

# China and the Middle East: Historical Connections and Comparisons Along and Beyond the Silk Roads

3-5 June 2018

Gilman Bldg. 496

## Sunday, June 3:

09:30-09:40 Opening Remarks

09:40-11:00

### Panel#1: Between Persia and China: First Millennium Contacts

Chair: **Domenico Agostini**, Tel Aviv University

**Sören Stark**, New York University

“Trade and Canals: Some thoughts on Sogdian-Chinese Relations during the 3rd Century CE and their Consequences in Sogdiana”

**Matteo Comparati**, Shaanxi Normal University

“The Wild Boar Head in Sasanian Persia and Tang China: The Fortunes of an Enigmatic Symbol”

11:00-11:30 Coffee Break

11:30-13:15

### Panel#2: Mutual Religious Perceptions of East and West Asia

**Jonathan Brack**, Hebrew University

“Arguing *without* Scripture: Comparing Notes between William of Rubruk and Rashid al-Din on Buddhism at the Mongol Courts”

**Dror Weil**, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science

“Beyond Fantasy - Images of Arabia and Early Islam in Popular Chinese Encyclopedias”

**Ori Sela**, Tel Aviv University

“Before the Opium: The Threat from the West in the Eighteenth Century”

13:15-14:45 Lunch

14:45-15:45

### Screening of: *Junk History* [Gilman Bldg. room 223]

Produced by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, this video critically examines the creation and marketing of Gavin Menzies' book *1421: the Year China Discovered the World*. The panel which follows the screening will discuss some aspects relating to the film.

15:45-16:15 Coffee Break

16:15-18:15

### Panel#3: The Maritime ‘Silk Road’ and the South Asia

#### Connection: Chinese Envoys and the Cosmopolitan Indian

#### Ocean: 8<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> Century

**Angela Schottenhammer**, University of Salzburg

“Why did Tang Dezong want to send a eunuch to the Abbasids?”

**Tansen Sen**, NYU Shanghai

“Encountering Cosmopolitanism: Zheng He and the Maritime World of South Asia”

**Geoff Wade**, Australian National University

“Ming Envoys to Southeast Asia in the 15th Century”

## Monday, June 4:

09:30-11:00

### Panel#4: Political and Literary Perceptions and Conceptualizations

**Kaveh Hemmat**, Benedictine University

“The Evidentiary Basis for Early Modern Islamic Perceptions of East Asia”

**Ron Sela**, Indiana University

“China in Central Asian Popular Lore”

11:00-11:30 Coffee Break



11:30-13:00

### Panel#5: Contacts and Comparisons in the History of Medicine/Dealing with Epidemics

**Asaf Goldschmidt**, Tel Aviv University

“From Southern Epidemics to Cold Damage Disorders: The Epidemics that Transformed Medicine during the Northern Song Dynasty (960-1127)”

**Stuart Borsch**, Assumption College

“Dreadful Disaster, Dutiful Diligence: Counting Cairo’s Corpses during the Black Death”

13:15-14:45 Lunch

14:45-16:45

### Panel#6: Arab Science in Qing China: Facts and Fantasy

**Andrea Breard**, Université Paris Sud

“Conics in late Imperial China Was the Arab tradition forgotten?”

**Chen Jiang-ping (Jeff)**, St. Cloud State University & Université Paris Diderot

“A comparative analysis of certain ‘algebraic techniques’ in China, Europe, and Middle East”

**Shi Yunli**, University of Science and Technology of China

“Chinese Image of Astronomy from the Middle East in the Qing Period”

16:45-17:00 Coffee Break

17:00-18:00

### Round Table

18:30

### Opening Ceremony of the Exhibition: “Cultural Exchanges: Dun Huang and the Silk Road”

At: Chinese Cultural Center, Habarzel 30 (first floor), Ramat Hahayal, Tel Aviv

## Tuesday, June 5:

09:30-11:30

### Panel#7: Dunhuang: New Perspectives

**Zhang Yuanlin**, Dunhuang Academy

“Dialogues among civilizations: Some References Related to the Middle East found in Dunhuang Grottoes”

**Wu Yang**, Renmin University

“Eastern Old School meets Western Modern Academy in Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century”

**Li Wei**, China Central Academy of Fine Arts

“Study of Portrait Draft Lines in Dunhuang Murals”