



York Centre for Asian Research Update

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YCAR Events: China's geopolitical ascension topic of Bardouille talk



Political Science PhD candidate Nand Bardouille presented this week's YCAR BrownBag Graduate Student Seminar. His talk was titled "Regionalism in the Shadow of China: Central Asia, Hegemony, and the Social Construction of China's 'Peaceful Rise'" and examined contemporary China's geopolitical ascension, with a view to discerning how Beijing is treading skillfully to dislodge long-entrenched geopolitical landscapes in contiguous regions, namely Central Asia and the Asia-Pacific Rim regions. Thank you to Huang Ying, YCAR's Visiting Scholar for this academic year, who served as discussant. (*Nand Bardouille and Huang Ying*)

Opportunity: York scholarship for study in Mongolia

The Government of Mongolia has made available a scholarship for a York student to go to Mongolia to do one of the following: a full undergraduate degree; a two-year graduate degree; one year of doctoral training or

research. The scholarship will pay tuition, accommodation and a modest monthly stipend. The application deadline is 1 May 2008. For more information on required documentation or for other questions, please contact Adrian Shubert at ashubert@yorku.ca.

Opportunity: Collaborative Visiting Fellowships

The UK Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and the Social Science Research Council (SSRC) in Britain are jointly offering Collaborative Visiting Fellowships. The fellowships are available for Canadian and U.S. scholars to visit and engage in collaborative activities with members of ESRC-supported projects in Britain, or for British scholars at ESRC-supported projects to visit collaborators in Canada or the US.

The objectives of the fellowships are to promote, fund, and disseminate important and socially useful knowledge in the social sciences. This is the fifth round of a scheme designed to encourage communication and cooperation between social scientists in the United Kingdom and the Canada and the US, and to explore and develop possibilities for future joint research.

Fundable activities include but are not limited to: engaging in collaborative or complementary research that will add a comparative focus to existing or new research projects; engaging with a range of researchers, including younger scholars, to stimulate international and comparative dimensions to their thinking; writing co-authored papers, articles, and books; and developing new proposals for joint research.

Preference will be given to applicants whose previous research and writing offers clear opportunities for collaboration or comparative development; whose research agenda will result in ongoing scholarly exchange and cooperation; whose work has the potential to advance future cooperation between U.S. or Canadian and British scholars and research institutions; and whose visit will be particularly timely given the stage in the lifecycle of the ESRC project

The fellowships are valued at up to CAD 9 500 (or roughly £5000) and the deadline for applications is **4 April 2008**. For further information, please visit: <http://fellowships.ssrc.org/esrc/> or www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/.

Opportunity: Assistant Director of Asian Studies, University at Buffalo

The application deadline has been extended for the University at Buffalo Asian Studies Program's search for an Assistant Director to work with the faculty Director and interdisciplinary Advisory Council. Responsibilities will include identifying grant opportunities and helping draft grant proposals to support the Program and its outreach activities, organizing events and conferences, communicating with core constituencies, representing the Program at regional meetings, working with local schools on outreach projects, and assisting with the routine work of the Program.

Applicants should demonstrate superior organizational ability, interpersonal skills, and facility in oral and written communication. A Master's degree in Asian Studies or a related field and three years of experience in program management, development, or similar work are required. Applicants should be familiar with one or more Asian languages and have experience managing budgets and writing grant proposals. Experience managing databases and websites is desirable.

Applicants must apply on-line at www.ubjobs.buffalo.edu/ [Posting #0800076]. Please provide contact information for three people who can speak knowledgeably about your qualifications. If possible, one or more of these should be current or former supervisors. The application deadline is **16 April 2008**. More information about the Asian Studies Program may be found at www.asianstudies.buffalo.edu. Questions about the position may be addressed to Kristin Stapleton, Director of Asian Studies, at kstaple@buffalo.edu

Opportunity: Best Essay Prize in South Asian Studies

The South Asian Studies Program is seeking nominations for the Best Essay Prize in South Asian Studies. One award worth \$200 will be awarded. The deadline is **30 June 2008**.

The prize will be awarded to an undergraduate student at York for an outstanding piece of piece of graded coursework related to South Asia. Submission may include essays, research papers or creative projects such as creative writing, video essays or multimedia projects. The submissions should not exceed 20 double-spaced pages. All undergraduate faculty members at York are invited to nominate submissions from their courses. Students are also welcome to self-nominate their work for consideration. The submissions will be adjudicated by a committee comprised of the faculty members of the program.

