

Société des études mongoles et sibériennes (SEMS)

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Centre d'études mongoles et sibériennes

54 boulevard Raspail

75006 Paris



Lettre d'information des études mongoles et sibériennes n°80

3 mars 2025

Publications de la SEMS

Un nouvel article a été ajouté sur le Site des études mongoles et sibériennes :

Serge Fouchard (Musée départemental Albert-Kahn): “Mongolia in the archives of Albert Kahn: Photographs of Stéphane Passet”

This article presents a collection of 141 autochrome plates and films on Mongolia (1912-1913) from Albert Kahn’s *Archives de la Planète* project. Photographer Stéphane Passet documented monastic life, daily activities, and officials in Urga (Ikh Khüree) and other places. These autochromes and films are now housed at the Musée Albert-Kahn in Boulogne-Billancourt.

<https://etudesmongolesetsiberiennes.fr/mongol-studies-and-collections-in-france/>

Séminaires et conférences

6 mars 2025, 17h : rencontre littéraire avec Marc Alaux

La Société des Études Mongoles et Sibériennes est heureuse de vous inviter à venir partager un moment convivial autour de la présentation des derniers ouvrages de Marc Alaux, *Visa pour la Mongolie*.

La rencontre se fera à la **librairie Transboreal** à partir de 17h le 6 mars 2025. L’apéro sera offert par la SEMS.

Librairie Transboreal
23, rue Berthollet
75005 Paris

<https://www.transboreal.fr>

Pour faciliter l’organisation, nous vous remercions de nous indiquer votre présence (dallesanne@gmail.com).

En espérant vous y voir nombreuses et nombreux,

Le bureau de la Société des Études

Mongoles et Sibériennes,



Séminaire des études mongoles 2025

Séminaire des études mongoles, organisé par Isabelle Charleux, Grégory Delaplace & Laurent Legrain

Horaire : Un mardi sur deux de **15h-17h**

Lieu : Campus Condorcet, salle 5.067 du bâtiment de recherche Nord. Il est également possible d'assister au séminaire **en ligne**

Contacts : Isabelle Charleux (isacharleux@orange.fr), Grégory Delaplace (gregory.delaplace@ephe.psl.eu) et Laurent Legrain (laurent.legrain@univ-tlse2.fr)

Programme :

Mardi 11 mars : **Virginie Tellier** (Université CY Cergy Paris Université) : « Les Kalmouks dans la littérature européenne » (*titre provisoire*)

Mardi 25 mars : **Jan Bemmman** (University of Bonn) : « The Mongol Empire and its archaeological legacy - the state of research and current projects in Mongolia »

Mardi 8 avril : **Lhagvademchig Jadamba** (National University of Mongolia) : « Caught in the Middle: Mongolia's Dilemma in the US-China Conflict Over the Next Dalai Lama »

Mardi 29 avril : **Anna Dupuy** (LAS – EHESS) : « Habiter le monde avec ses déchets en Mongolie contemporaine »

Mardi 13 mai : **Grégory Delaplace** (EPHE) : *titre à venir*.

Mardi 27 mai : **Anne-Caroline Allard** (Paris-Sorbonne) : Archéologie en Mongolie (*titre provisoire*)

MIASU Research Seminar 2024/25

Tuesdays 4.30 pm to 6.00 pm

Seminars take place at the Mond seminar room, unless specified otherwise, and are live streamed via zoom – if you are on the mailing list, you will receive an invitation to attend the seminar with details to join via Zoom. Please note that there is no need to register for the seminars.

If you are not on the mailing list, please contact miasu-admin@socanth.cam.ac.uk to join and to receive information about the seminars.

