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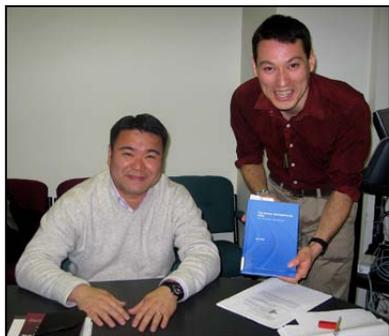
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YCAR Events: East and South Asia highlighted in past week's events



Lt to Rt: Gregory T. Chin and Sean Starrs; Chandra Siddan and Janet Rubinoff; Lorna Wright

Thank you to everyone who came out to this past week's events. On Tuesday, Political Science graduate student Sean Starrs presented his research on South Korea entitled: "The End of the Developmental State? Ten Years after the East Asian Crisis in South Korea." Thank you to Chair and Discussant Gregory T Chin.

Later that afternoon, York alumna and filmmaker Chandra Siddan returned to York to screen and answer questions on her documentary, "Remembrance of Things Present," which sees her return to India to confront family and friends about her arranged marriage at age 15. This event was organized by YCAR Faculty Associate Janet Rubinoff. On Thursday afternoon, YCAR Faculty Associate Lorna Wright presented her ongoing research on SMEs. Her talk was drawn from research done last summer in Taiwan and she discussed how these Small and Medium Enterprises compare with those in Canada. Thank you to all the presenters and organizers!

Faculty Funding Opportunity: Faculty Incentive Grants

Want your research and expertise to have an impact on individuals and organizations beyond York's campus? York's Knowledge Mobilization (KM) Unit is accepting applications for a new funding opportunity to support partnerships between York faculty members and community organizations (which could include any non-York organizations, including government departments and agencies, community groups, NGOs, charities/foundation, professional associations, labour groups, think tanks, school boards, faith and cultural groups, etc).

Ten Faculty Incentive Grants, each worth up to \$4,000, are currently available. The grants will support the development of collaborative research or KM proposals for external funding, and are intended to defray costs that are essential to the preparation of successful external funding applications.

To be eligible, you must make a joint application with a community organization. If you're interested in developing this kind of partnership but don't have existing contacts, the KM Unit is prepared to work with you to identify an appropriate organization in York Region.

All applications are due **30 May 2008**. Results will be announced by 30 June 2008. To get an application form or more information, visit www.researchimpact.ca or contact Krista Jensen (kejensen@yorku.ca or ext 88847) or Michael Johnny (mjohnny@yorku.ca or ext 88876).

Opportunity: Taiwan Studies Grants for Canadian Scholars

The Cultural Division of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) in Canada is pleased to announce the Taiwan Studies Grant Program for Canadian Scholars for 2008. The application deadline is 31 March 2008.

This grant, sponsored by the Ministry of Education of Taiwan, is designed to encourage Canadian academics in universities and colleges or in research institutions to undertake research projects on Taiwan, or on various aspects of Taiwan's relations with Canada.

The object of this grant is to enhance Canadian scholars' understanding of Taiwan by establishing direct contacts with Taiwanese academics in the same field and/or by conducting field work in Taiwan. The grant will cover international airfare and a per diem. It is mandatory for all recipients of this grant to travel to Taiwan.

Three grants will be awarded to conduct research projects from May 1, 2008 to October 31, 2008. Grants may be awarded for research in any of the following categories:

- (1) Subject areas in sciences, social science and humanities that focus on:
 - Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation with an emphasis on Taiwan and Canada ;
 - Regional security in the Asian Pacific area and implications for Taiwan and Canada ;
 - Cultural pluralism in Canada and Taiwan
- (2) Taiwan Studies or Taiwan-Canada comparative studies
- (3) Taiwan's relations with Canada

Applicants must:

- (1) Be full-time members of the academic staff of a recognized institution of higher education or equivalent

degree-granting institution; or

(2) Be scholars at a research and policy planning institution that undertakes significant Taiwan-Canada bilateral-relations research projects; or

(3) Hold a degree equivalent to a postgraduate qualification; applications will be considered from applicants without these formal qualifications only if he/she demonstrates successful research experience.

(4) Basic skills in Mandarin Chinese are an asset.

For more information, please contact Ms. Helen Chiu, Cultural Division, Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, Canada at (613) 231-4909 or tecoedu@taiwan-canada.org

Previously-posted opportunities

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

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

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

For more information: Alana Froese (sici@ucalgary.ca).

