

# Monthly Title Information

## AI Sheets - July 2022

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18/05/2022

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9789463722360 Cross-Border Traders in Northern Laos

9789463721851 River Cities in Asia

9789463720175 Commerce, Food, and Identity in Seventeenth-Century England and France

9789463724029 Engaged Humanities

9789463725040 Bordering Tibetan Languages

### Arc Humanities Press

9781641892506 Jewish Theatre Making in Mantua, 1520-1650

9781641894487 The Customary of the Shrine of St. Thomas Becket at Canterbury Cathedral

*Catalogue image from the cover of Urban Life and Intellectual Crisis in Middle-Period China, 800-1100 by Christian de Pee (Amsterdam University Press, 2022).*

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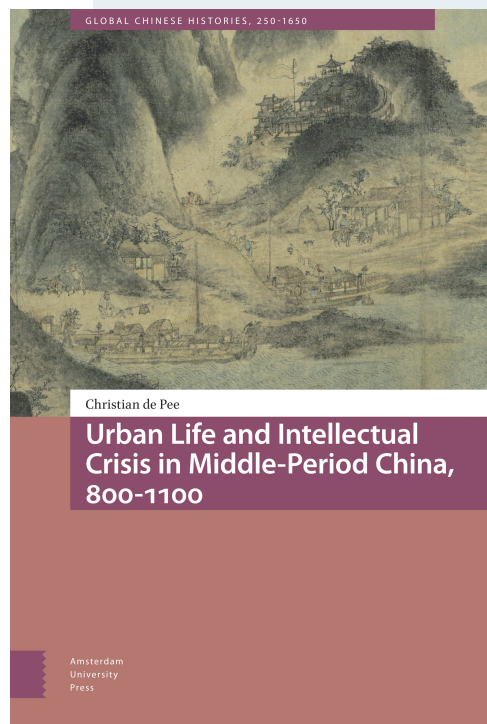
Christian Pee

## Urban Life and Intellectual Crisis in Middle-Period China, 800-1100

In the eleventh century, the cities of the Song Empire (960-1279) emerged into writing. Literati in prior centuries had looked away from crowded streets, but literati in the eleventh century found beauty in towering buildings and busy harbors. Their purpose in writing the city was ideological. On the written page, they tried to establish a distinction that eluded them in the avenues and to discern an immanent pattern in the movement of people, goods, and money. By the end of the eleventh century, however, they recognized that they had failed in their efforts. They had lost the Way in the city. *Urban Life and Intellectual Crisis in Middle-Period China, 800-1100* reveals the central place of urban life in the history of the eleventh century. Important developments in literary innovation and monetary policy, in canonical exegesis and civil engineering, in financial reform and public health, converge in this book as they converged in the city.

### BIOGRAPHY

Christian de Pee is Professor of History at the University of Michigan. He is the author of *The Writing of Weddings in Middle-Period China: Text and Ritual Practice in the Eighth through Fourteenth Centuries* and a co-editor of *Senses of the City: Perceptions of Hangzhou and the Southern Song (1127-1179)*.



Global Chinese Histories, 250-1650  
July 2022  
338 pages,  
Electronic book text  
156.0 x 234.0 mm

ISBN 978 94 6372 166 0  
e-ISBN 978 90 485 5433 1  
BISAC HIS008000 / POL002000  
BIC HBJF / HBLC1

#### KEYWORDS

Song Dynasty, early modern history, urban history, urban literature, economic thought

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Chapter 3. Losing the Way in the City: Infrastructure, Money, and Intellectual Crisis in the Eleventh Century

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Simon Rowedder

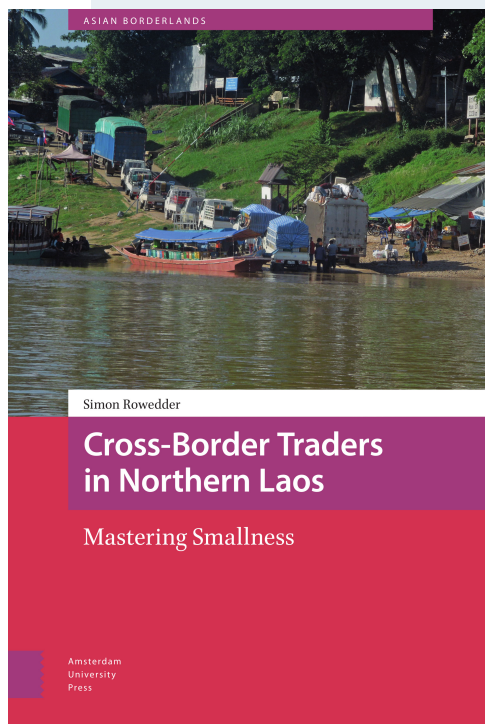
## Cross-Border Traders in Northern Laos

