



York Centre for Asian Research Update

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Our Researchers

Trichy Sankaran, Faculty Associate | Professor Sankaran (Music) has been selected as the recipient of the most coveted honour of the title 'Sangita Kalanidhi' and Award from the Music Academy, Madras. This is one of the highest honours that is bestowed upon an artist of eminence by the Academy each year.

The Music Academy of Madras is one of the prestigious and oldest institutions that organizes annual music conference devoted to scholarly presentations and concerts during the music season in December culminating in a grand award ceremony. Over the years, the Academy has gained worldwide recognition to which scholars from India and abroad are invited to present lecture demonstrations on various topics in the genres of folk, Indian classical, and World Music.

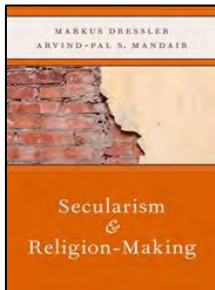
As the elected 'Sangita Kalanidhi' for this year, Professor Sankaran will be presiding over the 85th Annual Conference (15 December 2011 to 1 January 2012). He will also be performing two concerts and will give a special lecture as part of the series.

The conferring of the title and the award ceremony will take place on 1 January 2012.

“It is so gratifying to see that more than five decades of my concert experience in the music field and academic scholarship being recognized in a very big way,” said Professor Sankaran.

The news was published in *Indian Express* on 18 July 2011: www.indianexpress.com/news/trichy-sankaran-chosen-for-sangita-kalanidhi-title/819018/.

Tony Fang, Faculty Associate | Professor Fang (Human Resource Management) has been named President of the Chinese Economists Society (2012-2013). The CES is a U.S.-based professional association with more than 2,000 members worldwide and publishes an influential academic journal, the *China Economic Review*. Past Presidents have worked as the Vice Governor and Chief Economist at World Bank (Justin Yifu Lin), Vice Governor, Bank of China (Gang Yi), and Vice President of Peking University (Wen Hai). Professor Fang will be the first Canadian PhD holder to serve as President since the Society was founded in New York in 1985.



Michael Nijhawan and Alicia Turner, Faculty Associates | Essays by Michael Nijhawan (Sociology) and Alicia Turner (Humanities) are included in the September 2011 release of Markus Dressler and Arvind Mandair (eds.) *Secularism and Religion Making* (Oxford: Oxford University Press).

This book conceives of "religion-making" broadly as the multiple ways in which social and cultural phenomena are configured and reconfigured within the matrix of a world-religion discourse that is historically and semantically rooted in particular Western and predominantly Christian experiences, knowledges, and institutions. It investigates how religion is universalized and certain ideas, social formations, and practices rendered "religious" are thus integrated in and subordinated to very particular - mostly liberal-secular -

assumptions about the relationship between history, politics, and religion.

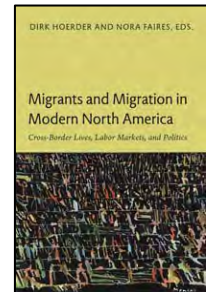
Turner's essay is titled, "Religion Making and Its Failures: Turning Monasteries into Schools and Buddhism in a Religion in Colonial Burma," while Nijhawan's focuses on "Precarious Presences, Hallucinatory Times: Configurations of Religious Otherness in German Leitkulturalist Discourse."

For more information:

www.oup.com/us/catalog/general/subject/ReligionTheology/Theory/?view=usa&ci=9780199782925.

Book cover image found at web site noted above

Yukari Takai, Faculty Associate | Professor Takai's (History, Glendon) research on Asian-origin migration in North America was published this month in Dirk Hoerder and Nora Faires (eds.) *Migrants and Migration in Modern North America: Cross-Border Lives, Labor Markets, and Politics* (Duke University Press). Professor Takai's chapter is titled "Circumnavigating Controls: Transborder Migration of Asian-Origin Migrants during the Period of Exclusion".



For more information, visit:

www.dukeupress.edu/Catalog/ViewProduct.php?productid=47582&viewby=title.

Book cover image found at web site noted above.

Gregory Chin, Faculty Associate | Professor Chin (Political Science) was one of the guest panel members on 'The Agenda with Steve Paikin' on his 21 June 2011 show titled 'Indian Democracy, Chinese Autocracy'. When China opened its economy to the world in the 1970s, India didn't follow suit until the 1990s. Despite China's 30-year head start, India's economy is quickly gaining ground, ready to overtake the Chinese economy. Who will win? And what does it mean to the North American economy?

