

THE LOUIS FRIEBERG CENTER

for East Asian Studies

Fall 2019

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In this issue:

- Summary of 2018-19 academic year
- Post-doctoral fellows
- Recent PhD holders
- Academic events, 2018-19
- Cultural events, 2018-19
- Library report
- In memoriam Irene Eber
- Confucius Institute report
- Recent publications by the Frieberg Center members, 2017-2019
- Forthcoming events
- Fellowship announcement

Summary of 2018/2019 Academic Year

Dear Colleagues,

We are glad to present the new issue of the newsletter of the Louis Frieberg Center for East Asian Studies. The newsletter highlights some of the Center's activities over the past academic year (2018-19) and introduces next year's main events. Even though in the past year we had to scale down some of our activities to restore the Center's financial balance, this scaling down did not have a significant impact on what had long been the common pattern of Asian/East Asian studies in the Hebrew University: a burgeoning field ripe with a wide variety of academic and social activities.

Founded in 2006, the Frieberg Center is an interdisciplinary forum of faculty at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (HUJI) aiming to promote and broaden the teaching and research of 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 collaboration, introducing creative teaching experiences, and supporting a great variety of cultural and scientific activities. In addition, we continue to develop scholarly infrastructure, especially in the field of supporting Asian Languages Library at the Hebrew University.

The 2018/2019 academic year was marked by several major academic events in the Hebrew University. Among these the week-long symposium: "Rethinking Early Chinese Historiography" (May 12-16, 2019), and a shorter symposium "Centennial Afterthoughts: May Fourth Movement Revisited" (April 10, 2019) brought together leading scholars from Australia, China, Europe, North America, and Israel for intense and fruitful discussions. Other international events included a lecture on "Hong

Kong Identity and Public Sphere after the 1997 Handover", a conference on "Taiwanese Soft Power? Taiwanese Contemporary Politics, Society and Culture", a round-table dedicated to the 40th anniversary of reforms and opening-up in China and another devoted to the history of Jews in China in the tumultuous 20th century.

Cultural events of the year included the Asia Day, Confucius's Institute Day, Korean Week, Japan Day, the 11th Annual Kokuji Shodo 刻字書道 Workshop and screening of the Chinese movie "Paths of the Soul" on pilgrimage in current Tibet. Hundreds of students and members of the general public took part in these events, demonstrating the ongoing level of high interest in Asian culture and its divergent manifestations.

We are extremely glad to introduce in this newsletter our post-docs of 2018/2019, Naama Eisenstein and Barend Noordam, and two of our recent recipients of PhD degree, Ishayahu Landa and Ilia Mozias. We are proud of our excellent guests and students who join the excellent cohort of HUJI alumni and post-doc visitors.

The forthcoming 2019/20 academic year promises to bring more exciting events. Among these, we can already announce **Transnational Fandom – the Global Diffusion of Hallyu** (December 1-4, 2019), the symposium **The Idea of Text in Buddhism** (December 10-12, 2019), the workshop **Multilateral Dynamics between the Middle East and Asia in the Mongol Era** (December 15, 2019), the conference **Empires, Networks, Intermediaries: Exchanges across Eurasia, 10th-19th centuries** (December 18-19, 2019), and the symposium **Army, Politics, and Society in East Asia**, aimed to commemorate our late colleague, Ellis Joffe (January 7, 2020).

2019 was also a year of a sad loss to our center with the passing away

of Professor Irene Eber, a Holocaust survivor, one of the co-founders of the Department of East Asian Studies in HUJI and a personal acquaintance of our Center's founder, Mr. Louis Frieberg.

On a more positive note, we would like to congratulate our director, Yuri Pines, who was awarded in August 2019 China's "Special Book Award" (中華圖書特殊貢獻獎) for his contribution to the translation and publication of Chinese books and the promotion of cultural exchanges.

Last but not least, a few words of thanks. We are grateful to our predecessors, Prof. Michal Biran and Prof. Nissim Otmazgin, who had raised the bar of Frieberg Center activism to an almost unattainable height. We are grateful to our staff—Lee Ashuri, Dana Natadze, Stav Cohen, and Doron Elbaz—for running the Center's everyday activities. And we are immensely grateful to all those who cooperate with us and helped us to maintain the high level of performance—members of HUJI administrative staff, colleagues from the Confucius Institute, the Department of Asian Studies, the Asian Sphere Program, the Truman Institute and all those departments and units within and outside the Hebrew University with whom we had the privilege to cooperate.

Professor Yuri Pines,

Director of the Frieberg Center

Professor Gideon Shelach,

Chair of the Academic Committee

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Spotlight on Post-doctoral Fellows

Naama Eisenstein
Hebrew University and SOAS

My post-doctoral year at the Louis Frieberg Center for East Asian Studies began immediately after concluding my PhD studies in the History of Art and Archaeology Department at SOAS, University of London, where I specialised in early-modern depictions of Genpei War tales in Japan. Shifts between countries and institutions may be overwhelming, but the Frieberg Center, as well as the Asian Studies Department at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem have made me feel at home from the moment I arrived. This welcome extended to every person I met at HUJI, making my post-doc not only fruitful academically, but also wonderful socially. The Center is an important part of the lively academic activity of the Asian Studies Department, and is brimming with activity: seminars, lectures, workshops and conferences. Being here, I had the opportunity to converse with scholars from around the world on top of the local specialists. You would think that with all this activity I would not be able to find much time to work,

but this year has been remarkably fruitful for me, perhaps inspired by the vigorous air of the department. I have managed not only to finalize my post-defence thesis corrections, but also to participate in two international conferences, complete an upcoming publication and teach my first course. It was certainly an exciting year!

I was lucky enough to present parts of my research of Genpei War imagery from Early Modern times at the 2018 IAJIS international conference at Tel Aviv University and at the 2019 annual conference of the Association for Asian Studies in Denver, Colorado. Both presentations were of new directions my study has taken after the completion of my thesis and were vital opportunities to discuss my research with colleagues. My upcoming paper, "The Three-Way Cascade: Paintings of Nachi Fall in Early-Modern Japan," was accepted for publication by the Royal Asiatic Society Journal during this year, and it was thanks to the resources of the Frieberg Center and HUJI that I was able to finalize the manuscript for publication.

The post-doc fellowship also allowed me to teach a course at the university,



Naama Eisenstein,
Hebrew University and SOAS

an invaluable experience as it was my first chance to plan a complete course, as opposed to a single lecture. The course, titled "Servant to Samurai: the Development of the Warrior Class in Japan," followed the changes in the status and culture of Japan's warrior class from its inception around the 9th century to its abolition in 19th century of Meiji Japan. I was constantly delighted by the inquisitiveness and breadth of knowledge that the students have demonstrated, as well as the support of the staff, to make teaching this course a truly wonderful experience.

The Louis Frieberg Center Post-doctoral Fellowship proved to be a vibrant, invigorating and supportive experience, allowing me to expand my horizons and further my academic skills. I had a fruitful and joyful year at the Center, and I will draw from this experience in my future career.



Dr. Barend Noordam
Freie Universität Berlin –
Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Joint Post-Doctoral Fellow

In October 2018 I commenced my stay as a postdoctoral fellow at the Department of Asian and African Studies of the Hebrew University under the supervision of Professor Yuri Pines. This was not my first encounter with the Hebrew University: half a year ago, I had been invited by one of the department's PhD candidates to contribute to a panel on Chinese military history during the biannual Asian Studies in Israel conference, which was held that year on the Mount Scopus campus. This gave me an early opportunity to familiarize myself with the unusual architecture of the faculty buildings and the spectacular views of both the western side of Jerusalem, and the enchanting hilly semi-desert view from the eastern side of the campus.

