

-THE MONGOLS AND THE EURASIAN NEXUS OF GLOBAL HISTORY-

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

Christopher Atwood has been studying various aspects of the Mongols and the Mongol Empire ever since taking “Empire of the Mongols” with Joseph Fletcher in his freshman year at Harvard University. After graduation, he spent two years in Inner Mongolia, one of China’s ethnic autonomous regions, from 1986-88 before entering graduate school. His dissertation was on twentieth century nationalist movements in Inner Mongolia, using documents from archives newly opened in the democratizing Mongolian People’s Republic (which wrote a new constitution and became just “Mongolia” while he was there). In 1996, he became an assistant professor at Indiana University and began teaching an “Empire of the Mongols” style class there. Since then, he has returned to the field of Mongol empire studies. His works include the *Encyclopedia of Mongolia and the Mongol Empire*, as well as a host of articles exploring aspects of institutions and history writing in the Mongol empire. He is currently working on *Record of the Conquests of Chinggis Khan*, a text, translation, and commentary of a Mongolian history preserved only in Chinese and Persian translations.

Johan Elverskog is Altshuler University Distinguished Teaching Professor and Chair of Religious Studies at SMU. He is the author and editor of nine books and numerous articles, all of which focus on the history of Inner Asia. His work has been supported by the American Council of Learned Societies, the Ford Research Foundation, and the Mellon Foundation, among others. He has also been a fellow at the Interdisciplinary Humanities Center, the Swedish Collegium for Advanced Studies, the Center for Advanced Studies in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University, and the Käte Hamburger Kolleg at Ruhr Universität. During 2014-2015 he will be a visiting research fellow at the Center for Buddhist-Muslim Understanding at Mahidol University, Bangkok.

William Fitzhugh Director of the Arctic Studies Center in the Department of Anthropology, Smithsonian Institution, is a specialist in circumpolar anthropology who has conducted field studies through the Arctic. His archeological and environmental research has focused on prehistory and paleoecology in northeastern North America. Broader aspects of his research feature the evolution of northern maritime adaptations, circumpolar culture theory, cross-cultural studies, and acculturation processes of Native-European contacts.

His recent research has been directed at Mongolian Bronze Age cultures and their connections with Siberia and the North Pacific. He has just completed an eight-year study of ceremonial architecture and landscape archaeology of northern Mongolia with special attention to the art and dating of deer stone monuments and khirsguur burial mounds. His re-dating of deer stone art has raised questions about origins of Scythian art and its influence on Siberian and Eskimo cultures.

As the Smithsonian’s Arctic curator, Fitzhugh has produced six international exhibitions, *Inua: Spirit World of the Bering Sea Eskimos* (1982), *Crossroads of Continents: Native Cultures of Siberia and Alaska* (1988), *Ainu: Spirit of a Northern People* (1999), *Vikings: the North Atlantic Saga* (2000), *Gifts from the Ancestors: Ancient Eskimo Ivories from Bering Strait* (2009), and helped curate *Genghis Khan* (2009). Other activities include NOVA specials *Mysteries of the Lost*

Red Paint People, and *Norse America*. He served as Chair of the SI's Dept. of Anthropology from 1975-80 and in 2003-2005 and holds administrative and advisory posts and board positions.

James Frankel a native New Yorker, holds a Bachelor's degree in East Asian Studies and postgraduate degrees in Religion from Columbia University. His expertise is in the history of Islam in China, and his scholarly interests emphasize the comparative history of ideas and religious and cultural syncretism. His doctoral dissertation is on the subject of Chinese Islamic scholarship and literature of the early Qing (1644 – 1911) period, specifically the writings of the Chinese Muslim literatus Liu Zhi (ca. 1660 – ca. 1730). Expounding on the same topic, Dr. Frankel's first book, *Rectifying God's Name: Liu Zhi's Confucian Translation of Monotheism and Islamic Law*, has recently been published by University of Hawaii Press (2011). He has lived in China and has traveled extensively in Asia and Europe, where he has met with scholars and religious leaders of Muslim minority communities. As a member of the faculty of Religion, Dr. Frankel teaches courses in Islam, comparative religion, Chinese religions, and mysticism.

Peter Hershock is Director of the Asian Studies Development Program at the East-West Center in Honolulu, Hawai'i. Alongside his work designing and implementing faculty development programs aimed at globalizing undergraduate humanities and social science curricula, his research has focused on using Buddhist conceptual resources to address contemporary issues. His books include: *Liberating Intimacy: Enlightenment and Social Virtuosity in Ch'an Buddhism* (1996); *Reinventing the Wheel: A Buddhist Response to the Information Age* (1999); *Technology and Cultural Values on the Edge of the Third Millennium* (edited, 2004); *Chan Buddhism* (2005); *Buddhism in the Public Sphere: Reorienting Global Interdependence* (2006); *Changing Education: Leadership, Innovation and Development in a Globalizing Asia Pacific* (edited, 2007); *Educations and their Purposes: A Conversation among Cultures* (edited, 2008); *Valuing Diversity: Buddhist Reflection on Realizing a More Equitable Global Future* (SUNY 2012) and *Public Zen, Personal Zen* (2014).

