

# THE LOUIS FRIEBERG CENTER

for East Asian Studies



Fall 2016

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האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים  
THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM





**Dear Colleagues,**

We are pleased to present this new issue of the Louis Frieberg Center for East Asian Studies newsletter. The newsletter highlights some of the Center's activities over the past academic year (2015-16), and introduces next year's main events. As you will see from the initiatives outlined below, the scale and variety of activities attests to the growing interest in Asia in general and East Asia in particular among the academic community in Israel and abroad.

Founded in 2006, the Frieberg Center is an interdisciplinary forum of faculty at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem aiming to promote and broaden the teaching and research of 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; and developing scholarly infrastructure.

As in previous years, the Center has continued to support a number of innovative international workshops and conferences. In 2015-16, our support was extended to workshops such as Middle Classes in Global Asian Cities; Towards a Digitalized Eurasia; Asia in the Mirror of Literature; and Diplomacy in Mongol Eurasia, and to panels with East Asian content in a number of large conferences, including Popular Culture and International Conflicts (March 2015), The Relevance of Regions and Area Studies in a Globalized World (December 2015), and The International Genocide Conference (June 2016). Among our more specialized conferences, two honored our retired professors, Andrew Plaks and Irene Eber.

Last year also saw the continuation of our traveling seminars in East Asian countries. Following last year's successful honors seminar on Historical Memory in Japan, which included visits to relevant sites and conducting fieldwork at Yasukuni Shrine, this summer Drs. Nissim Otmazgin and Jooyeon Rhee led a unique seminar on Korean-Japanese Relations that visited both countries (including the contested island of Dokdo/Takeshima), which was an enriching experience for teachers and students alike. Two further

traveling seminars will be held in summer 2017: Silk Roads Encounters in Northwest China, led by Professors Yuri Pines, Gideon Shelach and Michal Biran, and Local Histories in Hokkaido and Tohoku, led by Drs. Nissim Otmazgin and Danny Orbach.

This issue is pleased to introduce our new faculty member in Japanese Studies, Dr. Danny Orbach, who joins the department this fall. It also introduces our two post-doctoral fellows, both of whom have decided to stay in Israel for another year. Together with our two new post-docs for 2016-17, they create the basis for the vibrant international community of East Asian studies at the Hebrew University, enriched also by the fellows of the Asian Sphere program and the ERC Mobility project.

The newsletter also reviews the new developments in Korean Studies. Thanks to the successful hard work of Dr. Jooyeon Rhee, from fall 2016, the Hebrew University will become the only university in Israel (and the wider Middle East) where students can major in Korean Studies. Important innovations in teaching also include the new undergraduate joint program in International Relations and Asian Studies, which joins the highly successful program of Business School and Asian Studies. We may also note the first methodological workshop on Chinese Studies in Israel that took place at the Hebrew University at the initiative of Drs. Orna Naftali and Lior Rosenberg. Not only was it a great success, but it also promises to become a tradition, to be continued next year at Tel Aviv University.

Finally, this issue highlights two main events for next year: The Asian Sphere week-long conference on Animals and Human Societies in Asia (February 26-March 4, 2017), and a special workshop on Chinese Documentary Cinema with one of the most renowned Chinese directors, Wu Wanguang, and University of Washington Professor and HUJI alumni Prof. Yomi Braester (April 23-28, 2017).

Note also our two open Call for Papers for International Workshops (Japanese Military Culture, p. 18 and Regions, Networks and Institutions in Mongol Eurasia p. 19) and the selection of graduate and post-doctoral fellowships (p.20).

Upon concluding an eventful year and looking forward to another fascinating year of research and teaching of East Asian Studies at the Hebrew University, we are grateful to the Center's academic committee, to Ms. Osnat Marzook, the Frieberg Center's administrative manager, to Amit Almagor, our computing coordinator, and to Ms. Tal Dranitzki, the editor of this issue.

With best wishes for a fruitful and happy new academic year,

*Prof. Michal Biran*

*Dr. Nissim Otmazgin*



Prof. Michal Biran, Director



Dr. Nissim Otmazgin, Chair of the Academic Committee

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## Establishing Korean Studies in Israel: An Interview with Dr. Jooyeon Rhee

by Tal Kaptur, MA Student, Dept. of Asian Studies

Dr. Jooyeon Rhee is Head of Korean Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

**What are some of the subjects covered in your past research and could you tell me about some of your current and future projects?**

I have explored the relationship between gender and literature in early colonial Korea in the past, and my new research examines crime fiction in late colonial Korea. Since my past and current research deal with colonial Korea, examining the Japanese connection is crucial, especially Japanese literary texts that travelled to Korea. Recently, I just initiated a smaller research project on food and gender in contemporary Korea to see how and what culinary practices and representations of food and eating/drinking tell us about gender dynamics in Korea.



**"Our university will become the first and only academic institute in Israel and in the Middle East where students can major in Korean Studies."**



**What initially drew you to focus on issues of gender and national identity in colonial Korea (as well as other fields of interest in your research)?**

Gender plays an important role in the imagination of national identity in most societies, and in colonial Korea, it became a key site where nationalist and colonialist visions collided and converged. Gender-focused research can enrich our understanding of certain societies we are investigating.

**You research history and society by focusing on literature and visual culture – what originated the choice of these mediums and what is the unique perspective you gain from researching history through them?**

My past and current research examines popular literature that usually appeared in newspapers and magazines, and I was initially interested in the relationship between literary pieces that were often accompanied by visual images such as illustrations and photographs. These two media are not separate entities in my research; they converse with each other on many facets of issues that I investigate. It definitely helps me to broaden the perspective on colonial culture.

**Could you tell me a little bit about the changes that the Korean studies department in Hebrew University is going through these days? What are some of the highlights of the new program and what other developments can we expect in the future?**

The Korean Studies Program has gone through many positive changes over the years. The Hebrew University has been very supportive in developing the program, and due to various kinds of support we have received from the Dept. of Asian Studies, the Korea Foundation, the Academy of Korean Studies, the Truman Institute, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in South Korea, we have been able to enrich the program.

Our university will become the first and the only academic institute in Israel and in the Middle East where students can major in Korean studies, beginning from the coming academic year. We are also increasing the number of language courses, thus becoming the only university in Israel that offers the Korean language at all levels. We have secured many seats for an exchange students



program through partnership with top-tier universities in Korea. I am happy to see that more students receive Korean government scholarships each year for graduate studies in Korea, and win some of the prestigious scholarships offered by universities in Korea. Also, we initiated the annual Korean language speech contest in 2015, and this is an important venue where students and non-students come and share their interest and passion for Korean culture and language.

I would also like to add that we just initiated a joint course in Japanese studies and Korean studies, studying cultural and political interactions between Japan and Korea. This course consists of in-class lectures and discussions as well as an academic tour to Korea and Japan. We envision that this course will be offered once every two years to students with excellent academic standing.

We have been hosting international conferences on Korean culture and history in the last few years through which we make important and meaningful connections with scholars outside Israel. In the long run we would like to develop our graduate program, inviting both local and international students to our university and engaging in research in various fields: this will enhance our academic network globally.

### And finally, what is your impression of the prospects of Korean studies in Israel – what could students strive for and what challenges should they expect?

The Department of Asian Studies in our university has a long tradition and history, and the Korean studies program, as a relatively new endeavor undertaken by the department, has been developing well.

There is a shortage of language specialists to cement Korea-Israel relations. In this regard, our language courses and the exchange program will provide great opportunities for students to improve their language skills.

Most of our students take double majors; and this is particularly beneficial for those who are envisioning their career in business, diplomacy, and cultural exchanges.

for language training, and we are working on a “language-exchange” network, matching Korean and Israeli students for one-on-one exchange tutoring in Korean and Hebrew. However, I strongly encourage the students to approach the amazing team of teachers and mentors in Korean studies program – Dr. Yaacov Cohen, Dr. Alon Levkovich, Dr. Seung Hyok Lee, the Frieberg Center Post-Doctoral Fellow, Mr. Jay Kim, and Ms. Minjeung Kim, Ms. Ira Lyan, and myself – for academic support.

“In colonial Korea, gender became a key site where nationalist and colonialist visions collided and converged. Gender focused research can enrich our understanding of certain societies we are investigating.”

Dr. Jooyeon Rhee is completing a manuscript that explores the relationship between gender and literature in early colonial Korea. Thanks to the support of an ISF (Israel Science Foundation, 2015-8) research grant and an AKS (Academy of Korean Studies, 2015-2016) research/teaching development grant, she has just undertaken her new research on crime fiction in late colonial Korea. Her research interests also include food and gender in contemporary Korea, gender and ethnicity in Korean literature and visual culture, art and literature by Korean diaspora.

I see that the number of students in the program increases; and these students’ enthusiasm for Korean culture and society is impressive. I am fortunate to have many great students who contribute their talent and energy to make the program unique and interesting.