Tuesday 11 March : **Yulia Savostina** (Institute for the Science of Religion, University of Bern): « Epics, Memory, and Resistance: Stories of Buddhist Protectors in Times of Uncertainty »

The MIASU research seminar programme, is now available to view here:

<https://www.miasu.socanth.cam.ac.uk/events/current-research-seminar-programme>

Séminaire « Institutions et pratiques politiques »

Séminaire EHESS - UE778 : Institutions et pratiques politiques des nomades de la grande steppe

Responsables : Étienne de la Vaissière (EHESS, CETOBaC) & Simon Berger (CNRS, CeRMI)

Le séminaire portera sur les institutions et le répertoire de gouvernement des pouvoirs nomades sur la très longue durée, des Xiongnu jusqu'à la fin de la période mongole, du IIIe siècle avant notre ère jusqu'à la fin du XVe siècle, à l'échelle de l'ensemble des steppes d'Eurasie. En s'appuyant sur les récents débats tant anthropologiques que philologiques sur l'organisation des sociétés nomades, il s'agira de mettre en avant les caractères originaux et parfois complexes d'une culture politique et d'une forme particulière de l'État propres au monde des steppes.

Le séminaire aura lieu chaque 1er et 3e vendredi du mois, de 10h30 à 12h30, en salle A602 du bâtiment EHESS-Condorcet, 2 cours des humanités, 93300 Aubervilliers. L'accès est libre mais l'inscription est obligatoire via le lien suivant : https://participations.ehess.fr/demandes/_nouvelle?seminaire=778

Contact : etienne.de-la-vaissiere@ehess.fr, simon.berger@cnrs.fr

Renseignements : <https://enseignements.ehess.fr/2024-2025/ue/778>



L'ÉCOLE
DES HAUTES
ÉTUDES EN 
SCIENCES
SOCIALES

Séminaire de l'EHESS
2024/2025 – UE778

Institutions et pratiques politiques des nomades de la grande steppe

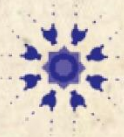
- 07/03** : *Törü* et *jasaq*, ou l'ordre politique de la steppe I
- 21/03** : *Törü* et *jasaq*, ou l'ordre politique de la steppe II
- 04/04** : Écriture, oralité et informations dans la steppe
- 02/05** : Impôts, tributs, commerce
- 16/05** : Le prince et l'*ordo*
- 06/06** : Le répertoire symbolique et idéologique de la steppe

Organisateurs : Étienne de la Vaissière (EHESS, CETOBaC)
& Simon Berger (CNRS, CeRMI)

Contact : etienne.de-la-vaissiere@ehess.fr
simon.berger@cnrs.fr

Accès libre, inscription obligatoire sur :
<https://enseignements.ehess.fr/2024-2025/ue/778>

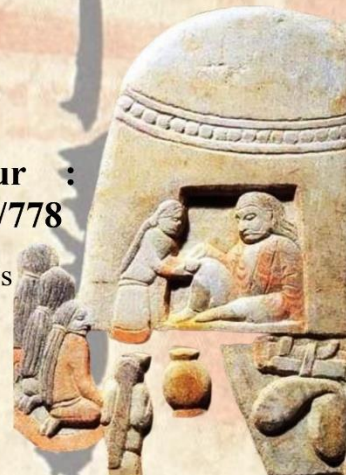
Bâtiment EHESS-Condorcet, 2 cours des humanités
93300 Aubervilliers, salle A602, 10h30-12h30



CETOBaC
Centre d'études turques,
ottomanes, balkaniques et
centrasiatiques



CeRMI
CENTRE de
RECHERCHE sur le
MONDE IRANIEN
UMR 8041 CNRS, SORBONNE NOUVELLE, INALCO, EPHE



Colloques

4-5 avril 2025: Conference “Caring for the Dead”

Faculty CONFERENCE convened by Professors Jonathan BRACK, Sean HANRETTA, and Akin OGUNDIRAN on **“Caring for the Dead: Ancestor Veneration, Religious Encounters, and the State in the Mongol Empire and Africa”**—Friday and Saturday, April 4-5, 2025.

Description of the workshop:

This unique workshop seeks to explore the merits of a comparative approach to the historical and archeological study of elite practices concerning the dead and their remains in the medieval African and Mongol imperial contexts, and consider their modern and contemporary resonances. In both cases, the veneration of the dead of key ancestral lines was central to the reproduction and reaffirmation of social cohesion, political power, and the accumulation of material wealth and social resources. The workshop will bring into conversation archeologists, bioarcheologists, historians, art historians, and religious studies experts, who broadly study burial practices, ancestor veneration, religious afterlives, and political formations in Africa and within Mongol Eurasia. While the workshop focuses on Africa and Mongol Eurasia during the period identified as “late medieval,” we are also interested in expanding our temporal perspective and considering ancestor worship, rituals, and the state during the 19th and 20th centuries in both Mongolia and Africa.

