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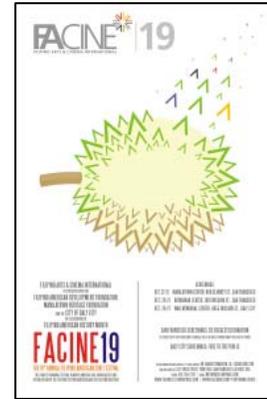
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Our Researchers | News and Publications

R. Patrick Alcedo, Faculty Associate | Professor Alcedo's (Dance) documentary, "Ati-atihan Lives", was screened at the Filipino American Cine Festival (FACINE) on 20 October 2012. FACINE/19 is the longest-running festival of films from the Philippines and the Filipino Diaspora. In 2012, the festival showcased 34 feature-length films and short works. For more information on the Festival, visit: www.facinefest.wordpress.com.



Joshua Fogel, Faculty Associate | Professor Fogel's (History) term as Canada Research Chair in the History of Modern China has been renewed for the next seven years. Professor Fogel has been examining the dynamic cultural and political relations between China and Japan over the past two centuries. The history of modern China cannot be fully or properly understood, he maintains, without examining the dynamic cultural, political, and economic interactions between China and Japan over the last two centuries. Fogel's research focuses on this interaction and the importance of Japan in China's modern development. Professor Fogel is presently writing a comprehensive history of Chinese-Japanese relations from antiquity through the present as well as a more focused monograph on the history of the Japanese expatriate community in Shanghai (1862 to 1945). The full story is available in the 18 October 2012 issue of *Yfile*: <http://yfile.news.yorku.ca/2012/10/18/the-university-gains-a-new-canada-research-chair-and-a-renewed-canada-research-chair/>.

Ali Kazimi, Faculty Associate | Professor Kazimi (Film) has received \$143,186 in funding for industry standard infrastructure of a Stereoscopic 3D Lab @ York as part of \$592,631 awarded to the University by the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI). The funding will allow Kazimi to augment and build upon the core of the stereoscopic research based production and post-production facility that has emerged out of the 3D FLIC (Film Innovation Consortium) project. S3DL @ York will become the first dedicated facility of its type in Canada, enabling the study of stereoscopic 3D story-telling practices, their production and distribution, combined with insights and best practices gleaned from stringent psycho-physical tests and experimentation. S3DL will meld art and science in the best tradition of inter-disciplinary research, enabling one to push the boundaries of the knowledge generated by the other and vice versa in a deliberate, complementary and interactive way. Kazimi will work with researchers Laurie Wilcox and Rob Allison from York's Centre for Vision Research on this project.



This full story is available in the 16 October 2012 issue of *Yfile*: <http://yfile.news.yorku.ca/2012/10/16/cfi-awards-york-researchers-more-than-592000-in-research-infrastructure/>.



Ann H. Kim, Faculty Associate | Professor Kim (Sociology) and co-applicant Eunjung Lee (Social Work, University of Toronto) are recipients of a Academy of Korea Studies (AKS) Korean Studies grant for their workshop, 'Outward and Upward Mobilities: Families from South Korea in a Transnational Era', which was held at York University on 27-28 September 2012. The two-day event included presentations by

Canadian, New Zealand, Korean and American scholars that contribute to our understanding of how South Korean family migration strategies and their experiences within Canada are shaped by the global social and economic order.

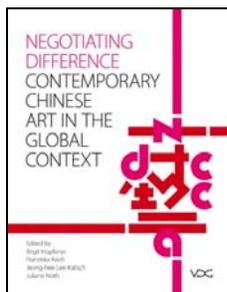
Jessica Li, Faculty Associate | Dr. Li is the author of “A Passage to Canada: Translation, Transnation, and Transfiguration in Iron Road”, which appears in the recently published collection, edited by Susan Ingram and titled, *Historical Textures of Translation: Traditions, Traumas, Transgressions* (Vienna: Millete Press).



Michael Nijhawan, Faculty Associate | Professor Nijhawan (Sociology) has received a four-month fellowship awarded by the Max Weber Kolleg for Advanced Social Studies at the University of Erfurt, Germany. He will part of a research group on "religious individualization in historical perspective" in the Winter 2013 term. The research group is led by Professors Hans Joas and Joerg Ruepke.

