

4  
WINTER  
ISSUE  
2010

# ASIAN STUDIES NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 55, NUMBER 4

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### HONOLULU, HAWAII

MARCH 31–APRIL 3, 2011

A special joint conference of the  
Association for Asian Studies and the  
International Convention of Asia  
Scholars in celebration of

*70 Years of Asian studies*

NEXT COPY DEADLINE:  
January 3, 2011

To be mailed early  
February 2011



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K. Sivaramakrishnan, Yale University, President  
Gail Hershatter, University of California, Santa Cruz, Vice President  
Michael Paschal, Executive Director

**ASSOCIATION FOR ASIAN STUDIES, INC.**  
**[www.asian-studies.org](http://www.asian-studies.org)**

# Selected AAS Publications Order Form

View the AAS Publications Catalog at [www.asian-studies.org](http://www.asian-studies.org)

## "ASIA PAST & PRESENT" New Research from AAS

	Qty	Price	Total
Beating Devils and Burning Their Books: Views of China, Japan, and the West (Clark)		\$25 (\$20 AAS members)	
Collecting Asia: East Asian Libraries in North America, 1868–2008 (Zhou)		\$70 (\$56 AAS members)	\$
To Die and Not Decay: Autobiography and the Pursuit of Immortality in Early China (Wells)		\$25 (\$20 AAS members)	\$
Prescribing Colonization: The Role of Medical Practices and Policies in Japan-Ruled Taiwan, 1895–1945 (Liu)		\$25 (\$20 AAS members)	\$
Tools of Culture: Japan's Cultural, Intellectual, Medical, and Technological Contacts in East Asia, 1000s to 1500s (Goble, Robinson, Wakabayashi)		\$28 (\$22.40 AAS members)	\$
Modern Short Fiction of Southeast Asia: A Literary History (Yamada)		\$28 (\$22.40 AAS members)	\$

**ADD POSTAGE/HANDLING:** For "Collecting Asia," postage is: U.S. orders, \$10 first copy, \$5.00 each additional. Canada, \$20 first copy, \$10 each additional. Rest of the World, \$35 first copy, \$10 each additional. For all other "Asia Past & Present" books: U.S. orders, \$5 first copy, \$2.00 each additional. Canada, \$10 first copy, \$3 each additional. Rest of the World, \$15 first copy, \$5 each additional. For orders of more than five books, postage will be individually calculated on the basis of weight. Contact Teresa Spence at [tspence@asian-studies.org](mailto:tspence@asian-studies.org).

## "KEY ISSUES IN ASIAN STUDIES" Booklets

	Qty	Price	Total
Imperialism and Japan, 1853–1945 (Huffman)		\$10 (\$8 AAS members)	\$
Japanese Popular Culture and Globalization (Tsutsui)		\$10 (\$8 AAS members)	\$
Global India circa 100 CE: South Asia in Early World History (Davis)		\$10 (\$8 AAS members)	\$
Caste in India (Mines)		\$10 (\$8 AAS members)	\$
Understanding East Asia's Economic "Miracles" (Zhu)		\$10 (\$8 AAS members)	\$
Political Rights in Post-Mao China (Goldman)		\$10 (\$8 AAS members)	\$
Gender, Sexuality, and Body Politics in Modern Asia (Peletz)		\$10 (\$8 AAS members)	\$

**ADD POSTAGE/HANDLING:** U.S. orders, \$3.50 first copy, \$2 each additional. Canada, \$5 first copy, \$2.50 each additional. Rest of the World, \$10 first copy, \$3 each additional. For orders of more than five booklets, postage will be individually calculated on the basis of weight.

## EDUCATION ABOUT ASIA (EAA)

Published three times a year (Spring, Fall, and Winter), this unique and innovative magazine is a practical teaching resource for secondary school, college, and university instructors, as well as an invaluable source of information for students, scholars, libraries, and those who have an interest in Asia.

	Qty	Price (circle U.S. or non-U.S.)	Total
Current AAS Member: One-year subscription		\$20 U.S., \$30 Non-U.S.	\$
Non-Member Individual: One-year subscription		\$30 U.S., \$37 Non-U.S.	\$
Organization (School, Library): One-year subscription		\$36 U.S., \$43 Non-U.S.	\$

**POSTAGE IS INCLUDED IN THE SUBSCRIPTION PRICE FOR EAA.**

**Order Total:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Postage & Handling:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Grand Total:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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**Association for Asian Studies**

1021 E. Huron Street  
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Fax: (734) 665-3801



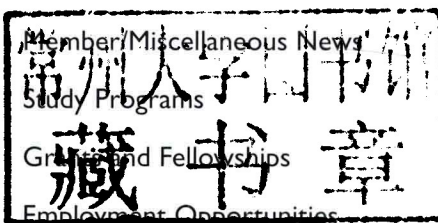
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# HONOLULU, HAWAII 2011

A special joint meeting of the  
Association for Asian Studies and the  
International Convention of Asia Scholars  
in celebration of

70 years of Asian studies



Photos: David Cornwell, Hawaii Tourism Association (HTA)/Tor Johnson, Hawaii Tourism Japan (HTJ)

Mark your calendar!  
**March 31–April 3, 2011**



*Association for Asian Studies*



**International Convention  
of Asia Scholars**

For more information and to register go to [www.asian-studies.org](http://www.asian-studies.org)



## Call for Nominations: Fall 2011 Elections

AAS Members are invited to send nomination suggestions for all positions to be voted on in the fall 2011 elections: Vice President, and representatives to CIAC, NEAC, SAC, SEAC, and COC. Send suggested names to: **2011 Ballot, Association for Asian Studies, 1021 E. Huron Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48104**, or by email to Michael Paschal (mpaschal@asian-studies.org). Please identify the office or council for which you are proposing any name. **Deadline for receipt of names from members-at-large is March 1, 2011.** All names received by that date will be given to the appropriate councils for consideration at their annual meetings later that month. The process is outlined below.

Each council when it meets in Honolulu will prepare a list of twelve to fourteen names to be given to the AAS Nominating Committee, which in turn, will prioritize the names submitted by the councils as well as any received from members-at-large. From these priority lists, prospective candidates will be approached. According to the AAS Constitution, each candidate must consent in writing to have his or her name placed on the ballot.

Three regional conferences will elect one member each to the Council of Conferences on the next ballot. Those electing conferences will be the Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference (MAR); the Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs (MCAA); and the Asian Studies Conference Japan (ASCJ). The nine regional conferences are legally autonomous, but linked to the AAS through their representatives on the Council of Conferences. Each regional conference, every third year, elects a new representative to sit on the Council of Conferences for a term of three years. The process is repeated on a rotational basis. No council member may succeed him/herself on a council.

After the Nominating Committee has approved and confirmed the lists of nominees presented to it by the councils, the secretariat will check the entire list to assure that memberships are current. The secretariat then will send letters of invitation to each of the nominees. Those consenting to stand for election will return a written confirmation to that effect. Nominations by petition also will be accepted by the secretariat. Petitioned nominations will appear on the ballot, but a petition must be signed by one percent of the AAS voting membership (**70 names**) and submitted to the secretariat by **August 15, 2011**.

