



York Centre for Asian Research Update

In this 25 September 2009 issue...

YCAR News

- * Welcome Back message from YCAR Director Susan Henders
- * Post-earthquake Community Rebuilding and Cultural Restoration Project in Sichuan, China
- * Michael Nijhawan's film selected will premier at opening gala of Spinning Wheel Film Festival

YCAR Associate News

- * Peter Vandergeest
- * Gregory Chin
- * Jessica Li
- * Tenzing Dekyikhangsar

Opportunities

- * David Wurfel Award
- * Postdoctoral Fellow, Korea Institute, Australian National University
- * Japan Center for Asian Historical Records (JACAR)
- * Canadian Japanese-Mennonite Scholarship

Upcoming Events

- * Festival of South Asian Literature and Arts (Sept. 25-26)
- * Silver Roots, featuring violinist Maria Kaneko Millar (Sept. 25)
- * How is India? (Sept. 28)
- * Graduate Diploma in Asian Studies (GDAS) orientation (October)
- * Burma Ethnic Nationality Forum (Oct. 3)
- * Why the Bitter Sea? (Oct. 5)
- * YCAR Open House (Oct. 8)
- * Crisis in Tibet: Is there a way out? (Oct. 8)
- * Central Eurasian Studies Society Tenth Annual Conference (Oct. 8-11)
- * Redefining Central Asia: Cooperation, Stabilization and Implications of Regional Security (Oct. 9-11)
- * 25@25 | Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada workshop (Oct. 19)
- * Literary Translation in a Multicultural World (Oct. 20)
- * Was Minnie Mackay a Feminist? (Nov. 6)
- * Biography and History of Hong Kong (Nov. 26)
- * YCAR Graduate Student BrownBags (Winter 2010)

Calls

- * The Tung Lin Kok Yuen Conference: Buddhism and Diaspora
-

YCAR News: Welcome Back message from YCAR Director Susan Henders

The start of the 2009-10 academic year has been more hectic than usual at the York Centre for Asian Research. We are in the midst of unpacking the final boxes in our new premises in the new York Research Tower, the planning and preparations for which have been underway for more than two years. The new

offices give our research community more and better space in which to work. The building is also designed to encourage greater interaction amongst researchers and amongst research centres. We welcome everyone to drop by the 8th floor of the York Research Tower during our Open House, on Thursday, 8 October from 1:30 to 4:30pm.

We began the year with our inaugural Asia Lecture, featuring renowned social theorist, Professor Veena Das, of Johns Hopkins University. Professor Das is widely known for her work on the anthropology of violence, social suffering and the state in South Asia. A video of her lecture, "Poverty and the Imagination of a Future: The Story of Urban Slums in Delhi, India", will be available soon on the York web site. We also plan to publish it as an electronic paper later in the fall. The event was the last in our series on "Asian Transformations", which have marked York University's 50th anniversary and were made possible with the financial support of the U50 Committee.

Please take a look at the other events in our fall line-up, which reflect a number of the ongoing research concentrations at the Centre, including on issues of social transformation and social justice, literature and translation, the remaking of governance, religion and philosophy, and Hong Kong studies.

Several warm welcomes are in order. Professor Ann Kim (Sociology) recently brought to YCAR her new SSHRC- funded project Development, Migration Strategies and Prospects for Integration, which examines how South Korean family migration strategies and strategies of social reproduction are shaped by the global social and economic order and are, in turn, shaped by settlement and integration experiences. We also welcome Professor Michael Nijhawan (Sociology) as YCAR's new Associate Director and Coordinator of the Graduate Diploma in Asian Studies. With a research specialization in South Asia, diaspora and religion, Professor Nijhawan will be in a particularly good position to help with programming in all of these areas. We are also very grateful to have Professor Shobna Nijhawan (Humanities; DLLL) back to teach the Graduate Diploma core course for another year.

We're also most fortunate to have Lisa Drummond (Social Science; Geography) and Zulfikar Hirji (Anthropology) join the YCAR Executive Committee this year and to have Josh Fogel (History), Patrick Alcedo (Dance), and Ananya Mukherjee-Reed (Political Science) continue serving on the committee. Finally, I would like to extend a hearty welcome to Elizabeth Batson, who has recently joined us as Programme Director of the China Management Training Programme.