Hironori Onuki, Research Associate | Congratulation to Dr. Onuki (Political Science) who successfully defended his dissertation earlier this spring. Titled “The Everyday Spaces of Global Labour Migration: Migrant Workers as Political Agents in Japan,” Dr. Onuki investigated the global politics of migration, specifically focusing on the context of Japan as the major migratory destination of Asian and other migrant workers. Drawing on materials gathered through his field research in Japan and the Philippines, it illustrated the everyday struggles of labour immigrants in Japanese society within the transformation of *both* the form of state/civil society complex *and* social relations of production and reproduction.

Jooyeon Rhee, Research Associate | Dr. Rhee (Teaching Fellow, Wittenberg University) is the recipient of a Daesan Foundation Korean Literature Studies Overseas Grant for 2012.2013. The grant was created to encourage the development of Korean Studies overseas by organizations or by individuals, encouraging the study of all aspects of Korean Literature to make Korean culture better known throughout the world.

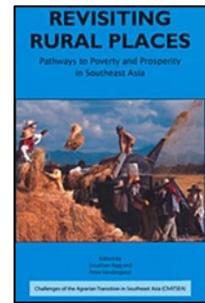


Doris Ha-lin Sung, Graduate Associate | Doris Sung’s (Humanities) article “Reclaiming the Body: Gender Subjectivities in the Performance Art of He Chengyao” is published in *Negotiating Difference: Contemporary Chinese Art in the Global Context*, eds. Jeong-hee Lee-Kalisch, Juliane Noth, Birgit Hopfener and Franziska Koch (Berlin: VDG-Weimar, 2012).

The volume features 20 essays written by a select group of international junior and senior scholars engaged in ambitious and methodologically innovative research on contemporary Chinese art.

Sung’s article contextualizes and historicizes the discourse of gender subjectivity in Chinese contemporary visual arts. Through a close reading of the performances by female artist He Chengyao, Sung argues that the practice of performance art, despite its controversial and sometimes self-absorbed nature, has expanded the language and possibility of Chinese contemporary art to theorize and materialize the “self.” It also buttressed the development of gender discourses in Chinese art.

Peter Vandergeest, Faculty Associate | Professor Vandergeest (Geography) is co-editor of a recently released publication that poses a challenge to conventional understandings of how the countryside is being re-shaped, and to what effect. His co-editor is Jonathan Rigg (Durham University). Both also contributed a chapter to the book. The book evolved from the experiences of researchers that participated in the Challenges of Agrarian Transition in Southeast Asia (ChATSEA) Major Collaborative Research Grant, which was funded by SSHRC.



In *Revisiting Agrarian Transformations*, scholars of agrarian change return to sites of their earlier research in Southeast Asia to examine how the rapid pace of change in the countryside is affecting the places, spaces and people that they originally studied, sometimes as long as four decades ago. Each of the 14 core chapters is organized around a change that, based on broader trends, the authors did not anticipate: a new longhouse in Sarawak, the urban forests of Java, the assertion of an ethnic minority identity in Northern Thailand, the re-shaping of class relations and identities in the Philippines, and the uncontested sell-off of farmland to cacao entrepreneurs in Sulawesi.

YCAR Director **Philip Kelly** (Geography) and **Melissa Marshcke** (YCAR Research Associate, University of Ottawa) also contributed chapters.



YCAR News | Xiang Biao to give 2012 Asia Lecture



The York Centre of Asian Research (YCAR) will welcome Xiang Biao to York University on 5 November to present the 2012 Asia Lecture.

The Lecture celebrates 10 years of the York Centre for Asian Research in 2012.

Dr. Xiang, university lecturer in social anthropology at the University of Oxford, will speak on “The Intermediary Trap: International Labour Recruitment, Transnational Governance and State-Citizen Relations in China”.

“Dr. Xiang is a young and exciting anthropologist working on migration in Asia. His work comprises detailed ethnographic studies in multiple contexts including India, China, Singapore, Korea, Japan and Australia. He epitomizes the 'open' and 'non-territorial' concept of Asia-as-region that we espouse at YCAR,” said Philip F. Kelly, YCAR Director. Dr Xiang’s forthcoming book *Making Order from Transnational Mobility* (Princeton University Press) is the result of four years of field research across East Asia.

Beyond the appeal of Dr Xiang's pan-Asian ethnographies, his work on the transnational governance regimes that regulate migration will also be of interest to a wide range of scholars at York, said Kelly

Dr. Xiang’s lecture will trace how transnationally-linked commercial labor recruiters gain a dominant position in cultivating, facilitating and controlling migration. These intermediaries render themselves indispensable both for migrating workers *and* for the states seeking to make order from migration. The intermediary trap is thus more dynamic and complex than a simple “capture” by identifiable interest groups and is deeply implicated in changing state-citizen relations in China. Rooted in Chinese and other

Asian states' agenda to liberalize socioeconomic life without compromising sovereign power, the intermediary trap may become a worldwide phenomenon with the resurgence of state power alongside a continuing neoliberal hegemony beyond Asia.

