



The Louis Frieberg Center

For East Asian Studies

Fall 2022

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Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to present this new issue of the newsletter of the Louis Frieberg Center for East Asian Studies. The newsletter highlights some of the Center's activities over the past academic year (2021-22) and introduces several events planned for next year.

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

After a couple of particularly challenging years due to the prolonged impact of COVID-19, we are happy to report that in 2021-22, the Frieberg Center was able to resume much of its regular activity. While the number of academic events has yet to return to pre-pandemic levels, we were nonetheless able to hold many activities in person. Other events were conducted virtually or in hybrid form, which allowed us to not only sustain invaluable ties with the global academic community, but also expand the reach of our activities to wider audiences. The variety of the activities presented in this issue attests to the durability and vitality of the Frieberg Center academic community in this difficult time. It further demonstrates the sustained interest in East Asian studies in Israel and beyond. We sincerely hope that in 2022-23, the scope and volume of the Center's activities will continue to grow.

We are glad to report that in 2021-22 the Frieberg Center was able to host three post-doctoral fellows: Dr. Avital Rom (PhD, University of Cambridge), Dr. Yang Shen (PhD, Boston University), and Dr. Benjamin Katzeff Silberstein (PhD, University of Pennsylvania). This issue highlights their research and activities at HU.

The current issue further spotlights a new research project by Dr. Irina Lyan, Head of the Korea Studies section at HU's Asian Studies Department. We are also glad to introduce a new faculty member, Dr. Ian J. MacCormack, a Khyentse Lecturer in Buddhist Studies at the Departments of Asian Studies and Comparative Religion at HU.

As in previous years, in 2021-22, the Frieberg Center continued to support the Asian Studies Department Seminar series, along with other panels, colloquiums, and conferences. The current issue highlights some of these events and other activities sponsored by the Center. The newsletter also features recent publications by Asian Studies Faculty and two future events which will take place in 2022-23.

Lastly, it is a pleasure to congratulate two of the Center's associates, Prof. Gideon Shelach-Lavi, and Prof. Ronit Ricci. Prof. Shelach-Lavi was granted the prestigious 2022 EMET Prize for Art, Science and Culture, for his pioneering research in the archaeology of ancient China and Mongolia, and for his achievements in researching the development of human society and human-environment relations at the dawn of history. Warm congratulations also to Prof. Ronit Ricci, who was recently elected to the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Omree Negri, the Frieberg Center's Administrative Coordinator, and Mr. Jonathan Elkobi, the Center's Media Coordinator, who produced this

issue of the newsletter. Both Omree and Jonathan are leaving us this summer, and we wish them all the best in their future endeavors! We further welcome their successors, Ms. Emily Elgart, and Ms. Maya Edri, and wish both much success in their new roles as the Frieberg Center's Administrative Coordinator and the Center's Media Coordinator, respectively.

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

Dr. Orna Naftali, Director

Prof. Gideon Shelach-Lavi, Academic Committee Chair



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Introducing New Faculty

An Interview with Dr. Ian J. MacCormack

Khyentse Lecturer in Buddhist Studies, Dept. of Comparative Religion/Asian Studies,
Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Ian, can you please introduce yourself?

I am a scholar of Tibetan literature, history, and religion. My research centers on the cosmopolitan intellectual and social environment of early modern Tibet, especially intersections of Buddhist thought and practice with ideas about kingship and state.

I received my PhD in the Study of Religion from Harvard University, with a dissertation on Buddhist cosmology and theology in the seventeenth century. Before moving to Jerusalem, I was the Shinjo Ito postdoctoral fellow in Buddhist Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. My faculty position at Hebrew University is supported by a grant from the [Khyentse Foundation](#).

My research centers on the cosmopolitan intellectual and social environment of early modern Tibet, especially intersections of Buddhist thought and practice with ideas about kingship and state.

What are your main scholarly interests?

My broader research agenda branches out into other aspects of Buddhist thought and practice in this era, for instance literature and ritual. One such project concerns the literary and social dimensions of speechmaking in Tibetan Buddhism. Other works in

progress includes studies of enthronement ceremonies, cosmological discourses, and translation and analysis of works of literature, including poetry by the fifth Dalai Lama and the Desi.

I am currently writing a book on Buddhism and the state in Tibet. This book will be the first in-depth study of the texts and works of the Desi Sangyé Gyatso, who ruled the Tibetan state for more than two decades. It will address the history, theory, and materiality of three of the largest and most important works of his reign: the giant golden tomb of the fifth Dalai Lama, the royal palace in Lhasa, and the holiday for commemorating the Dalai Lama's death. This project speaks to the study of Buddhist kingship, early modern Asian intellectual and political history, and the relationship of religion and politics in Tibet.

What sort of courses do you teach at the Hebrew University?

My teaching at the Hebrew University includes courses on Tibetan language, literature, history, and culture; on the study of Buddhist traditions; and on the history and methods of the Study of Religion. I offer courses in both the departments of Religion and Asian Studies.

In the upcoming academic year, my courses will include Introduction to Tibetan Religions (BA); Reading Buddhist Scriptures (BA); Buddhist



Religious Studies (MA); and The Desi Sangyé Gyatso and the Tibetan State (MA, virtual). I will also be supervising intermediate-level readings in Classical Tibetan language for students with at least one year of experience reading Tibetan.

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Spotlight on Post-Doctoral Fellows

Dr. Avital Rom

2021-2022 Frieberg Center Post-Doctoral Fellow

I commenced my position as a Louis Frieberg Postdoctoral Fellow in Autumn 2021. Despite the ongoing effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on the academic world as well as my own work, I found in HUJI an ideal academic home, offering both encounters with brilliant academics, and a warm and welcoming environment. I felt particularly fortunate to take up the Frieberg fellowship in the 2021-22 academic year, which was marked by an unusually high number of active postdoctoral fellows from different countries, specializing in various fields of Asian Studies.

I found in HUJI an ideal academic home, offering both encounters with brilliant academics, and a warm and welcoming environment.

