



York Centre for Asian Research Update

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YCAR Events: YCAR welcomes international scholars on colonial culture in Korea



Korea, Japanese and Canadian scholars shared their research on culture in Korea's late colonial period at a symposium held on 25 September 2008 at York University.

Panellists discussed creative responses to Japan's totalitarian social and military control policies, the so-called *sinch'eje* (New Political Order/System), in the 1940s and analyzed a wide variety of cinematic, literary and visual texts in order to achieve a comprehensive perspective on a difficult and complex period in Japanese and Korean history.



Presenters included: Lee Jaimyung (Myongji University), Naoki Watanabe (Musashi University), Hwang Ho-Duk (Sungkyunkwan University), Yi Young Jae (University of Tokyo) and Kim Eung-gyo (Waseda University). The event's discussants were Janet Poole (University of Toronto) and Lee Jaimyung (Myongji University).

The event was organized by YCAR Associates Ted Goossen, Humanities Professor, and Jooyeon Rhee, Humanities Doctoral Candidate. Rhee also presented her research on the representation of Korean women in Japanese propagand films in the early 1940s.



In addition to presenters from Korea and Japan, the event welcomed special guest Masayuki Suzuki, Director of the Japan Foundation, Toronto. The Japan Foundation was also a sponsor of the event, along with the Humanities Department at York University.

Papers presented at the symposium will be available next week on the YCAR website – www.yorku.ca/ycar. (Photos clockwise: Event attendees; Jooyeon Rhee; Naoki Watanabe)

YCAR Events: First York graduate student conference on Asia and Asian diaspora studies a success



The first York Centre for Asian Research Graduate Student Conference, "Transformations: Researching Asia", was held on 26-27 September 2008 at York University.

"The graduate conference has been an excellent forum for knowledge exchange and for setting an agenda for issues that related to Asian research," said Susan Henders, YCAR's Director. "The students' hard work paid off - the conference was a wonderful success."

YCAR Graduate Associates, who organized the conference, had been planning the event since August 2007.

Twenty graduate students from 13 universities in Canada, United States, Asia and Europe presented their works on the politics of representations, gender and modernity, colonialism, globalization and regionalism, the arts of resistance, and education across Asia and Asian Diasporas.



"The whole conference was full of energy and excitement as knowledge and insights were shared between students, discussants and participants from different disciplines and backgrounds," said Eric Ping Hung Li, a member of the organizing committee and doctoral candidate in Marketing at Schulich.

Over 60 students, faculties, and participants attended the eight panels that covered major issues on researching Asia over the two-day events.



"We would like to thank our faculty advisors and discussants for their valuable time and tremendous support," said Doris Sung, a member of the organizing committee and doctoral candidate in Social and Political Thought.

More than 100 students, faculty and community members attended the keynote lecture on Friday, 26 September. Dr. Rey Chow, Andrew W. Mellon Professor of the Humanities at Brown University, had attendees rethinking the indispensable relationship between the East and the West. The lecture, "Film as Heterolingual Address: Some Remarks about Studying Asia in Postwar North America," was also part of the York Department of Film's 2008-2009 Norman Jewison Series.



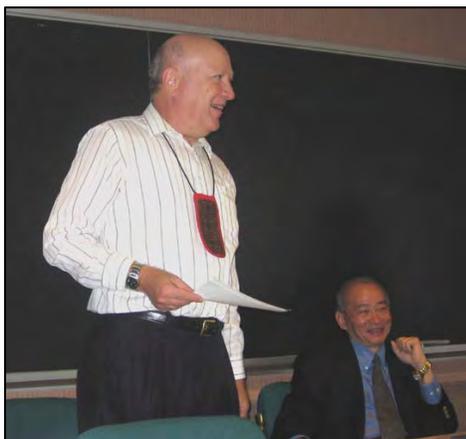
The talk explored some of the possibilities of Asian Studies in a global context in which the United States has been occupying the status of super power. Among the issues it discussed were the utopian notion of the heterolingual address, the legacy of war, mourning, and the ways of engaging with the specifics of film language.

The organizing committee wishes to thank the event's sponsors for their support and encouragement: The Hong Kong Economic and

Trade Office (Canada), Department of Film Norman Jewison Series, Office of the Vice-President Research and Innovation, Faculty of Graduate Studies, Division of Humanities, Graduate Programme in Geography, Graduate Programme in Women's Studies, Graduate Programme in Social and Political Thought and YCAR.

