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Our Researchers



Philip F. Kelly, Faculty Associate | Professor Kelly's (Geography) research as part of the recently completed Challenges of Agrarian Transition in Southeast Asia (ChATSEA) project is being published *Geoforum*. "Production Networks, Place and Development: Thinking through Global Production Networks in Cavite" is now in press, but available online, at www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0016718511001941#FCANote.

ChATSEA project members | Professor Kelly is also guest editor of a thematic issue of *Critical Asian Studies* focusing on 'Migration, Agrarian Transition and Rural Change in Southeast Asia – Part 1'. The issue of research completed as a part of the Challenges of Agrarian Transition in Southeast Asia (ChATSEA) project, a SSHRC-MCRI project which was based at the University of Montréal.

Several YCAR Associates participated in the project and contributed to the issue including: **Derek Hall's** (Research Associate) article on "Where the Streets are Paved with Prawns: Crop Booms and Migration in Southeast Asia"; **Adam Lukasiewicz's** (Graduate Associate, Geography) article on "Migration and Gender Identity in the Rural Philippines: Households with Farming Wives and Migrant Husbands"; and former Graduate Associate **Sai S.W. Latt** (now a doctoral student at Simon Fraser University), who contributed an article on "More than Culture, Gender and Class: Erasing Shan Labor in the "Success" of Thailand's Royal Development Project." Professor Kelly authored the introduction.

Thomas Klassen, Faculty Associate | Some of the results of the research Professor Klassen (Political Science) conducted in the summer of 2011 as Visiting Researcher at the Korea Labor Institute have been published as a working paper by the Canadian Labour Market and Skills Researcher Network. The paper is accessible at: www.clsrn.econ.ubc.ca/workingpapers/CLSRN%20Working%20Paper%20no.%2093%20-%20Klassen.pdf. Professor Klassen's comments on proposed cuts to Old Age Security payments appeared in a *Globe and Mail* opinion piece on 2 March 2012. Access the story at: www.theglobeandmail.com/news/opinions/opinion/dont-pit-young-against-old/article2355674/print/.



Joan Judge, Faculty Associate | In December last year Professor Judge (History) gave a keynote address titled "Everydayness, Gender, and Shanghai: Textual and Material Intersections in *Fun Shibao*" at the Conference on Cultural Studies of Shanghai: New Approaches to Its History at Fudan University in Shanghai. Dr. Judge also presented her paper "The Courtesan's Other: Visibility, Sexuality, and the Republican Lady in Early Twentieth Century China" at the International Conference on Chinese Women and Visual Representation, also at Fudan University in Shanghai.

Alicia Turner, Faculty Associate | Professor Turner (Humanities) presented a paper on 2 March 2012 at Harvard University as part of the South Asia Initiative series South Asia without Borders. Turner's talk was titled, "Preserving the Buddha's Teachings by Policing the Self: Moral Reform and Community in Colonial Burma."





Ananya Mukherjee-Reed, Faculty Associate | In the 1 February 2012 edition of *The Hindu* Professor Mukherjee-Reed's (Political Science) article "From food security to food justice" appeared. In this article Professor Mukherjee-Reed draws attention to the large number of Indians who are unable to meet minimum calorie intake norms and presents the collective farming practices in Kerala as an example of an alternative strategy to address this. The article can be found online at: www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/article2848305.ece?homepage=true.

Susan Henders, Faculty Associate | Professor Henders (Political Science) was interviewed for the 13 February 2012 issue of *YFile*. The article discussed the 14 February 2012 panel where she discussed her experiences as one of the several international observers asked to oversee the January 2012 Taiwan presidential election. The article can be found online at: <http://yfile.news.yorku.ca/2012/02/10/york-prof-talks-about-her-role-as-an-observer-for-taiwan-election/>.



Qiang Zha, Faculty Associate | Professor Zha's (Education) research was referenced recently in a 7 February 2012 opinion piece by Kimberley Manning in *The Gazette*. The article "China trip is an opportunity to foster academic co-operation" advocates for greater connection between Chinese and Canadian academics and quotes Dr. Zha's research on CIDA's investments in higher education. The article can be found online at: www.montrealgazette.com/life/China+trip+opportunity+foster+academic+operation/6111706/story.html.

Robin Roth, Faculty Associate | Professor Roth (Geography) and **Ei Phyu Han** (Doctoral candidate, Geography) discussed their involvement in the "Borderless Education: Intercultural Learning for Refugees" project on CBC's *Metro Morning* on 22 February 2012. Listen to the interview here: www.cbc.ca/metromorning/episodes/2012/02/22/course-for-refugees/. Dr. Roth is the course instructor for a pilot project funded by the Academic Innovation Fund where Burmese students in refugee camps on the Thai-Burma border can participate in university-level liberal arts courses. The course has been funded for the next academic year. The 1 February 2012 *Yfile* article on the project can be accessed at: <http://yfile.news.yorku.ca/2012/02/01/york-project-offers-higher-education-to-refugees/>.



Doris Ha-Lin Sung, Graduate Associate | In December, Doris Ha-Ling Sung (PhD Candidate, Humanities) presented her paper "Art and Sensibility of the New Talented Women: Representations of Women's Art in *Fun Shibao* and *Fun Zazhi*" at the International Conference on Chinese Women and Visual Representation at Fudan University in Shanghai.



