



MOBILE BODIES

A Long View of the Peoples and Communities of Maritime Asia



An international conference held at

BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY

November 10-11, 2017



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PROGRAM



Friday, November 10, 2017

Binghamton University Downtown Center
67 Washington Street

8:30 am-4:00 pm

Conference Registration

1st floor atrium

8:30 am

Coffee and Light Breakfast

Room 120A/B

9:00-10:30 am

Breakout Session #1

Panel #1 Flows and Trajectories in and around the South China Sea

Room 228

Chair: CYNTHIA MARASIGAN, Binghamton University

JOHN K. WHITMORE, University of Michigan

The Origin of the Chinese Diaspora in Southeast Asia, Eleventh-Fourteenth Centuries: Impact and Consequences

JIAJUN ZOU, Emory University

Bridging Cultures and Trade: The Story of Fujianese Sailors and Sojourners in the Ming and Qing

EDYTA ROSZKO, Durham University/University of Copenhagen

Multiple Mobilities: Spatial and Occupational Mobility among Fishers in the South China Sea

9:00-10:30 am

Breakout Session #1 (cont.)

Panel #2 Coastal Religions and Devotional Practices in South Asia

Room 226

Chair: KATHERINE MARTINEAU, Binghamton University

FRANCESCO GUSELLA, Sapienza University, Rome

Woman Location and Identity Transition in Portuguese South Asia: A Glance from the Study of Devotional Ivories (Sixteenth-Seventeenth Centuries)

NEELIMA JEYCHANDRAN, Pennsylvania State University

Shrines for Africans: Mobilities and Refabulations of Sacred Landscapes in Coastal Kerala, India

SK ABDUL MATIN, Jawaharlal Nehru University/University of Goettingen

Nauka (Boat) and Islam: The Making of a Riverine Muslim Identity in Bengal

10:30-10:45 am

Coffee Break

Room 120A/B

10:30 am-2:00 pm

Book Display

1st floor atrium



PROGRAM

Friday, November 10, 2017

Binghamton University Downtown Center
67 Washington Street

10:45 am-12:45 pm

Conference Welcome

HARVEY G. STENGER, President, Binghamton University
Room 220 A/B

Plenary Panel: Controlling the Asian Seas

Chair: JOHN CHAFFEE, Binghamton University

ANAND YANG, University of Washington

Empire of Labor: Indian Convict Workers in Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century Southeast Asia

My paper examines the penal transportation experiences of criminal and political offenders from India to Southeast Asia in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries as part of a global system of forced migration across the Indian Ocean. It locates this history in the larger British colonial project of mobilizing and deploying coerced labor to construct an imperial archipelago in the region as well as in the penal context of India where punishments were configured to inflict a 'just' measure of pain on colonized subjects. At times, the labor and penal imperatives of transportation were at odds with one another because penal settlements viewed convicts primarily as cheap labor while colonial officials in India conceived of transportation as "a weapon of tremendous power" because of its putative religious and cultural effectiveness in transgressing indigenous notions about crossing the *kala pani* or the "black waters."

ERIC TAGLIACOZZO, Cornell University

Ghosts in the Machine: Technology and Maritime Imperialism in Southeast Asia

When can "machines be seen as the measure of men", as the historian Michael Adas so beautifully opined? This talk focuses on three moments when maritime technology became crucial in "wiring" Southeast Asia into larger landscapes of modernity and colonization. First, we examine the laying of telegraphs across Indochina, including underwater telegraph lines, as the French started to plant flags in this part of the world. Second, we will look at the notion of building a canal across the Isthmus of Kra, in what is today southern Thailand, and what was then the semi-independent kingdom of Siam. Finally, we will also analyze the spread of lighthouses as Foucauldian instruments of coercion in the Anglo-Dutch sphere of Insular Southeast Asia, in seascapes that currently comprise Malaysia and Indonesia. I argue in this talk that all of these processes were inter-related, and that they show in regional miniature the shadow and shape of larger forces that were then sweeping the globe.

