

## “China and Global History” Online Workshop (Sept. 1-3., 2021)

Link to register & program incl. keynote speech abstracts

Link to register to the event:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScKbkuYuSBnNpqzT5bitRHUNZLBtluvUtxE4NJZvIECnMaTA/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScKbkuYuSBnNpqzT5bitRHUNZLBtluvUtxE4NJZvIECnMaTA/viewform?usp=sf_link)

For further questions please contact the organizers: Sabine Hinrichs ([sabine.hinrichs@univie.ac.at](mailto:sabine.hinrichs@univie.ac.at)),  
Sebestyén Hompot ([sebestyen.hompot@univie.ac.at](mailto:sebestyen.hompot@univie.ac.at)), Tanja Kotik ([tanja.kotik@uni-graz.at](mailto:tanja.kotik@uni-graz.at))

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### 1 September 2021

(All dates and times of the schedule are displayed in Central European Summer Time - CEST / UTC+2)

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**13:30 - 14:00 Opening notes**

**14:00 - 16:35 Panel 1: Pre-Modern China’s Global History and Global Historiography**

Chair & commentator: **Univ.-Prof. Dr. Susanne Weigelin-Schwiedrzik (University of Vienna)**

**14:00 - 15:00 Keynote**

**Elke Papelitzky, Ph.D. (KU Leuven):** Thinking About the World in Sixteenth and Seventeenth Century China

Presenters: (20 min. presentation, 25 min. comment & discussion)

- **Ilia Kolnin (Russian Academy of Sciences), 15:05 - 15:50**  
Imperial China and Its Perception of Itself and the Foreign With a Focus on Mainland Southeast Asia During the Yuan-Ming Transition
- **Maxim Korolkov (Heidelberg University / Russian Academy of Sciences), 15:50 - 16:35**  
Networks, Empires, World-Systems: The Dynamics of Early Sinitic Empires, ca. 300 BCE – 300 CE

Coffee break with breakout rooms.

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17:00 - 20:20 **Panel 2: China's Imperial Histories and Their Impact in the Modern Era**

Chair & commentator: **Prof. Michael Brose (Indiana University)**

17:00 - 18:00 **Keynote**

**Prof. Timothy Brook (University of British Columbia):** Mongols in a Chinese World, Chinese in a Mongol World: Legacies of the Great State

Presenters:

- **Sabine Hinrichs (University of Vienna), 18:05 - 18:50**  
Unquestionably "Chinese"? The Mongol World Empire in Modern Chinese Historiography
- **Sebestyén Hompot (University of Vienna), 18:50 - 19:35**  
The Zheng He Missions in Global History and Their Impact on Chinese Historiography in the Belt & Road Era
- **Rong Wu (Cambridge University), 19:35 - 20:20**  
Drawing From a Global Repertoire: Constitution-Making in Early Republican China, 1912–14

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**2 September 2021**

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10:00 - 13:30 **Panel 3: China and Global Economic History of the Modern Era**

Chair & commentator: **Anna Belogurova, Ph.D. (Free University of Berlin)**

10:00 - 11:00 **Keynote**

**Steve Rolf, Ph.D. (University of Sussex):** Back to the Future - China's New State Capitalism and Its Global Implications

Presenters:

- **Tanja Kotik (University of Graz), 11:05 - 11:50**  
Locating the Chinese Enterprise System in the Historical Trajectory of Global Capitalism - A World-Systems Perspective
- **Gus Tsz-Kit Chan (University of Leipzig), 11:50 - 12:35**  
Historical China in a Global Public Sphere: The Lijin Discourse in The Eastern Miscellany 東方雜誌
- **Alice Trinkle (Free University of Berlin), 12:35 - 13:20**  
The Development of Liberal Economic Thinking in China in Exchange With the (Post) Socialist World, 1978 – 2001

Coffee/lunch break with breakout rooms.

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15:00 - 17:20 **Panel 4: Entangled Global Histories of the 20th Century**

Chair & commentator: **Carles B. Broggi, Ph.D. (Open University of Catalonia)**

Presenters:

- **Morgan Rocks (College of the Holy Cross / University of British Columbia), 15:05 - 15:50**  
The Spain in Chinese Hearts: Communists, Anarchists, the Spanish Civil War, and Global Anti-Fascism
- **Rossella Roncati (Ca'Foscari University of Venice / Heidelberg University), 15:50 - 16:35**  
Chinese-Italian Women's Cooperation During the Early Cold War Era
- **Wang Shangshang (LMU Munich), 16:35 - 17:20**  
Cosmopolitanism and Evolutionary Imaginations in Late Qing and Republican China, 1906-1937

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**3 September 2021**

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10:00 - 12:20 **Panel 5: Global Historiography in Modern and Contemporary China**

Chair & commentator: **Polina Rysakova, Ph.D., Ass. Prof. (Saint Petersburg University)**

Presenters:

- **Sebas Ruemke (University of Hamburg / Fudan University), 10:05 - 10:50**  
The Invention of Wei Yuan as the Pioneer of Modern Chinese World/Global History
- **Wu Qihong (Beijing Foreign Studies University), 10:50 - 11:35**  
The View of Interaction and Integration in Wang Tongling's History of Oriental Countries [language of presentation: Chinese]
- **Stephanie Ziehaus (University of Vienna / Palacky University Olomouc), 11:35 - 12:20**  
The Qing Empire Between "Old" Imperialism and New Imperial History

Coffee/lunch break with breakout rooms.