Traditionally, the office of **Vice President** rotates among the four world areas. The 2011 Vice Presidential nominees will be drawn from among specialists in the **Southeast Asia** field of study. As with all offices, suggestions for a Vice Presidential candidate may be submitted to the secretariat by **March 1, 2011**. Any names submitted to the secretariat will be given to the Southeast Asia Council (SEAC) chair and will be considered along with other names as the council members build their lists for consideration by the Nominating Committee.

The 2011 ballot will be available electronically in September.

## FALL 2010 ELECTION RESULTS

**The polls have closed and the ballots counted for the AAS fall 2010 elections.**

As noted in email notices and on the AAS website, the voting period was extended a week due to computer down time experienced at the secretariat. We are pleased to announce that **Ted Bestor** was elected as the next Vice President. Voting results were compiled electronically and 1,486 ballots were cast, (three more than last year!) which represents about 21% of the membership. As usual, most races were very close across the board, with a few slots separated by literally only one or two votes.

Elected candidates officially take office **AFTER** the upcoming meeting in Honolulu, but typically are invited to attend the meetings as observers. We would like to sincerely thank all candidates for agreeing to run for election. Their willingness to devote considerable time and energy in serving the AAS is greatly appreciated and indispensable.

Listed below are the final results for all councils, which also will be posted on the website.

**President:** Gail Hershatter (UC-Santa Cruz, automatically succeeds from VP)

**Vice President:** Ted Bestor (Harvard U., anthropology)

### **China and Inner Asia Council (CIAC):**

David Strand (Dickinson College, political science)  
Eugene Wang (Harvard U., history of art & architecture)  
Chun-fang Yu (Columbia U., religion)

### **Northeast Asia Council (NEAC):**

Charles Armstrong (Columbia U., history)  
Susan Long (John Carroll U., anthropology)  
Patricia MacLachlan (U. of Texas, political science)

### **South Asia Council (SAC):**

Farina Mir (U. of Michigan, history)  
Christian Lee Novetzke (U. of Washington, religious studies)  
John D. Rogers (American Institute of Sri Lankan Studies, history)

### **Southeast Asia Council (SEAC):**

Patricio Abinales (Kyoto U., politics)  
George Dutton (UCLA, history)  
Andrew Willford (Cornell U., anthropology)

### **Council of Conferences (COC):**

#### **New York Conference on Asian Studies (NYCAS):**

Michael Pettid (Binghamton U., literature and history)

#### **Southeast Regional Conference:**

James Anderson (Univ. of N. Carolina-Greensboro, history)

#### **Southwest Conference on Asian Studies (SWCAS):**

Paul Clark (West Texas A&M U., history)

# The AAS via E-Mail

## President

K. Sivaramakrishnan, Yale University

k.sivaramakrishnan@yale.edu

## Vice President

Gail Hershatter, Univ. of California, Santa Cruz

gbhers@ucsc.edu

## Past President

Robert W. Hefner, Boston University

rhefner@bu.edu

## Past-Past President

Robert Buswell, UCLA

buswell@humnet.ucla.edu

For a full listing of officers, visit [www.asian-studies.org/about/board.htm](http://www.asian-studies.org/about/board.htm)

## Below is a list of e-mail contacts for the AAS Secretariat.

If you wish to submit an announcement for the Newsletter, please refer to the masthead opposite or view the contact information at the top of the relevant section.

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# ASIAN STUDIES NEWSLETTER

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AAS Conference News

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Conference/Symposia Reports

**Eric Strahorn**

"Publishing Matters"

**Paul Kratoska**

The Asian Studies Newsletter is published four times annually. Deadlines for copy: January 1, April 1, September 1, and November 1. The AAS reserves the right to edit all material submitted for publication.

Subscriptions are available to non-members: U.S. addresses, \$30/yr; Non-US, \$40/yr. Optional postage and handling for First Class/Airmail service is as follows: U.S., \$9.00; Canada, \$11.50; Mexico: \$14.00; Central America, Caribbean, and South America, \$25.00; Europe, \$27.00; Africa, Asia, and Australia, \$30.00. Optional postage and handling costs must be PREPAID and included with subscription payment.

The AAS is a scholarly, non-political, and non-profit professional association open to all persons interested in Asia and the scholarly study of Asia. For information about membership dues and rates, please visit the AAS website—[www.asian-studies.org](http://www.asian-studies.org).

## Association for Asian Studies

1021 East Huron Street

Ann Arbor, MI 48104 USA

Tel: (734) 665-2490

Fax: (734) 665-3801

[www.asian-studies.org](http://www.asian-studies.org)

On the cover: Waikiki Beach Walk, Honolulu, Hawaii. Photos courtesy of Hawaii Visitors & Convention Bureau.

## AAS Mailing Labels

The Association rents its mailing list either in its entirety or subsets sorted by area, discipline, etc., for specific, one-time use to individuals or organizations with appropriate academic, professional, or business purposes. A copy of proposed mailings for our review are required prior to shipping lists. We are exploring possibilities of producing electronic mail lists with the same intent. If you do not wish to be included in either electronic or printed label formats, notify AAS Membership Manager Doreen Ilozor at [dilozor@asian-studies.org](mailto:dilozor@asian-studies.org) or at the AAS Secretariat mailing address listed opposite.



# 2011 AAS-ICAS Joint Conference

Honolulu, HI, March 31–April 3, 2011

- **For a listing of panels for Hawaii 2011, visit [www.asian-studies.org/Conference](http://www.asian-studies.org/Conference)**
- **The absolute deadline for pre-registration is MARCH 10, 2011.**
- **Register securely online on the AAS website at [www.asian-studies.org/Conference](http://www.asian-studies.org/Conference)**

**The 2011 AAS-ICAS Joint Conference in Honolulu is set to be the largest ever conference on Asian studies. A record-breaking 763 panels have been scheduled over the four days of the conference.**

The 763 panels include 43 Roundtables, 12 Workshops and over 100 Individual Paper panel sessions.

A complete listing of panels, titles, and presenters who pre-registered by the December 2 deadline will be included in the 2011 Conference Program, which will be mailed in early March. The Program will also be available on the AAS website in mid-February.

Panel Participants: Please refer to the "Program" section of the Annual Conference webpages for more information on your scheduled panel and important information and deadlines.

## Registration

**The deadline for pre-registration is March 10, 2011. Participants who wish to be listed in the 2011 AAS Conference Program must have pre-registered by December 2, 2010.**

All conference attendees not registered by March 10, 2011 must register on-site at the on-site rates. You may pre-register online, via fax, or by mail. We accept MasterCard, Visa and American Express online and personal checks via mail.

Pre-registration rates are \$125 for AAS members and \$175 for non-members. A special student rate is available with a valid student ID or an official enrollment certificate from your university. In order to register at the student rate, students must email or fax a copy of the valid student ID or the enrollment certificate to Lisa Hanselman at [lhanselman@asian-studies.org](mailto:lhanselman@asian-studies.org) before the pre-registration deadline.

**Plans Changed?** The refund deadline for all panel participants was December 2, 2010. For all others, if you have pre-registered and your plans have changed and you cannot attend the conference, you are eligible for a refund **up to February 1, 2011**. There will be a \$20 processing fee assessed for all refunds issued.

## Name Badges

Due to the volume of registrations, and the time necessary to print and mail name badges, we cannot process any pre-registrations received after the March 10, 2011 deadline. Name badges will be mailed in March.

