



The Louis Frieberg Center

For East Asian Studies

Fall 2023

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Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to present this new issue of the newsletter of the Louis Friberg Center for East Asian Studies, which highlights some of the Center's activities over the past academic year (2022-23), along with two upcoming events in 2023-2024.

Established in 2006, the Friberg 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 several challenging years due to the prolonged impact of COVID-19, we are happy to report that in 2022-23, the Friberg Center was able to resume much of its regular activity. While the number of academic conferences has yet to return to pre-pandemic levels, we were nonetheless able to hold an impressive number of on-campus activities this year and hope that in 2023-24, the scope and volume of the Center's activities will continue to grow.

We are also pleased to report that in 2022-23, the Friberg Center was able to host two post-doctoral fellows: **Dr. Anna Lee (PhD, Harvard), and Dr. Daria Solignac (Melnikova) (PhD, University of Pennsylvania)**. The current issue further spotlights a new research project by **Dr. Dan Sherer**, a Japan Studies expert at HU's Asian Studies Department.

As in previous years, in 2022-23, the Friberg Center continued to support the Asian Studies Department Seminar series, along with other innovative panels, colloquiums, and conferences. The current issue highlights some of these events and other activities sponsored by the Center, including a **traveling seminar to Mongolia**, and a **traveling seminar to Korea**. The newsletter also features recent publications by Asian Studies Faculty.

Lastly, some news about changes in the Center's staff: Starting in October 2023, **Prof. Danny Orbach** will be taking on the position of Academic Director of the Friberg Center, while **Prof. Michal Biran** will be stepping into the role of the Chair of the Academic Committee of the Center. We are certain that the Center will continue to strive in their capable hands and wish them both lots of success!

We would also like to thank **Ms. Emily Elgart**, the Friberg Center's Administrative Coordinator, and **Ms. Maya Edri**, the Center's Media

Coordinator, who produced this issue of the newsletter. Both Emily and Maya are leaving us this summer to participate in exchange programs in Japan and China, and we wish them all the best in their future endeavors! We further welcome their successors, **Ms. Shelly Teishev**, and **Mr. Shahar Abutbul**, and wish both much success in their new roles as the Friberg Center's Administrative Coordinator and the Center's Media Coordinator, respectively.

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

Prof. Orna Naftali, Director, The Louis Friberg Center for East Asian Studies

Prof. Gideon Shelach-Lavi, Academic Committee Chair, The Louis Friberg Center for East Asian Studies.



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Spotlight on Post-Doctoral Fellows

Dr. Daria Solignac (Melnikova)

2022-2023 Frieberg Center Post-Doctoral Fellow

I extend my profound gratitude to the Louis Frieberg Center for East Asian Studies at the Hebrew University for a transformative journey marked by scholarly excellence and transcultural engagement. This fellowship has not only allowed me to delve deeper into my academic pursuits but has also introduced me to remarkable colleagues and friends, while immersing me in the vibrant Israeli culture and life.

My experience as a Louis Frieberg Postdoctoral Fellow has been an inspiring blend of spirituality, culture, and intellectuality.

During the course of my fellowship, I've pursued my research interests in Japanese-Russian creative exchanges, culminating in the completion and submission of an article exploring Avant-Garde Theater in Soviet Russia and Imperial Japan. This study has illuminated the complex cultural and political tensions that transcend geographical boundaries, offering a novel perspective on East-West interactions.

In addition, significant progress has been made in the writing of my book manuscript on modernist dance and happenings. I had the privilege of presenting my research at various forums, including the International Conference on 'Missing Bodies, Missing Voices' hosted by the University of Oxford, as well as the 15th Biennial Conference of Asian Studies in Israel. Furthermore, I was honored to present a

talk "Dancing Beyond Boundaries: Japan in the Age of the Dancefloor" at the 2022-23 Asian Studies Departmental Seminar Series at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and to have a productive dialogue with colleagues and students. These experiences not only facilitated academic discourse but also rekindled connections with colleagues and friends, enriching my academic network.

Furthermore, my teaching experience at HU in Spring 2023, which included a seminar on *Musical and Cultural Politics: Modernity and Modernism in Japan and Korea*, proved immensely fulfilling. Witnessing my students excel in their academic pursuits and witnessing their growth has been truly gratifying. The curatorial tour of the Israel Museum's collection enhanced our exploration of Japanese and Korean art, bridging the past with the present in a relatable and engaging manner.

I am delighted to share that my efforts to secure funding through grants, including the Toshiba International Foundation, have borne fruit. This has paved the way for the upcoming conference, *Global Easts: Japanese Cultural Entanglements*, set to take place in November 2023 in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. This conference promises to illuminate cross-regional cultural exchanges, with Japan serving as a pivotal point of reference, fostering a deeper understanding of interconnections among diverse regions of the Global Easts, elucidating the

interconnectedness of East Europe, East Mediterranean, and East Asia.



Finally, it's with immense gratitude that I acknowledge the support of the Louis Frieberg Center International Travel Support (ITS). This funding has made possible a pivotal research trip to Japan.

My time as a fellow has been marked by scholarly achievements, pedagogical enrichment, and the fostering of international connections.

I remain deeply indebted to the Louis Frieberg Center for East Asian Studies for this extraordinary opportunity.

Dr. Anna Lee

2022-2023 Frieberg Center Post-Doctoral Fellow

I am a cultural historian working on the emergence of a consumer society in South Korea, amidst social and political turmoil during the authoritarian period. I received my Ph.D. from Harvard University in the U.S. in 2021, and before moving to Jerusalem as the Frieberg Center postdoctoral fellow, I was the Korea Foundation postdoctoral fellow at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, MI.

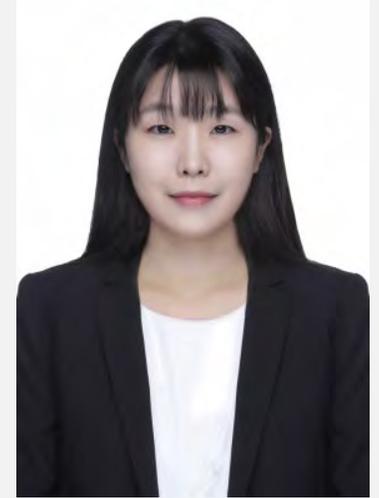
During my time at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, my main project was developing and preparing the manuscript of my first book, "Kaleidoscopic Korea: Consumer Culture in Modern Korea."

