



York Centre for Asian Research Update

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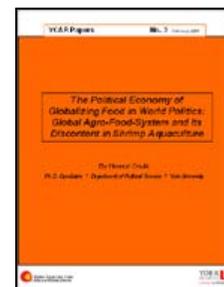
York News

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YCAR News: Third YCAR Paper launched

YCAR is happy to announce the launch of the third working paper in our YCAR Papers series, *The Political Economy of Globalizing Food in World Politics: Global Agro-Food-System and its Discontent in Shrimp Aquaculture*, by Hironori Onuki, YCAR Graduate Associate and PhD candidate in the Political Science Department at York University.

Hironori discusses that regulation theory is informative in understanding the expansion of the Thai pond-cultured shrimp production, emphasizing historical



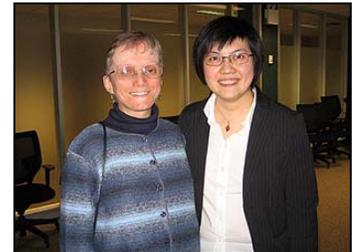
transformations in the international agro-food system, transnational capital investment and state promotion within the broad restructuring of the agricultural capitalist industries. Utilizing the lens of critical International Political Economy (IPE), he discusses how regulation theory is also limited in exploring simultaneously *both* the heterogeneity of localities *and* the dynamics of power struggles in the interplay between global processes and local transitions—especially multi-scale resistances against the globalization of the shrimp industry. It is then argued that the explosive growth of the industrial shrimp farming is a socially contested process, propelled by the global restructuring of the agricultural and food order *yet* provoking resultant disputes over the environmental and socio-economic justice of the industry at multi-scales.

Hironori's research interests are on global political economy of labour migration, globalization, state and civil society, and international communication. His current research explores the global political economy of labour migration within the context of globalization, focusing on Philippine workers in Japan where he examines the economic, political, social and cultural implications of labour flows for both host and home countries. His YCAR Paper is available at: www.yorku.ca/ycar/Publications/Onuki_YCAR_Paper_3.pdf.

YCAR Events: Hibbs and Sung BrownBag presentations consider gender, religion, art in South, East Asia



Carolyn Hibbs and Doris Sung, Humanities and Social and Political Thought students, shared their doctoral research on 20 February. Becky Lee (Humanities) was the discussant. Carolyn's research focuses on women and religion in South Asia. Her talk was titled, "Dalits, Buddhism, and Gender in India: Navayana Buddhism. Doris's research investigates the current development of visual culture in the People's Republic of China (PRC), Taiwan, Hong Kong and the Chinese diasporas, with the focus on issues of race, gender, sexuality and identity construction in visuality. Her talk was on "Concept of the Body in the Paintings of Chinese Women in Ming and Qing China."



(Top: Carolyn Hibbs; Rt: Becky Lee and Doris Sung)

Opportunity: 2007-08 York International Award for Outstanding Contribution to Internationalization

York International is now accepting nominations for the 2007-08 York International Award for Outstanding Contribution to Internationalization. The award is open to all individuals and groups that have made a positive contribution to the York Community. An awards committee comprised of representatives from York International will determine up to four (4) recipients of this award each year. The committee aims to present one award to a member or group from each of the following categories:

- 1) York student or Student group
- 2) York Faculty Member or Faculty
- 3) York staff Member or Department
- 4) External Community Member or group

Nominations can be made by any member of the York community. The Nomination deadline is Friday, 29 February 2008 at 4:30pm. If you have questions about this award, please direct them to Craig Wright, Coordinator, International Student Programs at ext. 70650 or cwright@yorku.ca.

