"New Frontiers in Research on Institutional Change: Evidence from East Asia"

*Sponsored by: not applicable*

*Organizer | Patricia L. Maclachlan | University of Texas, Austin*

**Session Abstract:**

“New Frontiers in Research on Institutional Change: Evidence from East Asia” presents contemporary scholarship on the causes, processes and significance of institutional transformations in China, Japan and the Republic of Korea. Drawing on recent findings in the theoretical literature, we look at how institutional changes—both formal and informal—at the local, national and international levels shape and/or reflect a range of socio-economic phenomena, including economic reform, changes in state capacity, and slow-moving demographic developments. In so doing, we explore the extent to which East Asian examples open up new avenues of research under the “New Institutionalism” rubric, all the while casting a critical eye on the conceptual and theoretical strengths and weaknesses of relevant paradigms.

As we touch on these and related topics, we will introduce findings from our own research. Juan Wang will discuss endogenous and informal institutional changes as they relate to recent developments in Chinese politics, while Jiyeoun Song will address the effects of electoral, agenda-setting and other political institutional changes on the rapid expansion of child and elderly care programs in South Korea over the past two decades. Patricia Maclachlan and Kay Shimizu will assess institutional change in Japan’s agricultural sector, with Maclachlan focusing on the interactive effects of market liberalization and population decline on local coop change, and Shimizu on how and why change-oriented coops are striving to strike a balance between the seemingly incompatible goals of promoting liberal economic values and serving the public interest of rural communities. Finally, Yves Tiberghien will adopt a more broadly comparative perspective as he explores how—and the extent to which—international institutions and agreements affect domestic institutional change in Japan, China and Korea. In the interest of deepening our conversation on the promises and pitfalls of institutional theories and analysis, we will invite our audience not only to raise questions for the panelists but also to bring their own research insights to the table.

*Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing*

*Discipline(s): Political Science  Economics  History  Sociology*
(De)Constructing Difference: Representations of Disability in Chinese Literature and Film and Japanese Manga

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Wing Shan Ho | Montclair State University

Session Abstract:
The perception that disabled people belong to a different social group because of their physical or mental impairment is prevalent. What roles do literature and culture play in such a belief? Studies of disability provide a unique view of the cultural formation of identity, the conceptualization of normality and difference, and understandings of inclusion and exclusion. Examining representations of disability, this panel travels across political and societal boundaries, viewing disability issues from the perspective of disability studies and gender studies, and moving between the disciplines of literature, manga (Japanese graphic novels), and film. This panel explores the ways in which literary and popular cultures from China, Taiwan, and Japan meditate on and mediate the social construction of disability. Yoshiko Okuyama analyzes five emerging modes of depicting disabilities in Japanese manga. She demonstrates how to assess the authenticity of these narratives and the impact of media on disability awareness and public discourse in Japan. Sarah Dauncey’s study of Bi Feiyu’s fictional literary work Tuina inquires whether and how realism can serve as a productive strategy for the representation of disability in Chinese culture. Wing Shan Ho investigates the politics of acceptance in Chinese and Taiwanese films and how these films ambiguously construct and deconstruct differences between disabled and non-disabled people. Taken together, the three papers shed a bright light on the construction of a marginal identity, the formulation of and the potential permeability of the boundaries between people with and without impairments in films from China, Taiwan, and Japan.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Literature  Cinema Studies/Film  Gender & Sexuality
Women, Islam and Post-Colonial Realities in Asia

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Aida M. Arosoaie | RSIS, NTU

Session Abstract:

This panel seeks to overcome the Western-centric assessment of Muslim women’s experiences through the lens of emancipation. Instead, it recognizes the diversity of women’s self-affirmation efforts within Islamic frames and positions them in the socio-political realities of post-colonial states. Without exception, post-colonial Muslim-majority states in Asia sought to imagine themselves according to the logic of the nation-state, modernity and secularism. Based on this, Muslim women’s experiences have often been uncritically placed within the ambit of modernization. Yet, the socio-political reality of nation-state-building, the institutionalization of Islam, and the heterogeneity and plurality of Islamic heuristics in Asian countries defies the Western historical linearity of modernization and secularism. Similarly, this panel outlines that Muslim women’s attempts to define their agency through Islamic frames are attuned to their respective relational and socio-political contexts, and they mirror the plurality of Islamist actors. For example, women in Al-Huda Institute in Pakistan define their agency through a sophisticated interplay between Islamic norms and feminist ideas which resonates with the discourses prevalent within the Pakistani public sphere. In Indonesia, female religious scholars resort to Islamic exegesis to promote gender equality in the context of an increasingly conservative society. Indeed, throughout Southeast Asia, the paradox of multiple modernities appears more advantageous to the traditionalist rather than the progressive standpoint on gender and sexuality. In India, Kashmiri women effectively employ Islamic narratives to lead subaltern movements and motivate minority education. This panel brings together junior and senior scholars, and presents cross-disciplinary perspectives on issues of great scholarly importance.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Gender & Sexuality  Religion  Political Science  History
Afterlives of British Water Systems in Asia

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | MAIRA HAYAT | University of Chicago

Session Abstract:

Addressing origins, founding values, and dialogic transformations of British colonial-era water infrastructure in Asia this panel asks: What could attention to the fates of material imperial remains tell us about ‘the postcolonial’, the politics of transition, conscription and the nation-state? Papers on this panel consider physical infrastructures for irrigation, drinking water, sewerage and drainage, hydroelectricity, as well as the legal-bureaucratic regimes and sentiments around them, in India, Kashmir, Pakistan and Singapore. Taking colonial and postcolonial dialogics seriously, how have the founding values of these infrastructures taken on different valuations over time? Papers by Bhan and Hayat consider the Indus Water Treaty, its limits and afterlives, in Kashmir and Pakistan respectively. Bhan focuses on new land forms and concomitant legal claims enabled by dam-building, while Hayat examines 1960s’ archives on treaty negotiations to probe the politics of development, needs and nascent postcolonial sovereignty. Sharma addresses the promise and perils of big dams in the Brahmaputra valley and the stakes in a downstream politics of disruption of an infrastructural utopia. Considering the politics of disentanglement, sufficiency and pleasure in Singapore’s turn to innovative potable water solutions, Kaplan’s paper asks what goes into making a postcolonial water success. While there is a tendency to assume and expect path dependence and reliance on colonial installations, less attention is given to when and how colonial systems break their path dependence. Tracking changing aesthetics of water infrastructure – big dams to small meters – we can learn about empire’s afterlives and changing Asian governmentalities.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Anthropology  History
Agrarian Persistence and Transformation, Panel 1: Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia and Singapore

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Eric C. Thompson | National University of Singapore

Session Abstract:

Nations across Asia have undergone tremendous change over the past half-century. Almost everywhere, Asian societies have become more urban and industrial. But much of the Asian countryside appears, on the surface at least, to be dominated by village-based, smallholder agriculture. The papers in this panel are drawn from a large comparative project on Asian Smallholders: Transformation and Persistence. In these papers, we examine case studies of Asian agrarian smallholder experience from Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia and Singapore. In these cases, we see different ways in which governance and social transformation create both challenges and opportunities for agrarian smallholder persistence under varied national conditions. In Indonesia, the political process of decentralization has left smallholder farmers increasingly to their own devices in leading local development, meaning that local “champions” have become crucial to localized prosperity. In Japan, the aging population has seen a transformation from male head-of-household labor organization to diversified participation of women and return-migration farmers. In Malaysia, politics and legal regulations are having different impacts on different communities. And in Singapore, a smallholder agrarian fringe has developed in the wake of forced urbanization in the 1970s. By comparing these disparate cases, we seek to identify both general, cross-national forces and local, specialized conditions through which smallholder agriculture has persisted in these and other Asian nations.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Geography Anthropology Sociology
Agrarian Persistence and Transformation, Panel 2: Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Eric C. Thompson | National University of Singapore

Session Abstract:

Papers in this panel are drawn from a large comparative project on Asian Smallholders: Transformation and Persistence. In these papers, we examine cases of Asian agrarian smallholder experience from Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam. While conditions in these neighboring countries vary considerably, in all four agrarian smallholders face challenges from rapid socioeconomic change and integration into regional and global markets. In Cambodia, out- and circular-migration, both to the urban center of Phnom Penh and across the border to Thailand, have become a regular part of smallholder household economies. Yet, while the persistence of smallholder farming is a diminishing share of household incomes, it remains an important safety net and point of reference for rural Cambodians. In Laos, research in the vicinity of Luang Prabang, reveals that smallholders face differentiated challenges and opportunities based largely on their access to and integration into urban-oriented, regional and global markets. In Vietnam, research among agrarian smallholders demonstrates the varied ways in which they are coping with land use change under the country’s New Rural Development Program. Finally, fieldwork in rural Thailand, the most urbanized and industrialized of the four nations, leads the authors to argue that over-emphasis on economic productivity obscures the ongoing role of rural smallholder social organization in terms of consumption, care, reproduction and redistribution. As agrarian change continues apace in both earlier and later developing countries, it will be important to return our attention to these issues, apart from change and difficulties framed purely in terms of rural incomes and productivity.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Geography Anthropology Sociology
An Age of Feelings: Literatures of Emotion in Early Modern East Asia, 17-20 Centuries

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Daniel T. Poch | The University of Hong Kong

Session Abstract:

The goal of this panel is to initiate a broader comparative discussion on emotion, literature, and modernity in an inter-East Asian perspective, with three case studies on China, Korea, and Japan covering material from the 17th to the early 20th centuries. Emotion is an arguably elusive phenomenon that scholars in recent years have increasingly identified as pivotal for the understanding of historical processes and literary texts. Our panel probes a diverse array of conceptual and methodological approaches that, despite the variety of the literary material discussed, all highlight the potential of emotion as a critical category in complicating and reconceptualizing narratives of modernity in East Asia. Paize Keulemans reexamines 17th century Chinese theatrical performance and print culture through their ability to mediate public and communally shared (and embodied) emotions like anger. Ksenia Chizhova shows how the writing of unruly feelings in Korean lineage novels, penned by elite women from the 17th to the early 20th century, allows for a historical redrawing of the topography of interiority, selfhood, and the public-private divide. Daniel Poch investigates “human emotion”—including sexual desire and romantic passion—as a contested critical category in attempts to reform the novel in late 19th century Japan, thereby highlighting emotion as a continuous key concern in literary discourse. Through the lens of this interdisciplinary and transnational set of critical issues, we hope to shed light on the central yet understudied role of emotion in shaping important continuities and ruptures across the early modern-modern continuum in East Asian literary culture.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Literature
Anxiety over Children in East Asia

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Young Sun Park | University of Southern California

Session Abstract:
This interdisciplinary and transnational panel aims to recover the voices and experiences of children in East Asia. Children have acted historically as repositories of societal hopes, fears, and ideals, and were shaped into modern citizens. Despite their significant roles, children remain mostly invisible and unaccounted for when considering the social and cultural forces that shaped the modern era, especially in East Asia. Furthermore, children often highlight transnational currents by crossing or violating national borders and identities. Jing Xu anthropologically examines Chinese young children’s tattling behavior and how teachers, parents, and peer interpret and react to tattling and tattlers, and contextualizes such behavior and its interpretations in the broad picture of society’s anxiety over “the genuine child” amid China’s rapid transformations. Lizbeth Halliday Piel explores Japanese war orphans (1945-1952) and traces the othering process based on anxiety over the nation. Young Sun Park investigates the history of marginalized Korean children who became targeted for institutionalization and welfare, underscoring anxiety to control these vulnerable children. While working in various institutions, the panelists agree that the experiences and views of children raise critical issues about the emergence of modern East Asia. Controlling children was crucial for the formation of the center and for the creation of dominant historical narratives. By querying the other-ing process of children, this panel suggests new ways to integrate their experiences and perspectives into a more holistic, honest, and proper understanding of East Asia’s recent past, and to reconsider this past within both a national and transnational context.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): History Anthropology Sociology Literature
Art and War: The Japanese Invasion of Korea of 1592-1598

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Sooa Im | University of Kansas
Organizer | Yoonjung Seo | Free University, Berlin

Session Abstract:

Art and War: The Japanese Invasion of Korea of 1592–1598 Often called the Japanese Calamity of 1592 in Korean sources, Entry into China in the Japanese, and the Rescue of Korea in the Chinese, the war was initiated by Toyotomi Hideyoshi’s invasion of Joseon Korea in 1592 and had long lasting impact on geopolitical dynamics in East Asia. Much recent research focuses on the war’s impact on the military, political, and social orders of the belligerent states from intercultural perspectives. Building upon recent scholarship that highlights the geopolitical dimensions of the war and its aftermath, this panel explores the role of visual culture, particularly art sponsored by the ruling houses of China, Korea, and Japan. Taking transcultural and comparative approaches, the four papers of this panel will examine various representations of battlefields, modes of interpreting war experiences, means of establishing memory in the post-war era, and ways of commemorating hegemonic historical narratives of the war. The papers further explore the roles of the war in the pan-Asian production of commemorative war-related art and the diplomatic tensions that resulted from conflicts among the Ming Chinese, Joseon Koreans, and unification-era Japanese under Hideyoshi. Subjects examined in the papers include paintings depicting battle scenes; an architectural monument established in the Joseon capital of Hanyang to symbolize strong ties between the Joseon and the Ming; post-invasion images of warfare commissioned by Ming and Manchu Qing patrons; and diplomatic gifts presented to Hideyoshi from the Ming Emperor Wanli.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Art/Art History History Geography
Asia in the European Imagination in the Early Modern Era

Sponsored by:  not applicable

Organizer | Kenneth J. Hammond | New Mexico State University

Session Abstract:

Asia in the Early Modern European Imaginary What did Asia look like to early modern Europeans? Through a closer look at a variety of early modern European sources including printed texts, maps, Mesoamerican codices, and objects held in early modern European cabinets of curiosity, this panel explores some of the surprising and unpredictable ways that Europeans understood Asia in the century following the Columbian voyages. Copious European accounts depicted America as Asia by mapping both onto one ?Amerasian? continent, where Mexico was India, North America was an extension of China, and South America was populated by a variety of biblical and Asian sites. ?New Worlds? discovered to the East and West of Europe were understood to be convergent; as a result, European collectors sometimes labeled Mexican objects as Chinese, and as late as 1600, European missionaries believed they were baptizing the Indians of Asia. Other sources portrayed China as a superior civilization, but one that Europeans hoped to rival, intellectually and culturally. Far from simply portraying Asia as generically exotic or foreign, these papers explore the myriad and flexible ways that early modern Europeans employed representations of Asia: as a means of grappling with an expanding knowledge of global geography in the sixteenth century, and as a global standard of civilization to which Europeans could compare themselves. In the same period that Europe was coming into cultural self-definition, malleable representations of Asia helped Europeans to define their own global identity.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): History
Asian Agrifood Systems in Transition

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Larry L. Burmeister | Ohio University

Session Abstract:
Asian agrifood systems are currently facing significant external and internal challenges, resulting in significant changes in production, consumption, and regulation in particular Asian country contexts. The emergence and consolidation of global agrifood supply chains has generated counter responses to preserve domestic agriculture and foodways that address a variety of food security, food safety, cultural heritage, and environmental sustainability concerns. This panel brings together sociologists of food and agriculture to analyze these agrifood systems-in-transition responses. While these papers focus on Japanese and South Korean cases, the authors use their case studies to highlight trends that are impacting agrifood system restructuring processes throughout Asia.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Sociology
Asian Art Museums in the U.S.: Paths Forward in the 21st Century

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Sarah M. Loudon | Seattle Art Museum

Session Abstract:

This roundtable will be a discussion of work ongoing at Asian Art Museums to partner with scholars of Asian Studies, and with the communities they serve, to reflect changing understandings of Asia in their exhibitions, education and public program offerings. What are some of the most critical underlying assumptions and new concepts of Asia that can be acted on within the museum setting—and how might old attitudes be put to rest? Challenges include our museum legacies, incorporating new scholarship, adapting to a changing public with more exposure to popular cultures of Asia, sensitivities over cultural appropriation, and responding to current world events. The session is designed to take on big picture issues, and engage attendees with problems and potential in the interpretation of Asian art in museums. To get started, we’ll outline a couple of partly-true, partly-invented museum scenarios involving interpretive dilemmas. We hope to elicit views on critical priorities in developing interpretive content, and brainstorm ideas for further involving scholars and communities in museum presentations.

Discussants include Curator Michelle Yun (Asia Society Museum, New York) on interpretive issues in exhibiting contemporary Asian and Asian American art, and Professor Paul Atkins, a scholar of pre-modern Japanese literature, on perceptions of Asia’s cultural traditions that could be questioned in museums. Elizabeth Eder (Head of Education at the Smithsonian’s Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery) will address international initiatives and perspectives from the nation’s capital. Sarah Loudon (Director of the Gardner Center for Asian Art and Ideas, Seattle Art Museum) will consider questions of visitor identity, and museum responsiveness through programming with university and community involvement.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Art/Art History
Asian Chronotopes of the Middle East: Imaginations of Inter-Asian Connection and Mobility, Part I

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Ismail Fajrie Alatas | New York University

Session Abstract:

The last decade has witnessed the proliferation of scholarly work that examines the connected history of the Middle East and the rest of Asia, particularly the roles of mobile actors in establishing and bridging such connections. Whether focusing on pilgrims, migrant workers, tourists, students, or foreign fighters these works have brought to the surface a plethora of Asian imaginations of, and perspectives on the Middle East. This panel seeks to explore and compare different chronotopic imaginations produced by Asian travelers to the Middle East. As an aesthetic visualizing of a particular temporal and spatial nexus in relation to movement (Bakhtin 1981), the notion of chronotopes analytically captures the ways in which mobile actors represent, make sense, narrativize, situate, and discursively construct their travel in relation to space and time. Part one of this two-part panel explores a series of chronotopes instantiated in diverse forms. Mikiya Koyagi looks at the writings of the first Japanese hajji, who traveled in the first few decades of the twentieth century. Ismail Alatas deciphers a hybrid text made up of hajj travelogue and ?-adith chain of narrations written by an Indonesian scholar, Salim bin Jindan (d. 1968). Attiya Ahmad listens to South Asian migrant domestic workers' experiences in the Persian Gulf. Ali Akhtar observes chronotopes of modernity produced by Koreans involved in diplomacy and trade in the Middle East. By comparing different chronotopes of the Middle East, this panel seeks to capture the intra-Asian heterogeneity that produces disparity of perspective on inter-Asian connection and mobility.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): History Anthropology Religion
Asian Chronotopes of the Middle East: Imaginations of Inter-Asian Connection and Mobility, Part II