Over the past year, I was able to present parts of the manuscript at the seminar series of the Asian Studies Department, which was a greatly supportive and beneficial experience.

Being part of the community at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem has brought energy and momentum to my academic career. I was able to participate in three conferences during my postdoctoral stay. The Frieberg Center provided me with

travel funding for attending and participating in a presentation at the 2023 Association for Asian Studies (AAS) Annual Conference in Boston, MA in March. I was also delighted to find that there is a great group of Asian studies scholars, including Korean studies scholars, in Israel. I was able to participate in the 7th Korean Studies Workshop in Israel at Bar-Ilan University in Tel Aviv in December 2022, and was part of another Asian Studies conference (the 15th Conference of Asian Studies in Israel, Tel Aviv University) in June. The vibrant scholarly community has helped me navigate and expand my views.

One of the most cherished parts about my postdoctoral stay at the Hebrew University has been teaching a course, titled "Consumer Culture in Modern Japan and Korea" at the Asian Studies department. I was delighted to discover that the students were extremely engaged and wanted to know more not only about East Asia as a region, but also the different perspectives, methodologies, historiographies, and academic aspects associated with consumer culture, as an interdisciplinary topical focus. Students' project ideas, and reading their opinion pieces about the weekly readings, have been the highlight of my stay. Their lively discussion in class, and the thoughts they



brought to the table pushed me to think about issues in deeper, meaningful ways, and I learned a lot from teaching the class. I hope that the interest that students have in academic subjects and East Asia continues to grow in the coming years, in the university as well as the greater community in Jerusalem, Israel.

Being part of the community at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem has brought energy and momentum to my academic career.

Fellowship Announcement

The Louis Frieberg Center for East Asian Studies offers postdoctoral fellowships for the 2024-5 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://openscholar.huji.ac.il/louisfriebergcenter>

New Research Project

“Prayer for the Devil: The Religious Life of Oda Nobunaga”

By Dan Sherer

Department of Asian Studies, HU

Oda Nobunaga (1534 – 1582) is remembered as one of the three unifiers who took Japan from its long era of civil wars and into its peaceful early-modern order. He is remembered as a brutal killer, as a political and economic revolutionary, and as an enemy of Japan’s religious institutions. Indeed, he is so remembered as an enemy of Japanese religious institutions that many observers have attested either to his rational atheism or a near boundless megalomania. As one scholar of Oda Nobunaga wrote: “However he may have rationalized or philosophized it, it appears that Nobunaga considered himself to be the highest being in whatever pantheon of beings there may have been, and no authority, in heaven or on earth, was higher than his own.”

In examining Nobunaga’s relationship with religious organizations, however, I believe that this view has hidden away a more complex picture, one in which Nobunaga seems to have been largely accommodating of religious institutions when they did not actively oppose him. Further, Jesuit sources in particular have skewed the picture, as the Jesuits were largely sympathetic to Nobunaga while he was alive and were, rather naturally, opposed to native Japanese religions in all cases.

In this project, I have attempted to accomplish two tasks. The first is to highlight the extent to which the Jesuit sources overemphasize Nobunaga’s opposition to Japanese religious institutions. In particular, the missionary Luis Frois (1532 - 1597) knew Nobunaga and wrote about him in numerous



reports as well as his compendious *Historia de Iapam*. Frois is often quoted at length when Nobunaga’s personal belief is discussed, and he made the claim that Nobunaga believed “nothing of Paganism.” This claim has been widely accepted. The issue is that Frois’s claims about Nobunaga’s relationship with Buddhist temples often include statements that find no corroboration in other sources, and occasionally are provably false. The most famous of these is that Nobunaga, shortly before his death, declared himself to be a god and demanded worship. Other stories by Frois also seem highly unlikely, including one involving the mass murder of the monks who had prayed for Nobunaga’s father during his terminal illness, and a slightly less murderous tale involving some very silly signatures.

The second goal of the project is to try and provide an idea of what Nobunaga’s relationship with religious institutions actually was on the basis primarily of documents issued by him and his regime. This (ongoing) process has already demonstrated a number of interesting

relationships between Nobunaga and religious institutions over his lifetime, revealing which groups were in his favor, when, and even why. I have also become more aware of the role of Nobunaga’s father Nobuhide, who is often ignored in his son’s story but clearly had an effect on his son’s policies and interests, including support of several important Shinto shrines, Zen institutions, and the court.

This project will demonstrate not only that Nobunaga’s relationship with religious institutions was not simple opposition, but that his regime was not concerned with changing the way in which religious institutions interacted with the ruler.

Perhaps we should rethink the way in which we look at the late sixteenth century as a watershed moment for Japanese religious institutions.

Events and Activities, 2022-2023

Buddhism Conferences Report

By Ian MacCormack

Departments of Asian Studies and Comparative Religion, HU

Greater Tibet, Buddhism, and Government

On March 27-28, 2023, the Hebrew University hosted an international workshop on "**Greater Tibet, Buddhism, and Government**," led by Dr. Ian MacCormack of the Departments of Asian Studies and Comparative Religion. The workshop featured leading scholars in Tibetan literature, political history, and religion, from Europe, Asia, and the United States, sharing new research on the intersections of Buddhism and political rule from the eighth century to the twenty-first. The group first

convened at the triennial meeting of the International Association of Tibetan Studies in Prague in July 2022.

This workshop in Jerusalem afforded invaluable time and space for a more in-depth, collaborative conversation about major patterns and continuities in the discourses and practices of governance in Tibet. Over two days and five sessions, scholars discussed their working papers on topics including legal discourse, local administrative disputes, discourses and rituals of kingship, politics and religion in the neighboring regions of Ladakh and Bhutan, and Sino-Tibetan and Mongol-Tibetan relations during the Yuan and

Qing dynasties. These papers are now being edited for a forthcoming volume, expected to be published in 2024.



Buddhism in Indonesia: Past and Present

On December 5-6, 2022, Professor Ronit Ricci and Dr. Ian MacCormack of the departments of Asian Studies and Comparative Religion hosted a conference on **Buddhism in Indonesia: Past and Present**. Commemorating ten years of Indonesian studies at HUJI, the conference brought together scholars from Asia, Europe, and the United States. One goal was to showcase groundbreaking new scholarship at the intersection of Indonesian studies and Buddhist studies, highlighting the

potential value of these two parallel academic pursuits for one another. Another was to foster conversation between scholars studying different time periods and bringing different disciplinary approaches. The conference featured a keynote address from Jack

Meng-Tat Chia of the National University of Singapore and included panels on medieval history, art and architecture, comparative perspectives on Indonesia, and the place of Buddhism in contemporary Indonesia.