12:45-2:00 pm

Lunch provided to conference participants

Room 120A/B

2:00-4:00 pm

Breakout Session #2

Panel #3 Maritime Travelers and their Journeys

Room 228

Chair: PRASEEDA GOPINATH, Binghamton University

NICOLE RANGANATH, University of California, Davis
Ganges Khan, Ganges Singh: Fijian Punjabi Narratives about their Seafaring and Life Journeys, 1900s-1950s

SCOTT REESE, Northern Arizona University
The Myth of Immobility: Women and Travel in the British Imperial Indian Ocean

TIKA RAMIDHINI, Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient
Women on the Ship: Gendered Experience of Female Pilgrims from the Dutch East Indies in the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century

Panel #4 Piracy and Violence on the Asian Seas

Room 223

Chair: DAEL NORWOOD, Binghamton University

J. TRAVIS SHUTZ, Binghamton University
Lin Feng, the Spanish Philippines, and Violence in Maritime Asia

JAMES OKOLIE-OSEMENE, University of Ibadan, Nigeria
Maritime Trade, Counter-piracy Stakeholders and the Use of Force in the Indian Ocean

SCOTT ABEL, University of Michigan
Piracy and Kerajaan Economics in Nineteenth-Century Malaya

SEBASTIAN PRANGE, University of British Columbia
Pirate Politics: Violence and Community in the Western Indian Ocean

PROGRAM



Friday, November 10, 2017

*Binghamton University Main Campus
Vestal Parkway*

5:00 pm

Opening Remarks

DONALD NIEMAN, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, Binghamton University
Chamber Hall, Anderson Center

Introduction

NANCY UM, Binghamton University

Keynote Lecture

AMITAV GHOSH

Embattled Earth: Commodities, Conflict and Climate Change in the Indian Ocean Region

Since the time of Vasco da Gama's voyage, the Indian Ocean has been the theatre of intense rivalries over commodities and resources. For centuries the main players in these conflicts were Western colonial powers, but over the last few decades the countries of the Indian Ocean rim have themselves become major consumers of commodities and resources. As such they are among the principal drivers of anthropogenic climate change, an ongoing process that will have catastrophic consequences for the billions of people who live around the Indian Ocean. This presentation will explore the continuities between the resource conflicts of the past and future by focusing on two transformative wars: the Anglo-Dutch spice wars of the 17th century and the 1st Opium War of 1840-42.

7:00 pm

Banquet Dinner

President's Reception Room, Anderson Center

8:45 pm

Board bus from the main campus of Binghamton University to downtown



PROGRAM



Saturday, November 11, 2017

*Binghamton University Downtown Center
67 Washington Street*

8:30 am–3:30 pm

Conference Registration

1st floor atrium

8:30 am

Coffee and Light Breakfast

Room 120A/B

9:00–10:00 am

Plenary Lecture

Chair: JOHN CHAFFEE, Binghamton University
Room 220A/B

ANGELA SCHOTTENHAMMER, University of Salzburg
Surgeons and Physicians on the Move in the Indo-Pacific Waters (Fifteenth to Eighteenth Centuries)

Surgeons and physicians on board ships were essential for longer sea voyages. They had to take care of the health and hygiene of and among the crewmembers. The famous voyages of Zheng He (between 1405 and 1433) may attest to the official importance paid to guaranteeing health on board. An exact figure of how many doctors were on board these voyages is preserved in the Tomb Inscription of Lord Ma, discovered in 1936, which mentions that 180 doctors accompanied each expedition. Nevertheless, as is well-known, health conditions on board were frequently anything but ideal. This paper will introduce examples of surgeons and marine physicians on board ships that navigated the Indian Ocean and Asian-Pacific waters, only a few of whom, of course, are known by name.

10:00–10:15 am

Coffee Break

Room 120A/B

10:00 am-2:00 pm

Book Display

1st floor atrium

10:15 am-12:15 pm

Breakout Session #3

Panel #6 Identity, Citizenship, and the Mobile Body

Room 121

Chair: MAHUA SARKAR, Binghamton University

IRTEFA BINTE-FARID, University of Virginia

"Son of Mandazi": Marriage, Transnational Migrations, and National Purity in Modern Oman

ANA MARIA CANDELA, Binghamton University

Chinese Exclusion Acts and the Global Color Line: Pushing Back the Frontiers in the Asian Mediterranean and the Cantonese Pacific

JOHN CHENG, Binghamton University

Migrants, Marriage, and Racial Citizenship

Panel #7 Literary and Visual Representations of Maritime Communities and their Ports

Room 223

Chair: NANCY UM, Binghamton University

ERIC BEVERLEY, SUNY Stony Brook

Regimes of Difference and Ethnographic Writing in Early Modern Surat

DIPTI KHERA, New York University

Euphoric Arrivals and Entangled Mobilities in the Indian Ocean Littoral, Diu ca. 1666

JOHN WILLIS, University of Colorado

Exile and Translation/Transnation: Muhammad al-Zubayri in Pakistan

VINH PHAM, Cornell University

Writing the Sea: A Short Discourse on Francophone Literature about the Vietnamese Boat People

PROGRAM

Saturday, November 11, 2017

*Binghamton University Downtown Center
67 Washington Street*

10:15 am-12:15 pm

Breakout Session #3 (cont.)