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Ismail Fajrie Alatas | New York University

Session Abstract:

The last decade has witnessed the proliferation of scholarly work that examines the connected history of the Middle East and the rest of Asia, particularly the roles of mobile actors in establishing and bridging such connections. Whether focusing on pilgrims, migrant workers, tourists, students, or foreign fighters these works have brought to the surface a plethora of Asian imaginations of, and perspectives on the Middle East. This panel seeks to explore and compare different chronotopic imaginations produced by Asian travelers to the Middle East. As an aesthetic visualizing of a particular temporal and spatial nexus in relation to movement (Bakhtin 1981), the notion of chronotopes analytically captures the ways in which mobile actors represent, make sense, narrativize, situate, and discursively construct their travel in relation to space and time. Part two of this two-part panel continues the discussion by further exploring a series of chronotopes as instantiated in diverse forms. Rishad Choudhury examines the hajj travelogue of Maulana Rafi’-ud-din Faruqi (1721-1803) from late Mughal India. Lale Can looks at an early twentieth century Central Asian travelogue to Mecca through Istanbul. John Chen focuses on the Chinese Muslim Zhao Zhenwu's travelogue from his 1932-33 journey to Cairo, Jerusalem, and the Hejaz. Emiko Stock observes Cambodian Cham Muslims’ imagination of Iran as a chronotope of hope. By comparing different chronotopes of the Middle East, this panel seeks to capture the intra-Asian heterogeneity that produces disparity of perspective on inter-Asian connection and mobility.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): History Anthropology Religion
Asian Diasporic Imaginaries: Borders, Boundaries, and Pathways

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Andrew M. Carruthers | National University of Singapore

Session Abstract:

A global surge in xenophobic populisms and border anxieties calls into question long-standing assumptions about a “borderless” world of unmitigated flows and crossings. These developments pose particular questions for the study of diasporas, especially those across Asia’s changing socioeconomic and political formations. How are diasporas being (re)imagined as diasporas? How are diasporic imaginaries or everyday assumptions about "the diasporic" mediating modes of residing in the world? In turn, how might such imaginaries reflect and shape everyday assumptions about borders or boundaries, and the pathways across them? This panel addresses these issues as they obtain in Vietnamese, Japanese, Indonesian, and Chinese diasporas, analyzing how diasporic imaginaries inflect the lived experience of belonging in Asia’s shifting scene of borders, boundaries, and pathways.

Ivan Small examines how Cold War politics linked Vietnamese remittances and refugees, analyzing how imaginaries of diasporic subjectivities became materially represented. Sarah LeBaron von Baeyer explores how mobility is experienced among different generations of labor migrants between Brazil and Japan, arguing that diasporic belonging is intimately tied to imagined possibilities and pathways forward. Andrew Carruthers evaluates how a “diasporic infrastructure” linking Indonesia with Malaysia mediates Bugis migrants’ aspirations for “moreness,” and shapes their imagination of diaspora itself. Yew-Foong Hui considers how different pathways of migration etch into Medan Chinese different ways of imagining themselves as diasporic subjects.

Marshalling cross-disciplinary approaches from anthropology, history, linguistics, and new mobilities research, these papers examine how the diasporic is imagined, identified, and interrogated across shifting terrains in Asia and Asian Studies.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Anthropology  History
Asia's Next Great Game in Africa?

Sponsored by: not applicable
Organizer | Jackson P Miller | Harvard Kennedy School

Session Abstract:

From the PRC's "Belt-Road Strategy" (BRS) to India and Japan's "Asia Africa Growth Corridor" (AAGC), proliferating investment flows from Asia to Africa have captivated the imaginations of policy practitioners and academics worldwide. Yet, the ways in which stakeholders engage with the political, social, and strategic implications of these projects often hinge on the vocabulary of neo-imperialism. Stated another way, are Asian powers "carving up" Africa under the guise of infrastructure and "development," for selfish economic gain? While these endeavors do contribute to a growing, cross-continental corollary of the Asian Studies field, these forward-looking projects bely the millennia of histories that have molded--and continue to mold--Asian diasporan subjectivity across the African continent.

This panel seeks to critically engage with the sociocultural landscapes of Asian diasporas across the African continent, juxtaposing research grounded in history and sociology against prevailing geopolitics. Honoring the multifaceted logics of social location among Asian diasporan subjects across the African continent is vital to the production of compelling and innovative analytical frameworks in the field of Asian Studies, which continues to globalize.

Panelists include: Dr. Sachin Sachurvedi, Director General of the Research and Information System for Developing Countries: Dr. Sachurvedi led the research team, which authored the "Vision Document" for the AAGC. Ms. Yao Lu of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology: Lu spent much of her formative years in Zambia, and has led multidisciplinary research projects examining ethno-racial paradigms across Zambia, with a focus on both new and established Asian populations. Dr. Seifudein Adem of the University of Frankfurt: a native of Ethiopia, Dr. Adem has written extensively on Japanese entanglements across sub-Saharan Africa. Dr. Hany Besada of the Qatar National Priority Research Fund: Dr. Besada is a leading scholar on Arab-African politics and histories. Besada's perspective should remind the audience not to tether our analyses solely to China, Japan, and/or India. Dr. Gabriel Bamana of the University of Groningen: a DRC native, Dr. Bamana should provide insight into how Asian diaspora communities across the African continent disrupt localized notions of social stratification, highlighting African womanhood and cross-cultural notions of gender.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): International Relations  Sociology  History  Geography
Being ‘Malay’ in the World: Belonging Across Diasporas

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Saarah Jappie | Department of History, Princeton University

Session Abstract:

Since at least the 1990s, the idea of a Malay-Indonesian world has gained increasing political currency, with efforts to identify and promote a global Malay diaspora from the likes of Malay nationalists on the peninsula, and more recent efforts to build a Global Indonesian Diaspora Network (est. 2012). But what are the deeper histories of Malay-Indonesian overseas communities? And what has it meant to be “Malay” outside of Southeast Asia? This panel addresses such questions through the lens of “belonging,” in the context of three geographically dispersed communities: the Malays of Sri Lanka, the Fatani Malay community based in Mecca and the so-called “Cape Malays” of South Africa. Collectively these papers discuss both the external challenges and internal dynamics facing self-identifying global “Malay” communities. They also raise important questions about “Asian” identities and experiences across borders and time periods. Focusing on the Sri Lankan Malays, Ronit Ricci examines how narrative traditions helped to frame and give meaning to experiences of exile in the colonial period. Also focused on narrative, Saarah Jappie explores how Cape Malays have invoked collective origin narratives to claim territory and status as a minority community in southern Africa, over the longue durée. Muhammad Arafat Bin Mohamad further extends the discussion of minority experiences by examining the Mecca-based Fatani Malays as an outsider alien, transcultural community in the face of nationalist economic efforts in Saudi Arabia.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): History  Anthropology  Literature
Benevolent Empire? American Missionaries in China, Japan, and the Ryukyu from the Nineteenth to the Early-twentieth Centuries

*Sponsored by: not applicable*

*Organizer | Minami Nishioka | NA*

*Session Abstract:*  
This border-crossing panel reframes a contested terrain of American missions: their humanitarian motives and their ties with imperialism. While American missionaries’ efforts to support women education, western medicine, and famine relief are cited as examples of their philanthropic efforts, by working with British missionaries and other American agents, American missions promoted—intentionally or unwittingly— the expansion of the British empire as well as American informal empire. Digging into this ambivalence, this panel presents possible approaches to assess the role and impact of American missionaries in East Asia: networking study, comparative perspective, and local perspectives.

Nishioka focuses on a British medical missionary in the Ryukyu Kingdom in the mid-nineteenth century, who promoted western intrusion into the Ryukyu and Japan. By demonstrating his close association with American missionaries in China, Nishioka illuminates American missionaries’ complicity in Western imperialism. Fujimoto grapples with American medical missionaries in Japan from the 1870s to the 1890s. By comparing their medical services to those of British medical missionaries who worked for the interest of their Empire, Fujimoto shows that American missionaries paid much attention to the local needs, thus highlighting American mission’s humanitarian motives. Doi turns to China, looking at the American missionaries’ disaster relief project in Guangxi Province in the early twentieth century. Doi demonstrates that though American missionaries organized their relief project as philanthropic efforts, Japanese China Garrison Army and the local Chinese regarded the missionaries as agents of American imperialism and kept them in check.

*Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing*

*Discipline(s): History  Religion*
Between Land and Sea: The Making of Littoral Ethnicity in Asia

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Gary Chi-hung Luk | University of London

Session Abstract:

Transcending the inherent geographical boundaries in most scholarship on ethnicity in Asia, this panel discusses the various processes in which ethnicity has emerged and evolved in Asian littorals in early modern and modern times. It examines three regions that straddle natural, administrative, and national demarcations, namely the Bay of Bengal seaboard, Indonesia’s Riau-Lingga Archipelago and the Malay Peninsula’s southern coasts, and southeast China’s maritime and waterway regions. Debojyoti Das examines the transborder migration, from the early eighteenth century to the present, of the Rakhines in Myanmar and Bangladesh and the concomitant formation and reinforcement of their identity when interacting with neighboring communities. Cynthia Chou investigates modern states efforts on transforming the seascape of the Malay World and the lives of the Orang Suku Laut therein, and their negotiation of identity. Gary Chi-hung Luk explains the approaches in early-twentieth-century China’s writings to studying the Dan, those contemporarily perceived to be a nationality with waterborne residence and/or occupation, and how these studies influence our understandings of southeast China’s maritime and riverine ethnicities.