Through its Asia Lecture Series, YCAR showcases some the best of scholarship on Asia and initiates discussion in both academic and non-academic communities about major issues relating to Asia in a global context. For more information about YCAR, please visit: www.yorku.ca/ycar.

Everyone is invited to attend the Lecture, which will be held in 519 York Research Tower. The reception begins at 2:30pm, followed by the lecture at 3pm.

Dr. Xiang's lecture will be published as part of the YCAR Asia Colloquia Paper, which will be available online in December. For more about the series, visit:

www.yorku.ca/ycar/Publications/asia_colloquia_papers.html.

Photograph provided by speaker.

YCAR News | New addition to Asia Colloquia Papers Series



The newest addition to the YCAR Asia Colloquia Papers Series is now available. The paper, "Poverty and the Imagination of a Future: The Story of Urban Slums in Delhi, India" by Veena Das (Krieger-Eisenhower Professor of Anthropology, The Johns Hopkins University) asks: How do the poor see themselves? In their daily struggles, how do they use creative imaginings to withstand various stresses and their seemingly never-ending effort at subsistence? In this paper, Dr. Das explores the many revealed ways the poor exercise creativity, boldness and enterprise in their attempts to cope and transcend, even for brief moments, daunting states of deprivation and the destitute roles that both experts and society seemed to have consigned them to. Equally insightful responses are provided by Vanessa Rosa (PhD Candidate, Sociology) and Mark Ayyash (PhD, Sociology, York University).

The YCAR Asia Colloquia Papers Series was launched on 27 September 2011 at YCAR's Celebration of Publications. The Series aims to make available to wider audiences the content of selected lectures, seminars and other talks presented at YCAR. Previous contributions to the series have explored issues of identity, diaspora and diplomacy in Canada and abroad.



YCAR Events | Youth, human rights and the arts the focus of two international workshops hosted by YCAR

In May 2012, YCAR hosted two workshops organized by York faculty which focused on human rights and the arts, and contemporary youth politics and forms of youth activism.

'Human Rights and the Arts: Perspectives from Global Asia'

This international workshop explored debates about the subjects and contexts of human rights by examining creative "texts" from global Asia. Presenters from a range of humanities, fine arts, and social science disciplines analyzed film, literature, performance and poetry to shed light on key human rights issues in the region and beyond. The workshop, held on 11-12 May 2012 and titled 'Human Rights and

the Arts: Perspectives from Global Asia', was part of a project that aims to help bring global Asia perspectives and experiences more centrally into scholarly debates about human rights, while avoiding the essentializing of context and taking into account the limitations of both the human rights approach and the arts themselves. The workshop received funding from external sources as well as York University support from the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, the Office of the Vice-President, Research and Innovation and YCAR.

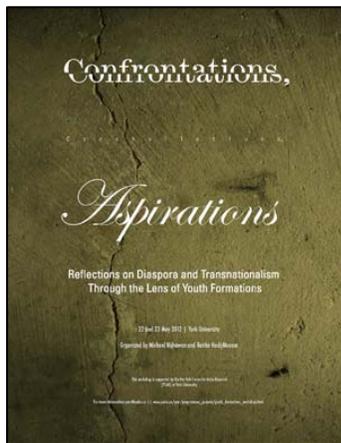
The keynote for the two day event was open to the wider community. It was given **Peter Kwong** (Professor, Asian American Studies and Urban Affairs and Planning, Hunter College) and titled 'Crossing Boundaries: Challenges of Combining the Roles of Activist, Scholar, Filmmaker and Journalist'. The discussant was **Ali Kazimi** (YCAR Faculty Associate, Film).



Peter Kwong and Ali Kazimi

The project leaders and researchers are now preparing papers for publication, which they aim to publish in two book manuscripts: a volume of analytical essays, edited by Susan Henders (YCAR Faculty Associate, Political Science) and Lily Cho (English), and a companion collection of key primary creative texts that are either newly translated into English or are "buried" in hard to find publications, edited by Theodore W. Goossen (YCAR Faculty Associate, Humanities).

For more information, see www.yorku.ca/yicar/programmes_projects/LHRAAD.html.



