



York Centre for Asian Research Annual Report 2006

Contents

Message from the Director...1

Executive Committee...5

Membership...6-7

Programs & Projects...8-12

Calendar of Activities...13-16

Event Highlight...17

Graduate Diploma...18

Student Scholarships...19

Plans and Priorities...20

Member Publications...21-24



YCAR Mission

The York Centre for Asian Research (YCAR) was created in 2002 to enhance understanding of Asia and Asian diasporas.

Its goal is to raise the profile of scholarship and education about Asia and Asian diasporas through research, lectures, workshops, and other public events.

It also supports scholars, community groups, and other organizations working to improve social justice and welfare in Asia and among Asian communities.

YCAR serves as a centre of information about Asia and Asian Canadians, both within York University and beyond.



Message from the Director

York University is among the top universities in Canada and globally with respect to faculty strength in Asian Studies. Faculty hiring over the past few years is helping us become even stronger. At the same time, faculty and graduate students who do research or teach on Asia are dispersed throughout York University.

For this reason, one of our key objectives since YCAR's creation in 2002 has been to build an interdisciplinary and inclusive community of scholars of Asia and Asian diasporas at York University, as well as create a collective profile for Asian studies at York University.

This past year we have worked to achieve this through organizing conferences, symposiums, and seminars; bringing scholars together around research grants; producing a weekly update reporting on events of interest to Asian studies scholars; strengthening our links with undergraduate programs in Asian studies; and completing the final steps in the creation of a graduate diploma program.

As an area studies centre, we are committed to promoting research based on in-depth engagement with particular sites, through fieldwork and language acquisition. We are also committed to a reflexive and critical approach to the making of area studies. This approach, for example, is the basis of our graduate diploma program. YCAR is promoting area studies as a way of doing international research at a time when area studies are generating considerable discussion and critique.

In many disciplines, area studies are being questioned for a purported lack of theory, or ties to colonialism and imperialism. Both research funding, and academic trends may be re-orienting international research in ways that promotes integration into transnational networks, but at the same time reduces long term engagement with particular sites in favour of a "global" intellectual who moves through transnational networks with few long-term stops. Thus it should not come as a surprise that SSHRC's data on international research in Canada has found that Canadian researchers



are collaborating more with researchers outside of Canada, but that at the same time, the proportion of SSHRCC doctoral and postdoctoral fellows who locate outside of Canada during their fellowships has declined over the past years – with that decline particularly strong among post-doctoral fellows.¹

When we formally launch our graduate diploma program in the Fall of 2006, we plan continue the discussion of the place of area studies in internationalization, as a follow-up to a symposium that YCAR helped organize in February on this topic. The symposium invited York administrators, graduate students, and faculty, as well as internationally oriented scholars from regional institutions, to discuss how York University and Canadian academic institutions are engaging with the Global South through research and teaching.

Symposium participants argued that current academic funding and theory favour the creation of “flexible, post-fordist” international intellectuals, who travel to many sites around the world, but do not invest in engaging in more depth with particular sites.

The symposium also identified both obstacles and opportunities for sustained fieldwork in global south sites, including Asia. With respect to obstacles, participants pointed out that the implementation of the Rae Report by the province of Ontario will likely penalize institutions and programs where students take more than four years to complete their degree. This will make it difficult for graduate students to take the extra time necessary (to obtain financial support, learn languages, learn an unfamiliar site) for doing fieldwork in a way that engages with social justice concerns in global south sites. International students from global south sites will be particularly disadvantaged, due to a variety of constraints including limited eligibility for many sources of funding. Graduate student participants

¹Social Sciences International Policy and Strategy. http://www.sshrc.ca/web/about/publications/international_policy_e.pdf. Comparative information collected by SSHRCC on national social science and humanities research funding institutions in North America and Canada also suggests that SSHRCC is among the more conservative social sciences funding agencies (along with the U.S and the Netherlands) in the way that it bases eligibility not only on whether the applicant institution is in Canada, but also the nationality of the applicant; non-Canadian status principle applicants are not eligible for most SSHRCC awards.

also pointed to the need for more courses that address global south issues, and for fieldwork preparation and research methods to better account for researchers working in the global south. Global south research, including research in Asia, continues to be an add-on to the more Euro-centric core of most academic programs.

One of our objectives as a Centre for Asian Research is thus to support efforts that would make York a more genuinely international university, in which area studies has a place in the research and teaching culture. Fortunately, there are also opportunities for faculty and students who do research in Asia or among Asian diaspora. These include new sources of financial support for Asian research, and new Asian studies faculty hired in the past few years.

Our seminar series this year profiled some of York's new Asian studies faculty members, including Hong Kal (Visual Arts), Shobna Nijhawan (Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics), Raju Das (Geography), Grace Shen (Humanities), Joshua Fogel and Joan Judge (History), and Jay Goulding (Atkinson). York faculty members continue to obtain funding for conducting research in Asia.

Through our participation in the MCRI-SSHRCC grant on the Challenges of the Agrarian Transition in Southeast Asia, YCAR will be able to fund Master's and PhD level research in Asia over the next four years. The success of this MCRI application indicates that SSHRCC is willing to provide significant support for area studies research. The grant is based in the network of Southeast Asian scholars in Canada, and points to the importance of maintaining York's profile in the broader Asian studies community.

