A large and appreciative audience attended the Awards Ceremony & Presidential Address at the Chicago conference. The event has been expanded in recent years to allow the addition of the best graduate student paper prizes, which had previously been awarded at the graduate student reception.

Nine established book prizes administered by the regional councils of the AAS were awarded: the Harry J. Benda Prize and George Mct. Kahin Prize (Southeast Asia); the Ananda Kentish Coomaraswamy Prize, Bernard S. Cohn Prize (South Asia); the John Whitney Hall Prize (Japan) and James B. Palais Prize for Korean Studies (Northeast Asia), the two Joseph Levenson Prizes and the E. Gene Smith Prize on Inner Asia (China and Inner Asia). In addition, the Franklin Buchanan Award for curricular materials was presented.

FREDERICK ASHER, Professor of Art History at the University of Minnesota was presented the association’s highest honor, the Award for Distinguished Contributions to Asian Studies. Dr. Asher was recognized not only for his many scholarly publications, but also for his mentoring of the next generation of scholars and for his very prominent role in helping shape professional networks within the field.

AAS President MRINALINI SINHA concluded the event by delivering her address “Premonitions of the Past.” For those conference attendees who may have missed it, the address will eventually also be published in the Journal of Asian Studies.

Citations for AAS awards are transcribed below.

2015 Distinguished Contributions to Asian Studies Award

FREDERICK M. ASHER

Frederick M. Asher, Professor of Art History at the University of Minnesota, is a specialist in South Asian Art. He began his distinguished career with The Art of Eastern India: 300-800 (1980). That book’s focus on an understudied area challenged long-held assumptions in the field by calling into question the traditional dynastic classifications of Indian art. His many publications have continued to challenge and expand the contours of the study of early Indian art. They have explored the world of the ancient Mauryas; the trade in works of art in India and beyond; the issue of copying and originality in Indian art; and the conflicts over contested religious sites. His work most recently has called for reframing the study of South Asian visual culture in the context of a wider Indian Ocean region. His forthcoming book, Nalanda: Situating the Great Monastery (2015), looks especially at the monastery’s link with East Asia and Southeast Asia. Beyond his research, Professor Asher has worked long and energetically to make South Asian Art accessible to a broader public.

Professor Asher’s scholarship and mentoring have inspired the next generation of scholars. His role in shaping professional networks and organizations has been unparalleled. He has served in leadership positions in numerous academic organizations, including the American Institute of Indian Studies, and as a member of several editorial boards. His unique warmth and personal generosity have been at the heart of all his contributions.

The 2015 AAS Award for Distinguished Contributions to Asian Studies recognizes Professor Asher’s signal contributions to South Asian Art history.
Joseph Levenson Book Prize (Pre-1900 China)

YuMing He (University of California-Davis)

*Home and the World: Editing the “Glorious Ming” in Woodblock-Printed Books of the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries*

Harvard University Asia Center, 2013

*Home and the World* opens up new territory in its examination and reappraisal of popular Ming books as material artifacts, commercial products, and instruments shaping the readers’ visions of the world. Through innovative visual, material, and textual analysis of fashionable, yet officially despised joke books, drinking games compendia, drama miscellanies and popular encyclopedias, He Yueming masterfully recovers the social world of those who displayed “conversancy” with the printed page, regardless of their level of literacy.

Her careful analysis of the different registers on the page (whether illustrated or not) is worthy of the best art historians. Her prose is elegant, concise, flowing; her ideas strike one as immediately obvious—but they stand out for the consistent depth of their insights. Her grasp of previous scholarship is unshakeable and yet she regularly finds new primary sources to complicate earlier findings.

As there is no area in the study of late imperial China that will not be significantly enhanced by its views on literate culture, *Home and the World* will undoubtedly inspire a whole generation of young scholars.