Constellations, Confrontations and Aspirations: Reflections on Diaspora and Transnationalism through the Lens of Youth Formations

On 22-23 May 2012, YCAR hosted an international workshop, Constellations, Confrontations and Aspirations: Reflections on Diaspora and Transnationalism through the Lens of Youth Formations. With external support as well as York University funding from YCAR and The Harriet Tubman Institute for Research on the Global Migrations of African Peoples, the workshop examined contemporary youth politics and forms of youth activism through a comparative lens and within a framework of transnational relations

The two main organizers, **Ratiba Hadj-Moussa** (Sociology) and **Michael Nijhawan** (YCAR Faculty Associate, Sociology), invited presentations by junior and distinguished scholars as well as Canadian graduate students. The detailed programme can be accessed at www.yorku.ca/yicar/programmes_projects/youth_formation_workshop.html.

Workshop panels were organized around a set of critical issues, which included, among other issues, discussions around the specific motivations and agendas of youth engagements today, generational differences and the changing political dynamics and forms of identifications in youth formations, the role of state and international agents in the capacity to address or fail



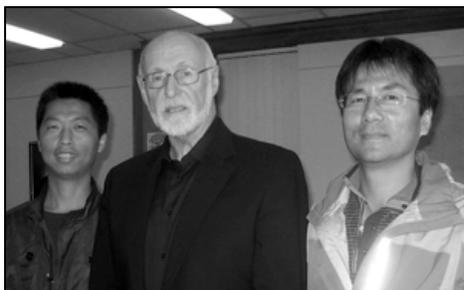
Ratiba Hadj-Moussa, Michael Nijhawan and Barbara Crow

to address the question of mobile youth under precarious conditions of refugeeism and illegalization, as well as the role of social networking and digital media by which diaspora youth construct new forms of cultural expression. The workshop participants addressed these questions in a range of contemporary contexts, ranging from the Middle East, North Africa, South Asia and diasporic formations in North America.

In summary, *Constellations, Confrontations, Aspirations* contributed to assess the emergent forms of transnationality that give youth cultural formations their particular contours, and to reflect on the new language that is at the heart of the aesthetics and politics of youth formations in different context of encounters with states, political regimes, and other actors. Moreover, it opened up a space to think about the conceptual shifts that have accompanied these processes at the level of social critique and social and cultural theory formation. The workshop also encouraged graduate students to take advantage of these discussions to advance in their own research project or to strengthen it, and start building up their research network.

YCAR Events | Fall 2012 Events

The following is a wrap up of events organized by or supported by the Centre in September and October.



Jiantao He, B. Michael Frolic and ShaoQing Zhou

Jiantao He (YCAR Visiting Graduate Associate) spoke about his research on [Canadian overseas development assistance during the period of the Trudeau Government](#) as well as his experiences in Canada on 20 September 2012. Mr. He has since returned to his doctoral studies at Nankai University. This event was co-organized with the International Development Studies programme.

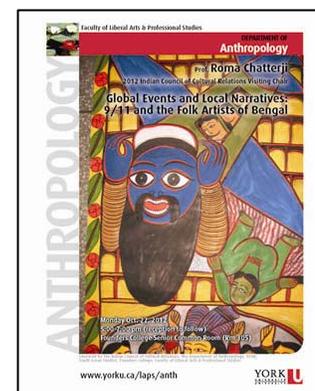


Sharada Srinivasan (YCAR Faculty Associate, International Development Studies) invited Professor **Naila Kabeer**, Professor of Development Studies, School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London, to York in early October. Professor Kabeer spoke to a packed room about the case of Bangladesh why the country's active development NGO Sector, which has made impressive development contributions, has not made an equivalent contribution on the governance front. She drew from field work conducted in Bangladesh to explore the hypothesis that the problem lies in the increasing homogenization of the NGO sector around the delivery of services, primarily microfinance services, and its shift away from the political empowerment of the poor. Her talk was titled [‘The Political Empowerment of the Poor in Bangladesh: Donors, NGOs and ‘the Road Not Taken’](#).

The event was supported by YCAR, Department of Social Science and the International Studies programme.



On 20 October 2012, YCAR co-sponsored a talk by Roma Chatterji titled [“Global Events and Local Narratives: 9/11 and the Folk Artists of Bengal”](#). Chatterji, the 2012 Indian Council of Cultural Relations Visiting Chair at York University, is hosted by the Department of Anthropology, which also organized her talk.





“Human Rights in the Philippines: A Continuing Struggle” was a panel discussion and photo exhibition organized by **Philip Kelly** (YCAR Director, Geography) to mark the 40th anniversary of martial law in the Philippines.



