

August 2015

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"This Month in Mongolian Studies" is a monthly listing of selected academic activities and resources related to Mongolia. This list is based on information the ACMS has received and is presented as a service to its members. If you would like to submit information to be included in next month's issue please contact the ACMS at info@mongoliacenter.org and/or the editor, Marissa Smith, at msmith@mongoliacenter.org.

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ACMS Sponsored Programs and Events

Calls for Papers, Conferences, and Workshops

InterAsian Connections V: Seoul (SSRC), Seoul National University Asia Center, April 27-30, 2016. This series showcases innovative research from across the social sciences and related disciplines and explores themes that transform conventional understandings of Asia. Crossing traditional area studies boundaries and creating international and interdisciplinary networks of scholars working to theorize the intersection of the "global" and the "regional" in a variety of contexts, the conference reconceptualizes Asia as a dynamic and interconnected historical, geographical, and cultural formation stretching from West Asia through Eurasia, South Asia and Southeast Asia to East Asia. Following the model used in previous conferences, the 2016 Seoul conference--comprising ten concurrent, closed director-led workshops and plenary sessions open across workshops and to the general public--will be structured to enable intensive working group interactions on specific research themes as well as broader interactions on topics of shared interest and concern. Deadline for paper proposals **September 8th**. More information on the ten workshops and applications here: <http://www.ssrc.org/pages/interasian-connections-v-seoul-2016/>

Guerrilla Cartography is seeking maps, ideas, cartographers, and researchers for a

special atlas on water. As a project of Guerrilla Cartography, *Water: An Atlas* will be a collaborative project, bringing together a diversity of disciplines all connected by the theme of water. Any and all subject matter related to water is welcome—from fisheries and agriculture to water diversion and infrastructures; from the politics of access to the morality of waste; from sea-level rise and vanishing glaciers to gray water and hydroelectricity; from the water cycle to the origins of water—*Water: An Atlas* endeavors to map water in its myriad contexts and conditions and at all scales of research and geography. We seek contributions from current or recent research that may already be mapped and current or recent research that could be mapped, including historical data and investigation. You may submit as many maps or ideas as you wish as long as you are able to supply adequate and appropriate data. For more details about submission requirements, visit www.guerrillacartography.org/call/. If you have any questions, please contact us at submissions@guerrillacartography.org.

The Second Ethnographic Film and Media Program of the Middle East and Central Eurasia of EASA (European Association of Social Anthropologists), The Department of Sociology, University of Nantes, Nantes, France, November 2015. We invite and encourage all students, anthropologists, sociologists, documentary filmmakers and media artists to participate in our program by submitting ethnographic videos, films (including online and cell phone styles, short and feature-length films) as well as interactive media (websites, hyperlinked documents, etc.). Films and other materials submitted for the program should be submitted online or as DVD preview copies, accompanied by a synopsis, a 10-line description and technical data, no later than **10th September 2015**. Visit: <http://www.easaonline.org/networks/amce/index.shtml> Contact: Dr. P. Khosronejad pedram.khosronejad@univ-nantes.fr

CESS Award for Best Graduate Student Paper. This award gives special recognition to a paper written by a current graduate student and presented at the CESS Annual Conference. The winner of the prize will receive \$500 on attendance of the CESS Annual Conference, will be honored at the conference, and will be offered the opportunity to publish the paper in *Central Asian Survey*. **The prize is awarded only to a conference presenter**, and will only be given if papers are of sufficient quality to merit the award. Any graduate student enrolled in a program toward a degree beyond the B.A. or first university diploma is eligible. The applicant must be registered as a student during the semester that the conference takes place. The paper should be consistent with the framework of those presented at the CESS Annual Conference, addressing any topic in the humanities or social science study of Central Eurasia. The papers will be evaluated by a three-member jury representing a range of disciplinary approaches. The evaluation criteria include originality, appropriate use of sources, and quality of writing. The paper may be drawn from thesis work or intended for eventual publication, and should conform to standard academic guidelines in terms of style and presentation. Papers must be submitted electronically. It is the responsibility of the paper writer to ensure that it is delivered in good order and on time. Papers (and any questions) should be sent to the Chair of the Awards Committee, Dr. David Montgomery: dwm@pitt.edu The submission deadline is **October 7, 2015**. Visit: <http://www.centraleurasia.org/graduate-student-paper-award>

