

Plague Fighter and Conference Diplomacy: Wu Lien-Teh Revisited



Delegates of the International Plague Conference in Session, Mukden, April 1911. Dr. Wu Lien-teh (President) with Prof. S. Kitasato on his left.

Wu Lien-Teh ed., *Manchurian Plague Prevention Service 1912-1932: Memorial Volume* (1934).

Professor Sin Kiong WONG

(National University of Singapore)

2pm, 24 Nov (Thursday), 2022 (in-person seminar)

Room LG19 (Law Faculty, Sidgwick Site)

Abstract

The Manchurian plague from the winter of 1910 to the spring of 1911 was the worst epidemic in twentieth-century China, and the ensuing International Plague Conference marked the first international medical conference hosted by China. Wu Lien-Teh 伍連德 (1879-1960) played a significant role in these two connected historical events. In addition to the key role Wu played in the plague-fighting, this talk focuses on how Wu maneuvered “conference diplomacy” and leveraged this conference to mitigate Japan’s and Russia’s attempts to achieve their political and territorial goals.

Speaker

Sin Kiong Wong (黃賢強) is an Associate Professor and former Head of the Department of Chinese Studies, National University of Singapore. He is interested in modern Chinese history, Southeast Asian Chinese history, and the interaction between China and Southeast Asia in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. His most recent publication is *Revolution, Personalities, and Society: Perspectives on the Chinese in Southeast Asia* (2022, in Chinese). His new book, *A New Study on Wu Lien-Teh: Nanyang Intellectuals and Modern Medicine and Public Health in China*, is forthcoming from the National Taiwan University Press, under the NTU & Harvard-Yenching Institute Academic Book Series.



Photo: Wellcome Collection