David Morgan was Professor of History and Religious Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison from 1999 to 2010 (now Emeritus). From 1975 to 1999 he was on the academic staff of the History Department at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London (Reader in the History of the Middle East, 1989-99), where he received his PhD ("Aspects of Mongol Rule in Persia") in 1977. He is Professorial Research Associate at the School of Oriental and African Studies. His first degree was a BA in Modern History from the University of Oxford in 1966. He is the author of *The Mongols* (2nd edition, 2007) and *Medieval Persia 1040-1797* (1988), and is joint editor of volume 3 of *The New Cambridge History of Islam* (2010). He was Editor of the *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society* from 1987 to 1999, and was General Editor for Cambridge University Press of *Cambridge Studies in Islamic Civilization*, 1991 - 2013.

David Robinson is Robert H.N. Ho Professor in Asian Studies and History at Colgate University.

Morris Rossabi is a historian of China and Central Asia. He teaches courses on Inner Asian, East Asian, and Chinese history at Columbia. During the 2008–2009 academic

year, he received an honorary doctorate from the National University of Mongolia, wrote a preface to the 20th anniversary re-issue of his book *Khubilai Khan* (University of California Press), wrote a preface for the Russian and Korean translations of *Khubilai Khan*, published the article “MPRP: Transmogrification of a Political Party” in *Pacific Affairs*, wrote a preface to the re-issue of his book *Voyager from Xanadu*, and delivered keynote addresses for conferences at the University of British Columbia, Inner Mongolian University, Nanjing University, and National University of Mongolia. He also published *Socialist Devotees and Dissenters* (National Museum of Ethnology, 2010) and was named distinguished visiting scholar at the National Museum of Ethnology in Osaka from May through July 2010.

In 2006, he was named chair of the Arts and Culture Board of the Open Society Institute (Soros Foundation). He is the author of *Herder to Statesman* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2010); *The Mongols and Global History* (W. W. Norton); *Modern Mongolia: From Khans to Commissars to Capitalists* (University of California Press, 2005); *Khubilai Khan: His Life and Times* (University of California Press, 1988), chosen as a main selection by the History Book Club; and *China and Inner Asia* (Universe Books, 1975). He is the editor of *Governing China's Multi-Ethnic Frontiers* (University of Washington Press, forthcoming) and a contributor to several volumes of the *Cambridge History of China*.

He has helped organize exhibitions at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Cleveland Museum of Art, and the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco. He is on the advisory board of the Project on Central Eurasia of the Soros Foundation. The author of numerous articles and speeches, he travels repeatedly to Central Asia and Mongolia, where he teaches courses on Mongolian and East Asian history.

Professor Rossabi received his PhD from Columbia University in 1970.

David Roxburgh is Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Professor of Islamic Art History, Harvard University, where he has taught since he received the Ph.D. from University of Pennsylvania in 1996. Roxburgh has published widely but with emphases on primary written sources, painting, arts of the book, calligraphy, Timurid art and architecture, exchanges between China and the Islamic lands, travel narratives, and pre-modern through contemporary histories of collecting, exhibitions, and museums. He has published two books, *Prefacing the Image: The Writing of Art History in Sixteenth-Century Iran* (Leiden, 2001), and *The Persian Album 1400-1600: From Dispersal to Collection* (New Haven, 2005). He has also co-curated exhibitions and written for their catalogues (*Turks: A Journey of a Thousand Years* [London, 2005], and *Traces of the Calligrapher: Islamic Calligraphy in Practice, c. 1600-1900* [Houston, 2007]). Roxburgh is currently working on two books about illustrated Arabic manuscripts from the 1100s through early 1200s and the modern study of Medieval architecture in Iran.

Wensheng Wang is Associate Professor of History at the University of Hawaii, Manoa. Born and raised in China, Prof. Wang received his Ph.D. from the University of California, Irvine. He was a Mellon/ACLS Fellow, and has received major fellowships from the University of California Pacific Rim Research Program and other sources. Prof. Wang's first book, entitled "*White Lotus Rebels and South China Pirates: Crisis and Reform in the Qing Empire*," was published by the Harvard University Press in January 2014. His other publications appear in peer-reviewed journal, edited volume, and encyclopedia. Trained as a historian of late imperial China and East Asia, Prof. Wang's research interests include empire building, peasant movements, cultural politics, and maritime interactions.