Main Publications and Research Activities 2018–2019
The Oriental Institute (OI) is a public non-university research institution. Established in 1922, just six years after SOAS in London, the OI is one of the oldest institutions dedicated to the study of Oriental cultures in Central and Eastern Europe. It falls administratively under the auspices of the Czech Academy of Sciences, an umbrella research institution similar in function to its counterparts in continental Europe, such as the CNRS in France or the Max Planck Society in Germany. Since its creation, the Academy of Sciences has always been a non-university institution with the primary mission to conduct basic research in a broad spectrum.
of the natural, technical and social sciences and the humanities. This research, whether highly specialized or interdisciplinary in nature, aims to advance developments in scientific knowledge at the international level, while also taking into account the specific needs of the Czech society.

The OI focuses on four core areas: primary research, both individual and collaborative; research cooperation with Czech and international universities and research institutions; cooperation with state institutions; and outreach activities. The general aim in all these areas is to provide high quality and balanced research on the countries we are studying. The research directions we pursue follow the general trends in western academia and simultaneously build upon the history of Oriental studies in the Czech Republic. The OI is divided into three departments on a geographical basis: Middle East, South Asia (including Central and Southeast Asia), and East Asia.

This division makes it possible for specialists devoted to the study of a particular region to maintain close contact with their colleagues working on the same or similar problems within a given field. In addition, in order to provide opportunities for extending a specific methodological approach to the study of individual regions, working groups are frequently established independently of the geographical divisions. These teams are not only open to staff members from all departments of the Institute, but also to scholars from other research bodies, both in the Czech Republic and abroad.

In 2018–2019 we worked hard both to attract international academic staff and to provide career opportunities for the most promising young Czech scholars. On the domestic level, we continued to nurture close ties with our counterparts at Charles University, with whom we run joint PhD programs (Middle Eastern Studies; Asian History; Asian and African Literatures). Furthermore, our researchers regularly teach at the main Czech universities and cooperate with other researchers, both international and domestic, on various projects. Internationally, we aimed to bring together scholars by hosting lectures, workshops, and conferences. We also support our own researchers in their fieldwork abroad and in presenting their research at the most important international conferences.

All in all, the period 2018–2019 was one of continuing growth for the OI. We managed to produce valuable publications and organize many exciting events. An overview of the most important outcomes is presented on the following pages.

*Ondřej Beránek, director of the OI*
The expertise of the department's staff reflects the diversity of the region, which encompasses, among many others, the Arabic, Persian, Turkish, and Hebrew cultures, in addition to the legacy of the civilizations of the Ancient Near East. At the same time, it remains one of our core aspirations to convert this seemingly incongruous multitude into a mutually interrelated (or at least compatible) set of research topics. Hence, we concentrate on two broad lines of research, relating to: (1) Islamic studies, and (2) the modern and contemporary history of the Middle East. The Department aims to combine the best traditions of Czech Oriental studies (the knowledge of relevant languages, familiarity with the environment) with a more dynamic attitude towards some contemporary issues. These include both the chronic challenges facing the region (the functioning of the state, the role of religion in society, the place of minorities, etc.) and key phenomena of long-term significance (political and intellectual history, foreign relations, etc.).
ALIVERNINI, SERGIO  
(in the OI 2016–)  
PhD in Philological and Literary Studies about Ancient Near East and pre-Islamic Iran, Sapienza University of Rome, 2010  
Specialization: Mesopotamian mathematics, Mesopotamian history, administration of the Third Dynasty of Ur

BERÁNEK, ONDŘEJ  
(2013–)  
Director of the OI  
PhD in History of the Middle East, Charles University, Prague, 2007  
Specialization: modern and contemporary history of the Middle East, Salafi Islam, history of Saudi Arabia

DRECHSELOVÁ, LUCIE  
(2019–)  
PhD, double degree: Charles University (Turkish Studies) and École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS, Political Science), Paris, 2018  
Specialization: political history of Turkey in the 20th century, gender and women’s rights in Turkey, Kurdish question, generation of 1968 and 1978 and politicization processes in Turkey

MELČÁK, MIROSLAV  
(2009–)  
PhD in History of the Middle East, Charles University, Prague, 2009  
Specialization: social and cultural history of the pre-modern Middle East, religious endowments (awqāf), urban history of Mesopotamia
OSTŘANSKÝ, BRONISLAV (2004–)
PhD in History of the Middle East, Charles University, Prague, 2005
Specialization: medieval Islamic thought and folk religiosity, Islamic mysticism, millennialism and apocalyptics, Islam in the Czech Republic

ÖZEL VOLFOVÁ, GABRIELA (2013–)
PhD candidate, Charles University, Prague
Specialization: Turkish foreign policy, Turkey-EU relations, nationalism, gender and Islam

PROSECKÝ, JIŘÍ (1978–2019) – emeritus
PhD in Ancient Near Eastern Studies, Charles University, Prague, 1990
Specialization: Akkadian (Assyro-Babylonian) literature, cultural history of the Ancient Near East

ŠABASEVIČIŪTĖ, GIEDRĖ (2015–)
PhD in Sociology, EHESS, Paris, 2015
Specialization: religious and liberal intellectuals in Arab countries and Turkey, Arab literature, literary circles in Egypt
SCHWARTZ, KEVIN
(2017–)
PhD in Near Eastern Studies, University of California, Berkeley, 2014
Specialization: cultural and intellectual history of Persia/Iran

STEUER, CLÉMENT
(2013–2018)
PhD in Political Science, Université de Lyon, Lyon, 2010
Specialization: political party system in the Arab world, particularly in Egypt

TAGLIA, STEFANO
(2014–)
PhD in Ottoman History, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London, 2012
Specialization: history of the late Ottoman Empire, nationalism and minorities in the Middle East

ZOUPLNA, JAN
(2003–)
Head of the Department
PhD in History of the Middle East, Charles University, Prague, 2006
Specialization: modern Jewish history, Israeli history, modern and contemporary history of the Middle East
South Asian studies formed an integral part of the research program of the OI from the very beginning of its existence. Today, due to some thematic as well as historical overlaps, the department also covers Central and Southeast Asia. Members of the department follow their individual research programs but generally find common ground by working on topics that are thematically related. Among the research topics belong: focus on movements and phenomena, historical as well as contemporary, that profile themselves as either marginal and oppressed, or stand in opposition to the orthodox, mainstream and dominant segments of Indian society; heterodox teachings of Buddhism and the nirguna bhakti in the Antiquity and Middle Ages; Dalit movements and ideology in contemporary India; and problems of emancipation in relation to Indian women; or the intersection of Islam and politics in Central and Southeast Asia as well as ethnographic practice and theory.
Main Publications and Research Activities 2018–2019

BAHOVADINOVA, MALIKA
(2018–2019)
PhD in Central Asian Studies and Social and Cultural Anthropology, Indiana University Bloomington, 2016
Specialization: Central Asia, anthropology of the state and its bureaucracy, migration and transnationalism

EXNEROVÁ, VĚRA
(2014–)
PhD in Central Asian Studies, Charles University, Prague, 2006
Specialization: Islam and politics in Central Asia and Afghanistan

FILIPSKÝ, JAN
PhD in South Asian Studies, Charles University, Prague, 1980
Specialization: political and cultural history of India with special emphasis on the Dravidian South, Hindu mythology, history and ethnical relations in Sri Lanka

HOLBA, JIŘÍ
(1997–)
PhD in Buddhist Studies, Charles University, Prague, 2002
Specialization: Buddhism and Buddhist philosophy
HONS, PAVEL  
(2008–)  
PhD in South Asian Studies, Charles University, Prague, 2010  
Specialization: Tamil language and Tamil literature, society of Southern India, Dalits

MADAIO, JAMES  
(2016–)  
PhD from Religions and Theology Department, University of Manchester, 2016  
Specialization: Indian philosophical traditions (particularly Advaita Vedānta); historiography and sources of modern Hindu movements

NGO, MAY  
(2018–)  
PhD from Swinburne University of Technology, Melbourne, 2015  
Specialization: religion and development in Cambodia, the impact of colonialism and the Cold War on Cambodia, ethnographic practice and theory

PETRŮ, TOMÁŠ  
(2014–)  
PhD in Southeast Asian Studies, Charles University, Prague, 2008  
Specialization: modern and contemporary history of Indonesia and Malaysia
STRNAD, JAROSLAV
(1980–)
Head of the Department
PhD in South Asian Studies, Charles
University, Prague, 1999
Specialization:
Indo-Aryan languages
(Sanskrit and medieval Hindi language and literature), Hindi lexicography, history of medieval and modern India
The department focuses on three main areas: Japanese, Chinese and Tibetan Studies. There is also some overlap with Inner and Central Asian and Tibetan studies. Our research interests cover the cultural and intellectual history of early modern and modern Japan and practically all aspects of Chinese studies, including Chinese linguistics and phonology, Chinese and Taiwanese literature, ancient Chinese thought, medieval cultural, political and institutional history, and the history and politics of modern and contemporary China. This diversity of interest allows us to think broadly about possible overarching themes that could be explored as part of a team project running parallel with individual research initiatives. These include a comparative project on the cultural diplomacy practices of the PRC in different parts of Asia, and research on strategies of political and social order focusing on the propaganda and the governance of the Party-State as well as ethnic minorities policy with special regard to Han–non-Han dynamics in Xinjiang and Tibetan regions.
DLUHOŠOVÁ, TÁŇA
(2013–)
PhD in Sinology, Charles University, Prague, 2013
Specialization: history, culture and postwar literature of Taiwan

HRUBÝ, JAKUB
(2003–)
Head of the Department
PhD in Sinology, Charles University, Prague, 2012
Specialization: history of Medieval China