Before I came to Jerusalem, I was a PhD candidate at the Department of History of Leiden University, which is situated in the Netherlands. As part of a bigger project, which was a comparative endeavour to analyse the elements which brought unity to the early modern Eurasian empires, I looked at the career of a prominent military officer, Qi Jiguang (1528-1588). He served the Chinese Ming Empire (1368-1644) and my research gauged the integration of the military elite into the empire and endeavoured to answer the question as to what this meant for the military stability and strength of the polity. In the resulting dissertation, titled "The Soldier as a Sage: Qi Jiguang (1528-1588) and the Neo-Confucianization of the Military in Sixteenth-Century China," I argued for the existence of a network of officials and scholars comprising both the civil and military elites of the Ming empire,

which was bound together by a shared interest in the teachings of the prominent late Ming Neo-Confucian philosopher, statesman, and military commander Wang Yangming (1472-1529).

Although sixteenth-, and seventeenth-century China constitutes my primary field of research, I am also trained as a global historian and I am aiming to expand my PhD research with a broader comparative angle including contemporary developments in early modern Europe, specifically the Dutch Republic, England, and the Holy Roman Empire. With a project formulated along these lines, which aims to analyse and compare the literary field and personal networks of scholars, military men and civil administrators, in which military knowledge was circulated and produced, I was lucky enough to be awarded a two-year joint postdoctoral fellowship awarded by both the Freie Universität of Berlin and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the second year of which I would spend here on Mount Scopus.

During this time, the Frieberg Center was one of the key pillars of support that helped me make my stay here both more productive and also more pleasant. In addition to the aforementioned biannual Asian Studies in Israel conference, I was actively encouraged to participate in a number of events organized or co-organized by the Center, both as an active contributor or as an audience member. I presented some of my research during the Asian Spheres graduate and post-graduate conference hosted by the university, which saw the participation of many Israeli and international graduate students and postdoctoral researchers. Moreover, I attended the conference on Early Chinese Historiography and the many seminars organized by the



Barend Noordam, Freie Universität Berlin

Department of Asian and African Studies as an audience member, and in this way I both partook of the research done in the field, as well as made acquaintances with researchers from around the globe. In addition to facilitating academic cooperation and exchange, the Frieberg Center also helped arrange more practical matters of importance to me during my stay. This included, for example, mediating with the university's housing agency to help me obtain a room in the dormitories, and awarding me a very generous travel fund to attend an important conference abroad, which included a panel that I had organized. All in all, this has been a very productive year for me, not least on account of the support of the Frieberg Center, which furnished me with the opportunity to present my research in Israel and abroad, as well as helping me to establish new contacts within the Israeli academic community and abroad. In my remaining time as a postdoctoral fellow I will busy myself with writing several articles based on the research I've done while I was a part of the Hebrew University, fruits of the great opportunities that have been given to me here.

Recent PhD Holders

Ishayahu Landa
(University of Bonn)

A couple of months ago I completed my PhD studies at the Department of Asian Studies. The research titled “Imperial Sons-in-law in the Mongol Empire (13th - 14th centuries)” was completed under the supportive and demanding supervision of Prof. Michal Biran. It dealt with the hitherto mainly understudied aspect of the history of the power hierarchies in Mongol Eurasia (13th - 14th centuries). Concentrating on the husbands of the Chinggisid women all across the Mongol domains (the imperial in-laws, Mon. **güregens**), from Korea to Eastern Europe and from the Rus’ principalities to North India, I gathered and analysed data from multiple primary sources in Chinese, Persian, Arabic, Old Slavonic etc. in order to write the history of



this group from scratch. My study, to be turned into a book right soon, has revealed that the importance of most of the imperial in-laws derived from them holding and controlling key positions in the Mongol army and administration. They made up a crucial middle tier between the Chinggisid “Golden family” and the broader military masses of the Mongol armies, mainly of nomadic tribal origin, in the dynasties crucial to the Chinggisids, being particularly important in the peripheral areas. This position of most of the **güregens** made them key players in the developments of the Chinggisid history, not least during the crisis periods, when they served as royal “kingmakers” and/or de facto rulers.

My PhD studies were only a part of a longer period of more than 12 years that my life was connected with the HUJI. Back then, in the spring of 2007, when I first entered the HUJI Mt. Scopus campus in order to enroll in for my studies, I could not yet imagine the years to come. Now, looking back to the completion of my BA, MA and PhD studies at the HUJI, I can firmly and wholeheartedly say that my personal and intellectual growth during those years would have been impossible without me being a part of the university, being a pupil of my teachers, both from the Asian Department and the Islamic and ME Studies. It is thanks to them that I am standing “firm” (יָצִי), both as a scholar and now as a grown-up.

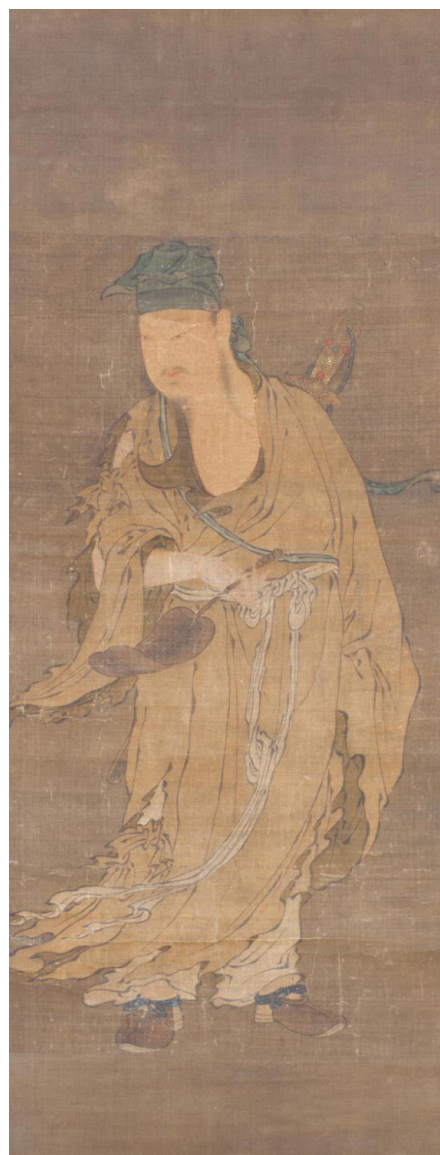


Ishayahu Landa, University of Bonn

For me, The HUJI was more than just a university. During all the time of my studies, it was a home. Not only do I owe a lot to the people who taught me and showed me the right path, but I also owe a lot to its long corridors, to its Botanic Garden and to the fishes in its ponds, as well to the roof of the Humanities, where I used to sit looking at Jerusalem’s shimmering evening lights. And so, it is probably the right time to say “Thank you” and “Lehitra’ot” now, as I move on.

Ilia Mozias (Hebrew University)

I have completed my PhD studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in 2019. My research interests lie primarily in the area of Daoism and Chinese religion. In particular I focus on the study of the Daoist self-cultivation method, known as internal alchemy (**neidan** 內丹). My dissertation, “The Literati Path to Immortality: The Alchemical Teaching of Lu Xixing” explores the life and teaching of the prominent alchemist of the Ming



(1368-1644) dynasty, Lu Xixing 陸西星 (1520-1601 or 1606).

