



# 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 Barenghi** (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*

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

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

**Tim Williams** (UCL), *Caravanserais and Communication Routes of the Silk Road, with a Focus on the Merv Site in Turkmenistan*

**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  
**Mohammad Sadeq Esfandyar**, Persian dulcimer *santūr*

**Giovanni De Zorzi**, Ottoman flute *ney*  
**Yanqin Zhang**, Chinese zither *guzheng*  
**Qiling Yu**, Chinese lute *pipa*