

FRIDAY, 22 NOV CONT.

Stuart MCMANUS Knowing Early Modern Slavery: Towards a Connected and Comparative History of Slavery in the Americas and China

12:30–13:30 LUNCH BREAK

13:30–14:30 Connections and Transmission

Chair: Mackenzie Cooley

Commentator: Dejanirah Couto, Tim Brook

Niping YAN Transpacific Connections: The Boxer Codex and Genres of Data-Collection

Huiyi WU Early Modern Globalisation in Chinese Local Gazetteers (16th–18th Century)

14:30–15:00 BREAK

15:00–16:00 Beyond China and Spain

Chair: Sonja Brentjes

Ali YAYCIOGLU Science of Empire: Registry, Secrecy, and Sanctity in Ottoman Imperial Knowing

Dejanirah COUTO Global Knowledge, Science and Miscegenation in the Portuguese Empire (16th–18th Century)

16:00–17:00 Roundtable Discussion

ABSTRACT

Vast empires, whether in Asia or the Americas, faced similar challenges when it came to scale and diversity. To control sweeping expanses of varied geography, human and natural alike, early modern administrators aimed to collect and organize knowledge. While localities within imperial boundaries might revel in their specific customs, natural histories, resources, and geographies, central administrators envisioned a means to transcend those specificities. This conference explores how, despite their geographic and cultural distance, both the Spanish and Chinese imperial administrations developed a system of geographic knowledge collection based on remote observation. The two imperial geographical genres evolved in parallel: the *difangzhi* (local gazetteers) of imperial China, and the *relaciones geográficas* (geographic relations) of the Spanish Empire. The *relaciones* questionnaires developed from a sixteenth-century census precedent and continued to shape reports on indigenous geography until the early eighteenth century. Rooted in earlier traditions of geography treatises and map guides, Chinese *difangzhi* matured and steadily spread by the turn of the sixteenth century, with the overwhelming majority of extant gazetteers dating from this period onward. Both of these sources are being fruitfully studied by historians and historians of science in their respective regional contexts, but their comparability has never been explored. This workshop brings the two perspectives into dialogue for the first time.

REGISTRATION

To register and access the pre-circulated readings and papers that will be discussed in this workshop, please email by Nov 12, 2019 to event_dept3@mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de.

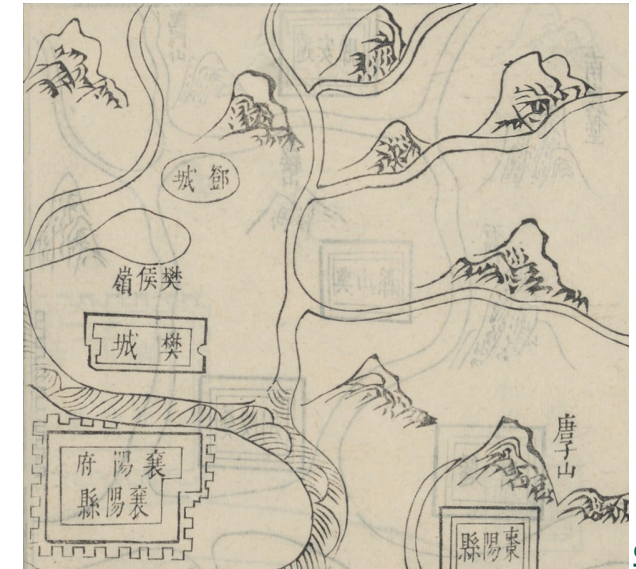
VENUE

MPIWG Main Conference Room
Max Planck Institute for the History of Science
Boltzmannstraße 22, 14195 Berlin



DEPARTMENT III
MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE
FOR THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE
ARTIFACTS, ACTION, KNOWLEDGE

WORKSHOP



Knowing an Empire

Imperial Science in the Early Modern Chinese and Spanish Empires



NOV 21–22, 2019
MAIN CONFERENCE ROOM
MPIWG

Organizers:
Mackenzie COOLEY (Hamilton College) and Huiyi WU (Needham Research Institute) and Shih-Pei CHEN (MPIWG)

01 "Map of Xiangyang area," Huguang Province General Gazetteer 湖廣通志, 1684 (Kangxi 23), Maps 圖考 (volume unnumbered), f° 10v–11.

