With the rise of global history and art history, there is an ever-more intense interest in the Mongol period as a historiographical watershed. The so-called Pax Mongolica lasted less than two hundred years, but both the size and the scope of the Mongol empire were unprecedented. At its fullest extent, the Mongol states claimed territories from Hungary to Korea, and they reconfigured the basic zones of Afro-Eurasian trade and contact. People, objects, and ideas traveled across Asia, Europe, and into Africa, in a movement that has been framed as the first step in an accelerating global modernism based on circulation of goods and capital. It is the aim of this conference to take stock of this historical turn and to explore the Mongol impact and legacy in the early modern world and in contemporary histories. What is at stake for instance in framing the Mongols as harbingers of modernity? What are the rewards and limits of taking the Mongol moment as a defining case for the project of global history or art history as a whole, and what does the Pax Mongolica model offer that is distinctive from examples in later colonial periods?
Monday, December 10

Introductory Remarks
9:30 Alina Payne (I Tatti/Harvard University)
Anne Dunlop (University of Melbourne)
Welcome and Introduction

Session 1: Routes and Narratives I
Chair: Nicholas Terpstra (I Tatti / University of Toronto)
9:45 Christopher Atwood
(University of Pennsylvania)
The Political Economy of the Mongol Empire:
Placing Cultural Exchange in its Economic Context
10:15 Peter Jackson (Keele University)
From Chinggis Khan to Tamerlane
10:45 Discussion
11:15 Coffee
11:30 David M. Robinson (Colgate University)
Competitive Storytelling: The Early Ming Court’s Chinggisid Narrative
12:00 Morris Rossabi (CUNY/Columbia University)
The Mongols and the Sea
12:30 Discussion
13:00 Buffet Lunch

Session 2: Routes and Narratives II
Chair: Thomas Gruber (I Tatti)
14:30 Michal Biran (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
Ilkhanid Baghdad (1258-1335):
Between the Local and the Global
15:00 Reuven Amitai
(Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
Setting the Stage for the Modern Middle East:
The Mongols in Southwest Asia and Long-Term Demographic, Linguistic, and Economic Trends
15:30 Marie Favereau (Oxford University)
The Golden Horde and the Changing Dynamics of the ‘Pax Mongolica’
16:00 Tea
16:15 Discussion

Tuesday, December 11

Session 3: Commodities, Objects, Images I
Chair: Paul Davies (I Tatti / University of Reading)
9:45 Yong Cho (Yale University)
Woven Pictures in the Yuan Court:
The Mongol Art at the Center of a Global Empire
10:15 Eiren Shea (Grinnell College)
Yuan Court Dress and the Formation of a Global Mongol Aesthetic
10:45 Discussion
11:15 Coffee

Session 4: Commodities, Objects, Images II
Chair: Alexei Lidov (I Tatti / Lomonosov Moscow State University)
14:30 Yuka Kadoi (Independent Scholar)
The (Re)Birth of Ilkhanid Art
15:00 Persis Berlekamp (University of Chicago)
Global, Mediterranean, and Islamic Art Histories: Their Gains and Losses at ‘Ayn Jalut
15:30 Angelo Cattaneo
(Universidade Nova de Lisboa)
Fra Mauro’s ‘Map of the World’ and the ‘Honil Kangni Yôktae Kukto Chi To Do’:
Migrating World Views in the Spaces of the Mongol Empire
16:00 Tea
16:15 Discussion

11:30 Juliane von Fircks
(Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena)
Mongol Splendor – Cloths of Gold between China, Iran and Europe
12:00 Nam Jong Kuk (Ewha Womans University)
Rethinking Trade between Europe and the Mongol Realm during the ‘Pax Mongolica’
12:30 Discussion
13:00 Buffet Lunch