

Proto-Globalisation in the Indian Ocean World

Multidisciplinary Perspectives





A Three-Day Conference

8 to 10 November, 2013
Jesus College, Oxford

Proto-Globalisation in the Indian Ocean World

For many people, the term globalisation describes a phenomenon that is unique to the present day, and separates a hyper-connected contemporary world from the more traditional and isolated collection of bounded units characteristic of the past. For many historians and archaeologists, however, such a division appears simplistic. Indeed, there is an increasing recognition amongst many scholars that processes of global connectivity extend back deep into the human past. According to such a model, any real understanding of contemporary globalisation must take into account the gradual and non-linear manner in which it emerged out of earlier long-distance connections and commerce.

One critical forum for early or proto-globalisation was the Indian Ocean. Linking up the major continents and regions of the Old World, the Indian Ocean – along with its terrestrial sibling, the Silk Road – was an important stage for the world's first steps towards globalisation. In appreciation of this role, recent years have seen a revitalisation of research on the ancient links across the Indian Ocean, fertilised by the introduction of new methods of investigation and novel interdisciplinary approaches that in many cases bridge the natural and human sciences. This conference aims to highlight this research, and to explore and encourage the networking of data and ideas from different regions, disciplines and projects.

Conference themes



The Proto-Globalisation in the Indian Ocean Conference will explore the emergence of processes of global connectivity and exchange in the ancient Indian Ocean world, focusing on the period 2000 B.C. to A.D. 1000. The emphasis will be on new discoveries and novel theoretical concepts, and in particular interdisciplinary perspectives from fields such as archaeology, historical linguistics, molecular genetics and palaeoenvironmental studies.



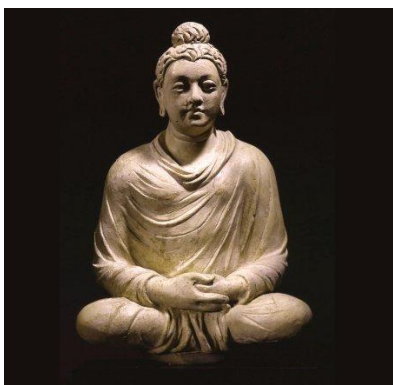
Biological perspectives on proto-globalisation

The movement of plants, animals, humans and diseases. Molecular genetic, zooarchaeological, archaeobotanical and palaeoenvironmental approaches to the study of invasive species, commensals, domesticates and diseases.



Routes, networks and the flow of things

The biographies of things. Technology, innovation, and material culture change. The evolution of markets, commodities and emporia. Routes, axes and networks.



Agents and ideas

Pirates, nomads, priests and merchants – the agents of contact and trade. Hybrids, creolisation and cross-cultural exchange. Languages and texts. Exploitation and commoditisation. World systems approaches and after.



Places Limited

Limited to 100 participants. Prospective participants are requested to submit titles and abstracts by 14 December 2012.

Proto-Globalisation in the Indian Ocean World: Multidisciplinary Perspectives

3-Day Conference
8-10 November, 2013
Jesus College, Oxford

Participation

The conference has places for 100 participants. Please contact Ms. Russell-Wilks (contact details below) if you wish to participate. Prospective speakers are requested to submit titles and abstracts (no more than 300 words) by 14 December 2012 to Ms. Russell-Wilks.

Cost

Day Rate £39
Day Rate with lunch £49

Contact

Ms. Elaine Russell-Wilks
Elaine.russell-wilks@rlaha.ox.ac.uk

Organiser

Nicole Boivin
University of Oxford

Sponsor



European Research Council

Established by the European Commission