In my research, I used Lu as a case study to develop new approaches to the study of history and practice of internal alchemy. I argue that Lu embodied the tradition of self-cultivation of the members of the literati class who practiced internal alchemy without leaving their habitual social circle. The study shows that Lu had never been ordained and had no connection with any formal religious institution. Rather, he learned alchemy from books and viewed alchemical praxis as an appropriate intellectual endeavor for a man of letters.

The study examines Lu's religious community and the ritual on which it was built – spirit-writing (**fujī** 扶乩/箕, **fuluan** 扶鸞). During spirit-writing séances, Lu and several of his friends had a direct encounter with numerous immortals who joined the community as its divine members and taught Lu and his friends the alchemical lore. In my view, Lu's community exemplifies the early stages of the development of the religious movement that combined spirit-writing, the cult of legendary immortal Lü Dongbin 呂洞賓 and internal alchemy. This movement became further widespread during the Qing (1644-1912) dynasty.

The dissertation expounded basic elements of the theory and practice of internal alchemy, especially cosmological formulae, imitation of biological gestation, the use of emotions in the practice of self-cultivation, and the step-by-step program of the praxis. I have explored the alchemists' reading of the **Book of Changes** (易經 **Yijing**), and of the Daoist texts such as the **Seal of the Unity of the Three** (參同契 **Cantong qi**), and their analysis of the ebb and flow of **yin** and **yang** as part of their endeavor to create the drug



Ilia Mozias, Hebrew University

of immortality. For the alchemists, internal alchemy was a way to overcome destiny. They tried to imitate biological gestation and to undergo a symbolic conception, pregnancy and birth, the goal of which was not to give birth to a child, but to generate a sagely embryo that would grow into an immortal body, the **yang**-spirit (陽神).

My study questioned the widespread identification of Lu as a sexual alchemist. I have analyzed the basics of sexual alchemy and highlighted the difference between this practice and Lu's method. My depiction of Lu's peculiar path to immortality allowed me to shed new light on the religious life of Ming-dynasty literati and to clarify the tenets of internal alchemy.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to my doctoral dissertation supervisor Professor Yuri Pines, to the members of the dissertation committee, Professors Andrew Plaks, Meir Shahar, Gil Raz, and David Shulman. Also, my sincere thanks to the teachers and staff at the Hebrew University. Without their guidance and support, I would not have been able to complete my studies.

Academic Events, 2018-19

Centennial Afterthoughts: May Fourth Movement Revisited

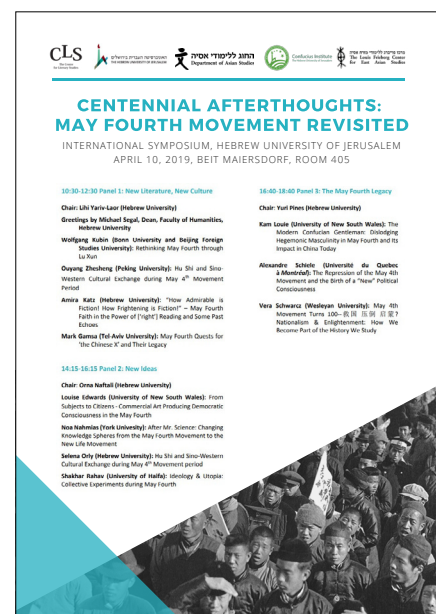
By Yuri Pines

On May 4th, 1919, a group of students from Peking (Beijing) University and a few other elite universities and colleges in Beijing organized a vigil against the unfair treatment of China in Versailles Treaty and against the corrupt warlord government that yielded China's territory to Japan. After the vigil was suppressed by the police, a series of protests broke out across China's cities. The ensuing demonstrations—the May Fourth Movement—marked a dramatic turn in China's politics of that time. At the heyday of the warlord era, a student grassroots movement succeeded in galvanizing the population and creating a new political atmosphere in the country. The births of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and of the rejuvenated Party of the Nation (Guomintang GMD or Kuomintang, KMT) are usually connected to these events.

For generations, the May 4th movement and its intellectual predecessor, the iconoclastic New Culture Movement (1915-) have been considered as the watershed in China's modern history, the harbingers of socialism, liberalism, nationalism, and other aspects of Western political and intellectual culture. This view

was sanctified by no less a figure than Mao Zedong himself, and it was supported by a variety of historians across the ideological divide lines. In recent decades, however, new views proliferated, aimed at decentralizing the May Fourth movement and shifting attention away from it toward other intellectual and political currents of that age. In China itself, the erstwhile radical assault on country's traditional values, the hallmark of the May Fourth upheaval, is no longer viewed in a positive way. Lively debates about the meaning of May Fourth movement and its legacy make it one of the most fascinating topics in the studies of China's modern history. As we have reached the movement's centennial, the debates in scholarly publications and mass media have further intensified.

The symposium “Centennial Afterthoughts: May Fourth Movement Revisited” co-organized by the Confucius Institute and the Frieberg Center, and co-sponsored by the Hebrew University, gathered historians, philosophers, and scholars of language and literature from Australia, Canada, China, Germany, Israel, and United States. The debates encompassed a great variety of topics. Some of the presenters, such as Wolfgang Kubin (Bonn University and Beijing Foreign



Studies University), Ouyang Zhesheng (Peking University) and Selena Orly (Hebrew University) focused on the iconic figures of the New Culture Movement, Lu Xun and Hu Shi. Others, such as Amira Katz (Hebrew University) and Mark Gamsa (Tel-Aviv University) analyzed broader literary trends of the New Culture movement. Issues of femininity and masculinity of that movement were at the focus of presentations by Louise Edwards and Kam Louie (both from the University of New South Wales). Noa Nahmias (York University) discussed changing views of science from the May Fourth Movement to the New Life Movement. Shakhrah Rahav (University of Haifa) explored collective experiments during the May Fourth Movement. Alexandre Schiele (Université du Québec à Montréal and the Hebrew University) discussed the repression of the May 4th Movement in the context of the birth of a “new” political consciousness. The symposium ended with the reflections by Vera Schwarcz (Wesleyan University) about the complexities of the commemoration of the May Fourth Movement amid the ongoing tensions between Nationalism and Enlightenment.



Rethinking Early Chinese Historiography

By Yuri Pines

The Chinese empire was renowned for its high cultural prestige and exceptional productivity in the writing of history. In distinction, only a very few historical texts survived from the millennium preceding China's imperial unification of 221 BCE. In particular, the gap between extraordinary intellectual productivity of the age of the "Hundred Schools of Thought" (5th-3rd centuries BCE) and the meagerness of historical writings from that period is puzzling. Luckily, recent paleographic discoveries and a more nuanced understanding of transmitted texts—particularly the Zuo Tradition/Zuo Commentary (Zuo zhuan, the singularly important pre-imperial historical text)—allow us to reassess the formative age of China's historiographic tradition. This was the goal of the major symposium "Rethinking Early Chinese Historiography" convened in the Institute for Advanced Study, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, from May 12

to May 16, 2019.

