

### In this 1 August 2008 issue...

#### YCAR Members

- \* Terry Boyd-Zhang receives Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi Scholarship to study in China
- \* Afsan Chowdhury explores pain of 1971 war in first book of poetry
- \* Gregory Chin joins editorial board

#### YCAR News

- \* In the News:

#### Opportunities

- \* Image, Text, Sound and Technology (ITST) Programme
- \* SSHRC Metropolis Project

#### Upcoming Events

- \* Commemorating Burma's largest National Democratic Uprising
- \* South Asia Calling
- \* More than Twenty Languages in the Medieval Turfan Silk Road Oasis. What Made It So Special?
- \* Anti-racism event to welcome new research team
- \* Monthly workshop on contentious politics

#### Ongoing Events

- \* Connecting Words and Images: exhibitions on Hong Kong design
- \* Calligraphy Exhibition by Shiko Kataoka

#### Call for Papers

- \* YCAR Papers 2008-2009
- \* International Conference on Popular Culture and Education in Asia
- \* Race-ing Hegemonies, Resurging Imperialism: Building Anti-Racist and Anti-Colonial Theory and Practice for Our Times
- \* Imag(in)ing Asia and the Pacific: Emerging Visualities and Art Perspectives

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### YCAR Members: Terry Boyd-Zhang receives Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi scholarship to study in China



YCAR Graduate Associate Terry Boyd-Zhang spent July in Nanjing, China, after being awarded the Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi (HSK) scholarship.

"I was very surprised to be offered an HSK scholarship at Nanjing Normal University. After some visa difficulties, I am happy to say that I have arrived in Nanjing and I am enjoying my classes," said Boyd-Zhang via email in mid-July.

The Chinese Government offers the Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi exam annually, usually in the fall. It is similar to the English TOEFL and there are three levels (Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced). In 2007, Boyd-Zhang

wrote the Beginner level exam because, after 2000 and 3000-level Chinese courses at York, she was interested in knowing her language level. The exam included listening, grammar, and reading components.

A graduate of the Master's programme in Humanities at York, Boyd-Zhang says that winning the scholarship has been an excellent opportunity to improve her Chinese.

"I have Chinese grammar, listening, and speaking classes every morning and most afternoons are free. Some afternoons we have introductory classes to Chinese traditional music, calligraphy, Tai chi, etc or we travel around Nanjing's historical sites. Most of the students here make an effort to practice."

Most of the students in the programme are HSK scholarship winners, with the largest group of students from Thailand. There are three other students from Canada.

"Their Chinese is very good - so I can learn a lot," said Boyd-Zhang of the Thai students.

She encourages anyone with an interest in Chinese to try the HSK exam, not only to learn his or her language level, but also to have the opportunity to be invited to study in China.

For more information about the HSK exam in Toronto, please contact Cathy Zhao at [cathy@web.bondacademy.ca](mailto:cathy@web.bondacademy.ca) or Boyd-Zhang at [terrybz7@yahoo.com](mailto:terrybz7@yahoo.com).

### **YCAR Members: Afsan Chowdhury explores pain of 1971 war in first book of poetry**

YCAR Research Associate Afsan Chowdhury can add published poet to his long list of accomplishments.

*Conversations with Suleman: A poem* is Chowdhury's first book of poetry. It explores the experiences of Suleman, a partisan fighter who was injured in Bangladesh's 1971 war of independence. He never walked again.

"It is about saying thanks in a perverse sort of way, I suppose, to a man who gave it all and got nothing in return," said Chowdhury. "In a way it's an aria of pain."

He said that he wasn't inspired to write the poem in a conventional sense but wrote it to escape the horror of the present and the past of the individual and corporate lives of most Bangladeshis.

In this way, writing and editing the poem was also a form of therapy, what Chowdhury describes as a "desperate and spontaneous catharsis."

"I used to edit the poem whenever I felt like returning to my moment of epiphany. It was good therapy. I had no thoughts about publishing. It was more about spending my time looking at our common past."

He never told Suleman about the poem; it had always been more about spending time looking at the common past he shared with Suleman. It was only when he died in 2001 that Chowdhury changed his mind about publishing the poem.

