



## York Centre for Asian Research Update

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#### Our Researchers | News and Awards

**Trichy Sankaran, Faculty Associate** | Professor Sankaran’s (Music) textbook “The Art of Konnakol (Solkattu)” with an accompanying CD will be launched at the Music Gallery at a special event on 27 May 2010. This book is an authoritative text on the rich tradition of performing arts of South India, drumming and vocal percussion in particular. A master percussionist, Professor Sankaran has created a complete guide to this dynamic spoken art form. This book and the accompanying CD contain a wealth of rhythmic information including many excerpts from his own body of recorded and researched work.

**Alwyn Austin, Research Associate** | Dr. Austin has been working for the past few years with Arthur Menzies on his memoirs. With Mr. Menzies' passing earlier this year, Dr. Austin would like to reassure Mr. Menzies' friends at YCAR that the project is going ahead with the full approval of his children.

Dr. Austin writes: This project – his memoirs - has grown larger than either of us would have predicted at the beginning. Last year, at the age of 92, he published the first volume, out of sequence, a selection of letters that he and his wife Sheila wrote from Australia when he was High Commissioner 1965 to 1972. He has

been working with another scholar on his Cold War work on disarmament and NATO.

The volume he and Dr. Austin have been working on concerns his early life from 1916 to 1953 - growing up in China in the 1920s and Japan in the '30s, Harvard under Fairbank and Reischauer, and joining External Affairs in 1940 as Foreign Service Officer No. 24. Because of his unique perspective this has become a "life and times" of Canada's relations with East Asia in the war and post-war years: Japan, China, Korea, Taiwan, Indochina and Indonesia.

At the time of his death, we had completed the first draft and were halfway through the revisions. We hope to have the book published in the fall or next year.

He said that they were also working on a fourth volume of his letters - official and personal - when Mr. Menzies was Ambassador to China in 1976 to 1980. He had a long life and a distinguished career.

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**YCAR News | Acclaimed author Wayson Choy to give Asian Heritage Month Lecture at York on 'Asian Identity: Becoming Canadian': *Orientik/Portrait* to explore Asian identities in Canada through dance at the 25 May event**



Reviewing his personal insights into life as an in-between citizen, that is, his living as a hyphenated Chinese-Canadian for most of his life, Wayson Choy - born in Canada in 1939 - will explore how he now feels he has "become a Canadian." No more hyphens. He will expose the prejudices and racism that still prevents many of our citizens from feeling that they belong here as full-fledged citizens. The irony is that these prejudices and racist attitudes are found from both inside and outside one's ethnicity and colour.

Mr. Choy, a member of the Order of Canada, has appeared as a subject in 'Unfolding the Butterfly', a full-length film documentary by Michael Glassbourg, and is featured on the co-produced China-Canada documentary, 'In Search of Confucius'. His latest book is *Not Yet*, a memoir "about living and almost dying," and he is presently working on my third novel and fifth book. His other publications include *All That Matters* (2004), *Paper Shadows* (1999) and *The Jade Peony* (1995), which was called "One of the 100 most important books in Canadian History" by the Literary Review of Canada. His work has also been translated into Hungarian, French, German, and Dutch editions. He is also a faculty member for the Humber School for Writers Summer Programme.

The discussant is Arun Mukherjee, Department of English, Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, York University.

The lecture is paired with a performance of *Orientik/Portrait*, which features the intricate and mesmerizing choreography of York University alumni Alvin Erasga Tolentino and fellow dancer Andrea Nann. The pair are joined by taiko drummer Jordy Riley and classical pianist Alison Nishihara.

Their performance will explore an Asian identity that is diverse in culture, creating a bridge between the identities of Canadians and the rest of the world. In *OrientiKik/Portrait*, sound and movements integrate and weave together in an enriching layer of moments in time. It highlights the experience, mediums and high artistry of each artists. Their aim is to capture the resonance and transparency with the meeting of two

performing mediums.

