

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.

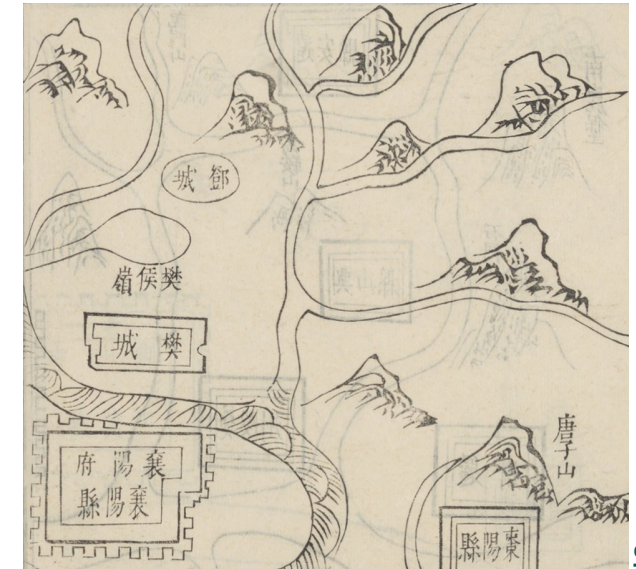
VENUE

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 (Cornell University) 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

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

13:30–14:30	Digital Approaches to Early Modern Big Data
Chair:	Masato Hasegawa
Commentator:	Ali Yaycioglu & Timothy Brook
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>
Brian HE	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

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, Tim Brook
Xianqing ZHANG	Telling the Story of Religion: Local Gazetteer (<i>difangzhi</i>), Native Discourse and Traditional Chinese Religion World