Name badges will only include name and affiliation. We will not print titles and/or rank on badges.

## Hawaii Convention Center & Shuttle Services

All panel sessions, keynote address and receptions will take place at the **Hawaii Convention Center**, 1801 Kalakaua Avenue, Honolulu, Hawaii, located 7.5 miles from the Honolulu International Airport. The convention center is a beautiful structure with open air corridors and features a rooftop tropical garden, glass encased meeting rooms, and outdoor function space lined with giant palm trees.

This will mark the first time the AAS Conference has held panel sessions outside of a traditional hotel setting. Although the Hawaii Convention Center is conveniently located to many of the official

conference hotels, the AAS will offer **free shuttle service** from the Hilton Hawaiian Village Resort & Spa Hotel and the Sheraton Princess Kaiulani Hotel during the four-day conference.

## Hotels

The AAS has negotiated special conference rates at four hotels. The headquarters hotel for the AAS-ICAS Conference is the **Hilton Hawaiian Village Beach Resort & Spa** located on 22 acres of Waikiki Beach. The Hotel is 20 minutes from the airport and a short walk from the Hawaii Convention Center. **All pre-conference activities will take place at the Hilton Hawaiian Village.**

The four official 2011 conference hotels are:

- **Hilton Hawaiian Village Beach Resort & Spa** (the conference headquarters hotel. Early bird rates available for a limited time)
- **Ala Moana Hotel** (conference room block already full)
- **Hawaii Prince Hotel Waikiki**
- **Sheraton Princess Kaiulani**

The AAS has taken great efforts to negotiate low and reasonable rates for all individuals attending the conference by offering a wonderful variety of hotels to serve all attendees. **We encourage everyone to book within the special AAS hotel blocks** as this allows the AAS to continue to keep conference registration rates low and helps the Association avoid being penalized for hotel rooms not sold.

Conference attendees must make their own hotel reservation and will receive these special rates through links via our website or by calling each hotel directly. Please see the "Conference" section of our website for more information on booking a reservation at the special negotiated conference rates.

## Hotel Reservations: Book Early!

We have a limited block of reduced-price rooms available at each of our official hotels. We encourage you make your reservation as soon as possible, either online or by calling the toll-free numbers listed on our website.

**Please be aware that AAS Conference hotels are filling up very quickly and the conference block may be sold out by the time you receive this newsletter.** Once the room block is full, the hotels

# Sponsorship Opportunities

2011 Joint Conference of  
**Association for Asian Studies and  
International Convention of Asia Scholars**  
celebrating

70 Years of Asian Studies

**Honolulu, Hawaii  
March 31–April 3, 2011**

The two largest associations focused on Asian studies, the AAS and ICAS, will bring together a wide variety of participants involved in the study of Asia. This could prove to be the largest gathering of individuals interested in the study of Asia ever!

Take advantage of the many ways to gain recognition for your organization at this unique event: Receptions, Cyber Cafe, Tote Bag inserts, Concessions/Breaks and much more!



For a full list of opportunities go to  
**[www.asian-studies.org/  
conference](http://www.asian-studies.org/conference)**

will only accept reservations at their prevailing rates which are much higher than the AAS special negotiated rates and only on a space-available basis.

## Panels

A listing of panel sessions can be found on the AAS website under the "Program" tab in the Annual Conference section. Panel sessions are listed by day and by area, as well as in numerical order.

Go to [www.asian-studies.org/Conference/Program.htm](http://www.asian-studies.org/Conference/Program.htm)

## Panel Participants

Active panel participants (panel chairs, paper presenters & discussants) for organized panels and individual paper panels can find information listed on the website as it relates to their participation. Listed below are important deadline dates for all panelists.

**All participants wishing to have their name listed in the Conference Program should have registered by December 2, 2010.** If participants have not registered by this date, only their paper title will be listed within the panel description.

Any changes you wish to make to your abstract (including title) prior to publication online must reach the Secretariat by February 1, 2011. If you do NOT want your abstract to be published online, please inform us by February 1, 2011. Panel abstracts will only be published online.

## Conference Program

The print conference program will be mailed to all AAS members and conference participants in early March and will be available on the AAS website by mid-February. If you will be attending the conference, **PLEASE BE SURE TO BRING YOUR PROGRAM WITH YOU** since supplies will be limited. There will be a small number of replacement Programs for purchase on-site for \$5.00, available on a first-come, first-served basis.

## Meetings-in-Conjunction

Committee and affiliate groups should request time and space for their Meeting-in-Conjunction by completing the form on the AAS Conference website. The AAS will no longer offer MIC panel slots. Meeting spaces should be reserved for only business meetings and receptions. Meeting space for the Hawaii meeting is limited and groups may need to be flexible in scheduling as available times may differ from previous years.

## International Scholars

If you need a visa to attend the meeting, plan to start the process early. Participants accepted to the formal program and in need of a personalized letter, should send a request to the AAS via Teresa Spence at [tspence@asian-studies.org](mailto:tspence@asian-studies.org). Due to increased security, international travelers are finding it may take 60 or more days to get a visa to enter the US.

## Overview of Funding Availability

The AAS has awarded LDC grants and will generate graduate student stipends to assist qualified participants of the 2011 conference. Applications for LDC grants were due August 5, 2010 and all qualified participants have been notified of their awarded grant. Graduate student stipends are available to graduate



## 2011 AAS/ICAS JOINT CONFERENCE IN HONOLULU, HAWAII



# Welcome Reception

**Wednesday, March 30, 6:00–9:00pm**  
**Hilton Hawaiian Village Beach Resort & Spa**

Come and join your friends and colleagues on the Great Lawn overlooking the beach for food, drinks and entertainment

### **Sponsored by:**

The University of Hawai'i, the East-West Center, and the Confucius Institute at the University of Hawai'i

The Hilton Hawaiian Village Beach Resort & Spa is the official hotel of the 2011 AAS/ICAS Joint Conference. With beach access, shops, restaurants, varied events and activities, and beautiful wildlife, you will want to book early. The early bird rate is still available.

student participants accepted to the formal program as either a panel member or individual paper presenter. These students are eligible to receive a subsidy of approximately \$200 to attend the meeting. Individual award amounts will depend upon the overall number of registered student participants. To receive the graduate student subsidy you must have pre-registered by the December 2, 2010 participants' deadline. There is no application process, but late requests will not be accepted. Award checks must be picked up in person (w/current student ID) on-site at the conference. Participants living within 100 miles of Honolulu are not eligible for support. Participants receiving other travel grants (such as LDC or NEAC Korea or Japan Studies Travel Grants) are also not eligible.

We regret that there are no additional funds available to assist visiting scholars or others to attend the 2011 annual conference. In order to pay all costs involved with the meeting and to keep registration fees reasonable for all, we require all who attend to pay the registration fee. This includes students, retired persons, spouses, foreign scholars, and all others who wish to take advantage of the annual conference.

### **Childcare**

The AAS does not provide childcare services on-site at the annual conference. However, in support of panel participants in need of professional childcare services while on-site at the conference, the AAS board of directors has approved reimbursement of up to \$100 per family for professional childcare expenses incurred on-site. Reimbursements are available only for conference attendees on the formal program, and requests must be supported with original receipts and include a completed Childcare Reimbursement Form. The AAS will only accept receipts from professional & licensed childcare providers having rendered services for children 12 years and under in our conference city.