(Photos top to bottom: Shuxia Tai, Discussant Professor Patrick Alcedo, Doris Sung, Roberto Reyes Ang, Cynthia Foo; Discussant Professor Ted Goossen, Paul Horton; Doris Sung, Discussant Professor Joan Judge, Jooyeon Rhee, Jie (Selina) Gao; Organizing Committee members: Doris Sung, Shannon Arnold, Tina Virmani, Jooyeon Rhee, Eric Li, Naoko Ikeda, Heather Barnick.)

YCAR Events: Founder of China's democracy movement speaks at York



On 30 September, YCAR welcomed Xu Wenli to York University. Over 50 people packed the room as Xu shared his thoughts in a talk on the future of Post-Olympics China. The talk was presented in Mandarin and English. *(For those who were not able to attend, the talk is now available on the YCAR website www.yorku.ca/ycar).*

Xu is China's "Godfather of Dissent" and one of the founders of China's democracy movement in the Post-Mao era.

Now living in exile in the United States, Mr. Xu was a leader in the Democracy Wall movement from 1979 to 1981, for which he was imprisoned from 1981 to 1993. He played a major role in establishing the China Democracy Party in 1998, for which he was

sentenced to another 13 years imprisonment. In the face of international pressure, the Chinese government released him on medical grounds in December 2002. He and his wife left China immediately for the United States. Xu is now a senior fellow of the Watson Institute for International Studies at Brown University in Providence Rhode Island.

Before turning the discussion to China's post-Olympics future, Xu spoke briefly about his life story and his time in prison; Xu spent a total of 16 years in prison for his activities and membership in the China Democracy Party. He acknowledged support from different organizations, like Amnesty International, and individuals who have supported his struggle over the past few decades.

Overall, Xu was positive about the future of China. He spoke on many issues, including the importance of children and their protection as "China's past and future", the growing popularity of the 'passionate youth' movement and called for self-reflection on how China has reached this point in its history.

The China Democracy Party, which is banned by the Chinese government, has always pushed gradually for a peaceful move to democracy, said Xu, and China has been moving in the direction of democracy continuously over the past 20 years.

He also spoke about ongoing fight for human rights that began over 100 years ago in the Qing Dynasty and believes that a society that respects freedom, democracy and a society that respects human rights will happen.

Xu said that internal revolt is not likely in China because of the history of internal suffering but couldn't dispel the possibility of an uprising or revolt by citizens. He sees internal disparity as the potential tipping point.

Questions about corruption, his prediction on Tibet and why attempts at democracy in China have failed were broached in the question period.

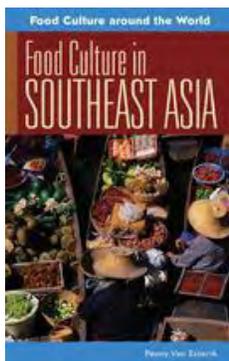
The event was organized by Sheng Xue of the Taiwanese Human Rights Association of Canada (THRAC) and Michael Stainton, YCAR Research Associate.



The talk is now available on the YCAR website (www.yorku.ca/ycar).

(Photos: Michael Stainton introduces Xu Wenli; Wendy Wong and Susan Henders share a laugh with the guest speaker.)

YCAR Member Publications



Food Culture in Southeast Asia (Greenwood Press, 2008) by Penny Van Esterik Southeast Asian cuisines, such as Thai, have become quite popular in the United States even though immigrant numbers are low. The food is appealing because it is tasty, attractive, and generally healthful, with plentiful vegetables, fish, noodles, and rice. *Food Culture in Southeast Asia* is a richly informative overview of the food and foodways of the mainland countries including Burma, Thailand, Lao, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Malaysia, and the island countries of Singapore, Brunei, East Timor, Indonesia, and the Philippines. Students and other readers will learn how diverse peoples from diverse geographies feed themselves and the value they place on eating as a material, social, and symbolic act. For more information on the publication, visit <http://www.greenwood.com/catalog/GR4419.aspx>.

(Text by Greenwood Press)

China as a Creditor: A Rising Financial Power? by Gregory Chin and Eric Helleiner.

YCAR Faculty Associate Gregory Chin and colleague Eric Helleiner's (University of Waterloo) article will be published in the Fall 2008 issue of the *Journal of International Affairs*.

Opportunity: David Wurfel Award deadline is Monday, 20 October

Applications are now being accepted for The David Wurfel Award. The \$1,500 award provides financial support to an undergraduate or masters degree student who intends to conduct thesis research on Filipino history, culture or society. It is open to students enrolled at York in social sciences or humanities programs (including the Faculties of law and environmental studies), who are Canadian citizens, permanent residents or protected persons.

