



York Centre for Asian Research Update

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YCAR Members: Oh Haji, YCAR's Visiting Scholar for 2009.2010



Please join us in warmly welcoming Oh Haji (Natsue Okamura) to YCAR and York University for the academic year. Haji is a doctoral candidate in the Division of Fine Arts at the Kyoto City University of Arts in Japan and will be a Visiting Scholar at YCAR for the academic year.

In her research, Haji is exploring the relationship between creativities and "clothes", based on cultural contexts, social situations and political backgrounds, by investigating how far and in what ways "textile" is interrelated with *both* the social structures and historical contexts in which the textile has been produced *and* the individuals who produce and consume the products. She is currently preparing her dissertation, which focuses on ethnic costume, while producing art with the intention to capture the multifaceted features of ethnic costume.

Haji will be presenting her research at a seminar in Winter 2008. She can be reached at haji@yorku.ca.

YCAR News: Graduate Assistants join YCAR for academic year



Alice (Zhengfen) Hu is a first year doctoral student in the Political Science Department at York University. She majors in International Relations. Her research regional interests are China, Northeast Asia and Southeast Asia; her theoretical interests are international relations and international political economy of the Asia-Pacific. She was born and raised in Zhejiang, China, and came to Canada in 2002. She receives her Master's degree from Brock University and Bachelor's degree from St. Thomas University.

Anisa (Nayeema) Anwar is a first year doctoral student in the Anthropology Department at York University. Her regional research interests are Bangladesh, South Asia and Bangladeshi diaspora in Toronto. Her theoretical interest lies in Medical Anthropology with a particular focus on political economic perspective of the health of first generation Canadian immigrant women. Anisa was born and raised in Bangladesh and completed her M.Phil. in Social Anthropology at University of Bergen, Norway, in 2002. She joined the Department of Anthropology at California State University as an adjunct faculty in 2005 before coming to Canada to pursue her doctoral studies in 2008.



Carrie Macmillan is a Masters Candidate in Environmental Studies and comes to YCAR as a Graduate Assistant. Her research, while still in its planning stages, will look at various historical consequences of water and waste management strategies in major urban centres. Her academic interests include environmental history, waste management, water quality issues, food security and contemporary urban/rural relationships. Originally from rural Nova Scotia, Carrie moved to Toronto after living two years in Shanghai, China. During this time, she was able to travel extensively throughout China and many of its neighbouring countries, falling in love with every aspect of Modern Asia: the cultures, landscapes, histories and above all else, the street snacks.



Pedram Afshar is a Masters candidate with the Graduate Programme in Political Science. His research focuses on critical political economy, political ecology and East Asia. His MRP will (hopefully) attempt to present a novel critique of the philosophical justifications and mathematical support for the Environmental Kuznets Curve. Pedram's research interests also include the history of economic thought, Complexity theory, the metaphysics of causality and properties, philosophy of feminism, and transgender studies. He received his Honours BA in Political Science and Philosophy from the University of Toronto.

YCAR Event: Chinese Gender and cultural production explored at workshop

Scholars from Germany, Canada, France, England, United States and China were guests at York University last week where they presented their research on gender and cultural production. The two-day workshop, held on 26-27 October, focused on these themes as a new approach to looking at Chinese women's journals in the early 20th century. The second day of the workshop was open to the public and held at York University.

The event was organized as an introductory workshop for a multi-year SSHRC-Humboldt Foundation project, 'A New Approach to the Popular Press in China 1904-1937.' YCAR Faculty Associate Joan Judge (Women's Studies, Humanities), Barbara Mittler (Heidelberg University) and Grace Fong (McGill University) are the project's principal investigators.

David Dewitt, Associate Vice President, Research and Innovation, and key in ensuring the grant came to York, gave opening remarks and welcomed the group to the university. The seven presentations included initial findings from research on four Chinese journals of the period - *Linglong* (Elegance); *Funü shibao* (The Women's Eastern Times); *Funü zazhi* (Ladies' Journal) and *Nüzi shijie* (Women's World).

More information about the project and the workshop is available at: www.yorku.ca/ycar/Programs_Projects/Popular_Press_China.html.