Philip Kelly, Alex Felipe, François Tanguay-Renaud

In September 1972, democratic freedoms were suspended in the Philippines when President Ferdinand Marcos declared martial law. Tens of thousands of Filipinos were arrested and imprisoned. Although martial law was lifted in 1981, the struggle for human rights, democracy and development continues into the present. Even today, over 300 political detainees remain imprisoned and extra-judicial killings have been widespread.

The event was co-sponsored by the Jack and Mae Nathanson Centre on Transnational Human Rights, Crime and Security, Osgoode Hall Law School.

The panel, held on 16 October 2012, featured Filipino-Canadian community leaders who shared their own stories of political imprisonment, and human rights activists who spoke about their advocate work against abuses in the Philippines: **Ricky Esguerra**, a former political prisoner who is a member of the Philippine Solidarity Network and Vice-Chair for Education, Community Alliance for Social Justice in Toronto; **Perry Sorio**, a former political prisoner and outgoing Secretary-General, Migrante Canada; and **Bern Jagunos**, the Asia Program Coordinator for the United Church of Canada.



François Tanguay-Renaud, Perry Sorio, Ricky Esguerra

The panel discussant was **François Tanguay-Renaud**, Director of the Nathanson Centre.

“The panel was intended to connect youth with the histories of struggle undertaken by their parents’ generation, and to raise their awareness of contemporary human rights issues in the Philippines,” said Kelly.

The photo exhibition, From Martial Law to Today: Human Rights in the Philippines, featured images from the martial law period and modern times, from the point of view of human rights and democracy activists. The exhibit was created by photographer **Alex Felipe** (BAYAN-Canada, Toronto).

“The goal is to both educate about that period, and to show that government corruption and human rights abuses are still rampant” said Felipe, who also chaired the panel discussion.

The York community had the opportunity to see the exhibition during the first two weeks of October when it was displayed in the Scott Library, Keele campus.

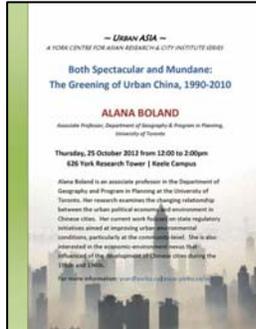


A video of the panel discussion will be available online later in the term and the images from the exhibition can be seen on the YCAR web site (www.yorku.ca/ycar).



Upcoming Event | Both Spectacular and Mundane: The Greening of Urban China, 1990-2010

Thursday, 25 October 2012 | 12:00 to 2:00pm | 626 York Research Tower | York University



The 2012-2013 Urban Asia lecture series begins on October 25 with Professor **Alana Boland**, from the Department of Geography and Program in Planning at the University of Toronto.

Her current work focuses on state regulatory initiatives aimed at improving urban environmental conditions, particularly at the community-level. She is also interested in the economic-environment nexus that influenced the development of Chinese cities during the 1950s and 1960s. Her talk is titled 'Both Spectacular and Mundane: The Greening of Urban China, 1990-2010.'

Professor Boland recently led a group of students to Chengdu, China, in order to observe the impact of China's 'Open up the West' urban development program which began in the early 1980s. Her most recent publication, published in *Geoforum*, is "Public Participation in China's Green Communities: Mobilizing Memories and Structuring Incentives," which looks at the development of two green communities in Guangzhou, China.

Upcoming Event | Novelist, Poet, Translator: Three Japanese Writers at York

Monday, 29 October 2012 | 12 to 2pm | 519 York Research Tower | York University

Readings (in Japanese with English translation) and commentary by three of Japan's leading literary figures: **Hiromi Kawakami**, **Hiromi Ito** and **Motoyuki Shibata**. Professor Ted Goossen (Faculty Associate, Humanities) will moderate.



Hiromi Kawakami, Hiromi Ito and Motoyuki Shibata

This event made possible with the support of The Japan Foundation, Toronto, the Department of Humanities at York University and the York Centre for Asian Research (YCAR).

Other related events include:

* **Japanese and Canadian Writers in Conversation** | Friday, 26 October 2012 at 6:30pm at The Japan Foundation, Toronto. Now in its second year, this event will again bring together two pairs of renowned Japanese and Canadian writers in conversation. Featured is a dialogue between novelists Hiromi Kawakami and Pasha Malla, contrasted and complimented by a second dialogue between poets Hiromi Ito and Roo Borson. Motoyuki Shibata and Ted Goossen, co-editors of the Japanese literary magazine, *Monkey Business*, will moderate. For more information, please visit:

www.jftor.org/whatson/20121026_writersinconversation.php.