Despite the geographical varieties, this panel centers on the asymmetrical relationships between sedentary groups (land-based authorities, elites, and local dwellers) and the floating littoral population across Asia. It explores both the general pattern and regional-specific ways of the former’s domination over the latter in the past and present. Moreover, the panel discusses how crucial local, regional, and transnational migration—voluntary and involuntary alike—across different waters, from the sea to land, and vice versa has shaped ethnic groupings in littoral Asia.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): History Anthropology Geography
Beyond Chastity and Subservience: New Configurations of Feminine Virtue in Early Modern East Asia

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | W. Evan Young | Dickinson College

Session Abstract:

Over the past three decades, historians have steadily worked to complicate the stereotypical notion that the early modern period was a “dark age” for women in East Asia. Scholarship has increasingly shed light on the dynamic nature of women’s lives and the diversity of their experiences, both within the household and in broader society. Women negotiated their positions within a gendered hierarchy that emphasize filiality and subservience, finding ways to leverage such expectations to their advantage. This panel explores the fluid and changing nature of these expectations created for women in the early modern period. Bringing together scholars of Vietnam, Korea, Japan, and China, we analyze how various historical actors interpreted feminine virtue in ways that went beyond simple notions of patriarchal deference and devotion that are often attributed to Confucian constructions of womanhood. Nhung Tran examines how Catholic articulations of feminine virtue were positioned in early modern Vietnam between existing Vietnamese and Cham cultural tropes. Jisoo Kim investigates court cases dealing with female infidelity in Choson Korea to explore gaps between official ideology and judicial records. W. Evan Young examines medical information in moral guidebooks to trace the development of a feminine ideal of a well-educated healer in Tokugawa Japan. Katherine Alexander analyzes a mid-nineteenth-century religious encyclopedia to consider how new conceptions of piety met the necessities of women’s daily lives in Qing China. Finally, discussant Marcia Yonemoto, author of The Problem of Women in Early Modern Japan (2016), will provide her own insights to facilitate a larger discussion.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): History  Gender & Sexuality  Woman Studies  Religion
Bodies and Structures: Deep-Mapping the Spaces of Japanese History

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Kate McDonald | University of California, Santa Barbara

Session Abstract:
We propose to present the first modules of our new collaborative digital project, “Bodies and Structures: Deep-Mapping the Spaces of Japanese History.” Rather than take spatial constructs such as “Japan” for granted, “Bodies and Structures” starts from the premise that space and place are multi-vocal and multi-layered, constructed through relationships across multiple scales, and constantly changing. Focusing on the early to mid-twentieth century, our first modules tell spatial stories about colonial political activists, interethnic intimacies and migration, department stores and empire, the transformative potential of the modern drugstore, and the photographic eye of an American army dentist in occupied Okinawa. Users can explore concepts, events, objects, and people along pathways within the same module and as they intersect across modules. Together, the modules show the historical and contested nature of place, borders, and networks of circulation and consumption in the Asia-Pacific region. Ultimately, users will be able to contribute their own sources and plot their own itineraries across the materials, becoming active creators of spatial narratives. “Bodies and Structures” thus offers a useful pedagogical resource for undergraduate instruction and an environment in which new intellectual connections will be drawn and projects conceived.

We will use an innovative panel format. After the panelists briefly introduce the overall project and their individual contributions, audience members will have 45 minutes for hands-on exploration and to provide feedback to the creators. We will conclude with a 30-minute open discussion of the project’s potential for reshaping the research and teaching of Japanese history.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): History  Geography
Boys Love (BL) Media in Transit and Transformation Around East, South, and Southeast Asia

*Sponsored by: not applicable*

*Organizer | James Welker | Kanagawa University*

*Session Abstract:*

Created by and for adolescent girls and women, boys love (BL) media, depicting romantic and sexual relationships between males, emerged in shojo manga (girls’ comics) magazines in Japan in the early 1970s. BL quickly spread into other commercial and fan-produced media, including dojinshi (fanzines), “light novels,” anime, “drama CDs,” live action films, and video games. With an estimated domestic market size in 2014 alone of nearly US$190 million, this arguably “queer” media clearly has a pronounced presence in Japanese popular culture today. By the early 2000s BL was becoming a global media phenomenon, encompassing pirated and licensed translations and locally-produced works. BL media has found a particularly receptive home in many parts of Asia, where it has taken on new meanings and had different fanbases from in its country of origin—sometimes resulting from creative (mis)reading and resulting in new sexual and social attitudes and practices.

The papers in this panel focus on BL media in transit and transformation around Asia. Lakshmi Menon will consider how BL has been helping female fans negotiate their attitudes towards sex and sexuality in urban India. Katrien Jacobs will examine the complex interplay between BL, civil rights, and anti-censorship activism in Hong Kong. Asako Saito will highlight ways the Three Kingdoms legend is differently eroticized by fans in China, Japan, and Taiwan. Thomas Baudinette will investigate how BL has become reconfigured by fans in the Philippines into a fundamentally Thai phenomenon. Finally, James Welker will respond from his perspective as a scholar of Japanese BL.

*Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing*

*Discipline(s): Gender & Sexuality  Woman Studies  Anthropology  Translation*
Building a Global Community Through Teaching and Learning Foreign Languages: New Perspectives and Practices Across Area Studies

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Amelia Joan Liwe | Universitas Pelita Harapan

Session Abstract:

The 21st century provides new challenges and opportunities to the teaching and learning of foreign languages in the USA and Asia. New technologies and economic growth increase the flow of people, goods, services, capital, ideas and information at a rapid pace, creating the undeniable need to communicate effectively in foreign languages. Yet, the real potential for declining funding opportunities for area studies in the USA provide significant obstacles for the development of competitive Asian language programs.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Language  International Relations
Burma and India: Networks of Exchange Across the Indian Ocean, c1910s-1950s

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Sana Aiyar | Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Session Abstract:

Typically, Burma is given short shrift in the literature on the exchange of ideas and the creation of networks across the Indian Ocean. After the separation of Burma from India in 1937, popular and scholarly memories of a wide range of exchanges between Burmese and Indians faded away. This panel reinstates the place of Burma in the circulation of ideas, people and good in the eastern Indian Ocean. Our papers will reveal that there was substantial exchange around some of the most significant political and cultural movements of the day. We follow the trajectories of political figures like U. Ottama, an early Burmese nationalist, who traveled to India in the 1930s and allied with various political institutions there. We recount socialist networks that were ignited after independence by postcolonial intellectuals who plot a trajectory for Third World Socialism at conferences in Rangoon and Bombay. We analyze emergent issues of citizenship and identity among mobile communities including Indian repatriates from Burma and Burmese students, Buddhist pilgrims and refugees in India. These were political and spiritual exchanges that included efforts at the revival of Buddhism in India. Together these papers highlight individuals who traveled between India and Burma, and beyond, and carried ideas around nationalism, socialism, Buddhism, citizenship and belonging that broadened and crystallized in these journeys, leaving important legacies for the history and historiography of India and Burma.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): History
Challenges to the Sinosphere

Sponsored by: Sino-Japanese Studies Group

Organizer | Joshua A. Fogel | York University

Session Abstract:

This panel grows out of an ongoing international project (twelve scholars) examining the core elements of what constitutes the ?Sinosphere,? a term we employ to refer to those states which have historically adopted forms usually originating in China and domesticated in the lands we now call Japan, Korea, and Vietnam. The most immediate such element was the use throughout the Sinosphere of the literary Chinese language, one of the most important markers of being civilized (?): C. hua, J. ka, K. hwa, V. hoa. Each paper addresses a distinctive aspect of what it meant to be civilized but not ethnically Chinese; the discussants address the Chinese perspective. Mark Ravina examines the civilized-barbarian distinction in Edo-period thought and how that played out in Japanese understanding of foreign trade. Joshua Van Lieu examines the state-sponsored Guan Yu cult (the ancient military figure) during the Choson period in Korea as it affected Korean relations with the Ming and Qing dynasties. Bradley Camp Davis looks at efforts undertaken by the Vietnamese authorities in the early nineteenth century to make intelligible sense of non-Vietnamese speech by creating logographic script; the Nguyen dynasty was both tapping into the Sinosphere and carving out a mini-empire in Southeast Asia. Discussant Annping Chin places the civilized-barbarian distinction in its original intellectual Chinese setting; and discussant Joshua Fogel looks at how these differing understandings of civilization may or may not have clashed with the other players in the Sinosphere.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): History  International Relations
Changing Landscapes of Service Work in Korea and Taiwan: Labor Precarity, Workers' Struggles, and New Subject Formations

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Jiwoon Yulee | University of Washington
Organizer | Solee Shin | National University of Singapore

Session Abstract:

The last few decades, the export-oriented economies of Korea and Taiwan saw their transformation into service sector economies. Factories had increasingly relocated offshore as the importance of various old and new service operations heightened, transforming the manner of Korea’s and Taiwan’s integration into the regional and global economies. In tandem with these changes of manufacturing relocation, liberalization, and service sector development, the landscape of work and labor struggle had undergone dramatic restructuration. Novel service works and new forms of subjectivities emerged as work-related issues such as increasing precarity, work-life tension transformed the daily lives of Asians. What new configurations, practices, and struggles have emerged within these shifting landscapes of work?