(Lt-Rt: Joan Judge (York University), Eavan Cully (McGill University); Sun Liying (Heidelberg University); Annika Joest (Heidelberg University); Barbara Mittler (Heidelberg University); Graham Sanders (Discussant-University of Toronto); Grace Fong (McGill University); Doris Ha-Lin Sung (York University); and Julia Andrews (Ohio State University).

YCAR Event: YCAR welcomes Canada's Ambassador to the Koreas



Lt-Rt: Karen Foss (Deputy Director (Korea) at Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada); David Dewitt (Associate Vice President, Research and Innovation); Ambassador Ted Lipman; Bernie Frolic (Director, Asian Business and Management Programme); Gregory Chin (Associate Professor, Political Science).

Ted Lipman, Canadian Ambassador to the Republic of Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea spoke, on Canada's connections with the two Koreas at York University on 30 October. Students and faculty also had the opportunity to ask questions of Ambassador Lipman.

Ted Lipman joined the Canadian Department of External Affairs in 1976 and his first assignment in Asia was to the Canadian Embassy in Beijing, 1977-80. Since then, he has had a variety of assignments in China. His most recent assignment abroad was as Executive Director of the Canadian Trade Office in Taipei (2001-2004).

The roundtable was presented by YCAR, the York Centre for International and Security Studies and the Centre for Study of Korea at the University of Toronto.

Opportunity: Post Doctoral Fellowships in South Asian Studies, Yale University

The South Asian Studies Council (SASC) at the MacMillan Center invites applications for post-doctoral positions at Yale University for AY 2009-2010. The Council expects to make up to four appointments with the possibility of a one-year renewal. Candidates must have research and teaching experience relevant to modern and contemporary South Asia, in the humanities or social sciences; have in-depth knowledge of at least one SA-related language and fluency in English; and must have completed the PhD by the time of appointment. The post-doctoral fellow will teach one course in each of two terms related to his/her interests, pursue his/her own research, and participate in the activities of the South Asian Studies Council.

Applicants should submit a cover letter, one-page description of research plans; a draft of a course syllabus and a title and brief summary of a second course; a CV; names and contact information of two references. Two reference letters should be sent separately. Compensation includes an annual salary of \$50,000 and health coverage.

We will accept applications immediately with review beginning on **5 January 2009** and continuing until the selections are final. Yale is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer.

All information should be submitted electronically to barbara.papacoda@yale.edu. Applications by email with PDF files and reference letters from valid institutional addresses will be accepted. Applications by airmail should be sent to: Barbara Papacoda, Administrative Associate, South Asian Studies Council, The Whitney and Betty MacMillan Center for international and Area Studies, 34 Hillhouse Avenue, P.O. Box 20826, New Haven, Ct 06520, USA.

For more information, visit: www.yale.edu/macmillan/southasia.

Previously-posted opportunities

* Visiting Fellow at the Center for Asian Democracy, University of Louisville (1 December 2008)

For more information: <http://louisville.edu/asiandemocracy/> or shiping.hua@louisville.edu.

* Asia Pacific Scholarship Consortium scholarships (14 December 2008)

For more information, email info@scholarshipsasia.org.

* Postdoctoral Fellowship in Modern Southeast Asian Studies, Columbia University (January 2009)

For more information, contact Celia Bhattacharya, Program Officer by e-mail at cb2462@columbia.edu or www.columbia.edu/cu/weai/postdoctoral-fellowship.html.

Upcoming Event: Reforming the Urban Landscape: The role of Vietnam's emerging middle class in transforming Hanoi

Friday, 7 November 2008 * Noon to 2pm * 208N – Seminar Room, North House, Munk Centre For International Studies, 1 Devonshire Place * Toronto

YCAR Faculty Associate Lisa Drummond presents “Reforming the Urban Landscape: The role of Vietnam’s emerging middle class in transforming Hanoi” on 7 November. During the 20-plus years of *doi moi* (economic renovation) policy, the spatial fabric of Vietnam’s cities has undergone significant transformation. In a now-familiar pattern from cities the world over, Hanoi has predictably though with alarming rapidity developed outward into seemingly ever-expanding suburbs, and upward into high-rise hotels and apartment complexes. More importantly, the landscape of urban everyday life has been resculpted through the middle class’ role in consumption, actual and aspirational, with effects on modes of shopping, leisure, transportation, and, critically, attitudes towards the use and users of public space. In this paper, Drummond considers the impact of socio-economic reform on the capital city of Hanoi, focusing specifically on the ways in which the middle class, made possible by *doi moi*, has and continues to alter the urban landscape.

