



## York Centre for Asian Research Update

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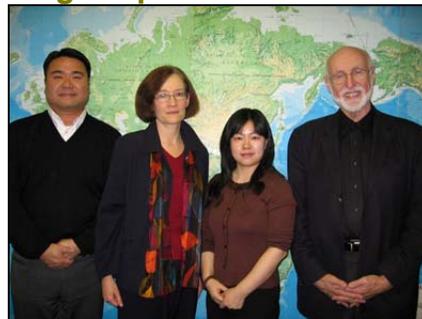
- \* Schulich professor helps unveil the real face of Arab Women
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### YCAR Event: Huang Ying's talk brings Japan back into the spotlight



Huang Ying, YCAR's Visiting Scholar for the 2007-08 academic year, shared her research on Japan's role in East Asia in a 15 January talk, "Japan's regional policy and its role in East Asia". The discussant was Gregory T Chin, Professor of Political Science and YCAR Faculty Associate.

In the past decade, regionalism has been surging in East Asia. Japan, as the world's second largest economy and a regional power, has the ambition to be regional leader. However, its aspiration is pinned down by a number of factors.

Huang's presentation examined the three phases of the regional cooperation, Japan's role in each of them and the factors that hinder Japan from exercising leadership. The vehicle for regional cooperation in the first phase is APEC. Japan only played a supportive role while trying to maximize its own profits. The United States was the undisputable leader. In the second phase, Japan launched several initiatives to help bail out the region from the Asian Financial crisis, but due to differences between itself and China, ASEAN played the role of leader, at least nominally. In the third phase, Japan became more assertive in its regional policy, showing a desire to dictate the regional economic cooperation agenda. However, its regional plans were seldom echoed by the other countries in the region.

Before assuming the role of regional leader, Japan will also have to cope well with three sets of relations: U.S.-Japanese relations, Sino-Japanese relations, and its relations with the future of the region. However, to achieve these tasks proves to be difficult for Japan. Now Japan seems to be trapped in a strategic dilemma. Getting itself out requires wisdom and vision of the Japanese government.

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### **CMTP News: CMTP welcomes group from Heilongjiang Province**

Earlier this month, the China Management Training Program team, based at YCAR, bid farewell to the Chongqing Foreign Trade Department group. CMTP Director Máire O'Brien said the program went very well. A group from Heilongjiang Province training in public management will arrive on Friday and their training will continue until August.

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### **Opportunity: YCAR Awards available to graduate students**

YCAR would like to remind Graduate Associates about three awards available to help fund students' fieldwork and language study.

The **YCAR Language Award** is open to graduate students enrolled at York and registered for the Graduate Diploma in Asian Studies (GDAS) administered by YCAR. It will provide up to two awards annually in an amount up to \$1,500 each to reimburse costs directly related to language study. The application deadline is **Thursday, 31 January 2008**.

The **Vivienne Poy Asian Research Award** will be awarded for the first time this year. It is open to York graduate students who are also graduate associates of YCAR. Priority will be given to students who apply to do research in fulfillment of the fieldwork requirement of the Graduate Diploma in Asian Studies (GDAS). The deadline is **Thursday, 31 January 2008**.

For more information or to download application forms, please visit [www.yorku.ca/ycar/Awards/YCAR\\_Awards.html](http://www.yorku.ca/ycar/Awards/YCAR_Awards.html) or contact [ycar@yorku.ca](mailto:ycar@yorku.ca).

### ***Previously-posted Opportunities:***

\* **Deadline approaches for the Chiang Ching-Kuo Fellowship (1 February 2008)**  
For more information: <http://canadianasianstudies.concordia.ca/html/ccke.htm>.

\* **Grants on offer from the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada (31 January & 15 February 2008)**  
For more information: [www.asiapacificresearch.ca/grants/2008\\_09/index.cfm](http://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](http://www.seassi.wisc.edu) or [seassi@intl-institute.wisc.edu](mailto:seassi@intl-institute.wisc.edu)

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

For more information: [www.researchimpact.ca](http://www.researchimpact.ca) or Krista Jensen ([kejensen@yorku.ca](mailto:kejensen@yorku.ca))

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

For more information: [www.dpu.org.tw/](http://www.dpu.org.tw/) or [intstudent@ntu.edu.tw](mailto:intstudent@ntu.edu.tw)

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### **Upcoming Event: Educating Children –Creating a Nation: Hindi Children’s Periodicals in Colonial India**

Monday, 21 January 2008 \* 11am \* Ross S562 \* York University

Shobna Nijhawan, Department of Languages Literatures and Linguistics and YCAR Faculty Associate, will present her research on Hindi Children’s Periodicals in Colonial India on Monday, 21 January.