This interdisciplinary and cross-border panel collectively examines the transformation of daily work in Korea and Taiwan as resulting from the rise of service-sector economies. Individual papers examine new forms of labor struggle, work-life strategy, and market intermediation resulting from the structural changes in the post-developmental regime. Jiwoon Yulee examines the newly unionized female janitorial workers’ struggle in the context of labor reforms that followed after the 1997 Asian Financial Crisis. Lake Lui documents the identities and lives of Taiwanese professionals engaged in a new work practice called “slashing”. Solee Shin documents the role of daily negotiations and collective work practices of Korean fashion workers as integral to the constant making and remaking of Korea’s domestic consumer market. Chin-Fen Chang and Jane Lu examine the wage determinants and gender disparity within Taiwanese medical professionals.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Gender & Sexuality Anthropology Sociology Urban Studies
Chinese Diasporic Circulations and Fractured Allegiances

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Nicholas McGee | University of Toronto

Session Abstract:

From the 19th to 20th centuries the increasingly complex circulations of Chinese labourers, merchants and capitalists transformed societies in countless sites across the Transpacific, Atlantic and Indian Ocean worlds. While migration had long been crucial to economic and social life in parts of South China, the post-1842 context and overwhelming scale of these movements drew unprecedented attention from successive Chinese states and broader society, resulting in repeated reconfigurations of intellectual, economic and governmental relationship with the diaspora. Both inside and outside of China, these subjects’ trajectories through spaces of de-territorializing capital and territorializing empires and nations lead to a proliferation of overlapping categories of fraternal, political, imperial and national allegiance. Our panel interrogates this process of circulation, particularly in contexts where Chinese migrants or returnees navigated, generated or exploited conflicts and contradictions stemming from these multifaceted allegiances. In the late-Qing era, this is explored through the stories of the overseas labourers and merchants behind Xiamen’s anti-dynastic Small Swords Uprising in 1853, and the half-century of Qing-British imperial contests for sovereignty over “Anglo-Chinese” subjects in China. In the Republican and Cold War eras, we examine how British Paramilitary Caribbean-Chinese returnees navigated their complex positionality in treacherous Wartime South China and Hong Kong, and how the subsequent Civil War and Cold War rivalry split the sizeable Hong Men Chee Kung Tong diasporic fraternal organization into competing political factions. Together these papers offer critical insights into the intersecting and clashing allegiances arising from the transnational or trans-imperial mobilities of diasporic Chinese subjects.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): History
Chinese Perceptions of Korean History and Their Impact on Bilateral Relations

Sponsored by: Korea Economic Institute of America

Organizer | Kyle C Ferrier | Korea Economic Institute of America

Session Abstract:

In 2004 Koreans awakened to new Chinese thinking on premodern history that challenged key premises of their national identity. In 2010 new clarity on the Chinese perspective on the Korean War came as a shock about how the Cold War era was being interpreted. From 2013 to 2015 Chinese efforts to realize a consensus with South Korea on the history of the first half of the twentieth century revealed the limits of agreement before a sharp downturn in bilateral relations in 2016-17 showcased a sharp divide over narratives on all periods of history. Writings on the post Cold War decades increasingly put South Korea in the context of evolving Sino-US relations. For this panel we present four papers covering four periods in chronological order, each drawing on Chinese publications, to show how perceptions of history shape or reflect policy decisions on how to manage Beijing’s relations to Seoul. The papers in this Korea Economic Institute of America-sponsored panel will be followed by a comparative introduction and overview, leading to joint publication.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): International Relations History
Cold War Citizens: Understanding and Fighting the Cold War in the Contemporary Asia

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Victor Teo | Harvard Law School

Session Abstract:

Citizens of Communist China, Vietnam and North Korea live in a dual reality world where they are exposed to varying degrees to the daily lives of the compatriots living in enemy societies while expected to be good communists. This panel discusses societies divided by the Cold War in Asia by examining the nature of these societies, the everyday life and grassroots exchanges. How do the citizens of these countries explore, interpret and actualize major historical and political events of the Cold War occurred in their own and the “enemy” nations, and how in turn do Cold War events affect their daily lives? How are friendships and enmity presented? How do they perceive the duties and obligations of national, social and global citizenship and notions of regionalism and regional identity? What are some of their experiences of dealing with the “enemy” and how do these experiences and beliefs change or/and persist over generations?

Family and kinship relations are often fraught with tensions resulting from the mobilization of society into bifurcated, mutually negating political forces. Kwon will explore the politics of containment in this context concerned not only the individuals deemed internal enemies but also the wide milieu of family and kinship relations of which these individuals were part. Kwon looks at ways families come to terms with Cold War history in terms of the politics of kinship. Kim’s talk will focus on the conceptualization of “enemies” in Asian countries today and relate it to the broader question of neighbourliness. Agov will study the division of North-South Korea and China-Taiwan within the Cold War architecture and what national unification means for regional integration. He explores the prospects of grassroots exchanges holding for divided societies. Mosler will contribute to the discussion by analyzing the hegemonic discourses and narratives (and their contestation) manifested in South Korea ordinary citizens vulnerable to polarization from above. Teowill discuss about defectors or captured personnel who were returned to their motherland after prolonged stay in the enemy “other” and the repercussions of their repatriation on the politics of reunification for the countries.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Anthropology  International Relations  History  Sociology
Cold War Cosmopolitanisms: Arts and Cultures That Transcend Ideological Boundaries

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Wasana Wongsurawat | Chulalongkorn University

Session Abstract:

The ideological fault lines of the Cold War in East and Southeast Asia continue to be a matter for debate among historians and political scientists long after the dissolution of the USSR. Cold War history of both regions contains a multitude of ideologically enigmatic yet politically significant incidents—the 1955 Asian-African Conference in Bandung, the historic meeting between Nixon and Mao in 1972, and the Cambodian Genocide of the late-1970s are but a few prominent examples. Perhaps a more useful and creative way to comprehend the ambiguous, fluid, and persistent political divisions would be through the artistic and cultural perspectives of the common citizens who experienced the Cold War in these regions in their everyday lives through the long decades that followed the conclusion of the Second World War and who continue to remember and reflect on them today even after the Cold War has supposedly ended. Poetry, youth culture, religion, gender and sexuality are but a few sample areas explored in this panel. The cosmopolitan arts and cultures of the Cold War may provide a better reflection and representation of the confused and conflated ideological context of this époque. It could, perhaps, allow us to move towards a more realistic conclusion that, even at the height of this era of ideological conflict, the ideas that influenced people’s lives the most were, in fact, ones that transcend political divisions.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): History  Literature  Political Science
Cold War Feminisms in East Asia

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Suzy Kim | Rutgers University

Session Abstract:

Women have often been depicted as unwittingly serving state agendas, whether as Capitalist “handmaidens,” Chinese “iron girls,” or North Korean “pleasure squads”. Recuperating examples of women’s praxes in the twentieth century, the panel reconsiders Cold War bifurcations to rethink East Asian feminisms in a broader context. This border-crossing panel pursues a transnational history of feminisms by situating China and Northeast Asia within a women’s movement that was truly a global phenomenon. Bridging the Cold War divide to reframe the history of feminisms, the panel includes examples of 1920s Chinese “modern girls” to 1960s female militias; North Korean women active in the Women’s International Democratic Federation to South Korean women involved with the International Council of Women; and Okinawan farmers who struggled against militarism and patriarchy as Communist feminists. This record of feminisms that reaches beyond the Cold War in temporal, geographical, and ideological scope illustrates the provincialism of conventional feminist historiography framed as "wave feminism". Not only were there direct exchanges in the name of socialist internationalism that rivaled the networks of liberal feminist organizations, but the panel as a whole illustrates the intellectual vitality of feminisms leading up to and during the Cold War as a way to raise the question: what comes after Cold War feminisms? The panel will be discussion-driven through an innovative format that is bookended by commentators’ overview of the issues in the context of their own research, and each of the panelists building upon previous presentations through pre-circulated papers.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): History  Gender & Sexuality  Woman Studies
Collaboration, Censorship, and Celebrity: Authorship in Early Modern East Asia

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Nathan Vedal | Harvard University

Session Abstract:

Early modern East Asia was a site of extensive textual production. Along with the creation of new genres and modes of textual circulation came new ways of imagining the creators of these texts. The emergence of the concept of an author has typically been linked to technological, legal, and social factors specific to the early modern West. This panel will illuminate instead how social, literary, and political features particular to early modern East Asia contributed to distinct and new conceptions of the author. By comparing notions of authorship across East Asia from both literary and historical perspectives, we aim to raise questions about the relationships between texts, their producers, and their audiences. What was an author in early modern East Asia? Was an author considered the creator of original material or transmitter of received ideas, someone to be referred to by name or remain unknown? What were the similarities and disjunctions among ideas of authorship in China, Japan, and Korea?