The episode can be viewed at: www.tvO.org/TVO/WebObjects/TVO.woa?videoid?1012187901001.

Bernie Wolf, Faculty Associate | Professor Wolf (Economics, Schulich School of Business) spoke about Canada's need to rethink its trade strategy and look for new trade partners, on CFRB Radio on 19 August 2011.

Ghazy Mujahid, Research Associate and Thomas Klassen, Faculty Associate | Professor Klassen (Political Science) and Dr. Mujahid published an op-ed article in the *Globe and Mail* on 27 June 2011 on immigration policy. The authors argue that immigrants who arrive in Canada after age 50 face particular barriers that could be alleviated by government policies. The article is available at:

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/opinions/opinion/canadas-neglected-immigrant-seniors/article2075115/print/>.

Philip F. Kelly, Faculty Associate | Professor Kelly (Geography) was quoted in the *Toronto Star* in "Immigrants hardest hit by recent recession, study says". He is lead investigator of a [Toronto Immigrant Employment Data Initiative](#) report on the growth of the gap between immigrant and

Canadian-born workers since the global economic meltdown began.

“Recent newcomers already experience significant marginalization in the labour market. What is surprising is they are more badly affected than the other groups and the gap has kept widening,” said Kelly.

The report was released on 22 July 2011. The 15 July 2011 article by Nicholas Keung can be found at: <http://www.thestar.com/printarticle/1025095>.

Keith Barney, Graduate Associate | “Lao PDR: Overview of Forest Governance, Markets and Trade” by Keith Barney (Geography) and K. Canby was recently published by Forest Trends with funding through the European Forestry Institute/European Commission.

Over the past decade in Lao PDR, new regulations and policies related to logging and timber exports have aimed to conserve existing natural forests and promote a shift towards participatory, sustainable forest management. Still, the challenge will be to implement these reforms effectively. In addition, over the past five to six years, considerable foreign direct investment has moved into infrastructure development. While a welcome development from a financial perspective, this situation has promoted natural forest conversion and is challenged by a number of regulatory uncertainties.

The study can be accessed here: http://forest-trends.org/publication_details.php?publicationID=2920.



YCAR News | From the Director

Welcome back to the York Centre for Asian Research and an especially hearty welcome to faculty and students new to York University. The fall whirlwind is upon us once again.



Here are a few highlights to watch for:

- On September 12, we kicked off an exciting programme of events with a wonderful afternoon of readings and discussion with some of Japan’s leading contemporary writers. This fall’s event range from talks on ethnic minority pop music in China and on the last days of the Tamil Tigers, to a research workshop on changing environmental governance and ecologies and a Taiwan Film Festival. The details are inside and on the web site (www.yorku.ca/ycar).
- There are new research projects at the centre and new funding applications in the works. You’ll be hearing more about them in coming newsletters.
- Our Graduate Diploma in Asian Studies is gearing up for its sixth year.
- YCAR is now on Facebook. Take a look and tell your friends. We also need your suggestions for new postings.
- At our Fall Reception on 27 September 2011 (3 to 5pm in 280N York Lanes), we’ll celebrate the recent publications of our researchers and launch YCAR’s new Asia Colloquia Papers series. We hope you’ll join us and raise a glass to your colleagues and classmates.
- This year, YCAR is delighted to be hosting as visitors Abidin Kusno (University of British Columbia), Xing Lu (GMS Study Centre, Yunnan University), Xinying Wang (Center for Overseas

Study on China of China's Central Compilation & Translation Bureau) and Jiantao He (PhD student at the History College of Nankai University). We look forward to getting to know them and their research in the coming months.

York's Asia and Asian diaspora research community is large and diverse. *The Update*, YCAR's newsletter, aims to help each of us stay in touch. Do send us items about your research activities, projects, publications and achievements. Tell us when you are in the news.

YCAR's primary mission is to support and enhance research on Asia and Asian Diaspora topics at York University. We encourage you to come to us with your research ideas and needs, whether individual or collaborative. We invite you to get involved. Your energy is our energy.