YCAR Researchers | YCAR welcomes visiting scholars from Korea and China



Dr. Mie Kyung Jae of Inje University in South Korea joined YCAR in February as a Visiting Scholar. A professor in the Department of Human Counseling and Welfare, Dr. Jae will work with Ann Kim (Sociology) during her year at York University.

Dr. Jae’s research concerns cross-cultural comparison studies of different nations’ boycott behaviour, consumer ethics and ethical consumption. While in Canada, she will be continuing her research on a cross-cultural comparison of the ethical consumer behaviours of Korean and Canadian consumers with respect to their participation in consumer boycotts.

In addition to giving over 100 lectures at various consumer-related social institutes over her career, Dr. Jae also recently completed terms as Director of Institution of Human Environment and Welfare at Inje University and as a Chairman of Korean Consumption Culture Association (KCCA) and Pusan Green Consumer Network (NGO). Dr. Jae is currently consulting Hyundai-Kia Motor Company regarding customer survey and analysis feedback.

Dr. Jae holds a PhD in Consumer Science from Kyunghee University, a MSc in Consumer Science from Oregon State University and BS in Consumer Science from Seoul National University.

Dr. Xing Lu is currently Associate Professor and Director of the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) Study Center at Yunnan University, based in Kunming, China. He has worked on natural resource management and environment issues in the Mekong Region for many years. His areas of interest include water governance issues in the Mekong Region, the linkages between policy and natural resources, payment for environmental services and integrated water resource management. His recent research focuses on hydropower, integrated water resource management, cross-border contract farming, land use change and corporate social responsibility. He was a pioneer in the introduction of community forestry and participatory approaches in China in the early 1990s.



Dr. Xu will consult with Peter Vandergeest (Geography) during his time as a Visiting Scholar at York. He will be in Toronto until June 2012.

Photographs contributed by M.K. Jae and X. Lu

YCAR Researchers | York honours 45 long-serving faculty members

Together, the 45 faculty members in the room represented more than 1,300 years of experience in teaching and research at York, but, as President & Vice-Chancellor Mamdouh Shoukri observed in his opening remarks at a reception to honour them, “it’s not only the duration of service, but also the quality of what you have done that makes a first-class institution of which we are all proud.”



“On behalf of the entire York community, we thank you for your dedication,” he added.

YCAR Faculty Associates **Vijay Agnew** (Social Science) and **Ted Goossen** (Humanities) are among the York faculty honoured for 25 years of service.



The annual ceremony marking York’s long-serving faculty members, celebrating 40 years and 25 years of service, was held in the Executive Dining Room at the Schulich School of Business on Jan. 24.

This story appeared in the 2 March 2012 *Yfile* (<http://yfile.news.yorku.ca/2012/03/01/york-honours-its-latest-group-of-long-serving-members-of-faculty/>).

YCAR Researchers | Investigating environmental decision-making processes in Thailand: Real life experience for York doctoral student

Increasingly, local environmental knowledge is being touted as a key consideration in environmental decision-making globally. However, is this the reality, and what role does it play in development projects?

During her fieldwork in Thailand, Vanessa Lamb, a doctoral candidate at York University’s Department of Geography and graduate associate at the York Centre for Asian Research (YCAR), had the opportunity to follow unfolding decision-making processes around the Hatgyi hydropower project, to be located on the Salween River.



The smallest of five planned dams at 33 metres high, and with an estimated generating capacity of 1,360 megawatts (MW), this joint project between the state-run Myanmar (also known as Burma) Electric Power Enterprise, the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand, and the Chinese-run corporation Sinohydro, is estimated to cost US\$ 1 billion. Energy from the dam is expected to be fed into Thailand by 2019.

However, the social and environmental impacts are incalculable. Villagers are being relocated, likely with no compensation. Military installations in Burma have been placed around the site to secure the area, forcing further displacement. The ecosystem the river supports, including plant and animal species, as well as traditional farming practices that support the livelihoods of villagers in the area, will all be disrupted.

Lamb is concentrating on the incorporation and dissemination of local knowledge. She is interested in what is called “Thai *Baan*” or Villager Research, and is investigating how this knowledge of the environment had been incorporated into decision-making processes and environmental governance.

“The Salween River development is incredibly important in this regard,” said Lamb. It “supports an estimated six million people in China, Burma, and Thailand in terms of livelihood and food.”

“In the face of hydroelectric and other impending river developments, local knowledge was (and is) being promoted as one way that local residents can create a counter-discourse to the scientific ways of knowing that normally dominate the development process.”

However, Lamb’s road to doctoral research at York, under the supervision of Geography Professors Peter Vandergeest and Robin Roth, was anything but conventional. Her undergraduate studies began in a pre-veterinary medicine fast-track program when she was offered an opportunity to study in Tanzania, focusing on wildlife and biodiversity. After performing fieldwork on habitat quality, change, and its convergence with human-wildlife conflicts, Lamb was compelled to change her major and university, successfully transferring to Ripon College’s Environmental Studies program.

One thing led to another, and her focus shifted to Southeast Asia when her undergraduate advisor put her into contact with an organization working on experiential environmental education and awareness-raising in Thailand, the Thai Environmental and Community Development Association. After a six-month sojourn in Thailand teaching science and ecology on a boat, Lamb decided to pursue further study at the University of Wisconsin’s Conservation Biology and Sustainable Development Master’s program.

“I found myself in a fine position to examine the human dimensions of conservation in Thailand based on both my background and what the university provided,” Lamb said, “fuelled by the vibrant work of civil society groups I encountered in Thailand.”