In Japan, a notion of authorial celebrity arose from the popularization of new literary genres and printing technologies. New forms of social organization in Korea allowed for collaborative authorship as a mode of fashioning literary identities. In China, debates over authenticating the Classics involved the idea of a singular authoritative creator, while the circulation of contemporary censored texts required modifying and even sometimes erasing the author’s position. Employing varied materials and methodologies, we seek to highlight the cultural and social forces underlying writing and publishing in early modern East Asia.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): History Literature Bibliography Language
Comrades No More: The Outbreak of the Third Indochina War, Forty Years On

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Hoang M. Vu | Cornell University

Session Abstract:

Forty years ago, the world watched in astonishment as the first major military conflict between Communist nations flashed across their screens. As Vietnam invaded Cambodia in December 1978 and Chinese tanks rolled across the Vietnamese border two months later, journalists, scholars, and politicians around the world struggled to make sense of this conflict in a partisan climate with limited information. Forty years on, young scholars on both sides are using new methods and sources to update and challenge these older narratives. Khue Dieu Do’s work in newly available materials in American archives highlights the Carter Administration’s decision to play the “China card” as the primary reason for the failure of Vietnam’s normalization efforts with the US in 1978, further isolating Vietnam and driving it to closer alignment with the USSR, setting the stage for a showdown with China and Democratic Kampuchea. Using newly available Vietnamese and American archival sources, Hoang Minh Vu’s paper argues that besides trying to secure its southwestern flank, Vietnam sought to legitimize its narrative of “liberating” Cambodia at home and abroad by working to rebuild Cambodian infrastructure and set the foundations for a viable, independent, and friendly neighboring state. Qingfei Yin, by placing the historical memory of the 1979 war in China in the context of state-society relations, examines how the rise of civil society and the development of veteran movement has reshaped the discursive memory of the war in China, despite the Chinese government’s hesitance to recognize the war on an official and national level.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): History International Relations Anthropology
Conceptualizations of Buddhist Ritual Space Across East Asia

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Eric Swanson |

Session Abstract:

Building on the growing scholarship on the local specificities of Buddhist ritual practices in China, Korea, and Japan, what can be said about the spaces of Buddhist rituals in East Asia when one takes a broader, comparative perspective? This panel consists of four papers that address the dynamic relationship between ritual and space in East Asia. “From the Demon Gate to the Capital: Jien and the Restructuring of Tendai Ritual Space” will illustrate the negotiations Jien (1155-1225) made when transporting a Buddhist ritual into the urban space of the Heian capital. “Relics, Pure Land Ritual, and the Creation of Chogen’s Religious Virtual Space” will show how Chogen (1121-1206) reimagined Todaiji in Nara as a structure imbued with multiple layers of meaning based on Esoteric Buddhist scripture and Pure Land thought. “The Environment of Ritual in a Song-Dynasty Buddhist Temple” will address how the architecture, images, and inscriptions at Shizhuanshan, a private eleventh-century Buddhist sanctuary in southwestern China, conceptualize the ecological environment as a ritual space. “Embodying the Perfection of Wisdom: The Making of a Buddhist Mountain in Pre-modern Korea” will focus on how monks and pilgrims in the Choson period (1392-1910) conceptualized Kumgangsan, a mountain in central Korea, as a Buddhist ritual space. This panel aims to elucidate how Buddhist ritual space was defined and restructured to respond to specific social and political realities and to clarify how the utilization of Buddhist scripture and its pantheon contributed to establishing new conceptions of ritual space across East Asia.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Religion  Art/Art History
Contemporary Exiled Tibetan Politics - Driving the Narrative

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Sara M. Conrad | Indiana University-Bloomington

Session Abstract:
The Tibetan political landscape transcends historical, geographical, and disciplinary boundaries. Scholars interested in Tibetan politics must navigate the shifting transnational spaces of diasporic communities and take into account the myriad socio-political networks that reach from Tibet, to India, to New York and beyond. This panel explores the complicated subtle notions of power and politics that permeate the lives of contemporary exiled Tibetans, from religion, to nationalism, and even eating. A particular focus will be on approaches which connect the cultural, social, and political dimensions of transnational Tibetan diasporic networks and examine this interplay within different geographical contexts. The panel will attempt to locate these social and political dynamics of the Tibetan diaspora against important historical backdrops and current events – such as the anniversary of the March 10th national uprising, the exile Tibetan government elections in 2015, and the Dalai Lama’s birthday celebrations.

The panel members ask and address the following questions: How have Buddhism and Buddhist groups played a role in shaping the Tibetan freedom movement? How do different interests within the governmental structures of the Central Tibetan Administration work to control and reframe political narratives? How do these politics take a trip across the ocean and in turn shape where Tibetans eat in the heavily Tibetan populated space of Jackson Heights, Queens, New York City? In addressing these questions, this panel will contribute to the rethinking of how these deeply politicized aspects of social life affect the lives of Tibetan exiles through a multidisciplinary lens.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Anthropology Political Science History Religion
Contested Boundaries of Literary Chinese in East Asia

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Brian R. Steininger | Princeton University

Session Abstract:

Recent research has revitalized the study of literary Chinese as a transnational phenomenon from two converse directions: on the one hand, comparison with other "cosmopolitan" literatures such as Sanskrit and Latin has provided new avenues for thinking in world-historical terms about the nature of the interliterate commonalities binding the "Sinographic Sphere." At the same time, research on the diversification of literary Chinese practice across language communities has demonstrated that local vernaculars were often realized through, not against the authority of canonical literary heritage. This panel seeks to rethink the problem of trans-regional and trans-historic consistency versus local contingency as a defining dynamic of literary Chinese. Brian Steininger will discuss efforts to interpret Neo-Confucian critiques of parallel prose in fourteenth-century Japan. Christina Han will demonstrate how musical performance practices reshaped literary Chinese poetry in Choson Korea. Wiebke Denecke will reread a revered Japanese vernacular narrative for its overlooked participation in the Sinographic literary cosmos. Discussant John Phan will draw on the literary Chinese corpus of Vietnam, suggesting ways that the "South" can relativize the northeast Asian phenomena discussed in the papers. By testing parallels in the diverse appropriations of the literary Chinese tradition, we seek to develop terms such as genre and region that can usefully mediate between the antinomy of universal and particular, center and periphery.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Literature  History
Critical Asian Studies Fiftieth Anniversary Roundtable: Fifty Years of Tilting at Mainstream Scholarship on Asia: The past and Future of Asian Studies

Sponsored by: Critical Asian Studies

Organizer | Robert J. Shepherd | Critical Asian Studies

Session Abstract:

Casting off the straight jacket of Cold War analyses of Asia, emerging young scholars in 1968 challenged their professors to critically examine the sources, methods, and assumptions of their scholarship. With an urgency arising from their opposition to the American wars in Indochina and the use of scholarship in the service of those wars, they demanded fresh interrogation of the underlying premises of the Cold War in the Asian context. The result was the creation of the Committee of Concerned Asian Scholars (CCAS) in 1968 and the establishment of an alternative platform for intellectual inquiry, the Bulletin of Concerned Asian Scholars (BCAS), which in 1992 became Critical Asian Studies. Since 1968 the field of Asian Studies has changed considerably, as the dominance of an Anglo-American center has given way to a prolific increase in the number of indigenous scholars throughout the region, a significant rise in the number of women active in the field, and a slew of new research questions. The issues that sparked the activists of 1968 – national liberation, social justice, and imperialism -- have been supplemented by other critical issues such as indigenous rights, environmental justice, gender inequities, and new forms of labor exploitation. This roundtable will convene founding members of the Committee of Concerned Asian Scholars and scholars who have followed in their footsteps. Together, they will discuss principles that, in their opinions, link critical scholarship of the (recent) past with that of the present, as well as factors that have led to divergent paths. The fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Committee of Concerned Asian Scholars and Critical Asian Studies offers an opportunity to take stock of Asian Studies in the present and the impact of critical scholarship in addressing the leading challenges of our times.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): History  Political Science  Sociology
Cruel Beauty, Self Gentrification, and Other Urban Transformations: The Aesthetics of Exclusion and Dispossession in Cities in Asia

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Erik Lind Harms | Yale University

Session Abstract:

A specter is haunting cities all across Asia: the specter of clean, green, beautiful and heritage-rich cities rising from the rubble of mass eviction, urban displacement, and exclusion. From Bangalore to Beijing, and Saigon to Shanghai, densely populated urban neighborhoods have been, are currently, or will soon be facing the imminent threat of demolition in the name of urban beautification, modernization, or heritage preservation. Sometimes these processes are externally imposed; sometimes they come from within. This roundtable brings together scholars who have recently published ethnographically informed books or dissertations on the ways in which urban aesthetics combine with real estate pressures and heritage preservation agendas to transform urban space in five different countries across East, South, and Southeast Asia.