To that end, we also hosted the bi-annual conference of the CCSEAS (Canadian Council for Southeast Asian Studies) in October 2005, attracting about 100 scholars to York to present research on Southeast Asia and Southeast Asian diaspora. Other current and future sources of funding for graduate research include SSHRC's plan to provide funds to support student mobility for SSHRCC doctoral and postdoctoral fellows, and the IDRC's doctoral fellowship program. The latter is now funding fieldwork by many York students; their program is especially important because international students, who comprise a significant portion of graduate students active in YCAR, are eligible.

Now that YCAR's graduate diploma program has been approved, our priorities include finding additional financial support for language study and fieldwork for graduate students enrolled in the program.

Our goals over the next few years include building the diploma program, strengthening the community of Asian studies scholars at York, generating funding in support of research in Asia by faculty and students, and improved communication strategies to build our profile as a centre of excellence in Asian research.

Our achievements in these areas to date come as the result of hard work by many YCAR members and staff. In particular I would like to thank on behalf of YCAR our administrator, Rhoda Reyes, whose skills and dedication are responsible for much of the recent success of the centre. In relation to the diploma program, I would like to thank Wendy Wong, our associate director and first diploma coordinator; and Philip Kelly, who taught the diploma core course this past year.

Wendy Wong, Judith Nagata, Philip Kelly, Penny Van Esterik, and Lisa Drummond all made significant contributions to organizing various YCAR conferences. We were fortunate during the past year to have three graduate assistants – Paul Perret, Reiko Shindo and Katsu Tsuchiya who helped prepare the groundwork for the graduate diploma program and organize our brownbag seminar series.

Finally, I would like to thank Bernie Frolic and Maire O'Brien, whose work on the China training programs, has been a significant source of support for YCAR.



Peter Vandergeest
YCAR Director

Executive Committee

The Committee is chaired by the Director (ex officio) and, in addition, is made up of the Associate Director (ex officio); four other faculty members and a fifth member, who may be a York faculty member or a faculty member from another university; and three Graduate Associates, with two who have voting powers. The Director may also appoint the administrative staff of the Centre as non-voting ex officio members.

2005/2006 Members

Peter Vandergeest, *Director*

Wendy Wong, *Associate Director*

Balbinder Bhogal Singh, *Humanities*

Max Brem, *Community Member*

Shubhra Gururani, *Anthropology*

Philip Kelly, *Geography Department*

Lucia Lo, *Geography Department*

Wendy Wong, *Design/Fine Arts*

Paul Perret, *Graduate Assistant*

Reiko Shindo, *Graduate Assistant*

Katsu Tsuchiya, *Graduate Assistant*

Maire O'Brien, *China Management Training Program*

Rhoda Reyes, *Centre Coordinator*



Membership

There are five distinctive kinds of affiliations with the Centre:
(1) Faculty Associates, (2) Research Associates/Visiting Scholars
(3) Senior Research Associates, (4) Graduate Associates
and (5) Post-Doctoral Associates.

These categories enable a wide variety
of interested individuals with diverse backgrounds
to become involved in the Centre's activities.

Faculty Associates

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

To date, we have 20 faculty member affiliates.

Research Associates/Visiting Scholars

Research Associates are individuals other than York faculty,
who are associated with universities and other educational institutions,
governments, industry, and community, non-governmental
and not-for-profit organizations, and who are actively involved
in research on Asia or Asian Diasporas.

Research Associates are often affiliated with the Centre
for a limited time to work on specific projects.

This category may include Visiting Scholars,
or Principal Investigators of projects under the auspices of the Centre.

To date, we have 18 research associates
and 2 visiting scholars from China.

Senior Research Associates

Senior research associates are individuals who have made outstanding contributions to research on Asia or Asian Diasporas. In addition, retired and emeriti scholars who apply for membership in YCAR are automatically considered for Senior Research Associates status. To date, we have 4 senior research associates.

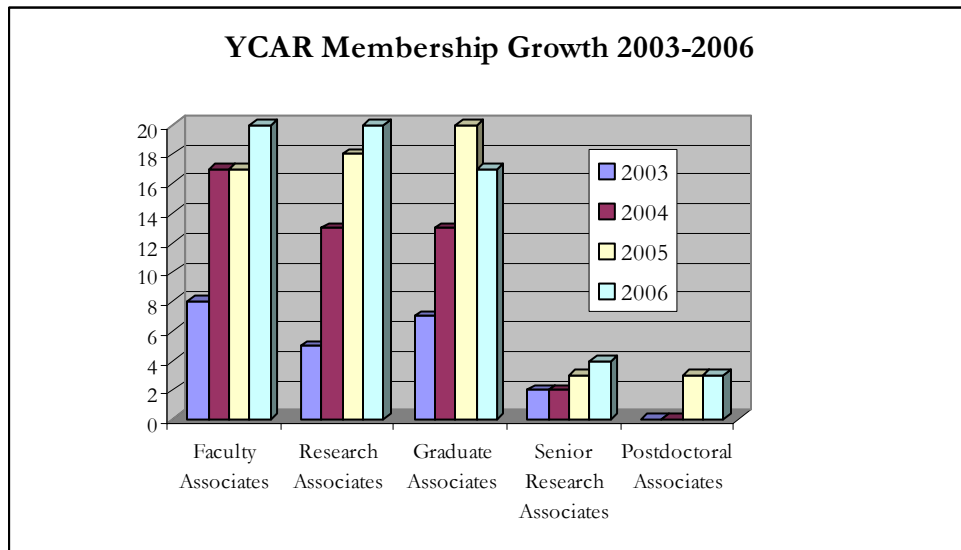
Graduate Associates

Graduate associates are York and other university graduate students engaged in research on Asia or Asian Diasporas. To date, we have 17 graduate associates.

