

The silk industry - from sericulture to the weaving of cloth - was one of the most important fields of production in the medieval and early modern world. It spread from China to Japan and Korea, and travelled westward to India, the Persian and Byzantine empires, and Europe. This workshop scrutinizes the integration of silk production into various cultures and asks how technological innovation and change in the production and use of silk relates to scientific inquiry, and how it promoted, hindered or shaped people's approaches to nature and material inventiveness.



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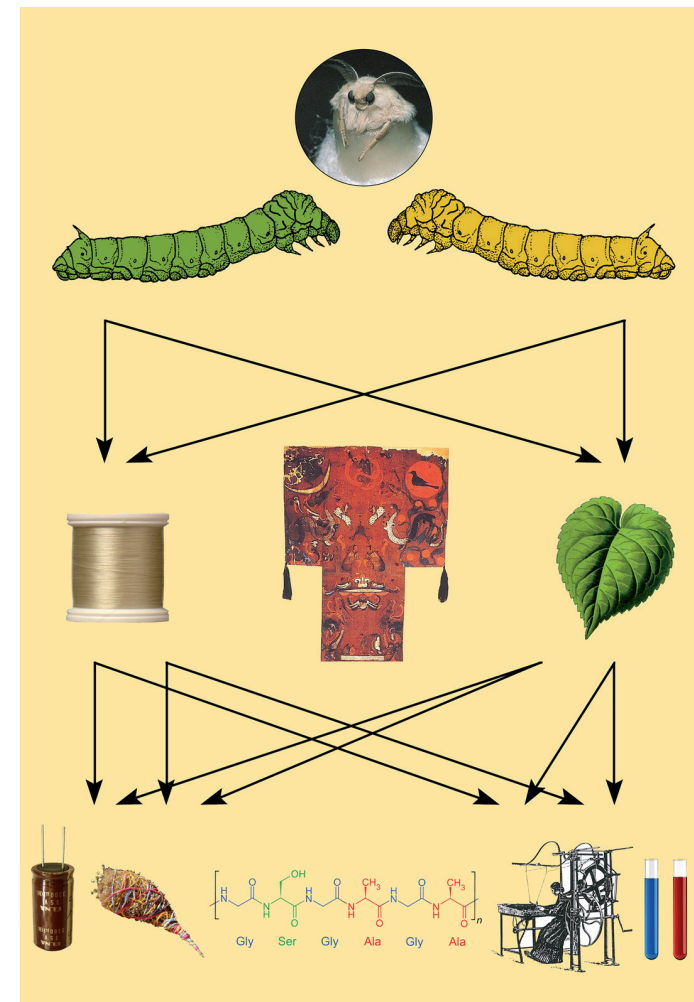
THE UNIVERSITY OF
WARWICK



HISTORICAL SYSTEMS OF INNOVATION

THE CULTURE OF SILK IN THE
EARLY MODERN WORLD
(14th-18th CENTURY)

17-18 December 2010



MAX-PLANCK-INSTITUT FÜR WISSENSCHAFTSGESCHICHTE
MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE FOR THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE

17 December

9:00-9:30 Welcome and introduction
by Dagmar Schäfer and Luca Molà

Raw Silk and Sericulture

9:30-10:15 Iranian Raw Silk in the
Seventeenth Century

Rudolph Matthee

10:15-11:00 Trials and Fabrications

Ben Marsh

Tea and coffee

11:15-12:00 The Migration of the
Silk Cycle from China

Claudio Zanier

12:00-12:45 Threads, Worms,
and Cocoons

Dagmar Schäfer

12:45-13:15 Discussion

Lunch



Exchange and Trade

14:15-15:00 From Domestic
Consumption to Global Export

Hoang Anh Tuan

15:00-15:45 The Changing Culture
of Silk in the Tokugawa Economy

Fujita Kayoko

Tea and coffee

16:15-17:00 Chinese Velvet Transmitted
from the West and Developed in the East

Zhao Feng

17:00-17:15 The Manila Galleon and
the Reception of Chinese Silk in the
Hispanic Empire, c. 1600

José Gasch

17:30-18:00 Discussion

Conference Dinner (19:00)

18 December



Manufacturing and the Business of Silk

9:00-9:45 Silk in Mughal India

Donald Clay Johnson

9:45-10:30 Production, Consumption
and the Space in Between

Amanda Phillips

Tea and coffee

11:00-11:45 Passionate Projectors

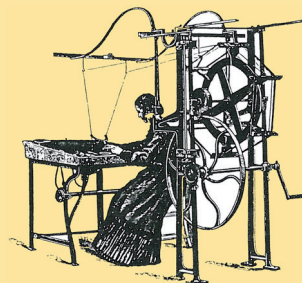
Maxine Berg

11:45-12:30 Silk and the Weavers of Silk
in Medieval Peninsular India

Vijaya Ramaswamy

12:30-13:00 Discussion

Lunch



Art, Technology and Perceptions

14:00-14:45 Why Velvet?

Angela Sheng

14:45-15:30 The Silken Tug-of-War in
Eighteenth-Century Lyon

Daryl Hafter

Tea and coffee



16:00-16:45 From Design Studio to
Marketplace

Lesley Miller

16:45-17:30 Public Perceptions of Silk
Production in Early Modern Italy

Luca Molà

17:30-18:00 Discussion

18:00-18:30 Summary