



## York Centre for Asian Research Update

### In this Issue...

#### YCAR News

- \* YCAR Self-Study and Annual General Meeting to be held Wednesday, 23 April 2008

#### YCAR Events

- \* Rommel Gavieta shares research on Official Development Assistance to the Philippines, the China connection

#### YCAR Members

- \* Doris Sung to co-curate upcoming calligraphy exhibition and symposium

#### Upcoming Events

- \* Current Situation in Sri Lanka and Getting a Peace Process Back on Track (15 April)
- \* Open Access: What it means for Research, Teaching, and One's Career (16 April)
- \* Human Rights in the Philippines: A Photo Exhibition (until 17 April)
- \* Strictly Business? New Trends in International Investment and the Challenges to Development Strategies (17 & 18 April)
- \* Kwai-yun Li to share collection of stories on Calcutta Chinese (23 April)
- \* Infinite Echoes from Japan: New directions in traditional Japanese music (26 April)

#### Call for Papers

- \* Transformations: Researching Asia – Friday is the deadline
- \* In the Shadows of Empires: Second International Conference on Asian American and Asian British Literatures
- \* International Conference on Indigenous People

---

### YCAR News: YCAR Self-Study and Annual General Meeting

YCAR will hold its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, 23 April 2008 at 1:30pm in 280 York Lanes at York University.

This year, the event is in conjunction with a Self-Study. In 2008-9, YCAR must undergo its first full external review since the Centre was established in 2002. This review is mandated by the York University Senate. The Self-Study is part of this review. It will be held the morning of the AGM in the same room, beginning at 9:30 and run until 12:30pm with lunch provided for those who are able to attend.

If you are unable to attend these events, you can still share your ideas and feedback through our Self-Study questionnaire. YCAR members have given their time and energy to the Centre during the past few years and we value your thoughts and opinions our mandate, programmes and activities. Questionnaires are available from YCAR in electronic or hard copy from YCAR – just email [ycar@yorku.ca](mailto:ycar@yorku.ca) or call 416 736 2100 ext 44068 to request one. For more information, please contact Director Susan Henders at [ycar@yorku.ca](mailto:ycar@yorku.ca).

---

## YCAR Event: Rommel Gavieta shares research on Official Development Assistance to the Philippines, the China connection



YCAR welcomed Professor Rommel Gavieta to York last Friday where he spoke on Official Development Assistance to the Philippines with a special focus on Chinese assistance. He offered an important comparative local case study analysis of the impact of Chinese ODA on North Luzon Railways and National Broadband Networks projects, not only from the standpoint of China's new international/global behaviour but what it tells us about change in the respective locales. His technical expertise further strengthened the analysis and we look forward to hearing more about his ongoing research in the near future.

Rommel is visiting Toronto from Manila, Philippines where he is Vice President of the Metro Rail Transit Corporation and professor in the Graduate School of Business at De La Salle University.



---

## YCAR Members: Doris Sung to co-curate upcoming calligraphy exhibition and symposium

YCAR Graduate Associate Doris Ha-Lin Sung will co-curate an art exhibition and symposium titled *Calligraphy-ism* from 11 to 16 May 2008 at the Cedar Ridge Creative Centre in Scarborough.

The aim of the event is to create an opportunity to engage the art community and the public in dialogues on the aesthetic and philosophical concepts in traditional and modern Chinese calligraphy. The symposium is comprised of artists and expert scholars in the field. Work in the exhibition consists of traditional and modern calligraphy, conceptual calligraphic art, installation and performance by artists in Toronto, Hong Kong and the PRC. This event is presented by the Asian Heritage Month, Toronto.



---

### Previously-posted opportunities

#### \* North American Research Linkages Program (1 May 2008)

Complete details may be obtained by contacting ORS at ext. 55055, [research@yorku.ca](mailto:research@yorku.ca) or by consulting the following website: [www.international.gc.ca/fac/studies-etudes/narlp-pnarr.aspx?lang=en](http://www.international.gc.ca/fac/studies-etudes/narlp-pnarr.aspx?lang=en)

#### \* York scholarship for study in Mongolia (1 May 2008)

For more information on required documentation or for other questions, please contact Adrian Shubert at [ashubert@yorku.ca](mailto:ashubert@yorku.ca).

#### \* International Opportunities Fund (IOF) Program (7 May 2008)

For further details on this program, please contact the Office of Research Services (ORS) at ext. 55055, [research@yorku.ca](mailto:research@yorku.ca), or consult SSHRC's web site at: [www.sshrc.ca/web/apply/program\\_descriptions/iof\\_e.asp](http://www.sshrc.ca/web/apply/program_descriptions/iof_e.asp).

