

Comparison and connectivity



‘Looked at with a comparative eye, every society of the past, across the globe, gives us a new set of questions to pose of other societies.’ (Belich et al. 2016)

Themes and issues



The chief intellectual goal of the COE can be summarised as mobilising the resources of the past to meet the challenge of diversity both in the humanities and in the society at large. A new global understanding of Eurasia's manifold diversity in past and present cannot be achieved by a simple addition of distinct bodies of knowledge generated in individual fields. Methodologically, this entails integrating results generated by the study of sources in a few dozen different languages and informed by established disciplinary approaches on the basis of shared parameters. In this enterprise we must maintain acute awareness of the diversity of perspectives on the past—often conflictual—and retain a critical perspective on the legacy of past ideologies, academic or political.

Themes and overarching research questions

1. Cultural and Linguistic Diversity
2. Constructions of Identity and Difference
3. Mobility and Migrations
4. Imperial Dynamics and their Limits
5. Ecological and Economic Transformations