We hope you will be able to join us for our Open House on 8 October.

With Warm Wishes,



YCAR news: Post-earthquake Community Rebuilding and Cultural Restoration Project in Sichuan, China

From 16 June to 18 July 2009, Yuk-Lin Renita Wong (Social Work and YCAR Faculty Associate) was in Sichuan, China working on a post-earthquake community rebuilding and cultural restoration project, in collaboration with Dr. Long Di and her team from the Psychology Institute of the China Academy of Science, and Dr. Timothy Leung and his team from the Department of Social Work of the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Upon completion, the project will make recommendations to the State Council of the People's Republic of

China (PRC) on their national post-disaster policy.

More specifically, the project works with Beichuan Middle School (BMS) as a demonstration case study. Beichuan, the only Autonomous County of the Qiang ethnic minority in China, was one of the hardest hit counties in the “512 Earthquake” with a magnitude of 8.0 which killed over 70,000 in the Sichuan Province in 2008. Less than 40 per cent of the people in Beichuan survived in the disaster. Beichuan Middle School is the only school in the county offering high school education from grades 7 to 12. More than half of BMS students and teachers (over 1,500) were killed in the quake. Most of the survivors lost their loved ones. The severe casualties of BMS have drawn national attention, with six visits from Premier Wen Jiabao of the PRC over the past year.

Alongside providing counselling services and post-disaster psychosocial educational workshops to BMS students and teachers since May 2008, the project adopts an art-based participatory action research approach. Through training BMS students as “action researchers”, the project strengthens students’ connection with their families and local communities in mobilizing the indigenous cultural resources and strengths for post-disaster psychosocial healing.

During the fieldwork in July and August, Wong and her team provided action research workshops and visited students’ home villages in high mountains. Using photography and various art forms including local crafts, students interviewed their elders, collected their life stories, and identified their indigenous cultural resources for individual and collective resilience through their own lens. With creative art media, the students will weave together a collective narrative in the latter part of the project, representing the cultural strengths and the healing journey of individuals, families and communities.

To date, post-disaster healing models in China have predominantly been defined by an individualized and pathologized psychological paradigm, such as post traumatic stress disorder, ignoring the systemic and community determinants of healing. This project will offer an art-informed community-based model for the PRC’s national post-disaster psychosocial healing policy.

YCAR News: Michael Nijhawan's film selected will premier at opening gala of Spinning Wheel Film Festival

'Musafer – Sikhi is Traveling', a documentary by York's Michael Nijhawan, has been selected as the opening gala of this year's Spinning Wheel Sikh Film Festival. This world premiere will take place on 25 September at the Royal Ontario Museum 'Crystal'.

It is Nijhawan and co-director Khushwant Singh's first documentary film.

'Musafer' is an independent documentary film that has been shot in Frankfurt, Paris, London, Delhi and San Francisco between 2003 and 2009. The film portrays the interconnected lives of a younger generation of diasporic Sikhs by giving emphasis to their artistic expressions and in-depth conversations about the meaning of Sikhi in times of political upheaval and social uncertainty. Musafer does not attempt to portray the Sikh tradition in its multifaceted forms, but instead sheds a light on the inner and outer journeys of particular individuals, their homing desires, as well as their boundary crossing endeavors.

Brought up in Germany, both filmmakers, Michael Nijhawan and Khushwant Singh, share a personal and academic commitment to Sikhi, Panjabi society and culture.

Michael Nijhawan is associate professor in sociology and Associate Director, York Centre for Asian Research, at York University. He has worked and written extensively on Sikh and Punjabi society and

culture, both in South Asia and the diasporic context. His recent books include: *Dhadi Darbar: Religion, Violence and the Performance of Sikh History* (Oxford University Press, 2006) and *Shared Idioms, Sacred Symbols, and the Articulation of Identities in South Asia*, co-edited with K. Pemberton (Routledge, 2009).

Khushwant Singh holds a position as programme coordinator at the Centre for International Migration and Development (CIM/GTZ) in Germany. He has studied Social Anthropology and did research in Panjab and Germany. His MA thesis centered on "Ideals of Sikhi and Social Reality". Khushwant is a PhD candidate at Goldsmith College London. His current research centers on unaccompanied young refugees in Germany. Khushwant is actively involved in interreligious dialogue, teaches Sikhi to youngsters, writing articles and offering lectures on Sikhi. A

For more information on the film, visit: www.musaferthefilm.com or email: musaferthefilm@googlemail.com.

