

ST HILDA'S COLLEGE
OXFORD

16–18TH
APRIL 2020

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AMDO
AT THE CROSSROADS

3RD
INTERNATIONAL
WORKSHOP
OF
THE AMDO
RESEARCH
NETWORK

Amdo
Through the Mongolian Looking Glass:
Perspectives from Qing–Era Buddhist
Biography and Historiography

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AMDO AT THE CROSSROADS: AT A GLANCE

Thursday 16th April 2020

15.00 – 16.30	Workshop at the <i>Bodleian Library</i>
18.00 – 19.00	Registration, <i>St Hilda's College</i>
19.00 – 19.30	Welcome Talk, <i>St Hilda's College</i>
19.30 – 20.45	Screening of <i>Blackboard</i> and Q&A with Director

Workshop at the Bodleian Library, Thursday 16th April

The principal collections of the Bodleian's Tibetan manuscript holdings came to the Library in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries, starting in 1806, with items bought from Samuel Turner who has been sent on a mission to the Panchen Lama in 1785. In 1885 the Bodleian purchased many manuscripts and xylographs from the Bavarian civil servant Emil Schlagintweit and received several Tibetan texts from the Rev. Solomon C. Malan. Malan was a close friend of the Hungarian scholar and traveller Alexander Csoma de Körös, his first Tibetan teacher and many of Malan's Tibetan texts were given to him by Csoma himself. The third collection of importance was donated to the Bodleian by the Government of India in 1905. It consisted of more than one hundred items that Lt. Col. A. Waddell had acquired whilst acting as chief medical officer for the Younghusband Expedition to Central Tibet. This workshop exploring the manuscript collection will be led by Charles Manson, Bodleian Tibetan Subject Librarian.

Screening of *Blackboard*, Thursday 16th April

Blackboard was shot between 2017 and 2018 and screened in several film festivals worldwide. The movie is a bittersweet tale about the life of a primary school teacher in a Tibetan village. He has neither a classroom nor a blackboard, just 20 students and a beautiful, young woman haunting his dreams.

Yonden is a young Tibetan film director from Ngawa county in Amdo. He studied Tibetan literature at the Northwest University for Nationalities in Lanzhou. His enthusiasm for Tibetan literature and social issues can be seen in his book, *The Timely Hero*. He has also edited several magazines and published short stories, such as *The Charity*, online. More recently, he has gone on to study filmmaking – directing two movies, *The Faraway* and *Blackboard*.

This is *Blackboard*'s UK premiere and will be followed by a Q&A with the director.



Friday 17th April 2020

8.30 – 9.00	Registration, <i>St Hilda's College</i>
9.00 – 10.30	Panel 1
10.30 – 11.00	Break
11.00 – 12.30	Panel 2
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch, <i>St Hilda's College</i>
13.30 – 15.00	Panel 3
15.00 – 15.30	Break
15.30 – 17.00	Panel 4
17.00 – 17.15	Break

17.15 – 18.45	Panel 5
19.30 onwards	Conference Dinner, tbc

Saturday 18th April 2020

9.00 – 10.30	Panel 6
10.30 – 11.00	Break
11.00 – 13.00	Roundtable and Concluding Remarks
15.00 – 16.30	Workshop at the <i>Pitt Rivers Museum</i>
18.30 -20.30	Wine reception and Keynote, <i>Wolfson College</i>

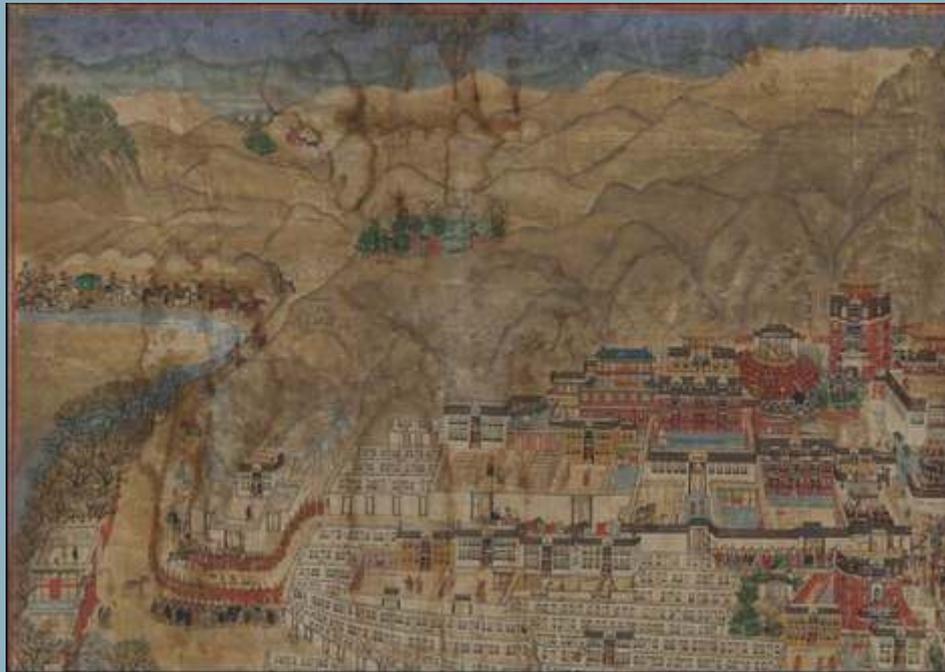
Workshop at the Pitt Rivers, Saturday 18th April

The Tibetan collection at the Pitt Rivers Museum comprises around 3,000 objects, including examples of arms and armour, textiles and dress, vessels of all kinds, medical equipment, tools, coinage, writing equipment and objects associated with religious practice. Some of the most important were donated to the museum by its founder, Augustus Pitt Rivers, in 1884.