* **Found in Translation @ International Festival of Authors** | 28 October 2012 at 4pm at Harbourfront Centre with Hiromi Ito, Hiromi Kawakami, Motoyuki Shibata. For more information, please visit:

www.readings.org.

Upcoming Event | 2012 Asia Lecture | The Intermediary Trap: International Labour Recruitment, Transnational Governance and State-Citizen Relations in China

5 November 2012 | 2:30pm to 5pm | 519 York Research Tower | York University

Based on long-term field research spanning Japan, Singapore, South Korea and multiple locations in northeast China, this presentation traces how transnationally-linked commercial labor recruiters gain a dominant position in cultivating, facilitating and controlling migration. These intermediaries render themselves indispensable both for migrating workers *and* for the states seeking to make order from migration. The intermediary trap is thus more dynamic and complex than a simple “capture” by identifiable interest groups and is deeply implicated in changing state-citizen relations in China. Rooted in Chinese and other Asian states’ agenda to liberalize socioeconomic life without compromising sovereign power, the intermediary trap may become a worldwide phenomenon with the resurgence of state power alongside a continuing neoliberal hegemony beyond Asia.

Dr. Xiang Biao is University Lecturer in Social Anthropology at the University of Oxford. He has conducted extensive field research on migration and social change in China, India and Australia. His work includes ethnographic studies of migrant communities in Beijing (*Transcending Boundaries*, Brill, 2005) and Indian migrant professionals (*Global Body Shopping*, Princeton, 2007). His forthcoming book (*Making Order from Transnational Mobility*, Princeton) is the result of four years of field research in China, Japan, South Korea and Singapore, and examines the transnational governance of labor mobility in East Asia.

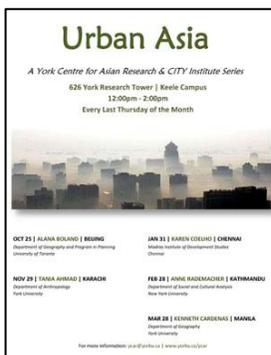
Reception will begin at 2:30pm to be followed by the Lecture at 3pm. **All are welcome!**

Upcoming Event | CITY Institute & York Centre for Asian Research highlight urban Asia in year-long series

This year, students and faculty will have an opportunity to engage with current and exciting research on a variety of issues related to urban Asia. Talks will be held on the last Thursday of the month (excluding December) from 12pm to 2pm in 626 York Research Tower.

The 2012-2013 Urban Asia lecture series begins on October 25 with a talk titled ‘Both Spectacular and Mundane: The Greening of Urban China, 1990-2010’ with Professor **Alana Boland**, from the Department of Geography and Program in Planning at the University of Toronto

Forthcoming speakers in the Series include:



Tania Ahmad | November 29: Professor Ahmad (Department of Anthropology at York University) will speak on a form of politics stemming from non-participation and domestic confinement in a talk titled ‘Socialities of Indignation: Denouncing Party Politics in Karachi, Pakistan.’

Karen Coelho | January 31: Dr. Coelho’s (Madras Institute of Development Studies in Chennai, India) talk is titled, ‘Precarious Work and Persistent Poverty in a Resettlement Site: A Study of Kannagi Nagar, Chennai.’

Anne Rademacher | February 28: Professor Rademacher (Department of Social and Cultural Analysis at New York University) will present her research on urban issues in Katmandu, Nepal.

Kenneth Cardenas | March 28: In his talk, Mr. Cardenas (Department of Geography at York University) will trace the role played by the idea of ‘irrationality’ in how Manila’s past and future is being imagined. His talk is titled ‘Disasters, Climate Risk and Exclusionary Modernity in Manila’.

The series is organized by the York Centre for Asian Research (YCAR) and the CITY Institute. For more information, visit www.yorku.ca/ycar/Events/urban_asia.html.

Upcoming Events | Contested Indigenoussness in Hong Kong’s Urban Art Images

Wednesday, 21 November 2012 | 12:30 to 2:30pm | 857 York Research Tower



Hong Kong is commonly recognized as a city of hybrid visual culture where various elements of “Chineseness” and “Westernness” are negotiated, adapted and modified for the local needs. The forms, techniques and intentions involved in urban art images are continuously contested between the local and international creators. Dr. Valjakka uses Henri Lefebvre’s (1991) definition of space as an ongoing process to analyze the situation. Lefebvre’s differentiation of three aspects of space, spatial practices, representations of space and representational spaces, provide a meaningful framework for the in-depth analysis of the challenges the local creators encountered.