I earned my BA in East Asian Studies from Tel-Aviv University, and my MPhil and PhD degrees in Chinese History from the University of Cambridge, UK. My doctoral dissertation, titled *Polyphonic Thinking: Music and Authority in Early China*, examined the rhetorical functions of music in early Chinese texts (ca. 5th-2nd centuries BCE). Through the lens of music (albeit music that no longer survives in sound) I aimed to unveil previously unexplored aspects of early Chinese social, political, and intellectual life. After graduating in February 2020, I continued to work on various issues relating to the social and political aspects of hearing, sound, and silence in early China.

My primary focus at HUJI has been the editing of a volume titled *Other Bodies: Disability and Bodily Impairment in Early China*. Based on an online workshop I organized last year, *Other Bodies* aims to put traditional Sinology in conversation with disability history, putting together for the first time a socio-political picture of disability in early Chinese history. Shortly into my time at the Frieberg Center, I received the good news that the volume was accepted for publication under the Needham Research Institute Series at Routledge. I am now in the final stage of editing the manuscript, which will likely be in print by the end of the 2022-23 academic year. Within this volume, my own chapter – reflecting my recent research project – sets out to explore conceptualizations of deafness in early Chinese texts.

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In addition to working on *Other Bodies*, I taught my first MA class, “Music and Political Authority in Chinese History” at the Asian Studies Department at HUJI; remotely assisted the teaching of a course titled *Chinese Art and Material Culture* at Cambridge; and took part in weekly literary Chinese reading sessions guided by Professor Andrew Plaks, from which I learned a great deal about texts beyond the purview of my own work. I also gave an invited talk titled *Without a Sound:*

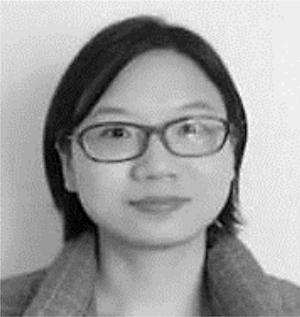
Musical Silence as an Agent of Sound in Early Chinese Thought at a [conference](#) organized by the *History of Logic in China* group (Tsinghua University); and chaired two sessions for the [Methods in Sinology](#) lecture series on the theme of applying historiographical methods in the study of Chinese intellectual history (speaker: Dr Heng Du, University of Arizona).

During my fellowship year, I continued to develop my research, focusing primarily on early Chinese sensory history and notions of silence in Chinese antiquity. I also participated in a conference which took place online as part of the wonderful series [Philology in Our Time](#) conducted by HUJI’s own Sharon Sanderovitch. I look forward to presenting my work at two in-person events at the EACS biennial conference in Olomouc, Czech Republic in August 2022; and Oxford University in September 2022.



Dr. Yang Shen

2021-2022 Frieberg Center Post-Doctoral Fellow



I am a cultural anthropologist focusing on religion, secularism, and ritual theories. I received my Ph.D. from Boston University in the U.S. in 2019. Before moving to Jerusalem as a Frieberg-Glorisun fellow for the academic year 2021-2022, I spent two years as a postdoc at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity in Göttingen, Germany. I will be joining the Sociology Department at Zhejiang University in China as a One-Hundred Talent Researcher and Assistant Professor in Anthropology by the end of 2022.

During my time at HU, my main project was preparing the manuscript of my first book, titled *“Sidestepping Secularism: Dynamics of Religion and Ordinary Life in Buddhist Temples in China.”* Based on my dissertation, the monograph examines how lay forms of religiosity interact with a Buddhist temple arena that is subject to ever-increasing state-led secularist differentiation in late socialist China. Within Buddhist temple spaces where unaffiliated temple-goers share ritual spaces with resident monastics, novel understandings about self and history have arisen dynamically. The book calls for and contributes to understanding the global variation of the interactional dynamics between history and religion that define and

transform secularist regimes in situ. Another book project I have been working on will focus on the variety of technological mediation regarding the diversity of a popular temple divination practice, and the changing interactive patterns of forms of expertise/amateurship.

While my work deals with ethnographic materials and social theories, I have enjoyed the support of the Frieberg Center community in pursuing my interest in Sinology.

In terms of productivity, I submitted a new article and a book review, and gave ZOOM talks internationally. A forthcoming book chapter may be interesting to Frieberg colleagues. It is Shen, Yang. “The Efficacy of Lottery Divination in Chinese Buddhist Temples,” in Florin Filimon, Michael Grünbart, Klaus Herbers, Matthias Heiduk (eds.). *The Multidimensional Character of Lots/Sortition. A Transcultural and Diachronic Approach*. Stuttgart: Franz Steiner Verlag.

While my work deals with ethnographic materials and social theories, I have enjoyed the support of the Frieberg Center community in pursuing my interest in Sinology. Upon my arrival, I joined a reading group led by Prof. Andrew Plaks, with colleagues working on texts of diverse genres and from various periods in Chinese history. The reading group inspired me to systematically read Chinese historical texts for rethinking religion and politics through broader timeframes. Since then, I have continued reading early Chinese texts and building a text repository. Developing a more precise understanding of conceptual

distinctions made in early Chinese texts and discussing relevant issues with HUJI colleagues has been a fantastic opportunity.

The thriving Buddhist Studies community at HU, which connects Theravada, Tibetan, and Chinese Buddhism, has been an important resource.

I have also benefited from numerous nourishing exchanges at HUJI that pushed and sharpened my thinking. At the Asian Studies Departmental Seminar, I presented a side project and received helpful feedback on my talk, *“A Place for the Freedom of Thought? On the Position of Ma Yifu, A Revolutionary Conservative.”* At the Department of Comparative Religion and the Program in Cultural Studies, I gave guest lectures about the contexts of Chinese Buddhism. The thriving Buddhist Studies community at HU, which connects Theravada, Tibetan, and Chinese Buddhism, has been an important resource, helping me better situate my work within the global study of Buddhism.

Teaching a course on *Religions in China Today* at the Asian Studies Department and working with a brilliant group of engaging HUJI students has been my best memory this year. Together with Dr. Orna Naftali, the Frieberg Center Director and a China anthropologist at the Asian Studies Department, I also co-organized a mini-China documentary series. In short, I cannot imagine a more intellectually formative year that concluded my postdoc interim, and I look forward to new conversations and hopefully collaborations with HUJI colleagues in the coming years.

