

*Colonialism in comparative perspective:
Tianjin under Nine Flags, 1860-1949*

'Treaty Ports in Modern China'

ABSTRACTS and PARTICIPANTS

7-8 July 2011

School of Humanities, University of Bristol



'Treaty Ports in Modern China'

ABSTRACTS and PARTICIPANTS

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Programme

Thursday 7th July

9.00 Coffee & registration

9.10 Welcome

9.30-11.00 Panel 1: Tianjin (1), Chair: Natascha Gentz (University of Edinburgh)

Ines Eben von Racknitz, Nanjing University

'The establishment of the British and the French Tianjin, 1858-1860'

Wayne Patterson, St. Norbert College

'Tianjin in Three Dimensions: Observations from a Soldier, a Military Adviser, and a Customs Officer, 1860-1883'

Cord Eberspächer, Konfuzius-Institut Düsseldorf/ an der Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf

'Colonialism on Equal Terms? Negotiating the German Concession in Tianjin 1895-1897'

11.00-11.20 Break

11.20-12.50 Panel 2: Networks, Chair: Chris Hess (University of Warwick)

Robert Bickers, University of Bristol

'British concessions and Chinese cities, 1910s-1930s'

Norihito Mizuno, Akita International University

'Japanese Schools in the Chinese Open-Ports '

Hoito Wong, University of Edinburgh

'Interport Printing Enterprise: Portuguese Printing Network in Chinese Treaty Ports'

12.50-2.00 Lunch ALL WELCOME

2.00-3.30 Panel 3: Violence and contestation, Chair: Gary Tiedemann

Songchuan Chen, University of Bristol

'The Power of Ancestors: Tombs and Cemeteries in Colonial Land Acquisition and in China's Foreign Relations, 1842-1949'

Nikki Cooper, University of Swansea

'The Uses of Gender and Religion: the Tianjin Massacre, Sensationalism and Expansionist Leverage''

Brett Sheehan, University of Southern California

'Treaty Port Terrorism: The Local International Context of the Sino-Japanese Conflict in Tianjin, 1931-21 and 1938'

3.30-4.00 Break

4.00-5.30 Panel 4: Infrastructures, Chair: Weipin Tsai (Royal Holloway University of London)

Pär Cassel, University of Michigan

'Extraterritoriality in China: What we know and what we don't know

Chiara Betta, Independent scholar

'The Land System of The Shanghai Foreign Settlements: The Rise and Fall of The Haroon Family, 1874-1951'

Annie Reinhardt, Williams College

'Reinterpreting the Treaty Ports through Shipping Infrastructure'

5.30 Reception ALL WELCOME 6.00 Launch of [Visualising China](#)

7.30: Conference Dinner for speakers and panel chairs: Clifton Lido

Friday 8th July

9.15-10.45 Panel 5: Tianjin (2) , Chair: Robin Porter (University of Bristol)

Liu Haiyan, Tianjin Academy of Social Sciences

'Popular Culture and Formation of Business Centre in the French Concession of Tianjin'

Aglaiia de Angeli, University of Newcastle

'Belgian nationalism and economic interests in Tianjin'

Shirley Ye, Harvard University

'River Conservancy and State-building in Treaty Port China'

10.45-11.15 Break

11.15-12.45 Panel 6: Lives, Chair: Jeffrey Wasserstrom (University of California, Irvine)

Isabella Jackson, University of Bristol

'An experiment in transnational governance: the Shanghai Municipal Council'

Douglas Fix, Reed College

'The global entanglements of a marginal man in treaty-port Xiamen'

Natascha Gentz, University of Edinburgh

'Ying Lianzhi and the founding of the Tianjin *Dagongbao*'

12.45-2.00 Lunch

2.00-3.30 Panel 7: Handovers, Chair: Toby Lincoln (University of Leicester)

Guido Samarani, Università Ca' Foscari di Venezia

'The Italian Presence in China's Treaty Ports'

Dorothee Rihal, Institut d'Asie Orientale, Lyon

'An isolated island in central China: the French Concession in Hankow during the Japanese Occupation'

Jon Howlett, University of Bristol

'The Communists and the Kailuan Mines; the Tianjin model and the takeover of Shanghai'

3.30 Break

4.00 Roundtable, Chair: Nikki Cooper

Robert Bickers, Natascha Gentz, Liu Haiyan, Jim Hevia, Jeff Wasserstrom,

5.30 Close

7.30 Dinner for speakers and panel chairs: Primrose Cafe, Clifton

Abstracts

Aglaiia De Angeli

'Belgian Nationalism and Economic Interests in Tianjin'

The Belgian concession in Tianjin is one of the less studied and known aspects of colonial history in China. It is noteworthy that the only event in its history which made the headlines was its freely agreed retrocession to the Chinese authority in 1931. The paper seeks to find reasons for Belgian government's apparent lack of interest in developing its only concession in China. And in particular, why was it not worth keeping until the end of the extraterritorial system, thereby going against the shared vision of other treaty powers?

The Belgian concession was mainly the product of a single man's will, King Leopold II. Belgium, just like Italy, was considered as a second tier imperial power, and as much as Italy, was more interested in developing a colonial empire in Africa than in Asia. The Belgians, however, did have their own economic interests in the region which was attested by the fact that many of the most successful enterprises headquarters in Tianjin were in fact Belgian. In this way, economic interests in China went against colonial politics in Brussels.

This paper details the initial history of the concession, specifically examining the development of the most successful enterprises in China. It then analyses the final decision to relinquish the concession to the Chinese authorities within the context of the inter-war period in the national politics in Belgium.

Aglaiia De Angeli is a Lecturer in East Asian History at Newcastle University. Graduated at Ca' Foscari University in Chinese language and literature. She obtained her PhD in History at Lyon 2 University, France. She did post-doc studies at Yale University and has been working as research assistant at the AHRC project "Tianjin under Nine Flags, 1860-1949" based at Bristol University.

Chiara Betta

'The Land System of The Shanghai Foreign Settlements: The Rise and Fall of The Haroon Family, 1874-1951'

In the second half of the nineteenth century and the first decades of the twentieth Shanghai's foreign settlements –the International Settlement and the French Concession– enjoyed exceptional economic growth that has been thoroughly documented in Western, Chinese and Japanese publications appeared in the last two decades. One important aspect of the city's history which still needs to be dissected in more detail, at least in Western academia, is the close relationship between the settlements' economic prosperity and their land system. In fact, without a clear understanding of the land system of these areas we might fail to grasp, at least partially, the foundations of Shanghai as a treaty port. Most importantly, the system of land tenure in the settlements enabled landholders safely to own land by allowing them to register their holdings at the local foreign consulates, something that was not possible in the Chinese administered areas of the city. Therefore investors felt secure as they were not subject to any illegal taxation and could use their holdings as a security to obtain loans. Quite clearly, this system produced enormous wealth as it enabled the development of a two tier real estate market: one in the Chinese administered areas, where land remained relatively cheap, and one in the foreign settlements, where prices increased almost every year for decades.