Hindi children’s periodicals of the early twentieth century were exercises in pedagogical writing and attempts to acknowledge childhood as an autonomous stage of life. The scope of this new publishing enterprise was to provide children pedagogically sound entertainment and instruction, and to offer parents professional guidance in child rearing. Children’s periodicals also aimed at the future (male and female) subject-citizens of an independent nation, turning the periodicals into nationalist periodicals that operated within nationalist frameworks, as the analysis of selected children’s periodicals will demonstrate.

All are welcome.

### **Upcoming Event: Pain and the Body Politic: Taiko Players Talk about Blisters and More**

Wednesday January 23, 2008 \* 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. \* 373 Accolade East \* York University



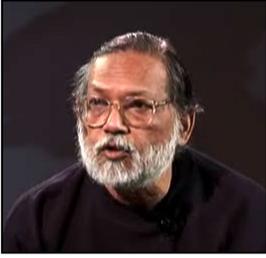
The York Graduate Programs in Music and Dance welcome Deborah Wong (University of California, Riverside) to York University. She will speak on “Pain and the Body Politic: Taiko Players Talk about Blisters and More” as a part of the department’s Colloquium Series.

Professor of Music at the University of California (Riverside), Deborah Wong (PhD in ethnomusicology/musicology from the University of Michigan) specializes in the musics of Thailand and Asian America. Her numerous publications include *Sounding the Centre: History and Aesthetics in Thai Buddhist Ritual* (2001) and *Speak It Louder: Asian Americans Making Music* (2004). She is currently president of the Society for Ethnomusicology. (*University of California, Riverside photograph*)

### **Upcoming Event: The Socio-politics of Climate Change in South Asia**

Thursday, 24 January 2008 \* 2 to 4pm \* William Doo Auditorium, New College Residence, 45 Wilcox St.  
\* University of Toronto

YCAR Research Associate Afsan Chowdhury will present two of his recent documentary, *Who Cares if Bangladesh Drowns?* and *Indian Voices, Global Concerns* at the University of Toronto on 24 January. The screening will be followed by a panel discussion including: Professor John Kirton (International Relations,



EnviReform), Professor Douglas Macdonald (Centre for Environment, University of Toronto) and Professor Hilary Cunningham (Anthropology, University of Toronto).

Afsan Chowdhury, is a journalist, researcher and activist. He has worked for the UN and leading national and international development agencies in several continents. As a journalist he has worked for the BBC and CNN among others. His activism ranges from environmental rights, child rights, political rights and minority rights.

For more information go to: [www.newcollege.utoronto.ca](http://www.newcollege.utoronto.ca)

### Upcoming Event: Chiang Ching-kuo and Taiwan's Political Culture

Tuesday, 29 January 2008 \* 3 to 5:30pm \* 390 York Lanes \* York University

This afternoon symposium will consider CCK's legacy and its expression in Taiwan's contemporary politics. The 13 January 2008, the day after Taiwan's Legislative election, is also the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Chiang Ching-kuo (1910-1983). His legacy in Taiwan - and his personal merits or demerits, are currently the subject of much debate in Taiwan. The lines of the debate not surprisingly fall along the "Green/Blue" political divide. For the rest of us "CCK" is a rather overlooked and underestimated figure, but his importance in Taiwan's history cannot be underestimated.



The program is as follows:

- 1) Chiang Ching-kuo and his legacy in Taiwan, an introductory talk by YCAR Research Associate Michael Stainton
- 2) 2008's elections in perspective, a reflection by University of Toronto Asian Institute Director Joe Wong
- 3) What is at stake in the 2008 Presidential Election, commentary from Dr Albert Lin, representative of Toronto "Green" camp and a TBA representative of Toronto's "Blue" camp
- 4) General Discussion

Both academic and Taiwanese community members are invited to share on this event. This event is co-sponsored by the ATOT (Association of Taiwanese Organizations in Toronto). ([www.britannica.com](http://www.britannica.com) photograph)