The Jerusalem symposium (supported by a joint grant from the Institute for Advanced Study and the Israeli Science Foundation, as well as, by Confucius Institute at the Hebrew University and the Frieberg Center for East Asian Studies) gathered two dozen specialists in history, philosophy, literature, paleography, and archeology from China, Germany, Israel, United Kingdom, and United States, for a joint exploration of a broad variety of newly unearthed and transmitted historical and quasi-historical texts. The participants addressed a new set of questions about the production of early historical texts, their circulation, their audience, the sources utilized by historians, and the goals of their writing. A team of scholars working on historiography in other traditions (Babylon, Greece, Rome, Iran, India, Jewish and Arab historiography) allowed us to compare aspects of early Chinese historiographic traditions with those in other ancient civilizations.



The engaging discussions helped us to raise our understanding of early Chinese historiography to a new level. Selected papers from the symposium are due to be published in the forthcoming volume. For further details, including the presentations' abstracts, you are welcome to visit the symposium's website.



A Taiwanese Soft Power? Taiwanese Contemporary Politics, Society and Culture

International Conference, November 28-29, 2018,
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

By Nissim Otmazgin

When you visit an English bookshop anywhere in the world looking to read about Taiwan, the books you usually find deal with the conflict with Mainland China, the security threat in Northeast Asia, or the history of the Nationalist Government and Chiang Kai-shek, "The Generalissimo," as he is known in one famous book.

This was the impression that I had in mind when I first visited Taiwan. But after spending three months in Taipei as a Taiwan Fellow in Academia Sinica, I can now say that the strongest impression I had was the vibrancy of Taiwanese society and the endless amount of civic energy that I felt.

With this impression in mind,

together with Prof. Michael Hsiao of Academia Sinica, we organized a conference on Taiwanese soft power, focusing on recent developments in the realms of society, contemporary culture, and social activism. This was the first conference in Israel dedicated only to Taiwan. We envisioned a conference that looks at the possible resources for Taiwanese soft power and examines the institutional and geopolitical constraints that it faces.

The conference itself featured twelve papers by Israeli and Taiwanese scholars dealing with developments relating to middle class, immigration, popular culture, public diplomacy, ethnic minorities, youth participation, and party politics.



Jews in China in the 20th Century

By Yuri Pines

A short sojourn of several Jewish communities and Jewish individuals in China during the 20th century continues to fascinate researchers in China, Israel, and the West. Professor Irene Eber (1929-2019), one of the co-founders of the Department of Asian Studies at the Hebrew University, dedicated the last decades of her life to explore Jewish-Chinese encounters. Her last book, *Jewish Refugees in Shanghai, 1933-1947* (Beck, 2018) had

been published just a few months before her passing away. To celebrate this publication, the Frieberg Center and the Confucius Institute at the Hebrew University co-organized a mini-symposium about Jews in China in the 20th century. Professor Eber was scheduled to participate, but due to her frail health conditions, she had to present her paper on Jewish refugees in Shanghai via a friend, Professor Renee Levine Melammed. In addition, Professor Aron Shai (Tel-Aviv University) discussed China's 1939

initiative to settle persecuted Jews in Yunnan; Professor Vera Schwarcz (Wesleyan University) asked "Do a Few Jews Matter on the Vast Canvas of Chinese History?" and Professor Yuri Pines (Hebrew University) presented a story of a brief but highly eventful sojourn of the Comintern agent, Mikhail Borodin in China during the tumultuous years 1923-1927. The event was moderated by Professor Uzi Rebhun from the Institute of Contemporary Jewry, Hebrew University.



China's Last Revolution? 40 Years of Reforms (1978-2018) Reconsidered

By Yuri Pines

In December 1978 China embraced a series of radical reforms that reshaped its economy, society, international standing, and even cultural outlook. These reforms allowed China to rise to the center of the world stage, but also created new problems and challenges. To commemorate and analyze this momentous change, we convened a

panel of four scholars to debate the reforms' impact, their attainments and failures, and the challenges ahead domestically and internationally. Dr. Orna Naftali (Hebrew University) addressed changes in social life, particularly in education. Dr. Lior Rosenberg (Hebrew University) analyzed the changes in rural China and the impact of the ongoing modernization of rural communities on

their lives. Professor Yitzhak Shichor (Hebrew University) focused on the reforms' political implications for Party rule. Finally, Professor Xiong Zhiyong (China's Foreign Affairs University) discussed the reforms ramifications on China's international standing. The event was moderated by Professor Yuri Pines (Hebrew University).

Lecture: “Hong Kong Identity and Public Sphere after the 1997 Handover”

Speaker: Rev. Prof. Lung Kwong Lo
(The Chinese University of Hong Kong)

(Co-sponsored by the Asia Unit at the Harry S. Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Milk & Honey Arts (MaHA), Hong-Kong)

Report by Orna Naftali

Prof. Lo's lecture dealt with the timely issue of the emergence of a “Hong Kong” identity as distinct from a “Chinese” identity in light of recent social, economic, and political developments, especially the emergence of the Hong Kong protest movement known as the Umbrella Movement. The lecture discussed the current state of Hong Kong's civil society and public sphere, and further reviewed the circumstances which have led to the growth and increasing momentum of the Umbrella Movement over the past five years or so, largely in response to Chinese government measures to restrict the scope of Hong Kong's autonomy and civil rights.



Rev. Prof. Lung Kwong Lo
(The Chinese University of Hong Kong)

“Leading Israeli Businesswomen in Asia: A Look at the Future of Israel-Asia Business Relations”

Speaker: Rev. Prof. Lung Kwong Lo
(The Chinese University of Hong Kong)

(Co-sponsored by the Jerusalem School of Business Administration at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

Report by Orna Naftali

The event, initiated and organized by students of the Business Administration & Asian Studies Joint Program at the Hebrew University, Ms. Lori Botnik, Ms. Noy Keren, and Ms. Tal Lavi, brought together leading Israeli businesswomen to discuss practical challenges facing Israeli companies and entrepreneurs working in Asia and to chart future directions in the development of Israel and Asia's economic relations. Speakers: Ms. Tahila Levi Lati, Partner and Head of the China Desk at the Zag-S & W International Law Firm; Ms. Einat Halevi Levin, CEO & Founder of EINATHAL-Anything you Need in SE Asia firm; and Ms. Vered Mitzari, Director, Country Relations of India at Start-Up Nation Central, each described their business experience in various Asian countries, while detailing the steps they have taken on the road to become successful leaders in their respective fields. The panel was preceded by a networking event and an Asian business fair, both of which were widely attended by students of the Asian Studies Department.



[Photo by Dr. Dror Kochan]

Traveling Seminars in Japan

By Nissim Otmazgin

As part of an attempt to learn first-hand about Asian societies and culture, the department of Asian studies organizes thematic traveling seminars to specific destinations in Asia. Volunteering guided by the department's professors, previous seminars have taken our students to travel to places such as Northeast China, central Mongolia, South India, Docto/Takeshima island, Hokkaido, and Okinawa. Students usually take these seminars as part of an academic course and receive credit accordingly.

This year we had two traveling seminars to Japan. Led by Professor Nissim Otmazgin, Dr. Dror Kochan, two groups of students spent a whole week in Tokyo, each with a mission. The first group, guided by Shir Shapira and Max Leader, two alumni of the department now studying in Japan, explored Tokyo's vibrant youth culture. The students visited anime studio and manga publishers, interviewed artists, and held a special seminar with students from Rikkyo University headed by their professor Mark Caprio. Students in this group have also been given time to conduct fieldwork as part of a course paper they need to submit.

The second group, made of students from the joint Asian studies – Business program, focused more on the Japanese economy and business environment. The students visited companies and industries, met with entrepreneurs living in Tokyo (including two of the department's graduates, Yoav Keidar and Omri Reiss), and held a special conference with business administration students at Waseda University, headed by professor Uchida Kazunari.