Post-Doctoral Associates

Post-doctoral associates are researchers who work on projects under the auspices of the Centre. To date, we have 3 post-doctoral associates.

An updated membership list is in the YCAR website at: <http://www.yorku.ca/yicar/Membership.html>.



Programmes & Projects

Asian Business & Management Programme (ABMP)

Director: Bernie M. Frolic, Department of Political Science, York University

The Asian Business and Management Programme (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 has both expertise and experience in providing a wide range of business and management training programmes to Chinese professionals. The ABMP collaborates with the Schulich School of Business in the implementation of its China training with staff in both Beijing and Toronto.

China Management Training Programme (CMTP)

Director: Máire O'Brien, York University

The China Management Training Program (CMTP) is the training division of the ABMP and communicates with partners and colleagues in China to facilitate specifically designed executive development training programs. From Spring to Fall 2005, the programme received 17 groups of Chinese: 30 Henan university for 2 months on post-secondary institutional management and reform; 31 Sichuan provincial organizational department personnel on public management training for 2 months; 80 executives from the Chongqing Broadcasting and Daily News Groups on media management training for 3 sets of 1 month; 50 Beijing Xicheng district middle school principals on middle school management for 6 weeks in China and 1 month in Canada; 24 Fujian provincial organization department personnel on WTO and government innovation; 20 Beijing retired cadre management bureau personnel on best practices in the management of systems for senior care for 3 weeks; 31 Shijiazhuang municipal government executives on public management; and 15 China Orient Management Corporation executives on North America investment banking management training at Schulich's Executive Learning Centre.



The Chongqing Daily News and Broadcasting Groups, July 2005

Challenges of Agrarian Transition in Southeast Asia (2005-2010)

Supported by: Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) – Major Collaborative Research Initiatives (MCRI)

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

Principal Investigators: Rodolphe de Koninck (University of Montreal)

Co-Investigators: Peter Vandergeest and Philip Kelly (York University)

The MCRI is a five-year grant that creates a network of 23 scholars located in 18 institutions in Canada, the UK, Australia and five research institutions in Southeast Asia.

The research draws on contemporary academic work around globalization, environmental change, human mobility, and market integration to rethink the theory of the agrarian transition in Southeast Asia.

Southeast Asia is an ideal site for this study because of the rapidity of change in rural areas, and because it is often held up as a development success story.

The research team has built relationships with NGOs and government institutions working in Southeast Asia, as partners and collaborators.

YCAR's participation in this network is through its leadership in two of the six process teams: Philip Kelly will lead the team that studies population dynamics, and Peter Vandergeest is co-leader of the team investigating new forms of regulation.

The grant brings funding to graduate student fieldwork, a post-doctoral fellow, and faculty research to YCAR.

It also gives York graduate students access to many well-known scholars and institutions in Southeast Asian Studies.



Peasant woman harvests produce.

Enhancing Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) Research and Networking Capacity at the National University of Laos (2003-2006)

Supported by: International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

Partners: York University, University of Sydney, Chiang Mai University, East West Centre, National University of Laos (NUOL)

Project Leaders: Peter Vandergeest, YCAR/Sociology and Khamla Phanvilay, NUOL.

Co-investigators: Penny Van Esterik, YCAR/Anthropology; Keith Barney, Graduate Assistant Philip Hirsch, Australian Mekong Resource Centre (AMRC), University of Sydney; Chusak Wittayapak, Chiang Mai University; Jefferson Fox, East-West Centre

This is the second phase of the IDRC-NUOL project for capacity building on CBNRM that began in May 2003. The NUOL has expanded its teaching role to include research as one of its regular activities, particularly research on CBNRM in Lao PDR.

By taking a leading role in facilitating linkages, exchanges of information, and general networking activities on CBNRM work, the NUOL has built on improving the research capacity of its academic staff, their institutional capacity to administer small research grants, and networking and outreach capacity.



Project staff and recipients engage in research data gathering.

Conservation and Development in the Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area (2005-2006)

Supported by: International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

Partners: Winrock International India (WII), Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area (GHNPCA), Biodiversity Conservation Society (BiodCS) and the Society for Scientific Advancement of Hills and Rural Areas (SAHARA).

Project Leaders: Shubhra Gururani, York Department of Anthropology

Co-investigators: Peter Vandergeest, YCAR/Sociology; Robin Roth, York Geography;

Project Coordinator: Radhika Johari and **Graduate Assistant:** Karl Schmid

YCAR and Winrock International India (WII) organized a three-day workshop on “Rethinking Conservation and Development in the Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area from June 23-25, 2005 at Himachal Pradesh, India.

The workshop was held in Shamshi town in Kullu District of Himachal Pradesh followed by a visit to the Sai Ropa Centre, located in the Great Himalayan National Park’s buffer zone, for consultations with local communities.

The workshop was conceived as the planning phase of an Indo-Canadian research and capacity-building project that aims to support recent community-based ecotourism (CBET) and resource-based enterprise development initiatives by socially and economically marginalized caste women in the Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area (GHNPCA). The project addresses a central concern relating to state-sponsored conservation programs in protected areas in India.



