

# Martina Siebert Curriculum Vitae

msiebert@mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de

Max Planck Institute for the  
History of Science  
Boltzmannstr. 22, 14195 Berlin

## Academic background and Education

July 2002	Dissertation in Sinology at Free University in Berlin ( <i>summa cum laude</i> )
title of PhD thesis:	“The bibliographical category <i>pulu</i> 譜錄. Treatises and lists on material culture and nature studies” (in German)
1994/95	Master in Sinology with the subsidiary subjects Japanology and History of Science and Technology ( <i>summa cum laude</i> )
title of M.A. thesis:	“The <i>Tangshuang pu</i> of Wang Zhuo as a Songdynasty source for the history of sugar in China” (in German)
1987 – 1989	DAAD exchange student at Beijing Normal University, PRC Studies of modern and classical Chinese language and literature

## Employment

Okt 2013 –	<b>Research Scholar</b> , Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin (full time from May 2014)
Nov 2009 – Apr 2014	<b>Research Fellow and area specialist</b> , Berlin State Library, East Asia Department, coordinator CrossAsia database portal, digitization project <i>SSG 6,25 Digital</i> and <i>Berlin-Krakow project: The Digitization of East Asian Berlinka</i>
Oct 2006 – Nov 2009	<b>Research Scholar</b> , Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin
Sep 2005 –	<b>Adjunct professor</b> of classical Chinese, Humboldt University, Berlin
Sep 2002 – Dec 2005	<b>Research Fellow</b> (DFG project) Institute for Cultural studies of East- and Southeast Asia – Sinology department, University of Würzburg.
title of project:	“In search of disciplines – <i>pulu</i> writing as forum and fundus for nature studies in traditional China”
Oct 1995 – Sep 2000	<b>Research and Teaching Fellow</b> for Sinology at the Institute of East Asian Studies, Free University Berlin

## Grants and Fellowships

Research project grant (DFG = German Science foundation): “In Search for Disciplines – *Pulu* Writing as Forum and Fundus for Nature Studies in Traditional China”, University of Würzburg 2002-2005

Exchange program Free University – Beijing University, September-December 1998

Student study and research scholarship (DAAD = German Academic Exchange Service): “Color Codes in the Poetry of Li He of Tang Dynasty”, Beijing Normal University 1987-1989

## Teaching

- The cash crops of China: history of their usage and processing
- Chinese alchemy: history, concepts, biographies
- From „agronomy“ to „zoology“: introduction to the history of science and technology of traditional China / From “agronomy” to “zoology”: introduction to the reading of traditional sources on the history of science and technology

- Science, technology, agriculture, medicine: theories und techniques in traditional China / Science, technology, agriculture, medicine: evaluating the sources and reading the texts
- Libraries, books and scholars
- From Venice to Xanadu: sinological themes and topoi in Marco Polo's *Il Milione*
- "Western knowledge" in China from the 17<sup>th</sup> c. to the present / Text reading on "Western knowledge" in China
- Chinese academic journals: past and present
- Research tools in Chinese Studies
- Sources and reference books for the history of China
- Classical Chinese I-IV (first and second year)

## Publications

**Books:** *'Inventories of Things' (pulu). A Handbook of Traditional Chinese Writings on Nature Studies.* Leiden: Brill (in preparation, about 600 pp.)

*Die bibliographische Kategorie der pulu. Abhandlungen und Auflistungen zu materieller Kultur und Naturkunde.* (dissertation) Harrassowitz: Wiesbaden 2006 (310 pp.)

