

Syllabus

ASIOC Seminar Series

International labour emigration and human trafficking in treaty-port China (19th-20th centuries)

First Semester 2023

Time: Mondays 15,30h-17,30h, Wednesdays 15,30h-17,30h

Place: D4.070

Instructor

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Office hours: by appointment

Course Description

During most part of the Qing dynasty, emigrating was not encouraged in China, yet, living conditions, overpopulation, conflicts, and poverty, pushed many Chinese citizens abroad. The abolitionist movement in the mid-nineteenth century also triggered Chinese indentured migration to European colonies and other sites with plantation-based economies in Southeast Asia and Latin America. Moreover, evidences of wife selling and child trafficking for the international slave market indicate that they were also ongoing practices from the 1830s. In this seminar, we will use multilingual material in Chinese, English, Spanish, Portuguese, French, Dutch and German, to analyse the business behind Chinese emigration and the commodification of labour from the second third of the nineteenth century to the first third of the twentieth century. We will particularly pay attention to the agents and intermediaries involved in the im/mobilization of labour, and analyse the circulation of Chinese labourers and trafficked women and children to various destinations – namely to Cuba, Peru, Sumatra, the Straight Settlements, and The Philippines. As in nineteenth-century Chinese labour migration and human trafficking, policy decisions of Western governments, business transparency and intermediaries are also key factors sustaining modern slavery globally. In this seminar, we will use the historical perspective to address questions relevant to contemporary labour migration and exploitation in Asia, such as: what power relations drive the mobility of population? How do various forms of human trafficking become entangled? What are the push and pull factors that intervene in migratory processes? How do territoriality, colonization and migration shape each other?

This seminary is aimed at providing interdisciplinary research training, mixing economic, legal, social, and global history, as well as sociology and Chinese studies.

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course. Multilingual primary sources will be used throughout the course along with tools to help students interpret material in various languages.

Assessment

A short paper on one of the subjects studied in the seminar and an oral presentation. The student will develop a brief study from the search, translation and interpretation of a primary source in a language other than their own.

Suggested paper topics

1. Chinese immigration to California; Chinese smuggling
2. Chinese girl trafficking to Singapore
3. Chinese in the Cuban revolution
4. Chinese in the Philippine revolution
5. Chinese in other sites in Southeast Asia
6. Chinese in Mauritius, Congo, and other destinations

Sessions

Wednesday 18 October: 15,30h-17,30h
 Monday 23 October: 15,30h-17,30h
 Wednesday 25 October: 15,30h-17,30h
 Monday 6 November: 15,30h-17,30h
 Wednesday 8 November: 15,30h-17,30h
 Monday 13 November: 15,30h-17,30h
 Wednesday 15 November: 15,30h-17,30h
 Monday 20 November: 15,30h-17,30h
 Wednesday 22 November: 15,30h-17,30h
 Monday 27 November: 15,30h-17,30h
 Wednesday 29 November: 15,30h-17,30h

Suggested topics for dissertations

- The “coolie question”
- Modalities and sites for the international im/mobilization of Chinese labour (19th to 20th century)
- Factors affecting the exploitation and the international circulation of Chinese labourers
- Human trafficking in treaty-port China
- Female trafficking in Southeast Asia

Schedule

Session	Seminar	Source material
Week 1, 18 October Welcome session	Girl trafficking in the China coast and the "coolie trade" (I) <hr/> In preparation, please read <hr/> Vito, Christian G. De. "History Without Scale: The Micro-Spatial Perspective." <i>Past & Present</i> 242, no. Supplement_14 (November 1, 2019): 348–72. https://doi.org/10.1093/pastj/gtz048	British Foreign Office
Week 2, 23 October Trafficking of Chinese women and girls	Girl trafficking in the China coast and the "coolie trade" (II) <hr/> In preparation, please read <hr/> Jaschok, Maria, and Suzanne Miers, "Introduction" in Idem. eds. <i>Women and Chinese Patriarchy: Submission, Servitude and Escape</i> . Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 1994: 1-24. https://books.google.es/books?id=f5o_t7VxHYAC&dq=Women+and+Chinese+patriarchy:+submission,+servitude+and+escape&source=gbs_navlinks_s	British Foreign Office; Arquivo Histórico Ultramarino, AHN