KLIMEŠ, ONDŘEJ
(2013–)
PhD in Sinology, Charles University, Prague, 2012
Specialization: politics and history of Xinjiang, politics and history of modern China

LIŠČÁK, VLADIMÍR
(1991–)
PhD in Sinology, Charles University, Prague, 1992
Specialization: Silk Roads and China, history of religion in China
PRUŠA, IGOR  
(2017–2018)  
PhD in Society, Media and Communication in Japan, University of Tokyo, 2017  
PhD in Communication Studies and Journalism, Charles University, Prague, 2009  
Specialization: contemporary Japanese society, media and communication in Japan

PTÁČKOVÁ, JARMILA  
(2014–)  
PhD in Tibetan studies, Humboldt University, Berlin, 2013  
Specialization: China's development policy in Tibetan areas, Sino-Tibetan relations

SOU, DANIEL S.  
(2016–2018)  
PhD in East Asian Languages and Civilizations, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, 2013  
Specialization: cultural, social, legal and intellectual history of early China

TOYOSAWA, NOBUKO  
(2017–)  
PhD in East Asian Languages and Cultures, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, 2008  
Specialization: cultural and intellectual history of early modern and modern Japan
TŘÍSKOVÁ, HANA
(1982–)
PhD in Sinology, Charles University, Prague, 2010
Specialization: phonetics and phonology of Mandarin, teaching Mandarin pronunciation

WEINGARTEN, OLIVER
(2013–)
PhD in Sinology, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, 2010
Specialization: Ancient Chinese language; literature, thought, and culture in China up to c. 100 BCE
ALIVERNINI, SERGIO

"Mathematical Aspects in Earthmoving linked to Hydraulic Works during the Ur III Period in Umma,"


The paper studies mathematical aspects of earthwork projects in the Ur III city of Umma, ca. 2053–2032 B.C. The main purpose is to describe the practical procedures involved in moving earth for hydraulic works around Umma. It also shows how Old Babylonian pedagogical 'mathematical texts' about earthworks, from the early second millennium B.C., are indebted to the practical procedures adopted by the Ur III officials.
ALIVERNINI, SERGIO – ANGELA GRECO

*Neo Sumerian Administrative Texts from the Gejou Collection Kept in the British Museum* (Messina: Nisaba 31, 2019).

The Monograph includes the edition of 177 administrative texts dated to the Third Dynasty of Ur (2112–2004 BC – Southern Mesopotamia). The tablets belong to the collection of the British Museum and are part of a large consignment purchased in 1914 from I. E. Géjou (an Armenian antiquities dealer).

BERÁNEK, ONDŘEJ – PAVEL ŤUPEK


In various parts of the Islamic world over the past decades virulent attacks have targeted Islamic funeral and sacral architecture. Rather than being random acts of vandalism, these are associated with the idea of performing one’s religious duty as attested to in the Salafi/Wahhabi tradition and texts. Graves, shrines and tombs are regarded by some Muslims as having the potential to tempt a believer to polytheism. Hence the duty to level the graves to the ground (*taswiyat al-qubūr*). In illuminating the ideology behind these acts, this book explains the current destruction of graves in the Islamic world and traces the ideological sources of iconoclasm in their historical perspective, from medieval theological and legal debates to contemporary Islamist movements, using case studies of Ibn Taymiyya, Muhammad ibn ‘Abd al-Wahhab, the formation of Saudi ulama, Nasir al-Din al-Albani, and ISIS.
DRECHSELOVÁ, LUCIE – ADNAN ÇELIK (eds.)
*Kurds in Turkey: Ethnographies of Heterogeneous Experiences*

This edited volume unites eight scholars who offer ethnographic studies based on their latest research. The chapters are clustered around four main headings: women’s participation, paramilitary, space, and infrapolitics of resistance. Each heading assembles two chapters which are in dialog with each other and offer complementary and at times competing perspectives. All four headings correspond to the emerging domains of research in Kurdish studies. Authors share a micro-level focus and take extensive field work as the basis of their argument. In the wake of massive urban destructions and renewed warfare in the Kurdish region in Turkey, this volume also stakes a stance against the memoricide of the Kurdish municipal experience and cultural production.

OSTŘANSKÝ, BRONISLAV
*The Jihadist Preachers of the End Times: ISIS Apocalyptic Propaganda*

Focusing on apocalyptic manifestations found in ISIS propaganda, the book situates the group’s agenda in the broader framework of contemporary Muslim thought and explains key topics in millennial thinking within the spiritual context of modern Islamic apocalypticism. Based on the group’s primary sources as well as medieval Muslim apocalyptic literature and its modern interpretations, the book analyzes the ways ISIS presents its message concerning the Last Days as a meaningful, inventive and frightening expression of collectively shared expectations relating to the supposedly approaching the End Times.
ŠABASEVIČIŪTĖ, GIEDRE
“Sayyid Qutb and the Crisis of Culture in Late 1940s Egypt,”

The article focuses on the writings and literary networks of the Egyptian intellectual and activist Sayyid Qutb during the late 1940s. Scholars have tended to explain Qutb’s political radicalization and joining of the Muslim Brotherhood during the subsequent decade via aspects of his personality or personal life, such as his quick temper, conservatism, or frustration over unfulfilled aspirations to become a writer. Drawing on three periodicals published respectively by leftist, Islamist, and independent aspiring writers, the author instead places Qutb’s criticism of political, economic, and cultural elites in the context of an emerging generation of critical intellectuals. By shedding light on intellectual cooperation between Qutb, Muslim Brothers, Marxists, and independent writers, the article challenges established scholarly narratives that locate the Islamist project outside the Egyptian intellectual field.

STEUER, CLEMENT
“The Modularity of the ‘Revolutionary’ Repertoire of Action in Egypt: Origins and Appropriation by Different Players,”

The Egyptian ‘revolutionary’ repertoire of action, that is to say the repertoire used by the protesters of January 2011, was characterized by a combination of several features: occupation of a symbolic place; ‘horizontal’ forms of organization; recourse to new electronic information and communication technologies (especially social networks); and rhetoric centered around universal values such as dignity, social justice, human rights, and democracy. This repertoire was born as a result of the merging of two parallel cycles of mobilization, which had actually started during the previous decade, one animated by activists from the educated middle class, and the other by workers struggling for economic and social reforms. After the fall of Hosni Mubarak in February 2011, it demonstrated its extreme modularity, being appropriated by different players from all sections of the political spectrum, from the Salafist hāzimūn to proponents of the military power.

ZOUPLNA, JAN
“Israeli Polity and the European Powers during the 1950s: Democracy as a Tool in Fostering Bilateral Ties?”

For much of the 1950s, Israeli leaders did their best to present Israel abroad as a ‘real democracy’ and an outpost of the free world in the Middle East. Using archival sources from the UK, France and Israel the article compares these images with the perspective of British and French diplomacies. It shows that the diplomats working on the spot were concerned not only about the top echelons of the state, but also about the ‘real’ (or inclusive) character of Israeli democracy as a whole.
Forthcoming in 2020 (2021)

BERÁNEK, ONDŘEJ
KAREL NOVÁČEK
MIROSLAV MELČÁK
LENKA STARKOVÁ
*Mosul under ISIS*
(New York: Palgrave Macmillan).

DRECHSELOVÁ, LUCIE
*Local Power and Female Political Pathways in Turkey: Cycles of Exclusion*
(New York: Palgrave Macmillan).

ŠABASEVIČIŪTĖ, GIEDRĖ
*A Twin Branch: Islamism and Literature in Sayyid Qutb's Egypt*
(Syracuse: Syracuse University Press).

SCHWARTZ, KEVIN
*Remapping Persian Literary History, 1700–1900*
(Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press).

SCHWARTZ, KEVIN
“A Transregional Persianate Library: The Production and Circulation of Tadhkiras of Persian Poets in the 18th and 19th Centuries,”
*International Journal of Middle East Studies.*

TAGLIA, STEFANO
“Pragmatism and Expediency: Ottoman Calculations and the Establishment of the Transcaucasian Democratic Federative Republic,”
*Caucasus Survey.*

ZOUPLNA, JAN
“Readjustment or Reversal? The ‘Normalization’ of Relations Between France and Israel, 1957–63,”
*British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies.*
BAHOVADINOVA, MALIKA

This article discusses the Soviet conceptualization of labor and its importance for state building and modernization in the USSR. It also helps to explicate the ways in which labor migration was an integral part of the socialist development project in regions such as Tajikistan. Through the case study of the Nurek Dam, it considers the processes by which the Soviet proletariat was produced through work, mobility, and socialization. It ultimately presents an argument about the mutual constitution of the Soviet state and Soviet citizens, whose labor embodied the state's idealized 'mobile proletariat.' Finally, it also outlines what the development of the 'mobile proletariat' and other ideals of labor came to mean for groups of peripheral subjects in the USSR, as well as what such boundaries may say about the limits of the Soviet modernization project in practice.

EXNEROVÁ, VĚRA

The chapter provides an analysis of attempts on the part the PRC to spread its influence in societies of Central Asia by the means of its ambitious 'Belt and Road' project. PRC has paid a great deal of attention to improving its image in the eyes of the local public opinion and to dispelling the existing latent Sinophobia and fears of Chinese expansionism. It is based on field research in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan and discursive analysis performed in the years 2015–2017.

HOLBA, JIŘÍ

The article addresses how Indian and Tibetan Buddhist philosophers understand the way in which the senses provide knowledge or justified beliefs about the world. Among other things, it details the Buddhist philosophical analysis of the individual into five classes, analyzes the classification of the senses, and deals with the concept of direct perception as a source
of valid knowledge. It is founded on a close reading of Sanskrit and Tibetan philosophical texts and their careful analysis.