Funds for childcare reimbursement are limited and are distributed on a first-come, first served basis until available funding is depleted. For a reimbursement form, a list of childcare services in the Honolulu area, and/or for more information, please see the AAS conference website. If you have questions or need additional information, contact Alicia Williams at [awilliams@asian-studies.org](mailto:awilliams@asian-studies.org). Note: Referrals are provided solely for the convenience of conference attendees. The AAS does not endorse particular companies, and assumes no liability regarding the services they provide.

### **Job Placement Services Not Available at the Honolulu Conference**

Due to space constraints, we will not be able to offer job placement services at the 2011 Conference in Honolulu. We plan to continue placement services at the 2012 conference in Toronto.

### **Video Screenings**

We are pleased to announce a new collaborative arrangement with Asian Educational Media Service (AEMS) based at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign. Many members are familiar with the great job AEMS has done in the past with preparing the video review section of *Education About Asia*. Based on their mission and expertise at reviewing and evaluating Asian documentary and feature length films for use in the classroom, AEMS has agreed to coordinate, select, and schedule films for the video program at the upcoming AAS-ICAS conference in Hawaii. The conference will be held at the Hawaii Convention Center in Honolulu, and we are happy to note that the films will be screened in a small theater on-site. The deadline for submission of films was December 10, 2010. For further information, please contact Nancy Jervis, Program Director, Asian Educational Media Service; [njervis@illinois.edu](mailto:njervis@illinois.edu); (217) 265-0642; [www.aems.illinois.edu](http://www.aems.illinois.edu).

## From the Director of Development and Strategic Planning

The unprecedented response to the upcoming AAS-ICAS conference in Honolulu is a clear indication of the vitality of the AAS. Building on this positive momentum, there are new funding possibilities on the horizon:

- We are exploring a new, experimental model of dissertation workshops. For the past nine years, David Szanton of UC-Berkeley has organized annual dissertation workshops for Ph.D. candidates held at the time of the AAS annual conference. Evaluations by past participants have been outstanding. Building on the success of these workshops we are now in conversation with the Social Science Research Council (SSRC). SSRC has long experience with various models of dissertation workshops. Together we are exploring new ideas and strategies for future workshops as well as sources of funding to launch such an experimental model of dissertation workshop.
- Bringing presenters from Asia to AAS annual conferences is one of the highest priorities of the AAS Board of Directors. To that end, I am pursuing foundation leads and other sources of funding in Japan. If the discussions are successful, these foundations may fund travel expenses for participants from Japan as well as from other parts of Asia.
- The South Asia Council (SAC) has proposed the creation of a book award in honor of Bernard Cohn, the late anthropologist and historian of British colonialism in India. At its October meeting, the AAS Board of Directors approved this initiative and a committee to guide this effort is being organized. I will work closely with the Cohn Committee to raise funds to launch the award.
- I continue to seek grants for special sections to appear in *Education about Asia (EAA)*, including newly proposed sections on Afghanistan.
- I am researching possible sources of funding to increase the number of panels focused on ancient Asia at AAS conferences and to bring presenters on ancient Asia, particularly scholars from Asia, to future conferences.

There has been a heartening response to the creation of the AAS Legacy Society. It will, of course, be many years before these gifts come to the AAS. Nevertheless, bequest gifts will—over time—strengthen the Association and help the AAS promote the study of Asia far into the future. If you would like to learn more about the new AAS Legacy Society, please contact me at: [rsnow@asian-studies.org](mailto:rsnow@asian-studies.org). For information about how to include the AAS in your will, please go to the “Donate to AAS” section of the AAS website, [www.asian-studies.org](http://www.asian-studies.org).

In the coming months, in addition to pursuing foundation grants and donations from members of the AAS, I will be exploring contacts with corporations and business people with an interest in Asia.

You should have recently received an appeal from AAS President, K. “Shivi” Sivaramakrishnan, for donations to keep the AAS moving forward. Please respond generously!

If you have questions or comments, please contact me at [rsnow@asian-studies.org](mailto:rsnow@asian-studies.org).

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# AAS Dissertation Workshop

## Borders, Migration, and Transnational Flows: Asia in Motion

Honolulu, March 28–31, 2011

We are pleased to announce plans for a tenth consecutive AAS Dissertation Workshop, which will be held in conjunction with the AAS-ICAS joint conference in Honolulu next spring. The workshop will again be organized and led by David Szanton, and follow the model used in previous workshops.

Asia is traditionally conceptualized in terms of reasonably stable bounded regions and bounded states. Yet both historically and today this is far from reality. When their troops are not attacking each other, governments may seem more or less bounded. But for centuries, and increasingly today, vast numbers of people, from all levels of society, as well as ideas and capital, have been moving rapidly back and forth within countries, within Asia, and well beyond it. For many people this is temporary, for work, study, trade, or to escape repression. For others these moves are intended as permanent and often unsettle identities and loyalties. At different points in time, some borders are closed, some deeply contested, while others are quite open. All this movement blurs distinctions and locales like rural and urban, village and city. Identities have always been complex but are becoming ever more so. Stereotypes and “othering” remain common, but many populations are increasingly cosmopolitan thanks to travel and cross-border investments. Novels, plays, art, dance, films, and news media are both exploring and expressing the personal and social implications of these moves. Clearly, new research is needed to help re-conceptualize—socially, culturally, economically, and politically—an Asia fundamentally in motion.

This workshop is intended to bring together doctoral students in the humanities and social sciences who are (1) developing dissertation proposals or are in early phases of research or dissertation writing; and who are (2) also dealing with the kinds of issues mentioned above in the context of contemporary or historic Asian states and societies.

The workshop will be limited to 12 students, ideally from a broad array of disciplines and working on a wide variety of materials in a variety of time periods, and in various regions of Asia. It also will include a small multi-disciplinary and multi-area faculty with similar concerns.

The workshop will be scheduled for the days immediately preceding the 2011 AAS annual conference in Honolulu. It will cover two and one-half days of intense discussion beginning the evening of Monday, March 28, and running through the afternoon of Thursday, March 31.

The AAS will be able to provide limited financial support for participants including three night's accommodations, meals and partial “need-based” travel funds. Students are encouraged to approach their home institutions for additional support. It is hoped that participants also will attend the AAS-ICAS conference immediately following the workshop.

Applicants need not have advanced to candidacy but must have at least drafted a dissertation research proposal. Applications are also welcome from doctoral students in the early phases of writing their dissertations. Applications consist of two items only:

(1) Two copies of a current Curriculum Vitae, and

(2) Two copies of the dissertation proposal, or if the research and writing is well under way, a statement of the specific issues being addressed, the intellectual approach, and the materials being studied. Neither the proposal nor statement should exceed 10 double-spaced pages in length. Application materials (hard copy only, no email) must reach the Dissertation Workshop Program, AAS, 1021 East Huron St, Ann Arbor MI, 48104, no later than **DECEMBER 10, 2010**.

Workshop participants will be selected on the basis of the submitted projects, the potential for useful exchanges among them, and a concern to include a wide range of disciplinary perspectives, intellectual traditions, and regions of Asia. Applicants will be informed whether or not they have been selected for the workshop by early January.

