

SILK ROAD

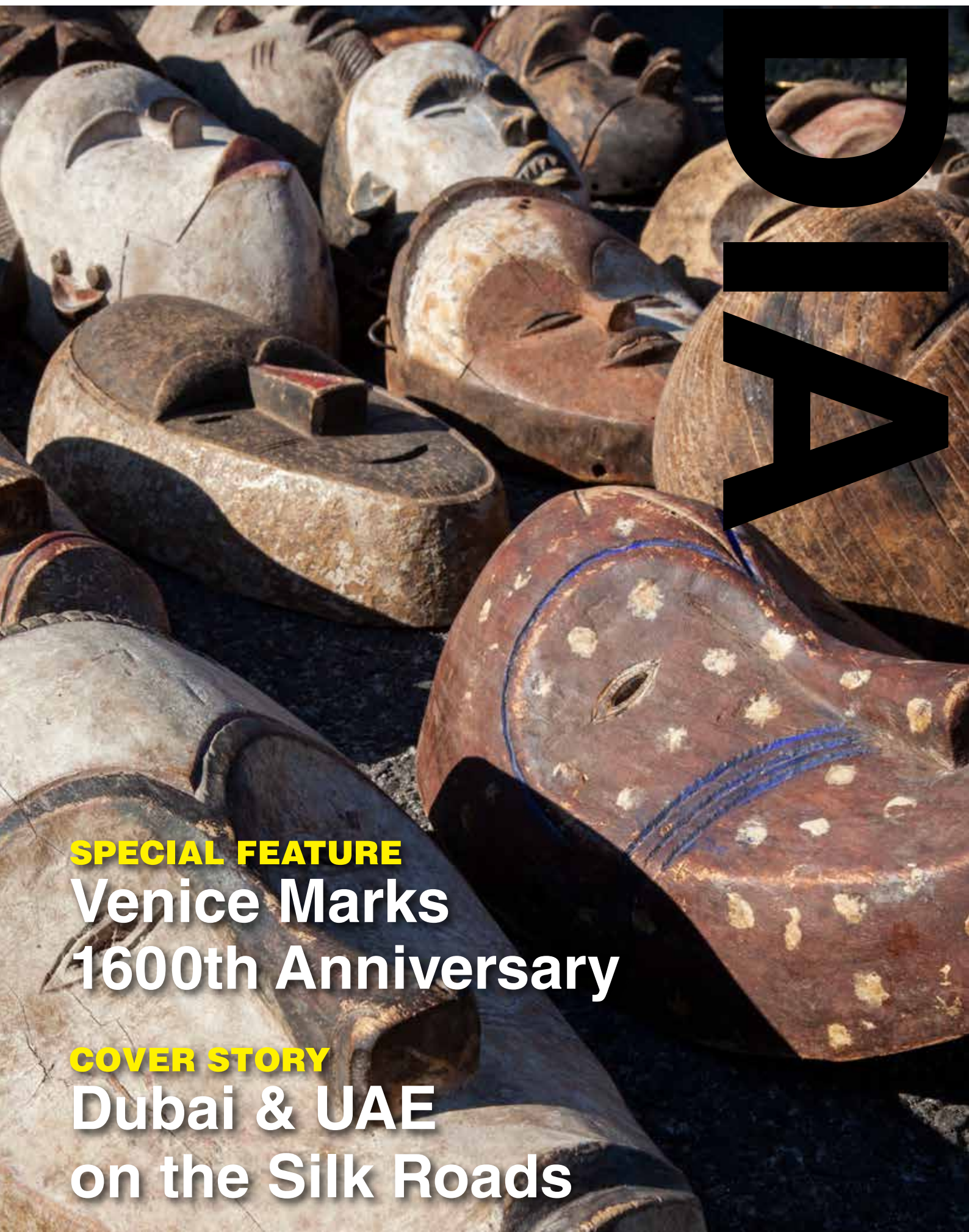
THE SILK-ROAD
UNIVERSITIES NETWORK'S
WEB MAGAZINE

VOL.3 NO.2

December 2021



**SILK-ROAD
UNIVERSITIES
NETWORK**



SPECIAL FEATURE

Venice Marks

1600th Anniversary

COVER STORY

Dubai & UAE

on the Silk Roads

SILKROADIA

Biannual webzine of the Silk-Road Universities Network (SUN) -
a non-governmental, non-profit international organization

Publisher

Sungdon Hwang, *Secretary General of SUN*

Editor-in-Chief

Shi-yong Chon

English Editor

Ronald Steiner, *Chapman University, USA*

Assistant English Editor

Farzin Moridi, *Chapman University, USA*

Sahar Masoom, *Visiting Scholar, Chapman University, USA*

Art Director

Eui-hwan Cho

Editorial Advisory Board

Sharma D.A.P. *Delhi College of Arts and Commerce, University of Delhi, India*

Carmona Carles Padill, *University of Valencia, Spain*

GökmanErtan, *Ankara University, Turkey*

Hao Wu, *Beijing Foreign Studies University, People's Republic of China*

Jantsan Bat-Ireedui, *National University of Mongolia, Mongolia*

German Kim, *Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Kazakhstan*

LippielloTiziana, *Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Italy*

Melin Harri, *University of Tampere, Finland*

Naimat Salameh, *University of Jordan, Jordan*

Jeong-woon Park, *Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Republic of Korea*

Sen Vo Van, *University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Vietnam*

Tangalycheva Rimma, *St. Petersburg State University, Russia*

Tishehyar Mandana, *AllamehTabataba'i University, Iran*

Editorial Assistants

Amali Ranavi Thanthrige, *Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Republic of Korea*

Yu-jin Shim, *Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Republic of Korea*

Jeong-won Yoon, *Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Republic of Korea*



**SILK-ROAD
UNIVERSITIES
NETWORK**



Room 909, Main Building, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies
107 Imun-ro, Dongdaemun-gu, Seoul, 02450, Korea
Tel. +82-2-2173-3581 / Fax. +82-2-2173-3582
www.sun-silkroadia.org

Request for publication of articles and related issues
should be addressed to sunwebzine@gmail.com

Copyright © All rights reserved. No part of this publication
may be reproduced without prior written permission from authors / SUN

Cover Photo by Eui-hwan Cho_ The Ecseri Flea Market, Budapest, Hungary

CONTENTS

04	Letter from the Editor
	Cover Story: Dubai and UAE on the Silk Roads
10	Dubai, a metropolis of trade, exchanges and mixtures, looks to the future as a global hub - <i>Lakhdar Chadli</i>
21	Interview with CUD President Dr. Karim Cheli
31	Expo 2020 Dubai: Connecting Minds, Creating the Future and Empowering Youth - <i>Passant G. Attaweya</i>
	Special Feature: Venice Marks 1600th Anniversary
40	City of Venice Enriched With History Marks 1600th Anniversary - <i>Luciano Pezzolo</i>
50	Interview with Mayor Luigi Brugnaro - <i>Amali Ranavi Thanthrige</i>
65	Commentary - <i>Tiziana Lippiello</i>
	Fictional Interview: Baron Ferdinand Richthofen
72	Pioneer of Modern Geography Linked to Civilizations - <i>Davide Rizzi</i>
	Filmmakers on the Silk Roads
84	Ali F. Mostafa: Emirati Cinema Comes of Age - <i>Cameron Shirvani Steiner</i>
	Heritage
96	The Church of Saints Philip and James in Naples - <i>Alessia Mercuri and Emanuele Santoro</i>
103	Adufe, the Portuguese Frame Drum - <i>Rui Silva</i>
110	Silk Roads'Animal - Goat - <i>Husain Zaidi</i>
	Travel
114	Kimchi, Traditional Korean Side Dish - <i>Yu-jin Shim</i>
118	SUN News
127	USSUN News
132	News from Member Universities

Disclaimer
The Silk-Road Universities Network (SUN) Secretariat is not responsible for accuracy, completeness or suitability for any purpose of the content published. Opinions and views expressed in this webzine are the opinions and views of the authors, and are not the views of or endorsed by the SUN Secretariat. SUN Secretariat shall not be held accountable for any liabilities and disputes arising out of the use of the content published.



Shi-yong Chon

Dubai GA Signifies Extension of SUN

Canadian University Dubai to co-host the first SUN meeting in the Middle East

The Silk Road Universities Network (SUN) goes to Dubai, United Arab Emirates, next February for its annual General Assembly meeting. The Eighth GA of SUN will be co-hosted by the Canadian University Dubai and SUN Feb. 21-23, 2022. The GA will be held along with the Seventh Academic Conference of the International Association for Silk-Road Studies (IASS) slated for Feb. 20-23.

The SUN events in Dubai are significant in several points. First, it will be the first face-to-face gathering of the leaders of

SUN. The COVID-19 pandemic forced SUN to hold virtually the past two GA meetings – the Sixth GA co-hosted by the Ankara University of Turkey in 2020 and the Seventh GA co-hosted by the National University of Mongolia in 2021.

The latest developments surrounding the pandemic still make many wary of gatherings of people, but the Canadian University Dubai and the SUN Secretariat are determined to push ahead with the Dubai meetings unless there comes the worst situation.

The Dubai events also symbolize SUN's remarkable growth since its inception in 2015. It will be the first time that the Network has held the annual GA in the Middle East. Previously, the GA visited Gyeongju, Seoul (2016), Ho Chi Minh City (2017), Venice (2018), and Almaty (2019), and the Ankara University of Turkey and the National University of Mongolia co-hosted the online GA in 2019 and 2020, respectively. That next year's GA goes to Dubai indeed demonstrates that SUN is continuing to broaden its terrain. In fact, SUN, which had 32 member universities in 21 countries when it was launched in Gyeongju, South Korea, in 2015, has grown to em-

brace 81 member universities in 32 countries. Quantitative growth alone does not guarantee the success of an organization like SUN. Nevertheless, we may well be proud of the ever-growing membership.

SUN has set another timely theme for the Eighth GA and the Seventh IASS Conference. The GA theme is “The Roles of Universities in the Era of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Big Data (BD): Challenges and Opportunities” and the IASS Conference set as its theme “The Role of Higher Education in the Era of Artificial intelligence and Big Data: Challenges and Opportunities.” I’m confident that discussions in the GA and the IASS Conference will be productive and fruitful.

Meanwhile, SUN was undeterred by the pandemic over the past year, as seen by the successful online meeting of the Seventh GA co-hosted by the National University of Mongolia in September. The Sixth Photo Contest of SUN (PHOCOS) and the Fourth Writing Contest of SUN (WRICOS) also proceeded without a hitch.

A total of 114 photos by 32 students competed in the PHOCOS, whose theme was “The Silk-Roads Architecture: Traditional and Modern.” Ilaria Fusaro of Ca’ Foscari

University of Venice, Italy, won the Gold Medal for her photo titled “Nowadays, Nobody Sends Postcards Anymore.”

The WRICOS drew 26 poems and essays. Students from 14 universities wrote poems about “Song of “Silkroadia” and essays about “What Can University and University Students Do for Peaceful Co-existence, Co-prosperity, and Sustainable Cultural Diversity along the Silk Roads?” Gaia Gazzola of Ca’ Foscari University of Venice, Italy, won the Grand Prize for Poetry and Marzieh Mostafavi Mendi of Iran’s Foreign Ministry’s School of International Relations won the Grand Prize for Essay.

The collaborative work with the City of Venice in Italy and Ca’ Foscari University proves SUN’s potential as a vibrant player in various projects involving countries and cities along the land and maritime Silk Roads. Under the plan arranged as part of celebrations of the 1600th anniversary of the City of Venice, SUN and the key Silk Road city will co-host three events involving students of SUN member universities – video production contest, T-shirt design contest and essay writing contest. The awards ceremony for the three events is scheduled for October next year.

I'm confident the joint programs organized by SUN, the City of Venice and Ca' Foscari University will set a meaningful precedent for similar events in the time to come. Indeed, SUN has a lot of potential and opportunities. Our job is to take a full advantage of them.

Thank you and ***SILKROADIA*** wishes you all a happy, safe and healthy New Year.

COVER STORY

UAE & DUBAI ON THE SILK ROADS

Dubai, a Metropolis of Trade, Exchanges and Mixtures, Looks to the Future as a Global Hub



Lakhdar Chadli

In its role as a regional shopping center, Dubai aspires to be recognized as a metropolis and is stepping up efforts to achieve this. It is no longer seen as the result of excessive ambition with purely circumstantial success. But behind this success, the question that remains unanswered is that of the nature of this eventual metropolis: if Dubai is a metropolis, what kind is it? And in what capacity? All in all, it is currently still mostly a relay center for world trade.

Dubai seems to present an outstanding example of interactions between different cultures, bringing together human groups,

the vast majority of whom are “Eastern,” of which the city is geographically the meeting point.

If Dubai is one of the most cosmopolitan cities in the world, it is also a human melting pot: the social and legal structure of the companies, the nature of the stay, and their strictly financial purposes encourage greater mixing between culturally close communities, thanks to very old exchanges and mixtures.

At the foot of its tall glass and steel towers, the work of architects and town planners, visitors undoubtedly find themselves in “the Orient.” The architectural cachet of the old center, the souks, the mosques, the dominant clothing, the rhythms of activities, the social attitudes, the cuisine and its smells, the street talk, the know-how are undeniably predominantly “oriental,” This term encompassing a vast arc stretching from the West African Sahel to the Philippines via Central Asia. But this human kaleidoscope does not reconstitute its original communities, insofar as, unlike New York’s ethnic neighborhoods, for example, there is no reconstitution of the initial so-

ciety, only certain segments of age, gender, and professions being represented in each community.

An emerging pole of the world economy, Dubai is experiencing growth rates equivalent to those of the new dragons of Southeast Asia, but its economy is subject to the same vagaries of global finance, due to the lack of power its investments and savings have on the functioning of financial markets located mainly in the Northern Hemisphere (Ruffin).

If, contrary to what is sometimes argued, the success of Dubai is not based “on sand,” that is to say, on pure speculation, and on ephemeral oil rent, the fact remains that its economy remains constrained by internal socio-cultural parameters and its regional environment.

The choice was initiated some thirty years ago to make this city a metropolis of the world system. Dubai is therefore unquestionably a city of globalization, but a city whose metropolization is taking place in original ways.

Dubai today remains essentially a supply and redistribution center confined to

the packaging and sale of goods, and the provision of trade or tourism-related services. This function puts it in contact with the whole planet and makes it one of the world's poles of free trade.

Within the framework of “the strategy of 50,” the authorities seek to attract industries with strong capitalistic and above all technological content. They aim to be a location for the IT, telemetric, and consumer electronics industries.

Certainly Dubai is the leading center of the Gulf communications industry, with 607 companies making annual sales of \$624 million or more. But these are largely only outlets for imported products; it is an image production center, with its television or advertising studios broadcast throughout the Arab world. It also has an impressive number of Internet service providers. But these are only consumers, not producers of new concepts or new techniques in this growing niche.

Aware of the need to cross a new technological threshold to remain in international competition, the authorities founded the world's first “Internet City,” which

opened in October 2000. It is a free trade zone dedicated to e-commerce and learning all aspects of multimedia.

This project was piloted by Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum, Prime Minister of the Federation (UAE) and Ruler of Dubai, who declared during the inauguration: If the UAE is the hub of the transport of goods, why shouldn't they become also a communication hub? "In the future, all commerce will be done in cyberspace. But the cybernetic world will need a physical base on our planet and I want Dubai to become the best place in the world for all companies in the communication industry." Leading global companies in the sector have shown interest in this area and are already present. Approximately 95 of the top 100 global companies have opened a representation in Dubai. These representations often have a regional function and sometimes serve a clientele that extends beyond the borders of the GCC.

Legislation and a "business-friendly" atmosphere

The Emirate has adopted legislation fa-

avorable to investment and commercial and industrial activities, as well as a relatively efficient and honest administration, which is a major asset for foreign investors.

The authorities of the Emirate do not stop at financing the infrastructures necessary for economic development: the Emirate owns leading companies, such as the Dubai aluminum smelter, the Ducab cables and electric wires factory, Dubai Electric Co (DEC), and Emirates airline. But the same authorities are also involved in strengthening the private sector as part of a 20-year plan for the development of non-oil industrial and commercial sectors. The Chamber of Commerce and Industry also seeks to advance the interests of business and promote the city internationally.

This role is now complemented by other entities, such as the Jebel Ali Free Zone Management Organization, the Dubai Ports Authority, the Emirates Company, and the Dubai Promotion Office. The government of the Emirate has created in recent years a “Department of Economic Development,” a kind of ministry of the economy on the scale of the Emirates as a

whole, whose mission is “to improve the business climate in the Emirate, to put in place a long-term strategy, and to contribute to the establishment of adequate legislation”.