Opportunity: Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute's 40th anniversary committee seeks lectures for collection

As a part of the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute's 40th Anniversary, the Indian 40th Anniversary Celebration Planning Committee is hoping to help facilitate Canadian lecturers traveling to India. If you or one of your colleagues is planning on lecturing in India in 2008 please let us know so that your lecture can be incorporated into the Institute's Anniversary. At the end of the year the Indian 40th Anniversary Celebration Planning Committee will publish the proceedings of all of the lectures delivered in India under the banner of the Institute's 40th. The organization would like to highlight the expertise of faculty members from our Canadian member institutions. For more information, contact Alana Froese, Programme Officer, at sici@ucalgary.ca.

Previously-posted Opportunities:

* Assistant Director for Asian Studies, University at Buffalo, SUNY (10 March 2008)

For more information: <http://asianstudies.buffalo.edu> or Kristin Stapleton, Director of Asian Studies kstaple@buffalo.edu

* Scholarships for international students in Taiwan (14 March 2008)

For more information: www.dpu.org.tw/ or intstudent@ntu.edu.tw

* China-Canada Scholars' Exchange Program (20 March 2008)

For more information: www.chineseeducation.ca/htmls/edu/09.html

* New academic alliances between Canada and developing countries

For more information: www.idrc.ca/irci or Isabelle Bourgeault-Tassé at 613 236 6163, ext. 2343 or ibourgeault-tasse@idrc.ca

* 10th International Student Symposium, Prague, Czech Republic

For more information: Agnieszka Critchlow at info@student-symposium.com or www.student-symposium.com.

Upcoming Event: Bishop White & Chinese Jews

Monday, 25 February 2008 * 2:30pm * 305 York Lanes * York University



Bishop White has been the news again. A story by Geoffrey York in the *Globe and Mail* on Saturday 19 January 2008 suggested that he smuggled treasures out of China. Come to hear the rest of the story.

One of the curious footnotes in history is the small community of Kaifeng Chinese Jews, whom Matteo Ricci met in 1605. Their origin and persistence have been of enduring interest to Chinese, Jewish and Christian scholars. One of them was Canadian Anglican missionary, Bishop William Charles White, later head of the Far Eastern Department at the Royal Ontario Museum. He acquired some of their artefacts for the ROM, and published the compendium *Chinese Jews*, which we revisit in this symposium.

Historian [Alvyn Austin](#) will introduce the history of Bishop White and *Chinese Jews*; ROM curator [Sara Irwin](#) will discuss the ROM connection and collection; [Andrew Plaks](#), scholar of Chinese culture from Princeton University, will speak on "The Jews of Kaifeng in Chinese Culture: Adaptation and Assimilation".

For more information, please contact Michael Stainton at michaels@yorku.ca or Alicia at ycar@yorku.ca. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Upcoming Event: Funding the Generals? York Investments in Burma

Wednesday 27 February 2008 * 2:30 to 4:30pm * 305 York Lanes * York University

York Coalition for Responsible Investment (YCRI) is presenting "Funding the Generals? York Investments in Burma" on Wednesday 27 February 2008. By investing in companies doing business in Burma, organizers say that York University is complicit in maintaining the military regime there. Burmese activists have called for foreign companies to pull out of the country and for investors to drop their stocks, but York continues to hold shares in companies active in Burma through its pension plan and endowment fund.

With a campaign building on campus aimed at convincing the York administration to divest from companies doing business in Burma, this panel aims to foster discussion about the impact of such investments, strategies for successful divestment, and the financial implications of pulling out of select stocks for ethical reasons. The panel will include a diverse array of speakers, including Tin Maung Htoo (National Director, Canadian Friends of Burma), Nick Brown (Innovest Analyst), and Walter Whiteley (YUFA Representative to the York Pension Board of Trustees).

Upcoming Event: Russia, China and Central Asia: New Patterns and Eurasian Integration and Security

Thursday, 28 February 2008 * 1 to 4pm * 305 York Lanes * York University

The Centre for International and Security Studies, Post-Communist Studies Programme, presents "Russia, China and Central Asia: New Patterns and Eurasian Integration and Security." This will be a roundtable discussion with Political Science Department faculty Sergi Plekhanov, Gregory T Chin and Bernie Frolic.

