



## Workshop Program

03 June 2021

## Workshop “Warrior Queens and Resistance Fighters: The Role of Female Figures in Imperialist Mythology”

28–30 June 2021, Institute of Asian and Oriental Studies, University of Zurich (online)

### Introduction

Women’s roles in history are manifold. They are remembered as leaders, rebels, supporters, and in many other functions. Some women, however, have acquired a status that eclipses historiography. These women have become mythological figures, used to emphasise and legitimise arguments of particular social significance. Often martial in nature, some of these mythological women were and are used in an imperialistic context as symbols of power and authority. In other cases, they are figures of resistance. Examples range from centuries-old warrior queens that set out on conquests, to modern resistance fighters that rebelled against colonial rule, all used as a call to unity and action by subsequent generations. The workshop aims to collect examples of such female figures from all over the world, and find commonalities and differences in their utilisation in an imperialist context across geographic regions and historical periods.

### Form of the Workshop

The workshop will take place from 28–30 June 2021 on Zoom.

### Guest Speakers

**Helen Watanabe-O’Kelly** is a professor of German literature at the University of Oxford. Her main research interests are in German literature and culture from the late 15th to the early 18th centuries, in women’s writing in all periods, in the representation of women and in the way in which culture is used to project power. *Beauty or Beast? The Woman Warrior in the German Imagination from the Renaissance to the Present* (OUP) appeared in 2010 and her new book, *Projecting Imperial Power - New Nineteenth Century Emperors and the Public Sphere* (OUP) will be published this summer.

**Emily B. Simpson** received her PhD from the University of California at Santa Barbara in 2019 and is now a lecturer at Dartmouth College. Her research centers on the legend of Empress Jingū, a third century shaman, empress and conqueror appearing in early Japanese chronicles. Simpson pays particular attention to the medieval reinterpretations of Jingū’s legend within various Buddhist and Shinto traditions and their subsequent impact on the formation of women’s cults centred on the empress. Her book project *Crafting a Goddess: Divinization and Womanhood in Late Medieval and Early Modern Narratives of Empress Jingū* explores how diverse religious institutions divinized Empress Jingū, focusing on her martial and shamanic deeds, her motherhood and childbirth, or her connections to maritime deities and communities.



**28.06.2021**

- 13:00-13:30 Welcoming message by Raji C. Steineck  
General information
- 13:30-15:00 Lecture 1  
*Helen Watanabe-O'Kelly (University of Oxford): Imagining the Empire – Warrior Queens, Freedom Fighters and Nineteenth-Century European Empires*  
Questions & Discussion
- 15:00-15:30 Break
- 15:30-16:30 Presentation 1  
*Tamara Ann Tinner (University of Zurich): Resistance and Pantaloons – Tailoring Philippine Muslim Women for Imperial Purposes*  
Questions & Discussion
- 16:30-16:45 Break
- 16:45-17:45 Presentation 2  
*Federica Cicci (Università Ca' Foscari Venezia & Heidelberg University): In the name of the Chinese Red Cross: Chinese nurses' and Chinese female revolutionaries' support during the Xinhai Revolution*  
Questions & Discussion

**29.06.2021**

- 13:00-14:30 Lecture 2  
*Emily B. Simpson (Dartmouth College): The Divine Empress and Her Son – Motherhood, Lineage and Deification in Late Medieval Narratives of Empress Jingū*  
Questions & Discussion
- 14:30-15:00 Break
- 15:00-16:00 Presentation 3  
*Sarah Rebecca Schmid (University of Zurich): Carved into Stone – Jingū kōgō and the Influence of the Mongol Invasions on 19<sup>th</sup> Century Japanese Imperialism*  
Questions & Discussion
- 16:00-16:15 Break
- 16:15-17:15 Presentation 4  
*Julia Escher (University of Zurich): Princess Qianjin – A Rebel Bride Between Two Empires*  
Questions & Discussion

**30.06.2021**

- 13:00-14:00 Presentation 5  
*Tatiana Tereshchenko (Independent): Amazons – Women Warriors among the Images of the Others in Greek Vase Painting*  
Questions & Discussion
- 14:00-14:15 Break
- 14:15-15:00 Master Student Presentation  
*Roshin Panikulam (University of Zurich): Amazons of Dahomey in the European Perception*  
Questions & Discussion
- 15:00-15:30 Break
- 15:30-17:00 Final Discussion



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