Tourism, a flourishing economic sector and a driver of notoriety

Tourism is perhaps the economic sector most revealing of Dubai’s openness. The local tour operators, supported by the authorities, target a diverse clientele of different markets, based on real assets (the sea, the sun, shopping, the quality of the hotel stock, and the desert), in part by creating the Dubai “product” from scratch.

The Emirates succeeded in this effort by seeking out a clientele that could not spontaneously go to this unknown destination. With the impressive list of assets that it has forged or made operational, Dubai has all the attributes of a “metropolis,” in the fullest sense of being the leading pole of the world economy that the term can take on.

A simple emporium of the planetary merchant system or, a metropolis in the making?

Dubai, which is often compared for its activities to Singapore and Hong Kong, fully participates in what has been described as the “global city,” that is to say, as one of those metropolises of planetary-scale structuring the networks that tend to make all the flows on the planet operate at the same rate.

The city is organized around its economic infrastructure, foremost among which are its transport networks, large hotels, office buildings, industrial areas, shopping centers, and residential areas and leisure facilities.

With international links, a vector of growth

Dubai Airport has become in a few years a hub for international air traffic; it is the number one airport in the Middle East and the second in the world in terms of transit passengers. It is served by all the world’s international airlines, which connect it to more than 138 destinations.

The airport symbolizes Dubai’s strate-

gy: its passenger traffic feeds a major duty-free shopping complex, itself responsible for attracting travelers, through promotions and incessant raffles. This airport duty-free zone is considered attractive to the world, with sales of \$210 million in 1999.

As for freight activity, it is concentrated in a “cargo village” capable of handling 500,000 tons/year. This is directly connected to neighboring industrial zones, neighboring states, and ports, thanks to seven combined air-sea freight docks, “which make it one of the most efficient areas in the world for this type of transshipment.”

This city is often considered emblematic of economic globalization, as it has become a renowned hub of international transit and re-exports trade. Unique in the region, the city’s fortunes have been linked, since the beginning of the 20th century, to its role as a center of trade between, the Middle East and the Gulf, with the Indian subcontinent and beyond.

With 64 international trade fairs since 2003, Dubai also plans to become a place of reference for the holding of major inter-

national events.

Dubai, one of the seven members of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) federation, seeks to diversify its sources of income and alleviate the impact of the depletion of its oil reserves. To this end, the Emirate has relied on the industries in the transformation of metals or non-metallic mineral products, new technologies, the creation of the Dubai Silicon Oasis, and further trade and tourism.

The new Silk Road strategy of Dubai includes the rapidly growing relationship between the U.A.E. and China. The character of the China-U.A.E. relationship owes much to the character of the U.A.E. economy itself: increasingly diversified, globally-connected, and a well-established global trade and logistics hub. Indeed, in a startling statistic cited by The Economist magazine, “almost two-thirds of Chinese exports to Europe, the Middle East, and Africa move through Emirati ports.” Clearly, the U.A.E. is not simply an “oil play” for China, and is part of the Emirates increasing role in the world.

Notes and References

1. “Confident that the Growth can continue,” MEED, December 5, 1997, p. 34; Julian Taylor: “Can Dubai survive the Global Challenge?” The Middle East, November 1998, pp. 21-22.
2. “Dubai to create Internet City,” TIME, January 2000; “Dubai Internet University says to drive Web economy,” Reuters, April 26, 2000.
3. “Diplomatique,” Le Monde, February 2001
4. “UAE finalized Stock Market launch”, TIME, September 1999. Dubai banks have long been at the forefront of innovation in the region in the area of business financial services, and it can be expected that they will quickly use the Stock Exchange to develop corporate finance systems. Companies are still not very diversified in the region.
5. “Saadiyat: A 3.3 \$ BN Offshore Market,” TIME, February 2001
6. “Double puzzle for Dubai,” Arabies: April 1999, pages 36 to 39; “Salalah Port: a Vision Realized,” The Middle East. January 1999, pages 37-40.
7. “Cleaning up a dirty business,” TME, January 2000; “GCC Fraud Scandal,” TME, October 2000.
8. “Beirut, Dubai, Tel Aviv: will we be competitive?” Afrique-Golfe Magazine, March 1, 1996, p. 24; “Dubai, an Arab model of success?”, Afrique-Golfe Magazine, May-June 1995.
9. TME: “Duty-Free, a Shopping Revolution”, May 1998, pp. 38-39
10. Roger Melki: “Dubai the essential”, Arabies, 1993, pp. 34 to 42.
11. “Chinese money is behind some of the Arab world’s biggest projects: The region’s autocrats appreciate Beijing’s no-strings approach,” The Economist, April 20, 2019.

Lakhdar Chadli is an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Communication, Arts & Sciences in Canadian University Dubai, UAE



Canadian University Dubai President
Dr. Karim Cheli

CUD Head Says Theme for SUN GA and IASS Conference Fits Dubai Expo

In an interview, Canadian University Dubai President Dr. Karim Cheli speaks about CUD, pandemic, Dubai on the Silk Roads and university student life

Question : We understand that Canadian University Dubai, founded in 2006, is the number 1 institution of higher education in Dubai. Please introduce the CUD, especially its achievements in such a short period of time?

Answer: CUD was established in 2006 as the first university to bring the Canadian higher education system to the UAE. The University has its roots in a partnership between two Canadian institutions that came to Dubai with the vision to contribute to the city through excellence in higher education. CUD was created to realize that vision and to provide a pathway for students studying in the Middle East to pursue education and research opportunities in Canada.

We started out offering four undergraduate programs and now have over 40 UAE Ministry-accredited undergraduate and

graduate degree concentrations across four academic faculties. During our 15 years in Dubai, we have grown our international profile in North America and across the globe. With collaborations spanning from coast to coast across Canada, students at CUD can now complete their studies with one of more than 25 Canadian academic partner institutions. We have also built up a network beyond Canada, providing opportunities for international education experiences through strategic partnerships with more than 50 academic institutions around the world. Our global outlook is represented in our campus community, which over the years has welcomed students from 127 different nationalities.

In recent years, CUD has built upon its academic reputation in the region and made a strategic move towards the international recognition of its programs, earning accreditations from leading global industry bodies. The University has also established and invested in an internationally-driven research strategy, substantially increasing its research output with SCOPUS registered publications and citations.

These academic achievements, along with our significant expansion to a second campus in downtown Dubai, have positioned the University on the international stage – a position confirmed by the 2022 QS World University Rankings, which placed CUD in the top 2% (601-650) worldwide and top 4 in the UAE, as well as the 2022 QS Arab Region University Rankings, which placed the University at 25th in the region and 1st in Dubai. We are all extremely proud of these achievements after just 15 years of operation.

Q: What do you think of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on university education in the world? How do you assess universities' responses to the unprecedented challenge?

A: The pandemic had the impact of accelerating the shift towards the digitization of education and the adoption of blended and hybrid learning approaches. Institutions had to quickly re-imagine how they could provide a seamless and equitable learning experience off-campus, through distance and remote learning techniques.

Universities are, by nature, a hotbed for innovation, technology, and transformation, and the higher education sector was well-equipped to adapt to the sudden change in circumstance. At CUD, we turned to established technical partners, original equipment manufacturers, and channel partners of leading technology vendors to establish collaborations that could help us achieve this seamless transition to online and blended learning. This allowed the University to manage the unprecedented demands and requirements of the changing situation in information and communication technologies.

Q: CUD plans to host the 8th General Assembly of SUN and the 7th International Conference of IASS in February next year. Would you please share your idea and plan for the two events?

A: These events will be coming to Dubai at a truly unique time, as the city will be in the midst of hosting Expo 2020. This is the biggest cultural gathering in the world, bringing visitors from across the globe to explore new frontiers in science, innova-

tion, education, sustainability, and technology.

The theme of the International Conference: “The Roles of Universities in the Era of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Big Data (BD): Challenges and Opportunities” is a particularly fitting subject to coincide with Expo 2020 Dubai. AI and Big Data are driving enterprise and innovation in the education sector, and, like Expo, we aim to explore the ideas and technologies that will impact this domain in the years to come.

The program of events will combine stimulating academic exchange and exciting opportunities to discover the diverse culture and rich heritage of Dubai. We are also inviting all delegates and guests to join us in visiting Expo 2020 Dubai and experiencing this momentous event in person.

Q: Since joining SUN, CUD has been a strong participant and supporter of the network which marked its sixth year this year. What brought your university to join SUN and what do you think are its achievements so far and what it should

pursue from now?

A: CUD chose to join SUN last year as the University shares in the Network's vision to connect institutions across the ancient Silk Roads to exchange knowledge for the advancement of society as a whole. Since joining, CUD has taken the lead in hosting and organizing the forthcoming international conference, and, in particular, developing a theme that is relevant to the participating institutions and the global education environment. We look forward to welcoming conference delegates as well as participants of the concurrent SUN General Assembly to explore the city of Dubai and the education landscape of the Middle East region.

Q: It's impossible to discuss the Silk Roads without the Middle East. Would you please tell us the historical significance of Dubai/UAE in the ancient Silk Roads and what should be done to revive the spirit of the Silk Roads?

A: Dubai is a crossroads between East and West and has a rich history as a trading port. This legacy has been renewed

for modern times, most recently with the launch of a new Silk Road strategy that aims to establish the Emirate as a global trade and logistics hub. The strategy has been developed with government by the Ports, Customs and Free Zone Corporation, and is one of nine projects in the Fifty-Year Charter, declared by H. H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai. This demonstrates the high-level commitment to reaffirm Dubai's role as a strategic link in global trade and to build upon the city's existing status as a bridge between East and West, which has been driven in recent times by the rapid growth of the flagship air carrier, Emirates. The airline has established 158 routes across 85 countries and territories, helping to make Dubai International the world's busiest airport.

Q: As a professor and President of the CUD, what message and advice would you like to give to young students?

A: I would advise students to approach university as a life experience as well as

an education and to take every opportunity to make the most of that experience. In particular, I would encourage students to take the chance to explore international study or research, which will enable them to meet new people, discover different cultures, and establish global networks that will help them as they progress in their careers.

Advances in technology and increasing global mobility have created new opportunities for students to engage in transnational education experiences, whether physically or virtually. With the fading of geographic boundaries, we will see a future based on international collaboration in shared aims and goals, which will bring benefits beyond a single institution's local community, and I think that every student should take the chance to be involved in this kind of opportunity.

Finally, I would advise students to make the most of their time outside the classroom and to grow their character alongside their academic abilities, to establish the strong foundations for their future and build an experience they will remember

for years to come.

Expo 2020 Dubai: Connecting Minds, Creating the Future and Empowering Youth



Passant G. Attaweya

Empowering youth has always been an intrinsic value and objective in the United Arab Emirates, as it was instilled by the nation's founding father, His Highness the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan. Expo 2020 Dubai is practicing this value as its theme "Connecting Minds, Creating the Future" strives to support and inspire youth towards achieving their full potential and playing an active role in creating the future they deserve. This value influenced numerous aspects of planning for Expo 2020 Dubai, currently underway at the Dubai Exhibition Centre, and it con-



The main site of Dubai Expo 2020

Image Source: Italian Commissioner General for Expo 2020

tinues to affect this important national achievement.

With the participation of 192 countries from around the world, Expo 2020Dubai is not only engaging and collaborating with youth, but also cementing the foundations for a knowledge-based economy that will provide opportunities for current and future generations. The three subthemes – Mobility, Sustainability, and Opportunity– are all about encouraging the creation of a better, more sustainable, and inclusive future for the coming generations.

Visitors to ‘Alif’, the Mobility Pavilion, which also refers to the first letter of the alphabet in Arabic, may learn about future transport alternatives, space research, and

how digital integration allows us to explore new horizons. This pavilion comprises a 330-meter track called the ‘Mobility Track’, which features demonstrations of modern mobility technologies.

‘Terra’, the pavilion dedicated to sustainability, offer guests the chance to experience ocean depths, deep forests, and creative representations of the world’s wonders. Its unique design resembles the photosynthesis process by capturing energy from sunlight and water from humid air. The sustainability pavilion intends to motivate visitors to take small and large steps towards a more sustainable future to combat climate change.

Finally, in line with the UAE rulers’ vision, ‘Mission Possible,’ otherwise known as the Opportunity Pavilion, strives to unlock individuals’ and communities’ potential. Visitors are presented with the exceptional opportunity to create connections with social innovators and become potential agents of “change” themselves.

It’s evident that these pavilions are actively aiming to incorporate the youth and their input in shaping the future. Through

the opportunity district, youth are presented with an unmatched chance to build valuable connections with change makers and industry leaders. They also have access to cutting-edge platforms and channels for increasing civic involvement, voicing their concerns, and participating in government decisions and policymaking, all of which contribute to constructive change for a better tomorrow.

More specifically, Expo 2020 Dubai aims to engage youth through an array of programs and activities, particularly designed for youth empowerment and skill-building. The Youth Pavilion, inspired by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, explores the Emirati model for youth empowerment and acts as a talent incubator. Created to inspire young people to take control of their future and share their ideas at national, regional, and international levels, this pavilion was made in collaboration with the Federal Youth Foundation and the Arab Youth Center.

Earlier, Her Excellency Reem Bint Ebrahim Al Hashimy, Minister of State Interna-

tional Cooperation and Director-General of Expo 2020 Dubai, stated: “The Youth Pavilion will be an open creative space for promising future youth ideas in various sectors, including technology, new media, smart learning, and work patterns, as well as entrepreneurship, digital, circular and green economies, and will play the role of a link between Emirati youth and youth from all participating countries at Expo 2020.” The Pavilion’s agenda is packed with interesting initiatives and seminars, including ‘Youth Arab Media Leaders,’ the ‘Arab Youth Enterprise Market,’ and ‘Arab Youth Council for Climate Change.’ Additionally, youth can participate in the following activities:

- The ‘Gulf Young Entrepreneurs Forum’ is an initiative that connects young entrepreneurs in the GCC through workshops and training courses to expand their skills and knowledge.
- Youth Seminars: 16 youth seminars are expected to take place in alignment with 15 worldwide festivities and events on the United Nations agenda.

- International Day of Cities: This is an initiative where young individuals with engineering and science degrees can participate in an interactive activity to construct a future city model with artificial intelligence infrastructure and urban design.
- Youth Connect: This is an initiative that supports and empowers youth's ambitions by providing them with the necessary tools to succeed. It aims to connect teachers and students by involving them in an immersive learning experience at Expo.

Saeed Al Nazari, Director General of the Federal Youth Foundation and Chief Strategy Officer of the Arab Youth Centre, also affirmed the Youth Pavilion will be a “global destination and a central station for youth activities as it will serve as a platform to invest in the energies of young people and efforts to empower and involve them and celebrate inspiring and creative models globally.” He further stated that “it will attract government and private institutions from around the world to adopt the youth

empowerment model and invest in their energies and ideas.”

With the repercussions of the Covid-19 pandemic increasing the unemployment rate and catalyzing job search challenges, access to job opportunities is now more important than ever.

Students and fresh graduates are presented with an unparalleled opportunity to network and collaborate with experts and industry leaders through the Expo Education program. The program trains students at school and universities for the future workplace by providing them with a once-in-a-lifetime learning experience and curated tours to equip them with the right knowledge, guidance, and qualifications. Young adults can prepare to explore different career paths, widen their skills, and enter the job market with confidence as they’ll have access to thousands of entrepreneurship and job opportunities. The program provides every student and fresh graduate with an open creative space to unleash their potential, share ideas, network, and craft a unique path adapted to their abilities and interests by engaging in

digital education and job matching platforms. Every individual, regardless of their socioeconomic background, will have the opportunity to pursue employment and gain access to job prospects through Expo's apprenticeship programs.

Expo 2020 Dubai will close its doors by the end of March 2022, but it will be far from being forgotten. District 2020 will emerge from the current expo site as a smart sustainable human-centric city of the future reusing at least 80% of the current Expo infrastructure. Basing its foundations on digital innovation and sustainable urban development, District 2020 will represent a smart community, a business hub, and a significant landmark that will always remain as a legacy for future generations to connect, create and innovate.

Passant G. Attaweya is a sophomore of the Canadian University Dubai, UAE.