The application deadline is **Monday, 20 October 2008**. The successful applicant will be notified within 30 days of the deadline.

For more information, visit the YCAR website (www.yorku.ca/ycar) or email the YCAR coordinator at ycar@york.ca. For an application form, click [here](#).

Opportunity: Reel Asian International Film Festival seeking volunteers

What: 2008 Reel Asian Volunteer Orientation & Sign-Up

Where: Trinity Square Video | 401 Richmond St W | Suite 376

When: Wednesday, 22 October 2008 | 6-8 PM

Who: All interested individuals!

Why: Become involved! Learn about Reel Asian 2008's exciting volunteer opportunities, sign up for your shifts, and meet other volunteers and Reel Asian staff.

RSVP TO volunteer@reelasian.com by Tuesday, 21 October.

Want to become more involved? Submit a resume with your volunteer information sheet and let us know about your interests! Submit resumes to volunteer@reelasian.com

Opportunity: Internship at the Embassy of Canada in Beijing – Political Section

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 5 January to 3 July 2009. Please note that applications must be received no later than midnight Beijing time on **Sunday, 26 October 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 include:

- 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.

Interns will each receive an honorarium of 51,350 RMB, paid in installments. Interns will be responsible for their own travel arrangements, housing, living expenses, including any costs associated with their relocation to Beijing. In accordance with Government of Canada policy, interns --- as contractors --- will not be eligible for benefits such as statutory holiday, overtime compensation, sick leave, etc.

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. Please ensure that you provide appropriate contact information so that you can be easily reached (email, phone, mobile, etc.).

Applications should arrive no later than midnight (Beijing time) on Sunday, 26 October 2008, 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 Email: beijing-ap@international.gc.ca. For more information, visit: http://geo.international.gc.ca/asia/china/docs/job_opportunities-en.asp.

Opportunity: Asia Pacific Scholarship Consortium scholarships

Applications for Masters scholarships for individuals from Myanmar, Lao PDR, and Cambodia are currently being accepted.

The Asia Pacific Scholarship Consortium is an informal network of universities in Thailand, Hong Kong and the Philippines that aims to facilitate scholarships in high quality postgraduate courses for individuals from Myanmar, Cambodia and Lao PDR who require financial support to study. The Consortium was established in 2007. All applications must be submitted by **14 December 2008**. No late applications will be accepted.

The scholarships provide opportunities for high quality, post-graduate study in fields relevant to development of the Mekong Sub Region, for individuals who demonstrate both academic and professional excellence and potential to become leaders in the following fields: Education, International development, Social work, Environment, Community development, Public policy and management, Media and Community health. Successful students will study at prestigious international universities in Hong Kong, Thailand or the Philippines. Scholars will undertake masters degrees by coursework. Courses typically take one to two years to complete. Scholars must complete the course within the specified time period on a full time basis.

Successful students will be eligible to apply for an APSC Graduate Internship. Interns will be placed in organizations and institutions within the Southeast Asian region for a period of three months, so as to further develop skills acquired during formal degree study. For more information, email info@scholarshipsasia.org.

Opportunity: Visiting Fellow at the Center for Asian Democracy, University of Louisville

The Center for Asian Democracy at the University of Louisville invites applications for its Visiting Fellows program for the 2009-2010 academic year. Fellows are expected to be in residence with the Center for the academic year and will receive a stipend of \$40,000 and an additional \$3,000 for research and travel expenses to Louisville. We expect to appoint three fellows for this academic year.

Applicants need to demonstrate their competency in Asian studies with a solid record of publications. The fellowship will be ideal for junior scholars whose work is related to democratization in Asia, and senior scholars on sabbatical leave. Fellows are expected to be actively involved in the Center's scholarly activities and to present their research in a public forum.

Created in 2006 with a substantial endowment, the Center is in the process of hiring an endowed chair, runs a speakers' series, runs three international research projects in China, Kazakhstan, and Vietnam and Laos, and holds conferences and workshops on a regular basis. The Center also publishes two book series with

the University Press of Kentucky in English and with Renmin University of China Press in Chinese (translations). The Center's research covers South, East, Southeast and Central Asia. For details about the Center, please visit our website: <http://louisville.edu/asiandemocracy/>.

Applicants should send a research proposal of approximately 1,000 words, curriculum vita, one writing sample, and three letters of recommendation by 1 December 2008 to Dr. Shiping Hua, Director, Center for Asian Democracy, Ford Hall 205, the University of Louisville, Louisville, KY 40292, US. Fax: 502-852-7923. Applications are accepted until position is filled. Email inquiries are welcome: shiping.hua@louisville.edu.