Panel #8 Exile and Exclusion

Room 224

Chair: RANABIR SAMADDAR, Calcutta Research Group/O'Brien Residency Programme, McGill University

ANNE GIBLIN GEDACHT, Seton Hall University
"A Japanese Girl": Afterlives of an (im)Mobile body

ANWESHA SENGUPTA, Institute of Development Studies, Kolkata
Moveable Migrants, Laboring Lives: Refugees in the Andaman Islands in the 1950s

JASON OLIVER CHANG, University of Connecticut
Sea Coolies: Race, Diaspora, and Maritime Captivity

Panel #9 Forced Labor and Systems of Bondage

Room 226

Chair: ARNAB DEY, Binghamton University

JULIA HAINES, University of Virginia
The Archaeology of the Indentured Laborer Landscape in Nineteenth-Century Mauritius

KERRY WARD, Rice University
Involuntary Mobility in the Straits in the 1860s

RITESH KUMAR JAISWAL, University of Delhi/Harvard University
Fluid Boundaries: Analysing the Maistry System and Indian Mobility to Burma (c. 1880-1940)

NILUFER AKALIN, Binghamton University
How to constitute a gendered reading of the kala pani?

12:15-1:45 pm

Lunch provided to conference participants

Room 120A/B

1:00-1:45 pm

Break and Book Signing with AMITAV GHOSH

1st floor atrium

1:45-3:15 pm

Breakout session #4

Panel #10 Maritime Systems and Structures

Room 121

Chair: ANAND YANG, University of Washington

NAINDEEP CHANN, University of California, Los Angeles

The Birth of the Western Indian Ocean Thalassocracy: The Ya'rubid Project in the Early Modern World

RENISA MAWANI, University of British Columbia

The Free Sea: A Counter Legal History

KENNETH HALL, Ball State University

The Coming of the West: European Cambodian Marketplace Connectivity, 1500-1800

Panel #11 Material Culture in and around Asia

Room 224

Chair: ANGELA SCHOTTENHAMMER, University of Salzburg

DEREK HENG, Northern Arizona University

Reconstructing Demographics, Social Hierarchies and Ethnicity in Thirteenth- and Fourteenth- Century Port Cities in Island Southeast Asia (specifically the Malacca Straits Region) through Archaeological Data

APARAJITA MAJUMDAR, Cornell University

Objects of Appropriations: Locating the Material Efficacies of Rubber in the Northeastern Tracts of British India, 1810-1897

ARIANNA GALLUZZO, Syracuse University

Collecting Maritime Asia: A history of Museums and Exchange via William L. Abbott

PROGRAM

Saturday, November 11, 2017

*Binghamton University Downtown Center
67 Washington Street*

1:45-3:15 pm

Breakout Session #4 (cont.)

Panel #12 Following Commodity Trajectories

Room 223

Chair: JOHN CHENG, Binghamton University

DAEL NORWOOD, Binghamton University

The Transforming Ocean: How Voyages Made Commodities of Asian Mobile Bodies and Defined the Post-Civil War American Empire

JANET PURDY, Pennsylvania State University

Ajrakh and Kanga: Indian Ocean Commerce and Textile Connections

PETER THILLY, University of Mississippi

Opium's Reverse Course: When China Came to Supply Southeast Asia, 1911-1937

Panel #13 Gender, Labor, and the Commodified Body

Room 226

Chair: MONIKA MEHTA, Binghamton University

MAHUA SARKAR, Binghamton University

Between 'Home' and 'Abroads': The Precarious Mobilities of Transnational Contract Work

MARIA CECELIA HWANG, Brown University/Rutgers University

Shadow Migrants in Global Cities: Sex Work, Border Regimes, and Unauthorized Labor Migration in Asia

MONA KAREEM, Binghamton University

Bodies as Borders: The Arab - Asian Interaction

3:15-3:30 pm

Coffee Break
Room 120A/B

3:30-4:30 pm

Plenary Lecture

Chair: RAVI PALAT, Binghamton University
Room 220A/B

RANABIR SAMADDAR, Calcutta Research Group/O'Brien Residency
Programme, McGill University
Rohingyas: The Emergence of a Stateless Population

