

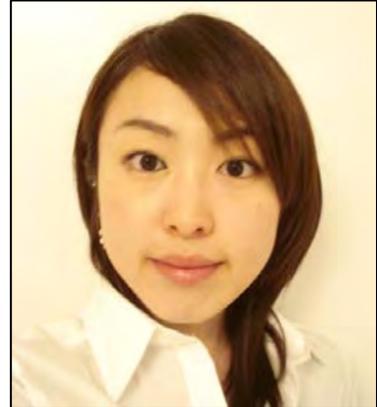
2009 YCAR Award Recipients

In the 2009 academic year, three awards were offered to graduate students conducting research on Asia or the Asian Diaspora at York University.
The winners were announced in April 2009.

Vivienne Poy Asian Research Award

Naoko Ikeda is the second recipient of the Vivienne Poy Asian Research Award. She is a fourth year doctoral candidate in the School of Women's Studies at York University. Her research interest is a gender analysis of militarization and war politics in the East Asian regions, primarily Okinawa, Japan, focusing on local women's peace-building practices.

The award funds will assist Naoko in her summer 2009 fieldwork in Okinawa.



Her doctoral project investigates an important history of women's peace-building in Okinawa, a southern most prefecture of Japan, which has hosted the 70 per cent of the American military facilities and bases in Japan since the end of the Second World War. She looks at the Okinawa Women Act Against Military Violence (OWAAMV, 1995-current), a non-governmental women's group advocating gender justice as an important part of demilitarization and peace-building. Focusing on the historical development of OWAAMV, and examining their intersectional approach to patriarchy, militarism and nationalism in U.S. militarization in Okinawa, her study examines an important example of a gender-sensitive feminist security/peace politics in current Japan-U.S. security relations.

She is also currently working as a research assistant, interpreter and co-author for a Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust-funded research project on "Feminisms, Socialisms and Pacifisms in Movements against War and for Peace: from Common Goals to Coherent Actions" with Dr. Cynthia Cockburn (forthcoming 2009). Naoko has a B.A. in both Women's Studies and English from the State University of New York at Albany (2002) and an MA in Women's Studies from York University.

Naoko is the recipient of the Doris Anderson Research Fellowship (2007 and 2008) and the Martin Cohnstaedt Graduate Research Award for Non-Violent Research (2008).

The award is named for the Honourable Vivienne Poy and will assist a graduate student in fulfilling the fieldwork requirement for the Graduate Diploma in Asian Studies. YCAR is grateful for Senator Poy's support for this award.

The award is open to local and international students who have a grade point average of at least B+ and can demonstrate how fieldwork in Asia will contribute to the completion of their program and to an understanding of Asia. Financial need will also be considered. Priority will be given to students who apply to do research in fulfillment of the fieldwork requirement of the Graduate Diploma in Asian Studies (GDAS).

For more information: [Vivienne Poy Asian Research Award](#)

YCAR Language Award



Colin McGuire and **Brianna Mersey** are the 2009 recipients of the YCAR Language Award. McGuire, a doctoral candidate in Ethnomusicology, will study Cantonese and Brianna will use the award funding to study Hindi in anticipation of her summer 2009 master's fieldwork in India.

As a current member of Toronto's Hong Luck Kung Fu Club and their Lion Dance Team, Colin is building the foundation for his dissertation research on lion dancing in Chinese-Canadian kung fu clubs. His work seeks to explain the lion dance's continued cultural significance for diasporic Chinese communities as well as to investigate the martial value for practitioners.

Colin has over 12 years experience in Chinese martial arts and an MA in music composition.

Brianna is a globetrotter at heart and one of her favourite spots is South Asia. Through her travels, she developed a love for South Asian landscapes and culture, which lead to her academic pursuits in international development at York University with the faculty of Environmental Studies.



Her current research project focuses on the effects of microfinance as a financial linking strategy connecting rural populations with financial institutes in India. Traditionally, Indian banks have not offered poorer patrons access to credit due to various limiting circumstances, including the lack of assets and the small amounts. The poor typically have had to rely on moneylenders, who often charge high interest rates. Microfinance programmes help small groups set up intra-savings programmes within the communities to provide funds for loans.

Her study will analyze household income growth, including savings and assets, of beneficiaries of a microcredit/self-help programme who have participated for a six-month period. The study will reflect on the limitations and challenges faced by the poor whilst trying to access credit as well as

the efficacy of the microfinance group. Her new languages skills will be valuable in conducting her research in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh, four southern Indian states.

The Award was created to support graduate students in fulfilling the language requirement for the Graduate Diploma in Asian Studies and to facilitate awardees master's or doctoral-level research (GDAS).

The award is open to local and international students who are enrolled in the GDAS at York, have a grade point average of at least 6.0, and have a demonstrated need to learn a specific Asian language to appreciate and better understand the context and perspectives relating to their area of research study.

For more information: [YCAR Language Award](#)

Albert C.W. Chan Foundation Fellowship



Jennifer Payton is the 2009 recipient of the Albert C.W. Chan Foundation Fellowship. Jennifer is a first year master's candidate in the Geography Department at York University. She has a degree in English Literature and Geography from the University of Western Ontario.

Her research interests are centered on female migration and boom crop production in Southeast Asia, specifically focusing on labour hierarchies and gendered divisions of labour on plantations. She will explore how unskilled female migrant women are being utilized as pesticide workers on oil-palm plantations surrounding Penang and Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia. The award funding will support Jennifer during her fieldwork in Malaysia in summer 2009, where she will be affiliated with KANITA at the Universiti Santi Malaysia in Penang.

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

For more information: [Albert C.W. Chan Foundation Fellowship](#)