2009 Annual Report

York Centre for Asian Research

An organized research unit of York University

April 2009
Table of Contents

1. Director’s Message (p. 3)
2. Executive Committee (p. 6)
3. Membership (p. 7)
   1) Faculty Associates
   2) Research Associates and Visiting Scholars
   3) Senior Research Associates
   4) Graduate Associates
   5) Post-Doctoral Associates
4. Research and Training Programmes and Projects (p. 9)
   1) A New Approach to the Popular Press in China: Gender and Cultural Production, 1904-1937
   2) B(R)ICS and Beyond: Emerging Powers and World Order
   3) Ecologies on the Edge
   4) Political Change in China: Contemporary Research and Policy Implications (2007-)
   5) Reorganizing Landscape and Livelihood: Household and Community Responses to Protected Area Establishment
   6) Privatizing Environmental Governance: A Global Analysis of the Effects and Effectiveness of Environmental Certification for Farmed Salmon and Shrimp
   7) Asian Comics and Gaming
   8) Challenges of Agrarian Transition in Southeast Asia
   9) Excavating a History of Contemporary Chinese Graphic Design
   10) Virtual Museum of Asian Canadian Cultural Heritage (VMACCH)
   11) Asian Business and Management Program (ABMP)
   12) China Management Training Programme (CMTP)
5. Research Clusters (p. 19)
   1) Canadian Missionaries in Asia
   2) Korea Studies Group
   3) Philippines Study Group
   4) (Re)making Governance
   5) South Asian Research Group
   6) York China Studies
   7) York Political Ecology Workshop
6. Event Highlights (p. 31)
   1) Inaugural Asian Heritage Month Lecture
   2) Connecting Words and Images: Hong Kong Art, Design and Consumption
   3) Transformations: Researching Asia | YCAR Graduate Associates’ Inaugural Graduate Student Conference
   4) Behind the Lines: Culture in Late Colonial Korea | An International Symposium
   5) The Future of Post-Olympics China
   6) Gender and Cultural Production: A New Approach to Chinese Women's Journals in the Early 20th Century workshop
   7) Political Change in China
   8) Journeys with Kabir
   9) Global Asia and the Global Economic Crisis
7. Calendar of Events (p. 41)
8. Graduate Student Research, Training and Awards (p. 48)
   1) Graduate Diploma in Asian Studies
   2) YCAR Graduate Student Awards
   3) YCAR Graduate Assistants
9. Associate Awards and Grants (p. 53)
10. Plans and Priorities for 2009-2010 (p. 56)
    1) Asian Transformations: A Symposium, Visual Arts Exhibition and Lecture Marking the Fiftieth Anniversary of York University
       b) transpulsation – new asian canadian imaginings (15 May 2009 to 12 June 2009)
       c) Inaugural Asia Lecture (Fall 2009)
    2) Religion and Human Rights in China (30 May 2009)
    3) Asian Heritage Month Lecture 2009 (4 June 2009)
    4) The BRICS: Emerging Powers as Emerging Donors: A Book Workshop (Fall 2009)
    5) Art and Pan-Asianism in the Last Decades of Empire (Fall 2009)
    6) Religion, Politics and Diaspora research workshop (Spring 2010)
    7) Hong Kong Studies International
    8) Vietnam Studies in Canada
11. Publications (p. 59)
    1) Publication Highlights
    2) Publications of Associates

All photographs by A. Filipowich unless otherwise indicated
Director's Message

The past year has been a time of achievements and challenges for the York Centre for Asian Research (YCAR). As the pages that follow detail, our research community has continued to produce and disseminate cutting-edge, innovative research that challenges traditional disciplinary and social boundaries, expands our understandings of the region, and situates Asia in its multiple global contexts. Our members have again gained well-earned recognition for their research excellence from a number of external bodies and funders. The Centre has, collectively, expanded its support for the research and training of the next generation of Asia and Asian Diaspora scholars. Our many programmes, projects and events continue to advance research-informed academic and public understandings of Asia and of Canada’s many connections with its societies, past and present.

Amongst the many highlights from the past year, the Centre welcomed a new international collaborative project in the humanities, ‘A New Approach to the Popular Press in China: Gender and Cultural Production, 1904-1937’. Co-led by Joan Judge (Humanities; Women’s Studies), the multi-year collaborative initiative is funded by SSHRC and the Humboldt Foundation. Researchers from Canada, Germany, France, the United Kingdom and the United States will focus on new gender relations to challenge discourses of early twentieth-century Chinese history that focus on the failings of tradition and modernity’s promise.

Research projects led by or involving YCAR Faculty Associates Ann Kim, Guida Man and Gregory Chin received SSHRC grants this spring. Amongst the other recent grants to our faculty, Renita Wong (Social Work) and collaborator Long Di (The Psychology Institute, Chinese Academy of Science) were awarded a grant from the Partnership for Community Development for their project 'Post-earthquake Psychological and Cultural Rebuilding in Beichuan, Sichuan Province, China'. Research Associate Afsan Chowdhury received the 2008 Oak Human Rights Fellowship from Colby College, Maine for his many contributions to the human rights field. These have most recently focused on global warming and the Global South, particularly the situation of Bangladesh.

In the past year, Joshua Fogel (History) relaunched the multi-disciplinary journal Sino-Japanese Studies. Under his editorship, the journal will once again make a valuable and unique contribution to the study of China and Japan together, whether the focus is comparative, the interactions of the two societies, or the meeting of the Japan and China studies fields.

We were also immensely fortunate to co-host with York's South Asia Programme the series 'Journeys with Kabir'. The two-day series included public, academic and classroom events on the fifteenth-century poet, saint and mystic, Kabir, interpreted by a musical ensemble and a film maker from India as well as a specialist academic researcher.
Amongst the activities of the research groups at YCAR over the past year, the Korean Study Group held its first research workshop, showcasing York’s breadth of scholarly expertise in this area. YCAR also hosted an international symposium on culture in late colonial Korea. The (Re)making Governance cluster ran a series of events on global Asia in the current global economic crisis. The events, part of a longer-term initiative, took advantage of our multidisciplinary expertise in the political economy of the region, the study of livelihoods, agrarian transitions, social policy, labour markets and small and medium business. The York Political Ecology Workshop continued to hold intensive seminars focusing on the work-in-progress and published papers of its members and visitors.

We are immensely fortunate at YCAR to have a talented group of Graduate Associates, who are involved in all aspects of the Centre. This year they organized a very successful international conference showcasing the work of graduate student Asia and Asian Diaspora researchers, a first for YCAR and for York. The conference examined the epistemological and methodological dimensions of Area Studies that push us to rethink geographical and disciplinary conventions. The conference echoed the themes of the core course of our Graduate Diploma in Asian Studies. Dr. Rey Chow, of Brown University, gave a provocative and memorable keynote address.

The year has not been without major challenges. The global economic crisis has reduced the revenue available for the Centre’s operations in the coming year. At the time of writing, the longer-term impact on YCAR was still unclear, but it is certain that we will have to intensify efforts to increase and diversify our revenue sources. Also this year, a three-month strike by York contract faculty, teaching assistants, and graduate assistants seriously disrupted the activities of the Centre and the academic life of the university as a whole. In the wake of the strike, YCAR has been exceptionally busy. The many initiatives underway and the quality of the research being produced are testaments to the strength of our scholarly community.

We are excited to be organizing three events in the coming months to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary year of York University in 2009. These events will reflect upon the multiple transformations of Asian and Asian Diaspora communities in this same half-century. In May 2009, the Centre will host the symposium 'The Global Modern' on the transnational origins and dimensions of the modern mass media in twentieth-century Asia to the present-day. Organized by Faculty Associate Joan Judge, the symposium will feature the research of a number of York faculty and graduate students. The symposium is designed to complement a visual art exhibition titled 'transpulsation – new asian canadian imaginings', curated by two senior YCAR Graduate Associates, Doris Sung and Jooyeon Rhee. In autumn 2009, YCAR will be honoured to host Professor Veena Das of Johns Hopkins University, who will give the inaugural Asia Lecture as part of the 'U50' year. Her lecture will focus on urban poverty.

On behalf of our research community, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to Wendy Wong, who will end her term as Associate Director of YCAR in July 2009. Professor Wong has given generously of her time, ideas, and energies over the last five years. Our community has benefited enormously from her talents, imagination and her many contributions. We wish her all the best on her much deserved sabbatical year. I am also very pleased to be able to welcome Michael Nijhawan, who will assume the Associate Directorship beginning in July 2009.
Professor Nijhawan will bring invaluable expertise in South Asia and Asian Diaspora studies to YCAR programmes. I look forward to working with him.

My sincere appreciation goes out to the members of the 2008-2009 YCAR Executive Committee for their hard work and wise counsel over what has been a challenging year. My particular thanks to Shobna Nijhawan and Grace Shen, whose terms on the Executive Committee are coming to an end. They have made enormous contributions to the work of the committee and in many other ways. Not least, Professor Nijhawan was course director of the Graduate Diploma in Asian Studies core course this year.

Let me extend my heartfelt thanks to Alicia Filipowich, YCAR’s talented and dedicated Coordinator. Her boundless energy, sound judgment and initiative make possible virtually all that we do. I would also like to thank the Graduate Assistants whose work has contributed to the Centre in the past year: Pedram Afshar, Carrie Macmillan, Alice Hu and Anisa Anwar.

Let me also extend our collective gratitude to Bernie Frolic, Máire O’Brien and Jingbo Zhang, for their financial and other contributions to YCAR through the work of the Asian Business and Management Programme and the China Management Training Programme.

Finally, on behalf of our entire community, I would like to warmly thank the many organizations and partners, both at York and beyond the university, for their generous financial and other support for our activities. You will find their names inside the report that is before you.

I invite you to learn more about our programmes, projects and other initiatives in the pages that follow. Please also check out our website at www.yorku.ca/ycar.

Susan Henders, D.Phil
Director, York Centre for Asian Research
2. Executive Committee

The YCAR Executive Committee is chaired by the Director (ex officio) and is comprised of the Associate Director (ex officio); four other faculty members; a fifth member, who may be a York faculty member or a faculty member from another university or another person external to York who would make a useful contribution to the work of the Centre; and three Graduate Associates with two voting privileges. The Graduate Associate representatives are as elected by the Graduate Associates of the Centre. The Director may also appoint administrative staff of the Centre to the Executive Committee as non-voting ex officio members.

Due to the labour disruption in 2008-2009, the Executive Committee held two regular meetings and one virtual meeting. The Executive also held a special meeting in December to discuss the draft Six-Year Plan and Fruits of Self-Study documents being prepared for the Senate-mandated review of YCAR. The site visit of the external consultants, a key component of the review, was postponed due to the labour dispute.

YCAR Executive Committee Members for 2008-2009
Russ Patrick Alcedo, Dance
Joshua Fogel, History
Susan Henders, Political Science, YCAR Director (ex officio)
Naoko Ikeda, Women’s Studies; Graduate Associate Representative
Ananya Mukherjee Reed, Political Science; South Asian Studies Programme
Shobna Nijhawan, Languages, Literatures and Linguistics
Máire O’Brien, Director, China Management Training Program (ex officio)
Jooyeon Rhee, Humanities; Graduate Associate Representative
Grace Y. Shen, Humanities; East Asian Studies Programme
Doris Ha-Lin Sung, Social and Political Thought; Graduate Associate Representative
Wendy S. Wong, Design, YCAR Associate Director (ex officio)
Alicia Filipowich, YCAR Coordinator (ex officio)
3. Membership

There are five distinctive affiliations with YCAR that are available to Asian and Asian Diaspora researchers and scholars: 1) Faculty Associate; 2) Research Associate/Visiting Scholar; 3) Senior Research Associate; 4) Graduate Associate; and 5) Post-Doctoral Associate. These categories enable a wide variety of interested individuals with diverse backgrounds to become involved in YCAR activities.

1) Faculty Associates
Faculty Associates are full-time, part-time, tenure-stream and non-tenure-stream faculty from York University who are actively involved in research on Asia or Asian Diasporas and committed to the Centre mandate.

Currently, YCAR has 49 Faculty Associates. In 2008-2009, we were happy to welcome the following new Faculty Associates:

Russ Patrick Alcedo (Dance)
Sharon Hayashi (Film)
Hong Kal (Visual Arts)
Ali Kazimi (Film)
Ann Kim (Sociology)
Ananya Mukherjee Reed (Political Science)
Hyun Ok Park (Sociology)
Trichy Sankaran (Music)
Grace Shen (Humanities)
Sharada Srinivasan (International Development Studies)
Xueqing Xu (Languages, Literatures and Linguistics)

2) Research Associates and Visiting Scholars
Research Associates are individuals other than York full-time faculty who are associated with universities and other educational institutions, government, industry, non-governmental and not-for-profit organizations, and who are actively involved in research on Asia or Asian Diasporas. This category may include Visiting Scholars or Principal Investigators of projects associated with the Centre.

YCAR currently has 23 Research Associates. In 2008-2009, we welcomed:

Alvyn Austin (Author; former History Professor, Brock University)
Khandakar Qudrat-I Elahi (Assistant Professor, Economics, University of New Brunswick, Saint John)
Sailaja Krishnamurti (Contract Faculty, York University)
Jessica Tsui Yan Li (Postdoctoral Fellow, School of Social Sciences, York University)
Sonny Lo (Associate Professor, Political Science, University of Waterloo)

In 2008-2009, we hosted a Visiting Scholar from the Kyoto City University of Arts, Japan. Haji Oh (Natsue Okamura) will remain with YCAR until August 2009. Haji is a doctoral candidate in the Division of Fine Arts. She will present her research at a talk on 1 May 2009.
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.

3) Senior Research Associates
Senior Research Associates are individuals who have made outstanding contributions to research on Asia or Asian Diasporas and are retired and emeriti scholars. YCAR currently has four Senior Research Associates, all who are active in the Centre's programmes and activities.

4) Graduate Associates
Graduate Associates are York University graduate students engaged in research on Asia or Asian Diasporas. We now have several Graduate Associate alumni and, at present, 33 graduate students associated with the Centre.

Since April 2008, we have welcomed:

Nga Dao (Doctoral Candidate, Geography)
Alice Hu (Doctoral Candidate, Political Science)
Tenzing Jigme (Master's Candidate, Political Science)
Laura Kwak (Master's Candidate, Women's Studies)
Vanessa Lamb (Doctoral Candidate, Geography)
Colin McGuire (Doctoral Candidate, Ethnomusicology)
Tracey Nguyen (Master's Candidate, Social Work)
Somia Sadiq (Master's Candidate, Development Studies)
Sailmah Vaiya (Doctoral Candidate, Social and Political Thought)
Yikun Zhao (Doctoral Candidate, Marketing, Schulich School of Business)

5) Post-Doctoral Associates
Post-doctoral Associates work on research projects under the auspices of the Centre. YCAR did not host a Post-Doc in 2008-2009.