A film screening at York University is planned for later this fall.

'Musafer – Sikji is Traveling' was also featured in the 23 September 2009 issue of *Yfile*: <http://www.yorku.ca/yfile/archive/index.asp?Article=13296>.

More information about the gala opening and the film festival can be found at: www.spinningwheeltoronto.com or by emailing info@spinningwheeltoronto.com. The telephone contact is 416.820.5408.

YCAR Associate News

Peter Vandergeest, Geography | Peter Vandergeest was cited in a recent article in Scientific American article in relation to his research on shrimp farming certification. The article is titled 'Conflicted conservation: When restoration rights are pitted against human rights' by Madhusree Mukherjee and is available through a search on the www.scientificamerican.com website.

Gregory Chin, Political Science | Gregory Chin's research is highlighted in the Summer 2009 issue of the Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS) newsletter. He comments on China's role in the UN agenda of building a more peaceful, equitable, democratic and ecologically sound world. The article, 'China, UN reform and the shifting global order' is available at: <http://www.acuns.org/newsletter/misc0534109010summer79pdf>.

Jessica Li, Research Associate | Jessica Li's research has been published as a part of the edited edition, *Asia: Local and Global Perspectives* (Montreal: Canadian Asian Studies Association, 2008). Her contribution is titled "Female Body Revisited: Eileen Chang's *The Rice-Sprout Song* and *Yangge*."

Tenzing Dekyikhangsar, MA Candidate, Political Science | Tenzing spent one month this summer on a research internship in Washington D.C., conducting research for the Tibet Sustainable Governance Program. TSGP was established by the University of Virginia in partnership with Machik, a non-profit organization dedicated to community service work on the Tibetan plateau. Guided by a central concern for the well-being of communities on the Tibetan plateau, the program seeks to develop research initiatives that produce fresh insights, analyses, and approaches to the challenges of governance and public policy

throughout the Tibetan region.

Opportunity: David Wurfel Award

Applications are now being accepted for the David Wurfel Award, which provides financial support to an undergraduate or master's student who intends to conduct thesis research on the topic of Filipino history, culture or society.

The application deadline is **Monday, 19 October 2009**.

The \$1,500 award is open to students enrolled at York University in social sciences or humanities programs (including Osgoode Hall Law School and the Faculty of Environmental Studies); who are Canadian citizens, permanent residents or protected persons; have a grade point average of at least B; and who demonstrate financial need. Preference will be given to applicants of Filipino origin who show promise of leadership in the Filipino community in Canada.

Applications should be submitted by 4pm on Monday, 19 October to: David Wurfel Award, York Centre for Asian Research, 834 York Research Tower, 4700 Keele St., Toronto, Ont., M3J 1P3. The recipient will be informed within 30 days.

For more information, visit www.yorku.ca/yicar or email yicar@yorku.ca. The application form is available at: http://www.yorku.ca/yfile/special/david_wurfel_award_application_form.pdf.

Opportunity: Postdoctoral Fellow, Korea Institute, Australian National University

The Korea Institute, through an endowment provided by POSCO, BHP and Rio Tinto, is seeking applications from suitably qualified scholars for the position of Postdoctoral Fellow for a fixed term of two years.

We are seeking applicants who have a PhD or equivalent on a topic central to the research interests of the Institute in the economics, security, politics and international relations of Korea. Candidates who have submitted a PhD thesis that is under examination will also be considered.

As the inaugural Postdoctoral Fellow appointed by the Korea Institute, you will be expected to revise your PhD dissertation for publication; lend support to Australia-Korea Leadership Forum; and develop and teach an undergraduate course, in your second year, focused on Korea. You may also be called up to assist the Institute's Director in liaising with other academic institutions and individuals in relation to Korean peninsula while actively pursuing your own research.

Questions can be directed to Professor James Fox, +61 2 6125 0192 or James.fox@anu.edu.au. For further details, visit <http://jobs.anu.edu.au/PositionDetail.aspx?p=823>. The closing date is **1 October 2009**.

