

ARCL0210: Archaeology of the Silk Roads

2023-24, Term 2

MA/MSc module
15 credits



Co-ordinator: Dr Paul Wordsworth
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Office hours: 4-6pm Tuesdays, Room 602

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING ASSESSMENTS:

The **coursework coversheet** is available on the course Moodle pages and here: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeology/current-students> under “Policies, Forms and Guidelines”.

Please enter **your five-digit candidate code on the coversheet and *in the subject line*** when you upload your work in Moodle.

Please use **your five-digit candidate code as the name of the file** you submit.

Please refer to the IoA Student Handbook and IoA Study Skills Guide:

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeology/current-students/ioa-student-handbook>

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeology/current-students/ioa-study-skills-guide>

for instructions on coursework submission, IoA referencing guidelines and marking criteria, as well as UCL policies on penalties for late submission, over-length work and academic misconduct.

1. MODULE OVERVIEW

Module description

The archaeology of the Silk Roads spans Eurasia, providing a context for the comparative debate of the impacts of short and long-distance contacts and exchange, and their impacts on societies, technologies, and belief systems. The main themes centre on theories of mobility, transfer, trade, and networks, to explore how contact and interaction along various routes over time are reflected in the archaeological record. It will encourage students to adopt cross-regional and cross-disciplinary approaches, and to take a critical attitude towards theoretical paradigms and narratives that have influenced the study of the Silk Roads over the past century. This module provides a comparative overview of key debates in the archaeology of Silk Roads, with a particular focus on how and why they matter today. It will emphasise the different regional trajectories of Eastern Europe, the Mediterranean, and Western, Central, Southern and Eastern Asia.

This handbook outlines the aims and objectives, structure, and content of the module. It is also available on the Institute website.

Module Aims

- To provide advanced, inter-disciplinary training in Silk Roads archaeology
- To introduce students to the most important current research questions and the main interpretative paradigms that have dominated the field.
- To develop critical faculties both in debate and in written evaluation of current research (problems, method and theory, quality of evidence).
- To engage students with the different forms of evidence (objects, archaeological sites, texts) and to critically discuss their interpretative potential for the study region.
- To examine how Silk Roads archaeology is presented today to the public across the world, in the media, in museums and on sites.
- To prepare students to undertake original research on topics in Silk Roads archaeology.

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this module a student should:

- demonstrate a good knowledge and understanding of major themes and debates in Silk Roads archaeology today;
- critically analyse and present complex arguments and theories about aspects of the subject orally and in writing;
- show a critical awareness of the contribution made by different academic disciplines and types of data to our understanding of the Silk Roads;

- compare and analyse data and material across regional and chronological boundaries and apply acquired knowledge to individual sites and bodies of material.

On successful completion of the module students should also be able to demonstrate:

- Observation and critical reflection
- Application of acquired knowledge
- Written and oral presentation skills

Methods of Assessment

The module is assessed by means of two pieces of coursework totalling 4,000 words. The first piece of work will be 1,000 words (25% of the final grade for this module). The second piece is 3,000 words (75% of the final grade for this module).

The topics and deadlines for each assessment are specified below (section 2.1). If students are unclear about the nature of an assignment, they should contact the Module Co-ordinator. The Module Co-ordinator will be willing to discuss an outline of their approach to the assessment, provided this is planned suitably in advance of the submission date.

The module comprises 15 credits towards your total degree.

Communications

- **Moodle is the main hub** for this course.
- Important information will be posted by staff in the **Announcements section of the Moodle page** and you will automatically receive an email notification for these.
- Please post any general queries relating to module content, assessments and administration in the Moodle forum which will be checked regularly.
- For personal queries, please contact the co-ordinator by email.

Week-by-week summary

Week	Date	Topic	Lecturers
1	12/02/24	Setting the scene: historiography, geography, and chronology of the Silk Roads	PDW
2	19/01/24	Migration and language	DF
3	26/01/24	Horses, mobility, nomadism	MR
4	02/02/24	Artefact approaches to trade systems	PDW
5	09/02/24	Agricultural innovations and exchange	DF
6	READING WEEK		
7	23/02/24	Religion and the Silk Roads	PDW
8	01/03/24	Early production and trade	MR
9	08/03/24	Traders, diasporas, and cities	PDW
10	15/03/24	Maritime Silk Roads	PDW
11	22/03/24	Silk Roads in the modern era	PDW

Lecturers (or other contributors)

Paul Wordsworth (PDW); Dorian Fuller (DF); Miljana Radivojevic (MR)

Weekly Module Plan

The module is taught through lectures and discussions. Students will be required to undertake set readings, complete pre-class activities and make (non-examined) short presentations of case study material in order to be able to actively participate in the discussion.

Our sessions will be held in Room 209 on Fridays 9-11am in Term 2

(please note that some parts of sessions may be presented by a remote lecturer, but held in class)

Workload

This is a 15-credit module which equates to 150 hours of learning time including session preparation, background reading, and researching and writing your assignments. With that in mind you should expect to organise your time in roughly this way:

20 hours	Staff-led teaching sessions (lectures, seminars, tutorials, discussion-board sessions)
70 hours	Self-guided session preparation (reading, listening, note-taking and online activities), about 6 hours a week
15 hours	Reading for, and writing, essay 1
45 hours	Reading for, and writing, essay 2

2. ASSESSMENT

Each assignment and possible approaches to it will be discussed in class, in advance of the submission deadline. For assignments 1 & 2, a range of possible essay topics is suggested below, but students are also invited to identify an original topic in consultation with the module coordinator (the essay title will be subject to their approval). The topic should be clearly related to at least one of the themes covered in the classes. Students wishing to write on topics that have not yet been covered in lectures are invited to seek additional guidance from the coordinator. If students are unclear about the nature of an assignment, they should discuss this with the Module Co-ordinator in advance (via email, Teams or the class Moodle forum). You will receive feedback on your written coursework via Moodle, and can discuss your marks and feedback with the co-ordinator.

In this module your essays should examine theoretical issues, using archaeological sites and practices, from any area, to illustrate your discussions. Like most academic writing, your essays should present an argument supported by analysis. Typically, your analysis will include a critical evaluation (not simply description) of concepts in some subset of archaeological theoretical literature. Remember, you must draw upon readings from

multiple class sessions, examine some of the primary literature in addition to secondary literature, and use references to support your assertions.

For more details see the 'Assessment' section on Moodle. The coursework coversheet is available on the course Moodle pages and here: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeology/current-students> under "Policies, Forms and Guidelines".

Please make sure you enter your five-digit candidate code on the coversheet and in the subject line when you upload your work in Moodle.

Please use your five-digit candidate code as the name of the file you submit.

The [IoA marking criteria](#) can be found in the IoA Student Handbook (Section 13: Information on assessment). The [IoA Study Skills Guide](#) provides useful guidance on writing different types of assignment.