For a complete membership list and member research profiles, please visit: www.yorku.ca/ycar/Membership.html.
4. Research and Training Programmes and Projects

The following programmes and projects were new or ongoing in 2008-2009.


Supported by: Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Standard Grant; Humboldt Foundation

Principal Investigators: Joan Judge, Faculty Associate, Humanities/Women's Studies, York University; Barbara Mittler, University of Heidelberg; Grace S. Fong, McGill University.

‘A New Approach to the Popular Press in China: Gender and Cultural Production, 1904-1937’ seeks to restore complexity to early twentieth-century Chinese history by liberating that history from its own reductive discourses on the failings of tradition and the promise of modernity. The instrument and object of investigation is the popular press, a new and as yet understudied medium that dominated the contemporary print market and became one of the prime sites for the production of knowledge and culture.

The project's thematic focus is the fraught and momentous subject of new gender relations in this period when footbinding ended, formal female education was officially sanctioned (1907), and women’s public roles dramatically expanded. Combining the methods of cultural, print, and women's history, our geographical locus is Shanghai, epicentre of developments in both the periodical press and gender relations at the turn of the twentieth century. Researchers use four influential Chinese women’s journals—a key genre of the popular press—to analyze shifts in gender roles, cultural practices, and in the very media that both drove and reflected these changes.

Other researchers working on the project include: Julia Andrews (Ohio State University); Michael Hockx (University of London) and Christian Henriot (Lumière-Lyon 2 University). Doris Sung (York University), Eavan Cully (McGill University), Annika Joest (University of Heidelberg) and Sun Liying (University of Heidelberg) are research assistants.

The project, which began in 2008, officially started with an introductory workshop on 26-27 October. ‘Gender and Cultural Production: A New Approach to Chinese Women's Journals in the Early 20th Century’ brought researchers together at York University. The seven presentations included initial findings from research on four Chinese journals of the period - Nüzi shijie (Women’s World), Funü shibao (The Women’s Eastern Times); Funü zazhi (Ladies’ Journal) and Linglong (Elegance).

Joan Judge has given two presentations on the project and on her specific research on Funü shibao at Columbia University in New York City in February 2009 and at the University of Washington's China Colloquium in Seattle in April 2009.

Five of the project's core researchers and one of the research assistants met in conjunction with the Association of Asian Studies Meeting in Chicago in March 2009. They discussed shared research issues and planned a visuality workshop for December 2009 at Heidelberg University.
Two research assistants, Doris Sung in Beijing and Eavan Cully at the Harvard Yenching and University of Washington Libraries, have been collecting high quality copies of images from the women's journals. These will be integrated into the project's online database.

For more information, please visit: www.yorku.ca/ykar/Joan_Judge.html.

2) B(R)ICS and Beyond: Emerging Powers and World Order (2008-)
Organized by: Gregory Chin, Faculty Associate; Political Science, York University

This research programme explores the main dynamics and implications of the rise of the emerging powers (specifically China, India, Brazil and South Africa), from a range of political economy and geopolitical considerations.

The focus is on whether and how the rise of the emerging powers affects: 1) Great Power relations; 2) less developed countries of the Global South; and 3) whether or not their rise is leading to new developments in regionalization and regionalism. In terms of both scholarly and policy implications, the programme analyzes whether the rise of the emerging powers is producing a shift in the international architecture of global power creating “new vulnerabilities” and driving new projects in region-building.

In Spring 2009, Gregory secured IDRC funding for a ‘B(R)ICS: Emerging Powers as Emerging Donors Workshop’, which will bring book contributors and expert discussants to Toronto in Fall 2009.

The substantive goal of the workshop is to provide a forum dedicated to developing more precise comparative understanding of B(R)ICS/emerging donor intentions; the complex motivations that are giving rise to the emerging donors in international development; and the growing influence of the B(R)ICS as emerging donors, including how this change is related to their increasing political, economic and diplomatic profile as “emerging powers” within the shifting global order.

For more information, please visit: www.yorku.ca/ykar/Programs_Projects/BRICs.html.

3) Ecologies on the Edge (2007-)
Principal Investigators: Robert Latham (Political Science; York Centre for International and Security Studies, York University) and Peter Vandergeest (Faculty Associate; Sociology, York University)

The Ecologies on the Edge Research Programme builds on several interdisciplinary research clusters at York University, supported by YCAR and the York Centre for International and Security Studies (YCISS), with the participation of the Institute for Research and Innovation in Sustainability (IRIS). It brings together scholars from the social and natural sciences, including sociology, anthropology, ecology, law, geography and political science to investigate key processes affecting vulnerable ecologies in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Arctic. In addition to York University scholars, the project has recruited high-profile American and British
researchers, as well as researchers and research organizations from the regions of study. The Research Programme recently submitted a SSHRC-MCRI letter of intent in January 2009.

YCAR Associates involved with the Research Programme include: Peter Vandergeest (Sociology); Shubhra Gururani (Anthropology); Robin Roth (Geography); Susan Henders (Political Science) and Research Associate Melissa Marschke (University of Ottawa).

4) Political Change in China: Contemporary Research and Policy Implications (2007-)
Organized by: B. Michael Frolic, Senior Research Associate; Political Science, York University

This ongoing project brings together Sinologists in several disciplines to look closer at the prospects for political change in China. More than 20 scholars from Canada and China are focusing on five areas: Chinese Communist Party reform, institutional change, rule of law, civil society and human rights. Generally, the research has revealed that while political change is taking place, the realization of Western style democracy is still a distant prospect.

The research group met in April 2008 and March 2009 at the Asian Institute, University of Toronto, to share their findings. Papers were commissioned for the latter conference, including from specialists from the People’s Republic of China. Papers from the April 2008 workshop are available; the 2009 papers are being edited. A publication on political change in China will be a final product of the research. For more details on the 2009 conference, please see 6.7.

5) Reorganizing Landscape and Livelihood: Household and Community Responses to Protected Area Establishment (2007 to 2010)
Supported by: Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Standard Grant
Principal Investigator: Robin Roth, Faculty Associate; Geography, York University

This SSHRC project investigates the growing role that markets play in the livelihoods of communities located in and around protected areas and assesses the implications for conservation and development initiatives. Research is being conducted in Northern Thailand, where the expansion of protected areas has resulted in the reduction of agricultural land for highland communities. Farmers are responding by intensifying their market activities while government and non-government agencies are promoting greater market integration. Meanwhile, conservation agencies and organizations are promoting ecotourism, handicraft sales and high value crops in the hopes that such income will make extraction of forest resources less attractive. The project investigates this increase in
market-based governance by first studying how farmers use markets to reorganize their livelihoods and by tracing the extra-local factors that enable or constrain certain livelihood trajectories.

The research then turns its attention to conservation and development initiatives that promote greater market integration as a solution to conservation conflict and traces the impacts of those projects for the recipient communities. The findings will have theoretical implications for our understanding of livelihood change and policy implications for market-oriented initiatives in conservation practice.

Since the award of the SSHRC, Roth has completed a livelihood survey and key informant interviews in two villages in Mae Tho National Park and conducted preliminary research on flower, fish and coffee enterprises in Doi Inthanon National Park. She has funded one Thai Masters student to conduct research on the coffee industry in Chiang Mai Province, a Thai doctoral student to conduct research on the presence of agro-business near a protected area in Nan Province and a recent MA graduate from Chiang Mai University to conduct a remote sensing analysis of land use change in Doi Inthanon National Park from 1998 to 2008.

In summer 2009, Robin will return to Thailand to complete research in Doi Inthanon National Park and conduct interviews with organizations promoting market-oriented livelihood change.

She has discussed her results at the Society of Conservation Biology meeting (2008), the Association of American Geographers meeting (2009) and the Canadian Association of Geographers (2009).

For more information, please visit: www.yorku.ca/ycar/Robin_Roth_SSHRC.html.

(Robert McKenna photograph).

Supported by: Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Standard Grant
Principal Investigator: Peter Vandergeest (Faculty Associate; Sociology, York University)
Co-Investigator: Derek Hall (Research Associate; Political Science, Wilfrid Laurier University)
Collaborator: Michael Skladany (Sociology, University of Tennessee)
Researchers: Md. Saidul Islam and Beatriz Cid (Doctoral Candidate, Sociology, York University)

Privatizing Environmental Governance is a collaborative research project by an international team of scholars, activists and representatives from the “new” seafood movement. The focus is on shrimp and salmon as the two highest value, and most controversial, species in global aquaculture. The research sites range from shrimp and salmon farms to corporate offices, from supermarkets to international organizations, as we ask:
* what are the effects of seafood certification on the shrimp and salmon industries and on the communities engaged in aquaculture?
* how effective are certification regimes in mitigating the negative environmental and social
effects of intensive aquaculture?
* who participates in setting standards and monitoring and enforcing compliance?
* to what extent does the move to certification actually represent the “privatization” of environmental governance?

In 2008-2009, Peter Vandergeest and Derek Hall helped organize a day-long session at the World Aquaculture Society Meetings on certification and aquaculture, where project research results so far will be presented and discussed by major participants in aquaculture and certification. Research Assistants Md. Saidul Islam and Beatriz Cid will also attend the meeting in Veracruz, Mexico in September 2009.

Professor Vandergeest is working with Anusorn Unno (Doctoral Candidate, University of Washington) to conduct research on the question of how international certification is understood and evaluated by key groups (farmers, government, processors, NGOs, workers) in Thailand. Vandergeest also participated in a U.S. National Academies workshop on ‘Certification of Sustainable Goods and Services’. The workshop engaged leaders from industry, government, and academia to assess whether and how certification might contribute to sustainability, and to provide advice to the academies regarding a relevant research program.

Derek Hall spent five weeks in Tokyo in November and December 2008 researching food safety and environmental certification initiatives in Japan, with a focus on imported seafood. Md. Saidul Islam completed his dissertation in June 2008 and will take a position at Nanyang University, Singapore. Beatriz Cid has finished her fieldwork and anticipates completing her dissertation during 2009. Paul Foley (Doctoral Candidate, Political Science, York University), whose research is related to the project, is preparing to do fieldwork on salmon and certification on the Canadian east coast.

For more information, please visit: www.yorku.ca/ycar/Programs_Projects/PEG_main.html  
(Anusorn Unno photograph)

7) Asian Comics and Gaming (2005–)
Project Coordinator: Wendy S. Wong, Faculty Associate; Design, York University

The International Conference on Asian Comics and Animation and Gaming (ACAG) was held in 18 to 19 May 2006 with more than 50 participants from all over the world. The conference resulted in the formation of an international network amongst scholars and students working on research and studies on comics, animation and gaming. Informal communications between coordinator Wendy Wong and potential collaborators for
future initiatives are ongoing. Wendy has been exploring a date for the next ACAG conference (Wendy Wong graphic).

8) Challenges of Agrarian Transition in Southeast Asia (2005 to 2010)

Supported by: Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Major Collaborative Research Initiatives

Partners: University of Montreal, York University, University of Laval, McGill University, University of Toronto, University of Waterloo, Trent University, University of British Columbia

Principal Investigator: Rodolphe de Koninck (University of Montreal)

Co-Investigators: Peter Vandergeest (Faculty Associate; Sociology, York University) and Philip F. Kelly (Faculty Associate; Geography, York University);

Graduate Researchers: Keith Barney (Doctoral Candidate, Geography, York University); Nga Dao (Doctoral Candidate, Geography, York University).

The Challenges of Agrarian Transition in Southeast Asia project, or ChATSEA, is a network of Canadian scholars working with researchers abroad on a large-scale research project to investigate and explain current processes of social and environmental change in Southeast Asia. The project is based at the University of Montréal.

The tsunami disaster in December 2004 in Asia underscored the importance for Canada to have a vibrant academic community producing and disseminating knowledge about Asia.

The five-year SSHRC-MCRI enables a network of 20 scholars from Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia and Southeast Asia to study agrarian transition in Asia. The funds also support graduate student research in Southeast Asia.

In 2008-2009, Peter Vandergeest continued his research and writing on alternative agriculture in Southeast Asia, presenting his research in fora in Thailand, Denmark, Berkeley and Toronto. He is also working with Jonathan Rigg to organize the writing and publication of a series of restudies conducted by ChATSEA members, as well as selected agrarian scholars invited to join this effort. He spent two weeks in Thailand in January 2009 to do the fieldwork on the restudy, and an additional two weeks during the summer of 2008 to conduct research on alternative agriculture. Other activities included continued work on
the project steering committee, and faculty advisor at a thesis workshop in the Philippines.

Keith Barney was co-organizer for the ChATSEA Los Banos Dissertation Workshop, held in Laguna, Philippines from 30 May to 1 June 2008. He also served on the editorial board for the ChATSEA Working Paper series.

Nga Dao was funded by the project to conduct fieldwork in summer 2008 on dams and agrarian change in Vietnam.

For more information on this project, please visit: www.caac.umontreal.ca/en/chatsea_intro.html. (ChATSEA Los Banos Dissertation Workshop, Laguna, Philippines. Photograph courtesy of Bruno Thibert).


Supported by: Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Standard Grant

Principal Investigator: Wendy S. Wong, Faculty Associate; Design, York University

Modern Chinese graphic design is almost a mystery to the Western world. This project identifies the underdeveloped research area of graphic design of the Greater China region (GCR), which includes the People's Republic of China (PRC), Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan.

In ‘Excavating a History of Contemporary Chinese Graphic Design’, Wendy S. Wong surveys a unified history of Chinese graphic design. A historical perspective is used to fill the gap in the knowledge of the evolution of Chinese graphic design in relation to the shared traditional cultural heritage and the unique milieu of individual locales. This longitudinal research generates empirical information and analysis on the development patterns of graphic design in each locale, as well as the interaction and relationships between locales.

The project also investigates struggles related to the expression of Chinese graphic-design style by integrating modern graphic design theories and creative techniques into Chinese cultural heritages. Documentation of the evolution of visual style is used to provide evidence of the relationship of design to its cultural context over time.

This research, which began in 2004, also reflects upon a trend towards a universal visual language among graphic designers. Finally, ‘Excavating a History of Contemporary Chinese Graphic Design’ aims to provide a basic resource and academic reference for efforts to comprehend the contemporary characteristics of Chinese graphic design and its history. It also aims to establish a theoretical framework relevant to the study of design and national identity in design.