One of the challenges students may encounter during their study in the program are the lack of study materials. The program and the central library are working on this issue, in increasing the number of books to help students. Another challenge is the lack of tutoring time

## New Academic Collaborations

### Kansai Gaidai University

On June 5, 2016, the Hebrew University signed a student exchange agreement with Kansai Gaidai University (関西外国語大学). Kansai Gaidai is a successful private university that specializes in language teaching. As part of the agreement, each university would send two students each year for Japanese/Hebrew studies and to experience life in Japan/Israel. At present, two of our students are enrolled in advanced Japanese classes at Kansai Gaidai.



### Sungkyun University

One of the most prestigious universities in South Korea, Sungkyunkwan University, and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem formed an agreement for academic collaboration in December 2015. Following the agreement, Dr. Jooyeon Rhee had a couple of meetings with the Academy of Korean Studies at Sungkyunkwan University to set up the details of the collaboration. Also known as one of the best academic institutes for teaching the Korean language, Sungkyunkwan University offered our graduate student, Tal Kaptur, a full scholarship to enroll in the language program. We envision that the initial stage of the collaboration will be on culture and politics in Korea(s) and Israel.





## An Interview with Dr. Danny Orbach, New faculty member, Department of Asian Studies

by Sinai Harel, MA Student, Dept. of Asian Studies

Dr. Danny Orbach defines himself as a military historian. In his comparative historical research, he studies military revolts and political assassinations in Japan, Germany and elsewhere. Other fields of interest are revolutionary violence, illegal military orders, military disobedience, atrocities in wartime and the formation of revolutionary networks. He has already published one book, *Valkyrie - German Resistance to Hitler* (Yedioth Ahronot Press), and two more are soon to be published: *The Plots Against Hitler* (Oct. 2016) and *Curse on this Country: Japanese Military Insubordination and the Origins of the Pacific War* (Jan. 2017). This coming academic year (2016/17), Dr. Orbach will join the faculty of the Department of Asian Studies at the Hebrew University. I met him for a short chat in one of the cafeterias at the Edmond J. Safra campus at Givat Ram in one hot August day.

**First and foremost, could you describe your academic career so far, as well as the subjects covered in your past research?**

I did my BA in Western History and East Asian Studies at Tel Aviv University. During my BA, my main focus was German History, but I got a little tired of it at the end. At that point, I heard about the Monbusho scholarship [one of the most sought-after scholarships funded by the Japanese Ministry of Education]. For

my research proposal, I needed a subject that would link my previous research about German history to Japan. The subject I ended up suggesting was mutual impressions of the Japanese and the Nazis during WWII. I wanted to know what images of Japan were created by Nazi Japanologists. For example, one SS Japanologist wrote popular nonfiction about samurais. The samurais became a sort of role model for the SS, as they were also seen as warriors who fought to preserve racial purity. I was accepted to Tokyo University and spent two years there as a research student. Mostly I studied Japanese, traveled and wrote an article. However, I felt that images and impressions are not enough and wanted to go back to researching "real" history. At that point, lightning struck, and I came up with the idea of insubordination and resistance inside the Japanese army. With this idea, I went on to do my PhD and post-doc at Harvard University. At my postdoctoral fellowship we had eight Japanese fellows from all sorts of companies, newspapers and government offices. It was a great opportunity to speak Japanese – nothing improves language like going to pubs. I realized that researching one specific area wasn't enough for me, so I went into comparative history. I also decided to rebrand myself as a military historian.

**What exactly is a military historian and how is one different from other historians?**

I think military history is a neglected field these last years, and if at all, then historians are mostly interested in the politics of war. Hard-core military history is about operations, strategies, technology, the relations between the military and civil society,

the meaning of victory and so on and so forth.

**Could you tell me a little about some of your current and future projects?**

My newest project is about military adventurers. Those are people that deal in military or intelligence-related activities, but are not part of a specific state. A good example would be Japanese adventurers who infiltrated China. They could be opium dealers, mercenaries or spies. Other, non-Japanese related examples are international jihad volunteers or the "hilltop youth" (*No'ar Ha-Gva'ot*) here. These people are independent, use violence to further their political goals and usually feel alienated from their country. I am trying to write a history of military adventurers of the 20th century and research their interactions with the nation-state. It is very tempting for the state to use this kind of people to do the dirty work, and later it is easy to deny any connection to them. The price of using this method too much is that those freelance agents not only gain a lot of power, but also influence and affect change within the government and its agents.

**How would you describe your preferred research method?**

I am very much a historian in this matter. I start with documents and not with a theory, but develop my theory from the texts and the insights I gain from them. I think it is very important to read in the original language.

**How many languages do you know?**

Aside from Hebrew and English, I know Japanese, German, Chinese, Russian, Arabic and Persian.

### What courses will you teach this year?

I am part of the academic faculty in both the Asian Studies and History departments. In the History department, I will teach a class called *War in the World: Military History from the French Revolution to ISIS*. In the Asian Studies department I will teach two courses about Japan, *Japan's Samurai Revolution: The Meiji Restoration and its consequences*, and *Mutiny, resistance and insubordination in the Japanese Army*, which will also introduce a comparative perspective and explore not only Japan but also Germany, China and—if we have time—Egypt as well.

### Congratulations on your two new books. What are they about?

The first, *The Plots Against Hitler*, are about German resistance to and conspiracies against Hitler. The second, *Curse on this Country: Japanese Military Insubordination and the Origins of the Pacific War*, is based on my doctorate, and reviews insubordination in the Japanese

army. My main argument is that resistance within the army was one of the main causes of the war. Aggressive insubordination and unauthorized operations led Japan to war with China and then even further. The Japanese army became stronger and stronger but its leadership was weak. It was like a giant robot out of control.

### And what about other interests?

I am really interested in religion, especially new religions in which you can find tension between the institution and the adventurers. There was a trend in historical research to study the mundane and daily routines; I am the exact opposite of that. My interest lies in extreme circumstances and out of the ordinary situations. I want to see how people make decisions in this kind of situations. Maybe I have something of a journalist in me. I need to have a good story, and I always write about topics that will also interest people outside of my field. Aside from that, I am a passionate salsa dancer and I like to backpack a lot.

## IR in Asia: A new program in International Relations and Asian Studies

by Ira Lyan, Department of Sociology and Anthropology

In recent decades, Asia has retaken its central position in world affairs, not only in the global economy but also in the realms of politics and culture. China, Japan and South Korea in East Asia, and India in South Asia, have become key players in the international arena and influence the lives of many people across the world.

Addressing the need for a better understanding of Asian countries' politics, economy, and culture, the Department of Asian Studies and the Department of International Relations at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem have launched a new program that combines 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 select group of outstanding students with advanced research methods in the field of international relations together with deep cultural knowledge and proficiency in one or two of the modern languages offered at the Department of Asian Studies (Chinese, Japanese, Hindi, or Korean). The students in this program will participate in integrated courses and seminars developed specifically for this program. In addition, students will participate in a special forum inviting ambassadors and experts in the field of IR in Asia, as well as being offered scholarships to visit and study in Asian countries.

The program's wider goal is to contribute to the understanding of Asia in Israel and the wider Middle East. We expect that this program's graduates will contribute to

the growing relations between Israel and Asian countries in academia, government, and business.

This program is modeled on the successful Asian Studies-Business Administration program, which started in 2014, aiming to provide students with specific knowledge about developing business relations with companies and managers in Asian countries.

For more information see the program's [website](#).

Ira Lyan is a PhD student in Organization Studies at the Department of Sociology and Anthropology and a doctoral fellow at the Harry S. Truman Institute for the Advancement of Peace at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. She is the academic advisor of both Business Administration and International Studies combined with Asian Studies Programs.



# Meet Our Post-Doctoral Fellows

## Dr. Seung Hyok Lee, Frieberg Center Post-Doctoral Fellow

As a postdoctoral fellow at the Louis Frieberg Center for East Asian Studies, I have spent a productive and memorable year at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and I am very grateful to the center for the experience.

My research investigates the ways in which domestic public/societal influences stemming from national historical narratives affect governmental foreign policies and diplomatic negotiations in history-linked and “publicized” security issues, and the resulting consequences for international conflicts and negotiations. My regional focus is contemporary South Korea-Japan and Japan-North Korea relations. My works take an interdisciplinary perspective, drawing on the methodological tenets of the constructivist theory of international relations, foreign policy studies, regional history, and media studies.

Prior to coming to Israel, I worked at Renison University College, University of Waterloo, Canada, as an adjunct assistant professor, as well as a research associate and project coordinator for the Japan Futures Initiative (JFI) project based in the same university. I was also a researcher/consultant for Japan's Suntory Foundation's research project “Reexamining Japan in Global Context” and for the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada's study group “Canada-Korea Middle Power

Strategies,” while being a visiting scholar at the Asian Institute, Munk School of Global Affairs, the University of Toronto, Canada. During this period, I was privileged to participate in various conferences and workshops in the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Korea, Japan, Sweden, and Spain, and also taught in Canada and Japan on East Asian history, Japan's politics and diplomacy, and Korea-Japan relations.