HONS, PAVEL
“Tamil Dalit Art and Identity: What to Do with the Drum?”

Based mainly on printed sources in Tamil, as well as interviews with Dalit activists, this article seeks to map current divergent attitudes of Dalits towards folklore and especially towards the drum. While most activists argue for the rejection of drumming as a symbol of oppression and untouchability, some try to use it as a means of mobilization. Others speak in favor of the resignification of the instrument and its protection and preservation as a part of their cultural legacy, which they consider to be different from the mainstream. The article also sets out to correlate these attitudes with the ideology of the eradication of caste and points to the ensuing dilemmas connected with emphasizing caste-based identities.

MADAIO, JAMES

This chapter explores the transformative strategies that underpin some of the stories and dialogues in the Yogavāsiṣṭha. The central framing story of the Yogavāsiṣṭha depicts a conversation between the enlightened preceptor Vasiṣṭha and the dejected prince Rāma. Vasiṣṭha repeatedly instructs Rāma about the nature of non-dual reality through a series of fantastical narratives, many of which feature dialogical encounters. The author argues that certain characters in these narratives mirror Rāma's condition, while also reflecting the state of the reader. Within this mirroring context, the author contends that the story-worlds of the Yogavāsiṣṭha simulate in the reader methods of dialogic inquiry or vicāra, which probe the nature of self and world. Focusing on the gnoseological dialogue featured in the story of the enlightened princess Cūḍālā and her stubbornly object-oriented husband, king Śikhidvaja, the author examines how the dialogue works to disrupt core beliefs of a dualistic worldview, not only in Śikhidvaja and Rāma, but also in the reader.
Main Publications and Research Activities 2018–2019

PETRŮ, TOMÁŠ (ed.)
Graffiti, Converts and Vigilantes: Islam Outside the Mainstream in Maritime Southeast Asia
(Prague: Published by the Oriental Institute, 2018, 2nd ed.).

The intersecting space between religion, politics and the wider society in Indonesia and other Muslim-majority countries of Southeast Asia is highly complex and contested. Both official and societal pressures have recently pushed the mainstream Islamic discourse from formerly prevalent moderation towards unprecedented conservatism, which seeks to bolster its footing and influence in the national arena. In line with that,

MADAIO, JAMES
(guest editor of a special issue),
"Liberation and Hindu Studies,"

The aim of liberation, along with other facets of the 'classical' Indic worldview, developed dialogically within a constellation and contestation of systematic views (darśana) and paths (mārga), including Buddhist, Jaina, and groups now called ‘Hindu’. Articulations of liberation, while setting forth the furthest horizons of self and reality, occur within situated traditions (sampradāyas) that define and demarcate boundaries. In this sense, liberation is one among a host of issues that are part of the practices of boundary-making, as much as they also articulate soteric methods for crossing boundaries. Most of the articles in this issue concentrate on philosophies of liberation articulated from roughly the middle of the first millennium CE to the mid-eleventh century. They aim to offer a chorus of voices that open up a broader space for understanding the interconnected and dynamic ways pre-modern Indic textual practices argued, developed, and synthesized seminal accounts of freedom.
this edited volume attempts to clarify the tense relationship between the more acculturated and the more rigorous versions of Islam, and aims to explore, in eight individual chapters, the specific religious Islamic forms that currently exist in Maritime Southeast Asia.

PETRŮ, TOMÁŠ

This article represents a comprehensive *longue-durée* analysis of the ethno-political developments on the Malay Peninsula, which enables the expert and the lay reader alike to grasp the complexity of the current ethno-political and socio-cultural environment in this Southeast Asian nation, while challenging the traditionally highlighted and politically endorsed ‘three-ethnic-groups’ model. It aims to examine several interrelated issues pertaining to the historical development of pluralism in areas forming today’s Malaysia. Firstly, it intends to analyze the transformation of the formerly cosmopolitan populations of Malay port polities into the highly 'racialized' society of modern Malaysia. It also seeks to clarify the roots of ethnicity-based issues and relations in the country. Lastly, it attempts to challenge the very concept of Malaysia as a society primarily consisting of three ethnic pillars, dominated by the Malays, and 'complemented' by the Chinese and the Indians, arguing that the main driving force behind these tensions is the segregational colonial policies and the postcolonial arrangements of the Malay ethno-centrist governments, rather than ethnic and cultural factors.
Main Publications and Research Activities 2018–2019

STRNAD, JAROSLAV

Study of a greater number of manuscripts containing creations attributed to a particular author may reveal significant variations in their form and not infrequently also in the content. This kind of variation is probably closely related to strongly performative character of many poems – either authored by the sants themselves or inspired by them and composed by others. In the broad current of a living tradition borne predominantly by oral and performative presentations with a significant degree of improvisation it will be futile to search for the 'authentic' or original version of a particular poem. Rather than looking for 'Ur-texts,' the philological and comparativist method should be used to map the dynamic flows, currents, cross- and undercurrents that form a particular tradition. The author illustrates variations in textual (and underlying oral) transmissions by an example of selected pads attributed to Kabir as extant in the three main collections – the Dādūpanthī Rājasthānī tradition, the Bijak, and Kabir’s pads in the Ādigranth of the Sikhs.

Forthcoming in 2020

MADAIO, JAMES
The Story of Liberation: Advaita Vedānta as Narrative Theology (Oxford University Press).

EAST ASIAN STUDIES

ALSFORD, NIKI

On 19 April 1895, British Consul Lionel Charles Hopkins, at the northern port of Tamsui, was summoned by Tang Jingsong, the governor of Taiwan, to his yamen in the western district of Taipei. Shortly after his arrival, Hopkins was handed a petition. Signed by a number of Taiwanese ‘notables,’ the document appealed to the British government to incorporate the island into a protectorate in the wake of an impending Japanese invasion. The British declined. This book addresses the interconnectivity
of these two communities, by focusing on the market town of Dadaocheng in northern Taiwan. It seeks to contextualize and examine the establishment of a ‘settler society’ as well as the creation of a sojourning British community, showing how they became a precursor of modernity and ‘middle classism’ there. By uncovering who the signatories of the petition were and what their motivation was to call upon the British consulate to bring the island under its protection, it brings into focus a remarkable period of transition not only for the history of Taiwan but also for the modern history of China. Using 1895 as a year of enquiry, it ultimately challenges the current orthodoxy that modernity in Taiwan was simply a by-product of the Japanese colonial period. As a social and transnational history of the events that took place in Taiwan during 1895, this book will be useful for students of East Asian Studies, Modern Chinese Studies and Asian History. (N. Alsford was a research fellow at the OI in 2015–2016 and this publication is an outcome of his stay with us.)

DLUHOŠOVÁ, TÁŇA
“Censorship and Publication Control in Early Post-war Taiwan: Procedures and Practices,”

This article explores how state institutions and party organs of the Kuomintang used various means of exercising power and projecting authority in order to shape the literary scene and literary production in Taiwan during the early post-war period (1945–1949). Censorship is examined from two complementary perspectives. First, integrating the Taiwanese case into a broader political and social context, the presentation focuses on the legal framework of the publishing law of Republican China and on regulations propagated in local official bulletins. Second, the article analyzes censorship as a practice and set of procedures. This second part is based on the archival files of Taiwan Historica, which holds official documents from both early post-war governments. The archival material unveils some of the motivations behind censorship practices, and helps us to understand chosen strategies to legitimize sociocultural norms.

DLUHOŠOVÁ, TÁŇA
“How Don Juan Came to Taiwan: Fictional Worlds in Ye Shitao’s Early Post-war Fiction,”
Modern Chinese Literature and Culture 31, 1 (2019): 79–120.

Ye Shitao (1925–2008) is famous as a writer and literary historian who was active during all stages of modern Taiwanese literature. He is celebrated for his truthful depictions of local Taiwanese conditions and the lives of ordinary Taiwanese. His post-war writing, however, consisting of twelve short stories about historical themes is strikingly different. This essay analyzes how Ye Shitao explores the possibilities of constructing alternative fictional realities and
the vast range of ways literature can do so. Starting out from Lubomir Doležel's theory of possible worlds, the essay traces how Ye Shitao engages with historical knowledge and how he transforms such knowledge into imaginary worlds. In addition, the essay analyzes the welter of new meanings generated by this transformation and traces literary influences on Ye's unique literary style.

HRUBÝ, JAKUB – TOMÁŠ PETRŮ
"China's Cultural Diplomacy in Malaysia During Najib Razak's Premiership,"

This article aims to provide an analysis of China's cultural diplomacy (CCD) in Malaysia in the latter years of the premiership of Najib Razak (2015–2018). It intends to reflect on the efforts China has been exerting in order to increase its soft power in the Southeast Asian nation. The authors have identified and analyzed four major fields of CCD: the activities of two Confucius Institutes; the first overseas campus of a renowned Chinese university; invocations of shared history, embodied mainly by the figure of the legendary admiral-eunuch Zheng He, regularly commemorated as China's historic envoy of peace; and Malay translations of classical Chinese novels. The article's findings reveal an intricate pattern of networks involving various actors, both Chinese and Malaysian, state, semi-state, and non-state, pursuing their own particular interests, which tend to converge and overlap with the aims of Chinese cultural diplomacy.