Lisa Drummond is Associate Professor of Urban Studies at York University. After living and working in Hanoi, Vietnam in the early 1990s, she completed a degree in Human Geography at the Australia National University and held a postdoctoral fellowship at the National University of Singapore. Her research has focused primarily on urban social life in Vietnam, including analyses of popular culture, specifically in television serials and women’s magazines, women’s roles in Vietnamese society, and the application of western concepts such as public and *private to the* use of space in Vietnamese cities. Her publications include several co-edited books, most recently *Consuming Urban Culture in Contemporary Vietnam*, with Mandy Thomas, and *Gender Practices in Contemporary Vietnam*, with Helle Rydstrom.

Register for this event online at: <http://webapp.mcis.utoronto.ca/EventDetails.aspx?eventid=6472>.

Upcoming Event: Literati Storytelling in the Early Qing: New Sidelights on Two Liaozhai Tales

*Friday, 7 November 2008 * 3:30 to 5:30pm * EAS Lounge * Roberta 14-087 * 130 St. George Street * Toronto*

The Department of East Asian Studies at the University of Toronto is pleased to invite you to the following presentation: 'Literati Storytelling in the Early Qing: New Sidelights on Two Liaozhai Tales' with Prof. Allan H. Barr of Pomona College. Barr will speak on the practice of informal storytelling in late imperial China. He is an eminent expert on the most famous collection of tales of the supernatural in the period, Pu Songling's *Liaozhai zhiyi*.

The EAS lounge is on the 14th floor of Robarts Library. Take elevators from the second floor.

Upcoming Event: Screening of the Mad Detective (*Sun taam*)

*Friday, 7 November 2008 * 7pm * Workman Theatre at Ossington and Queen.*

Mad Detective (Sun taam) (2007) by Hong Kong Director Johnnie To will be featured at the Rendezvous with Madness Film Festival this Friday. A panel discussion with York Film Professor Suzie Young will follow the film (Cantonese with English subtitles).

Detective Bun is notorious. To solve crimes he places himself inside the criminal mind, but his methods are unorthodox and his behaviour, erratic. Still, he's the best detective on the force. At least he was until questions about his sanity forced him into early retirement. Now a missing detective's gun has been implicated in a series of crimes, and up-and-coming Inspector Ho begs Bun to come back and break the case. Blinded by Bun's past success Ho dismisses the department's concerns, but when the stakes are raised, Ho begins to see the detective in a different light. Will faith or fear prevail?

Rendezvous with Madness Film Festival is an annual film festival that presents features and shorts touching upon the facts and mythology surrounding mental health and addiction. Each program focuses on a different theme. Post-screening panel discussions involve filmmakers, artists and people with professional and personal experience with mental illness and addiction.

Director Johnnie To was born in Hong Kong. He has directed and produced over 40 films. He founded a production company in 1996 in partnership with frequent collaborator Wai Ka-fai, a writer, producer and director also born in Hong Kong.

For more information on Rendezvous with Madness Film Festival, visit www.rendezvouswithmadness.com/.

Upcoming Event: Childhood Experiences of Daughter Elimination in Tamil Nadu, India

*13 November 2008 * 2:30 to 4pm * 305 Founders College * York University*

York professor Sharada Srinivasan will present her research as part of the IDS Development Seminar Series on 13 November.

In recent years sharp declines have been reported in the proportion of girls to boys in India. A substantial proportion of this is attributed to daughter elimination in the form of sex selective abortion, neglect and female infanticide. Analytical attempts to understand and policy responses to prevent daughter elimination are adult-centered, focused mainly on mothers. Drawing from fieldwork in districts Salem and Madurai in the south Indian state of Tamil Nadu known for the widespread practice of daughter elimination, the paper shows that children as much as adults are embedded in the micro-contexts in which elimination of female offspring enjoys social sanction. Girls and boys as young as six to eight years have witnessed or heard of infanticide

and of sex selection as well as their causes. Some girls grow up knowing that they were rescued from infanticide or that their sisters were not. This paper highlights the experiences of girls growing up in contexts; how they become aware of, comprehend and deal with valuation and unwantedness. The paper concludes by looking at implications of such experiences for understanding of childhoods including issues of children as actors and child standpoint.

