, for optimal results?
- ⇒ Climate change, dearth of food, massive population movements and the construction of walls – how did the complex civilizations that enjoyed extended periods of affluence before and during the MCA cope with the waves of migration caused by climatic disturbances?



International participants in the conference include:

Nicola di-Cosmo (IAS Princeton)
 Nikolay Kradin (Vladivostok University, Russia)
 William Honeychurch (Yale University)
 Wang Shuzhi (Chinese Academy of Social Sciences).
 John Haldon (Princeton University)
 Edward Cook (Columbia University)
 John McNeill (Georgetown University)
 Yochanan Kushnir (Columbia University)
 Johannes Preiser-Kapeller (Austrian Academy of Sciences)
 Joshua Wright (Oberlin College)

Indonesia: History, Politics and Culture

On November 29-30, 2017, the first conference focused on Indonesia to ever take place in Israel will take place at the Israel Institute for Advanced Studies. Convened by Prof. Ronnit Ricci, it will showcase cutting edge research from the fields of anthropology, cultural studies, gender studies, religion, history, politics and media studies by some of the world's leading experts on Indonesia.



Migrations in Mongol Eurasia: People, Ideas, Artifacts

蒙古时期欧亚大陆上的迁移：人、物、思想 by Prof. Michal Biran

An international conference on Migrations in Mongol Eurasia: People, Ideas, Artifacts will be held at the Hebrew University, on December 18-20, 2017, convened by Michal Biran and Jonathan Brack.

Migrations have been an integral part of international politics long before the modern period, as shown clearly during "the Mongol moment" (13th-14th centuries), when the descendants of Chinggis Khan ruled over two thirds of the Old World. The creation, expansion, consolidation, and dissolution of the Mongol Empire (1206-1368) generated a huge number of human migrations, followed by animals, germs, artifacts, ideas and institutions, both within the Empire and further afield. The ripples of these movements continued to exert their influence long after the empire collapsed. This multifaceted and complex array of cross-Eurasian mobilities is the focus of our conference.

The conference brings together ca. 50 researchers (including more than 30 guests from abroad), both leading experts and emerging scholars, from Europe, Asia, North America and Israel. It includes a keynote lecture, eight panels, a concluding roundtable and a poster session.

Topics explored in the conference, many of which are relevant to today's international politics as well, include refugee migrations, international trade, mobility of plagues, tribal migration and state formation, intellectual migrations, inter-religious networks and scientific exchanges, marriage policies, institutional changes, as well as material migrations of commodities. The concluding roundtable Migration of Memories and Memories of Migrations tackles the political legacy of the Mongol Empire in the contemporary national and transnational world order, looking at Mongolia, China, Iran, Hungary, Central Asia, Russia, and the West



Fellowships for 2018-2019

The Louis Frieberg Post-doctoral Fellowship

Fellowships

The Louis Frieberg Center for East Asian Studies offers post-doctoral fellowships for the 2018-2019 academic year. The post-docs are open to scholars in the humanities and social sciences specializing in East Asia, especially China, Japan, Korea and Mongolia. For more details click [here](#).

Deadline: February 18, 2018

Call for Papers: for Asian Studies Conference

Call for Papers

We are delighted to announce that the 14th Biennial Conference of Asian Studies in Israel (ASI18) will take place at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Mt. Scopus Campus, on Wed-Thu, May 23-24, 2018.

We invite proposals on Asian-related topics (Central, South, East and South-East Asia). Priority will be given to thematic panels (3-4 papers + chair and/or discussant), but individual paper submissions are also welcome. For more details visit this [Link](#).

Deadline: November 15, 2017

The Frieberg Center has been involved in many other events:

November 2016

- 14-15 – The Asia Studies Book Fair
- 16 – Lecture by Prof. Zhong Yang, “Political Legitimacy of the Chinese Communist Party: Findings from a National Survey in China”
- 30 – Lecture by Dr. Benjamin Zachariah, “Völkisch Nationalism, Indian Fascism and Indo-Nazi Collaboration”

January 2017

- 4- Lecture by Dr. Gil Hizi, Role Modelling for Self-Improvement in Chinese Workshops for “Soft Skills”
- 11- Conference, “After 100 Years: Revisiting Hu Shi and the New Culture Movement”
- 18- Lecture by Prof. Janet Yoon-Sun Lee, “Lovesickness: Interplay of Erotic Desire and Mental Disorder in East Asian Tradition”
- 24- 25 Years to the Israel-China Relations
Lecture by Dr. Raz Zwigenberg, “Hiroshima Castle and the Long Shadow of Militarism in Postwar Japan”
- 25- Lecture by Prof. Vera Schwarcz, “Re-thinking Jewish Agency in Shanghai During the Shoah: The Chaya Walkin Story”

April 2016

- 19 – Lecture by Reut Harary, “Distance, Speed and Gendered Medical Spaces in the Japanese Army”
- 20- Lecture by Prof. David Zweig, “Competition or Conflict in Sino-American Relations?”
- 27-24 – Chinese Documentary Film Workshop

June 2017

- 4-26 – The Shagan Collection – Japanese Art Lectures
- 14 – Evening in Honor of Dr. Yaccov Cohen
- 18-20 - International Conference, “Officers, Adventurers and Statesmen: Reconsidering Militarism in Twentieth Century Japan”
- 21 – Lecture by Dr. Anna Bajželj, “Clay Pots, Golden Bracelets, and Clean Upper Garments: Causality in Jaina Philosophy”
- 22 – Lecture by Prof. Victor Lieberman, “Why Were Nationalism and Democracy European? Ethnicity and Loyalty in Asia and Europe c 1400-1850”

December 2016

- 7 – Lecture by Prof. Ge Quan, “China's Scholar-Officials and the Spirit of the “Superior Man”
- 21 –Introductory Meeting; “Silk Road Encounters: Multi-Cultural Interactions in Northwestern China”
Lecture by Prof. Xu Chenggang, “The Origin and Evolution of China’s Institution: A Comparative Institutional Analysis”

February 2017

- 26 - International Workshop: Animals in Mongol Eurasia
- 27 – March 1 – International Conference: Animals and Human Society in the Asian Sphere

March 2017

- 8- Lecture by Dr. Ayelet Ben-Yishai, “Now You See It, Now You Don’t: A Cultural History of the Indian Emergency”
- 16 -Silk Road Encounters: Tanguts, Buddhism and Buddhist Art in Northwest China
- 19-22 - Kokuji Shodo Workshop
- 22- Lecture by Dr. Sayuri Arai, “Multiraciality and War Memory in Post-Occupation Japanese Visual Culture”
- 30- “Asian Nights”

May 2017

- 3- Lecture by Dr. Dima Mironenko, “First under the Dome: North Korean Circus and the Cold War Rivalries”
- 10 – Asia Day
- 10 - Globalization and Social Change in China: A Workshop with a Visiting Delegation from Fudan University
- 11- The Silk Roads: Historical Background and Current Reality
- 17 – Lecture by Dr. Uri Kaplan, “Updating Korean Buddhism for the Twenty-First Century”
- 17-18 –International Workshop: Networks, Regions and Institutions in Mongol Eurasia: A Meso-Historical Analysis
- 21-23 – International Conference, “ Korean Diaspora and the Arts”
- 28-29 -International Conference, “Public Image and Narrative-Making in Japan-Korea Relations”



ASI 2018



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23 - 24.05.2018

THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY
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for East Asian Studies

THE LOUIS FRIEBERG CENTER

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see <http://bit.ly/asi2018>