The event, which will be held in McLean Performance Studio, 244 Accolade East Building on the Keele Campus, is chaired by The Honourable Vivienne Poy, Senate of Canada and patron of Asian Heritage Month in Canada.

The event is presented by the York Centre for Asian Research as a part of the Asian Heritage Month Festival 2010 with kind support from the following York University and external sponsors: the Office of the Vice-President Academic and Provost, Faculty of Fine Arts, Graduate Program in Dance, Asian Heritage Month Canadian Foundation for Asian Culture (Central Ontario) Inc. (partially funded by the Government of Canada through the Department of Canadian Heritage), the Bata Shoe Museum and the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies.

Light refreshments will follow the event. Due to space restrictions, **RSVPs are required** to [ycar@yorku.ca](mailto:ycar@yorku.ca) or call 416.736.5821. For more information, please visit [www.yorku.ca/ycar](http://www.yorku.ca/ycar). For event location specifics, please refer to the map at: [www.yorku.ca/yorkweb/maps/keele-webmap-large.html](http://www.yorku.ca/yorkweb/maps/keele-webmap-large.html). Photo ©Raymond Lum

### YCAR News | 2010 YCAR Award Recipients

In the 2009.2010 academic year, five awards were offered to graduate students conducting research on Asia or the Asian Diaspora at York University. The winners were announced in October 2009 and April 2010. YCAR was also asked by the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) to select a York student to represent the University at the Global Initiatives Symposium in Taipei in July 2010.

#### Vivienne Poy Asian Research Award

**Vanessa Lamb** is the recipient of the 2010 Vivienne Poy Asian Research Award. She is a second-year doctoral candidate in the Department of Geography with research interests in the politics of the environment and development, feminist political ecology and critical science studies.



Ms. Lamb received her Master's degree from the University of Wisconsin where she undertook research and study regarding interdisciplinary understandings of conservation.

Prior to attending York University, she worked for the organization *TERRA* based in Bangkok, a regional NGO that works on environment issues within the Mekong Region. As a doctoral student she has worked as part of the Challenges of the Agrarian Transition in Southeast Asia (ChATSEA) project team.

The award funds will assist Ms. Lamb in her dissertation fieldwork during the 2010-2011 academic year. Her research is situated at the Nu-Salween River, which supports an estimated six million people in China, Burma and Thailand as a source of livelihood and food. Her research looks at knowledge-making and claim-making practices around river resources and she will be conducting interviews with local residents, activists, engineers, and others connected to a large hydroelectric development project along the river at the Thai-Burma border. Specifically, her research considers how different knowledges produced about the river interact and influence decision-making processes around development.

*The award is named for the Honourable Vivienne Poy and assists a graduate student in fulfilling the fieldwork*

requirement for the Graduate Diploma in Asian Studies. YCAR is grateful for Senator Poy's support for this award. For more information: [www.yorku.ca/ycar/Awards/Vivienne\\_Poy\\_Asian\\_Research\\_Award.html](http://www.yorku.ca/ycar/Awards/Vivienne_Poy_Asian_Research_Award.html).

### **YCAR Language Award**

**Ei Phyu Han** and **Rae Mitchell** are the 2010 recipients of the YCAR Language Award. Ms. Han, a Doctoral Candidate in Geography, will study Thai and Ms. Mitchell, a Master's Candidate in Social and Political Thought, will use the award funding to study Hindi in anticipation of her 2010 fieldwork in India.



**Ms. Han** is examining gender identity formation of Karen refugees from Burma along the Thai-Burma border to learn how it is influenced by different actors and power groups at multiple sites of displacement. Her research aims to demonstrate how identity is influenced by place and therefore shifts during the process of being displaced because it is continually being renegotiated. This research has the potential to help improve resettlement programmes and she hopes it can play a role in future Canadian refugee policy changes.