My paper will attempt to highlight a number of issues relating to the real estate market in the Shanghai settlements by looking at the real estate investments of the tycoon Silas Aaron Hardoon (1851-1931), a Jew of the Baghdadi trade diaspora, mostly known for the eccentric life he led with his Buddhist Eurasian wife in a Chinese style palace.

The first part of my presentation will assess the reasons behind Baghdadi Jews' disproportionate role in the Shanghai real estate market, especially in the first decades of the twentieth century. In this respect I will suggest that Baghdadi Jews in Shanghai heavily invested in Shanghai's real estate market by necessity as the settlements represented their permanent home, they had no intention of returning to Iraq and were not strongly involved in the Zionist movement. Their world was the Baghdadi trade diaspora, a network of communities that had their main bases in Bombay and Calcutta and traded under the aegis of the British formal and informal empire.

The second and central part of the paper will be based on the analysis of Hardoon's business archives which provide a unique insight on real estate dealings and management in the Shanghai settlements. I will stress that loans to purchase real estate were provided by individuals and also organisations, from French Roman Catholic priests to British insurance companies, that Chinese warlords relied on compliant foreigners to register their land in the foreign settlements, and that land prices in the settlements rose steadily for decades, especially in the most expensive areas.

The last, shorter section, of my talk will deal with the Hardoon estate after Hardoon's death, especially during the Civil War (1945-1949), when treaty ports ceased to exist and will also touch upon on the methods that might have been used by Communist authorities to take over some of the Hardoon estate's properties.

Chiara Betta has a Ph.D. in Chinese History from the School of Oriental and African Studies. She has published widely on the Baghdadi Jewish trade diaspora, Silas Hardoon, and the history of Muslims in China.

Robert Bickers

'British concessions and Chinese cities, 1910s-1930s'

This paper explores the network of British concessions established in China after 1843, and particularly those established in and after 1861. While the International Settlement at Shanghai is well known, and the British concessions at least a known part of the British and wider foreign landscape in China, their particularities and peculiarities have not been systematically explored. While they played a role in the conceptualization of China's national problem of imperialism as formulated in the 1920s, they were also increasingly the source of local problems for British officials. This was not always political in origin. Points of friction emerged that had as much to do with the organic growth of urban centres in the 1920s, and the wave of urban redevelopment that marked this decade of republican modernity. There were also affected by changing environments. The paper looks in detail at various case studies relating to gates and walls, and city redevelopment, as well as the impact of concession personnel on events. These related points form the subject of the first sections of this paper. The final section explores the ways in which one set of visual records of these sites might also inform the discussions -- sets of photographs of treaty port cities taken between 1907 and 1940 by Warren Swire, a director and later Chairman of the firm John Swire & Sons.

Robert Bickers is Professor of History at the University of Bristol, and a Co-Director of the British Inter-university China Centre. He is the author of Britain in China: Community, Culture and Colonialism, 1900-49 (1999), Empire Made Me: An Englishman Adrift in Shanghai (2003), and The Scramble for China: Foreign Devils in the Qing Empire, 1832-1914 (2011), and has edited or co-edited six further volumes. He has led the 'Tianjin under Nine Flags' project since 2010, and directs the 'Historical Photographs of China' project.

Pär Cassel

'Extraterritoriality in China: What we know and what we don't know'

More than any other institution in the Chinese treaty ports, the imposition of extraterritoriality and consular jurisdiction in China has shaped the historiography of the treaty ports. Practically any interaction between foreigners and native populations could be "extraterritorialized." The foreigner not only carried his own laws and institutions into the host country, but the nebulous idea of "foreign interests" meant that almost anything a foreigner was involved with had an extraterritorial aspect. Consequently, the historiography on treaty port China has painted a rather monolithic picture of extraterritoriality that has relied very heavily on early twentieth century accounts of the practice, which happens to the very time when the Chinese state was unusually weak.

Yet if we look at the way the different legal orders operated in nineteenth century Qing China, it is clear that extraterritoriality was far from a coherent legal order that was simply implanted from the outside. The sections regulating extraterritoriality in the treaties were very vague and left large room for different interpretation. Furthermore, the Qing legal order was not necessarily hostile to the existence of multiple jurisdictions, as long as they did not challenge the Qing political and ritual order. In the most important treaty port, Shanghai, a large number of different consular courts coexisted that often competed for jurisdiction and sometimes did not even cooperate with each other, which allowed foreign and native vagrants to evade jurisdiction by claiming different nationalities according to circumstances. In neighboring Japan, the picture was even more complex prior to 1895, as not only Western sojourners enjoyed extraterritorial privileges in the Japanese treaty ports, the Chinese communities also enjoyed extraterritorial rights, which were jealously protected by centrally appointed Qing consuls, who applied the Qing Code on Japanese soil.

In this paper, I will set out to summarize what we now know about extraterritoriality in the nineteenth century, both by drawing on my own research and on recently published secondary works. I will also try to outline what directions we need to take future research in order to fully understand not only the practice of extraterritoriality in the Qing Empire, but also the place of the treaty ports in East Asian history.

Pär Cassel is currently working on his book manuscript, entitled "Rule of Law or Rule of Laws: Legal pluralism and Extraterritoriality in Nineteenth century East Asia." The book reopens the question of consular jurisdiction and extraterritoriality in China and Japan and combines the findings of "New Qing history" with the history of the treaty ports in both China and Japan. He has studied, worked and done research in China and Japan for more than five years and he is strongly committed to multi-lingual and multi-archival research. He is especially interested in historical problems where international relations, institutional history and linguistics intersect, such as the reception and adoption of consular jurisdiction and international law in East Asia.

Songchuan Chen

'The power of the ancestors: Tombs and cemeteries in colonial land acquisition and in China's foreign relations, 1842-1949'

Land containing tombs was at the centre of China's foreign relations during the century that followed the First Opium War. Because tombs were visible symbols of ancestor worship that formed part of the norms of Chinese society, in the treaty ports and other places with a European presence the possible destruction of ancestral tombs aroused anti-foreign feelings and became a rallying point for resisting land acquisition and imperial invasion. In an overwhelming number of cases, whenever there was local unrest of this kind the colonial land acquisition was abandoned or the colonial forces had to find a compromise. This power of the ancestors was generated on the grassroots level. It tapped into strong collective emotions and the fight against possible destruction was regarded as a legitimate grievance. In hitting this wall of opposition the imperial powers reached their limits in China. The core values of Chinese society that ancestral tombs represented remained beyond the ability of the imperial powers to influence. When Sino-European relations are understood on this level, instead of viewed from the perspectives of wars lost or unequal treaties signed, or from European perspectives, the impact of imperialism on China's modernisation becomes questionable. This paper concludes that the presence of Europeans and their development of land and urbanization triggered an internal transformation of Chinese society. Though they could not shape Chinese society's core values, the forces of modernization unleashed by the Westerners brought about real changes in China: the internal dynamics they set in motion became conspicuous and persistent from the second half of the twentieth century onwards, after the Europeans had left. From then on tombs were destroyed to make way for the occupation of ancestral land by city skyscrapers. The power of ancestors acquired a new meaning and achieved a new height under the threat of European encroachment but plunged when China's own modernization began.

