New research on the History of Chinese Gardens and Landscapes

A two-day conference to be held at the University of Sheffield
Thursday and Friday, 26 and 27 October 2017

The Department of Landscape
University of Sheffield
Floor 13
Arts Tower
Western Bank
Sheffield
S10 2TN
Programme and booking form overleaf. For further information, please go to The Gardens Trust website, or contact Sally Jeffery by email at: sally.jeffery@btinternet.com, or by telephone: 0208 994 6969

This event is supported by The Confucius Institute, Sheffield
**PROGRAMME**

*New Research on the History of Chinese Gardens and Landscapes*

DAY ONE: Thursday 26 October 2017

10.00-10.25 Registration

Chair: Dr Jan Woudstra, University of Sheffield

10.25 Welcome

10.30 Dr Alison Hardie, Honorary Research Fellow, University of Leeds, UK

*Chinese Garden and Landscape Studies in the 21st Century*

A brief survey of how Chinese garden and landscape studies have changed and developed since around the year 2000, and how they may be taken forward in the next decades of the 21st century.

11.00 Dr Lei Gao, Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Norway

*The concept of Paradise in Chinese Buddhism and its interpretation in designed landscape in Qianlong era (1736-1795)*

In eighteenth-century Beijing, several places called 'western paradise' were constructed within imperial gardens and temples, including Yuanmingyuan, Beihai and Biyun Temple. This presentation looks at how the Buddhist concept of 'western paradise' is visualised in these designed landscapes and the meanings of them.

11.30 TEA/COFFEE

12.00 Xiaoyan Hu, PhD candidate, Liverpool University

*The dialectic aesthetics of Xu (emptiness) and Shi (fullness) in Chinese landscape art (landscape painting, landscape poetry, gardening) from the Six Dynasties*

The aesthetic reflection on Daoism and Chan Buddhism by Chinese scholar-artists and critics casts an essential influence on consciously using the aesthetic dialectics of Xu and Shi in Chinese landscape art.

12.30 Questions and discussion
13.00       LUNCH
Chair: Josepha Richard, PhD Candidate, University of Sheffield

14.00 Dr. Antonio José Mezcua López, Granada University, Spain

Hangzhou’s West Lake Research Proposal: The Song Dynasty (960-1279)

This paper focuses on Hangzhou’s West Lake in the Song dynasty period (960-1279). It will show how the complexity of the landscape of the West Lake is manifested through different artistic expressions such as painting, garden design and poetry.

14.30 Professor Carol Brash, College of Saint Benedict, Saint John’s University, Collegeville, Minnesota, USA

Canonizing the Garden of Solitary Delight (Dule Yuan)

This will be a case study examining a lost eleventh-century garden. The long life of this “garden” is due at least in part to the strata of references to history, character, and memory built into the original physical garden, the record of it, and its subsequent incarnations in texts and paintings.

15.00 TEA/COFFEE

15.30 Dr Kate Bailey and Charlotte Brooks, Royal Horticultural Society, London.

The RHS Reeves collection of Chinese botanical watercolours: a story of people and plants in China and Britain in the early nineteenth century

This period saw a proliferation in the number of new plants being introduced to British gardens from China. Commissioned by the RHS, John Reeves sent living plants and drawings, of ornamental garden plants popular with wealthy Chinese merchants, as well as wild flowers and fruit. The extent of this endeavour reveals the interconnection between Chinese and British plant enthusiasts before the outbreak of the first Opium War.

16.00 Dr Lianming Wang, Assistant Professor, Heidelberg University, Germany.

Fountains and Jesuit Water Landscapes in Eighteenth-Century Beijing

This paper reevaluates the place of water in the Chinese garden and captures the shifts in viewing water as landscape by focusing on European water plays and hydraulic devices fabricated in Jesuit-related garden spaces in Beijing.

16.30 Questions and discussion

17.00 CLOSE

Evening: Conference Chinese dinner
New Research on the History of Chinese Gardens and Landscapes

DAY TWO: Friday 27 October 2017

Chair: Dr Alison Hardie, Honorary Research Fellow, University of Leeds

09.55 Welcome

10.00 Dr Stephen Whiteman, University of Sydney, Australia. *Post-histories and past formations in a Qing garden*
Although much is rightly made of the rise of gardens, of their building and blossoming, gardens are, in their decay, perhaps even more poetic, the inevitable promise of their ephemerality finally realized. This paper begins an exploration of the 'post-histories' of Qing imperial landscapes, looking at moments in their supposed decline to explore ways in which images and experiences shape memory and history in the garden.