* **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

* **Ministry of Education Huayu Enrichment Scholarship**

For more information, please visit: www.taiwanembassy.org/CA/YVR

* **Scholarship Program of Taiwan**

For more information, please contact the Cultural Division, Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, Vancouver at 604 689 4119 or email a3a31932@telus.net

Upcoming Event: Regionalism in the Shadow of China: Central Asia, Hegemony, and the Social Construction of China's 'Peaceful Rise'

*Tuesday, 18 March 2008 * 1pm * 270 York Lanes, Room B * York University*



Nand C Bardouille, PhD Candidate in Political Science, will present the fourth YCAR BrownBag Graduate Student Seminar in the Winter 2008 series. Nand will present his research on how China's rise has captured the imagination of scholars, analysts and policy-makers. And so it should! China's rise constitutes a sea change in Asian and world affairs, reshaping geopolitical fault lines and landscapes as regards neighbouring countries but also the interstate system. This presentation seeks to examine contemporary China's geopolitical ascension, with a view to discerning how Beijing is trading skillfully to dislodge long-entrenched geopolitical landscapes in contiguous regions, namely Central Asia and the Asia-Pacific Rim regions. Applying neo-Gramscian and constructivist insights, he argues that the multilateral dimensions of Beijing's *soft power* engagement are transforming the political geography of the Central and East Asian regions. This diplomatic offensive is purposively etching regionalism consistent with a tendentious China-centric region-building project; which he concludes needs to be problematized.

Upcoming Event: Daisuke Takeya's *kara*

*11 March to 9 May 2008 * 131 Bloor Street West, 2nd Floor * Toronto*

The Japan Foundation, Toronto is pleased to present "*kara*" by Daisuke Takeya. In this project, both Canadian and Japanese cityscapes are depicted as subjects being observed from a distance.

The exhibition will run from 11 March to 9 May 2008. There is a lecture by Gordan Hatt on Thursday, 27 March 2008 at 7pm and an artist talk and tour on Thursday, 10 April 2008 at 7pm. *RSVP required for each event: 416.966.1600 x600 or rsvp@jftor.org.

"kara" in Japanese means "empty" and this same character can also be pronounced as "sora" which means "sky". This series of cityscape paintings are each entitled "kara" because the sky seems empty. Unique characteristics of the cities are gradually faded and almost removed. Inhabitants are separated from their cities and temporarily relieved of the problems of modern society. Takeya has lived in busy cities under the skies of both Canada and Japan. Through this series of paintings, he reveals the serenity to be found in urban scenery. This exhibition will also showcase some of his past works, which have led to this project.

Daisuke Takeya was born in Japan, studied in New York and now resides in Toronto. He earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the School of Visual Arts in New York and a Masters of Fine Arts from the New York Academy of Art. He has had solo and group exhibitions in Canada, the U.S. and Japan, including a solo exhibition at the Prince Takamado gallery at the Canadian Embassy in Tokyo in 2004, and two exhibitions at Christopher Cutts gallery, a major private gallery in Toronto.



Gallery Hours are Monday to Friday from 11:30 am to 4:30 pm; Thursday from 11:30 am to 7pm; Saturday, March 15, April 5, April 19 and May 3 from Noon to 5pm. The Gallery is closed all other Saturdays, Sundays, March 21 (Good Friday) and 24 (Easter Monday). Admission is free. For more information, please visit www.jftor.org or 416.966.1600 or info@jftor.org.

Upcoming Event: Two Tales of a City: Documentaries on Singapore

*Wednesday, 19 March 19 2008 * 2 to 4pm * 208N, North House * Munk Centre For International Studies * 1 Devonshire Place * Toronto*

There are at least 'two tales' that can be told of any city – tales that laud her prowess, strengths and achievements, and tales that pay unique attention to her 'Achilles heel'. Singapore is no exception.

In this screening event, organizers aim to showcase two thought-provoking documentaries about life in Singapore. The first, *Lion City and Asian Tiger* pays tribute to Singapore's urban transformation from a rural backwater in the 1950s to its now prosperous and ultra-modern financial hub in the league of first-world nations. The focus of the film is Singapore's economic miracle, her astounding efficiency and most memorably, the dissemination of her international success through the now world-renowned 'Singapore girl'.

The second documentary, *Singapore Rebel*, banned in Singapore, exchanges rose-tinted glasses for a critical look at the cost of the nation's economic success. The film highlights what this price is, namely the suppression of political dissent in the city, and the lack of social maturity and reflexivity among her people. Through intimate interviews with a particular political 'martyr', the extent of political suppression in Singapore is made apparent.

Immediately following the screening, there will be a short commentary by Professor Tania Li, Acting Director, Asian Institute on social, political and economic life in Singapore. To register online, please visit <http://webapp.mcis.utoronto.ca/EventDetails.aspx?eventid=5900>.