Please note that **late submission, exceeding the maximum word count and academic misconduct (plagiarism)** will be penalized and can significantly reduce the mark awarded for the assignment and/or overall module result. On requirements, please do consult <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeology/current-students/ioa-student-handbook/13-information-assessment> with sections 13.7–13.8: coursework submission, 13.10: word count, 13.12–14: academic integrity.

Assessment 1 (Essay)

Please choose ONE of the questions below, or discuss with the course coordinator an alternative pair of journal articles.

Your essay should be a maximum of 1,000 words in length. You should use illustrations as appropriate.

1) Produce a critical review of the articles of Kristiansen 2018 and Bang, 2018.

- Summarise the main arguments of both authors regarding trade: what is each arguing for and arguing against.
- How do they define trade?
- What evidence do they use to support their differing opinions?
- What elements of their arguments do you agree and disagree with, and why?

Bang, P.F. 2018. Empire, Civilization, and Trade: The Roman Experience in World History, in: Kristiansen, K., Lindkvist, T. & Myrdal, J. (Eds.) *Trade and Civilisation: Economic Networks and Cultural Ties, from Prehistory to the Early Modern Era*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. pp. 494-514. INST ARCH HE KRI and online via UCL library

Kristiansen, K. 2018. Theorizing Trade and Civilization. In Kristiansen, K., Lindkvist, T. & Myrdal, J. (Eds.) *Trade and Civilisation: Economic Networks and Cultural Ties, from Prehistory to the Early Modern Era*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp 1-24. INST ARCH HE KRI and online via UCL library.

2) Produce a critical review of the articles of the articles by Christian 2000 and Whitfield 2007

- Summarise the main arguments of both authors regarding the Silk Roads: what is each arguing for and arguing against.
- How do they define the scale, scope and impact of the Silk Roads and what problems do they perceive?
- What evidence do they use to support their differing opinions?
- What elements of their arguments do you agree and disagree with, and why?

Christian, D. 2000. Silk Roads or Steppe Roads? The Silk Roads in World History. *Journal of World History*. 11(1): 1-26

Whitfield, S. 2007. Was there a Silk Road? *Asian Medicine*. 3(2): 201-13. <https://doi-org.libproxy.ucl.ac.uk/10.1163/157342008X307839>

3) Produce a critical review of the article by Fitzpatrick (2011) and the chapter by Cobb (2018)

- Summarise the main arguments of both authors regarding the Roman Empire and Indian Ocean trade: what is each arguing for and arguing against.
- What issues do they perceive as the most important?
- What evidence do they use to support their differing opinions?

Fitzpatrick, M.P. 2011. Provincializing Rome: The Indian Ocean trade network and Roman imperialism. *Journal of World History*, 22(1): 27-54

Cobb, M.A. 2018. *Rome and the Indian Ocean Trade from Augustus to the Early Third Century CE*. Read: Chapter 4: The Roman State and the Indian Ocean Trade. Leiden: Brill. Online via UCL library

4) Produce a critical review of the articles of the articles by Mukherjee 2017 and Oka 2018

- Summarise the main arguments of both authors regarding the Indian Ocean: what is each arguing for and arguing against.
- How do they perceive the region and the issues?
- What evidence do they use to support their differing opinions?
- What elements of their arguments do you agree and disagree with, and why?

Mukherjee, R. 2017. Ambivalent engagements: The Bay of Bengal in the Indian Ocean world. *The International Journal of Maritime History*. 29(1): 96-110

Oka, R. 2018. Trade, Traders, and Trading Systems: Macromodeling of Trade, Commerce, and Civilization in the Indian Ocean, in: Kristiansen, K., Lindkvist, T. & Myrdal, J. (Eds.) *Trade and Civilisation: Economic Networks and Cultural Ties, from Prehistory to the Early Modern Era*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. pp. 279-319. INST ARCH HE KRI and online via UCL library

5) Produce a critical review of the articles of the articles by Hermes et al. 2018, Spengler 2015 and Stevens 2016

- Summarise the main arguments of the authors regarding the spread and interaction of agriculture/breeding: what is each arguing for and arguing against.
- What do they perceive as the main issues?
- What evidence do they use to support their differing opinions?
- What elements of their arguments do you agree and disagree with, and why?

Hermes, T.R., Frachetti, M.D., Bullion, E.A., Maksudov, F., Mustafokulov, S. & Makarewicz, C.A. 2018. Urban and nomadic isotopic niches reveal dietary connectivities along Central Asia's Silk Roads. *Scientific Reports*, 8(1): 5177. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1038/s41598-018-22995-2>

Spengler, R. N. 2015. Agriculture in the Central Asian Bronze Age. *Journal of World Prehistory*, 28(3), 215-253.

Stevens, C. J., Murphy, C., Roberts, R., Lucas, L., Silva, F., & Fuller, D. Q. 2016. Between China and South Asia: A Middle Asian corridor of crop dispersal and agricultural innovation in the Bronze Age. *The Holocene*, 26(10), 1541-1555.

6) Produce a critical review of the articles of the articles by Hall et al. 2011 and Turchin 2009

- Summarise the main arguments of the authors regarding world-systems and its relevance to the Silk Roads: what is each arguing for and arguing against.
- What do they perceive as the main issues?
- What evidence do they use to support their differing opinions?
- What elements of their arguments do you agree and disagree with, and why?

Hall, T.D., Kardulias, P.N. & Chase-Dunn, C. 2011. World-Systems Analysis and Archaeology: Continuing the Dialogue. *Journal of Archaeological Research*, 19(3): 233-79

Turchin, P. 2009. A theory for formation of large empires. *Journal of Global History*, 4(2): 191-217. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S174002280900312X>

Assessment 2 (Essay)

There are so many possible avenues for research and reading. Essays dictate much of your reading, so talk it over with the course coordinator.

Below are two EXAMPLE questions: you can choose one of these, or discuss with the course coordinator a topic you are interested in. Your essay should be a maximum of 3,000 words in length. You should use illustrations as appropriate.

Caravanserais

Many caravanserais, both in the cities and along the caravan routes, many caravanserais have been excavated, documented and debated. Either:

- a) Discuss the development of the architectural form of the caravanserai, and its variations, including urban khans.

Or

b) Discuss the function of caravanserai on routes: facilitating travel and trade or controlling movement, people and taxes?

Some suggested reading:

Blessing, P. & Goshgarian, R. (Eds.) 2017. *Architecture and Landscape in Medieval Anatolia, 1100-1500*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press. ONLINE via UCL library.