**Edited Volumes:** *Animals Through Chinese History* (working title), Ed. Roel Sterckx & Martina Siebert (in preparation, forthcoming 2016)

*Über Himmel und Erde. Festschrift für Erling von Mende.* (co-edited with Raimund Th. Kolb). Harrassowitz: Wiesbaden 2006

*Ad Seres et Tungusos. Festschrift für Martin Gimm.* (co-edited with Lutz Bieg and Erling von Mende). Harrassowitz: Wiesbaden 2000

**Articles:** „Animals as Text: Producing and Consuming 'Text-Animals'.“ In: *Animals Through Chinese History* (working title), Ed. Roel Sterckx & Martina Siebert (in preparation, forthcoming 2016)

„Consuming and Possessing Things on Paper – Examples from Late Imperial China's Nature Studies.“ In: *Consumption in the Qing and Ottoman Empires* (working title), Ed. Suraiya Faroqhi & Elif Akcetin (in review, forthcoming 2016)

„Digitalisierung „Ostasiatisch“ – Besonderheiten und Herausforderungen ostasiatischer Materialien in westlichen Digitalisierungsprojekten“. In: *Bibliotheksmagazin. Mitteilungen aus den Staatsbibliotheken in Berlin und München* Nr.1 (2014), p. 57-63

„Klassen und Hierarchien, Kontrastpaare und Toposgruppen: Formen struktureller Eroberung und literarischer Vereinnahmung der Tierwelt im alten China“. In: *Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft* 162 (2012), p. 171-196

„Making Technology History. Chinese Concepts on the Origins of Things.“ In: *Cultures of Knowledge : Technology in Chinese History*, Dagmar Schäfer (Ed.). Leiden: Brill 2011, p. 253-282.

„Digitising old Chinese books in Europe“. In: *Eighth Conference on Cooperative Development and Sharing of Chinese Resources – Conference on Digital Archives of Chinese Library Resources. Proceedings.* Taipei 2010, p. 97-111

„Scienza e tecnologia“ (together with Angelika C. Messner). In: *La Cina II. L'età imperiale dai Tre Regni ai Qing*, Mario Sabattini & M. Scarpore (Eds.). Grand Opere Einaudi, Roma 2010, p. 867-946.

“Neue Formen für neue Themen – *pulu* 譜錄 als bibliographische Kategorie und als Schriften zu Sach- und Naturkunde.” (New topics need new forms – *pulu* as bibliographical category and genre for writing on material culture and nature studies) In: *Das Reich der Mitte – in Mitte. Studien Berliner Sinologen*. (Ed.) Florian C. Reiter. Harrassowitz: Wiesbaden 2006, p. 59-70

“Artificial incubation of eggs and the *Yijing* – scholarly perceptions of peasant knowledge: the *Buji* of Huang Baijia (1643–1709).” In: *Über Himmel und Erde. Festschrift für Erling von Mende*. Hrsg. Raimund Th. Kolb & Martina Siebert. Harrassowitz: Wiesbaden 2006, p. 359-384

“From bamboo to ‘bamboology’. A search for scientific disciplines in traditional China.” In: *History of Science in the Multiculture*. Proceedings of the 10<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the History of Science in East Asia (Shanghai, 20. – 24. August 2002). Shanghai: Shanghai jiaotong chubanshe 2005, pp. 307-320

“Zeitrechnung und Ära-bezeichnungen (*nianhao*) im traditionellen China. Teil 1: Zeitrechnung und Kalender.” (Calculation of time and the calendar) In: *Vom Herrscher zur Dynastie. Zum Wesen kontinuierlicher Zeitrechnung in Antike und Gegenwart*. (Ed.) Harry Falk. Bremen 2002, pp. 198-218

**Andere:** *Data Entry Specs for Chinese Text*. Wolfgang Schmidle, Martina Siebert, Martin Hofmann, Klaus Thoden, Malcolm D. Hyman. Max-Planck-Institut für Wissenschaftsgeschichte, Berlin. Version 2.0.1 (22. Juni 2009):  
[http://pythia.mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de/department1/mpdl/despecs/DESspecs\\_chinese.pdf/DESspecs\\_chinese\\_V3.pdf](http://pythia.mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de/department1/mpdl/despecs/DESspecs_chinese.pdf/DESspecs_chinese_V3.pdf)

**Reviews:** “Fa-ti Fan: *British Naturalists in Qing China. Science, Empire and Cultural Encounter*. Cam./Mass. 2004” (review). In: *Eighteenth Century Studies* 40.4 (2007), pp. 673-675

“Paul U. Unschuld: *HUICHUN – Rückkehr in den Frühling. Chinesische Heilkunde in historischen Objekten und Bildern*. München 1995” (review). In: *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Ostasiatische Kunst. Mitteilungen*. Nr.16 (1996), pp. 43–44