Upcoming Event: Clans, Politics, and Post-Colonialism in the Study of Central Asia

*Wednesday, 19 March * noon to 2pm * Room 108, North Building, Munk Centre for International Studies (1 Devonshire Place)*

The Centre for Research on European, Russia and Eurasian Studies presents "Politics, and Post-Colonialism

in the Study of Central Asia" as part of their Central Asia Lecture Series. Speakers include Ed Schatz (Department of Political Science, University of Toronto) and Venerakhan Torobekova (Open Society Institute Felloe, Central Asia Program. To register for this event, please visit: <http://webapp.mcis.utoronto.ca/EventDetails.aspx?eventid=5888>

Upcoming Event: China as Foreign Aid Donor: Motivations and Global Leadership Capacity

*Tuesday, 25 March 2008 * 11:45am * CIGI Seagram Room * 57 Erb Street West * Waterloo*



YCAR Faculty Associate Gregory Chin will discuss motivating China's foreign aid in a 'Food for Thought' lecture at the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI) where he is a Senior Fellow.

China's increased presence across the Global South has given rise to broad-ranging public interest and concern. Some analysts now ask whether China's activity as an "emerging donor" threatens the international donor community, or whether it can be socialized into the community? Drawing on field research conducted for the International Development Research Centre in summer 2007, Gregory Chin will discuss the motivations behind China's rising foreign assistance activities, and China's leadership capacity in this area of global affairs. He will examine China's new international influence in the area of foreign aid, and factors that limit its influence. A light lunch will be served. For more information, please visit: www.cigionline.org. To RSVP for this event, please visit <http://gregchin.eventbrite.com/>

Gregory Chin is a Senior Fellow at CIGI, and is involved in CIGI's China and World Economy, and BRICSAM Economic Diplomacy Projects. He is a Faculty Associate of the York Centre for Asian Research, and a member of the Advisory Board of the North Korea Research Group at the University of Toronto. Dr. Chin is Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Department of Political Science at York University (Canada), where he teaches global politics and East Asian political economy. (CIGI photograph)

Upcoming Events: Arnold and Tan talks round out the Winter 2008 BrownBag Graduate Student Seminar series

*Tuesday, 25 March and Tuesday, 1 April * 1pm * 270 York Lanes, Room B * York University*

On Tuesday, 25 March 2008, MES candidate Shannon Arnold will present her research on seaweed production and its social, political and economic impacts in the Philippine's Caluya Islands. The Discussant is Geography PhD candidate Keith Barney. One week later, PhD Candidate Laura Tan will present her research on China in a talk entitled: Unifying of the Warring States: Whither Political Inevitability or a Grandmaster Strategy? The Discussant will be Professor George C. Comninel.

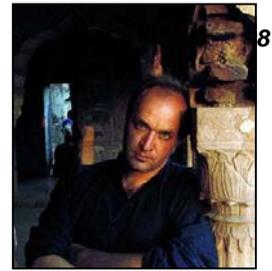
Both events will begin at 1pm in 270 York Lanes, Room B. For more information, please contact YCAR at ycar@yorku.ca

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 Djinnns*.

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)



Upcoming Event: Registration now open for Central and Inner Asia Studies Conference at UofT

Organizers are happy to announce that registration is now open for Central and Inner Asia Studies Conference 2008. It will be held at the University of Toronto on 16 and 17 May. The theme for this year is "The Material Culture, Language and Religion of Central and Inner Asia." For more information, including a provisional list of speakers and the registration form, visit the conference web page: www.utoronto.ca/cias/conference.html

Publications: Macao highlighted in two new publications by York alumnus



Political Change in Macao (Routledge 2008) by Shiu-Hing (Sonny) Lo was released last week as part of the Routledge Contemporary China Series. *The Politics of Cross-Border Crime in Greater China: Case Studies of Mainland China, Hong Kong and Macao* will be published in fall 2008. Professor Lo, who has a BA from York, is now an Associate Professor at the University of Waterloo.

In *Political Change in Macao*, Lo looks at Macao since the handover to the People's Republic of China in 1999. Macao has undergone a multi-faceted transformation marked by persistent bureaucratic reforms, changing patterns and modes of political participation, internationalization and modernization, and competition and coordination with Macao's neighbouring cities. In this original and stimulating analysis of the status of political life in Macao, Sonny Lo examines the Portuguese legacy and the transition from the Portuguese administration to the legitimacy-building efforts of the new Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR) government.

In *The Politics of Cross-Border Crime in Greater China: Case Studies of Mainland China, Hong Kong and Macao*, Lo examines the rise of organized crime in the Greater South China region since the People's Republic opened up its economy and society in the mid-1980s. Today, triads from Hong Kong, Macao and even Taiwan are involved in business in Guangdong Province, and often recruit local Chinese for illegal activities such as extortion, kidnapping, assassinations, and smuggling of illegal aliens. This book provides a detailed and comprehensive study of how the state at the central and local levels has responded to the changing patterns and activities of cross-border crime in Greater South China. It discusses the theoretical concept of organized crime; the transnational nature of organized crime in recent years; the significance of studying organized crime in South China; and the implications for the national security of other countries such as the United States, Canada, and Australia.