All the best for the fall term,



Susan Henders

YCAR News | Canada Research Chair joins YCAR as Visiting Scholar



Abidin Kusno is Associate Professor at the Institute of Asian Research at the University of British Columbia where he holds Canada Research Chair in Asian Urbanism and Culture (Tier II). An architectural and urban historian with interests in sociology, anthropology, visual cultures, history, and politics, his research examines the roles of built environment in shaping the political cultures of decolonization, nation building, and development. He wrote *The Appearances of Memory: Mnemonic Practices of Architecture and Urban Form in Indonesia* (Duke University Press, 2010) and *Behind the Postcolonial: Architecture, Urban Space and Political Cultures in Indonesia* (Routledge, 2000).

YCAR News | Digitization of YCAR Archive begins with Hong Kong publications

Over the past year, YCAR has taken steps to digitize its Archives and those of its predecessor, the Joint Centre for Asia Pacific Studies (JCAPS), a joint centre between York and the University of Toronto. Several of the JCAPS publications on various themes related to Hong Kong have been made available in digital format by the [Internet Archive](http://www.archive.org) in 2010 with funding from Multicultural Canada and University of Toronto Libraries. They can be accessed at: www.yorku.ca/ycar/Publications/hong_kong.html.

Digitization will continue over the next year in partnership with the Asian Institute at the University of Toronto.



Opportunity | David Wurfel Award

The David Wurfel Award provides financial support of \$1,500 to an undergraduate or masters student who intends to conduct thesis research on the topic of Filipino history, culture or society. The award is

open to students enrolled at York University in social sciences or humanities disciplines (including the Faculties of Law, Environmental Studies, Liberal Arts and Professional Studies and Graduate Studies); who are Canadian citizens, permanent residents or protected persons; have a grade point average of at least B; and demonstrate financial need. Preference will be given to applicants of Filipino origin who show promise of leadership in the Filipino community in Canada.

The application deadline is **Monday, 17 October 2011**. For more information about the application process and materials, please visit: www.yorku.ca/ycar/Awards/David_Wurfel.html or email ycar@yorku.ca.

Opportunity | Study abroad for graduate students researching diaspora

Funded study abroad positions are available for graduate students to attend the German University of Muenster at the end of March 2012 (classes start early April). York students would enroll in the MA program in English Studies (Diaspora literature).

Further information is available at www.ufv.ca/diasporastudies.htm but those interested should contact Professor Shobna Nijhawan (shobna@yorku.ca).

Opportunity | Tenure-stream position in International Development Studies, York University

Applications are invited for a tenure-stream position to commence 1 July 2012, at the rank of Assistant Professor, in the field of International Development Studies. A relevant PhD is required. The successful candidate will demonstrate the promise of excellence in both scholarly research and teaching at the undergraduate and graduate levels, reflecting a systematic yet critical understanding of the changing narratives of development. Although areas of specialization are open, preference will be given to those with expertise in one or more of the following areas: critical approaches to the contemporary practices of development; development economics; grassroots development. Applicants must have research and work experience in the developing world; preference will be given to those with experience in the Middle East and/or South East Asia. The successful candidate must have a good grasp of qualitative and quantitative methods used in development research. The candidate is expected to teach core and elective courses at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. The successful candidate must be suitable for prompt appointment to the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience. All York University positions are subject to budgetary approval.

Applicants should submit a letter of application outlining their professional experience and research interests, an up-to-date curriculum vitae and a teaching dossier, and arrange for three confidential letters of recommendation to be sent, by **31 October 2011**, to: Professor Kimberley White, Chair, Department of Social Science, S737 Ross Building, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies, York University, 4700 Keele St., Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M3J 1P3.

York University is an Affirmative Action Employer. The Affirmative Action Program can be found on York's web site at www.yorku.ca/acadjobs or a copy can be obtained by calling the affirmative action office at 416.736.5713. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadian citizens and permanent residents will be given priority.

Opportunity | Insight Development Grant

As part of the renewed program architecture SSHRC has launched the Insight Grants funding opportunity (a new programme that replaces the SSHRC Standard Research Grants). This new opportunity is open to both emerging and established scholars who are affiliated with an eligible Canadian post-secondary institution. The description is now available on the SSHRC web site at the following link: www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/programmes-programmes/insight_grants-subventions_savoir-eng.aspx.