Research Fellowships, Scholarships and Grants

SSRC Transregional Research Junior Scholar Fellowship: InterAsian Contexts and Connections. The Social Science Research Council (SSRC)'s Interasia Program has put out a call for their "Transregional Research Junior Scholar Fellowship: InterAsian Contexts and Connections". This fellowship is formerly known as the Postdoctoral Fellowship for Transregional Research, and is aimed at supporting transregional research under the rubric InterAsian Contexts and Connections. Its purpose is to strengthen the understanding of issues and geographies that do not fit neatly into existing divisions of academia or the world and to develop new approaches, practices, and opportunities in international, regional, and area studies. Funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, these fellowships help junior scholars (one to five years out of the PhD) complete first books or undertake second projects. In addition to funding research, the fellowships create networks and shared resources that will support fellows well beyond the award period. The Transregional Research Junior Scholar Fellowship thus provides promising scholars important support at critical junctures in their careers. Next application deadline is **August 25th, 2015**. For more information, visit [SSRC's website](#).

Resources

***Documentation of Mongolian Monasteries:** This website is "a database of the location and condition of Buddhist temple and monastery sites in Mongolia at the beginning of 20th century that could be found in the main survey period of summer of 2007." The site includes maps, photographs, and oral histories. <http://mongoliantemples.org/index.php/en/>

***Emerging Subjects of the New Economy Blog:** Part of a 5-year project composed of social scientists based in the UK and in Mongolia, explores the kinds of subjects, activities, and environments emerging out of the rapid growth, and now increasing slowdown of the Mongolian economy. <http://blogs.ucl.ac.uk/mongolian-economy/>

University of Cambridge "Oral History of Twentieth Century Mongolia": This is an archive of more than 600 interviews that has been collected, transcribed, and translated at the University of Cambridge. There are more than 600 interviews online, and the materials are keyword searchable. <http://www.mongolianoralhistory.org/index.html>

Endangered Archives Programme of the British Library: There are currently five subsections of East Asia devoted to Mongolia-related topics. Some of them are photos of documents, and some are early images of Mongolia. Topics include:

[Preservation of rare periodical publications in Mongolia](#)

[The Treasures of Danzan Ravjaa](#)

[Preservation through digitisation of the Tangut collection at the Institute of Oriental Studies](#)

[Preservation through digitisation of rare photographic negatives from Mongolia](#)

[Digitising 19th and early 20th century Buddhist manuscripts from Dambadarjaa Monastery](#)

Mongolian Studies Facebook

Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/mongolianstudies/> A public place for sharing articles and videos, calls for papers for journals and conferences, solicitations for research assistance, and other announcements of interest to those of us who study contemporary and historical Mongolia and Mongolian things from an academic perspective. The preference is to post in English or Mongolian, but all languages are welcome. Likewise, we invite members of all academic disciplines to join: history, anthropology, biology, archeology, ethnomusicology, religious studies, linguistics, environmental studies, etc.

Mongolia and Lake Hovsgol GIS Data Repository

ACMS 2014 Summer Research Fellow Chris Free has put together a repository of GIS (Geographic Information Systems) data from his research in Mongolia and more specifically at Lake Hovsgol. Check it out via his website:

Mongolia GIS data: <http://marine.rutgers.edu/~cfree/gis-data/mongolia-gis-data/>

Lake Hovsgol GIS data: <http://marine.rutgers.edu/~cfree/gis-data/lake-hovsgol-gis-data/>

Dissertation Reviews now includes a section on Inner and Central

Asia: <http://dissertationreviews.org/archives/category/review/innercentralasia>

Asian Highlands Research Network [AH-RN] is a scholarly discussion group associated with the journal Asian Highlands Perspectives. This group focuses on the Tibetan Plateau and surrounding regions, including the Southeast Asian Massif, Himalayan Massif, the Extended Eastern Himalayas, the Mongolian Plateau, and other contiguous areas. We aim to promote exploration of cross-regional commonalities in history, culture, language, and socio-political context not served by current academic forums. AH-RN will be of interest to Sinologists, Tibetologists, Mongolists, and South and Southeast Asianists. We welcome group members to share information about events and publications related to the study of the Asian Highlands. Services: timely and exclusive reviews of new books in the field; semi-regular roundup of new open access publications; announcements of new publications from Asian Highlands Perspectives. AH-RN is a private group. To join, please contact:

Gerald.Roche[at]ymail.com. For more on Asian Highlands Perspectives:

<http://www.platauculture.org/asian-highlands-perspectives>

<http://www.lulu.com/spotlight/asianhighlandsperspectives>

TheDukha Ethnoarchaeological Project. The primary goal of the

DukhaEthnoarchaeological Project is the development of spatial theory of human behavior for application to archaeological problems. Visit the website

at: <https://sites.google.com/site/dukhaethnoarch/> .

Asian Politics and History Association. Asian Politics and History Association is a non-political, non-profit academic society organized by scholars of Asian studies. Established in 2011 in Hong Kong, APHA currently has members from Asian-Pacific, European and North American countries. APHA supports the Journal of Asian Politics & History, an academic journal published twice a year beginning in October 2012. Visit the website

at: <http://www.aphahk.org>.

Juniper: Online Database for Mongolian and Siberian Studies. This new French scientific tool is created at the initiative of the Centre for Mongolian and Siberian EPHE. It aims to bring together texts (native), images and multimedia on the peoples of Mongolia and Siberia. Several galleries of images are presented, including collections of old prints and a new series of old photographs of the Tuvan National Museum. Sheets populations gather essential information and links to documents relating to the peoples of Northern Asia. Subject files (kinship, Personalia, shamanism and soon others) allow you to browse the data according to thematic itineraries. The bibliography contains references to books and articles, some of which have been digitized and can be downloaded for researchers. Visit: www.base-juniper.org.

Searchable Ornithological Research Archive (SORA). Recently the University of New Mexico Library officially announced the launch of the new, upgraded Searchable Ornithological Research Archive (SORA). The ornithological community is once again indebted to the UNM library for investing in the open access distribution of our historical ornithological literature. SORA has been moved to a new platform that will allow the resource to grow and expand over time. Many of the SORA journal titles have been updated with additional articles, and a new ornithological title has been added to the site. SORA now offers a number of new features for users and provides tools for journal publishers to update the SORA repository directly, with little or no technical support. All of these improvements have been needed for some time, and the UNM Libraries SORA team appreciates your collective patience; it has taken over a year to convert the entire SORA article holdings and prepare the new site for production. A number of ongoing improvements are still in the works for 2014, and as with any major system upgrade, there are a countless number of small details that still require attention. The new URL to the site is <http://sora.unm.edu>.

The Mongolist is a website dedicated to sharing knowledge about Mongolian politics, business, and society. The website is an ever growing resource built on data and information collected on the Internet and in Mongolia. The aim of this website is to make understanding the complexity of the rapid social and economic change occurring in Mongolia not only accessible but also rewarding. The underlying principle guiding the development of all content on this website is evidence based investigation. Whenever possible, opinion, conjecture, and pure guesswork are replaced with facts, data, and extrapolation. And, when this is not possible, opinion, conjecture, and pure guesswork are advertised as such. Visit: <http://www.themongolist.com/>

Education About Asia (EAA) has become an essential resource for teachers dealing with Asian themes or topics; both in the broad trans-continental and regional contexts. Conceived as a publication for K-12 faculty, it has in fact proved to be extremely helpful for higher education faculty seeking insights on many subjects. The Asian Studies outreach activities of many colleges and universities have greatly benefited from EAA materials. Register (for free) to access approximately 900 articles from all thirty-seven back issues from 1996-2008: <http://www.asian-studies.org/EAA/index.htm> and subscribe to the Print Edition at <https://www.asian-studies.org/EAA-Subscriptions.htm>.

Inner Asian and Uralic National Resource Center: Indiana University's IAUNRC has updated its website to include not only its regular newsletters but podcasts, lecture videos, teaching resources and more: <http://www.iu.edu/~iaunrc/>.

Mongolia Focus (formerly "Mongolia Today"): "This blog is an attempt by three avid Mongolia watchers to share their observations about current developments in Mongolia." By Julian Dierkes and Dalaibulanii Byambajav, social scientists at the University of British Columbia, this blog mostly follows Mongolian politics and the mining sector. Visit: <http://blogs.ubc.ca/mongolia/>.

