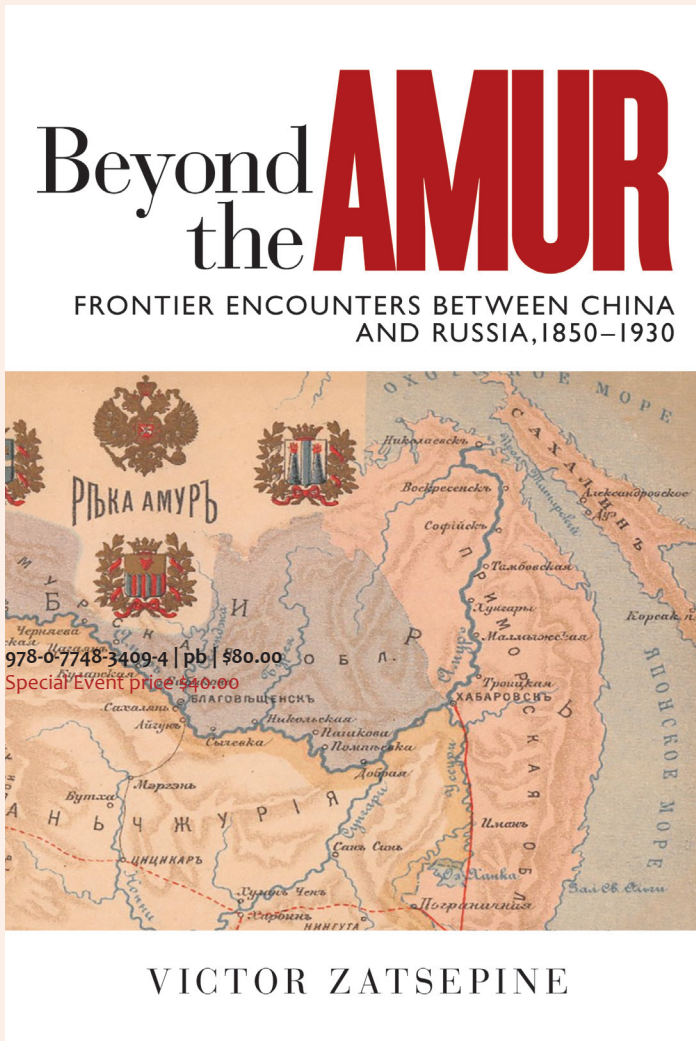


They came from everywhere: The people of the Amur



Dr. Victor Zatssepine is an assistant professor in the history department of the University of Connecticut. He holds degrees from Beijing Language and Culture University, Harvard and the University of British Columbia, and specializes in China's frontier and international history. Prior to joining the University of Connecticut, he was a research assistant professor at Hong Kong University. Among his recent publications is a volume, co-edited with Laura Victoir, *Harbin to Hanoi: The Colonial Built Environment in Asia, 1840 to 1940* (HKU Press, 2013).

Join **Victor Zatssepine**
for a talk about his new book

Beyond the Amur
Frontier Encounters Between
China and Russia, 1850-1930

Monday, March 13th

12:00pm - 1:30pm

University of British Columbia

Buchanan Tower, Room 1197

1873 East Mall

Victor Zatssepine will talk about his recently published book, ***Beyond the Amur: Frontier Encounters Between China and Russia, 1850-1930*** where he describes the distinctive frontier society that developed in the Amur, a river region that shifted between Qing China and Imperial Russia as the two empires competed for resources. Although official imperial histories depict the Amur as a distant battleground between rival empires, this colourful history of a region and its people tells a different story.

Drawing on both Russian and Chinese sources, Dr. Zatssepine shows that the border between the Russian Far East and Manchuria remained porous. Neither Russia nor China could control the flow of goods, people, or ideas into the region. Various peoples -- Chinese, Russian, Indigenous, Japanese, Korean, Manchu, and Mongol -- crossed the border in pursuit of work and trade, exchanging ideas and knowledge as they adapted to the harsh physical environment. Much to the chagrin of bureaucrats, whose loyalties remained tied to distant capitals, trade, railways, and towns flourished in step with a distinctive regional culture.

By viewing the Amur as a unified natural economy caught between two empires, Dr. Zatssepine highlights the often-overlooked influence of regional developments on imperial policies and the importance of climate and geography to local, state, and imperial histories.