I received my doctoral degree in political science (international relations) from the University of Toronto, with a dissertation titled “Missiles, Abductions, and Sanctions: Societal Influences on Japanese Policy Toward North Korea, 1998-2006.” The book version of the dissertation, *Japanese Society and the Politics of the North Korean Threat*, was published by the University of Toronto Press in February 2016. I received my master's degree in political science from Waseda University, Japan, and my bachelor's degree from Yonsei University, South Korea. My other main publications during this period include a peer-reviewed journal article titled “North Korea in South Korea-Japan Relations as a Source of Mutual Security Anxiety among Democratic Societies”, published in *International Relations of the Asia-Pacific*, and a book chapter titled “Japanese newspapers' influence on societal discourse and governmental policy

toward North Korea, 1998-2006” in an edited volume, *Japanese Journalism and the Japanese Newspaper: A Supplemental Reader*, by Anthony Rausch.

As a postdoctoral fellow of the Louis Frieberg Center, I made my first presentation on my research, under the title “Citizens' National Security Identities as a Watchdog for Governments in South Korea-Japan Relations”, in November 2015. I also organized a conference panel, called “Image & Power in Japanese-Korean Relations”, for the 13th Biennial Conference of Asian Studies in Israel at Tel-Hai College and presented on “Current Korea-Japan Bilateral Relations: The Role of Mutual Images Produced by Conflicting National Historical Narratives”, in May 2016. I finished my term by contributing a paper titled “Dokdo-Takeshima Dispute and National Historical Narratives: Visual Media's Role in ‘Enlightening the Citizens’ in South Korea and Japan” to the international conference “Mobility, Creativity, and Collectivity: Making Sites in Contemporary Korean Visual Culture”, organized by Dr. Jooyeon Rhee.

My favorite task as a postdoctoral fellow has been teaching at the Asian Studies Department. As a course instructor for *Japan-South Korea Relations: Historical, Political and Social Aspects*, I was pleasantly surprised by the dedication, enthusiasm, and originality shown by my students in class discussions and various course assignments.

Looking ahead, I will be staying at the Hebrew University for a second year, working as a research fellow at the Harry S. Truman Institute for the Advancement of Peace from October 2016. I very much look forward to this new opportunity, and I will organize a conference titled “Citizens' National Historical Narratives as a Watchdog for Governments in Regional Disputes” next year.





## Dr. Min Zhang

### Friberg Center Post-Doctoral Fellow

Originally trained in political sociology at Peking University, I received my Ph.D. degree in cultural anthropology at Harvard University. Starting from October 2015, I have been working as a postdoctoral researcher at The Louis Friberg Center for East Asian Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. I am specializing in education and youth development, social stratification and mobility, and research design and methods.

My research focuses on the processes and practices involved in becoming a socially defined person in the context of political, economic, and cultural transformations. Regarding concrete cases, my dissertation explores how Chinese educators enforce a particular model of studenthood that promotes educational success. Rather than approaching education as a mechanism for transmitting knowledge or skills, I investigated educating as an integral process of imparting knowledge and cultivating persons at the nexus between school, community, and the state. My next research project is to look at the changing Chinese perceptions of adolescence. Starting with what I have learned from my dissertation research, adolescence has been increasingly recognized as a separate social category, evident in both public discourse and everyday practice. This stands in stark contrast to the classic Confucian view of growing up, which suggests that aging is a lifelong process and that there is no culturally or socially recognized period of “teenage” development. I plan to further explore the cultural construction of adolescence in China’s changing emotional and moral context.

Since coming to the Hebrew University, I have been pursuing my research and teaching interests in education and youth development. With regard to research, I have been working on a book concerning the processes and practices involved in promoting educational success in China’s public school system. In this book, entitled *Forging Steel: Schools, Success, and the Making of “Good Students” in a Chinese Town*, I argue that, in contrast to conventional interpretations of schooling, and more specifically of the circumstances of recent Chinese schooling, local educators actively construct a moralized lecturing system (*shuojiào*),



rather than drill and practice alone, to boost educational success. Drawing on ethnographic fieldwork in a county-level town in Northwest China, I show that local educators’ efforts pervade many of the pivotal domains of teenagers’ daily school life, such as time management, spatial organization and seating practices, psychological and social maturation, moral development (especially the concept of gratitude), school safety, and teachers’ evaluation. In the context of the exaltation of educational success and the accelerated polarization of Chinese society, such efforts can both acculturate to and subvert the influence of the wider environment.

Along with my research, I also taught a graduate-level seminar course entitled *Growing Up in East Asia*. This course explores the change and continuity in perceptions, processes, and practices of coming of age in contemporary East Asia, focusing on China, Japan, and Korea. In addition, I have provided individualized tutorial help to a MA student on education theory and the anthropology of personhood. In the upcoming year, I will continue my work at the Hebrew University as a postdoctoral scholar at the Friberg Center and the Harry S. Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace. In addition to completing my book manuscript, I plan to start my next research project (on the changing Chinese perceptions of adolescence). Fieldwork for this project will be carried out in both rural and metropolitan areas. The primary focus, however, will be the life experiences of teenagers in the region where I did my dissertation.

### Photos from the Highschool Project





# Past Events

## Asia in the Mirror of Literature

by Prof. Yigal Bronner, Dept. of Asian Studies

The conference “Asia in the *Mirror of Literature*,” took place at the Israel Institute for Advanced Studies, on December 13-17, 2015. The organizers were Yigal Bronner and David Shulman, both from the Hebrew University, and Charles Hallisey (Harvard). This workshop was meant to explore the continent-wide success of a single text on poetics, Dandin’s *Mirror of Literature* (*Kāvyādarśa*), composed in Sanskrit in South India around the year 700 CE.

Five very busy days of deliberations were organized according to the regions or literary cultures directly influenced by this important text: the Tamil-speaking region of south India, the island of Sri Lanka, Kannada literature in India’s Deccan, China and Japan, Tibet and Mongolia, Burma and the Bay of Bengal, and the lasting influence of the *Mirror* in Sanskrit. The workshop opened with a

panel on the *Mirror*, the work at the center of this Asia-wide phenomenon, and there were also two *chavruta*-like sessions led by Charles Hallisey, in which we discussed sections of the text in connection to some of its adaptations, as well as our position and responsibilities as modern readers. It is safe to say that each of the workshop’s panels and sessions was the first of its kind. To give just one example: there has never been an attempt to collectively study the way in which literature in Burma was produced in interaction with Indian and Sri Lankan models written in both Sanskrit and Pali, and to identify Dandin’s fingerprints in both, as Thibaut D’Hubert (University of Chicago), Christian Lammerts (Rutgers University) and Aleix Ruiz Falqués (The Pali Text Society, Bangkok) did in one memorable afternoon.



In addition to the scholarly sessions, the participants also toured the Beit Guvrin National Park, were guided through Israel Museum’s collection of Islamic miniatures by Dr. Taufik Da’adle (The Hebrew University), enjoyed a wonderful sarod concert by one of the participants, maestro Tom Hunter (University of British Columbia), and had plenty of good food, tasting both Indian and local cuisine. The workshop was generously supported by the Israel Science Foundation, the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, Maison de France, the Louis Freiberg Center for East Asian Studies, the Mobility, Empire & Cross Cultural Contacts in Mongol Eurasia ERC project, and, of course, the IIAS.

## China, Jews and Jewish Communities: Cross-Cultural Encounters

by Lihi Yariv-Laor, Israeli Co-Head of the Confucius Institute, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

A conference in honor of Prof. Irene Eber was held at the Maierdsdorf Faculty Club, Mt. Scopus, on December 27, 2015.

Along the lines of cultural border-crossing sketched out by Eber’s copious writings throughout her career, presentations in both sessions of the conference focused on topics illustrating ways by which Jews, Jewish thought or Jewish texts approached China. Four of the presentations dealt with texts, thought and ideas: Paul Mendes-Flohr talked about Martin Buber’s engagement with Chinese religious thought; Sophia Katz discussed the issue of dialogic connection and Chinese thought; Gad Isay compared between sets of religious systems—where the High Priest in the Judaic system and the Emperor in the Chinese system serve as sole mediators between the people and Heaven; Lihi Yariv-Laor presented the translations of the Bible into Chinese since the beginning of the nineteenth century, which marked the introduction of Judeo-Christian religion into the Chinese sphere. Two papers dealt with individuals of Jewish origin who made a significant impact on China’s history: Yaron Ben-Naeh presented the Baghdadi Jewish Sassoon family’s pioneering business in Japan and in China during the nineteenth century; Yuri Pines unveiled the amazing story of Mikhail Borodin, of Russian Jewish origin, who joined Sun Yatsen and the Nationalists in China during the third decade of the twentieth century.

The conference sessions, chaired by Wang Yu and by Amira Katz-Goehr, were attended by a large audience. Shalom Eilat, himself a Holocaust child-survivor and a life-long friend of Irene Eber, concluded the event with a moving epilogue that charted Eber’s path from the moment she made the crucial choice to run away from her home-town Mielec in Poland during wartime until these very days when, as a world-renowned sinologist she consistently keeps on working to shed light on new perspectives of Judeo-Chinese encounters.





