

[International Conference on "Islam in the China Seas"](#)

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Call for Papers

Date:

March 26, 2018 to March 27, 2018

Location:

China

Subject Fields:

Anthropology, Chinese History / Studies, Islamic History / Studies, Religious Studies and Theology, Southeast Asian History / Studies

Call for Papers

Conference on 'Islam in the China Seas'

Organized by the Centre for the Study of Islamic Culture, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

March 26-27, 2018 (Mon & Tues)

Hong Kong

A vital passage between the Indian and Pacific oceans, the South China Sea, has historically been an arena of competition, as nations and empires have vied for hegemonic control over it for centuries. Tensions in the area have steadily risen in recent years and a maritime military buildup currently demands world attention as a flashpoint of geopolitical jockeying among regional and global powers. China, Vietnam, the Philippines, Taiwan, Malaysia and Brunei have all staked claims to parts of this strategic and resource-rich basin, while the United States also seeks to protect its far-reaching interests there.

Long before the current geopolitical conflicts, the South China Sea was already a center of international commerce, comparable to the Mediterranean as a conduit of wealth and a melting pot of cultures, where both goods and ideas were exchanged. Commodities and technologies from the Indian and Chinese civilizational spheres were freely transmitted, and transported as far afield as Africa and Japan. Among the cultural cargo, religious teachings were also trafficked along the ancient maritime trade routes. Arab and Iranian merchants from the Persian Gulf had long participated in Indian Ocean trade, and eventually penetrated the Malacca Straits into the South China Sea. Starting in the late 7th century, after the establishment of Islam in Arabia, Muslim seafaring traders continued this tradition.

Thus, Islam spread into the China Seas via the so-called maritime extension of the Silk Road, and from there it reached the southeast coast of the Chinese mainland, as well as the peninsulas and

archipelagos of Southeast Asia, and beyond. This conference aims to explore the historical, geographic, economic, social, political, cultural and religious contexts of the introduction and development of Islam in the greater China Seas region, from a multidisciplinary perspective.

Topics of research will include: trade and religious dissemination; Muslim settlement in the China Seas region; the introduction and spread of Islam in South China; Islamisation, assimilation and indigenization; and Muslims' role in the spread of Chinese regional influence, among others. Such research represents an important component of the international and intercultural understanding underlying the "One Belt, One Road" initiative.

Dates: March 26-27, 2018 [Mon & Tues]

Submission of Abstracts:

An abstract of not more than 350 words should be submitted, with a short CV, to csic@cuhk.edu.hk before **Friday, 1 December 2017**. Notifications of acceptance will be sent out by Friday, 29 December 2017.

Language [English and Chinese]

Contact information: For enquiries about the conference and submission of abstracts, please contact Ms Asiah Yang at csic@cuhk.edu.hk.

Hosting Institution: Centre for the Study of Islamic Culture, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

About our center: <http://cuhk.edu.hk/rih/csic/>

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