The objectives of the programme are to: build knowledge and understanding from disciplinary, interdisciplinary and/or cross-sector perspectives through support for the best researchers; support new approaches to research on complex and important topics, including those that transcend the capacity of any one scholar, institution or discipline; provide a high-quality research training experience for students; fund research expertise that relates to societal challenges and opportunities; and mobilize research knowledge, to and from academic and non-academic audiences, with the potential to lead to intellectual, cultural, social and economic influence, benefit and impact.

This funding opportunity offers support for long-term research initiatives. The minimum value of an Insight Grant is \$7,000 and the maximum value is \$500,000 over three to five years. Researchers may not apply for an Insight Grant and an Insight Development Grant within the same calendar year as applicant (principal investigator).

A researcher may apply as principal applicant on only one application. However, there is no limit to the number of applications on which a researcher may be listed as a co-applicant or collaborator. An applicant may not hold a Standard Research Grant (no longer offered) and an Insight Grant simultaneously. Researchers who are presently principal investigators on a Standard Research Grant will not be able to apply to the Insight Grant program until the final year of the current Standard Research Grant.

Please consult SSHRC's web site at www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/policies-politiques/multiple_apps-demandes_multiples-eng.aspx for more information on multiple applications. No special status or separate budgetary envelope will be provided for new scholars. However, the research achievements of applicants and other members of the research team will be evaluated according to their stage of career.

Applications are due to York University's Office of Research Services on **3 October 2011**. The SSHRC deadline is **15 October 2011**.

Opportunity | Ontario Research Fund - Research Excellence (ORF-RE) Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities Round

The Ontario Research Fund - Research Excellence (ORF-RE) Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities Round is a funding program administered by the Ontario Ministry of Research and Innovation (MRI). It recognizes the importance of the arts, the humanities and the social sciences to innovation, the development of social knowledge, and the advancement of social and economic well-being in this province. Research proposals in all arts, humanities and social sciences disciplines are eligible for funding consideration.

A summary of this program is below, and complete details are available on the Ontario MRI web site: www.mri.gov.on.ca/english/programs/orf/re/ssah/program.asp.

Complete details can also be obtained by contacting Steven Mataija (Manager, Government Research Initiatives Programs) at ORS at 416.736.2100 x22507 or smataija@yorku.ca. As applicants must submit a Notice of Intent (NoI) by 4 November 2011, potential applicants should contact Steven Mataija as soon as possible.

Applicants to the Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities Round will be required to provide a rationale as to why an investment in their research is important to Ontario, and they are asked to demonstrate how the knowledge emanating from their research will have relevance for and will contribute to the economy and the quality of life in Ontario. Eligible funding includes: direct costs, including salaries and benefits, facilities and equipment, management and administration; and indirect costs — the overhead costs of doing research.

The program will contribute a maximum of 1/3 of the operating costs, with 2/3 of the required funding coming from a combination of the institution, its private sector partner(s), and its community partner(s).

As a general rule, the minimum support provided by the ORF-RE to a project is \$200,000 and the maximum support provided is \$1 million.

The closing date for submitting a Notice of Intent (NoI) is **4 November 2011**. The application deadline for proposals is **15 February 2012**.

Opportunity | Partnership Development Grants (PDG)

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) recently announced that the Partnership Development Grants (PDG) application form is available on its web site.

The **objectives are to:**

- develop research and related activities in the social sciences and humanities, including knowledge mobilization and the meaningful involvement of students and new scholars, by fostering new research partnership activities involving existing and/or potential partners; or
- design and test new partnership approaches for research and/or related activities that may result in best practices or models that either can be adapted by others or have the potential to be scaled up at a regional, national or international level.

Proposed initiatives must meet the objectives put forward in one of the following programs or a combination thereof.

The objectives of the Insight Program are to:

- build knowledge and understanding about people, societies and the world by supporting research excellence in all subject areas eligible for funding from SSHRC
- support new approaches to research on complex and important topics, including those that transcend the capacity of any one scholar, institution or discipline;
- provide a high-quality research training experience for students;
- fund research expertise that relates to societal challenges and opportunities; and
- mobilize research knowledge, to and from academic and non-academic audiences, with the potential to lead to intellectual, cultural, social and economic influence, benefit and impact.

