

In this Issue...

YCAR Events

- * YCAR events explored religion, food and politics across Asia

Opportunities

- * Ministry of Education Huayu Enrichment Scholarship
- * Scholarship Program of Taiwan

Upcoming Events

- * The End of the Developmental State? Ten Years after the East Asian Crisis in South Korea (Mar. 11)
- * Chandra Siddan - "Remembrance of Things Present: A Personal Exploration of Marriage and Gender Ideals in Contemporary India" (Mar. 11)
- * Food Movements and Alliances: Toward Justice and Sovereignty (Mar. 12)
- * SMEs and e-Business: Is Taiwan Outperforming Canada? (Mar. 13)
- * China Day at York University (Mar. 13)
- * Between Reform and Revolution: Islamic Debates in Early Soviet Central Asia (Mar. 14)
- * Cinematic tribute to Edward Yang (1947 to 2007) (Mar. 7 to 16)
- * Regionalism in the Shadow of China: Central Asia, Hegemony, and the Social Construction of China's 'Peaceful Rise' (Mar. 18)
- * The Last Mughal: An Evening with William Dalrymple (Mar. 26)
- * Registration now open for Central and Inner Asia Studies Conference at UofT (May 16-17)

Call for Papers and Submissions

- * Transformations: Researching Asia
- * New England Association for Asian Studies conference
- * Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival

YCAR Events: YCAR host events explore religion, food and politics across Asia

From Chinese Jews to Southeast Asian food to communism in the Philippines, YCAR hosted three wonderful events in the past two weeks. Below are some of the photos from these events.

Bishop White and Chinese Jews a 'great success', says organizer



The YCAR and York Centre for Jewish Studies event on "Bishop White and Chinese Jews" was a great success, and Dr. Andrew Plaks was certainly a gift, said organizer Michael Stainton. "We had to keep bringing chairs into the large room so I estimate we had almost 50 there, the biggest crowd we have had for any YCAR event this academic year."

"Dr. Alwyn Austin gave a great background on Bishop White, his collecting and controversies around it. Sara Irwin introduced the artifacts

in the museum, their provenance in White's correspondence, and slides of the original site and stele at the Anglican Church. Dr Plaks gave a masterful talk on what the three inscriptions from the synagogue might tell us about the acculturation and apologetic approach of the community. Thank you to all who attended for your help in getting us to this great event." (Lt-Rt: Dr Andrew Plaks; presenters Dr Andrew Plaks, Sara Irwin and Dr Alwyn Austin)

Foodscaapes of Southeast Asia was held on 29 February and organized by Penny Van Esterik. Panelists included speakers from Japan and California, keynote speakers Naomi Daguid and Jeff Alford as well as a multimedia presentation, *Doing Lunch in Salaya*, by Penny. The dinner following the academic afternoon was fantastic and enjoyed by all. Thank you to Founders College, the Anthropology and Geography Departments for their support of the event and to everyone who attended.



Lt-Rt: Penny Van Esterik (in blue) with Naomi Daguid and Jeff Alford; dinner guests; Naomi Daguid discussing food with Peter Vandergeest; delicious appetizers.

Université de Montréal's Dominique Caouette was keynote speaker at the **Inaugural York Philippine Studies Lecture**, held 4 March 2008 at York University. YCAR Director Susan Henders welcomed the audience of 35 students, faculty and community members, and introduced Philip Kelly, organizer of the York Philippine Study Group and of this inaugural lecture. Professor Caouette's talk was based on his doctoral thesis research in the Philippines and entitled, "Armed Communist Revolution in the 21st Century? Understanding the Persistence of the New People's Army and the Communist Party of the Philippines." Thank you to the York Centre for international and Security Studies and the Political Science Department for their support of this event.



Opportunity: Ministry of Education Huayu Enrichment Scholarship

This scholarship was created in 2005 to encourage international students and individuals to undertake Mandarin study in Taiwan, the Ministry of Education of the Republic of China (Taiwan). While providing study opportunities for Mandarin language and Taiwan's culture at university- or college-affiliated Mandarin training centers, this program also aims to:

- a. Contribute to a better command of the Mandarin language, and hence a greater understanding and appreciation of Taiwan's culture.
- b. Promote friendship between Taiwan and Canada.
- c. Explore opportunities to increase exchange with international education institutions.

Five scholarship positions will be provided for the 2008-2009 academic year and applicants can divide the total of 60 months of scholarship with other applicants. However, as mentioned earlier, no duration of scholarship exceeds one year. A stipend of NT\$25,000 (approximately CAD\$782) is to be offered to a recipient by month.