KLIMEŠ, ONDŘEJ – MAURIZIO MARINELLI
(guest editors of a special issue),
"Ideology, Propaganda, and Political Discourse in the Xi Jinping Era,"

The idea behind this special issue derives from the intention to fill the void that exists in understanding the fundamentals of governance in today’s China. The ideology, propaganda, and political discourse of the Communist Party of China (CPC) have continued to function as key elements of the political system of the People's Republic of China (PRC) in the post-Maoist period since 1978. In the first term of the Xi Jinping leadership (2012–2017), the CPC, for instance, elaborated on its guiding ideological concepts, devised inventive ideational framings of phenomena usually perceived as tangible (such as the 'New Normal'), engaged in complex intellectual debates on crucial topics (such as 'eco-civilization'), intensified and diversified its argumentation patterns and discursive strategies, and consolidated ideational governance over some citizens' individual values, beliefs, and loyalties. Furthermore, it is often no longer possible to differentiate between the CPC's internal and external propaganda, as seemingly exclusively domestic ideational and discursive issues increasingly correlate with international phenomena. However, the trends in the
Xi era do not present paradigmatic shifts, but rather an overall reassertion-cum-innovation of previous Maoist and post-Maoist uses of ideology, propaganda, and political discourse, primarily aiming at strengthening one-party rule.

PTÁČKOVÁ, JARMILA
“Traditionalization as a Response to State-induced Development in Rural Tibetan Areas of Qinghai, PRC,”

The current state-induced and top-down-implemented development and modernization of the predominantly rural areas of western China can be perceived as a clear demonstration of Chinese power in Tibetan areas, resulting in the repression of expressions of minority culture. This article argues that the local population's various practices of traditionalization, as demonstrated through an emphasis on the maintenance or (re)invention of representative cultural forms can be understood as efforts to counteract the socioeconomic and cultural assimilation measures or even as a form of political resistance. At the same time, in the context of the economic opportunities brought on by the rapid development, in tourism for example, traditionalization has become an important economic asset for both the state and local Tibetans. These (revived) traditions could enhance cultural awareness among visitors to minority areas and strengthen local people’s sense of cultural security and their self-understanding as Tibetans.

PTÁČKOVÁ, JARMILA – U. WALLENBOECK – B. HORLEMANN (eds.)
Mapping Amdo: Dynamics of Power
(Prague: Oriental Institute, Archiv Orientální Supplementa XI, 2019).

This is the second volume of the Mapping Amdo series of the Amdo Research Network that aims to centralize the research on this strategic, multiethnic and multicultural region. In this volume, power is the keyword. Throughout the history of Amdo, the representatives of both, the secular as well as the religious community, were engaged into power struggle within their own
community and against each other using those means distinct to their position, i.e. either the military or the spiritual power or a combination of both. The assets of power are changeable also according to the social values in a given period and from the perspective of a viewer. Moreover, in Amdo society within contemporary China, the power struggle moves away from predominantly political platform towards economic contexts using the means provided by the imposed development. In this volume, power is thus not presented as a unique concept, but rather analyzed in its various manifestations, identified by the authors in its multifaceted forms in different cultural and social contexts and throughout various historical periods in Amdo.


Qin and Han subjects were required by law to register residency with local governments. Their mobility was thus subject to government scrutiny. This study explores (a) how such control extended to both official and private travel and (b) the various reasons that led people to travel. To facilitate surveillance, the Qin and Han governments both demarcated their territory through administrative units and checkpoints, issued transit permits, and enforced strict laws controlling the flow of travelers. Such control meant that people required permission to travel on private business to manage family matters, seek employment, and perform various other tasks. Although control was tight, the people in the early empire were still free to move from place to place.


Landscape has always played a vital role in shaping Japan's cultural identity. *Imaginative Mapping* analyzes how intellectuals of the Tokugawa and Meiji eras used specific features and aspects of the landscape to represent their idea of Japan and produce a narrative of Japan as a cultural community. These scholars saw landscapes as repositories of local history and identity, stressing Japan's
northernmost island known as Ezo (today’s Hokkaidō). Overall, the contributors tell stories of a growing early modern, local identity. Each article examines how locals made their place famous and constructed the identity of the self by negotiating with others. Each article is interested in defining the significance of the early modern era not by the nature of chronology but rather by conceptual development, such as progress in the ideas surrounding local place and identity.

The articles in this collection present evidence of the indigenous intellectual development in the Tokugawa era (1603–1868) that prompts us to imagine an alternative path toward modernity. The authors do this by examining places across the Japanese archipelago, including the Kaga domain in the Hokuriku region, villages in Shinano province (today’s Nagano), Naha in the Ryūkyū Kingdom, the imperial capital of Kyoto, and the

WEINGARTEN, OLIVER
"Intertextuality and Memory in Early Chinese Writings: A Case Study from Huainanzi," 

This article aims to illustrate the usefulness of analytical approaches to early Chinese writings, which center on effects of textual memory. Due to a dearth of contemporaneous descriptions, concrete practices of oral transmission, dictation, performance, and interpretation in Early China largely lie beyond the ken of present-day scholarship. But recurrence of linguistic-stylistic elements testifies to the presence of these elements in an author’s memory. Memory should thus, in principle, provide a comparatively accessible perspective on textual production. To demonstrate this point, the article investigates verbal parallels to a passage from Huainanzi 淮南子 15, “Bing lüe” 兵略 (An Overview of the Military). The internal and distributional patterns as well as the qualitative properties of textual overlaps with other extant writings suggest a composition process that involved a particular type of textual memory. Parallels are fuzzy and patchy; they rarely exceed one or two clauses; they display an irregular distribution across intertexts; the similarities between them cut across linguistic and stylistic categories and recombine in unpredictable constellations. This bundle of characteristics suggests not so much systematic exploitation of trained mnemonic capacities to reproduce long stretches of text verbatim, but instead, a reliance on the aptness of linguistic-stylistic elements of various kinds to spring to mind piecemeal in particular thematic contexts.

Forthcoming in 2020

DLUHOŠOVÁ, TÁŇA
“Decoding Publication Records: Ruptures and Continuities in 1940s Taiwanese Literary History,” 
Journal of Asian Studies.

PTÁČKOVÁ, JARMILA – GARY RAWNSLEY et al. (eds.)
Transnational Sites of China’s Cultural Diplomacy: Central Asia, Middle East, Southeast Asia and Europe Compared
(Singapore: Palgrave Macmillan).
HONS, PAVEL  
*Kasta, a basta! Pohledy na kastovní systém, tentokrát převážně zdola*  
[Caste, and that's that! Views of the Caste System, This Time Mostly from Below]  
(Praha: Academia, 2019).

The main merit of the book, besides explaining the topic of caste in its full complexity to Czech readers for the first time, rests in its analysis of the emancipation strategies of Dalits in contemporary India. It is based on the author's own field research and numerous original sources in Tamil, as well as interviews with Dalit politicians, writers, ideologists, and activists. At the end of the book the author seeks to explain the rather ambivalent relationship between Dalits and various Hindutva outfits.

KLIMEŠ, ONDŘEJ (ed.)  
*Kulturní diplomacie Číny a její regionální variace*  
[Cultural Diplomacy of China and Its Regional Variations]  

The book examines the cultural diplomacy of the People's Republic of China (PRC) in the early Xi Jinping period (2012–2017), along with its regional variations, as one of the instruments of attaining the status of a global economic and political power. The chapters explore China's cultural diplomacy in the framework of domestic propaganda trends (Ondřej Klimeš), in a historical perspective (Jakub Hrubý) and in the regional contexts of Central Asia (Věra Exnerová), Southeast Asia (Tomáš Petrů) and the Middle East (Jarmila Ptáčková and Jan Čuřík). Chapters contributed by two external contributors address China's cultural diplomacy in Czechia (Olga Lomová) and within a general theoretical framework (Jitka Pánek Jurková).
LIŠČÁK, VLADIMÍR  
*Bratr Odorik a jeho zpráva o východních krajinách světa: Styky Evropy a mongolské Číny ve 13. a 14. století*  
[Brother Odorik and His Report on the Eastern Regions of the World: Relations between Europe and Mongolian China in the 13th and 14th Centuries]  
(Praha: Academia, 2019).

Odoric of Pordenone (1286–1331) was a Franciscan friar and missionary explorer. The book summarizes the known data about Odoric and his journey to China and back, including some recent studies on the background of the development of the Mongolian Empire during the 13th/14th centuries and its contacts with Europe. The numerous copies of Odoric’s narrative (both the original text and, among others, the versions in French, Italian, and German) that have come down to our time, chiefly from the 14th century, show how quickly and widely its popularity spread. Odoric promoted knowledge of Southeast and East Asia in Europe. Most valuable of all was his description of China – in particular the cities along its coast and the capital, where he spent three years. Odoric’s account became a valuable source for the most up-to-date cartographical work of the 14th century, the Catalan Atlas (ca. 1375).

STRNAD, JAROSLAV – DUŠAN ZBAVITEL  
*Učebnice sanskrtu*  
[Sanskrit Textbook]  
(Praha: Karolinum, 2019, 3rd ed.).

This is the third corrected and enlarged edition of the only Czech Sanskrit textbook in print. Basic grammatical explanations and vocabulary are divided into fifty-five lessons. Students can check their results in the key to the exercises that follows immediately after the lessons. The authors have added a newly compiled Sanskrit-Czech dictionary that contains the whole Sanskrit vocabulary introduced in the textbook and a Czech-Sanskrit dictionary necessary for
Perumal Murugan’s *One Part Woman* has become a cult phenomenon in the subcontinent, captivating Indian readers and jump-starting conversations about caste and female empowerment. Set in South India, the book tells the story of a couple, Kali and Ponna, who are unable to conceive, much to the concern of their families – and the crowing amusement of Kali’s male friends. Kali and Ponna try anything to have a child...
Epos o Gilgamešovi
[Epic of Gilgamesh]
(from Akkad, Sumerian and Hittite originals translated and commented upon by Jiří Prosecký and Marek Rychtařík, Praha: Nakladatelství Lidové noviny, 2018, 2nd ed.).

