

# ASIA IN THE MIRROR

## Self-representations, self-narratives and perception of the Other

18-20 March 2024



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI  
DI CAGLIARI



DIPARTIMENTO DI LETTERE,  
LINGUE E BENI CULTURALI

### Scientific Committee

Alessandro Achilli  
Fiorenzo Iuliano  
Angela Daiana Langone  
Emma Lupano  
Giuliano Mion  
Tiziana Pontillo  
Valentina Serra

This conference is part of the "Asia in the Mirror" research project,  
financed by Fondazione di Sardegna

**18 March, 10:00**  
Sala Settecentesca, University Library  
Via Università 32, Cagliari

10:00 Registration

10:30 Opening remarks

#### PANEL 1: RECEPTIONS

Chair: Alessandro Achilli

**11:00 KEYNOTE: MARIO CASARI** (SAPIENZA UNIVERSITY OF ROME), TRANSLATING CHILDREN'S LITERATURE: ITALIAN CLASSICS IN A PERSIAN MIRROR

**11:45 Wenxin Jin** (Ca' Foscari University of Venice/Sorbonne Nouvelle University), *Call for 'Our Saint Jeanne d'Arc': the Reception of Saint Jeanne d'Arc in early-20<sup>th</sup>-century Chinese magazines (the 1910s-1940s) and Its Influence on the Construction of Modern Chinese Female Subjectivity*

**12:05 Mate Paksy** (Catholic University of Lille), *Ex Oriente Lux or Lex? — "Orientalists" vs. Western Legal Comparatists on Japan*

12:25 Discussion

12:45 Light lunch

**18 March, 15:00**  
Conference Room, Fondazione di Sardegna  
Via Salvatore da Horta 2, Cagliari

#### PANEL 2: WHO'S THE OTHER, WHAT IS ASIA

Chair: Mario Casari

**15:00 Francesca Puglia** (University of Bern/University of Sassari), *'Otherness' in classical Chinese literary sources: the animal and the representation of the 'barbarian'*

**15:20 Maria Piera Candotti, Alessandro Giudice, Tiziana Pontillo** (University of Pisa – University of Cagliari), *Who is the foreigner? Delimiting boundaries before and after Alexander the Great's expedition in India*

**15:50 Sebas Rümke** (University of Hamburg), *Changing Concepts of 'Asia' in Chinese world historical writing*

16:10 Discussion

**19 March, 09:15**  
Conference Room, Fondazione di Sardegna  
Via Salvatore da Horta 2, Cagliari

#### PANEL 3: PLACES

Chair: Simone Ciccolone

**9:15 KEYNOTE: LIDIA SUDYKA** (JAGIELLONIAN UNIVERSITY, CRACOW), TRAVEL WRITING IN MODERN SANSKRIT LITERATURE: PARIS AND OTHER CITIES IN THE MIRROR OF TRAVEL ACCOUNTS

**10:00 Daniele Beltrame** (University for Foreigners of Perugia), *The Chinese representation of Venice. Ideal and real visions of Venice in Chinese Sources from the 16th through the 20<sup>th</sup> century*

**10:20 Diletta Falqui** (University of Cagliari), *Reconsidering the 'Rome/Roman' references in the Mahābhārata*

10:40 Discussion

11:00 Coffee break

#### PANEL 4: INTER-ASIAN RELATIONS

Chair: Nicola Melis

**11:25 Cristiana Bozza** (University of Tuscia/University of Bari), *Bāšā: new uses of a 'Middle Eastern' term*

**11:45 Marco Milani, Barbara Onnis** (University of Bologna – University of Cagliari), *'As lips and teeth'? China-North Korea relations between reality and imagination*

**12:05 Cristina Dozio** (University of Milan), *Yusuf Idris Goes East*

12:25 Discussion

12:45 Break

**PANEL 5: LOOKING AT ASIA FROM EUROPE AND AMERICA**

Chair: Lidia Sudyka

14:30 Miriam Al-Tawil, Fabian Spitaler (University of Vienna), *Encounters in West Asia: European perceptions and cultural representations*

14:50 Alessandro Tosco (Kore University of Enna), *Confucius' morality on the European stage: between Orientalism and the representation of the Other*

15:10 Anna Cadoni (University of Cagliari), *Imagism and Orientalism: A critical reading*

15:30 Valentina Serra (University of Cagliari), *Orientalism in the 'Province': Representations of Japan in Swiss-German literature*

15:50 Discussion

Conference Dinner

**20 March, 09:00**

**Conference Room, Fondazione di Sardegna  
Via Salvatore da Horta 2, Cagliari**

**PANEL 6: ASIA PERCEIVING AND NARRATING ITSELF**

Chair: Nicoletta Puddu

9:00 **KEYNOTE: LUTGARD LAMS (KU LEUVEN CAMPUS BRUSSEL):**  
REPRESENTING THE CHINESE SELF AND THE FOREIGN OTHER IN  
ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PRESS EDITORIALS IN CHINA

9:45 Tommaso Pellin (University of Bologna), *The many forms of 'awareness' (yishi 意识) and of 'self-confidence' (zixin 自信) in recent Chinese debate over language*

10:05 Lucia Avallone, Giuliano Mion (University of Bergamo – University of Cagliari), *Ancient Mesopotamian civilisation and its heritage in modern and contemporary Iraq: perceptions and (self)-representations*

10:25 Discussion

10:45 Coffee break

Chair: Lutgard Lams

11:25 Elisa Gugliotta (Grenoble Alpes University - LIDILEM),  
*Comparative analysis of social media channels of the Saudi Ministry of Tourism: Investigating differences in visual and textual communication for diverse user targets*

11:45 Natalia Francesca Riva (Catholic University, Brescia), *Telling stories of the Chinese Communist Party: constructing model cadres*

12:05 Tanina Zappone (University of Turin), *From 'major country (daguo)' to 'superpower (qiangguo)'. PRC' self-representation in Xi Jinping speeches*

12:25 Discussion

12:45 Light Lunch

Chair: Fiorenzo Iuliano

14:30 Alessandro Achilli (University of Cagliari), *Locating Asia in the Russian-Language poetry of the Fergana school from Uzbekistan*

14:50 Emma Lupano (University of Cagliari), *When 'comprehensive' becomes 'understanding'. Shifts and constraints in the translation of Chinese official discourse for foreign audiences*

15:10 Angela Daiana Langone (Università di Cagliari), *Otherness in Emirati literature*

15:30 Discussion

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