Brice, W.C. 2015. Caravan Traffic across Asia. *Antiquity*, 28(110): 78-84.
<https://doi.org/10.1017/S0003598X00025242>

Graf, D.F. 2013. Caravan trade. In: R.S. Bagnall, K. Brodersen, C.B. Champion, A. Erskine and S.R. Huebner (Eds.) *The Encyclopedia of Ancient History*. <https://doi-org.libproxy.ucl.ac.uk/10.1002/9781444338386.wbeah06056>

Harold, F. 2008. Caravan Routes of Iran. *The Silk Road*, 6(1): 17-27

Hawari, M. 2001. Khan al-Lubban: a caravanserai on the Damascus-Jerusalem road. *Levant*. 33: 7-20

Mirzaakhmedov, S.D. 2012. The Ribāt-Caravanserais from the Eastern Suburbs of Paykand. Archaeological and Historical Aspects. *Journal of Inner Asian Art and Archaeology*, 7: 109-23. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1484/J.JIAAA.4.2017006>

Palombini, A. & Tavernari, C. 2016. On their way home ... A network analysis of medieval caravanserai distribution in the Syrian region, according to a 1D approach. In: Campana, S., Scopigno, R., Carpentiero, G. & Cirillo, M. (Eds.) *CAA 2015: Keep the revolution going. Proceedings of the 43rd annual conference on computer applications and quantitative methods in archaeology*. Oxford: Archaeopress, pp. 637-45. INST ARCH AK20 Qto COM & ONLINE via UCL Library

Seland, E.H. 2014. The Organisation of the Palmyrene Caravan Trade. *Ancient West and East*, 13: 197-211

Shokoohy, M. 1983. The Sasanian Caravanserai of Dayr-i gachin, South of Ray, Iran. *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies*, University of London, 46(3): 445-61

Wordsworth, P. 2015. Merv on Khorasanian trade routes from the 10th-13th centuries, in: Rante, R. (Eds.) *Greater Khorasan: History, Geography, Archaeology and Material Culture*. Berlin: De Gruyter, pp. 51-62. ONLINE via UCL Library

Wordsworth, P. 2016. Sustaining travel: the economy of medieval stopping places across the Karakum Desert, Turkmenistan, in: McPhillips, S. & Wordsworth, P. (Eds.) *Landscapes of the Islamic World: Archaeology, History, and Ethnography*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, pp. 219-36. INST ARCH DBA 100 MCP & ONLINE via UCL Library

Yang, F. 2004. The 'Ancient Tea and Horse caravan road', the 'Silk Road' of southwest China. *The Silk Road*, 2(1): 29-33

Yavuz, A.T. 1997. The concepts that shape Anatolian Seljuq Caravanserais. *Muqarnas*. 14: 80-95

Maritime Indian Ocean

Discuss the role of the Indian Ocean in the development of the Maritime Silk Routes. To what extent is the Indian Ocean, and the Monsoon, a dominant narrative of the MSR?

Suggested reading:

Beaujard, P. 2005. The Indian Ocean in Eurasian and African World-Systems before the Sixteenth Century. *Journal of World History*. 16(4): 411-65.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1353/jwh.2006.0014>

Biedermann, Z. & Strathern, A. (Eds.) 2017. *Sri Lanka at the Crossroads of History*. London: UCL Press. HISTORY 53 CA BIE & ONLINE via UCL library.

Bellina, B., Win, M.S., Htwe, K.M.M., Thu, H.M., Castillo, C., Colonna, C., Dussubieux, L., Favereau, A., Miyama, E., Pradier, B., Pryce, T.O., Srikanlaya, S. & Trivière, E. 2018. Myanmar's earliest Maritime Silk Road port-settlements revealed. *Antiquity*. 92(366): e6.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.15184/aqy.2018.247>

Campbell, G. (Ed.) 2016. *Africa and the Early Indian Ocean World Exchange to circa 1300*. London: Palgrave Macmillan. ONLINE via UCL library.

Hoogervorst, T. 2017. Tracing maritime connections between Island Southeast Asia and the Indian Ocean world, in: Hodos, T., Geurds, A., Lane, P., Lilley, I., Pitts, M., Shelach, G., Stark, M. & Versluys, M.J. (Eds.) *The Routledge Handbook of Archaeology and Globalization*.

London & New York: Routledge. pp. 751-67. ONLINE via UCL Library

<https://www.routledgehandbooks.com/doi/10.4324/9781315449005.ch51>

Mukherjee, R. 2017. Ambivalent engagements: The Bay of Bengal in the Indian Ocean world. *The International Journal of Maritime History*. 29(1): 96-110

Oka, R. 2018. Trade, Traders, and Trading Systems: Macromodeling of Trade, Commerce, and Civilization in the Indian Ocean, in: Kristiansen, K., Lindkvist, T. & Myrdal, J. (Eds.) *Trade and Civilisation: Economic Networks and Cultural Ties, from Prehistory to the Early Modern Era*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. pp. 279-319. INST ARCH HE KRI & ONLINE via UCL library

Ray, H.P. 2016. Maritime Archaeology of the Indian Ocean. In: *Oxford Research Encyclopedia, Asian History*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780190277727.013.27>

Stargardt, J. 2014. Indian Ocean Trade in the Ninth and Tenth Centuries: Demand, Distance, and Profit. *South Asian Studies*. 30(1): 35-55.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/02666030.2014.892375>

Currently only available in the library:

Cobb, M.A. (Eds.) 2019. *The Indian Ocean Trade in Antiquity: Political, Cultural and Economic Impacts*. Abingdon: Routledge. INST ARCH DBM COB.

Mukherjee, R. (Eds.) 2014. *Vanguards of Globalization: Port-Cities from the Classical to the Modern*. Delhi: Primus Books. INST ARCH HG MUK

Sheel, K., Shrivak, L. & Willemen, C. (Eds.) 2010. *India on the Silk Route*. Delhi: Buddhist World Press. INST ARCH DBK SHE.

3. RESOURCES AND PREPARATION FOR CLASS

Preparation for class

You are expected to read the **essential readings and complete any essential online activities on Moodle** each week. Completing the readings is essential for your effective participation in the activities and discussions that we will do, and it will greatly enhance your understanding of the material covered. **Further readings are provided via the Online Reading List** for you to get a sense of the range of current work on a given topic and for you to draw upon for your assessments. The online reading list is accessible through the Moodle page of the module, or directly here:

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When reading and critically analysing each article it is helpful to make 5-6 bullet points on the article for discussion in class and to consider the:

- wider significance of the research topic
- key research themes, issues and questions
- aims and objectives
- case-studies examined
- theoretical and methodological approaches to the topic

Recommended basic texts and online resources

Recommended introductory resources (online)

Benjamin, C. 2018. *Empires of Ancient Eurasia: The First Silk Roads Era, 100 BCE – 250 CE*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. ONLINE via UCL library

Christian, D. 2000. Silk Roads or Steppe Roads? The Silk Roads in World History. *Journal of World History*. 11(1): 1-26

Liu, X. 2010. *The Silk Road in World History*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. INST ARCH DBK LIU & ONLINE via UCL library

Spengler, R. 2019. *Fruit from the Sands: The Silk Road Origins of the Foods We Eat*. University of California Press. ONLINE via UCL library

Recommended introductory resources (offline)

Millward, J.A. 2013. *The Silk Road: a Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. INST ARCH DBL MIL

Whitfield, S. (Ed.) 2019. *Silk Roads: Peoples, Cultures, Landscapes*. London: Thames & Hudson. INST ARCH DBK Qto WHI

Wood, F. 2002. *The Silk Road: Two Thousand Years in the Heart of Asia*. Berkeley: University of California Press. INST ARCH DBK WOO

4. SYLLABUS

Week 1: Setting the scene: historiography and resources for the study of the Silk Road; general geographic and chronological frameworks

The Silk Roads have become an evocative synonym for the connection between ancient civilizations. Utilising a complex network of land and maritime routes, merchants, diplomats, missionaries, and soldiers carried commodities, ideas, languages, customs, and pathogens enormous distances. The archaeology of the Silk Roads spans Eurasia, providing a context for the comparative debate of the impacts of short and long-distance contacts and exchange, and their impacts on societies, technologies, and belief systems. The main themes centre on theories of mobility, transfer, trade, diplomatic exchange, conflict, empires, and networks.