Specifically, she was interested in how notions of conservation in Thailand compared with the changing paradigm and traditional notions of conservation and the resulting implications for conservation work. That process led me to question traditional notions of conservation, their relationship to the Thai state and their potential to undermine local movements in Thailand.

After graduation, and equipped with a Master’s Degree, she was poised to take on a new challenge. Lamb was offered a job in Bangkok in environmental advocacy and magazine editorial work for a Thai non-governmental organization called Towards Ecological Recovery and Regional Alliance or TERRA.

“I was introduced to the issues unfolding at the Salween Riverworking at TERRA,” she said, “but found that I was not able to adequately follow the issues because the organization prioritized work on the Salween’s sister river, the Mekong.”

At this point Lamb saw an opening for future study, leading eventually to York’s Department of Geography.

“I was introduced to my current dissertation field site as a staff member at TERRA,” she said, “working to support the work of other local NGOs (non-governmental organizations) at the Salween River where it makes up the Thai-Burma border.” She was interested in finding out more about this under-studied area and saw the potential for future conceptual work that combined issues of conservation, development and cross-border environmental decision-making.

Clearly, her road to York was not paved in gold, but something much richer: experience. During her fieldwork in Thailand, an exciting research opportunity arose that allowed her to gain a firsthand understanding about the demonstrable disconnect between local knowledge and governmental decision-making in Thailand. Specifically, a Thai government subcommittee that was responsible for public information disclosure of the Hatgyi hydropower project began actively compiling and disclosing

information about the project.

“In addition to carrying out participant observation and interviews regarding local knowledge production, I was able to perform research following this formal decision-making process headed by Thailand’s Prime Minister’s Office,” said Lamb.

“Unfortunately, while the subcommittee aimed to be inclusive of multiple viewpoints of the project by including representatives from civil society groups as well as from government offices,” she surmised, “my preliminary analysis shows that while local environmental knowledge was brought to the subcommittee’s attention, this knowledge was largely discounted in both public information disclosure meetings as well as in closed subcommittee meetings and reports.”

Remaining vigilant, her research on this continues. “I am still investigating how this same local environmental knowledge was in used in parallel informal decision-making processes, although following the work of the subcommittee did allow me to see how ‘messy’ decision-making is in action.”

While she said it was easy enough to attain information about these meetings through interviews and discussions, disconnect still exists in the flow of information, especially when looking at the process of the Hatgyi environmental impact assessment or EIA. “What is interesting,” Lamb said, “is not just the EIA report, but the associated processes that the EIA facilitates. And actually, this is in my opinion the most interesting part, that the EIA facilitates a process, it gets people involved and provides a space for discussion that might not happen otherwise.”

According to her interviewees, the reason for the EIA being undertaken in the first place was in response to ‘informal’ decision-making processes. Many environmental groups, individuals, and even the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand were outspoken about the project and the lack of legitimacy of the project investors to make the decision to go ahead, without following the Thai Constitution. Section 67 (of the Thai Constitution) requires any project which ‘seriously’ impacts on the environment to undergo independent study and evaluation as well as community participation and consultation to be carried out.

“From what I understand,” Lamb continued, “the EIA for Hatgyi was undertaken in order to appease these group’s concerns. However, it also ended up opening a formal process for an even greater variety of stakeholders to be involved in the decision-making.”

With an ambitious goal coming to fruition, Lamb is aiming to finish writing her main dissertation chapters during a fellowship in Denmark at Roskilde University and defend in late fall or early winter after a research trip to Thailand. While in Thailand, she will be focusing on climate change and ecological knowledge related research at the Salween, funded by the International Development Research Centre, with the intention of checking in on the Hatgyi process.

“The impacts of hydroelectric development are not limited to construction or post-construction,” she concluded. “I think my research clearly shows how the planning process (including knowledge making, meetings, etc) is a significant part of transforming peoples’ lives, livelihoods, and relationships with one another and with the state.”

Story by Daniel Pomerants



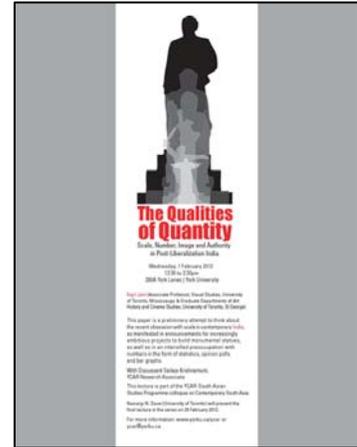
YCAR Events | First Colloquia on Contemporary South Asia

YCAR Associate Director Shubhra Gururani organized the February 2012 colloquia, which included presentations by University of Toronto Professors Kajri Jain and Naisargi Dave.

The series was hosted by the South Asian Studies programme, YCAR. The Dave talk was co-hosted by the Graduate Programme in Social Anthropology.

‘The Qualities of Quantity: Scale, Number, Image and Authority in Post-Liberalization India’ was the title of the first of two talks in the series.

Kajri Jain, Associate Professor in Visual Studies at University of Toronto, Mississauga, and in the graduate departments of Art History and Cinema Studies at the St George campus, offered her thoughts on India’s recent obsession with scale, on 1 February 2012.



Her paper considered scale as it is manifested in announcements for increasingly ambitious projects to build monumental statues, as well as in an intensified preoccupation with numbers in the form of statistics, opinion polls and bar graphs.