*"Although I am now a Canadian citizen, I migrated to Canada at the age of six from Burma with my family in the aftermath of the brutal repression of peaceful demonstrations in 1988. I believe that this project is important not only for the ways that it can influence policy and resettlement program changes, and its engagement and contribution to academic knowledge but also because it is integral to learning more about the growing humanitarian crisis in Burma."*

Ms. Han completed her course work and set the foundations for her fieldwork in the summer of 2009 in Chiang Mai, Thailand by making contacts with non-governmental organizations and by taking Thai language courses. The YCAR Language Award will assist in the continuation of these studies. She will begin her fieldwork in June where she will be working with the Thai-Burma Border Consortium (TBBC), WEAVE and the Karen Youth Organization.

**Ms. Mitchell's** research interests include resistance, social movement theory, engaged Buddhism and social anarchism. Her current research focuses on Gandhian perspectives of the body, including the methods utilized by Gandhi to transform his body (and self) from British subject into revolutionary *satyagrahi*. She's also interested in the ways that Gandhian approaches to social and political transformation are being adapted and utilized by women members of the Mahila Shanti Sena (Women's Peace Force) in Northern India.



She will complete a four-week intensive Hindi language-training course at the Jaipur School of Hindi in Jaipur, Rajasthan. The school is run in affiliation with Shashvat Sansthan, a local NGO working for the welfare of Rajasthan's tribal-indigenous communities. Ms. Mitchell will also be traveling with Dr. Reva Joshee and Jill Carr-Harris throughout central India for three weeks in October 2010 to explore possible research collaboration on Ekta Parishad's struggle for land and forest rights for marginalized and indigenous peoples in India.

She holds a combined Bachelor of Arts Honours degree in Peace Studies and Anthropology with a minor in Religious Studies from McMaster University.

The YCAR Language Award was created to support graduate students in fulfilling the language requirement for the Graduate Diploma in Asian Studies (GDAS) and to facilitate awardees master's or doctoral-level research. For more information: [www.yorku.ca/yicar/Awards/YCAR\\_Language\\_Award.html](http://www.yorku.ca/yicar/Awards/YCAR_Language_Award.html).

### **David Wurfel Award**

**Ferdinand Dionisio Caballero**, a Master's Candidate in Social Anthropology, is this year's recipient of the David Wurfel Award, which will aid him in his Fall 2010 archival fieldwork in the Philippines where he will focus on the entangled relations between the Catholic Church and the Filipino people.



The David Wurfel Award provides financial support to an honours undergraduate or masters graduate student who intends to conduct thesis research on the topic of Filipino history, culture or society.

Mr. Caballero's major research paper will be an anthropological inquiry on religion, colonial subjects, postcolonialism, and history. More specifically, he is interested in exploring and understanding the dynamics of power relations between religious institutions and the people.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology with a specialization in ethnographic studies from Grant MacEwan University in Edmonton, Alberta.

The Award was established in 2006 by Senior YCAR Research Associate Dr. David Wurfel. He wanted to contribute to the emergence of a new generation of Filipino leadership that is grounded in the country's history, culture and public affairs. Dr. Wurfel is a Philippine specialist who received his PhD from Cornell University's Southeast Asia Program. For more information: [www.yorku.ca/yicar/Awards/David\\_Wurfel.html](http://www.yorku.ca/yicar/Awards/David_Wurfel.html).

### **Albert C.W. Chan Foundation Fellowship**

**Heather Barnick** is the 2010 recipient of the Albert C.W. Chan Foundation Fellowship. She is a Doctoral Candidate in the Department of Social Anthropology at York. Her current research interests are related to the anthropology of media, digital anthropology, and techno-science with a specific focus on the visual and material cultures of video games and Massive Multiplayer Online Role Playing Games (MMORPGs).

In May of 2010, Ms. Barnick will begin ethnographic fieldwork in Shanghai, China, following the ways in which online role playing games have become significant sites for the formations of new national and cultural imaginaries in Mainland China. Her fieldwork is supported by the Albert C.W. Chan Fellowship and a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada doctoral scholarship.