10.30 Josepha Richard, PhD candidate, University of Sheffield. *East-West encounters in the Cantonese garden.*
After 1759, all Western trade in China was restricted to the city of Guangzhou and left in the hands of the 鳳 merchants, inaugurating the so-called "Canton Trade". As a result the 鳳 merchants and affiliated families acquired a growing fortune that was partly spent in the construction of splendid gardens. These gardens and adjoining residences were a key element in the Sino-Western relations at the time, and their fate particularly reflects that of the Sino-British dialogue.

11.00 COFFEE

11.30 Youcao Ren, PhD candidate, Department of Landscape, University of Sheffield. *FengShui Landscapes in the late Qing Royal Garden Design*
This paper investigates the reflections of FengShui applications in the court's memorials to the throne during the reign of the GuangXu Emperor (1871-1908). It discusses the way FengShui rules were accepted by the court and interacted with garden landscape in the design of the Summer Palace (formerly known as the Qingyi Garden).

12.00 Questions and discussion
12.30  LUNCH
Chair: Dr Sally Jeffery, The Gardens Trust

13.30 Yichi Zhang, PhD candidate, University of Technology, Sydney, Australia. 
*From Decoration to Necessity: the functions of Public Parks in the British Concessions of China, 1842-1937*

By examining the evolution of the function of public parks in the all British concessions in China, this research explores how the public parks in the concessions evolved various designs, roles and usages, and how they became established in the symbolic structure and physical lives of the residents in concessions.

14.00 Yuanyuan Liu, PhD candidate in Landscape Architecture, University of Edinburgh

*Between Modernity and Tradition: Xuanwu Lake in Nanjing during the Chinese Park Movement, 1928-1949*

This paper takes Xuanwu Lake in Nanjing as an example, to explore whether the park movement in Republican China modernized the spatial characteristics of the traditional (sub)urban spaces, and impacted the interpretations of the site’s cultural identities in multiple layers.

14.30 TEA/COFFEE

15.00 Professor William A. Callahan, London School of Economics, London, UK.  
*Cultivating Power: Chinese gardens as sites of diplomacy, war and peace*

Although it is common to see gardens as peaceful spaces of apolitical serenity, this essay argues that they can provide a nuanced understanding of the international politics of diplomacy, peace and war. It develops the classical Chinese conceptual dyad "civility/martiality-wen/wu" to understand how gardens can work as sites of both cultural governance and resistance. This paper is part of his current book project, "Thinking Visually and Feeling Visually in Global Politics", which among other things, employs Chinese concepts to explore international relations.

15.30 Dr Elizabeth Lawrence, Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana, USA.  
*The Garden as Museum in China*

This paper examines the history of Chinese gardens as museums through a study of the Xiling Seal Society of Hangzhou (founded 1904). In doing so, it complicates persistent binaries that present the museum as modern and western and the Chinese garden as traditional and static.
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SPEAKERS

Dr Kate Bailey, Conservation Researcher, Royal Horticultural Society, London, UK. Kate changed career in 2003, going to Camberwell College of Arts (now part of the University of the Arts, London) to study paper conservation. Completion of an MA research project into the Reeves Collection of botanical watercolours held at the RHS Lindley Library led to a PhD in the same subject. Kate has published several articles looking at various aspects of the Collection and is currently completing a book on John Reeves’ life and work with particular reference to his years in China collecting plants and supervising drawings for the Society.

Charlotte Brooks, Art Curator, RHS Lindley Library, London, UK. Charlotte has been working with the botanical art collections at the RHS Lindley Library for over 10 years. With responsibility for approximately 30,000 pictures, she is also Secretary to the RHS Picture Panel, that judges exhibits of contemporary botanical art. In tandem with the completion of the second phase of a funded project for the conservation of the RHS Reeves collection, she has recently been working on a detailed catalogue of the 800+ Chinese botanical watercolours, including the Chinese plant names as given and up to date translations, intended to be made available online.