SPECIAL FEATURE

A 1600-YEAR LONG HISTORY: VENICE AND THE SILK ROADS

© Euihwan Cho





© Euihwan Cho

City of Venice Enriched With History Marks 1600th Anniversary

By Luciano Pezzolo

In 2021 Venice celebrates 1600 years since its legendary birth. The early descriptions of the lagoon depict its inhabitants engaged in fishing, salt gathering, and trade. At first limited to a circumscribed area, later expanded to the Adriatic Sea and then to the Mediterranean, trade has marked the space of the city and the attitude of its inhabitants. From the earliest

stages of their commercial expansion, the Venetians had to deal with products and peoples from the Levant and the Orient, which at the time was far more developed than Europe.

In the second half of the eighth century A.D., Iraq and the Persian Gulf experienced rapid economic growth. They stood at the center of an empire and economy which sprawled from the Atlantic eastward toward India and beyond. Under the Abbasid caliphate, beginning about 750 C.E., the Middle East began a period of substantial economic growth and scientific and cultural achievements. In the later eighth and early ninth century, the Persian Gulf port of Siraf took off. The presence of Chinese and Iraqi ceramics in its ruins testifies to the ambit of its commerce. In the ninth century, Iraq became the empire's economic as well as political center of gravity.

In the 8th century, spices from Somalia, southeast Asia or China (cinnamon), western India (pepper), and Kashmir (costus), as well as Levantine or Arabian sources (aromatic resin and incenses) were avail-

able in the Po Valley in the very years the Venetians were setting up their markets. Venice, in this context of economic growth, represented the last leg of two relays: both departed from China and Southeast Asia. One followed the caravan routes of Central Asia, arrived at Trebizond and then reached Constantinople. The other followed the sea routes of the Indian Ocean and, crossing the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf, reached Egypt and Syria. In the trade centers of the Levant the Venetians exchanged metals, timber, slaves, and furs for exotic goods, to be sold to the elites of the Italian Peninsula.

This trade was to make Venice one of the most powerful political and economic centers of the Mediterranean and Europe in the Middle Ages. Starting from the 10th century, the growth of the European economy gave Venice an important role in the interchange between the eastern Mediterranean and the continent. Beginning in the 13th century, the Serenissima assumed a growing control in the international market of products from Asia, thanks to its efficient naval organization and the estab-

lishment of a system of protection along the Adriatic and Aegean coasts, consisting of fortresses, ports and naval patrols. The beginning of the so-called PaxMongolica in Asia facilitated connections throughout Eurasia, strengthening trade and expanding profit opportunities. From the middle of the 13th century and throughout the 14th century, the presence of Venetian merchants became more widespread, enlivening the trade on the Silk Roads.

The story of Marco Polo is placed precisely in this phase of marked economic expansion, favored by the opening of trade, which affects Eurasia. Marco Polo's father and uncle, and then Marco himself, were among the brave few who made the arduous journey to China and helped link their city of Venice to the wider world, and Marco's writings spread the knowledge of that world to others in Europe.

For over a century Venice and Europe took advantage of the benefits of the Silk Road exchange. However, this period of encounter between East and West came to an end in the middle of the 14th century. The end of the Yuan dynasty and the

establishment of the Ming dynasty (1368) led to the expulsion of the last Christian presence in China. Almost simultaneously, the chaos and collapse of the Mongols further impacted their ability and desire to trade with the West. The great period of exchange between East and West was slowed, and even ended in some regions.

The effects of the encounter between foreign worlds, however, lasted over time, thanks to the transmission of techniques and artistic models and the numerous accounts and travel reports written by European missionaries who contributed, along with the stories of merchants, to the discovery of cultures and worlds far away and hitherto unknown.

The presence of Venetian merchants in Asia, however, did not stop as completely and as abruptly as has usually been thought. In 1362 caravans of goods guided by Venetians still departed from Urgenc in Turkestan; around 1370 several Venetian nobles were active in Urgenc and Sarai, and even their agents and employees were able to build fortunes there in a few years. They are the last protagonists of a current

of traffic that for a century connected the extreme poles of the West and the East in a single system of exchanges of vast range. Silks, spices, pearls and jewels from Asia were exchanged for woolen fabrics, cloths, crystals, leather, amber and silver from Europe, in an intertwining of business that involved France, Flanders, Germany, Italy, the regions of Russia, the Middle East, Persia, Central Asia, India, Indonesia and China.

Despite political troubles, Italian merchants kept operating in the Red Sea and in the Indian Ocean. In the 15th century, the Venetian Nicolò de Conti (d. 1469), published accounts of his adventures. The information about his travels have generally proved to be accurate both as regards the indications of directions and distances, and also as regards the topographical details on the most important cities he mentioned and described. Modern travelers have also found mostly accurate indications relating to the customs of the various peoples of the Indies. It is interesting to note that Marco Polo's book and Nicolo's account, translated from Latin into Portu-

guese, inspired the Portuguese king to organize the expedition to the Indian Ocean. By 1498, Vasco da Gama had led an maritime expedition to India, and trade was once again opened between West and East.

The opening of the Cape route, however, did not mark the end of Venice's commercial relations with Asia. At the end of the sixteenth century, the fastest connection with India still was represented by the old trade route of the Eastern Mediterranean, despite the opening of the Portuguese route. Of course, the Eastern Mediterranean route had known better times, but in the last decades of the century it saw a remarkable revival, after the crises that had affected it, and before the final decline that followed the Dutch victory in the Indian Ocean. Though the voyages of the English, French, and Dutch were more and more regular and fortunate, trade through the Eastern Mediterranean required one to deal with the old Venetian masters. In Constantinople, Aleppo and Alexandria, the Venetian "nation" surpassed all the others in number and volume of business. In 1592, Venetian ships were again on the

Black Sea - at Tana and Caffa - where the ambassador in Constantinople was urged to appoint a consul who would protect their interests. Other Venetians went further afield, to Baghdad, Basra, Persia, India.

Even after the arrival of the Dutch, the English, and the French in the Levant and Indian Ocean, the connections with Venice did not disappear. Merchant networks and products changed, but close relations were maintained. In 1686-87, in the principal Levantine markets, Venetians goods, most importantly glass beads and mirrors, ranked fourth behind those of the northern powers. The example of glass beads is significant. In the 18th century, the main Asian market for Venetian glass beads exported to Alexandria was India, while the diffusion of this product in a large part of Asia is confirmed throughout the modern age and beyond. Venetian beads reached Surat, Mumbai and Bengal through the route connecting Cairo with Suez, Jeddah and Moka. African caravans connecting Upper Egypt with the Kingdom of Sennar and Ethiopia on the one hand, and with

Wadai and Darfur on the other, provide an additional outlet for Venetian glass beads shipped to Egypt.

From the family of Marco Polo to the lesser unknown merchants of the 18th century, the Venetians showed a remarkable familiarity with the Eastern world. For them, India began at the gates of Aleppo and Damascus, extended along the caravan route to Baghdad and the river route that led to Basra, and then went on to Sind, Diu, Goa, Chaul. It is, in short, the India of the old spice route, well known to the Venetians and for which there was no need to delay in describing it. They had long been accustomed to that world and its inhabitants.

Sources

Roberto S. Lopez, 'Da Venezia a Delhi nel Trecento', in Roberto S. Lopez, *Su e giù per la storia di Genova* (Genova: Bozzi, 1975), pp. 137-159.

Luca Molà, 'Venezia, Genova e l'Oriente: i mercanti italiani sulle Vie della Seta tra XIII e XIV secolo', in *Sulle vie della Seta. Antichi sentieri tra Oriente e Occidente* (Turin, Codice Edizioni, 2012), pp. 124-166.

Francesca Trivellato, 'Echi della periferia. Note sulla circolazione e produzione delle perle di vetro veneziane nei secoli XVII-XVIII', *La ricerca folklorica* 34 (1996), pp. 25-34.

Luciano Pezzolo is a Professor of Early Modern History department at the Ca' Foscari university of Venice, Italy

Venice, a City of Freedom, Looks to Continuous and Lasting Contacts with Foreign Countries

Mayor Luigi Brugnaro talks about the great Italian city's past, present and future and shares his thoughts about university education and youth





Amali Ranavi Thanthrige

The City of Venice in Italy is celebrating the 1600th anniversary of its founding this year.

The Silk Road Universities Network (SUN) is one of the foreign institutions with which the City of Venice is working on plans to celebrate the milestone of the city which has also been a key place of the Silk Roads and the home of the great Silk Road explorer Marco Polo. The events to be co-hosted by the City of Venice, SUN and Ca'Foscari University of Venice include video, T-shirt design and essay writing contests for students of the 81 member universities of SUN.

This is one of the reasons why SILKROADIA held a written interview with Venice Mayor Luigi Brugnaro as he spearheads preparations for the celebratory events. The mayor talked about the great history and tradition of the City of Venice and the achievement of Marco Polo. He noted that Venice did not have walls and welcomed all those regardless

of creed or culture who came in peace and respected its rules.

The mayor said Venice was a city of merchants and explorers and it made diplomacy one of its most influential tools in managing relations between different cultures. He added that it was the great lesson that Marco Polo and the Silk Roads have taught us, and from this, Venice must start again to lay the basis of continuous and lasting contacts and commercial relations with foreign countries.

The mayor expounded that Venice's first challenge is climate change and the city, chosen by the Italian Government to be nominated for the "World Capital of Sustainability," will make further efforts to promote environmental change policy. He noted that Venice is a city that has the ambition to continue to experiment and to improve itself so that the new generations can continue to live there, find a job, and create a family. The following are excerpts from the interview with Mayor Brugnaro:

Question: Venice has a great history that goes back a long way. Could you

point to key lessons that university students from all over the world can learn from the history of Venice?

Answer: If we look at the 1600-year history of Venice, of which over 1,100 years was as a Republic, it shows that our City was not only a crossroads of culture, religion, trade, and technological innovation, but has been a place where the resilience, performance, and the enhancement of man's intellect were the distinctive elements of a story that continues until today. Venice has always known how to handle difficult situations or adverse events in order to grow and improve. Venice also was a great naval power throughout the Mediterranean which, at the same time, was able to extend its dominions on the mainland, eventually annexing, most of the time in a peaceful way, cities and municipalities up to the borders with the Duchy of Milan. Venice also is a symbol of beauty, elegance, and great traditions born from the artistic ability of great craftsmen who have made it famous around the world. But above all, Venice has always been able to counteract nature's ability to appropri-

ate its spaces: our ancestors did it when they decided to divert rivers to prevent them from discharging debris into the lagoon. They dug the canals to guarantee their navigability and we also have done so in recent years. We recently gave life to one of the greatest engineering works of Italian mastery which is the MOSE, a system of mobile dams that have the ability to block exceptional high waters in the open sea.

Venice, in its history, has been all this and much more, but if I had to sum up its greatest teaching, I would use the word: freedom. A city without walls which welcomed all those regardless of creed or culture came in peace and respected its rules, a true example of a Republic in years when Europe was ruled by crowned heads.

Q: The 1,600th anniversary of the city has drawn the attention of the whole world. As Mayor of Venice, what aspects of the anniversary do you want to emphasize for students of universities all over the world?

A: The most exciting aspect of this important anniversary is the fact that Venice is not celebrating by itself, but we are seeing how so many cities and countries, even far away, are paying homage. It is a real change of perspective. Venice, which for centuries has exerted its influence from East to West, continues to make people talk about it. It was a nice gesture to receive, on March 25th, the day that tradition attributes to the foundation of Venice, videos of greetings and esteem from all the Metropolitan Mayors of Italy and from important representatives of institutions abroad.

This is Venice, a place that is in the heart of everyone. To university students, you know that this year you will have opportunity to experience these celebrations. I would say that to lose you in Venice is to be able to truly know it intimately. What we are trying to do for the upcoming anniversary is to encourage the whole world to go beyond the classic route between Rialto Bridge and San Marco Square. There are the islands with their excellences: Murano for glass, Burano and Palestrina for lace and fishing, Sant' Erasmo and Torcello for

the cultivation of violet artichokes. There is the Mainland with its history and its strong identity, as well as Porto Marghera with its industrial sites which have indelibly defined the last century of the whole city.

These are the most characteristic aspects that I would suggest to readers to take in on the occasion of this 1,600-year anniversary: get to know the City through its places. This would be the most important tribute you could give to Venice.

Q: Venice has been a significant place in the history of the Silk Roads. It is also the motherland of Marco Polo, the great explorer. Would you like to share with us your understanding of the historical value of Marco Polo to the City and the world?

A: Venice has in Marco Polo and the Silk Road a great example of what this City has represented throughout its history. Marco Polo is the symbol of resourcefulness and the desire for adventure that has always characterized the Venetians. In his long journey to the East, he was curious and

open-minded, with a desire to learn. In his explorations, he learned to observe the new, the different, the other without fear and with a sense of wonder.

That sense of wonder is found in every page of “Il Milione,” where Marco Polo recounts his journey along the Silk Road, which has become over the centuries a real bridge between East and West. And which had, in Venice, one of its most significant endpoints. Venice, a city of merchants and explorers, made diplomacy one of its most influential tools in managing relations between different cultures. This was the great lesson that Marco Polo and the Silk Road has taught us, and from this, Venice must start again to lay the basis of continuous and lasting contacts, and commercial relations with foreign countries.

Q: The COVID-19 pandemic is not yet over, and Italy is one of the many countries hit hard by the pandemic. What measures has the City taken to contain the pandemic and minimize its impact on the celebrations of the 1,600th anniversary?

A: Venice felt the effects of the pandemic from the very moment when it had started and created the exceptional high peak of November 2019. This has meant that an already strained City economy had to contend with a further period of forced closures and repercussions linked to a pandemic that still does not want to leave us. I spent those initial months working from the new and technologically advanced Smart Control Room of the City of Venice. From there I had access, to a control room with all the directions of the city and attended to planning the intervention strategy, and I continue to do so even now, as events change.

Initially, we managed to procure our own masks. Thanks to the municipal pharmacies we were able to self-produce gel disinfectants. We also ensured a sanitization system on all public transport that guaranteed maximum safety, and we made sure to support all those economic activities— cultural, social, and athletic — that had suffered, particularly in the initial months of lockdown.

In this context, the calendar of events

celebrating the 1,600-year anniversary of the foundation of Venice has been reduced, especially events that could create a large gathering. However, in order to allow everyone to participate in the moment of celebration, and in agreement with the diocese, we want all the bells of Venice and the Metropolitan City to sound festively on 16:00 on March 25th. Tentatively, then, the celebrations have begun and will continue until when, pandemic permitting, we will organize an event that will deliver to history a beautiful experience.

Q: What are the main challenges that the City of Venice must face in terms of sustainability and future growth? What are your strategies to face them?

A: The first challenge that we must all face together is climate change. It is no coincidence that, at the beginning of October, Venice was chosen by the Italian Government to be nominated for the “World Capital of Sustainability.” This is in recognition of all the efforts made in recent years in terms of environmental change policy and the need to protect our territory. We have

invested a lot in renewable and green energy; soon, thanks to the energy company Eni, we will begin distributing hydrogen as an energy source in Italy. We have invested in recycling of garbage and in separate collections with particular attention given to cooking oil waste. This oil, a highly polluting waste product when released into the sea, is instead transformed into vegetable additives for the creation of biodiesel. We are committed to begin a virtuous path of electrification of local public transport on land; today, Lido and Palestrina have exclusively electric buses. At the same time, we are also trying to have electric or hybrid engines for boats, a topic we will feature on the occasion of the Boat Show from 28th May to 5th June 2022; we will see the progress made. Venice is a city that has the ambition to continue to experiment and to improve itself so that the new generations can continue to live here, find a job, and create a family.

Q: Education is important in every big city, and Venice also has major higher education institutions, including the

Ca'Foscari University of Venice, which is a member of the Silk Road Universities Network (SUN). What do universities mean to you as Mayor of Venice? What kind of collaborations do you want to do with foreign universities?

A: As Mayor, I can only be proud of the great work that Venetian universities are doing both from the point of view of education and for growth for many young people who choose our city as a place to study. Together with the university Rectors we are bringing important projects to the City such as “Study in Venice,” an international center of excellence in higher education, realized due to contributions from Ca'Foscari University of Venice, IUAV University of Venice, Conservatorio di Musica Benedetto Marcello, and Accademia di Belle Arti di Venezia, with a commitment of the Municipality and the Metropolitan City of Venice. The project that allows many young people to study in Italian or in English in 77 bachelor's degrees, 81 master's degrees, 65 professional master's degrees, 22 PhD programs, 35 pre-academic courses, as well as international summer courses.

es and many single thematic and language courses at the four higher education institutions of Venice. In other words, the Venetian universities' dialogue and network demonstrate that they are a resource to look to from all over the world. These universities, especially Ca'Foscari with its international outreach, have allowed Venice to be among the main destinations for the training of new graduates. We also have Venice International University (VIU), which brings together 20 universities from all over the world. Venice welcomes all young students.