For more information, please visit: www.taiwanembassy.org/CA/YVR

Opportunity: Scholarship Program of Taiwan

Established by the Ministry of Education of Taiwan through the Taipei Economic & Cultural Office in Vancouver, the 2008 Taiwan Scholarship Program aims to encourage promising students from Canada to pursue their studies in Taiwan, and hence to promote educational and academic relationships between the two sides. While providing study opportunities for a wide range of disciplines, at Taiwan's universities and colleges, this program also aims to:

- a. Promote knowledge, understanding and friendship between Taiwan and Canada.
- b. Explore opportunities to increase academic and educational links with international institutions of higher learning.
- c. Develop outstanding professionals and experts to meet the needs from Taiwan's business and industry sectors.

Applicable fields of study include:

- a. Degree Programs (Undergraduate, Master's or Doctoral)
- b. Mandarin Study before degree undertaking (optional)

The value of each scholarship is as follows:

- a. Undergraduate Scholarship: a monthly stipend of \$25,000 NT (approximately \$1,000 CDN);
- b. Master's Scholarship: a monthly stipend of \$30,000 NT (approximately \$1,200 CDN);
- c. Doctoral Scholarship: a monthly stipend of \$30,000 NT.

For more information, please contact the Cultural Division, Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, Vancouver at 604 689 4119 or email a3a31932@telus.net

Previously-posted opportunities

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

For more information: www.dpu.org.tw/ or intstudent@ntu.edu.tw

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

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

* **Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute's 40th anniversary committee seeks lectures for collection**

For more information: Alana Froese (sici@ucalgary.ca).

* **New academic alliances between Canada and developing countries**

For more information: www.idrc.ca/irci or Isabelle Bourgeault-Tassé at 613 236 6163, ext. 2343 or ibourgeault-tasse@idrc.ca

* **10th International Student Symposium, Prague, Czech Republic**

For more information: Agnieszka Critchlow at info@student-symposium.com or www.student-symposium.com.

Upcoming Event: The End of the Developmental State? Ten Years after the East Asian Crisis in South Korea

Tuesday, 11 March 2008 * 1pm * 270 York Lanes, Room B * York University

Sean Starrs will present the third YCAR BrownBag Graduate Student Seminar in the Winter 2008 series. Sean will speak on "The End of the Developmental State? Ten Years after the East Asian Crisis in South Korea." The chair and discussant is Professor Gregory T Chin.

Many bottles of ink have been spilled on the East Asian Financial Crisis, and in particular many have predicted the end of the "developmental state" or of the "Asian model" of capitalism, with its replacement by "neoliberalism." This presentation seeks to examine what has actually happened in South Korea over the past decade, to discuss the validity (or lack thereof) of the many predictions, and to discuss implications for not only the nature of the regional political economy, but of the world.

Sean Starrs is in the Political Science Department, is a product of globalization, and loves good food, company and travel. For more information, please contact YCAR at ycar@yorku.ca.

Upcoming Event: Chandra Siddan - "Remembrance of Things Present: A Personal Exploration of Marriage and Gender Ideals in Contemporary India"

Tuesday, 11 March 2008 * 2:30pm to 4:30pm * 305 Founders College * York University



Founders College, the Faculty of Social Science, the Department of Anthropology, the South Asian Studies Program and the York Centre for Asian Research welcome Chandra Siddan back to York where she will screen and discuss her abovementioned documentary.

How does a modern progressive woman deal with a marriage arranged when she was a child of twelve? After years of nomadic life abroad, Chandra Siddan, a Canadian immigrant, returns to India's software capital, Bangalore, India with this matter weighing on her mind. Long divorced and newly remarried, she confronts her parents, relatives, family friends and ex-husband with her lost childhood. Was she forced into her early marriage because of her own dysfunctional family or is it the product of deeply patriarchal Indian culture?

A searing insight into the shifting spaces for women in rapidly changing modern India, "Remembrance of Things Present" offers a sharp view of how little Bangalore's Hindu middle class has changed despite the software boom. Simultaneously a family drama and a social history, "Remembrance of Things Present" also theorizes Chandra's and other women's past and present to see global female migrant labour as an anti-odyssey, a journey without a return.

York alumnus Chandra Siddan is a filmmaker, videographer and the director of the Regent Park Film Festival, which she founded in 2003. She grew up in Bangalore, India where she completed an MA and an M/Phil at Bangalore University. She also studied Media at the New School for Social Research in New York City in the early 1990s, where she made her first short film "Moving". Chandra's other films include the short "The Gift," which she directed while living in Germany, and the documentary "Williamsburg Experiment," which examines the relationship between art, money and value. Chandra also taught at the secondary and post secondary school levels in India, and worked as a writer and editor for the New York-based weekly, *Asia Observer*. She immigrated to Canada in 2000. For more information, please contact Professor Janet Rubinoff at ycar@yorku.ca.

