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### Bringing Hong Kong design to Toronto

Wendy Wong, YCAR's Associate Director, has created a vibrant programme connecting exciting visual images and thought-provoking words on Hong Kong arts, design and consumption.



*Arlene Gould, Wendy Wong and Susan Henders peak with Stephen Siu, HKETO Assistant Director (Public Relations).*

The "Connecting Words and Images" event series includes two exhibitions by globally renowned Hong Kong designer Tommy Li and a lecture series designed to enhance understanding and interest in Hong Kong arts and design. The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Canada) is the event series sponsor.

Tommy Li, who shared his design expertise at Thursday's opening lecture, graduated from the School of Design at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Over his career, he has received almost 500 awards worldwide. Li is a member of the esteemed Alliance Graphique Internationale (AGI) and his company, Tommy Li Design Workshop Limited, is a leading brand and image consultant for many prestigious corporations in China, Hong Kong and Japan. To learn more about Li's work, visit [www.tommylidesign.com/](http://www.tommylidesign.com/).



*Tommy Li*

The opening lecture took place on Thursday, 10 July at Metro Hall in downtown Toronto. Over 40 students, academics and professionals came to learn about the experience of design business promotions, both in Canada – the GTA more specifically – and Hong Kong.

Li shared case studies of his company's work, including bla bla bra ([www.blablabra.com/](http://www.blablabra.com/)) and Prosays' ([www.prosays.jp/](http://www.prosays.jp/)), companies that have been transformed by Li's company. In his advice to young designers, he emphasized the importance of market research, teamwork and the ability to sell your idea as keys to success.

Arlene Gould, Adjunct Professor at York and the Strategic Director for the Design Industry Advisory Committee (DIAC) spoke on the GTA's strength as design centre (the third largest in North America) and shared highlights of DIAC research project, "Design Matters: DIAC Design Industry Study". The full study is available at: [www.diac.on.ca/pdfs/DIACFinalReport.pdf](http://www.diac.on.ca/pdfs/DIACFinalReport.pdf).

Wendy Wong, Chair of the Design department at York, spoke on the history, future and mandate of the Hong Kong Design Centre ([www.hkdesigncentre.org/](http://www.hkdesigncentre.org/)) in encouraging young designers and promoting Hong Kong design locally and internationally.



*Event organizer Wendy Wong, with Tommy Li*

A viewing of Li's commercial design work followed the lecture. The opening reception for the exhibitions followed in the evening at Chinese Contemporary Xchange.



Mao Series, Part I of the Creative Works of Tommy Li series, can be viewed at Chinese Contemporary Xchange, INDEXG, 50 Gladstone Avenue, until 20 July 2008. Part II in the series, Commercial Design, will be exhibited until 25 August 2008 at Urbanspace Gallery, Studio 117, 401 Richmond Street West. Both exhibitions are free to the public.

For more information, please visit [http://www.yorku.ca/ycar/Events/Connecting\\_Words\\_and\\_Images.html](http://www.yorku.ca/ycar/Events/Connecting_Words_and_Images.html).

The event series continues on September 26 and 27 at York University during "Transformations: Researching Asia," the YCAR graduate student conference and features a keynote lecture by Professor Rey Chow of Brown University.

*Tommy Li discussing his commercial art with lecture attendees.*

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## YCAR launches Call for Papers for 2008-2008 YCAR Papers series

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.

YCAR Papers Editor Robin Roth (Geography) said that 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 below, but can also be found on the website:

1) Submissions relating to YCAR cluster areas of research are especially welcomed -- more information is



available on our website ([www.yorku.ca/ycar](http://www.yorku.ca/ycar)). The clusters currently include (Re)making Governance; Political Ecology; China Studies; Korean Studies; Religion and Philosophy in Asia; South Asian Studies; and Philippines Study Group.

2) The manuscript must be based on original research. YCAR encourages submissions that are seeking relatively quick exposure and feedback prior to eventually being published elsewhere. We also welcome submissions that can be co-published by other institutions and/or community groups.

3) Submissions should ideally be six to ten thousand words, and should not exceed twelve thousand words. Longer submissions will be accepted under special circumstances. Please contact the editor.