For further information about the workshop, or eligibility, please contact Michael Paschal (mpaschal@asian-studies.org) or David Szanton (Szanton@berkeley.edu).

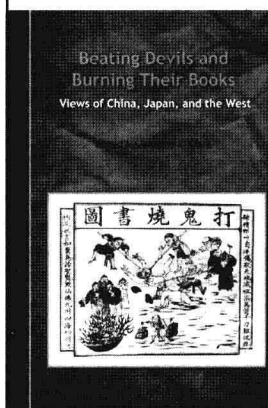
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## The Russo-Japanese War in Global History

by Kenneth J. Ruoff

As a result of having spent too much time discrediting nonsensical "theories of Japanese-ness" (*Nihonjinron*) that continue to be bandied about, scholars of Japan tend to cringe when terms such as "unique" or "special" are applied in reference to Japan. However, the Russo-Japanese War (1904–05) represents a moment when Japan, in a global sense, played a dramatic role in calling into question the international system of racism and, in a broader sense, in redefining views of modernity.

As the field of history shifts to emphasize the study and teaching of global history, the Russo-Japanese War provides a valuable means by which to introduce students not only to the extent to which the world was interconnected by the early twentieth century, but also to the topics of race and modernity. Here I draw attention to the scholarship of Cemil Aydin (who, for the record, I have never met, although I have used his book in classes), and specifically to the chapter "The Global Moment of the Russo-Japanese War" in his fine book *The Politics of Anti-Westernism in Asia: Visions of World Order in Pan-Islamic and Pan-Asian Thought*.

Aydin writes: "The Japanese success in modernization proved that the promises of Western modernity were universal and applicable everywhere, irrespective of race, religion, and geography." This was the lesson that individuals throughout the world drew from Japan's victory over Mother Russia, some with fear for the future of white, Christian world dominance (the key term they employed was "yellow peril"), others with joy as they plotted the overthrow of imperialist lords and imagined a future that was modern but not necessarily western.

Dare I say that at the moment of the Russo-Japanese War, Japan played a *special* role in global history by challenging the ideological foundation of the international system of racism (albeit not in the heroic sense that conservative commentators in Japan continue to try to attribute to their country to this day)?

In spite of the horrific casualties that Japan suffered in its war with Russia, this war quickly became, certainly at the official level but also in a popular sense, Japan's version of the "Good War." During the imperial era, Port Arthur (Lushun, China), site of the climactic battle between the Japanese and Russian forces, became hands down the most important national heritage site for Japanese outside of Japan proper. By the late 1930s, Japanese tourists by the hundreds of thousands traveled annually to Port Arthur to tour the sacred battle sites.

There, guides schooled in the art of performance provided emotional accounts of the sacrifices made by the Imperial Army in breeching the Russian defenses, and participants in these guided bus tours who left diaries recorded stock descriptions of their unsuccessful attempts to hold back tears upon hearing of such bravery. In the aftermath of the Manchuria Incident (1931), the meaning of these sacrifices was reinterpreted to serve the new present.

The Russo-Japanese War and, for that matter, the earlier Sino-Japanese War (1894–95), had been fought over which of these

## SHARE YOUR VIEWPOINT!

A regular feature of the *Asian Studies Newsletter*, "Viewpoints" seeks essays/articles between 300 and 1,000 words in length.

We encourage submissions by all AAS members: academicians, graduate students, and professionals in any field or occupation. Preference will be given to essays related to the study of, and teaching about, Asia, though essays on public policy also may be accepted.

Essays should e-mailed to E. Taylor Atkins, [et Atkins@niu.edu](mailto:et Atkins@niu.edu).

three countries was to control Korea, but after the Manchurian Incident the sacrifices made in these earlier wars were folded into a broader narrative that justified Japan's special interests in the overall Asian continent. Additionally, by this time Japanese remembering the Russo-Japanese War and especially its aftermath, when Japan had continued to suffer racial slights from the Euro-American powers, had good reason to conclude that the lesson of this history was that no matter what Japan might do to try to prove itself modern, it would be denied equal status by the Western powers on the basis of race.

Anyone teaching the meaning of the Russo-Japanese War in global history will do well to stress the irony that Imperial Japan, which arguably provided the most dramatic challenge to Euro-American racial and cultural domination during the first half of the twentieth century, itself went on to become a major imperialist power, treating colonized subjects in the same condescending manner that hegemonic whites reserved for non-whites.

Japan established within its imperium a localized version of the racial and cultural hierarchy that Western powers established over most of the rest of the world. The fact that Japan's imperialism proved to be every bit as exploitative toward Asians as did Western imperialism negates claims by apologists who argue that Japan's wars of aggression against its Asian neighbors were nothing less than heroic efforts to free Asia from Western imperialism.

Nonetheless, Japan's victory over Russia in 1905, *at that moment in history*, led individuals throughout the world, from India to Egypt, to re-conceptualize modernity as belonging to the world, rather than being the privilege of and resulting from a specific race, culture, and geography.

*Ken Ruoff is the author of Imperial Japan at Its Zenith: The Wartime Celebration of the Empire's 2600th Anniversary (Cornell University Press, 2010), which includes a chapter on "Touring Manchuria's Sacred Sites." He directs the Center for Japanese Studies at Portland State University. He can be reached at [ruoffk@pdx.edu](mailto:ruoffk@pdx.edu).*



# Publishing Matters

Paul H. Kratoska, Managing Director, NUS Press (Singapore)

**"Publishing Matters"** is a regular feature in the Asian Studies Newsletter intended to provide information on scholarly publishing with particular reference to Asian Studies. Comment about the publishing experiences of members is welcome, and any questions readers would like to raise will be referred to publishers and editors for comment. **Communications related to this column should be sent to Paul Kratoska at [kratoska@nus.edu.sg](mailto:kratoska@nus.edu.sg).** Opinions contained in "Publishing Matters" are those of the authors alone and do not reflect official opinion or policy of the AAS.

## Publishing by University Presses in China

Academic publishing grew rapidly in China during the 1980s and 1990s, and by 2005 the country had 104 university presses, roughly the same as in North America. However, while scholarly publishing in North America is in decline, the number of university presses in China continues to grow, as does the number of publications.

In 2005, 75 of the full members of the Association of American University Presses reported publishing just over 9,100 new titles. Two North American presses, Princeton and Yale, produced 200 or more new titles, while 14 others published between 100 and 200. In the same year, the 104 university presses in China published 66,450 new titles, with 80% (87 presses) producing more than 200 titles. Peking University Press published 3,211 (up from 798 in 1997), Zhejiang University Press 1,820 (up from 330), Fudan University Press 1,016 (up from 342), and China Renmin University Press 1,588 (up from 408). China's Higher Education Publishing House, a major producer of textbooks, published 8,681 new titles (up from 259), nearly as many as all North American university presses combined. [*Zhongguo daxue chubanshe gailan (1997–2005)*. Guilin: Guangxi Normal University Press, 2007, pp. 706–26.]