(*) - newly added

Other News and Events

Events in the United States:

Genghis Khan: Bring the Legend to Life is a continuing special exhibit at the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia. See the [Franklin Institute](#) website for more information. Exhibit runs from May 9th to January 3rd, 2016.

In Mongolia:

Monthly Biobeers Talk: Biobeers is a monthly gathering of government and NGO staff, biologists, researchers, and other professionals interested in conservation. Each month, Biobeers sponsors presentations on topics relevant to Mongolian conservation, followed by an informal gathering to discuss activities and issues of interest. Biobeers is an opportunity to find out what is happening in the field of conservation in Mongolia, talk informally to other researchers and peers in your field, and share information about issues critical to the environment and people of Mongolia. Biobeers is organised by the Zoological Society of London's Steppe Forward Programme and the Wildlife Conservation Society. At Biobeers the beer is on us! Join the Yahoo! Group Mongolbioweb for announcements.

Elsewhere:

River, Stars, Reindeer: Imaging Evenki & Orochen communities of Inner Mongolia & Siberia, 23 June – 27 September 2015. One hundred years ago the Russian ethnographer, Sergei Shirokogoroff and his wife Elizabeth, were invited to the snowforests of the Amur River to study the indigenous Evenki and Orochen peoples. In 1929 Cambridge's own graduate, Ethel Lindgren and her soon to be husband Oscar Mamen, went in search of these 'little-known tribes' as they were considered to be 'fast dying out'. Together they amassed a considerable collection of 26,000 culturally and historically important photographs, the majority of which have never been seen, until now. In collaboration with Evenki and Orochen communities and scholars, MAA and MAE (Kunstkamera), St

Petersburg, as caretakers of Shirokogoroff and Lindgren's photographic collections, are working to share these photographs with the people of Inner Mongolia and Siberia. From the excitement of recognizing faces, to the beauty of the reindeer, or the heated debates about what is happening in the photographs, this evocative exhibition is about the reconnection of these communities with their images, their histories, and their stories. <http://maa.cam.ac.uk/river-stars-reindeer/>

Recent Publications

Mongolian Studies: The Journal of the Mongolia Society is now available on JSTOR. [Click here for a link to the entry](#), including volumes 1-33.

Asian Highlands Perspectives 36: Mapping the Monguor by Gerald Roche and C. K. Stuart, published 2015). Nearly ten years in the making, this book focuses on the people officially referred to in China as the *Tu* and more commonly known in the West as the Monguor. The Tu live mostly in Qinghai and Gansu provinces, on the northeast Tibetan Plateau. The thirteen contributions in this collection shed new light on diversity among the Monguor, challenging representations that treat them as a homogenous category. This mapping of cultural and linguistic diversity is organized according to the three territories where the Monguor live: the Duluun Lunkuang 'The Seven Valleys', where the Mongghul language is spoken; Sanchuan 'The Three Valleys', where the Mangghuer language is spoken; and Khre tse Bzhi 'The Four Estates', where the Bonan language is spoken. In addition to mapping diversity among the Monguor in terms of these territories, we also map the project of the contemporary Chinese state and Western observers to describe and classify the Monguor. Consisting of translations of valuable source materials as well as original research articles, this book is an essential reference work for Tibetologists, Sinologists, Mongolists, and all those interested in cultural and linguistic diversity in Asia. Includes maps, images, references, article abstracts, and a list of non-English terms with original scripts *Mapping the Monguor* is available as a free download at: [PlateauCulture](#) and can be purchased as a hardback [HERE](#).

Faces of the Wolf, by Bernard Charlier (Brill, 2015). In his study of the human, non-human relationships in Mongolia, Bernard Charlier explores the role of the wolf in the ways nomadic herders relate to their natural environment and to themselves. The wolf, as the enemy of the herds and a prestigious prey, is at the core of two technical relationships, herding and hunting, endowed with particular cosmological ideas. The study of these relationships casts a new light on the ways herders perceive and relate to domestic and wild animals. It convincingly undermines any attempt to consider humans and non-humans as entities belonging a priori to autonomous spheres of existence, which would reify the nature-society boundary into a phenomenal order of things and so justify the identity of western epistemology.