4) As the aim is to publish working papers, manuscripts will be reviewed by the Editor and at least one other faculty scholar. Decisions will be communicated to the author within 60 days of submission. Please ensure any photographs within the documents are appropriately sized for web posting and/or printing. It is the responsibility of the author to secure permission to reproduce copyrighted material prior to publication. Contact YCAR for more details.

5) Each submission should include: author's information, photography credits (if applicable), institutional summaries (if applicable) and an executive summary. Referencing style is the choice of the author.

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.

### YCAR News: YCAR award winners announced

York graduate students from four disciplines received YCAR awards in 2008 that recognize and encourage their research on Asia or the Asian Diaspora. Madeline Ashby, Nel Coloma-Moya, Gary de Couto, Doris Sung and Serene Tan are the 2008 awardees.

"YCAR's 2008 graduate award winners are leaders in their chosen fields and a testimony to the excellence of the emerging generation of Asia scholars," said YCAR Director Susan J. Henders.

The four awards available to graduate students are: Albert C.W. Chan Foundation Fellowship, David Wurfel Award, Vivienne Poy Asian Research Award and the YCAR Language Award, for which there are two recipients. Further information on these awards, including 2008-2009 deadlines can be found at: [http://www.yorku.ca/ycar/Awards/YCAR\\_Awards.html](http://www.yorku.ca/ycar/Awards/YCAR_Awards.html)

**Serene Tan** is the 2007-2008 recipient of the Albert C.W. Chan Foundation Fellowship. Serene is a doctoral candidate in the Geography Department at York University. Her research interests are centered on human experiences in urban space and place. She is currently researching themes of nationality and identity, the Chinese diaspora in Southeast Asia, postcolonialism and the effect of globalization on ethnic villages in the urban landscape.



Tan began her fieldwork in Southeast Asia in May 2008, with plans to return to Canada in early 2009. During this time, she will be conducting interviews and archival research in the region. From June to August, she is based in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, where she is sponsored by the Southern Institute of Social Sciences. She plans to carry out interviews in Yangon, Myanmar, in September and in Bangkok, Thailand, for October and November before returning to Singapore in December to complete her fieldwork.



**Nel Coloma-Moya**, a Master's Candidate in York's Geography Department, is the second recipient of the David Wurfel Award.

The award will fund Coloma-Moya's summer 2008 research in the Philippines. Her work concentrates on understanding the ways in which Gawad Kalinga, a transnational religious organization, creates and 'governs' (in a broad sense) model rural communities in the Philippines. She will explore these processes as forms of 'alternative development', that is, as alternatives to dominant disciplining frameworks shaping economics, cultural and political subjects.

Coloma-Moya has an undergraduate degree in English literature, and trained and worked as a registered nurse in Toronto before taking her Masters at OISE in Adult Education.

**Madeline Ashby** and **Gary De Couto** are the 2007-2008 recipients of the YCAR Language Award. Ashby, a Master's Candidate in Interdisciplinary Studies, will study Japanese this summer and De Couto, a Master's Candidate in the Department of Education, will be enrolled in Hindi language training in Fall 2008.



Ashby's research project, "Assembly Line: Textual Dismemberment and Fandom's Cyborg Memory Palace," will explore the links in the creative process between two very different populations -- paid professional Japanese animators, most of whom are men, and unpaid English-speaking female anime fans online. The project seeks to understand how these fans situate anime as a product of a foreign culture while re-interpreting it for their own ends through fan-produced media, as well as how animators consider their product as national or indigenous. Donna Haraway's cyborg theory is applied to both as a means of testing out the post-national, post-gender approach to a "cyborg theory of writing."

Ashby, who has lived on the outskirts of Los Angeles, Seattle and Toronto, has published in the *Journal of the Fantastic in the Arts*, *Mondo Manga*, the *New York Review of Science Fiction*, and *Frames Per Second Magazine*. She is a recent immigrant to Canada.



De Couto's research is focused on the relationship between adolescence, education and discourses of race and sexuality. His current research project considers barriers in education for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer South Asian adolescents. This summer Gary is teaching Grade 12 World Issues at Cardinal Leger Secondary School in Brampton. He teaches using an axiological approach incorporating a variety of visual art, film, literature and music to discuss world issues and ethics.