The financial performance of Chinese university presses is equally impressive. In 2005 Yale University Press had more than \$22 million in book sales and the University of California Press more than \$17 million (based on net receipts). The Higher Education Press had sales of \$149 million in 2005 (based on cover prices), while Peking and China Renmin University Presses each reported sales in excess of US\$33 million. While these figures are exceptional, nearly 45% of China's university presses had sales of more than \$7.4 million (RMB50 million). [*Annual Report 2005/2006 Yale University Press*, [http://yalepress.yale.edu/yupbooks/annual\\_report2.pdf](http://yalepress.yale.edu/yupbooks/annual_report2.pdf); *University of California Press Annual Report, 2005*, <http://www.ucpress.edu/content/ar/fy05ar.pdf>; Weihua Zhou, "Educational Publishing in China: Status quo, Problems and Counter Measures," *Publishing Research Quarterly* 24 (2008): 34; doi 10.1007/2/2109-008-9055-1; Xiaoyan Fan and Bo Wang, "Opportunities and Strategies for Chinese University Presses with the Rapid Development of Higher Education", *Journal of Scholarly Publishing* (Jan. 2008), p. 134. doi: 10.31.38/Jsp;39.2.127.]

The mix of publications by university presses in China differs significantly from that typically found in North America. Textbooks account for more than half of the output, and while North American university presses publish mainly in the humanities and social sciences, their Chinese counterparts produce textbooks in science and technology, subjects handled elsewhere by commercial academic presses. The size and profitability of China's textbook market is in part a product of curriculum changes that made older textbooks obsolete. There has also been a significant expansion of higher education, with the number of young people entering a university or college upon leaving secondary school increasing from 10% to more than 20% between 1998 and 2006. A parallel expansion is taking place in vocational and technical education.

Much of the impetus behind the growth of university publishing was the need to service this market. [Fan and Wang, "Opportunities and Strategies", pp. 128–30.]

Most university presses in North America supplement earnings from book sales with income from endowments, private donations, and some level of support from their parent institutions. University Presses in China, all of which are state owned, receive no financial assistance from the university, and are expected to be sufficiently profitable to contribute part of their income to the university in addition to covering their overheads. One unique problem for Chinese university presses is a limited number of International Standard Book Numbers (ISBN). Typically a press receives a fixed allocation for the year, and should it wish to publish more than that number of new titles, it must purchase additional ISBN from other publishers.

Many of the research monographs published by Chinese university presses are supported by funds provided by the authors. One editor in China said that so long as an author is able to support publication of a manuscript, his press is willing to handle the book, something that generally would not be countenanced in North America. Academic salaries in China are too low for individual professors to pay the sums required, and they rely on grants from the universities or other funding agencies. With production costs covered, publishers are able to keep book prices extremely low, generally under US\$10 for well-produced volumes. In North America it was once anathema for a university press to require, or even to allow, an author to provide support for a publication, but financial stringencies have left university presses reliant on operating grants and book sponsorships, on the understanding that supported manuscripts undergo rigorous peer review. (The Association for Asian Studies, e.g., offers a First Book Subvention Program for its members. See [www.asian-studies.org/publications/first-book.htm](http://www.asian-studies.org/publications/first-book.htm)).

Academic publishing in China remains profitable but is becoming highly competitive, and changes in the rules governing the publishing industry have allowed non-university academic presses to capture a growing proportion of textbook sales. Moreover, around 2005, university presses in China lost their tax exempt status. The larger, and more prestigious, university presses (such as those associated with Tsinghua, Peking, Fudan, Beijing Foreign Language and Beijing Normal universities) sell textbooks nationwide, as do some mid-range presses (e.g., those at Shanghai Jiaotong and Zhejiang universities), and these publications compete with the output from smaller presses. [Fan and Wang, "Opportunities and Strategies", pp. 128, 132–4; Wang Liping, "Challenges and Opportunities: China's University Presses in Transition", *Learned Publishing* 18 (2005): 273]

*Note:* In addition to the publications cited, this article draws on discussions with scholars at Peking, Xiamen and Sun Yat-sen (Zhongshan) universities, and with staff members from Beijing Normal, Fudan, Shanghai Jiaotong and Sun Yat-sen university presses.

# Conference/Symposia Reports

Eric Strahorn, Florida Gulf Coast University, Editor

## CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

We encourage conference organizers to provide individual submissions, which should be thematic and descriptive (i.e. not merely a listing of papers presented). The following are some more specific suggestions regarding content.

1. Overall theme title, location of conference, and origins of participants.
2. Topics discussed within the overall theme and the predominant disciplines represented by the participants.
3. The Organizing Committee and Sponsors.

4. A succinct description of the theme.
5. Major issues raised within the theme.
6. Presenters and their topics (if space permits).
7. Contact email address for abstracts or other details on papers and presentations.

Reports should be approximately 500–800 words in length. Submissions by e-mail are preferred, and should be sent to Dr. Eric Strahorn at [estraho@fgcu.edu](mailto:estraho@fgcu.edu).

## Report on "Perspectives on Sri Lanka's Historiography"

Colombo, September 10–11, 2009

Submitted by John Rogers, American Institute for Sri Lankan Studies

A two-day conference on "Perspectives on Sri Lanka's Historiography" was held at the Galle Face Hotel, Colombo, on 10–11 September 2009. The event was sponsored by the American Institute for Sri Lankan Studies and convened by John Rogers. The conference brought together 21 scholars, thirteen from Sri Lanka and eight from outside the island—the United Kingdom, Hong Kong, the Netherlands, and the United States. There were nine pre-circulated papers, four by Sri Lanka-based scholars and five by overseas researchers. In addition to historians, literary scholars were well represented. Three social scientists also attended. The format was designed to encourage intensive discussion.

The conference opened with two papers that dealt with the sixteenth century. Zoltan Biedermann (Birkbeck College, London) addressed the controversial issue of how the Portuguese attempted to legitimize their rule after they formally took full control of the Kotte Kingdom in 1597, while Alan Strathern (Cambridge) discussed the political ideology of Sitawaka, Kotte's rival for most of the sixteenth century. These papers prompted a lively discussion about the Portuguese encounter, a subject that remains prominent in popular historical debates in Sri Lanka. They also led to some interesting comparisons between Portuguese and Dutch power.

These papers were followed by three presentations that dealt primarily with colonial representations of Sri Lanka. Sujit Sivasundaram (London School of Economics) looked at continuities and disjunctions between Kandyan and British attitudes and practices towards natural history, John Rogers (AISLS) addressed social classification in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, and Premakumara de Silva (U. of Colombo) examined Portuguese, Dutch and British perceptions of Sri Pada (Adam's Peak). Again, these papers produced lively responses, including discussions of the notion of "authenticity" and the way scholars use it, both consciously and unconsciously. Discussion also focused on comparisons with colonial representations of India and on differences among the three colonial powers in Sri Lanka.

The conference then continued with three papers on social and cultural developments in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Mark Ravinder Frost (University of Hong

Kong) examined Colombo as a cosmopolitan center in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Nira Wickremasinghe (University of Colombo) looked at the reception of the Singer sewing machine in the early twentieth century, and Sandagomi Coperahewa (University of Colombo) addresses discourses on official language policy in the 1930s and 1940s. These papers led to lively debates on late colonial society in Sri Lanka. Much of the discussion focused on ways Sri Lankans sought to build a nation, and their struggles to define the relationship between the island and the world.

