

COMPETING NARRATIVES BETWEEN NOMADIC PEOPLE AND THEIR  
SEDENTARY NEIGHBOURS

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# Competing Narratives between Nomadic People and their Sedentary Neighbours

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## Preface

The Centre for Turkish Studies and the Institute of Global Studies at Shanghai University and the Departments of Altaic Studies and Medieval History together with the MTA–ELTE–SZTE Silk Road Research Group at the University of Szeged organized the Seventh International Conference on Medieval History of the Eurasian Steppe in Shanghai on November 9–12, 2018. This conference evolved from previous conferences on the history of medieval nomads of the Eurasian steppe held in 1997, 2000 and 2002 at the University of Szeged. These early conferences were a forum mainly for Hungarian historians and orientalist and the proceedings were published in Hungarian. In 2004 it was decided to convene an International Conference on the Medieval History of the Eurasian Steppe. The first conference of this kind was held in Szeged in 2004 and the honorary guest was the father of Eurasian Studies, Denis Sinor, the second was in Jászberény in 2007, the third in Miskolc (Hungary) in 2009, the fourth in Cairo (Egypt) in 2011, the fifth in Moscow in 2013 and the sixth in Szeged in 2016. The proceedings were published in *Acta Orientalia* (58: 2005), *Chronica* (7–8: 2007–8), *Chronica* (11: 2011), *Bjulleten' (Newsletter) Obshchestva vostokovedov*. Vyp. 21. Moscow 2014, and *Chronica* (18: 2018).

The preliminary program of the conference included 39 lectures and the participants came from China, Russia, Hungary, Turkey, USA, Israel, Croatia, Germany, Spain and Italy. On the 9<sup>th</sup> of November 2019 participants arrived and registered at the Lehu Hotel of the University of Shanghai. On the 10<sup>th</sup> November the first working day started at 9 o'clock. In his opening speech Zhang Yong-an, the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts of Shanghai University, greeted the participants and opened the conference. István Zimonyi, the head of the Department of Altaic Studies and of the Department of Medieval History at the University of Szeged delivered preliminary remarks on the current state of the study of the nomadic peoples of the Eurasian steppe in Hungary. Then, lectures were read until 5.30 pm. On Sunday, the 11<sup>th</sup> of November, there was city tour in Shanghai. The participants visited Shanghai Museum and the Yu Garden and finally they had dinner at the Renaissance Hotel. On the 12<sup>th</sup> of November the conference continued with lectures in parallel sections. The majority of the presentations were followed by lively debate. In the evening there was a reception for the participants.

I would like to express special thanks to my colleagues from Shanghai University, to Dr. Chen Hao for his organizing work before and during the conference, and to Professor Guo Chang-gang, dean of the Institute of Global Studies and director of the Centre of Turkish Studies, for his support and financial

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backing. I asked Dr. Chen Hao to take on the editorial work for publication. The English version of the proceedings was accepted for publication in the series of the Department of Altaic Studies, *Studia Uralo-Altaica* 53. The Chinese version will be published by Shanghai University.

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*István Zimonyi*