I am a Research Associate in the Centre for East Asian Studies at the University of Bristol. My research interests lie in the field of the history the Qing Empire (1636-1911) and Republican China, especially their foreign relations with the Europeans in the context of global history. I am currently (2008-2011) working as part of the team on the research project "Colonialism in Comparative Perspective: Tianjin under Nine Flags, 1860-1949". In autumn 2011 I will take up a Research Fellowship at Singapore Nanyang Technology University.

Nikki Cooper

ABSTRACT
[TBC]

Professor Nicola Cooper FRSA is Chair of Cultural Studies at the University of Swansea, and Director of the Callaghan Centre for the Study of Conflict, Power, Empire. She has published widely on French colonial ideologies and iconographies, with particular specialisms in SE Asia and North Africa. She is an editor of the journals French Cultural Studies (Sage), and War and Culture Studies (Intellect). She is currently completing a monograph on the French Foreign Legion, and editing two volumes on war and masculinities for Routledge.

Ines Eben v. Racknitz

'The establishment of the British and the French Tianjin, 1858-1860'

In this paper, I will talk about the early establishment of the European concessions, namely the British the French and the Germany in Tianjin between 1858 and 1860. Tianjin had always served for the Western Powers as a resting and transfer point on the way to Beijing and became especially important between 1858 and 1860.

In 1858, the "ambassadors-extraordinary" of Britain and France (Lord Elgin and Baron Gros) as well as the envoys of the United States and Russia (William B. Reed and count Putiatin) spent some time from end of May to July in Tianjin to conclude the renegotiation of the 1842 treaty of Nanjing. The negotiations were finished in July of 1858, but in June 1859, the ratification of the "treaty of Tianjin" failed, when British and French forces were unexpectedly defeated by Qing-forces in front of the Dagu-forts. As a consequence, London and Paris sent troops to China to force by arms the Qing-government into the ratification of the treaty of Tianjin.

The British and French allied troops arrived in North-China in 1860, making Tianjin again their base on the way to Beijing. After a three-month-campaign, Qing- troops were defeated and the "treaty of Tianjin" was ratified and signed. This treaty granted the opening of Chinese port cities to foreign trade, the residence of foreign ambassadors in Beijing and their direct access to the Qing-court and gave permission for foreign traders to travel freely in China.

Tianjin remained important as the "gateway to Beijing": informal exchanges took place, and pre-negotiations were held, or even concluded there. This role of Tianjin became evident when Graf Eulenburg arrived in 1861, with a commission to negotiate a treaty with China for Prussia. On 2nd of September 1861, Eulenburg was granted a treaty, but the Qing-government requested that the right for a Prussian ambassador to reside in Beijing should be deferred for another ten years. Prussia was admitted as a fifth treaty-power with direct access to the Qing-court, while the other powers (Belgium, Sweden, Norway, Italy and Austria) were only allowed to trade by the same procedure as had been established in existing treaties.

With regards to Tianjin, two questions will be addressed: firstly, how did the British and French live and install themselves in Tianjin in the two years before the establishment of the concessions? Secondly, what evidence is there for a specific British or French "imperial identity" or "imperial practice" during that time?

I will try to answer the second question by comparing not only British and French actions during the establishment of the concessions, but also by analyzing the German negotiations with the Chinese government and their interaction with the British and the French in 1861.

Ines Eben v. Racknitz studied Sinology, Comparative Literature and Religious studies in Germany, China and the US. She graduated with an MA from Freie Universität Berlin and received her PhD in history from University of Konstanz. She currently holds a post as a lecturer at the History department of Nanjing University. Her interests are in Modern Chinese history, international relations and World history.

Cord Eberspächer

‘Colonialism on Equal Terms? Negotiating the German Concession in Tianjin 1895-1897’

The German concession in Tianjin is not only an interesting example of foreign presence in the Chinese treaty ports, but also of the peculiarities of German colonialism in general. It was established late, compared to the concessions of the other major powers, and it was short-lived - it was handed over to China in 1917 and ended formally in 1921.

The first chapter of the establishment of the German concession is amongst the most interesting. Though Germany acted on the Chinese stage with the ambition of a major Western Power and the presence in China had a high symbolic meaning against the background of German “Weltpolitik”, negotiations for the Tianjin concession were held at least theoretically on a friendly basis - China offered concessions in Tianjin and Hankou for Germany’s part in the triple-intervention in 1895.

Thus the German consul von Seckendorff faced his Chinese counterparts not as victor, as the owners of the other concessions in Tianjin, but as an equal. Although German diplomacy tried to circumvent problems in Tianjin by appeals to authorities in Peking and threats with their naval presence, von Seckendorff not only had to concede to many Chinese demands like allowing Chinese to purchase land in the new concession, but also had to negotiate with Chinese inhabitants and landowners – on one occasion with more than eighty owners of graves located on the grounds of the new concession.

In this paper I will describe the process from the treaty negotiations to the actual hand-over of the concession and analyze this process against the background of the Sino-German relations of this era and the political background for both countries.

Cord Eberspächer is director of the Confucius Institute in Düsseldorf, Germany. His research interests focus on China in the 19th and early 20th century, mainly on Sino-German relations and Chinese military and naval history. His current projects include the history of the German concession in Tianjin, a biographical study of Gustav Detring and the history of the Beiyang fleet.

Douglas Fix

‘The global entanglements of a marginal man in treaty-port Xiamen’

This paper examines the commercial, legal, and social entanglements of an extraordinary resident of Xiamen, from 1862 to 1906, to reveal the complexities of a treaty-port community in southern China and that community’s global networks in the latter half of the 19th Century.

The Xiamen resident at the center of this research is St. Julian Hugh Edwards. Grandson of a freed American slave but deemed a British colonial subject by birth, Julian Edwards procured coolies for the Spanish government, rented property to American consuls, and supplied foreign naturalists and treaty-port papers with photographs of "Amoy views," Fujian tea fields, and Formosan aborigines. Foreign residents of Xiamen commissioned family portraits at Edwards' photography studio, and Hongkong publishers relied on his local reporting for their news supplements. Edwards' business dealings included real estate speculation with "Eurasian kinsmen" and Xiamen Chinese, trade with European mercantile companies and Presbyterian missionaries, and gambling services for low-class Chinese laborers. In contrast, consular court cases against Edwards ran the gambit from petty debt and assault to the illegal recruitment and shipment of Chinese coolies to Cuba. This 'black-faced,' American (or sometimes British) broker with an unusual propensity for languages

was often on the wrong side of Chinese and Western consular law. Yet the consular officials who adjudicated his alleged criminal activities also employed Edwards' services as photographic artist, linguist and constable.