## The First Methodological Workshop of Chinese Studies in Israel: A Dialogue Between Teachers and Research Students

by Dr. Lior Rosenberg, Dept. of Asian Studies

Chinese studies are flourishing in Israel. But to what extent do faculty members and students know each other? Are we familiar with the research and academic activities being conducted in different institutions across the country? What opportunities do we have to meet colleagues, particularly those who do not share similar research topics, to discuss professional issues together? How can faculty members contribute insights based on their own experience to students (apart for those they supervise)? And how can students learn from the knowledge, skills and experience of their colleagues in other Asian Studies Departments? Indeed, what we are currently missing is a community—a framework that will bring together researchers, teachers and students who research China to learn from each other and to further promote Chinese studies in Israel.

This was precisely the goal of The First Methodological Workshop of Chinese Studies in Israel: A Dialogue Between Teachers and Research Students, held on January 24, 2016, at the Hebrew University. The workshop was co-organized by Dr. Orna Naftali (Frieberg Center Research Fellow and Senior Lecturer at the Department of Asian Studies), Dr. Lior Rosenberg (Harry S. Truman

Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace & Lady Davis Post-Doctoral Research Fellow), and Ms. Sharon Bar-David, an MA graduate of the Department of Asian Studies at the Hebrew University. It was sponsored by the Louis Frieborg Center for East Asian Studies, the Harry S. Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace, and the Confucius Institute at the Hebrew University.

The workshop brought together about fifty faculty members and research students to discuss methodological issues in the research of China. The workshop comprised four panels. Two panels were dedicated to presentations by six students, hailing from the Hebrew University, Tel Aviv University, and Haifa University. The students presented their research and highlighted methodological issues for discussion. One panel was dedicated to China before the twentieth century and the second to China in the twentieth century and beyond. The students' presentations covered a vast array of research topics, including problems of authenticity in the study of ancient Chinese texts, demographical trends during the Song Dynasty, martial arts and popular religion in the late imperial period, Chinese intellectuals in France during World War I, ethnicity and missionary work in present-day Yunnan, and marriage migration in contemporary China and Hong Kong.

A third panel included two lectures by post-doctoral fellows at the Hebrew University on the use of digital databases in Chinese studies (by Dr. [Wonhee Choo](#)) and on doing ethnography in China (by Dr. Min Zhang). The workshop concluded with a round table, in which faculty members discussed methodological challenges that they face in their own research projects.

The workshop, which was also attended by BA- and MA-level students, was a great success. It offered a platform for vigorous discussions and shed light on the vast scope of China research currently conducted in Israel. It also offered a unique opportunity for personal acquaintance in an informal setting. Most importantly, it demonstrated that despite the vast divergence between researchers in terms of research topics, eras, and methodologies, there is still common ground for collaboration and mutual fertilization. However, this was only the cornerstone in the long-term process of establishing a vibrant Chinese studies community among researchers in Israel, and further endeavors are required if we are to continue to develop and maintain the links between students, junior scholars, and senior researchers in the country. The next workshop will be held at Tel Aviv University in the 2016-17 academic year.

### Japan Day

Japan Day 2016 took place at the Hebrew University on Sunday, May 22. As in previous years, this annual event was organized by the students, and offered a wide variety of content for visitors from all over the country.

The event also marked the launch of the new Manga Library, founded by Dr. Nissim Otmazgin, as a part of the Mt. Scopus library's catalogue. All of the activities were supported by the Frieborg Centre for East Asian Studies, the Japanese Embassy, the "Nippon" student group for Japanese culture and many more, who helped in its production.

This year had an extraordinary amount of volunteers, from the first-years to the department's alumni, as well as people who are not even students of our department but simply wanted to take part in spreading Japanese culture—which no doubt shows that the affinity for Japan is gradually increasing in Israel.





# Middle Classes in East Asia's Global Cities: Spaces, Communities, and Lifestyles

by Dr. Orna Naftali, Dept. of Asian Studies

In the past several decades, both Northeast Asia and Southeast Asia (hereafter 'East Asia') have witnessed the dramatic growth of global cities: huge metropolitan centers that serve as dynamic hubs of economic, social, and cultural activities not only on a national and regional level but also on a global scale. The economic growth rate of cities such as Shanghai, Bangkok, Seoul, Jakarta, Taipei and Kuala Lumpur often exceeds that of the state as a whole. Global cities in East Asia also constitute major sites for the emergence of new middle classes, consisting of business and cultural entrepreneurs, managers, professionals, and white-collar workers.



A growing body of literature now exists on the East Asian middle classes in different national contexts. Previous studies have shown that East Asia's new middle classes harbor novel expectations and demands in areas such as leisure, consumption, education, health, food safety, environmental protection, and in some cases—political rights. However, existing work has paid little attention to the concentration of the middle classes in a number of key global cities in the region and to the way this process creates a new social geography that cuts across the nation-state. Studies on the middle classes in East Asia have typically overlooked the question of how residence in a particular type of geographical location—a 'global city'—may shape middle-class notions of citizenship and collective

belonging. Moreover, while much attention has been paid to the rise of the middle classes in the context of a particular nation-state, few studies have explored the common regional features of the middle classes in East Asia's global cities.

This is a crucial point since, worldwide, global cities have been shown to produce distinctive consumption patterns and tastes, fashion, architecture, media, and new forms of material culture. These in turn may critically shape the perceptions, appreciations, and actions of the middle classes that inhabit them. The global or 'world' metropolis allows for the constant interaction of local residents, in particular corporate elites, professionals, and white-collar workers, with skilled and non-skilled migrants and professional elites from abroad. Such interactions may in turn shape social identities and customs on the ground, for instance, by putting local people in direct contact with foreign cultures, while acting as a nexus between the local, the global, and other localities. Moreover, global cities are not only places in themselves, but also function as nodes in a network of other world metropolises. As such, they can produce new solidarities that collectively raise an inter-regional horizon of metropolitan and global aspirations. In this sense, residence in a global city may produce new solidarities, new types of 'imagined communities' and even new forms of 'urban citizenship', which can destabilize fixed notions of national citizenship.

How does residence in a global city affect middle-class life-styles, spaces, and communities across the East Asian region? Do middle classes in different East Asian global cities exhibit a comparable sense of 'urban citizenship', which co-exists with—or even subverts—their national or ethnic identification? In other words, can we think about a notion of transnational community or collective



affinity based not on national or ethnic belonging but on global-city affiliation? If so, how is this notion of 'global urban' citizenship expressed and/or practiced through consumption habits, civic activities, or economic enterprises in the East Asian region? Finally, how does the rising power of global cities and their middle-class inhabitants re-shape our definition of the East Asian region?

The international workshop "Middle Classes in East Asia's Global Cities: Spaces, Communities, and Lifestyles", held at the Hebrew University on June 21-23, 2016, aimed to address these issues. Organized by Drs. Orna Naftali, Nissim Otmazgin, and Jooyeon Rhee of the Department of Asia Studies, the workshop was sponsored by the Israel Science Foundation, the Louis Frieberg Center for East Asian Studies, the Harry S. Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace, the Authority for Research and Development at the Hebrew University, the Academy of Korean Studies, and Taiwan's Ministry of Education. It brought together 30 participants from Asia and the Middle East, North America and Europe, who presented empirical and theoretical work on topics such as middle-class civic and political activism; education, marriage and family values and practices; middle-class labor patterns and middle-class consumption habits in areas such as food and housing, media and popular culture.

Together, the presentations highlighted the dynamic yet highly precarious nature of middle-class definitions, practices, and identities in contemporary East Asia. Participants noted the distinctive patterns of middle-class living in different parts of the region. However, they also observed important similarities

between the middle classes in East Asia's global cities. As the presenters pointed out, these similarities stem from a number of factors, including a shared post-colonial heritage, and the role of the state in the shaping of national and urban economies and in the fostering of the region's middle classes as a 'model' social group,

epitomizing the values of 'civility' and 'modernity', responsibility and self-governance. No less importantly, however, current convergences between middle-class values and practices result from intensified global and regional flows of people, ideas, and popular culture products, which construct a distinct vision of

'middle-classness' in East Asia. In highlighting this point, the workshop produced an alternative understanding of the forces that are currently shaping the region's sociopolitical realities beyond those of nationalism or ethnicity.

## Keywords in Chinese Thought and Literature

by Prof. Yuri Pines, Dept. of Asian Studies

Like every major culture, Chinese has its set of "keywords": pivotal terms of political, ethical, and philosophical discourse. These polysemic terms transcend the divides among genres and historical periods: they are crucial for readers of historical, philosophical, and literary texts, be these pre-imperial (i.e. pre-221 BCE) texts, or writings from the late imperial period and beyond. The multi-disciplinary conference held on June 15-16, 2016, in Jerusalem gathered top European, Israeli, and US scholars from the fields of literature, history, philosophy, and linguistics, in an attempt to generate a new integrative study of the keywords in Chinese thought and literature, their semantic richness, their developmental trajectory, and their distinct usages. The conference was co-sponsored by the Confucius Institute at HUJI, the Frieberg Center for East Asian Studies, and the Hebrew University.

