Transformations of Intercultural Diplomacies
Comparative Views on Asia and Europe (1700 to 1850)

Workshop organised by Henrietta Harrison (University of Oxford) and Christian Windler (Universität Bern), in cooperation with Nadine Amsler (Universität Bern)

Bern (Switzerland), 2–4 June 2016

Speakers:

Muzaffar Alam (Chicago)  Henrietta Harrison (Oxford)  Maurus Reinkowski (Basel)
Tanja Bührer (Bern)    Jan Hennings (Budapest)   Will Smiley (New York)
Adam Yuet Chau (Cambridge UK)  Michael Khodarkovsky (Chicago)  Hillard von Thiessen (Rostock)
May Bo Ching (Hongkong)  André Krischer (Münster)  Christian Windler (Bern)
Jeroen Duindam (Leiden)  Matthew Mosca (Seattle)  Keynote lecture:
Pascal Firges (Paris)   David Do Paço (Paris)  Sanjay Subrahmanyam (Los Angeles)
Irena Fliter (Tel Aviv)
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- Swiss National Science Foundation
- UBS Kulturstiftung
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- Abteilung für Neuere Geschichte des Historischen Instituts der Universität Bern

The history of diplomacy and foreign relations is undergoing radical conceptual and methodological change. Instead of the traditional state-centred view, new approaches have highlighted the interpersonal nature of early modern foreign relations. These were managed by agents who, by serving their rulers, also pursued other interests concerning their person, family, or locality. The fruitfulness of an approach focusing on these intermediaries has also been highlighted by historians focusing on intercultural diplomacies. Indeed, growing interest in entangled histories that examine the global interconnections between societies has given new importance to the study of the lives and ideas of those who moved between cultures. In this context, the history of diplomacy is particularly interesting because it gives us the opportunity to look at how people at the time understood and dealt with different normative orders. Instead of emphasising essentialised cultural difference, this approach encourages us to examine how mutual perceptions and normative orders are actually produced through the practice of diplomacy.

The workshop centers on a period which has been singled out as a moment of profound transformations in intra-European diplomatic practice as well as in diplomatic and cultural relations between Asian and European societies. It aims to bring together historians working on different Asian and European diplomacies in order to study early modern Eurasian diplomatic encounters as well as their transformations between 1700 and 1850 in a comparative as well as in an entangled perspective.
Thursday, 2 June
14.30–15.00: Coming together, welcome coffee
15.00–15.30: Introduction by the organisers

Panel I: Transformations around 1800
Chair: Nadir Weber
15.30–16.10: Matthew Mosca
Comprehending the Qing Empire: Building Multilingual Competence in an Age of Imperial Rivalry, 1790-1820
16.10–16.40: Coffee Break
16.40–17.20: Will Smiley
Ottoman Diplomacy and the Law of Nations, 1699-1856
17.20–18.00: Pascal Firges
The French Revolutionary Transformation of Diplomatic Practise: Franco-Ottoman Negotiations in Istanbul, 1792-1797
18.00–18.15: Break
18.15–19.15: Henrietta Harrison / Hillard von Thiesen
Comments, Panel Discussion

Friday, 3 June

Panel II: Practices of Diplomatic Interaction
Chair: Henrietta Harrison
09.00–09.40: Adam Yuet Chau
Hosting the Periphery: The Alternating Audience System (年班) during the Qing Dynasty
9.40–10.20: Tanja Bührer
Intercultural Diplomacy at the Court of the Nizam of Hyderabad, c. 1770-1815
10.20–10.50: Coffee Break
10.50–11.30: Michael Khodarkovsky
The White Tsar and his ‘Unfaithful’ Subjects: Intercultural Diplomacies on Russia’s Asian Frontier
11.30–12.10: Jan Hennings
Exchanges between Centres beyond the Periphery: The First Russian Permanent Embassy in Istanbul
12.10–14.10: Lunch
14.10–14.50: Christian Windler
Performing Inequality in Mediterranean Diplomacy
14.50–15.50: Muzaffar Alam / André Krischer
Comments, Panel Discussion
15:50–16:20: Coffee Break
17.00–18.00: Keynote Lecture at the Institute of History (Unitobler, Room: F013)
Sanjay Subrahmanyam
The Usual Compliments?
Translations and Silences in Early Modern Intercultural Diplomacy
Reception at the Institute of History

Saturday, 4 June

Panel III: The Social Identities of Diplomatic Agents
Chair: Nadine Amsler
9.30–10.10: Irena Fliter
The Prussian Connection: Careers of Ottoman Diplomats in Times of Revolutions
10.10–10.50: David Do Paço
The Prussian Connection: Careers of Ottoman Diplomats in Times of Revolutions
10.50–11.20: Coffee Break
11.20–12.00: Henrietta Harrison
Becoming a Faithful Interpreter: The Story of Jacobus Ly and the 1793 Macartney Embassy to China
12.00–13.30: Lunch
13.30–14.10: May Bo Ching
Little People, Big World: Intercultural Encounters Around the Pearl River Delta in South China from the Sixteenth to the Nineteenth Century
14.10–15.10: Jeroen Duindam / Maurus Reinkowski
Comments, Panel Discussion
15.10–15.50: Round Table Final Discussion
16.00–18.15: Guided city tour with Christian Windler
18.30: Conference dinner
Restaurant Kirchenfeld
Thunstrasse 5, 3005 Bern

Guests are welcome. Please contact Hedy Werthmüller:
hedy.werthmüller@hist.unibe.ch
The programme is online on
www.hist.unibe.ch/ueber_uns/abteilungen/neuere_geschichte/
Venue:

Haus der Universität, Schlösslistrasse 5, 3012 Bern (Switzerland)
The Haus der Universität is 750m away from the Bern SBB railway station. It can be reached on foot or by tramway (Numbers 3, 6, 7, 8).