The discussant was **Sailaja Krishnamurti**, YCAR Research Associate and Adjunct Professor in the Humanities Department.

In her 29 February talk titled ‘What is it to Witness?: Humans, Animals and Visuality in Urban India,’ **Naisargi Dave** argued that for animal rights activists, the critical moment is an *intimate event* in which the sight of a suffering animal, the locking of eyes between human and non-, inaugurates a profound bond that demands from the person a life of responsibility.



“That event is uniquely *intimate* because it occurs between two singular beings – because based on the locking of eyes, the human’s knowledge is not of all animals in general, but of *this animal*, at *this moment*; that moment is uniquely *intimate*, too, because it expands the very boundaries of humanity.” She said it also produces a space in which the ordinary understanding of the self and its possible social relations—that is, the very conceit of “humanity” itself— is “blown apart.”

Dave asked the question of how people come to act on behalf of animals. Through her talk, she mapped out “moral biographies” of action and inaction as well as engaged with the sensorium of animal activism and its life inside and *outside* the anthropological machine. She especially interrogated the emphasis on sight and on the valorization of the witness, asking what other senses are obscured, why and to what effect? She also considered the other side – the act of intimacy, insofar as it relies on the witnessing subject, constructs the animal as *theoretical*, an object in the autobiography of the woman who sees.

“To this extent, is animal activism a reproduction of the humanist ‘values’ that underlie the violent mass exploitation of animals, a reproduction of what Agamben calls ‘the lethal and bloody logic of the anthropological machine?’ Or: is that reading *itself* a sign of humanism’s triumph—in seeing humanism

everywhere, a sign of its colonization of imagination and life?"

The discussant was **Fayaz Chagani**, a doctoral candidate in the Social and Political Thought programme.

Naisargi N. Dave is an Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Toronto. Her research concerns emergent forms of politics and relationality in contemporary urban India. Her first and ongoing project concerns queer activism in India and explores the relationship of activism, ethics, and affect. She is also beginning a new project, funded by a SSHRC Standard Research Grant, on animal rights in India. Professor Dave teaches courses on the anthropology of South Asia, affect, ethics, anthropological theory, social movements, and gender and sexuality.

Photograph of N Dave and F. Chagani

YCAR Events | International Election Observation Mission in Taiwan

In January, Michael Stainton (YCAR Research Associate and President, Taiwanese Human Rights Association of Canada) and Susan Henders (YCAR Director and Associate Professor, Political Science) joined 19 other international election observers in Taiwan for the presidential and legislative elections. During their time in the country the election observers witnessed the strides taken in Taiwan towards furthering democracy in the country while also noting areas that still require reform. In particular the observers noted the authoritarian legacy that contributes to structural and financial imbalances between political parties as well as the effects of foreign interference.



“Taiwan is a vibrant democracy that should be praised. At the same time, there are serious issues that weaken the fairness of the elections. These issues have a lot to do with the island's particular vulnerability to political and economic pressures from China and the United States. They also have to do with the way that Taiwan's democratization left the governing political party from the authoritarian period, the Kuomintang, with

significant structural power, including economic resources that are much larger than the other parties,” said Henders.

“It is essential that governments and civil society around the world support the people of Taiwan as they continue to work to strengthen and deepen their democracy.”

Henders and Stainton shared their experiences as part of a Valentine's Day panel at York University. “Taiwan's Super Saturday: Perspectives on the 2012 Polls from Canadian Election Observers”. They weighed in on the critical issues of how Taiwan's democracy is affected by the island's



authoritarian past and its relations with China and the United States in light of the 14 January 2012

presidential and legislative elections. Professor B. Michael Frolic spoke on the election in light of democratization in other contexts and Taiwan- China relations. Dr. Lois Wilson, a former Canadian senator and president of the World Council of Churches, who was also part of the election observation mission, served as discussant.

The event was featured in several newspaper and television media outlets, including on OMNI Television.

The International Election Observation Mission's preliminary remarks, and more information on the Taiwanese elections, can be found at: www.taiwanelections.org/. A more detailed story on Henders' experiences can be found in the 10 February 2012 issue of *Yfile* (<http://yfile.news.yorku.ca/2012/02/10/york-prof-talks-about-her-role-as-an-observer-for-taiwan-election/>).

Photograph of Michael Stainton, Susan Henders, Lois Wilson and B. Michael Frolic

YCAR Event | The contribution of space to the story of history and identity: Kusno shares recent and forthcoming work on Jakarta with students

Historians and others engaged in narrative writing emphasize time; by controlling time, controlling the narrative of time, one controls society by narrating it into a particular timeframe.

Professor Abidin Kusno (University of British Columbia) argues that his recent book, *The Appearances of Memory*, is a conversation with history by teasing out space, of considering time as constructed by space, whereby space allows us to experience time.

Professor Kusno presented a special seminar at York University on his recent and forthcoming work on Jakarta, Indonesia, focusing on the methodological and theoretical issues of his research, in particular his concern to explore how space contributes to shaping the story of history and identity itself.

The seminar was part of the 'Making of Asian Studies: Critical Perspectives', the core course for YCAR's Graduate Diploma in Asian Studies. Professor Kusno is a Visiting Scholar at YCAR in 2011.2012 and Associate Professor at the Institute of Asian Research where he holds Canada Research Chair in Asian Urbanism and Culture (Tier II).