The Hunter, the Stag, and the Mother of Animals: Image, Monument and Landscape in Ancient North Asia by Esther Jacobson-Tepfer (Oxford University Press, 2015).

This book explores the archaeology of myth within North Asia from the pre-Bronze Age through the

early Iron Age. It is the first study to explore the interweaving of petroglyphic imagery, stone monuments and landscape context to reconstruct the traditions of myth and belief of ancient hunters and herders. The ancient taiga, steppe and mountain steppe of Mongolia and the region to the north gave rise to a mythic narrative of birth, death and transformation. Within that tale reflecting the hardship of life of ancient nomadic hunters and herders, the hunter, the mother of animals and the stag are central protagonists. That is not, however, the order in which they appeared in prehistory. We tend to privilege the hero hunter of the Bronze Age and his re-incarnation as a warrior in the Iron Age. But before him and, in a sense, behind him was a female power, half animal-half human. From her came permission to hunt the animals of the taiga, and by her they were replenished. She was, in other words, the source of the hunter's success. The stag was a latecomer to this tale, a complex symbol of death and transformation embedded in what ultimately became a struggle for priority between animal mother and hero hunter.

From the region in which this narrative is set there are no written texts to illuminate prehistory. Hundreds of burials across the steppe reveal little relating to myth and belief before the late Bronze Age. What they tell us is that uncertain people and cultures came and went, leaving behind huge stone mounds, altars and standing stones as well as thousands of images pecked and painted on stone. This book uses that material as well as ethnographic materials to reconstruct the prehistory of myth and belief in ancient North Asia; it does so by placing stone monuments and imagery within the context of the physical landscape and by considering all three elements as reflections of the archaeology of belief. Within that process, paleoenvironmental forces, economic innovations and changing social order served as pivots of mythic transformation. They underlie the long transition from animal mother to the apotheosis of hero hunter and warrior in North Asia.

The Mongol Century: Visual Cultures of Yuan China, 1271–1368 by Shane McCausland (Univ. of Hawaii Press, 2014). The Mongol Century explores the visual world of China's Yuan dynasty (1271–1368), the spectacular but relatively short-lived regime founded by Khubilai Khan, regarded as the pre-eminent khanate of the Mongol empire. This book illuminates the Yuan era—full of conflicts and complex interactions between Mongol power and Chinese heritage—by delving into the visual history of its culture, considering how Mongol governance and values imposed a new order on China's culture and how a sedentary, agrarian China posed specific challenges to the Mongols' militarist and nomadic lifestyle. Shane McCausland explores how an unusual range of expectations and pressures were placed on Yuan culture: the idea that visual culture could create cohesion across a diverse yet hierarchical society, while balancing Mongol desires for novelty and display with Chinese concerns about posterity. Fresh and invigorating, *The Mongol Century* explores, in fascinating detail, the visual culture of this brief but captivating era of East Asian history.

Chinese Architecture in an Age of Turmoil, 200-600, by Nancy Shatzman Steinhardt (Univ. of Hawaii Press, 2014). Between the fall of the Han dynasty in 220 CE and the year 600, more than thirty dynasties, kingdoms, and states rose and fell on the eastern side of the Asian continent. The founders and rulers of those polities represented the spectrum of peoples in North, East, and Central Asia. Nearly all of them built palaces, altars, temples, tombs, and cities, and almost without exception, the architecture was grounded in the building tradition of China. Illustrated with more than 475 color and black-and-white photographs, maps, and drawings, *Chinese Architecture in an Age of Turmoil* uses all available evidence—Chinese texts, secondary literature in six languages, excavation

reports, and most important, physical remains—to present the architectural history of this tumultuous period in China's history. Its author, Nancy Shatzman Steinhardt, arguably North America's leading scholar of premodern Chinese architecture, has done field research at nearly every site mentioned, many of which were unknown twenty years ago and have never been described in a Western language.