**\* Faculty Incentive Grants (30 May 2008)**

To get an application form or more information, visit [www.researchimpact.ca](http://www.researchimpact.ca) or contact Krista Jensen ([kejensen@yorku.ca](mailto:kejensen@yorku.ca) or ext 88847) or Michael Johnny ([mjohnny@yorku.ca](mailto:mjohnny@yorku.ca) or ext 88876).

**\* 2009-2010 India Studies Fellowship competition (30 June 2008)**

For details on the various fellowships, please visit [www.sici.org/shastri/english/indiastudies.htm](http://www.sici.org/shastri/english/indiastudies.htm) or contact York's Office of Research Services at [research@yorku.ca](mailto:research@yorku.ca).

**\* Best Essay Prize in South Asian Studies (30 June 2008)**

For more information see the SAST website: [www.arts.yorku.ca/sosc/sasia](http://www.arts.yorku.ca/sosc/sasia) or contact the coordinator at [ananya@yorku.ca](mailto:ananya@yorku.ca).

**\* Duke University travel grants for use of East Asian Collection**

For more information: [http://library.duke.edu/ias/eac/travel\\_grant.html](http://library.duke.edu/ias/eac/travel_grant.html) for more information.

---

**Upcoming Event: Current Situation in Sri Lanka and Getting a Peace Process Back on Track**

*Tuesday, 15 April 2008 \* 2:30 to 4pm \* 390 York Lanes \* York University*

Please join us for a meeting with the High Commissioner to Sri Lanka and Maldives, Angela Bogdan. The event is co-sponsored by the York Centre for International and Security Studies (YCISS).

High Commissioner Angela Bogdan, a York alumnus, has been a member of Foreign Affairs Canada since 1984 and has held postings in Melbourne, Canadian Delegation to NATO, Warsaw, and as Ambassador to the former FRY. Since 2006, she has served as High Commissioner to Sri Lanka and Maldives, since 2006.

High Commission Bogdan will be discussing the current situation in Sri Lanka, focusing on how to get the peace process back on track. She will be outlining the situation, why it collapsed, and the prospects for peace in the near future. She will also provide insights on Canada's approach and strategic interests in Sri Lanka. This will be followed by a discussion with High Commission Bogdan, who will be soliciting ideas and views from the faculty and graduate students in attendance. For more information, contact [yciss@yorku.ca](mailto:yciss@yorku.ca).

**Upcoming Event: Open Access: What it means for Research, Teaching, and One's Career.**

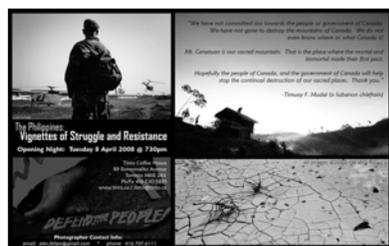
*Wednesday, 16 April 2008 \* noon to 1:30pm \* Accolade Building East \* Lecture Hall 001 \* York University*

The York University Scholarly Communications Initiative presents the inaugural event in the Scholarly Publishing Speaker Series, "Open Access: What it means for Research, Teaching, and One's Career." Speakers Jean-Claude Guédon, Department of Comparative Literature, Université de Montréal and Leslie Chan, Program Supervisor for the Joint Program in New Media Studies and the International Studies, University of Toronto at Scarborough, will explore the open access movement in the scholarly context. The open access movement, which has been gaining momentum in the past year, challenges traditional models of scholarly publishing and provides opportunities for new forms of evaluation, discourse and discovery. The main goals of open access are to enable and improve the use of research and scholarship in a networked environment.

**Upcoming Event: Human Rights in the Philippines: A Photo Exhibition**

*Until 17 April 2008 \* Café Tinto \* 89 Roncesvalles \* Toronto*

An exhibition on human rights in the Philippines by photographer Alex Felipe will run until 17 April 2008.



Felipe's exhibition provides a pictorial overview of the human rights situation from extrajudicial killings and disappearances, to young 'terror' suspects in a Manila jail, to a disturbing Canadian connection. For more information: [www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=27422540450](http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=27422540450).

## Upcoming Event: Strictly Business? New Trends in International Investment and the Challenges to Development Strategies

17 to 18 April 2008 \* Vivian and David Campbell Conference Facility \* University of Toronto

Strictly Business? New Trends in International Investment and the Challenges to Development Strategies, a conference hosted by the World Bank and the Munk Centre for International Studies Graduate Students, will take place at the University of Toronto on 17-18 April 2008.