The objectives of the Connection Program are to:

- facilitate the multidirectional flow of social sciences and humanities knowledge among researchers and between the campus and the larger community, in order to enhance intellectual, cultural, social and economic influence, benefit, and impact;
- increase the accessibility and use of social sciences and humanities research knowledge among academic and non-academic audiences;
- support the building of reciprocal relationships among social sciences and humanities researchers, and between social sciences and humanities and those in a position to either co-create or use research knowledge;
- support the development of social sciences and humanities research networks and tools designed to facilitate scholarly work; and
- make such networks and tools more accessible to non-academic audiences.

The value of the programme is \$75,000 to \$200,000 over one to three years. The internal ORS deadline is **16 November 2011**; the Agency deadline is **30 November 2011**.

Complete details on this opportunity may be obtained by visiting SSHRC's web site at the following link: www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/programs-programmes/partnership_development_grants-bourses_partenariat_developpement-eng.aspx



Upcoming Event | The Fight for Sri Lanka and the Last Days of the Tamil Tigers

A talk and launch of a book, *The Cage*, by **Gordon Weiss**

Thursday, 15 September 2011 | 12:30 to 2:30pm | Ignat Kaneff Building, Room 2027 (Faculty Lounge) | Osgoode Hall Law School (west end of second floor) | York University

Gordon Weiss, a veteran journalist and United Nations official for two decades, saw closehand the conflict between the government of Sri Lanka and the LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam). As spokesperson for the United Nations in Colombo, he was a central observer of the final stages of the civil war in the first half of 2009 when tens of thousands of civilians perished along with the last of the Tamil Tigers. His recently published book, *The Cage: The Fight for Sri Lanka and the Last Days of the Tamil Tigers*, narrates the history which lead up to that horrific moment, peeling back the Sri Lankan government's cloak of denial to seek the truth of those tragic events.

The Cage has just come out in Australia and the United Kingdom, but is not yet available in North America. The Nathanson Centre and YCAR have arranged for a limited number of copies to be on hand for the talk, after which the author will sign purchased copies. **The book price is \$20**; please bring exact cash. If you would like a copy, RSVP to indicate this so that you can be placed on the list; books are available on a priority basis to those who respond to reserve a copy. To reserve a copy of *The Cage*, RSVP to nathansoncentre@osgoode.yorku.ca.

See www.gordonweissauthor.com for reviews of the book by *The Sunday Times*, *The Economist*, and other leading periodicals.

This event is presented by the [Jack and Mae Nathanson Centre on Transnational Human Rights, Crime and Security](#), and the [York Centre for Asian Research \(YCAR\)](#).

Upcoming Event | Spotlight on Sri Lanka: Postwar Opportunities and Challenges

Thursday, 15 September 2011 | 6 10:30pm | Ryerson University | Engineering Building Atrium | 299 Church Street, Toronto

Sri Lankans Without Borders will host a panel discussion 'Spotlight on Sri Lanka: Post war Opportunities & Socio-Political Challenges'. The panel will bring together notable journalists and academics, including Gordon Weiss; former UN spokesperson and veteran journalist, Stewart Bell, National post, Dr. Stanley Samarasinghe from the University of Tulane and Dr. Amarnath Amarsingham from the University of Waterloo. The panel is being moderated by the CBC's Reshmi Nair.



For more information, visit www.srilankanswithoutborders.ca.

Upcoming Event | SSHRC Funding Opportunities for Partnered Research

Monday, 19 September 2011 | 10am to noon | 280N York Lanes | York University

This session is designed for researchers and research support staff in the humanities and social sciences who are interested in funding for work done in partnership with organizations outside of York University. The agenda is as follows:

1. New SSHRC Architecture | What's New? ; How to Select the Appropriate Funding Competition ; Upcoming Deadlines
2. Funding Opportunities for Partnered Research | What is a Partner? ; What is a Partnership?
3. Program Overview - Partnership Development Grants
4. Program Overview - Partnership Grants | York Internal Review and Selection Process
5. Strategies for Success
6. Support Services for Administrators
7. Submitting Your Application

Upcoming Event | Fear of Extinction: Environmental Protection as Political Metaphor among China's Ethnic Minorities

Nimrod Baranovitch (East Asian Studies, Haifa University, Israel)

21 September 2011 | 1 to 3pm | 626 YRT | York University

Environmental protection is considered today in China to be a strategic issue, and in recent years the topic saw a boom in scholarly attention. Environmental issues, however, are usually conceived and discussed in the Chinese context in very general terms, while relatively little attention is paid to the unique relationship they have with and the special meanings they carry for different social groups.