Recent Outer Mongolian International Relations: a Time Capsule (e-book), by Dr. Jon D. Holstine. This is a "revised version of a master's thesis describing Mongolian foreign affairs through 1962, based on open sources. Originally copyrighted 1965 through University Microfilms," and with a foreword by Dr. Alicia Campi. This historical introduction traces Central Asian political developments involving the Mongols after the fall of the Yuan Dynasty in 1368 until the rise of Communist China. Subsequent chapters chronicle relations of the Mongolian People's Republic with the Soviet Union, the People's Republic of China, other nations, and the United Nations. Written from translations of the Soviet and mainland Chinese press, news accounts, and UN documents, the book provides a record of the MPR's publicly reported diplomatic dealings. It emphasizes the significance of Mongolia's place in the complex of Chinese inner Asian politics, with attention to the role of Lamaist Buddhism (the Tibetan connection). This is a newly edited work.

Chanter, s'attacher et transmettre chez les Darhad de Mongolie [Singing, attachment and transmission among the Darhad of Mongolia], by Laurent Legrain (Centre d'Études Mongoles et Sibériennes (EPHE), 2014). For more information about this publication in French, please visit the editor's website: <http://emscat.revues.org/2476>

Buddhism in Mongolian History, Culture, and Society, by Vesna A. Wallace (Oxford University Press, January 2015) explores the unique elements of Mongolian Buddhism while challenging its stereotyped image as a mere replica of Tibetan Buddhism. Vesna A. Wallace brings together an interdisciplinary group of leading scholars to explore the interaction between the Mongolian indigenous culture and Buddhism, the features that Buddhism acquired through its adaptation to the Mongolian cultural sphere, and the ways Mongols have constructed their Buddhist identity. The contributors explore the ways that Buddhism retained unique Mongolian features through Qing and Mongol support, and bring to light the ways in which Mongolian Buddhists saw Buddhism as inseparable from "Mongolness." They show that by being greatly supported by Mongol and Qing empires, suppressed by the communist governments, and experiencing revitalization facilitated by democratization and the challenges posed by modernity, Buddhism underwent a series of transformations while retaining unique Mongolian features. The book covers historical events, social and political conditions, and influential personages in Mongolian Buddhism from the sixteenth century to the present, and addresses the artistic and literary expressions of Mongolian Buddhism and various Mongolian Buddhist practices and beliefs.

Sinophobia: Anxiety, Violence, and the Making of Mongolian Identity, by Franck Bille (University of Hawaii Press, December 2014). Sinophobia is a timely and ground-breaking study of the anti-Chinese sentiments currently widespread in Mongolia. Graffiti calling for the removal of Chinese dot the urban landscape, songs about killing the Chinese are played in

public spaces, and rumours concerning Chinese plans to take over the country and exterminate the Mongols are rife. Such violent anti-Chinese feelings are frequently explained as a consequence of China's meteoric economic development, a cause of much anxiety for her immediate neighbours and particularly for Mongolia, a large but sparsely populated country that is rich in mineral resources. Other analysts point to deeply entrenched antagonisms and to centuries of hostility between the two groups, implying unbridgeable cultural differences. Franck Bille challenges these reductive explanations. Drawing on extended fieldwork, interviews, and a wide range of sources in Mongolian, Chinese, and Russian, he argues that anti-Chinese sentiments are not a new phenomenon but go back to the late socialist period (1960-1990) when Mongolia's political and cultural life was deeply intertwined with Russia's. Through an in-depth analysis of media discourses, Bille shows how stereotypes of the Chinese emerged through an internalisation of Russian ideas of Asia, and how they can easily extend to other Asian groups such as Koreans or Vietnamese. He argues that the anti-Chinese attitudes of Mongols reflect an essential desire to distance themselves from Asia overall and to reject their own Asianness. The spectral presence of China, imagined to be everywhere and potentially in everyone, thus produces a pervasive climate of mistrust, suspicion, and paranoia. Through its detailed ethnography and innovative approach, *Sinophobia* makes a critical intervention in racial and ethnic studies by foregrounding Sinophobic narratives and by integrating psychoanalytical insights into its analysis. In addition to making a useful contribution to the study of Mongolia, it will be essential reading for anthropologists, sociologists, and historians interested in ethnicity, nationalism, and xenophobia.