Dr. Benjamin Katzeff Silberstein

2021-2022 Frieberg Center Post-Doctoral Fellow

North Korea is often portrayed as a flawlessly totalitarian dictatorship with total political control. In my dissertation, completed in 2021 at the University of Pennsylvania, I show that historically speaking, regime control has been far from perfect, and North Koreans have always broken rules. This, however, did not necessarily threaten state stability in the country.

One of the most rewarding parts about my postdoctoral fellowship has been teaching and interacting with students.

My research as a Frieberg postdoctoral fellow has built and expanded upon my dissertation work on the history and dynamics of surveillance in North Korea. Early in the fall semester, an article that partially builds upon my dissertation work, was accepted for publication in the *Journal of Korean Studies*. This article examines North Korea's system for family background registration, *Songbun*, and argues that the system was plagued by inefficiency and inaccurate bureaucratic decisions from the very beginning. I also co-authored and published an article in

Asian Survey about social and economic control in North Korea under Kim Jong-un. In addition to these articles, I have finalized a manuscript about disobedience in North Korea's social history. I have also developed a book manuscript proposal through the year about the history of social control in North Korea, in addition to giving several (some even in person!) talks about my research.

North Koreans have always broken rules. This, however, did not necessarily threaten state stability in the country.

One of the most rewarding parts about my postdoctoral fellowship at HU has been teaching and interacting with students. I knew that the interest in Korea at Hebrew University had grown in recent years but have still been struck by the engagement and knowledge among students on both North and South Korea. Students' perspectives and thoughts in the discussions in the class on everyday



life in North Korea I have taught at the Asian Studies Department have been highly stimulating and rewarding, and I look forward to continuing these interactions in the future.

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Fellowship Announcement

The Louis Frieberg Center for East Asian Studies offers postdoctoral fellowships for the 2023-4 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 - <https://eacenter.huji.ac.il/book/frieberg-scholarships>

New Research Project

"In the name of innovation: Legitimacy, espionage, and nation branding in the *Apple v. Samsung* 'smartphone patent wars'"

By Irina Lyan

Department of Asian Studies, HU

My research project (sponsored by an ISF grant no. 1067/21) aims to shed light on mechanisms of national image resistance and change in the so-called "second miracle on the Han River", i.e., South Korea's process of becoming a nation of innovation. Specifically, the project focuses on the *Apple v. Samsung* "patent wars" (2011–2018), which began with a lawsuit filed by Apple Inc. against its main component supplier, Samsung Electronics Co., and evolved into a massive legal dispute lasting more than 7 years. The dispute affected 10 different countries in 4 different continents and generated more than 250 lawsuits and counterclaims. These legal battles were prompted by the infringement of intellectual property rights (IPR—mainly, patents), which lie at the heart of any debate on innovation. To gain legitimacy, both sides have raised claims that echo a larger discourse taking place inside and outside the legal arena on IPR, while (re)positioning themselves as leading technological innovators and "fighters" in the name of innovation.

I suggest viewing the Apple v. Samsung case as part of a broader geopolitical struggle for domination in the rapidly changing global economic landscape.

In recent years, organization and management studies have begun to acknowledge the significance of unlawful and deviant practices in and around organizations not only as widespread occurrences but as central

building blocks in the making of organizations and their environments. Scholars have analyzed common practices such as financial fraud, organized crime, bribery and corruption, secrecy, and other "dark sides" of organizational life. Surprisingly, while often presented as responsible for the "greatest transfer of wealth in history" (*Foreign Policy*, 9 July 2012), technological espionage seems to be excluded from theoretical and empirical discussions in studies of organization and management. Moreover, the literature on organizational wrongdoing tends to adopt legal studies' narrow focus on the misconduct itself as a negative intra-organizational phenomenon in the context of a single nation-state. To address this lacuna, I suggest viewing the *Apple v. Samsung* case as part of a broader geopolitical struggle for domination in the rapidly changing global economic landscape.

Employing a critical discourse analysis, the project envisions this loaded legal encounter as a "legitimacy crisis" during which actors build legitimacy or delegitimize each other as "thieves" of innovative knowledge and use the courts, academic circles, and the media as "legitimizing arenas"—public sites of struggles, contentions, and counter-contentions. I seek to understand how the texts produced by academia, media, and the courts build legitimacy not only of Apple and Samsung themselves, but also of the nation-states and the national institutions they represent and are embedded in—redefining what innovation is.



This project asks: Does the Apple v. Samsung case cause a significant national image shift and/or fuel the continuing stigmatization of Samsung and other Korean chaebols as technological imitators?

As the largest Korean chaebol, a family-run and government-supported conglomerate, Samsung has not only become the ultimate symbol of Korea's global economic power. Being closely associated with national consciousness, it has even given the nation a negative title of "The Republic of Samsung" instead of the Republic of Korea. Besides becoming a frame of reference for defining its country-of-origin's image, Samsung's stature is also influenced by Korea's ambivalent reputation of a successful latecomer. To approach the possibility of national image change, this project asks: Does the *Apple v. Samsung* case cause a significant national image shift and/or fuel the continuing stigmatization of Samsung and other Korean chaebols as technological imitators?

Events and Activities, 2021-2022

International Conference: The Korean Peninsula and the Middle East at 60: History, Economy, and Culture

By Irina Lyan

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem



Eastern partnership is largely taken for granted as a “natural” one, despite its ideological divisions, South Korea has promoted diplomatic relations with most countries in the Middle East as part of a wider economic strategy, starting with a “Middle East construction boom” in the 1970s. Both North and South Korea’s relationships with the countries of the Middle East have altered over time in response to their growing global presence and desire for more influence in world affairs. Moreover, since the late 1990s, the appeal of South Korean popular culture, or *Hallyu*, has reached youth communities across the Middle East. Enthusiasm over Korean TV dramas, movies, K-pop, and fashion in this region adds a layer of connection between the two edges of the Asian continent.

opportunities for - and challenges to - economic collaboration between the Korean peninsula and the Middle East; Korean popular culture in the Middle East; South Korea’s cultural diplomacy and “soft power” in Middle Eastern countries. Finally, we also discussed lessons to be learned from conflict management in the Korean Peninsula and the Middle East (and the other way around).