Professor Carol Brash, PhD, is Associate Professor of Art History at the College of Saint Benedict, Saint John’s University. As an art historian, she is a cultivator of word gardens: one who sees art as visual history. Chinese gardens are her primary area of research: the history of photography is her secondary area. She teaches art history courses including one on Chinese and Japanese gardens and another on the history of photography in China. She is currently working on book on Chinese gardens in the United States.

Professor William A. Callahan is Professor of International Relations at the London School of Economics and Political Science. His research explores two themes: the identity/security dynamic of Chinese foreign policy, and visual international politics. His publications include China Dreams: 20 Visions of the Future (OUP, 2013) and the documentary film ‘toilet adventures’ which was shortlisted for the ‘Innovation in Filmmaking’ award by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (2015).

Dr Lei Gao received her PhD in landscape architecture at the University of Sheffield in 2010. Currently she is a researcher in the Faculty of Landscape and Society, Norwegian University of Life Sciences. She has a long-term interest and experience in Chinese garden history studies, focusing on a regional garden type
Húizhōu gardens, imperial gardens of Yuanmingyuan, ritual landscapes, and the treatment of historic gardens and designed landscapes in twentieth-century China. Her current research projects include the management of historic landscapes with complex values, and values of private gardens as cultural heritage in Norway. With the latter, she aims to promote garden culture conservation.

Dr Alison Hardie is the translator of Ji Cheng’s 17th-century garden manual, *The Craft of Gardens* (1988, repr. 2012), revised the 3rd edition of Maggie Keswick’s *The Chinese Garden: History, Art and Architecture* (2003), and has lectured and written extensively on Chinese garden history. She retired in 2015 as a Senior Lecturer in Chinese Studies at the University of Leeds and in 2016 was a visiting lecturer in the Chinese department at the University of Iceland. She has just finished editing a major anthology of Chinese texts on gardens in English translation to be published by Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection.

Xiaoyan Hu is a PhD candidate in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Liverpool. Her PhD research focuses on the comparative analysis between Chinese aesthetics and Western aesthetics. She works as a part-time teaching assistant in Aesthetics module and Business Ethics module (2016–2017) at the University of Liverpool. She received a Young Scholar Award by the International Association for Aesthetics in July 2016 for her paper ‘Beyond Representation: Reconsidering Loehr’s Periodisation of Chinese painting’, which is due to be published in the proceedings of the 20th International Congress of Aesthetics. Her paper ‘The Notion of ‘Qi Yun’ (Spirit Consonance) in Chinese Painting’ has been published in the European Society for Aesthetics Proceedings Volume 8 / 2016.

Professor Elizabeth Lawrence is Assistant Professor of History at Ball State University, Indiana, USA. Before joining the Ball State History Department in 2014, she completed her PhD in East Asian Languages and Cultures at Columbia University. She specializes in the history of modern China and her research interests include material and visual culture, heritage and museums, and the history of inscribed seals and antiquarianism in China. Her presentation today stems from her current book project.

Yuanyuan Liu, PhD Candidate in Landscape Architecture, University of Edinburgh, Scotland, UK. She is interested in Chinese garden and landscape history, visual arts and urban studies. Her PhD thesis examines the origin and transformation of Chinese parks during the first half of the
twentieth century. Before starting the PhD program in Landscape Architecture at the University of Edinburgh, I studied in China at Tongji University and Wuhan University respectively.

Dr Antonio Mezcua Lopez, Assistant Professor, Granada University, Granada, Spain. He received his doctorate degree in History of Art from the University of Granada in May 2007. His research is focused on ancient Chinese landscape, gardens and painting. He was Academic Visitor at The Centre for Visual Art, Oxford University in 2008-9 and in May to July 2011. He also was Post-doctoral fellow in Paris at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Centre de Recherches sur les Arts et le Langage from 2010 to 2011. In 2014 he was Landscape Summer Fellow at Dumbarton Oaks, Harvard University Trust. He currently teaches Chinese art at Granada University. He is also yoga Iyengar teacher and visual artist.

Youcao Ren is a PhD candidate at the Department of Landscape, University of Sheffield. She received her degree of Master of Arts in Urban Design from the School of Architecture, University of Sheffield, in 2012. Her PhD research explores the transition of traditional Chinese belief landscape by analysing its contemporary expressions in different cultural contexts. Further to that she is interested in identifying the cultural significance of belief symbolisms in landscape and their changing perceptions.