The breadth of approach of the conference's organizers and participants was inspired by the research model of our teacher, colleague and friend, Professor Andrew Plaks, whose studies span

multiple disciplines and multiple periods of traditional Chinese culture. Following his lead, we aimed at transcending two major barriers that impede our understanding of Chinese keywords: disciplinary and period divides. Participants analyzed keywords used in philosophical, historical, and literary works from a variety of disciplinary angles, tracing their evolution and changing meanings throughout history: from the Warring States period (453-221 BCE) to the age of the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1636/1644-1912) dynasties.

Several of the conference's discussions focused on a specific keyword's evolution in history. Andrew Plaks (Princeton University and Hebrew University) explored the changing meaning of the term *qing* 情 (emotions, affection, disposition); Li Wai-yee (Harvard University) analyzed the concept of genuineness (*zhen* 真), while Yuri Pines (Hebrew University) focused on the idea of *ming* 名 (name, reputation, social status) as the prime mover of an individual's political action. In a similar historically broad survey, Stephen Durrant (University of Oregon) explored the transformation of the term *shi* 史 from "scribe" to "history." Other papers focused more on a single historical period: Romain Graziani (Ecole Normale Supérieure de Lyon) analyzed tensions underlying the famous slogan "Enrich the state, strengthen the army" (*fu guo qiang bing* 富國強兵) during its formative period, viz. the age of the Warring States. Amira Katz-Goehr

(Hebrew University) focused in her analysis of the concept of "shame" (*chi* 恥) on its early meaning in the *Analects* and parallel texts. In contrast, Maram Epstein's (University of Oregon) study of *xiao* (filial piety) focused on the latter part of the imperial period.

Two papers focused on the problems that arise from an excessive focus on keywords in scholarly research: Joachim Gentz (Edinburgh University) discussed the formation of the word "harmony" as a modern Sinological keyword, while Carine Defoort (K.U. Leuven) analyzed the case of the so-called "Ten Core Ideas" in the *Mozi*. Two other papers adopted yet another analytical angle. Wolfgang Behr (Universität Zürich) used linguistic methods to trace the early meaning of the term *chi* 恥 (shame), while Christoph Harbsmeier (University of Copenhagen) analyzed the idea of self-denial from a comparative perspective, comparing Confucian and Christian traditions.

The conference was attended by dozens of guests from among students and teachers of the Hebrew University and other Israeli and greatly contributed to the conference's success. The organizers hope that the forthcoming volume will become an important addition to studies in Chinese thought and literature.





## Towards a Digital Eurasia

by Dr. Florence Hodous, *Mobility, Empire and Cross Cultural Contacts in Mongol Eurasia*

On June 8-9, 2016, the ERC-funded project led by Prof. Michal Biran, “Mobility, Empire, and Cross-Cultural Contacts in Mongol Eurasia”, hosted a workshop about the intersection between Digital Humanities and the study of the history of Asia. “Towards a Digital Eurasia: Databases and Computational Methods for the History of Asia and the Middle East” brought together experts representing both databases and wider thematic projects relating to the history of Asia and the Middle East. The workshop was convened by Dr. Florence Hodous and Dr. Francesca Fiaschetti, and supported also by the Humboldt Foundation.

Over two days, participants—both historians and programmers discussed the opportunities and challenges provided by network analysis, reading texts digitally, space and text, and prosopography. Discussions were lively and focused on the practicalities of working together, now and in future: how to achieve interoperability and ensure that projects are sustainable in the long term; the necessity of including librarians in discussions as well as historians and computer scientists; different ways of categorizing and analyzing our data. What is certain is that the digital turn is the future and digital methods are here to stay. Indeed, once manuscripts are digitized or data has been collected, they will be available for many future generations, so what we do now can have a major impact on future research.



It was great to see participants from leading universities in the US, Europe, Israel, Taiwan and Japan meeting to discuss the impact of digital humanities on our fields, from the history of China and Japan, to the Mongol Empire, to the Mamluk, Ottoman and Byzantine realms. As we are studying travel, networks, and interconnections across Eurasia and the Middle East, our hope is that our various projects, with all their individual particularities and requirements, will be open to each other and to future cooperation.

## Diplomacy in the Age of Mongol Globalization

by Francesca Fiaschetti, *Mobility, Empire and Cross Cultural Contacts in Mongol Eurasia*

On May 30-31, 2016, a workshop on *Diplomacy in the Age of Mongol Globalization* was held at the Hebrew University. The event was jointly organized by members of the project led by Prof. Michal Biran, “Mobility, Empire, and Cross-Cultural Contacts in Mongol Eurasia” at the Hebrew University, and of the “Nomadic Empires Project”, led by Prof. Pekka Hämmäläinen at Oxford University and supported also by HUJI's Confucius Institute.

By looking at diplomatic exchanges both during the United Empire and after its dissolution into four chinggisid states, the workshop aimed at analysing similarities, innovations

and recurring patterns in the construction of a diplomatic system from the Eastern to the Western corners of Mongol Eurasia.

A keynote speech by Prof. Jonathan K. Skaff (Shippensburg University and the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, New York University), titled “Forerunners of the Mongols: Diplomacy in the Age of the Turks, Uighurs and Tang”, opened the event.

The second day revolved around panels on the various facets of diplomacy: economic aspects, interstate policies, ideology and rituals among others. The participants—established as well as young scholars from Europe, Israel and Asia—engaged in in-depth discussions of textual materials around these issues. The workshop offered a platform for the first comparative analysis of diplomatic practices in the various regions of Eurasia under Mongol rule. In doing so, it established a fruitful, international dialogue between the various research centers focusing on the study of the Mongol Empire.

Follow up workshops are planned in Sophia, Bulgaria (May 2017) and Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia (July 2017).





It's the second year in which a group of outstanding students from the Department of Asian Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem participate in a special academic seminar in Japan. Under the instruction of Drs. Nissim Otmazgin and Rhee Jooyeon, this year the focus was on Korea-Japan relations.

These days, Korean-Japanese relations are marked by tense historical and territorial disputes which sometimes undermined the stable diplomatic relations between the two countries. The idea of this seminar was to look at various cultural interactions between the Korea and Japan from both political and societal levels. The seminar started with an intensive six-month reading class in Jerusalem and continued in visiting both countries during the summer break for a period of 16 days.

We started the seminar in Seoul, visiting the colorful Myong Dong district, where we could witness the power of consumerism and the heavy presence of Japanese and Chinese tourists. We also visited the main Catholic Church in Myong Dong, which acted as a sanctuary for students who fought for democracy.

The next day we visited Yonsei University where Dr. Jun Yoo gave us a brief introduction on Korea-Japan relations through history and continued with a discussion with his students. At the front of Kyeongbok palace we met Dr. Uri Kaplan, a postdoc at Seoul University who specializes in Korean Buddhism for a lecture about his research and life in the city.

## Travelling Seminar to South Korea and Japan

by Haim Herzog, BA student, Dept. of Asian Studies, and the [HUJAPAN blog](#)

Our third day was dedicated to history and historiography of Korea's colonial and postcolonial history. We visited Seodaemun Prison Museum, which served as a prison during the Colonial Period and during the Rhee, Park, and Chun regimes. We also visited the Northeastern History Foundation, where we heard an elaborate explanation about Korea's position toward Docdo/Takeshima island dispute. In the evening, we went up to the Namsan Tower, impressed by the magnificent view of the global city Seoul.

In our fourth day we visited the DMZ, the current border between North Korea and South Korea. There, we had a long discussion about the meaning of one country splitting itself into two hostile camps. Visiting the DMZ we realized that this is much more than simply a border zone but a symbol of both despair and hope and a living remnant of both inner-national and international conflict.

After visiting the DMZ we took the fast train to Pohang where we met Pastor Shin, who explained to us about the city and its role during the colonial period, and took us for a tour near the port overlooking the giant metal corporation Posco.

In the fifth day, we took a three and a half hour ferry to beautiful Uleung-do Island. Our initial plan was to stay in the island for only one night, but due to the weather condition we had to stay for two

more nights. This gave us the opportunity to explore the island and its community deeper. Being inhabited since at least the 6th century, Uleung-do develop a special identity and its community had to develop under conditions of relative isolation. In Uleung-do we visited the local Docdo museum, and we were even hosted at the house of Ms. Kim, a local farmer who grows medical herbs. We tried much of the island local food which was just incredible.

Our last day in Uleung-do day begun with the rare opportunity of seeing Dokdo Island. We all felt great satisfaction seeing the island really exist, after hearing about it so much. In the last evening in the island we all celebrated with a BBQ party and Karaoke singing.

After experiencing the peace of the island for a couple of days, we went continued to Busan before flying to Japan the next day.

On the ninth day we landed at Fukuoka, Japan located on east part of the island of Kyushu. We took the Shinkansen, Nagasaki, and went straight to see Dejima Island. This artificial island, created in the 17th century, was Japan's window for the west for nearly 250 years. During the Edo period (1603-1868) it was home to Dutch merchants who were the only westerners allowed to trade with Japan. Afterwards we visited Chinatown, and in the evening climbed up Mt. Inasa for an incredible panoramic view of Nagasaki at night.