Please send your submission in hard copy, along with the details of the course and the grade received, to: South Asian Studies Program Office, Attn: Roberta Parris, Program Secretary, 322 Founders College, York University, 4700 Keele Street, Toronto, ON M3J 1P3.

For more information see the SAST website: www.arts.yorku.ca/sosc/sasia or contact the coordinator at ananya@yorku.ca.

Previously-posted opportunities

*** Taiwan Studies Grants for Canadian Scholars (31 March 2008)**

For more information, please contact Ms. Helen Chiu, Cultural Division, Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, Canada at (613) 231-4909 or tecoedu@taiwan-canada.org

*** Faculty Incentive Grants (30 May 2008)**

To get an application form or more information, visit www.researchimpact.ca or contact Krista Jensen (kejensen@yorku.ca or ext 88847) or Michael Johnny (mjohnny@yorku.ca or ext 88876).

Upcoming Event: Seaweed, Seaweed Everywhere: A Tale of Two Transitions

*Tuesday, 25 March 2008 * 1pm * 270 York Lanes, Room B * York University*

Shannon Arnold, Master's Candidate in the Environmental Studies Faculty will present her research in a talk entitled, "Seaweed, Seaweed Everywhere: A Tale of Two Transitions". The Discussant is Keith Barney, PhD Candidate in Geography.

The rapid uptake of seaweed cultivation by smallholder entrepreneurs in the Caluya Islands, Philippines, has both transformed rural lives and helped rejuvenate and maintain traditional agrarian and fishing livelihoods of people there. In many ways, this integration of cash cropping seems to have lived up to the pro-poor rhetoric of the seaweed industry. Unfortunately, the imminent move to open the islands to tourist development seems poised to reverse many of the opportunities gained through seaweed. Her research in the area focuses on how specific spaces, relations of power and access, and material nature influence the outcome of increased market integration in rural, agrarian locales. For more information, contact YCAR at ycar@yorku.ca.

Upcoming Event: China as Foreign Aid Donor: Motivations and Global Leadership Capacity

*Tuesday, 25 March 2008 * 11:45am * CIGI Seagram Room * 57 Erb Street West * Waterloo*



YCAR Faculty Associate Gregory Chin will discuss motivating China's foreign aid in a 'Food for Thought' lecture at the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI) where he is a Senior Fellow.

China's increased presence across the Global South has given rise to broad-ranging public interest and concern. Some analysts now ask whether China's activity as an "emerging donor" threatens the international donor community, or whether it can be socialized into the community? Drawing on field research conducted for the International

Development Research Centre in summer 2007, Gregory Chin will discuss the motivations behind China's rising foreign assistance activities, and China's leadership capacity in this area of global affairs. He will examine China's new international influence in the area of foreign aid, and factors that limit its influence. A light lunch will be served. For more information, please visit: www.cigionline.org. To RSVP for this event, please visit <http://gregchin.eventbrite.com/>. (CIGI photograph)

Upcoming Event: Abandoned Again: The Uyghurs of Central Asia in the Post-9/11 Era

Thursday, 27 March 2008 * 2pm * Room 108, North Building, Munk Centre for International Studies (1 Devonshire Place) * Toronto

The next event in the Centre for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies' Central Asia Lecture Series is a talk by Sean Roberts of Georgetown University. His 27 March talk is titled, "Abandoned Again: The Uyghurs of Central Asia in the Post-9/11 Era". To register for this event, please visit: <http://webapp.mcis.utoronto.ca/EventDetails.aspx?eventid=5192>.

Upcoming Event: Going behind the Camera – Hong Kong film about films

Friday, 28 March 2008 * 5:30pm * Innis Town Hall * 2 Sussex Avenue (at St. George, south of Bloor)

Every society that makes movies sooner or later turns the camera toward film itself. It is acknowledgment of the mixed up fascination with the medium: blending a fond belief that it is the archive of our sentiments and memories, the odd desire that any of us have something to do with movies, but braced with frowning suspicion too that movies are not really us. The Hong Kong cinema is notoriously unreflective. Its energy always pulses outward; its filmmakers rarely look inside itself. And, still, there are exceptions. The two films for this evening are reflective. *Mr. Cinema* takes the sentimental and, like the Italian Cinema Paradiso, orbits around a movie theatre projection booth. In contrast, as its title suggests, *The Extras* flings itself (as Hong Kong films love to do) into a tale of movie productions, taking a low angle on the low end of the filmmaking process, the work of the extra. Panelists for the proceeding discussion are Bart Testa (Cinema Studies Institute, U of T) and Colin Geddes (Ultra 8 Pictures and International Programmer, Toronto International Film Festival). This will be followed by an after party. For the full schedule, films reviews and to register for this free event, visit: <http://webapp.mcis.utoronto.ca/EventDetails.aspx?eventid=6016>.