**Doris Ha-Lin Sung** is the first recipient of the Vivienne Poy Asian Research Award. The award will enable Doris to do research in national art museums and various archives in Beijing and Shanghai and to conduct interviews with artists and scholars.

Sung, in her third year of the doctoral programme in Social and Political Thought, is investigating current developments in visual culture in the People's Republic of China (PRC), Hong Kong and the Chinese diasporas, with a focus on gender constructions in visual representations. A visual artist and curator, she has worked for various artist-run, not-for profit organizations in Toronto.

Sung's dissertation investigates Chinese women's painting and multimedia artwork from the 1900s to the present. The project looks at how the notion of the "New Woman" is challenged and destabilized in visual representations. Focusing on the work produced by women artists in the late Qing and Republican (1900s to 1949), socialist (1949-1979), and post-socialist (1979-present) periods, this project aims to open up new research possibilities and provide the missing link between the discourses of Chinese feminism and visual culture.

### YCAR in the News

YCAR Associate Director Wendy S. Wong was top news in *Y-File*, York University's daily newsletter, on 9



July in an article on her summer event series, which focuses on Hong Kong arts, design and consumption. "Connecting Words and Images," which features works by renowned Hong Kong designer Tommy Li, runs from 9 July to 25 August. To read the story, click here: [www.yorku.ca/yfile/archive/index.asp?Article=10788](http://www.yorku.ca/yfile/archive/index.asp?Article=10788).

Faculty Associate Gregory Chin attended the recent G8 Summit in Japan and was interviewed by the *South China Morning Post* and the *Chinese Business Press* on 5 July 2008. His thoughts on the Summit are also available on the following Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI) blog: <http://g8toyako.wordpress.com/2008/07/06/china-and-the-g8-problem-or-solution/>.





Research Associate Afsan Chowdhury's published poem, "conversations with suleman" was reviewed in *Probe News Magazine*. To read the review, click here: [www.probenewsmagazine.com/index.php?index=2&contentId=2899](http://www.probenewsmagazine.com/index.php?index=2&contentId=2899).

The Inaugural Asian Heritage Month Lecture and presentation of the Vivienne Poy Asian Research Award, which took place at York in early June, was featured in a *Y-File* story on 10 July 2008. To read the story, click here: [www.yorku.ca/yfile/archive/index.asp?Article=10780](http://www.yorku.ca/yfile/archive/index.asp?Article=10780).

### YCAR People

Faculty Associates Lorna Wright presented a paper at the PACIBER (Pacific Asian Consortium for International Business Education and Research) conference in Hanoi, Vietnam on 5-7 July 2008. The paper is "ASEAN SME Involvement in international Business and e-Business" and is part of her research on small and medium-sized enterprises in the APEC region and their use of information technology. She received a USD 1,000 grant for this paper.



Research Associate Michael Stainton spoke on the situation of Christian churches in China as part of a 'Human Rights in China' panel at the Amnesty Canada Annual Convention in Toronto on 14 June 2008.

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### Opportunity: SSHRC Standard Research Grant application form now available

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) recently announced that the application form and instructions for the Notification of Intent to Apply (NOI), for the Standard Research Grants program is now available on SSHRC's web site at:

[https://webapps.nserc.ca/SSHRC/logon\\_e.htm](https://webapps.nserc.ca/SSHRC/logon_e.htm).

While the submission of the NOI is not mandatory, SSHRC strongly encourage applicants to complete and submit it before the 15 August 2008 deadline. This new step will allow SSHRC to start some aspects of the competition process (e.g., selection of appropriate external assessors) before the formal application deadline.

Please note that the NOI will not be used as part of the adjudication of the formal application. Applicants and teams are therefore permitted to change their proposal between the NOI and formal stages. Please also note that the committee descriptions for Committees 12, 17, 27 and 28 have been modified.