The Kitan Network Annual Symposium (Online)

By Michal Biran

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

Organized by Waseda University (Tokyo) and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, this online symposium brought together scholars working on Kitan and/or Liao-related topics from across the world and disciplines.

The Kitans (Khitans, Qidans 契丹), a nomadic people, originated in Manchuria and known since the fourth century CE, established in the early 10th century an empire that ruled over Manchuria, Mongolia and parts of north China, known as the Liao dynasty (907-1125). The Kitans created a unique imperial culture that combined Kitan, Chinese, and Buddhist elements and is famed for its magnificent material culture and its two newly created scripts that are still only partly deciphered. They saw and presented themselves as "Chinese" no less than their neighboring ethnic-Chinese dynasty, the Song (960-1279), and obliged the acknowledgment of their emperor as

the Son of Heaven, in contrast to the accepted Chinese world order. The name "Kitans" (or Kitai, Chatay) became a synonym for China across Eurasia. After the Liao was overthrown by its former vassals, the Jurchens, some Kitans migrated to Central Asia where they established the Western Liao (Qara Khitai) dynasty (1124-1218). Many of those who remained under Jurchen rule later allied with the Mongols and played a significant role in both the Mongols' conquest of China and the shaping of the Mongol empire. Yet the Kitans' alliance with the Mongols and their geographical dispersion contributed to the assimilation of most Kitans among Mongols, Chinese or Muslims since the late 14th century.

The Symposium included three sessions devoted to Liao history and culture; its textual legacy; and the Turkic threads in its history. Organized by Lance Pucey and Toyomasu Iiyama (Waseda) and



Michal Biran and Gideon Shelach -Lavi (HUJI), the Symposium brought together emerging and established scholars from the USA, Europe, and Asia, chosen by a CFP. Another Symposium is planned for January 2024.

Mongol Zoominar 2022-2023

The Mongol Zoominar celebrated its third year with five well-attended meetings, devoted to a Book Launch of Beatrice Forbes Manz's *Nomads in the Middle East* (Cambridge University Press, 2022), and to a discussion on the Early History of the Black Death in Central Asia; New Directions in Mongol Art and Material Culture; Mongol Maritime Networks and Shipwrecks; as well as Alcohol & Botany: Cross-cultural Exchange in Mongol Eurasia.

Initiated in April 2020 by Michal Biran (HUJI) and Jonathan Brack (currently in North Western university, Chicago) during the pandemic years, the Zoominar has already established itself as a leading and truly international forum for discussing cutting-edge research related to the Mongol Empire in a friendly and encouraging atmosphere. Currently organized also by Qiao Yang (Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin) and Wonhee Cho

(Academy for Korean Studies, Seoul), the Zoominar will resume its activity in fall 2023, its first meeting (October 13, 14:30 Israeli time) will be dedicated to a book launch of Jonathan Brack's *An Afterlife for a Khan: Muslims, Buddhists, and Sacred Kingship in Mongol Iran and Eurasia* (University of California Press, 2023).

The Humanities and Social Sciences Fund Conference | June 13-15, 2023

Collective Sovereignty, Royal Clans, and Sacred Kingship in pre-Modern Central Eurasia

By Michal Biran

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

In premodern polities, the claim that the right to rule was based on the ruler's unique affinity with the divine was frequently made by monarchs and aspiring elite members. A distinct and prevailing feature of Central Eurasian models of sacred kingship, however, was that this special, exclusive affinity with a god or the gods was shared by all members, male as well as female, of the extended ruling clan. This principle appeared already in some of the earliest polities of ancient Iranian, Turkic, and Mongolian nomads in the first millennium BCE–first millennium CE, reaching its zenith (or its best documented case) in the 13th–14th centuries under the Chinggisids, the royal clan descending from Chinggis Khan (r. 1206–1227).

In this system of collective or joint sovereignty, membership in the clan was essential for the legitimation of the nomadic ruler. While it theoretically guaranteed the ruling dynasty's political stability and thus was essential for the routinization of charisma, in practice, however, it was also the cause of endemic succession struggles since each male (and sometimes even female) member of the royal clan could potentially have a legitimate claim for leadership. Moreover, the collective sovereignty also obliged the ruler to redistribute wealth – in terms of booty, territory, or people – among the whole clan, thereby often promoting decentralization. Eurasian Steppe rulers who conquered sedentary realms brought this notion with them. Furthermore, through

Chinggisid mediation, the Central Eurasian variant of sacred kingship impacted post-Mongol polities across early-modern Asia, from the Ottomans and Moghuls to Qing China and Muscovy.

Our conference brought 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 the Central Eurasian

model of collective sovereignty, in a wide comparative perspective, in both nomadic and post-nomadic polities.

Organized by Reuven Amitai, Michal Biran, Jonathan Brack and Michael Shenkar, and supported by The Humanities and Social Sciences Fund of the Israeli Academy of Sciences and Humanities, the Frieberg Center, the Asian Sphere Program, and HUJI's conference fund, the proceedings of this highly successful conference are planned to appear as a special issue.

The poster details the conference schedule:

- Monday, June 12th | Movie night (open to the public)**
 - Media Room 236, Mt. Scopus Library
 - Echoes of the Empire: Beyond Genghis Khan (Mongolia, 2021), Director: Robert H. Lieberman
- Tuesday, June 13th**
 - Maiersdorf Faculty Club, Room 505
 - Introductory remarks | Reuven Amitai, Michal Biran, Jonathan Brack and Michael Shenkar
 - Eurasian Roots of Collective Sovereignty:
 - Bryan Miller, University of Michigan | "Sovereignty in an Empire of Mobilities: Political Institutions and Landscapes of the Xiongnu in Inner Asia"
 - Aleksandr Symonenko, Ukrainian Academy of Sciences | "Alanic Dynasty of Oriban Kings in the Late 1st c. CE"
 - Break
 - Turks, Clans, and the Question of Sovereignty
 - Mihály Dobrovits, Pázmány Péter Catholic University | "The Ruling System in the Second Turk Khaghanate"
 - TBA | "Steppe Tradition and the Royal Clan of the Seljuks"
 - Konstantin Golov, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences | "They Have no King, Only Princes and Noble Families: The Dynasties of the Cumans' Qipchaqs"
 - Reuven Amitai, Hebrew University | "Is This any Way to Run an Empire? A Quarter Millennium of Mambuk Rule without a Royal Clan (most of the time)"
 - Lunch Break
 - Iranian Sedentary World and Eurasian Collective Rule
 - Michael Shenkar, Hebrew University | "The Arsacid and Sasanian Royal Clans and their Collective Sovereignty in Ancient Iran"
 - Fiana Kidd, New York University, Abu Dhabi | "Kingship and Sovereignty in Khosrow"
 - Break
 - Zoom
 - Anatoly Khazanov, UW-Madison | "Political Organization of the Scythian Kingdom and its Sacred Dimension"
 - Break
- Wednesday, June 14th**
 - Maiersdorf Faculty Club, Room 505
 - Keynote 1:
 - Alan Strathern, Oxford | "Sacred Kingship and Collective Sovereignty in Comparative Perspective"
 - Reception
 - Sacred Kingship, Ritual, and the Religious Field: Liao to Chinggisids
 - Johannes Lotze, Hebrew University | "Liao Divisible Sovereignty in Comparative Perspective"
 - Dotan Dishay Pagan, University of Pennsylvania | "The Cult of Chinggis Khan and Sacred Kingship"
 - Jonathan Brack, BGU | "Kinship, Conversion, and Acculturations of Heresy: Chinggisid Family Feuds and the Religious Sphere in Khwarezm"
 - Break
 - Succession Politics and Sovereignty in the Mongol and Timurid Empires
 - Ishayahu Landa, University of Bonn | "Is Blood Thicker Than Water? Post-14th Century's Remembrance, Forgetting and Re-inventing of the Chinggisid Marriages"
 - Michal Biran, Hebrew University | "The Chagghaidai Royal Clan in Comparative Perspective"
 - Ervin Bakay, University of Bonn | "Corporate Sovereignty and Condominium in the Timurid Empire"
 - Lunch
 - Clans and Sufis in Early Modern Central Asia
 - Scott Levi, Ohio State University | "The Shahukhids as a Royal Clan in the Khawarizm of Khawarizm"
 - Ron Sela, Indiana University | "Sufis and the Manghit Rulers of Bukhara: Stories from beyond the Grave"
 - Break
 - Keynote 2:
 - Azfar Moin, University of Texas at Austin | "The Islamization of Mongol Sovereignty: Long Term Patterns and Collective Sovereignty"
 - Concluding Discussion

International Workshop Empires and Their Elites By Michal Biran

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

The workshop *Empires and Their Elites* that took place at Carl Friedrich von Siemens Stiftung, München, on March 29-31, 2023, was the third leg of the “Comparative Empireology” project initiated by Michal Biran and Yuri Pines (HUJI) together with Jörg Rüpke (Erfurt University). It brought together 14 leading scholars who discussed case studies from Eurasian imperial regimes, ranging from Achaemenid Iran through Rome, China, the Caliphate, steppe empires, and up to the early modern empires (the Ottomans, the Mughals, and the Qing). The contributors explore

different modes of imperial control over the divergent populations and various modes of interaction between the imperial regime and their elites. Which empires were more prone to integrate the realm administratively (and culturally?), and which preferred indirect control and/or even consciously maintained separation from the subjugated population? Which were prone to distinguish between the core “super-elite” and local elites, and which were less inclined to do so? What were the advantages and disadvantages of each approach? How much was the

founding (conquest) elite ready to share power with the conquered? What was the role of migrations—forced and voluntary—in facilitating or hindering integration of disparate populations or of their elites? How did different empires affect the composition of their subjects’ elite in the short and long run?

The proceedings of this workshop will appear as a book in DeGruyter publishing house where another volume of this series: *Empires and Gods: The Role of Religions in Imperial History*, is forthcoming.

Korean Calligraphy Workshop By Ira Lyan

Head of Korean Studies Program, Department of Asian Studies, HU

During “K-May” we had a rare opportunity to host a famous calligrapher, Mr. Salty Park, who demonstrated Korean calligraphy to the Israeli public. According to Donald Kuspit, an art critic and Professor at State University of New York, “Park’s works problematizes painting in the very act of making seriously expressionist paintings. He calls painting into question even as he makes paintings that distill traditional and modernist ideas of painting.”

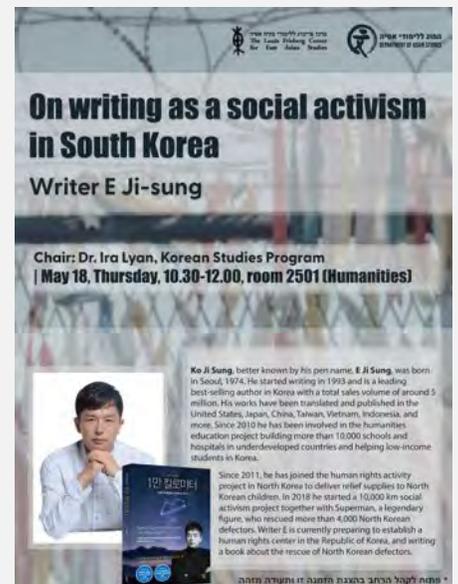
Park’s calligraphy presentation was a culmination point of the 2023 “Korea Friday” event, co-organized by the

Korean Studies Program and the Korean Community in Israel. The event attracted about 700 students and guests, both Israeli and Korean, to the cultural city heart, the First Station. During the event, a unique art piece was created with a Korean inscription of Naomi Shemer’s song, “Jerusalem of Gold,” on a 20-meter long linen piece. The art piece was officially presented to the Deputy Mayor of Jerusalem, Mr. Elisha Peleg. Hopefully, the event will promote future collaborations between the city and the university to introduce Korean culture to students and city residents alike.



Korea Month events (K-May) 2023

Ko Ji Sung, better known by his pen name, E Ji Sung, was born in Seoul, 1974. He started writing in 1993 and is a leading best-selling author in Korea with a total sales volume of around 5 million. His works have been translated and published in the United States, Japan, China, Taiwan, Vietnam, Indonesia, and more. Since 2010 he has been involved in the humanities education project building more than 10,000 schools and hospitals in underdeveloped countries and helping low-income students in Korea. As part of the K-May events, Ko Ji Sung was invited to host two lectures about North Korean defectors, along with the legendary "Superman" who rescued more than 4,000 defectors, and assisted them in their journey to freedom.



