



York Centre for Asian Research Update

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ABMP/CMTP News: Bernie Frolic and Máire O'Brien to travel to China with Toronto Mayor David Miller as part of China Strategic Working Group

YCAR Associates M. Bernard Frolic and Máire O'Brien will be a part of the mayoral entourage during David Miller's visit to China in April. Frolic, the Director of the Asia Business Management Programme (ABMP) and O'Brien the Director of the China Management Training Program (CMTP), have been invited, along with other prominent professionals and academics, to be part of the China Strategic Working Group.

The first talk of the Working Group, says O'Brien, has been to advise the Mayor and his staff on various aspects of the proposed trip to Beijing and Chongqing in April 2008. The group will be traveling to China in mid-April. They will be in Beijing and Chongqing throughout the following week meeting government officials and members of the business community. CMTP will be formalizing its "Green Construction" training schedule with the Chongqing Construction Commission and speaking with other colleagues and clients in several different government departments in both Beijing and Chongqing.

The City of Toronto is twinned with the City of Chongqing, Sichuan, People's Republic of China. The relationship was established over twenty years ago during which time mayoral delegations have gone back and forth to foster economic, social, cultural and educational linkages. Within the context of competing municipal priorities, this trip is particularly significant, says O'Brien. The Mayor and his economic development

staff have worked very hard to raise awareness and commitment to this sister city relationship. Part of the international economic development strategy for the City includes the inception of Strategic Working Groups on India and China.

YCAR News: Gregory T Chin to give inaugural Chinese New Year lecture at the University of the West Indies

The Institute of International Relations at the Trinidad campus of the University of the West Indies has invited YCAR Faculty Associate Gregory T Chin to present the university's inaugural Chinese New Year Lecture. Gregory will present a talk on 8 February entitled, "In the Shadow of Great Power-Emerging Power Rivalry: China and the Caribbean Region".

Opportunity: China-Canada Scholars' Exchange Program

The China-Canada Scholars' Exchange Program (CCSEP) for the 2008-2009 academic year is accepting applications. The deadline is March 20th, 2008. Interested students and faculty members are advised to visit the website of China Scholarship Council (www.chineseeeducation.ca/htmls/edu/09.html) for details about the program and institutions in China that accept students under the Chinese government Scholarship programs. A copy of the application form is also available at YCAR. Each year CCSEP supports about 20-25 Canadian students and scholars in this program.

Previously-posted Opportunities:

* Grants on offer from the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada (15 February 2008)

For more information: www.asiapacificresearch.ca/grants/2008_09/index.cfm.

* Language training program for Southeast Asian scholars (15 February 2007)

For more information: www.seassi.wisc.edu or seassi@intl-institute.wisc.edu

* Summer Internship Opportunity for graduate students (28 February 2008)

For more information: www.researchimpact.ca or Krista Jensen (kejensen@yorku.ca)

* Scholarships for international students in Taiwan (14 March 2008)

For more information: www.dpu.org.tw/ or intstudent@ntu.edu.tw

* New academic alliances between Canada and developing countries

For more information: www.idrc.ca/irci or Isabelle Bourgeault-Tassé at 613 236 6163, ext. 2343 or ibourgeault-tasse@idrc.ca

Upcoming Event: York welcomes Canada Research Chair Abidin Kusno to speak at York

*Monday, 4 February * 2:30pm * Ross Building, Room S701 * York University*

YCAR is happy to welcome Abidin Kusno, University of British Columbia Associate Professor and Canada Research Chair in Asian Urbanism and Culture to speak at York University on 4 February. He will give a public lecture and also speak to Lisa Drummond's graduate student class, 'The Making of Asian Studies: Critical Perspectives.' This is the core course for YCAR's Graduate Diploma in Asian Studies.

In "Exemplary State: Governing Urban Subjects in the New Indonesia," Dr Kusno will speak on how

Indonesians today are remembering a decade after the fall of President Suharto (1966-1998). However, no one seems to feel sure how different is the era they are now living in today in comparison to that of Suharto. A profound sense of anxiety has developed in regard to how things have changed and become different since 1998.

Dr Kusno's talk will contribute to the study of the post-Suharto era in at least two ways: By looking at the role of a new urban infrastructure and imagistic urban project in defining social changes associated with the new Indonesia, and by examining the role such technologies play in the formation of social and political identities. It will focus on some of the discourses around the busway and the superblock in Jakarta as examples of urban violence, spectacle and governmentality and show how these discourses constitute a symbolic passage between Suharto and the post-authoritarian spatial order.

The talk is kindly sponsored by the Urban Studies Programme, the Social Science Speakers Series, the CITY Institute, Department of Geography and YCAR.

