Chinese Annals of History of Science and Technology **1** (2), 132–136 (2017)
doi: 10.3724/SP.J.1461.2017.02132

International Symposium on China and the World in the Global History of Science and Technology, Held in Beijing[1]

Jiao Zhengshan 焦郑珊[2]

(*Institute for the History of Natural Sciences*, *Chinese Academy of Sciences*, *Beijing* 100190, *China*)

The International Symposium on China and the World in the Global History of Science and Technology was held by the Institute for the History of Natural Sciences (IHNS), Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), from May 30 to June 1, 2017 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the IHNS, as well as to promote transnational communication among scholars specialized in history of science and technology and to foster developments in this field. Twenty-eight leading historians of science and technology from the Chinese mainland, Germany, the United States, Britain, Russia, France, Korea, Estonia, Hong Kong and Taipei gave lectures on various topics including the relation between Chinese science and technology and world civilization, and new perspectives and methodologies in studies on history of science and technology. More than 140 scholars attended the symposium.

In his opening lecture, Professor Zhang Baichun, Director of IHNS, CAS, expressed his gratitude to all the guests for their congratulations on the 60th anniversary of IHNS and their constant support of the Institute. He noted that since the 1980s, historians of science and technology have gradually adopted the concept and perspective of "globalization" to describe the generation and transmission of knowledge. In this process, specialized research has transformed into multidisciplinary research; purely historical research that seeks facts has transformed into comprehensive projects reflecting on the development of science and technology; and historical research that is conducted from the point of view of a single country has been transformed into endeavors that are conducted from a global perspective. These profound changes have provided new research insights for studies in the history of science and technology, and brought about a transformation in the structure of the discipline.

[1] This translated news report has been copyedited by Lindy Divarci.

[2] Research interests: Science, technology and society; science-related museums; the history of science and culture; science communication. Email: jiaozhengshan@ihns.ac.cn

During the roundtable discussion that concluded the symposium, the experts involved explored the hot topics of current studies of history of science and technology and the development of discipline. They highlighted the role of the advancement of international journals on history of science and technology. In particular, high expectations were placed on the *Chinese Annals of History of Science and Technology*, the newly established journal by the IHNS and Science Press and co-edited by Zhang Baichun and Jürgen Renn. The experts provided the editorial team with insightful advice on how to facilitate this new academic platform.

Generally, the speakers and participants paid close attention to cutting-edge issues in their field and shared the latest results of current research. They analyzed not only the global landscape of the evolution of science and technology, but also the diversity of knowledge in different cultural contexts. They discussed both cross-cultural and transnational issues covering a period of more than 10,000 years, from prehistoric knowledge to contemporary science and technology. Also included were current trends in both globalization and localization, for instance, dissemination and interaction of knowledge between Asia and Europe, along the Silk Road, inside East Asia or between China and other nations.



Speakers lecturing at the Symposium

These global issues will break the boundaries of research on the national history of inventions and will support a whole new generation of scholars. Macro historical narratives of this kind have to be based on or connected with the history of micro-level research and verification from different perspectives. This will benefit greatly from

studies of historical sources and archaeological discoveries. At this symposium, the participants shared many results from micro studies focusing on specific knowledge, events, figures, institutions, journals and so on. Their discussions mirrored the changes in the community of history of science and technology and highlighted the influence of national reforms on the institutions and the history of science.

Appendix

Speakers in order of appearance at the Symposium

Speaker	Topic	Institution
Jürgen Renn / Matthias Schemmel	How Many Times Have the Natural Sciences Emerged?	Max Planck Institute for the History of Science
Zhang Baichun 张柏春	From National S&T Heritage to China in Global History of S&T	Institute for the History of Natural Sciences, CAS
Alfons Labisch	Eurasian Transfer of Knowledge vs. Eurasian Interchange of Knowledge—The Times before Writing	University Hospital Düsseldorf
Su Rongyu 苏荣誉	Globalization versus Localization: Bronze Manufacture from the Chalcolithic to the Bronze Age in Eurasia and China	Institute for the History of Natural Sciences, CAS
Joseph W. Dauben	The History of Chinese Mathematics—and the Founding of the IHNS (CAS)	The City University of New York
Karine Chemla	Positions and Computations in China and beyond	Université Paris 7, CNRS
Tian Miao 田淼	The Meeting of Two Traditions: Algebra in Nineteenth-Century China	Institute for the History of Natural Sciences, CAS
Dmitry Shcherbinin	Systems of Coordinates of Scientific Activity of IHST, RAS (2014–2017)	Institute for the History of Science and Technology, RAS
Jianjun Mei 梅建军	Dr. Needham's Visit to China in 1958	The Needham Research Institute
Zhao Zhijun 赵志军	Origin of Rice Agriculture—New Archaeobotanical Data	Institute of Archaeology, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences
Wang Siming 王思明	The Road of Silk & Agricultural Exchanges between China & Abroad	Nanjing Agricultural University
Christopher Cullen	Chinese Astronomy and the Construction of a Global History of Science	The Needham Research Institute
Francesca Bray	"Hail the Maintainers": New Spaces for China in Global History of Technology?	University of Edinburgh
Shi Yunli 石云里	The Dissemination of Western Astronomy into China through the Chongzhen Reign Treatises on Calendrical Astronomy	University of Science and Technology of China
Yung Sik Kim	Chinese Calendar and Korean Calendar Making: The Chosŏn Court's Discussions about the Preparation of the Calendar of 1735	Seoul National University
Fung Kam Wing 馮錦榮	The Western Terrestrial Globe Making Technology in China and Japan, 1580–1700	University of Hong Kong
Han Qi 韩琦	Measuring the Heaven and Earth: Antoine Thomas (1644–1709) and His Scientific Activity in China Revisited	Institute for the History of Natural Sciences, CAS
Peeter Müürsepp	Leibniz, China and the Enlightenment	Tallinn University of Technology

Continued

Speaker	Topic	Institution
Chia-Feng Chang 張嘉鳳	Relying upon Oneself: Self-Taught Physicians in Ming-Qing China	Taiwan University
Zhang Daqing 张大庆	Research on Chinese Meteria Medica in PUMC: 1910–1941	Peking University
Zuoyue Wang 王作跃	The Transnational Approach to the History of Science: New Trends and Directions	California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
Yury Baturin	Entry Conditions of Creation of Science and Technology in People's Republic of China (Help of the Soviet Experts in 1948–1953)	Institute for the History of Science and Technology, RAS
Zhang Jiuchen 张九辰	Globalization and Localization: A Case Study on Chinese Geological Journal (1919–1948)	Institute for the History of Natural Sciences, CAS
Danian Hu 胡大年	A Yenching Physicist at Cambridge: Lessons Learned from Dirac, Peierls, Fowler, and Eddington	The City College of The City University of New York
Maryam Gasan gizi Seyidbeyli / Nadia Asheulova	Azerbaijan-China Relations: Historical Heritage	Institute of the History of Science, Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences
Nadia Asheulova	Mega Grants in Russia as an Opportunity for Future Russian and Chinese Academic Cooperation	St. Petersburg Branch of Institute for the History of Science and Technology, RAS



Speakers of the Symposium and members of the CAHST editorial board



Group photo of the participants at the Symposium