This epic poem from ancient Mesopotamia is often regarded as the earliest surviving great work of literature and has rightly become a part of world literature. This new commented translation of the ancient text, whose final form has been shaped over more than a thousand years, is informed by the latest discoveries in cuneiform research.
EVENTS

Manipulating the Media: News and "Fake News" in China since Early Modern Times

Censorship: Definitions

Aulich (1988) sees "literature (as a social practice) and censorship (as a control of this practice) essentially connected to the meaning of literary communication in a collective order and for this order."

Censorship is thus embedded in a certain sociocultural function which should be analyzed either from a diachronic or synchronic perspective to elucidate the collective order of which it forms a part.

Even changes in legislative frameworks can shed light on communicative structures within which the agents acted.
The workshop analyzed varied ways in which subjectivity is expressed and understood within classical and modern Indian philosophy, literature, and art. While re-thinking the broader theoretical framework within which Indian subjectivities are studied, the papers explored a wide range of interrelated themes, including self-identity, consciousness, emotion, the senses, autobiographical writing, gender, coloniality, and biculturality.

Organizer: James Madaio
Among the participants were, for example:
Chakravarthi Ram-Prasad (Lancaster University)
Marzenna Jakubczak (Pedagogical University of Cracow)
Jacqueline Suthren Hirst (University of Manchester)
Maria Heim (Amherst College)
Pawel Odyniec (Uppsala University)
Nalini Bhushan (Smith College)
Elise Coquereau-Saouma (University of Vienna)
ORIENTAL INSTITUTE of the Czech Academy of Sciences

NEW PARADIGMS FOR ORIENTAL STUDIES: SYMPOSIUM ON THE OCCASION OF THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDRING OF ARCHIV ORIENTÁLNÍ

September 6, 2019

As 2019 marked the 90th anniversary of our journal, we wanted to combine this event with a discussion of present and future directions of publishing within Oriental studies. In addition to the Editorial Board meeting, we organized a one-day symposium discussing new frameworks for Oriental studies in the 21st century.

The speakers at the symposium were:

Raj Sekhar Basu (University of Calcutta)
Abdulhamit Kırmızı (Şehir University, Istanbul)
Nicola di Cosmo (Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton University)
Robert Hellyer (Wake Forest University)

RETHINKING THE COLD WAR IN ASIA: EXPERIENCES, PERSPECTIVES, CONCEPTS

September 30, 2019

In contrast to the Cold War in Europe, which may be seen as a long peace, the Cold War in Asia was 'hot' and close to a condition of global civil war. Its legacy is still reverberating around communities in the region and its consequences continue to impact and redefine the history of Asia. The talks focused on the plurality of Asia’s Cold War experience, not merely in relation to Europe and the Transatlantic but more specifically through 'inter-Asian referencing' – that is, the use of Asian societies as each other's points of reference in generating knowledge.

Organizer: May Ngo
The participants featured, among others:

Hajimu Masuda (National University of Singapore)
Hyung Gu Lynn (University of British Columbia)
Isabelle Cheng (University of Portsmouth)
Vatthana Pholsena (French National Centre for Scientific Research)
CROSSING BORDERS: THE PAST AND FUTURE OF JAPANESE STUDIES IN THE GLOBAL AGE
October 11–12, 2019

The first day of the international conference was devoted to a series of research presentations centered on the role of scholars and scholarship in changing systems of knowledge, ranging from evolving perceptions of illness, life, death, and the medical care environment, to shifting ideas of ‘imagined community’ in the global age. On the second day, we held a symposium called ‘8 Years On: Scholars’ Efforts to Reclaim Culture after the Great East Japan Earthquake.’ In the aftermath of the triple disaster, the invited scholars worked closely with various local communities in order to reclaim what they had lost and, slowly but steadily, helped them find ways to preserve their native traditions.

Organizer: Nobuko Toyosawa
Among the participants were, for example:
Susan L. Burns (University of Chicago)
Morgaine Setzer (Ruhr-Universität Bochum)
Isomae Jun’ichi (International Research Center for Japanese Studies)
Yoh Kawano (University of California, Los Angeles)
Sergey Kuznetsov (Irkutsk State University)
Sherzod M. Muminov (University of East Anglia)
Takakura Hiroki (Tohoku University)

TIBET IN CONTEMPORARY CHINESE POLITICS: CONSOLIDATION OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONTROL IN TIBETAN AREAS OF THE PRC
October 16, 2019

This event discussed the role of the Tibetan regions and the Tibetan community in those of the PRC’s national and international policies intended to foster national integrity and economic and cultural connectivity. It further focused on the development of the Tibetan sociocultural identity in the various environments within the PRC. The event was held in cooperation with the Festival of Democracy, Forum 2000.

Organizer: Jarmila Ptáčková
The workshop featured:
Robert Barnett (King’s College, London)
Andrew Fischer (Rotterdam University)
THE CRISIS IN XINJIANG/EAST TURKESTAN: DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS AND INTERNATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

October 17, 2019

This debate brought together activists and experts to discuss the latest developments in East Turkestan and their international implications. The speakers focused on the arbitrary mass detention of Uyghurs, Kazakhs, and individuals belonging to other, mostly Muslim nationalities in political reeducation camps in China's northwestern Xinjiang region, and other aspects of China's reengineering of local Muslim societies, including family separations, forced labor, ubiquitous technological surveillance, and the uprooting of religious, linguistic, and cultural practices. The event was held in cooperation with the Festival of Democracy, Forum 2000.

Organizer: Ondřej Klimeš
Among the participants were, for example:
Gardner Bovingdon (Indiana University)
Vanessa Fragville (Université libre de Bruxelles)
Rune Reyhé Steenberg (University of Copenhagen)
Dolqun Isa (World Uyghur Congress)

STATE-CITIZENSHIP RELATIONS IN GREATER CENTRAL ASIA

October 18–19, 2019

The goal of this workshop was to reflect on citizens' modes and levels of participation in various aspects of Central Asia's social, economic, political, and cultural life. It also aimed to explore the types of governing practices and rules that have been and are utilized to produce certain configurations of state-society relations in Central Asia, understood to include colonial subjects, Soviet citizens, and post-socialist citizens. Finally, the workshop aimed to address states' strategies to earmark and flexibly segment their citizens in the context of national and international politics.

Organizers: Malika Bahovadinova, Jarmila Ptáčková, Ondřej Klimeš
Among others, the following researchers were present:
Isaac Scarborough (Liverpool John Moores University)
Mei Ding (Research Centre of Anthropological and Ethnological Studies, Fudan University)
Eveline Washul (Weatherhead East Asian Institute, Columbia University)
Sanchir Jargalsaikhan (University College of London)
Tohir Kalandarov (Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology, Russian Academy of Sciences)
What is the role of literary imagination in social, political, and religious change? To answer this question, we need to expand our view beyond literary texts, and include the practices of writing, publishing, reading, and literary socialization. Anthropological and other social scientific study of literature is a small but growing field that elucidates the relationship between human subjectivities and social processes in a way that purely text-based approaches cannot. The workshop, which brought together practitioners of literary arts and social scientists of literature, thus aimed to explore the state of the art in the emerging study of literature as a social practice, and to push it forward in terms of both content and methodology. Importantly, it took a decidedly translocal approach, and paid particular – but not exclusive – attention to literatures in and from the Middle East and Central Europe. An understanding of the role literature plays in these regions is especially important in the context of globalization and migration, wherein literature has proven to be an important medium to communicate experiences, hopes, and fears across cultural divides.

Organizer: Giedrė Šabasevičiūtė
Among the participants were, for example:
Gisèle Sapiro (EHESS, Paris)
Zuzanna Olszewska (University of Oxford)
Adam Reed (University of St Andrews)
Rasha Hilwi (writer and journalist)
Nael El Toukhy (writer)
The workshop addressed the relationship between religion, state ideology, and governmental policies across space and time. It aimed to showcase the multifaceted role that religion played, and continues to play, in the formation and reformulation of the nation, whether physical or imagined, from the time of the emergence of nationalism in the 19th century until today. In looking at the interaction between religion and state ideology, the workshop also intended to analyze how states have responded (and continue to respond) to perceived religious ‘intrusion’ in the official agenda, as well as whether this interaction plays a transformative role in the constituency’s experience of faith.

Organizer: Stefano Taglia
The workshop featured, among others:
Michael Charney (SOAS, University of London)
Rosa Cordillera Castillo (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)
Sumantra Bose (LSE, University of London)
Olmo Gölz (Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg)
Kostas Retsikas (SOAS, University of London)
ECONOMIC COMPLEXITY IN THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST: THE MANAGEMENT OF RESOURCES AND TAXATION IN THE 3RD AND 2ND MILLENNIUM BC  
May 6–7, 2019

This international workshop was jointly organized by the Czech Institute of Egyptology, Charles University, and the Ol. The process of formation of economic thinking represents a basic component of the formation of a state and its pivotal administrative structures. By using these structures to control resources, the rulers of individual political entities are able to express their political authority. An important aspect linked with the management of resources is the question of taxation, since states have always used taxes, as they do today, to build infrastructure and to maintain the efficiency of the bureaucratic machine. Incorporating the contributions of 17 scholars, focusing on different geographical areas and periods of the Ancient Near East, the workshop aimed to show the emergence, transmission, and interaction of economic structures in the ancient Near East from the mid-3rd millennium till the end of the 2nd millennium BC. Through a diachronic study focusing on different geographical areas, it was possible to highlight similarities, differences, and adaptations in the economic management of resources in all areas of the Ancient Near East.

