Asian and Middle Eastern Studies at University of Cambridge and University of Tartu
Workshop Program
Tartu, 12th and 13th of September 2018

The aim of the workshop is to initiate and extend cooperation in the field of Asian and Middle Eastern studies between University of Tartu and University of Cambridge, to enable scholars to submit their research themes, to find possibilities for cooperation and to help PhD students present their current work and to find ideas for future research. This workshop includes topics from China and India to Semitic, Middle East and Persia Studies. The presentations will transmit the research interests between University of Tartu and University of Cambridge.

Wednesday, 12th of September 2018
Workshop day 1: main building of the University of Tartu, Ülikooli 18, Senate Hall

08.30–09.00 Registration

09.00–09.15 Introductory remarks by Dr Elo Süld, Head of UT Asian Centre
Opening address by the Rector of the University of Tartu Prof Toomas Asser
Welcome and greetings by the Dean of Faculty of Arts and Humanities Prof Margit Sutrop

09.15–09.45 Keynote Lecture
“Asian and Middle Eastern Studies in Cambridge University”
Prof Charles Melville (University of Cambridge, Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, Professor of Persian History, Vice-President of the British Institute of Persian Studies)

09.45–10.00 Coffee break

10.00–12.00 1. Session: Islamic and Persian Studies at University of Cambridge and at University of Tartu
Moderator: Imar Y. Koutchoukali (University of Tartu, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, School of Theology and Religious Studies, PhD student)

Presentation 1
“Cambridge Orientalists and the Study of Sufism?”
Dr Timothy Winter (University of Cambridge, Director of Studies, Wolfson College; Dean, The Cambridge Muslim College)

Presentation 2
“Persian Manuscripts in the Tartu University Library”
Dr Firuza Melville (University of Cambridge, Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, Affiliated Lecturer; Director of Research, Cambridge Shahnama Centre for Persian Studies, Pembroke College)

Presentation 3
“The Islamic Studies at the University of Tartu on the 19th–21st Century: Problems and Possibilities”
Dr Elo Süld (University of Tartu, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, School of Theology and Religious Studies, Lecturer in Islamic Studies)

12.00–13.00 Lunch break for registered participants

13.00–15.00 2. Session: China Studies at University of Cambridge and at University of Tartu
Moderator: Mart Veliste (University of Tartu, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Asian Centre)

Presentation 1 “Nationalism and Regime Legitimacy in Modern China”
Dr Robert Weatherley (University of Cambridge, Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, Affiliated Lecturer in Chinese Politics)

Presentation 2 “State Re-scaling and Metropolitanization in China: Issues and Challenges of Governance in Chinese City-Regions”
Prof Lisheng Dong (University of Tartu, Faculty of Social Sciences, Johan Skytte Institute of Political Studies, Professor of Asian Politics)

Presentation 3 “Ordinary People Don’t Deal with Politics”: Disengagement and Other Psychological Processes Conducive to CCP’s Rule”
Urmas Pappel (University of Tartu, Faculty of Social Sciences, Johan Skytte Institute of Political Studies, PhD student)

15.00–15.30 Coffee break

15.30–17.00 Roundtable Discussion Session for Doctoral Students: Asian Studies in University of Cambridge and University of Tartu. Ways of Cooperation

There will be discussion in 2 groups, according to session topics (Chinese Studies and Islamic and Persian Studies).

18.00–20.00 Conference dinner (location TBT)

Thursday, 13th of September 2018
Workshop day 2: main building of the University of Tartu, Ülikooli 18, Senate Hall

08.50–09.00 Welcoming remark by Prof Urmas Nõmmik (University of Tartu, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, School of Theology and Religious Studies, Associate Professor of Old Testament and Semitic Studies)

9.00–10.30 3. Session: Semitic Studies at University of Cambridge and at University of Tartu
Moderator: Prof Urmas Nõmmik (University of Tartu, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, School of Theology and Religious Studies, Associate Professor of Old Testament and Semitic Studies)
Presentation 1

“What Manuscripts from the Cairo Genizah Tell Us About the Use and Study of Language Among Medieval Jews in Muslim Lands”

Dr Nadia Vidro (University of Cambridge, Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, Affiliated Researcher in Hebrew Studies)

Presentation 2

“The Semitic and Jewish Studies at the University of Tartu: Problems and Possibilities”

Dr Anu Põldsam (University of Tartu, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, School of Theology and Religious Studies, Lecturer in Jewish Studies)

10.30–11.00

Coffee break

11.00–13.00

4. Session: Indian Studies at University of Cambridge and at University of Tartu

Moderator:

Prof Per Kvarne (University of Oslo, Professor Emeritus)

Presentation 1

“Religion in a Landscape: Buddhism and Political Power (?) at Rajagriha”

Dr Robert Harding (University of Cambridge, Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, Affiliated Researcher in Indian Languages and Cultures)

Presentation 2

“Supernatural Landscapes in North Eastern India: Discursive Markers and Disrupted Histories”

Prof Ülo Valk (University of Tartu, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Institute of Cultural Research, Professor of Estonian and Comparative Folklore)

Presentation 3

“Place, Reality, and Entanglements: Karbi and Khasi Indigenous worldviews”

Dr Margaret Lyngdoh (University of Tartu, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Institute of Cultural Research, Research Fellow in Folkloristics)

13.00–14.30

Lunch break for participants

14.30–16.00

Roundtable Discussion Session for Doctoral Students: Asian Studies in University of Cambridge and University of Tartu. Ways of Cooperation

There will be discussion in 2 groups, according to session topics (Indian Studies and Semitic Studies).

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