The conference was generously supported by the 2022 Korean Studies Grant Program of the Academy of Korean Studies (AKS-2022-C-016), the Leonard Davis Institute for International Relations, the Louis Frieburg Center for East Asian Studies, and the International Office at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

The year 2022 marks 60 years of diplomatic relations between South Korea and Jordan, Iran, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, and Israel. Likewise, North Korea has developed strong political ties and military and economic cooperation with the Middle Eastern countries over the past six decades. In light of this milestone, the conference, held in 22-23 May, 2022, provided a complex account of the various historical, economic, and cultural aspects of Korea–Middle East relations, which have been dominated by Cold War politics from the start. While the North Korean–Middle

During the two days of the conference, we facilitated interdisciplinary dialogue on the multiple connections, meanings, and discourses that have shaped the position and actions of both South Korea and North Korea in the Middle East and vice versa. We invited 15 scholars from South Korea, the United States, Japan, Hungary, and Israel from the humanities and the social sciences to rethink these Korean peninsula and the Middle East complex relationships in both regional and global perspectives; including historical, contemporary, and future



China's Economic Vision in the 'New Era' Panel

By Jonathan Elkobi

Undergraduate Student, Business Administration/ Asian Studies Joint Program, HU

In recent years, China's political economy has undergone considerable adjustments, as sector after sector in the country's economy have been shaken up by new policy measures and a series of regulatory crackdowns. To fully understand the background and implications of these developments and to evaluate their effects on Israel and China's economic relations, I initiated and organized a special academic panel on China's Economic Vision in the Xi Jinping era (2012-), which took place in December 2021.

Panel speakers included Prof. Yishay Yaffe, a financial economist specializing in Asian markets (The Jerusalem School of Business Administration, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem); Dr. Tamar (Tami) Groswald Ozery, an expert in China's corporate law and political economy (Department of Asian

Studies, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem); Amb. Dr. Eyal Propper (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Israel; former Consul General in Shanghai, and Senior Research Fellow and Head of China Research at the Institute for National Security Studies), and Mr. Dan Catarivas, Director General – Foreign Trade and International Relations at the Manufacturers' Association of Israel.

During the panel, each speaker presented his or her unique point of view on the issues at hand, while outlining the economic, political, and legal dimensions of the Chinese government's recent policy measures. The panel participants further surveyed the effects of China's policies on the global economy and considered the specific implications of recent developments for the state of China-Israel relations.



At the panel's conclusion, the speakers fielded questions from the audience. Held on campus, the event attracted a particularly large audience, including more than a hundred students, faculty, and members of the public.

Korean Studies Mentoring Program

The mission of the Korea Studies Mentoring Program is to help new students with the transition to university life while fostering a strong sense of belonging through academic engagement, social involvement, and community service. As part of the project, senior students support new students in various areas of academic life by providing personalized support and opportunities for social engagements.

This year, the program was led by Ms. Limore Choukroun, a senior at the Asian Studies Department. Program activities included a meeting with Korean students at HU, a tour of Jerusalem, and a visit to the Korean Cultural Center in Israel. The program further offered an exam preparation workshop and presented first year students with essential tools for academic success.



Mongol Zoominar 2021- 2022

By Michal Biran

Department of Asian Studies/Islamic-Middle Eastern Studies, Head of the Institute of Asian and Africa Studies, HU

Beginning in April 2020 during the Covid-19 lockdown, the Mongol Zoominar has established itself as an international forum for discussing new directions in the study of the Mongol Empire in a broad and comparative framework and presenting work-in-progress in a friendly and supportive environment.

Originally organized by Michal Biran (HUJI) and Jonathan Brack (BGU) with the Friberg Center's support, this year both Wonhee Cho (Korean Academy for Sciences) and Qiao Yang (The Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin) joined the

organizing team. Together we planned a series of meetings, that included several roundtables featuring 2-4 speakers and a moderator on topics such as Environmental Histories of the Mongols; Textile and Empire; Ilkhanid Peripheries, Provinces and Dependencies; Knowledge and Empire; Daily Life in the Mongol Empire; Rashid al-Din: New Perspectives, Unanswered Questions; Buddhist and Daoist Networks and Material Culture Under Mongol Rule.

We have also featured book launches, e.g., of Marie Favereau's *The Horde* (Harvard University Press, 2021) and

Beatrice Manz's *Nomads in the Middle East* (Cambridge University Press, 2022, planned for June 2022), as well as presented some unique projects such as Giedon Shelach-Lavi's ERC project, *The Wall*.

The meetings were scheduled on Fridays at 14:30 Israeli time to accommodate both North American and East Asian participants, and indeed most meetings have featured a truly international audience, including some of the leading scholars in the field as well as emerging scholars and graduate students. For more details and to join our mailing list see [here](#).

Japan Day 2022

Japan Day is an annual event celebrating Japanese culture at HU. This year's event, conducted in-person in May 2022, was the largest of its kind to date. Organized by students in the Japan Section of the Asian Studies Department, the event received the support of the Institute of Asian and African Studies, the Embassy of Japan in Israel, The Louis Friberg Center for East Asian Studies, and The Hebrew University Student Association. The theme of this year's event was "Japanese festival" (日本の祭り). Accordingly, the event included festival games like the goldfish scooping game (金魚すくい), live performances of Japanese music, and special Japanese food stalls that offered various dishes like Okonomiyaki (お好み焼き), Udon (うどん), and Mochi (もち). We hosted

various workshops which offered participants the opportunity to experience the beauty of the Japanese culture, including a workshop in traditional Japanese drumming, Taiko (太鼓), a Japanese martial art, Kendo (剣道) workshop; a workshop on flower arrangement, Ikebana (活け花), and a Zen painting workshop.

