

KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER BETWEEN EUROPE UND ASIA

EDELMAYER Friedrich, University of Vienna

TRAPPL Richard, University of Vienna

GERSTL Alfred, University of Vienna

LI Xuetao, Beijing Foreign Studies University

Starting out as a workshop on the knowledge transfer between Europe and Asia, the project quickly grew into larger proportions thanks to the great efforts all participants brought into the common goal and so the First Eurasian Doctoral Colloquium was set into motion. Around 50 scholars participated in the conference and presented their individual research findings, dissertation projects and challenges against the backdrop of a greater knowledge transfer between Europe and Asia. The main study areas were Global Studies, History, East Asian and European Studies.

Themes centred on knowledge transfer including, but not limited to trade along the Silk Road, ceramics, Mongolian culture, philosophy, and literature, transfer of ideas and also scholars and scholarships. Discussion also touched hot topics like the “One belt, one road” initiative and its ramifications. Alongside some promising book and dissertation projects, which were presented, future cooperation between the scholars and institutions of the participating universities were also discussed. Next to Beijing Foreign Studies University and the University of Vienna, also professors and PhD students of the University Bonn, Konkuk University, Kansai University and Hankuk University participated in the workshop.

A special asset of the activity is the exchange between researchers from various universities and feedback – also on an interdisciplinary level, thereby broadening target groups and providing new impetus for further research or critically assessing one’s own research methodology. This fruitful academic exchange is further enriched by the rich cultural background of the participants, each contributing to the success of the workshop and the individual and common research projects.

Concrete further steps are plans for a reiteration of the event and intensification of research cooperation between the individual scholars as well as the participating institutes and universities and the extension of invitations to join major conferences on the themes at the respective partner universities. A research project concerning the theme is in the process of being formulated and will be a direct cooperation between the BFSU Global History department and the University of Vienna’s History department.

In addition, the workshop gave rise to the idea of a new journal “Asia and the World” with contributions coming from the participants of the workshop and then expanding into a larger field. This journal will be available in English and Chinese language and provide a further bridge in research cooperation between the partner universities.