Empires of Water
Water Management and Politics in the Arid Regions of China, Central Eurasia and the Middle East (16th-20th centuries)

26 May 2016, Thursday
Lingnan University

10:00-11:00 Conference registration at Main Entrance

11:00-11:10 Welcome Remarks

Loretta Kim, Niccolò Pianciola, Paolo Sartori

Room: MBG07

11:10-12:50 Session 1

Panel 1: Environment Systems across the Early Modern

Room: MBG19

Discussant: Astrid Meier (Orient-Institut Beirut, Lebanon)

River Systems Economies and Historical Dynamics in South and Southeast Asia, c.1500 to 1800
Murari Kumar Jha (Nalanda University, India)

Loess is More: Arid Asia and the Yellow River Disaster Regime
Ruth Mostern (University of California at Merced, United States)

Climate "the Magnificent": An Ecological Perspective on 16th Century Ottoman Empire
Mehmet Kuru (University of Toronto, Canada)

12:50-13:00 Group Photo-taking

13:00-14:20 Lunch at 2/F, Chinese Restaurant, Amenities Building, Lingnan University

14:20-16:00 Session 1

Panel 2A: The Flow of Power: Water as a Political Resource

Room: MBG19

Discussant: Loretta Kim (The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong)

War over Water: Water as a Catalyst in the Arab-Israeli Conflict
Panel 2B: Water Management as a Conjunction of Imperial Projects and Regional Influences: The Cases of the Qing Western Regions, Russian Turkistan, and Ottoman Egypt
Room: MBG01
Discussant: IGURO Shinobu (Otani University, Japan)

YOSHIMURA Takenori (Daito Bunka University, Japan)

The Turfanese Community in Guazhou (1733-1756): Immigration and Reclamation during the Process of Qing Expansion
ONUMA Takahiro (Tohoku Gakuin University, Japan)

Toward Writing an Irrigation History of Modern Central Asia: An Analysis of the Deliberation Process behind the 1917 Water Law of Russian Turkistan
SHIOYA Akifumi (University of Tsukuba, Japan)

16:00-16:25 Tea/coffee break
16:25-18:15 Plenary Speaker 1
Room: MBG07

The Conquest of Water in Modern Times
Donald WORSTER (Renmin University of China, Beijing)

18:30 Drive to the Restaurant
19:00 Dinner

27 May 2016, Friday
Lingnan University

09:00-10:40 Session 3
Panel 3A: Fisheries Management and Environmental Change in Inner Asian Seas
Room: MBG19
Discussant: Beatrice PENATI (Nazarbayev University, Kazakhstan)

Transient Environments: Colonization, Science and Economic Policies around the Aral Sea (1874-1924)
Niccolo PIANCIOLO (Lingnan University, Hong Kong)

Predicting Nature, Planning an Economy: The Soviet Caspian Sea in the Interwar Period
Gregory FERGUSON-CRADLER (Princeton University, United States)

CHIDA Tetsuro (University of Hokkaido, Japan)

Panel 3B: Past and Present Resource Management in the Middle East and Central Asia
Room: MBG01
Discussant: Aude POMMERET (City University of Hong Kong)

Water Law as an Instrument of the Russian Imperial Policy in Central Asian Khanates (end of the 19th - beginning of the 20th centuries)
Roman POCHKAEV (Higher School of Economics, Russian Federation)

Zionist Republicanism as a "Hydraulic Empire": Water Resources Management in the British Mandate and the First Decade of the State of Israel
Orli SELA (New York University, United States)

Beyond Interstate Water Cooperation: the Reconfiguration of Borderlands Hydro-social Cycle in Talas Transboundary Waterscape (Kyrgyzstan-Kazakhstan)
Andrea ZINZANI (Universität Bremen, Germany)

10:40-11:00 Tea/coffee break
11:00-12:30 Plenary Speaker 2
Room: MBG07

China’s Water Crisis: The People’s Response
Judith SHAPIRO (American University, United States)

12:30-14:00 Lunch at 2/F, Chinese Restaurant, Amenities Building, Lingnan University
14:00-15:40 Session 4
Panel 4A: State-led Environmental Management in the Middle East and Central Asia
Room: MBG19
Discussant: Maurits ERTSEN (Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands)

El Niño in the Ottoman Empire: State Responses to Late Nineteenth Century Droughts in Kurdistan
Zozan PEHLIVAN (McGill University, Canada)