The participants included, among many others:  
Katrien De Graef (Ghent University)  
Grégory Chambon (EHESS, Paris)  
Josué Justel (Universidad de Alcalá)  
Odette Boivin (New York University)  
Susanne Paulus (University of Chicago)

AFTER SOEHARTO: TWENTY YEARS OF INDONESIA’S DEMOCRATIC TRANSFORMATION  
April 16, 2018

The seminar was held to assess two decades of development of the country since the downfall of Indonesia's long-term autocratic ruler, Gen. Soeharto in May 1998. The speakers focused on the changes triggered by Soeharto's abdication and followed the ensuing massive overhaul of the country's political system, including the large decentralization program, the reforms of the military and the police, and the introduction of regular electoral processes. They also commented on issues ranging from decentralization to citizenship, patron-client relations, regional politics and elections, and social media as a platform for Islamic piety.
NO EXIT: EXISTENTIALISM, SARTRE, AND DECOLONIZATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND BEYOND
May 9, 2018

It is a curious and relatively little-known fact that for two decades – from the end of World War II until the late 1960s – existentialism’s most fertile ground outside of Europe was in the Middle East, and Jean-Paul Sartre was the Arab intelligentsia’s uncontested champion. Neither before nor since has another Western intellectual been so widely translated, debated, and celebrated in the Arab world. By closely following the remarkable development of Arab existentialism, Yoav Di-Capua reconstructs the cosmopolitan milieu of the generation that tried to articulate a political and philosophical vision of an egalitarian postcolonial world.

His talk, based on his book No Exit: Arab Existentialism, Jean-Paul Sartre, and Decolonization (University of Chicago Press, 2018), was followed by a round table aiming to shed light on the phenomenon of existentialism from the perspective of other geographical and ideological experiences that responded, to varying degrees, to the decolonization movement – namely, Japan, India, and Islamism.

Organizer: Giedrė Šabasevičiūtė
Main guest of the workshop: Yoav Di Capua (University of Texas, Austin)

Organizer:
Tomáš Petrů

The participants included:
Henk Schulte Nordholt (KITLV, Leiden)
Ward Berenschot (KITLV, Leiden)
Christian von Lübke (Arnold-Bergstraesser Institut, University Freiburg)
Martin Slama (Institute for Social Anthropology, Austrian Academy of Sciences)
MANAGING THE ‘OTHERS’: GOVERNANCE AND CONTROL IN CONTEMPORARY XINJIANG, PRC
October 8, 2018

The invited speakers, based on their extensive field research, addressed various issues related to events in Northwest China, from changing forms of Uyghur religious practice, to attempts to reengineer Uyghur social life and transform discourses.

Organizer: Jarmila Ptáčková, Malika Bahovadinova, Ondřej Klimeš
Darren Byler (University of Washington, Seattle)
Thomas Cliff (Australian National University, Canberra)
Rune Steenberg (University of Copenhagen)

MALAYSIA IN TRANSITION: TOWARDS A ‘BETTER’ FUTURE?
October 31, 2018

This international seminar generated a lively debate on the results of the ground-breaking elections in Malaysia in May 2018, when, after sixty years, the Barisan Nasional coalition lost in the elections and for the first time in history the opposition, led by the former Prime Minister Mahathir, came to power. The seminar assessed the impact of domestic politics and local politicians' scandals, as well as the impact of international relations – especially with China – on the elections.

Organizer: Tomáš Petrů
The seminar hosted:
Hew Wai Weng (Institute of Malaysian and International Studies, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia)
Nurul Huda Mohd. Razif (International Institute for Asian Studies – IIAS, Leiden)
Dominik Müller (Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Halle)
FEMINIST RE-INTERPRETATIONS OF ISLAM
November 23, 2018

The conference focused on the complexity of Muslim feminist approaches to Islam, on discourses about gender equality in the Qur'an, and on various expressions of Muslim women fighting for emancipation from patriarchy to show that Muslim women have both the power and the agency to change patriarchal settings in their societies and organizations.

Organizer: Gabriela Özel Volfová
Among the participants were, for example:
Zahra Ali (Rutgers University, USA)
Ziba Mir-Hosseini (SOAS, University of London)
Raja Rhouni (Mohammed V University, Rabat)
Fatma Tutuncu (Abbant Izzet Baysal University, Turkey)
Nafiseh Sharifi (University of Tehran)
Nadia Jones-Gailani (Central European University, Hungary).
MANIPULATING THE MEDIA: NEWS AND ‘FAKE NEWS’ IN CHINA SINCE EARLY MODERN TIMES
June 7–8, 2018

The conference, organized in Taiwan in cooperation with the National Central Library in Taipei, explored crises of authority in the circulation of information during various periods in Chinese history that have seen dramatic shifts in the form of social and political media. ‘Fake News’ has recently emerged in the global lexicon as a central issue affecting social and political systems around the world. Information has, of course, been manipulated by various agents since the dawn of time. But important questions of trust and authority in the media have dramatically erupted at certain times in history, bringing instability and challenges to existing social and political orders.

Organizers for the OI: Táňa Dluhošová, Ondřej Klimeš
The keynote speeches were delivered by:
Wang Fan-sen (Academia Sinica, Taiwan)
Daniela Stockmann (Hertie School of Governance, Germany)
ANTHROPOLOGICAL ATELIER: IMAGINARIES AND HISTORIOGRAPHIES IN/OF CONTESTED REGIONS: INTERDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES
June 7–8, 2018

This ‘Anthropological Atelier’ was organized jointly by the OI and the Institute for Social Anthropology (ISA) of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. The papers discussed how political and/or cultural centers can be intellectually challenged by new (social) imaginaries or historiographies as expressions of frictions in and transformations of particular regions. They focused on countries and places as diverse as Central Europe, Egypt, Yemen, Tajikistan, Mongolia, the Andaman Islands, Tibet, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Japan. In spite of the regional diversity, quite a few fascinating parallels were found. The final versions of the presented papers will be published in 2020.

Organizer for the OI: Tomáš Petrů
Speakers from the OI: Malika Bahovadinova, Clément Steuer, Jarmila Ptáčková, Tomáš Petrů, Nobuko Toyosawa
Speakers from the ISA: Barbara Götsch, Noura Kamal, Stephan Kloos, Martin Slama

THE CROSSROADS III. A STRANGER IN THE HOUSE: FOREIGNERS IN ANCIENT EGYPTIAN AND NEAR EASTERN SOCIETIES OF THE BRONZE AGE
September 10–13, 2018

The conference was planned in cooperation with the Faculty of Arts, Charles University in Prague. Its main objective was to enhance our understanding of ‘foreignness’ in ancient societies of the Near East and Egypt during the period defined by the end of the Chalcolithic and the end of the Late Bronze Age. In order to obtain a balanced picture, the organizers wanted the topic to be treated from archaeological, historical, iconographic and philological points of view.

Organizer for the OI: Sergio Alivernini
Among around 30 presenters were, for example: Elena Devecchi (Institut für Assyriologie und Hethitologie, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München)
Kevin McGeough (University of Lethbridge)
Clemens Reichel (Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations, University of Toronto)
Seth Richardson (Oriental Institute, University of Chicago)
Katrien De Graef (Ghent University)
Oya Topçuoğlu (Northwestern University)
MIDDLE EAST LECTURE SERIES
This lecture series is conducted in cooperation with the Department of Middle Eastern Studies at Charles University in Prague. It aims to attract internationally recognized scholars and bring their knowledge to students and the broader public.

2019


Prof. Alain Dieckhoff (CERI/SciencesPo, Paris), “After the General Elections of April 9th: Whither Israel?”

Prof. Charles Tripp (SOAS, London), “Power and Ridicule: political Mockery and Subversion in the Middle East and North Africa.”

Dr. Necati Alkan (Otto-Friedrich-Universität Bamberg), “Scientific Method Guides Their Steps: Two Late Ottoman Officials Between Modernity and Tradition in the Province of Beirut.”

Prof. Frédéric Volpi (University of Edinburgh), “Protest Movements and Islamist Mobilisation in North Africa.”
Edhem Eldem
(Boğaziçi University, Istanbul),
"Orientalism, the Ottoman Empire,
and Turkey: An Ambiguous and
Multilayered Context."

Amy Singer
(Tel Aviv University), "‘An Excellent
Place to Spend the Winter’: Edirne
(Adrianople) as an Ottoman
Capital."

Frederick Anscombe
(Birkbeck College, London), "The (Ir)relevance of Ethnicity in
a Multiethnic Empire."

Richard Wittmann
(Orient Institut, Istanbul), "For
They Cannot Speak: Two Early
Examples of Animal Protection
Laws in the Islamic World."

Nadje Al-Ali
(SOAS, London), "Gendering
Authoritarianism and Resistance:
The Significance of Body Politics
in the Middle East."

Marc Baer
(LSE, London), "Sultans
as Saviours: Early Modern
Mediterranean Jewish Accounts
of the Ottoman Ruler."
CENTRAL ASIAN PLATFORM TALKS, SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

The platform, which aims to contribute to a better knowledge of the vast and historically, culturally and politically important region of Central Asia, organizes thematic conferences, workshops and specialized talks in cooperation with international scholars. Besides the bigger events mentioned above, some of the recent talks included:


Madeleine Reeves (Anthropology Department, University of Manchester), “Destruction, Decay, Repair: On the Time(s) of Infrastructure in Central Asia.”


Ines Stolpe (University of Bonn), “Integrative Powers of Native Land: Rural-to-Urban Migration in Mongolia and the Role of Nutag-Councils.”

Ute Wallenboeck (University of Vienna), “The Mongol ‘Princedom’ (qinwang guo) of Hequ, Southeast of the Kokonor Lake.”

OTHER AD-HOC TALKS

Jason Birch (SOAS), “History of Haṭhayoga from 15–18th centuries.”