*Mastering Smallness*

Northern Laos has become a prominent spot in large-scale, top-down mappings and studies of neoliberal globalisation and infrastructural development linking Thailand and China, and markets further beyond. Yet in the common narrative, in which Laos appears as a weak victim helplessly exposed to its larger neighbours, attention is seldom paid to local voices. This book fills this gap. Building on long-term multi-sited fieldwork, it accompanies northern Lao cross-border traders closely in their transnational worlds of mobilities, social relations, economic experimentation and aspiration. *Cross-Border Traders in Northern Laos: Mastering Smallness* demonstrates that these traders' indispensable but often invisible role in the everyday workings of the China-Laos-Thailand borderland economy relies on their rhetoric and practices of 'smallness'—of framing their transnational trade activities in a self-deprecating manner and stressing their economic inferiority. Decoding their discursive surface of insignificance, this ethnography of 'smallness' foregrounds remarkable transnational social and economic skills that are mostly invisible in Sino-Southeast Asian borderland scholarship.

### BIOGRAPHY

Simon Rowedder was a Research Fellow at the Department of Southeast Asian Studies, National University of Singapore (NUS), and member of the NUS-Max Weber Foundation Research Group on Borders, Mobilities and New Infrastructures. In December 2021, he became Assistant Professor of Development Politics at the University of Passau in Germany.



Asian Borderlands

July 2022

256 pages, 20 Illustrations, black & white

Hardback

156.0 x 234.0 mm

€106.00 / £97.00 / \$127.00

ISBN 978 94 6372 236 0

e-ISBN 978 90 485 5440 9

BISAC BUS060000 / SOC008020 / SOC053000

BIC JF / KCLT

#### KEYWORDS

Yunnan, Laos, Thailand, cross-border trade, smallness

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Adrian Perkasa

## River Cities in Asia

*Waterways in Urban Development and History*

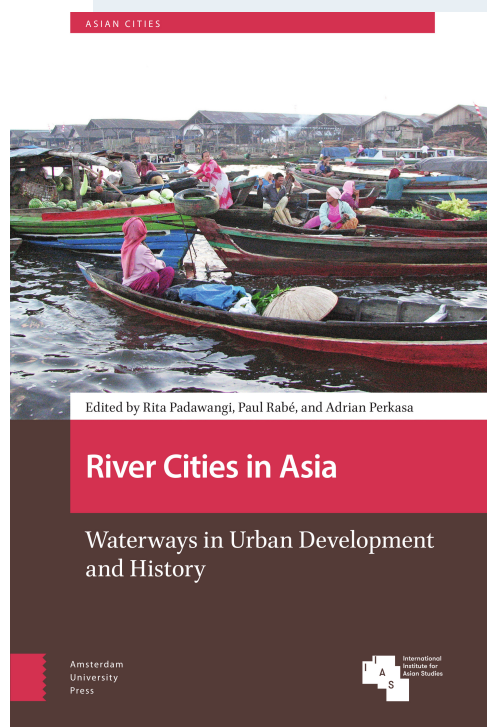
*River Cities in Asia* uncovers the intimate relationship between rivers and cities in Asia from a multi-disciplinary perspective in the humanities and the social sciences. As rivers have shaped human settlement patterns, economies, culture and rituals, so too have humans impacted the flow and health of rivers. In Asia, the sheer scale of urbanization increases the urgency of addressing challenges facing urban rivers, leading to the importance of historically, socially, and culturally relevant solutions. However, cities are also uneven landscapes of power, affecting chances to achieve holistic ecological approaches. The central premise of *River Cities in Asia* is that a “river city” is one where proximity between a river and a city exists across time and space, natural and social dimensions. Recognition of these deep connections can help to better contextualize policy solutions aimed at rivers and their ecologies, including human life.

