



York Centre for Asian Research Update

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YCAR Events: Arnold shares research on seaweed in Southeast Asia



Shannon Arnold, Master's Candidate in Environmental Science, presented her research, which she conducted last summer in the Caluya Island, Philippines. Her research focuses on how specific spaces, relations of power and access, and material nature influence the outcome of increased market integration in rural, agrarian locales. Thank you to Keith Barney who acted as discussant. (*Keith Barney and Shannon Arnold*).

Opportunity: Internships available at Embassy of Canada in Beijing

The Embassy of Canada in Beijing is seeking to hire two interns to work on contract in the Political Section, which is responsible for managing Canada's overall political bilateral relations with China. The internships will run from 2 July 2008 to 6 January 2009. Please note that applications must be received no later than midnight Beijing time on Sunday, 6 April 2008.

The successful applicants will work closely with officers in the Political Section in researching China's

domestic or foreign policy issues, working on special projects, and organizing high-level visits. Interns will be required to attend and report on regular press briefings, produce press scans, and provide research and background pieces as necessary. Through their internship, the successful candidates will acquire an in-depth understanding of the functioning of an Embassy and how Canada's diplomacy is put into practice. Please note that interns will be working on political and social issues, and not on business, commercial, economic, or trade related matters.

Qualifications:

- * Canadian citizen able to relocate to Beijing. Only Canadian citizens will be considered.
- * A minimum of a Bachelor's degree in Political Science or International Relations, or in any other fields related to the work of the Political Section. (Preference may be given to candidates at the graduate level). Some background in economics, and experience with spreadsheets and PowerPoint, are also desirable.
- * Demonstrated interest in China's political affairs.
- * Excellent writing skills in English or French; knowledge of written and/or spoken Mandarin is an asset.

Please send a curriculum vitae, along with a letter of intent strictly one page or less, stating why you are interested in this internship contract and why you would make a good intern. Applications can be submitted by email, fax or post to: Human Resource Section, Embassy of Canada, 19 Donzhimenwai Dajie, Chaoyang District, Beijing, P.R.C. 100600, Fax: (86 10) 6532-4311 or beijing-ap@international.gc.ca.

Opportunity: North American Research Linkages Program

The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada (DFAIT) recently launched the second competition under the North American Research Linkages Program. The opportunity is valued at up to CAD 20,000. The deadline is 1 May 2008, while keeping in mind that the York University deadline is 10 working days prior to the agency deadline.

Objectives are to foster the development of permanent exchange networks by providing assistance to teams of researchers from Canada, the United States and Mexico in order to organize seminars, workshops and other forms of research linkages; and to assist in the establishment or the development of North American research networks in support of projects that have policy relevance for the North American agenda.

Topics that are highly relevant to Canada, the United States and Mexico relations include: sustainable development (including energy and the environment), human capital (e.g. people-to-people linkages), security and public safety, economic competitiveness and innovation, cross-border cooperation, and culture and identity.

Complete details may be obtained by contacting ORS at ext. 55055, research@yorku.ca or by consulting the following website: www.international.gc.ca/fac/studies-etudes/narlp-pnarr.aspx?lang=en.

Opportunity: Duke University travel grants for use of East Asian Collection

Duke University has four travel grants sponsored by the Asian/Pacific Studies Institute to use its East Asian Collection. They must be used by August 15. Priority will be given to applicants who document how their research will benefit from access to the Duke Collection and whose research will take advantage of the Collection's strengths; and those who are located in the Southeast or at institutions where there are no or few library resources nearby in East Asian languages. Please see http://library.duke.edu/ias/eac/travel_grant.html for more information.

Opportunity: Olympic season summer Chinese language programmes in Hong Kong and China

The Office of Summer School and the Chinese Language Center of the Chinese University of Hong Kong are offering exciting summer programmes and a closer glimpse of the China Olympic 2008 to students this summer in Hong Kong and Beijing. Quality programmes, exciting activities and budget on-campus accommodation will be provided. Programmes are open to anyone from age 16 or up. The programs are open to current university students, adult learners, mature students and high school students.

For more information, please download a brochure from the following link: Current university students: www.cuhk.edu.hk/osp; Adult learners/mature students/high school students: www.cuhk.edu.hk/clc/summer.htm. Questions can be directed to CLC staff at clc@cuhk.edu.hk.

Previously-posted opportunities

*** Collaborative Visiting Fellowships with ESRC/SSRC in Britain (4 April 2008)**

For further information, please visit: <http://fellowships.ssrc.org/esrc/> or www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/.

*** Assistant Director of Asian Studies, University at Buffalo (16 April 2008)**

More information about the Asian Studies Program may be found at www.asianstudies.buffalo.edu. Applicants must apply on-line at www.ubjobs.buffalo.edu/ [Posting #0800076].

*** York scholarship for study in Mongolia (1 May 2008)**

For more information on required documentation or for other questions, please contact Adrian Shubert at ashubert@yorku.ca.

*** 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).

*** Best Essay Prize in South Asian Studies (30 June 2008)**

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

Upcoming Event: Unifying of the Warring States: Whither Political Inevitability or a Grandmaster Strategy?

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

Laura Sook Eng Tan, PhD Candidate, Social and Political Thought, will present the last YCAR BrownBag Graduate Student Seminar of the Winter 2008 term. Her topic is: "Unifying of the Warring States: Whither Political Inevitability or a Grandmaster Strategy?" The chair and discussant will be Professor George Comninel (Political Science).

From centuries of strife among small kingdoms located in the geopolitical entity that we know as China today, the Qin emerged victorious, crowning the first emperor of China. How have Chinese historians, past and present, made sense of this political centralization of power, which corresponded with a unification of the territorial and the cultural? This talk will examine the political thought behind the Qin state and how it determines the expressions of legitimate power and control.