The Lama Question: Violence, Sovereignty, and Exception in Early Socialist Mongolia, by Christopher Kaplonski (University of Hawaii Press, December 2014). Before becoming the second socialist country in the world (after the Soviet Union) in 1921, Mongolia had been a Buddhist feudal theocracy. Combatting the influence of the dominant Buddhist establishment to win the hearts and minds of the Mongolian people was one of the most important challenges faced by the new socialist government. It would take almost a decade and a half to resolve the "lama question," and it would be answered with brutality, destruction, and mass killings. Chris Kaplonski examines this critical, violent time in the development of Mongolia as a nation-state and its ongoing struggle for independence and recognition in the twentieth century. Unlike most studies that explore violence as the primary means by which states deal with their opponents, *The Lama Question* argues that the decision to resort to violence in Mongolia was not a quick one; neither was it a long-term strategy nor an out-of control escalation of orders but the outcome of a complex series of events and attempts by the government to be viewed as legitimate by the population. Kaplonski draws on a decade of research and archival resources to investigate the problematic relationships between religion and politics and geopolitics and bio politics in early socialist Mongolia, as well as the multitude of state actions that preceded state brutality. By examining the incidents and transformations that resulted in violence and by viewing violence as a process rather than an event, his work not only challenges existing theories of political violence, but also offers another approach to the anthropology of the state. In particular, it presents an alternative model to philosopher Giorgio Agamben's theory of sovereignty and the state of exception. *The Lama Question* will be of interest to

scholars and students of violence, the state, bio politics, Buddhism, and socialism, as well as to those interested in the history of Mongolia and Asia in general.

From Yuan to Modern China to Mongolia: The Writings of Morris Rossabi, by Morris Rossabi (Brill, December 2014). This wide-ranging work, consisting of selected essays of Morris Rossabi, reflects the diverse interests of a leading scholar of China and Inner Asia. It encompasses the eras from the thirteenth century to the present, territories stretching from China to Mongolia to Central Asia and to the Middle East, and religions from Islam to Nestorian Christianity to Judaism and Confucianism in East, Central, and West Asia. Rossabi first challenged the conventional wisdom concerning traditional Chinese foreign relations by showing the pragmatism of Chinese officials who were not bound by Confucian strictures and stereotypes about foreigners and were actually knowledgeable about neighboring regions. His studies of the territories surrounding China led to the discovery of a major omission in historical writing—the lack of a biography of Khubilai Khan, one of the most renowned rulers in Eurasian history. His biography of Khubilai resulted in further studies of the Mongolian legacy on global history and of the significant role of women in the Mongolian empire. His repeated travels in Mongolia, in turn, stimulated an interest in modern Mongolia, especially the turbulence following the turbulence after the collapse of socialism in 1990, a subject he writes about in this book. The need for greater public knowledge and awareness of China, Mongolia, Central Asia, the Silk Roads, and Islam in Asia prompted Rossabi to write general, occasionally pedagogical, articles about these topics for a wider audience.

Inner Asia and the Spatial Politics of Empire: Archaeology, Mobility, and Culture, by William Honeychurch (Springer, November 2014). This monograph uses the latest archaeological results from Mongolia and the surrounding areas of Inner Asia to propose a novel understanding of nomadic statehood, political economy, and the nature of interaction with ancient China. In contrast to the common view of the Eurasian steppe as a dependent periphery of Old World centers, this work views Inner Asia as a locus of enormous influence on neighboring civilizations, primarily through the development and transmission of diverse organizational models, technologies, and socio-political traditions. This work explores the spatial management of political relationships within the pastoral nomadic setting during the first millennium BCE and argues that a culture of mobility, horse-based transport, and long-distance networking promoted a unique variant of statehood. Although states of the eastern steppe were geographically large and hierarchical, these polities also relied on techniques of distributed authority, multiple centers, flexible structures, and ceremonialism to accommodate a largely mobile and dispersed populace. This expertise in “spatial politics” set the stage early on for the expansionistic success of later Asian empires under the Mongols and Manchus. *Inner Asia and the Spatial Politics of Empire* brings a distinctly anthropological treatment to the prehistory of Mongolia and is the first major work to explore key issues in the archaeology of eastern Eurasia using a comparative framework. The monograph adds significantly to anthropological theory on interaction between states and outlying regions, the emergence of secondary complexity, and the growth of imperial traditions. Based on this approach, the window of Inner Asian prehistory offers a novel opportunity to investigate the varied ways that complex societies grow and the processes

articulating adjacent societies in networks of mutual transformation.