



University of
Zurich ^{UZH}

Public Lectures Spring Semester 2022

Before the Golden Peaches: Fresh Perspectives on Early Eurasian Exchanges

The Golden Peaches from Samarkand – like nothing else – stand pars pro toto for all exotic things that reached China during one of its most cosmopolitan and prosperous eras in history. Eminent scholars like Berthold Laufer and Edward H. Schafer masterfully demonstrated the earliest exchange of exotics between China and regions from across Eurasia by using linguistic, historical, and archaeological data. Beyond doubt, tremendous progress has been made in all these fields ever since.

With this series of lectures, we bring together scholars from across the world and from diverse fields to present innovative insights into the earliest relationships between China with Inner Asia and the Ancient Near East.

The lecture series is part of the project “Sino-Indo-Iranica rediviva – Early Eurasian migratory terms in Chinese and their cultural implications”, which is funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF). For more information on the lecture series, please see the detailed introduction:

www.aoi.uzh.ch/de/sinologie/forschung/rediviva/papers/golden-peaches.html

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2022

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2 March

Appreciation and distribution of Chinese lacquerware across the Eurasian hemisphere – from Korea to Crimea (3rd century B.C. to the 3rd century A.D)

Margarete Prüch, Heidelberg University

23 March

Indo-Iranian terminology for horses and chariots

Alexander Lubotsky, Leiden University

30 March

Transcontinental cultural contacts of China during the Bronze Age

Lothar von Falkenhausen, University of California

13 April

Transcultural narrative exchanges of Buddhist birth stories in literary and visual cultures between Gandhara and Central Asia: A case study of the Pūrvayoga of Sudaṣṇa (Viśvantara Jātaka)

Jason Neelis, Wilfrid Laurier University

27 April

Climatic constraints and cultural filters in the adoption of western grain crops in ancient China

Dorian Fuller, University College London

11 May

The horse in China — its introduction, trade and breeding from the 1st millennium BCE into the 1st millennium CE

Susan Whitfield, Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures

25 May

Animals as diplomatic gifts along the maritime silk roads

Alexander Jost, Paris-Lodron-University Salzburg

1 June

Following the donkey's trail: Linguistic and archaeological evidence on the introduction of domestic donkeys to East Asia

Samira Müller, Milad Abedi, Wolfgang Behr, Patrick Wertmann, University of Zurich

This lecture series is part of the research project “Sino-Indo-Iranica rediviva” at the Institute of Asian and Oriental Studies of the University of Zurich. The lectures will be held in hybrid mode at 15:00 CET, and are planned to have a max. duration of one hour including discussion.

Pre-registration for each lecture is needed, both to participate the on-site event and to join on Zoom: www.aoi.uzh.ch/en/institut/events/registration

Wednesday, 3.00 to 4.00 pm

**Free of charge
All information subject to change**

Organization
Institute of Asian and Oriental Studies
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www.uzh.ch/public-lectures