The two groups met a few times during the week, including a special visit to Meiji Jingu, a Shintō Shrine in the center of Tokyo, where a special “harae” ritual was held at our honor, including the blessing of our department in front of the Kami. Towards the end of the seminar, the two groups left Tokyo together for the

Zen Monetary in Niigata Prefecture, where they spent two days in the temple and held Zen Meditation at 4 O'clock in the morning.

More about these journeys at <https://hujapan.wordpress.com>

Next year's seminar is expected to focus on global cities in Asia and include a field trip to Seoul and Tokyo.



Cultural Events, 2018-19

Asia Day

(Co-sponsored by the Confucius Institute the Hebrew University & the Student Union of the Hebrew University)

Organized and led by more than a dozen students at the Asian Studies Department, this annual cultural event took place in various venues across the Hebrew University's Mt. Scopus Campus. This year the event included: a culture fair consisting of 20 different stands showcasing the wide variety and richness of the arts and cultures of Asia; live dance and music performances; workshops on Tai Chi and on the Japanese Tea Ceremony,

as well as a special lecture by Mr. Israel Aharoni, a pioneering Israeli chef, media presenter, and business leader in the field of Asian Cuisine, who gave a talk titled, "On the Silk Road: A Culinary Trip". The Asia Day events attracted much attention and hundreds of students from both the Asian Studies Department and the university as a whole attended the event.



Paths of the Soul

Tibetan spiritual life in current China is too often analyzed through the prism of its political ramifications, whereas its deeper religious aspects remain barely noticed. Against this backdrop, Zhang Yang's movie "Paths of the Soul" about the pilgrimage to

the sacred Tibetan Mountain Kailash appears highly thought-provoking. The screening of the film was preceded by a short lecture by Yuri Pines, who himself made a **kora** around Mt. Kailash in 2018.



Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Department for East Asian/Asian Studies



Korea Week 13-16, May 2019

Reported by Dr. Jooyeon Rhee

Korean Studies Program

Sponsored by the South Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs and organized by students of the Korean Studies Program, the department of Asian Studies hosted the 5th **Korea Week** in May. **Korea Week** is an annual festival on Korean art and culture that aims to reach wide audience beyond the university campus. It has been providing multiple lectures and hands-on workshops in the last five years through which the audience has been able to learn about Korea. It was especially successful this year for its diverse program, providing food workshop, Korean alcohol workshop,

K-pop dance workshop, film screening, and traditional paper art workshop. In particular, an all-day 'high-school event' attracted a great deal of nearly 150 high school students and their teachers who had been invited to the university to participate in various workshops on Korean history and culture. Invited students and teachers have informed us that they enjoyed and appreciated this rare opportunity to learn about Korea through such a well-organized event. It is important to note that **Korea Week** has become an essential part of the Korean Studies Program as it not only promotes the program across the country but also demonstrates how active and dedicating our students are.



The 11th Calligraphy Workshop

March 17-20, 2019,
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

By Anna Kireyev

Calligraphy in Japanese is called **shodō** 書道, and it is one of the most celebrated art forms all over Asia.

Each year, Mr. Taigen Usuda – a world-renowned known Kokuji Shodō artist, and four of his assistants, come to The Hebrew University in Jerusalem to lead a 4-day workshop. On the first day, each participant chooses one Kanji (the adopted Chinese character in Japanese language) and practice writing it. In the next three days, the character is copied to a woodblock, where the character is engraved or carved using special tools, later to be painted and decorated. At the end of the fourth day, each participant presents her/his own artwork in front of Usuda Sensei and tell the story behind his/her choice.



2019 marks the 11th year of the workshop, with the participation of 40 students from the Asian Studies Department, who had the opportunity

to experience Kokuji shodō. We wish to thank Usuda Sensei and his team for this wonderful experience.

Learning about Japanese Culture through Practicing Tea

By Nissim Otmazgin

With the support of the Toshiba International Foundation, a one-week tea ceremony workshop was organized at the Hebrew University in early June 2019. Guided by Dr. Kazuko Kamada-Madar and Ms. Hiroko Eovino, ten students had the chance to experience and learn about the esthetics associated with chanoyu, the Japanese culture of tea. The workshop featured both theoretical learning about the cultural and social significance of Japanese tea culture, especially the work of the influential tea masters, Murata Shukō, Takeno Jōō, and Sen Rikyū, as well daily practice of the art of making and serving tea. At the workshop's graduation ceremony,



the students conducted their own tea ceremony and served tea to some of the department's professors. In

coming years, we plan to expand this workshop and include both Israel and Palestinian students.

Asian Languages Library in HUJI

By Yuri Pines

The Asian Languages Library project was launched in 2007 with the support of the Frieberg Center for East Asian Studies, the Polonsky Foundation, the James Blum Foundation and a few extra funds on an ad-hoc basis. Currently, the library encompasses well over 10,000 volumes and, most importantly, it has rapidly expanded the number of the databases, which are increasingly replacing printing materials in some of the sub-fields of academic studies. Among these, by far the most important are the databases acquired from CNKI (China National Knowledge Infrastructure) through which we subscribe to the China Academic Journals (CAJ) database and from 2018/19 to China's doctoral dissertations database. These indispensable databases have

become essential in our drive to turn HUJI into a world-class research center in the field of Chinese studies. In addition, an electronic *Siku quanshu* database allows free search from the largest single assembly of classical works in the world (composed in the late 18th century, *Siku quanshu* encompasses 3,460 works totalling more than 36,000 volumes; a fully searchable edition). The purchase of these databases would not be possible without the generous support of the Polonsky Foundation to which we are immensely grateful. In addition, we maintain several smaller databases from China (Mainland, Hong-Kong, Taiwan), Japan, and Korea.

The increasing importance and prestige of Asian Language Library brought about two generous donations, one from the National



Library of Korea and another from the National Library of China. These donations allow us to considerably expand the number of books in our possession. With this support and the ongoing support of the Frieberg Center, we are confident to attain our goal of establishing world-class research library in Asian studies in Israel.

• Congratulations •



The Frieberg Center for East Asian Studies is delighted to congratulate its director, Professor Yuri Pines for being awarded “China’s Special Book Award” (中華圖書特殊貢獻獎) for his contribution to the translation and publication of Chinese books and the promotion of cultural exchanges

★ In Memoriam ★

Professor Irene Eber (1929-2019)

By Yuri Pines

Professor Irene Eber (nee Geminder), one of the co-founders of the department of East Asian Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, passed away on April 10, 2019, a few months before her 90th birthday. Professor Eber was born in Halle, Germany, to a family of Jewish immigrants from Poland. In 1938, her family was deported by the Nazis back to Poland, to their natal town of Mielec. In Mielec ghetto she stayed as a young child until 1942, when she escaped from the ghetto on the eve of its elimination. During the next three years she was hidden by a Polish peasant in a chicken coop, a story retold in her autobiographical book **The Choice: Poland, 1939-1945** (New York: Schocken, 2004). After the war she emigrated to the United States, where she started self-education by swallowing books on philosophy from a public library. Eventually, her search for the answers to the questions concerning the bad and the

evil in human life led her to Chinese philosophy and Chinese culture with which she remained in love till the last moments of her life.