This research follows on the heels of a project initiated by China's General Administration of Press and Publication (GAPP) to encourage the production of 100 domestically produced MMORPGs. The narratives and imagery integrated into games developed under GAPP's initiative frequently make use of famous fictional stories (eg. *Journey to the West*) and historical battles (eg. Genghis Khan's exploits, the Second Sino-Japanese War).

Focusing on the perspectives of youths from Shanghai, Ms. Barnick's research will examine how these adapted histories come to have new meanings for life in the present. The primary goal is to understand how

notions of national and cultural belongings and identities are continuously formed, expressed, and re-imagined by Shanghai youths through their participation in MMORPGs produced in China.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology and Anthropology from the University of Prince Edward Island and a Master of Arts degree in Social and Cultural Anthropology from Concordia University.

*The Albert C.W. Chan Foundation Fellowship was established by the Albert C.W. Chan Foundation to encourage and assist York University graduate students to conduct field research in East and/or Southeast Asia. YCAR would like to thank the Albert C. W. Chan family for their support of York graduate students.*

For more information: [www.yorku.ca/ycar/Awards/Albert\\_CW\\_Chan.html](http://www.yorku.ca/ycar/Awards/Albert_CW_Chan.html).

### **Global Initiatives Symposium**



**Adnan Amin** was selected from a strong group of graduate and undergraduate applicants to represent York University at the Global Initiatives Symposium in Taipei in July 2010. This opportunity is provided by the government of the Republic of China (Taiwan).

Mr. Amin's winning essay was titled 'When East Meets West: A Personal Essay on Intersections of North American and East Asian Education' where he reflected on his experiences as an English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher in Taiwan.

He has spent his post-secondary career at York University. Last year, he graduated with an Honours double major degree in English and History, completed his concurrent Bachelor of Education degree, and held a position as student senator for the Faculty of Education Student's Association. Mr. Amin has also held an international internship in the English Department of the Hong Kong Institute of Education and taught ESL in Taiwan. He is currently pursuing his Master of Education degree with York's Faculty of Education.

Mr. Amin's research interests are in teaching and learning strategies, immigrant experiences, English language learning, and digital media technology. He currently works as a school settlement worker (SWIS) in Toronto high schools, where he helps newcomer students and families with settlement needs.

The Global Initiatives Symposium will be held at the National Taiwan University in Taipei, Taiwan, from 12 to 16 July 2010. It brings together emergent leaders from around the world to discuss critical global issues. The topic for 2010 is The Emergence of New Giants: Evolution or Revolution. Participants will also participate in several days of cultural tours in Taiwan following the Symposium.

YCAR wishes to thank the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) and the government of government of the Republic of China (Taiwan).

### **YCAR News | Seeking your views on the Graduate Diploma in Asian Studies**

Michael Nijhawan, the GDAS Coordinator, is seeking suggestions and feedback from faculty and students for a review of the programme taking place this term.

In early 2007, YCAR launched the Graduate Diploma in Asian Studies. It is open to any student enrolled in a graduate programme at York University. The GDAS is centered on the core course, 'The Making of Asian Studies: Critical Perspectives', which was offered for the fifth time in Winter 2010.

The diploma has four requirements: the core course, two Asia-focused research papers, Asian field work experience and competence in an Asian language relevant to the student's research.

We welcome your comments and feedback. Please contact Professor Nijhawan (Sociology) by **30 April 2010** at [nijhawan@yorku.ca](mailto:nijhawan@yorku.ca) or [ycar@yorku.ca](mailto:ycar@yorku.ca). For more information on the GDAS, please visit: [www.yorku.ca/ycar/Graduate\\_Diploma.html](http://www.yorku.ca/ycar/Graduate_Diploma.html).