Upcoming Event: Geography's Adam Lukasiewicz will present YCAR's first BrownBag graduate student seminar

Tuesday, 5 February 2008 * 1pm * 270 York Lanes, Room B



Everyone is welcome to join us for the first graduate student seminar of the Winter 2008 term on 5 February at 1pm. Geography doctoral student Adam Lukasiewicz will speak on Situating migration, gender, and class in the agrarian transition of the Philippines.

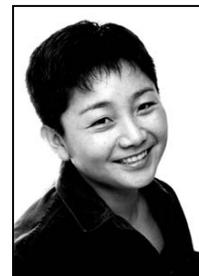
Future presenters include Carolyn Hibbs, Doris Sung, Sean Starrs, Shannon Arnold, Nand Bardouille and Laura Tan-Starling.

If you are interested in sharing your research in a BrownBag seminar, please contact Alicia at ycar@yorku.ca.

Upcoming Event: Atkinson welcomes author Hiromi Goto to York

Thursday, 7 February 2008 * 7pm * 206 Accolade West Building * York University

The Atkinson Canadian Writers in Person will welcome Hiromi Goto to York on Thursday, 7 February at 7pm. Goto is the British Columbian author of *Chorus of Mushrooms* (NeWest 1994), which won the Canada-Japan Book Award and the Commonwealth Writers Prize for 1995. Subsequent books include *The Water of Possibility* (Couteau 2000), *The Kappa Child* (Red Deer 2002) and the short story collection *Hopeful Monsters* (Arsenal 2004).



The event will take place in 206 Accolade West Building. Everyone is welcome. For more information, please visit www.atkinson.yorku.ca/cdnwriters or telephone 416 736 2100 ext 20482.

Upcoming Event: Chinese Design. Everyday

8 February 2008 to 13 April 2008 * Design Exchange * 234 Bay Street

'Chinese Design. Everyday' is the title of YCAR Associate Director Wendy Wong's February exhibit at Toronto's Design Exchange, which will run from 8 February to 13 April.

Contemporary Chinese culture is a fascinating mix of diverse influences, combining the millennia-old Chinese cultural heritage with the most current Western and international trends. This show defines "Chinese Design" in terms of Style, Locale and Ethnicity. It provides a foundation for understanding

contemporary Chinese culture and everyday life through design artifacts with a focus on graphic design.

On display will be a selection of design work from the Chinese-speaking region: China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau, and from designers of Chinese ancestry residing in North America.

The Opening will be held on 8 February 2008 with a reception sponsored by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, Toronto. The Curatorial lecture will be held on 15 February 2008 at 5pm, also at the Design Exchange.



Rethinking the Agrarian Question for the Twenty-first Century

Friday, 8 February 2008 * noon to 2pm * 208N, North House * University of Toronto

Philip McMichael, professor of Development Sociology at Cornell University, will present 'Rethinking the Agrarian Question for the Twenty-first Century' on 8 February. This presentation employs contemporary peasant mobilizing discourses and practices to evaluate the terms in which we understand global development today. There are two parts to this exercise, which is an exercise in historical specification. It seeks to clarify why the terms of the original agrarian question no longer apply to agrarian change today, and to understand how such mobilization brings new understandings to what development practices in the 21st century will need to address is humanity is to survive. The Chair will be Harriet Friedmann, professor of Sociology and member of the Centre for International Studies at the U of T.

Philip McMichael is author of several influential books, including *Development and Social Change: A Global Perspective*, which appears in a fourth edition in December 2007. He has published numerous articles addressing aspects of social change from a world-historical perspective, especially regarding food and agriculture, and peasant movements. Trained as a historical sociologist, his work situates food and agricultural systems in their world-historical context. His present work evaluates the costs and benefits and the institutional politics surrounding the organization of a global agriculture. For more information, contact Tina Lagopoulos at cis.general@utoronto.ca.

Upcoming Event: Commemorating the 65th anniversary of Canadian Anglican Bishop White's "Chinese Jews"

Monday, 25 February 2008 * 2:30pm * 305 York Lanes * York University

Bishop White has been the news again. A story by Geoffrey York in the *Globe and Mail* on Saturday 19 January 2008 suggested that he smuggled treasures out of China. Come to hear the rest of the story.

YCAR and the Centre for Jewish Studies at York University are pleased to announce *Bishop White's "Chinese Jews,"* an event to be held on Monday, February 25 to commemorate the 65th anniversary of the release of Bishop White's book on Chinese Jews.

Speakers for the half-day event will include Dr Andrew Plaks, Professor of East Asian Studies and Comparative Literature at Princeton University, Missions Historian Dr Alwyn Austin and Sara Irwin, the Asia curator for the Royal Ontario Museum.