## Conference papers and invited talks

- 2015** „Things Outside of the Box: “Science Fiction Objects” in Early Modern Chinese Literature“  
Panel: *Strange Nature, Strange Technologies: Exploring the Inexplicable in Early Modern East Asia*, organized together with Qiong ZHANG (Wake Forest University), 14th ICHSEA, Paris 6.-10.7.2015, 8.7.2015
- „Interlocking workflows, overlapping spaces, situated knowledge – Planning Plants: Growing and Organising Lotus in Qing Imperial Spaces“  
Workshop: *Making the Qing Palace Machine Work*, organized by Martina Siebert & Kaijun Chen, MPIWG, Berlin, 28.-29.5.2015, 28.5.2015
- „Animals as Text : Producing and Consuming 'text-animals““  
Panel: *Animals as ...* organized by myself, Association for Asian Studies, Annual Meeting, Chicago, 26.-29.3.2015, 29.3.2015
- 2014** „From Tagging to Mapping Historical Chinese Data“ (with Shih-Pei Chen)  
History of Science Society, Annual Meeting, Chicago, 6.11.2014
- 2013** „The Changing Landscape of Chinese Digital Resources – From a Researcher’s Perspective“  
Input talk at Digital Content Curator workshop, 15.10.2013

- 2012** „Animal texts – text animals“  
Workshop: Animals in Asian Society, History and Thought, Manchester 24-26.3.2013
- „The Changing Landscape of Chinese Digital Resources“  
XIX Biennial Conference of the European Association of Chinese Studies (EACS)  
Paris, 4. - 8.9.2012
- 2011** „Evaluation of late-Qing and Minguo Periodicals databases (Beitu, Dacheng, Shanghai tushuguan)“  
31. Annual EASL (European Associations of Sinological Libraries) Conference, Prag, 7.-9.9.2012
- „柏林国家图书馆东亚部：历史、收藏、采购与服务“ (mit Cordula Gumbrecht)  
Sino-Foreign Roundtable Discussion on Building Chinese Studies Collection (meeting of European and US American Sinological Libraries and Chinese Publishing Houses), Beijing and Shanghai, 25. resp. 28.4.2010
- 2010** „Digitising Old Chinese Books in Germany and Europe“ (auf Chinesisch)  
2010 Conference on Digital Archives of Chinese Library Resources, Taipei, 3. - 4.11.2010
- 2009** „Die Historisierung des Neuen im China des 15. bis 18. Jahrhunderts“  
Internationale Fachtagung des Forschungszentrums „Diskursivierung von Wissen in der Frühen Neuzeit“, Universität Kiel 26. – 28.11.2009:
- „Localizing Species: Defining Biological Borders and Coining Local Emblems in Pre-modern China“  
(panel: Local Motion: Placing Herbal Knowledge in Early Modern East and Southeast Asia, organized by Carla S. Nappi (Montana State University)  
Annual Conference of the Association for Asian Studies (AAS), Chicago ILL, 26. – 29.3.2009
- 2008** “The Origin of Things – Making Technology into History”  
(panel: Origin/Source. Concepts and Their Uses in the History of Knowledge in Premodern China, organized together with Karine Chemla, CNRS Paris)  
International Conference for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine in Southeast and East Asia (ICHSEA), Baltimore 14.-19.7.2008.
- “New Fields of Erudition in Traditional China: Modes of Personifying *pulu* Authorship”  
(panel: Impersonating the Old, Impersonating the New: Transformations of Literati Identities in China and Japan)  
Annual Conference of the Association for Asian Studies (AAS), Atlanta GA, 3. – 6.4.2008
- “Klassen und Hierarchien, Kontrastpaare und Toposgruppen. Strukturelle Eroberung und literarische Vereinnahmung der Tierwelt im alten China” (Classes and Hierarchies, Couplets of Contrast and Groups of Topoi. Structural Conquest and Literary Inclusion of the Animal World in Ancient China)  
Workshop: “Fallstudien zur Fauna im alten China: Terminologie, Klassifikation, Symbole, Umwelt” (Case studies on the Fauna in Ancient China: Terminology, Classification, Symbols, Environment). Ludwig-Maximilian-Universität München, Institut für Sinologie, 17. Januar 2008
- 2007** “Origin and Originality. Making Technology Commonplace”  
Workshop: “From Invention to Innovation. The Transmission of Practical Knowledge”. Max-Planck-Institute for the History of Science (Research Group Schäfer), 9. – 13. Juli 2007
- 2006** „‘Pfade’ der Wissenschaften in China“ (‘Footpaths’ of the Sciences in China)  
Workshop: “Der europäische Sonderweg: die Wissenschaftliche Revolution” (The Extraordinary Way of Europe: the Scientific Revolution). Breuninger Stiftung, Heidelberg/Schönau, 17. – 19. November 2006
- 2005** “Landwirtschaftliche Techniken in gelehrten Texten des traditionellen China” (Agricultural techniques in scholarly writings of traditional China)  
Colloquium of the Research group „Chinese everyday technologies“, Technical University Berlin. WS 05/06
- “Traditional Chinese Texts on Nature studies and Artefacts – A Call for Reconstructing the Material and Intellectual Corpus of *pulu*-Texts”  
Journées d’étude: Bibliothèques, encyclopédies, musées, archives: la constitution des collections qui ont fourni ses sources à l’histoire des sciences. Paris: REHSEIS, 4./5. April 2005
- “Texts and actualities. The *Tiangong kaiwu* chapter on sugar and its technologies”