My talk will focus on the discourse and meanings of environmental protection among several ethnic minorities in China, particularly the Tibetans, the Uyghurs, and the Mongols. It will propose that among these minorities the topic is not only heavily politicized, but it is often also loaded with metaphoric meanings. In the ethnic discourse of environment, ethnic minorities often see themselves as an integral

part of the natural environment, whereas environmental destruction is associated with the Han majority, which is often seen not only as a colonizing power but also as one that destroys and pollutes. In this context, the environment is perceived not as a universal entity, but rather as a very specific territory, and environmental protection is seen not just in the narrow sense of maintaining clean water and air, but rather as the right of the minority group to control its territory and to maintain its traditional way of life and distinctive identity. I will also show how the legitimate discourse of environmental protection is used by ethnic minorities to express illegitimate sentiments that cannot be expressed in public otherwise.

To illustrate my points, I will present and analyze several video clips of rock songs by Tibetan, Mongol and Uyghur musicians who live, create, and perform in China.

Nimrod Baranovitch is Lecturer in Chinese Culture and Society in the Department of East Asian Studies at Haifa University and Research Fellow at the Harry S. Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He is the author of *China's New Voices: Popular Music, Ethnicity, Gender, and Politics, 1978-1997* (University of California Press, 2003) and several articles, including, most recently in 2010, "Others No More: The Changing Representation of Non-Han Peoples in Chinese History Textbooks, 1951-2003" in *The Journal of Asian Studies* and "Literary Liberation of the Tibetan Past: The Alternative Voice in Alai's Red Poppies" in *Modern China*.

Presented by the Literatures and Human Rights in Asia and Asian Diaspora project and the Critical China Studies Group, York Centre for Asian Research.

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

Upcoming Event | WWII Internment

21 September 2011 | 2 to 3pm | 280N York Lanes | York University

This event is the launch of the 2011-2012 ResearchMatters series. The panel includes:

- Merle Jacobs (Moderator) | Chair, Equity Studies, LA&PS
- "Bachan's Story" by David Tsubouchi, Board of Governors, Finance and Audit Committee
- Livy Visano, Social Science, LA&PS
- Roberto Perin, History, LA&PS and Glendon

Please RSVP to Renee Irons (rironson@yorku.ca) or x33584 to allow us to prepare appropriately.

Upcoming Event | YCAR Fall Reception and Celebration of Publications

Tuesday, 27 September 2011 | 3 to 5pm | 280N York Lanes | York University

The York Centre for Asian Research invites YCAR Associates, friends and the York University Asian research community to its annual Fall Reception on 27 September 2011. The reception will also celebrate recent publications from YCAR and by our Associates.

We hope to see you there!

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

Upcoming Event | Failed Solidarity as a Result of Workers' Trauma: Lessons from a Korean Car Industry

Su-Dol Kang (Korea University)

Wednesday, 5 October 2011 | 2:30pm | 280A York Lanes | York University

Behind the spectacular news of triumphalism in the Korean car industry (it has been the fifth largest car producer in the world since 2006), a question rarely asked is, what kind of achievement are we celebrating? In fact, the Korean car industry produces over five million units yearly, among them four million in Korea, and another one million abroad. What we need to ask, however, is how is it that this pace of car manufacturing has been possible to maintain, and even grow? Of course, there are many factors which account for this impressive performance on the world market: the state-led strategy of export-oriented economic development, effective and strategic capital investments in technological and organizational innovations, and the successful combination of labor control and labor mobilization rendering competitive advantages, etc.

What I would like to emphasize in this presentation is an aspect not much considered in the celebratory news about Korea's car industry, that of laboring people in the industry in terms of their dynamic life experiences. The Ssangyoung workers, whom I highlight in my case study, began to struggle, on 22 May 2009, against the drastic restructuring of the factory in which they worked, which included mass layoffs of up to 2,400 workers. An unprecedented factory occupation by furious workers continued for 77 days, under the slogan "The layoff is death." Their struggle ended on 6 August 2009, with violent oppression by the state and by the company. In spite of a written agreement between the management and the striking unions for "industrial peace" following the end of the factory occupation, the workers were denied any of the promised solutions to their grievances afterwards.