Programme : <https://historicalstudies.northwestern.edu/events/conferences/Conference%201.html>

4-5 avril 2025: conference « Community Histories, Environment and Mobile Pastoralism in Inner Asia »

MUNI
ARTS

CALL FOR PAPERS

We are pleased to announce the following conference to be held at the Department of Mongolian, Korean and Vietnamese Studies, Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University:

COMMUNITY HISTORIES, ENVIRONMENT
AND MOBILE PASTORALISM
IN INNER ASIA

Mobile pastoralism, mobility, local and national identities, and environmental issues viewed through the systematic research of local oral memories and local archives

« Өмнөд Азийн дотоод
хөдөө аж ахуйн
тусгай хөдөлгөөний
тусламжтайгаар
тусгай хөдөлгөөний
тусламжтайгаар
тусгай хөдөлгөөний
тусламжтайгаар »



Friday 4th - Saturday 5th April 2025
Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University
Arna Nováka 1, 602 00 Brno, Czech Republic
(meeting room of conference to be specified later)

At this conference, we look forward to discussing the following questions:

- *What is the significance of local narrative histories from within local communities for historical studies of the Mongolian, and wider Inner Asian, cultural area?*
- *Are there integrated historical-oral traditions in Inner Asian pastoral communities? How was the transmission of local historical oral memory carried out in the past and how does its current transmission reflect social change?*
- *What can systematic research of the oral memory of local communities tell us about the adaptive strategies of mobile pastoralists, both in the past and in the present?*
- *What valuable information can the systematic research of local oral history offer to environmental studies?*

In free cooperation with institutions from Mongolia:

- Department of Literature and Art Studies, School of Arts and Sciences, National University of Mongolia
- The Chinggis Khaan Heritage and Cultural Institute (Ulaanbaatar)
- International Institute for the Study of Nomadic Civilizations under the auspices of UNESCO (Ulaanbaatar)
- Tod Nomiin Gerel Töv (Ulaanbaatar)

All currently living forms of local history-related oral tradition among the pastoral communities of Mongolia are non-professional in the sense that traditional society did not create targeted supporting activities to assist the transmission and learning of narratives of oral tradition within family or broader community life. The oral transmission of historical memory has been attributed to Inner Asian pastoralist societies based on analogies with other geographical regions, but this assumption has yet to be systematically verified. On the contrary, Mongolian pastoralist society is unique in creating its own written documentation, even as the local archives of many areas have been completely or partially lost.

Collectively speaking, the oral memory of Western Mongolia preserves a unique historical experience of sustenance and resilience in this mountainous, semi-arid steppe and semi-desert region — dominated by, but not limited to mobile pastoralism. These memories are at urgent risk of falling into oblivion. The current moment is indeed the last opportunity to record the complex oral tradition of selected communities and to describe its structure, internal processes of transmission, and current changes. These Inner Asian mobile pastoralists are facing far-reaching economic, social, and environmental changes, leading to intensive movement of people and information within hitherto geographically and administratively closed rural communities.

Based on this challenge and our ten year-long field research experience in Western Mongolia, in 2023 the Institute of Mongolian, Korean and Vietnamese Studies, Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University launched a five-year project “Changing Adaptive Strategies of Mobile Pastoralists in Mongolia: Dynamics in Community Histories and Movement Patterns Documented Through Oral Sources” (Czech Science Foundation, GM23-07108M), thanks to which a team of experts has been formed to study the adaptation strategies of mobile herders, mainly through the herders’ own oral memories. This project runs in synergy with the project “Evolutionary interferences of religion and governance in Inner Asia: Comparison of mutual impacts with tributary countries: Mongolia, Korea, Vietnam” led by Michal Schwarz, Ph.D. (Czech Science Foundation, GA23-06953S, 2023-2025).

