



York Centre for Asian Research Update

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ABMP News: YCAR Associates accompany Toronto mayoral delegation while in China

Professor Bernie Frolic and Dr. Máire O'Brien have been in China for the past several weeks on behalf of York's Asian Business Management Programme (ABMP). They met with representatives of various public and private sector institutions, including several universities to discuss future relationships in professional and institutional development.

They were joined by Professor Alan Middleton of the Schulich Executive Education Centre (SEEC). Some of the cities they traveled to were Zhengzhou, Henan; Chongqing and Chengdu in Sichuan; Beijing, Xian and Shanghai.

During the trip Professor Frolic and Dr. O'Brien accompanied Mayor David Miller's delegation on its visit to Toronto's twin city, Chongqing. Later, Professor Frolic gave lectures on Canadian views of China and Canada-China relations to executives and students at several PRC institutions.

York University's *Y-File* reported on 22 April 2008 that the mayoral mission brought tangible results. David Lumsden, an anthropologist in York's Faculty of Arts who is finishing up a sabbatical in Chongqing, dismissed skeptics who question the value of trade missions and sister-city relationships, reported the *Toronto Star* on 20 April, as Toronto Mayor David Miller wound up his seven-day trade mission to China. "It's not about junkets and never has been about junkets," Lumsden said. "It's about talking to each other, learning from each other and bringing home tangible results. Do you value international understanding? Do you believe that China is important to the future of the world? If you do, then of course these missions are worth it." The Y-File Story is available at: www.yorku.ca/yfile/archive/index.asp?Article=10358.

YCAR News: Annual General Meeting and Self-Study chart YCAR's future and celebrate past year's successes

Faculty, research and graduate associates, as well as friends of the Centre, joined YCAR last Wednesday to hear about the Centre's successes in the past academic year. Director Susan Henders presented the research activities of the Centre and its members as well as plans and priorities for 2008-2009, which includes the Inaugural Asian Heritage Month Lecture in June and the YCAR Graduate Associates first conference, which will be held in September 2008. Among other presentations, Faculty Associates provided reports on their Centre-based research and Jingbo Zhang, China Management Training Programme Coordinator, spoke on behalf of the China Management Training Programme, which is based at YCAR.

The afternoon event was preceded by a Self-Study retreat, one of the first steps in a year-long process that is part of a full external review, the first since the Centre was established in 2002. About 30 colleagues shared their thoughts on YCAR's mandate and activities and provided input to chart the Centre's next six years. An Associate Questionnaire was also distributed earlier this month. If you did not receive one and would like to share your comments, please request a copy from ycar@yorku.ca.

Copies of YCAR's 2008 Annual Report are available at the Centre at 270 York Lanes. Virtual copies are available by request from ycar@yorku.ca.

YCAR Events: Philippines House of Representative members share experiences with York community

The York Philippines Study Group welcomed Representative Crispin Beltran and Representative Luz Ilagan to York University on 7 April 2008. They spoke at a seminar on labour politics, gender politics and human rights in the Philippines opened with the Toronto premier of the new documentary, "Philippines: Waging War on the People" by Production Multimonde in Montreal. It provided a primer on the recent situation in the Philippines.

Beltran and Ilagan represent labour and women's movements in the Philippines. They reflected on the suppression of political dissent, their strategies for resisting such oppression, and the role of transnational ties in facilitating their work.

Representative Crispin Beltran is a former chair of Kilusang Mayo Uno, the largest militant labour centre in the Philippines. He was first elected to Congress in 2001 as a Bayan Muna Party List Representative, then again in 2004 under the Anakpawis Party List. He was abducted by the Philippine National Police on 25 February 2006 and was illegally kept in detention until June 2007. At the age of 75, he continues to champion workers' rights and human rights in the Philippines and around the world.



Representative Luz Ilagan was elected to represent the Women's Party in the House of Representatives in 2007. Gabriela Women's Party is a sectoral party

dedicated to promoting the rights and welfare of women. As a Congresswoman, she has authored several House bills for the protection of Filipino migrant workers rights. For many years, she was professor of humanities at the Ateneo De Davao University. Prior to her present position, she served as a member of the City Council of Toril in Davao del Sur, Mindanao.

The event was sponsored by the Philippine Study Group at YCAR, the Centre for Feminist Research and the Centre for Research on Work and Society.