In addition, the Pitt Rivers Museum is internationally recognised for its curation of a highly significant collection of British photographs of Tibet, totalling more than 7,000 images from the period between 1900 and 1950. They were taken by leading figures in Anglo-Tibetan relations, such as Sir Charles Bell and Hugh Richardson. Many of the images have since become iconic and are hugely valuable for reconstructing the visual history of Tibet. The photographs have also been the stimulus for teaching, research, exhibitions (e.g. 'Seeing Lhasa' in 2003) and publications (e.g. 'Photography and Tibet' by Pitt Rivers curator, Prof. Clare Harris). Several thousand of them form the core of 'The Tibet Album' website that was launched by the 14th Dalai Lama in 2008 and makes 6000 historic photographs of Tibet accessible to web users all over the world. See <http://tibet.prm.ox.ac.uk>

Keynote by Dr Matthew King, Saturday 18th April

An Eurasianist Republic of the Imagination: Amdo Through the Mongol Looking Glass



Amdo loomed large in the imagination of Mongol men of letters, especially within shared Buddhist scholastic cultures that flourished during the Qing Empire (1644-1911). For Mongolian authors, Amdo lay at the centre of newly imagined global orders and was seen as the wellspring for religious, medical, astronomical, cartographic, and historiographic thought and practice that had remade local Mongolian life. This paper argues that a tenuous but persistent form of Eurasianist public culture developed from late-imperial exchanges between Amdowa and Mongolian scholastic elites. Oriented less towards Beijing and Lhasa than a global field of "the knowledgeable" (Tib. mkhas pa; Mong. bayᠰi, nomčᠢn), participants in this late-imperial republic of the imagination innovated not only new representations of the world, but new interpretative procedures for knowing it authoritatively. The foundation for imagining the national subject in the 20th century, these Amdo-Mongol public cultures of the 18th-19th century trouble the usual association of stranger relationality with a modernity found exclusively in Europe.

Dr. Matthew King is Assistant Professor of Transnational Buddhism in the Department of Religious Studies at UCR. His teaching and research broadly focus on Tibetan and Mongolian religious identities in their transnational contexts since the early twentieth century.

PARTICIPANTS

Giulia Cabras

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Fan Jinyuan

George Fitzherbert

Cairang Gezang

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Marnyi Gyatso

Ke Xiao

Kim Hanung

Matthew King

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Jarmila Ptackova

Nicolas Silhé

Suzuki Hiryouki

Tsering Tashi

Shamo Thar

Dorje Tseten

Wang Lan

Benno Weiner

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Wu Lan

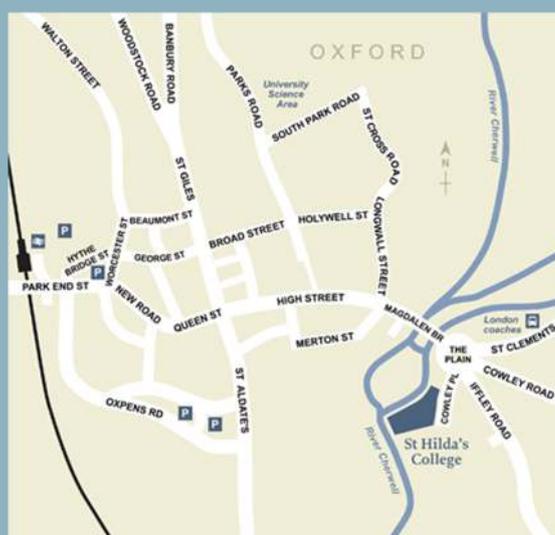
Kalsang Yangzom

KEY INFORMATION

Accommodation

Participants and observers are responsible for arranging and paying for their own accommodation. Oxford is a popular tourist destination and so we recommend booking well in advance.

We recommend St Hilda's College, which has reasonably priced accommodation, a mix of single and twin rooms, and is located on site or a short walk away. Please contact Nicky Charles (nicky.charles@st-hildas.ox.ac.uk), the Accommodation Manager, for availability and any queries you may have.



Travel

St Hilda's College is easily accessible by public transport. Coaches from London, and from Heathrow and Gatwick airports, run at regular intervals throughout the day and night, and stop a short distance from the College on St Clements. The 400 park and ride bus also stops on St Clements.

The central Oxford coach station and train station are within walkable distance (circa 25 mins) or are only a short bus or taxi ride away. Local buses from both stations (the U1, 4A, 4B and 4C buses) all stop close to College on St Clements. Taxi ranks can be found outside the main entrance to both stations.

More information regarding accommodation and travel can be found on our website: arn2020.weebly.com. If you have any question, get in touch at arnworkshop2020@gmail.com.

Registration

Registration for the conference, conference dinner, and workshops at the Bodleian Library and Pitt Rivers Museum will open on February 28th. Participants will be notified via email with a link to the registration page.

Observer registration is required to attend the conference. To do so, please get in touch at arnworkshop2020@gmail.com.

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