Photos by Alina Imas





We started our tenth day at the Peace Park in Nagasaki, which tells about the horrors following the bombing of the city at the end of the Pacific War but also dedicated to world peace. After watching the touching ceremony conducted by elementary school students, we moved to the Atomic Bomb Museum. The Museum holds many artifacts designed to show life in Nagasaki before, during and after the bombing. After this emotional visit we made our way to lively Kagoshima.

The eleventh day began at the Chiran "Kamikaze Museum" dedicated to depict the self-sacrificing Japanese pilots during World War II. The museum mainly shares the stories of the soldiers, their last letters to the families, their thoughts and feelings. After the museum we went strolling to the city's ancient samurai village and in the evening, we went to experience a unique Onsen (hot springs), where you get buried up to the neck in hot water and mineral sand. It was a truly with a relaxing way to end the day.

The twelfth day started by visiting Saigo Takamori grave. In the old graveyard, we had a chance to talk about the Meiji Restoration, in which Saigo played an important part, and the Satsuma rebellion that eventually led to his death. Later that day we visited the Reimeikan Museum and learned about the history of Satsuma prefecture and the Shimazu clan, its long-time rulers.

On our thirteenth day, we visited Kyushu University for a talk with Prof. Miyoshi Noboru on Japan's history education. Later that day, we visited Kushida shrine, one of Fukuoka's famous Shinto sites, and continued to Fukuoka Tower for an amazing view of the city. The next day started with a journey to Shimonoseky, the port city on the western part of Honshu



Island. There, we visited the museum and the grave dedicated to Takasugi Shinsaku, the founder of the Kiheyta, Chōshū's mixed military units from the Edo Period, before making our way to Hagi, greeted by Kayoko-san, a representative of the Hagi municipality.

We started our two day stay in Hagi at the City Museum, greeted by the Mayor of Hagi, Mr. Nomura. At the museum, we learned about the city's history and the central role played by the Chōshū domain during and after the Meiji Restoration. Later on, we visited the Zen temple Tōkōji, where the site of the Mōri family resides. This was one of the most beautiful and enchanting places we visited during the seminar. Finally, we attended a cultural exchange feast with Hagi's mayor and friends at the house of Mr. Kunitomo.

On our second day at Hagi we visited last the Yoshida Shoin Shrine, who was one of the most important influential figures in 19<sup>th</sup> century Japan. He has cultivated a number of influential figures and his influence as a teacher has extended into the Meiji period. From Hagi we took the train to Fukuyama, where we visited the Holocaust Museum and also met with members of "Beit Shalom" and ended the day in Osaka's Tsuruhashi, where a big number of Zainichi population is living.

The whole seminar, both the classes in Jerusalem and the research visit to Korea and Japan was a marvelous experience. Academically, it encouraged us to develop new frameworks to think about Korean-Japanese relations and taught us the importance of gaining knowledge and experience firsthand, and not only relay on published material. More on the seminar on our [blog](#).



## Korea Day

by Haim Herzog, Dept. of Asian Studies

Korea Day is an annual event held by faculty and students in the Korean Studies Forum of the Hebrew University. The event was held on May 16 at the Hebrew University and included various activities including an annual Korean speech competition. The Korean speech competition has been held by the Hebrew University for the past two years as an initiative to encourage Korean Studies students from all over Israel to improve and showcase their Korean speech abilities.

In addition to the speech contest, Korea Day consists of different activities, such as lectures, cultural activities, various performances, and Korean food presentation. This year during Korea Day visitors were able to find various booths demonstrating hanbok dressing, Korean popular culture, calligraphy, tourist information, and Korean games. Additionally visitors could enjoy an impressive food presentation, made by student Naama Gaon, watch a taekwondo performance and participate in a Korean calligraphy workshop. The lectures presented during the event were held by the Korean Studies faculty and students, and included topics such as Korean food, Korea-Israel relations, Korean popular culture, gender through popular culture, and a student activist's lecture on Korean studies at the Hebrew University.

The event was a massive success and the hard work of the Korean Studies Forum was praised by visitors and the university. For more information on the event see the official [Korean Studies Forum website](#).



## China Day by Eduard Naiman, BA student, Dept. of Asian Studies

On May 31, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem hosted the [2016 China Day](#). As traditional at the Asian Studies Department, the planning and organization of the day is carried out by the students of the department themselves, with support from the Louis Frieberg Center for East Asian Studies and the Confucius Center.

With a group of more than seven students who decided to get involved, we started planning the day and thinking about what this day's purpose is and what we would like to get from it.

As a guiding line, we decided to show Chinese culture to the students of the campus and to those who are interested in studying at the Asian Studies department in the future. As a result, we organized a few booths that were supposed to give a taste, a sound and a feeling of China. That's why we demonstrated Wu-Shu martial arts, including a workshop so the students can try it on their own. A guzheng (traditional Chinese plucked string instrument) player gave us pleasant moments through the wonderful sound of the instrument. A Chinese calligraphy booth allowed the students to try writing their own names in Chinese characters using ink and brush, and of course, a Chinese cuisine booth gave the students a taste of the cooking traditions that began thousands of years ago in China. Additionally, we all enjoyed Prof. Yuri Pines's lecture about traveling in China. At the end of the day, we found that more than 400 students participated in China Day 2016, which was much more than we could possibly ask for! Our hope is to see an even better China Day in 2017 and keep up the tradition of the Department of Asian Studies' students.



## Confucius Institute at the Hebrew University

by Dr. Lihi Yariv-Laor, Israeli Co-Head of the Confucius Institute

The Research-Oriented Confucius Institute at the Hebrew University (HUJI CI), launched in May 2014 as a partnership with Peking University supported by the Chinese Ministry of Education's Office for Chinese Language (Hanban), has broadened the horizons of its activities, initiating and supporting China-related cultural activities as well as fortifying China research. Its second year of existence was marked by extending research and cultural activities aimed at promoting the understanding of China in academic circles and among the public.

**Research-Oriented activities initiated and co-sponsored by the CI included:**

**"China, Jews and Jewish Communities: Cross-Cultural Encounters"**, a conference in honor of Prof. Irene Eber that was held at the Maierdsdorf Faculty Club, Mt. Scopus, on December 27, 2015.

**"Diplomacy in the Age of Mongol Globalization"**, was held at Mt. Scopus Campus, May 30-31, 2016.

**"Keywords in Chinese Thought and Literature"**, a conference in honor of Prof. Andrew Plaks that was held at the Maierdsdorf Faculty Club, Mt. Scopus, on June 15-16, 2016.

**Sponsoring visiting scholar, and guest lecturers and other projects:**

**Prof. Guo Yan**, a visiting scholar from the department of Economics at Peking University, offered undergraduate and graduate courses on China's economy and society during the first semester of the academic year.

**Peter Hessler**, the American writer and journalist, whose books about China have won world fame, delivered a talk about "Learning to Speak Lingerie: Following Chinese Traders and Factory Owners in Egypt" (February 29, 2016).

**Prof. Li Shuicheng** from Peking University lectured on "Chinese Salt Archaeology and Salt Industry Heritage Conservation" at Abba Eban Hall, the Truman Institute, on March 27, 2016.

**Mai Jia (Jiang Benhu)**, Chinese author, guest of the 2016 Jerusalem International Writers Festival, delivered a talk at Mt. Scopus on May 25, 2016.

**The First Methodological Workshop of Chinese Studies in Israel** that took place on January 24, 2016, was co-sponsored by HUJI CI.





**Translation of the first volume of *Dream of the Red Chamber*.** The translation of the first volume of 红楼梦 *Hong lou meng* into Hebrew was published this year by Mossad Bialik Publishing House, with the support of Hanban. The translation, by two great scholars. Prof. Andrew Plaks and Amira Kats-Goehr, constitutes a significant contribution to China-Israel cultural relations.

day's activities demonstrated China-related topics to the student community of Mt. Scopus Campus. Held on May 31, 2016, the performances, the music, the food, the miscellaneous booths and talks – all together created a joyful atmosphere and promoted understanding of Chinese culture.



#### Cultural Activities:

**Martial Arts Day** - Confucius Institute Day was held on November 25, 2015. The activities, which took place at the Bloomfield main library and also in the open air on the lawn across from the library building, consisted of workshops on martial arts in which students actively participated, as well as special performances of the *wushu*-Rehovot-club. These were accompanied by booths demonstrating Chinese calligraphy, the Chinese tea ceremony, Chinese horoscopes and a unique performance of *guzheng*, the traditional Chinese string instrument. The day's multifaceted activities attracted many students from all parts of the Mt. Scopus campus.

**"Voices of the Chinese Spring"** – a Spring Festival performance of singing, dance and playing on traditional Chinese instruments was held on March 16, 2016. The guest performance of high-school students from China was accompanied by students of the Department of Asian Studies, who joined in singing and in playing.

**China Day** – Organized by students of the China section of the department of Asian Studies, a full

#### Public outreach:

**Chinese Language in East Jerusalem:** a pioneer attempt was made to introduce Chinese language classes for adults in East Jerusalem.