Project team members consult with the local people.

Indigenous People's Scoping Exercise – Rural Poverty and Environment Program (2005-2006)

Supported by: International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

Project Leader: Peter Vandergeest, YCAR/Sociology

Co-investigators: David Szablowski, Social Science; Melissa Marschke, YCAR Postdoc Fellow

The purpose of this research project is to provide a report on current activity, strategies and research themes/questions related to the problems of indigenous peoples in relation to environmental and natural resource management; and to identify the capacity-building needs for research in indigenous organisations. Understanding that indigenous peoples frequently lack effective political voice and are subject to social and economic discrimination, where political and military unrest are important factors, linkages between indigenous peoples and public security will also be explored.

The focus of the study is on indigenous peoples in Asia and Central/South America as well as South and South-East Asia. YCAR will develop and document ideas that would permit RPE to articulate a coherent and focused set of programming strategies with regards to indigenous peoples in Latin America and Asia. It will identify critical environmental and natural resource management issues faced by indigenous peoples in the two regions, highlighting intra- and inter-regional similarities and differences. As well, it will propose alternative strategies whereby IDRC, through its RPE program, could support a body of research over the next four to five years that would make a significant contribution to enhancing the understanding about equitable social development and natural resource management for indigenous peoples in the two regions.



Cordillera People's Alliance, Philippines.

Calendar of Activities

(All events took place at YCAR, York University, Keele Campus, unless otherwise noted)

Seminar: Aesthetics of Kawaii

Speaker: Yomota Inuhiko (Professor of Film Studies, Meiji Gaku-in University, Japan)

Date: September 8, 2005 Time: 2:30 - 5:00pm

Location: Accolade Bldg. Rm. 004

Seminar: Taiwanese women in 'astronaut' families and '1.5' generation of Taiwanese immigrants in Toronto

Speaker: Lan Hung Nora Chiang, Professor of Geography, National Taiwan University)

Date: September 12, 2005 Time: 12:00pm - 1:00pm

Seminar: Higher Education in India

Speaker: Sarbani Chaudhuri (Professor of English, University of Kalyani, West Bengal)

Date: September 14, 2005 Time: 1:00 - 2:30 pm

Co-sponsored with York South Asian Studies (SAST) Program

Seminar: Habitus, Performance and Women's Experience: Understanding Embodiment and Identity in Everyday Life

Speaker: Meenakshi Thapan (Chair of the Department of Sociology, Delhi School of Economics)

Date: September 20, 2005 Time: 2:30 - 4:00pm

Co-sponsored with York South Asian Studies (SAST) Program

Seminar: The 1862 Voyage of the Senzaimaru to Shanghai and Its Recreation in Wartime Japanese Cinema: Two Seminal Moments in Sino-Japanese Relations Folded into One

Speaker: Joshua Fogel (CRC Chair on History on Modern China at York University)

Date: September 26, 2005 Time: 12:00 pm - 1:30pm

Location: ACW 106, Accolade West Building

Colloquium: Livelihood in Context: Learning with Cambodian Fishers

Speaker: Melissa Marschke, YCAR Postdoctoral Fellow

Date: September 27, 2005 Time: 11:30 am - 12:30 pm

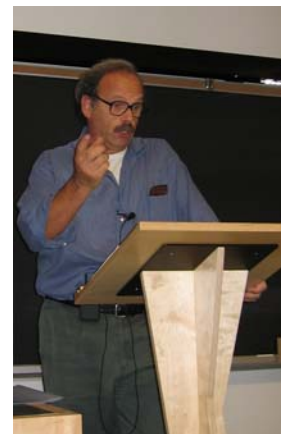
Location: Room S421 Ross

Co-sponsored with the Department of Geography Graduate Programme

Seminar: Chinese Philosophy

Speaker: Jay Goulding (Atkinson Faculty of Liberal and Professional Studies)

Date: October 3, 2005 Time: 12:00 pm - 1:30pm



Colloquium: Is the Thai State National?

Speaker: Jim Glassman (Department of Geography, University of British Columbia)

Date: October 12, 2005 Time: 11:30 am - 12:30 pm

Location: Room S421 Ross

Co-sponsored with the Department of Geography Graduate Programme

Conference: Revisioning Southeast Asia: Conflicts, Connections and Vulnerabilities

Date: October 14-16, 2005

Location: TEL Building, York University

Co-sponsored with CASA-ACEA and CCSEAS

Colloquium: Family Reunification among Filipino Families in Vancouver

Speaker: Geraldine Pratt (Department of Geography, University of British Columbia)

Date: October 18, 2005 Time: 11:30 am - 12:30 pm

Location: Room S421 Ross

Co-sponsored with the Department of Geography Graduate Programme

Colloquium: The Tsunami Effect: Geographies of Governance and Conflict in Sri Lanka

Speaker: Jennifer Hyndman (Department of Geography, Simon Fraser University)

Location: Room S421 Ross

Date: November 1, 2005 Time: 11:30 am - 12:30 pm

Co-sponsored with the Department of Geography Graduate Programme

Seminar: Credit Markets, Socioeconomic Change, and the Asiatic Mode of Production in Late Imperial China

Speaker: Brad Fidler (PhD candidate in Political Science)

Date: November 7, 2005 Time: 12:00 pm - 1:30pm

Symposium: Sino-Japanese Relations

Joshua A. Fogel (CRC in Modern Chinese History), "Toward an Understanding of the Relationship between China and Japan, Past and Present"

Timothy Brook (University of British Columbia) "Incredibility: Truth Syndromes of Occupation and Collaboration in Wartime Asia"

Bob T. Wakabayashi (Department of History) "A Sordid Squabble: The 'Rape of Nanking' in Sino-Japanese Relations"

Ezra Vogel (Harvard University) "Can China, Japan, and the United States Live Together?"