Q: What advice would you like to give to college students who are preparing for their future?

A: Just last October, I had the opportunity to speak to the graduates of Ca'Foscari in Piazza San Marco. In preparing my speech, I wondered what advice I could give to young people who often look at us, who represent previous generations, with detachment and reticence? So, I remembered an effective speech that the American writer and academic Kurt Vonnegut

gave in front of an audience of young people: “If I had to give you one piece of advice for your future, then I would tell you: put on your sunglasses! Because the benefits of long-term use of sunglasses have been scientifically proven, while all the other advice I have to give you is based on nothing more than my vague experience.” So, I also, on that occasion, wanted to leave those guys some advice with that same spirit and moved by what is my personal “vague experience:” Be positive, do not be too conditioned by others, be yourself, have confidence in your abilities, and do not be afraid to accept those failures which you necessarily will be called to face in your life. Everything else will come by itself with its own satisfaction and growth.

Q: What was your dream when you were young?

A: From an early age I loved “doing business.” I remember that when I was playing with my friends, I always tried to organize the activity in order to optimize the result. Growing up, that game became, little by little, my passion and profession.

My big dream, I think, was then slowly realized, and today I can look at my past and see how much I was able to build from nothing through work and sacrifice, which I take pride in. I am also honored to be able to represent, for six years now, the City that I love and that I am trying to revive after years in which we focused more on a slow decline instead of building a future of development and innovation. This, of course, was not a dream when I was young – I never thought I'd be Mayor – but it is a moment that shows that in life you must never stop dreaming and aiming for goals that appear unattainable.

Amali Ranavi Thanthrige majored in international studies at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Seoul, South Korea.

Venice: Always Ready to Face the Challenges of Change



Tiziana Lippiello

Restarting from innovation, youth, and technology

When I think of Venice, I see a city that can and must restart, especially with regards to our approach concerning technological innovation and how we educate our youth. All around the world, our city is known for sustainability and art. We should enhance and develop these two aspects in a new and contemporary way, to face global challenges and offer growth opportunities for talented people, both from within and abroad. We must be ready to launch a new challenge for the future of Venice.



Ca' Foscari University, Venice, Italy

A Living Workshop

We need a solid programme to make Venice a living workshop, in which new ideas and good practices can be forged, to protect cultural heritage and promote ecological transition and social innovation. In this regard, Ca' Foscari launched a partnership with the City of Venice and the Veneto Region focused on sustainability, green public procurement, the circular economy, and climate change. Venice needs to become a global hub to host the scientific, academic, and cultural debate on environmental and social sustainability issues, integrating environmental, social, and governance (ESG) criteria. This may also include a “Biennale

della Sostenibilità” (Biennial Exhibition on Sustainability) to gather institutions, scholars, representatives of the art and science sectors, and businesses, to engage them in a discussion on the topics of climate change and sustainability.

Venice:

World Capital of Sustainability

Sustainability should pervade each sector of our life by inspiring virtuous actions and behaviour. This step is necessary if we want to help Venice become a world (and European) capital of sustainability. The project “Venice: World Capital of Sustainability,” presented to the Italian Minister of Economy and Finance in Venice during the G20, envisages a series of actions to promote sustainable development at the local level, with a focus on the city of Venice. It was presented by the Veneto Regional Authorities, in partnership with the City of Venice, Ca’ Foscari University, Università Iuav di Venezia, the Music Conservatory Benedetto Marcello, the Venice Academy of Fine Arts, the Cini Foundation, Confind-

ustria Veneto, and businesses such as Generali, SNAM, and BCG. This may be the first time that so many different stakeholders (local authorities, cultural and academic institutions, companies, and other associations) are committing to a common goal: that of relaunching the city of Venice. Our University played a pioneering role in promoting Italian research on sustainability and fostering good environmental practices in the management and organisation of its daily activities.

Venice and the *Marhaus* ("the sea as our home")

I imagine Venice at the forefront in the ethical and aesthetic development linked to our multi-faceted relationship with the sea.

Venice as a University City with students in and at the center

Perhaps now more than ever, Venice can benefit from the presence of four universities, accounting for a population of at least thirty-five thousand students. Bringing Ca'

Foscari's students – as well as those attending other universities – back to the historical city center is a strategic element to promote local development and a new path for the city.

Another strategic element we should not forget is Ca' Foscari's international attractiveness, which should merge with that of Venice, a historically cosmopolitan city.

Venice is the University, and the University is Venice

Venice is the university, and the university is Venice: a university campus scattered around the city and surrounded by an international community made of people, talents, and projects.

The university in Venice has always been deeply rooted in the territory. The Serenissima and its ports take part in local and national politics, as well as in the debates on the city's future. At the same time, Venice is becoming one of the capitals of culture, cinema, tourism, and industry.

In the 1960's, the Faculty of Industrial Chemistry paved the way for modern technical, scientific, and technological culture

thanks to its connections with Porto Marghera, one of the largest chemical hubs in Europe. In the same period, many Faculties of Humanities also found their place in Venice: from Archaeology to Italian Studies, from Cultural Heritage to Performing Arts. Venice needs a university that can measure up to its history, one that has a vision for the future and can combine the historical mission of the Serenissima with its cultural aspects. In other words, the city needs an institution that can support international trade by constantly promoting a dialogue between different cultures and disseminating Venetian know-how and arts. Over the centuries, merchants, travellers, and missionaries have fascinated people with their knowledge of a city like no other, an unrivalled natural landscape originating from the harmonious meeting between the lagoon and human genius, the combination of art, craftsmanship, and extraordinary history and culture. Marco Polo's life has always charmed people in the East, for discovering and depicting Asia with passion, but above all for starting a dialogue between cultures.

Ca' Foscari as the City's cultural hive

At Ca' Foscari, we have the civic responsibility to support the future of Venice by promoting its artistic, historical, and cultural heritage. Since 1868, our University has actively contributed to spreading Italian academic research worldwide. During this historical moment of transition, we restate our commitment to the future of Venice and its community.

Dr. Tiziana Lippiello is Rector of Ca' Foscari University and Professor of Classical Chinese, Religions, and Philosophy of China at the Department of Asian and North African Studies

Pioneer of Modern Geography Linked to civilizations

Fictional interview with Baron Ferdinand Richthofen who coined “Silk Road”



Davide Rizzi

Baron Ferdinand Freiherr von Richthofen (1833-1905) was born in Karlsruhe in Prussian Silesia, nowadays Pokój in Poland, and is today remembered overall for his studies of China and Central Asia. A geologist and a geographer by trade, Richthofen distinguished himself by his notably complete approach to the disciplines he dealt with, and is today considered among the founders of modern



geography. Far from limiting his works to describing the geological and geographical formation of the territories he surveyed, his passion for the subject and his outstanding capacity for observation lead him to link his geographical data to the history of the civilisations who inhabited those lands throughout history. Known to most as the originator of the widely used

expression “Silk Road” (Seidenstrasse), he wrote seminal works which foreshadowed the modern development of geography studies, combining this discipline with elements of history, ethnology, and economy.

Question: Good morning, Professor Von Richthofen. Thank you for agreeing to talk with us. I would like to start this interview by asking, how you started working in the field of geology and geography?

Answer: Good morning! You’re welcome, it’s a pleasure sharing with you about my experiences. I’ve been interested in geology since I was a young man. I studied this subject at the University of Breslau and at the Friedrich Wilhelm University of Berlin. After graduation, at the age of 23, I started what would become a long series of fieldwork travels. Each of my travels allowed me to enhance my expertise in the many diverse fields of geography.

In my travels through Tyrol and on the Carpathian Mountains, I was, for the first time, able to put into practice what I

had only being studying in books, learning how to describe territories and draw maps thereof. Then, in my first travels to the Asian continent, reaching Sri Lanka, Japan, Taiwan, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Myanmar, I had the opportunity to study volcanic stones. I also could feel the emotion of exploring a place unvisited before by Westerners, which happened to me in an unexplored corner of the island of Java!

In the United States, where I worked for six years in the Rocky Mountains, I gained solid experience in mineralogy, by individuating and investigating veins of gold and silver. You know, those were the times of the “gold fever” and geologists were very much required in the North American West!

Then I came back to Asia, because I wanted finally to visit China. During four years of travels in East Asia between 1868 and 1872, while researching mineralogy through the investigation of coal deposits, my interests and my vision began to grow wider. I couldn't think anymore about the physical characteristics of a territory with-

out thinking also about the movements of peoples and things, and about the cultural and political entities that developed there and succeeded one another through history. This was the spirit in which I approached my research in China and Central Asia, and which culminated in the compilation of my largest work, *China*, consisting of five volumes.

Q: By the way, with regard to China, I come to an issue you surely expected to be asked about. Many people credit you for being the originator of a term now used world-wide in all imaginable forms: Silk Road. Definitely, we owe the name of our magazine to you, sir! But the meanings of names can change through time, and we would love to ask you if the concept you originally meant by Silk Road has remained the same, or if it has changed in the collective imagination?

A: That's a very interesting question to talk about. For sure, when I first used this expression in my writings in 1877, I would never imagine that Seidenstrasse, as I

called it in my language, would become a word used by people all over the world and translated in all languages. It's curious to think about, because I used this word only a few times in writing, namely a few occurrences in a volume of China and in an article for the Berliner Gesellschaft für Erdkunde. Moreover, I have referred to the commercial routes across Asia in other various terms, such as Handelstrasse, Hauptstrassen, Hauptverkehrsstrasse or Haupt-Handelstrasse. I didn't have the intention of fixing a unique term, using instead the one that would best fit the occasion. But, thanks to its evocative power, Silk Road caught people's attention more than the others.

Coming to its meaning, it has grown broader. What I called Silk Road was, in my intention, the road to China described in Ptolemy's Geography. He reported the account of another geographer, Marinus of Tyre, otherwise lost, based on direct reports by the Macedonian merchant Maës Titianus. Then, when I use the term in plural form, Seidenstrassen, I intended to suggest that it's very probable that there

wasn't only one trail possible to go to China, and that the road described in the Geography was only one of many Silk Roads.

Thereafter, geographers, historians, and archeologists started to use the expression in their writings and occasionally even in the titles of their works, the most notable among them being the geographer and archeologist Albert Hermann, and my student Sven Hedin (who became very popular for his adventurous tales about his explorations throughout Central Asia). He finally even published a book entitled *The Silk Road*. If Hermann still focused on the roads of Roman-Han times, as I did, Hedin contributed to broaden the scope of the term, talking about the possibility of reviving the old routes by creating a modern Silk Road made of motor-roads. My studies have themselves contributed to the creation of what was later called an "iron" Silk Road made of railways.

Furthermore, the many scholars who have dedicated themselves to the manifold aspects of the Silk Road(s) so far, have helped us to recognise that the trails crossed by merchants from the Mediter-

anean to China and vice versa have been working in every age since Roman-Han times, although of course sometimes being hindered by wars or other political interferences. As thus defined, the term happened to cover two millennia of history of innumerable interactions between peoples and states, and, if adapted to modern times, the Belt and Road Initiative (also known as “One Belt, One Road,” Yī dài yī lù) is currently being called the legacy of the Silk Road.

Quite the long journey through space and time for a little word!

Q: Thank you so much for these illuminating reflections, Herr Professor. I can imagine that being a geologist and a geographer in your times was quite different from practicing the same professions now. Can you enlighten us about the characteristics of those activities in the 19th century?

A: You're right. Geology and geography were far less developed than today, and I happened to live in times when these

disciplines were in a challenging stage of growth. This allowed the geologist/geographer to feel much more like an explorer than today. On my own, I was honored to help these fields of studies in collecting new knowledge. For example, during my fieldwork in Jiangxi, I was able to identify a coal bearing stratum, which I named the Leping coal-bearing series, after the site of the discovery. Later, the stratum I discovered, thanks to further studies by colleagues living after me, gave the name to a geological period, the Lopingian.

Those times, when there were many more uninvestigated places than in these days, could give the geologist/geographer many satisfactions, and your name had the possibility to end up on a map.

If you have a look on your atlas, you will notice a Mount Richthofen in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado and a Richthofen Pass in the Graham Land in Antarctica, though I've never visited that continent! And do you know that for some time, the Qilian Mountains between the provinces of Gansu and Qinghai were known in western countries by the name of Richthofen

Range? Even more surprising, a genus of a tropical plants occurring throughout Asia has been called *Richthofenia*!

Q: This is outstanding indeed! May I ask, what sparked your interest in Central and East Asia, sir?

A: Of course you may. My interest in those regions was drawn by my readings and by attending the lessons of my dear professors. I've much appreciated *L'Asie Centrale* by Alexander Von Humboldt, *Asien* by Carl Ritter, *Cathay and the Way Thither* by Henry Yule, and it goes without saying, *The Travels of Marco Polo*. I've had the pleasure of being a student of Professors Carl Ritter and Gustav Rose. The latter was a mineralogist and had taken part in expeditions in Central Asia led by Professor Von Humboldt. With a great interest in the history of those lands, I began reading the Chinese historical sources as well, like *Han Shu*, *Sui Shi*, and the travelogues of the famous Buddhist monks Faxian and Xuanzang. This allowed me to grasp a far more complete image by combining the ge-

ographical descriptions made by both perspectives, the European and the Chinese. Unfortunately, being always very busy with my work, I hadn't had enough time to learn Classical Chinese, so I had to read those books in the English translation.

Q: One of the most captivating stories of the 19th and early 20th century European explorations in Central Asia is the “mystery of Lake Lop Nor” in Xinjiang. You were among the ones who tried to locate that historically attested and apparently disappeared lake, weren't you?

A: Yes, indeed, I contended in person with Sir Nikolai Przhevalsky about the effective location of Lop Nor. He and I differed in our theories because, through the analysis of Chinese sources, I projected it to be near the abandoned oasis city of Loulan. Przhevalsky, in contrast, during his explorations in Central Asia, found a lake in Kara-Koshun which he identified with Lop Nor. The question was that it was more than 100 km south-west of the point indicated by my studies. Finally, my student

Hedin, during his expeditions, managed to solve this mystery. He saw the lake of Kara-Koshun but he also recognized the area east of Loulan as being a dried lake basin. Basically, Przhevalsky and I were both right. Lop Nor had been where I thought it to be, but due to erosion caused by the wind, the course of Tarim river, a main tributary of the lake, had shifted south over the course of two millennia, moving the location of the lake as well. A wandering lake; what an exciting discovery!

Q: It really is! It was indeed a pleasure to have a talk with you about so many interesting ideas. Thank you for your availability, Professor, and good bye!

A: Thank you for your attention. It's been a pleasure to share my accounts and ideas with you all. Good bye!