Japan Day 2023

Japan Day is an annual event celebrating Japanese culture at HU. This year's event, conducted in-person in May 2023, 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 Frieberg Center for East Asian Studies, and The Hebrew University Student Association.

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 Japan Studies faculty, students, and other guest speakers on various aspects of Japanese history and culture.

The 2023 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, 2022-2023

By Yuri Pines

Co-Director, The Confucius Institute at HU

For the Confucius Institute (CI) at the Hebrew University (HUJI), the year 2022-2023 was marked by considerable (although not full) resurrection of pre-COVID level of activities, most notably abandoning the on-line in favor of off-line format of academic, cultural, and educational events. Things were not entirely smooth, though. The delay of

China's reopening caused considerable stress to our students (primarily due to the uncertainty when and how physical studies in China will be renewed). It also impeded the resumption of full-scale academic cooperation with colleagues from Chinese universities, hindering renewal of international conferences in Chinese studies.



Confucius Institute
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Walls, Borders, and Frontier Zones in the Ancient and the Contemporary World

The only major international academic event co-sponsored by CI in 2022-2023 was the conference on **Walls, Borders, and Frontier Zones in the Ancient and the Contemporary World** organized by the ERC project "The Wall: People and Ecology in Medieval Mongolia and China" of Prof. Gideon Shelach-Lavi (December 18-22, 2022) (and supported, in addition to CI, by the Humanities and Social Sciences Fund). The conference focused on the formation and functions of borders, walls, and other types of real and abstract barriers that delineate political and cultural entities separate

from each other. It was attended by eight international and thirteen Israeli students who discussed a great variety of walls and borders—from the Long Walls in China to Israeli borderlands in Negev. The highly successful event marked the resumption of offline conferences in HUJI.



The Humanities and Social Sciences Fund Conference:
Walls, Borders and Frontier Zones in the Ancient and the Contemporary World
A Public Opening Event
Sunday, December 18, 2022
Tower of David - Museum of the History of Jerusalem

14:00 Greetings and gatherings
14:30-16:00 Walls, Borders and Migration in Medieval China and Mongolia. Gideon Shelach-Lavi and members of The Wall (ERC funded project)
16:30-18:00 A Round Table: Borders from Historical and Current Perspectives: Gilli Drori (Sociology), Alexander Yakobson (Roman History), Dror Wahrman (Early Modern History)
18:30 Opening reception

Monday and Tuesday, December 19-20, 2022.
Hebrew University, Mt. Scopus

Academic Panels
All lectures will be open to the public. For details see: <https://thewall.huji.ac.il/conferences>

Asian Studies Department Seminar

In addition, CI co-sponsored several China-related lectures of Asian Studies Department Seminar:

- Quality of Primary Health Care in China: Exchanging Indicators Across Borders by Alon Rasooli (Ben Gurion U), Dec 28, 2023.
- Multinational Chinese firms - a pawn in a Geopolitical chess game (Tamar Groswald Ozery, HUJI), March 22, 2023.
- On the Boundaries of East Asian Images: Interiority and Exteriority, Iconophilia and Iconophobia (James Robson, Harvard), May 7, 2023.
- “Soft-spoken boys” and “masculine girls”: Policing gender boundaries in China (Orna Naftali, HUJI), May 31, 2023.
- Between Natural Law and Positive Law: On Han Fei Zi’s Theory of the Rule of Law (Bai Tongdong, Fudan University), June 14, 2023.

The Politics of History in Today’s China: Legacies of the Late Empire

Aside from the *Walls* conference, the major CI-sponsored event was the lecture by Prof. Mark Elliott, Vice Provost for International Affairs, Harvard University, *The Politics of History in Today’s China: Legacies of the Late Empire* (March 15, 2023). The lecture focused on the contentious topic of the Qing 清 dynasty (1636/1644-1912) history. Prof. Elliott highlighted the importance of Manchu-language sources for understanding this history, and analyzed the political cum academic tensions which are now rising in China and elsewhere around the interpretations of the Qing period and its place in China’s past and present.



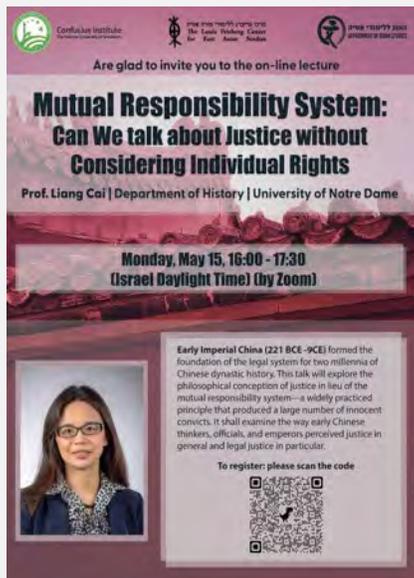
Confucius Institute Website

The Confucius Institute website offers further information on the institute’s events, scholarships and more.

For more details – <https://confucius-huji.co.il>

“Mutual Responsibility System: Can We Talk About Justice Without Considering Individual Rights”

CI also sponsored a single on-line lecture of the academic year, in which Prof. Cai Liang (University of Notre Dame) spoke on “mutual responsibility system” in early imperial China: “Mutual Responsibility System: Can We talk about Justice without Considering Individual Rights?” (May 15, 2023).



Confucius Meets Einstein

Parallel to academic events, CI was very active in organizing cultural and educational activities throughout the year. The major event was the CI Day (Dec 5, 2022), **Confucius Meets Einstein**, which was attended not just by HUJI students but also by a large group of schoolchildren from three Jerusalem high schools. The event included a series of lectures and workshops—ranging from such topics

as China-US relations, business in China, and women's rights in China to Chinese medicine and the cultural aspects of the Hua Mulan story. A dozen stands introduced students to Chinese calligraphy, zodiac, music, food (including a special food stand sponsored and provided by “Chinese Sea” 東海 restaurant, Tel-Aviv), tea culture, dance, martial arts, and so forth. With hundreds of participants, the CI Day became the largest China-related event on campus since 2020.

“The Fate of Confucianism in the Past 150 Years in China”

Professor Bai Tongdong, the first guest lecturer from China after the three years lull, had in addition given a lecture on Confucian revival in current China in the class on Contemporary China’s History on June 15, 2023.