Opportunity: Postdoctoral Fellowship in Modern Southeast Asian Studies

The Weatherhead East Asian Institute invites applications for its 2009-2010 Postdoctoral Fellowship in Modern Southeast Asian Studies. Candidates from all social science disciplines, including history, are welcome to apply. The fellowship will cover a 10 or 12-month period beginning 1 July 2009 or 1 September 2009. The Fellow will devote half time to his or her own research and will teach one graduate-level course on Southeast Asia per semester. The stipend for 2009-2010 is \$44,000, plus benefits.

Applicants must have completed all Ph.D. degree requirements (completed and filed the dissertation) between July 2005 and July 2009. Applicants must have completed their Ph.D. in a social science discipline, including history, working on modern Southeast Asia. Applications from individuals who hold or have held regular faculty positions will not be considered.

Applicants should submit the following: Application Cover Sheet (available at www.columbia.edu/cu/weai/postdoctoral-fellowship.html); Curriculum Vitae; Research Proposal (2-3 pages); Graduate-Level Southeast Asia Course Proposal (1-2 pages); Three Letters of Reference (signed and sealed).

All application materials (including letters of reference) should be submitted on or before 9 January 2009. Faxed or e-mailed applications will not be accepted. The results will be announced no later than 2 March 2009. For more information, contact Celia Bhattacharya, Program Officer, by phone at 212.854.9206 or by e-mail at cb2462@columbia.edu.

Complete information and application forms are available at www.columbia.edu/cu/weai/postdoctoral-fellowship.html.

Previously-posted opportunities

* **Scholarship for a year of Buddhist Studies at a Japanese University (1 November 2008)**

For more information: www.socsci.mcmaster.ca/relstud/.

Upcoming Event: Travelling Film South Asia @ York

21-24 October 2008 * Nat Taylor Cinema * N102 Ross Building * York University

This week-long lunch hour and evening film festival features the best in South Asian documentary filmmaking. Curated from the Film South Asia festival in held every two year in Kathmandu, Nepal, it features 13 films divided into nine two-hour programs. The feature length films will allow for a Q&A with a faculty member of the South Asia Studies Programme / Faculty Associates of YCAR. The slots with two one-hour documentaries will be restricted to the screening of the films. The film festival is created by [Himal Association](#). The York event is brought to you by: United South Asians at York (USAY), The South Asian Studies programme, the Department of Film and the York Center for Asian Research (YCAR).

The 13 touring documentaries of Travelling Film South Asia 2008 (TFSA '08) are outstanding examples of non-fiction productions of the last two years. They have been selected from the 45 documentaries screened in the competitive section of Film South Asia '07, the 'mother festival'. The selection has been done with the

help of the festival's three-member jury, chaired by Bombay-based filmmaker Saeed Mirza. Films from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka were screened at FSA '07 and they covered the most diverse topics ever: politics, art, culture, globalization, natural disasters, environment, gender, urbanisation, labour relations, the Partition, entertainment, profile and history.

Full details are available at: <http://arts.yorku.ca/sosc/sasia/filmfest.htm>. The full schedule is available at: <http://arts.yorku.ca/sosc/sasia/filmfestschedule.pdf>

Upcoming Event: The Cost of Membership in a Monocultural Society: Multiculturalism and Ethnic Minorities in Korea

Tuesday, 21 October 2008 * Noon to 2pm * Sociology Common Room * 2101 Vari Hall

Organizers of the Sociology Department Colloquium and Race Workshop are pleased to welcome Kyung Tae Park, who will speak on the "Cost of Membership in a Monocultural Society: Multiculturalism and Ethnic Minorities in Korea."

While Koreans have been proud of the 'pureness' of their blood for a long time, President of South Korea suddenly declared in 2006 that Korea became a multicultural society. Now there are more than 400,000 migrant workers, 100,000 foreign brides, and hundreds thousands of biracial children in Korea, and as a result it is not 'pure' anymore. What does the declaration of multiculturalism mean for ethnic minorities and majorities in Korea? Is it going to be really multicultural as declared?

Kyung Tae Park is a visiting scholar in the Department of Sociology at York University and a professor of Sociology at Sungkonghoe University in Seoul, Korea. He has been working on the issues related to ethnic and racial minorities in Korea. In particular, his research interests focus on migrant workers, ethnic Chinese, and biracial people in Korea. He is the author of several books and articles including the followings: *Becoming Korean: The Experiences of Migrant Workers, Ethnic Chinese, and Biracial People* (2008), *Stories of The Others: Minorities and Human Rights in Korea* (2007) and *Social Causes of Minority Discrimination in Korea: Focusing on Ethnic and Racial Minorities* (2001).