Upcoming Event: 14th Annual Katari Japanese Storytelling

Saturday, 29 March 2008 * 3 to 5pm * 131 Bloor Street West * 2nd Floor of the Colonnade building * Toronto

The Japan Foundation, Toronto, is hosting the 14th annual Katari Japanese Storytelling event. This afternoon will feature funny, adventurous Japanese folklore, Rakugo classics and contemporary stories accompanied by music for those aged 10 and older. Stories will be preformed in English.

Stories include: "The Haunted House" - Mika Fukuma & Yuko Nozoe (Taiko drums); "The Thief" - Masako Yasunishi; "Singing Skull" - Sharon Isac; "The Man Called So-Be-It" - Yusuke Tanaka; "Saburo" - Tane Akamatsu; "Tengu's Judgment" - Momoko Oishi. Music is by Yoshito & Chie Yamano

Admission is free but RSVPs are required to 416.966.1600 x300 or rsvp@jftor.org. Please include event name and number of guests in your email. For more information, telephone 416.966.1600, email info@jftor.org or visit www.jftor.org/whatson/storytelling.php.

Upcoming Event: From Coercion to Co-optation: Local Governance in a Leninist State in Transition

Thursday, 3 April 2008 * noon to 2pm * 208N - Seminar Room, North House, Munk Centre For International Studies, 1 Devonshire Place * Toronto

Daniel Koldyk, St. Antony's College, Oxford University, will present a talk at the University of Toronto on 3 April 2008.

In the midst of all the frantic economic and political activity taking place in China, the party-state has been quietly implementing an urban grassroots governance strategy known as *shequ jianshe*, or community construction. This paper is primarily concerned with how social stratification has influenced the implementation of *shequ jianshe*. In particular, it seeks to address the following question: is socio-economic change and economic restructuring leading to an erosion of the party-state's governance capacity? An examination of *shequ* can provide some answers as their unique position at the intersection of state and society make them excellent indicators of party-state's ability to penetrate and govern society.

Daniel Koldyk is currently reading for a DPhil in comparative politics with an area focus on China at St. Antony's College at Oxford. Prior to his current studies, Daniel read for an MA in East Asian Studies at the University of Toronto, an MPhil in Comparative Government, also at St. Antony's College, and spent four years working on China related political issues in Washington and Ottawa. His areas of interest include grassroots politics in China, political change in Leninist systems, and class-based politics.

This event is co-sponsored by the Asian Business and Management Program, York University. Register online at: <http://webapp.mcis.utoronto.ca/EventDetails.aspx?eventid=5979>.

Upcoming Event: Official Development Assistance Tied Loan Financing from OECD-DAC Member Countries and China: The Philippine Experience

Wednesday, April 9 * 1 to 3pm * 390 York Lanes * York University



Rommel Gavieta, YCAR Research Associate and Associate Professor at De La Salle University in Manila, Philippines, will present his current research during a visit to Canada in April.

His talk is titled, "Official Development Assistance Tied Loan Financing from OECD-DAC Member Countries and China: The Philippine Experience." He will discuss the state of the Philippine economy and overseas development assistance in the Philippines. He will then review the North Luzon Railways Corporation's Project, the National Broadband Network (NBN) Project and their approval processes before ending with his conclusions and recommendations.

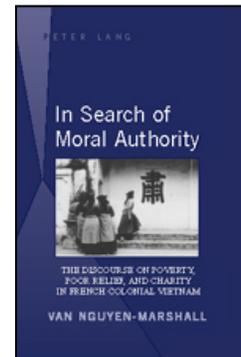
Rommel specializes in project management of infrastructure and real estate projects in the public and private sectors, particularly in the area of finance and privatization as well as strategic corporate planning. He has written a wide array of articles on mass transit and housing systems, currency exchange risk and financing structure, private funds, utility development and government policy.

Publications: *In Search of Moral Authority: the Discourse on Poverty, Poor Relief and Charity in French Colonial Vietnam*

In Search of Moral Authority: the Discourse on Poverty, Poor Relief and Charity in French Colonial Vietnam (Peter Lang) is the newest publication by Van Nguyen-Marshall, a YCAR Research Associate and Associate Professor of History at Trent University.

