**Seminar 5, Networks**

**Readings**

* Compulsory reading was Harris on networks, from Cambridge history of science - the multivolume edited collection of the early history of science from the early 2000s
* Kapil Raj, about a book on the flora of Orissa
  + Book completed and reaches Paris in 1725
  + looking at specific regions within the Indian Ocean and having local people collect plants, describing drawing them, one of many to appear from European travellers
* Maria Pourtando, chapter on Cosmography
  + 1500-1620
  + Looking at how cosmography as a discipline allowed the transfer of information through three institutions related to Spanish monarchy
  + Gathering of information through cosmology inextricably linked with navigation and travel in the new world
* Qiong Zhang, chapter on the Terraqueous globe
  + Idea of the earth being a globe, ie. shaped like a sphere (rather than flat)
  + Jesuits in China
  + 1584-1650

**Seminar task:** choose one of the optional readings and use examples from that reading to answer the seminar questions

What were the knowledge networks that emerged in the early modern period?

* tripartite system relating to Spanish monarchy and the new world Spanish colonies
* new linking between scholars and pilots
* by 16th century new nautical instruments linked the networks, example of linking of scholars and artisans

How did these networks shape natural knowledge?

* facilitated a greater understanding
* collection of information led to greater knowledge
* application of the new knowledge to further navigation

Were these networks global in their nature?

* Global in trading network
* European in intellectual network
* Institutions are all European and Spanish
  + Closely related to church/state

How did these networks shape natural knowledge?

* Fundamental change from a square world that exists to a genuine globe
* With extension of Chinese tradition