**Honorable Mention:**

Matthais L. Richter (University of Colorado)

*The Embodied Text: Establishing Textual Identity in Early Chinese Manuscripts*

Brill, 2013

Selection Committee: Eugenio Menegon, Chair (Boston University), Michael Nylan (University of California-Berkeley), and Robert Hegel (Washington University, St. Louis)

Joseph Levenson Book Prize (Post-1900 China)

Winnie Won Yin Wong (University of California-Berkeley)

*Van Gogh on Demand: China and the Readymade*

University of Chicago Press, 2013

Winnie Wong’s remarkably interdisciplinary book shows how the practices of artists in Dafen, Shenzhen challenge common and scholarly views of authenticity, originality, and creativity. Relying on intensive fieldwork as well as meticulous analysis of texts and images, *Van Gogh on Demand* is a milestone in the growing debate on the manufacturing of replicas and simulacra in contemporary China.

The book stands out in providing not only rich findings but also a methodological roadmap for research on contemporary visual culture. Wong engages a variety of fields, from art theory, museology and connoisseurship; to division of labor, transnational trade, and copyright law; and to social mobility, Chinese regionalism, and post-socialist consumerism.

*Van Gogh on Demand* adds to our understanding of how notions of authorship and originality have been complicit with modern capitalism and cultural bias. Yet it is without irony that the book should be lauded for its uniqueness and originality.

Selection Committee: Susan Blum, Chair (University of Notre Dame), Yomi Braester (University of Washington), and John Fitzgerald (Swinburne University of Technology, Australia)
E. Gene Smith Book Prize (Inner Asia)

**Emily Yeh** (University of Colorado)

*Taming Tibet: Landscape Transformation and the Gift of Chinese Development*
Cornell University Press, 2013

Emily Yeh’s *Taming Tibet: Landscape Transformation and the Gift of Chinese Development* is an exploration of efforts by the Chinese authorities over six decades to reorder and manage society and landscape in the Tibet Autonomous Region. This outstanding study employs a wide array of sophisticated methods and approaches to produce a truly inter-disciplinary, multi-dimensional view of the lives of Tibetan farmers and urban residents in Lhasa over the last sixty years.

Framed by the metaphor of the gift, the book brilliantly draws together numerous strands ranging from the transformation of the Tibetan landscape to the entanglements of cultural politics and development, revealing both the difficulties as well as the complex realities of what it means to be a Tibetan in modern Lhasa. The author’s rigorous analysis is based on fieldwork in numerous areas carried out over many years in challenging conditions. The depths of her insights, and her careful avoidance of polemic or emotive rhetoric show rigorous attention to social and economic conditions, as well as a sophisticated analytical framework.

In *Taming Tibet*, Emily Yeh’s nuanced analysis sets a formidable standard for future studies in this field.

**Honorable Mention:**

**Caroline Humphrey** (University of Cambridge) and Hurelbaatar Ujeeed (Inner Mongolia Normal University)

*A Monastery in Time: The Making of Mongolian Buddhism*
University of Chicago Press, 2013

Selection Committee: Ildiko Beller-Hann, Chair (University of Copenhagen), Robert Barnett (Columbia University), and Morris Rossabi (City University of New York)

John Whitney Hall Book Prize (Japan)

**Fabian Drixler** (Yale University)

*Mabiki: Infanticide and Population Growth in Eastern Japan, 1660-1950*
University of California Press, 2013

This impressively researched, well-written, engaging book overturns many assumptions about the differences between all premodern and modern societies, not just Japan. Drixler shows that infanticide accounted for an incredible 40% of all births in the mid-17th to 19th centuries, after which birth rates skyrocketed. Family size grew until WWII and postwar legal abortion, causing births to drop again.

Drixler deploys an unusual but very productive range of research strategies to produce elegantly balanced forays into demography, religious practice, intellectual history, visual representation, and social history. He makes inferential calculations to trace the infanticide rate by gender over three centuries. Drixler shows that infanticide accounted for an incredible 40% of all births in the mid-17th to 19th centuries, after which birth rates skyrocketed. Family size grew until WWII and postwar legal abortion, causing births to drop again.

Drixler’s dispassionate and respectful tone toward all his historical actors is an especially welcome contribution.