Josepha Richard is a PhD Candidate in Landscape History at the University of Sheffield. Her thesis focuses on 19th century gardens in the city of Guangzhou. In 2015 she was a Summer Fellow at Dumbarton Oaks (Washington D.C.). Her first publication, "Uncovering the garden of the richest man on earth in nineteenth-century Canton: Howqua’s garden in Honam, China", was published in the 2015 autumn edition of Garden History. She regularly shares information on the topic at GardensOfChina and its linked blog and Facebook page.

Dr Lianming Wang is Assistant Professor in Chinese Art, Institute of East Asian Art History, Heidelberg University and finished a dissertation on Jesuit spaces in
early modern Beijing. He has studied European Art History, Classical Archaeology and Roman-Italian Studies and received his MA (2009) from the University of Wurzburg. In 2014 he received his Ph.D. in East Asian Art History from the Heidelberg University where he has been teaching since then. He specializes in Jesuit architecture with a special focus on garden space, and published articles on Ming-Qing painting and visuality. His current project discusses tributary animals and animal materials in the mid-Qing pictorial and material culture.

**Dr Stephen Whiteman** is Lecturer in Asian Art at the University of Sydney. Current research interests include imperial gardens and designed landscapes of the High Qing, site-based research in Southeast Asia, and digital methods in the study of historic sites. His first book, *Thirty-Six Views: the Kangxi emperor’s Mountain Estate in poetry and print* (Dumbarton Oaks/HUP, 2016), co-authored with Richard E. Strassberg, received the J. B. Jackson Book Prize from the Foundation for Landscape Studies early this year.

**Yichi Zhang** is a PhD Candidate at University of Technology, Sydney. He received his Master of Science in Conservation of Monuments and Sites from Katholieke Universiteit Leuven in 2012. He was a Library Fellow at Australian Centre on China in the World, Australian National University, in 2014, and a Summer Fellow at Dumbarton Oaks, Harvard University Trust, in 2015. His research focuses mainly on the modern Chinese urban and garden history, the history of British settlements in China, and conservation on historical garden and heritage.
BOOKING FORM

New Research on the History of Gardens and Landscapes in China

Conference organised by The Gardens Trust in association with the Department of Landscape, University of Sheffield
Thursday & Friday 26 & 27 October 2017, at the Department of Landscape, University of Sheffield, Floor 13, Arts Tower, Western Bank, Sheffield, S10 2TN

Full conference, two days. Tickets include tea/coffee and biscuits morning and afternoon, and a sandwich lunch and soft drink both days. Conference dinner not included. Please book separately.

[] Student (name of institution, please) £40. 5 places only.
[] Members of The Gardens Trust £100
[] County Gardens Trust members £110
[] Non-members £120

[] Conference Chinese dinner, 26 October: £30. Soft drinks included. Other drinks will be available to purchase from the bar.

[] Vegetarian conference dinner: 26 October, £30. Soft drinks included. Other drinks will be available to purchase from the bar.

For Online bookings: please use Eventbrite via The Gardens Trust website: www.thegardenstrust.org. We regret we cannot give refunds.

For postal bookings, please select your tickets, fill in the details below and return the form, with a cheque made payable to The Gardens Trust, to: Sally Jeffery, 67 Devonshire Road, London W4 2HU.

For further information, please contact Sally Jeffery by email sally.jeffery1@btinternet.com, by telephone 0208 994 6969, or by post at the address above. Acknowledgements will be sent by email: for written receipt please send SAE.

[] Name..............................................................................................................................................

[] Address and postcode................................................................................................................................

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[ ] I enclose a cheque for £ ....... made payable to The Gardens Trust
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I would like confirmation by email. Please give your email address:

Overnight accommodation can be booked at hotels nearby, including:

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Hotel@theharley.co.uk

*Jury’s Inn Sheffield*
119 Eyre Street, Sheffield, S1 4QW, United Kingdom
https://www.jurysinns.com/hotels/sheffield?tmad=e&tmcampid=33&tplaceref=e&tmclickref=jurys%20inn%20sheffield&gclid=CNHooSr7PbCFed7Qod6jsO6w&gclsrc=aw.ds&dclid=COzkxISr7PbCFSeB7QodfekLeA
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