Chang Lung-Chih (Institute of Taiwan History, Academia Sinica), “Taiwan: From a Qing Dynasty Frontier to the First Colony of the Japanese Empire.”

Gershon Lewental (Shalem College, Jerusalem), “Radical Islam: What Makes it ‘Radical’?”

Chen Hsi-yuan (Institute of History and Philology, Academia Sinica), “Different Faces of State Confucianism: The State Li Sacrifice and the Ghost Festival in Late Imperial China.”
Daniel Majchrowicz (Northwestern University, Chicago),
“Princes, Politics and Travel Literature in mid-Nineteenth Century India.”

Liu Kuo-wei (Library of the Taipei National Palace Museum),
“History and Features of the Tibetan Buddhist Monasteries in the Nangchen Area.”
PROJECTS
POWER AND STRATEGIES OF SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ORDER

This research platform, established in April 2015, is concerned with a multifaceted, interdisciplinary and comparative long-term research of power through an innovative amalgamation of the traditional strengths of Oriental studies as a form of historical-philological scholarship with impulses from the humanities, social sciences and other disciplines. By thorough enquiry in textual primary sources and ethnographic field research data, the research team delivers research publications, academic events, and networking activities, as well as outreach to universities, state institutions, non-state actors, media, and the general public.

The project is further structured into the following three interrelated, topically, and disciplinarily framed research panels:

FOUNDATION OF POWER
Power relationships call for explanation or justification in political, moral, historical, or religious terms, which need to be manifested in ways that make their presence appear unquestionable or agreeable, and which may be achieved by naturalizing them or by presenting them as inevitable, benign, or beneficial. Various strategies to attain these ends may be observed in different periods and societies, and their comparative analysis promises to shed light on the moral and ideological convictions that have made hierarchical social relationships acceptable in various contexts or, on the contrary, on historical ruptures which mark times when received justifications of power become contested. This part of the project focuses on ideological, religious, and philosophical facets of power and investigates how power relationships are being conceptualized and contested in interactions between non-state actors as well as between social groups and the state.

REPRESENTATIONS OF POWER
In order for power to affect an abiding influence, it has to make itself felt in other ways than by blunt coercion. It needs to be communicated through symbolic forms of representation. Displays of power may assume various guises such as conspicuous consumption, patronage of artworks, displays of military potential, royal progressions, elaborate ritual, and monumental architecture. To explore symbolic projections of power, this section of the project explores the potential of such fields as art history, archaeology, and cultural history.

STRUCTURES OF POWER
States rely on institutions and administrative structures in order to assess and extract resources, to enforce laws and regulations, to threaten and apply violence internally as well as externally, and to gather and process information. Just as states develop institutions, however, so do all manner of social groups which form such organizations as lineages, guilds, provincial associations, religious orders, and temple associations in order to articulate
and pursue their collective interests vis-à-vis the state or other non-state actors. This section of the project is devoted to the analysis of such structures through which power is concentrated and exercised both on the level of the state and the level of society.

Publications resulting from and events connected to this project are listed above and below. More information about the project can be found at:

http://power.orient.cas.cz

The project is coordinated by Táňa Dluhošová and Ondřej Klimeš.

MONUMENTS OF MOSUL IN DANGER

http://monumentsofmosul.com
Research team: Miroslav Melčák, Ondřej Beránek (both OI), Karel Nováček (Palacký University, Olomouc), Lenka Starková (University of West Bohemia, Pilsen)
Funding Provider: The Czech Academy of Sciences (research program Strategy AV21)

Duration: 2015–2019
The project Monuments of Mosul in Danger was launched in reaction to a serious threat to the Mosul architectural sites from ISIS (Daesh), who seized the town in June 2014. Since then, dozens of historical sites have been razed to the ground or severely damaged. Monuments of diverse types,
such as mosques, madrasas, mausolea, graveyards, churches and monasteries have been subject to destruction. The project had four main aims:

1. monitoring destructive activities in Mosul by means of satellite imagery; identification of destroyed sites; creation of an interactive map of destroyed monuments;

2. architectural and historical analysis of destroyed monuments by means of preserved visual (photographs, documentary films) and plan documentation as well as historical and recent descriptions published by Iraqi scholars;

3. mapping of all identifiable extant historical monuments in the town, which are made accessible through a complex interactive map;

4. analyzing the ideological background of the destruction.

DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES OF SOUTH INDIA: THEIR EMANCIPATION AND THE BUILDING OF NEW IDENTITIES

Principal investigator: Pavel Hons
Provider: Czech Science Foundation
Duration: 2016–2018

The project analyzed trends in the Dalit movement in Tamil Nadu in the past 20 years. It focused on the Pallars and Chakkiliyars, two important Dalit castes in Tamil Nadu, which have been somewhat neglected by researchers so far. Through a qualitative analysis of primary Tamil sources and semi-structured interviews with caste leaders and intellectuals, the project aimed at providing a description of the strategies these two castes have gradually adopted in order to emancipate
themselves. It analyzed the continuing process of ethnicization of these castes and their attempts at (re) invention of their past. Furthermore, it tried to explore the extent of their political mobilization and the ways they negotiate issues over which they have competing interests. Special attention was paid to the most disadvantaged caste, the Chakkiliyars, and their demands for sub-reservation. It ascertained the extent these castes resist/succumb to the recent increased activities of the Hindu right.

BALANCING THE INTERESTS: CORRELATIONS OF ETHNIC AND FOREIGN POLICY IN CONTEMPORARY CHINA

Principal Investigator: Ondřej Klimeš
Provider: Lumina Quaeruntur fellowship, CAS
Duration: 2019–2023

This project conducts collaborative and multi-disciplinary research in politics of contemporary China. The expert team investigates the correlations of China's ethnic and foreign policy within the context of legitimation of the ruling Communist Party of China. The research will yield new knowledge about China's internal political development and international influence, which increasingly impacts the global community. In facilitating the aims, the expert team uses primary sources in Chinese and other languages of China to apply theoretical and methodological approaches of political science, sociology, ethnography, and history to the examination of specific phenomena occurring in contemporary China. The Lumina Quaeruntur fellowship established by the Czech Academy of Sciences as an instrument to support scientific excellence is intended to award outstanding researchers in setting up new scientific teams.
CONCEPTS IN CONTEXTS: A CORPUS-BASED APPROACH TO LITERARY FIELD IN EARLY POST-WAR TAIWAN AND ITS APPLICATION TO THE SOCIOLOGY OF LITERATURE

Principal investigator:
Táňa Dluhošová
Provider: Bilateral project financed by the Czech Science Foundation and the Taiwanese Ministry of Science and Technology
Duration: 2017–2019

Taking the early post-war literary field in Taiwan (1945–1949) as a case study and employing methods from digital humanities and corpus linguistics, this project aims at a combined investigation of language, ideology, and social relationships, which will enable a comprehensive reconstruction of the literary scene and its social and political characteristics. The project will open up methodologically innovative paths to the sociology of literature far beyond Taiwan or the study of Chinese-language literature. It will build a Taiwan Early Post-war Corpus to become the basis for the corpus-linguistic analysis. The aim is to identify political concepts; using keyword analysis in the multivariate analysis of the agent clusters to observe distribution of meanings of concepts in various clusters of agents; and finally, to contextualize the linguistic findings within contemporaneous social structures. Therefore, a relational database of the agents analyzed in this project will be created, which will include both biographical data and source information.
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES: ANALYSING CAUSES AND EFFECTIVE POLICY RESPONSE

International Research team coordinated by the CNRS. Investigator from the OI: Gabriela Özel Volfová
Provider: Research program ERA (European Research Area), GENDER-NET Plus
Duration: 2018–2020

Sexual and gender-based violence against migrant and refugee women is widespread, but often remains invisible and under-analyzed both in academic research and policy-making. This research takes an intersectional approach to understand this phenomenon in the context of migration, analyzing the ways in which discriminations and inequalities based on gender, race, nationality, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity and age, interact to make certain women more vulnerable to violence and less able to access support and services for survivors than others.

ECONOMIC COMPLEXITY IN THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST: MANAGEMENT OF RESOURCES AND TAXATION IN THE 3RD AND 2ND MILLENNIUM BC

Joint project of the Faculty of Arts, Charles University, and the OI. Investigator from the OI: Sergio Alivernini
Provider: Czech Science Foundation
Duration: 2018–2020

The spread of cuneiform writing from its Mesopotamian heartland to the peripheries during the second half of the third, and especially in the second millennium BC, represents an important historical and cultural phenomenon. From the beginning of the second millennium BC cuneiform writing became the privileged means through which the administrations of these 'peripheral' centers recorded economic transactions. These documents (taxes, rations, sales, etc.) shed a fascinating light on the economic system in these regions. Thousands of administrative documents allow us to follow the process of the development of economic thought that, starting from Mesopotamia, was taken and adapted to specific administrative realities throughout the wider regions of the Ancient Near East. The main objective of the project is to elucidate the emergence, transmission, and interaction of economic structures and the management of resources in time and space.
We publish two academic journals:

**ARCHIV ORIENTÁLNÍ** (ISSN 0044-8699), an international journal established in 1929. Content appearing in *Archiv orientální* is indexed in both Thomson Reuters' Art & Humanities Citation Index (AHCI) and Elsevier's Scopus. It is also accessible via EBSCO and ProQuest.

