


E003 - Framing the Change of an Era: Eurasian Perspectives on the Rise and Fall of the Chinggisids (13th-14th Centuries)

 Friday, March 17, 2023

 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM

 *Boston Sheraton Hotel - Back Bay A (2nd Floor)*

The tales of dynastic transition were often controlled by the new reigning regimes in the form of history writing. From the viewpoint of the conquerors, court historians justified the political shift by delineating the military might and political prowess. Overall, these tales paved the way for a new administration to install rulership and policy. Yet, the dynastic transition was often a more complex and fraught process. Examining a broad range of canonical as well as unconventional sources, the proposed panel explores the implicit ideas and subtle sentiments voiced (or silenced) by officials and intellectuals. Yang discusses how two leading scholars of the early Chinggisid rule, Yelü Chucai and Naṣīr al-Dīn al-Ṭūsī, used cosmological reasoning to present the Mongol rise as the beginning of a new cosmic era. Landa investigates how the Islamicate scholars deliberately employed, among others, the strategy of silence to bury the historical rupture caused by the Chinggisid Crisis. Lu examines the feud between two high-profile officials, Yao Guanxiao and Fang Xiaoru, a case which evidenced the declining power of the Buddhist order and the receding influence of Mongol legacy in the early Ming. By connecting these three different case studies, this panel sheds new light on the political discourse of dynastic transitions in the 13th and 14th centuries and investigates how the writing elites engaged with and manipulated the dynastic traditions in moments of rupture in the beginning and the end of the Mongol rule over Eurasia.

Organizers



Qiao Yang
Max Planck Institute for the History of Science



Lex Jing Lu
Clark University

Chair



Yiwen Li
City University of Hong Kong

Discussant



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Presentations

When Did an Era Start? Dynastic Change and Cosmic Order in Thirteenth Century Eurasia

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

 *Boston Sheraton Hotel - Back Bay A (2nd Floor)*

Stories Told and Stories Untold: Islamic Voices on the Chinggisid Fall

Ishayahu Landa, *University of Bonn*

 *Boston Sheraton Hotel - Back Bay A (2nd Floor)*

Yao Guangxiao and Fang Xiaoru: An Ideological Proxy War between Buddhism and Neo-Confucianism in the Early Ming Dynasty

Lex Jing Lu, *Clark University*

 *Boston Sheraton Hotel - Back Bay A (2nd Floor)*

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