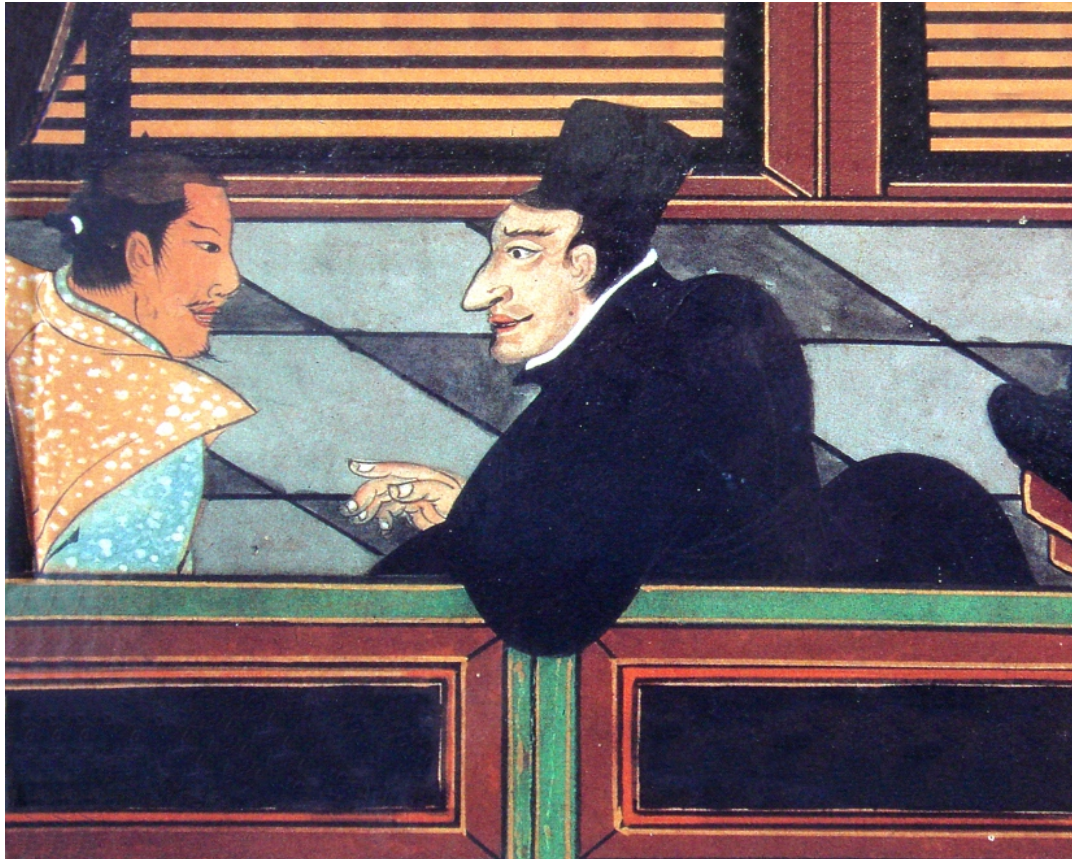


European and Asian Interactions: The Buddhist Sects in Japan and the Jesuit Mission circa 1600



Lisbon, Museu Nacional de Arte Antiga, Namban folding screen (detail) attributed to Kano Domi, Japan, ca. 1593-1600, 172.8x380.8 cm

The century of the Portuguese presence in Japan (c.1543-c.1539) defines a field in which intercultural rivalry, discussion and exchange can be studied in detail. The project we present aims at promoting comprehensive research on the way Southern Europeans and Japanese confronted each other, interacted and mutually experienced religious “otherness” through the study of the composite cultural heritage, mostly created in Japan, by both European and Japanese. The arrival of European traders, mercenaries and well-trained members of religious orders in East Asia prompted a wave of debate, studies and controversies between Buddhist monks and their Western counterparts. In this regard, Jesuits in Japan played a major role in this global enterprise and, contrary to their policies in China, started to interact with the composite Buddhist clergies and the political elite.

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