This session explores some of the theoretical paradigms and narratives that have influenced the study of the Silk Roads over the past century. It will also provide the basic chronological, geographic, and ecological context of the Silk Roads.

Essential Reading

Di Cosmo, N. & Maas, M. (eds.). 2018. *Empires and Exchanges in Eurasian Late Antiquity: Rome, China, Iran, and the Steppe, ca. 250–750*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. ONLINE via UCL Library. *Introduction by Nicola Di Cosmo & Michael Maas, pp 1-16

Kristiansen, K., Lindkvist, T. & Myrdal, J. (Eds.) 2018. *Trade and Civilisation: Economic Networks and Cultural Ties, from Prehistory to the Early Modern Era*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. INST ARCH HE KRI and ONLINE via UCL Library. **Chapter 1 Theorizing Trade and Civilization**

And if you have time:

Pieterse, J.N. 2017. Long histories of globalization. In: Hodos, T., Geurds, A., Lane, P., Lilley, I., Pitts, M., Shelach, G., Stark, M. & Versluys, M.J. (Eds.) *The Routledge Handbook of Archaeology and Globalization*. London & New York: Routledge. pp. 935-53. ONLINE via UCL Library <https://www.routledgehandbooks.com/doi/10.4324/9781315449005.ch62>

Further reading for the Silk Roads in general (online)

Autiero, S. & Cobb, M.A. (Eds.) 2021. *Globalization and Transculturality from Antiquity to the Pre-Modern World*. London: Routledge. Online via UCL Library

Benjamin, C. 2018. *Empires of Ancient Eurasia: The First Silk Roads Era, 100 BCE – 250 CE*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. ONLINE via UCL library. *Chapter 1 Pastoral Nomads and the Empires of the Steppe

Feinman, G.M. 2017. Economic aspects of globalization in the past material world, in: Hodos, T., Geurds, A., Lane, P., Lilley, I., Pitts, M., Shelach, G., Stark, M. & Versluys, M.J. (Eds.) *The*

Routledge Handbook of Archaeology and Globalization. London & New York: Routledge, pp. 42-53. <https://www.routledgehandbooks.com/doi/10.4324/9781315449005.ch4>

Frachetti, M.D., Smith, C.E., Traub, C.M. & Williams, T. 2017. Nomadic ecology shaped the highland geography of Asia's Silk Roads. *Nature*. 543(7644): 193-8. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1038/nature21696>

Hermes, T.R., Frachetti, M.D., Bullion, E.A., Maksudov, F., Mustafokulov, S. & Makarewicz, C.A. 2018. Urban and nomadic isotopic niches reveal dietary connectivities along Central Asia's Silk Roads. *Scientific Reports*. 8(1): 5177. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1038/s41598-018-22995-2>

Høisæter, T.L. 2017. Politics and nomads: the emergence of the Silk Road exchange in the Tarim Basin region during late prehistory (2000–400 BCE). *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies*. 80(2): 339-63. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0041977X17000507>

Kim, H.J., Vervaet, F. & Adalı, S.F. 2017. *Eurasian empires in antiquity and the early Middle Ages: contact and exchange between the Graeco-Roman world, inner Asia and China*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. ONLINE via UCL library

Kuzmina, E. E. 2008. *The Prehistory of the Silk Road*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press. INST ARCH DBK KUZ and ONLINE via UCL Library.

Liu, X. (Ed.) 2023. *The World of the Ancient Silk Road*. Abingdon: Routledge. Online via UCL Library. <https://www.taylorfrancis.com/books/9780429244582>

Mair, V. H. and Hickman, J. (Eds.) 2014. *Reconfiguring the Silk Road: New Research on East-West Exchange in Antiquity*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. INST ARCH DBK Qto MAI and ONLINE via UCL Library. **[Especially Chapter 2 The Silk Road in Late Antiquity (pp. 15-22) by Peter Brown & Chapter 8 Concluding comments: reconfiguring the Silk Road, or when does the Silk Road emerge and how does it qualitatively change over time? (pp. 89-94) by Philip L. Kohl]**

Park, H. 2012. *Mapping the Chinese and Islamic Worlds: Cross-Cultural Exchange in Pre-Modern Asia*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. ONLINE via UCL library

Stevens, C.J., Murphy, C., Roberts, R., Lucas, L., Silva, F. & Fuller, D.Q. 2016. Between China and South Asia: A Middle Asian corridor of crop dispersal and agricultural innovation in the Bronze Age. *The Holocene*. 26(10): 1541-55. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/0959683616650268>

UNESCO (Eds.) 2016. *The Eastern Silk Roads Story: 2015 Conference Proceedings*. Paris: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). http://www.unescobkk.org/fileadmin/user_upload/culture/Silk_Roads/The_Eastern_Silk_Roads_Story_2015_Conference_Proceedings_UNESCO_re.pdf

Williams, T. 2014. Silk Roads: an ICOMOS thematic study. Charenton-le-Pont: ICOMOS. INST ARCH DBK Qto WIL ONLINE <http://openarchive.icomos.org/1487/>

Further reading for Silk Roads in General (not online)

- Baumer, C. 2012. *The History of Central Asia. Volume one: The Age of the Steppe Warriors*. London: I.B. Tauris. INST ARCH DBK Qto BAU
- Baumer, C. 2014. *The History of Central Asia. Volume Two: The Age of the Silk Roads*. London: I.B. Tauris. INST ARCH DBK Qto BAU
- Baumer, C. 2016. *The History of Central Asia. Volume Three: The History of Central Asia*. London: I.B. Tauris. INST ARCH DBK Qto BAU
- Baumer, C. 2018. *The History of Central Asia. Volume Four: The Age of Decline and Revival*. London: I.B. Tauris. INST ARCH DBK Qto BAU
- Beckwith, C.I. 2009. *Empires of the Silk Road: A History of Central Eurasia from the Bronze Age to the Present*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. INST ARCH DBK BEC
- Chang, C. 2018. *Rethinking Prehistoric Central Asia: Shepherds, Farmers, and Nomads*. London: Routledge. INST ARCH DBK CHA
- Curtis, V.S. & Magub, A. 2020. *Rivalling Rome: Parthian Coins & Culture*. London: British Museum and Spink. Especially Chapter 5 Silk and luxury trade: Palmyra, Dura Europos and Hatra
- Di Cosmo, N. 2020. The 'birth' of the Silk Road between ecological frontiers and military innovation, in: Lerner, J.D. & Shi, Y. (Eds.) *Silk Roads: From Local Realities to Global Narratives*. Oxford: Oxbow Books. pp. 11-20.
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- Jacobson-Tepf, E. & Meacham, J.E. 2009. *Archaeology and Landscape in the Mongolian Altai: An Atlas*. Environmental Systems Research Institute Inc.
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Squires, V.R. & Shang, Z. (Eds.) 2017. *Rangelands Along the Silk Road: Transformative Adaptation Under Climate & Global Change*. Nova Science Publishers.