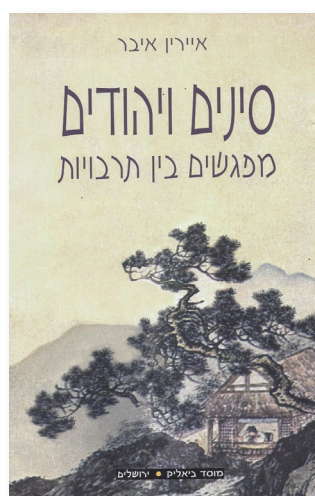
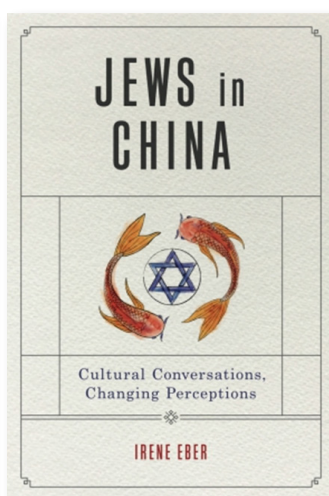
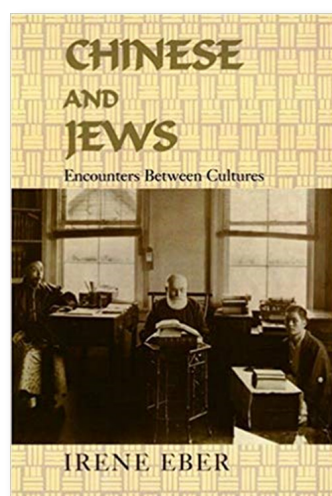
Professor Eber immigrated to Israel in 1968 together with her husband (whom she later divorced). She joined the newly born Department of East Asian Studies, in which she taught a great variety of courses on China's history, culture, literature, and thought. She was particularly fascinated by multiple encounters between China and the world, past and present and published numerous books and articles on these topics. Gradually, her interest shifted to the Jews in China and she had published intensively, especially on Shanghai community. Her last book, the collection of documents **Jewish Refugees in Shanghai, 1933-1947**, was published in 2018. Despite her frail health, Professor Eber was full of most remarkable vitality. In late 2018 she was still full of plans, committed to the dissemination of knowledge about Jews in China throughout the world, from Shanghai to Pennsylvania.



Professor Irene Eber

For a fascinating story of encounter between Professor Eber and Louis Frieberg, the founder of the Frieberg Center for East Asian Studies, and another Mielec survivor, see her account [here](#).

Professor Irene Eber will forever stand as a paragon of intellectual honesty, commitment to scholarly values, and a person whose love for knowledge and love for humanity was not broken even by the Nazi hell. R.I.P.



Some of Professor Eber's books

HEBREW UNIVERSITY CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2018-2019

By Lihi Yariv-Laor,
Director of the Confucius
Institute

The academic year 2018-2019 of the Research-Oriented Confucius Institute at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem has been a year of full-scale activities marked by new initiatives in addition to the extension of previous ones: lectures, conferences, symposia, courses as well as numerous other activities intended to promote the knowledge of China were all initiated and supported by our Institute. The CI at the Hebrew University is led by a three-person staff which consists the director, nominated by the Hebrew University (i.e. myself) the co-director, nominated by Peking University – Prof. Wang Shizhou, and the administrative executive – Ms. Tal Nizan, who was replaced at the end of the Fall semester by Ms. Lee Ashuri.

The year's activities opened on October 29, 2018 with a variety of **lectures** all focusing on the topic of **Chinese Arts** within the framework of **Confucius Institute Day**. Lectures on contemporary architecture in China (by Maggie Yan) and on Chinese traditional gardens (by Arie Kutz) were followed by lectures on "Animals and Humans



in Ancient Chinese Art" (by Gidi Shelach) and on two different aspects of the art market in contemporary China (by Ada Elkin and Elad Yaron). Culminating the day was an inspiring book launch event: the Hebrew edition of the Chinese masterpiece *红楼梦* **hong lou meng Dream of the Red Mansions** (volume 1), translated by our colleagues Amira Katz and Andrew Plaks (Bialik Publishing, 2018). This magnum opus of China's cultural lore in its Hebrew version constitutes a major step forward in promoting understanding of China by Israeli readers.

Besides this cluster of festive lectures on facets of Chinese arts that opened the academic year, the Confucius Institute held throughout the year a range of lectures on a variety of topics from the **The Book of Changes** with Richard Hardiman's talk "The I Ching – the Systematization of Divination" (November 11, 2018) to Chinese diplomacy with two talks by Xiong Zhiyong from the Foreign Affairs University, Beijing: "A Growing China: A Benefit or Threat for the World?" (November 21, 2018), and "Recent Trends in China's Foreign Policy" (December 10, 2019); A lecture about Tourism from China in Israel (Drakon im Darkon) by Ohad Nevo was held on January 8, 2019; and Dror Kochan delivered a talk entitled "A glimpse on political, social and economic processes in Contemporary China" (March 18, 2019) to **Amirim's** honors program students whose studies this year focused on China.

Five major **conferences** and **workshops** were supported or initiated this year by the Confucius Institute. Four of these - The



Confucius Day

(continued on the next page) »

roundtable “China’s Last Revolution? 40 Years of Reforms (1978 -2018) Reconsidered”; the symposium “Jews in China in the 20th century”; the international symposiums “Centennial Afterthoughts: May Fourth Movement Revisited” and “Rethinking Early Chinese Historiography” are reported in the Newsletter separately. In addition we co-sponsored the international workshop “Intimacy, Mobility, and Family Change in Contemporary East Asia and Beyond” (July 23-24, 2019) gathered anthropologists and sociologists from England, Germany, the United States, the Philippines, Singapore, Japan, China, and Israel to investigate questions of the intimate spaces of human beings in East Asian countries.

Two Courses were initiated this year by the Confucius Institute during the fall semester:

- **Modern Chinese Diplomacy** to advanced students by Prof. Xiong Zhiyong (China Foreign Affairs University), who was CI’s visiting professor in the first part of the academic year.
- **Chinese Painting** – an extracurricular course taught by Wang Lina, the volunteer teacher of our Confucius Institute.

Enhancement of Chinese Language Instruction within the Hebrew University

The Tandem Project. A new joint initiative of the Hebrew University Language Center and supported by our CI was launched at the beginning of the winter semester. Run by two coordinators - an Israeli student and a Chinese one, the Tandem project consists of structured language exchange between Israeli students of the department of Asian Studies who study Chinese and Chinese students from the Rothberg International School who study Hebrew. This fresh project



Confucius Day

has so far gained extraordinary positive feedbacks.

- **HSK – Chinese language level examinations** were conducted this year in cooperation with the language Center. More than 100 students passed the exams successfully in HSKK and HSK levels ranging from 2 to 5.
- **Scholarships.** The Confucius Institute, with the active involvement of Han Ban headquarters has managed to allot different sorts of Study-in-China scholarships. In addition to a one-year scholarships to graduates and advanced students of the Department of Asian Studies, this year, as in previous years, we conducted the Intensive Chinese Language Summer Course course at Jilin University (August 2019).

Cultural activities are part and parcel of our research-oriented activities at the Confucius Institute.

- In commemoration of the Holocaust Memorial Day, and to raise awareness to an almost unknown linkage between Jewish and Chinese history in modern times, we held a screening of “**Shanghai Ghetto**,” a documentary demonstrating the days when Shanghai, far away during the Second World War, was the only place on earth where Jews could find refuge (March 13, 2019).
- **Chinese New Year Celebration** – On January 17, 2019, just at



the end of the fall semester, in cooperation with the International Office we held a Chinese New Year party to which all Chinese students registered at the Hebrew University were invited. At the Rabin building, Israeli and Chinese students from all faculties made acquaintances and started to build new friendships.