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### **Opportunity | Chinese Summer Dance Intensive Programme**

Little Pear Garden is pleased to announce their first Chinese Summer Dance Intensive Program. This program will be taught by three teachers in three different styles; Asian Contemporary, Chinese Classical and Chinese Folk dance. Please note that there will be a presentation on the final day of each course. All are welcome to come and watch. Please contact Queendy Lee ([queendylee@gmail.com](mailto:queendylee@gmail.com)) for more information or visit [www.littlepeargarden.com](http://www.littlepeargarden.com).

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### **Upcoming Event | Asian-Canadian Collaboration in Education: Pathways of Enrichment**

*Wednesday, 19 May 2010 | 4 to 6pm | Room 5-250 | Ontario Instituted for Studies in Education (OISE) | 252 Bloor Street West | Toronto*

The theme of the Sixth Annual Asian Heritage Month Education Roundtable is "Asian-Canadian Collaboration in Education: Pathways of Enrichment". It will provide an overview of how Canadian schools and universities can carry out exchange programs with their counterparts in Asia, especially China. The presenters will also highlight specific exchange programs and networks that have proved to be successful. You will gain insights into how to develop these exchange programs, what are the possibilities, and how best to utilize them in ways that suit your school's resources and requirements.

The roundtable will be chaired by Professor Ruth Hayhoe, OISE, University of Toronto. The Asian Heritage Month Lecture and Keynote Speech will be given by Consul Fang Jun, Consul & Director for Education, Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in Toronto, on the theme "Achievement and Challenges of International Education in China." Other speakers include Professor Qiang Zha (York University) and Professor Michael Connelly (OISE, University of Toronto), who will show how ongoing exchange programs have fostered egalitarian and inclusive classrooms in Toronto. The event discussants are: Professor Sheila Embleton (York University and President, Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute) and Dean Martin Singer (York University Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies).

There will be a reception immediately following the Roundtable, sponsored by the Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in Toronto, in honour of Asian Heritage Month and 40 Years of Canada-China Diplomatic Relations.

A reception will follow. For more information, visit [www.asianheritagemonth.org](http://www.asianheritagemonth.org). Seats are limited so reserve yours at [asianheritagecanadian@yahoo.ca](mailto:asianheritagecanadian@yahoo.ca).

### **Upcoming Event | Pu-Erh**

21-23 May 2010 | Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts | 10268 Yonge Street

"Pu-Erh" is a world premiere theatrical performance by the k'Now Theatre company about a Chinese-Canadian family, with dialogue in English and Cantonese.

A son is leaving. Hours before the flight, son and father try to have a conversation. The father speaks only Cantonese, the son only English. They drink tea. They have decades of regret and silence to reconcile. The son returns five years later to a changed family, to a mother he hardly recognizes. She has gone on a journey of her own. She must rediscover the joy of being a parent to her child; the son must learn the responsibility of being a child to his parents. A story of unfulfilled hopes and remarkable achievement, Pu-Erh shows how language can challenge, divide, and unite a family. With dialogue in English and Cantonese, this fresh and urgent examination of a modern immigrant family will speak to anyone who has wondered if life begins when you move away.

The show will run from 21-23 May 2010 at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts. It is written by Norman Yeung, directed by Keira Loughran and stars Janeet Lo, John Ng and Jeff Yung.

For more insight into the play, you can listen to an interview with the playwright Norman Yeung at: [www.cbc.ca/freshair/2010/05/sat-may-8.html](http://www.cbc.ca/freshair/2010/05/sat-may-8.html) or view the NOW Magazine review: [www.nowtoronto.com/stage/story.cfm?content=174875](http://www.nowtoronto.com/stage/story.cfm?content=174875). For ticket information, visit: [www.rhcentre.ca](http://www.rhcentre.ca).