Call for Papers: Transformations: Researching Asia

The YCAR Graduate Student Conference will take place September 26 to 28, 2008 in Toronto.

What does it mean to "research Asia?" Asian Studies is a growing field within and, we hope, beyond Area Studies. Recent developments in Asian research reflect modern and contemporary events across a wide range of disciplines. As the body of research on Asia grows, questions concerning the production and mediation of "Asia" become more pressing. The critical and fundamental questions "What is Asia?" and "How to study Asia?" remain unresolved and contested. As a field, moreover, Asian Studies remains driven by disciplinary divides; interdisciplinary intersections remain disappointingly rare.

With this conference we seek to address the epistemology and methodology of researching Asia within and

beyond the geographical and disciplinary constraints traditionally associated with Area Studies. We invite papers from graduate students engaged in interdisciplinary research in Asian Studies focusing on the modern and contemporary periods.

Possible paper topics could address (but are not limited to) these sub-themes:

* Epistemology of Asian Studies * Methodology and Practices in Asian Studies * Orientalism & Re-Orientalism * Knowledge/Power * Time and Temporality * Modernity * North/South Divide * Globalization * Race and Ethnicity * Migration and Diaspora * Race, Gender, and Class * Positioning and Subjectivity * Body and Representation * Sexuality * Media and Technology * Environmental Challenges * Art and Visual Culture * Music and Performing Arts

Interested participants should submit a paper title, abstract (250 words maximum) and brief biographical information by 1 April 2008. Selected participants must submit completed papers by 1 August 2008. Please email submissions to the conference organizers at: transformationsasiaconference@gmail.com. More information about the conference can be found on the conference website: www.yorku.ca/ycar/Events/graduate_conference.html

Call for Papers: Modern Architecture in East Asia: Regionalism & Transnationalism

OMA/Rem Koolhaas's CCTV Headquarters (2002-8) is rising triumphantly against the backdrop of Beijing's rapidly transforming skyline. Joining it on the other side of the city is the much-famed Olympic Stadium "Bird's Nest" (2002-8) of Herzog and de Meuron. At the same time, Zaha Hadid's design project for the Guangzhou Opera House (2003-) is the architectural world's "talk of the town" for its aesthetics and structural challenge. In Japan, Herzog and de Meuron's Prada Building (2003), Jean Nouvel's Dentsu Headquarters (1998-2002), and Renzo Piano's Hermes Building (1998-2002) have all pushed the possibilities of glass to new heights, and Steven Holl's Nexus World Housing in Fukuoka, Japan, transformed the trajectory of his own career. Meanwhile, architects such as Yung Ho Chang/Atelier FCJZ, Qingyun Ma/MADA s.p.a.m., and Hitoshi Abe/A-Slash are questioning the transformation of Asia through both their own designs and architectural education in the United States (MIT, USC, UCLA). The architectural boom in the past decade has inevitably shifted the field's geographical concentration from Europe and North America to the Asian Pacific Rim.

This geo-architectural shift simultaneously raises significant theoretical questions about positioning East Asia in the global discourse of modern architecture. Is prospering East Asia the future, the other modern, or simply the land where famous architects deploy their most recent innovations? In a world of increasingly global practice, is architecture defined by the building location or designer's identity? Should the new architecture in East Asia be identified as modern East Asian architecture, or the tag of regionalism be replaced with contemporary architecture in the age of transnationalism? Proposals on interdisciplinary, comparative aspects, either between geographical regions or between time- periods, are particularly welcome.

This conference will be held in Los Angeles from 25 to 28 February 2009. Abstracts are due on **9 May 2008** and can be sent to koshima@u.washington.edu and vimalin@udel.edu. For abstract submission guideline and CAA form, visit www.collegeart.org/pdf/CallforParticipation2009.pdf

Previously-posted Call for Papers and Submissions:

* **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>

* **New England Association for Asian Studies conference** (15 April 2008)

For more information: www.umb.edu/academics/cla/dept/modlang/neaas_conference08.html or neaas@umb.edu.

* **Cultural Connections, Convergences, and Collisions Past and Present: New York Conference on Asian Studies** (1 May 2008)

For more information: www.hamilton.edu/NYCAS/ or email 08NYCAS@hamilton.edu.

* 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

* Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival (16 May 2008)

For more information, please contact programming@reelasian.com.

* International Conference on "Debt and Slavery: the History of a Process of Enslavement (1 June 2008)

For more information: <http://indianoceanworldcentre.com/>.