Critics have said that the poem shows his rage at the failure of nation building by members of a generation that had as 18-year-olds fought for a new state and ended up with the mess of a country.

An awarded journalist, filmmaker, environmental advocate and researcher on the history of Bangladesh's 1971 war, Chowdhury has also worked with BRAC, UNICEF, OXFAM and South Asia Panos Institute, among others, during his career. Earlier this summer, he was named the 2008 Oak Fellow at the Oak Institute for the Study of International Human Rights at Colby College in Maine.

*Conversations with Suleman: A poem* is published by Shrabon (Dhaka). For copies, please contact Afsan through [ycar@yorku.ca](mailto:ycar@yorku.ca).

## YCAR Members: Gregory Chin joins editorial board

In July 2008, Gregory Chin joined the Editorial Board of the China and International Organization Books Series, jointly published by Shanghai People's Press and Shanghai International Studies University.

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### In the News:



Gregory Chin and Bernie Frolic were quoted in a recent article in *Embassy* magazine on the upcoming Beijing Olympics. The article, "Beijing Olympics: To Attend or Not to Attend?" is available at:

[www.embassymag.ca/html/index.php?display=story&full\\_path=/2008/july/23/olympics/](http://www.embassymag.ca/html/index.php?display=story&full_path=/2008/july/23/olympics/).

Gregory Chin's op-ed, co-written with Andrew F. Cooper, appears in the latest *Far Eastern Economic Review* (FEER). "China's Knocking on the G8 Door" is available at: [www.feer.com/international-relations/2008/july/chinas-knocking-on-the-g8-door](http://www.feer.com/international-relations/2008/july/chinas-knocking-on-the-g8-door). FEER has a readership of 14 million.



An editorial by YCAR Graduate Associate Sai Latt appeared earlier this month in the *Irrawaddy*. "What if Thailand Wants 'Migrant Problems'?" is available at: [www.irrawaddy.org/article.php?art\\_id=13315](http://www.irrawaddy.org/article.php?art_id=13315).

On June 25, OMNI Television's entertainment news featured a story on the exhibitions of Hong Kong designer Tommy Li that were organized by Wendy Wong, YCAR's Associate Director. The "Connecting Words and Images" series runs from 9 July to 24 August. For more information, visit: [www.yorku.ca/ycar/Events/Connecting\\_Words\\_and\\_Images.html](http://www.yorku.ca/ycar/Events/Connecting_Words_and_Images.html).



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## Opportunity: Image, Text, Sound and Technology (ITST) Programme

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) is accepting applications for the Image, Text, Sound and Technology (ITST) Programme. This programme aims at increasing researchers' familiarity with, and effective use of digital information: images, text and sound.

The programme aims to enable researchers to learn about and apply advanced technologies to the analysis of social statistics at university-based Research Data Centres across the country; and to help researchers refine their ability to apply digital multimedia technologies to their research on image, text and sound.

The programme include several funding mechanisms: 1) Research Grants and 2) Summer Institute Grant and Workshop Grants to enable postsecondary institutions to offer seminars and workshops on cutting-edge ITST technologies and skills. Conference Grants help institutions bring scholars together to present research methods and results to users and potential users.

The deadline is **15 September 2008** with an internal ORS deadline of ten working days prior to final submission date. Awards are valued at up to \$50,000 for a project duration of 12 months.

For further details on this program, please contact the Office of Research Services (ORS) at ext. 55055 or [research@yorku.ca](mailto:research@yorku.ca) or consult the SSHRC website at:

[http://www.sshrc.ca/web/apply/program\\_descriptions/itst/research\\_e.asp](http://www.sshrc.ca/web/apply/program_descriptions/itst/research_e.asp)

[http://www.sshrc.ca/web/apply/program\\_descriptions/itst/workshops\\_e.asp](http://www.sshrc.ca/web/apply/program_descriptions/itst/workshops_e.asp)

### **Opportunity: SSHRC Metropolis Project**

The Office of Research Services (ORS) would like to remind York researchers of the upcoming competition for the SSHRC Metropolis Project.

The Metropolis Project is a Strategic Joint Initiative of SSHRC and a consortium of federal departments and agencies led by Citizenship and Immigration Canada. For this year's competition, the policy research question to be investigated is "How has large-scale immigration transformed Canada's society and economy?"