Upcoming Event: Food Movements and Alliances: Toward Justice and Sovereignty

Wednesday 12 March 12 2008 * 2:30pm * 305 York Lanes * York University

In response to growing social inequality, environmental crises and health concerns there has been a proliferation of movements and alliances working on food and agriculture issues over the past decade. These transnational efforts offer a window into the politics of food from seed to table.

Focusing on food alliances and movements in Canada, the U.S., Mexico, South Africa and India - this panel will examine diverse strategies for confronting corporate control of the food system, tensions between localization and globalization of food movements, the challenges of building alliances across differences, and new cultural, economic, and ecological practices emerging in food alternatives worldwide.

Panelists for this event include: Raj Patel (Visiting Scholar, Center for African Studies, University of California at Berkeley); Lauren Baker (PhD Candidate, Environmental Studies, York); Harriet Friedmann (Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Toronto); and Sally Miller (Food Writer and Researcher). The Chair will be Deborah Barndt (Professor, Environmental Studies, York).

Upcoming Event: SMEs and e-Business: Is Taiwan Outperforming Canada?

Thursday, 13 March 2008 * 2:30pm * 270 York Lanes, Room B * York University



Dr Lorna Wright, Associate Professor, International Business, Schulich School of Business, York University, will discuss SMEs and e-Business: Is Taiwan Outperforming Canada? She will draw from research she conducted last summer in Taiwan.

Dr. Wright is currently Associate Professor of International Business at the Schulich School of Business, York University, and a former Director of the International MBA (IMBA) Program at Schulich (2000-2005). She is an academic entrepreneur, being the founding director (1992-2000) of the Centre for Canada-Asia Business Relations at Queen's University and also the co-founder (1997) of the Asian Business Consortium, which included Queen's University, York University, the University of Toronto, and Ivey School of Business. She spent fifteen years working for various organizations in Thailand, Indonesia and Japan before returning to Canada. She speaks Thai and Indonesian fluently, has a working knowledge of Japanese and Spanish, and a basic knowledge of several other languages.

Dr. Wright's research interests are in the areas of cross-cultural management, international negotiations, strategic alliances, conditions for SME business success internationally and the situation of women-owned SMEs in the digital economy. Her geographic area of interest is the Pacific Basin region. She has been cited in *Canadian Women Doing Business in Asia*, *Who's Who in Canadian Business*, *Canadian Who's Who*, *The World's Who's Who of Women*, and *International Businessmen's Who's Who*. For more information, please contact YCAR at ycar@yorku.ca.

Upcoming Event: China Day at York University

Thursday, 13 March 2008 * 1:15pm * York University

The Chinese section of the Department of Languages, Literatures and Linguistics (DLLL) is hosting China Day 2008 on Thursday, 13 March. At 1:15pm, there will be a Chinese language speech contest in Ross S562. From 4 to 5pm, there will be a lecture on head massage, qigong, and Chinese culture with demonstrations by Prof Bin Jiang Wu from the Ontario college of Traditional Chinese Medicine. This event will take place in Accolade West 003 and will be followed by a reception. The event is sponsored by York International, DLLL and the Chinese Consulate in Toronto.

Upcoming Event: Between Reform and Revolution: Islamic Debates in Early Soviet Central Asia

Friday, 14 March 2008 * noon to 2pm * Room 108, North Building, Munk Centre for International Studies (1 Devonshire Place)

Adeeb Khalid, Department of History, Carleton College, will speak on "Between Reform and Revolution: Islamic Debates in Early Soviet Central Asia" as a part of the Central Asia Lecture Series at the University of Toronto. To register, please visit <http://webapp.mcis.utoronto.ca/EventDetails.aspx?eventid=4641>.

Upcoming Events: Cinematic tribute to Edward Yang (1947 to 2007)

7 to 16 March 2008 * Art Gallery of Ontario's Jackman Hall * 317 Dundas Street West * Toronto.

Cinematheque Ontario is honoured to present a tribute to Edward Yang (1947-2007). "Along with Hou Hsiao-hsien and Tsai Ming-liang, Yang is one of the most visible faces of the Taiwanese New Wave, possibly the most brilliant filmmaking movement in the world today . . . Yang's ability to show us the world afresh by virtue of his masterful framing and mise en scène cements his position as one of the world's greatest filmmakers." – Saul Austerlitz, *Senses of Cinema*

Screenings are as follows:

- * A Confucian Confusion (Duli Shdai) on Tuesday, 11 March at 7:30 p.m. Rated PG
- * A Brighter Summer Day (Guling Jie Shaonian Sha Ren Shijian) on Friday, 14 March at 7:30 p.m. Rated 14A
- * Yi Yi (A One And A Two) on Saturday, 15 March at 7:30 p.m. Rated 14A
- * Mahjong on Sunday, 16 March at 4:45 p.m. Rated 18A

All screenings take place at the Art Gallery of Ontario's Jackman Hall (317 Dundas Street West), Toronto. For more information, contact 416 968 film or visit www.cinemathequeontario.ca.