Along with the workshops, the event included several lectures by Asian Studies Faculty and other guest speakers. Prof. Danny Orbach (HU) lectured on Japanese food and its secrets, and further collaborated with Prof. Yuri Pines (HU) in an exciting lecture about the military paradox of the 16th-century China-Japan conflicts. Other lectures touched on Japanese consumer habits, social practices, and popular culture. Finally, we held a

special Japanese ceremony in which participants painted an eye of a daruma sculpture and decided on a future goal together. The 2022 Japan Day events brought together students and faculty, while showcasing the richness and diversity of Japanese culture. We hope to continue this unique tradition next year as well.



Confucius Institute, 2021-2022

By Yuri Pines

Co-Director, The Confucius institute at HU

For the Confucius Institute (CI) at the Hebrew University, the 2021/2022 academic year was as tough as it has been for most other academic institutions worldwide. The fluctuations of COVID-19 pandemic prevented the Institute from organizing international events on a par with what was common before 2020. Nor could we organize a normal student exchange with China, which as of June 2022 was still closed for foreign students. Regrettably, the situation is

unlikely to improve in the first semester of the 2022/23 academic year. This hindered our activities considerably.

Nonetheless, as a research-oriented institute we have tried our best to organize and co-sponsor academic events drawing on the participation of local scholars and foreign guests of the Hebrew University. These included a few major events, such as the Hebrew-language panel [China's Economic](#)

[Vision in the New Era](#) (reviewed in this issue), and the panel on China's Rise and the World Order. Another major event which I shall focus on below is the colloquium [Buddhism in China Today](#).



Confucius Institute
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Buddhism in China Today Colloquium

Co-sponsored by CI and the Glorison Foundation, and the Frieberg Center, The colloquium focused on multiple facets of Buddhism in current China—from its impact on devoted novices, to its religious manifestations in urban and rural societies, to its ongoing intellectual appeal. Ms. Tan Yingxian (PhD candidate, Hebrew University) narrated her personal experience of a five-year retreat in a village sanctuary under a charismatic religious teacher. Dr. Ian MacCormack (Hebrew University) introduced the ideas of a Chabpel Tsheten Phuntsok (恰白次旦平措), China's Tibetan intellectual who was deeply engaged in studies of

Tibetan history and whose ideas integrated insights from such different sources as the teaching of Sakya Pandita and the ideology of Karl Marx. Two other speakers focused on Buddhism's role in popular religious practices. Dr. Yang Shen (Frieberg Center and Glorison Post-doc, Hebrew University) analyzed the ostensibly non-Buddhist practice of sticks divination in urban temples in eastern China. Prof. Meir Shahar (Tel Aviv University) focused on the Buddhist impact on popular religion in rural Han villages in Guizhou. The lively colloquium demonstrated the immense vitality and variability of Buddhist life in China.

Confucius Institute HUJI, Department of Asian Studies, Department of Religious Studies, Glorison Foundation, The Frieberg Center for East Asian Studies
Cordially invite you to the seminar:

Buddhism in China Today



China is often perceived as an "atheist" country. Nonetheless, religions play an important role in China's social, cultural, and intellectual life. Our colloquium will focus on multiple faces of Buddhism in China—from its impact on devoted novices, to its religious manifestations in urban and rural societies, to its ongoing intellectual appeal.

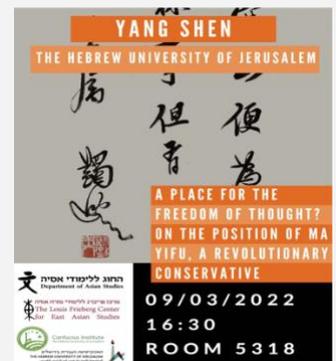
- Ms. Tan Yingxian, Hebrew University
The Transcendental Power of A Village Monk: Reflections on My Five-Year Retreat
- Dr. Ian MacCormack, Hebrew University
From Sakya Pandita to Marx: Chabpel Tsheten Phuntsok (恰白次旦平措), an intellectual in China's Tibet
- Dr. Shen Yang, Hebrew University
Sticks Divination in Chinese Buddhist Temples
- Prof. Meir Shahar, Tel Aviv University
Buddhism and Chinese Village Religion



International Events

Aside from the abovementioned panels and colloquia, the CI supported a few international events held on-line due to the pandemic. These included the Mongol Zoominar [Knowledge and Empire](#), the round table of HUJI, Beijing (Peking) University (PKU) and the Hong Kong Polytechnic University on [Community Governance](#), and another collaborative event with PKU and Granada University, [A Mosaic of Ancient Eurasia: New Advances in Eurasian Archaeology](#). In addition, we co-sponsored the following lectures as part of the Asian Studies departmental seminar and as part of Gideon Shelach-Lavi's ERC project "The Wall: People and Ecology in Medieval Mongolia and China":

- [China's First Revolution? The Birth of the Total State \(4th-3rd centuries BCE\)](#) by Yuri Pines.
- [The Horseback Riding Revolution and its Dramatic Effects on the History of China and Mongolia](#) by Gideon Shelach-Lavi.
- [The Rise of Shimaō 2800-1300 BC in the North Loess Plateau, China: An Exploration of climate, demographic, economic and material culture influences](#) by Fung Ying Tung.
- [Imperial Japan's Forever War, 1895-1945](#) by Paul Barclay (via Zoom).
- [A Place for the Freedom of Thought? On the Position of Ma Yifu, a Revolutionary Conservative](#) by Yang Shen.



"Israel-China Relations: Future Prospects" Panel

In January 2022, Israel and China marked the 30th anniversary of the establishment of bilateral diplomatic relations. On March 29, a major celebratory event was held at the Hebrew University, co-sponsored by CI, the Frieberg Center, and the Leonard Davis Institute for International Relations. The event included greetings by H.E. Cai Run, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China in Israel, and by Prof. Oron Shagrir, Vice President of the Hebrew University, as well as by the panel's student organizers, Mr. Guy Hanin and Ms. Yuval Kichler. The key part of the event was the panel [Israel-China Relations: Future Prospects](#). Panel participants—Mr. Hagai Shagrir (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Israel), Prof. Wang Suolao (PKU), Mr. Ilan Maimon (Israeli Business Entrepreneur in China), and Dr. Tamar (Tami) Grosswald Ozery (HUJI) discussed the attainments and



challenges facing current and future development of Sino-Israeli ties. The event was moderated by Prof. Galia Press-Bar-Nathan (Hebrew University) and included lively exchanges among participants and the audience.

