

## Trade Networks and Maritime Expansion in East Asian Studies

The focus of this part goes from the micro to the macro perspective, embracing the so-called ‘jeux des échelles’, in order to analyse the inner dynamics of the trade between Japan, China and Southeast Asian areas in the context of a global network system through the crucial role of socioeconomic agents such as local and private traders of Chinese and Japanese origin, as well as those from Europe. Reviewing from a wide perspective the role of geostrategic port cities in East Asia, and reducing the scale to a more local context, we might observe: (1) local flows of trade and capital through the study of the tribute system and the transformation of such a system during the Ming dynasty; (2) typologies or categories of commerce such as the illegal form with the ‘barbarians’ of South China Sea trade, the so-called nanban (南蛮) trade and the official shuinsen (朱印船) commerce; (3) social agents, mainly the Jewish trade networks of Portuguese origin in Japan and China; (4) the models of navigation systems, which were crucial for the development of commerce, long-distance communication and market integration.