### BIOGRAPHY

Rita Padawangi is Associate Professor (Sociology) at Singapore University of Social Sciences. She is Coordinator of the Southeast Asia Neighborhoods Network (SEANNET).

Paul Rabé is Coordinator of the Urban Knowledge Network Asia (UKNA), based at the International Institute for Asian Studies in Leiden, and Editor of the Asian Cities Series. He is also Lead Expert in Urban Land Governance at the Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies (IHS) at Erasmus University Rotterdam.

Adrian Perkasa is a PhD candidate at Leiden University, and a lecturer in the Department of History, Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Airlangga in Indonesia.



Asian Cities  
July 2022  
282 pages, 41 Illustrations, black & white,  
19 Illustrations, colour  
Electronic book text  
156.0 x 234.0 mm

ISBN 978 94 6372 185 1  
e-ISBN 978 90 485 5337 2  
BISAC ARC010000 / TEC010030  
BIC AM / GTF

**KEYWORDS**  
River cities, Southeast Asia, development

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Garritt Dyk

## Commerce, Food, and Identity in Seventeenth-Century England and France

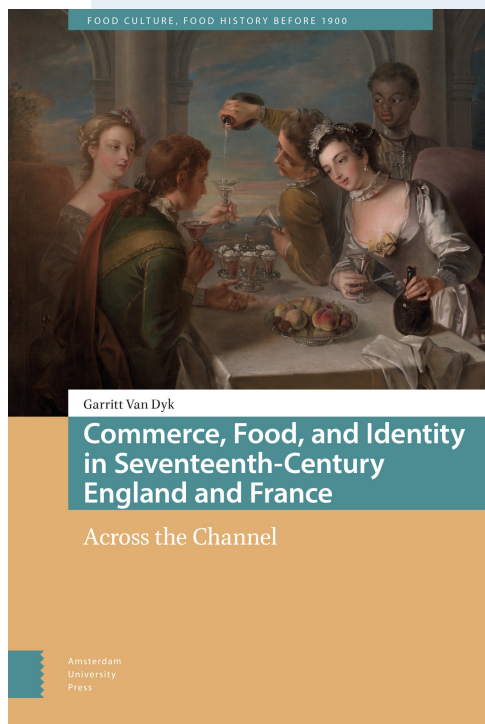
*Across the Channel*

“Tell me what you eat, and I’ll tell you *who you are*” was the challenge issued by French gastronome Jean Brillat-Savarin. Champagne is declared a unique emblem of French sophistication and luxury, linked to the myth of its invention by Dom Pérignon. Across the Channel, a cup of sweet tea is recognized as a quintessentially English icon, simultaneously conjuring images of empire, civility, and relentless rain that demands the sustenance and comfort that only tea can provide. How did these tastes develop in the seventeenth century?

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### BIOGRAPHY

Garritt Van Dyk is Lecturer at the University of Newcastle. He has published essays in *A Cultural History of Plants in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries*, *EMaj*, *Eighteenth-Century Life*, and *Petits Propos Culinaires*. He is a recipient of the Sophie Coe Prize for writing in food history.