In this paper, I will first map out the complex and intertwined networks in which Edwards was involved, paying particular attention to the dynamic nature of that web of connections over time. With that groundwork in place, I will analyze several of Edwards' entanglements that emerged from these relationships: a) the coolie recruitment scheme (involving the Xiamen daotai, Spanish and American consuls, Chinese landowners and the Chinese laborers themselves); b) Edwards' photographic production on Taiwan; and c) the bitter fight over Edwards' legal status that emerged in diplomatic circles in the early 1880s.

Finally, I employ this case study to engage several of the claims of Tekashi Hamashita, James Hevia, and Eileen Scully regarding the nature and dynamism of trans-Asian networks, EuroAmerican colonialism, and treaty-port citizenship in 19th-century China. Sources employed for this research include Edwards' photographs (from collections in Japan, Taiwan, French, the US and the UK), American and British consular records, collections of private papers (e.g., for Charles Le Gendre, Joseph Steere), and 19th-century periodicals (including the early editions of Edwards' father's newspapers in Singapore).

*Douglas Fix teaches undergraduates in the History Department and the Chinese Humanities program at Reed College, a small liberal arts college on the west coast of the United States. Until recently his research has focused on the history of Taiwan, including articles on Taiwanese nationalism, Taiwanese elites' responses to Japanese colonialism, U.S. wartime intelligence, and immediate post-WWII violence and plundering. Beginning in 1999, his research shifted to an earlier century of Taiwan's history, taking EuroAmerican encounters with and images of Taiwan as his focus. Several articles, a collection of translated travelogues and a digital library ("Formosa: Nineteenth-century images," <http://academic.reed.edu/formosa/>) have resulted from that research. In addition, an annotated, critical edition of Charles Wm. Le Gendre's (U.S. consul, Xiamen, 1867-1872) illustrated travelogue/intelligence report, *Notes of travel in Formosa* (edited in collaboration with John Shufelt, Tunghai University), will be published in 2012. The current paper is part of a new project to place Taiwan's unique history into one of its critical historical contexts: the broader treaty-port networks of the mid-and late-Nineteenth Century.*

Natascha Gentz

'Ying Lianzhi and the founding of the Tianjin Dagongbao'

Ying Lianzhi, a Catholic Manchu in Tianjin makes an interesting case study in the history of the Chinese press in Treaty Port concessions for his many exceptionalities: while the Dagongbao became one of the most popular dailies in China, its foundation was the result a complex process of negotiating racial, religious, national, commercial and professional issues. The Dagongbao also was the most prominent of papers not published in Shanghai, the national publication centre of the Late Qing Empire. Ying's hybrid background and personal interests conflicted with many conventional assumptions about a modern journalists in this period. Based on Ying Lianzhi's diary and other primary sources this paper will reconstruct and discuss this process of setting up an unconventional newspaper in an unconventional setting.

Natascha Gentz (Vittinghoff), took up the position as Chair of Chinese at the beginning of May, 2006. She studied in Germany at Heidelberg University, where she took her MA (1994) and PhD (1998) degrees including residences at Fudan University, Shanghai (1988-1990),

People's University, Beijing (1995-6), and Tokyo University (1997). After her PhD she was engaged in various funded research projects and in teaching in the Chinese Departments at Heidelberg and Göttingen University. In 2002 she became Junior Professor at Frankfurt University, from where she came to Edinburgh. Her publications include a monograph on the history Chinese journalism and two edited volumes, on transcultural knowledge transfer in Late Qing China, and on how global media are shaping cultural identities. She has also published a book on contemporary Chinese historical drama as well as articles on Late Qing and contemporary Chinese drama, literature and media. She has also translated a novel and two volumes of short stories by the Chinese nobel laureate Gao Xingjian.

Jon Howlett

'The Communists and the Kailuan Mines; the Tianjin model and the takeover of Shanghai'

'The place looks like a junk yard and all Chinese staff wear a hunted look.' W. Pryor, Manager KMA.

In May 1949 the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) seized China's largest and most economically developed city Shanghai. Although Shanghai's foreign concessions had been returned to Chinese administration in 1943, and the foreign population had been greatly diminished, Shanghai remained home to China's largest population of foreign nationals. There were also still a large number of foreign businesses and organisations in the city. The CCP were determined that this would be their anti-imperialist moment, the greatest victory on 'the Eastern front of imperialism' as Mao phrased it. Despite their stated aim of purging all remaining imperialist political, economic and cultural influence in China the CCP managed the elimination of foreign interests in a quite patient and pragmatic way. The origins of the CCP's policy in Shanghai are to be found in Tianjin.

Eradicating foreign economic influence became a long term aim, but high unemployment and desperate poverty meant that they had to restrain radicalism in order to guarantee short term economic stability. This paper explores the development of the methods the CCP used in order to eliminate British businesses. This was a form of decolonisation of the remnants of Britain's informal presence in China focused on Shanghai but the remaining foreign presence in all the former Treaty Ports was dealt with in a similar manner. The takeover of Tianjin was consciously used as a model and learning experience by the CCP's cadres, many of whom then went on important roles in Shanghai. Particularly important was the experience of dealing with the largest foreign company based in Tianjin, the Sino-British Kailuan Mining Administration (KMA).

The CCP initially adopted a very radical policy towards the KMA, putting its foreign management under great pressure by draining their resources and forbidding them profits. The workers were mobilised by the CCP controlled labour unions to go after the foreigners and their English speaking Chinese managers who it was said wore a 'hunted look.' As the CCP troops approached Shanghai however the question emerged as to how they would supply the city with coal and it became necessary to relieve the pressure on the KMA. The radicalism of the local cadres was restrained by the leadership in Beijing who then offered KMA just enough support to keep the mines going. As in Shanghai, anti-imperialist rhetoric was then focused towards castigating various individual foreigners such as Woithe, a British supervisor accused of arrogance and violent behaviour and on the senior Chinese staff, the 'running dogs of imperialism.'

In Tianjin the CCP learnt to transform their anti-imperialist rhetoric and short term nationalistic goals into a workable system for pressuring foreigners while ensuring a degree

of long term economic stability. The CCP had to be seen to be punishing foreigners in order to legitimise themselves but they also had to prevent economic disruption or international crises.

Jon Howlett is a PhD student at the University of Bristol. His research focuses on the foreign, especially British, presence in China, and on the Chinese Communist Party's interactions with foreigners. His thesis project uses newly available Chinese language archival sources to examine the ending of the British presence in Shanghai, and the transformation of the city in the years following its takeover by the Chinese Communist Party in 1949. The thesis is based on research conducted in Shanghai and Beijing while affiliated to the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences in 2009-2010.