Aside from these academic activities, the Confucius Institute is involved in a variety of educational and cultural activities, especially those that promote Chinese studies at the Hebrew University and beyond.



The most notable of these is the secondary school project, in which Hebrew University students volunteer to lecture about Chinese culture, society, and politics in secondary schools in and around Jerusalem. In 2021/22 the project included visits to six schools, and hosted a group of students from the Reali School of Haifa who attended a series of cultural activities at HU's Mt. Scopus campus, along with a lecture on Sino-U.S. relations by Prof. Yuri Pines.

Most of our other activities this year focused more narrowly on Hebrew University students. These included a summer camp of on-line studies of Chinese language, conducted via Zoom by colleagues from Peking University (PKU); a calligraphy workshop taught by the CI's Chinese co-director, Prof. Han Xi; and the Tandem project, which pairs exchange of Hebrew and Chinese languages.

In 2021/22, the project included over thirty pairs of students, of whom approximately twenty continued to meet throughout the academic year. Yet another project is *Dailu*, in which seniors help first-year students cope with the academic and social challenges at HU. This is the second year of the *Dailu* pilot, and we hope to continue and improve the project. Besides, CI supported the students' initiative to organize a lecture on "Mao Zedong: The tragedy of absolute power" by Prof. Yuri Pines (the lecture was conducted in Abraham Hostel pub on 13.6.2022).

Academically, we strive to make the best of the current restructuring of global teaching with the increased role

of on-line teaching. In Fall 2021, the CI helped the Department of Asian Studies organize the first ever on-line class on "Doing Business in China" taught by the eminent PKU professor Wu Changqi. The pilot was a great success, and we hope to help advance bilateral cooperation in on-line teaching in the 2022/23 academic year.

Finally, we are glad to report that despite pandemic limitations, CI succeeded in organizing two major in-person public events on campus—the celebration of the Dragon Boat Festival in June 2021 and the [Confucius Institute Day](#) on December 13, 2021. Both events attracted hundreds of students who experienced Chinese calligraphy, paper cuts, and tea ceremony, and learned about Chinese medicine and the Chinese zodiac. The December event also included a special exhibition, "Multiple Facets of China's Buddhism" by Tan Yingxian.

We hope very much that the coming 2022/23 year will be the year of return to normalcy both in terms of off-line exchanges with China and in terms of more academic and cultural activities, including those that had been postponed since Spring 2020.



Asian Studies Library

By Hanoch Roniger

Asian Studies Librarian, Bloomfield Library for the Humanities and Social Sciences

In 2021-22, the Bloomfield Library continued to expand its Asia Studies collection. In January-April 2022, the library purchased over 180 monographs relating to Asian studies. The library continued its cooperation with the national libraries of Korea and China, via the Window on Korea and Window to China initiatives, respectively.

These initiatives have helped us supplement our collection with new publications on Asian studies. The pandemic has affected the library's operations, but we continued our efforts to catalog books that have been selected from various donations, including the Asian materials we received from the National Library of Israel.



Furthermore, the library has received several donations, among them books in Japanese from the libraries of Rev. Kiyohito Horikoshi and Mr. Fumikatsu Inoue.

This year, the library further completed the digitization process of the [Shagan Collection of Japanese Art](#), now available to the public through the library's portal.

The new PKU Law database

With the support of the CI Institute at HU and the Louis Frieberg Center for East-Asian Studies, in 2021-22, the library was also able to subscribe to the [PKULaw.com database](#). The database includes regulations, judicial decisions, law & policy journal articles, legislative documents, international treaties, formal Party policy releases,

and white papers. The new database joins HUJI's existing China studies resources, including CNKI -- a database of China-focused materials supported by the Frieberg Center. Together, the databases allow access to valuable primary and secondary sources of contemporary China, thereby situating the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and its scholars at the forefront of

Contemporary China research. Also available to HUJI students, researchers and visiting scholars, the new PKU Law database fosters comparative and interdisciplinary research in the Humanities, Social Sciences, Law, and Business Administration.

The Shagan Collection of Japanese Art was established in 2016 by the Department of Asian Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem thanks to a special donation by art collector and businessman, Mr. Ofer Shagan. The collection features more than two hundred items from the 15th-19th centuries, including Ukiyo-e and Shunga prints, scrolls, silk paintings, book illuminations, calligraphies, books, as well as physical items such as masks. The collection consists of the artwork of renowned artists such as Hiroshige, Chikanobu, Kunichika, and Kunisada, as well as work by lesser-known artists and works which have yet to be thoroughly researched. The collection is an added contribution to previous donations of many Japanese art books donated by Mr. Shagan in memory of his late mother, Tzvia Shagan, and his late sister, Oranit (Shagan) Talmor. The Asian Studies Department aspires to establish itself as a hub of research in the field of Japanese art. To achieve this goal, in 2021, the library



The Eight Dog Chronicles - 南總里見八犬傳, JMS Artist unknown, 1800s

Courtesy of the Ofer Shagan Collection, Department of Asian Studies, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

conducted a digitization project of the various artwork in the Shagan collection. The process consisted of photographing each work, identifying the artist and subject matter, and adding descriptions to the record. Professor Kazuko Kameda-Madar from Hawaii Pacific University assisted in the process by identifying the artists and subjects of many of the works.

Following the completion of the digitization process of the Shagan collection, the digital collection has been uploaded and made available to the public on the library's platform. Further metadata enrichment of the various art pieces is still needed, however, and the library looks forward to advancing other projects in this domain.



Kingoro and Youemon - 金五郎 右工門, Utagawa, Kuniyoshi, 1798-1861.