Religions in China Exhibition

The highlight of CI Day was the exhibition **Religions in China**, which introduced HUJI students and visitors to the great heterogeneity, vitality, and richness of cultural expressions of Chinese religions—including Buddhism, Daoism, Islam, and a variety of popular cults. The exhibition attracted great attention by highlighting an important aspect of China’s social life which is not commonly known in Israel.



Chinese Party Night

Aside from **Confucius Meets Einstein** day, CI organized or sponsored a variety of other off-campus and on-campus events, including the students’ debate about whether or not China should establish dominance over rare earth minerals (Jan 23, 2023), a sale of China-related Hebrew language books on campus (March 13-15, 2023), and an end-of-the-year **Chinese Party Night** at Jerusalem Orion Bar (June 18, 2023). The latter event included Yuri Pines’s lecture, “Future in the Past? The CPC Ideological Shift and its Potential Consequences.”



The Confucius High School Project

Finally, a few words about our high school project. For years, CI has sponsored the activities at which HUJI students visit schools in Jerusalem and elsewhere, lectures about aspects of China’s culture, geography, language, society, and so forth. This year featured several such lectures, of which one deserves especial mention. It was the first event in the Palestinian Youth Center in Sheikh Jarrakh neighborhood, East Jerusalem. A hugely successful event attended by CI volunteers and CI co-director, Prof. Han Xi, marked an important expansion of China-related cultural activities to the Palestinian Arab community in East Jerusalem.



Traveling Seminars

Mongolia

Following Chinggis Khan: Mongolia: Past, Present, Future

Led by Prof. Reuven Amitai, Michal Biran and Gideon Shelach-Lavi, this unique study experience took place in August-September 2023. It brought together 15 students and 20 lecturers from across the university who visited the land of Chinggis Khan (r. 1206-1227). The tour focused on the Khentei province, where Chinggis Khan was born and rose to power, and Orkhon river valley, a sacred territory that became the center of the Mongol Empire (13th-14th centuries), as well as former nomadic empires. The group not only visited historical and archaeological sites, but also immersed itself in Mongolian landscapes and Buddhist monasteries, experienced

nomadic life, and came to terms with the challenges of present-day Mongolia. The seminar also included a workshop with scholars of the National University of Mongolia at Ulaanbaatar, as well as meetings with local dignitaries and international archaeologists.

Supported by the Frieberg Center, the Polonsky Foundation, the Asian Sphere Program, the Faculty of Humanities, and the International Office at the Hebrew University, the seminar also included three half-day symposiums throughout the spring semester of the 2022-2023 academic year, in which eminent scholars from Israel and abroad

(including researchers from Yale, MIT, UCSB, CNRS, Ohio State University and NUM) gave guest talks via Zoom or in person to prepare the students for this unforgettable experience.



South Korea

What's "K" in Korean Music

The honorary undergraduate course, "What's 'K' in Korean Music", deals with the question of what is "Korean" in traditional and popular Korean music through lectures, participation in on-site music events, and meetings with contemporary artists, people from creative industries, and officials in government centers for the preservation of "authentic" Korean music. The course included four preparatory meetings

during the second semester of the 2022-23 academic year, followed by a six-day trip to Seoul during the summer break. Led by Dr. Irina (Ira) Lyan, Head of Korean Studies at the Asian Studies Department at the Hebrew University (HU), this unique seminar was organized in collaboration with the Department of Musicology at HU and the Seoul National University. It was supported by the Louis Frieberg Center for East Asian Studies.



Asian Studies Library

By Hanoch Roniger

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

Library collection development

Since January 2023 the Bloomfield Library has purchased over one hundred new monographs related to Asian studies. These are supplemented by multiple evidence-based acquisition model subscriptions (EBAs). These EBAs grant access to extensive collections of titles from prominent publishers such as Cambridge, Oxford, Brill, among many other academic presses. In 2022 we also purchased access to the [Brill's Encyclopedia of Buddhism Online](#).

The library, with the support of the Louis Frieberg Center for East-Asian Studies and the Confucius Institute at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, has renewed the subscriptions to multiple databases. Among these are: [PKU Law database](#) – a comprehensive database



of PRC laws and regulations since 1949; [CNKI](#) - a database of electronic versions of selected articles from Chinese academic periodicals; [CHANT](#) - a digitized version of a large number of texts from bone and bronze inscriptions up to the

6th century AD; and [Siku Quanshu](#) - an online full-text version of the Siku Quanshu, a collection of Chinese literature from antiquity through the 18th century.

Cooperation with other institutions

We are continuing our cooperation with the National Library of China via the [Window to China](#) initiative, a project we joined in 2018 that includes an annual donation of 100-500 Chinese titles to the library's collections.

This year marked five years of cooperation with the National Library of Korea via the [Window on Korea](#) project; a program that included

renovations and the establishment of a sitting area on the 4th floor of the library next to the Asian languages collection and a donation of materials relating to Korean and Asian studies. From 2017 to 2022 the WoK project supplied the library with 2,556 items across 2,107 titles relating to Korean studies. This year the library has signed an MOU with the National Library of Korea to extend our cooperation for five additional years. In 2022 we also received 39 books of translated Korean

literature from the [Literature Translation Institute of Korea](#). This year the library has also signed a contract with the National Diet Library of Japan to grant us access to NDL's [Digitized Contents Transmission Service](#), which grants the library's patrons access to their digitized collection from a designated terminal located next to the reference desk on the third floor of the library.

Notable Donations

The library has received a notable donation of books from the collection of Professor Matthew Kapstein, a renowned scholar of Tibetan studies. This donation was made possible thanks to the efforts of Dr. Ian MacCormack of the departments of Comparative Religion and Asian Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. [This collection](#) comprises several hundred books primarily written in Tibetan. We are currently working on adding them to the library’s catalog.



Professor Teng Mingyu of the Center for Frontier Archaeology at Jilin University, sent the library a sizable donation of books on Chinese Archaeology, including rare excavation reports. Professor Teng has cooperated with Professor Gideon Shelach-Lavi from the Department of Asian Studies at the Hebrew University on multiple excavations in Northeast China since 1999. We expect these books to arrive in the next few months.

The Manga collection

Manga, the Japanese art of comics and graphic novels, is a salient facet of Japanese culture both in Japan and overseas. In 2016 Professor Nissim Otmazgin established a [Manga collection](#) at the Bloomfield Library for the Humanities and Social Sciences. The collection is housed in a dedicated

room on the fourth floor of the library, adjacent to the Asian languages collection. The core of this collection consists of historical manga books useful for research and teaching purposes. The Manga collection currently holds 2,337 volumes across 368 titles, and has already been used as a primary source in courses offered at the department of Asian Studies.