Date: November 10, 2005

Location: Munk Centre for International Studies at the University of Toronto

Co-sponsored with the Canada Research Chair in Modern Chinese History, History Department, Office of the Dean, Faculty of Arts, and Founders College.

Seminar: George Leslie Mackay and the Chinese Head Tax

Speaker: Michael Stainton (PhD Candidate, Department of Anthropology)

Date: November 14, 2005 Time: 12:00 pm - 1:30pm

Seminar: Japan: A Stabilizer in East Asia

Speaker: Sadaaki Numata (Japanese Ambassador to Canada)

Date: November 15, 2005 Time: 11:00 am - 12:15 pm

Location: 280 York Lanes

Co-Sponsored with York Centre for International and Security Studies (YCISS)

Seminar: Multiple Identities in the Workplace: The Case of Singapore's Financial Sector

Speaker: Junjia Ye (MA Candidate in Geography)

Date: November 21, 2005 Time: 12:00 pm - 1:30pm

Seminar: The Nation as Person: Talking of India

Speaker: Sunanda Mongia (Associate Professor, Kashi Vidyapith University, India)

Date: November 28, 2005 Time: 12:00 pm - 1:30pm

Seminar: Taxi!: Cabs and Capitalism in New York City

Speaker: Biju Mathew (Taxi Workers Alliance)

Date: November 30, 2005 Time: 2:30 - 4:30pm

Location: 305 York Lanes

Co-sponsored by: University Consortium on the Global South



Seminar: The transformation of Korean language in the late 19th century and its historical significance reflected in journalism

Speaker: June Rhee (PhD Candidate, Department of Humanities)

Date: January 9, 2006 Time: 12:00 pm - 1:30pm

Seminar: Daoism and Phenomenology: Wu Kuang-ming and Maurice Merleau-Ponty

Speaker: Jay Goulding, (Professor, Atkinson Faculty of Liberal & Professional Studies)

Date: January 16, 2006 Time: 12:00 pm - 1:30pm

Seminar: Aesthetic Construction of Ethnic Nationalism: War Memorial Museums in Korea and Japan

Speaker: Hong Kal (Assistant Professor, Department of Visual Arts)

Date: January 18, 2006 Time: 12:00 pm - 1:30pm

Seminar: Debating Domesticity, Constructing Citizenship: Hindi Periodicals for Women and Nationalist Discourse (1910-1930)

Speaker: Shobna Nijhawan (Asst Professor, Dept of Languages, Literatures & Linguistics)

Date: January 23, 2006 Time: 12:00 pm - 1:30pm

Seminar: Class Contradictions of the Post-Colonial Indian State

Speaker: Raju Das (Assistant Professor, Department of Geography)

Date: January 30, 2006 Time: 12:00 pm - 1:30pm

Seminar: The Chinese Women's Question and the Politics of Time at the Turn of the 20th Century

Speaker: Joan Judge (Associate Professor, Modern Chinese History)

Date: February 6, 2006 Time: 12:00 pm - 1:30pm

Panel Discussion: Construction of Internationalization, Area Studies, and the Post-Colonial Question

Chair: Pablo Idahosa (African Studies).

Panellists: Eduardo Canel (Latin American Studies)

Linzi Manicom (Institute for Women's Studies and Gender Studies, University of Toronto)

Gavin Smith (Anthropology, University of Toronto)

Alissa Trotz (Sociology and Equity Studies, OISE)

Date: February 22, 2006 Time: 2:30 - 4:30 pm, Location: 305 York Lanes

Co-sponsored with: University Consortium on the Global South (UCGS)

Symposium: Graduate Studies, Internationalization and Student Engagement in the Global South

Andrea Davis (Humanities and LACS)

Glen Norcliffe (Graduate Program Director, Geography)

Shubhra Gururani (Anthropology)

Ronald Pearlman (Interim Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies)

Fahim Quadir (International Development Studies)

Robert Shenton (History, Queen's University)

Adrian Shubert (Associate Vice-President International)

Peter Vandergeest (York Centre for Asian Research)

David Wheeler (Business & Sustainability Program, Schulich)

Dan Yon (Graduate Program Director, Social Anthropology)

Date: February 24, 2006 Time: 9:15am - 3:00pm

Location: Senior Common Room 305, Founders College

Co-sponsored with: University Consortium on the Global South (UCGS)



Seminar: Playing the Field - Geological fieldwork and the making of the modern Chinese intellectual

Speaker: Grace Shen (Associate Professor, Department of Humanities)

Date: February 27, 2006 Time: 12:00 pm - 1:30pm

Seminar: The Medium Is the Message - Finding Cultural Meanings in the Materiality of Chinese Contemporary Art

Speaker: Doris Hung (PhD Candidate, Social and Political Thought)