The main objectives of the “Changing Adaptive Strategies of Mobile Pastoralists” project are:

1. To specify methods of gaining complex knowledge of currently living forms of localized, non-professional history-related oral tradition among Inner Asian mobile pastoralist communities.
2. To posit this oral tradition as a dynamic and living phenomenon — despite external endangerment and tendencies toward unification — and to propose non-invasive means of supporting the preservation of this living oral legacy.
3. To attain a better understanding of how local oral traditions relate to the formulation of identities of individual groups, their ties to certain territories, and their relations to larger political and national entities.
4. To verify the hypothesis that through the detailed systematic recording and visualizing of seasonal movements of mobile pastoralists, beginning from a micro-local level through orally remembered segments of the past, hitherto inaccessible chronological evidence of changes (or, in some cases, stability) in land use by mobile pastoralists can be attained. This evidence can serve as a key source for investigations concerning factors contributing to the current degradation of pastures.

The present conference will address issues of local history-related oral tradition as a hitherto neglected and hardly determinable, yet highly significant and frangible category of intangible cultural heritage. Our team members would like to present the current results of our attempts to describe the emic understanding of the concept of history by local communities, to define patterns in the transmission process of local oral tradition in Western Mongolia in the past, and finally, to assess its current state.

In our understanding, the concepts of oral history and oral tradition are separate yet closely interrelated and intertwined, requiring a parallel knowledge of accessible archive (and other forms of written) sources. We eagerly welcome researchers dealing with issues related to the local history of any region of Inner Asia, relations of local identities and landscape, sacred geography, oral cartography, microhistories, and genealogy to present their methodological approaches to the collection, sorting, processing and practical use of their materials from oral and archive sources.

We look forward to welcoming you in Brno.

Yours sincerely

Ondřej Srba and Michal Schwarz

ABSTRACTS

By 20th January 2025, please send a short (300 words or less) abstract of your talk to one or both of these addresses: ondrejsrba@phil.muni.cz, schwarz@phil.muni.cz

Acceptance of proposals will be announced by 30th January 2025. Participation is possible only in person.

The expected paper length is 20 minutes, including discussion (the final length will be specified according to the number of participants).

The language of the conference is English. Mongolian will be permissible in exceptional cases.

Participation in the conference is free of charge. Travel costs, accommodation and meals for the duration of the conference are the individual responsibility of each participant. If you need an official invitation for the purpose for visa purposes, please inform us as soon as possible and we will be happy to try to issue an invitation for you. Please be aware that in case of late registration, we cannot guarantee timely delivery of the invitation letter.

Conference organized by: Department of Mongolian, Korean and Vietnamese Studies, Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University, Arna Nováka 1, 602 00 Brno, Czech Republic

Organized within the projects: "Changing Adaptive Strategies of Mobile Pastoralists in Mongolia: Dynamics in Community Histories and Movement Patterns Documented Through Oral Sources" (GM23-07108M), and "Evolutionary interferences of religion and governance in Inner Asia: comparison of mutual impacts with tributary countries: Mongolia, Korea, Vietnam" (GA23-06953S), supported by the Czech Science Foundation.

Please note that the conference "**Textual Tradition of Mongolian Buddhism: Written and Oral Traditions. Fifth International Conference on Aspects of Mongolian Buddhism**" will take place at ELTE Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary on 8–9 April 2025. For details please visit: <https://www.innerasia.hu/event/mongolian-buddhism-conference-2025/>.

See the online link to the call for paper: <https://viet.phil.muni.cz/aktualne/clanky/call-for-papers-community-histories-environment-and-mobile-pastoralism-in-inner-asia>

8-9 avril 2025 : Fifth International Conference on Aspects of Mongolian Buddhism

We kindly invite you to the Fifth International Conference on Aspects of Mongolian Buddhism held on 8-9 April 2025: **Textual Tradition of Mongolian Buddhism: Written and Oral Traditions**

Organizers

- Department of Mongolian and Inner Asian Studies, ELTE Eötvös Loránd University
- Research Centre for Mongolian Studies, ELTE Eötvös Loránd University

In collaboration with partner institutions from Hungary and Mongolia.

