



River Societies:

Old Problems, New Solutions:

A Comparative Reflection on the Rhine and the Yangze Rivers

Rotterdam, Leiden 22 to 25 May 2019

The Yangtze and the Rhine: A historical conference, May 22-25, 2019

After a first meeting in Shanghai in October 2017, we found that we have similar academic interests, as both rivers have and had similar problems. Nonetheless, comparing aspects of the history of the two rivers and the ports at their estuaries is not as easy as thought.

Therefore, in this second conference, we try to find a way to come to a better by making sessions on a number of topics

1. Economic/business aspects: This includes:
2. Labour/Social History
3. Cultural/religious aspects
4. Political/juridical aspects
5. Environmental aspects

Sponsors:

Erasmus School for History, Culture and Communication

Fudan University Shanghai.

Leiden University.

Maritiem Museum Rotterdam

N.W. Posthumus Institute

Port Authority Rotterdam

Rotterdam Centre for Modern Maritime History.

Program

May 22, Wed. Arrivals

Airport pick-up, hotel check-in, lunch, visit Rotterdam, diner

May 23, Thu. Erasmus University Rotterdam

Woudenstein Campus, Mandeville Building Room T 3-21.

08:45 Coffee, tea and water + sides

09:00 Official opening. Short openings word by Ms. Kristel Baele, Chair of the Board of Erasmus University and Dr. Meng Qingyu, Education Counsellor of the Chinese Embassy, The Hague

9:15-12:15 Morning session: Economic aspects of River societies:

- a) Shipping, barging and adapting the channel to the needs of shipping
- b) Traders and their contacts along the river
- c) Competition with other modes of transport:

Presentations by:

- Prof. Wang Zhenzhong (Fudan University, Shanghai) 王振忠: 明清徽商与长江流域的木材贸易 Huizhou Merchants and Timber Trade in the Yangtze River Valley in the Late Imperial Period
- Prof. Ralf Banken (Goethe University Frankfurt) Trade and traders along the Rhine
- Prof. Ben Wubs (Erasmus University Rotterdam) and Prof. Werner Plumpe (Goethe University Frankfurt) Weber, Protestant ethics and capitalism along the Rhine
- Prof. Hein Klemann (Erasmus University Rotterdam) Competition between Dutch skippers and German ship owners and the transition to steam
- Prof. Fan Jinmin (Nanjing University, Nanjin) 范金民: 明清运河运输市场的考察 A Study of the Transportation Market along the Grand Canal during the Ming-Qing Period

10:30-11:00 Coffee, tea etcetera

12:15-13:30 Lunch

13:30-17:00 Afternoon session: Labour and Social History of River societies

- a) Social and cultural integration along the river
- b) Child labour and labour of women in barging
- c) Living on the water

Presentations by:

- Xu Guanmian MA (Victor) 徐冠冕. (Leiden University) Colonial products on the Chinese market
- Dr. Tamira T.J. Combrink (University of Amsterdam) Colonial products and markets along the Rhine
- Prof. Marlou Schrover (Leiden University) German migrants in Rotterdam and Rotterdam business

- Prof. Feng Xianliang (Fudan University, Shanghai)
冯贤亮：城乡之间：晚明江南士人的移居、定居及其社会网 Between city and country: migration, settlement and social network of literati in the south of lower Yangtze river during the late Ming dynasty

15:00-15:30 Coffee, tea etcetera

18:30-21:00 Boat trip on *De nieuwe Maze* with a presentation by Frans van Keulen (Port Authority Rotterdam) on the port of Rotterdam

May 24, Fri. Leiden University

Gravensteen, Pieterskerkhof 6

09:00-12:00 Morning session: Political/juridical aspects of river societies

- a) Modern market relations and its institutions
- b) Dike building, river regulation, water management or canalization

Presentations by:

- Dr. Nils Disco (Technical University Twente): Regulation of transnational rivers (Maas, Rhine and Scheldt).
- Dr. Joep Schenk (Utrecht University) Political regulation of International Rivers.
- Prof. Wu Tao (Sun Yat-sen University, Zhuhai) 吴滔: 华洋杂处下的西津渡: 19世纪京口江岸区域的社会秩序 Xijin Ferry under a mixed society of Chinese and Foreigners: the social order of riverbank area of Jingkou in the 19th century
- Prof. Xie Shi (Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou) 谢澍: 17世纪江南基层水利的社会与政治语境 A study of local water conservancy in social and political context in seventeenth century lower Yangtze Delta

10:30-11:00 Coffee, tea etcetera

12:30-14:30 Lunch and tour through the Asian Library Leiden University

14:30-15:30 Key Note:

Prof. Petra van Dam (Free University of Amsterdam):
Amphibious cultures along rivers: coping with flooding in the organic period.

15:30-16:00 Coffee, tea etcetera

16:00-18:00 Afternoon Session: Cultural and religious aspects of the river

- a) Religions or nationalistic river cults and their impact
- b) Songs, poems and paintings about the river and its messages

Presentations by:

- Dr. Pia Nordblom (Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz) Rhine romanticism and tourism since the end of 18th century.
- Prof. Leonard Blussé (Leiden University) Lee boards on Dutch and Chinese river boats
- Prof. Chen Yao (Xiamen University, Amoy) 陈瑶: 河流脉动: 长江中游的木帆船与市场网络 (1550-1850) River Stringing Markets: Junks and Markets Networking in the Middle Yangtze River, 1550-1850
- Prof. Wang Jian (Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, Shanghai) 王健: 棉业、海运与元末以来江南地区的黄道婆信仰 Cotton Industry, Maritime Transportation and Huang Daopo Belief in Lower Yangtze Region since Late Yuan Dynasty

19:00 Dinner in Kaag Sociëteit

May 25, Sat. Maritime Museum Rotterdam

Leuvenhaven 1, Rotterdam
Verolmezaal

10:00-13:00 Morning session: Environmental aspects of human use of rivers

- a) River regulation and its consequences:
- b) Global heating and the river

Presentations by:

- Prof. Christoph Bernhardt (Leibniz Institute for Research on Society and Space) The River as a resource and a threat. Environmental problems and water management along the Rhine in the 19th and 20th century.
- Prof. Zhang Jianmin (Wuhan University) 张建民: 丰沛抑或枯涸: 明清时期汉水上游的河流与环境 Overflow or depletion: Rivers and environmental change in the Hanjiang upstream area during Ming and Qing.
- Dr. Nobert Kriedel (Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine), Low water levels on the Rhine in 2018 and their impact on the inland navigation industry and on industrial production in Germany
- Prof. Yu Xinzhong (Nankai University, Tianjin) 余新忠: 清代长江流域城市水环境问题研究 A Study on Urban Water Environmental Problems of the Yangtze River Valley in the Qing Dynasty

11:00-11:30 Coffee, tea etcetera

13:00 Lunch