Ghertner’s research in Delhi advances a theory of “rule by aesthetics” to describe how ideas of beauty inform the legal mechanisms through which certain visions of the city legitimize the eviction and displacement of precarious urban residents. Herzfeld’s work in Bangkok documents how a community engaged in self-gentrification to resist city efforts to transform their neighborhood into a heritage park. Simone’s research in Jakarta depicts the ambivalences associated with the “urban majority,” who are both producing new modes of urban living and also threatened by them. Non Arkarprasertkul’s research in Shanghai discusses the role “gentrification from within” plays in the transformation of alleyway neighborhoods. And Eli Elinoff’s work in the Thai city of Khon Kaen demonstrates how contemporary struggles over citizenship are being waged through slum upgrade projects and the military government’s large-scale infrastructure initiatives. The roundtable will be chaired by Erik Harms, whose recent research in Ho Chi Minh City describes how Vietnamese aspirations about building modern new urban zones legitimize mass dispossession in the city. Together, panelists will discuss the ambivalent choices facing city residents across Asia as the rise of beautification and improvement agendas come into dialogue with questions of equity and social justice.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Anthropology Urban Studies Geography
Cultural Flows and Boundaries: Music and Sound in Cold War East Asia

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Hye-jung Park | Ohio State University

Session Abstract:

Music and sound played a significant role in postcolonial nation-building and Cold War politics in East Asia by constructing new sonic practices and auditory experiences in everyday life. This panel moves beyond national boundaries and foregrounds the US strategic regions in East Asia as the primary nexus of cultural flows in and out of the region during the Cold War. Taking diverse disciplinary perspectives including cultural studies, musicology and media studies, the four papers on this panel examine how music and sound crossed borders, were circulated and prohibited, and contributed to re-creating a sense of both national and transnational community in Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan. The first presenter analyzes sound on radio to investigate how democracy came to be seen as an aesthetic criterion and a prerequisite of an ideal citizenship in postwar Japan. The second presenter examines the US military government's music policy devised for promoting Americanism in southern Korea. Delving into political and cultural bans in the South Korean music industry, the third presenter traces the formation of nationalism and cultural identity in Korea during the Cold War. The fourth presenter analyzes the audiophile culture in Taiwan and discusses how Taiwanese listeners began to reflect local experience and aesthetics. Taiwanese listeners eventually moved beyond merely receiving information that was limited due to the Cold War configuration. Together, these papers reveal how music and sound mediated diverse postcolonial desires and de/construct Cold War values and order in the East Asian context.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Music/Musicology
Cultural Forms for Performing Community-crossing Identity and Tensions in the Everyday Life

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Ge song | Lingnan University

Session Abstract:

Performance practices — theatre, storytelling, and museum arts — originated from the community present stories of our everyday life. Under the rapidly changing sociopolitical environment, communities around the globe desire social and political alternatives. It is observed that arts as cultural forms have been increasingly adopted as resources and collaborative creation with, by and for the people confronting inter-cultural tensions.

The papers in this panel bring together cases of cultural productions in border-crossing communities based in three regions. Through the discussion of alternative methods and cultural representations, we will explore how performative practices in their diversity — Storytelling circle for Filipino human trafficking survivors in New York City, Drama Education for Hong Kong students experiencing Hong Kong-Mainland (China) struggles, cross-community "puppetry" theatre in Singapore, and state-run Art Gallery in Singapore for international visitors — may re-engage the people, rediscover and re-present identities, and further open up space for creativity, resistance, collaboration, shared memory and meaning making in both ‘bottom-up’ and ‘top-down’ cultural-political perspectives. The panel also invites reflections on the nature of the cultural dimension in social advancement in the realm of the everyday life, and the strength and limits of such interventions.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Performing Arts  Art/Art History  Translation
Dharma Tourists, Diasporas and Buddhist Transnationalism: Spreading the Dharma Under the Global Condition

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Jens Reinke | Leipzig University

Session Abstract:

Dharma Tourists, Diasporas and Buddhist Transnationalism: Spreading the Dharma under the Global Condition

Religious border-crossings suggest not only religious transmission across national borders and geographical distance, but also the creation of linkages and connections over cultural, religious/sectarian and ethnic boundaries. This panel approaches the topic by looking at four different cases of Buddhist transnational entanglements. It compares the inner-Asian border-crossings of Vietnamese and Sri Lankan Buddhist proselytizers in Taiwan, considers the strategic responses from Theravada Buddhists to international tourists interested in Buddhism and meditation in Thailand, as well as examines Taiwanese/Chinese Buddhist’s efforts to spread the Dharma within and beyond the boundaries of the Chinese diaspora in Africa and North America. The presentations consider the transnational histories, strategies and approaches of Mahayana as well Theravada Buddhists.

In order to gain a broader understanding of the transnational involvements of modern and contemporary Asian Buddhists under today’s global condition, the case studies discussed in this panel represent historical as well as ethnographic and comparative approaches to the topic. By looking at the border-crossing endeavors of Asian Buddhists during a time period that spans from the 1960’s until today, this panel brings attention to the dynamic and complex phenomena of Buddhist transnationalism. It thereby hopes to create new insights into the forces that shape the development of contemporary Asian Buddhist religiosities under the global condition.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Anthropology Religion Sociology History
Disability in Early Modern East Asia: Case Studies from China, Japan, and Korea, Ca. 1500–1870

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Eugene Y. Park | University of Pennsylvania

Session Abstract:

Historiography of disability remains informed largely by Western experience. This panel seeks to expand the discussion by considering China, Japan, and Korea from about 1500 to 1870—before modernizing discourses such as eugenics and national self-strengthening. In all three regions, disability as a restriction of ability to perform an activity in a manner considered normal elicited a wide range of attitudes that were intertwined with long-term social, economic, and cultural changes. Featuring three case studies, this panel considers disability, whether acute or chronic, in the context of government policies, social organization, and belief systems. A set of three, overlapping questions in particular inform our discussion. How did medical treatments impact a disabled individual’s daily life in particular and overall discourse on the treatability of disabling conditions? To what extent did the state’s rationale and rhetoric in providing protection, if any, to the disabled affect the individual’s social status as a productive worker, a tax payer, and a marriage partner? Why did changing religious or moral attitudes influence understandings of what causes a disability and attitudes toward a disabled? Critiqued by discussants who work in social history and history of medical science, we seek to not only better understand disability in Ming-Qing China, Sengoku-Edo Japan, and Choson Korea but also explore feasibility of a paradigm, “early modern East Asia,” for a more holistic, comparative understanding of the three regions together.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): History Sociology
Disaster Temporalities and Subjectivities: Alternative Pasts and Possible Futures

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Chika Watanabe | University of Manchester

Session Abstract:

As events of rupture, disasters provoke “what if” questions, wherein people must assess what went wrong or right, and come to terms with the past and be better prepared for the future (Clarke 2006). By comparing cases across the most disaster-prone region in the world (ESCAP 2016), this panel brings together junior and senior anthropologists and geographers to explore how disasters push actors across Asia to reevaluate the region’s histories and futures, and their own subjectivities, amidst cultures and geographies of uncertainty. The temporalities of disaster are not linear, but cyclical, compressed, and messy. Gagne explores how the intersection of national policies, local recovery plans, and ongoing displacement creates a “zoned liminality” for evacuees of the 2011 disaster in Japan. Gergan explores the relationship between increasing earthquakes and landslides, colonial histories, and state-led infrastructural development in the Indian Himalayan region. Kimura and Watanabe examine how Japanese aid actors re-interpret Japan’s experience with disasters into the future of preparedness in Chile. Thomas employs the concept of shifting baselines to understand how disaster mitigation efforts in Vietnam and Bangladesh are undermined by insufficient attention to the historical processes that underpin contemporary hazards. The panel encourages discussion through an innovative format in which each panelist comments on another’s pre-circulated paper in a round-robin format. Discussants Shneiderman and Rankin draw upon their emergent research on post-disaster transformation after Nepal’s 2015 earthquakes to engage synthetically with the geographically diverse presentations, encouraging the panelists and audience to explore how the various regional cases connect and diverge.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Anthropology  Geography
Disasters and the Asian Society: Response of Local Communities to the Impact of Natural and Human-Induced Hazards

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Maria Luisa Retiro De Leon Bolinao | University of the Philippines, Diliman

Session Abstract:

The panel will discuss the impact of natural and human-induced disasters and the varied responses by four different Asian countries, sectors, and cultures as presented by four scholars of various disciplines and ethnicities, institutions, and professional ranks.

The panel offers a multidisciplinary study of both natural and human-induced hazards recently experienced in Southeast and East Asia. It likewise explores the varying responses to impacts of disasters on different platforms. The natural disasters to be discussed are the 2009 3/11 Earthquake in Japan and the 2013 Supertyphoon Haiyan in the Philippines, while the human-induced hazards include the 2016 Vietnam marine life disaster and the hunter-gatherer Penan tribe of interior Sarawak, Malaysia, dealing with river pollution.

The paper on the Haiyan disaster will assess the challenges and roles played by the Philippine local government in disaster risk reduction and management, based on data gathered during fieldwork done over a 3-year period in Leyte, the most devastated province of the supertyphoon. The paper on the 3/11 Japan earthquake will focus on the invisible impacts of the disaster on school children based on data culled from news reports. The 2016 Vietnam marine life disaster was brought about when a steel plant illegally discharged toxic industrial waste into the ocean, and the paper will discuss the government's handling of the ensuing environmental protests and demonstrations, while the paper on the river pollution in Sarawak contrasts the challenges faced by cultural communities encountering the effects of modernization.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): History Political Science Anthropology Sociology
Disasters in Asia: An Interdisciplinary, Cross Country Approach

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Daniel P. Aldrich | Northeastern University

Session Abstract:

These panelists cross disciplinary and nation-state borders in their investigations of what may be the most common disruption in human history: disasters. Disasters regularly rearrange political orders and create opportunities for decision makers and civil society alike. This panel uses multiple disasters over time in Asian countries to explore vulnerable populations, civil society, and humanitarian assistance from a several perspectives. Drawing on the disciplines of economics, cultural studies, geography, and anthropology our panelists show how communities gain (and lose) power in catastrophe and how state and civil society interact in new spaces. Li uses the 2008 Chinese earthquake to explore how vulnerable populations in Yingxiu emerged from the disaster. Through ethnographic fieldwork Li demonstrates the ways that ethnic tourism and economic recovery did not benefit all local groups equally. Borland uses the 1923 Tokyo earthquake to see how children were portrayed and used as examples by educators and state decision makers alike. Yang delves into the environmental disaster caused by the Three Gorges Dam to show how civil society responded with art, poetry, and performance. Here vulnerable communities sought to use their own voice to push against ecological destruction. Finally, Schenking uses a historical approach to humanitarian aid to Japan in the early 20th century to investigate how disasters cross borders and create new ties between nations. These papers shed new light on an important field of research and show how multiple disciplines can contribute to our knowledge.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Geography History Sociology Urban Studies
East Asia: Alliances and Rivalries

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Jefferson Robles Mendez | Lyceum of the Philippines University

Session Abstract:

For half a century, change has come to East Asia. New administrations, crises of democracy, deadlocks in regional organizations, rising powers, and resurgent nationalism beset the region. The East Asian region has endured dramatic transformation over the decades marked by war, political upheaval, democratization, and economic boom and crisis. Yet the basic reality of postwar East Asian order has stayed remarkably fixed and enduring—namely, the American-led system of bilateral security ties with Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and countries to the South. This ‘hub-and-spoke’ security order today remains the single most important anchor for regional stability. Around it has grown a complex system of political and economic interdependencies. Adding to the complexity are the issues that continue to challenge actors in the region: wider socio-economic disparities, emerging technologies, and natural calamities, inter alia. Urgent challenges confront the region, as recent conflicts arise and new alliances are formed.

