



THE 81ST GEORGE E. MORRISON LECTURE IN ETHNOLOGY

The Role of Shanghai in Building Modern Science in China in the 19th Century

Wednesday 11 March 5:30pm–7:30pm

Speaker

Professor Benjamin Elman is the Princeton University Gordon Wu '58 Professor Emeritus of Chinese Studies, Professor of East Asian Studies and History, and former Chair of the Department of East Asian Studies at Princeton. He works at the intersection of several fields including history, philosophy, literature, religion, economics, politics, and science. His ongoing interest is in rethinking how the history of East Asia has been told in the West as well as in China, Japan, and Korea.

Elman's recent books include *Classicism, Examinations, and Cultural History* (2010); *A Cultural History of Modern Science in China* (2009); *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart: A History of the World from the Beginnings of Humankind to the Present* (2018). He is the co-editor of *What China and India Once Were. The Past That May Shape the Global Future* (2018).

Location

The Auditorium

Australian Centre on China in the World
China in the World Building #188
Fellows Lane, ANU

RSVP by 4 March 2020

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This lecture is free and open to the public.

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Historians of “Chinese science” until recently have spent much of their time researching issues in pre-modern natural studies and trying to explain why modern science, technology, and medicine arrived so late in China. The “Needham Question”—Why did a divided Europe, and not imperial China, develop modern science first?—until recently remained preeminent.

Increasingly, we are able to address modern science in Chinese cities from a comparative point of view and include it in the story of global science. This lecture explores the driving factors of modern scientific development in Shanghai post-Taiping Rebellion (1850-1867), which led to an increase in job opportunities in public and private industries in the early twentieth century.