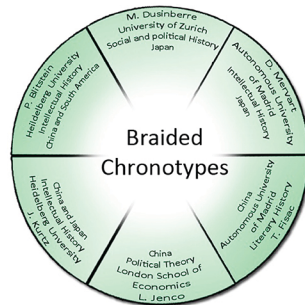


East Asian Uses of the European Past Tracing Braided Chronotypes (EAU-TBC)

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Introduction

Our project examines the global co-productions of historical knowledge within and between Europe and East Asia since 1600. We explore changing perceptions and conceptualisations of time and temporality, including how ideas about the past circulated and were repurposed within East Asian networks of exchange.



Arrival of the "Southern Barbarians", c. 1600. Japan. Momoyama period (1573-1615). Pair of six-fold screens; ink, color, and gold on paper; overall: 146.7 x 337.2 cm (57 3/4 x 132 3/4 in.). The Cleveland Museum of Art, Leonard C. Hanna, Jr. Fund 1960.193. archive.org



Writing Box with Decoration of Foreigners ("Southern Barbarians"), c. 1600. Japan. Momoyama Period (1573-1615). Credit: The Cleveland Museum of Art, Andrew R. and Martha Holden Jennings Fund 1969.59. archive.org.

Main Findings

We find that "history from between" is the best lens through which to understand the construction of historical knowledge between East Asia and Europe. "Between" refers both to the space framed by East Asia and Europe, as well as between the reality of global circulations of ideas and the subjective feeling of embeddedness in larger-than-local contexts that such ideas inspire.

We argue that the outcomes of such entanglements are not merely reactive forms of knowledge of the kind implied by studies of translation

and reception in global intellectual history. Instead they are themselves "co-productions"—they are the shared and mutually interactive inputs to enduring modes of uses of the past, across both East Asian and European traditions.

Taking seriously the possibility that interpretations of the past were not transferred, but rather were co-produced between East Asia and Europe, also makes visible new geographies through which to consider global intellectual history: geographies in which the networks in and around East Asia are as important as those constructed by European empires and capital.



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Impact

Our most recent public event was "History from Between: Global Circulations of the Past in East Asia and Europe", a one-day conference held at the British Library on 1 April 2019 to discuss the creation of historical knowledge between East Asia and Europe from 1600-1950: blogs.bl.uk/asian-and-african/2019/01/history-from-between-global-circulations-of-the-past-in-east-asia-and-europe.html

We also host an online podcast, "15past15", which discusses how the past is made, and by whom. Its first season focuses on history and history-writing in East Asia, from the sixteenth century to today. Interviewees debate the indigenous historical traditions of China and Japan in particular, and the ways that understandings of the past evolved at times of acute political and societal change: hist.uzh.ch/de/dhl/podcast.html

Finally, LSE Research Officer Jonathan Chappell gave two public tours of the British Museum's Enlightenment Gallery, one included as part of LSE's Festival of Ideas in 2018. Entitled "Rethinking

"Enlightenment": Collectors and Imperial knowledge Production," the tour used our HERA research into uses of the past to rethink the gallery's narrative that the Enlightenment was a time when European explorers and collectors set out to discover the world and use reason to define and classify new forms of objects. The tour suggested that the "Age of Enlightenment" could not be separated from a European "Age of Imperialism" and that knowledge production was imbricated within European imperial projects.



Publications

Leigh Jenco, "Chen Di's *Record of Formosa*: An Alternative Chinese Imaginary of Otherness," forthcoming to *Historical Journal*.

Leigh Jenco and Jon Chappell, "History from Between: Global Circulations of the Past between East Asia and Europe, 1650-Present," forthcoming to *Historical Journal*.

Leigh Jenco and Jon Chappell, "Imperialism in Chinese Eyes: Nations, Empires, and State-building," revised and resubmitted to *Journal of Asian Studies*.

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