

INTERNATIONALISM IN EAST ASIA:

The project focuses on the socio-political and intellectual interactions between Chinese, Japanese and Koreans in modern and contemporary eras. It attempts to transnationalise the historical narratives by drawing the attention to the pan-regional/international nature of a number of important modernity projects in East Asian region. For example, the nationalistic appropriation of the traditional history, with its emphasis on the divine "national founders", ancient militaristic grandeur and supposedly self-contained nature of "national traditions", often followed the same basic script in all the countries of the region. At the same time, on more realistic level, a variety of pan-regional economic community-building propositions has been debated during the last 150 years. On yet another plane, revolutionary activities often assumed a regional quality, as radical movements in each East Asian country offered inspirations for the kindred minds elsewhere throughout the region. The present project will attempt to contribute to making an authentic depiction of East Asia's modern and contemporary transnationalisms, thus helping to relativise the power of the still predominant, nation-centered historical narratives.