Upcoming Event: Information session on the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

Thursday, 23 October * 10am to noon * 280 York Lanes * York University

The Office of the Vice-President, Research & Innovation, would like to bring to the attention of York's research community, an upcoming information session on the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation.

This Interactive Information Session organized by the Humboldt Foundation Liaison Office in Canada, the Office of the Vice-President Research and Innovation, York University, and the Humboldt Association of Canada introduces the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation to potential researchers and gives them insights into what kind of research and funding opportunities are available for talented researchers.

Renny Khan, Associate Director of International Relations at the University of Alberta, will make the presentation. His office at the University of Alberta has partnered with the Humboldt Association of Canada (HAC) and the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation to create "The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation Liaison Office in Canada," based at the University of Alberta.

Researchers are asked to notify the Office of Research Services about their intent to attend this session by contacting Lia Novario (Tel: 416-736-2100 ext. 33782, lia@yorku.ca).

The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation is a non-profit foundation established by the Federal Republic of Germany for the promotion of international research cooperation. It enables highly qualified scholars not resident in Germany to spend extended periods of research in Germany and promotes the ensuing academic contacts. The Foundation grants research fellowships and research awards to highly qualified scholars and scientists from all countries and from all fields of research.

For a complete listing of programmes, visit www.humboldt-foundation.de/en/index.htm.

Upcoming Event: Bangladesh at Crossroads: The Politics of Gender and Islam

*Friday, 24 October 2008 * 4 to 6pm * 208N North House * Munk Centre * University of Toronto*

The Bangladesh State's discourse on Islam and Gender have shifted over the years, both distinctively as well as in relation with each other. Presenter Meghna Guhathakurta will explore this trajectory and highlight two specific cases on how the Bangladesh state has viewed notions of gender and Islam. They are the (1) the Fatwa incidences and (2) the Taslima Nasrin case.

Guhathakurta (Ph.D. University of York, UK) until recently was Professor of International Relations at the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh and is currently Executive Director at Research Initiatives, Bangladesh, an organization funding research on poverty alleviation. Her area of interest is development, gender and politics in South Asia. She has published extensively on gender, development, minority rights as well as conflict and peace-building. She served as member of the Netherlands Development Research Council from 1996 to 2002, where she chaired the sub-committee on post-conflict development. She was also member of the South Asian Peoples Committee on the Rights of Minorities, a commission formed by the organization South Asians for Human Rights (SAHR).

For more information, please visit <http://webapp.mcis.utoronto.ca/EventDetails.aspx?eventid=6599>.

Upcoming Event: Building a Relationship through Culture

*Sunday, 26 October 2008 * 2pm * OISE, Room 5-250 * 252 Bloor St. W. at St. George Subway Station*

The Toronto Canada-China Friendship Association, a member of the Federation of Canada-China Friendship Associations, welcomes Dr. Nelly Ng to speak on "Building a Relationship through Culture."

Dr. Nelly Ng was one of the Founding Co-Chairs of the Canadian Foundation for Chinese Heritage Preservation (CFCHP). CFCHP has cooperated with the Chinese State Administration of Cultural Heritage on preservation projects. In 1997, they brought Masterpieces of 20th Century Chinese Paintings to leading venues in three cities in Canada. In 2000, they brought the Jade, the Ultimate Treasure of Ancient China exhibit, to museums in five provinces and seven cities across Canada. Dr. Ng has founded the new Canadian Fund for International Understanding through Culture. She is a practicing family physician who has won many awards for both her medical and cultural work.

Dr. Ng will speak about activities she previously undertook when chairing the Canadian Foundation for Chinese Heritage Preservation and about the activities of her new Foundation. For more information, contact Michael at michael-copeland@rogers.com.

Upcoming Event: Gender and Cultural Production: A New Approach to Chinese Women's Journals in the Early 20th Century

*Monday, 27 October 2008 * 9am to 5pm * 280 York Lanes, York University*

In the early decades of the twentieth century, a new Republic struggled to establish itself in China after 2,000 years of imperial rule. This halting political transformation was accompanied by new modes of social reproduction, intensified global exchanges, and the emergence of a dynamic print market. It also produced profound shifts in societal norms and in cultural, gender, and bodily practices.

