

International Workshop:

**Writing Global History from Southeast Asian Perspectives:
In Honor of Professor Victor Lieberman's 70th Birthday**

Osaka, 15th-16th December, 2015

Organized by the 9th Division (*Global History Project*) of the Institute of Academic Initiative,
Osaka University and sponsored by Osaka University

The History Department of Osaka University has emerged as a new center for research and education in global history. This field of study is now organized as “Division 9” under the umbrella of the Institute for Academic Initiatives (IAI), - a new framework created to develop large-scale programs of research and education at the university. Our principal aim is to foster a better understanding of global history from Asian perspectives. Apart from modern and contemporary global economic history, Osaka historians have made significant contributions to research on aspects of pre-modern history, including the history of Southeast Asia and maritime Asia, and Central Eurasia. This research involves area studies specialists as well as experts of Japanese history. Collaborative research with many scholars and institutions outside Japan have resulted in publications, such as *Offshore Asia, Maritime Interactions in Eastern Asia before Steamships* (edited by Kayoko Fujita, Shiro Momoki, and Anthony Reid, Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, 2013).

With regard to Southeast Asia, a number of theoretical studies have received attention by historians at Osaka University. These include Professor Anthony Reid's “Age of Commerce theory” and Professor Victor Lieberman's theory focusing on the comparison of middle-sized political entities, including Japan, which he published as *Strange Parallels* (Cambridge University Press, 2003). His work not only differs from the conventional Euro-centric and nation-state-oriented historiography, but also from the strands of global history that tend to operate with broad global notions, such as world systems and hegemonic states. Lieberman's analysis of multi-lateral relationship between variants, including climatic change and epidemics gives his work a unique outlook. His arguments about the wider interconnectedness of agencies between Inner Asian nomadic peoples, the Sinic World, and Maritime Southeast Asia, has stimulated debate in Japanese academia.

We are delighted that Professor Lieberman has kindly accepted our invitation to come to Osaka to celebrate his 70th birthday with a two-day workshop to be held on 15th and 16th December, 2015. Professor Lieberman will discuss how Japanese and international scholars read *Strange Parallels* and how, in his view, the methodology and issues of the book could contribute toward writing a global history that incorporates insights gained from Southeast Asian perspectives.

The discussion will focus, among others, on:

- The reading of *Strange Parallels* in Japan and in the wider world, especially by specialist of regions other than Southeast Asia;
- *Strange Parallels* and Southeast Asian regional history;
- Innovative issues and methodologies (climatic change, epidemics, transportation, military

technology, currency, the notion of “early-modernity”, etc.).

Workshop Details

Date: 15th-16th December, 2015

Venue: Seminar Room 1, Osaka Daigaku Kaikan, Toyonaka Campus, Osaka University
(No. 31 on the campus map <http://www.osaka-u.ac.jp/en/access/toyonaka/toyonaka.html>)

Some funding will be available to presenters from outside Osaka.

Speakers in sessions 1-4 should keep their presentations to 25 minutes in order to allow sufficient time for discussion. Contributors to the opening and closing sessions will have slightly more time available.

Contributors are invited to submit a 500-word abstract of their intended presentation before the end of October 2015 to momoki@let.osaka-u.ac.jp

Organizing Committee:

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Preliminary Program

15th December (Tuesday)

Opening Session, 9:00—11:00

Chair: Akita, Shigeru (Osaka University, Dean of the 9th Division of the Institute for Academic Initiatives)

Momoki, Shiro (Osaka University): Introduction to Osaka global history and area studies

Anthony Reid (ANU): Southeast Asian historical research in the world

Sun Laichen (California State University, Fullerton): Introduction to Prof. Lieberman’s scholarship

Lunch: 11:00-12:00

Session 1: How was *Strange Parallels* read in Japan and in the World by historians working on other regions than Southeast Asia?

12:00—15:30 Chair: Momoki, Shiro (Osaka University)

Nakamura, Tsubasa (Osaka University), Fujita Kayoko (Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University), Japan

Mita, Masahiko (Nagoya University), South Asia

Zushi, Nobutaka (Kinki University), France

Hamamoto, Mami (JSPS designated researcher), Russia
Matsui, Dai (Osaka University), Central Eurasia

Session 2: Perspectives from Southeast Asian regional history and maritime Asian history

16:00—18:30 Chair: Anthony Reid (ANU)
Saito, Teruko (Professor Emeritus, Tokyo Univ. of Foreign Studies, Burma)
Hasuda, Takashi (Niigata University), Vietnam
Mukai, Masaki (Doshisha University), Maritime networks in the Mongol Period
Geoff Wade (ANU), Southeast Asia and China

Reception 19:00—

16th December (Wednesday)

Session 3: New issues and methodologies, 9:00—11:30

Chair: Fujita, Kayoko (Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University)
Sun Laichen (California State University, Fullerton), “War and the environment in Eastern Eurasia during the Century of Warfare, c. 1550-1683”
Li Tana (ANU), Climatic change in Vietnam
Bao Maohong (University of Beijing), Climatic change in the Philippines
Kohei, Wakimura (Osaka City University), Epidemics

Lunch 11:30-13:00

Session 4: Toward new global histories, 13:00—16:30

Chair: Gerold Krozewski (Osaka University)
Michael Charney (University of London), “Towards an organisational machinery of global transportation: from early modern to colonial modes of commercial and military logistics in the South Atlantic and Indian Ocean Worlds, late fifteenth-early twentieth centuries”
Andrew Goss (Georgia Regents University), “Global history, the Humboltian imagination, and Southeast Asia”
Taguchi, Kojiro (Osaka University), “The Sinic world: modernization or early-modernization?”
Kuroda, Akinobu (University of Tokyo), New monetary history
Sato, Hitomi (Konan University), New comparative history

Closing Session 17:00-18:00

Chair: Sun Laichen
Victor Lieberman (University of Michigan), “Why were Nationalism and Democracy European? Political Community in Early Modern Europe and Southeast Asia”
General discussion