

The Mongols and Global History

An international conference
organized by Anne Dunlop
(University of Melbourne)

With the rise of global history and art history, there is an ever-more intense interest in the Mongol period as a historiographical watershed. The so-called Pax Mongolica lasted less than two hundred years, but both the size and the scope of the Mongol empire were unprecedented. At its fullest extent, the Mongol states claimed territories from Hungary to Korea, and they reconfigured the basic zones of Afro-Eurasian trade and contact. People, objects, and ideas traveled across Asia, Europe, and into Africa, in a movement that has been framed as the first step in an accelerating global modernism based on circulation of goods and capital. It is the aim of this conference to take stock of this historical turn and to explore the Mongol impact and legacy in the early modern world and in contemporary histories. What is at stake for instance in framing the Mongols as harbingers of modernity? What are the rewards and limits of taking the Mongol moment as a defining case for the project of global history or art history as a whole, and what does the Pax Mongolica model offer that is distinctive from examples in later colonial periods?



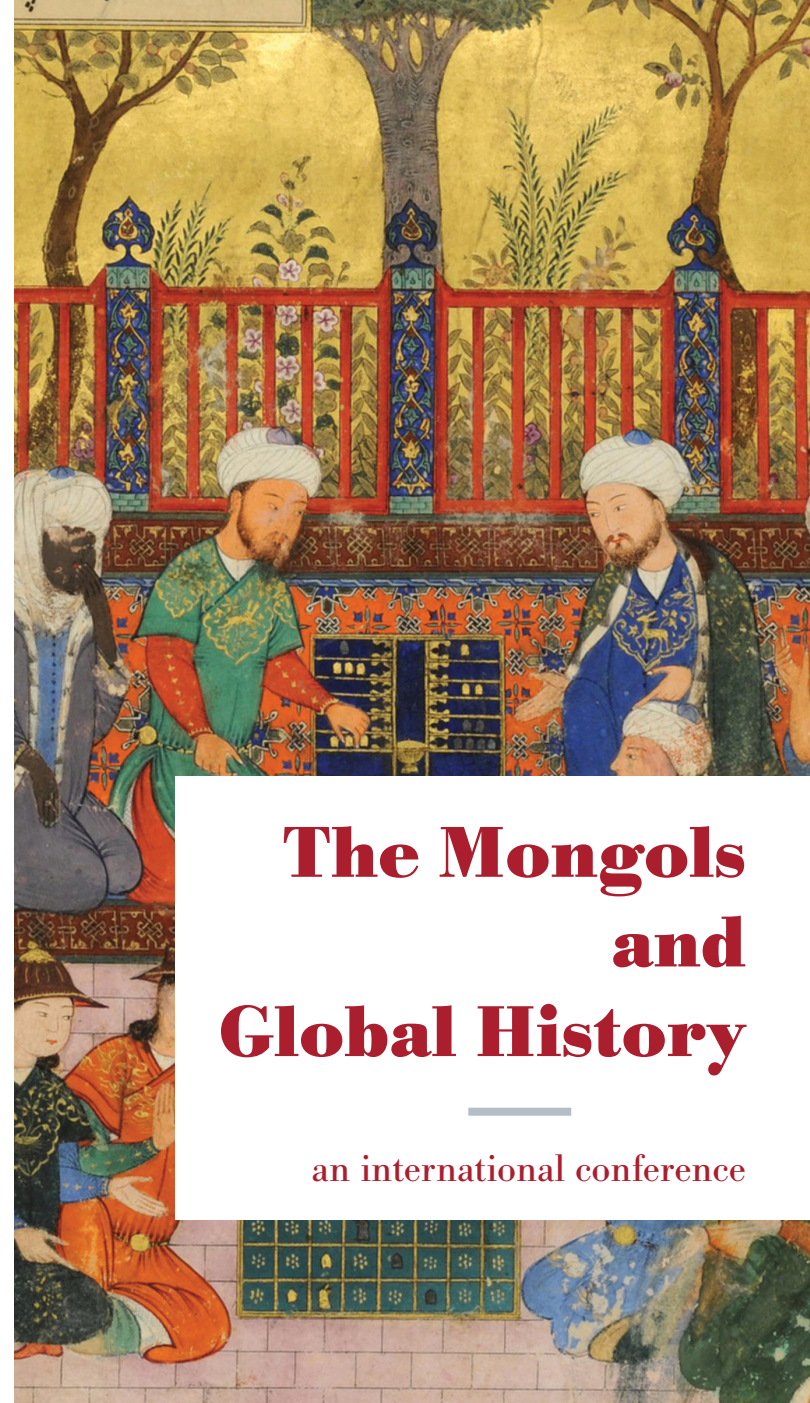
The conference is funded with support from the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Endowment Fund and the scholarly programs and publications funds in the names of Myron and Sheila Gilmore, Jean-Francois Malle, Andrew W. Mellon, Robert Lehman, Craig and Barbara Smyth, and Malcolm Hewitt Wiener