Commentators have noted the fluctuating attitudes and policies of great powers and the United Nations towards the suppression of the Rohingyas by the State of Myanmar. But the regional dimension of the problem has been ignored even in analyses of the Bay of Bengal crisis of 2015 involving the boatpeople – the Rohingyas and Bangladeshis. By focusing on Rohingyas in India and elsewhere in the region around the Bay of Bengal, this talk aims to bring to light this overlooked regional dimension, which was finally brought to light by the Bay of Bengal crisis and becomes clearer as Rohingyas flee in large numbers to neighbouring Bangladesh, India, Thailand, and Malaysia.

Yet, regional and bilateral initiatives offered in the wake of the growing international focus on the Rohingya issue often fail, as with the initiative of the Thai government to address the migrant crisis in May 2016. This had followed another failed regional initiative, taken in 2002, known as the Bali Process on "People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime". Several countries wanted the root causes of the flow of migrants to be taken into account as part of the initiative. However, the Myanmar government threatened to boycott the meeting and accused others of being soft on human trafficking. Meanwhile reports, commentaries, essays and articles on the precarious condition of the Rohingya refugees and asylum-seekers tell us of the growing statelessness of people in a protracted condition of displacement. As nationality issues get more ethnicised and securitised, we shall continue to witness the phenomenon of growing statelessness – de jure, but more de facto. The question is: When will international law recognise this crisis? When will the states move beyond humanitarianism and attempt a regional or at least a series of bilateral solutions? We have to ask: Is the so-called global regime of protection capable of addressing the issue of de facto statelessness? With the Convention on Statelessness framed in the context of Europe and World War II, the question of responsibility for production of statelessness is stark today in as much as the ineffectiveness of the global protection apparatus.

4:30 pm

Conference Concludes



CONFERENCE INFORMATION

Meals and Refreshments:

Lunch is provided to all registered conference participants. The banquet dinner on Friday, November 10 in the President's Reception Room is open to those who have already purchased tickets via Eventbrite. Coffee and water will be available in Room 120A/B throughout the day. Conference participants are welcome to use that room as a lounge throughout the duration of the conference.

Parking:

The University Downtown Center is walking distance from both downtown conference hotels. Limited parking is available at the UDC behind the building. Enter the lot on Susquehanna Street. On Friday, use the access code 1204 to open the gate. On Saturday, use the access code 0191 to open the gate. A shuttle bus will take conference participants to and from the main campus of Binghamton University for the keynote address and the banquet dinner on the evening of Friday, November 10. Those who wish to drive to campus may park in the structure adjacent to the Anderson Center for a fee.

Guest Wi-fi Access:

While at the UDC and on the main campus, guests should choose "welcome2bing" in the list of available wireless networks. To connect, open a browser, enter your email address and click Continue. welcome2bing is an unencrypted wireless network and is limited in scope and capacity. Conference participants will be able to use it while on campus through the duration of the conference.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Many people on and off campus made this conference possible. IAAD acknowledges the generous support of the Department of Asian and Asian American Studies, the Confucius Institute of Chinese Opera, and the Center for Korean Studies. The Provost, Don Nieman, provided much-appreciated support and encouragement for the conception and planning of the keynote lecture.

We offer special thanks to Joe Laskaris for his help with catering. Amy Wang played an essential role in the planning of this event. We are grateful to our team of graduate student assistants, Chunhua Lu, Siyin Zhao, Qianxin Li, and Jeffrey Youn.

Conference committee members:

John Chaffee (History), IAAD Director and Conference Co-Chair
Nancy Um (Art History/Middle East and North Africa Studies Program), Conference Co-Chair
Arnab Dey (History)
Ravi Palat (Sociology)
J. Travis Shutz (History, graduate student)

2018 ASIAN ISSUES SYMPOSIUM

Weaponizing People: Militarization and Armed Conflict in Asia
November 9-10, 2018

From colonial conquests and foreign invasions to peasant and ethnic insurgencies, state repression and communal conflict, the peoples of Asia have experienced conflicts on a variety of scales in modern times. This conference explores these conflicts historically across Asia—from the Mediterranean coasts to the East China Sea and from the Indian to the Arctic Oceans.

