

## A Report on recent conferences on maritime Asia and China in a global context

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In recent years, a growing number of scholars have shown renewed interest in the maritime history of Asia and the workings of the Canton System in global perspective.

This past October 2017, the **Centro Científico e Cultural de Macau** (Macau Scientific and Cultural Center; <http://www.cccm.pt/>) in **Lisbon**, headed by Prof. Filipe Barreto (University of Lisbon), hosted two conferences related to these themes.

The first was entitled “**China / Macau: Sailing Routes, Sea Straits, Global Oceans**” (October 9-11, 2017), and included some presentations closely related to late imperial maritime issues:

- “Sailing routes as mental constructs: Their semantic dimensions and assumed functions”; Roderich Ptak (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, München)
- “Pearl trade during the Ming and Qing Dynasty: from Guangdong and Macau into the world”; Jiehua Cai (Institut für Sinologie - Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, München)
- “The scholarly dissemination of sailing route descriptions during the Ming and early Qing”; Elke Papelitzky (Universität Salzburg)
- “Maritime trade expansion in late Ming and early Qing’s China: long lasting trade organizations”; François Gipouloux (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Paris)
- “Where the land joins with ocean. A Global view of Macau trade in the Ming dynasty”; Viviane Zhang (Macau Polytechnic Institute)
- “Representing the global space: some reflections about maritime and terrestrial routes in the 16th century missionary sources”; Antonella Romano (EHESS – Centre Alexandre Koyré, Paris)
- “Sailing to China: The Maritime Journey of Catholic Missionaries”; Eugenio Menegon (Department of History, Boston University)
- “The Jesuit projects for routes to the Asian missions, alternative to the *Carreira da Índia*”; Ugo Baldini (Università di Padova)
- “Approvisionnement urbain et réseaux de commerce: denrées et marchandises sur le marché de Chaozhou au début du XVIIe siècle”; Pascale Girard (Université Paris-Est Marne-la-Vallée)
- “The Portuguese routes in the South China Sea between Malacca and Macau in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries”; Jorge Semedo de Matos (Escola Naval, Centro de Investigação Naval, Lisboa).

- “Um incidente em Macau: a viagem do galeão de Manila de 1583 e o seu contexto global”; Rui Manuel Loureiro (CHAM – Centro de Humanidades, Universidade Nova de Lisboa)
- “The manuscript of Adriano de las Cortes SJ of travel to South China (Manila, 1626-29) at the Hispanic Society of New York”; Fabio Yu Chung Lee (Institute of History, National Tsing Hua University, Taiwan)

The second meeting at CCCM was the **Fifth EurasiaTrajeco Conference (October 13-14, 2017)**, titled “**Commercial Partnerships and Financial Arrangements across the Eurasian Continent (1300-2000)**.” Two sessions focused on late imperial China:

*Session 1: “Trading Networks, Consumer Behavior and Management Culture”*

- “Consumption of Chinese goods in Western Europe: a multi-relational database and the Vicarious Consumption Theory as alternative model to the Industrious Revolution (18th century)”; *Manuel Perez Garcia* (Renmin University)
- “The commercial network and management culture of Chinese merchants in the 19<sup>th</sup> century: the “Zhanyanwen” (詹彦文) Ink Shop as an example”; *Wang Zhenzhong* (Fudan University)

*Session 2: “Commercial partnerships”*

- “Chinese business correspondence: a collection of letters sent by the Yang Hang of Xiamen”; *Léonard Blussé* (Leiden University)
- “Huizhou merchants and commercial partnership”; *Joe McDermott* (Cambridge University)

More information on the **EurasiaTrajeco Research Project** (“Comparison between developmental trajectories of economic institutions and business practices in Europe and Asia”), coordinated by Prof. François Gipoulux (CNRS, Paris) can be found at the blog <http://gdri.hypotheses.org/>

Prof. Manuel Perez Garcia (Renmin University, Beijing) has recently started an extensive research project, “**Global Encounters between China and Europe: Trade Networks, Consumption and Cultural Exchanges in Macau and Marseille, 1680-1840**” funded by the European Research Council; more information at: <http://www.gecem.eu/>