The ‘Excavating a History of Contemporary Chinese Graphic Design’ project ended in October 2008. During the past year, Wendy presented her findings in Beijing and at the University of
Toronto. During her sabbatical year (2009-2010), she will be preparing a book manuscript and journal articles based on her 2008 curated exhibition, ‘Chinese Design: Everyday’. Wong has completed seven refereed conference presentations and four conference proceedings since the project launch.

For more information, please visit: www.yorku.ca/ycar/Programs_Projects/History_CCGD.html. (Graphic courtesy of Wendy Wong).

10) Virtual Museum of Asian Canadian Cultural Heritage (2008-)
The dream of a space to highlight the unique cultural heritage and contributions of Asian Canadians is now a reality with the creation of the Virtual Museum of Asian Canadian Cultural Heritage (VMACCH). The Museum is located at www.vmacch.ca and is a project of Asian Heritage Month. YCAR Research Associate Kay Li is the Principal Investigator and Museum Director.

The project is funded by Canadian Heritage’s ‘Gateway’ Fund with support from York University and YCAR. The Asian Heritage Society of New Brunswick and the Accès Asie in Montréal are also contributors.

Since October 2008, organizers welcomed contributions on Asian Canadian cultural heritage from individuals and organizations from across Canada and from Asian Canadians living in the United States, the United Kingdom and Asia. All of the information has been voluntarily provided in topics/areas ranging from storytellers to community champions to classical composers to art collectives.

Video, audio, personal stories, poems and photo exhibits are some of the features of the Museum. Dr. David Keane compiled theme music especially for the Museum. Dr. Keane is Professor Emeritus (Theory/Composition) of the School of Music at Queen's University.

From prominent Asian Canadians like David Suzuki to local community groups like Karilagan Dance Society in Edmonton, the museum will showcase the cultural experiences and expressions of Asian Canadians in a variety of capacities from across Canada. It will strive to provide insight into how this demographic experiences life in Canada, how Asian Canadians choose to express their traditional culture and heritage, and what these expressions and experiences mean to Asian Canadian communities.

The first phase of the project focused on contributions of Asian Canadians in cultural heritage. Organizers hope the project will continue to grow in future phases over the next few years with support from individuals and communities across Canada.

The launch of the Museum will coincide with the 2009 Asian Heritage Month Lecture at York University on 4 June 2009. Author Dr. Joy Kogawa C.M., the Lecture’s keynote speaker, is also a contributor to the Museum.
11) Asian Business and Management Program (ABMP) (ongoing)
**Director:** B. Michael Frolic, Senior Research Associate; Political Science, York University

The Asian Business and Management Program (ABMP) has been one of Canada's leaders in Asian research for over 25 years and one of the first institutions in Canada to provide executive development training to Chinese professionals. The ABMP collaborates with the Schulich School of Business in the implementation of its China training (see 11.12) with staff in both Beijing and Toronto. The Programme also supports research through its own programmes and initiatives as well as through its financial and other support for YCAR.

On 6-7 March 2009, ABMP hosted a two-day conference in Toronto, ‘Political Change in China’, sponsored by ABMP, the Asian Institute at the University of Toronto and the Asia Pacific Foundation. This was part of the larger project that included an April 2008 workshop of the same name and which will culminate in a publication.

For more information on ABMP, please visit: [www.yorku.ca/abmp/english.html](http://www.yorku.ca/abmp/english.html).

(Paul Evans, University of British Columbia, giving a lunch time keynote speech at the conference. M. O’Brien photograph).

12) China Management Training Programme (CMTP) (ongoing)
**Director:** Máire O'Brien, YCAR Research Associate, York University

The China Management Training Programme (CMTP) is the training division of the ABMP and communicates with partners and colleagues in China to facilitate specifically designed executive development training programmes.

In 2008–2009, Bernie Frolic and Máire O’Brien traveled with Toronto Mayor David Miller’s mission to China (12 to 21 April 2008) to celebrate Toronto’s sister city relationship with Chongqing. The Mission included high profile leaders in government, industry and academics and brought significant recognition to the activities of York University in Chongqing over the past few decades. On 12 May 2008, an earthquake devastated the Wenchuan region of Sichuan province. The diversion of resources required for earthquake recovery had a direct impact on the number of public management training programs received by the Programme.

Máire O’Brien consulted with the Canada-China Business Council (CCBC) on its November 2008 mission on environmental and education programs. The CCBC was celebrating its thirtieth anniversary and 30 years of Canada-China relations with a mission that included five premiers.
and senior corporate executives in aerospace, environment, education and transportation. Dr. O’Brien was responsible for setting up the environmental and education programs in Beijing, Chongqing and Shanghai whereby senior leaders in these sectors from both Canada and China met and discussed key issues.

In the past year, CMTP has provided executive development training and logistical support to nine groups from China. Groups came from districts in Beijing involved with community development and from offices throughout China responsible for the promotion and export of Chinese culture. A very unique and exciting programme on energy efficiency in the new and built environment was organized for colleagues in the Chongqing Construction Commission, while Chongqing University sent its senior administration to learn about post-secondary institutional reform and management.

CMTP is partnered with the Schulich School of Business in providing training and logistical services, which this year included working with the China Life Insurance Company and several asset management firms along with several delegations from the Beijing Television Corporation.

CMTP is currently exploring opportunities to diversify our expertise to include programmes with Vietnam and Russia. Wishing to deepen and broaden the research aspects of the training programme, CMTP also continues to be open to research agendas that wish to analyze Chinese public service reform and, ultimately, political change in China.

For more information on CMTP, please visit: www.yorku.ca/abmp/programes.html.

(Toronto Mayor David Miller with China Life and China Resources representatives in China in April 2008; Trainees of CC CQ at the Woodbine retrofit site, Toronto. CMTP photographs).
5. Research Clusters

YCAR hosts seven research clusters, both geographic and thematic. Their mandates are to increase collaboration and community around specific research areas to enhance our knowledge and research opportunities. They include: Canadian Missionaries in Asia, Korea Studies Group, Philippine Study Group, (Re)making Governance, the South Asian Research Group, York China Studies and the York Political Ecology Workshop. The cluster's web presence was being revamped in 2008-2009.

1) Canadian Missionaries in Asia

The Canadian Missionaries in Asia research cluster's creation follows on the December 2006 conference, 'Canadian Missionaries in Asia: Memory and Meaning in Asian-Canadian Churches'. The group brings together scholars and Asian-Canadian churches to explore Canadian missionaries as part of Asian and Canadian social and cultural history, as well how this past enters into the collective memory of both Asian and Canadian Churches.

In 2008-2009, cluster leader Michael Stainton focused on organizing 'Religion and Human Rights in China', a symposium that will be co-hosted by YCAR, the Centre for Asian-Canadian Theology and Ministry at Knox College and the Hudson Taylor Centre for Chinese Ministries at Tyndale Seminary.

CMA's scholars and researchers include:

- Robert Anderson (Retired Presbyterian missionary)
- Bob Anger (Assistant Archivist, Presbyterian Church in Canada)
- Kim Arnold (Archivist, Presbyterian Church in Canada)
- Alvyn Austin (YCAR Research Associate; Historian of Protestant Missions in China)
- Charles Burton (Political Science, Brock University)
- Jean DeBernardi (Anthropology, University of Alberta)
- Charles Fensham (Theology, Knox College, University of Toronto)
- Margo Gewurtz (Arts, York University – Canadian missionaries in China)
- Eiko Hosaka (Minister, Japanese United Church, Hamilton)
- A. Hamish Ion (History, Royal Military College - Christian missions in Japan)
- Geoff Johnston (Mission Historian, Presbyterian Church in Canada)
- Aarne Kaki (Religious Studies, McMaster University)
- In-soo Kong (Assistant, Asian Canadian Centre, Knox College)
- Kenneth Lan (United International College, Zhuhai, China)
- Sharon Larade (Chief Archivist, United Church of Canada)
- Albert Lin (Taiwanese United Church in Toronto)
- Pak Loh (Chinese Baptist Church)
- Alex MacLeod (Assistant Minister, Knox Presbyterian Church, Toronto)
- John Mechan (Historian, St Michaels College, University of Toronto – East Asia)
2) Korea Study Group
The Korea Studies Group brings the study of South Korea, North Korea, and the Korean diaspora together, investigating the formation of the national division and shifting boundaries of the nation. Drawing scholars together from different disciplines, it seeks to develop a comparative perspective that places the Korean affairs in dialogue with historical, global and theoretical changes. The faculty and students explore such themes as modernity, history, visual art, post/colonialism, gender studies, urban politics, labour studies and global capitalism.

In 2008-2009, York Korea and Korean Diaspora scholars met formally for the first time to present their research and discuss future projects and possibilities for collaboration. The workshop was chaired by Hyun Ok Park (Sociology).

YCAR also hosted scholars from Japan and Korea for an international symposium on culture in late colonial Korea in September. For more details, see 6.4.

In late October, Ted Lipman, Canadian Ambassador to the Republic of Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, visited the University and spoke at a roundtable attended by faculty and students. For more details, see 7.0.

The Korean Studies Group welcomes the participation of researchers interested in the study of Korea.

Currently, the cluster includes:

**Jay Goulding** (Social Science, York University - classical and modern Chinese and Japanese philosophy, religion and culture as well as hermeneutic phenomenology).

**Laam Hae** (Political Science, York University - urban political economy; cultural politics of a variety of social groups; and constitutional debates over expressive activities in cities; changing political economy of new Asian cities)

**Theresa Hyun** (Humanities, York University - translation and cultural changes in Korea since the late 19th century)
Mihyon Jeon (Languages, Literatures and Linguistics, York University - heritage language maintenance; biliteracy; second-language development; and curriculum and materials design for Korean learners)  
Hong Kal (Visual Arts, York University - spectacles of expositions, monuments, museums and public squares)  
Ann Kim (Sociology, York University - immigrant and ethnic integration process, spatial manifestations of urban inequality).  
Janice Kim (History, York University - popular expansion of gender, labour and political consciousness among working women in colonial Korea [1910-1945])  
Thomas Klassen (Political Science, York University - labour market policy)  
Norio Ota (Languages, Literatures and Linguistics, York University)  
Hyun Ok Park (Sociology, York University - historical sociology; critical theory; capitalism and labour; culture and ideology; social movements; colonialism and nationalism; comparative studies; East Asia)  
(Jared photograph, 2006)

3) Philippine Study Group
The Philippine Study Group (PSG) was formed in 2006 to bring together faculty and graduate students with an interest in the Philippines and/or Filipino migration and Diaspora. The group has an active listserv and meets periodically for discussions based on readings from the contemporary interdisciplinary literature in Philippine Studies or to discuss each other's research proposals and ideas. Faculty and students in the group come primarily from York University, but also from other institutions in the Toronto region. They represent a variety of disciplinary backgrounds including: anthropology, dance, education, environmental studies, fine arts, geography and political science. The study group is led by Philip F. Kelly (Geography; Faculty Associate).

Current members of the PSG include:
R. Patrick Alcedo (Dance, York University – cultural heritage)  
John Paul C. Catungal (Geography, University of Toronto)  
Camille Cendana  
Valerie Damasco  
Rod Dioso (Researcher, Canadian Filipino diaspora)  
Alex Felipe (Photographer)  
Philip F. Kelly (Geography, York University - labour market integration of Filipino immigrants in Toronto and the transnational linkages they create with communities and families in the Philippines, and the process of socio-economic change in sending areas)  
Adam Lukasiewicz (Doctoral Candidate, Geography, York University - structural determinants and consequences of international labour migration on sending contexts; the relation between local economic development and individual/collective remittances; and the transformations of class and gender identities within trans-local households which both influence and result from the mobility of migrant members)
Tom Lusis (Doctoral Candidate, Geography, University of Guelph - immigrant transnationalism in Ontario’s second-tier cities with a focus on the Filipino-Canadian community)

Caroline Mangosing (Photographer and filmmaker)

B. Lynne Milgram (Ontario College of Art and Design - material and public culture; material art and design; and arts of Asia and Oceania)

Nel Coloma-Moya (Master’s Candidate, Geography, York University - understanding the ways in which a transnational religious organization, Gawad Kalinga, creates and governs (in a broad sense) model rural communities in the Philippines and whether this forms an alternative development, an alternative to development and or a disciplining framework for shaping economics, cultural and political subjects)

Hironori Onuki (Doctoral Candidate, Political Science, York University – global political economy of labour migration within the context of globalization, focusing on Philippine workers in Japan)

Cesar Polvorosa Jr. (Doctoral Candidate, Geography, York University - ethnic entrepreneurship; geographies of the firm and region; and institutional and cultural approaches in economic geography)

Maita Sayo (Doctoral Candidate, Political Science, York University - contemporary modes of violence; how racialization and incarceration affect the ways in which migrant, refugee and terrorist bodies are marked and captured in the context of neoliberalism)

Maya Shapiro (Doctoral Candidate, Anthropology, York University)

David Wurfel (YCAR Senior Research Associate - political economy and social justice in Southeast Asia)

(P.F. Kelly photograph)

4) (Re)making Governance

(Re)making Governance draws together a broad group of researchers with an interest in the various practices through which relationships amongst and between human and non-human agents are regulated. The cluster encompasses both the practices associated with institutions (egs. states and international organizations) as well as the discursive, material and everyday practices of other agents.

The (Re)making Governance cluster served as an umbrella for a number of ongoing initiatives including the research projects of Peter Vandergeest (see 4.6), Robin Roth (see 4.5). The York Political Ecology Workshop (see 5.7) is also a part of this cluster.