Sponsored by the Institute for Asia and Asian Diasporas, Binghamton University

The Call for Papers and future details will be available on the IAAD website:
<https://www.binghamton.edu/iaad/>



NOTES

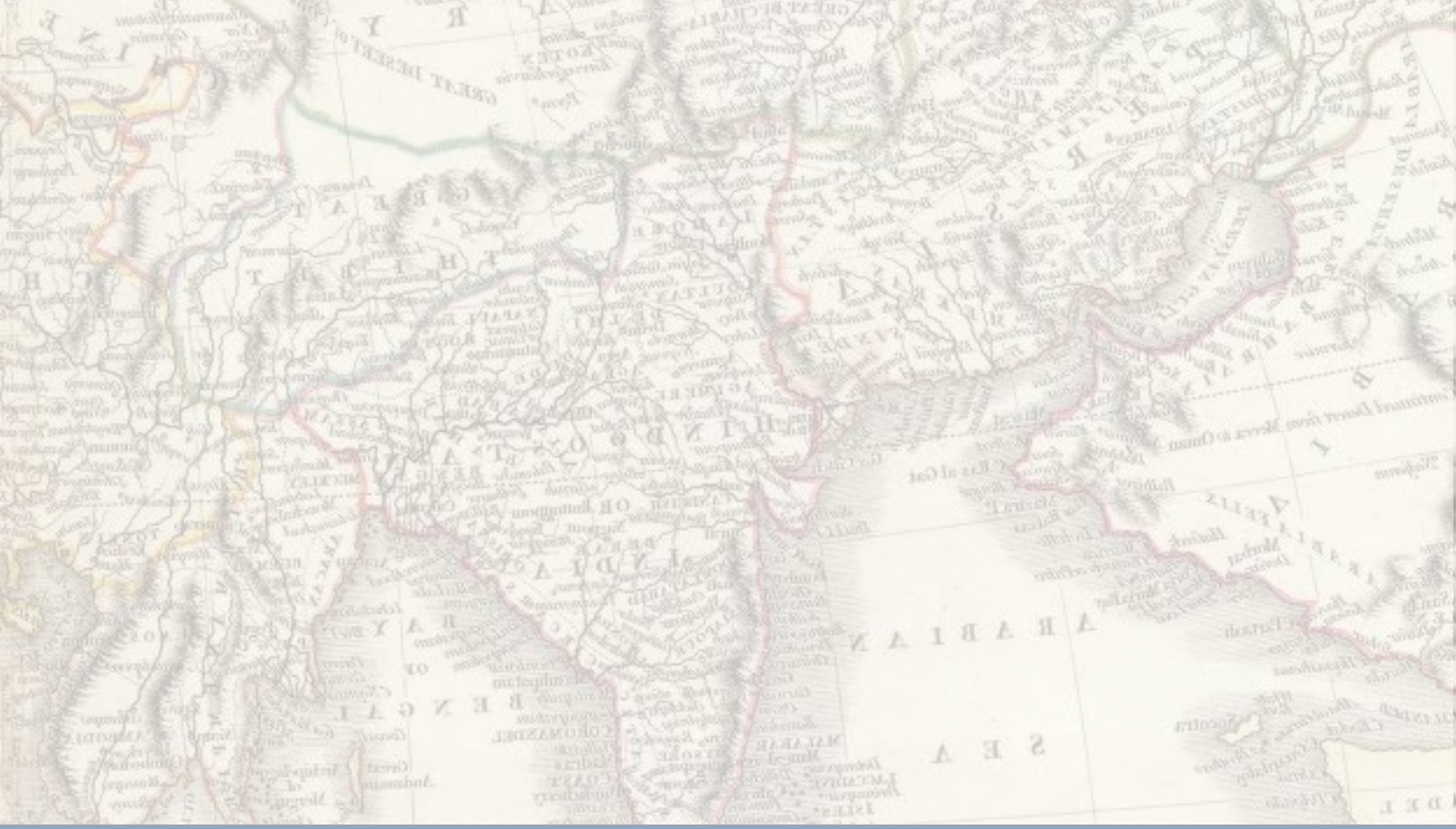


Image: John Cary, *A new map of Asia, from the latest authorities, Cary's New Universal Atlas, containing distinct maps of all the principal states and kingdoms throughout the World. From the latest and best authorities extant.* London: Printed for J. Cary, Engraver and Map-seller, No. 181, near Norfolk Street, Strand, 1808. Wikimedia Commons.
Program Design: Nancy Um