Based on her intensive fieldwork in the summer of 2012, which involved the collection of hundreds of photographs and in-depth interviews with the creators of urban art images in Hong Kong, Dr. Valjakka will analyze how interactions between local and international creators have modified the scene. What indigenous features are visible in these urban art images? This talk will provide insights on how levels of transculturality are negotiated and what the challenges are in creating urban art.

Dr. **Minna Valjakka** is Postdoctoral Researcher in the University of Helsinki, Finland and a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Toronto. She has specialized in Chinese visual culture and has twice earned a scholarship to study in China (Fudan University; Central Academy of Fine Arts). Currently, she is working on her new research project “East Asian Urban Art - self-expression through visual images in Hong Kong, Tokyo and Seoul,” funded by the Academy of Finland, and revising her book manuscript, “The Unpredicted Afterlives of Chairman Mao’s Many Faces.”

Photograph provided by Minna Valjakka



Upcoming Event | Post-publication Reflections on Race for Empire

Monday, 26 November 2012 | 3 to 5pm | 280A York Lanes | York University

Professor **Takashi Fujitani** will give the first talk in the [2012.2013 Korea Speaker Series at York University](#). Professor Fujitani is the Dr. David Chu Professor and Director in Asia Pacific Studies. His research focuses especially on modern and contemporary Japanese history, East Asian history, Asian American history, and transnational history (primarily U.S./Japan and Asia Pacific). Much of his past and current research has centered on the intersections of nationalism, colonialism, war, memory, racism, ethnicity, and gender, as well as the disciplinary and area studies boundaries that have

figured our ways of studying these issues.

The YCAR Korea Speaker Series is designed to introduce to students and faculty recently published and emerging research on North and South Korea and their relations with their Northeast Asian neighbours such as China and Japan. Over the last decades, the number of Korean Studies specialists at York and in the Toronto area has grown exponentially from a few faculty members to a few dozen. The series hopes to highlight this change and offer a forum for researchers, students and the local Korean-Canadian community.

The first year (2012-2013) of the series will focus on twentieth-century Korean history, with scholars speaking on imperialism, the Second World War, the Korean War, forced migration and the social issues associated with the formation of the DPRK and the ROK. The second year (2013-2014) of the series will concentrate on issues of labour, migration, mobility and cultural change experienced at the turn of the twenty-first century. YCAR hopes to turn the series into a larger project inviting international scholars by 2014.

The series will also include talks by Andre Schmid (University of Toronto) and Janice Kim (York University). For more information, visit www.yorku.ca/ycar/Events/korea_speaker_series.html.
Munk School of Global Affairs photograph

Upcoming Event | Socialities of Indignation: Denouncing Party Politics in Karachi, Pakistan *Thursday, 29 November 2012 | Noon to 2pm | 626 York Research Tower*

This is the second talk in the 2012-2013 Urban Asia Lecture Series, presented by City Institute and the York Centre for Asian Research (YCAR).

Professor **Tania Ahmad** (Anthropology) will discuss a form of politics stemming from non-participation & domestic confinement.

Professor Ahmad is an anthropologist of urban public culture, social stratification and gender in South Asian and Muslim societies. Her research focuses on normativity and subjection. She is interested in how an emergent middle-class category in Karachi, Pakistan is articulated, enacted and sustained through the idea of being 'ordinary'. She maintains that this urban solidarity, as a performative style and form of class distinction, is a key way that Karachi residents engage with the problem of ongoing political violence.



At York | Boost to Japanese language studies at York

Professor **Norio Ota** (Languages, Literatures and Linguistic) has received Tanaka Fund Program support for Japanese Language Studies at York University. This installment of funds will be used to develop an honours minor degree program in Japanese Studies.

The program will commence in 2013, pending approval of the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies council. Students with existing credits can count them towards this program, so the first graduates of this program are expected to complete their degrees in the near future, said Ota, who is

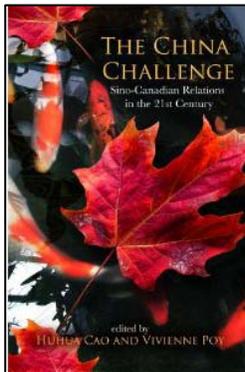
Coordinator of the Japanese and Korean Studies program at York. The Honours Minor in Japanese Studies may be combined with any approved Honours BA program that offers a major/minor option in the Faculties of Environmental Studies, Health, Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, Fine Arts or Science and Engineering.