In a wide-ranging and engaging session, Professor Kusno talked about the interlinking of space and time in his work, his concern with exclusions and boundaries in memory, the location of everyday life in space, the need for a narrative in the storytelling of history, and how these are political as well as intellectual questions.

For the seminar participants, embarking on their own research or engaged in writing it up in the form of theses and dissertations, the session offered a useful insight into the 'magical' transformation of research into written scholarship, and addressed the important and never fully resolvable question of the researcher's engagement with the community being studied. How do scholars write about Asia from within and without Asia? How does that scholarship speak to and engage the communities from which it is drawn? It is always a struggle to make one's vocabulary meaningful, Professor Kusno confirmed, but as writers we need to think about how we narrate ourselves and our research on the intellectual, moral, and political levels, and consider who will be the readership for our work.

Events | Capturing and Captioning the Cambodian Genocide and the Khmer Rouge Tribunal

"From Impunity to Accountability? The Khmer Rouge Tribunal," captures the history of the Cambodian Khmer Rouge regime (1975-1979) and the trials of senior Khmer Rouge leaders who are accused of committing war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocidal acts against the people of Cambodia. The exhibition offers Canadian university students a unique opportunity to familiarize themselves with the events of the Cambodian Genocide and Khmer Rouge Tribunal.



The exhibition was hosted by York University Libraries in the Scott Library's link walkway until early March.

Carla Rose Shapiro, a Research Fellow at University of Toronto's Asian Institute, brought the exhibition to Canada after seeing it at the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The original exhibit was created by the Documentation Centre of Cambodia, a centre dedicated to the compilation and preservation of information related to the Khmer Rouge period, and the crimes committed by Khmer Rouge leaders – information which is now being used as evidence at the Tribunal.

The exhibition first came to the University of Toronto's Munk School of Global Affairs where it was enhanced to suit the needs of Canadian audiences. For example, the exhibition at York University includes a section on Canadian contributions to the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC), the official name of the Tribunal. The exhibition panels consist of photographic portraits of the charged senior Khmer Rouge leaders, including former President Khieu Samphan, the regime's second-in-command Nuon Chea, ex-Foreign Minister Ieng Sary, ex-Minister of Social Affairs and Actions Ieng Thirith, and the chief of the S-21 security prison Kaing Guek Eav. It also features scans of official documents and photographs of cultural objects. Text panels describe the history of the regime and the Tribunal and provide background information on the legal cases.



For Shapiro personally, the most striking aspect of the exhibition is the biographical sections on each of the accused Khmer Rouge leaders, in particular their high level of education, which many completed in France.

Shapiro, who has a Master's degree in Museum Studies and a PhD in Media and Cultural Studies, sees the exhibition as an educational tool aimed at increasing

Canadians' understanding and knowledge of the events of the Cambodian Genocide and the recent efforts to bring the senior leaders of the regime to justice. She believes it is important, on a global scale, to gain awareness of the actions of the Khmer Rouge regime and the legal goals, activities, and judgments of the Khmer Rouge Tribunal in order to solidify international standards for criminal law and prevent such crimes from being repeated in the future.

“Part of the healing process for Cambodians includes bringing Khmer Rouge leaders to trial. This is important for the health and progress of the country, in particular for the victims of such crimes whose trauma is compounded by continued impunity.”

In Case 01, the Tribunal sought accountability for the unwarranted torture and execution of approximately 14,000 to 16,000 Cambodians in the S-21 security prison, under the direction of prison chief Kaing Guek Eav. Case 02, via the trial of three senior Khmer Rouge leaders, examines wider issues of accountability – for the deaths of more than 1.7 million Cambodians - one quarter of the population. Most of these deaths were due to famine and disease, caused by the regime’s agricultural and medical policies which emphasized absolute self-sufficiency.

Unfortunately, the Tribunal has faced several devastating constraints: the high cost of legal trials, political obstacles and sensitivities, lack of sufficient records on the regime’s actions and determining the court’s jurisdiction.

On 26 July 2010, S-21 prison chief Kaing Guek Eav was the first Khmer Rouge official to be convicted of crimes against humanity, murder, and torture and sentenced to 35 years of imprisonment. His court appeal resulted in a sentence of life imprisonment. The trials of Former President Khieu Samphan, the regime’s second-in-command Nuon Chea, and ex-Foreign Minister Ieng Sary began on 27 June 2011 and are currently underway. The trial of ex-Minister of Social Affairs and Actions Ieng Thirith, however, has been suspended pending an evaluation of her health.

The Exhibition was launched in Toronto this past October with a symposium, where former International Co-Prosecutor of the ECCC Robert Petit, ECCC legal intern Kate Robertson and child-survivor Kunthear Thorng, provided their perspectives on the efficacy of the Tribunal and notions of post-conflict justice.

Shapiro’s photo exhibition was sponsored by University of Toronto’s Asian Institute, Dr. David Chu Community Network in Asia Pacific Studies, the Canada Centre for Global Security Studies and U of T’s Faculty of Information. It was also supported by the Royal Ontario Museum’s (ROM) Institute of Contemporary Culture, which will host their own exhibition on the Khmer Rouge regime, titled “Observance and Memorial,” in August 2012.

*Story by Forouz Salari
York University photographs*

YCAR Events | Public policies and social responses to gender imbalances in China

Recent trends and patterns in gender imbalance in China was the topic explored by Professor Shuzhuo Li in his late January 2012 seminar at York University. Dr. Li spoke as part of the International Development Studies seminar series. The talk was co-sponsored by YCAR.

