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CONVENOR

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AUSTRIAN
ACADEMY OF
SCIENCES

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2024
START: 14:00
AUSTRIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
JOHANNESSAAL
DR. IGNAZ SEIPEL-PLATZ 2
1010 VIENNA



A JESHO INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

HISTORY, MEMORY AND THE USES OF THE PAST IN ASIA

PROGRAMME

In his *Remembering War*, American historian Jay Winter has noted that we are in the midst of a “memory boom,” whose reverberations are felt well beyond the academy, in an ever-multiplying number of museums and exhibits, as well as in the arts. Indeed, a significant and growing body of literature continues to emerge, which shows how the individual experience of memory cannot be disaggregated from the ways in which we make sense of the past. In fact, Daria Stepanova’s *In Memory of Memory* and Lea Ypi’s *Free: Coming of Age at the End of History* can be read as a call for action against governments meddling into history writing and shaping collective memory. While there is a broad recognition that the past is ever more present in public life, scholars have often left unaddressed a question which is essential for the historical craft: what prompted the twentieth century’s preoccupation with memory in the first place? And is such a preoccupation a modern phenomenon at all? Put it differently, what was the relationship between history and memory prior to modernity? And can we single out specific philosophical traditions informing the ways in which communities around the world have developed their approach to history and memory? The proposed event aims to tackling these questions from a non-Eurocentric perspective by inviting historians specialising in different parts of Asia from the medieval period to the 20th century. Designed to reflect upon the multifarious experiences of history-writing across Asia, this workshop encourages scholars to reflect on the meaning of memory from the perspectives of their own periods, regions, and materials (the Perso-Islamicate World, South, Southeast and Far-East Asia). The aim of this event is to highlight cutting-edge research on distinct fields of Asian studies and provide space for an academic conversation on what the past might signify for the political and cultural histories of individual regions and for the history of Asia as a whole.

- 14:00** **Welcome and Introduction**
Paolo Sartori | Austrian Academy of Sciences

- 14:10** **Zhiyi Yang** | Goethe-Universität, Frankfurt
Toward a Happier Memory: Punitive Forgetting and Mnemonic Justice in the Case of Wang Jingwei

- 15:10** **Leyla Amzi-Erdogdular** | Rutgers University
Orient in Europe: Ottoman Balkan Histories and Temporalities

- 16:10** COFFEE BREAK

- 16:30** **Zeynep Yürekli** | University of Oxford
Illustrating Ottoman History circa 1550 and the Modern Myth of Matrakçı Nasuh

- 17:30** **Rama Sundari Mantena** | University of Illinois Chicago
The Anticolonial Humanist: The Worlds of Sarojini Naidu (1879–1949)

- 18:30** RECEPTION