Date: March 6, 2006 Time: 12:00 pm - 1:30pm

Seminar: Comparative Introduction to Chinese and Canadian Chambers of Commerce

Speaker: Xiaodong Nie (Chinese Visiting Scholar)

Date: March 13, 2006 Time: 12:00 pm - 1:30pm

Seminar: Consuming Wal-Mart: A Case Study in China

Speaker: Lucia Lo (Associate Professor, Department of Geography)

Date: March 20, 2006 Time: 12:00 pm - 1:30pm

Seminar: Good Governance in Mass Transit Projects

Speaker: Rommel Gavieta (Associate Professor, De La Salle University, Philippines)

Date: April 12, 2006 Time: 12:00 pm-1:30 pm

Event Highlight

CCSEAS Conference: Revisioning Southeast Asia: Conflicts, Connections and Vulnerabilities, October 14-16, 2005, TEL Building, York University

YCAR hosted the Canadian Council for Southeast Asian Studies (CCSEAS) Biennial Conference from October 14-16 at York University. The theme of the conference was: *Re-visioning Southeast Asia: Conflicts, Connections and Vulnerabilities*.

The event attracted some 100 Southeast Asian scholars, activists working for NGOs, development institutions, government and other organizations. Legendary “girl in the picture” and York honorary doctorate Kim Phuc spoke at the conference commemorating the 30th anniversary of the Vietnam War. Phuc gained international fame in 1972 when she was photographed fleeing from a U.S. napalm attack on her hometown in South Vietnam. A roundtable discussion on “The Indochina War: Memories and Meanings after Thirty Years” commemorated the anniversary of the end of the war marked by the U.S. pullout from Vietnam in April 1975, and the subsequent victory of anti-U.S. forces in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

The conference further explored topics as diverse as Southeast Asia’s history, democratic movements, migration and transnationalism, popular culture, urban and rural development, environment and livelihoods, contemporary conflicts, regional political issues, and the interface between social activism and scholarship.



Graduate Diploma in Asian Studies

The Ontario Council on Graduate Studies (OCGS) finally approved the YCAR proposed Graduate Diploma in Asian Studies (GDAS) at its meeting of December 19, 2005.

GDAS answers the need among students at York who are looking for more Asian content in their studies, and among prospective employers who are looking for graduate students with certifiable expertise in Asian Studies. The core course, GEOG 5700/GS ANTH 5500: The Making of Asian Studies - Critical Perspectives, commenced this Winter 2006 with Dr. Philip Kelly as course convenor. The course examines the construction of Asian regions, identities, economies and institutions using perspectives from across the social sciences and humanities.

GDAS is available to graduate students at York who fulfill the requirements including completion of a one-semester core course, language competency, two research papers, and field experience. All candidates for GDAS must first be admitted to a graduate programme at York University. They may register for GDAS once their Masters or Doctoral programme. Students are required to complete the GDAS designated core course in Asian studies. Other program requirements include: competency in one Asian language, two research papers with clear Asian content and fieldwork and other experience in the Asian geographic region. In addition, graduate students can take advantage of a range of courses in Asian Studies available in the departments of Geography, Anthropology, Political Science, Sociology, Humanities, and History. Each student will have a diploma committee of two faculty members of the diploma program to advise and assist them in completing requirements.

The interdisciplinary nature of the faculty and others associated with YCAR contribute to a rich culture of intellectual exchange. Interested students are welcome to identify their interest of studies by geographic region with participating faculty. Dr. Wendy Wong, YCAR Associate Director, is the Diploma Program Coordinator.



Student Scholarship Awards

Albert Chan Fellowship Program

This Fellowship was established by the Albert C.W. Chan Foundation in order to encourage and assist York University graduate students to conduct field research in East and/or Southeast Asia.

This fellowship is administered by YCAR and awarded once each year.



The 2006 award recipient is Jooyeon Rhee, a PhD Candidate at the Department of Humanities who is doing her doctoral research on *Modernity Imagined: Comparative Analysis of Intellectual History on Korea and Japan*.

June plans to go to Korea and Japan for her fieldwork this Summer 2006.

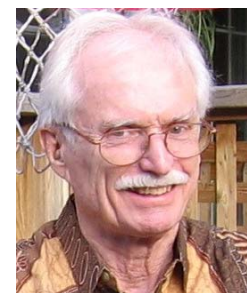
June did her MA in Humanities and BA Honours in Art History at York University.

She also has a BA in Visual Arts and has obtained training as a professional ceramic artist at the Hanyang Women's College in Seoul, Korea. She has worked as an independent curator and has assisted in various exhibits and work of arts at the McMaster Museum, Cambridge Art Galleries, and Royal Ontario Museum.

YCAR would like to thank the Albert C. W. Chan family for their continuing support to York graduate students who would like to conduct fieldwork in Asia.

David Wurfel Award

In early 2006, YCAR Senior Research Associate, Dr. David Wurfel, decided to set up with YCAR, a David Wurfel Award to contribute to the emergence of a new generation of Filipino leadership that is well-grounded in Philippine history, culture and public affairs.



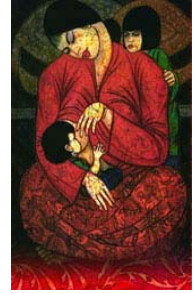
The David Wurfel Award provides financial support to an honors undergraduate or masters graduate student who intends to conduct thesis research on the topic of Filipino history, culture, or society.

