Workshop

"The Differential Diffusion in the Middle East of 'Small Technologies' from Europe and the USA"

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On the Theme of the lecture:

Sometime after the 1500s, the direction of transfer of new technologies between the Islamic world and Europe is thought to have become reversed.

Though some exceptions can be mentioned, on the whole, after the eighteenth century, major technological innovations came from Europe and reached the Middle East through direct or indirect Imperialist channels. Most current literature sees 'big technologies' embedded in a power structure, while some (Arab, usually not Turkish) nationalists entertain similar criticisms. An often-overlooked question, is how 'big technologies' ultimately became 'small', in the sense of accessibility and affordability to common people.

Here are some of the questions that are to be discussed:

Who imported these new technologies, and what for?

How were they marketed and advertised?

When did they trickle down from the elites to lower social echelons?

Date: March 27 (Monday) 15:00-17:00

Language: English

Venue: Shiseikan 3F Conference Hall Doshisha University