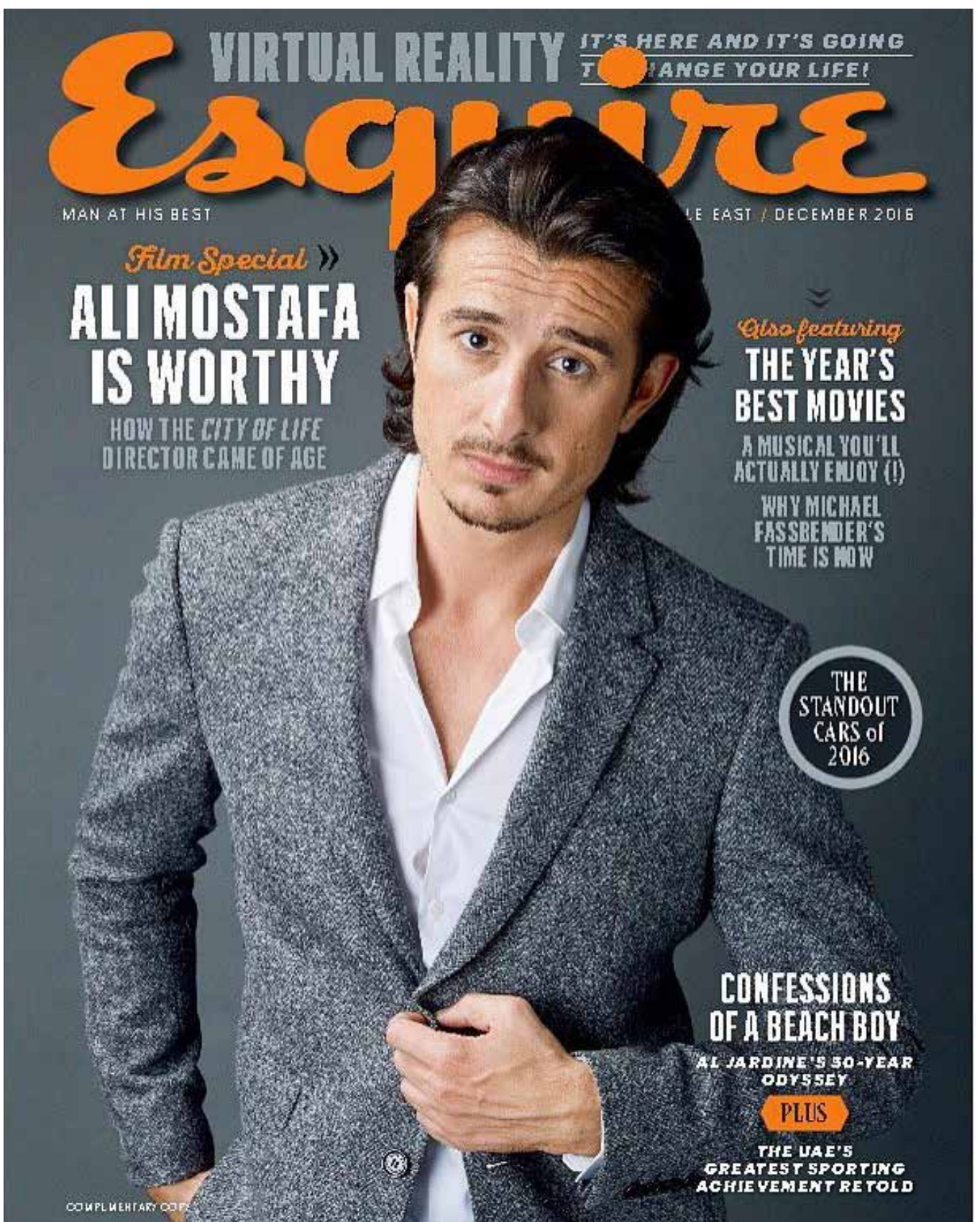
Davide Rizzi earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Language, Culture and Society of Eastern Asia in 2013 and a Master Degree in Language and Civilisation of Asia and Mediterranean Africa (Majoring in Chinese Studies) in 2018 from the Ca' Foscari University of Venice.

Ali F. Mostafa: Emirati Cinema Comes of Age



Cameron Shirvani Steiner

Few names in the story of the cinema of the United Arab Emirates match the recognition and success of Ali F. Mostafa. The pioneering Emirati director can lay claim to a number of distinct “firsts” in the short history of Emirati cinema. These “firsts” include directing the first feature film produced and set in the U.A.E. ‘s powerhouse city of Dubai, *City of Life* (2009), a ground-level story of life in a Dubai stripped of its world-renowned glamour. The film itself was the first Emirati feature to open the “Arabian Nights” gala screening at the Dubai International Film Festival



Face of the industry: Ali Mostafa on the cover of Esquire Middle East in 2016

(Walters, 2009), a watershed moment for a film industry that until then was promoting works from elsewhere in the Middle East. City of Life can also be considered the first regional commercial success, as the film came in second at the box office with 509,085 dirhams on the opening weekend of its general release into UAE cinemas

(McGinley, 2010). Mostafa's "firsts" do not end with *City of Life* - his second feature, *From A to B* (2014) was the first Emirati film to open the Abu Dhabi Film Festival, and was later picked up by Studio Canal for international distribution, while his third film *The Worthy* (2017), which premiered at the London Film Festival, was one of the first Arab films to be released through Netflix.

The success of Ali Mostafa is all the more noteworthy within the context of the UAE's cinema industry. Films were not broadcast on the Emirate's domestic television channels until the late 1980s, and it wasn't until 1988 that the first "Emirati film," *Aber Sabeel*, was produced and released. In the years following *Aber Sabeel*, films would only be released at a rate of one in a stretch of several years until the mid-2000s, and the first festival for Emirati films, the Emirates Film Competition, was formed only as recently as 2002. Appreciating these facts about this young film industry help us understand why Ali Mostafa - 40 years old in the year 2021 - is seen as one of the most experienced and influ-

ential filmmakers of Emirati cinema (Esquire Middle East, 2016), and why his career success reflects key milestones in the industry's growing prominence.

Mostafa's interest in diverse transnational experiences reflect the realities of Dubai and even his own upbringing - born in London, England in 1981 to an Emirati father and a British mother, he spent much of his childhood in the UAE while maintaining close connections to England. He took an early interest in filmmaking despite the lack of available cinema in his home country, experimenting with his own short films and mock TV ads, and later establishing his own set design division in an existing company. Mostafa eventually pursued his directorial ambitions by enrolling at the London Film School for an M.A. in film technique but found his artistic vision in conflict with the Western impressions of his hometown, Dubai. "Frankly, I was sick of hearing people think of Dubai as a Disneyland. That's not the city that I knew, and I wanted to do something about it" (Esquire Middle East, 2016).

And do something about it he did. While

still enrolled at the London Film School, Mostafa first garnered attention for his 2005 graduate short film, *Under the Sun*, which won the 2006 Emirates Film Competition and for which he was called the “Best Emirati Filmmaker” by that year’s Dubai International Film Festival (Wikipedia). The short film tells the coming-of-age story of a young boy on his first day of fasting for the month of Ramadan, following him as he ponders the complex questions of the contemporary world while he grapples with his Islamic-oriented family upbringing. The film displays the stylistic signatures that would become a trademark of Mostafa’s work - slow-paced, reflective human drama stories, a cinematography that creates the feeling of walking beside the characters, and narrative threads of inner conflict as the characters grapple with their cultural environment.

Mostafa would make waves four years later with his urban tale, *City of Life*, motivated by his continuing desire to make a more accurate creative statement about Dubai and its people. The film rejects the image of Dubai as defined by aerial shots

of its towering architecture found in Hollywood and Bollywood films, and instead offers three parallel narratives of characters different in ethnic identity and class who “overlap, mingle, compete, align, and realign in spaces that are experienced differently” (Hudson, 2020, 26). A spoiled Emirati playboy and his streetwise best friend; a middle-class Romanian flight attendant and the British advertisement director she is entangled with; an Indian cab driver and dancer with aspirations of acting fame. Mostafa intercuts these narratives, each with their unique visual style, to convey the different challenges each character confronts in their different version of Dubai. The film rejects a totalizing gaze, instead moving between various realities by adjusting the cinematic, editing, and acting styles of each story; Mostafa suggests that he was in a sense shooting three different short films (Hudson, 2020, 41).

The narrative of *City of Life* reflects the effects of globalization on the development of Dubai, as well as the cinematic outlook and style of Mostafa’s filmmaking. The film rejects a unified style, including

the cathartic emotion-release structure of Western films and the catalytic emotion-activating structure of Bollywood and other international cinemas. It instead borrows from the heterogeneous mixture of Hollywood, Bollywood, Pakistani, and Egyptian films screened at neighborhood cinemas of Dubai during Mostafa's youth (Hudson, 2020, 42-43), acknowledging the cultural diversity that formed as a result of the mixture of different groups of people during the UAE's growth. *City of Life* is additionally influenced by the realities of social and class inequalities that manifest as a quasi-caste system reinforced by ethnic identities. The Asian immigrant laborer's that make up the majority of the population and work in low-class service jobs can be identified as the social subalterns - oppressed minority groups who are denied social power and are subjected to systematic whims (Chambers, 1996, 210). However, Mostafa is more than just a simplistic cultural critic. He wants the audience to understand Dubai as a city not free from inequality and struggle but not defined by it, existing as a complex contact zone that

is defined by its diverse people, with all their contradictions and complexities.

Mostafa continued to develop his trademark style of reflective studies of the lives of individuals in ways that subvert expectations of Middle Eastern representation with his second feature, *From A to B*, a road-trip tale centered on three expat Arab friends who travel from Abu Dhabi to Beirut to honor the memory of their dead friend. Mostafa draws attention to the intentional directorial choice to stray as much from expected images of the Emirates as possible, particularly in the film's characters and how they communicate. "The film is meant to represent the UAE youth culture of today and show the UAE to be the diverse, multilingual country that it is," he explains of the dialogue flipping from Arabic to English and back again. In addition, by having the central characters all be expat Arabs, he offers the international audience "a different focus" on the majority of people who are born in the UAE but are not ethnic Emiratis (Newbould, 2015). Despite this subversion of stereotypical perceptions of Emirati life

and culture, the film received enthusiastic responses at its screenings, including the local Abu Dhabi Film Festival as well as the Cairo International Film Festival (id.), and was picked up for international distribution, making Mostafa the face of Emirati cinema overseas.

Mostafa then made *Don't Judge a Subject by Its Photograph*, a short film screened at the 2014 Dubai International Film Festival, which continued his “intention to depict Dubai as an actual, cosmopolitan city beyond the glamour highlighted by its tourist industry” (Galanopoulos, 2018, 411). In the story of a galleryist named Maha who looks to make a good impression on a notoriously severe art critic, Mostafa uses the medium of photography to ponder photographs, and films, as “windows” giving us access to new interpretive worlds and capturing ideologies and feelings. The film itself is an expansion of the story's theme, becoming a “window... meant to show Dubai to the rest of the world” (Galanopoulos, 2018, 412).

His 2017 thriller *The Worthy* marks a

most significant evolution in both Mostafa's filmmaking career and Emirati cinema itself. *The Worthy* departs from his prior brand of depictions of regular people facing the complex conflicts of regular life to tell the story of a band of post-apocalyptic survivors sheltering at a former airplane factory whose existence is threatened by a series of brutally violent events. The details of *The Worthy's* production, including it being filmed in Eastern Europe to save on the budget, represent a "coming-of-age" for Emirati cinema, now expanding beyond contained local stories and capable of creating larger genre-inspired films that reach wider audiences (Newbould, 2016). Nevertheless, despite its Hollywood-inspired storyline, *The Worthy* is unmistakably Arabic, in its dialogue and even in its cinematography. Mostafa's own stylistic tendencies can still be found throughout the film, such as the film's camera depicting the grim landscape by closely walking beside the characters that inhabit it.

Ali Mostafa is an outstanding representative of a new film industry, but he no longer stands alone. Colleagues such

as Nayla al-Khaja (Animal, 2016), Majid Al Ansari (Zinzana, 2015), Mohamed Saeed Harib (Rashid and Rajab, 2019), Hani Al Shaibani (KhalekShanab, 2019), and Nujo-om Alghanem (Sharp Tools, 2017) are contributing to the creativity and vision that mark the emergence of new voices and visions from the dynamic people and culture of the Emirates, each doing so in individual styles that benefit from, but also depart from, the “firsts” that Ali Mostafa achieved.

Works Cited

Chambers, Iain. (1996). “Unpacking my library...again,” *The Post-colonial Question: Common Skies, Divided Horizons*. New York: Routledge: 210.

Galanopoulos, Ioannis. (2018). “The Soul of Dubai through Windows and Mirrors: Ali Mostafa’s Don’t Judge a Subject by Its Photograph,” *Canadian Review of Comparative Literature* 45 (3): 411-423

Hudson, Dale. (2020). “Toward a Cinema of Contact Zones: Intersecting Globalizations, Dubai, and City of Life,” *Afterimage* 47 (4): 26-49.

McGinley, Shance. (2010). “‘City of Life’ makes AED500,000 in opening weekend,” *Arabian Business*. Retrieved from <https://www.arabianbusiness.com/industries/media/city-of-life-makes-aed500-000-in-opening-weekend-155278>

Newbould, Chris. (2015). “In conversation with Emirati director Ali F. Mostafa,” *The National*. Retrieved from <https://www.thenationalnews.com/arts-culture/in-conversation-with-emirati-director-ali-f-mostafa-1.107912>

Newbould, Chris. (2016). "Ali F Mostafa's The Worthy shows that Emirati cinema has come of age," The National. Retrieved from <https://www.thenationalnews.com/arts-culture/ali-f-mostafa-s-the-worthy-shows-that-emirati-cinema-has-come-of-age-1.151568>

Walters, Ben. (2009). "Can Dubai become the City of Life of Emirati film?" The Guardian. Retrieved from <https://www.theguardian.com/film/filmblog/2009/dec/23/dubai-international-film-festival>

Esquire Middle East. (2016). "The coming of age of Ali F. Mostafa." Retrieved from <https://www.esquireme.com/culture/18740-the-coming-of-age-of-ali-mostafa>

Cameron Shirvani Steiner is a Film Studies student in the Dodge College of Film & Media Arts at Chapman University in Orange County, California.

The Church of Saints Philip and James in Naples

**By Alessia Mercuri and
Emanuele Santoro**

The Church of Saints Philip and James is located in the heart of Naples, on the famous Via Spaccanapoli. Its construction began in the 16th century, but it was only completed and inaugurated in the following century, in 1641. It was the seat of the Consulate of Silk Art for about 300 years.

The silk industry and the consulate of silk art

The Consulate of Silk Art was founded by King Ferdinand I of Naples in 1465, whose Aragonese family played an important role in the development of the art of silk. The



best silk workers from Venice, Genoa and Florence were invited to come to Naples, where they were offered raw materials, tools, citizenship rights, and so on. Naples emerged as an important silk processing center thanks to the Concorde agreement between the Royal Court, the Silk Decorator, and the Silk Consuls. The Consulate of the Silk Art had its seat in the church dedicated to Saints Philip and James, which functioned as a tribunal dealing with matters concerning the production and trade of silk. The court consisted of three consuls, an assessor, a fiscal coadjutor, a poor man's advocate, and a procurator. The judicial role of the Consulate of the Silk Art fell under the jurisdiction of the Supreme Magistrate of Commerce after its founda-

tion in 1739. The silk industry was a source of pride for the Kingdom of Naples, but at the end of the 18th century it declined with the onset of the industrial revolution. After that, the Church of Saints Philip and James ceased to be the seat of the Consulate of the Silk Art and became a burial place, while the Conservatory of Saints Philip and James, where young daughters of poor artists were housed, was kept active.

Interior of the church

The interior of the church is characterized by a single nave and eight side chapels, four on the right and four on the left. The apse space is covered by a dome. Looking at the vault, we immediately notice a beautiful fresco, painted by Alessio D'Elia in 1750, depicting the Virtues: Charity, Fortitude, Temperance, Science, Faith, and Zeal. The ceiling of the nave was frescoed in 1759 by Jacopo Cestaro, who chose to paint several saints and significant Christian events.

As noted above, the church has four side



chapels on the right. The first one is called the Chapel of the Crucifix and of Consul Antonio Pietro Leo. Here we can observe a polychrome wooden crucifix from the end of the 17th century and two paintings by Alessio D'Elia. In addition, in this chapel there is a marble funerary monument made in 1758: a bust depicting Antonio Pietro Leo, consul of the art of silk. In the other three chapels there are several paintings by Alessio D'Elia and Lorenzo De Caro.

In the four side chapels on the left, there



are paintings of many different saints by Francesco La Marra, Lorenzo De Caro, and Alessio D'Elia. In the first chapel, we can see a silver statue of St. Blaise. In the third chapel, there is a polychrome wooden sculpture representing the Dead Christ.





The church has an altar-piece signed by Ippolito Borghese which depicts the Virgin and Child, Saints Philip and James, and the Holy Nuns. On either side are two paintings entitled “The Martyrdom of St. James and St. Philip” with “The Word Breaking the Idol;” both works were painted by Jacopo Cestaro, dated 1757. The main altar, where we can see the symbols of the Silk Art, the elegant balustrade and the two white Rococo marble fountains, are dated 1758 and were probably made by Giacomo Masotti.

REFERENCE

Guided tour by the “RespiriamoArte.” Cultural Association, Church of Saints Philip and James (Naples).

Consulate of the Art of Silk, Documentary Complexes (Register of Archives), Naples State Archives Database.

Alessia Mercuri and Emanuele Santoro

are MA Students at the University of Naples
“L’Orientale”, Naples, Italy

Adufe, the Portuguese Frame Drum



By Rui Silva

The adufe¹ (from the Arab al-duff) is a traditional Portuguese percussion instrument. It has abi-membrano phone frame drum (sheep or goat skins are used), is most often square shaped² (or, more rarely, triangular), and is ornamented with colored ribbons in the corners and with free jin-gles inside.³

The *adufe* is played by hand by groups

1_The same instrument is called pandeiro or pindeiro in border villages such as Malpica do Tejo or Monforte da Beira.