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15:30 - 18:25 **Panel 6: "Gu wei jin yong?" - Using the Past to Serve the Present?**

Chair & commentator: **Prof. Dr. Axel Schneider (University of Göttingen)**

15:30 - 16:30 **Keynote**

**Dr. Sinkwan Cheng (Duke University):** Use the Past to Remake the Present or Use Western Learning to Remake China? — Two Interpretations of *Geming* in China's Response to Imperialism in the Early Twentieth Century

Presenters:

- **Frederik Schmitz (University of Bonn), 16:35 - 17:20**, followed by coffee break  
Usage of Pre-Modern Narratives for Contemporary Great Power Politics
  - **Lucas Brang (University of Cologne), 17:40 - 18:25**  
When National Revanchism Meets Disciplinary Self-Doubt: China's Rise and the Politics of Global Legal History
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18:25-18:45    **Concluding remarks**

### KEYNOTE SPEECH ABSTRACTS

Sept. 1st

14:00 - 15:00    **Elke Papelitzky, Ph.D. (KU Leuven):** Thinking About the World in Sixteenth and Seventeenth Century China

In the sixteenth and the first few decades of the seventeenth century, a number of Chinese scholars wrote world histories: texts that are monographs claiming to be a comprehensive narration of all of China's neighbours. The last such Ming book was published in 1629 and for the remainder of the seventeenth century, this genre of text is extremely rare. Certainly, writings about the world could also take other forms: they could be part of state publications, being appended to comprehensive gazetteers of China, military treatises, or encyclopaedias. There could also be more specialized texts, focusing only on a subset of countries without claiming to write about the whole world. Some of these texts were also illustrated with maps or images of non-Chinese people. In contrast to the more comprehensive stand-alone books, these diverse types of writing with information about non-Chinese regions continued throughout the seventeenth century, partly influenced by the locality of the authors. In this talk, I will discuss the various forms of writing world history during the late Ming and early Qing periods and explore what it meant to write "world history" at that time for Chinese scholars.

Sept. 1st

17:00 - 18:00    **Prof. Timothy Brook (University of British Columbia):** Mongols in a Chinese World, Chinese in a Mongol World: Legacies of the Great State

The Mongol era was not simply a detour in China's history. It was a formative encounter that has shaped China's international relations and regime formation down to the present. Mongols today live in a Chinese world, but there was a time when Chinese lived in a Mongol world. The current leadership of the PRC is currently making every attempt to suppress that history. Knowing why might help us understand the PRC's current world orientation and the possible challenge this may pose to the international order.

Sept. 2nd

10:00 - 11:00 **Steve Rolf, Ph.D. (University of Sussex):** Back to the Future - China's New State Capitalism and Its Global Implications

China sits at a crossroads. The futurity of its urban centres and technical advancement and dynamism of its leading economic sectors is the envy of much of the world. At the same time, immense underdevelopment, rural poverty, and labour exploitation continue to exist. These two conditions exist side by side within the country - indeed, they co-constitute one another. Indeed, China's scale, scope, geographical heterogeneity and immense history collectively strain, perhaps to breaking point, the concept of what a nation state is or might be. This keynote lecture reflects on the origin story of contemporary Chinese capitalism, argues for both its embeddedness in the longue duree of global history and its path dependency, while refusing to concede to Chinese exceptionalism. At the core of my argument is that China is not immune to the pressures and dynamics of the global capitalist economy - even if it possesses the powerful and idiosyncratic mechanisms by which to distort, defer and sublimate them. I examine the architecture of the new state capitalism in China, which is in the process of being formed in response to the twin ruptures of 2008 and 2020. I argue that the decisions being taken by state managers today will resonate decades into the future and reshape our understandings of what 'capitalism' might be.

Sept. 3rd.

15:30 - 16:30 **Dr. Sinkwan Cheng (Duke University):** Use the Past to Remake the Present or Use Western Learning to Remake China? — *Geming* and China's Translation-Transformation of "Revolution" in the Early Twentieth Century

At first sight, "revolution" and *geming* share a rather similar conceptual history, their current reference to a "radical break with the past" being in both cases preceded by an earlier meaning of "restoration." The semantic change in each case arose from the term's being transposed from a cyclical temporal schema to a linear one. While the cyclical meaning of both reference the motion of the cosmic order and each culture's belief that the ruler received his authorization from respectively either the Edict of Heaven or God's Will, the subsequent linear semantics of both were products of modernity—with the significant difference that Chinese modernity and the modern Chinese concept of *geming* was not an internal development, but a result of its translation of western modernity.<sup>1</sup>

Precisely because the linear meaning of *geming* was not homegrown, the break between the old and the new semantics of this Chinese concept was more ambiguous than that of "revolution" in Europe, to the effect that the older cyclical semantics of *geming* reappeared from time to time to engage Chinese modernity. China's adoption of Japan's use of the classical Chinese term *geming* to translate a modern western concept in order to revolutionize the country presents an interesting case of "using the past to address the present" (*gu wei jing yong*). What happened in this act of "using the past to translate the present" was not just a matter of giving an old term new meaning. Rather, the "repressed" old meaning returned to haunt the new term from time to time, giving rise to a range of alternative revolutionary politics in China.

I will trace the divergence between the modern concepts of "revolution" and *geming* in terms of the differences between "revolution" as an internal development of Europe's cultural and political traditions, versus *geming* which imported from the West a concept of time and politics radically alien to China. In the latter, the modern *geming* became entangled with the old temporality and politics associated with the term in a variety of manners, sometimes as a productive dialogue, and at others as a disastrous encounter that wrecked havoc and destruction on Chinese society.

1. Nor was the term an internal development in the Japanese tradition who first borrowed this term from classical Chinese to render the modern western expression “revolution.”