

The Institute of Iranian Studies
at the Austrian Academy of Sciences
and
Brill Academic Publishers
invite you to attend

The First *JESHO* Lecture
on Asian History

Was China an Empire?

by
Mark C. Elliott
Harvard University



Institute of Iranian Studies

Austrian Academy
of Sciences

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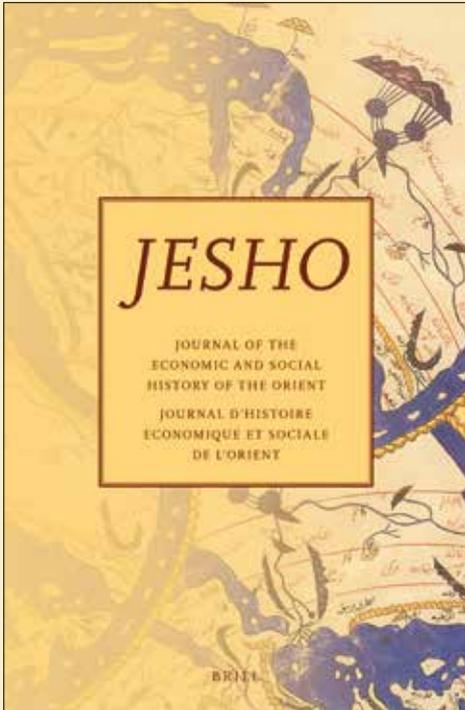
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JESHO Lecture Series on Asian History

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-Islamic 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*) 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. For more information please visit brill.com/jesho.

Was China an Empire?

This lecture seeks to contribute to the integration of the Chinese past into global history by examining the basis upon which we think of China as an “empire.” It begins with a discursive analysis, drawing attention to the profound disjuncture between internal and external perceptions of “China”: after 1600 most of the world was in the habit of describing China as “imperial,” but in China itself, explicit recognition of this status did not come until 1895. Even today, a conceptual impasse persists that hinders comparative study at a time when empire as a political and cultural formation attracts ever more attention. To remedy this aporia, the second part of the lecture offers an analysis of the historical processes and institutions that underlay the building of the Qing state in the 17th and 18th centuries, and the degree to which these might be considered to be “imperial” in nature.

Mark C. Elliott is the Mark Schwartz Professor of Chinese and Inner Asian History as well as the Director of the Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies at Harvard University. He is the author of *The Manchu Way: The Eight Banners and Ethnic Identity in Late Imperial China* (Stanford University Press, 2002), *Emperor Qianlong: Son of Heaven, Man of the World* (Longman, 2009), and co-editor of *New Qing Imperial History: The Making of Inner Asian Empire at Qing Chengde* (RoutledgeCurzon, 2004).

Venue:

**Austrian Academy of Sciences
Sonnenfelsgasse 19 (Theatersaal)**

1010 Vienna

6.00 p.m., 13th October 2015

Convenor:

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

About the Institute of Iranian Studies

The Institute of Iranian studies in Vienna was established in 2002 as a research institute of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. The largest academic institution of its kind in Europe, it aims at advancing cutting-edge academic research on all aspects of Iranian and Persian cultures and societies. For further information please visit www.oeaw.ac.at/iran

About Brill

Founded in 1683 in Leiden, the Netherlands, Brill is a leading international academic publisher in 20 main subject areas, including Middle East and Islamic Studies, Asian Studies, Classical Studies, History, Biblical and Religious Studies, Language & Linguistics, Biology, and International Law. With offices in Leiden and Boston and a representative office in Singapore, Brill today publishes 230 journals and around 1000 new books and reference works each year, available in both print and electronic form. Brill also markets a large number of primary source research collections and databases. The company's key customers are academic and research institutions, libraries, and scholars. Brill is a publicly traded company and is listed on Euronext Amsterdam NV. For further information please visit www.brill.com



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PROGRAM

JESHO LECTURE ON ASIAN HISTORY

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13TH 2015

6.00 p.m.

Opening address

Hon.-Prof. Dr. Florian Schwarz | Director, Institute of Iranian Studies, Austrian Academy of Sciences

Welcome address

Univ.-Doz. Dr. Michael Alram | Vice President, Austrian Academy of Sciences

Introduction

Dr. Paolo Sartori | Institute of Iranian Studies, Austrian Academy of Sciences

Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient

Lecture

Prof. Mark C. Elliott | Director, Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, Harvard University

„Was China an Empire?“

7.30 p.m.

Reception

For organisational reasons we kindly ask for a informal registration under iran.office@oeaw.ac.at until October 9th.

Aus organisatorischen Gründen bitten wir um eine formlose Anmeldung unter iran.office@oeaw.ac.at bis 9. Oktober.