Upcoming Event: Indian higher education: Negotiating the challenges of globalization and the knowledge economy

Thursday, 28 February 2008 * 5 to 6:30pm * Vanier College Senior Common Room (010 Vanier College)
* York University

In his talk, Dr. Fazal Rizvi will discuss how Indian universities are developing a new language of reform. Based on his interviews with many university leaders in India, he will suggest how this language is articulated in the work of the National Knowledge Commission, whose 2006 recommendations for Indian higher education seem to presuppose a particular understanding of globalization and the requirements of the information industries that account for much of the economic growth India has enjoyed in recent years.

Dr. Rizvi has been a Professor in the Department of Educational Policy Studies at the University of Illinois since 2001, having previously held academic and administrative appointments at a number of universities in Australia. His recent books include: *Youth Moves: Identities and Education in a Global Era* (Routledge 2007), *Globalization, the OECD and Education Policy Making* (Pergamon 2001) and *Education Policy and the Politics of Change* (Routledge 1996). Routledge will publish his new book, *Globalizing Educational Policy*, in 2008.

Over the past few years his research has been focused on issues of identity, culture and transnational education, but he has recently begun to work on a new project, exploring the ways in which Indian universities are negotiating the pressures of globalization and the knowledge economy.

Please R.S.V.P. to Emily Tjimos (etjimos@edu.yorku.ca) by 3pm on Tuesday, 26 February. For more information, contact Qiang Zha at 416-736-2100 ext. 88624 or QZha@edu.yorku.ca.

Upcoming Event: Foodscapes of Southeast Asia

Friday, 29 February 2008 * Beginning at 1pm * Junior and Senior Common Rooms, Founders College * York University



Foodscapes of Southeast Asia will explore the relation between food consumption and food production in Southeast Asia. It will begin at 1pm with a workshop featuring academics from Ontario, the United States and Japan, followed by a multimedia presentation of organizer Penny Van Esterik's research entitled 'Doing Lunch in Salaya.' The keynote speakers are renowned cookbook authors Naomi Duguid and Jeff Alford whose presentation, "Hot Sour Salty Sweet: A Culinary Journey along the Mekong River" will be followed by a special Southeast Asian meal.

Reservations are no longer being accepted for the reception and dinner, but those who are interested are still welcome to attend the afternoon events. For more information, please contact Alicia at ycar@yorku.ca or telephone 416 736 2100 ext 44068.

Upcoming Event: Can Central Asia Democratize?

Friday, 29 February 2008 * noon to 2pm * Room 108, North Building, Munk Centre * 1 Devonshire Place * Toronto

The Centre for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies at the University of Toronto is holding a Central Asia Roundtable, "Can Central Asia Democratize?" on Friday, 29 February. The event Chair is Ed Schatz (Department of Political Science, University of Toronto) and participants include Nikolai Kovalev (SSHRC Visiting Fellow, CERES); Nelli Krasnobaeva (Open Society Institute Fellow); Joomart Sulaimanov (Open Society Institute Fellow); and Venerakhan Torobekova (Open Society Institute Fellow). Registration is available at: <http://webapp.mcis.utoronto.ca/EventDetails.aspx?eventid=5837>.

Upcoming Event: Haru Matsuri 2008

1 & 2 March 2008 * noon to 5pm * 6 Garamond Court * Toronto

The Japanese Spring Festival 2008 will held at the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre on 1 & 2 March. Activities include musical performances, *Odori* (dance) performances, traditional arts and crafts, martial arts demonstrations, tea ceremony, delicious Japanese food and more. Admission is free for JCCC members, \$10 per family, \$4 for adults and \$2 for children and seniors. For more information contact the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre at 416 441 2345.

Upcoming Events: Dominique Caouette keynote speaker at inaugural York Philippine Studies Lecture

Tuesday, 4 March 2008 * 4pm * 280 York Lanes, York University



Université de Montréal's Dominique Caouette is the keynote speaker for the Inaugural York Philippine Studies Lecture to be held on 4 March 2008. His topic is "Armed Communist Revolution in the 21st Century? Understanding the Persistence of the New People's Army and the Communist Party of the Philippines."