ABMP Events: Top Canadian Sinologists discuss political change in China

The Asian Business and Management Programme organized a workshop on political change in China on 4 April 2008 at the University of Toronto. Twenty scholars from across Canada presented their research on five areas of political change: Party reform, state institutions, law, civil society and human rights.

The workshop will be followed by a two-day conference at York University and the University of Toronto this fall. Organizer B. Michael Frolic anticipates a dozen papers from Chinese and other Canadian and international scholars. The best papers will comprise a publication on political change in China.

Opportunity: South Asian Youth Advisory Committee seeks volunteers for South Asian Heritage Month event

The South Asian Youth Advisory Committee (SAYAC) seeks community partners and volunteers to assist with their first initiative. The group plans to hold a unique conference at the City Hall (with the support of City of Toronto) on 31 May to celebrate social activism amongst South Asian youth and South Asian Heritage Month. The conference, titled, "Fires of Resistance: South Asian Youth Igniting Action" also will explore future steps to address issues in employment, poverty, education, human rights, gender equity etc. The Toronto District School Board has come on board as a supporter to help make this idea a reality.

They are looking for youth (ages 16 to 29) to join as volunteers in making this incredible idea a success. They are also looking for sponsors and supporters. Community agencies and groups serving South Asian youth can join this exciting initiative by either promoting this event in their circles and/or by contributing financial and/or human resources.

SAYAC is a group of young activists, leaders and frontline workers within South Asian communities of the GTA. The group was formed by CASSA (Council of Agencies Serving South Asians) to bring together the energies, talents and activism within the South Asian youth in order to create a system wide or community wide change. For more information, visit www.cassa.on.ca or email sayac@cassa.on.ca or neethan.shan@cassa.on.ca.

Opportunity: Hindi Course Director

The Department of Languages, Literatures and Linguistics, Faculty of Fine Arts at York is searching for a Course Director for an elementary Hindi course for the Fall/Winter 2008-2009 academic year. Required qualifications for this CUPE position include: a M.A. or Ph.D. in Hindi language or literature or relevant field; professional training in current second language pedagogy; and complete fluency in Hindi and English. The application deadline is 6 May 2008. For more information, please contact Susan Ehrlich, Chair, Department of Languages, Literatures and Linguistics.

Previously-posted opportunities

*** 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, or consult SSHRC's web site at: 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 or contact Krista Jensen (kejensen@yorku.ca or ext 88847) or Michael Johnny (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 or contact York's Office of Research Services at 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 or contact the coordinator at 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 for more information.

Upcoming Events: May is Asian Heritage Month

Asian Heritage Month has been celebrated in Canada since May 2002. A year earlier, a motion to recognize May as Asian Heritage Month was moved by The Honorable Vivienne Poy and unanimously adopted by the Senate. York's Inaugural Asian Heritage month Lecture at York is just one of the many events scheduled to take place across the GTA, and across Canada, next month.

For more details about Asian Heritage month events around Toronto, please visit:

Asian Heritage Month-Canadian Foundation for Asian Culture (Central Ontario) Inc: www.asian-heritage-month.org/Page01.html

Toronto Public Library: <http://torontopubliclibrary.ca/asianheritage/>

Gardiner Museum: www.gardinermuseum.on.ca/eveelc.aspx?ImageID=3&TopNavImage=1

Asian Institute at the University of Toronto: <http://webapp.mcis.utoronto.ca/ai/>

Bata Shoe Museum: www.batashoemuseum.ca/events/index.shtml

Upcoming Event: From Haiku to Anime: Japan in Western Eyes

7 May 2008 * 6 to 8pm * Bata Shoe Museum * 327 Bloor St. West



YCAR Faculty Associate Ted Goossen will present the 2008 Bata Shoe Museum Asian Heritage Month Talk, titled "From Haiku to Anime: Japan in Western Eyes," to complement the Bata Shoe Museum's month-long exhibition of Japanese footwear.

Recently returned from teaching in Japan, Professor Goossen will discuss how the Western world has perceived Japan and Japanese culture from the 19th to the 21st century. Ted Goossen is Professor of Japanese Literature and Culture at York University and the editor of *The Oxford Book of Japanese Short Stories* (1997).

Admission is \$15 per person, \$10 for students and free for Museum members. Pre-registration is required: 416.979.7799 x242 or email programs@batashoemuseum.ca. This event is presented by the Bata Shoe Museum and the Asian Heritage Month-Canadian Foundation for Asian Culture (Central Ontario) Inc

Upcoming Event: Calligraphy-ism

11 to 16 May 2008 * Cedar Ridge Creative Centre * 225 Confederation Drive, Scarborough

Doris 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 made up 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.