The deadline is **30 September 2008** with an internal ORS deadline of ten working days prior to final submission date. The award is valued at up to \$125,000.

Complete details may be obtained from ORS (ext. 55055; [research@yorku.ca](mailto:research@yorku.ca)), or from SSHRC's web site: [www.sshrc.ca/web/apply/program\\_descriptions/metropolis\\_e.asp](http://www.sshrc.ca/web/apply/program_descriptions/metropolis_e.asp).

### ***Previously-posted opportunities***

\* **Abe Fellowship Programme (1 September 2008)**

For more information: <http://fellowships.ssrc.org/abe>.

\* **Early Researcher Award Programme (10 October 2008)**

For more information: [www.mri.gov.on.ca/english/programs/era/program.asp](http://www.mri.gov.on.ca/english/programs/era/program.asp) or Steven Mataija at ORS at x22507 or [smataija@yorku.ca](mailto:smataija@yorku.ca).

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### **Upcoming Event: Commemorating Burma's 8888 Uprising**

Friday, 8 August 2008 \* beginning at 11am \* Queen's Park and Chinese Consulate \* Toronto

Burmese democracy movements and supporters around the globe will mark the historic day marking the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the brutal crackdown on Burma's largest National Democratic Uprising (8888 Uprising) on 8 August 2008 in Toronto, Vancouver and Ottawa. Thousands of protesters were killed during the crackdown in 1988. China, a supporter of the Burmese Military Junta, will open the Beijing Olympic on the same day.

In Toronto, a press conference and rally will begin at 11am at Queen's Park, followed by a march to the Chinese Consulate at 1pm and activities in front of the Chinese Consulate from 2pm.

Participants are requested to wear white. This event is held in cooperation with the China Rights Network and the Tibetan Community to honour those who have struggled for human rights and democracy. It is organized by the Burmese Democratic Forces, comprised of the Burmese Students Democratic Organization; International Burmese Monks Organization Canada; National League for Democracy Canada Branch; and Canadian Campaign for Free Burma).

For more information, contact Zaw Wai Kyaw at 416.358.2318 or [zaw.w.kyaw@gmail.com](mailto:zaw.w.kyaw@gmail.com) or Min Naing at 416.826.7149.

### **Upcoming Event: South Asia Calling**

8 to 10 August 2008 \* Harbourfront Centre \* Toronto

India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Tibet are the focus of 'South Asia Calling', one of the summer's World Routes festivals being held each weekend at the Harbourfront. South Asia will be featured on 8-10 August.

The focus of the three-day event is contemporary performance and the festival incorporates all generations

by presenting the masters of the region and their impact on the greater South Asian culture. Highlights include: Autorickshaw: Bollywood and Beyond; Tirtha; Aashish Khan and Pandit Swapan Chaudhuri; and Ollywood.

The weekend schedule is available at [www.harbourfrontcentre.com](http://www.harbourfrontcentre.com).

### **Upcoming Event: More than Twenty Languages in the Medieval Turfan Silk Road Oasis: What Made It So Special?**

*Wednesday, 20 August 2008 \* 2 to 4pm \* Room 108N, Munk Centre, 1 Devonshire Place \* Toronto*

Central and Inner Asia Studies and Department of Linguistics, University of Toronto will host a lecture by Doug Hitch, a linguist at the Yukon Native Language Centre in Whitehorse, and Harvard PhD candidate, who will give a talk on "More than Twenty Languages in the Medieval Turfan Silk Road Oasis: What Made It So Special?" The event will be held at the Munk Centre on 20 August 2008 at 2pm.

Hitch's research focuses on languages, scripts and history of Inner Asia, particularly medieval Xinjiang. He has published articles in seven countries, including about a dozen on the languages, writing systems and history of medieval Inner Asia. For more information on his research, visit <http://ynlc.ca/ynlc/staff/hitch/hitchindex.html>.

To register for this event, please visit: <http://webapp.mcis.utoronto.ca/EventDetails.aspx?EventId=6516>.