New Publications

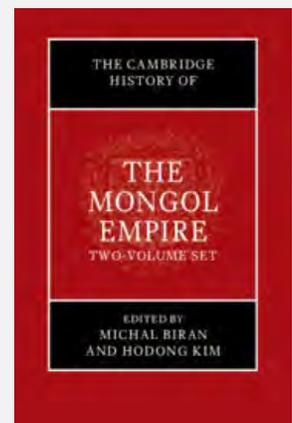
The Cambridge History of the Mongol Empire

Edited By Michal Biran and Hudong Kim

The Cambridge History of the Mongol Empire, Edited by Michal Biran (Hebrew University of Jerusalem), Hodong Kim (Seoul National University), Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1300 pages, August 2023, online ISBN: 9781316337424, ISBN-13: 978-1107116481

In the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries Chinggis Khan and his progeny ruled over two-thirds of Eurasia. Connecting East, West, North and South, the Mongols integrated most of the Old World, promoting unprecedented cross-cultural contacts and triggering the reshuffle of religious, ethnic, and geopolitical identities. [The Cambridge History of the Mongol Empire](#) studies the Empire holistically in its full Eurasian context, putting the Mongols and their nomadic culture at the center.

Written by an international team of more than forty leading scholars, this two-volume set provides an authoritative and multifaceted history of 'the Mongol Moment' (1206–1368) in world history and includes an unprecedented survey of the various sources for its study, textual (written in sixteen languages), archaeological, and visual. This groundbreaking Cambridge History sets a new standard for future study of the Empire. It will serve as the fundamental reference work for those interested in Mongol, Eurasian, and world history.



"All Under Heaven": Imperial China Volume III

By Yuri Pines and Michal Biran

"All Under Heaven": Imperial China Volume III, Lamda Scholarship - The Open University of Israel Press, 818 pages, 2023, ISBN 9789650616892, Danacode 020810742037. **Additional contributors:** Meir Shahr, Yitzhak Shichor, Gideon Shealch-Lavi, Asaf Goldschmidt

For the first time in Hebrew, the series "All Under Heaven: Imperial China (in Hebrew: "Kol A-sheer Me-Ta'hat La'shamai'im"), offers Israeli students and the wider public a fascinating, up-to-date, wide-ranging discussion of the origins and development of the Chinese Empire. The Chinese Empire was established in 221 BCE, and has existed, with a few intervals, until the Republican Revolution of 1911. During most of this long period, China attained some of the greatest economic, administrative, technological, and

cultural achievements in human history. The legacy of these achievements, along with the Chinese empire's failures, especially in the 19th and 20th centuries, has shaped the dynamics driving China's contemporary rise and its leading global position today. [The third volume in the series](#) focuses on the last thousand years of the Chinese empire, from the start of the tenth century to the fall of the Qing Dynasty and the establishment of the Republic of China at the beginning of the twentieth century.



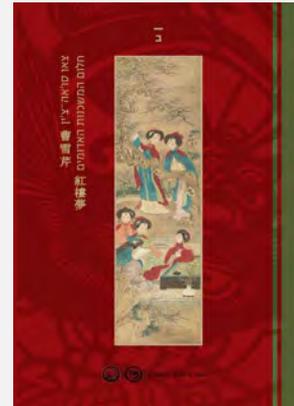
Dream of the Red Chamber Vol. II

Translated By Andrew Plaks and Amira Katz

Hebrew Translation of Vol. 2 of Dream of the Red Chamber (In Hebrew: Ha'Iom Ha-Mishkanot Ha'adumin), Translated by Andrew Plaks and Amira Katz (Bialik Publishing, 2021), Hardback, 360 pages

Dream of the Red Chamber (紅樓夢 *Honglou Meng*) or The Story of the Stone (石頭記 *Shitou Ji*) is a classic Chinese novel composed by Cao Xueqin. Published in 1791, it is a masterpiece of Chinese literature known for its psychological scope and its observations of the world view, aesthetics, life-styles, and social relations of 18th-century China. The plot depicts the rise and

decline of a family much like Cao's own and, by extension, of the dynasty itself. Although Cao writes about the power of the father over the family, the novel is meant to be a memorial to the women he knew in his youth: friends, relatives and servants. This is the second volume of the entire comprehensive saga by Cao. [The first part](#) was also published by the Bialik Institute



Law and Political Economy in China

By Tamar Groswald Ozery

Law and Political Economy in China: The Role of Law in Corporate Governance and Market Growth (ASCL Studies in Comparative Law).

Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 304 pages, August 2023, doi:10.1017/9781009158251.002.

The book examines the evolution in the role of formal law throughout four decades of market reforms in China. It employs two layers of analysis: the market development macro layer and the corporate governance and capital market micro layer. The macro layer, Part II, establishes the analytical framework of the book. It shows how the law translates and secures political-economic power dynamics within the Party-state system. By examining the evolving functions of law through the different eras of market reform, the analysis shows how formal law supports the Party-state's efforts to strike a delicate balance between its need for macro control, the interests of various hierarchies within the Party-state, and those of market participants, thereby "socialist market economy with configuring China's dynamic vision of a Chinese characteristics". The microlayer, Part III in the book, implements the

framework. It digs deep into the development of corporate governance and the Chinese capital market and considers how law and political economic determinants entwine in shaping the business environment in which public firms operate.

Drawing from a chronological study of an extensive archive of laws, regulations, policies and normative opinions issued by organs of the Chinese Party-state since economic reforms began in 1978 until the present, the book sheds a new comparative light on a long-standing debate about the role of law in China's economic development and about the possible varieties of growth supporting governance mechanisms. Through its interdisciplinary approach, connecting deep knowledge about China's political economy, law and development theories, and corporate governance practices, the book aspires

to produce novel insights about the relationship between law, economic development, and politics in contemporary China.

* For U.S. Book Talks dates and details, please check: <https://tamargo.huji.ac.il/> (Frieberg Center affiliates are cordially invited!)