The opening, symposium and performance will take place on Sunday, 11 May 2008 from 1 to 4pm. Gallery hours are: Monday to Thursday: 9am to 9pm; Friday: 9am to 4pm. This event is presented by IS Gallery and the Asian Heritage Month, Toronto. For more information, visit: www.dorissung.com/shufa.

Upcoming Event: Inaugural Asian Heritage Month Lecture at York University

*Tuesday, 3 June 2008 * 6pm * Moot Court, Osgoode Hall Law School * York University*

YCAR is happy to announce the first inaugural Asian Heritage Month Lecture at York University. Professor Stephen Endicott will speak on the life of his father in a talk titled, "When China Stood Up: The Experience of Dr James Gareth Endicott." The event will also feature "Premiere of "Dragonfly: Scenes from a screenplay on Dr. James Endicott," by York Professor Robert Fothergill. He is the winner of the Chalmers Award, and a Dora Award nominee. The event will be chaired by the Honourable Vivienne Poy, Senate of Canada.

Seats are limited. Please register early by e-mail: asianheritagecanadian@yahoo.ca. For more information, please visit www.asianheritagemonth.org.

This event is presented by YCAR, Asian Business and Management Programme and the Asian Heritage Month-Canadian Foundation for Asian Culture (Central Ontario) Inc.

Upcoming Event: Foot Binding and Chinese Modernity: The Demise of One of History's Most Enigmatic Practices – lecture and book launch

*Wednesday 4 June 2008 * Doors open at 5:30 pm and close at 8 pm. Lecture 6 to 7 pm * Bata Shoe Museum * 327 Bloor St. West*

YCAR Faculty Associate Joan Judge will present an illustrated talk titled, "Foot Binding and Chinese Modernity: The Demise of One of History's Most Enigmatic Practices" at the Bata Shoe Museum in early June. The event is 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 will focus 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 is 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.

Events tickets are \$20 per person, \$12 per student and free for Museum members. Pre-registration required: call 416.979.7799 x242 or email programs@batashoemuseum.ca. For more information, visit www.batashoemuseum.ca/events/index.shtml - [lecture_footbinding_jun04](#) (*Bata Shoe Museum photograph*).

York News: York to offer dual degree programs with Fudan University

York University has partnered with Shanghai's Fudan University to offer dual degree programs. A formal

agreement between the two universities is the first such broadly-based agreement signed by York with any university in the world.

York Vice-President Academic Sheila Embleton and Fudan University President Wang Shenghong signed a memorandum of agreement for joint programs in history, financial math, computer science and design. Students participating in the programs will spend two years at Fudan, followed by two years at York, to receive a joint degree from both institutions.

The new programs will expand on the existing partnership between York and Fudan. Currently, York students can complete summer studies at Fudan, via an intensive Chinese language and culture course, offered through York's Department of Languages, Literatures and Linguistics in the Faculty of Arts. "The demand for these courses always outstrips the spots available, which was a key factor in our decision to offer dual degree programs," said Embleton.

York has also become a popular destination for Fudan students, who regularly attend the summer language program offered through the York University English Language Institute.

There also is an emerging collaboration in fine arts between the two universities, with York's current Faculty of Fine Arts Dean Phillip Silver assisting with the selection of a dean for Fudan University's new Faculty of Fine Arts, said Embleton. Other areas of collaboration focus on urban issues and industrial mathematics.

This Y-File story is available in full at: www.yorku.ca/yfile/archive/index.asp?Article=10335.

Call for Papers: Rethinking Extractive Industry: Regulation, Dispossession, and Emerging Claims

The Centre for Research on Latin America and the Caribbean (CERLAC), together with the Extractive Industries Research Group (EIRG), both located at York University, are hosting a conference entitled "Rethinking Extractive Industry: Regulation, Dispossession, and Emerging Claims." Taking place from 5 to 7 March 2009 as part of the University's 50th anniversary and CERLAC's 30th anniversary celebrations, the conference will bring together cutting-edge research on the socio-ecological, spatial, and political-economic dimensions of industrial extraction. Through critical theoretical reflection and policy-relevant analysis, three tracks aim to advance our understanding of the social regulation of extractive industries in its broadest sense.