This workshop uses the most prominent new media of the period - the popular press - to restore complexity to this era and liberate it from its own reductive discourses on the failings of tradition and the promise of modernity. Focusing on women's journals, presenters from Canada, Germany, the United States, England, France and China closely read not only the discursive essays published in these materials, but their illustrations, poetry sections, and readers' columns. The paper gives analyze changes in gender roles,

cultural forms, and everyday practices. They also probe the nature and function of the new media that drove and reflected these changes. The programme is available at:
www.yorku.ca/ycar/Programs_Projects/Popular_Press_China.html.

Members of the York community and the general public with an interest in popular journals, mass media, visuality, women's history and gender in China are welcome to attend.

Please RSVP to ycar@yorku.ca by 23 October 2008. For more information, contact YCAR at ycar@yorku.ca.

Upcoming Event: Trichy Sankaran – Mrdangam with members of Autorickshaw and special guests

*Tuesday, 28 October 2008 * 7:30pm * Tribute Communities Recital Hall * Accolade East Building * York University*

Bridging eastern and western styles, world-renowned percussion virtuosos, Trichy Sankaran, brings his rhythmic mastery to centre stage as part of York University's Faculty concert series. Members of autorickshaw, under the direction of his daughter Suba Sankaran and special guests, will also contribute to a rich programme featuring solo, ensemble and original compositions in the South Indian musical traditions

General admission is \$15; \$5 for students and seniors. Call the box office at 416.736.5888 for tickets.

Upcoming Event: Roundtable with Ted Lipman, Canadian Ambassador to the Republic of Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

*Thursday, 30 October 2008 * 3 to 4:30pm * 280 York Lanes * York University*

University students and faculty are invited to join us for this unique opportunity as we welcome Ambassador Ted Lipman to York University.

Ted Lipman joined the Canadian Department of External Affairs in 1976 and his first assignment in Asia was to the Canadian Embassy in Beijing, 1977-80. Since then, he has had a variety of assignments in China, including serving as Canada's first Trade Commissioner in South China (1982-85), Canadian Consul General in Shanghai (1995-99) and Minister, Canadian Embassy, Beijing (1999-2001). He has also served in the United States on three occasions; UN General Assembly, Consul and Trade Commissioner, New York City and Canadian Consul in Pittsburgh. Ted Lipman's most recent assignment abroad was as Executive Director of the Canadian Trade Office in Taipei (2001-2004).

This York University-University of Toronto roundtable is presented by the York Centre for Asian Research, the York Centre for International and Security Studies and the Centre for Study of Korea at the University of Toronto.

Participation in this roundtable is limited to university faculty and students. RSVPs are required and can be sent to ycar@yorku.ca by 29 October 2008.

Upcoming Event: CinemaAsia

*November 2008 * University of Toronto*

This year is the debut of CinemaAsia, a collaboration of the Asian Institute at the Munk Centre for International Studies, University of Toronto, and Reel Asian international film Festival. Bridging filmmakers, film critics and scholars, CinemaAsia offers a series of special screenings and crucial talks and panels supplementing the rich offerings of the film festival. The premier CinemaAsia features a retrospective of the extraordinary and challenging Japanese director Sabu and a presentation on his films by U of T Professor Eric Cazdyn, author of *The Flash of Capital*.

For more information and to register, visit <http://webapp.mcis.utoronto.ca/EventDetails.aspx?EventId=6820>.

During the festival itself, CinemaAsia will also feature two panels, one on the past and future prospects of Hong Kong Cinema, in this its centenary year; and a second, a moderated conversation between Canadian doc-maker Yung Chang and American filmmaker and NYU professor Christine Choy.

For more information, visit <http://webapp.mcis.utoronto.ca/Events.aspx>.

Upcoming Event: The Road to Asia 2008

Saturday and Sunday, 1-2 November * 11am to 5pm * Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre * Toronto

The Road to Asia 2008, presented by the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre, is a celebration of Asian culture that will be held on 1-2 November 2008. The two-day festival celebrates the richness and exciting diversity of Asian culture. The festival creates a thriving multicultural atmosphere which highlights Asian cultures through traditional food, arts and crafts, music, dance and martial arts – all under one roof. Admission is free for JCCC members, \$5 for adults and \$3 for seniors and students. For more information, call 416.441.2345 or visit www.jccc.on.ca.

York News: Prof. David Lumsden receives prestigious Great Wall Friendship Award



York anthropology Professor David Lumsden received China's highest award for foreigners last week when he was given the Great Wall Friendship Award in Beijing's Great Hall of the People by China's Vice-Premier Zhang Dejiang. "This award is the highest honour that China bestows on foreign experts for their contributions to China's development and to international friendship," said Lumsden, nominated for the award by Southwest University and the Chongqing municipal government in southwest China. "Overall, it was an unforgettable honour and experience."