The award is open to students enrolled in York University in social sciences or humanities programs (including Faculties of Law and Environmental Studies), who are Canadian citizens/permanent residents/protected persons.

Preference will be given to applicants of Filipino origin who show promise of leadership in the Filipino community in Canada.

Plans and Priorities

Gender, Child Survival and HIV/AIDS – From Evidence to Policy
May 7-9, Founders College, York University
Chair: Penny Van Esterik, Department of Anthropology



This conference presents an opportunity to bring together women's health groups, HIV/AIDS groups and breastfeeding and infant feeding advocates for a critical examination of the role of gender in health research, and how evidence is used (or not used) to direct policy relevant to women's health, infant health, and HIV/AIDS. The conference will incorporate these multiple perspectives and review the latest research on the transmission of HIV and the health outcomes of different infant feeding options, often missing from clinical discussions of pediatric AIDS.

International Conference on Asian Comics, Animation and Gaming
May 18-19, Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL) Building, York University
Chair: Wendy Wong, Department of Design

The goal of the conference is to provide an international forum for presenting recent research on the emerging cultural markets in Asian countries, focusing on comics, animation and digital games. It aims to promote scholarship and intellectual engagement between academics and cultural production professionals on the conference themes and topics ranging from anime and manga studies, animation and film, as well as cyberspace and transnational issues relating to these Asian cultural products.



Teasdale-Corti Global Health Research Partnership with East-West Centre:
Building Capacity for Transdisciplinary Emerging Infectious Disease Research and Prevention in Southeast Asia

A program of work in Southeast Asia (including Southern China) is proposed that will strengthen capacity for transdisciplinary research and its translation into policies & practices for the control and prevention of emerging infectious diseases. This proposed program of work addresses two of the Teasdale-Corti themes: *prevention and control of pandemics and/or emerging infectious diseases and interactions of health, environment and development*. The program will build on the existing strengths and institutional infrastructure in the region to develop new collaborative, within-region partnerships and to strengthen collaborations with the supporting institutions: YCAR in Canada and EWC in Hawaii.



YCAR Members' Selected Publications

Vijay Agnew

Diaspora, Memory and Identity: A Search for Home (Editor). University of Toronto Press (2006).

Ken Boutin

'Technological Globalisation and Regional Security in East Asia'. (Singapore: IDSS (2004).

Margo Gewurtz

"China's Cultural Revolution and Holocaust Discourse After Mao" (paper presented at the 37th Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, 2005).

"Jean Dow" in *Figuring It Out* (University Press of New England, forthcoming).

Jay Goulding

"Barbarism and Civilization", *New Dictionary of the History of Ideas*, Volume 1, pp. 195-197.
Editor: Maryanne Horowitz, New York: Charles' Scribner's Sons (2005).

"Globalization: Asia", *New Dictionary of the History of Ideas*, Volume 3, pp. 941-947.
Editor: Maryanne Horowitz, New York: Charles' Scribner's Sons (2005).

"Kuki Shuzo and Martin Heidegger: Iki and Hermeneutic Phenomenology" pp. 677-690,
in Joseph F. Kess and Helen Lansdowne (eds.) *Why Japan Matters!*, Volume 2,
Victoria, BC: Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives, University of Victoria (2005).

"Moeller's Daoism Explained: From The Dream Of The Butterfly To The Fishnet Allegory" *Dao: A Journal of Comparative Philosophy* vol. 4, #2 pp. 383-387 (2005).

"Perkins' Leibniz and China: A Commerce of Light" *Dao: A Journal of Comparative Philosophy* vol. 5, #1 pp. 183-187 (2005).

"Religion: East and Southeast Asia", *New Dictionary of the History of Ideas*, Volume 5,
pp. 2060-2064. Editor: Maryanne Horowitz, New York: Charles' Scribner's Sons (2005).

"Rorty, Heidegger, Cheng: Pragmatism, Phenomenology, Onto-cosmology"
(羅蒂,海德格爾,成中英:實用主義,現象學,本體宇宙論) Ch. 13 pp. 263-297 in Pan Derong
(ed.) *Ontology and Interpretation: A Special Collection of Treatises Honouring Cheng
Chung-ying's 70th Birthday* (本體與詮釋:賀成中英先生 70壽誕論文專輯) Shanghai:
Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences Press (2005).

“Society”, *New Dictionary of the History of Ideas*, Volume 5 pp. 2238-2241.
Editor: Maryanne Horowitz, New York: Charles’ Scribner’s Sons (2005).

“Zen”, *New Dictionary of the History of Ideas*, Volume 6 pp. 2513-1514.
Editor: Maryanne Horowitz, New York: Charles’ Scribner’s Sons (2005).

Derek Hall

“Japan’s Ecological Shadow in Asia: Three Decades of Debate” in Klaus Vollmer (ed.), *Umwelt, Natur und Ökologie in Japan und Ostasien. Regionale und vergleichende Perspektiven (Ecology, Environment and Nature in Japan: East Asian and Japanese Perspectives)*. Munich: Ludicum, forthcoming 2005.

“Regional Shrimp, Global Trees, Chinese Vegetables: The Environment in Japan-Asia Relations” in Peter J. Katzenstein and Takashi Shiraishi (eds), *Beyond Japan: East Asian Regionalism*, Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, forthcoming 2006.