Selection Committee: Laura Hein, Chair (Northwestern University), Yukio Lippit (Harvard University), and Laura Miller (University of Missouri, St. Louis)
James Palais Book Prize (Korea)

SUZY KIM (Rutgers University)

*Everyday Life in the North Korean Revolution: 1945-1950*
Cornell University Press, 2013

A truly path-breaking contribution to studies of North Korea, this book offers a crucial social history of the 1945-1950 period, moving us away from previous scholarship which has tended to focus on the state, diplomatic relations, and Cold War ideological bifurcations. Kim offers a fine-grained and nuanced analysis of how the everyday became a locus for the production of revolutionary citizens through an in-depth micro-history of the county of Inje near the North/South border, where North Korean revolutionary movements were carried out through local people’s committees, elections, land reform, education, and women’s organizations.

Through creative analysis of untapped archives, Kim brings to life a unique North Korean socialist modernity that came into being as a result of a complex interlocking of transnational and national forces and agencies. Moreover, Kim’s emphasis on gender and everyday life completely reworks our understanding of the early history of North Korea under occupation and leading up to the Korean War. Theoretically sophisticated and painstakingly researched, Kim’s book is a tour de force that promises to transform not only Korean studies scholarship, but also perceptions of North Korea among wider publics.

Selection Committee: Eleana Kim, Chair (University of California-Irvine), Theodore Hughes (Columbia University), Hwansoo Kim (Duke University)

Bernard Cohn Book Prize (South Asia)

CABEIRI DEBERGH ROBINSON (U. of Washington)

*Body of Victim, Body of Warrior: Refugee Families and the Making of Kashmiri Jihadists*
University of California Press, 2013

*Body of Victim, Body of Warrior* combines the best of three disciplines – history, anthropology and sociology - to illuminate the politically baffling story of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, or Pak-occupied Kashmir, and the making of jihadis across this region. The book deserves the award for a staggering set of achievements, including an astonishingly clear narrative of a period between 1946 and 1999 that has hitherto been submerged in histories of nation-statist impasse, work informed by careful archival research and in-depth ethnography. This work develops a complex understanding of 'refugee-seeking' told with a fine nuance on gender, generation and occupation, taking seriously the paradoxical linkages between the identities of muhajir to muhajid to jihadi that emerge from the author’s historical and ethnographic engagements. Robinson is the first to locate the shifts in the meaning of hijarat and jihad in scholarship, and also to make intra-familiar networks and relationships central to the shifts of meaning in both.

This is a book deserving of the award for the courage it has shown in taking on both the institutions of 'humanitarianism' as well as various governmentalized refugee-regimes.

Honorable Mention:

Jinah Kim (Harvard University)

*Receptacle of the Sacred: Illustrated Manuscripts and the Buddhist Book Cult in South Asia*
University of California Press

Selection Committee: Kathleen Morrison, Chair (University of Chicago), Anne Blackburn (Cornell University), and Indrani Chatterjee (University of Texas)
A.K. Coomaraswamy Book Prize (South Asia)

NIRAJA GOPAL JAYAL (Jawaharlal Nehru U.)

*Citizenship and Its Discontents: An Indian History*
Harvard University Press, 2013

A remarkable book that provides an encompassing view of a subject that comes closest to defining what it means to be an Indian. Jayal has been able to trace the genealogy of citizenship as a natal and territorial idea from the colonial period, through the early years of the postcolonial state, all the way to the present.

She shows with great empathy and care how the concept of citizenship is at once national and global, and how it came to acquire its historical specificity and nuance. Her archival research and ethnography capture vividly how citizenship at once confers and revokes status, visibility, and identity; how it flows through the political and economic life of groups and individuals; how it is taught, manipulated, fought for, glorified, denied, distorted, abused, and still endures.

Selection Committee: Sudipta Sen, Chair (University of California-Davis), Catherine Asher (University of Minnesota), and Ann Grodzins Gold (Syracuse University)

Harry J. Benda Prize (Southeast Asia)

CHARLES KEITH (Michigan State U.)

*Catholic Vietnam: A Church from Empire to Nation*
University of California Press, 2012

Charles Keith’s *Catholic Vietnam: A Church from Empire to Nation* is an absorbing, elegantly written and deeply contextualized account of Catholicism in colonial Vietnam. It combines a strong and compelling narrative with a sharp focus on the key individuals and historical junctures that helped to define the role of the Church in Vietnamese life, offering us new and original insights into the contested role of Catholicism within the historiography of Vietnam.