These workers have undergone psychological trauma since then, and the results have been dire, and even fatal. In fact, until now, seven workers from the Ssangyoung factory, or their wives, have committed suicide. As well, three workers have attempted suicide, seven workers have died of extremely high stress, at least two women have had miscarriages due to stress, and one worker has come to be diagnosed with acute schizophrenia. These results are clearly extreme, but they cannot be dismissed simply as an exceptional case.

Professor Su-Dol Kang has been a professor at the Korea University in Chochiwon since 1997. He has Bachelor and Masters degrees from Seoul National University in Business Administration and a PhD in Industrial Relations from the Universität Bremen, Germany. He was a Visiting Scholar at the University of Wisconsin Madison, USA (2003-2004). His publications include *Fordismus und Hyundäismus. Rationalisierung und Wandel in der Automobilindustrie in der BRD und in Südkorea*, his PhD dissertation, published by the Peter Lang Verlag (1995) His publications in Korean include: *Management and Labor: Labor Relations and the Quality of Life; Educational Revolution from Myself: Getting out of Work Addiction; Village Revolution from Myself: Beyond Capital, Beyond Work* (with H. Heide).

For more information, email ycar@yorku.ca.

Upcoming Event | Book launch of *The China Challenge: Sino-Canadian Relations in the 21st Century*

Tuesday, 18 October 2011 | 10am to 1pm | Richard Charles Lee Canada-Hong Kong Library, 8th floor | 130 St. George St. | University of Toronto



YCAR is co-hosting the book launch of “**The China Challenge: Sino-Canadian Relations in the 21st Century**,” edited by Huhua Cao and Vivienne Poy (University of Ottawa Press, 2011).

With the exception of Canada’s relationship with the United States, Canada’s relationship with China will likely be its most significant foreign connection in the twenty-first century. As China’s role in world politics becomes more central, understanding China becomes essential for Canadian policymakers and policy analysts in a variety of areas. Responding to this need, *The China Challenge* brings together perspectives from both Chinese and Canadian experts on the evolving Sino-Canadian relationship. It traces the history and looks into the future of

Canada-China bilateral relations. It also examines how China has affected a number of Canadian foreign and domestic policy issues, including education, economics, immigration, labour and language. YCAR Associates whose research is included in the publication include: Tony Fang (Human Resource Management), B. Michael Frolic (Political Science), Ann Kim (Sociology), Sonny Lo (University of Waterloo), Guida Man (Sociology), Ghazy Mujahid (consultant and advisor) and Qiang Zha (Education).

Please RSVP to events.RCLCHKL@utoronto.ca by 10 October 2011. For more information, visit www.library.utoronto.ca/hongkong/.



Call for Proposals | 14th National Metropolis Conference

The Call for Proposals for the 14th National Metropolis Conference - “Future Immigration Policies: Challenges and opportunities for Canada” is now open. Abstract submissions for workshops, roundtables and poster presentations are accepted until **30 September 2011** at www.metropolis2012.net.

Call for Papers | Structures of Exclusion in South Asia

The Structures of Exclusion in South Asia conference will be held at the University of Delhi from 23 to 25 November 2011.

Papers are welcome that interrogate the intersections of class, caste, gender, sexuality, region, language, ethnicity, religion, culture, state policies and politics, and the dogma of the 'normal'. Non South Asian papers may be accepted, on the basis of their potential for provoking comparative discussions. Interested scholars should submit their affiliation, paper title and one page abstract to the conference committee via indian.formation@gmail.com before **30 September 2011**. For more information, visit: www.h-net.org/announce/show.cgi?ID=187007.

The conference is organized as an interdisciplinary and politically independent gathering. The organizers are of the opinion that an open and democratic debate is necessary of the serious challenges faced by South Asian populations. The gathering builds upon the conferences 'Culture, Politics & Economics of

South Asian Migration' (2010), 'Region Formation in Contemporary South Asia' (2009) and 'The Character & Trajectory of the Indian Economic Formation in an Era of Globalisation' (2008), all organized by the Indian Formation collective. Details on this initiative are available at www.IndianFormationResearch.org.

Call for Papers | Islam and Democracy: Potential and Possibilities

The Faculty of Law and the Faculty of Social Science at the University of Western Ontario, together with Huron University College and King's University College at the University of Western Ontario, invite the submission of papers for a three day interdisciplinary conference on 23-25 March 2012 entitled Islam and Democracy. This conference will consider critical and timely questions: first, what is the outlook for democracy in Muslim-majority states? And related to this, to what extent are the principles of Islam and Democracy compatible? Through intellectual exchange and interdisciplinary synthesis among legal scholars, historians, political scientists, philosophers, sociologists, anthropologists and professionals from outside of the academy, the conference aims to identify and foster the development of a set of core principles suited to democratic constitutions in Muslim-majority states.