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Whitfield, S. 2018. *Silk, Slaves, and Stupas: Material Culture of the Silk Road*. Oakland: University of California Press. INST ARCH DBK WHI

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Olsen, S. J. 1988. The camel in ancient China and an osteology of the camel. *Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia*, 140(1), 18-58.

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Spengler, R. N. 2014. Niche dwelling vs. niche construction: Landscape modification in the Bronze and Iron Ages of Central Asia. *Human Ecology*, 42(6), 813-821.

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Stevens, C. J., Murphy, C., Roberts, R., Lucas, L., Silva, F., & Fuller, D. Q. 2016. Between China and South Asia: A Middle Asian corridor of crop dispersal and agricultural innovation in the Bronze Age. *The Holocene*, 26(10), 1541-1555.

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Cunliffe, B. 2015. *By Steppe, Desert, and Ocean. The Birth of Eurasia*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. *Chapter 1. The Land and the People, pp. 1-34.

Fuller, D. Q. 2009. Late Harappan "collapse", the opening of central Asia and long-distance crop movements, in: Endo, H. (Eds.) *Ethnogenesis of South and Central Asia (ESCA): 13th Harvard University Round Table, Kyoto Session, Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN), Kyoto, Japan, 30-31 May 2009*. Kyoto: Research Institute for Humanity and Nature. pp. 3-11. INST ARCH DBM END

Week 2: Migration and language

Recent advances in the recovery of ancient genomes has given new life to discussions of large-scale migration processes in prehistory related to the spread of language groups, such as the Indo-European family, and especially the spread of Indo-Iranian languages out central Asia into the Middle East and South Asia in the Bronze Age. Such discussion inevitably must address how historical linguistics reconstructs past cultures and attempts to identify those

reconstructions with archaeologists' cultures and archaeological inferences of migration. This session will both consider how historical linguistics works, how archaeologists have related language family distributions to archaeology, either through general hypotheses like the Language/Agriculture hypothesis (see Diamond and Bellwood 2003) or through more

regionally specific identifications like the search origins of Indo-Iranianism cultures in central Asia (including the Tarim Basin of western China), and in Post-Harappan cultural changes in north western India and Pakistan.

Essential reading

Diamond, J. and Bellwood, P. 2003. Farmers and their languages: the first expansions. *Science* 300, 597-603

Haggerty, P. and Renfrew, C. 2014. South and Island Southeast Asia: Languages. In Renfrew, C. and Bahn, P. (Eds.) *The Cambridge World Prehistory, Volume 1*. New York: Cambridge University Press, pp. 534-548. INST ARCH AF REN and ONLINE via UCL library

Parpola, A. 1999. The formation of the Aryan branch of Indo-European. In: Blench, R. and Spriggs, M. (eds.) *Archaeology and Language III. Artefacts, Languages and Texts*. London: Routledge, pp. 180-207. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780203202906>

Lamberg-Karlovsky, C. C. 2002. Archaeology and Language. The Indo-Iranians. *Current Anthropology* 43: 63-88

Narasimhan, V.M., Patterson, N.J., et al. 2019. The Formation of Human Populations in South and Central Asia. *Science* 365 (6457): 999; eaat7487 (6 Sept. 2019). <http://dx.doi.org/10.1126/science.aat7487>

Further reading (online)

Blench, R. 1999. Language phyla of the Indo-Pacific region: recent research and classification. *Bulletin of the Indo-Pacific Prehistory Association* 18, 59-76

Fuller, D. Q. 2007. Non-Human Genetics, Agricultural Origins and Historical Linguistics. In: Petraglia, M. D. and Allchin, B. (eds.) *The Evolution and History of Human Populations in South Asia*. Dordrecht: Springer, pp. 393-443. INST ARCH BB 1 PET and <http://www.homepages.ucl.ac.uk/~tcrndfu/downloads.htm>

Parpola, A. 1988. The coming of the Aryans to Iran and India and the cultural and ethnic identity of the Dasas. *Studia Orientalia* (Helsinki) 64, 195-302

Witzel, M. 1999. Early Sources for South Asian Substrate Languages. *Mother Tongue Special Issue*, 1-76. ONLINE via UCL Library.

Further reading (not online)

Anthony, D. 2010. *The Horse, the Wheel and Language: How Bronze-Age Riders from the Eurasian Steppes Shaped the Modern World*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press. INST ARCH DBK ANT

Bellwood, P. and Renfrew, C. (eds) 2003. *Examining the Language/Farming Dispersal Hypothesis*. McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, Cambridge. INST ARCH HA Qto BEL

Bryant, E. 2001. *The Quest for the Origins of Vedic Culture. The Indo-Aryan Migration Debate*. Oxford University Press, Delhi. INST ARCH DBMA 100 BRY

Mallory, J. P. and Mair, V. H. 2000. *The Tarim Mummies*. London: Thames and Hudson. Chapters 3. "The Linguistic Landscape", and 8. "The usual suspects: Indo-Iranians", pp. 102-131, 252-269. INST ARCH DBL MAL

Southworth, F. C. 2005. *The Linguistic Archaeology of South Asia*. London: Routledge. INST ARCH DBM SOU

Van Driem, G. 2001. *Languages of the Himalayas: an Ethnolinguistic Handbook of the Greater Himalayan Region: Containing an Introduction to the Symbiotic Theory of Language*. Leiden: Brill. STORE 07-0905

Week 3: Horses, mobility and nomadism

In this session we will explore the lifeways of the later prehistoric communities in the Eurasian Steppes. Building on the major shift from farming to pastoralism at the beginning of the Bronze Age, we look into various adaptations of steppe communities living in different (eco) regions, including subsistence economy, dwelling practices, mobility, transport and technologies. The aim of the session is to offer insights into diverse responses of pastoralist communities to environmental and economic demands at the time, ultimately leading into a new level of connectedness and communication across this space.