Today, the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), established over 40 years ago at the height of Mao's Cultural Revolution and student protests in the West, continues its armed quest for state power. Such persistence is all the more puzzling given that the CPP missed a key opportunity to seize power (or at least a share of it) towards the end of the Marcos dictatorship in

1986, underwent bloody and violent internal purges and survived a major internal schism in the early 1990s. All of this was happening while the Philippine Armed Forces was trying with substantial American financial and military support to annihilate the CPP. Explaining the trajectory and persistence of this communist and armed revolutionary movement in the early 21st century is the puzzle that Dr Caouette will address in his talk.

Dominique Caouette is assistant professor at the Department of Political Science of the Université de Montréal. He has lived and worked in the Philippines and written on social and revolutionary movements. He is also author of the upcoming *Perservering Revolutionaries: Armed Struggle in the 21st Century, Exploring the Revolution of the Communist Party of the Philippines* (Ateneo de Manila University Press).

For more information, please contact Philip Kelly at ycar@yorku.ca.

Upcoming Event: Choreographies of Migration

*6 to 8 March 2008 * 8pm * Harbourfront Centre's Enwave Theatre * 231 Queens Quay West * Toronto*

DanceWorks is presenting *Choreographies of Migration* by Sashar Zarif Dance Theatre. In this richly layered program, internationally acclaimed Azerbaijani-Iranian dance artist and YCAR Research Associate Sashar Zarif explores a series of migrations and cultural adaptations that ultimately led to his life in Canada. In so doing, he invites us to consider our own origins in a new way. This striking presentation features two solos, a trio and a quartet performed by a superlative company of seasoned dance artists. The production runs March 6-8, 8pm nightly at Enwave Theatre as part of Harbourfront Centre's NextSteps Series.

Through this quartet of works, Zarif presents a very personal vernacular. From a pastiche of languages, cultures and movement, he creates a unique contemporary style and a fresh way of communicating using traditional Central Asian, Near Eastern and Western dance forms.

Zarif's sense of displacement underlies *Choreographies of Migration*. Born into an immigrant family in Tehran, moving through India, Turkey, and other countries before arriving in Canada, he compels us to examine the various and often complicated relationships that inform ideas of home, identity and self. Each piece represents a different period of awareness and growth in his journey from Iran to Canada; each borrows from different stops in his physical and spiritual odyssey that saw him survive revolution, war and refugee camps.

Tickets are \$27 or \$17 for students/seniors/CADA/WIFT/SCDS. For more information, contact the Box Office at 416-973-4000 or visit www.danceworks.ca.

Sashar will also be giving a talk at YCAR on his research in Eurasia, Central Asia and the Near East on Thursday, 20 March 2008 at 2:30pm.

Upcoming Event: "Political ecology of seaweed planting in Caluya Islands, Philippines" and "The End of the Developmental State? Ten Years after the East Asian Crisis in South Korea"

*Tuesday, 11 March 2008 * 1pm * 270 York Lanes, Room B * York University*

Shannon Arnold and Sean Starrs, graduate students in Environmental Science and Political Science, will present their research at the third YCAR BrownBag Graduate Student Seminar this winter. Shannon's talk will focus on her research on seaweed production in the Caluya Islands, Philippines. Sean will discuss the current realities ten years after the East Asian crisis in South Korea. For more information, please contact YCAR at ycar@yorku.ca.

Upcoming Event: SMEs and e-Business: Is Taiwan Outperforming Canada?