Opportunity: Japan Center for Asian Historical Records (JACAR)

JACAR was established in November 2001 by the Japanese government to disseminate digital images of its official documents through the internet. The documents date from the beginning of the Meiji era (1868) through 1945. The goal of JACAR is to share their modern history, not only domestically but with people all over the world.

Currently, there are approximately 18.42 million images available, with a target of 30 million images in the next few years. For more information, visit www.jacar.go.jp.

Opportunity: Canadian Japanese-Mennonite Scholarship

The Canadian Japanese-Mennonite Scholarship is a CAD 2,000 scholarship available to a Canadian student, enrolled in a graduate degree program in Canada, doing research that will assist the protection of minority or human rights.

The scholarship was created as a tangible symbol of cooperation between Canadian Japanese and Canadian Mennonites, subsequent to a formal apology that was offered to Canadian Japanese, by MCC Canada on behalf of Canadian Mennonites.

It is intended to assist the protection of minority and human rights in Canada, and to reduce the potential for abuse of cultural minorities such as that suffered by Japanese Canadians during World War II.

The scholarship is co-sponsored by the National Association of Japanese Canadians (NAJC) and Mennonite Central Committee Canada (MCCC).

The CAD 2,000 scholarship is awarded to a student who is: enrolled in a graduate degree programme; a Canadian citizen studying at a university in Canada; engaged in research that will assist the protection of minority or human rights in Canada.

The deadline for applications is **1 April 2010**. For more information and application forms, email canada@mennonitecc.ca.

Upcoming Event | Festival of South Asian Literature and Arts

Friday and Saturday, 25-26 September 2009 | Munk Centre for International Studies | University of Toronto

FSALA is a three-day celebration of South Asian literature, music, art, and culture—with readings, recitals and exhibitions—presented by The Toronto South Asian Review, The Centre for South Asian Studies at the University of Toronto and The Writers Forum.

Admission is free (except Saturday night event). The schedule is available here: www.tsarbooks.com/FSALA2009program.htm.

The events will feature: Bapsi Sidhwa, Zulfikar Ghose, Manil Suri, Shyam Selvadurai, Priscila Uppal, Randy Boyagoda, Rana Bose, R Cheran, Anosh Irani, Sheniz Janmohamed, Hari Krishnan and Troupe, Kwai Li, Ramabai Espinet, Anand Mahadevan, Ameen Merchant, Alok Mukherjee, MG Vassanji, Surjeet Kalsey, Arun Mukherjee, Tahira Naqvi, Harish Narang, Ajmer Rode, Nuzhat Siddiqi, Rahul Varma, Abid Jafri, Ven Begamudre, Ashok Mathur, Anwar Kurshid, Alka Kumar, Sasenarine Persaud, Padma Viswanathan, Nazneen Sheikh and Suwanda Sugunasiri.

Register for these events online at:

<http://webapp.mcis.utoronto.ca/EventDetails.aspx?eventid=7030>. For more information, visit: www.tsarbooks.com/FSALA2009.

Upcoming Event: Silver Roots, featuring violinist Maria Kaneko Millar

Friday, 25 September | 7:30pm | The Japan Foundation | 131 Bloor Street West, 2nd floor of the Colonnade

Silver Roots lives in the continuum between classical and world music. Fronted by Juilliard graduates Shawn Wyckoff (flute) and Maria Kaneko Millar (violin), Silver Roots performs revolutionary, customized programmes that draw from a mix of classical and world music, original works and improvisation. Communication is the driving force behind Silver Roots, whether through masterful execution and interpretation, conversations with the audience, sharing the history behind the music or even song & dance! By utilizing every part of the performer - the fingers, the mind, the voice and the story - Silver Roots redefines the concert-going experience.

This concert, titled *Japan Meets World*, explores the intersection between Japanese music and the Western World. The programme will include Japanese and Western classical and traditional music as well as works by Maria Kaneko Millar for violin, flute, cello, voice and dance.

Silver Roots is Maria Kaneko Millar (violin) and Shawn Wyckoff (flute).