### **Upcoming Event | Asian Heritage Month Film Festival**

Saturday, 22 May 2010 | 1 to 8pm | Innis Town Hall | 2 Sussex Avenue | Toronto

The programme for this Asian Heritage Month event includes a screening of Mateo Guez's 'Off World' - delving deeper into the subject matter of Director Mateo Guez' 2009 Contact Toronto Photography exhibit of the same name, Off World is an ethereal, occasionally disturbing portrait of one of The Philippines' most notorious slums. Off World premiered at the 2009 Sao Paolo Film Festival in 2009 and won the Tonya Lee Williams Award for Outstanding Canadian Feature at the 10th ReelWorld International Film Festival. This is followed by a showing of Director Cheuk Kwan's 'Chinese Restaurants'. There will be a Q & A with Directors Mateo Guez and Cheuk Kwan, moderated by Bobby Del Rio after the screenings.

Three documentaries produced by the Social Services Network are also included in the programme: *Through South Asian Eyes* on various issues the South Asian community face and potential solutions; *Apni Sanskriti - Our culture*, a photo-voice production about the rich South Asian culture and the life of three girls living in York Region; and *Who Am I?*, a short doc filmed in a York Region high school that focuses on the dual-culture and various stresses the South Asian youth face on a daily basis.

For more information on Asian Heritage Month Events, visit [www.vmacch.ca/NewEvents/Asian%20Heritage%20Month%20Events%20in%20May%202010.pdf](http://www.vmacch.ca/NewEvents/Asian%20Heritage%20Month%20Events%20in%20May%202010.pdf).

### **Upcoming Event | Asian Identity: Becoming Canadian: The Asian Heritage Month Lecture at York University**

Tuesday, 25 May 2010 | 7 to 9:30pm | McLean Performance Studio | 244 Accolade East Building | York

University

**The details can be found in the story above in the YCAR News section.**

**Upcoming Event | Asian Heritage Month Gala Performance of Asian Artists**

*Friday, 28 May 2010 | 7 to 9pm | Hart House East Common Room | 7 Hart House Circle*

The event will feature a plenary talk by Professor Chan Ka Nin, Faculty of Music, University of Toronto. Professor Chan is the composer of Iron Road. His work will be performed by soprano Xin Wang and Pianist Alice Ho. The evening also includes performances by: Alvin Erasga Tolentino and Andrea Nann's "Orientik"; Gauri Guha (classical Indian singing and music); Dunhuang Chamber Ensemble with Anna Guo (classical Chinese music); a joint performance by Gauri Guha and Anna Guo; and the Chi Ping Dance Group.

For more information on Asian Heritage Month Events, visit

[www.vmacch.ca/NewEvents/Asian%20Heritage%20Month%20Events%20in%20May%202010.pdf](http://www.vmacch.ca/NewEvents/Asian%20Heritage%20Month%20Events%20in%20May%202010.pdf).

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**Call for Papers | Women and the Media in Asia**

To what extent do women have control over their lives? How do the media intersect with imagining different lives for women? This book is concerned with the changing lives of women; the troubling signs of female individualization as intersected with everyday media culture.

From the 1980s onward, women in Asia have gained higher levels of education and the commensurate expectations have become a driving motor in the women's aspirations for work, economic power, independence, freedom and self-fulfillment. However, women often experience gendered labour market inequity setting limits on patterns of participation, women's socio-economic position on the margins of work systems, and thus the illusion of the language of choice that the new capacities of education appear to promise. The enlargement of choice can be particularly illusory for women in contemporary Asia where gendered socio-economic and cultural conditions continue to persist and structure labour market outcomes and lifestyles.

Yet signs of female individualization have been proliferating as a defining feature of contemporary modes of identity, albeit untenable and ambivalent, within the discursive regime of self – embodied in regulatory practices in society where individualism is not placed at the heart of its culture. Arguably, the media are central to the signs of emergent cultures of female individualization producing the alternative social, cultural and symbolic relations women wish to live within and define the kind of self they wish to become. Seeming suggestions of individualization are encountered, mediated through popular media imaginaries that are present and often intentionally used as resources for reflexivity and self-imagining. This also provides a condition for an increased awareness of cultural differences and of women's own positions in relation to global Others, new symbolic objects of identification and contestation.