Through this account of Catholicism, Keith also contributes a broader narrative of modern Vietnamese history, geography and politics in the colonial period (and with connections drawn to the present). Tracing out the transformation from a missionary to a national church, Keith reveals an important and until now largely absent view of colonial modernity and decolonization through the lens of Catholic experience.

Another major contribution of the book is to complicate the historical representation of Christianity in Southeast Asia as somehow autonomous and separate, showing us instead just how thoroughly interwoven Catholic individuals and the Church are in Vietnamese society. Through visual images, personal letters, court records, ritual descriptions, and ecclesiastical documents, Keith’s impressive and meticulous social history has much to teach us about the larger intertwined history of religions in Southeast Asia.

Selection Committee: Anne Hansen, Chair (University of Wisconsin), Joshua Barker (University of Toronto), Justin McDaniel (University of Pennsylvania), and Philip Taylor (Australian National University)
George McT. Kahin Prize (Southeast Asia)

M.C. Ricklefs (National University of Singapore)

*Islamisation and Its Opponents in Java: A Political, Social, Cultural, and Religious History, c. 1930 – Present*

National University of Singapore Press, 2012

The George McTurnan Kahin Award Committee is very pleased to honor Merle C. Ricklefs, for his work *Islamisation and Its Opponents in Java: A Political, Social, Cultural and Religious History, c. 1930 to the Present*. *Islamisation and Its Opponents in Java* is the 576-page conclusion to the author’s monumental three-volume study of Islam in Java over a period of more than 600 years. In this elegant, magisterial installment, Ricklefs traces the vicissitudes of Islam in Indonesia from the 1930s to the recent presidency of Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, paying particular attention to the heightened salience in the past few decades of Islamic orthodoxy and orthopraxy alike.

Drawing on extensive research experience and networks in the field, Ricklefs skillfully weaves together his historical scholarship over the past 40 years with twentieth-century field research, indigenous surveys, and textual studies bearing on the past millennium. The result, steeped in local sources, is this excellent, multidisciplinary contribution to our understandings of present-day Java, the distant and recent pasts from which it and Javanese Islam have developed, and a good sense of their unfolding futures. For this study, we thank you!

Selection Committee: Judith Becker, Chair (University of Michigan), Michael Peletz (Emory University), and John Whitmore (University of Michigan)

Franklin Buchanan Prize (Curricular Materials)

Rylan Sekiguchi (Stanford University) and Risa Morimoto (Edgewood Pictures)

“My Cambodia” and “My Cambodian America”

Stanford Program on International and Cross-Cultural Education, 2014

This self-contained online unit is a refreshing update to available Cambodian studies resources at the high school and community college level, going beyond *The Killing Fields* to bring new information and perspectives from Cambodians and Cambodian-Americans to key themes that span the social studies curriculum, such as refugee migration, genocide, diaspora, and the politics of memory. Southeast Asia receives fairly minimal treatment in U.S. history textbooks, but the careful situation of materials into the broader context of international politics and domestic immigration allows this unit to be adapted for a wide variety of courses and time limitations, with opportunities to engage students both individually and collaboratively.

Teachers will benefit from the high level of customization available regarding depth and breadth of content as well as many classroom activities and assignments designed to fit clearly into national standards, including structured film viewing, independent research, classroom discussion, primary source readings, essay and poetry composition, and critical and comparative analysis of texts and policy options. The free download and wide teacher distribution network ensures that price is no objective to schools, and the complete package of multimedia and activities increases the likelihood that both Cambodia and immigrant issues will be featured in U.S. classrooms.

Honorable Mention:

Matthew Masur (primary), John Day Tully, Brad Austin

“Understanding and Teaching the Vietnam War”

University of Wisconsin Press

Selection Committee: Jennifer Murawski, Chair (University of Pittsburgh), Bruce Acker (University of Buffalo), Patrick Hughes (University of Pittsburgh), David Millians (Paideia School, Atlanta, GA), Anne Prescott (Five Colleges)