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.
17 December

9:00-9.30 Welcome and introduction
by Dagmar Schäfer and Luca Molá

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 Molá

17:30-18:00 Discussion

18:00-18:30 Summary