### **Upcoming Event: Anti-racism event to welcome new research team**

*Friday, 5 September 2008 \* noon to 3:30pm \* 305 Founders College (Senior Common Room)*

Organizers invite the York community to join them in welcoming a new team of internationally acclaimed interdisciplinary anti-racist scholars to discuss "Theorizing Anti-Racism" and "Rethinking Tensions Between Marxism and Critical Race Theory."

The event begins at noon with "Theorizing Anti-Racism." Lunch will be served and participants will hear welcoming comments from project organizers Abigail Bakan (Queen's University) and York's Enakshi Dua (Women's Studies), and university co-sponsors. Dua is a YCAR Faculty Associate.

The event continues at 1:30pm with a public forum, "Theorizing Anti-Racism: Reflections and Challenges," where each of the authors will briefly summarize reflections on the tensions between Marxist and critical race/post-colonialist theoretical framings, and consider the challenges in developing new and creative syntheses towards effective anti-racist perspectives. A discussion will follow.

Other speakers at the event include: Sedef Arat-Koç, Abigail Bakan, Himani Bannerji, George Dei, Grace-Edward Galabuzi, Ania Loomba, Katherine McKittrick, Charles Mills, Eunice Sahle, John Sanbonmatsu, Sunera Thobani and Asha Varadharajan.

To RSVP for the lunch reception, contact Vivian Lee at [theorizing.antiracism@gmail.com](mailto:theorizing.antiracism@gmail.com).

### **Upcoming Event: Monthly workshop on contentious politics**

*Monthly on Thursday this academic year \* 3:30 to 5:30pm \* York University*

This academic year, there will be a monthly, two-hour workshop to bring together faculty and advanced graduate students from across the university and around the region to discuss their works in progress on contentious politics and social movements.

The format of the workshop will be as follows: a paper (a one-page memo plus a paper with a maximum of 50 pages including notes and end matter) is distributed via a website one week prior to the session; two critic

volunteers for each session; the critics open each session with ten-minute critiques of the paper, the author replies briefly, and a question-and-answer session ensues.

The schedule for the 2008-2009 session will be as follows: Thursdays, between 3:30 and 5:30 on September 18, October 16, November 13, January 15, February 26 and March 19. The room location is still to be decided.

Please contact Lesley Wood (Sociology) at [lwood@yorku.ca](mailto:lwood@yorku.ca) if you are interested in having a work in progress discussed or being a critic on a paper in the coming year.

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### **Ongoing Event: Connecting Words and Images: exhibitions on Hong Kong design**

*9 July to 25 August 2008 \* Urbanspace Gallery, Studio 117, 401 Richmond St West \* Toronto*

YCAR and the Department of Design at York University proudly present a vibrant programme connecting exciting visual images and thought-provoking words on Hong Kong arts, design and consumption.

"Connecting Words and Images" includes two exhibitions by renowned Hong Kong designer Tommy Li. Creative Works of Tommy Li, Part 2: Commercial Design will run in downtown Toronto until 25 August 2008.

Gallery hours are as follows: Weekdays 10:00 am to 6:00 pm; Saturday 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm (closed Sundays and Public Holidays)

The free exhibit is open to the public. For more information, visit [www.yorku.ca/ycar/Events/Connecting Words and Images.html](http://www.yorku.ca/ycar/Events/Connecting_Words_and_Images.html) or contact event organizer Wendy Wong at [ycar@yorku.ca](mailto:ycar@yorku.ca).

### **Ongoing Event: Calligraphy Exhibition by Shiko Kataoka**

*16 July to 22 August 2008 \* Japan Foundation \* 131 Bloor Street, Second floor \* Toronto*

The Calligraphy Exhibition "Japan-Canada Cultural Exchange" will feature 11 pieces of modern calligraphy works by Master calligrapher Ms. Shiko Kataoka. The delicate brushwork compliments the *Tanka* and *Haiku* (Japanese poems) that are presented on rare and beautiful *washi* (Japanese paper) in the form of folding screens, framed works, folding albums and hanging scrolls. The general theme of the exhibition is friendship between Japan and Canada.

The exhibition runs from 16 July to 22 August 2008 at the Japan Foundation. For more information or gallery hours, visit [www.jftor.org](http://www.jftor.org) or [info@jftor.org](mailto:info@jftor.org) or call 416.966.1600. Admission is free.