Essential reading

Beck, U., Wagner, M., Li, X., Durkin-Meisterernst, D., and Tarasov, P. E. (2014). The invention of trousers and its likely affiliation with horseback riding and mobility: A case study of late 2nd millennium BC finds from Turfan in eastern Central Asia. *Quaternary International* 348, 224-235. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.quaint.2014.04.056>

de Barros Damgaard, P. et al. 2018. The first horse herders and the impact of early Bronze Age steppe expansions into Asia. *Science* 360, eaar7711. <https://doi.org/10.1126/science.aar7711>

Di Cosmo, N. 1994. Ancient Inner Asian Nomads: Their Economic Basis and Its Significance in Chinese History. *The Journal of Asian Studies*, 53(4), 1092-1126. <https://doi.org/10.2307/2059235>

Fages, A. et al. 2019. Tracking Five Millennia of Horse Management with Extensive Ancient Genome Time Series. *Cell* 177, 1419-1435.e1431, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cell.2019.03.049>

Frachetti, M. D. 2012. Multiregional Emergence of Mobile Pastoralism and Nonuniform Institutional Complexity across Eurasia. *Current Anthropology* 53, 2-38, <https://doi.org/10.1086/663692>

Honeychurch, W. 2014. Alternative Complexities: The Archaeology of Pastoral Nomadic States. *Journal of Archaeological Research*, 22(4), 277-326. www.jstor.org/stable/24018064

Pankova, S. 2017. Identifications of Iron Age Tattoos from the Altai-Sayan Mountains in Russia. In Krutak, L. & Deter-Wolf, A. (Eds.), *Ancient Ink: The Archaeology of Tattooing*. Seattle; London: University of Washington Press, pp. 66-98. www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctvcwnc53.9

Unterländer, A. et al. 2017. Ancestry and demography and descendants of Iron Age nomads of the Eurasian Steppe. *Nature Communications* 8: 14615, <https://doi.org/10.1038/ncomms14615>

Further reading (online)

Anthony, D.W. 2007. *The Horse, the Wheel, and Language: How Bronze-Age Riders from the Eurasian Steppes Shaped the Modern World*. Princeton University Press, Princeton, N.J. Ch. 10 & 13. Available online via UCL Library

Amitai, R. & Biran, M. (Eds.) 2015. *Nomads as Agents of Cultural Change: The Mongols and Their Eurasian Predecessors*. University of Hawai'i Press. www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt13x1j5b

Frachetti, M. D. 2008. *Pastoralist Landscapes and Social Interaction in Bronze Age Eurasia*. University of California Press, Berkeley. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1525/j.ctt1ppr5d>

Frachetti, M.D., Smith, C.E., Traub, C.M. & Williams, T. 2017. Nomadic ecology shaped the highland geography of Asia's Silk Roads. *Nature* 543(7644): 193-8. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1038/nature21696>

Gaunitz, C. et al. 2018. Ancient genomes revisit the ancestry of domestic and Przewalski's horses. *Science* 360, 111. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1126/science.aao3297>

Genito, B. 2023. Invention and spread of horse chariots around Afro-Eurasia, in: Liu, X. (Ed.) *The World of the Ancient Silk Road*. Abingdon: Routledge. pp. 84-102. Online via UCL Library

Herodotus (440 BC) *The Histories*. Book IV.

http://wps.pearsoncustom.com/wps/media/objects/2426/2484749/chap_assets/bookshelf/hero_dotus.pdf

Honeychurch, W. 2015. *Inner Asia and the Spatial Politics of Empire: Archaeology, Mobility, and Culture Contact*. New York: Springer. Online via UCL Library. *Especially: Chapter 7 At the Edge of Inner Asia: The Northern Zone and States of China, 1200–700 BC.

Juras, A., Krzewińska, M., Nikitin, A. G., Ehler, E., Chyleński, M., Łukasik, S., Krenz- Niedbała, M., Sinika, V., Piontek, J., Ivanova, S., Dabert, M., and Götherström, A. 2017. Diverse origin of mitochondrial lineages in Iron Age Black Sea Scythians. *Scientific Reports* 7: 43950. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1038/srep43950>

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www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt14bthp8.8

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*Especially Chapter 11 Skin: Tattooed Amazons, Chapter 18 Who invented trousers? Chapter 19 Armed and Dangerous: Weapons and Warfare

Outram, A. K., Stear, N. A., Bendrey, R., Olsen, S., Kasparov, A., Zaibert, V., Thorpe, N., and Evershed, R. P. 2009. The Earliest Horse Harnessing and Milking. *Science* 323: 1332.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1126/science.1168594>

Pogrebova, M. 2003. The Emergence of Chariots and Riding in the South Caucasus. *Oxford Journal of Archaeology* 22, 397-409. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1046/j.1468-0092.2003.00195.x>

Shishlina, N. I., Kovalev, D. S., and Ibragimova, E. R. 2014. Catacomb culture wagons of the Eurasian steppes. *Antiquity* 88, 378-394. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0003598X00101061>

Travis, J. (2008). Trail of Mare's Milk Leads to First Tamed Horses. *Science* 322, 368,
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1126/science.322.5900.368a>

Further reading (not online)

Bashilov, V.A., Yablonski, L.T. and Davis-Kimball, J. (eds.) 1995. *Nomads of the Eurasian Steppes in the Early Iron Age*. Berkeley, CA: Zinat Press. INST ARCH DBK DAV

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Kristiansen, K. and Larsson, T. 2005. *The Rise of Bronze Age Society: Travels, Transmissions and Transformations*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge. INST ARCH DA 150 KRI

Linduff, K. M. and Rubinson, K. (Eds.) 2008. *Are All Warriors Male?: Gender Roles on the Ancient Eurasian Steppe*. Plymouth: Altamira Press. INST ARCH DBK LIN

Olsen, S., Bradley, B., Maki, D., and Outram, Alan K. 2006. Community organisation among Copper Age sedentary horse pastoralists of Kazakhstan. In Peterson, D. L., Popova, L. M., and Smith, A. T. (Eds.) *Beyond the Steppe and the Sown: Proceedings of the 2002 University of Chicago Conference on Eurasian Archaeology*. Brill, Boston, pp. 89-111

Wilkinson, T.C., Sherratt, S. & Bennet, J. (Eds.) 2011. *Interweaving Worlds: Systemic Interactions in Eurasia, 7th to the 1st Millennia BC*. Oxford: Oxbow. INST ARCH KJ WIL

Week 4: Artefact approaches to trade systems

As archaeologists, our main proxy-evidence for trade is in the form of artefact assemblages. But how do we go from understanding the properties of objects, to reconstructing the Silk Roads? What pitfalls should be avoided when we look to reconstruct routes based on the distribution of artefacts? What further possibilities are there for exploring as yet unknown trade corridors through artefact analysis? This session will focus on the theoretical underpinnings of material culture on the Silk Roads, in preparation for your session on the practical evidence of production and trade in the early Silk Roads in Week 7.

The majority of the session will be devoted to an artefact handling session where we will actually look at objects from the regions of the Silk Roads held in the IoA collections.

Essential Reading

Chinni, T. *et al.* (2023) 'Glass from the Silk Roads. Insights into new finds from Uzbekistan', *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports*, 48, p. 103841. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jasrep.2023.103841>.

