

YCAR Award Recipients for 2008

In the 2007-2008 academic year, four awards were offered to graduate students conducting research on Asia or the Asian Diaspora at York University. The winners were announced in October 2007 and March 2008.

Albert C.W. Chan Foundation Fellowship

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 centred 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. She returns to land of her birth, Singapore, in May and will be affiliated with the Asian Research Institute. From June to August, she will be based in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, where she is being 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.

The Albert C.W. Chan Foundation Fellowship was established by the Albert C.W. Chan Foundation to encourage and assist York University graduate students to conduct field research in East and/or Southeast Asia. YCAR would like to thank the Albert C. W. Chan family for their support of York graduate students.

For more information: [**Albert C.W. Chan Foundation Fellowship**](#)

David Wurfel Award



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.

The Award was established in 2006 by YCAR Senior Research Associate Dr. David Wurfel, who wanted to contribute to the emergence of a new generation of Filipino leadership and scholarship grounded in the country's history, culture and public affairs. Dr. Wurfel is a Philippine specialist who received his PhD from Cornell University's Southeast Asia Programme.

The David Wurfel Award provides financial support to an honours undergraduate or masters graduate student who intends to conduct thesis research on the topic of Filipino history, culture, or society. The award is open to students enrolled in York University in social sciences or humanities programmes (including Faculties of Law and Environmental Studies), and who are Canadian citizens/permanent residents/protected persons.

For more information: [David Wurfel Award](#)

YCAR Language Award

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.

The Award was created to help graduate students to fulfill the language requirement for the Graduate Diploma in Asian Studies and to facilitate their research on Asia or Asian diaspora communities.

The award is open to local and international students enrolled in the Graduate Diploma in Asian Studies at York who have a grade point average of at least 6.0 and a demonstrated need to learn a specific Asian language to appreciate and better understand contexts and perspectives related to their research.

For more information: **YCAR Language Award**

Vivienne Poy Asian Research Award



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.

The award is named for the Honourable Vivienne Poy and will assist a graduate student in fulfilling the fieldwork requirement for Graduate Diploma in Asian Studies.

The award is open to local and international students who have a grade point average of at least B+ and have a demonstrable need to do fieldwork in Asia to complete their programme and to enhance their understanding of Asia. Financial need will also be considered. Priority will be given to students who apply to do research in fulfillment of the fieldwork requirement of the Graduate Diploma in Asian Studies (GDAS).

For more information: **Vivienne Poy Asian Research Award**