The sessions, including wonderful visual material, will consider the first encounters between Christians and Muslims, Europeans and Africans, Asians, and Americans; from the slave entrepôts of West Africa, to the spice markets of India, to the bustling cities of China. By the early decades of the seventeenth century, European merchants, missionaries, conquerors, and adventurers would establish colonies and trading outposts from the Pacific coast of the Americas to the farthest shores of Asia. In some regions, these Europeans would seek to replace the civilizations they encountered with new ones made in their image; elsewhere they would seek to be recognized within existing networks of trade, politics, and culture.