In 2008-2009, members of this cluster are also involved in the Ecologies on the Edge research programme (see 4.3). Susan Henders, YCAR Director, also organized an event series focusing on the effects of the global economic crisis on Asia (see 6.9).
Faculty and Research Associates involved in this cluster include:

**Gregory Chin** (Political Science, York University - global politics and East Asian political economy)

**Shubhra Gururani** (Anthropology, York University - cultural politics of environment and development; postcoloniality; third world feminisms; social movements)

**Susan J. Henders** (Political Science, York University - politics of human rights, democracy/democratization and citizenship, with an emphasis on minority and indigenous communities; territorial politics, especially territorial self-government and special status regions)

**Philip F. Kelly** (Geography, York University - labour market integration of Filipino immigrants in Toronto, the transnational linkages they create with communities and families in the Philippines, and the process of socio-economic change in sending areas)

**Robert Latham** (Political Science, York University - global security; transnational relations; environmental politics and knowledge; human security; global governance and sovereignty; North-South conflict; democracy and security)

**Melissa Marschke** (YCAR Research Associate, University of Ottawa - sustainable development, political ecology, human-environment relations, with a particular interest in environmental politics and resource management)

**Radhika Mongia** (Sociology, York University - race, nationality, sovereignty, migration, inequality and gender)

**Hyun Ok Park** (Sociology, York University – philosophy of history, the crisis of capitalism, epistemological issues associated with comparative studies, Korean transnational labour migration to and from northeast China, political cultures and social practices of community, sovereignty, and rights in the contexts of the nation-state system, the advent of global capitalism, and geopolitics)

**Fahim Quadir** (Development Studies, York University - civil society; democratization; economic liberalization; globalization; governance; human development; human security; microfinance; NGOs; regionalism)

**Robin Roth** (Geography, York University - political ecology; environmental conservation, particularly forests; social-ecological landscapes; sustainable livelihoods; gender and environment; Southeast Asia)

**Zahir Sadeque** (YCAR Research Associate, York University - Environment and sustainable development; governance and politics; indigenous peoples; poverty alleviation; rural development)

**Peter Vandergeest** (Sociology, York University - political ecology; agro-food studies; the cultural politics of environment and development; Southeast Asia).

*(Jonathan McIntosh photograph, 2004)*

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**5) South Asian Research Group**

The South Asian Research Group (SARG) was formed in 2007 to engage and bring together graduate students and faculty members, from a diversity of disciplines, interested in South Asia. The cluster’s members aim to facilitate research, discussion and events on a variety of issues related to South Asia and South Asian diaspora to broaden the horizons of the York community at large. The membership reflects the diverse range of academia at York including the departments of
anthropology, geography, humanities, languages, literatures and linguistics, psychology, political science, social and political thought and sociology.

'Journeys with Kabir', a two-day event series held at York in March 2009, was a highlight of the 2008-2009 year. It was organized by Michael Nijhawan with support from fellow South Asian Studies faculty. For more details, see 6.8.

Sharada Srinivasan, YCAR Faculty Associate, also organized two lectures on South Asian issues: a talk by John Harriss (Simon Fraser University) on India's economic reforms in March and Ben White (Institute of Social Studies, The Hague), who spoke on the social impacts of, and responses to, economic downturns with an Indonesian case study in late April 2009. These two events were co-sponsored by YCAR.

SARG has faculty and student researchers whose interests extend across the region. They include:

**Faheem Ahmad**
(York University)

**Salma Ahmad** (York University)

**Kristine Alexander** (York University)

**Ananya Ohri** (Master’s Candidate, Cinema and Media Studies, York University)

**Geetika Bagga** (Doctoral Candidate, Geography, York University - immigration and settlement patterns in Brampton and Mississauga)

**Malcolm Blincow** (Anthropology, York University - political/economic anthropologist)

**Sudarshana Bordoloi** (Doctoral Candidate, Geography, York University - neoliberalism and globalization; labour, gender and political economy in the Indian context)

**Simon Chilvers** (Doctoral Candidate, Geography, York University - political economy and social theory/development with a focus on South Asia, particularly India)

**Afsan Chowdhury** (YCAR Research Associate, journalist, filmmaker – South Asian cultural studies, history and politics; Bangladesh)

**Raju Das** (Geography, York University - development studies; political economy; technology; nature; population and production relations; globalization and rural labour; state-society relations including state's developmental interventions; state theory; social capital; social movements; production of spatial forms of class and non-class social relations; South Asia)

**Amrit Dhariwal** (Doctoral Candidate, Psychology, York University - adolescents' and young adults' romantic development in the context of family, peers and culture)

**Shubhra Gururani** (Anthropology, York University - cultural politics of environment and development; postcoloniality; third world feminisms; and social movements)

**Kristen Hardy** (Doctoral Candidate, Social and Political Thought, York University - colonialism; race and representation; sociology of knowledge production; critical fat studies, especially racialization of the fat body; religion in South Asia, especially Hinduism in Bengal).

**Nadia Hasan** (Master’s Candidate, Political Science, York University - development discourse; questions of agency; civil society; Pakistan).

**Anindo Hazra** (Doctoral Candidate, English, York University - contemporary Queer writing from South Asia; postcolonial and Queer theories).

**Sreemali Herath**

**Carolyn Hibbs** (Doctoral Candidate, Humanities, York University - women and caste
conversion in India, including conversions from Hinduism to Buddhism, Christianity, and Islam; cultural syncretism due to conversion)

Zulfikar Hirji (Anthropology, York University)
Abhar Husain (York University)
Dhruv Jain (Master’s Candidate, Social and Political Thought, York University – Nepal)
Gurbir Singh Jolly (Humanities, York University)
Naveen Joshi (York University)
Ali Kazimi (Film, York University – race; migration; indiginaity; history; memory; South Asia; Canada)
Melissa Kelly (Doctoral Candidate, Geography, York University - Indian diaspora; diaspora and development)
Sailaja Krishnamurti (Contract Faculty, York University - South Asia and diaspora studies; postcolonial theory and literature; feminist and anti-racist pedagogy; cultural studies)
Ritu Mathur (Doctoral Candidate, Political Science, York University)
Radhika Mongia (Sociology, York University)
Arun Mukherjee (English, York University - South Asian and minority Canadian literatures)
Ananya Mukherjee-Reed (Political Science; Social and Political Thought, York University - human development; critical political economy; critical approaches to comparative social science; knowledges and epistemologies of development; corporate capitalism and development; South Asia)
Michael Nijhawan (Sociology – York University - violence and suffering and its translatability in cultural practices, transnational religion, immigration and identity formation)
Shobna Nijhawan (Languages, Literatures and Linguistics, York University - Hindi women’s writings of the early twentieth century and their role in shaping a Hindi public)
Ajay Panicker
Shah Radha (Social Anthropology, York University)
Kamala Rupakhati (Master’s Candidate, Environmental Studies, York University – global environmental politics; humanitarian crises and environmentally-displaced persons; gender participation in community-based natural resources management)
Somia Sadiq (Master’s Candidate, Development Studies, York University - agrarian movements and social development in Pakistan)
Ritika Shrimali (Doctoral Candidate, Geography, York University - political economy; labour and state; agrarian transition in India)
Hira Singh (Sociology, York University - caste, ethnicity, and race; colonial/postcolonial social formations and social change; comparative social structures)
Preethy Sivakumar (York University)
Joshua Smith
Nishant Upadhyay (Master’s Candidate, Social and Political Thought, York University - political economy and development discourse; globalization and urbanization; culture and media; agriculture and food; race, ethnicity and migration; India)
Tina Virmani (Doctoral Candidate, Political Science, York University - feminist theory; anti-racist and post-colonial theory; political economy; political and social knowledge formation; politics of globalization; Hindu nationalism)
(Dan Brady photograph, 2005)
6) York China Studies
The impetus behind the York China Studies research cluster was to create a community for the large, but thematically and disciplinarily diverse group of York scholars who study China or Chinese Diaspora.

Several events were held in 2008-2009 under the auspices of York China Studies. In June 2008, Joan Judge (Humanities/Women's Studies; YCAR Faculty Associate) presented a lecture at the Bata Shoe Museum on foot binding and Chinese modernity. The event was also the launch for her book, The Precious Raft of History: The Past, the West, and the Woman Question in China. For more details, see 7.0. The inaugural Asian Heritage Month Lecture at York University was also held in June and featured a keynote lecture by Dr. Stephen Endicott, who spoke about the experiences of his father, Dr. James Gareth Endicott. For more details, see 6.1. Wendy Wong, YCAR Associate Director, organized 'Connecting Words and Images', a summer-long event series featuring the works of Hong Kong Designer Tommy Li. For more details, see 6.2.

On 30 September, YCAR had the opportunity to host Xu Wenli, one of the founders of China's democracy movement, who spoke on the future of post-Olympics China to a full house (see 6.5). In late October, Joan Judge hosted colleagues from Germany, China, the United States and Canada at an introductory workshop for their collaborative project, 'A New Approach to the Popular Press in China: Gender and Cultural Production, 1904-1937'. For more details, see 6.6.

A two-day conference, 'Political Change in China' was held in March and featured Canadian and guest academics from China. This was a follow-up event from the workshop held in April 2008. For more details, see 6.7.

The GTA Modern China Reading Group is a reading group bringing together York faculty (Bernard Luk, Grace Shen, Joshua Fogel) and graduate students (Doris Sung, Colin McLennan) along with faculty and graduate students from the University of Toronto, McMaster University, and Wilfred Laurier University in Waterloo. The group meets monthly to discuss pre-circulated papers or primary materials. On 25 April 2009, the group hosted its first outside speaker, the renowned Chinese historian Benjamin Elman of Princeton University. Professor Elman attended one of the group’s informal workshop sessions and gave a formal lecture on his recent research on the history of science in China. Further events are planned for 2009-2010. Joan Judge (Humanities/Women's Studies) is the organizer.

Current cluster researchers include:
Russell W. Belk (Marketing, Schulich School of Business - consumer behaviour; global consumerism, meanings of possessions; collecting; gift-giving; materialism; cultural dimensions of business consumer research; interpretive research; videography)
Joshua Fogel (History, York University - Chinese-Japanese cross-cultural connections)
Bernie Frolic (Political Science, York University - democracy, human rights, civil society in China and Russia, modernization and urbanization in China and the USSR, state-led civil
society, transitions to democracy after the Cold War, non-comparative communism between China and the USSR)

**Margo Gerwurtz** (Humanities, York University - Sino-Western cultural relations with a special focus on the history of Canadian missionaries in China; China’s cultural revolution and women converts of the Canadian mission field)

**Pietro Giordan** (Languages, Literatures and Linguistics, York University - contemporary Chinese culture through the study of literary texts and film)

**Jay Goulding** (Atkinson Faculty of Liberal and Professional Studies, York University - Chinese and Japanese philosophy; hermeneutic phenomenology and comparative religion; popular culture in the East and West; and East Asian influences in the interaction between Chinese, Japanese and Western philosophers in Europe)

**Susan J. Henders** (Political Science, York University - politics of human rights, democracy/democratization, and citizenship, with an emphasis on minority and indigenous communities; territorial politics, especially territorial self-government and special status regions)

**Joan Judge** (Women’s Studies, York University - modern Chinese cultural history; gender in modern China and in comparative perspective; women and the family in East Asia; the history of reading in China and in comparative perspective; the press and publishing in late imperial and early republican China)

**Eric Ping Hung Li** (Doctoral Candidate, Marketing, Schulich School of Business - global consumer culture; visual methodology; ethnographic research methods; advertising and media consumption; virtual consumption)

**Jinyan Li** (Osgoode Hall Law School - taxation law and policy; electronic commerce; social security law; pension law; Chinese law)

**Wan Kay Li** (YCAR Research Associate, York University - film in Hong Kong; cultural globalization and China; Asian Canadian cultural education)

**Lucia Lo** (Geography, York University - Chinese immigrants in Toronto; ethnic entrepreneurship and ethnic economies; immigrant settlement and urban landscape change; immigrant settlement services)

**David Paul Lumsden** (Anthropology, York University - medical anthropology and research in China, especially Sichuan Province and Beijing, and within the Chinese diaspora in Canada)

**Bernard H.K. Luk** (History, York University - traditional societies of East Asia, modern Chinese history and modern East Asian history)

**Guida Man** (Atkinson Faculty of Liberal and Professional Studies, York University - Chinese immigrants from Hong Kong and China to Canada; examining how race, gender and class relations inform and shape Canadian immigration policies; how such practices are modified and transformed through historical, social and political fluctuations)

**Valerie Preston** (Geography, York University - gender and urban labour markets; immigration and Canadian cities; social geography; economic status, labour and gender; land use of recent immigrants from Hong Kong)

**Jooyeon Rhee** (Humanities, York University - East Asian philosophy; historical development of modern Korean/Japanese art and literature; contemporary popular culture in Korea/Japan)

**Doris Ha-Lin Sung** (Doctoral Candidate, Social and Political Thought, York University - 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)
Bernard M. Wolf (Economics, Schulich School of Business – role of China, Korea and Japan in the world economy; international trade and finance, multinational enterprises, strategic alliances, economic integration and trade/investment liberalization in Asia, Europe and North America)

Yuk-Lin Renita Wong (Atkinson Faculty of Liberal and Professional Studies, York University - postcolonial and gender relations in knowledge production and discursive practices in China and Hong Kong as well as in Asian diasporic communities in Canada, and discourse analysis of the recent rapid development of social work in China under intense marketization and growing globalization)

Lorna Wright (International Business, Schulich School of Business - e-business; Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) training strategies; women entrepreneurship; cultural competence)

Xueqing Xu (Languages, Literatures and Linguistics, York University - Chinese language; modern Chinese literature; Chinese literary societies in the Republican Era; Confucius)

Suzie S.F. Young (Film, York University - Asian cinema; the horror genre and feminism; popular culture; New Wave Cinema of the three Chinas; television and exilic identities of the Chinese diaspora in Canada)

(Thomas Kraus photograph, 2005)

7) York Political Ecology Workshop

The York Political Ecology Workshop aims to promote dialogue around human-ecological relations and processes through the organization of workshops and by facilitating research activities. The focus is Asia, but the group is interested in relevant work being done around the world. Members also coordinate the offering of graduate seminars on political ecology topics and make resources available to graduate students.

In 2008-2009, the YPEW network contributed substantially to the Ecologies on the Edge research programme (see 4.3). The group met twice to discuss papers written by participants. YPEW hosted Andrew Fischer in December 2008 for discussion of his paper 'Subsistence and Rural Livelihood Strategies in Tibet under Rapid Economic and Social Transition' (see 7.0) and again in April 2009 to discuss Peter Vandergeest's research on 'New Green Revolutions: The Making of Alternative Agriculture and Organic Food in Thailand'.