Kenoyer, J. M. (2017). 'Textiles and trade in South Asia during the Proto-Historic and Early Historic Period'. In B. Hildebrandt & C. Gillis (Eds.), *Silk: Trade & Exchange along the Silk Roads between Rome and China in Antiquity*, pp. 7–26. Oxford: Oxbow Books.
<https://doi.org/10.2307/j.ctvh1dsv4.6>

Zhang, R. *et al.* (2023). 'Longquan celadon: a quantitative archaeological analysis of a pan-Indian Ocean industry of the 12th to 15th centuries'. *World Archaeology*, pp. 1–23. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1080/00438243.2023.2216183>.

Further reading (online)

Bellina, B. (2022). 'Southeast Asian evidence for early maritime Silk road exchange and trade-related polities'. In C.F.W. Higham and Nam C. Kim (eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Early Southeast Asia*, pp. 458-500. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Doumani Dupuy, P.N., Spengler, R.N. and Frachetti, M.D. (2018) 'Eurasian textiles: Case studies in exchange during the incipient and later Silk Road periods', *Quaternary International*, 468, pp. 228–239. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.quaint.2016.09.067>.

Henderson, J. (2022) 'Politics of Production, Glass Provenance and Social Context on the Early Islamic Silk Roads', *Journal of Islamic Archaeology*, 8(2), pp. 203-237. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1558/jia.20773>.

Høisæter, T.L. (2017) 'Politics and nomads: the emergence of the Silk Road exchange in the Tarim Basin region during late prehistory (2000–400 BCE)'. *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies*, 80(2): 339-63. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0041977X17000507>

Hildebrandt, B. (Eds.) (2017). *Silk: Trade and Exchange along the Silk Roads between Rome and China in Antiquity*. Oxford: Oxbow Books. ONLINE via UCL library

Kessler, A.T. (2012). *Song Blue and White Porcelain on the Silk Road*. Leiden: Brill. INST ARCH KD Qto KES and ONLINE via UCL Library

Kristiansen, K., Lindkvist, T. & Myrdal, J. (Eds.) (2018) *Trade and Civilisation: Economic Networks and Cultural Ties, from Prehistory to the Early Modern Era*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. INST ARCH HE KRI and ONLINE via UCL library

Laiou, A.E. & Morisson, C. (2007). *The Byzantine Economy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. HISTORY 82 C 1 LAI and ONLINE via UCL Library

Lu, H., Zhang, J., Yang, Y., Yang, X., Xu, B., Yang, W., Tong, T., Jin, S., Shen, C., Rao, H., Rao, H., Li, X., Fuller, D., Wang, L., Wang, C., Xu, D. & Wu, N. (2016). 'Earliest tea as evidence for one branch of the Silk Road across the Tibetan Plateau'. *Nature Scientific Reports*. 6: 18955

Mair, V.H. & Hickman, J. (Eds.) (2014). *Reconfiguring the Silk Road: New Research on East-West Exchange in Antiquity*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. INST ARCH DBK Qto MAI and ONLINE via UCL library

Miller, B.K. & Brosseder, U.B. (2017). 'Global dynamics in local processes of Iron Age Inner Asia'. In: Hodos, T., Geurds, A., Lane, P., Lilley, I., Pitts, M., Shelach, G., Stark, M. & Versluys, M.J. (Eds.) *The Routledge Handbook of Archaeology and Globalization*. London & New York: Routledge. pp. 470-87. ONLINE via UCL Library

Priestman, S. (2016) 'The Silk Road or the Sea?: Sasanian and Islamic Exports to Japan', *Journal of Islamic Archaeology*, 3(1), pp. 1–35. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1558/jia.v3i1.26266>.

Skaff, J.K. (2017). 'Tang China's Horse Power: the Borderland Breeding Ranch System'. In: Kim, H.J., Vervaet, F. & Adali, S.F (Eds.) *Eurasian Empires in Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages: Contact and Exchange Between the Graeco-Roman World, Inner Asia and China*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp 15-33. ONLINE via UCL library

Wen, W. (2023) 'Processes of the circulation of Chinese wares in the Middle East during the Abbasid-Chinese ceramic exchange, eighth–tenth centuries ce', *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, pp. 1–25. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1356186322000244>.

Wilkinson, T. 2018. Cloth and Currency: On the Ritual-Economics of Eurasian Textile Circulation and the Origins of Trade, Fifth to Second Millennia BC. In: Kristiansen, K., Lindkvist, T. & Myrdal, J. (Eds.) *Trade and Civilisation: Economic Networks and Cultural Ties, from Prehistory to the Early Modern Era*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 25-55. INST ARCH HE KRI and ONLINE via UCL library

Further reading (not online)

Bang, P.F. (2008). *The Roman Bazaar: a Comparative Study of Trade and Markets in a Tributary Empire*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. ANCIENT HISTORY R 68 BAN

Bulliet, R.W. 2009. *Cotton, Climate, and Camels in Early Islamic Iran: A Moment in World History*. New York: Columbia University Press. INST ARCH DBG 100 BUL

Jacoby, D. 2017. *Medieval Trade in the Eastern Mediterranean and Beyond*. Routledge. British Library General Reference Collection DRT ELD.DS.164642

Mango, M.M. (Ed.) 2009. *Byzantine Trade, 4th-12th Centuries: The Archaeology of Local, Regional and International Exchange. Papers of the Thirty - Eighth Spring Symposium of ... for the Promotion of Byzantine Studies*. Farnham: Ashgate. INST ARCH DA 180 MAN.

Vedeler, M. 2014. *Silk for the Vikings*. Oxford: Oxbow Books. INST ARCH KJ VED

Week 5: Agricultural innovations and exchange

We will consider the longue durée of agriculture along the silk road, which connected innovations in India and Southwest Asia with those in China as well as the periodization of diversification and intensification in central Asia. Issues to consider are the seasonality of agriculture available water sources (from rain or rivers), the appearance of irrigation, long-lived perennials (fruit trees) and “cash” crops (e.g. cotton), grown for commodity production.

Essential reading

Nesbitt, M. and O'Hara, S. 2000. Irrigation agriculture in Central Asia: a long-term perspective from Turkmenistan, in G. Barker and D. Gilbertson (eds) *The Archaeology of Drylands: Living at the Margin*. London: Routledge, pp. 103-122 (copy on Moodle under this session)

Stevens, C.J., Murphy, C., Roberts, R., Lucas, L., Silva, F. and Fuller, D.Q., 2016. Between China and South Asia: A Middle Asian corridor of crop dispersal and agricultural innovation in the Bronze Age. *The Holocene*, 26(10), pp.1541-1555.

Further reading (online)

Spengler III, R.N., Miller, N.F., Neef, R., Tourtellotte, P.A. and Chang, C., 2017. Linking agriculture and exchange to social developments of the Central Asian Iron Age. *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology*, 48, pp.295-308.