Canadian violinist, singer and composer Maria Kaneko Millar has performed as a soloist throughout Canada, Ireland, China, Japan and the US; The Canadian, British and American Broadcasting Corporations as well as The WB's One World Jam, CBS Sunday Morning and CBS The Early Show have aired concerts, interviews and clips of her work. 170 performances in the principal role of Solo Dancing Fiddler in Riverdance On Broadway and the North American and Asian Tours of Riverdance: The Show included 4 center stage numbers of improvised solos and simultaneous fiddling and dance.

American flutist Shawn Wyckoff is an avid solo and chamber musician who has been featured in performances at Carnegie Hall, Avery Fisher Hall, Alice Tully Hall and the Kennedy Center Concert Hall as well as featured solo and chamber ensemble presentations at Weill Recital Hall, Merkin Concert Hall, The Library of Congress, BargeMusic, Cathedral of St. John of the Divine, The Museum of Modern Art, The Guggenheim Museum and the United Nations.

For complete musician bios and programme, please visit

<http://www.jftor.org/whatson/SilverRootsConcert.php>. Admission is free. RSVP required through the website or call 416-966-1600 x 105.

Upcoming Event | How is India?

Monday, 28 September 2009 | 2:30 to 4:30pm | Verney Room, Sixth Floor, Ross Building | York University

This talk, by Professor Ananya Mukherjee-Reed, will focus on recent developments in India, with particular reference to the national elections in May 2009, which saw a 'historic' return of the Congress Party to power. Dr. Manmohan Singh, the renowned architect of neoliberalism became the only prime minister since Jawaharlal Nehru to be returned to office after completing a full term.

By contrast, the Left parties suffered a heavy electoral defeat. All this happened, paradoxically (or not), as millions of Indians lost their jobs in the aftermath of the economic meltdown, and amidst unprecedented levels of inequality, hunger, rising food prices and a lingering farm crisis which has already resulted in the suicide of 180,000 plus farmers. How are we to understand these developments? What explains the resilience - and indeed the reinforced political stature of the party and the leaders who have authored and implemented neoliberalism – at a time when it was being questioned elsewhere? The talk will draw upon Ananya's observations during the last seven months she spent in India, particularly her visits to Kerala and

West Bengal, the two states which have historically been the dominant terrain of Left politics.

Upcoming Event | Graduate Diploma in Asian Studies (GDAS) orientation

October 2009

There will be an orientation for new and current students interested in enrolling in the Graduate Diploma in Asian Studies in October. The finalized date will be posted on the website and advertised in the Update when it is confirmed.

If you have any questions, please contact Michael Nijhawan, GDAS Coordinator, at ycar@yorku.ca or X44066.

Upcoming Event | Burma Ethnic Nationality Forum

Saturday, 3 October 2009 | 9:30am to 4:30pm | 140 HNES | York University

All are welcome to the Burma Ethnic Nationality Forum, to be held at York University on Saturday, 3 October. Sessions will be led by overseas ethnic representatives. Topics include: Ethnic perspective of the Pang Long agreement and the beginning of the Union of Burma?; Environmental issues inside Burma and human rights violation in the ethnic territories; The United Nations and the international community in Burma's political crises; National reconciliation plans, what works and what doesn't.

Admission is free. Registration begins at 9am at the door. For more information, contact Nang Pri (416.467.8088), Kyaw Zaw Wai (416.358.2318) or Manh Kyaw Swe (519.434.0139).

Upcoming Event | Why the Bitter Sea

Monday, 5 October 2009 | 11am to noon | Richard Charles Lee Canada-Hong Kong Library | Robarts Library | 8th Floor | University of Toronto

In this seminar, Prof. Charles N. Li will talk about his experience in China and Hong Kong of the 1940s and 1950s. In particular, he will focus on: The enormous gulf that separates the East Asian civilization and the western civilization in terms of a person's values, worldviews and psychological make-up; Father and son relationships; and the occupation government of coastal China from the late 1930's until the end of World War II and the British colony of Hong Kong during the 1950's before it became a glamorous international metropolis.

Prof. Li was born in Shanghai and moved to Hong Kong in 1950. After graduating from Bowdoin College in 1963, he enrolled in the Ph.D. program in mathematics at Stanford University and later transferred to UC Berkeley to study linguistics. Before his retirement in 2007, Prof. Li was the Dean of Graduate Division and a Professor of Linguistics at University of California, Santa Barbara.

Admission is free. To register, please visit:

<http://webapp.mcis.utoronto.ca/EventDetails.aspx?eventid=8077>.

