

Transfer of Scientific and Technical Knowledge between Europe and China during the Early Modern Period

Sino-German Center for Research Promotion
Beijing, March 30 – April 1, 2019

Programme of the Conference

Day	Time	Panel	Activity
03/29 Fri		Arrival Day	
03/30 Sat		Day One	
	08:30-09:00	Registration	
	09:00-09:30	Opening	
			Hans Ulrich Vogel 傅汉思 (German Convener): Welcome Address
			Yildiz Miller (German Embassy): Welcome Address
			Zhang Baichun 张柏春 (Chinese Convener): Welcome Address
		INTRODUCTION	
			Chair: Zhang Baichun 张柏春
	09:30-10:00		Helwig Schmidt-Glintzer 施寒微 Science and Civilization in China and the West in Early Modern Times
	10:00-10:30		Thomas Zimmer 司马涛 Challenges and Mechanisms of Scientific Transfer between Europe and China during Late Ming and Early Qing
	10:30-11:00		COFFEE BREAK
		HEAVEN 天	
		Cosmology & Astronomy	
			Chair: Thierry Meynard 梅谦立
	11:00-11:30		Hsü Kuang-tai 徐光台 Reinterpretation of the Encounter between Christianized Aristotelian Worldview and Chinese View of <i>tian yuan di fang</i> 天圆地方 during the Late Ming Period

	11:30-12:00		Claudia von Collani 柯兰霓 Johannes Schreck S.J. and Johannes Kepler: The Chongzhen Calendar Reform
	12:00-12:30		Li Liang 李亮 Philippe de La Hire's (1640-1718) Astronomical Practices in Early Modern China
	12:30-13:30		BOX LUNCH
		Natural Philosophy & Mathematics	
			Chair: Tian Miao 田淼
	13:30-14:00		Thierry Meynard 梅谦立 Giulio Aleni's <i>Xingxue cushu</i> 性學彙述 (General Introduction to the Learning on Human Nature; ca. 1624, publ. 1646) and its Western Origins
	14:00-14:30		Chen Zihui 陈志辉 Dissemination and Acceptance of the Aristotelian Four-Elements Theory in Qing China
	14:30-15:00		COFFEE BREAK
			Chair: Helwig Schmidt-Glintzer 施寒微
	15:00-15:30		Yang Aidong 杨爱东 Why was Verbiest's <i>Qiongli xue</i> 窮理學 (Study of the Fathoming of Principles; 1683) not accepted?
	15:30-16:00		Xiao Yunhong 肖运鸿 The Knowledge about Lever in He Mengyao's 何梦瑶 <i>Suandi</i> 算迪 (Guide to Mathematics; ca. 1732-1736)
	16:00-16:30		Concluding Discussion of the Panel "Heaven"
	17:30		DINNER
03/31 Sun		Day Two	
		EARTH 地	
		Mining & Metallurgy	
			Chair: Iwo Amelung 阿梅龙
	09:00-09:30		Friedrich Naumann The Saxon Scientist Georgius Agricola (1494-1555) and the Foundation of Mining Sciences
	09:30-10:00		Hans Ulrich Vogel 傅汉思 Translating Renaissance Useful and Reliable Knowledge to Late Ming China: Some Insights from the Chinese 1638 Version of Agricola's <i>De re metallica</i>
	10:00-10:30		COFFEE BREAK

			Chair: Claudia von Collani 柯兰霓
	10:30-11:00		Alexander Jost 曹大龙 Beyond Agricola: The European Sources of Schall von Bell's <i>Kunyu gezhi</i> 坤輿格致 (Investigations of the Earth's Interior)
	11:00-11:30		Cao Jin 曹晋 Lost but not Forgotten: The <i>Kunyu gezhi</i> 坤輿格致 (Investigations of the Earth's Interior) and Western Mining Knowledge in China during the Ming-Qing Transition (1644-1684)
	11:30-12:30		BOX LUNCH
		Cartography & Hydrology	
			Chair: Alexander Jost 曹大龙
	12:30-13:00		Gong Yingyan 龚纓晏 Matteo Ricci's World Map (<i>Kunyu wanguo quantu</i> 坤輿萬國全圖; 1602): Some Notes
	13:00-13:30		Sabine Kink 金霞笔 What Makes Water Rise? Tidal Phenomena in the <i>Taixi shuifa</i> 泰西水法 (Hydromethods of the Great West; 1612)
	13:30-14:00		COFFEE BREAK
			Chair: Karel Davids
	14:00-14:30		Albert König 黄立人 The Jesuit Water Works at the European-Style Palaces of Yuanmingyuan: Hydraulic Design in the 17th Century
	14:30-15:00		Iwo Amelung 阿梅龙 Western Knowledge and River Engineering in Late Imperial China
	15:00-15:30		Concluding Discussion of the Panel "Earth"
	15:30-16:15		COFFEE BREAK & GROUP PHOTO
		MAN 人	
		Medicine	
			Chair: Han Qi 韩琦
	16:15-16:45		Sun Chengsheng 孙承晟 On the Diffusion of Western Essential Oil Knowledge in Late Ming and Early Qing China
	16:45-17:15		Erhard Rosner 罗志豪 Fang Yizhi 方以智 (1611-1671) on Western Medicine
	18:00		DINNER