Isabella Jackson,

“Good Fences Make Good Neighbours”: Expansion and Defence in the International Settlement at Shanghai

The International Settlement of Shanghai expanded dramatically during the nineteenth century. It originated in a small area established in 1843 according to the provisions of the Treaty of Nanjing, where it was anticipated that British traders would settle on a temporary basis in order to conduct trade. By 1900, it occupied 5,500 acres at the heart of the most bustling, prosperous and cosmopolitan city of East Asia. The Shanghai Municipal Council, which managed the settlement, was not satisfied with this territory, however, and continued for decades to seek further expansion of the settlement limits. Meanwhile, it also quietly expanded the area under its control by building municipal roads external to the settlement and providing services such as policing to their residents in return for the payment of slightly reduced rates. As Chinese nationalism strengthened in the 1920s and the extraterritoriality on which the settlement's existence depended became increasingly untenable, the council eventually, grudgingly conceded that the settlement would never again expand its boundaries, and many recognised that its days were in fact numbered.

At the same time as seeking the expansion of the settlement, the council's primary concern remained defensive. Annual reports began every year with an account of the strength of the Shanghai Volunteer Corps, followed by the Shanghai Municipal Police report, and municipal budgetary allocation reflected the priority given to defence. The settlement was perceived as an isolated island in the midst of a hostile and chaotic China, and whilst this was an exaggeration, the upheaval witnessed in the region during this period did threaten the settlement's security on more than one occasion. As international pressure built, Shanghai became a focus of Japanese aggression in China and the settlement's defensive position was tested to the limit in the Sino-Japanese conflicts of 1932 and from 1937.

This paper will analyse the expansive and defensive nature of the Shanghai Municipal Council in order to better characterise the precise nature of the anomalous International Settlement. It locates the history of Shanghai in this period in its regional political setting and establishes that the settlement functioned as a semi-colonial statelet, comparable to the colonial states to which it was linked and which it in many ways emulated. Despite remaining at all times Chinese sovereign soil, the settlement was treated as a territory in need of expansion and defence, and the Shanghai Municipal Council did not tire of pursuing these goals.

Isabella Jackson is in the final year of her PhD at the University of Bristol. Her dissertation investigates how the Shanghai Municipal Council managed the International Settlement from 1900 to its demise in 1943, charting its evolution in response to the rapidly changing political environment. This allows an analysis of the precise nature of the foreign colonialism present

in China in this period as it was implemented on the ground. Isabella read History at the University of Bristol for her BA and MA, and completed an MPhil in Modern Chinese Studies at the University of Oxford before returning to Bristol to continue working under the supervision of Professor Robert Bickers.

Liu Haiyan

‘大众流行文化与天津法租界商业中心的形成’ (Popular Culture and Formation of Business Centre in the French Concession of Tianjin)

从清末到民国初年，被老城区传统社会排斥的下层流行艺术文化——评剧和曲艺，转移到租界，成为广受租界华人喜爱的大众流行文化。这种文化与大众零售商业的结合，在法租界形成了城市商业中心区。伴随着这一历史过程的，是城市空间结构的改变，城市中心由中国城区向租界的转移，以及租界华人社会生活的演变。

*Liu Haiyan is Research Professor, Institute of History, Tianjin Academy of Social Sciences; Editor-in-chief, Chengshi shi yanjiu [Urban History Research](1996-2005); Member of International Advisory Board, Urban History, UK . Authors of *Kongjian Yu Shehui: Jindai Tianjin Chengshi de Yanbian [The Space and the Society: Evolution of City in Modern Tianjin]*(2003), *Tianjin Zujie Shehui Yanjiu [The Society of Tianjin's Foreign Concessions]*(1996), *Qingdaiyilai Tianjin Tudiqizheng Dang'an Xuanbian[Documental Selection on Land Title Deeds Since Qing Dynasty]*(2006).*

Norihito Mizuno

‘Japanese Schools in the Chinese Open-Ports ‘

The purpose of this presentation is to discuss the vicissitudes of Japanese schools in the Chinese open-port cities before 1945. Since the late very end of the 19th century, Japanese schools for the children of Japanese settlers begun to be founded in those cities and continued to increase in terms of the number of schools and students along with the expansion of Japanese presence in China, until the demise of the Japanese empire in August 1945. This presentation will focus on the first two decades of the Showa era (1926-1989), namely the last two decades of the Japanese colonial empire in China, and discuss the following questions. What was the general state of the Japanese schools in the Chinese cities in the late 1920s? What problems did the Japanese government and settlers find in the management of the schools, and how did they deal with then? How did the schools react to changing Sino-Japanese relations during that time period?

Mizuno earned his Ph.D. in East Asian History at the Ohio State University and has been teaching at Akita International University (Akita, Japan) since 2007. His field of specialty is early modern and modern Japanese-East Asian relations, including Sino-Japanese relations. He is currently working on revising his Ph.D. dissertation for publication.

Wayne Patterson

'Tianjin in Three Dimensions: Observations from a Soldier, a Military Adviser, and a Customs Officer, 1860-1883'

The recently uncovered journals and correspondence of William Nelson Lovatt (1838-1904) shed new light on China's treaty ports generally and on Tianjin specifically. Lovatt first came to China in 1860 as an artilleryman in the British army after previous service in India (1857-1860) to take part in the siege of Peking/Beijing. After participating in the taking of the Taku forts, he and his unit proceeded to Tientsin/Tianjin en route to the capital. While there, Lovatt recorded his initial impressions of the city. Shortly thereafter, as he exited Peking and returned to the coast, he once again traversed Tientsin and made additional observations of conditions there before proceeding to Shanghai.

In 1863, Lovatt entered the service of China's Imperial Maritime Customs (CIMC) under Sir Robert Hart and was posted to several treaty ports on the Yangtze River before returning to Tientsin in 1866 in the capacity of training Ch'ing/Qing cavalry to help defend the capital against the Nien/Nian rebels advancing from the south. Having been temporarily relieved of his customs duties by Hart to assume this position as a military trainer and adviser, Lovatt's second sojourn in Tientsin, which this time lasted two years, until 1868, allowed him to make additional observations of the conditions in and around that city, now a treaty port.

His third and final sojourn in Tientsin came after a thirteen-year hiatus, in 1881 and lasted for two years until 1883, when he departed for Korea. During this period, Lovatt served as a Tidesurveyor in the CIMC. This third and final period of residence in Tientsin represents perhaps his most comprehensive set of observations, as he comments extensively on the foreign community, missionaries and missionary work, and customs affairs. Lovatt by this time had lived in China for more than two decades, had mastered spoken Chinese, and had become a keen observer of events, personalities, customs, and conditions.

Using the primary materials on Tientsin that Lovatt's journals and correspondence represent, this paper will present Tientsin as seen from Lovatt's perspective in his three roles as soldier, military adviser, and customs officer between 1860 and 1883.