York University and University of Toronto faculty and graduate students are involved in the cluster. They include:

Keith Barney (Geography, York University - international political economy of development; political ecology; forestry and resource tenure; resources livelihood and identity; environmental politics; Southeast Asia)

Marta Berbés (Doctoral Canadidate, Environmental Studies, York University- adaptive environmental management and eco-health approaches in the context of watershed management in developing countries; Costa Rica)

Alana Boland (Geography and Planning, University of Toronto - Environment and development; political geography; China)
Saul Cohen (University of Toronto)
Michael Cook (York University – Master's Candidate, Geography, York University)
Nga Dao (Doctoral Candidate, Geography, York University - Displacement and Agrarian change in Northern upland Vietnam)
Anne-Marie Debanne (York University)
Jim Delaney (University of Toronto)
Emily Eaton (Doctoral Candidate, Geography and Planning, University of Toronto - politics of producer opposition to genetically modified wheat on the Canadian prairies)
Michael Ekers (DPhil Candidate, School of Geography and the Environment, University of Oxford - changing class, gender and race relations that have animated the reforestation section in British Columbia and, in turn, are inscribed in the material landscape)
Kathryn Ervine (Doctoral Candidate, Political Science, York University - political ecology of environment and development, with a specific focus on international policy formulations and their local impacts and manifestations)
Paul Foley (Doctoral Candidate, Political Science, York University)
Tanya Chung Tiam Fook (Doctoral Candidate, Environmental Studies, York University - indigenous struggles for a rights and knowledge-based model of conservation management)
Luz Maria Vazquez Garcia (York University)
Graydon Gibbins (Doctoral Candidate, Socio-Cultural Anthropology, University of Toronto)
Ilaria Giglioli (University of Toronto)
Noella Gray (Doctoral Candidate, Nicholas School of the Environment and Earth Sciences, Duke University - how different actors (fishers, tour guides, NGOs, conservationists, the state) engage with this particular institutional arrangement (co-management) to produce marine protected areas as a social outcome)
Shubhra Gururani (Anthropology, York University - cultural politics of environment and development; postcoloniality; third world feminisms; social movements)
Kregg Hetherington (Anthropology, Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Toronto - Agrarian transitions, environmental politics, law, documents, transparency; Latin America)
Philip F. Kelly (Geography, York University - labour market integration of Filipino immigrants in Toronto; the transnational linkages they create with communities and families in the Philippines; process of socio-economic change in sending areas)
Vanessa Lamb (Doctoral Candidate, Geography, York University - nature, conservation, and competing claims over and for water/rivers, particularly in the context of Southeast Asia)
Tania Li (Anthropology, University of Toronto - culture, economy, environment and development in Indonesia’s upland regions)
Ken MacDonald (Social Sciences, University of Toronto at Scarborough - Memories of Tibet: Transnationalism, Transculturation and the Production of Cultural Identity in Northern Pakistan; The Cultural Politics of Conservation in Northern Pakistan; Portering Relations and Transcultural Interaction in Northern Pakistan)
Melissa Marschke (YCAR Research Associate, University of Ottawa - sustainable development, political ecology, human-environment relations, with a particular interest in environmental politics and resource management)
Siobhan McCollum
Tyler McCreary (Doctoral Candidate, Geography, York University - how settlers in BC negotiate their place and identity in relation to First Nations land claims)
Jackie Medalye (York University - international political economy; the power structures of
multinational-host government relations in developing nations; Third world sustainable development)

Kate Parizeau (Doctoral Candidate, Geography and Planning, University of Toronto - multiple vulnerabilities experienced by informal recyclers in Buenos Aires)

Scott Prudham (Geography, University of Toronto - political ecology; political economy and environment; industrial and alternative forestry; privatization and regulation of genetically modified organisms; commodification; environmental politics)

Katharine Rankin (Geography, University of Toronto – ‘economic' and ‘socio-cultural' sub-disciplines of geography and planning, especially as they have been contoured by the contributions of feminist and post-colonial studies; recent shift in the practice of planning and international development from state-led to market-led approaches, with emphasis on attendant processes of social change in South and Southeast Asia, as well as Canada and the United States)

Robin Roth (Geography, York University - political ecology; environmental conservation, particularly forests; social-ecological landscapes; sustainable livelihoods; gender and environment; Southeast Asia)

Laura Shillington (Doctoral Candidate, Geography, York University)

Jim Stinson (University of Toronto)

David Szablowski (Law and Society, York University - globalization and the law; socio-legal studies)

Laura Taylor (Environmental Studies, York University - politics of nature in urban expansion; culture/nature studies/ conversation planning (nature politics); Exurban and suburban studies: processes and discourses of landscape settlement and landscape conservation; urban-rural fringe; urban dispersion; sprawl (exurban and suburban studies); cultural landscape studies: political negotiation of landscape meaning and values; textual landscapes; visual culture studies (cultural landscape studies)

Peter Vandergeest (Sociology, York University - political ecology; agro-food studies; cultural politics of environment and development; Southeast Asian Studies)

Sarah Wakefield (Geography and Planning, University of Toronto – urban environmental health)

Jessica Wilczak (Doctoral Candidate, Geography and Planning, University of Toronto - politics and practices surrounding industrial districts in China's smaller urban centres)

Tan Young

Anna Zalik (Environmental Studies, York University - global humanitarian/development studies; international aid industry; oil industry with a focus on the Americas and Sub-Saharan Africa; political economy; comparative historical studies; post-coloniality)

(Juni photograph, 2004)
6. Event Highlights

1) Inaugural Asian Heritage Month Lecture at York University (3 June 2008)

The life and times of Canadian missionary James Gareth Endicott was the focus of York University's inaugural Asian Heritage Month Lecture on 3 June 2008. The lecture focused on the life of Endicott, a prominent Canadian missionary in revolutionary China. York Professor Emeritus Stephen Endicott spoke about the life of his father in this talk, titled 'When China Stood Up: The Experience of Dr. James Gareth Endicott'.

A premiere reading of the play 'Dragonfly: Scenes from a Screenplay on Dr. James Endicott', by Professor Emeritus Robert Fothergill, winner of a Chalmers Award and a Dora Award nominee, followed the lecture. The play reading featured renowned Canadian actor R.H. Thomson as James Endicott, and the younger Endicott as the narrator.

The Endicott family history is an example of Canada’s long connection to Sichuan Province. James Endicott (1898-1993) was born in Sichuan (the Chinese province where the catastrophic earthquake struck earlier this month) where his father was serving as a Methodist missionary at the time. The family returned to Canada in 1910 and James served in the Canadian Artillery in the First World War. After the war, he attended Victoria College, University of Toronto and followed in his father's footsteps, graduating in 1925 as an ordained minister of the Methodist (soon to become the United) Church.

James Endicott spent over two decades as a missionary in China where he served as a preacher, language-teaching specialist, author, a relief worker during Japanese bombing attacks, political adviser to Chiang Kai-shek's New Life Movement and professor of English and Ethics at West China Union University.

As a member of the United States secret military intelligence unit in China, from 1944 to 1945, James Endicott came to know, respect and support the Chinese Communists. For the next 23 years, as head of the Canadian Peace Congress, he spoke for understanding of the New China, campaigned for Canadian recognition of the People's Republic and worked on broader world peace and disarmament issues. In this role, he was often the centre of public controversy.

Senator Vivienne Poy, patron of Asian Heritage Month-Canadian Foundation for Asian Culture (Central Ontario) Inc., chaired the event and presented the first Vivienne Poy Asian Research Award to doctoral student Doris Ha-Lin Sung, a York doctoral candidate in social & political thought.

The lecture was hosted by the York Centre for Asian Research and sponsored by the Office of the Vice-President, Academic, the Faculty of Arts, the Asia Business Management Programme,
YCAR and the Asian Heritage Month-Canadian Foundation for Asian Culture (Central Ontario) Inc.
(Doris Ha-Lin Sung received the Vivienne Poy Asian Research Award from Senator Poy at the event. York University Foundation photograph.)

2) Connecting Words and Images: Hong Kong Art, Design and Consumption
(10 July to 24 August 2008)
Wendy Wong, YCAR’s Associate Director, created a vibrant programme connecting exciting visual images and thought-provoking words on Hong Kong arts, design and consumption.

The ‘Connecting Words and Images’ event series included two exhibitions by globally renowned Hong Kong designer Tommy Li and a lecture 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 the 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/.

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/) and Prosays’ (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.

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/) in encouraging young designers and promoting Hong Kong design locally and internationally.
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, was exhibited here until 20 July and Part II in the series, Commercial Design, was exhibited until 25 August at Urbanspace Gallery. Both exhibitions were free to the public.

The event series continued on 26 September at York University during 'Transformations: Researching Asia', the YCAR graduate student conference with a keynote lecture by Professor Rey Chow of Brown University.

(Event organizer Wendy Wong with Tommy Li; Tommy Li speaks with design students about his commercial art.)

3) Transformations: Researching Asia | YCAR Graduate Associates' Inaugural Graduate Student Conference (26-27 September 2008)

The first York Centre for Asian Research Graduate Student Conference, ‘Transformations: Researching Asia’, was held on 26-27 September 2008 at York University.

"The graduate conference has been an excellent forum for knowledge exchange and for setting an agenda for issues that related to Asian research," said Susan Henders, YCAR's Director. "The students' hard work paid off - the conference was a wonderful success."

With this conference, the organizers sought to address the epistemology and methodology of researching Asia within and beyond the geographical and disciplinary constraints traditionally associated with Area Studies. Graduate students engaged in interdisciplinary research in Asian Studies focusing on the modern and contemporary periods, were invited to submit proposals.

YCAR Graduate Associates, who organized the conference, had been planning the event since August 2007 with assistance from faculty advisors Lisa Drummond and Hyun Ok Park. Over 50 abstracts had been submitted - impressive for this first conference of its kind at York.

Twenty graduate students from 13 universities in Canada, United States, Asia and Europe presented their work on the politics of representation, gender and modernity, colonialism, globalization and regionalism, the arts of resistance, and education across Asia and Asian Diasporas. Over 60 students, faculty members and participants attended the eight panels that covered major issues on researching Asia over the two-day event.

"The whole conference was full of energy and excitement as knowledge and insights were shared between students, discussants and participants from different disciplines and
backgrounds," said Eric Ping Hung Li, a member of the organizing committee and doctoral candidate in Marketing at Schulich.

More than 100 students, faculty and community members attended the keynote lecture on Friday, 26 September. Dr. Rey Chow, Andrew W. Mellon Professor of the Humanities at Brown University, had attendees rethinking the indispensable relationship between the East and the West. The lecture, ‘Film as Heterolingual Address: Some Remarks about Studying Asia in Postwar North America’, was also part of the York Department of Film’s 2008-2009 Norman Jewison Series.

The talk explored some of the possibilities of Asian Studies in a global context in which the United States has been occupying the status of super power. Among the issues it discussed were the utopian notion of the heterolingual address, the legacy of war, mourning and ways of engaging with the specifics of film language.

The conference was sponsored by: The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Canada), Department of Film Norman Jewison Series, Office of the Vice-President Research and Innovation, Faculty of Graduate Studies, Division of Humanities, Graduate Programme in Geography, Graduate Programme in Women’s Studies, Graduate Programme in Social and Political Thought and YCAR.

(Photos top to bottom: Shuxia Tai, Professor Patrick Alcedo, Doris Sung, Roberto Reyes Ang, Cynthia Foo; Professor Ted Goossen, Paul Horton; Doris Sung, Professor Joan Judge, Jooyeon Rhee, Jie (Selina) Gao; Organizing Committee members: Doris Sung, Shannon Arnold, Tina Virmani, Jooyeon Rhee, Eric Li, Naoko Ikeda, Heather Barnick.)

4) Behind the Lines: Culture in Late Colonial Korea: An International Symposium (25 September 2008)

Korea, Japanese and Canadian scholars shared their research on culture in Korea's late colonial period at a symposium held on 25 September 2008 at York University.

Panellists discussed creative responses to Japan’s totalitarian social and military control policies, the so-called *sinch’eje* (New Political Order/System) in the 1940s and analyzed a wide variety of cinematic, literary and visual texts in order to achieve a comprehensive perspective on a difficult and complex period in Japanese and Korean history.

Presenters included: Lee Jaimyung (Myongji University), Watanabe Naoki (Musashi University), Hwang Ho-Duk (Sungkyunkwan University), Yi Young Jae (University of Tokyo) and Kim Eung-gyo (Waseda University). The event's discussants were Janet Poole (University of Toronto) and Lee Jaimyung (Myongji University).
The event was organized by YCAR Associates Ted Goossen (Humanities) and Jooyeon Rhee (Humanities Doctoral Candidate). Rhee also presented her research on the representation of Korean women in Japanese propaganda films in the early 1940s.

In addition to presenters from Korea and Japan, the event welcomed special guest Masayuki Suzuki, Director of the Japan Foundation, Toronto. The Japan Foundation was also a sponsor of the event, along with the Humanities Department at York University.

Papers presented at the symposium are available on the YCAR website at www.yorku.ca/ycar/Publications/Culture_Korea_2008.html.

(Naoki Watanabe; Jooyeon Rhee)

5) The Future of Post-Olympics China (30 September 2008)

On 30 September, YCAR welcomed Xu Wenli to York University. Over 50 people listened as Xu shared his thoughts in a talk on the political future of Post-Olympics China. The talk was presented in Mandarin and English.

Xu is China's "Godfather of Dissent" and one of the founders of China's democracy movement in the Post-Mao era. Now living in exile in the United States, Mr. Xu was a leader in the Democracy Wall movement from 1979 to 1981, for which he was imprisoned from 1981 to 1993. He played a major role in establishing the China Democracy Party in 1998, for which he was sentenced to another 13 years imprisonment. In the face of international pressure, the Chinese government released him on medical grounds in December 2002. He and his wife left China immediately for the United States. Xu is now a senior fellow of the Watson Institute for International Studies at Brown University in Providence Rhode Island.

Before turning the discussion to China's post-Olympics future, Xu spoke briefly about his life story and his time in prison; Xu spent a total of 16 years in prison for his activities and membership in the China Democracy Party. He acknowledged support from different organizations, like Amnesty International, and individuals who have supported his struggle over the past few decades.

Xu spoke on many issues, including the importance of children and their protection as "China's past and future", the growing popularity of the “passionate youth” movement and called for self-reflection on how China has reached this point in its history.
The China Democracy Party, which is banned by the Chinese government, has always pushed for a gradual peaceful move to democracy, said Xu, and China has been moving in the direction of democracy continuously over the past 20 years.

He also spoke about the ongoing fight for human rights that began over 100 years ago in the Qing Dynasty and believes that a society that respects freedom, democracy and a society that respects human rights will happen.

Xu said that internal revolt is not likely in China because of the history of internal suffering but could not rule out the possibility of an uprising or revolt by citizens. He sees internal disparity as the potential tipping point.

Questions about corruption, his prediction on the future of Tibet and why attempts at democracy in China have failed were broached in the question period.

The event was organized by Sheng Xue of the Taiwanese Human Rights Association of Canada (THRAC) and Michael Stainton, YCAR Research Associate. THRAC and YCAR were the event sponsors.

The talk is available on the YCAR website (www.yorku.ca/ycar).


