

## **Workshop on New Directions in the History of Central and Inner Asia**

This year marks the sixth installment of the workshop, generously sponsored by the Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. Over the past five years, this has been an extremely productive venue for graduate students (both Harvard students and visitors) to present their own work and to engage with invited visiting scholars on questions of research methodology and public presentation.

As in past years, we plan to meet fortnightly for two hour sessions. Usually we will have a paper pre-circulated one week in advance, which we encourage all participants to read carefully prior to the meeting, in order to permit most time to be used for feedback and discussion. We invite work of all sorts (whether conference paper, seminar paper, journal article, or dissertation chapter) and at all stages (from first draft to almost ready for submission). Some presenters (particularly those looking for feedback on a job talk or conference presentation) may choose not to pre-circulate a paper, but rather to present orally; however, given the relative rarity of opportunities to get engaged responses to one's written work, we strongly suggest that potential presenters consider submitting written scholarship.

Both "History" and "Central and Inner Asia" are interpreted somewhat loosely. This is an interdisciplinary workshop, and in past years, presenters have worked in art history, history of science, literature, religious studies, and anthropology, as well as history. Any work that asks a historical question – that is, a question about the past in which both place and time play an important role – is likely to be a good fit. Geographically, participants work everywhere from Turkey to Manchuria, from Iran to the Tibetan Plateau, as well as the former Soviet republics of Central Asia. While papers should have a strong connection to Central and Inner Asia, attendance is, of course, open to anyone interested in the topics under discussion.

If you would be interested in presenting, please send an abstract (or other short description of what you'd like to talk about) to Belle Cheves ([bcheves@g.harvard.edu](mailto:bcheves@g.harvard.edu)) and Erin Hutchinson ([erinhutchinson@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:erinhutchinson@fas.harvard.edu)) by September 10. In addition please let us know if you have any preferences as to when during the year you'd like to present. The workshop will be meeting every other Tuesday starting September 18, from 6pm to 8pm in CGIS South 450 (over wine, cheese, and other snacks, of course).

We ask that all presenters attend as many sessions of the workshop as possible – this group has thrived in the past through the commitment of its participants, and the best feedback presenters have received has often come from participants working on a different part of the region or in a different discipline or both. We hope this year, as in past years, to create not just a presentation venue, but a scholarly community.