I Tatti - The Harvard University Center
for Italian Renaissance Studies
Via di Vincigliata 26, 50135 Florence, Italy
+39 055 603 251 info@itatti.harvard.edu

Front Cover image: Chess versus Backgammon (detail),
illustrated folio from an Anthology of Persian Treatises
Afghanistan, Herat, Timurid period, 1427
Ink, colors, silver, and gold on paper
Berenson Art Collection, I Tatti

Back Cover image: Great Mongol Shahnama (detail)
from the dispersed 14th c. copy
of the Book of Kings (ca. 1330 - 1340)
Berenson Art Collection, I Tatti

 **I TATTI**
THE HARVARD UNIVERSITY CENTER
FOR ITALIAN RENAISSANCE STUDIES



The Mongols and Global History

an international conference

DECEMBER 10-11, 2018

I TATTI

MONDAY, DECEMBER 10

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

9:30 Alina Payne (I Tatti/Harvard University)
Anne Dunlop (University of Melbourne)
Welcome and Introduction

SESSION 1: ROUTES AND NARRATIVES I

Chair: Nicholas Terpstra (I Tatti / University of Toronto)

9:45 Christopher Atwood
(University of Pennsylvania)
*The Political Economy of the Mongol Empire:
Placing Cultural Exchange in its
Economic Context*

10:15 Peter Jackson (Keele University)
From Chinggis Khan to Tamerlane

10:45 Discussion

11:15 Coffee

11:30 David M. Robinson (Colgate University)
*Competitive Storytelling: The Early Ming Court's
Chinggisid Narrative*

12:00 Morris Rossabi (CUNY/Columbia University)
The Mongols and the Sea

12:30 Discussion

13:00 Buffet Lunch

SESSION 2: ROUTES AND NARRATIVES II

Chair: Thomas Gruber (I Tatti)

14:30 Michal Biran (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
*Ilkhanid Baghdad (1258-1335):
Between the Local and the Global*

15:00 Reuven Amitai
(Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
*Setting the Stage for the Modern Middle East:
The Mongols in Southwest Asia and Long-Term
Demographic, Linguistic, and Economic Trends*

15:30 Marie Favereau (Oxford University)
*The Golden Horde and the Changing Dynamics
of the 'Pax Mongolica'*

16:00 Tea

16:15 Discussion

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11

SESSION 3: COMMODITIES, OBJECTS, IMAGES I

Chair: Paul Davies (I Tatti / University of Reading)

9:45 Yong Cho (Yale University)
*Woven Pictures in the Yuan Court:
The Mongol Art at the Center of a Global Empire*

10:15 Eiren Shea (Grinnell College)
*Yuan Court Dress and the Formation of a Global
Mongol Aesthetic*

10:45 Discussion

11:15 Coffee

11:30 Juliane von Fircks
(Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena)
*Mongol Splendor – Cloths of Gold
between China, Iran and Europe*

12:00 Nam Jong Kuk (Ewha Womans University)
*Rethinking Trade between Europe and the
Mongol Realm during the 'Pax Mongolica'*

12:30 Discussion

13:00 Buffet Lunch

SESSION 4: COMMODITIES, OBJECTS, IMAGES II

Chair: Alexei Lidov (I Tatti / Lomonosov
Moscow State University)

14:30 Yuka Kadoi (Independent Scholar)
The (Re)Birth of Ilkhanid Art

15:00 Persis Berlekamp (University of Chicago)
*Global, Mediterranean, and Islamic
Art Histories: Their Gains and Losses
at 'Ayn Jalut*

15:30 Angelo Cattaneo
(Universidade Nova de Lisboa)
*Fra Mauro's 'Map of the World' and the
'Honil Kangni Yōktae Kukto Chi To Do':
Migrating World Views in the Spaces
of the Mongol Empire*

16:00 Tea

16:15 Discussion