With this goal in mind, conference organizers invite submission of papers from established scholars and graduate students exploring any of the following topics and questions as they bear on the relationship between Islam and Democracy:

1. Islam, Democracy and Theology: what has been the historical experience? Religious and theological studies of Islam will explore the question of how politics is/has been integrated within Islam? What possibilities exist in Islamic thought to enhance Democratic processes?
2. Islam, Democracy and Political Theory: what do existing models and ideals of democracy have to contribute to the evolution of constitutional principles in Muslim-majority countries?
3. Islam, Democracy and Constitutionalism: what are the commonalities and the asymmetries between Constitutional law and the principles of Islamic (*Shariah*) law and between western and Islamic jurisprudence (*Fiqh*)?
4. Islam, Democracy and Contemporary Politics: how are existing patterns of democracy and representation in Muslim-majority states and institutional structures evolving across a broad range of regimes?
5. Islam, Democracy and Political Culture: how can patterns of civic engagement, community organization, discourses of citizenship and political identity, social and political movements and political partisanship inform the evolution of democratic processes within Muslim communities and societies?

Conference organizers invite the submission of proposals which should include a 300-word abstract and a short CV for the presenter. These are due by **1 October 2011** to islam-democracyhist@uwo.ca with "Islam and Democracy Conference" in the subject line. Final papers will be due on 31 January 2012. Some support for presenters' travel and lodging expenses will be available.

Call for Papers | Canada and Asia: Building a New Policy Agenda

The Canadian Foreign Policy Journal is hosting a conference in Ottawa, "Canada and Asia: Building a New Policy Agenda," on 20 February 2012. Papers presented at the conference will be eligible for publication in a special issue of CFPJ in autumn 2012.

Since 2002, Canada's mission in Afghanistan has dominated its foreign policy agenda. Meanwhile,

Asia has come to sit at the centre of a global power shift. Part of that transformation is economic, with China now the globe's second largest economy (while India vaulted into tenth place). However, the Asia-Pacific is also the locus of pressing security challenges: interstate tensions simmer in the South China Sea, Korean Peninsula, and South Asia, while climate change, natural disasters, terrorism, and insurgency present a host of challenges across the region. In short, Asia's global economic and political importance has grown dramatically in the recent years.

The crucial question for Canada is how to position itself in the Asia-Pacific world. Should we, and can we have a grand strategy for engaging the region and making Canada a relevant political and economic player? Former Canadian diplomat Daryl Copeland defines a grand strategy as "a unifying, long-term vision of a country's global values and interests; an expression of where a country is, and where it wants to go in the world, and an analysis of its potential and capacity to achieve its objectives." However, Granatstein, Walt, and Layne (amongst others) have described grand strategies as the exclusive domain of great powers – a matter of aligning ends and means to shape the international system to achieve a state's security objectives. From this perspective, middle powers can only act on a selective basis, concentrating on a few priorities, and playing niche roles (such as mediators or as catalysts for multilateral initiatives) within the existing international order. Given these claims, can Canada have a grand strategy for the Asia-Pacific? If so, what should it look like, and how should we get there? With Afghanistan winding down, this is a prime opportunity to re-evaluate Canada's foreign policy and ensure that it is up to the task of navigating a shifting world order.

We are seeking papers from junior scholars, particularly senior PhD candidates or individuals who have recently graduated from a PhD program (since 1 January 2005).

Papers need not be limited to the question of grand strategy, and may specifically address economic issues (trade, financial imbalances), security issues (nuclear proliferation, territorial disputes, human security), or questions about bilateral and multilateral approaches to engaging the region. Methodologically sound proposals using comparative case studies, historical cases, or large-N methods are welcome. Preference will be given to papers with a clear policy focus.

Proposals should be for a paper in the 5,000 to 7,500 word range. Interested applicants should send a short biography and a 250-word proposal to CFPJ@carleton.ca by **7 October 2011**.

York Centre for Asian Research (YCAR)

To comment or for more information, contact ycar@yorku.ca
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