- **Asia Day** – celebrated on May 27, 2019, and organized by students from all sections of the Department of Asian Studies, the Confucius Institute supported China-related cultural activities during the day.
- **The 18th “Chinese Bridge” Chinese Proficiency Competition for Foreign College Students** was held this year at the Hebrew University (May 30, 2019). Students from the Hebrew University, Tel Aviv University and Tel-Hai Academic College competed in Chinese language proficiency, knowledge about China, and artistic performances. The pleasant atmosphere of the entire event enabled the audience to appreciate and enjoy the contestants who manifested outstanding linguistic and artistic talents.

Activities to promote acquaintance with China, its culture and its people among school children and the public:

(continued on the next page) »

- **“The High School Project.”**
HUJI CI supported the “Chinese Cultural Experience” at five Jerusalem high schools. Students of the department of Asian Studies lectured on Chinese geography, culture, society, and organized activities such as practicing Chinese calligraphy and creating Chinese kites and lanterns. This kind of activity was warmly welcomed not only by the pupils themselves but also by the school authorities.

- **Chinese language instruction for members of the Israel-China Friendship Society.** We offered a Chinese language course to members of the Israel-China Friendship Society and to members of Igud Yotz'ei Sin in Israel (the Association of former Residents of China in Israel). Taught by Wang Lina, HUJI CI's volunteer teacher, the course was highly praised.
- **Chinese language instruction for children of mixed Chinese-Israeli couples.** Our CI supports a Chinese language course specially designed for children who have a parent of Chinese origin, to develop their Chinese language skills.

Official visits and meetings

- **Visit of Mr. Tian Xuejun, Vice Minister of Education of the PRC.** On October 25, 2018 we held a long and fruitful meeting with the Vice Minister of Education of the PRC. The Tel Aviv Confucius Institute team also participated in the meeting, alongside our team at the Confucius Institute. The vivid dialogue between Mr. Tian and the two Israeli CI teams concerned common issues and future joint activities.





הנכם מוזמנים למפגש הראשון של פרויקט חילופי השפות סינית-אנגלית/עברית
מיקום: חדר ישיבות קונפוציוס 4121
יום רביעי ה-3 באפריל
ל"ז המפגש

התכנסות וכיבוד קל 16:00-16:15
הצגת הפרויקט 16:15-16:30
הכרות 16:30-17:15
מינגלינג ומילוי שאלון 17:15-18:00

欢迎你们参加中文-希伯来语/英语语言交换项目的第一次见面会。
地点：孔子学院议会厅 4121
4月3日, 星期三
见面会时间表：

16:00 - 16:15 入场及点心时间
16:15 - 16:30 语言交换项目介绍
16:30 - 17:15 彼此认识
17:15 - 18:00 交际以及问卷填写



The Tandem Project

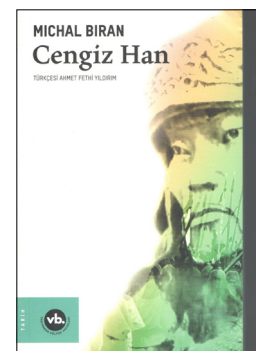
- **Delegations from Chinese academic institutions –** throughout the academic year our CI hosted delegations from various academic institutions in China. Towards the end of the academic year (May 27, 2019) our CI team together with colleagues from the Department of English held prolific discussions with a delegation from Southwest University of Science and Technology in Sichuan, and future cooperation was planned.

In short, what seems to me to be of the utmost importance here is that with the dynamic partnership of Peking University and with the constant support of Han Ban, the activities described above and some others, whether purely research or cultural-educational activities, whether aimed at the academia or the general public in Israel, whether aimed at school children or adults - are all part and parcel of the ongoing efforts of the Confucius Institute at the Hebrew University to encourage knowledge of China in Israel and to promote mutual understanding between the Chinese and Israeli communities.

Recent publications by the Frieburg Center members, 2017-2019

Michal Biran. 2019. *Cengiz Han*, tr. Ahmet Fethi Yildirim. Istanbul: VakıfBank Kültür yayınlari. 252pp. (see more [here](#) and [here](#))

This is a Turkish translation of Biran's *Chingis Khan* (Oxford 2007), originally published in "The Makers of the Muslim World" series. The book highlights the monumental impact Chinggis Khan has had upon the Islamic World, both positive and negative, exploring the Khan's biography, achievements, legacy and his evolving images in the Muslim world and beyond in the 13th-21st centuries.



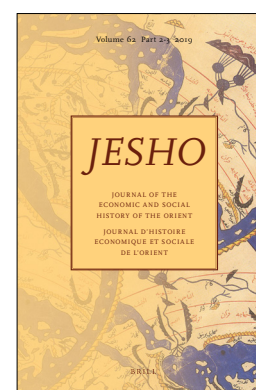
Michal Biran, ed. 2017. *In the Service of the Khans: Elites in Transition in Mongol Eurasia*. Special issue of *Asiatische Studien* 71.4 :1051-1245; 194pp. (see more [here](#))

The Mongol empire (1206–1368) caused massive transformations in the composition and functioning of elites across Eurasia. While the Mongols themselves obviously became the new Eurasian elite, their small number as compared to the huge territory over which they ruled and their initial inexperience in administering sedentary realms meant that many of their subjects also became part of the new multi-ethnic imperial elite. The volume translates and analyzes biographies of ten members of this new elite—from princes through generals, administrators, and vassal kings, to scientists and artists; including Mongols, Koreans, Chinese and Muslims—thereby providing important insights into the social and cultural history of the period.



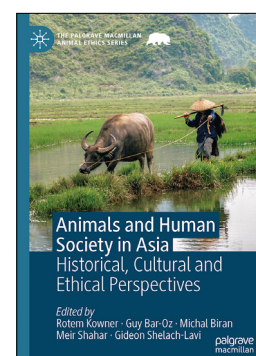
Michal Biran, ed. 2019. *Mobility, Transformation and Cultural Exchange in Mongol Eurasia*. Special issue of *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient* 62/2-3, 265pp. (see more [here](#))

The articles in this volume—by Hodong Kim, Sheila Blair, Peter Jackson, Qiao Yang, Yashuhiro Yokkaichi, David Robinson and Michal Biran—explore various case studies of the transformative role of mobility in Mongol Eurasia, while looking at the Mongol Empire in Eurasian perspective, and highlighting the impact of the Mongols' indigenous culture on the proto-global world of the 13th and 14th centuries.



Rotem Kowner, Guy Bar-Oz, **Michal Biran**, Meir Shahar and **Gideon Shelach**, eds. *Animals and Human Society in Asia: Historical, Cultural and Ethical Perspectives*. Palgrave Macmillan, forthcoming [December 2019]. (see more [here](#))

This edited collection offers a comprehensive overview of the different aspects of human-animal interactions in Asia throughout history. With twelve thematically-arranged chapters, this book examines the diverse roles that beasts, livestock, and fish — real and metaphorical— have played in Asian history, society, and culture. Ranging from prehistory to the present day, the authors address a wealth of topics including the domestication of animals, dietary practices and sacrifice, hunting, the use of animals in war, and the representation of animals in literature and art.