While we are open to a range of conceptualizations, we particularly invite proposals to the following three tracks:

Track 1: The Political Economies and Ecologies of Extractive Regimes

The first track examines the political economy and ecology of the contemporary global regime governing investment in extractive industry - in particular, its financial, socio-economic, spatial/geographic, and ecological-natural dimensions. Key questions include: How is it that particular national and global regimes of extraction have emerged around particular natural resources? What are the historical dimensions that shaped these regimes? And how do contemporary global financial flows influence the possibility of regulating their at once ecological and socio-economic contradictions? Possible panel themes include: Socio-environmental Histories of Extraction; The Political Economy of Resource Control; and Socio-Natures of Particular Natural Resources.

Track 2: Critical Explorations of Emerging Accountability Mechanisms

The second track seeks to map out developing notions of accountability in industrial extraction and their expressions in a variety of regional sites. Papers revolving around particular global/regional cases will identify key actors accountable for extraction and to whom they are accountable, who regulates and enforces these relationships, and which actors and interest groups are included or excluded from the process. Many of these papers will focus on transnational accountability mechanisms, their significance, and the particular

challenges presented by these emerging forms of governance. Possible panel themes include: Formal Corporate-Community Agreements; Science, Environmental Assessment and Accountability; and Transnational Lawsuits.

Track 3: Global/Local Encounters: Civil Society, States and Corporations

The final track identifies how social response, including active protest, has been central to shaping socio-environmental regulation and to restructuring industry-community relations. Here we seek to identify what forms of social mobilization have been most effective in improving the conditions of affected communities. We also wish to explore issues of representation and legitimacy in civil society organizations and the ethical and political dilemmas raised by transnational advocacy efforts. Key panelists will be invited from social movements and organizations, and will include representatives of Canadian First Nations, historically marginalized social groups in extractive sites, and NGOs involved in more critical advocacy work. Possible panel themes include: Critical and Comparative Studies of Indigenous/Community Consultation; Critical and Comparative Studies of 'Successful' Social Movements; and Global Networks for Corporate Accountability and Oversight.

Proposals should identify the track(s) most appropriate to your paper and include an abstract of up to 150 words. Please also name authors/co-authors, institutional affiliations and contact addresses.

Please send proposals by post or email by 30 June 2008 to: Organizing Committee, York University/CERLAC conference on extractive industry, 240 York Lanes. 4700 Keele St., Toronto, ON M3J 1P3, Canada or cerlac@yorku.ca.

Call for Papers: Nationalism, Culture, and Identity: New Boundaries in Asia

The Arizona State University Center for Asian Research is pleased to host its first annual Asian Studies Graduate Student Conference entitled "Nationalism, Culture, and Identity: New Boundaries in Asia." This conference is an opportunity for graduate students to present their current research projects related to the topics of culture, nationalism, and identity. It will take place on 10-11 October 2008. More broadly, the conference seeks to explore the meanings and applications of the term Asia. By juxtaposing these three areas of research, the conference looks to draw out original and intriguing questions pertaining to the study of Asia in general as well as specific locales.

Presentations should deal critically with the three themes in the context of the guiding question: Should Asia as conceived by scholars be redefined? If so, how? Papers can address the themes of nationalism, culture, and identity from any number of disciplinary approaches including religious studies, history, literature, political science, and anthropology. Papers need not be limited to solely contemporary issues.

The deadline for submitting abstracts is 1 July 2008. Abstracts should be maximum 250 words, accompanied by a 100 word biography. Student's contact information including: full name, university affiliation, field(s), and a current email address, should be at the top of every document submitted. A prize will be awarded for the best paper. In order to be considered for the prize, papers must be submitted by 1 September 2008.

For more information, please contact Mugdha Yeolekar (Mugdha.Yeolekar@asu.edu); Seth Clippard (seth.clippard@asu.edu); William Nitzky (william.nitzky@asu.edu); Samsul Maarif (Samsul.maarif@asu.edu).

Previously-posted Call for Papers:

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

For more information, email korea2008@aks.ac.kr or visit 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

* **Continuities and Innovations: Popular Print Cultures – Past and Present, Local and Global (30 May 2008)**
For information: www.arts.ualberta.ca/popprint.

* **Contemporary Problems with Socioeconomic Theory (1 August 2008)**
For more information, visit: <http://umn.edu/home/marqu002/VL2008.htm>.

April 25, 2008

Ste. 270 York Lanes, York University, 4700 Keele Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M3J 1P3.