

Maritime Asia Re/Defined: (Im)mobility, (Dis)connection, and (De)centralization

June 11-12, 2026

Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin (WIKO)

Each presenter will be allocated between 20 and 30 minutes for their talk, with 30 minutes being the absolute maximum, so that we have sufficient time for discussion. After all, this is intended to be an interactive and relatively informal workshop, and I hope it will provide an opportunity not only to exchange ideas but also to develop new lines of inquiry that may contribute to future scholarship on maritime East Asia, oceanic histories, and even the broader history of water and hydrological studies.

DAY ONE

- 11:00–11:15 Welcome Remarks
- 11:15–12:30 **Panel 1: Climate, Extraction, and Oceanic Consumption**
- Guanmian Xu** (Peking University), Carnal Oceans: Taste and World-Making in the Indo-Pacific, 900-1800
- Nadin Heé** (Universität Leipzig), Climate of Empires: The “Planetary Moment” of 1877 and Frictions in Oceanic Extraction in the Pacific
- 12:30 – 14:00 *Lunch at WIKO*
- 14:30 – 16:00 **Panel 2: Maritime Geographies: Islands, Borders, and Frozen Seas**
- Yang Fu** (National Taiwan University), Sea, Islands and Conceptions of Border in Early and Medieval China
- Bin Xu** (Palace Museum), Capital Planning in a Maritime Context: A Case of Shuri Castle, Capital of the Ryukyu Kingdom
- Ron Po** (LSE), When the Ocean Ceases to Flow: Chinese Visions of the “Frozen Seas” (*binghai*) in the Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries
- 16:00 – 16:15 *Coffee Break*

16:15 – 17:45

Panel 3: Maritime Urbanism, Networks, and Diasporic Communities

Birgit Tremml-Werner (Stockholm University), Maritime Expansion between Luzon and Taiwan Redefined

Xing Hang (Hong Kong Polytechnic University), The “Chinese Century” in Maritime Asia: Hà Tiên and the West Borneo Gongsì

Datong Qiu (Universität Heidelberg), Visible Cities: The Land Lease Renewals of the Chinese Guild Hall in Hakodate, 1884–1941

17:45 – 18:30

Aperitif at WIKO

19:00

Dinner

DAY TWO

- 11:00 – 12:30 **Panel 3: Mapping Maritime Worlds: Knowledge, Space, and Representation**
- Jonas Rüegg** (Universität Zürich), The Pacific as a Method: Prompts and Perspectives for Modern Japan
- Elke Papelitzky** (University of Oslo), Constructing Maritime Eastern Asia on Japanese and Chinese Maps: A (Dis)Connected Space
- Sophia Na Yan** (National Dong Hwa University), Sensing the Sea: Embodied Knowledge, Human–Sea Relations, and Marine–Terrestrial Transformations in Qing Guangdong Notes (Biji)
- 12:30 – 13:00 *Break*
- 13:00 – 14:00 *Lunch at WIKO*
- 14:15 – 15:45 **Panel 4: Oceanic Environments and Hydrosocial Worlds**
- Chun Xu** (University of Erlangen-Nuremberg), Repelling the Salt, Storing the Sweet: Seawalls and the Hydrosocial Production of Maritime Asia’s Edge in Middle-Period China
- Fei Huang** (Universität Tübingen), Healing Waterscapes: Seawater and Hot Springs in Early Modern and Modern China
- 15:45 – 1600 *Coffee Break*
- 16:00 – 17:00 **Concluding Discussion: Reframing Maritime East Asia: Future Directions and Collaborations**
- 18:00 *Dinner*