Please register by 7 January 2025 by sending your name, affiliation, title and abstract in 150 words to mongol@btk.elte.hu. If you need an invitation letter for the visa, please let us know.

In 2025, we celebrate the 90th anniversary of Professor György Kara's birth (1935–2022) and the 75th anniversary of the establishment of Hungarian-Mongolian diplomatic relations. We wish to contribute to these events by organizing the Fifth International Conference on Aspects of Mongolian Buddhism on 8–9 April 2025. The conference is organized by the Department of Mongolian and Inner Asian Studies and Research Centre for Mongolian Studies, ELTE Eötvös Loránd University with partner institutions from Hungary and Mongolia.

Following the success of the conferences “Mongolian Buddhism: Past, Present and Future” in 2015, “Mongolian Buddhism in Practice” in 2017, “Mongolian Buddhism: Tradition and Innovation” in 2019, “Mongolian Buddhism: Animals, Plants and Bioethics” in 2022, the fifth international conference is for scholars and monks to present their work on any aspect of the textual tradition of Mongolian Buddhism. This can cover history, philosophy, education, monasticism, rituals, folklore and folk religion, and any other fields related to Mongolian Buddhism's textual tradition preserved in written form or oral narratives.

The tradition of Mongolian Buddhism traces back centuries, and Buddhist teachings and practices exist in both written and oral forms. The aim of the conference is to reveal the wide diversity of Mongolian Buddhism's textual tradition. The conference will focus on the Buddhism of Mongols living in the present area of Mongolia and the beliefs and practices of Mongols living in China, Russia, or other places where Mongols settled. The distinctiveness of Mongolian Buddhism compared to the Buddhist corpus in general will be revealed through the presentations. The scientific papers will be published in book format.

Renowned Hungarian Orientalist, Mongolist and philologist, Professor György Kara (1935–2022), corresponding member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, head of the Department of Inner Asian Studies at ELTE Eötvös Loránd University and the Research Group for Altaic Studies of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences for decades, was a pioneer in the research of the “Books of the Mongolian Nomads” and laid an emphasis on different scripts, eminent polymaths, and philological research of Mongolian texts. Presentations concerning Professor György Kara's oeuvre, research topics, and philology are also warmly welcome.

The main languages of the conference are English, Mongolian and Russian.

The organizers will provide refreshments during the conference. Travelling and accommodation should be organized individually. If you need assistance regarding accommodation possibilities, please ask the organizers.

An escorted visit to the Oriental Collection of the Library and Information Centre of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences would be organized in the afternoon on 7 April 2025. The first day of the conference, 8 April 2025 will take place at ELTE Eötvös Loránd University, and Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary will host the panels of the second day, 9 April 2025.

Please note that the conference "Community Histories, Environment and Mobile Pastoralism in Inner Asia" will take place at Masaryk University, Brno, Czechia on 4–5 April 2025.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Budapest at Eötvös Loránd University.

On behalf of the organizing committee:

Ágnes Birtalan, head of the department and the research centre

<https://www.innerasia.hu/event/mongolian-buddhism-conference-2025/>

18-22 juillet : International Symposium on National Philology and Classics

Letter of Invitation (No. 1)

January 6, 2025

Dear Esteemed Colleague,

We pleased to invite you to the **International Symposium on National Philology and Classics**, to be held from July 18 to 22, 2025, in Hohhot, Inner Mongolia, China. The event is jointly organized by Institute of Advanced Study in National Philology and Classics at Inner Mongolia University and the Institute of Historical and Philological Studies of Western Regions at Renmin University of China.

As a unified multi-ethnic country, China embodies a diverse yet cohesive civilizational community. "National Philology" represents a vital area of research within China Studies, grounded in both a multi-faceted national identity and an understanding of the Chinese nation. This field utilizes a variety of languages and classic texts from China's ethnic groups, employing multi-ethnic literature as its primary research methodology to explore the historical, linguistic, cultural, religious, and philosophical aspects of various classical civilizations. It aims to elucidate the origins, development, forms, and systems of Chinese civilization as a whole, contributing to the construction of modern Chinese national identity. The symposium will cover a range of topics, including but not limited to: 1) Theories, methodologies, and approaches of national philology; 2) Philological research on multilingual literature; 3) Eurasian philology and mutual learning among civilizations. In recognition of your outstanding contributions to the field of Chinese philology and classical studies, we cordially invite you to attend this academic conference and share your insights.