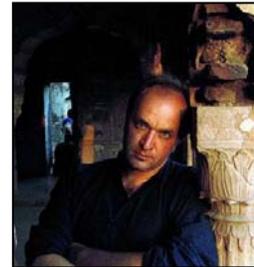
Thursday, 13 March 2008 * 2:30pm * 270 York Lanes, Room B * York University

Lorna Wright, YCAR Faculty Associate and Associate Professor, International Business at the Schulich School of Business, will present her latest research in a talk entitled, SMEs and e-Business: Is Taiwan Outperforming Canada? For more information, please contact YCAR at ycar@yorku.ca.

Upcoming Event: The Last Mughal: An Evening with William Dalrymple

Wednesday, 26 March 2008 * 6:30 to 8:30pm * Royal Ontario Museum * 100 Queen's Park * Toronto

World-renowned author William Dalrymple will discuss his latest book *The Last Mughal* on 26 March at the Royal Ontario Museum. This tragic tale of Emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar at the end of the Mughal Empire has been hailed as "a splendid work of empathetic scholarship." The lecture will be followed by a book sale and signing. William Dalrymple is a writer and broadcaster whose books include *White Mughals*, *The Age of Kali* and *City of Djinn*s.



The event will be held in the Signy & Cléopée Eaton Theatre at the Royal Ontario Museum, Level 1B. The price of tickets is \$35 for members of the public, Member \$30 for members and \$25 for FSA members. For more information, contact 416 586 5797 or email programs@rom.on.ca. (Photograph by Raghu Rai, Magnum)

Call for Papers: Cultural Connections, Convergences, and Collisions Past and Present: New York Conference on Asian Studies

The annual meetings of the New York Conference on Asian Studies will be held at Hamilton College, September 26-27, 2008.

As hosts of the 2008 NYCAS, the Asian Studies Program at Hamilton College invites panel and paper proposals to explore the theme of "Cultural Connections, Convergences, and Collisions Past and Present" along with any other aspects of East Asian, South Asian, Southeast Asian, Central Asian, West Asian, Asian American, and Asian diasporic studies.

Organizers invite papers on themes including:

- Rethinking Boundedness: Interconnection in Asian history and culture
- South-South connections in contemporary and historic frames.
- Trans-regional connections "within" Asian histories.
- "Global" Asian communities and cultures.
- Asian-American Studies and the Asian Studies Curriculum
- How should we approach Asian Studies in a globalizing world?
- How have circulations of people, images and commodities across the borders of nation-states and regions affected notions of Asia and Asianness?
- How do contemporary processes of interconnection resemble or differ from the border crossings of other historical eras?
- What form should Asian Studies take institutionally as the field confronts a world in motion?

For submission guidelines and other information, please visit the conference website <http://www.hamilton.edu/NYCAS/> or email 08NYCAS@hamilton.edu. The deadline for proposals is **1 May 2008**.

Call for Papers: Asian Visual Cultures Workshop

Graduate students of the departments of East Asian Languages and Cultures, Comparative Literature, and Visual Studies at the University of California, Irvine invite submissions from graduate students, independent scholars, and visual artists/filmmakers for a one-day workshop on Asian Visual Cultures. This workshop aims to create a space for dialogue among those interested in Asia and visual cultures (including but not limited to art, cinema, games, theater, architecture, animation) beyond disciplinary frameworks in order to explore methodologies, theories, and objects of analysis.

For more information, including topics, please contact Yuka Kanno at kannoy@uci.edu or Eric Huang at eyhuang@uci.edu. The deadline for submissions is **Sunday, 16 March 2008**. Please email a brief abstract (200-350) to Yun-Jong Lee at yunjongl@uci.edu.

Previously-posted Call for Papers:

* **The Challenges of Agrarian Transition in Southeast Asia dissertation workshop (28 February 2008)**
For more information: losbanosworkshop@yahoo.com or Keith Barney at kbarney@yorku.ca.