Food Culture, Food History before 1900

July 2022

208 pages,

Hardback

156.0 x 234.0 mm

€95.00 / £87.00 / \$117.00

ISBN 978 94 6372 017 5

e-ISBN 978 90 485 5516 1

BISAC HIS013000 / HIS015040 / HIS037040

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#### KEYWORDS

food, history, commerce, cuisine, early modern

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## Engaged Humanities

*Rethinking Art, Culture and Public Life*

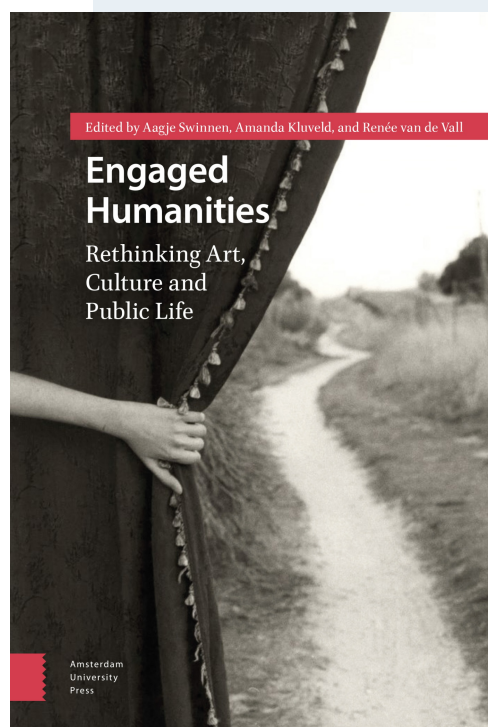
What is the role of the humanities at the start of 21st century? In the last few decades, the various disciplines of the humanities (history, linguistics, literary studies, art history, media studies) have encountered a broad range of challenges, related to the future of print culture, to shifts in funding strategies, and to the changing contours of culture and society. Several publications have addressed these challenges as well as potential responses on a theoretical level. This coedited volume opts for a different strategy and presents accessible case studies that demonstrate what humanities scholars contribute to concrete and pressing social debates about topics including adoption, dementia, hacking, and conservation. These “engaged” forms of humanities research reveal the continued importance of thinking and rethinking the nature of art, culture, and public life.

### BIOGRAPHY

Aagje Swinnen is Professor in Aging Studies at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Maastricht University.

Amanda Kluvelde is an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Maastricht University.

Renée van de Vall is Professor in Art and Media at Maastricht University.



July 2022

360 pages, 7 Illustrations, black & white,  
13 Illustrations, colour

Hardback

156.0 x 234.0 mm

€124.00 / £112.00 / \$146.00

ISBN 978 94 6372 402 9

BISAC ART015110 / HIS037080 / SOC032000 /  
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#### KEYWORDS

Humanities, cultural studies, media studies, cultural  
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## Bordering Tibetan Languages

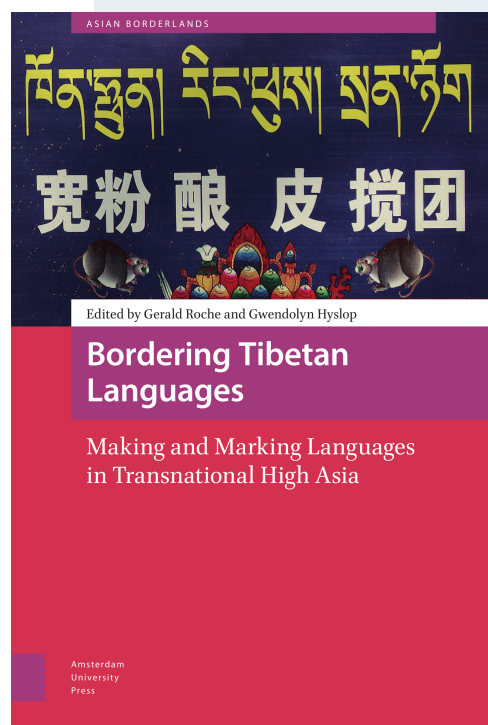
*Making and Marking Languages in Transnational High Asia*

*Bordering Tibetan Languages: Making and Marking Languages in Transnational High Asia* examines the complex interactions between state, ethnic, and linguistic borders in the Himalaya. These case studies from Bhutan, China, India, and Nepal show how people in the Himalaya talk borders into existence, and also how those borders speak to them and their identities. These 'talking borders' exist in a world where state borders are contested, and which is being irrevocably transformed by rapid social and economic change. This book offers a new perspective on this dynamic region by centring language, and in doing so, also offers new ways of thinking about how borders and language influence each other.

### BIOGRAPHY

Gerald Roche is a Senior Research Fellow in the Department of Politics, Media, and Philosophy at La Trobe University (Australia). He is an international expert in language revitalization and the politics of language in Tibet and the Himalayas.

Gwendolyn Hyslop received her PhD from the University of Oregon and is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Linguistics at the University of Sydney. She is a specialist of Tibeto-Burman languages, in particular those from Bhutan. She has written a grammar of Kurtöp and also specialises in Historical Linguistics.