**The Chinese Club at Agrippas 12.** Led by Mr. Vasyl Sribny and sponsored by HUJI CI, the Chinese Club at Agrippas 12 held bi-monthly informal meetings to discuss traditional and modern Chinese cultural issues. The topics that were dealt with included the *Yi Ching*, the origin of the Chinese writing system, Chinese calligraphy etc.

**The high-school project.** As in previous years, students of the Chinese section of the Department of Asian Studies volunteered to share their knowledge with high-school students in the Jerusalem area. They organized talks and open discussions about diverse issues (from human rights to geography) and taught the art of kite-making, Chinese paper cutting, etc.

**Elementary Schools in the Jerusalem Area.** CI supported mutual visits with the pupils of Janusz Korczak Elementary School, who were studying Chinese language and culture. The children visited the cultural activities organized by HUJI

CI as well as a first-year Chinese language class.

**China Heritage in Israel tour.** A unique tour was organized by HUJI CI to commemorate places of special significance for Israel-China relations such as the grave of Dr. Jakob Rosenfeld (1903-1952), who served as the Minister of Health in the 1947 Provisional Communist Military Government of China under Mao Zedong; the synagogue of the Organization of Jews from China (Igud yotsei Sin); Moshav Amikam (near Zikhron Ya'acov) that was built by Jews who immigrated from China, etc.

#### Tours to China:

Two different special tours were organized by HUJI CI this year:

**Educators tour:** 10 leading educators from the Jerusalem district went for a 10-day tour (August 9-19, 2016) of China. They visited Beijing and Xian, were introduced to highlights of China's cultural heritage and participated in lively discussions about China - Past and Present.

**Students' tour:** 16 students from different departments of the Hebrew University were sent by the Confucius Institute on a study tour of China (August 21 to September 4, 2016). Besides visiting Beijing and Xi'an's well-known cultural spots, the students were introduced to the Chinese language as well as to Chinese traditional arts.

**Promoting business engagement with China - The Job Fair** (November 24, 2015) provided a convenient location for students of the Department of Asian Studies to meet prospective employers, get an overview of what it is like to work for a company or a sector that seems interesting to them and conduct initial interviews. This was also an opportunity for companies to meet with students and talk to them about their expectations from them as students and answer their potential questions such as the degree or work experience needed.



## The Frieberg Center has been involved in many other events:

### October 2015

26 – Lecture by Prof. Hosoya Yuichi, "History and Diplomacy in Japan-East Asian Relations"

### December 2015

2 – Lecture by Prof. Gulazat Tursun, "Bilingual Justice in China"

7 – Visit of Sunkyunkwan University President

9 – Lecture by Prof. Greg Fealy, "The Ethical and Scholarly Challenges of Researching Terrorism in Southeast Asia"

9 – Lecture by Prof. Guo Yan, "Government Subsidized R&D, Project Screening, and Firms"

10 – Lecture by Prof. Greg Fealy, "ISIS in Southeast Asia: The Apocalypse, Just War and Pragmatic Jihad"

13-17 – Conference, "Asia in the Mirror of Literature"

14 – Lecture by Prof. Vensa A. Wallace, "State, Law and Monasticism: A Legacy of Yuan Dynasty"

14-16 – Conference, "The Relevance of Regions and Area Studies in a Globalized World"

23 – Lecture by Prof. Richard Salomon, "The Travels of an Alphabet: Siddham Script from India to Japan"

27 – Conference, "China, Jews and Jewish Communities: Cross-Cultural Encounters"

30 – Lecture by Prof. Matsuno Ikihisa, "Truth and Reconciliation - Some Reflections on the Work of the Commission in Timor-Leste"

### February 2016

24 – Lecture by Raz Greenberg, "Europe, Canada and South America in Japan: World Masterpiece Theatre in Anime"

29 – Lecture by Mr. Peter Hessler, "Learning to Speak Lingerie: Following Chinese Traders and Factory Owners in Egypt"

### April 2016

5-7 – Conference, "The Making of the Asian Sphere: Past, Present and Future"

### May 2016

8 – Hindi Day

16 – Korea Day

22 – Japan Day

24-26 – Conference, "Mobility, Creativity, and Collectivity: Making Sites in Contemporary Korean Visual Culture"

25 – Lecture by Prof. Robin D.S. Yates, "War and Peace in Early China: Some Reflections"

29-31 – Conference, "Multifaceted Divinities in Japan and Beyond", in memory of Prof. R.J. Zwi Werblowski

30-31 – Workshop: Diplomacy in the Age of Mongol Globalization

31 – China Day

### November 2015

4 – Lecture by Mr. Yitzhak Yaffe, "Between Local and Universal Identity, Food and Burial Archeology of Western Zhou"

11 – Lecture by Dr. Seung Hyok Lee, "Citizens' National Security Identities as a Watchdog for Governments in South Korea-Japan Relations"

18 – Launch of Korean Studies Forum

24 – StartUpAsia Job Fair

25 – Confucius Day, Chinese Martial Arts

### January 2016

6 – Lecture by Mr. Ishayahu Landa, "Fuma (imperial sons-of-law) of the Yuan: The Gonggirad Case"

6 – Lecture by Eitan Bolokan, "Dimensions of Nonduality in Dōgen's Shōbōgenzō and the Eihei Kōroku"

12 – Lecture by the South Korean Ambassador, Mr. H.E. Lee Gun-Tae, "Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) & Korea"

16-20 – Shodo Kokuji Workshop

20 – Lecture by Merav Or Emergui, "Muslims in India and the Middle East"

24 – The First Methodological Workshop of Chinese Studies in Israel

### March 2016

9 – Lecture by Prof. Oded Shenkar, "China's Foreign Investments: Motives, Trends and Challenges"

16 – Lecture by Prof. Gideon Shelach, "Results and Challenges of an Archeological field Research in Northern China"

18-25 – Israel-Japan Student Conference

23 – Lecture by Dr. Min Zhang, "No! I Can't Do It": Everyday Forms of Resistance and Failure to Succeed in China's Public Schools"

27 – Lecture by Prof. Li Shuicheng, "Chinese Salt Archeology and Salt Industry Heritage Conservation"

30 – Lecture by Dr. Selena Orly, "Vernacular Literature as National Learning: The Pertinence of Hu Shi's Movement to Reorganize National Heritage to China's Literary Revolution"

### June 2016

1 – Lecture by Avital Binah-Pollak, "Real Border, Imaginary Space: Marriage between Chinese Women and Hong Kong Men"

5-6 – Conference, "The Indian Predicament: South Asia in WWII"

8-9 – Workshop: "Towards a Digital Eurasia: Databases and Computational Methods for the History of Asia and the Middle East"

15-16 – Conference, "Keywords in Chinese Thought and Literature"

21-23 – Workshop: "Middle Classes in East Asia's Global Cities: Spaces, Communities, and Lifestyles"

26-29 – Fifth Global Conference of the International Network of Genocide Scholars (INoGS), "Intersections: Holocaust Scholarship, Genocide Research, and Histories of Mass Violence"



# Upcoming Events

## Animals and Human Society in the Asian Sphere

Between **February 26 to March 1, 2017** the Asian Sphere program will hold its second international conference, titled **Animals and Human Society in the Asian Sphere**. No less than 25 leading international scholars will participate in this conference and discuss a variety of topics ranging from the archaeology of animal domestication to modern animal farming and from animal in the art and religions of Asia to animals in wars and diplomacy. For more detailed information see the conference [website](#). The conference is open to the public.



The Asian Sphere



Mobility, Empire and Cross Cultural Contacts in Mongol Eurasia

האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים  
THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM



אוניברסיטת חיפה  
University of Haifa  
جامعة حيفا



אוניברסיטת תל אביב  
TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY



### Preliminary Program

#### **Sunday, 26 February 2017**

##### Workshops:

- Zooarchaeology of Animal Domestication in China and Israel (University of Haifa)
- Movement, Temporality, and Exchange: Animals in Mongol Eurasia (The Hebrew University)
- Animals in Asian Religions (Tel Aviv University)

#### **Monday, 27 February 2017**

The Hebrew University, Mt. Scopus

- Into the Wild: Humans and Wild Animals in Asia
- Animals and Animal Domestication in Prehistoric Societies in Asia
- Animals in Wars and Diplomacy across Asian History

#### **Opening Reception 18:00-19:30**

#### **Tuesday, 28 February 2017**

The Hebrew University, Mt. Scopus

- Animals and their Representations in Asian Cultures, Religions and Ideology
- Animals in Asian Economies
- Animals products and the industrialization of animal farming in Asia

#### **Wednesday, 1 March 2017**

The Hebrew University, Mt. Scopus

- Draft Animals and their Place in Asian Society

### **Korean Diaspora and the Arts**

To take Place May 21 – 23, at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. For more information see the [Call for Papers](#).

Call for  
Papers

### **Officers, Adventurers and Statesmen: Reconsidering Militarism in Twentieth Century Japan**

On August 15, 1945 the government of the Empire of Japan transmitted its acceptance of the Potsdam Declaration. According to the prevailing narrative, forged in that declaration and during the Tokyo War Crime Trials, the force most responsible for the Pacific War and its horrors was Japanese militarism. And the primary movers of militarism, it was argued, were three main groups of people: officers, conservative statesmen, and right-wing civilian adventurers.