There will be no registration fee for this conference. The hosting organization will cover accommodation and academic excursion expenses, while participants are kindly requested to manage their own travel costs. Should you require financial assistance for travel, please feel free to apply to the organizing committee. A formal invitation letter will be issued upon receipt of your RSVP. For further inquiries, please contact us:

Prof. Borjigidai Oyunbilig Email: bilig63@126.com Phone: +86 135 2100 8792

Prof. Huang Weizhong (vpshrinas@126.com, Phone: +86 18519758160)

Prof. Shen Weirong Email: shenweirong@yahoo.com Phone: +86 139 1168 8539

We look forward to welcoming you to this enriching academic event.

Sincerely,

Convenors:

Prof. Shen Weirong, Prof. Borjigidai Oyunbilig & Huang Weizhong
Tsinghua University, Inner Mongolia University, Renmin University of China

7-11 septembre 2025 : Sixth International Conference on Mongolic Linguistics

Sixth International Conference on Mongolic Linguistics (ML 2025) to be held in Istanbul, Turkey, from September 7 to 11, 2025.

The Conference is co-hosted by Department of Modern Turkic Languages and Literatures & Mongolian Studies Center, Faculty of Letters, Istanbul University, and School of Mongolian Studies, Inner Mongolia University.

The Conference is based on the theme “**Language Contact of Mongolic: History and Present Condition**”. ML 2025 will serve as a comprehensive forum for exchange of novel knowledge and experience in investigating various aspects of Mongolic languages, especially those subsumed under the general theme of the Conference. Please find attached further information on the Conference.

Important dates:

March 15, 2025 — deadline for the submission of abstracts

April 15, 2025 — notification of acceptance / rejection of abstracts

September 7-11, 2025 — the Conference.

The following issues are expected to be discussed:

- Language contact of Mongolic in synchronic and diachronic perspectives;
- Contact-induced language change in the history of Mongolic;
- General trends and specific developments in historical and modern Mongolic varieties;
- Recent advances in Mongolic etymological studies;
- Sociolinguistic situations in Mongolic-speaking areas;
- Genetic and areal features of the Mongolic languages and dialects;
- Typology of Mongolic phonological, grammatical and lexical systems;
- Contemporary methods and approaches to the study of the Mongolic languages;
- Problems of classification and historical periodization of Mongolic languages and dialects;
- Principles and methods of modern Mongolic dialectological studies.

This list of possible topics is by no means exhaustive or directive, it just provides the framework of the Conference.

The working languages at the Conference will be English, Mongolian, and Russian.

There is no conference fee. Unfortunately, the Organizing Committee lacks funding to cover travel expenses and accommodation.

If you are interested to participate please submit your application by **March 15, 2025**. Applications should be submitted by filling in the form below. We are planning to have published Conference Proceedings with

full-length papers after the Conference. The deadline and guidelines for submission of papers will be specified in the next circulars We will inform you whether your paper is selected by the Organizing Committee before April 15, 2025.

The ML 2025 will be held as an in-person event, but online participation will also be acceptable; if you prefer to make an online presentation, please specify it in the application form below.

Please forward this circular to those of your colleagues who are involved in studying of related topics and who might be interested to participate. E-mail address: monglang2025@gmail.com, please indicate the topic of your message as follows: "To the Organizing Committee".

Prof. Dr. Mehmet ÖLMEZ

Department of Modern Turkic Languages and
Literatures & Mongolian Studies Center,
Faculty of Letters, Istanbul University

President of the ML 2025

Prof. Dr. Pavel RYKIN

School of Mongolian Studies, Inner
Mongolia University

General Coordinator of the ML Project

Application Form

Last name, first name	
Country, city	
Affiliation	
Academic degree, title, position	
E-mail, phone number	
Title of paper	
Abstract in English, Mongolian or Russian (up to 200 words)	
Participation (offline/online)	
Necessary technical equipment	
Do you need an invitation letter for visa? (yes/no)	