The late Prince Takamado was a personal embodiment of this friendship, given that he pursued his university education at Queen's University in Ontario and felt a warm sense of attachment to Canada his whole life. His name graces the Japan Centre for Teaching and Research at University of Alberta, which is also an organizer of this exhibition. Thus, it is very appropriate that two screens and one of the framed works should be dedicated to the poetry of Prince Takamado and his consort, Princess Takamado. Other works range from 11<sup>th</sup> century Japanese and Chinese poems to a Haiku by a contemporary Canadian poet.

Ms. Kataoka is one of the leading figures in modern Japanese calligraphy, and her works strongly present the life and development of this traditional Japanese art. She has exhibited in Japan, United States, Italy, UK, China and Canada, winning several top calligraphy prizes, including two Minister of Education Prizes, and many Grand prizes in calligraphy competitions. She is a member of the Japan Academy of Arts and the president and founder of the Keifukai Calligraphy Association based in Takarazuka where she resides.



This exhibition is organized by University of Alberta, University of Alberta Museums, Prince Takamado Japan

Centre for Teaching and Research, and The Japan Foundation, Toronto, celebrating the 80th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Canada and Japan. The artwork from Japan has been exhibited in Edmonton, Calgary and Ottawa.

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### **Call for Papers: YCAR Papers 2008-2009**

YCAR has launched the Call for Papers for the 2008-2008 YCAR Papers series. All researchers working on issues relevant to Asia or the Asian Diaspora are encouraged to make submissions.

Manuscripts from the fine arts, humanities, business, social sciences and law are welcome and authors do not need to be a member of YCAR or be directly affiliated with York University.

Submissions will be accepted throughout the year and four papers will be published in 2008-2009.

The YCAR Papers were launched in 2007 to enhance, share and promote research on Asian and Asian diaspora issues in Canada and overseas. Three YCAR Papers were published in 2007-2008 and are available on the YCAR website at:

[http://www.yorku.ca/ycar/Publications/YCAR\\_Working\\_Paper\\_Series.html](http://www.yorku.ca/ycar/Publications/YCAR_Working_Paper_Series.html).

The submission guidelines are available from: [www.yorku.ca/ycar/Publications/YCAR\\_Papers\\_CFP.pdf](http://www.yorku.ca/ycar/Publications/YCAR_Papers_CFP.pdf).

The YCAR Papers editor, Robin Roth, can be contacted at [rothr@yorku.ca](mailto:rothr@yorku.ca). If you would like more information, please contact YCAR at [ycar@yorku.ca](mailto:ycar@yorku.ca) or 416.736.5821.

### **Call for Papers: International Conference on Popular Culture and Education in Asia**

The first International Conference on Popular Culture and Education in Asia will be held at the Hong Kong Institute of Education from 11 to 13 December 2008.

The conference will bring together researchers from a variety of disciplines to focus on the implications of global flows of popular culture for educational practices and youth development. Organizers welcome papers that elucidate changing patterns in Asian and global popular culture, as well as papers that explore implications and applications of youth engagement with popular culture inside and outside the classroom.

Researchers and scholars from Sociology, Cultural Studies, Media Studies, Anthropology, Language and Literacy, Music, Visual Studies, Asian Studies, Education and other disciplines that take popular culture seriously are invited. The first two days of the conference will be devoted to academic presentations. The third day of the conference will also feature practical workshops for local teachers on popular culture and pedagogy.

The deadline is **31 August 2008**. For more information, contact Dani Wang at [hkpop@ied.edu.hk](mailto:hkpop@ied.edu.hk) or visit <http://home.ied.edu.hk/~hkpop/conference.html>.

### **Call for Papers: Race-ing Hegemonies, Resurging Imperialism: Building Anti-Racist and Anti-Colonial Theory and Practice for Our Times**

The eighth annual critical race and anti-colonial studies conference of Researchers and Academics of Colour for Equality (R.A.C.E.) will be held at Ryerson University from 7 to 9 November 2008.

