

Purpose and Goals of the Conference

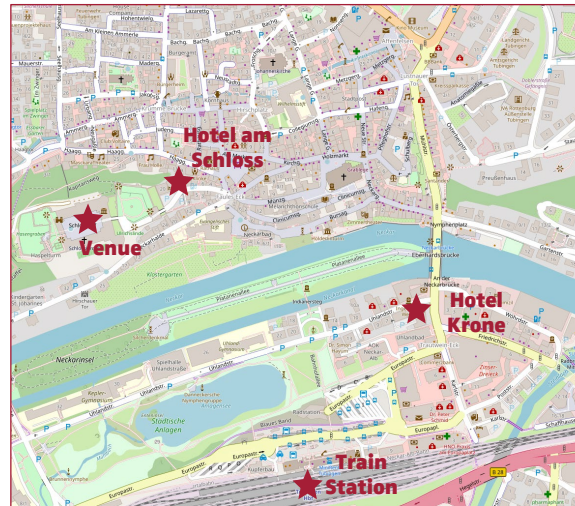
Scholars have deeply researched Europe's historical impacts upon China. A distinguished and decades-old - but still rather limited - field has undertaken research in the other direction, noting that China has also influenced its neighbors, Europe, and the wider world in turn. Nonetheless, this perspective remains dispersed, eclectic, and little-theorized. This gathering's questions will extend in two directions: the historicization and theorization of what one might call 'early modern Sinicization.'

Unearthing the many types of 'reverse diffusionism' in which Chinese practices spread to the world has rich explanatory promise, and may even be essential in achieving a more balanced understanding of causation in global history. On the one hand, this conference invites scholarship which explores how regions close and far from China transformed, adapted to, and struggled against Sinicization in the so-called early modern period, very roughly defined here as 1400–1800.

On the other hand, this conference also invites reflections on how to characterize 'Sinicization' itself. We also invite scholarship which poses major methodological, sociological, and even ethical questions about Sinicization, including:

- Which sociological categories should we use to describe these many tendencies and processes ('creolization,' 'interculturalization,' 'hybridization,' 'entanglement,' 'impact-response,' 'hegemony,' 'co-colonization,' the 'China-centered approach,' etc.)?
- How to navigate the pratfalls of accidental Eurocentrism, uncritical Sinophilia, and essentialization of European and East Asian societies?
- How to include the stories of smaller polities, indigenous peoples, dynamic and creative individuals, and others caught between Europeanization, Sinicization, and other powerful social currents?

Venue



Venue Address:
Schloss Hohentübingen, Burgsteige 11, 72070 Tübingen

Organization & Registration

Prof. Dr. Renate Dürr
University of Tübingen – CRC 923

Prof. Dr. Philip Hahn
Saarland University – CRC 923

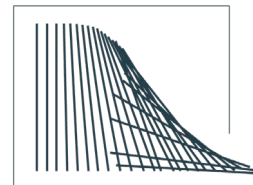
Dr. Adrian Masters
University of Trier

Dr. Rachel Zhang
University of Tübingen – CRC 923

Zoom Registration:
sinicizationconference@gmail.com

CRC 923 'Threatened Order. Societies under Stress'
Doblerstr. 21 · D-72074 Tübingen (Germany)
www.sfb923.uni-tuebingen.de

SFB 923 »BEDROHTE ORDNUNGEN«



SINICIZING THE EARLY MODERN WORLD

HISTORIES & INTERPRETATIONS BEYOND
EURO-DIFFUSIONISM

International Conference

15th & 16th June 2023

Fürstenzimmer | Schloss Hohentübingen
+ Online (via Zoom)

Funded by



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Conference Program

Thursday, 15th June 2023

9:30–10:00 | WELCOME & OPENING STATEMENTS

10:00–11:15 | OPENING LECTURE

Metaphor as Method

– David Porter (University of Michigan)

Coffee break

11:45–13:00 | PANEL 1: CHINESE-IBERIAN CONTACTS AND MANILA (CHAIR: ACHIM MITTAG)

The First Sangley Poetry: Diego de Rueda y Mendoza in Manila, 1622

– Rachel Zhang (University of Tübingen)

Luzon at the Center of Global Schemes: The Quest for the Strait of Anian from Both Sides of the Pacific Ocean

– Juan Gil-Osle (Arizona State University)

Lunch break

14:15–15:30 | PANEL 2: CHINESE-IBERIAN COMMERCIAL TRANSFORMATIONS (CHAIR: LAURA DIERKSMEIER)

On Non-Liberal Genealogies of Toleration, or How Chinese Merchants Made Catholic Manila Tolerant, 1593–1662

– Adrian Masters (Trier University)

Catholic Exclusion & the Rise and Fall of Chinese Manila's Cross-Cultural Brokers, 1684–1783

– Guillermo Ruiz-Stovel (KU Leuven)

Coffee break

16:00–17:15 | PANEL 3: NOVEL ENCOUNTERS IN THE EAST CHINA SEA (CHAIR: ANNO DEDERICHS)

Learning to Trade: The Initiation of English Merchants into East Asian Business Practices

– Tim Brook (University of British Columbia)

Reimagining Early Modern Sinicization through Indigenous Activism: Cultural Revival & Political Struggle of the Makatao People in Taiwan

– Raymond Dayi Hsu (University of Michigan)

17:15–17:45 | CONCLUDING REMARKS

Friday, 16th June 2023

9:00–10:15 | PANEL 4: SINICIZATION AND CHINA'S NORTHERN NEIGHBORS (CHAIR: SIMON SIEMIANOWSKI)

Sinicization & Its Critics: Moving beyond the Impasse

– Youngmin Kim (Seoul National University)

Form & Content in Manchu Print/Manuscript Culture; or, If Not Sinicization, What for Were Translations?

– Elvin Meng (University of Chicago)

Coffee break

10:45–12:00 | PANEL 5: SINICIZING THE MANCHU (CHAIR: CHRISTINA BRAUNER)

Sinicizing the Borderland & Forming the Frontier: The Incorporation Strategies & Ethnic Contestation of the Orochen in the Qing (1644–1911)

– Hang Lin (Hangzhou Normal University)

Why Chosŏn Korea Breaks the Sinicization Paradigm

– Sixiang Wang (University of California-Los Angeles)

Lunch break

13:00–14:15 | PANEL 6: CHINA, CHINESE, AND THE DUTCH (CHAIR: PHILIP HAHN)

Widow's Pleas: Chinese Business in Dutch Taiwan

– Dylan Tzu-yi Hsu (Leiden University)

Java, 1740–1742: Where Formal & Informal Empires Clashed

– Leonard Blussé (Leiden University)

Coffee break

14:45–16:00 | PANEL 7: SINICIZING THE EUROPEAN ENLIGHTENMENT (CHAIR: ADRIAN MASTERS)

A New Appreciation of Chinese Influence on Early French Classical Liberalism

– Benoît Malbranque (Institut Coppet)

Clavis Sinica: Leibniz's Exploration of Universal Characteristics and Chinese Writing, 1679–1707

– Yeti Kang (University of Chicago)

Coffee break

16:30–17:00 | PANEL 8: SINICIZING EUROPEAN BODY AND MIND (CHAIR: RENATE DÜRR)

Knowledge-Building on Nature & Body: Hot Springs in Early Modern Sino-Western Exchange

– Fei Huang (University of Tübingen)

The Dandy & the Sage: Aesthetics, Morality & the 'Perfected Man' in Zhuangzi 莊子 & Oscar Wilde

– Elizabeth Harper (University of Hong Kong)

17:30–18:00 | CONCLUDING REMARKS