Scholars from Germany, Canada, France, England, United States and China were guests at York University in late October when 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 twentieth 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 Social Science and Humanities Research Council (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).

Presentations were given by the three co-principal investigators as well as research collaborators Julia F. Andrews (Ohio State University) and Michael Hockx (University of London), and the
The project’s research assistants Doris Sung (York University) and Liying Sun (Heidelberg University).

The guest respondents were: Xiaoping Sun (McMaster University), Meng Yue (University of Toronto) and Graham Sanders (University of Toronto).

The event was sponsored by: The Office of the Vice-President, Academic, the Faculty of Arts, the Department of History, the Office of the Vice President, Research, SSHRC, the Humboldt Foundation and YCAR.

7) **Political Change in China** (6-7 March 2009)

This conference on the prospects for political change was held in March 2009 at the Asian Institute, University of Toronto. Canadian and Chinese academics presented their research in the areas of local governance and democratization, state and law, the Party and political change, and authoritarian transitions and rights provision. Generally, the research has revealed that while political change is taking place, the realization of Western style democracy is still a distant prospect.

The conference was sponsored by the Asian Business and Management Programme at York University, the Asia Pacific Foundation and the David Chu Programme at the University of Toronto.

*(M. O’Brien photograph)*

8) **Journeys with Kabir** (16-17 March 2009)

York faculty, students and members of the wider public drew inspiration from the poet-saint Kabir in the ‘Journeys with Kabir’ event series. Hosted by the South Asian Studies Programme and the York Centre for Asian Research, the series featured Indian filmmaker Shabnam Virmani and award-winning Indian vocalist, Prahlad Singh Tipanya and ensemble. Three films and a concert were highlights of the visit, which also included visits to undergraduate classes. The events were held on 16-17 March 2009 at York University.

Kabir, one of India’s great religious poets, lived in Varanasi (in the present state of Uttar Pradesh) in the fifteenth century and remains extremely popular within Hindu, Muslim and Sikh communities in North India today. Kabir’s oral traditions have gone on continuously since his lifetime, producing a rich array of musical forms, folk and classical. He himself did not write, but composed orally. Later generations collected his poetry in written form. Over the centuries the body of work attributed to Kabir has grown, due to the dynamic and fluid nature of oral tradition. In far-flung regions, Kabir is sung in different dialects and local musical styles among various communities.
The tour arose from the Kabir Project, a Ford Foundation-funded project that began in 2003. Its artists examine a series of journeys in quest of this 15th century mystic poet in our contemporary worlds. For more information, visit www.kabirproject.org.

The visit to York University was one of three Canadian stops on a two-month North American tour organized by Professor Linda Hess of Stanford University. Hess is also the subject of one of Virmani’s Kabir films, *Chalo Hamara Des: Journeys with Kabir & Friends*, which unfolds through the interwoven narratives of two people from two very different countries – Dalit folk singer Prahlad Tipanya and Hess. Viewers enter the world of Kabir through the personal and public lives of these two individuals, brought together in an unlikely friendship by the amazing universality and cross-cultural resonance of Kabir.

Three of the four documentaries that Virmani wrote, produced and directed for the Kabir Project were shown to enthusiastic York audiences with lively discussion. They included: *Had-Anhad (Bounded-Boundless)* - Journeys with Ram and Kabir, a film that journeys through song and poem into the politics of religion, and finds a myriad answers on both sides of the border between India and Pakistan; *Kabira Khada Bazar Mein (In the Market Stands Kabir)* - Journeys with Sacred and Secular Kabir, which explores how 600 years after his time, Kabir's legacy can be found in both spaces – sacred and secular. This film interweaves the deification of Kabir by a religious sect with his secular appropriation by a social activist group. The final film was *Koi Sunta Hai (Someone is Listening)* - Journeys with Kumar and Kabir, which interweaves the oral folk traditions of Kabir in central India with the intensely personal narrative of the late classical singer Pt. Kumar Gandharva, keeping spiritual ideas of Kabir as the central binding thread.

The concert, held on Monday, 16 February at York’s Tribute Communities Recital Hall, featured Tipanya and the five members of his ensemble: Ambaram Tipanya, Ajay Tipanya, Vijay Tipanya and Devnarayan Saroliya. The musicians, from the Ujjain district, Madhya Pradesh, mesmerized the crowd during the two-hour concert. They performed traditional bhajans (devotional songs sung in the folk register) to more than 100 people.

Kabir is associated with the *nirgun* or *sant* stream of devotional religion that flourished in central and northern India from around the 14th century on. The *sants* spoke of an ultimate reality resistant to description and immediately accessible in every human body. This truth was *nirgun* - beyond qualities, uncontainable.
Kabir was unclassifiable as Hindu, Muslim, or yogi, though he bore marks of all these traditions. He belonged to a family of Muslim *julahas* (weavers of shudra caste status) and is believed by many to have been the disciple of the Hindu guru Ramanand. Fiercely independent, he has become an icon of speaking truth to power. Often abrasive and uncompromising, he exhorted his listeners to shed their delusions, pretensions, and orthodoxies in favour of an intense, direct confrontation with the truth. He was an incisive satirist, exposing violence, hypocrisy, and greed - especially among the religious. Belonging to a social group widely considered low and unclean, he cut through the absurdities of caste ideology and declared the equality of all human beings.

Organizer Michael Nijhawan was very impressed with the community turnout, and positive media coverage meant that interviews with the tour members have and will be shown across Ontario and North America.

The event would not have been possible without the support provided by the Office of the Vice-President Academic and Provost, Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute, Scotiabank, the Department of Languages, Literatures and Linguistics, the Faculty of Fine Arts, the Faculty of Social Science and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations.

*(Photographs from top: Prahlad Tipanya and ensemble in concert at York; Our guests during a class visit; Event organizer Michael Nijhawan with Prahlad Tipanya; Prahlad Tipanya during a class visit. Photographs by Zulfikar Hirji and YCAR).*

9) **Global Asia and the Global Economic Crisis** (Winter 2009)

This three-part series examined Asia and Asian diaspora in the context of the current global financial and economic crisis.

Gregory Chin, Political Science professor and YCAR Faculty Associate, launched the series on 9 March with his talk on ‘Responding to the Global Financial Crisis: The G7, The Emerging Powers, and Rival Designs’. Professor Chin’s talk discussed the politics surrounding global financial and economic governance, with a particular focus on the growing importance of the Chinese government.

A workshop on 8 April 2009 turned attention to the social impacts of the recession. The panellists presented micro and macro level views on the effect on livelihoods, social policy, labour markets, and small and medium businesses. Analysis focused on the unfolding crisis in terms of what it reveals about longer-term processes of social, economic, and political change in the region and its global linkages. Attention was given to vulnerabilities and adaptation within market integration processes as well as to comparisons with the 1997 Asian financial crisis and other periods of significant economic instability.
The two panels included presentations on Thailand, Bangladesh, Southeast Asia and China: Integration into Unstable Global Markets: The Agrarian Sector in Thailand (Peter Vandergeest, York, Sociology); Bangladesh and Global Markets: Low Integration Protects, but High Export Dependence may Hurt (Afsan Chowdhury, YCAR Research Associate); From Asian Financial Crisis to Global Economic Crisis: Comparing the Recession Experiences of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in Southeast Asia (Lorna Wright, York, Schulich School of Business); and China's Urban Social Groups Face the Crisis: New Institutions, New Outcomes? (Steve Trott, University of Toronto, Political Science).

Panel Two included presentations on Korea, the Filipino Diaspora and India: The Aging Korean Tiger and the Global Economy: Living Longer, Working Longer and Earning Less (Thomas Klassen, York, Political Science); Recession, Migration and Remittances: Canada, the Philippines, and the World (Philip Kelly, York, Geography); and India in the Global Economic Crisis (Ananya Mukherjee Reed, York, Political Science; Visiting Scholar, Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore).

The third event in the series will be a presentation on 30 April by Ben White of the Institute of Social Studies, The Hague, who will draw on his own study of the experiences of the economic recessions of the 1930s, 1960s and 1990s in Indonesia for his 30 April presentation titled, 'Don't let a Good Recession go to Waste: How (not) to Study the Social Impacts of Economic Downturns'.

(Lt to Rt: Susan Henders, Afsan Chowdhury, Philip Kelly, Peter Vandergeest, Steve Trott, Thomas Klassen and Gregory Chin).
7. Calendar of Events

> From Haiku to Anime: Japan in Western Eyes (7 May 2008)
Bata Shoe Museum Asian Heritage Month Lecture by Ted Goossen, YCAR Faculty Associate
York's participation in the 2008 Asian Heritage Month celebrations began with a lecture by York Professor Ted Goossen at the Bata Shoe Museum in Toronto. Goossen, a specialist on Japanese literature and culture, explored Western perceptions of Japan and Japanese culture from the 19th to the 21st centuries in his lecture titled, 'From Haiku to Anime: Japan in Western Eyes'. The talk complemented the Bata Shoe Museum's month-long exhibition of Japanese footwear.

This event was sponsored by the Bata Shoe Museum.
(Bata Shoe Museum photograph of Ted Goossen, left, with Bata Shoe Museum Director Dr. Emanuele Lepri).

> Reel Asian Spring Showcase (23-25 May 2008)
This two-day event was part of the 2008 Asian Heritage Month events and included seven screenings of films, documentaries and shorts by Hong Kong, Filipino, Taiwanese, Chinese and Canadian directors. The event was organized by Film Professor Suzie Young and Wendy Wong, YCAR Associate Director. The Showcase was co-hosted by the Asian Heritage Month-Canadian Foundation for Asian Culture (Central Ontario) Inc., the Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival and the York Centre for Asian Research.

> Asians in Latin America (24 May 2008)
Canadian director Cheuk Kwan led a panel discussion on 'Asians in Latin America' as part of the Reel Asian Spring Showcase on 24 May 2008. Fellow panellists were YCAR Faculty Associates Ted Goossen and Pietro Giordan.

The panel discussion focused on Latin Passions, Kwan’s fourth film from his Chinese restaurant series, which was shown as a part of the Spring Showcase. The film focuses on Chinese restaurateurs and the Asian Diaspora Kwan discovered in Peru, Brazil and Argentina.
(Kay Li photograph. Lt-Rt: Cheuk Kwan, Ted Goossen and Pietro Giordan).

> Asian Heritage Month Lecture at York University (3 June 2008)
Professor Emeritus Stephen Endicott was the keynote speaker at the Inaugural York University Asian Heritage Month Lecture, which took place on 3 June 2008. Dr. Endicott spoke on his father's experiences as a missionary in China in 'When China Stood Up: The Experience of Dr. James Gareth Endicott'. The programme also featured the premiere of 'Dragonfly', scenes from a screenplay on James Endicott by Robert Fothergill, York Professor of Theatre and winner of the Chalmers Award and a Dora Award nominee. This event was hosted by YCAR and organized by the
Asian Heritage Month-Canadian Foundation for Asian Culture (Central Ontario) Inc. and York University Foundation.
(York Foundation photograph).

YCAR Faculty Associate Joan Judge presented an illustrated talk titled, 'Foot Binding and Chinese Modernity: The Demise of One of History's Most Enigmatic Practices' at the Bata Show Museum. The event was also the launch for her new book The Precious Raft of History: The Past, the West, and the Woman Question in China.

Referring to the Museum's collection of Chinese lotus shoes, Professor Judge focused on the beginning of the end of footbinding at the turn of the 20th century. While these tiny shoes once worn by bound-footed Chinese women are delicately embroidered and highly refined, the practice associated with them has been almost universally condemned as barbaric and inhumane. Under the scrutiny of Western missionaries, other foreigners, and Chinese reformers, the practice was transformed at this time from a marker of Han civilization to an emblem of national backwardness.

Professor Judge's talk was based on the research for her new book, which shows how China has been and will continue to be shaped by conflicting definitions of proper female behaviour.
(Bata Shoe Museum photograph).

Connecting Words and Images: Hong Kong Art, Design and Consumption (9 July to 24 August 2009)
The 'Connecting Words and Images' event series included two exhibitions by globally renowned Hong Kong designer Tommy Li and a lecture by Li designed to enhance understanding and interest in Hong Kong arts and design. The event series was organized by Wendy S. Wong, YCAR Associate Director. For more details, see 6.2.

This event series was sponsored by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, Toronto. (Arlene Gould, Wendy Wong and Susan Henders speak with Stephen Siu, HKETO Assistant Director (Public Relations)).

The Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada: Post-Graduate Fellowships, Research, Analysis and YOU (24 September 2008)
An information session for graduate students on the Asia Pacific Foundation, fellowship opportunities in Asian Studies and how the Foundation could be useful to them in their research and intellectual endeavours. Presented by Ajay Parasram, Post-Graduate Research Fellow, Asia Pacific Foundation.
> **Behind the Lines: Culture in Late Colonial Korea: An International Symposium** (25 September 2008)

Korea, Japanese and Canadian scholars shared their research on culture in Korea's late colonial period, from a range of disciplines. Panellists discussed creative responses to Japan’s totalitarian social and military control policies, the so-called *sinch’eje* (New Political Order/System) in the 1940s, and analyzed a wide variety of cinematic, literary and visual texts. For more details, see 6.4.

The event was organized by YCAR Associates Ted Goossen (Humanities) and Jooyeon Rhee (Doctoral Candidate in Humanities) and sponsored by the Japan Foundation, Toronto, the Department of Humanities and YCAR.

> **Transformations: Researching Asia: YCAR Graduate Associates' Inaugural Graduate Student Conference** (26-27 September 2008)

'Transformations: Researching Asia' was held on 26 and 27 September 2008 with 20 graduate students from 13 universities across North America, Europe and Asia sharing their research on Asia and the Asian diaspora. The keynote speaker was Rey Chow, Andrew W. Mellon Professor of the Humanities at Brown University. This is the first conference of its kind at York University.

Doris Ha-Lin Sung (Social and Political Thought) lead the organizing committee with valuable advice from Faculty Advisors Hyun-Ok Park (Sociology) and Lisa Drummond (Geography). For more details, see 6.3.

This event was sponsored by: The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Canada), Department of Film Norman Jewison Series, Office of the Vice-President Research and Innovation, Faculty of Graduate Studies, Division of Humanities, Graduate Programme in Geography, Graduate Programme in Women’s Studies, Graduate Programme in Social and Political Thought and YCAR. (Doris Ha-Lin Sung graphic).