“Double Movement” in Roland Robertson and Jan Aart Scholte, *Encyclopedia of Globalization*, Grolier Academic, forthcoming 2006.

Philip Kelly

Researching Transnational Networks in Economic Geography, by Kelly, P.F. and Olds, K., in T.Barnes, J.Peck, E.Sheppard and A. Tickell (eds), *Politics and Practices in Economic Geography*. London: Sage (forthcoming).

Pathways to Politics: Integration and Activism among Filipinos in Canada, in L.Goldring and S.Krishnamurti (eds.) *Organizing the Transnational: The Experience of Asian, Caribbean and Latin American Migrants in Canada*. Vancouver: UBC Press (forthcoming).

Migration and the Transnational Habitus: Evidence from Canada and the Philippines, by Kelly, P.F. and Lusi, T., in *Environment and Planning A* (forthcoming 2006).

Janet Landa

Chinese Merchants and their Ethnic Trade Networks. Book manuscript with potential support from York University Faculty of Arts Fellowship.

Lucia Lo

Newcomer Services in the Greater Toronto Area: An exploration of the range and Funding Sources of Settlement Services, by Lim, A., Lo, L., Semiatycki, M. and Doucet, M. Working Paper No. 35. Toronto: Centre of Excellence for Research on Immigration and Settlement (2005).

“Suburban Housing and Indoor Shopping: The Production of the Contemporary Chinese Landscape in Toronto”, in W. Li (ed.), *Suburban Asian* (2006).

Fahim Quadir

"Governance: Good, Bad and Participatory, in Forsyth, Tim (ed.), *Encyclopedia of International Development* (London and New York: Routledge, (forthcoming).

Balbinder Singh

"Text as Sword: Sikh Religious Violence Taken for Wonder", in *Religion, Violence and Globalization: The South Asian Experience*. R. King & J.R. Hinnells (Eds). London: Routledge. [Refereed] Forthcoming 2006.

"Text as Sword: Sikh Religious Violence Taken for Wonder", in *Religion, Violence and Globalization: the South Asian Experience*. R. King & J.R. Hinnells (Eds). London: Routledge. [Refereed] Forthcoming 2006.

"Colonization of Silence and its Re-reading in the Post-colonial: Sikh Scripture and Descartes' Dog Derrida". Hawaii International Conference on Art and Humanities, Jan 11-12, Honolulu 2006. [Refereed] Forthcoming 2006.

Peter Vandergeest

Development's Displacements. Co-editor, with Pablo Idahosa and Pablo Bose. UBC Press, 2006.

Co-author of the introductory chapter, and author of one of the chapters: "Displacements in the New Land Reform Agenda."

"Communities in Action", in Stephen Tyler (editor), *Community-Based Natural Resource Management: Action Research and Policy Change in Asia*. Ottawa: International Development Research Centre.

"Community-Based Regulation and Certification in Shrimp Aquaculture." Invited presentation, World Aquaculture Society Meetings, Indonesia, May 9-13, 2005.

Penny Van Esterik

"Flexible Networking in Research Capacity Training at National University of Laos: Lessons for North South Collaboration" in *Canadian Journal of Development Studies*, with P. Vandergeest, K. Phanvilay, Y. Fujita, J. Fox, P. Hirsch, P. Van Esterik, C. Wittayapak & S. Tyler. (forthcoming).

Renita Wong

"Voices under Patriarchy and Capitalism: Life Histories of Women Garment Workers in Hong Kong, 1950-2000", Co-investigator, funded by the Social Science and Education Direct Grant of the Chinese University of Hong Kong (2003-2005).

Lorna Wright

"Asia and the Global Economy". Paper Presented at the Conference "Global Forum on Management Education" (2005).

Wendy Wong

Globalizing Manga: From Japan to Hong Kong and Beyond. *Mechademia: A Journal for Anime, Manga and the Fan Arts*, Issue 1. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press. (Forthcoming).

Political Ideology in Hong Kong's Public Service Announcements, in Kara K.W. Chan (Ed.), *Advertising and Hong Kong Society* (pp. 55-76). Hong Kong: Chinese University Press (2005).

Design Identity of Hong Kong: Colonization, De-colonization, and Re-colonization. The 6th International Conference of the European Academy of Design, University of the Arts, Bremen, Germany (2005).

Playing with Heritage: Semiotics and Cultural Analysis of the Online Mahjong Game in the Global Environment. The Digital Games Research Association's Second International Conference. Vancouver, B.C., Canada. June 16-20, 2005.

Statement of Operations FY 2005/2006

	Budget	Actual
	Fiscal Year	Year-To-Date
	2005/2006	Actual + Commitment
Total Revenue	\$126,995	\$124,516*
Expenses		
Administration	\$90,200	\$87,042
General Office	\$17,255	\$15,455
Program Development/Outreach	\$ 3,000	\$ 5,000
Visiting Speakers/Workshops	\$ 5,500	\$ 1,835
Graduate Students	\$ 7,000	\$ 4,620
Total Expenses	\$122,955	\$113,952
Surplus for Current Year	\$ 4,040	\$ 10,564
Carry Forward from Previous Year		\$ 5,222
Funds Available		\$ 15,786

Note: *YCAR incurred less revenue than expected as the IDRC Laos project overhead will be transferred to the fund at the end of this project in May 2006. The statement reflects YCAR's operating fund only, excluding other project funds.



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