This year's graduate conference addresses a challenging current issue regarding public foreign investment. State-run investment by countries with massive foreign currency reserves, such as China and Russia, are establishing a new trend in international investment. The Munk Centre Graduate Student Conference aims to explore these patterns and examine their implications for both state sovereignty and economic development.

With the rapidly growing economies of especially China and Russia, the world is witnessing a headstrong urge by these countries to invest in resource-rich states such as Nigeria and Sudan. While the goals of these state-affiliated sovereign investment funds are "strictly business" to earn higher returns from stocks, corporate bonds, real estate, and commodities, there is a rising concern that patterns of investing will become politically strategic, and will be used to monopolize natural resources, or to gain political allegiance from a recipient state.

Thursday, 17 April will feature an evening keynote address and reception. Panel discussions will take place on Friday, 18 April. The morning session will discuss sovereign wealth funds, and the afternoon session will cover China's recent investment trends in Africa. The conference will include a spectrum of experts from the World Bank, academia, journalism and business. For more information on the conference program and registration, please visit [www.themunkgraduateconference.org/2008/](http://www.themunkgraduateconference.org/2008/).

## Upcoming Event: Kwai-yun Li to share collection of stories on Calcutta Chinese

Wednesday, 23 April 2008 \* 4pm \* Robarts Library (Room 14087) \* 130 St. George Street \* Toronto

Kwai-yun Li will read from her short story collection, *The Palm Leaf Fan & Other Stories*, on Wednesday, 23 April. From crumbling shops in Chinatown to decaying tanneries in Tangra, Kwai-yun Li's collection of linked short stories expose us to the sights, sounds, and smells of a marginalized community in postcolonial Calcutta. Kwai-Yun Li's Hakka parents emigrated from Moi-yen, China to Calcutta, India, where Kwai was born. She grew up in Chattawalla Gully, in the old part of the city, and came to Canada through an arranged marriage. She is a co-author of *A Kiss Beside the Monkey Bars*, a collection of short stories.

"Kwai-yun Li strikes a clean, clear, crisp note. The history of the Calcutta Chinese has found eloquent expression in Li." - Herizons. "The heart, wonder, and descriptive nature of these narratives make this collection both entertaining and informative." - Canadian Literature. "The most striking element of Li's writing is her ability to synthesize delicate, rich imagery with the dirt of reality." - City Masala TSAR Publications.

## Upcoming Event: Infinite Echoes from Japan: New directions in traditional Japanese music

Saturday, 26 April 2008 \* 3 and 6pm \* Glenn Gould Studio \* CBC Broadcasting Centre \* 250 Front Street W. \* Toronto



The Japan Foundation is proud to present the music ensemble, Infinite Echoes from Japan: Sho Asano (Tsugaru shamisen); Itsumi Higa (sanshin, shima daiko, Ryukyu flute, singer); Hajime Nishi (Tsugaru shamisen); Ayano Nishimura (Ryukyuan dance); Rinsaku Teruya (singer, sanshin, shima daiko); Koshi Tsukuda (shakuhachi & shinobue); Kiyohide Ura (piano & saxophone); and Katsumi Usui (drums). This ensemble features the crème of the crop of Japanese performing artists and exemplifies the rich musical traditions thriving in Japan today.

The program combines shakuhachi, Tsugaru shamisen of northern Japan and the traditional dances and songs of the Okinawan islands, with western musical elements through piano and drums, pushing the boundaries of traditional Japanese music towards new directions.

Specially brought together for the concert, this ensemble is touring across Canada in celebration of the 80th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Canada and Japan. Admission is \$30, \$20 for seniors and students, and are available from the CBC box office at 416 205 5555 or [ggstix@toronto.cbc.ca](mailto:ggstix@toronto.cbc.ca). For more information: The Japan Foundation, Toronto at 416 966 1600 x233 or [concert@jftor.org](mailto:concert@jftor.org).

---

## Call for Papers: Transformations: Researching Asia – Friday is the deadline

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

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

With this conference we seek to address the epistemology and methodology of researching Asia within and beyond the geographical and disciplinary constraints traditionally associated with Area Studies. We invite papers from graduate students engaged in interdisciplinary research in Asian Studies focusing on the modern and contemporary periods.

