

Welcome to the **Fall 2016 Speaker Series** of the **Indian Ocean World Centre**

Professor Angela Schottenhammer

(Universität Salzburg)

&

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5:45 pm Peterson Hall 116

***Voyage of the Eunuch Yang Liangyao (736–806)
to Baghdad in 785 AD: An Early Sino-Arab Power
Alliance against the Tibetans?***

Angela Schottenhammer

In the eighth century China was faced with domestic problems and Tibetan aggression. A tomb stele of a Chinese eunuch now provides indication that the Tang Emperor Dezong (r. 780–805) sent a diplomatic mission to Baghdad to ask the Arabs for military support against the Tibetans. The mission took the sea route from Canton to the Persian Gulf. Reports on this voyage may even have provided Jia Dan (729–805), China's chancellor and geographer, with information that formed the basis for the first detailed description of the maritime route from South China to the Persian Gulf.

The Silk Road and Modelling the Environment

Philippe De Maeyer

For several years, the Department of Geography at Ghent University and the Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography have been working together on various research projects. This collaboration can be brought together under the title “Modeling Different Aspects of the Silk Road.” Our research is spatially located along two segments of the Silk Road, in Xinjiang and in Central-Asia. It comprises different techniques, from 3D modelling of archaeological sites, cost path calculations and climate change impact modelling. Some of our research is performed indoors but some requires intensive fieldwork. Here I present an overview of ongoing research situated in a global context.

