

ANGLO-CHINESE ENCOUNTER BEFORE THE OPIUM WAR

A Tale of Two Empires over Two Centuries

Starting with Queen Elizabeth I's letter to the Ming Emperor Wanli and ending with the letter from Lord Palmerston to the Minister of China just before the Opium War, this talk narrates the fascinating encounters between the two historic empires and explores the long journey in between from cultural diplomacy to gunboat diplomacy. The speaker will adopt a novel 'mirror' approach by pairing and comparing people, texts, gifts, commodities, artworks, architecture, ideologies, operating systems and world views of the two empires. While interweaving the most known diplomatic efforts at the official level with the much unknown intellectual interactions at the people-to-people level, this approach allows an analysis of how the two empires created frameworks for understanding "Self and Other" from a Sino-centric and Anglo-centric points of departure, telling stories that have been understudied in the grand narratives, and reflecting on their implications on today's bilateral relations.



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DATE: 21 SEP 2023

TIME: 14:30 - 16:00

VENUE: DLB702

DAVID GIAM BUILDING, SHAW CAMPUS

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