Asian Borderlands

July 2022

232 pages, 18 Illustrations, black & white

Hardback

156.0 x 234.0 mm

€106.00 / £97.00 / \$127.00

ISBN 978 94 6372 504 0

e-ISBN 978 90 485 5271 9

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### KEYWORDS

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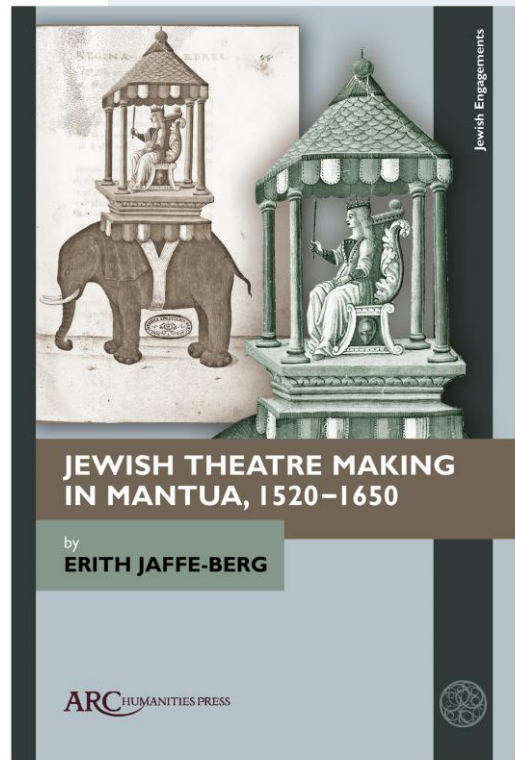
## Jewish Theatre Making in Mantua, 1520-1650

This book studies how the Jewish community of Mantua established, normalized, and maintained interrelations with the Christian community for over 130 years, from 1520 to 1650, by means of theatre performance for the Gonzaga Dukes. Performance is shown to have been a mutually beneficial "currency" that both the Dukes and Jews could use to calibrate their relations with one another. Seen in this light, the author demonstrates that performance was not the consequence of cultural exchange between Jews and Christians, but was one of the means by which the complicated nature of cultural communication and exchange took place.

*Jewish Theatre Making in Mantua* details the performances created by the Jewish community of Mantua and argues that these theatrical events were a crucial component in the ability of Jews to live peacefully within Mantua, which became one of the few refuges left to Jews in the Italian peninsula and Catholic Europe.

### BIOGRAPHY

Erith Jaffe-Berg is Professor and Chair of Theatre, Film, and Digital Production at the University of California, Riverside



Jewish Engagements - ARC  
July 2022  
204 pages  
5 b/w illustrations, 3 line-art, 3 colour  
Hardback  
152 x 229 mm  
€105.00 / £96.00 / \$124.00

ISBN 9781641892506  
e-ISBN 9781641892513  
BISAC DRA018000 / HIS022000 / HIS037020  
BIC DSG / JFSR1 / HBLH

### KEYWORDS

Jews in theatre; Jews of Mantua; Theatre making in early-modern Italy; Jews in early-modern Italy; Gonzaga and the Jews; Commedia dell' arte

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Chapter 3. Leone de' Sommi: A Canny Theatrical Intermediary

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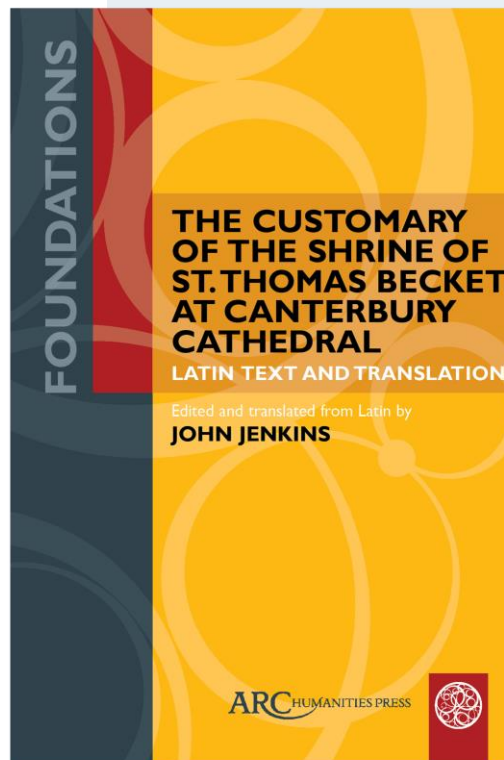
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Foundations - ARC

July 2022

118 pages, 1 line-art illustrations,  
Hardback

152 x 228 mm

€69.00 / £59.00 / \$79.00

ISBN 9781641894487

e-ISBN 9781641894494

BISAC REL055020 / REL015000 / HIS037010

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### KEYWORDS

Canterbury Cathedral; Thomas Becket; shrines,  
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