

Vortragsreihe des Instituts für Sinologie und der Graduate School Distant Worlds

Kulturkontakte in antiken Welten: Theorien und Fallbeispiele



Globalization or not?

Mid- and long-distance interactions and their effects on Chinese societies during the late second and early first millennia BCE

Prof. Dr. Gideon Shelach

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Pre-modern East Asia is often portrait as a self-contained, isolated, stable cultural sphere. This idea originates with idealized descriptions, found in the Chinese classics, of a self-sufficient civilization which has no interest in or need for contacts with societies outside its borders. Contrary to such depictions, however, East Asia was the site of early and vibrant webs of inter-cultural contacts. This becomes particularly clear when consulting archaeological evidence from present-day China.

This talk focuses on the period from the second half of the second millennium BCE to the beginning of the first millennium BCE, i.e., a period during which inter-group contacts within the present day borders of China as well as with societies far away to the west and south dramatically intensified. After presenting the archaeological evidence for such interactions, this talk focuses on the effects of these various types of contacts on the local societies. Can we describe this period as an early example of globalization in which mid and long-range contacts had a transformative power or were the external contacts epiphenomena which did not affect the indigenous trajectories of social, economic and cultural change? This is the major question which this talk will address.

Donnerstag, 23. April 2015, 18 Uhr c.t.

Hauptgebäude LMU, Geschwister-Scholl-Platz 1, Raum D209,
gefolgt von einem kleinen Umtrunk in Raum A280 (Halle 2. OG)

Bei Rückfragen wenden Sie sich bitte an die Organisatoren, Dr. Anke Hein, Institut für Sinologie, Anke.Hein@lmu.de,
und Dr. Catrin Kost, Graduate School Distant Worlds, Catrin.Kost@lmu.de.