We are subject daily to revelations about the violence and hypocrisy behind the claims to democracy and human rights in the discourses of the new imperialism. Likewise, there is mounting evidence of the ravages wreaked by globalized capitalism on most of humanity. Despite this, imperialist wars and neoliberal globalized capitalism continue to enjoy hegemonic status in economic, political, social and cultural realms. Underpinning these hegemonies, and central to the very possibility and acceptability of the forms of violence, destruction, injustices and inequalities are race and colonial logics whose force of destruction is borne by

colonized and racialized groups, especially those who also face class and gender subordination. The conference aims to bring academics and activists together to critically explore the nature of these hegemonies and to build anti-racist and anti-colonial alliances.

We invite panels and papers, and proposals for practitioner roundtables, from scholars and activists / practitioners whose work examines any aspect of the racist and colonial logics of the hegemonies of our time, including but not restricted to the following:

De-colonization or re-colonization; Old and new forms of colonialism in: Indigenous and/or Aboriginal communities; Race, class and gender in security discourses; Race and economic insecurity; Race politics in the city; Race and the university; The new imperialisms; Orientalisms; Attacks on anti-imperialist and anti-globalization; Transformations in Latin America and the Caribbean; Masculinities, femininities and sexualities in empire and neoliberal globalization; and Antiracism action - local and global.

The conference is preceded by two workshops: Graduate students of Colour and the Academy; Faculty of Colour.

The deadline for abstracts is **15 September 2008**. Please send brief abstracts to: Dr. Sedef Arat-Koc at [saratkoc@politics.ryerson.ca](mailto:saratkoc@politics.ryerson.ca).

### **Call for Papers: Imag(in)ing Asia and the Pacific: Emerging Visualities and Art Perspectives**

Cornell University's Department of the History of Art and Visual Studies will hold its annual Graduate Symposium on 20-21 February 2008.

The symposium addresses the twenty-first century processes of decolonization, modernization, and nation-building that characterized the regions of Asia and the Pacific. These structures are revisited in the twenty-first century in the wake of globalization, and art practice in recent years has sought to address these questions, variously embracing or resisting their assumptions, politicizing their implications, or challenging discourse around such formulations. Not only are the cities of Asia and the Pacific growing, but have also become major centers of art, with mega-exhibitions and biennales that crucially forge regional identities and affinities.

The symposium aims to explore these emerging visualities in the light of the complex, and changing socio-political and economic issues that affect countries, peoples, institutions and practice in the region.

We encourage submissions that focus on visibility and can be from a range of disciplines, including but not limited to Asian Studies, Pacific Studies, History of Art, History, Visual Studies, Anthropology, Sociology, Studio Art, Architecture, Literature, Theatre, Film, and Dance.

Please submit abstracts of no more than 500 words for all proposals, along with brief biographical information and special equipment requests, if necessary. Submissions should be sent electronically to the organizers.

For more information and submissions, email [baw78@cornell.edu](mailto:baw78@cornell.edu) or [bk269@cornell.edu](mailto:bk269@cornell.edu) or visit [www.arts.cornell.edu/histart/symposium.html](http://www.arts.cornell.edu/histart/symposium.html).

#### ***Previously-posted Call for Papers:***

\* **Fourth Annual Tamil Studies Conference** (21 August 2008)

For more information: [tamilstudiesconference@gmail.com](mailto:tamilstudiesconference@gmail.com) or [www.tamilstudiesconference.ca](http://www.tamilstudiesconference.ca).

\* **International Conference on Heritage in Asia: Converging Forces and Conflicting Values** (1 September 2008)

For more information: [www.ari.nus.edu.sg/events\\_categorydetails.asp?categoryid=6&eventid=814](http://www.ari.nus.edu.sg/events_categorydetails.asp?categoryid=6&eventid=814).

\* **Continuity and Change: (Re)conceptualising Power in Southeast Asia** (1 October 2008)

For more information: [www.crassh.cam.ac.uk/events/542](http://www.crassh.cam.ac.uk/events/542).

\* **Western Association of Women Historians** (15 October 2008)

For more information: [www.wawh.org/](http://www.wawh.org/).

**York Centre for Asian Research (YCAR)** To comment or for more information, contact [ycar@yorku.ca](mailto:ycar@yorku.ca)  
Ste. 270 York Lanes, York University, 4700 Keele Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M3J 1P3.