Beatrice PENATI (Nazarbayev University, Kazakhstan)

The Petro-State and the "Saltwater Kingdom": Empire, Expertise and the Origins of Desalination Technology in Saudi Arabia, 1911-1974
Michael Christopher LOW (Iowa State University, United States)

Panel 4B: Ecological Visions: Water, Communication, Colonization
Room: MBG01
Discussant: Paolo SARTORI (Austrian Academy of Sciences, Austria)
Irrigation and Colonization: Water and the Politics of Pereselenie
Alexander MORRISON (Nazarbayev University, Kazakhstan)

"Imperial Canals" without an Emperor: A Case Study of the Legitimacy of 18th to 20th Century Hexi Corridor Irrigation Management Protocol
ZHANG Jingping (Tsinghua University, Beijing), TSENG Chin-Yin (Peking University, Beijing)

15:40-16:00 Tea/coffee break

16:00-17:30 Plenary Speaker 3
Room: MBG07

Improvising Planned Development on the Gezira Plain, Sudan, 1900-1980
Maurits ERTSEN (Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands)

17:35-19:00 Wine & Cheese Reception at Art Gallery, 2/F, Lee Wan Keung Academic Building, Lingnan University

28 May 2016, Saturday
The University of Hong Kong

09:00-09:10 Welcome Remarks
Loretta KIM

09:10-10:50 Session 5
Panel 5A: Canals and Colonization: Irrigation and Infrastructure in Authoritarian State-Making, 19th-21st Centuries
Room: CPD-3.04
Discussant: Niccolò PIANCOLA (Lingnan University, Hong Kong)

Christine BICHSEL (University of Fribourg, Switzerland)

The Cultural Political Economy of Canal Irrigation and State Rule in Semi-arid South Asia: Comparing Colonialism, Planned Development and Neoliberalism
Peter P. MOLLINGA (School of Oriental and African Studies, United Kingdom)

Not a Single Drop for the Aral Sea - Long-term Continuities in the History of Large-Scale Water Management and Political Rule in Southern Central Asia, 1880s to 1980s
Julia OBERTREIS (Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany)

Panel 5B: Comparative Imperial Policies of Water Administration
Room: CPD-2.58
Discussant: Loretta KIM (The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong)

Communal and Imperial Water Management in Arid Lands: Case Studies from Early-Modern Ottoman Syria
Astrid MEIER (Orient-Institut Beirut, Lebanon)

Riverine Water Management and Urban Development in Seventeenth Century Isfahan
Shahar HOSSEINI (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, United States)
A Trickle of Authority: The Arid Identity of Empire in 18th Century Xinjiang
David Bello (Washington and Lee University, United States)

10:50-11:20 Tea/ coffee break

11:20-13:00 Session 6

Panel 6A: Water as a Sacred Entity, Core Resource or Malleable Landscape? Local Perspectives on the Nature and Use of Water Bodies in Central Asia
Room: CPD-3.04
Discussant: Jeanne Féaux De La Croix (Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen, Germany)

Preventing Unjustifiable Damage: Commons and the Moral Economy of Water in Rural Bukhara
Jeanine Elif Dağëli (Zentrum Moderner Orient, Germany)

The "Tajik Sea": A Soviet Success Story?
Flora Robert (University of Chicago, United States)

Changing Sacred Landscapes of the Issyk-Kul Lake in Kyrgyzstan: Dynamics of Perception of Sacred, Healing and Lived Water
Nurzat Sultanalieva (Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen, Germany)

Panel 6B: Diverting and Damming: Rivers Management in China, Central Asia, and the Middle East
Room: CPD-2.58
Discussant: Donald Worster (Renmin University of China, Beijing)

Pandora's Box Reopened: Sibaral and the Fate of Central Asia, 1868-1991
Christopher J. Ward (Clayton State University, United States)

Between the Tennessee Valley and the Jordan Valley: Water, Politics and Economy in the Middle East
Zohar Segev (University of Haifa, Israel)

Continuity and Change in Chinese Water Politics: The Evolution of the South-North Water Transfer Project
Huw Pohlner (Aither Corporation, Australia)

13:00-14:30 Lunch

14:30-16:00 Plenary Speaker 4
Room: CPD-3.04

Climate, Ecology, and History: Scientific Data of Methods for the Study of Premodern China
Nicola Di Cosmo (Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, United States)

16:00-16:10 Closing Remarks