



York Centre for Asian Research Update

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YCAR Members: Lisa Drummond receives Faculty of Arts fellowship for outstanding research project

YCAR Faculty Associate Lisa Drummond was one of four arts professors chosen as this year's recipients of the Faculty of Arts Fellowships awarded in recognition of outstanding research projects.

"Mad Dogs to Motorbikes: Public Space in Hanoi, Vietnam, from the French Colonial Period to the Present" is the title of the manuscript Professor Lisa Drummond will be writing during her fellowship year. To Vietnamese historians, social scientists, and politicians, Hanoi is often understood to be the heart of Vietnamese culture. In this book project, examining Hanoi's colonial and post-colonial experiences through newspaper reports, archival documents, and interviews with Hanoi residents, Professor Drummond will explore the historical and contemporary landscape of the city in order to understand the changing notions and uses of public space in Vietnam's cultural and political capital. A city's public spaces both construct and are constructed by social practices, state concerns, and collective memory. To understand contemporary Hanoi, therefore, today's urban forms and experiences must be contextualized within the city's history, and particularly within shifting ideas of public space, which represented a significant site of contestation and negotiation between first, colonial authorities and Vietnamese subjects and, after Independence, between the Vietnamese state and its citizens.



The fellowships are the most prestigious awards offered by the Faculty of Arts. The recipients are released from their teaching and committee responsibilities for one academic year, 2008 to 2009. Congratulations Lisa! (Photograph of Lisa Drummond with Abidin Kusno, a visiting speaker from UBC).

Opportunity: Canada Council Killam Research Fellowship information session

The Office of Research Services (ORS) is coordinating an information session for those faculty members who may be interested in preparing a submission to the upcoming Canada Council Killam Research Fellowship competition (deadline: May 15).

The objective of the Fellowship is to provide full release time from teaching and administrative duties to an individual scholar who wish to pursue independent research in any of the following fields: humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, health sciences, engineering and studies linking any of the disciplines within these fields. Killam Research Fellowships provide release time and are valued at \$70,000 per year for two years.

This session will be led by Peter Morand, Special Advisor, Killam Program on Tuesday, February 12, 2008 from 9:30 to 11:30 in 305 York Lanes. It will consist of a general presentation which will include historical and statistical information, explanations on eligibility and application requirements, tips on how to improve one's application and information on the electronic filing process. Peter Morand will also be available after the presentation to meet with potential candidates for 10-15 minutes each to discuss specific questions they may have on their own application. Please confirm your attendance by contacting ORS at ext. 55055 or research@yorku.ca. For complete information on this fellowship, please contact ORS at ext. 55055 (research@yorku.ca) or consult Canada Council's website at: www.canadacouncil.ca/prizes/killam/xy127235773746406250.htm

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

* **China-Canada Scholars' Exchange Program (20 March 2008)**

For more information: www.chineseeducation.ca/htmls/edu/09.html

* **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: 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. The Curatorial lecture will be held on 15 February 2008 at 5pm at the Design Exchange.

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.

Upcoming Event: Waiting, and some limits to transnational mothering with UBC's Geraldine Pratt

Tuesday, 12 February 2008 * noon to 2pm * 108N Seminar Room North House * Munk Centre for International Studies * 1 Devonshire Place

Drawing on Filipino film, art produced by the Sinag Bayan Cultural Collective in Vancouver, and interviews with 25 Filipino families in Vancouver, who have been reunited after years of separation through the Live-in Caregiver Program, I reflect upon the experience of waiting for family reunification, and some of the limits to mothering at a distance. Filipino mothers entering the Canadian nation to care for Canadian children whilst their own remain in the Philippines are 'sacrificed' for the benefit of Canadian families; the myth of Canadian benevolence and liberality depends on concealing this fact. When children and mothers find ways of speaking of their loss, they are refusing this erasure. Loss, Judith Butler has noted, cannot be represented. But it can be marked, and this is what we intend to do.



Geraldine Pratt is Professor of Geography at the University of British Columbia. She is author of *Gender, Work and Space* (1995) and *Working Feminism* (2004); and has collaborated for the last 12 years with the Philippine Women Centre of BC, researching the migration of Filipino families to Vancouver through Canada's Live-in Caregiver Program.

Sung and Hibbs to present research at second YCAR grad student BrownBag seminar

Wednesday, 20 February 2008 * 3pm * 305 York Lanes * York University

Carolyn Hibbs and Doris Sung, Humanities and Social and Political Thought students, will share their doctoral research on 20 February. Humanities Becky Lee is the discussant. Carolyn's research focuses on women and religion in South Asia. Her talk is titled, "Dalits, Buddhism, and Gender in India: The New Path." Doris's research investigates the current development of visual culture in the People's Republic of China (PRC), Taiwan, Hong Kong and the Chinese diasporas, with the focus on issues of race, gender, sexuality and identity construction in visuality. She will speak on the "Concept of the Body in the Paintings of Chinese Women in Ming and Qing China."

Upcoming Event: Bishop White & 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: Film series on Filipina transnational domesticity and feminist activism

28 February, 20 March and 10 April * 7 to 9pm * Wilson Hall Boardroom, Wilson Hall (40 Willcocks Street), New College, University of Toronto.

A film series on Filipina Transnational Domesticity and Feminist Activism will run on 28 February, 20 March and 10 April. The schedule can be found below. For further information, contact: Bonnie McElhinny (bonnie.mcelhinny@utoronto.ca or Joy Sison (pwcontario@yahoo.ca).