02 "Map of Ixcatlán," Santa María Ixcatlán, Oaxaca, October 13, 1579, Benson Latin American Collection, University of Texas at Austin.

THURSDAY, 21 NOV

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| 09:00–10:45 | Introduction and Keynotes |
| Mackenzie COOLEY and Huiyi WU | Opening Remarks: Imperial Science and Epistemologies of Empire |
| Dagmar SCHÄFER | The Local Condition of Global Sciences: Counting Raindrops with Qin Jiushao in 1247 |
| Timothy BROOK | Knowledge Connection of the Early Modern World |
| Maria PORTUONDO | Reporting Doubt to the King: The Relaciones Geográficas, Knowledge of Nature and Local Imperatives |
| 10:45–11:00 | BREAK |
| 11:00–12:30 | Imperial Geography: Defining the Genre |
| Chair: | Dejanirah Couto |
| Commentator: | Maria Portuondo & Timothy Brook |
| Alexis LYCAS | “Patterned Guidelines” As Local Repositories for Knowing the Chinese Empire |
| Joe DENNIS | Defining the Local Gazetteer Genre in Ming China: Gazetteer Content and Compilation as Seen through Principles of Compilation <i>fanli</i> 凡例 |
| Discussion | What’s in a Relación? Towards a <i>Relaciones Geográficas</i> Timeline |
| 12:30–13:30 | LUNCH BREAK |

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| 13:30–14:30 | Digital Approaches to Early Modern Big Data |
| Chair: | Masato Hasegawa |
| Commentator: | Ali Yaycioglu & Nungyao Lin |
| Jeremy MIKECZ | From the Macro to the Micro: Combining Text-Mining and a Close Reading of the <i>Relaciones Geográficas</i> (RGs) of Peru |
| Shih-Pei CHEN | What One should Know about a Locality: Analyzing Knowledge Categories from the Chinese Local Gazetteers |
| 14:30–15:00 | BREAK |
| 15:00–17:00 | Natural and Environmental History |
| Chair: | Huiyi WU |
| Commentator: | Maria Portuondo & Dagmar Schäfer |
| Mackenzie COOLEY | Animals and the Making of Natural History in the <i>Relaciones Geográficas</i> |
| He BIAN | All the Fruits of Guangdong: Reconfiguring Local Products (<i>wuchan</i>) in Ming-Qing Provincial Gazetteers (Presentation in absentia) |
| Qun CHE | “Shifting Baseline” in the Terrain Transformation: Mapping Water Conservancy Constructions in the Middle Stream of Yangtze River (966-1885 A.D.) |
| Discussion | New Approaches to Comparative Nature Histories |

FRIDAY, 22 NOV

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| 09:00–10:00 | Cartography and Geography |
| Chair: | Nungyao Lin |
| Commentator: | Dejanirah Couto & Dagmar Schäfer |
| Barbara MUNDY | Mapping New Spain: Indigenous Cartography and Imperial Knowledge |
| Mario CAMS | Mapping Discourses in Ming China’s General Gazetteers |
| 10:00–10:15 | BREAK |
| 10:15–11:15 | Indigenous Knowledge: Language, Identity, Expertise |
| Chair: | David Pretel |
| Commentator: | Maria Portuondo, Dagmar Schäfer |
| Kelly MCDONOUGH | Indigenous Knowledges and the Archive: Health, Illness, and Healing in the 1577 <i>Relaciones Geográficas</i> |
| Mårten SÖDERBLOM SAARELA | Local linguistic knowledge in Qing Gazetteers |
| 11:15–11:30 | BREAK |
| 11:30–12:30 | State Control and Ways of Living |
| Chair: | Shih-Pei Chen |
| Commentators: | Ali Yaycioglu, Masato Hasegawa |
| Xianqing ZHANG | Telling the Story of Religion: Local Gazetteer (<i>difangzhi</i>), Native Discourse and Traditional Chinese Religion World |