> **The Future of Post-Olympics China** (30 September 2008)

Xu Wenli, academic and one of the founders of China's democracy movement, shared his thoughts on the future of post-Olympics China. Xu is a senior fellow of the Watson Institute for International Studies at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island. The event was organized and sponsored by Sheng Xue of the Taiwanese Human Rights Association of Canada (THRAC) and Michael Stainton, YCAR Research Associate. For more details, see 6.5.

(Wendy Wong and Susan Henders share a laugh with the guest speaker.)
A new approach to looking at Chinese women's journals in the early 20th century was the focus of a two-day introductory workshop for a multi-year SSHRC-Humboldt Foundation project, ‘A New Approach to the Popular Press in China 1904-1937.’ On 26-27 October, German, Canadian, French, American and Chinese scholars presented 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). For more details, see 6.6.

The event was sponsored by: The Office of the Vice-President, Academic, the Faculty of Arts, the Department of History, the Office of the Vice President, Research, SSHRC, the Humboldt Foundation and YCAR.

> Roundtable with Ted Lipman, Canadian Ambassador to the Republic of Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (30 October 2009)
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, 1977-1980. Since then, he has had a variety of assignments in China. Prior to his current appointment, he was 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.

(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).

> Subsistence and Rural Livelihood Strategies in Tibet under Rapid Economic and Social Transition (19 December 2008)
Andrew Fischer's research on the pivotal role of subsistence in the livelihood strategies of rural Tibetan households within the context of rapid economic and social transition was the focus of this York Political Ecology Workshop (YPEW) event. Fischer is at the Institute for Development Studies in The Hague, Netherlands.
> **Political Change in China** (6-7 March 2009)
Chinese and North American scholars explored the prospects for political change in China in the areas of local governance and democratization, state and law, the Chinese Communist Party and political change, and authoritarian transitions and rights provision. The event was organized by Bernie Frolic, YCAR Senior Research Associate. For more details, see 6.7.

The conference was sponsored by the Asian Business and Management Programme at York University, the Asia Pacific Foundation and the Asian Institute at the University of Toronto (M. O’Brien photograph).

> **Responding to the Global Financial Crisis: The G7, the Emerging Powers, and Rival Designs** (9 March 2009)
Gregory Chin, Political Science professor and YCAR Faculty Associate, explored the global financial crisis and its effect on the politics of the global financial and economic governance. His particular focus was the increasing importance of China in intergovernmental processes in a context where the crisis has deepened challenges to the Anglo-American model.

The Chin lecture was the first of three events presented by YCAR on the global financial crisis and Asia. For more details, see 6.9.

(YCAR Director Susan Henders and Professor Gregory Chin.)

> **Journeys with Kabir** (16-17 March 2009)
Concert and film screenings around the life and work of Kabir, an Indian poet-saint revered by Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs alike. The event series featured Indian filmmaker Shabnam Virmani and award-winning Indian vocalist, Prahlad Singh Tipanya and ensemble. Three films and a concert were highlights of the visit, which also included visits to undergraduate classes. For more details, see 6.8.

The series was sponsored by: the Office of the Vice-President Academic and Provost, the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute, Scotiabank, the Department of Languages, Literatures and Linguistics, the Faculty of Fine Arts, the Faculty of Social Science and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations.

(Tour organizer Linda Hess, filmmaker Shabnam Virmani and musician Prahlad Tipanya at a film screening).

> **Korean Studies Workshop** (2 April 2009)
York University has one of North America’s strongest concentrations of scholars specializing in Korea Studies. In its first workshop, the Korea Study Group met on Thursday, 2 April 2009 to present their research on Korea and the Korean Diaspora and discuss future projects and
possibilities for collaboration. The workshop was chaired by Hyun Ok Park (Sociology). The research cluster is based at YCAR.

Researchers at York specialize in such subjects as social policy, civil war, migration, immigration, urban policy, literary translation, among others, and do research on both North and South Korea as well as the Korean Diaspora.

> **Global Asia and the Global Economic Crisis: A Workshop** (8 April 2009)
The workshop examined the effects of the crisis on livelihoods, social policy, labour markets and small and medium businesses in Asian societies and diaspora. Presenters included Peter Vandergeest (Sociology), Afsan Chowdhury (YCAR Research Associate), Lorna Wright (Schulich), Steve Trott (Political Science, University of Toronto), Ananya Mukherjee Reed (Political Science, Visiting Scholar, Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore), Thomas Klassen (Political Science) and Philip F. Kelly (Geography).

This is the second event in a series of three events presented by YCAR on the global financial crisis and Asia. For more details, see 6.9.

(Workshop attendees).

In addition, YCAR has provided financial and/or administrative support for the following events over the past year:

Canadians Committed to Ethnic Voice in Indonesia (CCEVI) Memorial and Annual Fundraiser with Dr. Eddie Lembong to mark the 10th anniversary of the 12-14 May 1998 Indonesian tragedy.

> **Workshop on Forest Trade and Market Reforms in the Mekong Region: Creating a Network to Support Sustainability, Legality and Pro-Poor Outcomes** (21-22 August 2008)
The Forest Trends workshop, supported by RECOFTC and the Verifor Project, brought together participants to discuss forest trade and market reforms in the Mekong region, analyzed the dynamic relations governing forest trade and industry in the region. The meeting resulted in a regional research network focused on forest trade and forest markets in Mekong countries.

> **Global Multiculture: Cultures, Transnational Culture, Deep Culture** (25 September 2008)
Through history the relations among cultures (ethnicities, nations, civilizations, religions) have been a major arena, mostly with greater attention for differences than commonalities. This talk was presented by Jan Nederveen Pieterse (Sociology, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign).

> **Travelling Film South Asia @ York** (21 to 24 October 2008)
A week-long lunch hour and evening film festival of 13 of the best in South Asian documentary filmmaking. The event series was curated from the Film South Asia festival held every two years.
in Kathmandu, Nepal. The feature length films were followed by a Q&A with a faculty member of the South Asia Studies Program. This event was organized by Ali Kazimi (Film; YCAR Faculty Associate).

> **Have India's Economic Reforms been "Guided by Compassion and Justice" as Once Promised?** (26 March 2009)
John Harris, Professor of International Studies at Simon Fraser University, examined the effects on the poor of the practices of the Indian state in the context of liberalizing economic reforms and of India’s increased integration into the global economy.

> **Strengthening the Ecojustice Movement: How Will Disenfranchised Peoples Adapt to Climate Change?** (16-17 April 2009)
York University hosted community activists and activist scientists from Brazil, India, South Africa and Arctic Canada, who shared stories of local vulnerabilities to climate change and discussed strategies for addressing inequities in climate change causation, mitigation, funding, and education.
8. Graduate Student Research, Training and Awards

1) Graduate Diploma in Asian Studies (GDAS)

In early 2007, YCAR launched the Graduate Diploma in Asian Studies. It is open to any student enrolled in a graduate programme at York University. The GDAS is centered on the core course, ‘The Making of Asian Studies: Critical Perspectives’, which was offered for the fourth time in the Winter 2009 term. Shobna Nijhawan was the course director.

Other requirements for the GDAS include: two Asia-focused research papers, Asian field work experience and competence in an Asian language relevant to the student's research. Currently, 16 students are officially enrolled in the diploma and seven students have completed the Diploma, including four in 2008: Shannon Arnold, Sailaja Krishnamruti, Sai Latt and Aminath Theema Mohamed. In Winter 2009, nine students were enrolled in the core course.

For more information on the GDAS, please visit: www.yorku.ca/ycar/Graduate_Diploma.html.

2) YCAR Awards

In 2008, four awards were offered to graduate students engaged in Asia and Asian Diaspora research: the Albert C.W. Chan Foundation Fellowship, the David Wurfel Award, the Vivienne Poy Asian Research Award and the YCAR Language Award. The winners were announced in October 2007 and Spring 2008. The Vivienne Poy Asian Research Award was presented for the first time this year. The winner, Doris Ha-Li Sung, was formally presented with the award by Senator Poy at York University’s Inaugural Asian Heritage Month Lecture in June 2008.

Albert C.W. Chan Foundation Fellowship

Serene Tan was the 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 and returned to Canada in early 2009. During this time, she conducted interviews and archival research in the Singapore, where she was affiliated with the Asian Research Institute, and in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, where she was sponsored by the Southern Institute of Social Sciences. She also carried out interviews in Yangon, Burma and Bangkok, Thailand.

*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, was the 2008 recipient of the David Wurfel Award.

The award funded 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 explores these processes as forms of 'alternative development', that is, as alternatives to dominant disciplining frameworks shaping economics and 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 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 were the 2008 recipients of the YCAR Language Award. Ashby, a Master's Candidate in Interdisciplinary Studies, is studying Japanese and De Couto, a Master's Candidate in the Department of Education, is enrolled in Hindi language training.

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 tries to critically understand and discuss the issues facing gay South Asian high school students in Toronto. This study aims to shed light on the ways in which the South Asian and gay communities in Toronto support and contest gay South Asian adolescents. He argues racism, homophobia and heterosexism operate hand in hand, suggesting that actions and policies toward social change must tackle these systems of oppression simultaneously.

*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 was 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 Chinese Diaspora, 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

3) Graduate Assistants
YCAR's work in 2008-2009 was supported by four Graduate Assistants: Anisa Anwar (Anthropology); Pedram Afshar (Political Science); Alice Hu (Political Science); and Carrie Macmillian (Environmental Studies).

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 with a focus on 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 received 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 thematic interest lies in medical anthropology with a particular focus on political economic perspectives of the health of first-generation Canadian immigrant women. Anisa was born and raised in Bangladesh and completed her MPhil 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 Master's Candidate in Environmental Studies. Her research 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 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, the philosophy of feminism, and transgender studies. He received his Honours BA in Political Science and Philosophy from the University of Toronto.
9. YCAR Associate Awards and Grants

Many YCAR Associates have received awards and grants in the past year. Below is a partial list.

> Gregory Chin (Faculty Associate) - Social Science and Humanities Research Council Standard Grant for ‘The Political Economy of China’s Currency Choices – the Vortex of Domestic, Regional and International Pressures’ (Co-Investigator, with Principal Investigator Paul Bowles and Co-Investigator Baotai Wong).

> Lisa Drummond (Faculty Associate) - Faculty of Arts Fellowship, awarded in recognition of outstanding research projects (2008).

> Nga Dao (Graduate Associate) – Funding from the Challenges of Agrarian Transition in Southeast Asia (ChATSEA) Major Collaborative Research Initiative (MCRI) project for her preliminary fieldwork research in Vietnam on ‘Displacement and Agrarian Change in the Northern Uplands of Vietnam’ (2008).

> Enakshi Dua (Faculty Associate) - Social Science and Humanities Research Council Aid to Research Workshops and Conferences in Canada grant for ‘Theorizing Anti-Racism: Rethinking the Tensions between Marxism and Post-colonialism’ (2008).

> Joshua Fogel (Faculty Associate) - Social Science and Humanities Research Council funding for ‘Czernowitz at 100: The First Yiddish Language Conference in Historical Perspective’ (2008).

> Margo Gewurtz (Faculty Associate) – Research Development Fellowship, Faculty of Arts, York University/YUFA for research on Chinese Christians in North Henan, China, 1890-1937 (2008).

> Shubhra Gururani (Faculty Associate) – Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute (SICI) funding to conduct research in India in 2009-2010 on ‘Making Environmental Subjects in the Himalayas’ (2008); Faculty of Arts Research grant for ‘To Market, to Market: Neoliberal Conservation and Empowerment in the Indian Himalayas’ (2008).

> Derek Hall - S.V. Ciriacy-Wantrup Visiting Research Fellowship, University of California, Berkeley, to spend 2009-2010 at Berkeley working on his book, provisionally called *Many Roads to Enclosure: Commodifying and Decommodifying Rural Land in East and Southeast Asia* (2009).

> Naoko Ikeda (Graduate Associate) – The Martin Cohnstaedt Graduate Research Award for Studies in Non-Violence, York University (2008).

> Radhika Johari (Graduate Associate) - Susan Mann Dissertation Scholarship, York University (2008-2009).
> Joan Judge (Faculty Associate) - Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada

> Philip Kelly (Faculty Associate) - Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council
Knowledge Impact in Society Grant for ‘Recruiting, Retraining and Retaining Immigrants in the Canadian Workforce (Principle Investigator, 2008); SSHRC Metropolis Grant funding for CERIS - The Ontario Metropolis Centre (Co-applicant, 2008).

> Ann Kim (Faculty Associate) – Social Science and Humanities Research Council Standard Grant for her project on 'Development, Migration Strategies and Prospects for Integration: Understanding Contemporary Transnationalism Among South Korean Families' (2009-2012); Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation External Research Program funding for ‘The Mobility Experiences of Immigrants and the Canadian Born, and Homeownership’ (Principal Investigator, 2008-2009); York Faculty of Arts Research Grant for project on ‘Early Korean Immigrants and Entrepreneurship’ (Principal Investigator, 2008-2009); CERIS - The Ontario Metropolis Centre funding for ‘The Economic Integration of Korean Immigrants and Consequences for Social Engagement’ (Principal Investigator, 2008-2009).

> Janice Kim (Faculty Associate) – Faculty of Arts Research Grant for research in East Asia (2008).

> Lucia Lo (Faculty Associate) – Federation of Canadian Municipalities funding for ‘Immigration and Public Transit’ (Co-principle Investigator with A. Shallaby, 2008); Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Knowledge Impact in Society Grant for ‘Recruiting, Retraining and Retaining Immigrants in the Canadian Workforce (Co-Investigator, 2008).

> Guida Man (Faculty Associate) - Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Standard Research grant for ‘Transnational Migration Trajectories of Immigrant Women Professionals in Canada’ (Principal Investigator, 2009-2012).

> Brianna Mersey (Graduate Associate) – Dian Marino Award, Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University (2008); Adrienne Pocock Award, Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University (2008); Kathryn Huget Leadership Award (2008).

> Radhika Mongia (Faculty Associate) - Faculty of Arts Research Grant for ‘Multiple Lives of Sovereignty: Indigeneity and the New World Order’ (2008).

> Haji Oh (Visiting Scholar) – Scholarship, Korean Scholarship Foundation, Japan (2008).

> Wan Kay Li (Research Associate) - ORION funds for research on Bernard Shaw (2008); Canadian Heritage Grant, Asian Heritage Month Festival (2008); Canadian Heritage Grant, Virtual Museum of Asian Canadian Cultural Heritage (2008); Toronto Arts Council Grant, Asian Heritage Month Festival (2009).

> Valerie Preston (Faculty Associate) - Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Cluster Grant for Canadian Homelessness Research Network (Collaborator, 2008).
> Jooyeon Rhee (Graduate Associate) - Ontario International Education Opportunity Scholarship (2008).

