



**Organisation:**

Zoltán Biedermann (Centre for Iberian and Latin American Visual Studies, Birkbeck)  
Anne Gerritsen (Global History and Culture Centre, Warwick)  
Giorgio Riello (Global History and Culture Centre, Warwick)

**Our aims:**

This one-day workshop aims to enquire into the material and aesthetic culture of diplomatic negotiations between Europe and Asia before 1800. Participants will discuss the making and exchanging of diplomatic gifts, focusing on how objects dynamized (or not) dialogues, and to what extent they mobilized mutually intelligible ideas on economic and aesthetic value across cultural boundaries.

We will explore why ivories from Sri Lanka were valued in Renaissance Europe, what the Jesuits found to be the most adequate gifts in China, how Muslims and Christians exchanged artefacts in a time of religious strife, and why paintings offered as gifts by the British were not particularly appreciated in eighteenth-century India.

We invite everyone interested in global arts and culture, the circulation of objects, ideas and values in the Early Modern world, museums, collections and cross-cultural dialogues to join us in the library of John Maynard Keynes at Birkbeck's School of Arts in Bloomsbury, London.

Beyond the aim of gathering academics, curators and students interested in Global Arts and the future of Global Visual Studies, this event provides a forum for the discussion of projects and methodologies in a new field of historical research.

**Our Sponsors:**

The Global History and Culture Centre at Warwick. Centre for Overseas History of the New University of Lisbon. Birkbeck Institute for the Humanities. Centre for Iberian and Latin American Visual Studies. Department of Iberian and Latin American Studies at Birkbeck.



## Global Gifts: Art and Diplomacy between Asia and Europe, 1500-1800



A one-day workshop at Birkbeck in collaboration with the Global History and Culture Centre (Warwick) and the Centre for Overseas History (Lisbon)

**Keynes Library, Birkbeck School of Arts**  
43Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PD

**Friday, 25 January 2013**

**Free event. Please send an email to**  
[Amy.Evans@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:Amy.Evans@warwick.ac.uk) **to register your place**

## Programme

*Each paper will be 25 minutes followed by 20 minutes of discussion*

### Session 1

10am – Arrival and coffee

10.20 – Introduction by the organisers

10.30-11.15

Zoltán Biedermann (Birkbeck):

**European-Asian Diplomacy and its Material Culture, 1500-1800**

11.15-12.00

Carla Alferes Pinto (Centre for Overseas History, Lisbon):

**Diplomatic Gifts and Art as Diplomacy: Some Examples from Europe and the *Estado da Índia***

12.00-12.45

Jessica Hallett (Centre for Overseas History, Lisbon/Delhi)

**Weaving Relationships: Textiles and Diplomacy in 16<sup>th</sup>-century Iran and Portugal**

12.45-2pm – Lunch

### Session 2

2.00-2.45

Barbara Karl (Museum of Applied Arts, Vienna):

**Gift Diplomacy between Vienna and the Islamic World (late 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries)**

2.45-3.30

Mary Laven (Cambridge):

**“From His Holiness to the King of China”: Gifts, Diplomacy and Jesuit Evangelization**

3.30-4.00 – Coffee

4.00-4.45

Natasha Eaton (UCL):

**Between Coercion and Inalienability: Diplomacy and the Gift in Colonial India**

4.45-5.15 – Final discussion

### Discussants:

Anne Gerritsen (GHCC Warwick)

Giorgio Riello (GHCC Warwick)

Maxine Berg (GHCC Warwick)