**www.aror.orient.cas.cz**

**NOVÝ ORIENT** (*New Orient*, ISSN 0029-5302), a peer-reviewed academic Czech language journal, founded in 1945.
THE LIBRARY

The Library of the Oriental Institute is an important scientific library of international scope. It was founded in 1929 and since that time has gathered extensive, and to some degree unique, collections of books, journals, and manuscripts. The Library offers its services not only to scholars, but also to the public and plays an active role in interlibrary loans and document deliveries. Our library holds almost 300,000 books, manuscripts and periodicals. In addition to the general collection, the library houses the Lu Xun (Chinese) Library, the John King Fairbank Library, the Korean Library, the Tibetan Library, and the Taiwan Resource Center for Chinese Studies, sponsored by the National Central Library of the R.O.C., Taiwan.
ORIENTAL INSTITUTE’S RESEARCH CENTER IN TAIWAN

The OI’s Research Center in Taiwan (OIRCT) was established on December 3, 2015, after being granted affiliation by the Institute of History and Philology of Academia Sinica. The OIRCT’s mission is to facilitate and strengthen academic cooperation between the Oriental Institute and other Czech research organizations with Taiwanese and broader East Asian academia. Every year, the center hosts visiting scholars from the Oriental Institute and other Czech research organizations, as well as doctoral students of the Department of East Asian Studies of the Faculty of Philosophy and Arts of the Charles University in Prague, on short-term research visits. The visiting scholars are able to utilize relevant academic resources available in Academia Sinica and other Taiwanese institutions. The Center organizes workshops and conferences and the resident fellows are actively participating in the local academic events. For example, in 2016, together with the Department of Chinese Language of National Cheng-chi University and other partners we organized two-day international conference, Language of Power, Power of Language: Where Conceptual History Meets Political History. The conference volume was published in Chinese as a special issue of East Asia Conceptual History (no. 14, 2018). In 2018, in cooperation with the National Central Library in Taipei, the Center organized a very well attended conference on Manipulating the Media: News and ‘Fake News’ in China since Early Modern Times, described above.
Individual talks included, among many others:

**T. Dluhošová:** “The Concepts of Chinese, Sinophone, and Taiwan Literatures in Europe” (in Chinese), Graduate Institute of Taiwanese Literature, National Taiwan University; “Digital Humanities and the Study of the Sociology of Literature” (in Chinese), Department of Chinese Literature, Taiwan National Chengchi University; “Sinology and Chinese Studies in the Czech Republic,” Department of Slavic Languages, Taiwan National Chengchi University.


**O. Klimeš:** “Uyghur Discourse of Nation and National Interest” (in Chinese), Department of Ethnology, Taiwan National Chengchi University.

**N. Toyosawa:** “Japan and the Contested Center of 18th-Century East Asia,” Academia Sinica.

For the Center's activities see: [http://power.orient.cas.cz/research-center-taiwan/](http://power.orient.cas.cz/research-center-taiwan/)
DIGITAL DATABASES
Besides their main research activities, OI's fellows regularly dedicate their time and effort to creating various digital databases, which are freely available online.

TIBETAN-ENGLISH-CZECH CONTEXT DICTIONARY
This is a collaborative project of the OI and the Humboldt University Berlin, with the technical support of Linguatools Berlin. The project was created with the kind support of the Strategy AV21 of the Czech Academy of Sciences. [https://linguatools.info/tibendicts](https://linguatools.info/tibendicts)

TAIWAN BIOGRAPHICAL ONTOLOGY – TBIO
Taiwan Biographical Ontology (TBIO) is a database developed at the OI storing biographical information about Taiwanese elites and those related to them. It can be used for prosopographical studies of particular groups of people and for analyzes of their life and career-path trajectories. Currently the database stores information about 19,391 people, 49,967 organizations, and 1,239 various positions within these organizations. TBIO is designed as an open database where registered users can visualize but also download needed data. We also welcome colleagues to contribute with their datasets in order to improve the current content. [http://tbio.orient.cas.cz](http://tbio.orient.cas.cz)
MONUMENTS OF MOSUL IN DANGER
This is one of the outcomes of the above-mentioned project of the same name. The database contains the basic information about the destroyed monuments and an interactive map of Mosul.
http://www.monumentsofmosul.com
Main Publications and Research Activities 2018–2019

INFRASTRUCTURE
Some of our researchers regularly offer their knowledge and experience to various state bodies: the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic, the Ministry of the Interior, and the municipal courts, among others. We also seek to disseminate and popularize our knowledge and research results among wider audiences in various ways. For example, our researchers regularly deliver talks for high schools and many public, non-profit institutions. The OI also runs a regular series of public talks. The most important part of our public-oriented activity, at least in terms of impact, is cooperation with the Czech media – especially with Czech TV and Czech Radio Broadcast, but also with some newspapers and periodicals in which the members of the team comment on current developments and political and social changes which are taking place in the regions of their research focus.
Besides providing regular interviews to various Czech media outlets, the OI's researchers have, for example, contributed to the following international media and other outlets:

**BAHOVADINOVA, MALIKA**  
"Representing the Social Cost of Migration: Abandoned Wives or Nonchalant Women,"  
CESS blog,  

**KLIMEŠ, ONDŘEJ**  
"China's Tactics for Targeting the Uyghur Diaspora in Turkey,"  
China Brief,  
The Jamestown Foundation,  
available at:  
https://bit.ly/3c9aPcB.

Abridged version in Uyghur:  
"Ondréy Kliměš, Khitayning Türkiiyidiki Uyghurlarni kontrol qilish taktikiliri" [Ondřej Klimeš, Chinese tactics of control over Uyghurs in Turkey],  
Radio Free Asia,  
available at:  

Commentary for an article  
"Los uigures: una historie de disidencia en los confines de China"  
[Uyghurs: History of Dissent in the Chinese Borders], The Objective,  
available at:  

Interview "China: Muslimische Minderheit unter Druck," ORF Religion,  
available at:  
https://religion.orf.at/radio/stories/2934215/.

"China’s Decimation of Uyghur Minds,"  
Asia Dialogue, available at:  
https://bit.ly/2y7RYQA.

**LUTFI, AMEEM**  
"The Baloch Network behind Bahrain's Regime Stability,"  
Middle East Insights 189 (2018),  
Middle East Institute, National University Singapore,  
available at:  
https://nus.edu/2Ruq9bP.

**SCHWARTZ, KEVIN**  
"There Is No 'Other' but Iran: Misdiagnosing the Causes of Regional Instability,"  
The New Arab,  
available at:  

"Revisiting Revolutionary Slogans in Iran Forty Years Later,"  
Middle East Insights 10, 2 (2019),  
available at:  
“The Resurfacing of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad,”

“John Bolton and Washington’s Iran Policy Industry,”

“After the Iran Protests,”

“Iran and the Destabilisation of the Middle East,”

EASTERN TUNES
The OI is a proud partner of annual Asian music and cultural festival Eastern Tunes (since 2016). This festival (organized by Jarmila Ptáčková and Věra Exnerová) enables the visitors to hear and recognize contemporary art and culture of various Asian countries, attend movie screenings with discussions as well as experience puppet theatre, Asian cuisine or Asian games for children.
For more about the festival see https://thonmi.eu.
Main Publications and Research Activities 2018–2019
AWARDS
LUCIE DRECHSELOVÁ
was awarded the main Jacques Derrida Prize for humanities and social sciences for young scholars. The award was given by the French Embassy in the Czech Republic.

ONDŘEJ KLIMEŠ
received the prestigious Lumina Quaeruntur Fellowship established by the Czech Academy of Sciences as an instrument to support scientific excellence and help setting up new scientific teams. His project “Balancing the Interests: Correlations of Ethnic and Foreign Policy in Contemporary China” will receive financial support in 2019–2023.

BRONISLAV OSTŘANSKÝ
received the Award of the President of the Czech Academy of Sciences for promotion of research.
BODIES

COUNCIL OF THE INSTITUTE
The Council is mainly tasked with supervising the academic activities of the OI and its research strategies.

Dr. Tomáš Petrů (OI), chairperson
Dr. Táňa Dluhošová (OI), vice-chairperson
Assoc. Prof. Daniel Berounský (Institute of Asian Studies, Charles University)
Assoc. Prof. Daniel Boušek (Dpt. of Middle Eastern Studies, Charles University)
Dr. Pavlína Cermanová (Institute of Philosophy of the Czech Academy of Sciences)
Dr. Ondřej Ditrych (Institute of International Relations)
Dr. Ondřej Klimeš (OI)
Dr. Bronislav Ostřanský (OI)
Dr. Stefano Taglia (OI)

SUPERVISORY BOARD
The main task of the Board is to supervise the economic activities of the OI and its property holdings.

Dr. Taťána Petrasová (Head Office of the Czech Academy of Sciences), chairperson
Dr. Jakub Hrubý (OI), vice-chairperson
Prof. Jitka Malečková (Dpt. of Middle Eastern Studies, Charles University)

Dr. Ján Matejka (Director, Institute of State and Law of the Czech Academy of Sciences)
Ing. Magdaléna Vecková (Director, Library of the Czech Academy of Sciences)

INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD
The IAB gives expert feedback on the OI’s research activities and development of research fields and helps to enhance its international standing.

Prof. Mareile Flitsch (University of Zurich, Director of the Ethnographic Museum and Professor at the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology)
Prof. David Howell (Harvard University, Professor of Japanese History)
Prof. Eberhard Kienle (Sciences Po/CNRS, Directeur de recherché)
Prof. Gudrun Krämer (Freie Universität Berlin, Professor of Islamic Studies, member of the German National Research Council)
Prof. James Leibold (La Trobe University, Melbourne, Professor in Chinese Politics and Asian Studies)
Dr. Madeleine Reeves (University of Manchester, Senior Lecturer in Social Anthropology)
Prof. Atreyee Sen (University of Copenhagen, Professor of Anthropology)
Assoc. Prof. Martin Slama (Institute for Social Anthropology, Austrian Academy of Sciences)
Prof. Naghmeh Sohrabi (Brandeis University, Professor, Charles (Corky) Goodman Chair in Middle East History)