



NEUBAUER
COLLEGIUM
FOR CULTURE AND SOCIETY

IMPERIAL INTERSTICES

AGENTS OF EURASIAN INTERACTION IN LATE ANTIQUITY

2016-17 WORKSHOPS

Neubauer Collegium
The University of Chicago



In the first millennium CE, regions in the interstices of the Mediterranean, the Near East, and East and South Asia gave rise to merchants, political elites, and religious specialists who stimulated social change across Eurasia. The Neubauer Collegium project Imperial Interstices aims to shift our historical perspective away from the Roman, Chinese, Iranian/Islamic, and Indian civilizational centers toward the places in between, such as the Central Eurasian steppes, Indian Ocean ports, and the passes of the Caucasus and Hindu Kush, as centers of economic, political, and religious innovation.



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WORKSHOP AGENDA

WORKSHOP 1: MERCHANTS

November 11, 2016

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Nicholas Purcell, "Circulation Across and Around West Asia"

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Bryan Miller, "A Small Steppe World: The Centrality of 'Barbarian' Elites in Eurasian Networks of Exchange"

3:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. Break

3:15 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

Fanny Bessard, "Afro-Eurasian Artisans in the Early Islamic World: Mobility and Innovation"

4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.

Seth Priestman, "State Power and Long-Distance Exchange Networks in the Indian Ocean"

5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.

Michael Frachetti and **Ken Pomeranz** (discussants) and open conversation

6:15 p.m. Reception

WORKSHOP 2: POLITICAL ELITES

February 24, 2017

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Michelle Cleary, "Territory and Status: Mobile Elites and Capitals in Eurasia and Central Asia"

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Sören Stark, "The Heartland of Empires? Some Observations on the So-Called 'Orkhon Tradition' Among the Turks and Other Inner Asian Polities"

3:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. Break



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3:15 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

Daud Ali, "Courtly Interaction between Western and Southern Asia in Late Antiquity"

4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.

Matthew Kapstein, "Revisiting an Imperial Interstice: A Reading of Anxi Yulin Cave 25"

5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.

Claudia Brittenham and **Rajeev Kinra** (discussants) and open conversation

6:15 p.m.

Reception

WORKSHOP 3: RELIGIOUS ELITES April 21, 2017

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Jason Beduhn, "'Its Good Tidings Reach Every Land': The Manichaean Mission As a Catalyst of Cultural Exchange"

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Pénélope Riboud, "Beyond Appearances: The Ambiguous Elements of Chinese Zoroastrianism"

3:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. Break

3:15 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

Max Deeg, "Reconciling Empire and Religion: Buddhist Agents between China and India"

4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.

Jason Neelis, "The Buddha's Birth: Stories and Their Transmitters across Cultural Frontiers"

5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.

Persis Berlekamp, **Jamie Kreiner**, and **Christian Wedemeyer** (discussants) and open conversation

6:15 p.m.

Reception

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