S-21 – Early Modern Cartography and the Manchu State (17th-18th C)

East Asia Commission  ISHEASTM

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Abstract:
This symposium aims to gather scholars who study cartographies produced in or around early Qing China (ca. 1636-1750) so as to gauge the circulation of maps across the Eurasian continent in early modern times. The focus lies on the links that connected the Qing with the outside world, links which were often forged on the Qing’s own periphery: along the Amur River, on its maritime frontier, or in the Portuguese settlement of Macau, for example. Yet, the distances in terms of cartographic practice that these links stood for covered the entire Eurasian continent and beyond, connecting the Manchu capitals of Beijing and Mukden to Rome, Paris, St Petersburg and Lisbon, among others. By exploring these connections, the panelists aim to show how the Qing used, appropriated or (re)produced cartographies as part of its effort to define and communicate Qing imperial space, both internally and towards the outside world. By emphasizing the many types of mapmaking activities in, around, and by Qing China in early modern times, our panel further challenges the Eurocentric historiography of cartographic practice and gives the Qing the attention it deserves with regard to cartographic productivity.

Keywords: East Asia – Qing China – Cartography – Manchu – Early Modern.

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