One of the curious footnotes in Jewish history is the so-called "orphan colony of Chinese Jews," who were discovered by Matteo Ricci in 1605. Ten or twelve families were living in Kaifeng, which used to be the rich and sophisticated capital city of China. They had arrived along the Silk Road hundreds of years before, and lost touch with their old homelands. Although they had become "Chinese," they retained kosher diet (like the Muslims): they were known as the people who did not eat sinews.

One of the scholars of these Chinese Jews was a Canadian missionary, Bishop William Charles White, bishop of the Anglican diocese of Henan and, on his retirement, head of the School of Chinese Studies and the Far Eastern Department at the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM). He is remembered by the Bishop White Gallery. Since he was stationed in Kaifeng, he contacted the remaining families and acquired some of their objects for the ROM, which were exhibited at Holy Blossom Temple. In 1946 he published a three-volume compendium called *Chinese Jews*, which remains a primary source. This event brings together three scholars who present three intertwined stories: the encounter between Bishop White and the Chinese Jews, and his book; the Chinese Jews themselves, and their history; and the "Chinese Judaica collection" in the ROM.

For more information, please contact Michael Stainton at michaels@yorku.ca or Alicia at ycar@yorku.ca. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Upcoming Event: Foodscapes of Southeast Asia

*Friday, 29 February 2008 * Beginning at 1pm * Junior and Senior Common Rooms, Founders College * York University*

Foodscapes of Southeast Asia will explore the relation between food consumption and food production in Southeast Asia. It will begin at 1pm with a workshop featuring academics from Ontario, the United States and Japan, followed by a multimedia presentation of organizer Penny Van Esterik's research entitled 'Doing Lunch in Salaya.' The keynote speaker is renowned cookbook author Naomi Daguid whose presentation, "Hot Sour Salty Sweet: A Culinary Journey along the Mekong River" will be followed by a special Southeast Asian meal.

Reservations are required. For more information or to reserve your place, please contact Alicia at ycar@yorku.ca or telephone 416 736 2100 ext 44068.

Call for Papers: Asia on the Move

The Canadian Asian Studies Association, in conjunction with its three area council, are inviting papers for their 2008 conference 'Asia on the Move' to be held from 13 to 16 November 2008 at the University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario. The deadline is 15 March 2008. For full details, please visit <http://canadianasianstudies.concordia.ca/html/2008call-e.htm>

Call for contributors: Human Security in East Asia – Emerging Issues and Challenges

Organizers are currently soliciting paper proposals for an edited book volume on "Human Security in East Asia: Emerging Issues and Challenges". Contributors who are well versed in human security issues particularly in the East Asian region are invited to participate in this book project. This project has its roots in an international conference held in South Korea last year. Organizers are looking for contributions from scholars who can take on the different issue areas of human security at the national and/or regional level and whose work complements our existing structure. The issue areas would be centered around the seven categories of UNDP-defined "human security".

Please send an abstract (400 words or less) of your proposed topic and a brief professional CV to Benny Teh, Ph.D., School of Social Sciences USM, Malaysia, genchan@hotmail.com.

Previously-posted Call for Papers:

* Fourth Annual Loyola University Chicago History Graduate Student Conference (15 February 2008)
For more information: www.luc.edu/orgs/hgsa/ or sress@luc.edu

* Call for Papers: The Challenges of Agrarian Transition in Southeast Asia dissertation workshop (28 February 2008)
For more information: losbanosworkshop@yahoo.com or Keith Barney at kbarney@yorku.ca.

* The International Society for the Comparative Study of Civilizations (ISCSC) 47th ISCSC World Conference, University of New Brunswick (1 March 2008)
For more information: www.ISCSC.net or ISCSCabstracts@yahoo.com or rduchesn@unbsj.ca

* Lives in Motion: The Transitional and Transnational Status of Displacement (2 March 2008)
For more information: Centre for Refugee Studies (CRS) Student www.yorku.ca/crs/ or CRS_caus@yorku.ca or paulap@yorku.ca.

* Transformations: Researching Asia (1 April 2008)
For more information: transformationsasiaconference@gmail.com or www.yorku.ca/ycar/Events/graduate_conference.html.

* ASPAC 2008 - Crossing Boundaries in the Asia-Pacific: Regional and Disciplinary Intersections, Victoria BC (15 April 2008)
For more information: <http://capiconf.uvic.ca/index.php?cf=3>

* Western Conference of the Association for Asian Studies (1 May 2008)
For more information: www.Colorado.EDU/CAS/WCAAS.html.

* Third Singapore Graduate Forum on Southeast Asia, National University of Singapore (16 May 2007)
For more information: valerie.yeo@nus.edu.sg or www.ari.nus.edu.sg/events_categorydetails.asp?categoryid=6&eventid=747

York Centre for Asian Research (YCAR) To comment or for more information, contact ycar@yorku.ca
Ste. 270 York Lanes, York University, 4700 Keele Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M3J 1P3.