Courtesy of the Ofer Shagan Collection, Department of Asian Studies, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

New Publications

The Red Book: A Guide to Contemporary China

Edited By Eyal Propper

[The Red Book: A Guide to Contemporary China. Tel Aviv: Miskal Publishing \(Yedioth Ahronoth\), March 2022, 297 pages \(Hebrew\)](#)

הספר האדום: המדריך לסין העכשווית. הוצאת משכל (ידיעות אחרונות), מרץ 2022, 297 עמ', עברית

Written in collaboration with the Institute for National Security Studies (INSS) at Tel Aviv University and the support of The Diane and Guilford Glazer Foundation, and the Louis Frieberg Center for East Asian Studies at the Hebrew University, "The Red Book" is a unique Hebrew-language volume combining the knowledge and expertise of Israel's top China specialists. Edited by Amb. Dr. Eyal Propper, this first of its kind compilation provides an extensive overview of the fundamental changes the People's Republic of China has undergone in the past several decades, while further charting potential

directions for the country's future development. Consisting of twenty-one chapters, the book covers a range of topics related to Chinese history, society, population, economy, politics, security, and foreign policy, with a special focus on Sino-Israeli relations. It includes four chapters by Frieberg Center associates: "The Past as a Mirror for the Future: A Geographical and Historical Perspective" by Gideon Shelach-Lavi; "The Communist Party of China" by Yuri Pines, "Between Law and Politics" by Tamar (Tami) Groswald Ozery, and "China's Education System" by Orna Naftali.



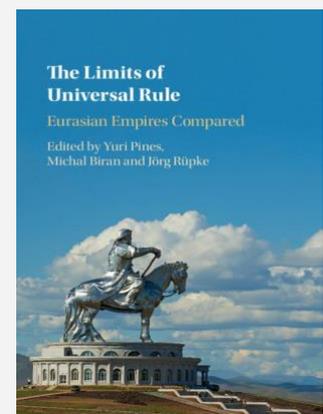
The Limits of Universal Rule: Eurasian Empires Compared

Edited By Yuri Pines, Michal Biran and Jörg Rüpke

[The Limits of Universal Rule: Eurasian Empires Compared](#), Edited by Yuri Pines Hebrew, Michal Biran, and Jörg Rüpke (Cambridge University Press, January 2021) Hardback, 350 pages, ISBN: 9781108488631

All major continental empires proclaimed their desire to rule 'the entire world', investing considerable human and material resources in expanding their territory. Each, however, eventually had to stop expansion and come to terms with a shift to defensive strategy. This volume explores the factors that facilitated Eurasian empires' expansion and contraction: from ideology to ecology, economic and military considerations to changing composition of the imperial elites. Built around a common set of

questions, a team of leading specialists systematically compare a broad set of Eurasian empires - from Achaemenid Iran, the Romans, Qin and Han China, via the Caliphate, the Byzantines and the Mongols to the Ottomans, Safavids, Mughals, Russians, and Ming and Qing China. The result is a state-of-the art analysis of the major imperial enterprises in Eurasian history from antiquity to the early modern that discerns both commonalities and differences in the empires' spatial trajectories.



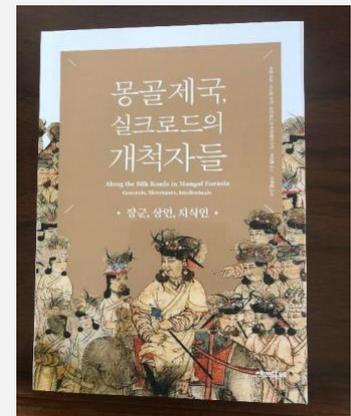
몽골제국, 실크로드의 개척자들: 장군, 상인, 지식인 (The Mongol Empire and the Pioneers of the Silk Road: Generals, Merchants and Intellectuals)

Edited By Michal Biran, Jonathen Brack and Francesca Fiaschetti

Road-eui gaecheokja deul: janggūn, sang'in, jisik'in [The Mongol Empire and the Pioneers of the Silk Road: Generals, merchants and Intellectuals]. Edited by Michal Biran, Jonathen Brack, and Francesca Fiaschetti. Tr. Yi Jaehwang. Seoul: Chaekgwa hamgye (Cum Libro), 2021. 519 pp. A Korean Translation of Michal Biran, Jonathan Brack, and Francesca Fiaschetti, eds. [Along the Silk Roads in Mongol Eurasia: Generals, Merchants, Intellectuals](#) (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2020).

During the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, Chinggis Khan and his heirs established the largest contiguous empire in the history of the world, extending from Korea to Hungary and from Iraq, Tibet, and Burma to Siberia. Ruling over roughly two thirds of the Old World, the Mongol Empire enabled people, ideas, and objects to traverse immense geographical and cultural boundaries. Along the Silk Roads in Mongol Eurasia reveals the individual stories of three key groups of people—military commanders,

merchants, and intellectuals—from across Eurasia. These annotated biographies bring to the fore a compelling picture of the Mongol Empire from a wide range of historical sources in multiple languages, providing important insights into a period unique for its rapid and far-reaching transformations. Read together or separately, they offer the perfect starting point for any discussion of the Mongol Empire's impact on China, the Muslim world, and the West and illustrate the scale,



diversity, and creativity of the cross-cultural exchange along the continental and maritime Silk Roads.

Delhi Reborn: Partition and Nation Building in India's Capitol

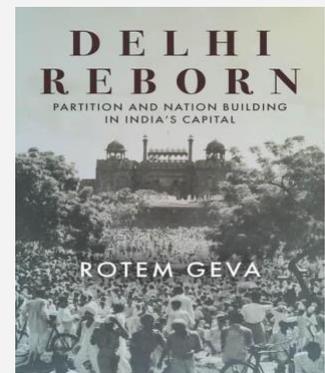
By Rotem Geva

[Delhi Reborn: Partition and Nation Building in India's Capital](#) By Rotem Geva (Stanford University Press, AUGUST 2022, 368 PAGES, Hardcover ISBN: 9781503631199, Paperback ISBN: 97815036321

Delhi, one of the world's largest cities, has faced momentous challenges—mass migration, competing governing authorities, controversies over citizenship, and communal violence. To understand the contemporary plight of India's capital city, this book revisits one of the most dramatic episodes in its history, telling the story of how the city was remade by the twin events of partition and independence. Treating decolonization as a process that unfolded from the late 1930s

into the mid-1950, Rotem Geva traces how India and Pakistan became increasingly territorialized in the imagination and practice of the city's residents, how violence and displacement were central to this process, and how tensions over belonging and citizenship lingered in the city and the nation. She also chronicles the struggle, after 1947, between the urge to democratize political life in the new republic and the authoritarian legacy of colonial rule, augmented by the imperative

to maintain law and order in the face of the partition crisis.