Brite, E.B., Kidd, F.J., Betts, A. and Negus Cleary, M., 2017. Millet cultivation in Central Asia: A response to Miller et al. *The Holocene*, 27(9), pp.1415-1422.

Brite, E.B. and Marston, J.M., 2013. Environmental change, agricultural innovation, and the spread of cotton agriculture in the Old World. *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology*, 32(1), pp.39-53.

Chen, G., Zhou, X., Wang, J., Ma, J., Khasannov, M., Khasanov, N., Spengler, R.N., Berdimurodov, A. and Li, X., 2020. Kushan period Rice in the Amu Darya basin: Evidence for

prehistoric exchange along the southern Himalaya. *Science China Earth Sciences*, 63(6), pp.841-851.

Spengler, R.N., Maksudov, F., Bullion, E., Merkle, A., Hermes, T. and Frachetti, M., 2018. Arboreal crops on the medieval Silk Road: Archaeobotanical studies at Tashbulak. *PloS One*, 13(8), p.e0201409.

READING WEEK

Week 7: Religion and the Silk Roads

This session will explore the way in which changes in religion and culture have been modelled through increased global contact. We will contrast processes of the gradual spread of religious practices, syncretism, and deliberate religious expansion/conversion and how archaeological remains attest these changes. As we take a broad sweep across the first millennium BCE and the first millennium CE, we will focus in on two case studies, Buddhism and Islam, to see how both broad religious movements have been interpreted through the lens of the Silk Roads.

Essential reading

Elverskog, J. 2010. *Buddhism and Islam on the Silk Road*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press. **E-BOOK:** <http://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt3fhkx> Chapter 1 pp. 9-55.

Filigenzi, A. 2019. Non-Buddhist Customs of Buddhist People: Visual and Archaeological Evidence from North-West Pakistan. In: B. Kellner (Ed.) *Buddhism and the Dynamics of Transculturality: New Approaches*. De Gruyter. Pp. 53-84
<https://doi.org/10.1515/9783110413083-003>

Foltz, R. 2010. 'The Islamization of the Silk Road', in *Religions of the Silk Road*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan US, pp. 85–105. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1057/9780230109100>.

Neelis, J. 2011. *Early Buddhist Transmission and Trade Networks: mobility and exchange within and beyond the Northwestern borderlands of South Asia*. Leiden: Brill. INST ARCH DBM NEE. Particularly pp.1-39(part of Chapter 1) **E-BOOK:**
<http://www.oapen.org/search?identifier=627414>

Further reading (online)

Bhandare, S. 2018. Numismatics of "The Other": Investigating Coinage and "Greekness" at Taxila. In: H.P. Ray (ed.) *Buddhism and Gandhara - An Archaeology of Museum Collections*, pp. 70-103. New Delhi: Routledge. ONLINE via UCL Library.

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Week 8: Early production and trade

The Eurasian Steppe has been increasingly recognised as the place where fundamental technologies, languages and ideas originated and spread from Bronze Age onwards. The intricate system of trade networks at the time paved the way for the routes that long outlived the Bronze Age world, the Silk Roads. Of all items transported along these routes, the exchange of ores and metal objects would have been the largest in volume and the most fundamentally transformative for the steppe communities. The prehistory of the Silk Roads is therefore intimately related to that of the steppe metallurgy, leading the field of study of its origins at the crossroads of archaeology and materials science research. In this session we continue to explore the lifeways of pastoralist communities with a heavy focus on material culture and the technology of production. While the accent is on metals, we explore connected technologies and commodities traded along the prehistoric Silk Roads.

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Koryakova, L. and Epimakhov, A. 2007. *The Urals and Western Siberia in the Bronze and Iron Ages*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. ONLINE via UCL Library

Kuzmina, E. E. 2008. *The Prehistory of the Silk Road*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press. INST ARCH DBK KUZ and ONLINE via UCL Library.

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Week 9: Traders, Diasporas, and Cities

Fedorov-Davydov stated (1983) "Extensive explorations have yielded abundant data relating to the material culture of the medieval city in Central Asia, its trade and the technology of its crafts. Three stages have been established in the historical development of large cities: the oldest part, dating as a rule from pre-Muslim times, is the ark or kuhendiz; next came the shahristan (medina) which was the main part of the city in the 8th-10th centuries; finally - the rabat or outer town which by the 11th-13th centuries had become the centre of economic life. Each of these areas presents specific characteristics of planning and historical development."

There has been significant research on Central Asian urbanism along the Silk Roads, and our views on the development and shifting nature of urbanism have changed considerably. This session explores these developments.

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Honeychurch, W. 2015. From Steppe Roads to Silk Roads: Inner Asian Nomads and Early Interregional Exchange, in: Amitai, R. & Biran, M. (Eds.) *Nomads as Agents of Cultural Change: The Mongols and their Eurasian Predecessors*. University of Hawai'i Press. pp. 50-87. ONLINE via UCL library

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McPhillips, S. & Wordsworth, P. (Eds.) 2016. *Landscapes of the Islamic World: Archaeology, History, and Ethnography*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press. INST ARCH DBA 100 MCP & Online via UCL library.

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Sobti, M.P. 2005. Urban Metamorphosis and Change in Central Asian Cities after the Arab Invasions. Thesis, Georgia Institute of Technology. <http://hdl.handle.net/1853/7176>

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Week 10: Maritime Silk Routes

The complexity of seaborne interactions has a long history, from coastal trading to long-distance maritime empires. Seaborne trade and exploration along the Maritime Silk Routes

(MSR) has shaped societies, through the movement of material, peoples and ideas, and the struggle for domination and control. The session will explore the chronology, scale and geographic complexity of the MSR, examining the archaeological evidence for these facets. It will also explore the interface between the sea and the land: maritime communities have engaged in a variety of sea-based occupations, not only trade, but fishing, pearling, salt making, shipbuilding, piracy, etc. Archaeological evidence along coastlines is being used to both explore the relationships between the hinterlands and sea-based networks, and also how polities controlled navigation, taxation, and the movement of peoples and belief systems.

Ship technology and navigation were also significant factors in the changing patterns of interaction. Changes that transformed the distance travelled, and the carrying capacity, transforming settlements into centres of commerce and production, reshaping regional and trans-regional networks. Underwater archaeology has contributed to an understanding of the boat-building traditions, which have been supported by ethnographic studies of contemporary boat-building communities.

Essential reading

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Beaujard, P. 2005. The Indian Ocean in Eurasian and African World-Systems before the Sixteenth Century. *Journal of World History*. 16(4): 411-65.
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Week 11: Silk Roads in the Modern Era

In recent decades, the Silk Roads have taken on new meaning in terms of the connectivity of Eurasia, and the importance of trade. This final lecture looks at the heritage of the Silk Roads and the re-emergence of the concept, both in terms of major international initiatives such as China's Belt and Road Scheme, but also in terms of nation-building in the two decades since the independence of the previously Soviet Republics of Central Asia. We will finish by critically reviewing the impact of Silk Road narratives on the political discourse of today, and consider where these ideas might lead us in the future.

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