04/01 Mon		Day Three	
		Technology & Mechanics	
			Chair: Shi Yunli 石云里
	09:00-09:30		Yin Xiaodong 尹晓冬 The European Sources of Firearm Knowledge in He Rubin's 何汝賓 <i>Binglu</i> 兵錄 (Records of Military Arts; 1630)
	09:30-10:00		Zheng Cheng 郑诚 Revisiting Johann Adam Schall von Bell and <i>Huogong qiyeao</i> 火攻擊要 (Important Matters of Assaults with Firearms; 1643)
	10:00-10:15		COFFEE BREAK
	10:15-10:45		Tian Miao 田淼 On the Translation and Dissemination Process of the <i>Yuanxi qiqi tushuo</i> 遠西奇器圖說 (Illustrations and Explanations of Wonderful Machines of the Far West; 1627)
	10:45-11:15		Concluding Discussion on the Panel "Man"
	12:00-13:00		LUNCH (Canteen of the National Library of China)
	13:00-14:00		Zhao Daying 赵大莹 Exhibition of Beitang Books at the National Library of China (NLC New Bldg.)
		KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER	
Public panel at the National Library of China, Wenjin Building 15:00-17:00			Chair: Hans Ulrich Vogel 傅汉思
			Zhang Baichun 张柏春 Transfer, Complementarity and Competition of Technological Knowledge between China and Europe, 16th to 18th Centuries
			Shi Yunli 石云里 Translating European Sciences to Late Ming and Early Qing Dynasties: What Did the Chinese Learn and What Not?
			Karel Davids Continuities and Ruptures in Long-distance Circulation of Knowledge, c. 1500-1800
			Concluding Discussion of the Public Panel
	17:00-18:30		Opportunity to visit the Beihai Park
	19:00		FAREWELL DINNER (place TBA, near Beihai Park)
04/02 Tue		Departure Day	
			Opportunity to visit Zhalan Cemetery, Ancient Observatory, Nantang Church and Forbidden City

Objectives of the Conference

The history of scientific, technical and medical exchange between Europe and China during the early modern period (16th to 19th centuries) is an important topic of research undertaken on a global level, but so far, much attention has been paid to special fields like astronomy, mathematics and cartography while other fields of practice and knowledge remain understudied.

This convention prominently concentrates on “hands-on” sciences, practical crafts and techniques and takes the texts produced in these fields more comprehensively into account as this has been done so far. Surprisingly, and perhaps due to the difficult technical language, only very few of the scientific, technical and medical treatises initiated or produced by the Jesuit China mission have been translated into English, nor have they been studied to substantial depth so that much work has still to be done in this respect. Therefore, translations of these Chinese texts into English, including all relevant text-critical, translational and contextual questions according to the newest global standards current in the field, are an important task for the next years.

This conference endeavours to bring together specialists in the history of exchange of scientific and technical knowledge between Europe and China. The targets of this event will be to share between colleagues mainly from China and Germany experiences obtained from relevant research and delineate fields of promising investigations. Moreover, this opportunity is used to explore possibilities of further co-operations in the framework of other conventions and workshops to be held in the future, invitations of individual scholars for research stays, or joint project applications.

Conference Venue

Sino-German Center for Research Promotion
Shuangqing Road 83, Haidian District, Beijing, PR China
中德科学中心, 北京市海淀区双清路 83 号

Conference Hotel

Holiday Inn Beijing Haidian ****
Shuangqing Road 89, Haidian District, Beijing, PR China
北京海淀红杉假日酒店, 北京市海淀区双清路 89 号 A 座

Conveners

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Prof. Dr. Hans Ulrich Vogel 傅汉思
Department of Chinese Studies, Tübingen University

Organization

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