In addition to receiving the award, Lumsden was one of two winners chosen to give a thanksgiving speech on behalf of all the winners at the award ceremony.

Lumsden recently returned to York after spending a two-year sabbatical at Southwest University teaching graduate students and conducting research on the local Tujia people and on the impact of Chinese reforms on peasants and migrant workers flooding into cities. Lumsden, master of Norman Bethune College from 1983 to 1989, received the Three Gorges Friendship Award from Chongqing, Toronto's sister city, in 2007. (See the [Feb. 20, 2008](#) issue of *Y-File*.) He also played a major role in the twinning of Chongqing city, a municipal region of 32 million people affected by the Three Gorges Dam Project on the Yangtze River, with Toronto.

To read the rest of the story, visit www.yorku.ca/yfile/archive/index.asp?Article=11286. The story originally appeared in the 10 October 2008 York University's *Y-File*.

(Photo: David Lumsden receiving his Great Wall Friendship Award (R) from China's Vice-Premier Zhang Dejiang.)

Call for Papers: Religion and Human Rights in China

The York Centre for Asian Research (YCAR) at York University, Centre for Asian-Canadian Theology and Ministry at Knox College at the University of Toronto and the Hudson Taylor Centre for Chinese Ministries at Tyndale College invite scholars, religious organizations and human rights workers to share their research

and experience in a one-day symposium on Religion and Human Rights in China, to take place in Toronto on Saturday, 7 February 2009.

The 2008 Olympic Games brought unprecedented international attention to China's human rights practices, as well as intensified repression against Tibetan Buddhists, Uighur Muslims and Falun Dafa practitioners. Yet the expansion of religious activity in China has created the greatest religious revival in human history, especially for Buddhism and Christianity. Observers have noted the highly diverse application of religious policies by local governments. For Protestants and Catholics, it is no longer possible to posit a simple dichotomy between officially recognized and unregistered churches, or Catholics loyal to Rome versus the official Catholic Church. Religious charities such as the Taiwan-based Tzu-Chi Buddhist Compassion and Relief Association or the Protestant Amity Foundation play an important role in Chinese society.

The organizers invite presentations examining the diversity of religious practice in China, Communist Party religious policy, and the connection between religion and dissent. Presentations examining these from the perspective of human rights discourse, and asking what religion can contribute to human rights in China are especially welcome. Organizers will attempt to pair academic and activist presentations to achieve a dynamic exchange between different perspectives and facilitate exchange between different religions who do not usually meet.

Abstracts of approximately 250 words and a short bio should be submitted by 17 November 2008 to ycar@yorku.ca. Successful applicants will be notified by mid-December. Panel submissions are also welcome. For more information, contact organizer Michael Stainton at michaels@yorku.ca or 416.736.2100 ext 33068.

Call for Papers: Conference of the Central & Inner Asia Seminar

The Fourteenth Annual Conference of the Central & Inner Asia Seminar (CIAS 2009) will be held at the University of Toronto in the Croft Chapter House, University College on Friday and Saturday May 15-16, 2009. The theme of this year's gathering is "Nomads, Past and Current: Living on the Move". Scholars from any relevant discipline are invited to submit proposals for papers.

The time allowance for any presentation is 20 minutes. Please include the title, a one-page summary and a short copy of your curriculum vitae and send them, by email, to Professor Michael Gervers at gervers@chass.utoronto.ca and to Nick Corbett at ndcorbet@indiana.edu. The deadline for submissions is **18 December 2008** and those selected will be notified by email as soon as possible thereafter.

We regret that we do not have the financial resources to help with any transportation or accommodation costs. However, we will do our best to expedite visa applications and offer hospitality during the conference. For further information see www.utoronto.ca/cias.

Call for Papers: Imagined Communities, Real Conflicts, and National Identities

The 14th Annual World Convention of the Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN) will be held from 23-25 April 2009 at Columbia University. The 2009 Convention invites proposals for papers, panels, documentaries and feature films. The deadline for proposals is 5 November 2008.

The ASN Convention, the most attended international and inter-disciplinary scholarly gathering of its kind, welcomes proposals on a wide range of topics related to national identity, nationalism, ethnic conflict, state-building and the study of empires in Central/Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, the Balkans, Eurasia, and adjacent areas. Disciplines represented include political science, history, anthropology, sociology, international studies, security studies, economics, geography and geopolitics, sociolinguistics, psychology, and related fields.