This conference aims to bring together new perspectives and scholarship on Japanese political and military history to comprehend the role that statesmen, officers and adventurers played in Japan's turn towards war after 1931. Drawing on newly accessible materials from political, military, diplomatic, and intelligence archives, the participants in this conference will approach prewar Japanese militarism and adventurism in comparative and global perspectives. We will discuss events both in Japan itself and in the frontiers of the Japanese Empire: China, Manchuria and Mongolia.

The Conference will take place **June 18-20, 2017**. See the [Call for Papers](#).

**Workshop: Religion and the City: Inter-Religious Exchanges in Urban Environments**

To take Place in Berlin, **November 3-4, 2016**. For more information see the [website](#).

**Confucius Day: Chinese Medicine**

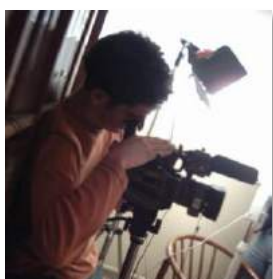
To take Place on **Wednesday, November 16, 2016**

**The Job Fair**

For the third year in a row, the department of Asian studies will conduct an employment fair that will take place **January 2017**. This year, the Fair will host leading high-tech companies, governmental offices, advertising agencies and many others. Further details to be published soon.

**After 100 Years: Revisiting Hu Shi and The New Culture Movement**

International symposium, to take place **Wednesday, January 11, 2017**

**Workshop: Documentary Films in China**

**April 23 to 28, 2017**, Mount Scopus Campus of the Hebrew University.

The Workshop is organized and conducted by Prof. Yomi Braester, the founding director of the UW Summer Program in Chinese Film History and Criticism at the Beijing Film Academy and a member of the editorial board of the Journal of Chinese Cinema. The workshop will include guest lectures by documentary film director Professor Wu Wenguang.

The workshop will also include meetings with both Wu Wenguang and Zhang Mengqi, a dancer, choreographer and documentary filmmaker, together with Israeli documentary filmmakers.

**Regions, Networks, and Institutions in Mongol Eurasia: A Meso Historical Analysis**

We are looking for papers dealing with regions, networks and institutions in Mongol Eurasia which are based on close reading in primary sources (literary, archaeological, visual). The workshop aims at using the meso-history framework- the one between micro and macro- for illuminating the meaning and characteristics of the proto-globalization in Mongol Eurasia (13th-14th centuries). The workshop will take place at Mt. Scopus Campus, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem on May 17-18 2017.

**Deadline: November 25, 2016**

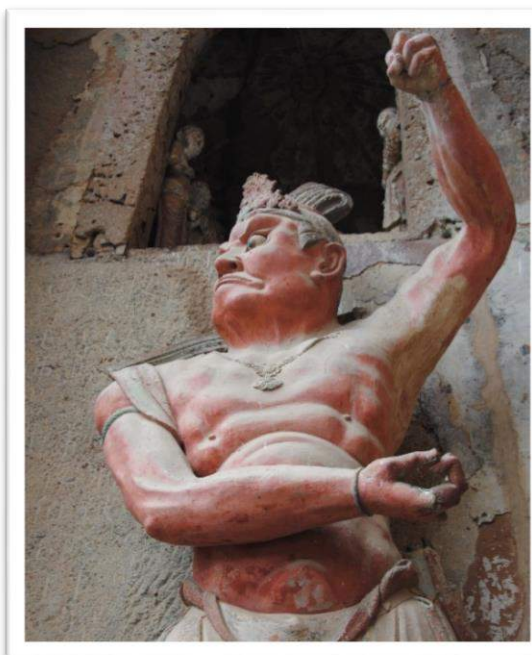
For details see our [website](#).

Call for  
Papers

## Silk Road Encounters: Multi-Cultural Interactions in Northwestern China Touring Course 2017

by Yuri Pines, Michal Biran and Gideon Shelach

The northwestern part of China proper (the modern provinces of Gansu, Ningxia, and parts of Shaanxi and Inner Mongolia) is one of the most culturally diverse areas in China. For centuries this area stood at the center of China's interaction with other Asian cultures. Major east-west trade routes that pass through the Northwest—i.e., the Chinese section of the so-called Silk Road—served Western and Central Asian traders and migrants (from whom the sizeable Muslim minority originated), and from the 13th century onwards also the Europeans; other, less notable routes connected the steppe nomads in the north with the dwellers of Tibet-Qinghai plateau to the south and beyond it to Sichuan and even to Southeast Asia, and India. The meeting point of four major cultures at this vast arid area gave birth to a fascinating variety of interactions: from military struggles to trade, to cultural amalgamation, to a constant shift and negotiation of individual and collective identities. Some of the most notable features of these interactions are magnificent Buddhist sites, some of the earliest, richest and best-preserved monuments of Buddhist prosperity on Chinese soil. The Northwest also served as





birthplace of one of the most peculiar and enigmatic civilizations on China's borderlands, namely the Tangut Xi Xia kingdom (1038-1227).

Today, this multi-ethnic area, inhabited by Chinese, Muslim-Chinese (Hui), Mongols, Tibetans, and numerous smaller minorities has regained its erstwhile vitality due to the beneficent investment policies of the Chinese government and the increasing internationalization of local industries (of which the rapidly evolving ties between the Ningxia-Hui Autonomous Region and the Arab world are the most notable).

Our 17-days' long tour throughout the region will pass through fortresses and protective walls ("the Great Wall") from the Qin and Han dynasties, will bring the students to the hidden treasures of Tangut civilization in the steppes of Ningxia and deserts of Inner Mongolia; will introduce them to gems of Buddhist culture, including the Mogao cave complex in Dunhuang—the world's largest and best-preserved collection of Buddhist murals spanning eighteen centuries and a reservoir



of multilingual documents that include some of the more dramatic evidence for cross-cultural and cross-religious interactions—and the magnificent and less known site of Maijishan with its impressive sculptures; will pass through the Gansu Corridor, the major artery of the Silk Road; and will include encounter with Muslims, Mongols, Tibetans, and, of course, Chinese. It will end at Xi'an (former Chang'an), the capital of China's powerful early dynasties, and its major gateway to the West from the second century BCE to the tenth century CE. Throughout the tour we shall address multiple issues of

China's interaction with its close and distant neighbors throughout the last two millennia, and the impact of these interactions on the current political, ethnic, and economic landscape of the Northwest.

The tour will be jointly guided by Professors Michal Biran, Yuri Pines, and Gideon Shelach, each of whom will bring a distinctive disciplinary and chronological perspective on the region's archeology, sociopolitical history, art history, and its present.

Students who are interested in taking this course and apply to our scholarships should send a letter expressing their interest (i.e. introducing themselves and their academic interests, why they should be included in the tour, how it will contribute to their academic career, etc.) by email to the course's teachers by December 1<sup>st</sup> 2016. Decisions will be published no later than December 24, 2016.

Non-student participants shall contact the organizers by mail at their earliest convenience: [biranm@mail.huji.ac.il](mailto:biranm@mail.huji.ac.il), [yuri.pines@mail.huji.ac.il](mailto:yuri.pines@mail.huji.ac.il), [gideon.shelach@mail.huji.ac.il](mailto:gideon.shelach@mail.huji.ac.il).

## Fellowships for 2017-2018

### The Louis Frieberg Post-doctoral Fellowship

The Louis Frieberg Center for East Asian Studies offers a post-doctoral fellowship for the year 2017-2018. The post-doc is open to scholars in the humanities and social sciences specializing in East Asia, especially China, Japan, Korea and Mongolia. For more details see our [webpage](#).

**Deadline: February 13, 2017**

### MA and PhD Fellowships: "The Asian Sphere: Trans-cultural Flows"

*The Asian Sphere* program deals with the entire Asian continent as a continuous civilizational zone and addresses cross-regional contacts and processes among Asian societies, cultures and states and to a lesser extent between Asia and other continents throughout history until the present time. It offers a unique opportunity for outstanding candidates, at the MA and PhD level, from different disciplines in the humanities and social sciences. *The Asian Sphere* is funded by the *Humanities Fund* of the Planning and Budgeting Committee of the Council for Higher Education in Israel (VATAI) and *Yad Hanadiv*. For more details see our [website](#).

**Deadline for the PhD Fellowship: 31 January 2017, for the M.A. Fellowship: 31 March 2017**

### A Post-Doctoral Fellowship: Mobility, Empire and Cross-Cultural Contacts in Mongol Eurasia

The European Research Council (ERC) project *Mobility, Empire and Cross-Cultural Contacts in Mongol Eurasia* at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem is offering a post-doctoral fellowship beginning in 2017-18 for outstanding candidates fluent in Chinese, Arabic and Persian (at least one of the above) and with a sound knowledge of the history of the Mongol Empire. For details please visit our [website](#).

**Deadline: February 1, 2017**







# **THE LOUIS FRIEBERG CENTER**

**for East Asian Studies**