



Transregional Exchanges on Marco Polo's Routes: Networks, Mobilities, and Cultural Transfers

December 4-6, 2024

Aula Magna Silvio Trentin, Ca' Dolfin

December 4

15.30-16.00 **Greetings and introduction**

Tiziana Lippiello (Rector of Ca' Foscari University of Venice)

Adriano Rossi (President of ISMEO)

Laura De Giorgi (Director of the Department of Asian and North African Studies, Ca' Foscari University of Venice)

Maddalena Barengi (Deputy Director of MaP, Ca' Foscari University of Venice)

16.00-18.00 **Keynote lectures**

Joanna Waley Cohen (NYU), *Beckoning Beauty: The Allure of Objects from Afar*

Frantz Grenet (Collège de France), *Marco Polo Studies in France*

19.00-21.00 Aperitivo/Dinner

December 5

9.30-12.30 **PANEL 1**

Travelogues, Narratives, and Ethnographic Accounts

Discussant: **Emiliano Fiori** (Ca' Foscari)

Shao-yun Yang (Denison Un.), *Daoist Master Changchun's Journey to the West*

Pier Giorgio Borbone (UniPi), *The Eastern Christians encountered by Marco Polo*

11.00-11.15 Coffee break

Hyunhee Park (CUNY), *The Khataynameh and Marco Polo: Navigating Divergent Narratives of the Silk Road's Final Era*

Stefano Pellò (Ca' Foscari), *Salvatica Gente: Mughal and Colonial Ethnographies on Marco Polo's Bolor in a Transregional Perspective*

12.45-14.30 Lunch

14.30-18.00 **PANEL 2**

(Religious) Mobility and Exchange

Discussant: **Joseph Sanzo** (Ca' Foscari)

Li Tang (Un. Salzburg), *A Confluence of East and West on the Silk Road: The Emergence of a Unique Christian Epigraphical Tradition in Central Asia and China from the 8th to the 14th century*

Raissa De Gruttola (Ca' Foscari), *Beyond Marco Polo: Impressions and Activities of Franciscan Missionaries in China*

Francesca Tarocco (Ca' Foscari), *"They Eat no Flesh": Buddhist Lives in Medieval Europe*

16.00-16.15 Coffee break

James Frankel (CUHK), *Even unto China...and Back: Chinese Muslim Journeys to the West*

Dilnoza Duturaeva (Un. York), *From the Qarakhans to the Moghul Khans: Caravan Routes during Crisis* (ONLINE)

December 6

10.00-12.30 **PANEL 3**

Places, Networks, and Cultural Transfers

Discussant: **Sabrina Rastelli** (Ca' Foscari)

Xin Wen (Princeton Un.), *Rethinking Marco Polo's Quen-gian-fu: A Social History of Chang'an under the Mongol Rule*

Francesco Calzolaio (HKU), *The Urban Empire: Chinese Cities in Persian Sources, ca. 1250-1350*

11.00-11.15 Coffee break

Rui Pang (UCL), *Journey to the East: Interpretations and Conservation of Chang'an in the Context of Cross-Cultural Exchanges*

Valentina Bruccoleri (Sorbonne Université), *Gold, Silver and Porcelain: Drinking Vessels in Marco Polo's Eurasia*

12.30-14.00 Lunch

14.15-17.30 **PANEL 4**

Marco Polo in Contemporary Asian Arts and Literatures

Discussant: **Pierantonio Zanotti** (Ca' Foscari)
Paride Stortini (Ghent University), *From Marco Polo to Xuanzang. Buddhism in Transmedia and Transnational Circulation of Silk Road Imaginary from 1980s Japan*

Nicoletta Pesaro (Ca' Foscari), *Traversing Invisible Cities: Marco Polo, Italo Calvino, and Contemporary Chinese Literature: Xue Yiwei's Literary Dialogue*

16.15-16.30 Coffee break

Caterina Mazza (Ca' Foscari), *"Tattooed Onto Marco Polo's Skin My Eye": A Journey Into the Liminal Space Between Asia and Europe Through the Poetry of Tawada Yōko*

Elisabetta Ragagnin (Ca' Foscari) and **D. Zayabaatar** (National University of Mongolia), *Natsagdorj's Marco Polo*

17.45-18.45 **Music performance:** Musicians and Instruments on Marco Polo's Routes Introduced by **Shan Du** (University of Milan)

Mohammad Sadegh Esfandyar, Persian dulcimer *santūr*

Giovanni De Zorzi, (Ca' Foscari University of Venice) Ottoman flute *ney*

Yanqin Zhang, Chinese zither *guzheng*

Qiling Yu, Chinese lute *pipa*

Organizing committee

Maddalena Barengi

Eugenio De Angelis

Emiliano Fiori

Jacopo Scarin