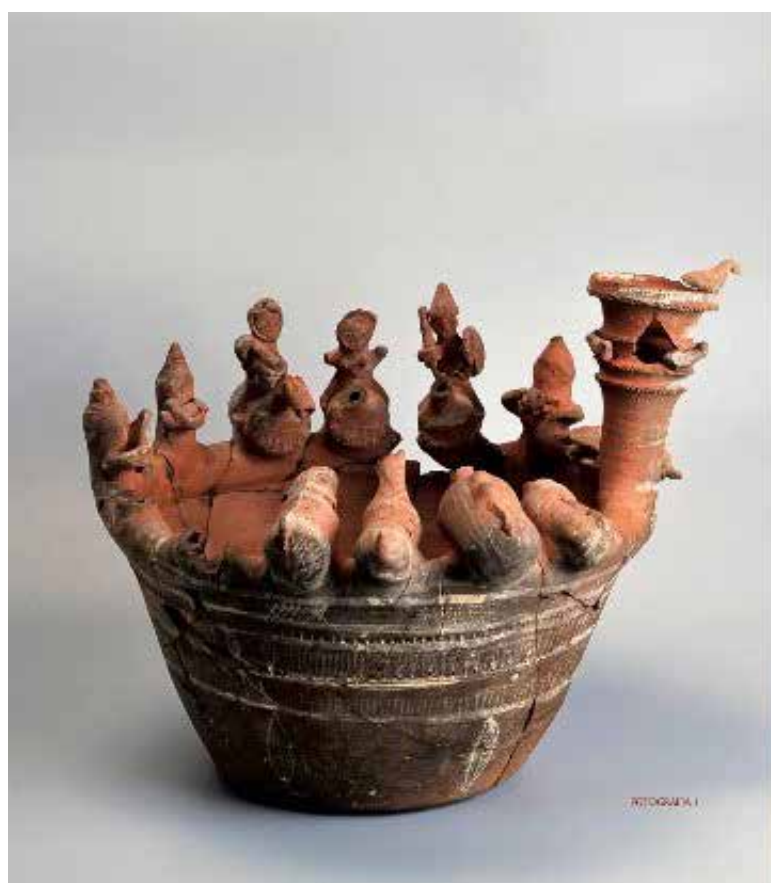
2_Representations of square instruments go back to Egyptian tombs, to the porticoes of cathedrals and churches in the Iberian Peninsula, medieval bibles and Jewish haggadah, tiles, paintings, books and sculptures.

3_In the past, seeds, stones, rattles, and pieces of metal were used as jingles. Nowadays, artisans may use beer caps!



Adufe course at Monsanto village with Adufeiras de Monsanto and Rui Silva (Encontros Med 2018, credit: Diana Caramelo)

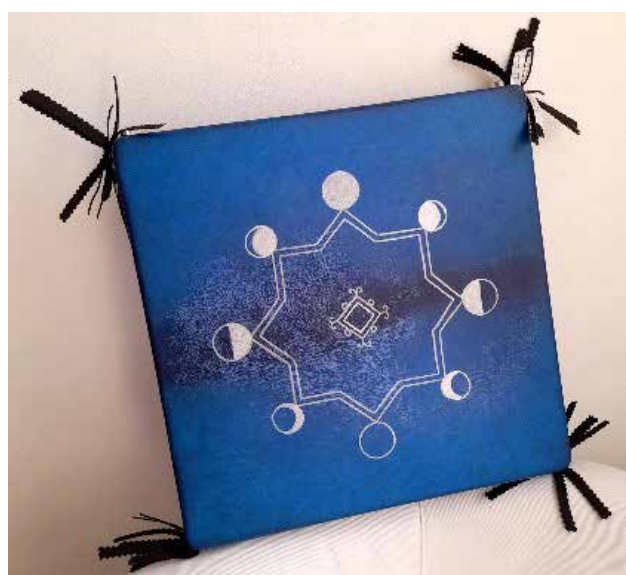
of women (*Adufeiras*) that dance, sing, and drum in unison; it is mainly associated with several Catholic festivities in Portugal (Marian feasts, Holy Cross, St. John's, St. Peter's, etc.). In such places as Idanha-a-Nova or Paúl (Covilhã), the instrument is played daily, which has preserved a liv-



XI/XIIth century adufe (credit António Cunha, Campo Arqueológico de Tavira) https://issuu.com/museum_tavira/docs/vaso_de_tavira

ing and vibrant tradition. There, we can see older women sharing songs and drumming with younger ones along with a few men who are “allowed” to take part in this feminine tradition. Also, several local artisans like José Relvas, Armando Vinagre, Fátima Silva, Francisco Camelo, Maria José Caroço, and Maria do Almortão are keeping alive the traditional instrument-making craftwork.

Although the Portuguese adufe is a unique instrument with its own tradition, geography, and con-text, it is often mistakenly confused with similar instruments, like the *pandeirromirandês* from northeast Portugal or the Spanish *panderos* (*pan-*



Blue skin adufe with moon phases by Rui Silva. (adufes.com)

Golden Haggadah (1320-1330), Liberation and Preparation, folios 14v - 15. <https://www.bl.uk/collection-items/golden-haggadah>



derocuadrado de Peñaparda) or the Asturian, Galician, Catalan square shaped frame drums.

Nowadays, the universe of the rich *adufe* repertoire is characterized by cantigas de *adufe* (songs) on binary (*de passo*⁴) and ternary (*de roda*⁵) patterns that are repeated ad aeternum, with no variation along the cantiga. Different villages may have different words for the same melody and different rhythmic nuances and ornamentation.⁶ The song's pulse, kept by the

4_ Means "to walk". Definition used in Monsanto village.

5_ Means "to dance in circle". Definition used in Monsanto village.

6_ Amélia, an Adufeira I interviewed from Monsanto, said that they don't play with the Adufeiras from other villages as they often play and sing in different ways.

adufes, is subtly irregular (usually goes a little bit faster in the chorus and slower before the strophes (verses). Each group has a leader, usually the best singer/drummer who knows most of the songs. The leader's role is to start and end the song, to decide the pulse as well as when the strophes and chorus are sung. There are no absolute pitch references; they sing in an implicit and comfortable pitch for the group, which comes from the experience of singing together.

The recent history of the *adufe* clearly pinpoints some defining moments that contributed to the “survival” of this peculiar hand drum into the new urban and modern era, such as: the recording “Cantares do Andarilho” (1968) from José Afonso, where he sings his remarkable version of “Senhora do Almortão”; the theatre piece “Raízes Rurais, Paixões Urbanas” from Ricardo Pais (1997), the starting point for Adufeiras de Monsanto, (currently one of the most representative groups); the huge *adufões* (giant *adufes*) by José Salgueiro used in Expo 98 in Lisbon; and, finally, the establishment of the Oficina de Artes

Tradicionais (Traditional Arts and Crafts Workshop, 2007) by the Câmara Municipal de Idanha-a-Nova, along with the *adufe* identification as symbols of the municipality.

Since 2010, I myself, as a percussionist and artisan, am trying to develop the *adufe* as a percussion instrument, bringing it to a professional level of craftsmanship and performance. I have put forth new ideas to the traditional instrument making process such as a tuning system (something previously not done) and two different sounding sides in the same drum, enhanced by an uneven wood frame design that is more ergonomic and comfortable to grab (one of the corners is thinner). I'm trying also to define a new learning method using the simple konnakol syllabus (Dum, Táand Ki) as a tool to teach and memorize. It should help to make the *adufe* accessible to everyone.⁷ Recently, we've been experimenting on the *adufe* with new musical languages

⁷ I have given more than 90 workshops/courses to more than 900 people, since 2012. Also, the following YouTube channel features more than 100 tutorial videos on the *adufe*: <https://www.youtube.com/MrRuisilvaperc>

in such projects as “Adufe & Electrónica”⁸ and the piece *Ensaio Sobre Cantos IV*,⁹ for adufe and electronic instruments, composed by Angela Ponte in 2019.

Clearly, the *adufe* is no longer just a rural instrument, intrinsic to the life of inland Portugal. It has become ever more popular in urban centers through music projects such as Segue-me à Capela, NEFUP, GEFAC, Crua, Sebastião Antunes & Adufe em Lisboa, Sopa de Pedra, Cramol, Adufeiras do Porto, Adufelab, Seiva, Cantadeira, Adufe & Alguidar, Fio à Meada - Vozes Trad Femininas, and others. They all tend to use the *adufe* as part of both traditional and newly composed music.¹⁰

Rui Silva is a musician and a Collaborating Researcher at the Mundos e Fundos project CECH, University of Coimbra, Portugal.

8_ Concerto live at Miso Music Portugal - <https://youtu.be/7NP-blqq0nUgers> (artisans) as Bárbara Trabulo or Silvana Dias.

9_ “Ensaio sobre Cantos IV” performance available at https://youtu.be/_Hp5r4a4REQ

10_ In this urban context there also is a new trend of instrument makers (artisans) as Bárbara Trabulo or Silvana Dias.

Silk Roads Animal: Goat

By Husain Zaidi

It should be no surprise that goats are an integral part of pastoralist culture in various corners of the world. Not only do they provide resources such as milk, but also meat for consumption. Indeed, goats play a prominent role along the Silk Roads by providing the aforementioned essentials (Monteiro et al., 2017).

Amongst the animals kept by Central Asian herders, such as sheep and cattle, goats were also found in large numbers due to their versatile uses. For example, the wool extracted from goats is involved in the manufacturing processes of deli-



Shishi Valley in Chitral, Pakistan (Schuler, 2021)

cate and expensive shawls. These shawls are then sold in marketplaces known as bazaars for hefty prices in regions such as Kashmir. In fact, the finest shawls are referred to as cashmere shawls, which have transformed the economy of Kashmir on a massive level, the trade itself being made possible by Silk Roads network (Köçüm-kulkizi and Waugh, 2021).

Central Asians also use goat skin or “Moroccan Leather” to produce various clothes such as pants, hats, jackets, etc. In places such as Tibet, where the temperatures can drop to alarmingly low levels, gloves and thick winter clothes made out of goat skin

are worn to resist the excruciating cold weather. In addition to clothing, goat skin is also utilized in fermenting milk. A canac, a household container, is made by stretching the goat skin and applying yoghurt to soften it. Furthermore, throughout the Silk Road countries, women use what's called a supra to roll dough without spilling onto the floor. The supra is made from goat skin and has wool on the exterior side (Köçüm-kulkizi and Waugh, 2021).

For recreation, Afghanis play the game of Buzkashi, which involves the carcass of a goat. This game is quite similar to polo played on horses, except in this game, the ball is replaced by the body of a dead goat and there are no boundaries on field. This local game is played during a three-day festival that also includes poetry contests. This game is most likely an alteration of the original polo that has traveled across Central Asia all the way from China (Harrison, 2021).

The Silk Roads are a millennium old trade network that has been benefitted many lives through various forms of trade. This network has been the catalyst for the

trade of a variety of textiles and food products. The use of goats has provided these nomads with plenty of the aforementioned resources and continue doing so for many living along this historical trade route.

References

- 1.Köçümkulkizi, E. and Waugh, D. C. (2021). Silk Road Seattle - Animals. Simpson Center for the Humanities, University of Washington. Retrieved 30 November 2021, from <https://depts.washington.edu/silkroad/culture/animals/animals.html>
- 2.Harrison, E. (2021). Silk Road festival, Afghanistan: goat polo, tug-of-war and dreams of peace. the Guardian. Retrieved 30 November 2021, from <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/jul/08/silk-road-festival-afghanistan>
- 3.António Monteiro, José Manuel Costa and Maria João Lima (2017, December 20). "Goat System Productions: Advantages and Disadvantages to the Animal, Environment and Farmer,"Goat Science, SándorKukovics, IntechOpen, DOI: 10.5772/intechopen.70002. Available from: <https://www.intechopen.com/chapters/56453>
- 4.Schuler, K. (2021). *Goat Caravan in Shishi Valley, Chitral, Pakistan* | *Photo.net*. Photo.Net. Retrieved 30 November 2021, from <https://www.photo.net/photo/3874442>

Husain Zaidi is a student at the Canadian University Dubai, UAE majoring in Accounting and Finance.



TRAVEL

Kimchi, Traditional Korean Side Dish



Yu-jin Shim

Kimchi is a traditional Korean side dish, appearing on Korean tables for breakfast, lunch, or dinner. It is made of fermented vegetables, such as cabbage and radish, and it is usually mixed with a

traditional seasoning called gochutgaru. Noted for its special taste, which is spicy and salty at the same time. kimchi goes best with white Korean rice, and Koreans are known to finish a whole bowl with only this one side dish.

To make kimchi, you need special conditions and tools. First, kimchi is made in the winter to increase the speed of the fermentation process. They are usually stored in a container called onggi, which is an earthen pot made to withstand the cold winter. Onggis are chosen for a special reason, which is that they are pots designed to breathe over the course of the winter, helping the kimchi to become crunchier and saltier.

To get the main ingredient of kimchi, napa cabbage, ready to put in the onggi, you first need the cabbage to lose its stiffness in the leaves. You can achieve this by applying salt between the leaves, and soaking the cabbage in salt water. After a while, you take the cabbage out and apply the seasoning you made using various ingredients and gochujang (red chili paste). Then you put the cabbage in the onggi,

and wait for it to ferment until you get the right taste. The whole process of making kimchi is called kimjang, and after these steps, you will be able to get some nice, Korean kimchi.

Kimchi is most well-known as a side dish, for it can be eaten on its own, but there are a lot of other dishes that can be made with kimchi as an ingredient. You can make kimchibuchimgae(kimchi pancake), kimchiguk(kimchi soup), kgimchijjigae(kimchi stew) and more.

However, it should be noted that kimchi was not originally a spicy dish. The earliest records concerning kimchi do not mention any pepper or garlic. It was originally a fermented dish, not a spicy, red dish like it is today. This is where the Silk Road comes in concerning the latest form of the now current kimchi. Chili peppers were originally native in the Americas, brought to Asia by the first Portuguese traders. It seems that these peppers were used with kimchi in the 17-18th century, as is stated in Sallimgyengje, a book on farm management.

There has been some debate about the

origins of kimchi, now known and recognized as an international food. In 1996, there was a dispute involving Japan and Korea, and during 2012-2017 there was a dispute between China and Korea concerning kimchi imports which even led to boycotts. However, it is now accepted that kimchi is a Korean food, with part of its heritage owing to the products of the Silk Road. We, as individuals striving to preserve this heritage, must acknowledge that we are descendants of the great culinary heritage of kimchi and protect its sovereignty and uniqueness.

Yu-jin Shim is a student at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Republic of Korea majoring in International Economic and Law.

SUN NEWS



The 7th General Assembly of SUN

This year's General Assembly (GA) of SUN was held online due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The GA was held for two days, September 29 and 30, 2021, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Ulaanbaatar time (GMT 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.) The GA was hosted by the National University of



Virtual GA co-hosted by NUM, SUN and HUFs

Mongolia (NUM) in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. The theme of the 7th GA was “Next Steps of SUN as Combined Intellectual Forces working towards Peaceful Co-existence and Economic Co-prosperity in the Second Phase of SUN.”

The 7th GA was organized into four parts. For the first day, Parts 1 and 2 began with Master of Ceremonies Galt Nargil introducing a performance by students from the National University of Mongolia. Part 1 was the Opening Ceremony, but, before beginning, all participants had a moment of silence for the people from Myanmar and Afghanistan, who had suffered tragic events which caused the death of innocent people. There was an opening address delivered by Professor Inchul Kim, Chairman of the GA and President of Hankuk University of Foreign Studies. After that, Professor Bayanjargal Ochirkhuyag, Rector of



the National University of Mongolia, and Dr. Maryam Bolouri, Secretary General of USSUN, each gave a welcoming address for the participants. Prof. Ronald Steiner of Chapman University gave a Keynote Address celebrating the vision of SUN and its participants.

Part 2 was the Official Report and Decision session. Professor Sungdon Hwang, Secretary General of SUN, reported on activities of SUN Secretariat, and Professor Jeong O Park, Treasurer of SUN, reported on financial matters. The audit result was reported by Professor Mukhambetkali Burkitbayev, Auditor of SUN. Pacurar Cristina Maria, USSUN President, and Maryam Bolouri, Secretary General of USSUN, reported activities of USSUN. After the reports, there was the Award Ceremony for PHOCOS, WRICOS, and S-DECOS.

The next day, Parts 3 and 4 were held with

an opening performance by Gulzhanara Khairulla introduced by the M.C., Heeyeong Kim (Cristina). Part 3 included multiple workshops for UPSUN and USSUN. In the UPSUN Workshop, the participating heads of member universities presented and discussed agendas related to the theme of the 7th GA. Student participants of the General Assembly of SUN also participated in the General Assembly of the United Students of SUN (USSUN), the student body of SUN.

