

## 2020/2021 School of Chinese Research Student Seminar

### 不誠懇的投誠——順治年間琉球的投誠考 An insincere defection: tracing the formation of Qing-Ryukyu relation (1644-1653)

**Speaker: Mr. CASTRO Jason 嘉柏權**

**Date and Time: May 14, 2021 (Fri) 5:30-6:45pm**

**Language: Putonghua**

**<https://hku.zoom.us/j/96399882063?pwd=WFFkVEhLd3NSaklIUC9IRTF4N1U1UT09>**

**Zoom Meeting ID: 963 9988 2063**

**Password: 556909**

甲申（1644）事變前後，中國士民受到頗大的波動；遠在海外的藩屬國，亦各自採取了不同的方法應對東亞國際秩序的劇變。明清易代期間，東亞局勢紛亂；琉球王國遠在海外，未能及時獲取最新的中國情報。琉球遂選擇在中國諸勢力之間遊走，並未即時向單一政權投誠。自順治元年（1644）開始，琉球游離於中國多個政權之間，並在順治四年（1647）才開始與清廷接觸，最後在順治九年（1652）向清廷投誠並確立了封貢關係。

此報告首先會對琉球投誠的過程進行整理，討論琉球在投誠前所面對的壓力。隨後，講者會以琉球國的史料為證據，考察琉球國在投誠前所捏造「故事」的真實性；特別是琉球方極力強調的「順治七年（1650）使節團」和「先王敕印隨葬說」。講者認為通過對此二事的考查，正能映照琉球在東亞局勢混亂時的生存之道。貿易王國琉球如何通過各種虛與委蛇的說辭和靈活的外交手段，在東亞諸勢力之間的夾縫中保存自身的過程，能為我們了解海外藩屬國如何對應明清易代一事，提供一種全新的視角。

The fall of Beijing in 1644 shocked not only the Chinese, but also the tributary states in North-east Asia. In response to the drastically changing order, Asian states adopted different policies to cope with it. The chaotic environment in China (1644-1654) hindered the Ryukyuan from accessing the latest information in China, which further increased the difficulty of making appropriate decisions. To avoid actions that might enrage different powers in China, the Ryukyu Kingdom decided not to pledge loyalty to one single regime. Eventually the Ryukyuan started to contact the Qing regime in 1647, after the Manchu had occupied Fuzhou, the only port that Ryukyuan ships were officially allowed to enter. The Shunzhi Emperor sent the same diplomatic mission twice to Ryukyu, advising the Kingdom to swear allegiance to the Qing Emperor. The Ryukyu Kingdom ultimately sent an embassy to Beijing in 1652, recognizing the Qing court as the only legitimate government in China.

The speaker will first trace the process of establishing Qing-Ryukyu diplomatic relations, and discuss the situation that Ryukyuan was facing from the mid-1640s to mid-1650s. He will then examine the truthfulness of two incidents stressed by the Ryukyu Kingdom, namely, the “Ryukyu’s 1650 embassy” and the funeral ceremony of the Ryukyu Kings, and attempt to prove that both incidents were made-up stories created by the Ryukyu court. Through analyzing the reason behind the story-making, we can figure out how the Ryukyu court preserved its independence in the anarchic North-eastern Asia in the mid-17th century. By studying the circumstances that the Ryukyu Kingdom encountered and how it handled the difficulties by means of insincere civility and resourcefulness in diplomacy, we can re-observe the Ming-Qing transition from a brand new foreign perspective.

***The presentation will be held online (via Zoom)***

**ALL are welcome**