The Convention also features a section devoted to theoretical approaches to nationalism, from any of the disciplines listed above. The papers in this section need not be grounded in an area of the former Communist bloc usually covered by ASN, provided that the issues examined are relevant to a truly

comparative understanding of nationalism-related issues. In this vein, we are welcoming theory-focused and comparative proposals, rather than specific case studies from outside Central/Eastern Europe and Eurasia. A dozen panels are normally featured in the Nationalism section.

The fact sheet application form can be found at www.nationalities.org. All proposals and fact sheets must be sent by email to Dominique Arel at both darel@uottawa.ca and darelasn2009@gmail.com.

For more information, visit www.nationalities.org.

Call for Proposals: Dissertation Workshop on Social Capital and Civic Engagement in Asia

This dissertation workshop, to be held 3-6 May 2009, seeks to engage scholars whose work explores the impacts of collective action and social capital, and its various component parts (trust, norms, networks and associations) in diverse parts of Asia, where the nature of state, civil society and alternate civilities is changing rapidly. Our premise is that the “productivity” of civic engagement in terms of enhancing the economic and political vitality of local communities depends, to a large extent, on the responsiveness of the local government and the nature of civil society/alternate civilities in the region under examination. As such, empirical research that seeks to discover and document how social capital and civic engagement interact with other aspects of social and political life to enhance, or perhaps diminish, well-being is important to both intellectual and policy debates taking place across a variety of academic disciplines. Further, researchers who focus on Asia are well positioned to contribute to theoretical debates about the relative usefulness of the concept of “social capital” and associated terms such as social cohesion, cooperation, public participation, empowerment, and community as ways of apprehending the complex dynamics of Asian settings. The workshop thus seeks to bring empirical research and re-theorizations from Asia into a productive dialogue.

The workshop is intended for doctoral students whose dissertation projects concern the role of civic engagement and social capital, in its many variations, in fostering dynamic change in any part of contemporary Asia. The purpose of the workshop is to encourage and assist doctoral students who are just beginning work on these issues, as well as those who are farther along in their projects. The workshop will involve intensive discussion of the individual projects and also the larger theoretical and methodological issues that they raise. Possibilities for continuing associations among interested students and faculty will be explored. Applicants must be enrolled in a full-time doctoral program. They must have drafted a dissertation research proposal, even though it may not yet be approved by their committees. They must be prepared to engage in some work prior to the meeting, namely reading and commenting on the proposals of other participants to establish a basis for productive exchange at the event.

The workshop will take place over three days at the University of Toronto. It will include 12 students and four faculty members from a variety of disciplines and interdisciplinary fields. The Asian Institute at the University of Toronto will cover the costs of work, meals, and accommodation. Travel will be subsidized up to a maximum of CDN\$600 per participant.

The application deadline is **30 January 2009**.

Applications consist of two items: 1) a current curriculum vitae and 2) an 8 to 10 page double spaced dissertation proposal. Alternatively, if the work is well underway, an 8 to 10 page double spaced description of the specific issues being addressed, the intellectual approach, and the materials being studied. Workshop participants will be selected on the content of the submitted projects, the potential for useful exchanges among them, and the benefits of including a wide range of disciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches and intellectual traditions. Applications should be sent in an email attachment to ai.soc@utoronto.ca. Applicants will be informed about whether or not they have been selected for the workshop by 6 February 2009.

For further information about the workshop or eligibility, please contact the workshop assistant at ai.soc@utoronto.ca.

Call for Contributors: Human Security Development in East Asia - Issues and Challenges

Chapter proposals are being solicited for an edited book volume on "Human Security Development in East Asia: Issues and Challenges." Contributors who are well versed in human security issues particularly in the East Asian region (covering North and Southeast Asia) are invited to participate in this book project.

It will include both top and bottom-up processes and focus on issues covered under the seven categories of UNDP-defined "human security". The organizer is particularly interested in proposals on international marriage and migration, transnational/organized crimes, poverty, health and diseases, survival of traditional cultures, and environment. Other topics are also welcome.

Please send an abstract of about 400 words of your proposed topic and a brief professional CV to Benny Teh, PhD School of Social Sciences USM, Malaysia at genchan@hotmail.com.

Previously-posted Calls

* YCAR Papers 2008-2009

For more information: ycar@yorku.ca or www.yorku.ca/ycar.

* Languages of Southeast Asia (3 November 2008)

For more information: cseas@international.ucla.edu

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.