Upcoming Event | YCAR Open House

Thursday, 8 October 2009 | 1 to 4pm | Eighth Floor | York Research Tower

YCAR will be hosting an Open House on 8 October 2009 and invite our Associates and friends to drop by to see the Centre's new space in the York Research Tower at the Keele campus and learn about Asia and Asian diaspora activities and events for the academic year. Refreshments will be served. For more information, contact YCAR at ycar@yorku.ca.

Upcoming Event | Crisis in Tibet: Is there a way out?

Thursday, 8 October 2009 | Noon to 2pm | 208N, North House, Munk Centre | University of Toronto | 1 Devonshire Place

The first Tibetan to graduate from Harvard Law School, Lobsang Sangay will speak on the crisis in Tibet in his 8 October 2009 lecture. Dr Sangay is a Senior Fellow at East Asian Legal Studies Program, Harvard Law School. He studied at Tibetan refugee school in Darjeeling and did his B.A. (Honours) and LLB (Bachelor in Law) from Delhi University. In 1995, he received a Fulbright scholarship to pursue Master Degree at Harvard Law School. In 2004, he completed his Doctorate in Law and became the first Tibetan among six millions to graduate from Harvard Law School. He was a recipient of 2004 Yong K. Kim' 95 Prize of excellence for his Doctorate dissertation. In 2006, he was selected as one of the 24 young leaders of Asia by Asia Society, a global organization based in New York City.

He has given numerous lectures on Sino-Tibet issues in various institutes and venues around the world. He organized major conferences on Tibet between Chinese and Tibetan scholars at Harvard University, including an unprecedented meeting between 35 Mainland Chinese scholars and the Dalai Lama in 2003. He is also an editorial consultant for Radio Free Asia and has a weekly radio programme.

As an expert on Tibet, international human rights law, democracy and conflict resolution, he has been consulted by the news media, including the *Wall Street Journal*, BBC, *TIME* Magazine, *Washington Post*, *Far Eastern Economic Review*, *Boston Globe* and the *Times of London*. He coordinates a Tibetan Nutrition Project helping around 2,000 Tibetan refugee students in India. He has published articles about Tibet in the *Harvard Asia Quarterly*, *Journal of Democracy*, *Harvard South Asia Journal* and chapters in books on Tibet and human rights.

Upcoming Event | Central Eurasian Studies Society Tenth Annual Conference

8-11 October 2009 | Munk Centre | University of Toronto | 1 Devonshire Place

The Central Eurasian Studies Society Tenth Annual Conference will be held at the University of Toronto on 8-11 October 2009. It is hosted by the Centre for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies at the Munk Centre for International Studies.

For a complete list of panels please see:
https://www.cess.muohio.edu/CESSpg_conf_prog2009.html

For more information, please visit: www.utoronto.ca/ceres/centralasiaconference.html.

Upcoming Event | Redefining Central Asia: Cooperation, Stabilization and Implications of Regional Security

Friday, 9 October to Sunday, 11 October 2009 | University of Toronto

The 2009 Peace and Conflict Society's 4th Annual International Conference, "Redefining Central Asia: Cooperation, Stabilization & Implications of Regional Security" will bring together over 150 academics, diplomats, practitioners and students to address subjects as diverse as human rights, identity politics, state building and transition, resource scarcity, environmental and energy politics, terrorism, insurgency, foreign policy, and transnational criminal activity such as drug and arms trafficking in Central Asia. Through keynote addresses, breakout sessions, regional plenary sessions, and a symposium of student research, the Conference seeks to maximize opportunities for interaction between speakers and delegates in order to further public policy and academic dialogue about this critically important region, the challenges it faces, and potential solutions.

Sponsored by the Trudeau Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, the Munk Centre for International Studies and the International Human Rights Program at the Faculty of Law, University of Toronto, Redefining Central Asia will feature over 30 leading academics, diplomats, policy makers and experienced practitioners who will address over 125 delegates over the three-day conference, held at the Faculty of Law, University of Toronto. In addition to a symposium of student research, one of the unique features of the conference is a Graduate and Internship Fair, which will allow IGOs, NGOs, international research institutions, think tanks and academic programs access to undergraduate, graduate and professional students from a variety of disciplines who are interested in Central Asia.