Srinivasan is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Social Science where she teaches Development Studies. Her research is focused on two broad themes: gender, culture and violence; and young people and development. She is currently working on daughter elimination and children's experience of gender discrimination and gender violence. She has written on dowry, domestic violence and daughter elimination in India and has published in *World Development*, *Economic and Political Weekly* and *Journal of Development Studies*.

Call for Submissions: Canada and the World: Asian Imaginings

The York Centre for Asian Research (YCAR) invites Asian Canadian artists to submit works that survey the complexity of globalization through their personal experience of cultural traversing. It will explore transnational dimensions of Asian diaspora in Canada, their inspirations, visions and contentions of the notion of a "Connected World." The exhibition will be held in May-June 2009 at York University, Toronto.

The last 20 years have seen a trend in which Asian Canadian artists explore transnational interactions in their works. As opportunities become more readily available to travel to and from Asia, many artists developed an intimacy with cultures and peoples that have broadened their perspectives on social and historical aspects of their roots. These perspectives have energized works that express the vibrant and yet enigmatic social and cultural dynamics between Canada, Asia and the world. The exhibition will present works that convey the experiences of Asian Canadians whose physical and emotional contacts with their cultures of origin have affected their lives and experiences in the global environment.

The exhibition is curated by independent curators and York University doctoral candidates Jooyeon Rhee (Humanities) and Doris Ha-Lin Sung (Social and Political Thought). Canada and the World: Asian Imaginings will be the visual art counterpart of an accompanying symposium that explores the transnational origins and dimensions of modern mass culture in Asia.

Deadline for submission: **15 December 2008** (Postmarked)
Selection Notice : Early January 2008
Exhibition Period : 13 May to 12 June 2009 (tentative)
Exhibition Venue : Gales Gallery, York University

For those selected, YCAR will pay artist fees.

Artists are welcome to submit work in all mediums including painting, sculpture, installation, photo- and time-based media. Submission packages should include:

- * CV and artist's statement
- * 10 slides or digital images on CD with clear identifications of each work. For digital media files, send CD with clear viewing instructions.
- * Descriptive list for visual materials (title, medium, dimensions, date)
- * Self-addressed stamped envelope for returning materials

Note: Do not send original slides or artwork.

Send submission packages to:

Curators, Asian Imaginings Exhibition; c/o York Centre for Asian Research
Suite 270 York Lanes, York University, 4700 Keele Street, Toronto, ON. M3J 1P3

For more information, contact Jooyeon Rhee and Doris Sung: asian.imagination@gmail.com.

Call for Papers: Religion and Human Rights in China

The York Centre for Asian Research (YCAR) at York University, Centre for Asian-Canadian Theology and Ministry at Knox College at the University of Toronto and the Hudson Taylor Centre for Chinese Ministries at Tyndale College invite scholars, religious organizations and human rights workers to share their research and experience in a one-day symposium on Religion and Human Rights in China, to take place in Toronto next summer.

The 2008 Olympic Games brought unprecedented international attention to China's human rights practices, as well as intensified repression against Tibetan Buddhists, Uighur Muslims and Falun Dafa practitioners. Yet the expansion of religious activity in China has created the greatest religious revival in human history, especially for Buddhism and Christianity. Observers have noted the highly diverse application of religious policies by local governments. For Protestants and Catholics, it is no longer possible to posit a simple dichotomy between officially recognized and unregistered churches, or Catholics loyal to Rome versus the official Catholic Church. Religious charities such as the Taiwan-based Tzu-Chi Buddhist Compassion and Relief Association or the Protestant Amity Foundation play an important role in Chinese society.

The organizers invite presentations examining the diversity of religious practice in China, Communist Party religious policy, and the connection between religion and dissent. Presentations examining these from the perspective of human rights discourse, and asking what religion can contribute to human rights in China are especially welcome. Organizers will attempt to pair academic and activist presentations to achieve a dynamic exchange between different perspectives and facilitate exchange between different religions who do not usually meet.

