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Italiadomani
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UNIVERSITÀ DI NAPOLI
L'ORIENTALE

DAAM
DEPARTMENT ASIA
AFRICA E MEDITERRANEO

PRIN 2022: 20225NNWWE (CUP: C53D2301041 0006) PI: Donatella Guida



Environmental Anomalies and Political Legitimacy in Global Eurasia

(12th – 14th Century)
FINAL CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 10–11, 2025

Palazzo Corigliano Conference Hall, Second floor

November 10, 2025

Palazzo Corigliano

Piazza San Domenico Maggiore, 12
Conference Hall, Second floor

10.00 – *Greetings & introduction*

Roberta Giunta (Dean of the Department of
Asian, African and Mediterranean studies)

Donatella Guida (University of Naples
“L’Orientale”)

10.30 – **Keynote 1, Ruth Gamble**

(La Trobe University, Melbourne)
*More Yaks, More Monasteries, More
Mongols: Environmental Anomalies
as Political Instruments in Tibetan
Governance (12th–14th Century)*

11.30 – *Coffee break*

12.00 – Panel I - China

Chair Federico Brusadelli

Donatella Guida (University of
Naples “L’Orientale”), *Between Moral
Responsibility and Proactive Policies:
Official Memorials on Catastrophes at
the Court of Song Gaozong (1127-1162)*

Jialong Liu (University of Naples
“L’Orientale”), *From ‘Bad’ to ‘Good’
Omens: Cattle in the Monographs on
the Five Phases in Chinese Official
Histories from Tang to Yuan*

Mateusz Janik (Polish Academy of Sciences),
*Environmental Legitimacy, from Zhu
Xi to Xi Jinping: The Legacy of Political
Cosmology in Chinese Political Discourse*

13.30 – *Lunch*

15.00 – Panel II

The Mongol World 1

Chair Donatella Guida

Federico Brusadelli (University of Naples
“L’Orientale”), *The Mongols and the
Mandate: The Earthquake of 1303 and
the Intellectual Debate on “Natural
Disasters”*

Bayarma Khabtagaeva (University of
Naples “L’Orientale”), *On the Names of
Environmental Anomalies in Middle
Mongol Sources*

Hyun Soojin (Sungkyunkwan University,
Seoul), *The King’s Power and the
Resolution of Natural Anomalies
in Koryŏ: From Local Sovereignty
to Yuan Imperial Authority
(12th–14th centuries)*

16.30 – *Coffee break*



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17.00 – **Panel III**

The Mongol World 2

Chair Bayarma Khabtagaeva

Marco DeMichelis (Alma Mater University of Bologna), *The Fall of an Empire, the Ending of a Capital (1258): The Mongols, their Conquests and the Environmental “narratives” Related to Baghdad’s Conquest*

Isahaya Yoichi (Hokkaido University), *Irinjin, a Ruler in the Purgatorium: The Hülegüid Rule in Anatolia during the Period of the Dantean Anomaly (1315–22)*

Environmental
Anomalies





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9.30 – Panel IV - Korea

Chair Antonio Manieri

Andrea De Benedittis (University of Naples “L’Orientale”), *Fear, Control, and Political Legitimacy in the Rhetorics of Portents of the Samguk sagi, With a Focus on the Annals of Paekche*

Lukáš Kubík (Charles University, Prague), *Pirates as Omens: Interpreting Waegu Raids in the Legitimation of the Chosŏn Dynasty*

Sooa Im McCormick (Korea Foundation Curator of Korean Art, Cleveland Museum of Art), *When the Ten Kings Rise: Reckoning Its Political Significance with Environmental Collapse and Plague*

11.00 – *Coffee break*

11.30 – Panel V - India & Japan

Chair Jialong Liu

Antonio Manieri (University of Naples “L’Orientale”), *Decoding Omens Made Easy: Nature and Political Power in Medieval Japanese Encyclopedias*

Luca Piscopo (University of Naples “L’Orientale”), *Reading the Signs, Ruling the Earth: Court Astrologers and Ritual Politics in Medieval India*

13.00 – *Lunch*

14.30 – Panel VI
Islam and Christianity

Chair Isahaya Yoichi

Javier Albarrán (University of Granada), *Environmental Imaginary and Political Theory in the Mirror for Princes by Abu Bakr al-Turtushi (d. 1127): a comparative approach*

Ines Peta (Alma Mater University of Bologna), *Calamity and Authority: Religious and Political Interpretations of Natural Disasters in Arabic Historiography from the Umayyads to the Mamluks*

Political
Legitimacy

Global Eurasia

Luca Parisoli (University of Calabria),
*From the Latin translation
De radiis (approx. 12th c.) to
Nicole Oresme's political
focus (mid-14th c.): a reading
of foreknowledge and
prognostication in Christian
Latin thought*

16.00 – Coffee break

16.30 – **Keynote 2: Martin
Bauch** (Leibniz Institute for the
History and Culture of Eastern
Europe, Leipzig) *The Blue Sun
over Naples: The Arrival of
Ippolita Maria Sforza in 1465
between Sacral Rulership
and Humanist Perceptions of
Antiquity*

17.30 – **Conclusions**