International conference for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine in Southeast and East Asia (ICHSEA XI), München 15. – 20. August 2005

- 2004** “Neue Formen für neue Themen: die *pulu* als bibliographische Kategorie und als Schriften zur materiellen Kultur und Naturkunde im traditionellen China” (New forms for new topics. *Pulu* as bibliographical category and as genre for writing on material culture and nature studies)  
Public lecture: Das Reich der Mitte – in Mitte, Berliner Sinologen berichten (The ‘Middle kingdom’ – in the middle of Berlin, Berlin Sinologists report). FU/HU Berlin WS 03/04
- “Die Suche nach Disziplinen. Das Handbuch zur Erschließung der traditionellen chinesischen ‘Abhandlungen und Auflistungen’ zu Naturkunde und materieller Kultur, *pulu* – ein Zwischenbericht” (‘In search for disciplines’ – Handbook for indexing the traditional Chinese treatises and lists on nature studies and material culture, *pulu*. An interim report)  
Meeting of the China-AG 2004, Würzburg
- 2003** “Hatching Eggs and the *Yijing*: scholarly perceptions of peasant knowledge”  
Lecture. Needham Research Institute. Text-reading seminar. Cambridge (UK) lent term
- “New topics need new forms. Chinese traditional writings on material culture and nature studies”  
International Symposium on Ancient Chinese Books and Records of Science and Technology. Tübingen
- 2002** “From bamboo to ‘bamboology’. A search for scientific disciplines in traditional China”  
International Conference of the History of Science in East Asia (ICHSEA X). Shanghai
- 2001** “Traditional Writings on Material Culture and Nature Studies: *pulu*”  
International Convention of Asia Scholars (ICAS II), Berlin 2001. Panel 018 Chinese everyday cultures
- 2000** “Tierkunde im traditionellen China: Quellen, Schwerpunkte, Besonderheiten” (Zoology in traditional China: sources, focus, peculiarities)  
Research colloquium organized by the Institute for East Asian Studies, Free University Berlin, in collaboration with the Working group for the Philosophy and History of Science in China, Technical University Berlin. SS 2000
- 1998** “Formen wissenschaftlichen und technischen Schrifttums im traditionellen China. Ein Blick durch die Raster der klassischen Bibliothek” (Forms of scientific and technical writings in traditional China – a view through the grid of bibliographical classification)  
Research colloquium, Institute for the History of Science and Technologie – Technical University Berlin. SS 1998

Languages reading/speaking/writing: German, Modern Chinese, English

reading: Classical Chinese, Japanese, French

basics: Manchu, Arabic