Abstracts of approximately 250 words and a short bio should be submitted by **17 November 2008** to ycar@yorku.ca. Successful applicants will be notified by mid-December. Panel submissions are also welcome. For more information, contact organizer Michael Stainton at michaels@yorku.ca or 416.736.2100 ext 33068.

Call for papers: Writers, Critics, and Scholars: The Public Intellectual and Chinese Literature

The Biennial Conference of the Association of Chinese and Comparative Literature will take place at Tsinghua University, Beijing, from 19-21 June 2009.

In answer to the question, Why study Chinese literature?, to what extent can the answer be framed in terms of contributing to public discourse on China? What does Chinese cultural expression have to say to the rest of the world? How can we tell whether a work is directed at an exclusively Chinese or universal audience? If it is Chinese only, does that mean there are no lessons to be learned from it in other cultures? What can translators and scholars offer the global audience from the Chinese experience?

We invite papers and panels from scholars all over the world on this theme or other topics in Chinese and comparative literature. Papers may be given in Chinese or English, preferably Chinese.

This conference offers an opportunity to explore the relationship between literature and public discourse in China. This relationship has many facets (the outline below is not intended to be comprehensive, but to stimulate thought):

- 1) The author (perceived) as a public intellectual endeavoring to effect change through literary creation;
- 2) The aesthetics of artistic social commentary;
- 3) Authors, critics, and scholars acting as public intellectuals through engagement in social action or (nonartistic) expression through the media;
- 4) Scholars of Chinese culture contributing to media discourse on China (within China and across national borders)

Please submit panel proposals and/or paper abstracts to accl2009@gmail.com by **15 December 2008**. See the ACCL website - <http://depts.washington.edu/acclhome/> for programme updates.

Call for Papers: Bridges and Borders in East Asia: 12th Annual Harvard East Asia Society Graduate Student Conference

The Harvard East Asia Society (HEAS) Graduate Student Conference invites graduate students from around the world, conducting research in all disciplines, to submit abstracts for our 2009 conference: Bridges and Borders in East Asia. The conference will be held from 27 February to 1 March 2009 in Cambridge, MA.

The East Asian landscape is dominated by barriers that separate culture from culture and state from state, from the Korean Demilitarized Zone to the Great Wall to the Taiwan Strait. But borders are permeable and mutable, constantly shifting in position and meaning; frontiers connect the same spaces that they partition.

The 2009 Harvard East Asian Society Conference Committee welcomes submissions addressing this theme of borders and border-crossings. We are looking for any work that bridges divides – between people, spaces, eras, ideas, cultures or disciplines. Often, the first bridges to be built are the first to be burned. Walls are enduring symbols of stasis; they are nonetheless sites of exchange. We look forward to exploring these paradoxes of social, cultural, physical and intellectual space.

The HEAS Graduate Student Conference is an annual conference which aims to provide an interdisciplinary forum for graduate students to exchange ideas and discuss current research on East Asia. The conference is an opportunity for young scholars to present their research to both their peers and eminent scholars in East Asian Studies. All panels will be moderated by Harvard University faculty.

We welcome submissions from graduate students in all disciplines. Papers should be related to this year's theme and to East Asia, Inner Asia, Singapore, or Vietnam. We will consider submissions of individual papers and panel proposals.

Eligibility and Application Guidelines: 1) Applicants must be currently enrolled in a program of graduate study ("postgraduate" in British degree classification systems); 2) Papers must be related to the conference theme AND to one or more of the countries of East Asia that share the Chinese cultural tradition, including Japan, Korea, Inner Asia, Singapore and Vietnam; 3) Abstracts must be no longer than 250 words, submitted exactly as directed on the HEAS Conference website; 4) Deadline for abstract submission: **30 November 2008**; 5) Detailed instructions and more information are available on our website: www.hcs.harvard.edu/~heas/conference/

For general conference inquiries, please contact: heasconference@gmail.com. For abstract submission inquiries, please contact: heas.abstracts@gmail.com.

Previously-posted Calls

* **YCAR Papers 2008-2009**

For more information: ycar@yorku.ca or www.yorku.ca/ycar.

* **Dissertation Workshop on Social Capital and Civic Engagement in Asia, UoT (30 January 2009)**

For more information: ai.soc@utoronto.ca.

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