Dr. Li, Professor and Director of the Institute for Population and Development Studies at Xi’an Jiaotong University in China, said that over the last three decades, China has been experiencing a high sex ratio at birth and excess female infant and child mortality due to strong son preference and sustained low fertility. These have resulted in the current serious problems arising from gender imbalance, including a large surplus of males with a concomitant marriage squeeze. Dr. Li said that the general public, policy makers and the international community share concerns about the potential negative demographic and social consequences of this imbalance, in particular its effect on public security and social development.

He also spoke about public policies and social responses to address these issues in China, including the national “Care for Girls” campaign that was instituted in Chinese districts that have especially large imbalances in their sex ratios. Under this scheme, the government provides extra support to families having girls and makes exceptions where the first child was a girl in a rural family.



Opportunity | Canada-China Scholars' Exchange Program

Awards are offered to Canadian citizens pursuing studies/research at the Master’s or PhD level in subject areas related to China. Awards available are for studies and research, for a combination of studies and language studies or for language studies only.

Awards are also available to Canadian faculty members pursuing research in subject areas related to China.

The application deadline is **12 March 2012**. For more information, visit: www.scholarships-bourses.gc.ca/scholarships-bourses/can/ccsep-peucc.aspx?lang=eng&view=d. The Awards are administered by the Canadian Bureau for International Education.

Opportunity | Pacific Trade and Development (PAFTAD) Fellowship for Young Scholars

The Pacific Trade and Development (PAFTAD) Fellowship for Young Scholars is widely considered one of the most distinguished fellowships available to young researchers in the field. This year’s PAFTAD conference will be held in Vancouver from 5-8 June 2012, and two of the seven fellowships will be awarded to young Canadian scholars. More information on PAFTAD can be found at www.paftad.org.

The submission requirements are:

- 1/ Unpublished individual authored empirical paper (including abstract of fewer than 300 words) of under 10,000 words on the themes related to Asia Pacific trade and economic development (see www.paftad.org/fellowship for previous topics selected);
- 2/ Current resume (including citizenship(s), date of birth and gender);
- 3/ Aged 35 years or younger as of 5 June 5 2012 (proof of age will be required if selected);
- 4/ Availability to participate for the duration of the PAFTAD Conference, 5-8 June 2012;
- 5/ Have not previously attended the conference as a Young Fellow.

Paper and resume must be mailed to erin.williams@asiapacific.ca by **30 March 2012**.

The Fellowship entitlements include: Return economy airfare to Vancouver; Registration for the Young Fellows seminar and PAFTAD conference; Accommodation, meals and per diem. Involvement in PAFTAD Conference includes: Present your paper at the Young Fellows seminar on June 5; act as a discussant on another Fellow’s paper; and attend and provide comments on the papers presented during the PAFTAD conference.

For more information, please contact Erin Williams at erin.williams@asiapacific.ca.



Upcoming Event | Daoist Phenomenology of Languages

Tuesday, 6 March 2012 | 3 to 5pm | S752 Ross | York University



Professor Jay Goulding 歐陽劍 (YCAR Faculty Associate) will explore a phenomenological method for entering the world of language and thought utilizing the works of Martin Heidegger, a kingpin in European phenomenology, and the writings of the Chinese Daoist sages, Laozi 老子 and Zhuangzi 莊子.

The seminar will concentrate on Heidegger's concepts of *lichtung* (the clearing) and *gelassenheit* (releasement) on the one hand, and the Daoist ideas of the way of water (*shuidao* 水道), and non-action (*wuwei* 無為) on the other — all in relation to the phenomenology of languages.

For more information on this Social and Political Thought programme seminar, contact jhawley@yorku.ca.

Upcoming Event | Daughter Deficit: Sex Selection in Tamil Nadu

Wednesday, 7 March 2012 | 2:30 to 4:30pm | Vanier Senior Common Room 010 | Vanier College, York University

Vanier College will be hosting the book launch of YCAR Faculty Associate Sharada Srinivasan's *Daughter Deficit: Sex selection in Tamil Nadu* (Women Unlimited, 2012). This book is about girls who are denied the right to live or to be born in India, and it asks why and how such a situation has come about. Daughter elimination in the form of sex selection, female infanticide and neglect is not an aberration or an idiosyncrasy it accounts for a large proportion of missing girls in India, measured by the sex ratio imbalance in the 0 to 6 age group. Srinivasan (International Development Studies and YCAR Faculty Associate) examines this disturbing fact from the context of women's lives to unravel the causes of daughter elimination, and the mechanisms which create and sustain an environment in which this is imaginable.



Using quantitative and ethnographic material, she explains how this practice unfolds in a region which has demonstrated relatively high human development and status of women. From the economic and socio-cultural causes fuelling daughter aversion vis-à-vis son preference, we see the ways in which daughter elimination is institutionalized and reproduced. Reflecting on the way ahead, the book concludes that even as public policies can and should play a decisive role in reversing the immediate outcomes in favour of daughters, an environment favourable to daughters will need fundamental changes in social norms, attitudes and policies of governments and NGOs.

This event is presented by The Office of the Dean, Faculty of LA&PS, International Development Studies, The Harriet Tubman Institute for Research on the Global Migration of African Peoples, The Alliance Against Modern Slavery, and the York University Bookstore.