Laura Sook Eng Tan is a PhD student in Social and Political Thought. Her research interests include state narratives in China and Singapore, authoritarian governance, and the role of morality in the making of the political self. She is currently working on historical narratives informing Chinese political authoritarianism. For more information, contact YCAR at ycar@yorku.ca.

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: Toronto Singapore Film Festival

4 to 6 April 2008 * Innis Town Hall * 2 Sussex Avenue * at St. George, south of Bloor

The Toronto Singapore Film Festival (TSFF) celebrates its third year in April 2008. To commemorate the occasion, TSFF has organized a three-day film festival running from 4 to 6 April. The program will showcase 23 films (six features and 17 shorts) ranging from action, comedy, horror, to drama, politics and romance. Of these films, four are international premieres, 10 are North American premieres, five are Canadian premieres and two are Toronto premieres.

This year's feature films are: *18 Grams of Love* (Han Yew Kwang, 2007), *Just Follow Law* (Jack Neo, 2007), *Perth* (Djinn Ong, 2005), *4:30* (Royston Tan, 2006), *Feet Unbound* (Ng Khee Jin, 2006) and *Singapore Dreaming* (Yen Yen Woo and Colin Goh, 2006). The shorts films are: *Old Times* (Chew Tee Pao, 2006), *Zogang* (Jacen Tan, 2006), *Kichiro* (Kelvin Sng, 2006), *Yesterday's Play* (Ryan David Tan, 2006), *Ashwatthama Unbound* (Maneka Karthigasu, 2006), *Tan Xin* (Tia Quah, 2006), *Fonzi* (Kirsten Tan, 2006), *Colours* (Derrick Lui, 2007), *My One* (Eysham Ali and Khari Abdul Rahim, 2006), *Sunat* (M. Raihan Halim, 2007), *Singapore Standard Time* (Joycelyn Khoo and Serene Ng, 2006), *When We Were Bengs* (Alaric Tay, 2006), *The Alien Invasion* (Rich Ho, 2004), *The Trainee* (Craig Rosenthal, 2006), *Inspector X and the Eternal City* (Chong Yew Meng, 2006), *Bob* (Fai Rizal Alias, 2007) and *19/20s* (Elgin Ho, 2006).

Since its inception, the Toronto Singapore Film Festival has played to full houses. This year's event will be even bigger and better, with a doubling of the festival run as well as the number of films. Some filmmakers, including Kelvin Sng (Kichiro), Lee Chee Tian (Colours), Faisal (Bob) and Elgin Ho (19/20s), will be in attendance.

Advance tickets are available online at www.uofttix.ca until 4 April or from the Little Video Shop (13 Baldwin Street, 416 205 9435). Tickets are \$10.50 for adults and \$8.00 for students. Full program details, including event pass plans are available on the festival's website: www.tsff.org.

Publications: Migration Workers as Political Subjects: Globalization-as-Practices, Everyday Spaces, and Global Labour Migrations

YCAR Graduate Associate Hironori Onuki recently had his article, "Migration Workers as Political Subjects: Globalization-as-Practices, Everyday Spaces, and Global Labour Migrations", published in the journal *Refuge* (24.2 2007: 125-34). Hironori is a PhD Candidate in Political Science.

Call for Papers: Transformations: Researching Asia – deadline extended

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 **18 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: Continuities and Innovations: Popular Print Cultures – Past and Present, Local and Global

Continuities and Innovations: Popular Print Cultures – Past and Present, Local and Global will be held at the University of Alberta in Edmonton from 27 to 30 August 2008. Papers and presentations are invited for any aspect of the conference theme. Proposals should be 200 to 300 words in length and clearly state the central theme or argument, the kind of popular print or related media to be considered, and its social and cultural location in time and place.

This conference and popular arts festival consider what most people read, here and elsewhere, now and in the past. Popular print characteristically includes both words and images, and is intertwined with music and performance. In these forms it has been and continues to be one of the most

powerful cultural forces in history, morphing into new media and new technologies, from the phonograph record through radio, film, and television to video games and the internet.

Proposals are invited from all of these groups, directly addressing the conference theme, or taking up any aspect of “Popular Print Cultures, Past and Present, Local and Global.” Topics can include relations between popular print and other media, between popular and “high” literatures, between words and images, between words and music, between past and present forms, and so on.

Presentations may be from writers, readers, publishers, teachers, students, distributors, sellers, librarians, illustrators, opponents, promoters, adapters to other media, fans, collectors, et al. Papers and presentations can be on any relevant topic—reading popular print and creating it, writing it and illustrating it, publishing it and selling it, counteracting it or transforming it, adapting it and influencing it, censoring it and living it, and more. Participants may consider popular print and politics, religion, sexuality, class, ethnicity, “race,” nationality, or any other theme.

Applications should include AV needs, a brief resumé and abstract and be sent by email as pasted-in documents or attachments to popprint@ualberta.ca. The deadline for proposals is 30 May 2008. More information is available on the conference website: www.arts.ualberta.ca/popprint.

Previously-posted Call for Papers:

* **Central Eurasian Studies Society Ninth Annual Conference (11 April 2008)**

For further information, visit: www.cess.muohio.edu/cesspg_conf_cfp.html.

* **ASPAC 2008 - Crossing Boundaries in the Asia-Pacific: Regional and Disciplinary Intersections, Victoria BC (15 April 2008)**

For more information: <http://capiconf.uvic.ca/index.php?cf=3>

* **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

* **Fourth World Congress of Korean Studies (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.

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

For more information: kfmsh00@tamuk.edu

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