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

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

Interested participants should submit a paper title, abstract (250 words maximum) and brief biographical information by **18 April 2008**. Selected participants must submit completed papers by 1 August 2008. Please email submissions to the conference organizers at: [transformationsasiaconference@gmail.com](mailto:transformationsasiaconference@gmail.com). More information about the conference can be found on the conference website: [www.yorku.ca/ycar/Events/graduate\\_conference.html](http://www.yorku.ca/ycar/Events/graduate_conference.html).

## **Call for Papers: In the Shadows of Empires: Second International Conference on Asian American and Asian British Literatures**

In the Shadows of Empires, the Second International Conference on Asian American and Asian British Literatures will take place in Taipei, Taiwan on 28-29 November 2008 and is organized by the Institute of European and American Studies, Academia Sinica.

The word "Asian" has different meanings in the United States and Britain. How differently are "Asian" and "Asia" as imagined in Asian American and Asian British literatures and how do these multiple, discrepant, and at times contradictory articulations enable us to confront, engage, and produce in the shadows of empires? How is it possible to conceive of "Asia" and "Asian" as one in plurality and as a position without identity, without falling into the exhausted tropes of solidarity and coalition? How do Asia and Asian work--together and in disjunctur--as signifiers, tropes, politics and perhaps as methods for working through the problematic of "culture and imperialism" that Said left us? How do we, as intellectuals, comparativists, and critical scholars, write and rewrite Asians and Asias in the shadows of empires--not only British and American but also Japanese and Chinese--in an era of re-regionalization and neo-imperial formation?

The Institute of European and American Studies at Academia Sinica, Taiwan, invites papers from scholars in literary and cultural studies. Please send your paper abstract (not exceeding 300 words) and brief CV (one paragraph identifying your name, institutional affiliation, areas of interests, and contact info, and a list of your representative publications) to Andy Wang ([wchimin@sinica.edu.tw](mailto:wchimin@sinica.edu.tw)) by **30 April 2008**.

## **Call for papers: International Conference on Indigenous People**

This conference will take place from 29 to 31 July 2008 at the University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. ICIP will focus on contemporary policy, research, issues, interventions and advocacy to address what is widely perceived as the social exclusion, vulnerability and marginalization of indigenous communities in the developed and developing world and to propose programmes and strategies to meet these challenges.

Expressions of interest in the submission of serious original and hitherto unpublished papers, writing and research are, therefore, invited on the following broad issues touching on the future of indigenous peoples. Of particular interest to the Conference is research and discussion that underscores the linkages between indigenous communities' value systems and cultures with the sustainability of their natural and environmental resources: Identity, land and ways of living; Demographics; Indigenous rights to and perspectives on development; and untapped potential of indigenous peoples.

The Conference will be centered on the themes identified above and the submissions adjudged acceptable by the conference organizers. Expressions of interest must be formulated in a maximum of one page abstracts sent to the organizers by **30 April 2008**. For more information, visit [www.cpds.fep.um.edu.my/ICIP.html](http://www.cpds.fep.um.edu.my/ICIP.html) or email [icip2008@gmail.com](mailto:icip2008@gmail.com).

### ***Previously-posted Call for Papers:***

#### **\* SSRC Korean Studies Dissertation Workshop (1 May 2008)**

For the application form and more information, please visit <http://fellowships.ssrc.org/korea/> or email [korea@ssrc.org](mailto:korea@ssrc.org).

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

For more information: [www.hamilton.edu/NYCAS/](http://www.hamilton.edu/NYCAS/) or email [08NYCAS@hamilton.edu](mailto:08NYCAS@hamilton.edu).

#### **\* Western Conference of the Association for Asian Studies (1 May 2008)**

For more information: [www.Colorado.EDU/CAS/WCAAS.html](http://www.Colorado.EDU/CAS/WCAAS.html).

#### **\* Fourth World Congress of Korean Studies (10 May 2008)**

For more information, email [korea2008@aks.ac.kr](mailto:korea2008@aks.ac.kr) or visit

[www.aks.ac.kr/eng\\_home/notice/notice\\_read.asp?num=55&group\\_id=55](http://www.aks.ac.kr/eng_home/notice/notice_read.asp?num=55&group_id=55).

\* Symposium on the Vietnam Experience (15 May 2008)

For more information: [kfmsh00@tamuk.edu](mailto:kfmsh00@tamuk.edu)

\* Continuities and Innovations: Popular Print Cultures – Past and Present, Local and Global (30 May 2008)

For information: [www.arts.ualberta.ca/popprint](http://www.arts.ualberta.ca/popprint).

\* Contemporary Problems with Socioeconomic Theory (1 August 2008)

For more information, visit: <http://umn.edu/home/marqu002/VL2008.htm>.