Part 4 was the Closing Ceremony. Participants had time to summarize the outcomes of the GA and workshops for UPSUN and USSUN. There was a conferral of the SUN Flag to the Canadian University of Dubai (CUD), the Host University of next year's General Assembly. Professor Karim Chelli, President of Canadian University of Dubai, shared his Welcoming Speech as the Head of the Host University for the upcoming GA in 2022. The GA ended with a farewell address delivered by Professor Bayanjargal Ochirkhuyag and, finally, a closing declaration by Professor Inchul Kim.



The 6th IASS of SUN

The 6th annual International Conference of the International Association for Silk Road Studies (IASS) was also hosted by the National University of Mongolia. The IASS conference was held on November 24 and 25, 2021, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Ulaanbaatar time (GMT 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.) each day. The 6th IASS conference's theme was "The Roles of Intellectuals for Enhancing Cultural Diversity along the Silk Roads" with a focus on the following topics: diversities along the Silk Roads in the fields of 1) language and literature, 2) religions, 3) economy and trade, 4) higher education, 5) art, 6) architecture, and 7) political systems and government administration. There was a total of 14 presentations by professors of member universities. Professors from the member

universities shared their informative and interesting papers, revealing the uniqueness of individual countries that the Silk Roads passes through, and the beauty and importance of that diversity.



The 6th PHOCOS and the 5th WRICOS

The 6th Photo Contest of SUN(PHOCOS) and the 4thWriting Contest of SUN(WRICOS) in 2021wereheld in succession. A total of 114 photos by 32 students were submitted to the PHOCOS, whose theme was “The Silk-Roads Architecture: Traditional and Modern.” Ilaria Fusarroof Ca’ Foscari University of Venice, Italy, won the gold medal, with a photo

titled “Nowadays, nobody sends postcards anymore.”

Participants of WRICOS submitted 26 poems and essays. Students from 14 universities wrote poems about “Song of Silk-roads” and essays responding to the prompt, “What can Universities and University students do for peaceful co-existence, co-prosperity, and sustainable cultural diversity along the Silk Roads?” Gaia Gazzola of Ca’ Foscari University of Venice won the grand prize in the poem section and Marzieh Mostafavi Mendi of Iranian Foreign Ministry's School of International Relations won the grand prize in the essay section.



Gaia Gazzola of Ca’ Foscari
University of Venice, Italy
Grand Prize winner of
WRICOS(Poem)



Marzieh Mostafavi Mendi
of Iran's Foreign Ministry's
School of International
Relations, Iran
Grand Prize winner of
WRICOS(Essay)



Ilaria Fusaro of Ca' Foscari
University of Venice, Italy
Grand Prize winner of
PHOCOS



The Upcoming GA and IASS Conference 2022 in Dubai

The 8th GA and the 7th IASS Conference will be co-hosted by the Canadian University of Dubai (CUD) and SUN in Dubai, UAE.

The General Assembly and the International Conference of IASS will be held together as a four-day conference from February 20 to 23, 2022. The theme for the 8th GA is “The Roles of Universities in the Era of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Big Data (BD): Challenges and Opportunities.” The related theme for the 7th IASS Conference is “The Role of Higher Education in the Era of Artificial intelligence and Big Data: Challenges and Opportunities.” More detailed information will be posted on our website (<http://sun-silkroadia.org/>).

The 8th General Assembly of SUN at Canadian University Dubai, U.A.E.



February 21-23, 2022
Arrival: February 20,
Departure: February 24

Theme
The Roles of Universities in the Era of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Big Data (BD): Challenges and Opportunities

Participants
Heads and Representative
Students of Member Universities of SUN

R.S.V.P. by December 15
Contact | sunofficial.generalassembly@gmail.com
Tel. +82 02-2173-3581 | Fax. 02-2173-3582

Itinerary
Day 1. Arrival & Welcoming Reception
Day 2. Opening Ceremony
Keynote Speeches
Showcases of AI and BD
Official Report & Review of SUN Activities
Election of the Key Posts of SUN
Day 3. Board of Directors Meeting
Showcases of AI and BD
Workshops
Day 4. Tour of the Dubai World Expo
Closing Ceremony
Day 5. Departure: February 24



Co-hosted by



SILK-ROAD UNIVERSITIES NETWORK

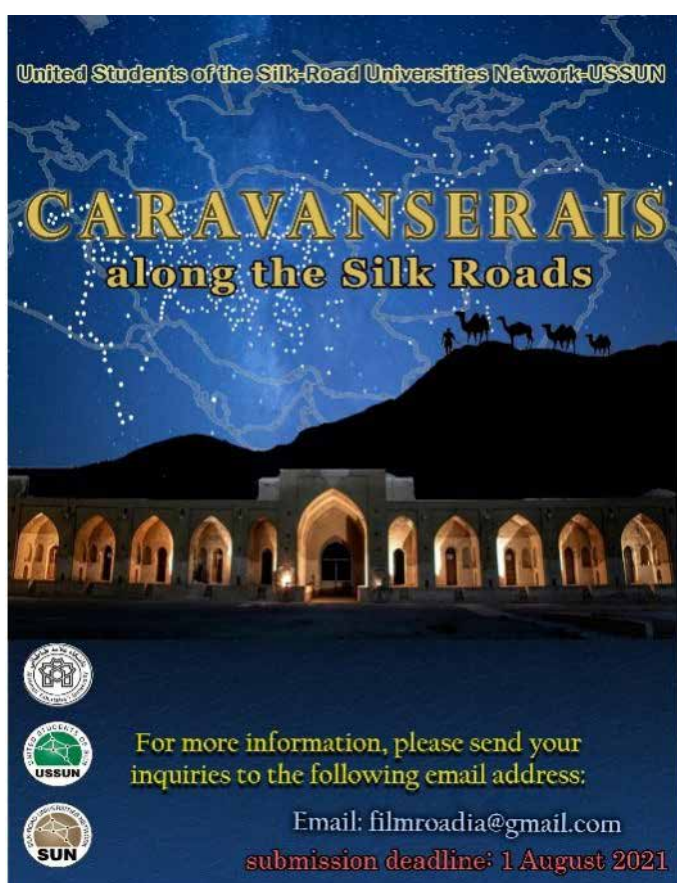


한국의국어대학교
Ulsan University of Education

USSUN NEWS

June-August 2021

From China to Portugal, caravanserais have always been a place for travelers to rest and exchange goods. The Secretariat of USSUN called for articles and photos of caravanserais along the Silk Roads. Students were invited to email their manuscripts (limited to 2000 words), with the collecting and evaluation of the works lasting for about two months. The collection of final articles will be published soon and uploaded on the official website of SUN.





September 2021

The 7th SUN General Assembly, co-hosted by the National University of Mongolia and Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, was held by virtual conference from September 29-30, 2021. Twenty-five participants registered in the workshop and participated in the public elec-

tion of the new President of USSUN for 2022. The students were recommended by University Presidents from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece), Ca'Foscari University (Venice), Canadian University of Dubai, Imam Khomeini International University (Iran), Moscow State Linguistic University, National University of Mongolia, Transylvania University of Brasov (Romania), Allameh Tabataba'i University (Iran), University of Malaya (Malaysia), University of Coimbra (Portugal), and Ankara University (Turkey).

October-November 2021

The USSUN Secretariat, in cooperation with USSUN HUFS in Seoul, held a two-day online workshop entitled, "The Past and Future of Cultural Exchange along the Silk-Roads." More than 60 students from Afghanistan, Turkey, France, Italy, Indonesia, South Korea, and Iran registered in advance. Twenty-four students



participated in the group discussion on day 2, Nov. 21, 2021. The students were divided into four groups and followed the workshop guidelines. During the 90 minutes of group discussion, the students prepared one PowerPoint file and an essay on the relevant topics. The essays were evaluated in terms of the dimensions of a framework which was developed by the USSUN-HUFS team. The evaluation frameworks included creativity, content relevance, and active participation. Three groups volunteered for PPT presentations and one winning team was selected a week later. The winning team was awarded with a book and workshop completion certificates were emailed to all the 24 students.

December 2021

The Secretary of USSUN, Dr. Maryam Bolouri, arranged a series of online meetings with Hussain Zaidi, President of USSUN from the Canadian University of Dubai (CUD) and Nikita Panichev, Vice-President of USSUN from Moscow State Linguistic University (MSLU). To encourage the students of SUN to participate in the international contests of PHOCOS, WRICOS, and DECOS, the USSUN team planned to hold two online virtual tours of Dubai and Moscow on the official account of USSUN. Such activities can develop student's cultural understanding

and hone their international social skills, and as a result, motivate the students to take a lead in the upcoming General Assembly in February 2022.

NEWS FROM **MEMBER UNIVERSITIES**

BFSU (Beijing Foreign Studies University), China

BFSU celebrates its 80th anniversary

In 2021, Beijing Foreign Studies University celebrated its 80th anniversary. BFSU took this as an opportunity to organize multi-level and diversified activities covering topics such as international cultural exchanges, country and area research, cultural communication and exchanges, and the “go global” strategy of Chinese culture, fully demonstrating the achievements of their international exchanges.

There were also various events to celebrate the 80th anniversary. First, **the 3rd Presidents' Forum of the Global Alliance of Foreign Studies Universities was held in BFSU on September 26, 2021.** Twenty-nine member institutions were invited from home and abroad, and representatives were welcomed from foreign universities including Tokyo University

of Foreign Studies (Japan), Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (Korea), Kyiv National Linguistic University (Ukraine), University of Lima (Peru), Minsk State Linguistic University (Belarus), Moscow State Institute of International Relations and Moscow State Linguistic University (Russia), National Autonomous University of Mexico (Mexico), Munich University of Applied Languages (Germany), Chiang Mai Rajabhat University (Thailand), Yogyakarta State University (Indonesia), and Sofia University (Bulgaria). The discussion was held under the theme: “New Visions for Global Development of Foreign Studies Universities”.

The second event was **“Lectures Series by Ambassadors to China to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of BFSU.”** It was held from May to September 2021, and 5 diplomatic envoys from the Ethiopian, Malaysian, Bulgarian, Maltese, and Kyrgyzstan embassies were invited to deliver speeches on international relations and language studies, including face-to-face interactions with BFSU students.

Furthermore, a series of online lectures were held, where 11 foreign experts from different countries gave lectures on topics covering language, culture, history, literature, psychology, etc. The total number of participants in all the online seminars surpassed 1000.

Lastly, **BFSU hosted the “BFSU Global**

Governance Lecture” and the “Ambassadors’ Forum on Regional and Global Governance.” At this lecture, Feng Zhongping (Director of the Institute of European Studies from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences) and Shen Yang(former Deputy Director of the Department of International Exchanges and Cooperation, Ministry of Education of the PRC, and Ambassador of the Permanent Mission of China to UNESCO)gave keynote speeches. A series of lectures on the “go global” strategies of Chinese culture were held on themes such as “Development Trends of Chinese Studies Abroad,” “Reflections on Chinese Studies in the US,” “Objects and Approaches of Overseas Chinese Studies,” etc.

This series of activities for the 80th anniversary of BFSU epitomize BFSU’s dedication to practicing language education, cultural communication, and promotion of international cooperation and exchanges. The success of these activities not only strengthened the relationship between BFSU and embassies or partner universities but also created platforms for foreign and Chinese researchers to communicate and provide opportunities for BFSU students to deepen their knowledge, further promoting foreign language teaching and research and intercultural communication in BFSU.

University of Coimbra, Portugal

University of Coimbra Elected to the Presidency of the Association of Portuguese Language Universities (AULP)

On September 17, 2021, during the Meeting of the Association of Portuguese Language Universities (AULP), held in Macau, the General Assembly of this international network of higher education institutions unanimously elected the University of Coimbra (UC) to the Presidency of the Board of Directors for the next three years (2021-2024). The position will be held by the Vice-Rector for External Relations and Alumni, João Nuno Calvão da Silva (by delegation of the Rector, Amílcar Falcão).

Founded in 1986, AULP is made up of 131 members from eight Portuguese-speaking countries – Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal, São Tomé and Príncipe, Timor – and from the Special Administrative Region of Macau, and has the mission of promoting multilateral collaboration between Universities and Higher Education Institutes of Portuguese-speaking countries.



University of Coimbra's Athletes Compete in the Olympic and Paralympics Games Tokyo 2020

Five student-athletes of the University of Coimbra competed successfully in the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympics Games in August and September of 2021: Catarina Costa (Judo, Faculty of Medicine), Gabriel Lopes (Swimming, Faculty of Sport Sciences and Physical Education), Irina Rodrigues (Athletics, Faculty of Medicine), Diogo Cancela (Para-Swimming, Faculty of Sciences and Technology) and Telmo Pinão (Paracycling, Faculty of Sports Science and Physical Education).



Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (HUFS), South Korea



HUFS Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence Hosts Model European Union 2021

Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (HUFS) Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence (Director Kim Si-hong) hosted the “Model European Union 2021” with the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Korea (DEURK). EU Centers of Korea University and Yonsei University participated in the event in Obama Hall on October 14th.

On the first day of the event, the opening ceremony was initiated by the welcoming remarks by the HUFS EU Centre Director Dr. Kim Si-Hong, followed by the EU Ambassador to Korea, Maria Castillo Fernandez.

The agenda of the debate was health security, a topic of global interest due to the

COVID-19 pandemic. The debate emulated the format of the Council of the European Union whereby students assumed the role of each EU member country's relevant ministers. The debate followed the formal procedures set forth by the Council of Ministers, including mock press conferences and drafting of legislative acts.

The second day continued with the debate amongst the member countries to reach a consensus and come up with a final resolution to tackle the health security issues within European Union. During lunchtime, HUFS President Dr. Kim In-chul, visited Obama Hall, where the debate took place and met with Ambassador Castillo Fernandez. President Kim personally expressed his gratitude for the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Korea and promised continued support from HUFS to Jean Monnet EU Centre.

At the closing ceremony, HUFS President Kim and Ambassador Castillo Fernandez gave congratulatory speeches, followed by an awards ceremony.

The Ambassador Awards and the Director's Awards were awarded to the following individuals:

EU Ambassador Award:

1. Kim Jae-ho, Korea University

2. Park Jin-ha, Yonsei University
3. Eduard Kuzmenko, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies

Director's Award

1. Shin Yu-ri, Yonsei University (HUFS Jean Monnet EU Centre Director's Award)
2. Lee Seung-bi, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (Yonsei University EU Centre Director's Award)



HUFS holds the 45th HIMUN General Assembly

HUFS hosted the 45th HUFS International Model United Nations (HIMUN), General Assembly, at COEX Auditorium in Seoul on September 28, 2021 (Saturday). This year's event was the second HIMUN General Assembly to be held online since the COVID-19 pandemic forced the event online for the first time for its 44th session.

Held jointly with Korea Food Security Research Foundation under the theme, “The Post-Covid-19 Era, Seeking Multilateral Cooperation for Food Security,” this year’s event served as a meaningful forum of discussion on food security after COVID-19.

The online 45th session, which reflects a sweeping social shift to a virtual, so-called “contact-free” world due to the prolonged COVID-19 pandemic, adhered to the basic principles and working methods of the UN. This year’s HIMUN General Assembly was joined by 15 nations, including Korea, the U.S., China, Saudi Arabia, Mexico, Argentina, Turkey, Germany, Canada, the U.K., India, Brazil, Japan, the Netherlands, and Vietnam. During the session, the representatives of the 15 nations each made a speech in their country’s respective language, and their speeches were translated into the six official UN languages of English, Chinese, French, Russian, Spanish, and Arabic as well as Korean.

Established in 1958, HUFS HIMUN celebrated its 63rd anniversary this year and is recognized as Korea’s first and best foreign language academic conference at the university level. Guided by the UN’s basic principle of “Peace and Benevolence for International Peace and Safety,” the conference is well regarded as a platform and academic forum for young people who will lead in a global era.

University of Naples “L’Orientale”, Italy

Here is some of the most important news of recent months concerning the University "L'Orientale:"

1. Andrea Zerboni, a researcher at L’Orientale, as part of an archaeological mission started in 2019 and coordinated by Professor Andrea Manzo together with the National Corporation for Antiquities and Museums in Khartoum, Sudan, coordinated with geoarchaeologists from the State University of Milan and implemented a geospatial analysis procedure based on the comparison between the distribution of tombs and the geological and geomorphological characterization of the Kassala region, in eastern Sudan.