* **The International Society for the Comparative Study of Civilizations (ISCSC) 47th ISCSC World Conference, University of New Brunswick (1 March 2008)**
For more information: www.ISCSC.net or ISCSCabstracts@yahoo.com or rduchesn@unbsj.ca

* **Collisions and Transformations: City in Chinese Literature and Film since 1900 (1 March 2008)**
For more information: Wei Yang at wei.yang@yale.edu or Co-chair, Andrea Lingenfelter at ondi@speakeasy.org

* **Lives in Motion: The Transitional and Transnational Status of Displacement (2 March 2008)**
For more information: Centre for Refugee Studies (CRS) Student www.yorku.ca/crs/ or CRS_caus@yorku.ca or paulap@yorku.ca.

* **Asia on the Move (15 March 2008)**
For more information: <http://canadianasianstudies.concordia.ca/html/2008call-e.htm>

* **Transformations: Researching Asia (1 April 2008)**
For more information: transformationsasiaconference@gmail.com or www.yorku.ca/ycar/Events/graduate_conference.html.

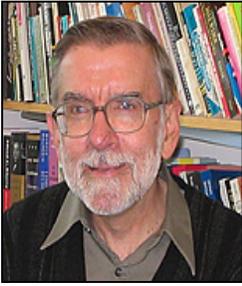
* **ASPAC 2008 - Crossing Boundaries in the Asia-Pacific: Regional and Disciplinary Intersections, Victoria BC (15 April 2008)**
For more information: <http://capiconf.uvic.ca/index.php?cf=3>

* **Western Conference of the Association for Asian Studies (1 May 2008)**
For more information: www.Colorado.EDU/CAS/WCAAS.html.

* **Symposium on the Vietnam Experience (15 May 2008)**
For more information: kfmsh00@tamuk.edu

* **International Conference on "Debt and Slavery: the History of a Process of Enslavement (1 June 2008)**
For more information: <http://indianoceanworldcentre.com/>.

York News: Anthropologist wins friendship award in China



The Chinese city of Chongqing recently presented York anthropologist David Lumsden with a Three Gorges Friendship Award.

Chongqing is a municipal region of 32 million people located near the massive Three Gorges Dam on the Yangtzi River. Lumsden is nearing the end of a two-year sabbatical at Southwest University there, but his association with what is administratively the world's largest city (the actual urban-area population is about 4.1 million) goes back 25 years. "It's an honour for me for sure, but more importantly, it helps strengthen the ties between the two cities of Toronto and Chongqing," says Lumsden in a recent e-mail from China.

Every year, Chongqing's municipal government solicits nominations from the city's universities and business groups for the Three Gorges Friendship Awards. Lumsden, nominated by Southwest University, was one of 10 expatriates living in Chongqing to receive the award in 2007. The other winners came from Germany, Japan, the United Kingdom, Sweden and the USA. Chongqing vice-mayor Wu Jianong presented the awards at a ceremony late last fall that was televised on China Central TV – and viewed by millions.

The award honours Lumsden's past and present contributions to Chongqing. The city has been part of his life for 25 years. His interest in China was sparked by students during his tenure as Bethune College master from 1983 to 1989. In 1985, he traveled to China as part of a Toronto delegation that chose Chongqing as a sister city and ever since he has played a leading role in maintaining that official friendship. In April, Lumsden will be part of a welcoming committee when Toronto mayor David Miller visits Chongqing.

Lumsden is interested in displaced populations and ethnic identity and has been investigating the impact of Chinese reforms aimed at urbanizing displaced peasants and migrant workers flooding into cities. The Three Gorges Dam will have displaced an estimated 5.4 million people by the time it is completed in 2009. Many rural people who have lost their homes due to the project have been forced to relocate in the city. Chongqing is a national experimental zone where China is pioneering ways to "urbanize" incoming peasants – including the Tujia minority.

Also while on sabbatical, Lumsden has copy-edited and written for a local English-language review, *Chongqing Currents*. When Lumsden returns later this spring, he will step in as Chair of the Anthropology Department in the Faculty of Arts.

This story was originally published in the 20 February 2008 issue of Y-File.

York Centre for Asian Research (YCAR) To comment or for more information, contact ycar@yorku.ca
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