Upcoming Event | For Nature or Against Nature: The Western Reception of Contemporary Japanese Art

Wednesday, 14 March 2012 | 6:30pm | The Japan Foundation, Toronto | 131 Bloor St. W., 2nd Floor of the Colonnade Building | Toronto

This illustrated talk by curator Kiyoko Mitsuyama-Wdowiak will introduce some key issues in the Western reception of post-war Japanese art and the response of the Japanese art world to that reception. In doing so, we will look at the development of the identity of the post-war Japanese artists.

The focus will be on the 1980s, the watershed period in the changing nature of the relationship between the Japanese and Western art worlds. This period was characterized by the bubble economy of Japan; a marked increase in international attention to Japanese art; and the rise of the postmodernism that emancipated non-Western art from its marginalized position.

Kiyoko Mitsuyama-Wdowiak qualified as a curator at the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (Tokyo, Japan) and also trained professionally at the Walker Art Centre (Minneapolis, USA). Between 1983 and 1991 she organised both Japanese and international exhibitions when she was Assistant Curator at the Hara Museum of Contemporary Art in Tokyo.

Since the late 1990s she has worked as an independent researcher in both Japan and the UK. She has given lectures at various cultural, academic and educational institutions including Birkbeck and SOAS (University of London), WEA, the Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation, the British Museum, the Embassy of Japan and Sotheby's Institute of Art. Her book about the Western reception of post-war Japanese art was published in Japan in 2009 and received critical acclaim.

Admission is free. RSVPs required: www.jftor.org/whatson/rsvp.php or (416) 966-1600 x102



Upcoming Events | 2012 Association of Asian Studies (AAS) Conference

The 2012 Association of Asian Studies (AAS) Conference is being held in Toronto from 15-18 March 2012. The AAS is the preeminent scholarly body for the study of Asian in North America, with over 8,000 members worldwide.

More information about the Conference can be found at: www.asian-studies.org/conference/.

The following events organized by YCAR faculty are associated with this year's conference:

o Celebrating Asia and Asian Diaspora Research at York University

York University Reception on 17 March 2012

o The Making of Canada-Asia Relations: The Roles of "Other Diplomacies"

Who are the "other diplomats"? Where are Canada-Asia relations being negotiated? Where are understandings of Canada produced and circulated? The workshop will explore these questions by reflecting on the everyday societal interactions and transnational processes that connect Canada and Asia. The aim is to consider how research into these "other diplomacies" may deepen and broaden

understandings of Canada-Asia relations. Presenters will discuss such areas as scholarly and educational ties, environmental and development NGOs, environmental sustainability standard-making, the mining sector, indigenous diplomacy, films and culture and diaspora youth.

Pre-conference workshop associated with the conference organized by Mary Young and Susan Henders and supported by the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada. By Invitation.

o International Symposium on Modern China Studies, High Qing through Contemporary China

Pre-conference workshop organized by Joshua A. Fogel and part of the Critical China Studies group's Winter 2012 activities. *By Invitation.*

YCAR faculty and graduate students are also participating in numerous conference panels.

Upcoming Event | Result and Reflection: PISA 2009 Shanghai

Monday, March 19, 2012 | 2:00 to 3:30 pm | 109 Atkinson College (Harry Crowe Room), York University

The results achieved in Shanghai in the PISA 2009 test (Programme for International Student Assessment) have attracted the attention of educators around the world. In the internationally-administered test, Shanghai students earned top scores in all the three areas of Reading, Math and Science. Shanghai is now a "hot spot" for international educators and visitors who have come to observe everyday life in Shanghai schools, and to find the "secrets" and effective teaching methods in Chinese education and strategies used by Chinese educators, teachers and administrators. During this talk, Professor Zhang will share his views on the results of PISA 2009 Shanghai and how it was achieved and the impact that has followed.

Professor Minxuan Zhang is currently the President of Shanghai Normal University and Director of Center for International Education Study, Ministry of Education of China. Professor Zhang has rich teaching experience in primary and high schools and universities. He also worked as the Vice Director General of Education Commission, Shanghai Municipal Government. He serves on the PISA Board and as the PISA National Project Manager for Shanghai, China. Professor Zhang has also served as an international expert in numerous international organizations, including advisory member of United Nations International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP, Paris), and board member of UNESCO Institute of Lifelong Learning (UIL, Hamburg). Professor Zhang has a PhD from University of Hong Kong. His personal research interests include International Organizations, Public Policies in Education and Teachers Professional Development.

This event is supported by the Toronto District School Board and the Faculty of Education, York University. Please RSVP to international@edu.yorku.ca by **12 March 2012**.



Call for Papers | Sixth Annual SASA Conference

The South Asian Studies Association (SASA) invites individual papers and panels for presentation at its sixth annual conference to be held at the Claremont Graduate University, 13-15 April 2012. The conference strives to advance the understanding of South Asia's history, cultures, societies, politics, issues and opportunities in a professional environment unique for SASA's warm collegiality. We welcome papers from all academic disciplines and all periods of time that address the rich tapestry that is South Asia's past, present and future.

We encourage you to join us for a stimulating and intellectually refreshing confluence of scholars from across the world. SASA enjoys a solid reputation as the place to network in the most congenial, relaxed atmosphere to be found in academia. Just by attending this conference, you will be sending a strong signal that South Asian Studies programmes need to figure prominently in university life across the globe.