At a time of significant changes in women's lives entering a much larger but precarious world, this book explores such phenomena by critically incorporating the parameters of popular media culture into the overarching paradigm of gender relations, economics and politics of everyday life.

Contributions that explore everyday media culture and the issues of women as 'consumers', women as 'representations' and women as 'creators', to offer an understanding of changing lives and frustrated desires, contradictions and dispersed sites of female individualization that are refracted into various degrees and forms are invited.

The submission deadline is **30 May 2010**. A 300-word abstract and biographical note can be sent to Professor Youna Kim, Department of Global Communications, American University of Paris, at [ykim@aup.fr](mailto:ykim@aup.fr).

### **Call for Papers | Nationbending, a special edition of Transformative Works & Cultures**

'Avatar: The Last Airbender' is that rare animal: American-produced anime faithful to both its Japanese cinematic influences and its pervasive Chinese iconography. A vast amount of research was invested in bringing a fantasy Asian environment to life: martial arts master Sifu Kisu choreographed each fight and assigned specific fighting forms to each character; a Chinese calligraphy consultant wrote the signage that appeared in each episode, and the series' creators visited China to study its traditional architecture.

These elements create an enticing mash-up of genuine Asian signifiers within a fictional environment. The series' popularity encouraged a live-action film adaptation from director M. Night Shyamalan. Fan controversy erupted when white actors were cast in roles previously "played" by characters with dark skin. Protests against this act of "racebending" included T-shirts and bumper stickers with the slogan 'Aang Ain't White!', the founding of Racebending.com, and a renewed discussion among online fans about the long cinematic history of whitewashing.

This issue aims to investigate the cultural significance of A:tLA as a transforming and transformative text. Like the Avatar, A:tLA and its settings and characters have many incarnations online, on television, on film, and in print. Likewise, the definitions of anime, cartoons, Asia, and race have been bent by fans and producers alike. A:tLA is part of the ongoing transformation of American media in a global context. We welcome contributions focusing on Asian Studies; media theory and film studies; religious studies and anthropology; postcolonial and queer readings of the series, the films, and the fan works they have inspired; reviews of both canon and fanon texts; interviews with both canon and fanon producers; and reviews of relevant texts, whatever form they might take.

TWC accommodates academic articles of varying scope as well as other forms that embrace the technical possibilities of the Web and test the limits of the genre of academic writing. Contributors are encouraged to include embedded links, images, and videos or to propose submissions in alternative formats: interviews, collaborations, podcasts, comics, drawings, video, multimedia works.

#### Submission:

**Theory** | Often interdisciplinary essays with a conceptual focus and a theoretical frame that offer expansive interventions in the field. Peer review. Length: 5,000-8,000 words plus a 100-250 word abstract.

**Praxis** | Analyses of particular cases that may apply a specific theory or framework to an artifact; explicate fan practice or formations; or perform a detailed reading of a text. Peer review. Length: 4,000-7,000 words plus a 100-250 word abstract.

**Symposium** | Short pieces that provide insight into current developments and debates. Editorial review.

Length: 1,500-2,500 words.

The deadline is **1 October 2011** (Theory, Praxis) & **1 November 2011** for (Symposium). Please visit TWC for more information: <http://journal.transformativeworks.org/index.php/twc/information/authors>.

**York Centre for Asian Research (YCAR)**

To comment or for more information, contact [ycar@yorku.ca](mailto:ycar@yorku.ca)

Eighth Floor | York Research Tower | York University | 4700 Keele Street | Toronto | Ontario | Canada  
[ycar@yorku.ca](mailto:ycar@yorku.ca) | [www.yorku.ca/ycar](http://www.yorku.ca/ycar)