Japan, the Jews and Israel

By Meron Medzini

Japan, the Jews and Israel (in Hebrew: *Yapan, Ha-Yeu'dim ve-Israel*), Jerusalem: Carmel Publishing, 363 pages, June 2023, Dana code: 24951146, ISBN: 978-965-7815-60-1



Drawing on a rich variety of sources, it provides an in-depth analysis of Japan-Israel relations from 1952 to the present day. These relations were initially characterized by reticence and hostility on the part of the Japanese due to Japan's dependence on Arab oil. However, in 1990 there was a fundamental change in Japan's position towards Israel and today the two countries maintain a close relationship in areas of economy, science, and security.

Professor (Emeritus) Meron Madzini received a doctorate from Harvard University. He was one of the founders of the Department of Asian Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem where he taught modern Japanese history for many years. His books have been translated into English and Japanese.

Japan has played a relatively marginal role in Jewish history. Until the 19th century there was no contact between Jews and the Japanese, yet this changed in 1860, when the first Jews arrived in Japan. During the first half of the 20th century, when millions of Jews perished in the Holocaust in Europe, Japan provided refuge to tens of thousands of Jews in the territories it had conquered in Asia. The book, which was published with the support of the **Louis Frieberg Center for East Asian Studies at HU**, deals with the growth of Jewish communities in Japan, as well as with Japan's attitude towards Zionism, and the ambivalent attitude of the Japanese towards Jews since the 19th century.



Upcoming Events: 2023-2024

November 14th -16th, 2023

Conference Announcement and Call for Papers: Global Easts: Japanese Cultural Entanglement

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Tel Aviv University in collaboration with the Israel Museum in Jerusalem, the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures, and Japan Art History Forum under the generous support of Toshiba International Foundation and Japan Foundation, will organize a conference titled "Global Easts: Japanese Cultural Entanglements," which will be held 14-16 November 2023 in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

Focusing on the dynamics of cultural flows, interconnectedness, and interactions among different regions of the "Global Easts", namely, East Europe, East Mediterranean, and East Asia, the conference will explore cross-regional cultural and artistic exchange and networks that have emerged within the Global Easts, with Japan as a central point of reference. The discussion will explore the influences, borrowings, and adaptations that have occurred across these regions, leading to cultural entanglements and hybridities. In particular, the conference will consider influences, inspirations, and collaborations that have occurred in literature, visual arts, music, theater, film, and other creative mediums. We welcome applications from scholars, researchers, art curators, artists, collectors, and graduate students from diverse fields and backgrounds.



Conference Organizers: Prof. Nissim Otmazgin (HUJI), Dr. Ayelet Zohar (Tel Aviv University), and Dr. Daria Solignac (Melnikova) (HUJI)

For further information please contact: Dr. Daria Solignac (Melnikova) at: daria.melnikova@mail.huji.ac.il

December 19th, 2023

International Workshop: "Conflict and innovation: Perspectives from Korea and Israel"

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem & Stanford University, December 19, 2023

This one-day workshop, co-organized by Stanford University and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (HU) and sponsored by the Leonard Davis Institute for International Relations at HU, will take place at the Hebrew University's Mt. Scopus campus. During the event, scholars from Stanford and HU will discuss different aspects of technological and institutional innovation in South Korea and Israel amidst political, economic, and legal conflicts to examine the connections and parallels between them.

For further information, please contact the organizers at HU: Dr. Irina (Ira) Lyan (irina.lyan@mail.huji.ac.il) and/or Prof. Galia Press-Barnathan (Galia.Press-Barnathan@mail.huji.ac.il)

List of Events: 2022-2023

October

- **7.10:** Mongol Zoominar: Book Launch – *Nomads in the Middle East*

November

- **9.11:** Department Seminar Lecture: "What is Buddhist Text and does it have Boundaries?" - Prof. Eviatar Shulman
- **16.11:** Department Seminar Lecture: "Cyber Sovereignty in China: Domestic & Cross-border Perspectives" - Prof. Rogier Creemers
- **25.11:** Mongol Zoominar: Early History of the Black Death

December

- **5-6.12:** Buddhism in Indonesia: Past and Present conference
- **7.12:** Department Seminar Lecture: "Beyond Modernization: Imagining the Social in the Postwar American Social Science of Japan" - Prof. Amy Borovoy
- **28.12:** Department Seminar Lecture: "Quality of Primary Health Care in China: Exchanging Indicators Across Borders" - Dr. Alon Rasooly

January

- **11.1:** Department Seminar Lecture: "The Boundaries of Obedience in the Japanese Army" - Prof. Danny Orbach

- **13.1:** The Kitan Network Annual Symposium
- **18.1:** Department Seminar Lecture: "Dancing Beyond Boundaries: Japan in the Age of the Dancefloor" - Dr. Daria Solignac (Melnikova)
- **20.1:** Mongol Zoominar: New Directions in Mongol Art and Material Culture

March

- **22.3:** Department Seminar Lecture: Multinational Chinese Firms – a Pawn in a Geopolitical Chess Game- Dr. Tamar Groswald Ozery
- **15.3:** Department Seminar Lecture: The Politics of History in Today's China: Legacies of the Late Empire Lecture – Prof. Mark Elliott
- **27-28.3:** Greater Tibet, Buddhism, and Government Conference
- **29-31.3:** Empires and their Elites conference

April

- **19.4:** Department Seminar Lecture: "Rewarding Frugality: Ascetic Nationalism in Developing South Korea" – Dr. Anna Lee
- **28.4:** Mongol Zoominar: Maritime Networks and Shipwrecks

May

- **8.5:** Japan Day
- **10.5:** Department Seminar Lecture: "On the Boundaries of East Asian Images: Interiority and Exteriority, Iconophilia and Iconophobia" - Prof. James Robson
- **17-18.3:** Korean Calligraphy Workshop
- **22.5:** Korea Day
- **31.5:** Department Seminar Lecture: Redrawing Gender Boundaries in China's Education: Youth Sexual Morality and the Fate of the Nation" - Prof. Orna Naftali

June

- **12-14.6:** Collective Sovereignty, Royal Clan, and Sacred Kingship in pre-Modern Central Eurasia conference
- **14.6:** Department Seminar Lecture: "Between Natural Law and Positive Law: On Han Feizi's Theory of the Rule of Law" - Prof. Bai Tongdong
- **20.6:** China Day Event in the Orion Bar
- **23.6:** Mongol Zoominar: Alcohol and Botany Cross Cultural Exchange in Mongol Eurasia
- **28.6:** Department Seminar Lecture: The Search for International Solidarity: A Filipino Communist Goes Abroad - Prof. Patricio Abinales