The deadline is **15 March 2012**. For more information, visit: www.sasia2.org/submissions2012.html.

Call for Papers | 41st Annual Conference on South Asia

The 41st Annual Conference on South Asia will be held on 11-14 October 2012 and is hosted by the Center for South Asia at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

The Annual Conference on South Asia attracts over 650 scholars and other interested parties annually, who travel from countries all over the world and much of the United States. The conference features nearly 100 academic panels and roundtables, as well as association meetings and special events ranging from performances to film screenings. Several pre-conferences are held in conjunction with the Annual Conference on the Thursday prior to the event and are open to all attendees. Another important component of the conference is our exhibit space which allows University presses and independent publishers to provide conference participants with high quality resources and the best publications on South Asian topics.

This year a plenary session will be organized around the theme of "Corruption and Culture." We especially welcome panels that similarly address questions of corruption and its cultural manifestations and understandings from a variety of disciplinary and evidentiary perspectives. For individuals interested in forming a panel, the conference staff is able to solicit calls for papers on the conference listserv and website.

Please visit the conference website <http://southasiaconference.wisc.edu/> for registration and lodging information. Online submissions are being accepted for: Preconference, Panel, Roundtable and Single Paper sessions.

The deadline for submissions is **Sunday, 1 April 2012** (by midnight).

We welcome requests to hold meetings during our conference from coordinators for Association Meetings.

If you have any questions please visit <http://southasiaconference.wisc.edu/FAQ.html> or contact us at conference@southasia.wisc.edu.

Call for Proposals | Engaging Canada – Engaging India: The French Canadian Context

Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute is pleased to announce "Engaging Canada - Engaging India: The French Canadian Context" to be held on 11-12 June 2012 at the Pondicherry University in Pondicherry, India. This is the first bi-national and bilingual conference of its kind being sponsored by the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute. Given the rich French heritage of Pondicherry and the strong academic presence of the Pondicherry University on the Indian academic scene, this conference promises to be highly beneficial to all participants. This event will be of special interest to all scholars and institutions from

Quebec (French and English) as well as their Indian counterparts. Conference participation is open to all institutions across Canada.

The Conference objectives are as follows:

- To showcase important India focused individual and collaborative research in diverse fields taking place in Canada with special focus on French and English universities in Quebec.
- To provide opportunities for Indian scholars and researchers in the area of French Canadian Studies and other disciplines such as Science, Technology and Management to share their work with their French Canadian counterparts and others.
- To encourage French Canadian Studies participation from Canadian provinces other than Quebec.
- To provide networking opportunities for participating Quebec institutions for the purpose of further engagement with Shastri member institutions in India.

Panel and paper proposals are invited on the following topics and areas of focus: French Canadian Studies; Religion, Art, and Architecture; Multiculturalism and Diaspora Studies; Energy and Environment; Gender and Health; Food Sustainability; India-French Canada Business and Economic cooperation. Paper and panel proposals on relevant topics and themes other than the ones specified above may be considered at the discretion of the program committee. Proposals are to be submitted by **15 April 2012**.

For further information please contact Mariam Elghahuagi at melghahu@ucalgary.ca or 403 220 2847.

Call for Proposals | New book series on Rethinking Asia and International Relations

Rethinking Asia and International Relations (www.ashgate.com/RAIR), published by Ashgate seeks to provide thoughtful consideration both of the growing prominence of Asian actors on the global stage and the changes in the study and practice of world affairs that they provoke. It intends to offer a comprehensive parallel assessment of the full spectrum of Asian states, organizations, and regions and their impact on the dynamics of global politics.

The series seeks to encourage conversation on:

- * what rules, norms, and strategic cultures are likely to dominate international life in the 'Asian Century';
- * how will global problems be reframed and addressed by a 'rising Asia';
- * which institutions, actors, and states are likely to provide leadership during such 'shifts to the East';
- * whether there is something distinctly 'Asian' about the emerging patterns of global politics. Such comprehensive engagement not only intends to offer a critical assessment of the actual and prospective roles of Asian actors, but also seeks to rethink the concepts, practices, and frameworks of analysis of world politics.

This series invites proposals for interdisciplinary research monographs undertaking comparative studies of Asian actors and their impact on the current patterns and likely future trajectories of international relations. Furthermore, it offers a platform for pioneering explorations of the ongoing transformations in global politics as a result of Asia's increasing centrality to the patterns and practices of world affairs.

To submit a proposal for this series, please supply:

- *A statement of the aims and rationale for the book: how does it further research in the field?
- *The draft contents list along with a synopsis of each chapter.
- *One or two sample chapters or related material which best represents your work (if available).
- *The estimated word-length and the expected delivery date.
- *A short biographical paragraph for all authors, editors and contributors involved with the book.

*A short CV for the principal author(s) or editor(s).

*Details of the market in terms of competition and readership level.

For more information or to submit a proposal, please email Kirstin Howgate at khowgate@ashgatepublishing.com.

Call for Papers | Irregular Migration and Human Security in East Asia

Jiyoug Song, an affiliate fellow at the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, Associate Fellow at Chatham House (London) and UN Consultant for the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (Geneva), is looking for contributors for the proposed edited volume with Routledge on 'irregular migration and human security in East Asia'. Those interested in proposing a chapter should contact Dr. Song at polv42@nus.edu.sg.

To comment or for more information, contact ycar@yorku.ca
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