Upcoming Event: Regionalism in the Shadow of China: Central Asia, Hegemony, and the Social Construction of China's 'Peaceful Rise'

Tuesday, 18 March 2008 * 1pm * 270 York Lanes, Room B * York University



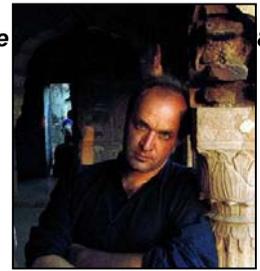
Nand C Bardouille, PhD Candidate in Political Science, will present the fourth YCAR BrownBag Graduate Student Seminar in the Winter 2008 series. Nand will present his research on how China's rise has captured the imagination of scholars, analysts and policy-makers. And so it should! China's rise constitutes a sea change in Asian and world affairs, reshaping geopolitical fault lines and landscapes as regards neighbouring countries but also the interstate system. This presentation seeks to examine 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. Applying neo-Gramscian and constructivist insights, he argues that the multilateral dimensions of Beijing's *soft power* engagement are transforming the political geography of the Central and East Asian regions. This diplomatic offensive is purposively etching regionalism consistent with a tendentious China-centric region-building project; which he concludes needs to be problematized.

Upcoming Event: The Last Mughal: An Evening with William Dalrymple

Wednesday, 26 March 2008 * 6:30 to 8:30pm * Royal Ontario Museum * 100 Queen's Park * Toronto

World-renowned author William Dalrymple will discuss his latest book *The Last Mughal* on 26 March at the Royal Ontario Museum. This tragic tale of Emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar at the end of the Mughal Empire has been hailed as "a splendid work of empathetic scholarship." The lecture will be followed by a book sale and signing. William Dalrymple is a writer and broadcaster whose books include *White Mughals*, *The Age of Kali* and *City of Djinnns*.

The event will be held in the Signy & Cléopée Eaton Theatre at the Royal Ontario Museum, Level 1B. The price of tickets is \$35 for members of the public, Member \$30 for members and \$25 for FSA members. For more information, contact 416 586 5797 or email programs@rom.on.ca. (Photograph by Raghu Rai, Magnum)



Upcoming Event: Registration now open for Central and Inner Asia Studies Conference at UofT

Organizers are happy to announce that registration is now open for Central and Inner Asia Studies Conference 2008. It will be held at the University of Toronto on 16 and 17 May. The theme for this year is "The Material Culture, Language and Religion of Central and Inner Asia." For more information, including a provisional list of speakers and the registration form, visit the conference web page:

www.utoronto.ca/cias/conference.html

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: New England Association for Asian Studies conference

The University of Massachusetts Boston is pleased to host the 2008 meeting of the New England Association for Asian Studies on 18 October 2008. The conference organizers invite proposals for papers, panels, and roundtables that explore various issues relevant to all areas of Asia.

To propose a panel or an individual paper, please complete the proposal form on the conference website and include an abstract of 250 words or less for each proposed paper. For roundtable proposals, fill out the form with information for each participant, and note in the comments field that you are proposing a roundtable. The deadline for proposals is 15 April 2008.

The conference website is:

www.umb.edu/academics/cla/dept/modlang/neaas_conference08.html. All inquiries can be sent to: neaas@umb.edu.

Call for Submissions: Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival

As Canada's premier pan-Asian international film & video festival, the Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival is a unique showcase of contemporary Asian cinema. We exhibit works that highlight the diverse peoples, languages and cultures from Asia and the Asian diaspora. The festival is dedicated to presenting the finest works from East and Southeast Asian artists from Canada, Asia, the United States, and all over the world.

The organizers invite submissions of independent features and shorts from all different genres. Be it obscure experimental works, complex political rants, ironic chop-socky kung fu flicks, deconstructionist mockumentaries, or minimalist GenerAsian-X slacker dramas; send us anything that is brilliant, creative, weird, or just plain entertaining.

The call for submissions opened on 12 February 2008. The early deadline is 16 May 2008 (no entry fee required) and the final deadline of 16 June 2008 (entry fee of \$10). For more information, please contact programming@reelasian.com.

Previously-posted Call for Papers:

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

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

* **Asian Visual Cultures Workshop (16 March 2008)**

For more information: Yuka Kanno at kannoy@uci.edu or Eric Huang at eyhuang@uci.edu.

* **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>

* **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.

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

For more information: kfmsh00@tamuk.edu

* **International Conference on "Debt and Slavery: the History of a Process of Enslavement (1 June 2008)**

For more information: <http://indianoceanworldcentre.com/>.

York Centre for Asian Research (YCAR) To comment or for more information, contact ycar@yorku.ca
Ste. 270 York Lanes, York University, 4700 Keele Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M3J 1P3.