The Tanaka Fund Program is very prestigious, says Ota. It is given to successful Japanese language programs for future development. The Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) is the authorizing agency and selects the recipient institutions based on the recommendation of a committee that consists of high profile Japanologists selected from across Canada. The funding amounts to approximately \$45,000 per year to support up to 50 per cent of the full-time salary of the recipient.

The Japanese section of the Department of Literatures, Languages and Linguistics was first awarded the Tanaka Fund in 2010 to create a CLA position to enhance the Japanese language courses. Dr. Kumiko Inutsuka, who was a part-time instructor, became the recipient. She focused on developing AP/JP1000 and 2000 to accommodate the needs of the growing number of students. The section won the funding competition again in 2011-2012, which enabled it to offer nine tutorials in AP/JP1000 (270 students) and three tutorials in AP/JP2000 (70 students).

“The section received the Tanaka Fund twice in the past for faculty enhancement. Professor Kiyoko Toratani’s position was created initially with this Fund,” added Ota.

“As the limit on the term of funding is three years, we are sincerely hoping that we will be able to create a tenure-streamed position next year when the Tanaka Fund runs out.”



Resources | *The China Challenge: Sino-Canadian Relations in the 21st Century* available in digital form for free

The China Challenge: Sino-Canadian Relations in the 21st Century (University of Ottawa Press, 2011) is now available in digital format for free online: www.ruor.uottawa.ca/en/handle/10393/23096. The book is edited by Huhua Cao (University of Ottawa) and Senator Vivienne Poy and includes chapters by YCAR Associates B. Michael Frolic (Political Science), Ann Kim (Sociology), Sonny Lo (Hong Kong Institute of Education), Guida Man (Sociology), Ghazy Mujahid (consultant and advisor) and Qiang Zha (Education).

The collection gathers some of Canada's well-known China scholars and policy makers to discuss the state of Sino-Canadian relations and China studies in Canada. Its successes include being listed on *Embassy Magazine's* top foreign policy books for 2011.



Call for Abstracts | YCAR Grad Conference - (Re)Constructions: Researching and Rethinking Asia

The Graduate Associates of the York Centre for Asian Research (YCAR) are organizing a graduate student conference titled "(Re)Constructions: Researching and Rethinking Asia" on April 26-27, 2013, and are

calling for papers that seek to rethink and reconstruct the conventional framework of "Asia" from a broad range of disciplines.

The question of reconstructing the conceptual frameworks for research in Asia and Asian Diaspora has been actively debated in the last few decades. These discussions pay critical attention to the modern politics of constructing Asian spaces and identities, and of disseminating knowledge of the area throughout the world.

Taking up this challenge, this conference will explore how our own work can better contribute to this understanding, and point out the *misunderstandings* of the categories, spaces and frameworks constructed as part of Asian Studies within and beyond the territorial limits of "Asia."

The conference keynote speaker will be Vinay Gidwani, Associate Professor, Department of Geography and Institute of Global Studies, University of Minnesota.

The organizing committee welcomes graduate research with interdisciplinary approaches. For a complete list of topics, visit the [conference website](#).

Interested participants should submit a paper title, abstract with keywords (250 words maximum) along with brief biographical information (name, affiliation, stage of graduate study) by 1 December 2012 to YCARreconstructions2013@gmail.com.

For more information, visit the website:
www.yorku.ca/ycar/Events/reconstructions_graduate_conference.html.

Call for Abstracts | Asia Intertwined: The 16th Annual Harvard East Asia Society Conference

The Harvard East Asia Society invites currently enrolled graduate students from around the world, working across all disciplines to submit papers for its annual conference, which will be held on 22-24 February 2013 at Harvard University.

This year, the committee invites papers that are interdisciplinary in scope, and which explore and challenge the notion of East Asia as a discrete geographical region that can be cleanly and definitively periodized. Preference will be given to papers that locate their subjects within a broader Asian context, and which reconsider cultural, historical and political connections across space and time.

The HEAS Graduate Student Conference is an annual event which provides an interdisciplinary forum for graduate students to exchange ideas and discuss current research on East Asia. The conference allows young scholars to present their research to both their peers and to eminent scholars in East Asian Studies. All panels will be moderated by Harvard University faculty. The conference will also allow participants to meet others in their field conducting similar research and to forge new professional relationships.

The deadline is 18 November 2012. For general conference inquiries, please contact: heasconference@gmail.com. Abstract submission inquiries can be directed to: heas.abstracts@gmail.com. The conference web site is: www.hcs.harvard.edu/~heas/conference.

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