### Opportunity: Abe Fellowship Program

The Social Science Research Council (SSRC), the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership (CGP), and the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) announce the annual Abe Fellowship competition. The Abe Fellowship is designed to encourage international multidisciplinary research on topics of pressing global concern. The Abe Fellowship Program seeks to foster the development of a new generation of researchers who are interested in policy-relevant topics of long-range importance and who are willing to become key members of a bilateral and global research network built around such topics.

Applicants are invited to submit proposals for research in the social sciences and related fields relevant to any one or combination of the following three themes: 1) Traditional and Non-Traditional Approaches to Security and Diplomacy; 2) Global and Regional Economic Issues; 3) Role of Civil Society. Research projects should be policy relevant, contemporary, and comparative or transnational.

Terms of the fellowship are flexible and are designed to meet the needs of researchers at different stages in their careers. The program provides Abe Fellows with a minimum of three and maximum of 12 months of full-time support over a 24-month period.

This competition is open to citizens of the United States and Japan as well as to *nationals of other countries* who can demonstrate strong and serious long-term affiliations with research communities in Japan or the United States. Applicants must hold a Ph.D. or the terminal degree in their field, or equivalent professional experience. Applications from researchers in professions other than academia are encouraged. The deadline is 1 September 2008. For further information and to apply, go to: <http://fellowships.ssrc.org/abe>.

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

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

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, which are now open in downtown Toronto.

#### **Creative Works of Tommy Li, Part 1: Mao Series**

Date: July 9 to July 20, 2008

Venue: Chinese Contemporary Xchange, INDEXG, 50 Gladstone Ave., Toronto

Gallery hours: 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm (closed on Sundays and Public Holidays)

#### **Creative Works of Tommy Li, Part 2: Commercial Design**

Date: July 9 to August 25, 2008

Venue: Urbanspace Gallery, Studio 117, 401 Richmond St West, Toronto

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

Both free exhibits are 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).

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### **Call for Papers: International Conference on Heritage in Asia: Converging Forces and Conflicting Values**

Hosted in Singapore, "Heritage in Asia: Converging Forces and Conflicting Values" examines heritage in relation to the broader social, environmental and economic changes occurring across Asia today. The conference will take place from 8-10 January 2008. Moving beyond sector specific analyses, we define heritage in holistic terms and include the natural and cultural, the tangible and intangible. We strongly welcome contributions that consider the validity of current heritage theory for understanding contemporary Asia, and where appropriate, offer new conceptual and analytical directions.

We also encourage submissions from researchers who offer insights into the connections between heritage and social development, urban studies, post-conflict reconstruction, migration/diaspora, trans-national capitalism, human rights, or popular culture. The conference provides the interdisciplinary platform

necessary for making sense of the broader contexts and forces surrounding heritage in Asia today; and, in so doing, offers an innovative look at the rapid and complex socio-cultural changes now occurring across the region.

Proposed themes include: Heritage in Cosmopolitan Urban Spaces; Heritage, Reconstruction and Reconciliation; Economies of Heritage; Heritage and Diversity; and Heritage and Modernity.

Paper proposals including 250-word abstracts and five-line biography should be submitted on the attached form by **1 September 2008** to Valerie Yeo at [valerie.yeo@nus.edu.sg](mailto:valerie.yeo@nus.edu.sg). Successful applicants will be advised by 15 September and will be required to send in a completed paper by 15 December 2008.

Some funding will be available for those in the Asian Region, post-graduate students, and others unable to fund themselves. Selected papers will be put forward for publication in a refereed edited volume.

For more information on the conference, please visit:

[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).

### **Call for Papers: Western Association of Women Historians**

The Western Association of Women Historians (WAWH) will meet for its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference, at the University of Santa Clara in Santa Clara, California, from 30 April to 3 May 2009. Special events will recognize the forty-year history of WAWH.

The WAWH program committee welcomes proposals for panels or single papers on any historical subject, time period, or region. Papers do not need to emphasize women's or gender history. All periods of history are welcome as well as non-U.S. subjects. Panels, workshops, or roundtables on issues in the historical profession are also encouraged.

The deadline for paper and panel submissions is **15 October 2008**. Please see the WAWH website for submission details and prize information at [www.wawh.org/](http://www.wawh.org/).

#### ***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).

\* **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).

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