2. Doctoral student Arianna Grasso won the prestigious “Outstanding Doctoral Researcher,” sponsored by Palgrave Macmillan Publishing House, for her research entitled “Twitter and Refugeehood: Practices of Resistance in Contemporary Australia,” presented at the international conference, “Approaches to Migration, Languages, and Identity,” recently held at the University of Sussex in Britain. The work presented is part of her doctoral thesis, supervised



Collected by Alessia Mercuri and Emanuele Santoro

by Professor Katherine E. Russo.

3. Paola Mitra, a graduate student at L'Orientale in International Studies, received the prestigious Acat Italia 2020 Degree Award, an award "to stop torture and for the rights of migrants," for her master's thesis defended in April 2020.

4. Professor Giuseppe Porzio, Professor of History of Modern Art, has been appointed as a member of the Scientific and Technical Committee of the Royal Palace Museum in Naples.

5. Caterina Marianna Banti, who graduated from L'Orientale's Master's Degree program in Oriental Languages and Civilizations in 2015 with a mark of 110 cum laude, won the Olympic Gold in sailing, together with Ruggero Tita. This is in fact the first 'mixed' Olympic gold medal, i.e. for a team made up of men and women, won by Italy at the Olympics.

6. Debora Barletta, born 31 years ago in Naples, an expert in human rights and a graduate of L'Orientale is on the list of 50 women candidates to receive the "Woman of the Year 2021" award, instituted by the daily newspaper La Repubblica.

7. L'Orientale will be awarded for its commitment to the "Volunteers for Education" project launched by Save the Children - Italia in collaboration with the Conference of Italian University Rectors (CRIU). The project, coordinated for L'Orientale by Professor Katherine E. Russo (Delegate of the Rector of Italian Universities), will be awarded for her commitment to the "Volunteers for Education" project. Russo (Rector's Delegate for Disability and DSA) and Professor Chiara Ghidini (University Contact Person for Guidance and Tutoring for the acquisition of professional skills and job place-

ment), have contributed to combating the serious educational crisis that has affected girls, boys, and adolescents during the Covid-19 emergency, especially those living in the most disadvantaged contexts and with disabilities and learning disorders.

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece

Establishment of the Greek Department of the Scholars at Risk Network

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH) has undertaken a particularly important initiative for the creation of the Greek Department of the International Network of Higher Education Institutions “Scholars at Risk Network” (SAR), with the mission of protecting threatened academics and researchers and promoting Academic Freedom. At an event held on Friday, October 1, 2021, for the official establishment of the Greek Department of SAR, which is under the auspices of the Ministry of Education and Religions, the founding declaration was signed by four Greek universities. In addition to AUTH, the founding members are Ionian University, the University of the Aegean, and the University of Thessaly.

AUTh is the first Greek University-member of the International SAR Network, showing in practice, once again, its social and academic sensitivity. Scholars at Risk is an international network of approximately 600 higher education institutions and organizations with the mission of protecting threatened academics and researchers and promoting academic freedom. The Greek Section of the SAR International Network (SAR Greece), committed to the protection of fundamental academic values and human rights, aspires to make a substantial contribution to the protection of researchers and academics who are at risk of discrimination, prosecutions, violence, or situations threatening for their lives.

For more information see the website: <https://inspireurope.auth.gr/welcomeguide/inspireurope-programme/>

REBECCA: New research to improve care after breast cancer surgery

The new REBECCA research program aims to improve post-surgical care for breast cancer. The REBECCA project will combine traditional clinical data with data describing patient behavior, in particular physical activity, eating and sleeping habits, and online activity.

The new real-world data will be made available through the analysis of recordings from



sensors of mobile devices and the development of new indicators to characterize the functional and emotional state of the patient. REBECCA promotes new indicators as a tool for optimizing care as well as a tool in clinical research.

The REBECCA 360° platform is a collection of non-invasive mobile applications that do not stigmatize the patient. It will be offered to breast cancer survivors as a means of support in daily life and to improve their interaction with health professionals. The same platform will support clinical trials through the collection of information on patients' functional and emotional states. The REBECCA project started in April 2021 and is expected to be completed by March 2025, with the participation of 12 partners from 7 European countries. The project is coordinated by the Aristotle University of Thes-

saloniki.

REBECCA Consortium consists of clinical and technological universities, industry leaders, public health experts, and patient associations who will work together over the course of 4 years to shape guidelines and practices for post-cancer treatment.

For more information about the REBECCA project see <http://rebeccaproject.eu/>

AUTh student team awarded in international competition of the C40 Cities network

On Tuesday, September 28, 2021, the results of the international student competition “Students Reinventing Cities” for Athens were announced. The competition is part of the actions of the C40 Cities network, in which the Municipality of Athens participates. C40 Cities is a global initiative to share visions for more sustainable and climate-resistant cities and neighborhoods. Specifically, the theme of the competition was “The production of ideas for urban regeneration and environmental and social revitalization of the area of Fokionos Negri in Athens.”

The interdisciplinary student group “Green Hive,” which was formed by 11 undergraduate and postgraduate students of the Departments of Spatial Planning and Development (TMXA), Agriculture, and Architectural Engineering of



the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, was distinguished in the competition (Special Mention).

Canadian University Dubai (CUD), UAE

CUD leaps to 25th place and becomes top-ranked university in Dubai, QS Arab Region Rankings 2022

Canadian University Dubai (CUD) has soared to 25th place in the 2022 edition of the QS Arab Region University Rankings. The newly released ranking now positions CUD as the number one university in Dubai. This rapid ascent in the regional listing follows CUD's first appearance in the QS World University Rankings, which was announced earlier this year. The institution se-



cured a place in the top 601-650 universities globally for 2022, positioning it among the top 2% of higher education providers worldwide.

The internationally renowned QS ranking system is recognized among the most widely respected university rankings in the world, providing an authoritative, independent evaluation of institutions across the globe. First published in 2014, the Arab Region Ranking takes account of 10 performance indicators that blend global metrics with measures designed specifically for the Arab world.

In the 2022 ranking of 180 institutions, CUD scored highly on the two key indicators that combine to make up 50% of the evaluation score—academic reputation and employer reputation. Demonstrating its multinational credentials, the University ranked in the top four for international students and the top ten for international faculty.

Speaking about the new ranking, Mr. Buti Saeed Al Ghandi, Chancellor of CUD, said: “To be placed among the top 25 universities in the Arab region is a significant achievement that reflects our commitment to international standards of teaching and research. We are particularly proud to become the top-ranking institution in Dubai. This city has successfully developed an international reputation as a global education destination and to be recognized as a leader in this field is a great honor for everyone associated with the University.”

Prof. Karim Chelli, President and Vice-Chancellor of CUD, added: “The significant climb in the QS ranking reflects our longstanding reputation for academic excellence and our growing portfolio of world-class, high-impact research. With the recent campus expansion to City Walk, we are embarking on a new phase in the University’s impact across the Arab region; providing unique opportunities to study a Canadian curriculum in the heart of Dubai, whilst pushing the boundaries of innovation and creativity to make a meaningful contribution to society that extends beyond the classroom.”

Alongside the inauguration of the campus expansion and the notable achievements in regional and global rankings, the past year has seen the University extend its comprehensive network of professional collaborations. The in-

stitution has attracted accreditations and affiliations with international industry organizations such as ECO Canada, the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, and the Chartered Financial Analyst Institute, in addition to existing recognition and partnerships with leading professional bodies including the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA), the Chartered Financial Analyst Institute (CFA), the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA), the International Advertising Association (IAA), the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA), the Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME), Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), the Association of Arab Universities (AAU), Autodesk, and International Association of Universities (IAU).

Canadian University Dubai hosts International Symposium on Networks, Computers and Communications

The Faculty of Engineering, Applied Science and Technology (FEAST) at Canadian University Dubai (CUD) has brought together speakers and delegates from across the globe to discuss the emerging challenges and opportunities in the areas of wireless and mobile communications and networking technology. The three-day International Symposium on Networks,



Speakers from NASA, du, and MIT discuss the future of communication technologies

Computers, and Communications (ISNCC) heard keynote addresses from world-renowned scholars and practitioners in the field, including representatives from NASA, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and du, a Dubai-based telecommunications service provider.

The event opened with a presentation from Dr. Mohamed Abid, who is the Mars Sample Return Payload Chief Engineer at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Having worked as Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer on the Mars Perseverance mission, Dr. Abid spoke about the intricate technical challenges the team overcame to successfully land the most advanced rover NASA has sent to another planet.

The day-one afternoon session began with

a keynote address from Dr. Muriel Médard from the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Department at MIT, who discussed the new trends of error-correcting codes in 5G technology. Also on the subject of 5G, Dr. Mahmoud R. Sherif, Head of Technology & IT Strategy at du, formerly the Emirates Integrated Telecommunications Company, spoke about how telecoms operators can effectively monetize their investment in infrastructure through Next Generation Use Cases.

Delegates also heard addresses from three other keynote speakers during the Symposium. Dr. Maria Guta from the European Space Agency spoke about the impact of 5G/6G on delivering ubiquitous connectivity, Dr. Mohamed-Slim Alouini from King Abdullah University of Science and Technology talked about bridging the digital divide in remote and rural areas, while Dr. Albert Zomaya from the University of Sydney discussed Edge Computing for the Internet of Things.

This year marked the eighth edition of the ISNCC, which was hosted across the University's campus buildings in Dubai and broadcast simultaneously to an international audience of participants around the world. Alongside the six keynote speeches, the Symposium featured 28 parallel workshop sessions across 12 different tracks, which included Artificial Intelligence

and Machine Learning, Blockchain and Cryptocurrency, and Data Science and Big Data Systems Engineering. The event concluded with a visit to Expo 2020 Dubai.

Prof. Adel Ben Mnaouer, General Chair of the Conference and CUD Professor of Computer Engineering in FEAST, said, “We have been honored to welcome such eminent speakers and to attract a very strong and diverse program of distinguished academic contributions, which has resulted in 167 papers being accepted for publication. The conference has provided a valuable platform for the exchange of ideas across several disciplines and for networking to connect different parts of the world. We thank everyone who has participated and supported the staging of this event and we look forward to building on these newly formed collaborations.”

The event was sponsored by IT industry leader, Siemon, and received technical sponsorship from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and the IEEE Communications Society. All accepted papers will be submitted for publication in IEEE Xplore.

Write for us

SILKROADIA is the official webzine of the Silk-Road Universities Network (SUN). We have more than 800,000 subscribers including professors, researchers, students, presidents, rectors, and chancellors of universities & research institutions located along the land and maritime Silk Roads. We welcome your articles and images on any of the topics related to the Silk Roads. The topics are those mentioned below but not limited to:

Culture on the Silk Roads: religion, local cuisine, artwork, jewelry, toys, pottery, dance, music, musical instruments, traditional / contemporary dress, types of dwelling, festivals, rituals, weddings, funerals, taboos.

Heritage on the Silk Roads: archaeological / historical heritage sites, literature, paintings, statues and sculptures.

Travel on the Silk Roads: natural wonders, markets, hotels, caravan-serais, transportation.

Any interesting and diverse stories about people, places and events in your area, including the life of ordinary people and interview.

*All articles and images shall be original and not infringe upon copyright rules. The working language is English and contributors' contact information must be included.

Please send to sunwebzine@gmail.com

SILKROADIA seeks student reporters

SILKROADIA is looking for students who are willing to write articles about the Silk Roads and other topics of their interest.

What SUN student reporters do?

- Report Silk Roads-related activities and events in their country
- Report important activities and events in their university
- Work on articles or images as requested by the SUN Secretariat

Qualifications

Students of the member universities of SUN

Must be fluent in English

Must send at least two writing samples in English to **sunwebzine@gmail.com**

SUN student reporters are usually expected to work for one semester.

What they get

Articles and images published on SUN webzine and website.

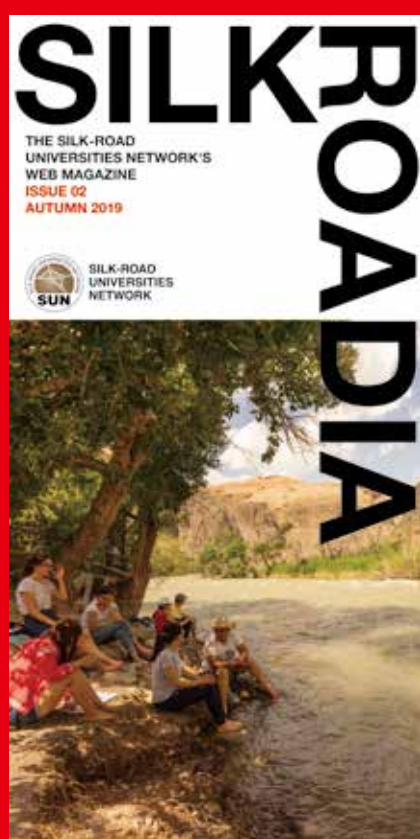
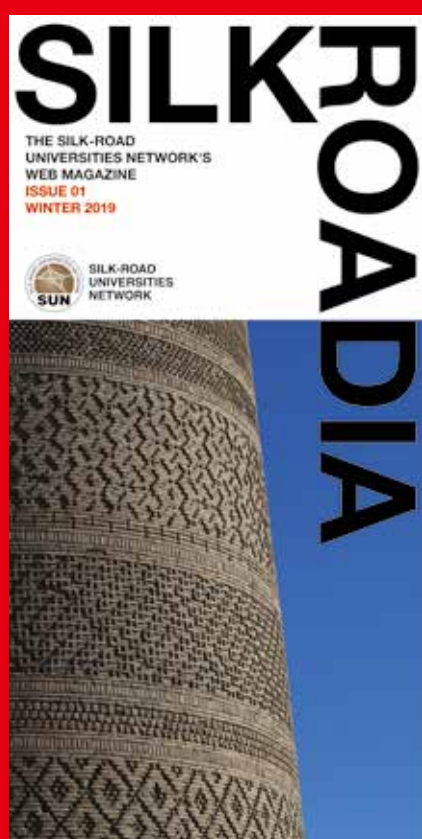
Receives the official certificate from SUN

The student, who is annually selected as the best reporter by the SUN secretariat, will be invited to attend the annual General Assembly of SUN with full coverage of the air travel and accommodations.

How to apply

Click the link below for the google form of application:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeI6Bps3q05KUx1FdvZfJcl5W-g4x-lo8eLVBDfFjuhdARo3Ag/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1>



Advertise on SILKROADIA

**The official webzine of SUN
to carry advertisements from
next issue**

SILKROADIA, the official webzine of the Silk-Road Universities Network, is a biannual publication which was launched in 2019. All the four editions published so far are available at the website of SUN, including the latest one published on the occasion of the Sixth General Assembly of SUN held online on December 3, 2020.

As the official publication of SUN, ***SILKROADIA*** aims to serve as an effective medium of communications among the SUN Family members and between SUN and the outside world.

In order to fulfill its mission, ***SILKROADIA*** features a variety of interesting, informative and insightful articles and images, most of them provided by professors and students of

the SUN member universities and institutes. The contents vary from in-depth academic articles and commentaries authored by experts to easy-to-enjoy stories on heritage and travel on the Silk Roads. We are proud of having published genuinely original contents – like the imaginary interview which highlighted people like Marco Polo and Ibn Battuta, the legendary travelers and adventurers who are identified with the ancient Silk Roads.

Such an abundance of interesting contents on **SILKROADIA** draws a lot of readers from around the world. The webzine already boasts of a regular audience of about 800,000 people, including the faculty members and students of the 82 member universities and institutes in 65 cities of 28 countries along the Silk Roads. This is one of the reasons we began thinking about the potential of **SILKROADIA** as a potential place for advertisements.

Carrying advertisements on **SILKROADIA** has two objectives: First, advertisement revenue will certainly help SUN stand on its own financially, which has become more urgent in the wake of the ceasing of support from the Gyeongsangbuk-do Provincial Government. Second, advertisements on **SILKROADIA** will help the webzine raise its standard to a higher level. Good publications draw good advertisers and a genuinely popular publication cannot go without advertisements.

It is against this backdrop that **SILKROADIA** will carry advertisements from the next issue, which is expected to be published around June 2021. The first potential advertisers could be member universities and institutes of SUN who wish to promote their academic programs, exchange of students and other international programs and events. The advertisement pages of course will be open to those outside SUN, including educational associations, organizations and companies.

Details, including the rates and formats, will be released soon, which will be delivered to member universities and institutes and outside organizations through the official communication channel of the SUN Secretariat and **SILKROADIA**.

We expect active support from SUN members. Thank you.

Ad rates (tentative)

Page size	Price	Submission due
Full page	USD 500	TBA
1/2 page	USD 300	TBA
1/4 page	USD 200	TBA