Week 2, 25 October Chinese immigration to Cuba (I)	Slavery vs indenture; Cuban sugar production <hr/> In preparation, please choose a chapter from <hr/> Helly, Denise. <i>Idéologie et ethnicité : les Chinois Macao à Cuba, 1847-1886</i> Chicoutimi: Bibliothèque Paul-Émile Boulet de l'Université du Québec à Chicoutimi, 2008.	Indentured contracts; Spanish consular correspondence
Week 3, 6 November Chinese immigration to Cuba (II)	"Coolie trade" and slavery in Cuba; The Cheng Lanbin Commission and the "end" of the coolie trade? <hr/> In preparation, please read <hr/> Yun, Lisa, and Ricardo René Laremont. "Chinese Coolies and African Slaves in Cuba, 1847-74." <i>Journal of Asian American Studies</i> 4, no. 2 (2017): 99–122. https://doi.org/10.1353/jaas.2001.0022	Zongli Yamen collection
Week 3, 8 November Intermediaries	Intermediaries and the organization of the trade in Treaty Port China <hr/> In preparation, please read <hr/> Granovetter, Mark. "The Impact of Social Structure on Economic Outcomes." <i>The Journal of Economic Perspectives</i> 19, no. 1 (2005): 33–50. http://www.jstor.org/stable/4134991 .	Arquivo Histórico Ultramarino: AHN: Spanish consular correspondence
Week 4, 13 November Age and trafficking	Intersectionality, age, gender and trafficking; Chinese and Yucatec children in Cuba <hr/> In preparation, please read <hr/> Pomfret, David M. <i>Youth and Empire: Trans-Colonial Childhoods in British and French Asia</i> . Stanford University Press, 2015. Chapter 7, pp. 178-208 22082_\$UOCG_15027793_15027793.pdf Voss, Barbara L. "Sexual Effects: Postcolonial and Queer Perspectives on the Archaeology of Sexuality and Empire." In <i>The Archaeology of Colonialism: Intimate Encounters and Sexual Effects</i> , edited by Barbara L. Voss and Eleanor Conlin Casella, 11–30. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012.	Arquivo Historica da Marinha: ANC
Week 4, 15 November Chinese immigration to Peru	History of Chinese immigration to Peru <hr/> In preparation, please read <hr/> Lausent-Herrera, Isabelle. "Tusans (Tusheng) and the Changing Chinese Community in Peru." <i>Journal of Chinese Overseas</i> 5, no. 1 (2009): 115–52. doi:10.1163/179325409X434522 .	Peruvian Decrees
Week 5, 20 November Chinese immigration to the Philippines	The "credit-ticket" system, asysted migration, and labour gangs <hr/> In preparation, please read <hr/> Wickberg, Edgar. "Early Chinese Economic Influence in the Philippines, 1850-1898." <i>Pacific Affairs</i> 35, no. 3 (1962): 275–85.	Marcaida, Juan Bautista. <i>Empresas agricolas, con chinos, en Filipinas, tomando por tipo lo que podrian producir en la isla de Mindoro</i> . Manila: Amigos del Pais, 1850; FO

Week 5, 22 November Chinese immigration to Dutch Sumatra (I)	Chinese emigration to Deli (via Singapore) In preparation, please read Benton, Gregor. "Introduction." In <i>Chinese Indentured Labour in the Dutch East Indies, 1880–1942: Tin, Tobacco, Timber, and the Penal Sanction</i> , edited by Gregor Benton, 1–11. Cham: Springer International Publishing, 2022. doi:10.1007/978-3-031-05024-4_1.	Nationaal Archief
Week 6, 27 November Chinese immigration to Dutch Sumatra (II)	Chinese emigration to Deli from Xiamen, and German transportation companies In preparation, please read either of the following: Droessler, Holger. "Colonialism by Deferral: Samoa Under the Tridominium, 1889–1899." In <i>Rethinking the Colonial State</i> , 33:203–24. Political Power and Social Theory. Emerald Publishing Limited, 2017. doi:10.1108/S0198-871920170000033009. Becker, Bert. "Introduction", in <i>France and Germany in the South China Sea, c. 1840-1930: Maritime Competition and Imperial Power</i> . Springer Nature, 2021, pp. 1-13. Lee, Chinyun. "德國商船在北海的經營與勞力運輸 /German Trade and the Transportation of Coolies at Pakhoi." <i>Asian Studies</i> 16, no. 1 (2012).	Bundersarchiv
Week 6, 29 November Students presentations	We will dedicate the last session to the student's presentations	

Basic bibliography

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- , Clare Anderson, and Ulbe Bosma. "Transportation, Deportation and Exile: Perspectives from the Colonies in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries." *International Review of Social History* 63, no. S26 (2018): 1–24.
- . "Punitive Entanglements: Connected Histories of Penal Transportation, Deportation, and Incarceration in the Spanish Empire (1830s-1898)." *International Review of Social History* 63, no. S26 (2018): 169–189.
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- , and Martino Sacchi Landriani. *Logistica Delle Migrazioni*. Quaderni Di Scienza & Politica no. 11. Bologna: Dipartimento delle Arti, 2020.
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- . "Xiamen: Emigrants' Portal to a Broader World." Taipei, 2018.
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- Ginés-Blasi, Mònica. "A Philippine 'Coolie Trade': Trade and Exploitation of Chinese Labour in Spanish Colonial Philippines, 1850–98." *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies* 51, no. 3 (2020): 1–27.
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- . "The International Trafficking of Chinese Children and Its Conflicting Legalities in Mid-Nineteenth Century Treaty-Port China." *Slavery & Abolition*, 2022.
- . "Las Niñas Del Inglewood: Tráfico Infantil y Femenino En China y El 'Comercio de Culíes' a Cuba (1855)." *Historia Contemporánea* 72 (2023): 403–30.
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