### Upcoming Event: A Glacial Reception: Li Siguang Quaternary Geology and Scientific Identity in China

Tuesday, 29 January 2008 \* 12:20pm \* 112 Stong College \* York University



On 29 January, Professor Grace Shen, Division of Humanities, Faculty of Arts, will present a seminar title, "A Glacial Reception: Li Siguang Quaternary Geology and Scientific Identity in China". Shen's seminar will tell the story of Li Siguang (1889-1971), a geologist and founder of geological mechanics, who was born in Huanggang, Hubei Province, China. Specifically, Shen will address Siguang's controversial theory of quaternary glaciation in central China. The fortunes of his theory have turned on matters of not only evidence and expertise, but also politics and performance. By tracing the trajectory of the theory from the Chinese Republican period (1911-1949) to the Communist era, Shen will frame scientific identity in China as a negotiation between establishing science in China and establishing China. ([www.nigpas.ac.cn](http://www.nigpas.ac.cn) photograph)

## Upcoming Event: Celebrating the Year of the Rat: Chinese New Year at the Bata Shoe Museum

Wednesday, 30 January 2008 \* 6 to 8 pm \* The Bata Shoe Museum, 327 Bloor Street West

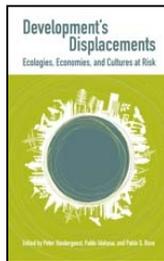
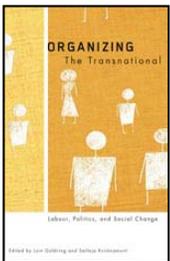
YCAR Associate Director Wendy Wong will be the keynote speaker at the Bata Shoe Museum's Chinese New Year Event on 30 January. Other special guests include Sonja Bata and Canadian Senator Vivienne Poy.

Dim Sum and tea will follow the event, which also includes a special presentation of Chinese artifacts highlighting the rat motif (on loan from Glenn Robert). Tickets are \$15 per person; \$10 for students and free for members from 416.979.7799x225 or by emailing [tickets@batashoemuseum.ca](mailto:tickets@batashoemuseum.ca).

For more information, please visit [www.batashoemuseum.ca/](http://www.batashoemuseum.ca/).

## Upcoming Event: YCAR members' publications featured at dual book launch

Thursday, 31 January 2008 \* 3 to 5pm \* Founders College



Please join YCAR and CERLAC on January 31 for the launch of two publications edited by York professors and graduate students.

*Development's Displacements: Economies, Ecologies and Cultures at Risk* was released in July and is edited by outgoing YCAR Director Peter Vandergeest, Social Science Professor Pablo Idahosa and former York graduate student Pablo Bose, who is now doing postdoctoral studies at the University of Vermont.

The second publication, *Organizing the Transnational: Labour, Politics and Social Change*, is edited by Associate Professor of Sociology Luin Goldring and Social and Political Thought doctoral student Sailaja Krishnamurti. Both books are published by UBC Press.

For more information on the event, please contact YCAR at [ycar@yorku.ca](mailto:ycar@yorku.ca).

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

Monday, 4 February \* 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.

The topic for Dr Kusno's public lecture, a part of the Social Sciences Speaker Series, is "Exemplary State: Governing Urban Subjects in the New Indonesia."

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.

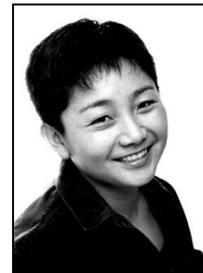
Future presenters include Carolyn Hibbs, Doris Sung, Sean Starrs, Shannon Arnold, Nand Bardouille and Laura Tan-Starling.

If you are interested in sharing your research in a BrownBag seminar, please contact Alicia at [ycar@yorku.ca](mailto: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](http://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.

### Upcoming Event: First Faiz Peace Festival honours renowned Urdu poet

16 February 2008 \* 5pm \* Port Credit Secondary School, 70 Mineola Road East, Mississauga

The 97th birth anniversary of the renowned Urdu poet Faiz Ahmad Faiz (1911-1984) will be celebrated at the 1st Faiz Peace Festival in the Greater Toronto Area. Faiz is widely remembered and loved as a poet who embodied the ideals of the generation that was breaking out of colonial domination. His poetry reflects his deep concern with the experience of the individual human in the life-long journey of revolutionary struggle. He was a keen student of various traditions of classical poetry in Urdu, Punjabi, Hindi, Arabic, Persian, and English and himself has been translated into many more languages.