*Wayne Patterson is Professor of (modern East Asian) history at St. Norbert College in Wisconsin. He has been a visiting professor at Harvard University, the University of Chicago, the University of Wisconsin, the University of Hawaii, Vanderbilt University, the University of Maryland, the University of Kansas, the University of South Carolina, the University of the Philippines, Korea University, Yonsei University, Ewha University, and, most recently, the University of California-Berkeley. He has written or edited thirteen books, including *The Korean Frontier in America* (1994) and *The Ilse* (2000). His most recent book, scheduled for publication this fall from the University of California, is "In the Service of His Korean Majesty: William Nelson Lovatt, the Pusan Customs, and Sino-Korean Relations, 1876-1888."*

Anne Reinhardt

'Reinterpreting the Treaty Port through Shipping Infrastructure'

Treaty ports are most often studied as Chinese urban centers with foreign enclaves; the sites in which foreigners in nineteenth- and early twentieth-century China lived, traded, and established communities, and are often characterized by simultaneous or overlapping foreign and Chinese jurisdictions and administrations. This paper examines treaty ports from a different angle, through the roles they played as nodes in emerging steamship

transport networks in Qing and Republican China. Steamships were brought to China by Western merchants and navies in the mid-nineteenth century, and following the Second Opium War, foreign-flag shipping gained the treaty privilege to navigate China's inland and coastal waters. In response, Qing officials used the institution of the treaty port to contain the possibilities of further foreign expansion through shipping by refusing to allow foreign-flag ships to anchor anywhere but those ports that had been formally opened by treaty. In subsequent years, however, steamships became more and more prevalent in Chinese waters, carrying goods and people among the open ports as well as connecting them to global transport networks.

This paper examines two aspects of the treaty port within the modern shipping infrastructure in nineteenth and twentieth century China. First, it provides an overview of the changing functions performed by different treaty ports within the transport network as it expanded over time. While some treaty ports never became important centers of foreign trade, almost all played significant roles within the network. Demands for the opening of some new ports were based on the projected role of the port in the shipping network rather than its trade or market potential. The second section of the paper will address the political impact of shipping infrastructure on the concession areas of particular ports. More specifically, it will investigate struggles for control over concession-area steamship docking sites, and how control of such sites by British councils and steamship companies could be used to block new competitors in the shipping field.

Anne Reinhardt received her Ph.D. in History from Princeton University and teaches at Williams College (USA). She recently completed a book manuscript entitled Navigating Semi-colonialism: Shipping, Sovereignty, and Nation Building in China, 1860-1937. She is currently working on a comparative project examining Chinese and Indian industrialists in the 1930s-1950s.

Dorothee Rihal

'An isolated island in central China: the French Concession in Hankow during the Japanese Occupation'

This paper tries to analyse the position of the French concession in Hankow during the period of Japanese Occupation. When the Japanese army entered Hankow on June 25, 1938, there were only two foreign concessions left in the city: the French and the Japanese ones. Previously, there had been as many as five concessions in Hankow. The British concession was first founded after the treaty of Tianjin in 1861; the other four only opened at the end of the century: the German concession in 1895, the French and Russian ones in 1896 and the Japanese concession in 1898. The French concession, the smallest one, was in the middle of the five concessions and relied on them for many aspects, including for instance, military support during the 1911 Revolution. However, while the other European nations successively abandoned their possessions, the French government maintained its concession at all costs. Indeed, the German concession was revoked in 1917 and the Russian one in 1924, leaving the French concession surrounded by Special Administrative Districts. In 1927, the British settlement was given back and the French concession seriously threatened. For sixteen years, the French and Japanese concessions were the only ones left.

The Japanese take-over of Wuhan on October 25, 1938 gave the French concession a very particular status. Relations with the rest of the city changed completely. Before the arrival of Japanese troops, many people had already flooded into the concession. No longer an abstract concept, the frontier between the concession and the rest of the city was materialized. French barricades were erected to protect the concession from the arrival of

too many refugees. Subsequently, the Japanese also blockaded the French concession, accusing it of sheltering anti-Japanese activities.

Agreements were made for regulating the flow between the concession and the rest of the city.

From November 1938 onward, concession residents needed to have passes delivered by the Japanese administration in order to exit. French and Japanese consuls agreed on the conditions under which armed Japanese soldiers could go through the concession. The way of administrating the concession also changed: the *Conseil d'Administration Municipale* (Municipal Council) was replaced by a *Commission provisoire d'administration municipale* (Temporary Municipal Commission), able to make rapid decisions. The influx of refugees led to sanitation problems and the need to create new municipal services and regulations to deal with the increased population and activities. From 1940 onward, the situation worsened: in January the French army was removed from Hankow.

In January 1941, the consul established new municipal regulations attempting to gain control over all aspects of ordinary life and to obtain funding through taxation. Economic activities having nearly stopped with the Japanese invasion, the crisis attained its height in 1942 and the concession was financially insolvent when it was handed-over in 1943.

Dorothee Rihal is a historian specializing in Chinese urban history, she currently works as sources analyst at the Lyon Institute of East Asian Studies. She defended a Ph.D in contemporary history in 2007 at the SEDET research center, University Paris VII, whose topic was: "The French Hankow Concession (1896-1943): From Condemnation to the Appropriation of Heritage". She also holds an M.A. in Chinese Language and Civilisation from the LCAO Faculty of Paris VII. Her training and her research have led her to spend much time in China, in Hong Kong, and in Taiwan, including two years at the Nanjing University and two years doing her field research in the city of Wuhan. Dorothee Rihal first joined the IAO as a postdoctoral fellow on the Virtual Shanghai project. She continues to work on the development of research platforms for the Institute. She also teaches Chinese history and Chinese language.

Guido Samarani

'The Italian presence in China's Treaty Ports'

As is well known the Italian presence in China from the early Twentieth century until the Second World War was centred in certain treaty-ports, in particular Tianjin, where there was an Italian Concession, and Shanghai. There was a very marginal presence in Hankou and Canton, while in Peking there was an official Italian presence within the Legation Quarter. At the end of the 19th century it is estimated there were fewer than 200 Italians living in China, many of whom were military personnel or missionaries, the missionary question being obviously very close to Italy's heart. There were very few businesses operating in China and there was a minimal presence of Italian ships in Chinese ports. The launch of the Tianjin concession undoubtedly strengthened Italian plans for developing their own activities and presence in China.

This paper is the beginning of an investigation of the characteristics of the Italian presence in China in the first half of the twentieth century, examining several aspects: statistical, military, diplomatic, economic and commercial. It represents also the first step of an ongoing research project whose aim is to reconstruct the history of the Italian presence in China during the first half of the 20th century, in quantitative and qualitative terms.

