

The Institute of Iranian Studies

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CONVENOR

Paolo Sartori, Institute of Iranian Studies, Editor-in-Chief of JESHO
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Battle of Badr from the *Jāmi' al-tawārīkh* by Rashid al-Dīn. Topkapı Palace, MS Hazine 1653, folio 165b. © Wikimedia/CC-PD-Mark.

THE MONGOL MOMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST

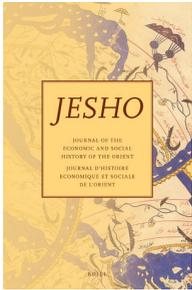
RASHĪD AL-DĪN (D. 718/1318) AND THE WRITING OF WORLD HISTORY

Third JESHO Lecture on Asian History by
JUDITH PFEIFFER

JESHO LECTURE SERIES ON ASIAN HISTORY

The JESHO Lecture Series on Asian History takes stock of recent historiographical interest in the study of Asia, which brings into conversation the connected dimension of world history and local genealogies of cultural change. It invites scholars working on different parts of Asia from the medieval period to the 20th century to consider political and cultural dynamics in the continent from the perspectives of their own periods, regions, and materials (the Perso-Islamicate World, South, Southeast and Far-East Asia). The aim of this lecture series is to highlight cutting-edge research on distinct fields of Asian studies and reflect on what certain socio-cultural formations might signify for the histories of individual regions and for the history of Asia as a whole.

JESHO – *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient*



JESHO publishes original research articles in Asian, Near, Middle Eastern and Mediterranean Studies across history. The journal promotes world history from Asian and Middle Eastern perspectives and it challenges scholars to integrate cultural and intellectual history with economic, social and political analysis. JESHO encourages debate across disciplines in the humanities and the social sciences. Published since 1958, JESHO is the oldest and most respected journal in its field.

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EVENT NOTE

In response to the JESHO lecture 2018, a public conversation between **Chase Robinson** (CUNY) and **Judith Pfeiffer** (University of Bonn) will be held on

7 November 2018, 10.00 am

Institute of Iranian Studies
Hollandstrasse 11-13, 1020 Vienna
1st floor, Seminar Room 49

For organisational reasons we kindly ask for an informal registration for the evening lecture on 6 November under iran.office@oeaw.ac.at or +43 1 51581 6500 until October 31.

PROGRAM

THIRD JESHO LECTURE ON ASIAN HISTORY

6.00 pm *Introduction*

Paolo Sartori | Institute of Iranian Studies, Editor-in-Chief of JESHO

*The Mongol Moment in the Middle East:
Rashīd al-Dīn (d. 718/1318) and the Writing of World History*

Judith Pfeiffer | University of Bonn

Abstract For almost exactly seven centuries Rashīd al-Dīn (d. 718/1318) has been a household name for pre-modern world history written from a global perspective. While by his own judgment his late oeuvre on theological and philosophical questions was possibly of greater importance than his historiographical work, it is Rashīd al-Dīn's historiography that has received the lion's share of the scholarly attention of the past two centuries. And yet, this lecture argues, so far only one quarter of Rashīd al-Dīn's historiographical oeuvre has been published and the reception history of both his historiographical and his theoretical work is still in its infancy. This lecture uses the example of Rashīd al-Dīn to reflect on the epistemology of modern historiographies of the region, proposing a holistic approach to the reception history of Rashīd al-Dīn's oeuvre, and arguing that there is a structural and epistemological affinity between Rashīd al-Dīn's historiographical and theoretical works.

7.30 pm RECEPTION

Judith Pfeiffer's research focuses on the social, political, and intellectual history of the Nile to Oxus region with a particular emphasis on Iran, Central Asia, and Anatolia during the Later Middle and Early Modern Periods. She has a special interest in the circulation of knowledge, and the ways in which political and confessional boundaries were re-negotiated and re-defined during the post-Mongol period. Her publications include *History and Historiography of Post-Mongol Central Asia and the Middle East* (2006, co-edited with Sholeh Quinn), *Politics, Patronage and the Transmission of Knowledge in 13th-15th Century Tabriz* (2013), and *Rashīd al-Dīn's Bayān al-haqā'iq* (2016). After receiving a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in 2003, she taught Islamic studies and Islamic history as University Lecturer and Associate Professor at the University of Oxford before receiving a call as Alexander von Humboldt Professor in Islamic Studies at the University of Bonn in 2016, where she directs the Alexander von Humboldt Kolleg for Islamicate Intellectual History.