



This conference seeks new approaches to common topics concerning social, cultural and political complexity on the fringes of empires in Europe and East Asia, namely, the Hellenistic and Roman, and successive Chinese empires. A special focus of the conference will be on interactions between empires and their peripheries, and on contact zones. The temporal coverage spans from the formative phase of the earliest empires in the concerned regions up to A.D.1000. The purpose of the conference is to seek new avenues for research collaboration in cutting-edge research, which is why early career researchers are particularly welcome. The conference will bring together archaeologists and anthropologists, philologists and linguists, art historians and historians, specialists of material culture and religion, experts on historical climate change and commercial exchange and many more. An underlying, unifying feature of presentations, discussions and follow-up will be the methodological challenges of interdisciplinary research in the humanities, which is moving towards a global research enterprise.

The late 20th century had witnessed increased sophistication in theory and methodology when dealing with the emergence and development of civilisations and empires and their relations with surrounding communities. Whether in Europe or in East Asia, notably in Japan, the study of symbiotic relationships between empires and surrounding communities has been prominent. With the rich archaeological and written record to be examined, many important case studies have been produced. Data on various environmental factors has increasingly informed our understanding of the forces underlying trajectories of socio-cultural, economic and political development. This conference aims at synthesising these strands of research, aiming at a comprehensive reconstruction of the processes and causes of the emergence and development of social complexity and state-formation on the fringes of the empires, thereby setting the research agenda for collaborative research for the future.

Topics will include:

1. Empires and their peripheries: interactions, interdependences and transformations
2. Environment and food supply
3. Ethnic identities, language, population movements and social mobility
4. Networks of interaction, production and exchange
5. Ritual, symbolism and cosmology
6. Empires and their contested peripheries in long-term and global perspectives

RESEARCH CONFERENCES

ESF-JSPS Frontier Science Conference Series for Young Researchers

Contact Zones of Empires in Asia and Europe: Complexity, Contingency, Causality

Venue: Centennial Hall in Kyushu University School of Medicine, Fukuoka • Japan

Accommodation: Sea Hawk Hotel, Fukuoka • Japan

27 February – 4 March 2010

Chairs:

- **Lise Hannestad** - Aarhus University, DK
- **Tadashi Nishitani** - Kyushu Historical Museum, JP

Organising Committee:

- **Koji Mizoguchi** - Kyushu University, JP
- **Rüdiger Klein** - ALLEA, NL



Invited Speakers will include:

- **Carmen Alfaro** - Valencia U., ES
- **Michael Alram** - Kunsthistorisches Museum, AT
- **Toennes Bekker-Nielsen** - U. of Southern Denmark, DK
- **Chris Gosden** - Oxford U., UK
- **Lise Hannestad** - U. of Aarhus, DK
- **Benjamin Isaac** - Tel Aviv U., IL
- **Askold Ivantchik** - The Russian Academy of Sciences, RU
- **Rüdiger Klein** - ALLEA, NL
- **Ray Laurence** - U. of Birmingham, UK
- **Takehiko Matsugi** - Okayama U., JP
- **Andreas Mehl** - U. Halle-Wittenberg, DE
- **Kazuo Miyamoto** - Kyushu U., JP
- **Koji Mizoguchi** - Kyushu U., JP
- **Hiroki Oota** - Tokyo U., JP
- **Tatsuhiko Seo** - Chuo U., JP
- **Nicholas Sims-Williams** - School of Oriental and African Studies, London, UK
- **Yoshiyuki Tanaka** - Kyushu U., JP
- **Mayke Wagner** - DAI, Berlin, DE
- **Yusuke Yokoyama** - Tokyo U., JP
- **Minoru Yoneda** - U. of Tokyo, JP

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Closing Date for Applications 5 November 2009

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