EMPIRES EN MARCHE

Rencontres entre la Chine et l’Occident à l’âge moderne (XVIe-XIXe siècles)

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François Lachaud is Professor of Japanese Studies at the École française d'Extrême-Orient where he holds the chair on Buddhism and Japanese civilisation. He is also EFEO Professor of Japanese Studies at the Religious Studies department of the École pratique des hautes études. From January 2001 to December 2007, he served as head of the EFEO Kyoto Centre. From January 2008 to December 2010, François Lachaud was the EFEO director of studies based in Paris. From July 2011 to July 2013, Lachaud was Smithsonian Senior History of Art Fellow at the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery and Freer Gallery of Art in Washington D.C. From September to December 2014, François Lachaud was visiting professor at the Institute for Research in the Humanities in Kyoto (fall 2014) where he has been an associate member since 2004. François Lachaud completed his PhD in East Asian Studies (Japanese Studies) in Paris. A recipient of the Stanislas Julien Prize (2006), he holds an agrégation in Japanese language and civilisation since 1994. François Lachaud first graduated (MLitt) in English studies (medieval and early modern literature/religious history) at the universities of Oxford and Paris where he also studied historical linguistics (German and Celtic languages).

François Lachaud researches focus on Japanese Buddhism (Zen Schools) from late mediaeval times to the Edo period (1603-1867) in its complex relation to Japanese art and literature – most notably tea ceremonies and nō drama. François Lachaud’s work also examines the role of antiquarianism in early modern Japan in relation with the Manpuku-ji (the ?baku Zen School head temple), the creation of literati networks in medieval and early modern Japan, and the shaping of Japanese aesthetics. He also studies Japanese art (Buddhist art, literati painting, calligraphy, Japanese prints).

He has written on a wide range of topics connected with asceticism, solitude, and eccentricity in Japanese civilisation, on collections and collectors in Edo Japan, nō drama, tea ceremonies, Chinese learning, Zen Buddhism and modern literati, cultural interactions in East Asia during the Age of Discovery (1552-1615) - especially on Jesuits’ descriptions of Buddhism and on the Society's contribution to Japanese civilisation.

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