The publication is described as a pioneering exploration of the discourses on poverty and poor-relief activities in early twentieth-century Northern Vietnam. Treating poverty as a socially constructed idea, Nguyen-Marshall

argues that poor relief was a domain where both French colonialists and Vietnamese intellectuals vied for moral authority. For the French colonial officials, poor relief fell within the purview of the French “civilizing” mission, the official justification for imperialism. However, the colonial agenda, racial prejudices, and the French administrators’ own ambivalent attitudes toward the poor made any attempt at poor relief doomed for failure. For Vietnamese intellectuals, the discourse and activities on poor relief became a rallying call for patriotism, nationalism, and, for some, anti-colonialism. *In Search of Moral Authority* deals with social issues such as charity and poor relief, as well as the construction of national and gender identity by Vietnamese intellectuals. This book is essential reading for students and specialists of Vietnamese history as well as those interested in issues of poverty, public welfare, and charity.



Nguyen-Marshall’s research interests include social and intellectual histories of French colonial Vietnam with a focus on poor relief and charity; and gender and cultural-identity issues in colonial societies, public sphere and civil society in modern Vietnam. (*Peter Lang graphic*).

Call for Papers: Transformations: Researching Asia

The YCAR Graduate Student Conference will take place September 26 to 28, 2008 in Toronto.

What does it mean to “research Asia?” 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 & 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. More information about the conference can be found on the conference website: www.yorku.ca/ycar/Events/graduate_conference.html

Call for Papers: Central Eurasian Studies Society Ninth Annual Conference

The Central Eurasian Studies Society (CESS) invites panel and paper proposals for the Ninth CESS Annual Conference, 18 to 21 September 2008, in Washington, D.C. The event will be held at Georgetown University, hosted by the Center for Eurasian, Russian and East European Studies (CERES).

Panel and paper topics relating to all aspects of humanities and social science scholarship on Central Eurasia are welcome. The geographic domain of Central Eurasia extends from the Black Sea and Iranian Plateau to Mongolia and Siberia, including the Caucasus, Crimea, Middle Volga, Afghanistan, Tibet, and Central and

Inner Asia. Practitioners and scholars in all humanities and social science disciplines with an interest in Central Eurasia are encouraged to participate.

The deadline for submission of panel/paper proposals is Friday, **11 April 2008**. Only electronic submissions will be accepted, preferably via the webform available on the CESS website: www.cess.muohio.edu/cesspg_conf_cfp.html. For further information, visit: www.cess.muohio.edu/cesspg_conf_cfp.html.

Call for Papers: Fourth World Congress of Korean Studies

The organizing committee of the Fourth World Congress of Korean Studies announces a call for papers to all academics and professionals in Korean studies. The World Congress, co-organized by the Academy of Korean Studies (AKS) and Kyushu University, will be held from 22 to 24 September 2008 at Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan. As one of the prominent Korean studies conference in the world, it will provide scholars with an opportunity to share their latest academic achievements and develop friendships in the field of Korean studies. Submissions will be accepted from **1 April to 10 May 2008**. For more information, email korea2008@aks.ac.kr or visit www.aks.ac.kr/eng_home/notice/notice_read.asp?num=55&group_id=55.

Previously-posted Call for Papers:

* **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>

* **New England Association for Asian Studies conference (15 April 2008)**

For more information: www.umb.edu/academics/cla/dept/modlang/neaas_conference08.html or neaas@umb.edu.

* **Cultural Connections, Convergences, and Collisions Past and Present: New York Conference on Asian Studies (1 May 2008)**

For more information: www.hamilton.edu/NYCAS/ or email 08NYCAS@hamilton.edu.

* **Western Conference of the Association for Asian Studies (1 May 2008)**

For more information: www.Colorado.EDU/CAS/WCAAS.html.

* **Modern Architecture in East Asia: Regionalism & Transnationalism (9 May 2008)**

For abstract submission guidelines and CAA form, visit www.collegeart.org/pdf/CallforParticipation2009.pdf

* **Symposium on the Vietnam Experience (15 May 2008)**

For more information: kfmsh00@tamuk.edu

* **Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival (16 May 2008)**

For more information, please contact programming@reelasian.com.

York Centre for Asian Research (YCAR) To comment or for more information, contact ycar@yorku.ca
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