The final paper, by Nirmal Ranjit Dewasiri (University of Colombo) examined popular histories produced in Sri Lanka in the second half of the twentieth century. This paper led to a spirited discussion about the relationship between popular and academic history.

One theme that was addressed throughout the conference was periodization in Sri Lankan history from 1500 to the present. Another was how to incorporate the importance of global influences while still capturing what is distinctive about Sri Lanka.

One aim of the conference was to encourage dialog between Sri Lanka-based scholars and researchers based outside the island. The two days of intensive discussion at the conference fulfilled this goal. The American Institute for Sri Lankan Studies is looking for ways to continue this dialog and strengthen the links made at the conference.

## Report on "Annual Conference of the Cluster of Excellence 'Asia and Europe in a Global Context,' Heidelberg University"

Heidelberg, October 6–8, 2010

Submitted by Ronald Chung-yam PO, Heidelberg University

The Cluster of Excellence "Asia and Europe in a Global Context" of the Heidelberg University has successfully organized a three day annual conference with more than 200 international participants on October 6–8, 2010. This year the conference set out to explore the trans-national exchange of concepts and institutions between cultures, such as the understanding of governance or religiosity. Its purpose was to open new avenues of approach into cultural and ideological exchanges by breaking down traditional national and disciplinary boundaries that narrowed our visions. In the course of three full days scholars from various disciplines such as cultural studies, area studies, religious studies, East Asian history, anthropology, theology, and sociology presented altogether thirty-five papers.



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## Key Issues in Asian Studies

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The AAS plans to publish 2-3 "Key Issues" booklets each year.

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### Japanese Popular Culture and Globalization

William M. Tsutsui

The only concise overview of Japan's phenomenal impact on world pop culture available in English. Surveying Japanese forms from *anime* (animation) and *manga* (comic books) to monster movies and "Hello Kitty" products, this volume is an accessible introduction to Japan's pop creativity and its appeal worldwide.

### Japan and Imperialism, 1853-1945

James L. Huffman

This lively narrative tells the story of Japan's experience with imperialism and colonialism, looking at Japan's responses to Western threats in the nineteenth century and its activities as Asia's only imperialist power. Using a series of human vignettes as lenses, *Japan and Imperialism* examines the motivations that led to imperial expansion and the impact that expansion had on both national policies and personal lives.

### Global India circa 100 CE

Richard H. Davis

An invaluable overview of the ways in which India was involved in myriad types of exchanges—of goods, ideas, and peoples—with other parts of the world (the Middle East, the Roman empire of the Mediterranean Sea, coastal Africa, Central Asia, China, and Southeast Asia) during the first two centuries of the Common Era. This booklet will greatly benefit teachers and students of world history as well as ancient Asia.

### ADDITIONAL TITLES

**Caste in India**, Diane Mines

**Understanding East Asia's Economic "Miracles"**, Zhiquan Zhu

**Political Rights in Post-Mao China**, Merle Goldman

**Gender, Sexuality, and Body Politics in Modern Asia**, Michael G. Peletz

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The annual conference opened with the keynote speech by Quentin Skinner (Professor of Humanities at the Queen Mary University of London). In his lecture entitled "European visions of liberty: a genealogy" Skinner addressed the meaning and significance of liberty in the occident and in the world. Referring to various thinkers from Thomas Hobbes to Hannah Arendt, he outlined and explained how the idea of liberty was understood over the course of time in the European region.

The second day of the conference was framed with the theme "Conceptualizing Governance." In the first podium-discussion Bo Strath asked "What is wrong with government?" By comparing the two featuring concepts in political theories: "government" and "governance," Strath illuminated critically the emergence of the latter lexicon in the 1980s. In contrast, Antje Flüchter analyzed how the governance in the Mughal Empire in India was perceived by European travelers in her paper entitled "Conceptualising Indian governance between archetype and antipode: Gute policy or oriental despotism." In the following two parallel panel sections papers also came across conceptual changes in political practices and ideas. Ulrike Bucksel's paper addressed the concept of "nation" among Qing conservative political thought in 1901–1911. Hans Martin Kramer's paper showed that there was a conceptual change in policing religion in Japan during 1600–1900. Michael Burtcher examined an in-depth study of the terminological conception of modernity in modern Japanese history. David Mervart explored the case for counterfactual history of political theory in China. Besides, Robert Totini, Matthias Liehr, Markus Pauli, Mareike Ohlberg, and Lion Koenig also presented papers that explored the notion of governance in China, India, and the Islam world in a trans-cultural perspective.

Another keynote speech was delivered by Sobhanlal Datta Gupta (Retired Surendra Nath Banerjee Professor of Political Science, University of Calcutta, India) at the closing section of the second day. Under the title "Marxism, modernity and revolution: the Asian experience," Gupta first emphasized the region-specific challenge posed by nationalism and different religions. Afterwards he portrayed how the Communist Parties in Asia conceptualized the accomplishment of modernity through revolution in the face of these challenges.

The last day of the conference focused on the conceptualization of religiosity. In the podium discussion chaired by Rudolf Wagner, two papers were presented. Volkhart Krech questioned the way historians conceptualized religion and religiosity in a comparative approach. His paper aimed at probing the challenges of interdisciplinary religious researches nowadays. Joachim Quack illustrated the migration of Egyptian divinities. By focusing on the flow of deities between Egypt and its neighboring nations in the Middle East and Africa, he observed that migrations can demonstrate how different cultures diversely behaved as far as the devotion to their traditional goddess.

In podium-discussion IV chaired by Monica Juneja, Inken Prohl scrutinized the concept of "trans-religion." She outlined some general trends applied by institutions to conceptualize religions, thereby explaining the consequences of the obsession with the concept "religion" for the interdisciplinary capacity of religious studies. Following her article, Mark Juergensmeyer gave us his paper entitled "Global rebellions: religious challenges to the secular state." Juergensmeyer studied similar features behind

new religious movements such as the Islamic Jihadi militants, the Jewish anti-Arab activists, and the Christian militia in the United State. He realized most acts of violence become symbolic expressions of empowerment and attempt to claim leverage in a public arena that is perceived as hostile and marginalizing. He believed, thus, these acts need to be taken seriously as calls for inclusion in an alienating world.

Following the podium IV, various themes such as politics, the secret service, the health system, art and archaeology surfaced in papers presented in parallel panels like Berend Noordam's "Military intelligence in early modern Eurasia: the case of the European in India and China, 1500–1700," Anna Andreeva's "Esoteric rituals in premodern Japan: 'country bumpkins' and the quest for sudden enlightenment," and Gabriele Alex's "Primary health centers in South India: transplanting Western ideas on health management and health education in South India." All of the papers suggested fresh approach to analyze shifting asymmetries in cultural flows.

This annual conference was organized by Prof. Subrata K. Mitra, Dr. Antje Flüchter, and Dr. Jivanta Schoettli from the Heidelberg University under the support and sponsorship of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Fund). Full program listing paper titles and authors can be found in this website: <http://www.asia-europe.uni-heidelberg.de/en/news-events/events/annual-conference1/programme-2010.html>.