Guido Samarani is Guest Professor of the Research Center for the study of Chiang Kai-shek and China's Modern and Contemporary History, Zhejiang University. He has been guest professor at the Center for the History of Republican China, Nanjing University and visiting professor/visiting researcher at Keio University, Waseda University and the Fairbank Center, Harvard University.

Brett Sheehan

'Treaty Port Terrorism: The Local International Context of the Sino-Japanese Conflict in Tianjin, 1931-21 and 1938'

China's treaty ports are well known as havens for anti-government radicals, as sites for the battle between the Nationalists and Communists, and as arenas for anti-foreign demonstrations, but little has been written about the public acts of terrorism which often accompanied these conflicts. In fact, bombings, assassination, and intimidation were daily parts of the lives of residents of the treaty port of Tianjin in the years between 1928 and 1945. These acts of terrorism included the "mini" Sino-Japanese war of November 1931, bombing campaigns aimed at sellers of Japanese goods, assassination of journalists and teachers, and arson squads during the Japanese occupation of the city.

This paper uses previously unused sources from Chinese, British, French and Japanese archives to illuminate this terrorism and its effect on the treaty-port residents in China's second largest treaty port. It argues that much of the violence and intimidation achieved little in terms of specific political goals, but did create an atmosphere in which acts of violence became part of public life.

*Brett Sheehan is associate professor of Chinese history at the University of Southern California, having received his Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley in 1997. His research focuses on the social, political and cultural influences of economic institutions in twentieth-century China. He is the author of a number of publications including *Trust in Troubled Times: Money, Banking and State-Society Relations in Republican Tianjin, 1916-1937*, Harvard University Press, 2003. He is currently working on a book tentatively titled, *Industrial Eden*, which studies the fortunes of one capitalist family under five different authoritarian regimes in China from about 1900 to 1952.*

Hoi-to Wong

'Interport Printing Enterprise: Portuguese Printing Network in Chinese Treaty Ports'

The study of print culture has been burgeoning in China in recent decades. Scholars of print culture in Modern China have heavily focused on a relatively incomprehensive scope of enquiry established by the mission presses (e.g. American Presbyterian Mission Press) and the native Chinese presses (e.g. The Commercial Press). What have not been adequately appreciated in this historiography are the roles and contributions of foreign commercial printing presses in different foreign settlements. Among the rich literature of print culture historiography, a particular group of expatriates has been dauntingly forgotten. They are the Portuguese printers and compositors (mainly in English), who started their business in Macau and expanded their ventures in China as new treaty ports were opened to trade. They established some of the earliest printing presses in Shanghai, Canton, Foochow, Amoy

etc., sometimes being the sole English printing press in certain ports for decades, and did most of the printing for the foreign community.

This paper attempts to survey the Portuguese presence and contributions in nineteenth-century print culture in China by tracing the process of expansion of Portuguese commercial printing network beginning from Macau to Hong Kong, and to other Chinese treaty ports and their connection with one another.

Hoi-to Wong is an instructor of Chinese Civilisation Centre, City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong. Educated at the University of Hong Kong for his BA and MPhil and the University of Manchester for MA, he is currently working towards his doctoral dissertation at the University of Edinburgh on the international book trade in nineteenth and early twentieth century East Asia. His research interests are cultural and social history of China, and British sinology and he has published papers on publishing history in Modern China and British sinology.

Shirley Ye

‘River Conservancy and State-building in Treaty Port China’

This paper examines the management of inland waters for access to China’s treaty port of Tianjin. Using the early institutional history of the Hai Ho Conservancy Commission as a lens through which to understand the period of change from sovereign imperial water control, to international management, and then to recovery by the Republican government, the paper argues that the modern Chinese state was strengthened by cooperation between native and foreign elite, business and state interests.

Though the conservancy commission’s origins can be traced to the early support of key imperial officials who were interested in flood prevention and ease of navigation, there were nonetheless conflicts with local groups over both larger projects and the everyday management of the Hai River. How were these conflicts resolved and what do they tell us about differing attitudes toward river use and the environment?

River conservancy was an intrinsic part of Tianjin’s economic and urban development; the city’s modern trade grew at the expense of traditional livelihoods on the river banks, and sediment dredged from the Hai River became land filling for foreign concession areas. International in background and possessing a range of expertise, the conservancy commission’s staff came to be highly valued by the Chinese government and were regularly invited to consult on water management projects all over the country. The paper will show how the new institutionalism of water conservancy can be found at the heart of China’s urban, environmental and economic modernization in the late nineteenth- and early twentieth-centuries.

Drawing on archival research in Germany and China, the author uses local and transnational perspectives in considering the environmental contingencies, technological innovations, and social and political conflicts that shaped the role of water control in the making of modern China.

Shirley Ye is a PhD student at Harvard University working on her dissertation entitled “Transforming the Port City: State, Business and Environment in Germany and China.”

Panel chairs and other participants

Alan Crawford is a postgraduate research student at the University of Bristol. His thesis focuses on the Russian presence in the Chinese city of Tianjin during the first half of the twentieth century. A small Russian population existed in the city from the 1870s, and a territorial concession was established in 1900. Some Russians remained until the return of the last foreign districts to Chinese control in 1945. During this period their situation changed dramatically: subjects of the Romanov empire until 1917; officially under the aegis of the Soviet consulate after 1924; stateless and ambiguous in between. The thesis will examine the reciprocal relationship between policies implemented in the concession and their intellectual context: the contemporary ideas and debates about empire, nation, race and identity that informed policy-making and attitudes towards the Chinese and the other colonial powers in the city. It will explore how these ideas were reflected in practice and how they were modified as a result of experience, and attempt to assess their significance within the broader context of Russian and Soviet foreign policy in East Asia.

Diana Dennis is preparing a memoir includes chapters on her husband and father-in-law's stay in Tientsin from 1935-42. Her father-in-law Richard Harry Dennis, was chief of police in the British Concession.

Chris Hess is RCUK Fellow/Assistant Professor of History at the University of Warwick. His research interests include Chinese urban history, Japanese imperialism in China, Sino-Soviet relations and the history of Northeast China. He is currently working on a book manuscript on the development of the port city of Dalian under Japanese, Soviet, and Chinese rule.

Toby Lincoln works on how the expansion of industrial capitalism into China transformed the relationship between the city and the countryside in the first half of the twentieth century.

Taotao Liu is an Emeritus Fellow of Wadham College Oxford, and was formerly University Lecturer in Modern Chinese at the University of Oxford. She is preparing a biography of her grandfather, Cheng Ke (程克, 字: 仲漁) (1878-1936) who was the Mayor of Tianjin 1934-6.

Chris Manias is a specialist in the modern history of the human and biological sciences in a transnational and comparative perspective. He has previously worked on the history of British, French and German anthropology and prehistory in the "long nineteenth century," and is presently researching the activities of European and North American scientists in China in the 1890-1940 period, with a particular focus on palaeontology and palaeoanthropology.

