



The Ancient Silk Road and Mutual Learning among Human Civilizations

Programme Event

International Committee of Historical Sciences | 26–30 August 2026 | Leipzig, Germany

DATE 26 Aug 2026, 14:00 - 15:30	LOCATION House 5- SR 26
THEME J - Connections, Entanglements, and Universal Perspectives on History	CONFERENCE International Committee of Historical Sciences

Overview

The “Silk Road” was an important corridor through which ancient China engaged in economic trade and cultural exchange with Central Asia, West Asia, and Europe. Over a long historical period, it functioned not only as a commercial route linking East and West, but also as a significant bridge promoting exchange and mutual learning among world civilizations. Such interaction was not a one-way transmission, but a process of reciprocal adaptation and re-creation. It enabled the major civilizational spheres of China, India, Persia, the Arab world, and the Greco-Roman world to enter into direct dialogue, fostering in-depth interaction in the fields of religion, science and technology, art, and material culture. The historical development of the Silk Road indicates that periods of its prosperity were often characterized by the coexistence and mutual enrichment of diverse civilizations. Inter-civilizational exchange constitutes an important driving force in social development. In the twenty-first century, when human societies are more closely interconnected than ever before, a deeper examination of the historical development of the ancient Silk Road offers important reference for promoting exchange and mutual learning among different civilizations today and for strengthening international cooperation.

Participants

Convenor

- Zuokui Liu (Institute of World History, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences)

Panelists

- Guoqiang Li (Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Chinese Academy of History, CASS)
- Jasna Plevnik (Goeconomic Forum Croatia)
- Jinxu Li (Institute of Ancient History, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences)
- Wutian Sha (College of History and Civilization, Shaanxi Normal University)
- Jianchun Ma (College of Liberal Arts, Institute of Sino-Foreign Relations, Jinan University)

Papers

The Ancient Silk Road and Mutual Learning among Human Civilizations

Guoqiang Li (Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Chinese Academy of History, CASS)

The Belt and Road Initiative and the History of the World Orders: Civilizations, Nation States, World Orders, Global Civilization

Jasna Plevnik (Goeconomic Forum Croatia)

From Mobei (North of the Gobi Desert) to Hedong (East of the Yellow River): Sassanid silver coins and the Steppe Silk Road

Jinxiu Li (Institute of Ancient History, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences)

Alternative burials—The Battlement-Shaped Top Graves depicted in the Dunhuang Mural “Old Man Entering the Grave” as an Attribute of the Silk-Road Culture

Wutian Sha (College of History and Civilization, Shaanxi Normal University)

Trade and Civilizational Exchange Between China and the Maritime World in the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Centuries

Jianchun Ma (College of Liberal Arts, Institute of Sino-Foreign Relations, Jinan University)

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