Symposium Structure: Each panel will be 1 hour, followed by a 30-minute break when the virtual meeting room will remain open to allow panellists and attendees to socialise.

Saturday, 24th April 2021 (12.00 noon-4.00 p.m. BST)

Panel 1: Translating Across Genres: Adapting the Supernatural to Different Historical and Historiographical Contexts
Time: 12.00-1.00 p.m.
Chair: Dr Pia JOLLIFFE (Oxford University)

YANG Valentina (KU Leuven): Writing between Reality and the Supernatural: Christian miracle stories in late Ming China
Benjamin SHARKEY (Oxford University): Supernatural Conversion: a Mongol ruler’s conversion to Christianity, c.1007, in Syriac and Arabic sources
Natasha DOWNS (University of Edinburgh): Transforming the Immortal: a historiographical, literary-critical and translatological approach

Panel 2: Writing Across Borders: Formulating the Other through the Supernatural
Time: 1.30-2.30 p.m.
Chair: XIA-KANG Ziyi (Oxford University)

Yuewei WANG (University of British Columbia): Functions of Sino-Japanese Travel Accounts in Recreating the Past: A Case Study of Abe no Seimei Monogatari (1662)
Luke STANEK (Yale University): The Supernatural Abroad: Chinese perceptions of foreign places in a 9th century miscellany
THAM Chui-Joe (Oxford University): The Supernatural in Unofficial, Contemporary Histories about the Ming-Qing Transition
Panel 3: Fallen Through the Cracks: Re-centering Marginalised Narratives of the Supernatural in History
Time: 3.00-4.00 p.m.
Chair: Nelson LANDRY (Oxford University)

Huiyao YANG (University of Colorado Boulder): The Jade Disc of Qin Shi Huang: A case study of supernatural tales in early Chinese historiography
Dr Victoria TEN (Independent Scholar): Practices of Self-Cultivation in Contemporary Korea: attitudes to an unpublished martial arts novel depicting immortals
Chris ROWE (University of Virginia): Accounting for Anomalies: The Strange World of Buddhist Relics

Sunday, 25th April 2021 (12.00 noon-4.00 p.m. BST)

Panel 4: Disruptive Supernatural Forces in Pre-Modern Japan
Time: 12.00-1.00 p.m.
Chair: Pollina SEREBRIAKOVA (Cambridge University)

Dr Nathalie PHILLIPS (University of Edinburgh): The “Supernatural” as an Organising Principle and Socio-Political Tool in Heian Japan
THAM Chui-Jun (Cambridge University): Feeding Hungry Ghosts or Pacifying Vengeful Spirits? Managing War Casualties of Catastrophe under the Ashikaga Regime.
Frank CHU (University of Edinburgh): The Evolution of Kasane's story in Tokugawa Japan.

Panel 5: Betwixt and Between: The Supernatural at the Crossroads of Official and Unofficial Discourse in Han and Tang Dynasties
Time: 1.30-2.30 p.m.
Chair: Oliver HARGRAVE (Oxford University)

Dr Olga BONCH-OSMOLOVSKAYA (Institute of Oriental Manuscripts RAS): Power and the Supernatural in Western Han (206 CE–25 AD) Political Discourse
Dr Anthony TEREKHOV (Institute of Oriental Manuscripts RAS): Auspicious Omens in Han Apocryphal Texts
Georgijs DUNAJEVs (Julius Maximilian University of Würzburg): Tang Xuanzong and His Court in Official and xiaoshuo sources on the Eve of the An Lushan Rebellion

Panel 6: Reality vs Fiction: The Function of the Supernatural in Historical Writing in Late Imperial China
Time: 3.00-4.00 p.m.
Chair: THAM Chui-Jun (Cambridge University)

Dr Aude LUCAS (International Consortium for Research in the Humanities, Erlangen-Nuremberg): Dreams of Past Heroes: how historical figures appeared to historiographers in Chinese 18th-century “pen jottings” (biji 筆記)
Ao HUANG (SOAS, University of London): Gender and Sexual Non-normativity as the Supernatural in Early Modern China’s Gender System  
Zhujun MA (University of Colorado Boulder): Female Agency in the Pilgrimage of Bixia yuanjun in the Vernacular Literature of Late Imperial China