Robin Porter holds BA and MA degrees in International Relations and in History from McGill University, and a PhD in Modern Chinese History from SOAS, focusing on China's early industrial development. He has lived and worked in China, and is a Chinese speaker. Robin taught Chinese history and politics at Concordia University in Canada, and at Murdoch and Melbourne universities in Australia, and for twelve years was Head of the China Business and Policy Unit at Keele. He was subsequently Professor of Business – Regional Development (Asia Pacific) at La Trobe University. He first visited China in 1972, worked for Xinhua News Agency in Beijing in 1979/80, and has been an adviser on China to industry. From 2002 to 2005 he was the UK's senior science diplomat in Beijing. Robin is currently Visiting Professor at the Centre for East Asian Studies at Bristol. His latest book, 'From Mao to Market: China reconfigured' (Hurst UK, and Columbia University Press) appeared earlier this year.

R.G. ('Gary') Tiedemann holds a University of London PhD in History and taught at the School of Oriental and African Studies for many years. He is a Scholars' Council member of the Ricci Institute for Chinese-Western Cultural History, University of San Francisco, and has published extensively on the history of Christianity in 19th-century China. His most recent publications are the *Reference Guide to Christian Missionary Societies in China: from the 16th to the 20th Century*, (Armonk, N.Y.: M.E. Sharpe, 2009); and *Handbook of Christianity in China, Vol. 2: 1800 to the Present*, (Leiden: Brill, 2010).

Weipin Tsai is Lecturer in Chinese History at Royal Holloway University of London. She is a historian of modern China, focussing on the late Qing to the Republican period, and is particularly interested in Chinese modernisation from the 19th century onwards. She is currently working on the Chinese Maritime Customs Service, Chinese Postal Service and Chinese newspapers in the 19th and the first half of the 20th centuries.

Jeffrey N. Wasserstrom is a Professor of History and Chair of the Department at the University of California, Irvine, and the Editor of the *Journal of Asian Studies*. He is the author of four books, including *Global Shanghai, 1850-2010* (Routledge, 2009) and *China in the 21st Century: What Everyone Needs to Know* (Oxford University Press, 2010), and has edited or co-edited several others. His works has appeared in many academic journals and newspapers, as well as in magazines and literary reviews such as *Time*, *Newsweek*, and the *TLS*. He blogs for the Huffington Post and is a co-founder of the "China Beat" electronic magazine.

Jim Williams is a PhD student in History at the University of Bristol, working on corruption in the Chinese Customs Service.

Colonialism in comparative perspective: Tianjin under Nine Flags 1860-1949

This ESRC-funded 4-year research project was launched in September 2008, and involves scholars originally based at the University of Bristol and Swansea. The team is led by Robert Bickers at Bristol and Nikki Cooper at Swansea, and was originally directed from Bristol by Maurizio Marinelli (now at University of Technology Sydney).

Between 1860 and 1945, the Chinese port city of Tianjin was the site of up to nine foreign-controlled concessions, as well as, temporarily, a multi-national military government (1900-02), and a series of evolving Chinese municipal administrations. Overshadowed in scholarship by Shanghai, Tianjin is now steadily securing much more attention, and the work of this project also aims to contribute to this refocusing of Chinese urban history.

Our central contention is that Tianjin provides an exemplary model for the study of comparative colonial practices. The city was opened as a treaty port as a consequence of the 18 October 1860 Conventions of Peking. The British, the French, and the American concessions were the earliest to be established. By the mid nineteenth century, Tianjin was opened up to foreign trade, and the importance of the city was later enhanced by the railway system connecting it with Peking on the one hand (after 1897) and with Shanhaiguan and Manchuria on the other. Situated close to the imperial capital, and, crucially, at the crossroads between the advances of European and Japanese imperialisms, Tianjin's economic and strategic importance necessarily drew the attention of all the major international powers: by 1901, nine separate foreign concessions had been established.

The research aims at producing a comparative and transnational analysis of the identities, practices and rivalries of five of the major powers established in Tianjin: Britain, France, Germany, Italy, and Russia. The project aims to secure new insights into the understanding of colonial history, as well as the history of China and of Tianjin, through exploring how these countries' concessions were placed within global currents of colonial practice and ideology. How were they placed within wider practice in China, and within British or French empire more widely.

Current project team

Robert Bickers, Bristol

British concessions in China

Songchuan Chen, Bristol (Nanyang Technology University from Autumn 2011)

Chinese responses to the foreign concessions

Nikki Cooper, Swansea

French concession and French colonial practice in China

Alan Crawford, Bristol

Russian concessions in China

Aglaia De Angeli, Newcastle

French and Belgian concessions, Italian concession

Cord Eberspächer, Confucius Institute Düsseldorf and University of Düsseldorf

German concession, Gustav Detring

Chris Manias, Bristol

Comparative international science in north China

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/tianjin-project/>

Visualising China <http://www.visualisingchina.net>

Launch: 7th July 2011.

Visualising China is a JISC-funded project which allows users to explore and work with more than 8,000 digitised images of photographs of China taken between 1850 and 1950. It gives free access to many archived as well as privately owned collections, including major online collections such as 'Historical Photographs of China' based at the University of Bristol, the Sir Robert Hart Collection at Queen's University Belfast, and Joseph Needham's photographs of wartime China held at the Needham Research Institute, Cambridge. This is a collaboration between the University of Bristol's Institute for Learning and Research Technology, and the 'Historical Photographs of China' team.

Historical Photographs of China <http://chp.ish-lyon.cnrs.fr/>

This project aims to locate, archive, and disseminate on an open-access website photographs from the substantial holdings of images of modern China held mostly in private hands overseas. Supported by the British Academy, the AHRC, and the Worldwide University Network, and by John Swire & Sons, Ltd, the project has now placed over 7,000 images on its website, organised four exhibitions (London, Durham, Bath, Bristol, 2007-09), and contributed either wholly, substantially or in part, to exhibitions at the National Library of China, Hong Kong Museum of History, Sun Yat-sen Museum, Hong Kong, as well as to books and journals.

The photographs come from the collections of a Chinese diplomat, foreign businessmen, staff of the administrations in the Chinese treaty ports, missionaries, and officials of the Chinese Maritime Customs Service. They portray political events, working and social life, treaty port architecture, commercial history, the history of dress and fashion, and of course the history of photography in China. They were taken by talented amateur photographers, by foreign snap-shotters, professional studio photographers, and others. These images were taken, acquired or bought by those living or visiting China.

Bristol too, has supplied images: an album of scenes of Shanghai from 1902 taken by Revd C.E. Darwent, known for his guidebook to Shanghai, colour slides of the same city and others from November 1945, and others in the families of Shanghai policemen, China Inland Mission staff and more.

The project is directed by Robert Bickers, and its Digitization Officer is Jamie Carstairs.



Print purchased in Shanghai, November 2010, date unclear.