IN PERSON

China and Inner Asia

Organized Panel Session

**B03: The End of an Era, Seen Through Many Eyes: Eurasian Dimensions of the Great Chinggisid Crisis**

📅 Friday, March 25, 2022  🕒 9:30am – 11:00am HST (Hawaii)  📍 Location: Room 313A

**Organizer(s)**

Johannes Lotze  
Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel

**Chair(s)**

Qiao Yang  
Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Germany

**Paper Presenter(s)**

Qiao Yang  
Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Germany

Ishayahu Landa  
University of Bonn, Germany

Xiaobai Hu  
Nanjing University, China

Johannes Lotze  
Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel

**Discussant(s)**

Eiren Shea  
Grinnell College, United States

**Session Abstract:** The mid-fourteenth century shook Chinggisid rule to the core. This ‘Great Chinggisid Crisis’ (1330s to 1370s) may be seen as a major transition phase in premodern Eurasian history, entailing as it did the end of two Chinggisid khanates (Ilkhanate and Yuan dynasty), while the remaining ones (the Jochid and Chaghadaid domains) went through a series of transformations. The impact of new political actors as well as global pandemics and environmental changes (Black Death and Little Ice Age) coincided with or contributed to the Crisis. New rulers emerged from the ashes,
basing their power on legitimacy concepts that would sometimes match Chinggisid principles and sometimes challenge them. These developments were not purely political, but resonated in the social, religious and cultural spheres, influenced all Eurasian mid-fourteenth century societies, and paved the ground for the formative periods of what we are used to call the ‘Early Modern’. The panel looks at this truly transcontinental Eurasian Crisis not through the lens of any ‘centre’ (which would be hard to pin down anyway) but through the eyes of four specific groups of people that can be defined by common expertise: diviners (Yang), military men (Landa), herders (Hu), and language specialists (Lotze).

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