Conceptualize History into “Dots and Lines”

Dynamic Network Analysis of the History of Chinoiserie Architecture in Germany

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Outline

- **History** of Chinoiserie
- **Network**: build Chinoiserie network
- **Diffusion analysis**:
  - Adopter types: 5 phases
  - Adoption thresholds
- **Historical explanation of network analysis**
“Chinoiserie”
A French word, meaning “chinese-esque”

- in decorative arts
- in architecture

Chinoiserie is not “Chinese,” but “European”
The Chinese Garden, a chinoiserie painting by François Boucher.
Chinoiserie porcelain, made in Europe
Chinoiserie furniture
Chinoiserie interior, mirror cabinet in Schönbrunn Palace, Austria
Chinoiserie interior,
Schönbrunn Palace,
Austria
Chinoiserie in Architecture

Trianon de Procelain, 1767 Versaille, France
Architectural Chinoiserie in Germany

Chinese/Japanese Tea House, Sanssouci, Potsdam, Germany
Architectural Chinoiserie in Germany

Chinese Tower, English Garden, Munich, Germany
Architectural Chinoiserie in Germany

Selected sites with Chinoiserie buildings:

1. Sanssouci, Potsdam
2. New Garden, Potsdam
3. Pillnitz, Dresden
4. Mulang, Wilhelmshöhe, Kassel
5. Nyphemburg, Munich
6. English Garden, Munich
7. Ludwigsberg, Saarbrücken
8. Karlsruhe Palace, Karsruhe
Build Chinoiserie Network
First try

Gardner House

Dragon house

Chinese Tea House

Chinese Tower

pagoda form?

by same architect?

on the same site?
First try

- Gardner House
- Dragon house
- Chinese Tea House
- Chinese Tower

Questions:
- Pagoda form?
- By same architect?
- On the same site?
Compare fist and second tries

Confusing relation

Nodes from extra modes
Big question

Who (architects) designed which buildings (tasks) for whom (sponsors) at where (locations) with reference to what (knowledge)?

- Modes:
  - Actor
  - Task
  - Location
  - Knowledge
Modes:
- Actor
- Task
- Location
- Knowledge
Modes:

- Actor
- Task
- Location
- Knowledge
Dynamic Network of Chinoiserie Architecture in Germany (8 sites)
Diffusion Analysis
Goal

study the spread of Chinoiserie ideas among people
Mission impossible!

Actor x Actor
Discover unknown links

Focus Theory, Feld 81

Co-task affiliation

Co-location affiliation
All linked up!
Two Diffusion Measures
5 types of adopters

- Early adopters
- Early majority
- Late majority
- Laggards

(Rogers 1962, p. 150)
Five types of adopters over time
Five types of adopters over time
Thresholds

willingness to adopt
Definition of threshold (Valente 1996)
Thresholds of each actors in Chinoiserie Network
Some Thoughts
It is fun to study history with network approach.
It helps to solve difficulties in historical research with a structuralist method.
However, results of the structural analysis need a historical round-up.
Thank You

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