> Robin Roth (Faculty Associate) - Faculty of Arts Fellowship (2008).

> Yuk-Lin Renita Wong (Faculty Associate) - Co-investigator, funded by Partnership for Community Development funds for research on ‘Post-earthquake Psychological and Cultural Rebuilding in Beichuan, Sichuan Province, China’ (Co-Investigator, 2009); Knowledge Mobilization Course Release for Community Engagement for ‘Developing Self-help Initiative for Racialized Ethnic Consumer/Survivors’ (in collaboration with Hong Fook Mental Health Association, 2008).

> Lorna Wright (Faculty Associate) – PACIBER travel grant, Vietnam (2008); Business and Professional Women’s Organization travel grant, Mexico (2008); ASEAN Confederation of Women’s Organizations travel grant, Philippines (2008); Taiwan Economic and Cultural Organization travel grant, Canada (2008); ADOC Conference travel grant, Taiwan (2008).

> Xueqing Xu (Faculty Associate) - Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Travel Grant for a presentation at the 15th International Conference on Chinese Literature of the World, Nanning, China (2008); York ad hoc Travel Grant, special guest speech, 10th Conference of Overseas Chinese Women Writers’ Association, Las Vegas (2008); Faculty of Arts Research Grant, ‘Early Chinese-Canadian Literature’ (2008).

> Sashar Zarif (Research Associate) - New Pioneers Arts Award (2008); Dora Mavor Moore nomination for outstanding performance in his dance creation, 'Choreographies of Migration' (2008).

> Yikun Zhao (Graduate Associate) - Elia Scholars, York University (2008); Schulich Entrance Scholarship of Merit for PhDs, Schulich School of Business, York University (2008); York Graduate Scholarship, York University (2008); Award, Concordia University (2008).
10. Plans and Priorities for 2009-2010

Upcoming scholarly events

1) Asian Transformations: A Symposium, Visual Arts Exhibition and Lecture Marking the Fiftieth Anniversary of York University

a) The Global Modern: Transnationalism and the Media in Asia
Friday, 15 May 2009 from 9am to 4pm in 206 Accolade West Building, York University

The symposium explores the transnational origins and dimensions of the modern mass media in Asia. Demonstrating that various forms of South and East Asian media were global from their inception, the workshop both reinforces themes explored in the accompanying exhibition on diasporic Asian art and belies the commonly held conception that globalization is a post-modern, post-capitalist, late twentieth century development. Papers will be presented by York University faculty Joan Judge (Humanities, Women’s Studies), Shobna Nijhawan (Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics), Xueqing Xu (Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics), Wendy Wong (Design), Sailaja Krishnamurti (South Asian Studies) and Doris Sung (Social and Political Thought) among others. Julia F. Andrews, a specialist in Chinese painting and modern Chinese art from Ohio State University, will be the keynote speaker.

b) transpulsation – new asian canadian imaginings
15 May to 12 June 2009, Gales Gallery, Accolade West Building, York University

This visual art exhibition will examine cultural traversing and globalization through the works of Asian Canadian artists Shelly Bahl, Will Kwan, Meera Sethi and Amy Wong. Traversing between the macrocosm of political economy and migration studies to the microcosm of personal narratives, the artists display their inspirations, visions and contentions of the notion of globalization in their works in an attempt to create meaningful dialogues between Asia and Canada. They are travellers who explore stories of being “here and there,” connecting pulses of multiple locales and individuals.

c) Inaugural Asia Lecture
September 2009, York University

Dr. Veena Das, Krieger-Eisenhower Professor of Anthropology at the Johns Hopkins University, will give the first Asia Lecture at York, on the topic of urban poverty. Das is one of the most well known social theorists specializing on South Asia. She is particularly known for her research on the anthropology of violence, social suffering and the state in South Asia. Amongst her many works are Life and Words: Violence and the Descent into the Ordinary (California UP, 2006), Critical Events: An Anthropological Approach to Contemporary India (Oxford UP, 1995); Structure and Cognition: Aspects of Hindu Caste and Ritual (Oxford UP, 1977), and the edited and co-edited volumes Mirrors of Violence: Communities, Riots and Survivors in South Asia (Oxford UP, 1990), Social Suffering (California UP, 1998); Violence and Subjectivity (California UP, 2000). Professor Das received the Anders Retzius Gold Medal from the Swedish Society of Anthropology and Geography in 1995 and an Honorary Doctorate from the University
of Chicago in 2000. She is an Honorary Foreign Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

2) Religion and Human Rights in China
Saturday, 30 May 2009, Knox College, University of Toronto

The symposium will bring together scholars, believers and human rights activists to examine the contemporary situation with respect to religion and human rights in China. The 2008 Olympic Games brought international attention to China’s human rights practices, as well as intensified repression against Tibetan Buddhists, Uyghur Muslims, non-registered churches and Falun Dafa practitioners. At the same time, China is experiencing the greatest religious revival in human history. Moreover, religious organizations play an important role in the provision of social welfare. The symposium will examine issues of religious control and persecution as well as the contributions of religions as civil society organizations building human rights in China. We will approach this by pairing academic and activist presentations in panels on Buddhism, Islam, Christianity and Falun Dafa, and in discussion sessions. Dr. Pitman Potter (University of British Columbia Law School) will be the keynote speaker. Michael Stainton (YCAR Research Associate) and YCAR is co-organizing the event together with the Centre for Asian-Canadian Theology and Ministry at Knox College, University of Toronto and the Hudson Taylor Centre for Chinese Ministries at Tyndale College.

3) York Asian Heritage Month Lecture 2009
Thursday, 4 June 2009, 7 to 9pm, York University

Dr. Joy Kogawa will speak on her new memoir, Gently to Nagasaki, with Professor Mona Oikawa (Social Sciences) as discussant. The event will also include the formal launch of the Virtual Museum of Asian Canadian Cultural Heritage.

4) The B(R)ICS: Emerging Powers as Emerging Donors: A Book Workshop
Fall 2009

The workshop will bring together for a working session the contributors to a book on the policy, programmes and donor intentions of the B(R)ICS, the complex motivations that are giving rise to their role as emerging donors, and the implications of their rise in terms of the shifting global order. The workshop is supported by IDRC, York University, YCAR, the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI), the University of Waterloo and the University of the West Indies.

5) Art and Pan-Asianism in the Last Decades of Empire
November 2009

This planning workshop, which will be held at York University, will outline aims, objectives and potential presenters for an upcoming conference. The organizing committee includes: Joshua Fogel (History; YCAR Faculty Associate), Shen Kuiyi (U.C., San Diego), Julia Andrews (Ohio State University), Bert Winther-Tamaki (U.C., Irvine), Sonya Rhie Quintanilla (San Diego Museum of Art) and Tamaki Maeda (University of Washington).
Other initiatives in development

6) Religion, Politics and Diaspora: a research workshop planned for spring 2010. (Organizer: Michael Nijhawan)

7) Hong Kong Studies International: an academic journal in development. (Editor: Bernard Luk; Associate Editors: Wendy Wong, Susan Henders)

8) Vietnam Studies in Canada: a website under development and a workshop planned for autumn 2010. (Organizer: Lisa Drummond)
11. Publications

1) Publication Highlights


Joshua Fogel offers an incisive historical look at Sino-Japanese relations from three different perspectives. Using first a wide lens, he suggests a new way to capture the relationship between China and Japan by characterizing the nature of their contact. From the first century CE, the primary reasons for contact moved from political and ceremonial to cultural, and on to commercial ties. This period ends at the dawn of the modern age, when contacts involved treaties, consulates, and international law.

Switching to a microhistorical view, Fogel examines several important behind-the-scenes players in the launching of the countries’ modern diplomatic relations. He focuses on the voyage of the Senzaimaru from Nagasaki to Shanghai in 1862—the first official meeting of Chinese and Japanese in the modern era—and the Dutchman who played an important intermediary role. Finally, he examines the first expatriate Japanese community in the modern era, in Shanghai from the 1860s to the mid-1890s, when the first Sino-Japanese War erupted.

Introducing the concept of “Sinosphere” to capture the nature of Sino-foreign relations both spatially and temporally, Fogel presents an original and thought-provoking study on the long, complex relationship between China and Japan.


Although the themes are contemporary, the book as a whole is a portal to the ancient world of both East and West that provides the building blocks of our present philosophical global horizons. The ideas presented herein aim to explore the potential harmony of world togetherness that Wu envisions throughout his life-long meanderings in search of inter-cultural understanding.

Contributors: Ruth Chao, Chang Chung-yue, Hal W. French, Jay Goulding, Huang Chunchieh, Huang Yong, Hwa Yol Jung, Eske Mølgaard, Robert Cummings Neville, Ng On-cho, David Schenker, Frank Stevenson, Tateno Masami and Kirill Ole Thompson.

*The Ismailis, An Illustrated History* contains some 400 images of manuscripts, artifacts and monuments, community documents as well as important historical and contemporary photographs. Based on modern scholarship in the fields of Ismaili and Islamic Studies, the book offers a comprehensive and accessible account of Ismaili history and intellectual achievements, set in the wider contexts of Islamic and world history.


Linking economic and social historical research methods with special reference to the evolution of the industrial labour force, *To Live to Work* offers an account of the popular expansion of gender, labour and political consciousnesses among working women in colonial Korea. While Korea's rapid industrial development throughout the twentieth century is one focus of this work, equal emphasis is given to interpreting the social and cultural consequences of modernization, such as the growth of cities and the rise of male and female labour forces. Special attention is given to the partitions in the labour market along the lines of gender, age, class, and nationality.


Organized crime has been on the rise in the Greater 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 businesses 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 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 Greater China; and the implications for the national security of other countries such as the United States, Canada and Australia.
The author reviews the history of organized crime and secret societies, and addresses the legal complexities of dealing with criminal groups in the region. He covers such topics as money laundering, the financing of terrorist activities and regional efforts in fighting terrorism.


This book explores the unevenness of human development with respect to the question of difference. The author develops a conceptual framework that focuses on social power, whereby human development is seen as a process/es of reconstruction of the matrices of social power. The approach builds on three main components: a relational rather than an identity-centric view of difference; a transformative notion of social justice - as opposed to a distributive understanding of justice; and the notion of agency. These are applied to the South Asian reality, where important insights into structural aspects of human development can be obtained in terms of religion, gender and caste.


How do text, performance, and rhetoric simultaneously reflect and challenge notions of distinct community and religious identities? This volume examines evidence of shared idioms of sanctity within a larger framework of religious nationalism, literary productions, and communalism in South Asia. Contributors to this volume are particularly interested in how alternative forms of belonging and religious imaginations in South Asia are articulated in the light of normative, authoritative, and exclusive claims upon the representation of identities. Building upon new and extensive historiographical and ethnographical data, the book challenges clear-cut categorizations of group identity and points to the complex historical and contemporary relationships between different groups, organizations, in part by investigating the discursive formations that are often subsumed under binary distinctions of dominant/subaltern, Hindu/Muslim or orthodox/heterodox. In this respect, the book offers a theoretical contribution beyond South Asia Studies by highlighting a need for a new interdisciplinary effort in rethinking notions of identity, ethnicity and religion.


Southeast Asian cuisines, such as Thai, have become quite popular in North America even though immigrant numbers are low. The food is appealing because it is tasty, attractive and generally healthy, with plentiful vegetables, fish, noodles, and rice. *Food Culture in Southeast Asia* is a richly informative overview of the food and foodways of the mainland countries including Burma, Thailand, Lao, Vietnam, Cambodia and Malaysia, and the island countries of
Singapore, Brunei, East Timor, Indonesia and the Philippines. Students and other readers will learn how diverse peoples from diverse geographies feed themselves and the value they place on eating as a material, social and symbolic act.

Permission to reproduce the book summaries and jackets has been requested from the publishers.

2) Publications of Associates (Referred and Non-Referred)

Keith Barney


Belk, Russell W., Eric Ping Hung Li and Annamma Joy (Forthcoming). “The Untold Story: Disney Dreams in China”. Qualitative Marketing Research.


Belk, Russell W. and Xin Zhao (Forthcoming). “Imagined Nationhood: Advertising Nationalism in Republican Shanghai” in *Asia-Pacific Advances in Consumer Research* (reprinted in *Indian School of Business Insight* (Forthcoming).


Kenneth Boutin


Balbinder Singh Bhogal


Gregory Chin


Afsan Chowdhury


Lisa B.W. Drummond

Khandakar Elahi


Joshua Fogel


Margo Gewurtz


Ted Goossen


Translating The Great Gatsby”. *Brick* 82, Winter.

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**Jay Goulding**


Shubuhra Gururani


Susan Henders


Zulfikar Hirji


Naoko Ikeda


Joan Judge


Hong Kal


Ilan Kapoor


Philip F. Kelly


**Janice Kim**


**Thomas R. Klassen**


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**Melissa Marschke**


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**Michael Nijhawan**


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**Hyun Ok Park**


Valerie Preston


Muhammad Habibur Rahman


Jooyeon Rhee


Robin Roth


Zahir Sadeque


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Wendy S. Wong


Lorna Wright


Xueqing Xu

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Budget Fiscal 2008-2009</th>
<th>Actual Year to Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td>110,311</td>
<td>108,351.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>66,985</td>
<td>71,858.81</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Office and Operations</td>
<td>15,160</td>
<td>10,625.47</td>
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<tr>
<td>Events (symposiums, conferences, lectures, visiting speakers expenses)</td>
<td>2,100</td>
<td>1,005.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research and Development</td>
<td>13,300</td>
<td>5,735.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td>97,545</td>
<td>89,225.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus for the current year</td>
<td>12,766</td>
<td>19,126.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carryforward from 2007-2008</td>
<td>32,155</td>
<td>32,155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carryforward to 2009-2010</td>
<td>44,921</td>
<td>51,281.14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes to the Statement of Operations:** In 2008-2009, YCAR was able to cut back on some general office and operations, events, and research and development expenses in anticipation of its revenues being lower in 2009-2010, due to the impact of the global financial downturn and recession. However, the Centre also encountered larger than expected administration expenses related to salary and benefit increases and commitments. The Centre was able to transfer CAD 5,000 to the Asia Project cost centre in order to fund future student scholarships and to assist with the development of research projects and other initiatives. The surplus and carryforward in the operating budget from 2008-2009 is for operational contingencies and will help offset an anticipated deficit in 2009-2010, due to expected declines in programme overheads (particularly from the China Management Training Programme) and in earnings from the endowment associated with the Asian Business and Management Programme.