His daughter, Muneeza Hashmi will address the Festival and show a new film on his life. Poets, dancers, musicians, and political commentators from throughout the South Asia and Palestine will connect Faiz' life-work with the current literary and political situation in the region.

The South Asian Peoples Forum is organizing this festival and five hundred people are expected to attend. The Festival is on February 16th at Port Credit Secondary School, 70 Mineola Road East Mississauga at 5 pm sharp. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at Toronto Women's Bookstore (downtown Toronto, Harbord and Spadina) from January 18th onwards; for tickets in other locations, to make a donation, or to sponsor the event, call 416-653-4391 (west and downtown Toronto), 416-399-7602 (Mississauga), or 416-856-7212 (east Toronto) (*himalmag.com photograph*)

### Upcoming Event: Commemorating the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Canadian Anglican Bishop White's "Chinese Jews"

Monday, February 25, 2008 \* 280 York Lanes \* York University

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 65<sup>th</sup> 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 Alvyn 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](mailto:michaels@yorku.ca). To confirm your attendance, please email [ycar@yorku.ca](mailto:ycar@yorku.ca). All are welcome. ([http://maetravels.blogspot.com/2007\\_09\\_01\\_archive.html](http://maetravels.blogspot.com/2007_09_01_archive.html) photograph of the Bishop White Gallery at the ROM).

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## Call for Papers: The Challenges of Agrarian Transition in Southeast Asia dissertation workshop

The *Challenges of Agrarian Transition in Southeast Asia* (ChATSEA) project and the *Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture* (SEARCA) invite applications from Masters and Doctoral students to participate in an interdisciplinary dissertation workshop.

The deadline for applications is **28 February 2008**.

This workshop is intended for masters and doctoral students from any university whose dissertation projects engage with agrarian transitions in Southeast Asia. The purpose of the workshop is to encourage and assist post-graduate students who are just beginning work on these issues, as well as those who are further along in their projects. The format will involve intensive, collegial and open group discussion of the individual student projects, and with the theoretical and methodological issues which they raise.

The workshop will take place over three days in the SEARCA facilities, in Los Banos (Laguna, Philippines). The on-site costs of the workshop, meals and accommodations, will all be covered by SEARCA and ChATSEA. There will also be small travel grants available for regional flights to Manila.

The Dissertation workshop will be facilitated by faculty resource persons drawn from the ChATSEA project, including YCAR's Philip Kelly and Peter Vandergeest.

For eligibility and application details, contact the workshop coordinators at [losbanosworkshop@yahoo.com](mailto:losbanosworkshop@yahoo.com) or Keith Barney at [kbarney@yorku.ca](mailto:kbarney@yorku.ca).

## Call for Papers: Transformations: Researching Asia



What does it mean to “research Asia?” This is the theme of the first YCAR Graduate Student Conference, which will be held from 26 to 28 September 2008.

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 and 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 **1 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).

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

\* **Empire and Rebellion: Postcolonial Perspectives (30 January 2008)**  
For more information: [Shaswati Mazumdar at grs.du.in@gmail.com](mailto:Shaswati.Mazumdar@gmail.com).

\* **10<sup>th</sup> Annual Southeast Asian Studies Graduate Conference, Cornell University (31 January 2008)**  
For more information: [seapgradconference@gmail.com](mailto:seapgradconference@gmail.com)

\* **Ten Years After: Reformasi and New Social Movements in Indonesia, 1998-2008, University of California, Berkeley and Los Angeles (1 February 2008)**  
For more information: <http://ias.berkeley.edu/cseas> or [cseas@berkeley.edu](mailto:cseas@berkeley.edu).

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

\* **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](http://www.ISCSC.net) or [ISCSCabstracts@yahoo.com](mailto:ISCSCabstracts@yahoo.com) or [rduchesn@unbsj.ca](mailto:rduchesn@unbsj.ca)

\* **Still the Asian Century? (31 March 2008)**  
For more information: [D.Norman@Asiacentury.net](mailto:D.Norman@Asiacentury.net).

\* **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](http://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](mailto:valerie.yeo@nus.edu.sg) or [www.ari.nus.edu.sg/events\\_categorydetails.asp?categoryid=6&eventid=747](http://www.ari.nus.edu.sg/events_categorydetails.asp?categoryid=6&eventid=747)

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