For more information, visit <http://webapp.mcis.utoronto.ca/EventDetails.aspx?eventid=7856>.

Upcoming Event | 25@25 | Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada workshop

Monday, 19 October 2009 | Noon to 3pm | 305 York Lanes | York University

The Asia Pacific Foundation's 25@25 Contest launched on 17 September and asks young Canadians (18-35) to share their vision for Canada's Future with Asia. With a whopping CAD 5,000 grand prize, 25@25 sets out to identify the 25 most important issues for Canada-Asia relations.

The contest is being launched to celebrate the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada's 25th anniversary.

"We're eager to gain insight, especially from Canada's youth about how what goes on in the Asia Pacific is seen to interact with and impact Canada. And that's at the root of why we're running the 25@25 contest, to help ignite a new dialogue that envisions Canada's future with Asia," says Hanna Cho, Project Manager for the 25@25 contest.

Entrants are invited to share their ideas as video shorts. The shorts can be presented in any style: Anything from a rant to camera to a visual collage, an animated short, or a mini-feature. By encouraging participants to articulate their ideas, the contest hopes to stimulate a dialogue about Canada-Asia relations that is as creative as the entries provided.

There will be a workshop held at York on 19 October to provide guidance for students interested in entering the contest.

The deadline for entries is 31 December 2009. The rules are available at: <http://www.25at25.ca/rules>.

Entries will be judged by a diverse panel of Canada-Asia innovators: Yuen Pau Woo, President and CEO, Asia Pacific Foundation; Hon. Jack Austin, former Senator; Nanon de Gaspé Beaubien-Matrick, Investment fund

Manager; Hank Bull, co-founder of contemporary Asian art gallery Centre A; Gerri Sinclair, Executive Director of the Masters of Digital Media Program, SFU; Nobu Adilman, broadcaster and filmmaker; Ziya Tong, co-host and producer, Discovery Channel Canada and TBA, HSBC Bank Canada. Youth judges Nobu Adilman and Ziya Tong will be kicking off the contest with video letters available for viewing at www.25at25.ca.

For more details and information about the contest, please visit www.25at25.ca. 25@25 is a special project of the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada with Presenting Sponsor HSBC Bank Canada and Official National Television Sponsor OMNI TV.

For more information about the York University workshop, contact YCAR at ycar@yorku.ca.

Upcoming Event | Literary Translation in a Multicultural World

Tuesday, 20 October | 10:30am to 12:30pm | 280A York Lanes | York University

A.N.D. Haksar, Sanskrit literary scholar and career diplomat, will speak on "Literary Translation in a Multicultural World" on Tuesday, 20 October 2009 at York University.

Mr. Haksar is a long time student of Sanskrit literature from which he has translated into English prose as well as verse. Educated at the universities of Allahabad and Oxford, he was a career diplomat for many years, serving as Indian High Commissioner to Kenya and the Seychelles, Minister to the United States and Ambassador to Portugal and Yugoslavia.

His translations from the Sanskrit include plays and fables, stories and satires, a verse anthology from Kashmir and a collection of Buddhist jatakas with a foreword by The Dalai Lama, and the never before translated love story of Madhav and Kama, the original text of which he first saw at the Robarts Library. Five of these works have been published as Penguin Classics. He has also compiled a Treasury of Sanskrit poetry for the Indian Council for Cultural Relation (ICCR). His most recent publication is *The Courtesan's Keeper* (2008).

A selection of A.N.D. Haksar's books will be available for purchase at the event.

This event is hosted by the YCAR and the South Asian Studies Programme with special thanks to the York University Bookstore. For more information, contact YCAR at ycar@yorku.ca.

Upcoming Event | Was Minnie Mackay a Feminist?

Friday, 6 November 2009 | 11am to 2pm | 280A York Lanes | York University

Jane Lee of Aletheia University, Taiwan, will explore the role of native women in Taiwanese women's history in a lecture to be held at York University on 6 November 2009.

From the denigrating "Black Bearded Barbarian" to the respectful "Black Bearded Bible Man", George Leslie Mackay's legend and legacy is assured. In most of the scholarship surrounding him, the focus has been on the great man, missionary, medical doctor, and educator. Comparatively less, and nothing devoted exclusively to the experience of native Christian women of Mackay's ministry, has been written.

