

EurasiaTrajeco International Conference

“Empires and Intermediaries across Eurasia, 10th – 19th Century”

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem,
18-19 December 2019



Sponsors

Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique,
The Louis Frieberg Center for East Asian Studies, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Confucius Institute, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Fondation de la Maison des Sciences de l'Homme-Collège d'Etudes Mondiales,
Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales,
UMR 8173, Chine, Corée, Japon

Day 1. Wednesday 18 December 2019. Venue : The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Mandel building, room 530

08:30 | Participants registration

09:00 Chair: Yuri Pines, The Hebrew University, East Asian Studies

Welcome address: Yuri Pines, Professor, East Asian Studies, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

09:20 | Presentation of the research programme: François Gipouloux, CNRS, College d'Etudes Mondiales

09:30 | Keynote address: Ron Harris, Tel Aviv University
Going the Distance: Eurasian Trade and the Rise of the Business Corporation, 1400-1700

10:10 | Coffee Break

10:30 Session 1 The figure of the intermediary: brokers and compradores

Chair: Bartolomeo Yun-Casalilla, Universidad Pablo de Olavide, Sevilla

Ching May Bo, City University of Hong Kong & Liu Zhiwei, Sun Yat-sen University
Humbler than Brokers and Compradors? Intercultural encounters between Chinese servants and their Foreign masters in Canton in the eighteenth and nineteenth century

Giovanni Ceccarelli, Università degli Studi di Parma
Mediating risks: brokers in the insurance business (14th-18th c.)

Comment and Discussion

13:00 | Lunch

14:00 | Session 2 Rituals as Mediation and Informal Empires
Beit Maierdorf, room 503

Chair: Michal Biran, Director, Louis Frieberg Center, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

He Xi, Hong Kong Chinese University
Ritual as intermediary in East Asia: cross cultural networking in the villages

Ioanna Pepelasis, Athens University of Economics and Business
Personal observations on the historical dynamics of International/diaspora business, informal empires and networks as drawn from the study of the Greek case 1780-1940.
Comment and Discussion

15:15 | Coffee Break

15:30 | Session 2 (Continued)

Bartolomeo Yun-Casalilla, Universidad Pablo de Olavide, Sevilla
Social networks and institutions in the early modern Iberian world empires (16th-17th centuries)

Zhu Qing, Xiamen University
The influence of Swatow chamber of commerce on the Chaoshan businessmen networks (1904-1949)

Comment and discussion

**Day 2 Thursday 19 December 2018. Venue : The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Beit Maersdorf, room 405**

09:00 | Session 3 : Transnational Trading Networks

Chair: David Faure, Hong Kong Chinese University

Pierre-Emmanuel Bachelet, Institute of East Asian Studies, Lyon
Japanese traders in Đàng Ngoài (early modern northern Vietnam): the Suminokura of Kyoto and their networks (1600's-1630's)

Wang Zhenzhong, Fudan University
International Trade of Northeast Asia in 19th Century: Centered on the Manuscript Yōnhaeng Sarye Collected by the Collège de France

Comment and discussion

10:45 | Coffee Break

11:00 | Session 3 (Continued)

Laurent Chircop-Reyes, Institut de recherches asiatiques
From China to Siberia. Shanxi's Caravaners Societies and the Trade of Tea in Late Qing (18th-19th)

13:00 | Lunch

14:00 | Session 4 : Trade and financial transformations

Chair : Frédéric Obringer (CNRS)

David Faure, Hong Kong Chinese University
The introduction of the factory in China.

MA Debin, London School of Economics
Financial Revolution in Republican China during 1900-1937: a Survey and a New Interpretation

Comment and discussion

15:00 | Yuri Pines and François Gipouloux: Concluding remarks and perspectives.

16:00 | End of the Conference



The heterogeneity of markets and business practices open up a space for a particular expertise, exemplified by interpreters, brokers and compradors.

In this respect, exchanges in Central, East and South-East Asia were served and structured by intermediaries who offered a wide range of licensed services: overseas travel guarantees, cargo inspection, product quality assessment, tax collection.

This conference will shed light on the ways in which these interpreters and intermediaries, often from uprooted communities but cultivating strong cultural and religious cohesion, have become transaction facilitators.

The conference will also focus on monitoring the legal developments by which producers and buyers enter into relationships, secure their transactions and prevent the spread of risks.

Finally, it will attempt to identify the political role of these intermediaries in the complex games played between rival empires.