Feb. 28: U.S. Militarization and Sex Trafficking in the Philippines

Sin City Diary (1992)

(Rachel Rivera, United States, subtitled, 29 min.)

Explores the lives of women who worked as prostitutes around the US Navy base at Subic Bay in the Philippines.

Pussycat III. (1990) (28 min)

Exploitation of young Filipina women who are attracted to Olongapo, Philippines to work as "hospitality women" who cater to American servicemen at the US Subic Naval base.

Discussants: Jerrylyn Guevarra and Danielle Bisnar (Philippine Women Centre of Ontario)

March 20: Poverty and Land Reform in the Philippine/Women and Globalization

Holding Our Ground (1989)

(International Film Bureau, 51 mins.)

On Filipino women who have organized to pressure the government for land reform, shelters for street children, and their own money lending system.

Women and Globalization (Centre for Women's Studies)

Discussants: Kelly Botengan and Yolyn Valenzuela (members of SIKLAB Ontario, a Filipino migrant workers' organization that advances the rights and welfare of overseas Filipinos); Ethel Tungohan (Ph.D. candidate in Political Science and Collaborative Program in Women and Gender studies); Teodosia Villarino (Ph.D. Candidate in Anthropology)

April 10: Filipino Women's Organizing in Canada and the Philippines

Gabriela: A Film (1988)

(Trix Betlam, Holland/Philippines, subtitled, 67 min.)

On Gabriela, a mass organization of diverse women's groups in the Philippines. On the contemporary role and history of women in the Philippines as well as strategies for global feminism.

Kababaihan : Filipina Portraits (Marie Boti, Malcom Guy)

1989, 40 min. Distribution : Diffusion Multi-Monde, The Cinema Guild

Profiles of women activists in the Philippines, from grassroots community organizers to the heads of the national women's association, Gabriela.

Discussants: Cecilia Diocson (National Association of Philippine Women's Centres) and Camille Cendana (Ugnayan ng Kabataang Pilipino sa Canada / Filipino-Canadian Youth Alliance (UKPC/FCYA).

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.

Upcoming Events: Dominique Caouette keynote speaker at inaugural York Philippine Studies Lecture

Tuesday, 4 March 2008 * 3pm * 280 York Lanes, York University

Université de Montréal's Dominique Caouette is the keynote speaker for the Inaugural York Philippine Studies Lecture to be held on 4 March 2008. His topic is "Armed Communist Revolution in the 21st Century? Understanding the Persistence of the New People's Army and the Communist Party of the Philippines."



Today, the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), established over 40 years ago at the height of Mao's Cultural Revolution and student protests in the West, continues its armed quest for state power. Such persistence is all the more puzzling given that the CPP missed a key opportunity to seize power (or at least a share of it) towards the end of the Marcos dictatorship in 1986, underwent bloody and violent internal purges and survived a major internal schism in the early 1990s. All of this was happening while the Philippine Armed Forces was trying with substantial American financial and military support to annihilate the CPP. Explaining the trajectory and persistence of this communist and armed revolutionary movement in the early 21st century is the puzzle that Dr Caouette will address in his talk.

Dominique Caouette is assistant professor at the Department of Political Science of the Université de Montréal. He has lived and worked in the Philippines and written on social and revolutionary movements. He is also author of the upcoming *Perservering Revolutionaries: Armed Struggle in the 21st Century, Exploring the Revolution of the Communist Party of the Philippines* (Ateneo de Manila University Press).

For more information, please contact Philip Kelly at ycar@yorku.ca.

Call for Papers: Collisions and Transformations: City in Chinese Literature and Film since 1900

The 2008 Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association Convention will be held in Reno, Nevada from 9 to 11 October 2008.

The past three decades have witnessed a drastic and extensive, if uneven, remodeling of Chinese cities. This process has been accompanied by profound transformations in urban subjectivities. In shaping the context, practices and intellectual climates that continuously inform identity, urban expansion has fostered a growing body of literature and film that address the paradoxes and ambiguities of urban existence. These diverse and diversifying endeavors contribute to an ever-evolving understanding of Chineseness by introducing ethnic and cultural diversity, addressing issues beyond national boundaries, and striving to achieve a balance among social, aesthetic, and invariably, commercial functions.

This panel seeks to foreground city as a critical and analytical touchstone in the study of Chinese literature and film. Topics can range from 1900 to the present and can address any aspect of the city as a crucial venue for cultural engagement. Chinese literature and cinema is broadly defined to include literary and film works from mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and diasporic communities. Possible areas of discussion include but are not limited to: the meanings of urban literature and film for ethnic communities; cityscape, displacement and reorientation; dialect, multilingualism, and cultural translation; urban literature and film as an industry as well as a means of cultural survival; representation of the migrant workforce; mass cultural movements and the cultural logic of the new economy; writing/filming outside the state machinery; underground literary and cinematic production and censorship; the floating population and fragmented identity.

The deadline for abstract submission is March 1, 2008. Please email proposals of no more than 350 words to Panel chair, Wei Yang at wei.yang@yale.edu or Co-chair, Andrea Lingenfelter at ondi@speakeasy.org

Previously-posted Call for Papers:

* **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.

* **Asia on the Move (15 March 2008)**

For more information: <http://canadianasianstudies.concordia.ca/html/2008call-e.htm>

* **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.

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