Upcoming Events: 2022-2023

International convention: The Kitan Network Annual Symposium (Online) 2023

Hosted by Waseda University and The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Following the success of the Kitan symposium online 2022 hosted by the University of Aberdeen, the second symposium will be jointly hosted by Waseda University and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and will take place on **Friday, January 13th 2023** on Zoom. The symposium aims to bring together scholars working on Kitan and/or Liao-related topics from across the world and disciplines.

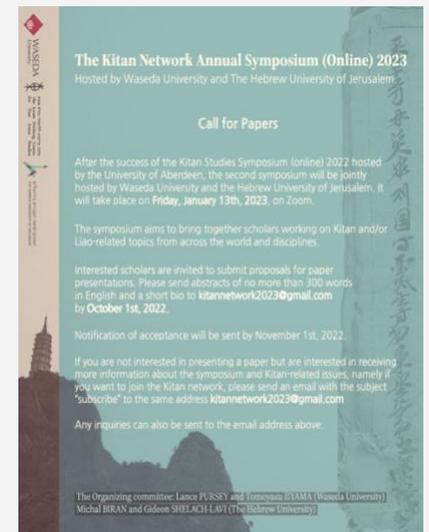
Interested scholars are invited to submit proposals for paper presentations. Please send abstracts of no more than 300 words in English and a short bio to kitannetwork2023@gmail.com by **October 1st 2022**.

Notification of acceptance will be sent by **November 1st 2022**.

If you are not interested in presenting a paper but are interested in receiving more information about the symposium and Kitan-related issues, namely want to join the Kitan network, please send an email with the subject subscribe to the same address kitannetwork2023@gmail.com.

Any inquiries can also be sent to the email address above.

The Organizing committee: Lance PURSEY and Tomoyasu IYAMA (Waseda University) Michal BIRAN and Gideon SHELACH-LAVI (The Hebrew University).



January 13th, 2023

A Humanities and Social Sciences Fund Conference: "Collective Sovereignty, Royal Clans, and Sacred Kingship in pre-Modern Central Eurasia"

Co-organized by Jonathan Brack (BGU), Michal Biran, Reuven Amitai, and Michael Shenkar (HU).

The conference will be the first academic forum to systematically examine the connections between joint sovereignty and sacred kingship among central Euroasian cultures from the first millennium BCE up to the 18th century.

It will bring together historians, archaeologists, philologists, anthropologists, as well as scholars of comparative religion working on various parts of Eurasia (Central Asia, the Middle East, South Asia, East Asia) to explore the origins, and social, cultural, and religious aspects of Central Eurasian model of collective sovereignty through a wide comparative perspective.

The conference will host a special talk by Humanities and Social Sciences Fund Fellow, Prof. Scott Levi (OSU), a specialist of the social and economic history of early modern Central Asia.

June 13th-15th, 2023

List of Events: 2021-2022

November

- **10.11:** Department Seminar: "China's First Revolution? The Birth of the Total State (4th-3rd centuries BCE)", Prof. Yuri Pines
- **24.11:** Department Seminar: "Lost in Translation? The Strange Military Revolution of Modern Japan", Prof. Danny Orbach

December

- **8.12:** Department Seminar: "The Horseback Riding Revolution and its Dramatic Effects on the History of China and Mongolia," Prof. Gideon Shelach-Lavi
- **17.12:** Mongol Zoominar: "Knowledge and Empire" (Online)
- **28.12:** Panel: "China's Economic Vision in the New Era" (in Hebrew)

January

- **5.1:** Department Seminar: "Imperial Japan's Forever War, 1895-1945," Prof. Paul Barclay (Online)

March

- **9.3:** Department seminar: "A Place for the Freedom of Thought? On the Position of Ma Yifu, A Revolutionary Conservative", Dr. Yang Shen.
- **15.3:** Film screening: *Leftover Women* (2019, dirs. Shosh Shlam & Hilla Medalia), followed by a conversation with Shosh Shlam
- **23.3:** Department seminar: "Martial Arts as a Boundary-Maker Between Military and Civilian Identities in North Korea", Dr. Eugenia Rozenfeld
- **29.3:** International Panel: "Israel-China Relations: Future Prospects", 30th Anniversary of Israel-China Diplomatic Relations event (Hybrid event)

April

- **6.4:** Film screening: *The Old Village* (2021, dirs. Lin Ye & Zhu Xiaoyang, Peking University), followed by an online conversation with Lin Ye



May

- **11.5:** International Panel: "China's Rise and the World Order"
- **16.5:** Japan Day
- **22-23.5:** International Conference: "The Korean Peninsula and the Middle East at 60: History, Economy, and Culture"
- **24.5:** Department seminar: "India and Palestine-Israel: Comparative and Transnational History of Partitions", Dr. Rotem Geva (in Hebrew)
- **25.5:** Guest Lecture: "Unlocked Garden: The World Outside the Daguanyuan (大观园)", Prof. Andrew Plaks (in Hebrew)
- **31.5:** International Colloquium: "Buddhism in China Today" (Hybrid event)

June

- **1.6:** Department seminar: "Japan's Aircraft Carriers and the Revolution in Asia's Power Distribution", Dr. Brendon J. Canon
- **22.6:** Department seminar: "Local Matters: Perceptions of Global "Military Revolutions" from a Japanese Case," Mr. Nathan H. Ledbetter (Online)