## Report on "Globalization in Asia: Perspectives and Prospects for the Second Decade of 21st Century"

Taipei, October 29–30, 2010

Submitted by Chin-Ming Lin, Graduate Institute of Asian Studies, Tamkang University

This is a two-day conference held in Taipei, Taiwan by the Graduate Institute of Asian Studies, Tamkang University. Participants were from Japan, the United States, Korea, India, Indonesia, Thailand, France, China as well as local scholars of Taiwan. This conference is focusing on interdependence among states, peoples, and societies in the forthcoming decade in Asia, especially East Asia, a region filled with differing and sometimes conflicting interests, points of view, or value systems. With increasing interactions of peoples, goods, and knowledge within and outside the region, aspects on human rights, constitutional reforms, international politics, and international socio-economic as well as cultural environments were also considered. There were two keynote speeches by Dr. Fu-Chuan Luo, Distinguished Professor of Tamkang University, and Dr. Sureeporn Punpuing, Director of the Institute for Population and Social Research (IPSR), Mahidol University, Thailand. Dr. Luo touched on how Taiwan and Japan are confronting the 21st Century from the political economy perspective, while Dr. Sureeporn talked about female migrant domestic workers in Thailand.

The conferences were separated into six sessions concerning migration and human rights, relations between Japan and Asia, labor and environment, regional security, ethnics and labor in Southeast Asia, as well as Asian institutions and governance respectively. This was an interdisciplinary meeting with participants of different disciplines such as international law, political science, anthropology, economics, business administration, sociology, population studies, etc.



The conference was organized by the Graduate Institute of Asian Studies, Tamkang University which is a newly integrated graduate school, about one year ago, focusing on studies of Japan and Southeast Asia as well as other related regions. The main subjects in teaching and research of the school are economic, political, business and legal issues. The conference was sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Education, Taiwan-Japan Exchange Foundation as well as the University itself.

Several important themes were raised in the meeting. One of them is international migration and human rights. Dr. Shu-Fen Hsiao made a comparative analysis on human rights protection in Japan and Taiwan, Dr. Ching-Shan Hu touched on children's rights, Dr. Shi-Hsiung Chiang discussed about current situations on human rights of immigrants in Asia, Dr. Pei-Rong Lee talked about how foreign labors are involved in the transformation and conflicts of Asian nation states, Dr. Ching-lung Tsay dealt with the issues of Southeast Asian workers in Taiwan, Dr. Wen-Tang Hsu talked about religious issues, Mr. Nicolas Lainez explored the problem of Vietnamese sex workers in Cambodia, Ms. Hsun-Hui Tseng was dealing with delicate issues of foreign spouses engaged in sex industry in Taiwan, while Mr. Takemasa Ando touched on global justice movement in Asia.

The second main concern of the conference is how labor, environment and industries are dealing with globalization. Dr. Rei-Hsiung Chang discussed about industrial relations policies of the government of Democratic Party in Japan, Dr. Koyama evaluated on environmental protection in Japan and East Asia, Dr. Chen-Yi Hung touched on industrial policies of Japan and East Asia, Dr. Debdas Karmakar dealt specifically on Indian steel industry, and also the afore-mentioned papers by Dr. Tsay and Dr. Lee.

The third main theme is on regional integration and cooperation. Dr. Ming-Jun Lee and Dr. Hsu-Shen Ho looked at the prospects of East Asian Community, Hung-Ju Chen dealt with cooperative endeavors in the South China Sea, Dr. Hsi-Hsun Tsai also discussed on the East Asian Community, Dr. Juo-Yu Lin as well as Dr. Anak Agung Banyu Perwita talked on security issues, Mr. Rajiv Kumar focused on East Asian economic regionalism, Ms. Paramitaningrum explored on the EU and U.S. sanctions to Burma, Dr. Reinhard Biedermann discussed on the envisaged EU-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement, Mr. Shashikant Kumar was on energy cooperation, and Mr. Xiangfeng Yang talked about governance.

Overall, this was a fruitful and stimulating academic meeting. Anyone who is interested in the conference can consult the website <http://mail.tku.edu.tw/113922/GlobalizingAsia.htm>. If there is any question concerning abstracts and other details on papers and presentations please contact Dr. Chin-Ming Lin at 113922@mail.tku.edu.tw.

### **Report on "History and Material Culture in Asian Religions"**

Philadelphia, March 21–22, 2010

Submitted by Benjamin J. Fleming, University of Pennsylvania

Traditionally, research on the history of Asian religions has been marked by a bias for literary evidence, privileging canonical texts penned in "classical" languages. Not only has a focus on literary evidence shaped the dominant narratives about the religious histories of Asia, in both scholarship and popular culture, but

it has contributed to the tendency to study different religious traditions in relative isolation from one another. Today, historical work is often based on modern textual editions and, increasingly, on electronic databases. What may be lost, in the process, is the visceral sense of the text as artifact—as a material object that formed part of a broader material culture, in which the boundaries between religious traditions were sometimes more fluid than canonical literature might suggest.

The conference brought together specialists in a variety of Asian cultures to discuss the methodological challenges involved in integrating material evidence for the reconstruction of the religious histories of South, Southeast, Central, and East Asia. By means of specific "test-cases," the conference explored the importance of considering material and literary evidence in concert, examining these sources to create new avenues for recovering and reevaluating historical narratives traditionally told from literary sources alone. Contributors mapped out the challenges involved in interpreting different types of data, assessing the problems of interpretation distinct to specific types of material evidence (e.g., coins, temple art, manuscripts, donative inscriptions, relics).

The conference was divided into five interdisciplinary sessions that focused on the types of evidence discussed rather than traditional scholastic and disciplinary boundaries. The sessions included: I. The Materiality of Writing: Text as Artifact; II. Rethinking Religious Histories; III. Between Image and Text; IV. Relic, Text, and Icon; and V. Material Cultures in Contact: Trade and Religious Exchange. It included specialists in Hinduism and Buddhism, specialists in Chinese, Japanese, and Tibetan religions, as well as experts of Islam and eastern Christianities. The result was a grounded yet broad-based inquiry into Asian religions, histories, and material cultures that contributed to multiple scholarly discussions and subfields.

It was organized by Benjamin Fleming and Annette Yoshiko Reed, with additional help from Steve Lang (Penn Museum). The conference was sponsored by the Mellon Cross-Cultural Diversity Fund, The University Research Foundation, the Center for Ancient Studies, the Penn Museum, the Oriental Club of Philadelphia, as well as the department of Religious Studies, the Center for East Asian Studies, and the South Asia Center from the University of Pennsylvania.

By bringing different subfields in Religious Studies and Asian Studies into conversation around the topic of material culture, the conference contributed to the broader discussion of methodological challenges involved in the study of Asian religions and histories. Special attention was paid to newly-discovered and neglected sources; to our evidence for trade, migration, and inter-regional cultural exchange; and to geographical locales that served as "contact zones" connecting cultures. In addition, efforts were made to represent collective approaches to the rich range of religious traditions across Asia—including Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Shinto, and Chinese religions, as well as Islam and eastern Christianities.

Participants included Kevin Bond ("Marketing Miracles: Buddhism, Commercialism, and Entertainment in Early Modern Japan"), Gudrun Bühnemann ("On the Iconography and Date of the Golden Window in Patan"), Shayne Clarke ("Motherhood amidst the Sisterhood: Reading Inscriptional Evidence in Light of Buddhist Monastic Law Codes"), Jamal Elias ("Icons and Idols in the