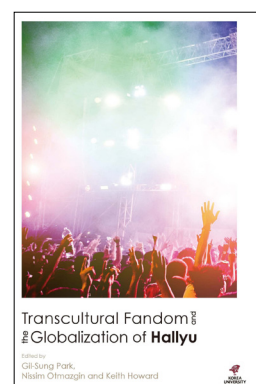
Wai-ye Li and **Yuri Pines**, eds., *Keywords in Chinese Culture*. Hong Kong: The Chinese University Press, forthcoming (2019). (see more [here](#))

Like every major culture, Chinese has its set of “keywords”: pivotal terms of political, ethical, literary and philosophical discourse. Tracing the origins, development, polysemy, and usages of keywords is one of the best ways to chart cultural and historical changes. This volume analyzes some of these keywords from different disciplinary and temporal perspectives, offering a new integrative study of their semantic richness, development trajectory, and distinct usages in Chinese culture. The contributors to this volume—who come from the fields of history, philosophy, and literature—explore keywords in different genres and illuminate their multiple dimensions in various contexts, ranging from philosophical and historical texts of the Warring States period (453-221 BCE) to late imperial (ca. 16th-18th centuries CE) literature and philosophy.



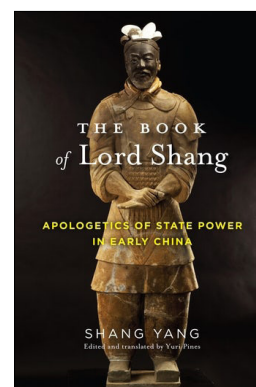
Gil-Sung Park, **Nissim Otmazgin**, and Keith Howard, eds., *Transnational Fandom and the Globalization of Hallyu*. Seoul: Korea University Press, 2019.

This book is part of the attempt to build a comprehensive and interdisciplinary identity for the study of Korean popular culture, better known as Hallyu. Focusing on the Hallyu fandom at different parts of the world, this book analyzes the role of fans in building new markets for Korean popular culture abroad and in driving the worldwide fascination over contemporary Korea.



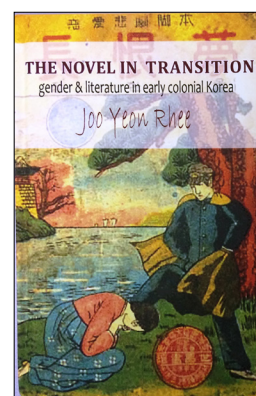
Yuri Pines, translated and edited, *The Book of Lord Shang: Apologetics of State Power in Early China*. New York: Columbia University Press (Translations from the Asian Classics Series), 2017. (Winner, 2018 Choice Outstanding Academic Title). Paperback edition (abridged and revised): 2019. (see more [here](#) and [here](#))

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



Jooyeon Rhee, *The Novel in Transition: Gender and Literature in Early Colonial Korea*. Cornell University Press, 2019. (see more [here](#))

Jooyeon Rhee investigates both translated and creative historical novels, domestic novels, and crime novels, all of which were produced under the spell of civilization and enlightenment. The masculine norms and principles articulated in the selected novels are indicative of writers' and translators' negotiation with political and cultural forces of the time; their observations of the ambiguity of modernity manifest in the figure of mobile, motivated, and forward-looking woman and immobile, emotional, and suppressed men.



Forthcoming Events

December 1-4,
2019

Transnational Fandom – the Global Diffusion of Hallyu

The planned event is arguably the biggest academic conference on Korea ever to take place in Israel and perhaps in the wider Middle East as well. The focus of the conference will be the global diffusion of Hallyu (Korean Pop Culture). 45 speakers will give papers on different aspects in the transnational dissemination and acceptance of Hallyu abroad and in particular on the role of fans and fandom in this process. This conference is jointly organized with the World Association for Hallyu Studies (WAHS), which is an academic Association based in Korea with global extensions in more than 20 countries. We hope that this conference will help us both to establish our position as a center for the research of Korean contemporary culture and to encourage more students to join our Korean studies program.

December 10-12,
2019

The Idea of Text in Buddhism

The workshop addresses a central, but normally unexplored, topic in the study of Buddhism regarding the nature of the texts we study and analyze. In Buddhist Studies, scholars often speak of ideas regarding the composition, transmission, or editing of texts, of the "Discourses" attributed to the Buddha and of the "commentary", asking at times how texts evolved over time and what historical processes they underwent. These questions all too often focus on the ideological or doctrinal side of the texts, while ignoring their literary, emotive, visionary, aesthetic and performative dimensions; scholars still tend to assume that the main role of the texts is to transmit ideas and preserve teachings. While the latter are certainly part of the goals behind the shaping of the texts and the uses to which they were put, it is time to ask in a more straightforward manner what the texts are about - what, in fact, is a "text" in Buddhism and what is it good for? What kind of functions did scriptures play in Buddhist societies? This workshop brings together leading scholars from the China, Europe, Israel, and US in order to begin addressing the key question regarding the nature of the "text" in Buddhism.

December 15,
2019

Multilateral Dynamics between the Middle East and Asia in the Mongol Era

The workshop "Multilateral Dynamics between the Middle East and Asia in the Mongol Era", generously supported by the Confucius Institute, the Asian Sphere program and the Frieberg Center, and convened by Michal Biran, Jonathan Brack and Vered Shurani, seeks to explore the intricate inter-cultural and cross-regional connections and comparisons across Asia and the Middle East during the Mongol period. Presenters include a diverse group of scholars from Europe, the US, Mongolia and China. The presentations pivot around three main themes: "Material mobilities and technologies," "Ideology, politics, and institutions," and "Knowledge exchange and production".

December 18-19,
2019

Empires, Networks, Intermediaries: Exchanges across Eurasia, 16th-19th centuries

Sponsored by the CNRS, The Frieberg Center, the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales and the College d'Etudes Mondiales, this conference is the follow-up to long term cooperation between scholars from Europe, East Asia and Israel who explore "The origins of globalization and the 'divergence' between Europe and Asia: Trade networks and the trajectory of economic institutions in maritime and continental empires". The Jerusalem conference (7th in a series of conferences and workshops) will explore the role of trade mediators: interpreters, brokers and compradors. These intermediaries have offered a wide range of licensed services: overseas travel guarantees, cargo inspection, product quality assessment, and tax collection. They were also able to deal with local rulers and the nobility. Our conference will shed light on the way in which these interpreters and intermediaries have become transaction facilitators. It will also attempt to identify the political role of these intermediaries in the complex games played between rival empires.

January 7,
2020

Army, Politics, and Society in East Asia: Commemorating Ellis Joffe

Professor Ellis Joffe, one of the co-founders of the Department of East Asian Studies in HUJI and one of the world's leading scholars of the People's Liberation Army of China (PLA), passed away in January 2010. On the tenth anniversary of his death we shall commemorate his legacy in an international conference on "Army, Politics, and Society in East Asia". The conference will comprise two parts. The pre-modern panel will deal with military ideology, military history, and military practice in China, Japan, Korea, and the Mongol Empire between 4th century BCE and 19th century CE. The second panel will focus primarily on Chinese military (PLA and the Taiwanese military forces).

• Fellowship Announcement •

The Louis Frieberg Center for East Asian Studies offers post-doctoral fellowships for the 2020-2021 academic year. The post-docs are open to scholars in the humanities and social sciences specializing in East Asia, especially China, Japan, Korea and Mongolia.

For more details click [here](#). **Deadline: March 8, 2020**