

Call for Papers: Regimes of Knowledge (2)

Kaohsiung, Taiwan 9-11 May 2006.

Paper submissions are invited for the 9th GEHN network meeting, to be held at Wenzao Ursuline College of Foreign Languages, Kaohsiung, Taiwan from Tuesday 9 May to Thursday 11 May 2006.

The aim of this Workshop is to gather together as wide a range of papers as possible on the historical relations of useful and reliable knowledge, technological change and material/industrial progress in world history. The intention is to cover European, East Asian, and South Asian/Ottoman experience in 5 sessions as follows :

Session 1. Regimes of Knowledge before Industrialisation

Session 2. Between Great Systems – The Connectivities of Knowledge

Session 3. Knowledge, Colonial Cultures, and Interactions

Workshop Trip on Connectivities and Taiwanese History

Session 4. Regimes of Useful and Reliable Knowledge and Industrialization

Session 5. URK and Alternative Paths? A Led Roundtable Discussion

It is planned that each session will have 3 to 4 full papers of around 20 minutes presentation each, followed by 1 commentary on each paper of around 5-10 minutes length. When this has been done for each paper, after break for tea, there will be a full group discussion and debate on each and all papers chaired by Chairs of Session.

There are a number of debates in the literature on comparative and world history that address the problem of the role of useful and reliable knowledge (at times labeled science) in the material progress of regions and nations. In this network meeting we intend to discuss what is known of the regimes of knowledge in different regions prior to their industrializations, whether it

might be possible to find ways of comparing such regimes of knowledge.¹ But as the session titles suggest, we want also to go beyond this to consider the manner in which knowledge systems connected between regimes, how knowledge transferred, and how the impacts of new knowledge differed between contrasting sites of technological endeavor. Papers and discussions in sessions 3 and 4 might – then – take our analysis well into the 19th century and even beyond.

Paper proposals and titles, including an indication of the relevant session, should be sent no later than January 15th 2006 electronically to the organizer on ian@inkster.org.uk, to the co-organizers Professor Floris Cohen, University of Twente h.f.cohen@utwente.nl and Professor Jack Goldstone, George Mason University jgoldsto@gmu.edu, as well as to the local organizer and workshop member Professor Jerry Liu jerryliu@mail.wtuc.edu.tw.

For further details of Wenzao at this stage please see <http://www.wtuc.edu.tw/2004/> Final papers are due no later than April 25th 2006 and should also be submitted electronically.

¹ For a notion of regimes of knowledge as used here see the paper by Patrick O'Brien to the Leipzig meeting of GEHN, obtainable at <http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/economicHistory/GEHN/GEHNConference4Papers.htm>