One reason for such a glaring omission is surely the predominantly patriarchal predilection that persists in

academia and despite the gains and insights of feminist scholars. Another is that Taiwanese women's history is still something of a mystery to Western feminists. To be sure, the subject of Mackay's native women missionaries is more difficult because of a lack of archival materials and documents. Mackay scholars have nearly all been men and with a singular male vision of the life and legacy of George Leslie Mackay. Thus, I emphasize the role of native women, especially his wife, as essential to Mackay's success in Formosa and mission to native women in particular.

George Leslie Mackay was the first Presbyterian missionary to northern Formosa (Taiwan). He served with the Canadian Presbyterian Mission. Mackay is among the best known Westerners to have lived in Taiwan.

Dr Lee is an Associate Professor of English at Aletheia University in Taiwan.

For more information, please contact YCAR at ycar@yorku.ca.

Upcoming Event | Biography and History of Hong Kong

Thursday, 26 November 2009 | 2:30 to 4:30pm | York University

Speakers at this unique event will examine the contributions and limitations of the various modes of historical inquiry for telling Hong Kong's past, including biography, oral history and memoir.

The speakers will include Senator Vivienne Poy as well as York faculty Bernard Luk (History) and Yuk-Lin Renita Wong (Social Work).

For more information, contact YCAR at ycar@yorku.ca.

Upcoming Events | YCAR Graduate Student BrownBags

Winter 2009 | York University

YCAR will be organizing BrownBag presentation series in the Winter 2010 term. It is open to Masters and Doctoral students. The series is designed to give students the chance to present their research on Asia and/or the Asian Diaspora and provides an excellent opportunity for feedback from your colleagues. The series is open to presenters who are YCAR Graduate Associates, or York University students whose research focus is Asia or the Asian Diaspora.

If you are interested, please contact YCAR at ycar@yorku.ca.

Call for Papers: The Tung Lin Kok Yuen Conference: Buddhism and Diaspora

The Department of Humanities, University of Toronto Scarborough, is pleased to present The Tung Lin Kok Yuen Conference: Buddhism and Diaspora on Friday, 14 May to Sunday, 16 May 2009 at the University of Toronto Scarborough.

This international and interdisciplinary conference will examine the role of religion, and specifically Buddhism, plays within diasporic communities. Communities like Chinese Buddhists, Tibetans, Newars,

Sinhalese, and many others have brought with them, translated, or alternately reformulated specific types of Buddhism as crucial pieces in the ongoing negotiation of their cultural and social identities. In this context, the conference inquires whether there have been or are currently specific ways that Buddhism has answered the challenges, problems, and expectations that accompany displacement and relocation.

This conference will question the role diaspora has had in the history and self-perception of Buddhism through the ages, both within Asia and during its more modern spread to other parts of the world. This can prompt us to examine how Buddhism has figured in developing and changing notions related to authenticity, tradition, ethnicity, belonging, nation, and landscape, in the light of displacement, exile, violence, travel, and integration. By thematizing diaspora as a situation in which both Buddhism's local articulations as well as its trans-local content are confronted, questioned and reformulated, this conference is an opportunity to bridge current methodological and thematic dichotomies between current ethnographic and text-oriented approaches in the study of Buddhism and Buddhist societies. These questions will help address larger issues of how Buddhist texts and Buddhist practitioners conceptualize and participate in the formation of lived diaspora in both modern and historic settings.

The Keynote Address will be held on Friday, 14 May 14 with Professor Victor Hori (McGill University) as the lecturer.

The programme committee welcomes proposals for papers from academics, professionals, graduate students and others. Proposals that include a maximum 300 word abstract of the paper and a short academic CV should be made online through our submissions site at:
<http://link.library.utoronto.ca/buddhiststudies/conference/>

At this website applicants can cut and paste both abstract and CV into our web form. The deadline for submissions is 30 October 2009. Participants will be notified by 1 December if their submission has been successful.

For more information, please visit our website: www.utsc.utoronto.ca/~humdiv/TLKY/event3.

Questions about this event or any other aspect of the Tung Lin Kok Yuen Conference Series in Buddhist Studies may be addressed to Sarah Richardson at: tlkyconf@utsc.utoronto.ca.

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.