Amidst the changes that drastically churn the whole region, how can the proverbial ship be directed in order to carve a path for East (NEA & SEA) Asia? This particular session aims to identify possible courses of action on how to move forward. In doing so, cooperative mechanisms are identified, explored, and negotiated. The panel features interrogation on security issues under alliances and rivalries. It is in platforms like this that possible solutions to the problems we face as a people and as a region are offered. The session will focus on East Asia, but similar questions apply in other regions of strategic significance.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Asian American Studies  International Relations  History  Political Science
Echoes of the October Revolution in China and Japan

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Tatiana Linkhoeva | Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich

Session Abstract:

The 1917 October Revolution was one of the 20th century’s defining moments and the world still continues to deal with its consequences. This panel examines the influence of the Bolsheviks’ vision for a radically new kind of state, society, and human being. This vision was to be advanced through the organization of disciplined mass political parties. We begin by asking: how was revolution and the formation of communist parties understood by activists and the police in East Asia, and how did this understanding change over time as Chinese and Japanese activists translated Bolshevism into their respective national contexts? Tatiana Linkhoeva demonstrates how the Japanese communists resisted the Bolsheviks’ view of the October Revolution as the only correct one, and formulated their own definition of “social revolution.” Max Ward discusses the Japanese imperial state’s preoccupation with understanding the domestic and international communist movements, which ultimately shaped the Japanese state’s own political imaginary. Marilyn Levine focuses on the influence and legacy of Vladimir Lenin for the Chinese Communist Party’s revolutionary strategy tracing the lives of two prominent members. Finally, Shakhar Rahav argues that the October Revolution’s most lasting effect in China was the emergence of larger organizations, such as the CCP, viewed by the contemporaries as the most effective way to bring about social change and national independence. Through the prism of the October Revolution and its impact, our panel seeks to facilitate discussion on the history of radical movements and ideas in 20th Century East Asia.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): History
Economic Euphoria in East Asia: Visions of Progress and Dystopia

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Ikuho Amano | University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Session Abstract:

This interdisciplinary panel explores the significance of economic euphoria and the ways in which the social phenomena are represented as a prominent theme and motif in East Asian cultural and literary discourses. Since the late 1980s until today, ephemeral economic booms are ubiquitous in East Asia, above all in the urban regions of China and Japan, having made drastic impacts on the collective perception of money, investment, labor, consumption, and so forth. According to economist John K. Galbraith, economic euphoria is triggered by collective infatuations with investments and expectations of high return, and it can be largely attributed to psychological factors such as excessive optimism and ungrounded confidence pervading in contemporary society, resonating with people’s changing lifestyles and tastes during economic booms.

The panel inquires far-reaching effects of such a perennial and yet short-lived economic condition that leads to both positive and negative consequences. While an economic boom can advance a sustainable development of certain locality or industry, for example, the collapse of economic bubble as experienced by 1980s Japan could devastate and result in a dystopian aftermath. Our investigation delves into the cases of economic momentum, shedding light upon cultural/literary practice as a viable response diagnosing the collective economic interest during Japan’s economic boom in the 1980s and its ongoing counterpart in China. Focusing on the vanguard role played by various platforms (criticism, literature, film), our papers explicate how they digest the economic reality and provide a prognosis to it, while intervening the mass infatuation with money and materialism.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Literature History Economics Urban Studies
Economies of Mobility in Asia, 1896-1971

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Jeffrey C. Guarneri | University of Wisconsin, Madison

Session Abstract:

Our panel interrogates the relationship between economic networks and the mobility of capital, commerce, ideas, and labor in Asia during what historian Sunil Amrith has termed the “mobility revolution” of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Colonial state formation, emergent border regimes, warfare, and accelerating changes in the transportation technologies of the period served to create global cities and networks of highly mobile goods and labor. The efforts of cities, states, and colonial governments in the region to enable or restrict mobility across inter-Asian and global economic networks profoundly impacted the urban, labor, knowledge, and commercial networks of Asia while reshaping the role played by these actors in the global economy. Collectively, our panelists and discussant engage with these issues from a diversity of inter-Asian and global perspectives, including the elephant and teak trading across the Indo-Siamese border in the late nineteenth century (Amnauyvit Thitibordin); the migration of female laborers to British Malaya (Sandy Chang) and mapping global networks of Japan’s commercial harbors (Jeffrey Guarneri) in the early twentieth century; and the export of Taiwanese developmental models throughout the Global South during the Cold War (James Lin). By bringing together junior and senior scholars who work on different sub-regions of Asia, it is our hope to create a lasting dialogue that speaks to inter-Asian exchanges and historical concerns, engages with global historical processes, and contributes to the re-emergent field of Asian economic history.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): History  Economics  International Relations  Gender & Sexuality
Economy, Sexuality, and Knowledge: Lived Religion in Asia

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Zhe Chen | Washington University, St. Louis

Session Abstract:

Recently, scholars have increasingly turned their attention from macro-level theological structures to individual and communal experiences of religion in a micro-context. In this panel, we use lived religion as our conceptual framework to foreground religious-secular connections and continuities instead of establishing rigorous dichotomies. We investigate how religion served as a node linking various sociocultural groups. Additionally, we view religion fundamentally as an element constitutive of and constituted by everyday life, as a dynamic means to live within and interact with one’s community. First, interaction is noticeable in the economic realm. Matt Mitchell provides a detailed study of one Buddhist convent’s multifaceted participation in a local economy in early modern Japan, highlighting the importance of daily transactions in securing the convent within local society. Todd Klaiman emphasizes an underappreciated link between the rise of translocal Chinese merchant activity and Buddhist temple fundraising, building, and management in Southeast Asia, underscoring how commercial and religious interests interacted to transform religious practices on the ground. Gilbert Chen argues that regular interaction between religious specialists and their communities created an environment in which unorthodox practices like Buddhist clerical marriage could be justified in the local setting of Qing China. Finally, Jon Keune applies this concept to the epistemological sphere, inquiring how different strands of knowledge about Buddhism as a vernacular and uninstitutionalized religion emerged and reverberated among diverse groups in colonial India. In sum, we explore the material realities that shaped the way people structured, practiced, and conceived of their religion in their everyday lives.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Religion History Economics Gender & Sexuality
Examining the Impact of the Japanese Empire Around the South China Sea

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | William B. Noseworthy | University of Wisconsin, Madison

Session Abstract:

The purpose of this panel is to examine the impact of Japanese Empire across the lands around the South China Sea from a comparative perspective. Previous scholarship has examined the impact on national histories and the impact on ethnic minorities, although there are still many perspectives that are not well understood. We seek to address these lacunae with combined the analysis of economic, political and military studies, with studies of religion and history, and media studies to engage with one of the most important topics of the transregional study of East and Southeast Asia. In Michelin’s paper, we gain insight into the little understood narrative of the initial Japanese invasion of Indochina, and the long-term impact of this chain of events. In Noseworthy’s comparative analysis he argues that the impact of Japanese Empire was not always fundamentally transformative, although it occasionally might be credited with entirely reshaping the fabric of a religious community. In Estiningsih’s analysis, we are left with the impression that Japanese occupation did indeed fundamentally reshape certain elements of society that scholars would not necessarily expect: such as the very nature of the Javanese film industry. Finally, in Louzon’s paper we see another unexpected extension of the impact of empire: on the 1947 rebellion in Taiwan. Drawn together, these analyses seek to provide a more nuanced understanding of Japanese Empire around the South China littoral, one that weighs carefully the resilience of local peoples, and the transformations that the co-prosperity sphere catalyzed.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): History Economics Cinema Studies/Film Religion
Experimental Livelihoods and Alternative Socialities in Contemporary Japan and South Korea

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Olga Fedorenko | Seoul National University

Session Abstract:

Neoliberal globalization has profoundly affected the life prospects of young people in Japan and South Korea over the past two decades. Government supported corporations have reduced the lifetime employment that provided broad access to stable career paths. The breakdown of this system, as scholars have demonstrated, has given rise to an array of social problems including stark forms of labor precarity, low birth rates, depression, suicide and more. This panel reorients the focus to those who do not self-identify as the “collateral damage” of neoliberal globalization. Specifically, we foreground emerging alternative lifestyles and experimental socialities which involve collaborative and revitalizing practices. Andrea Arai’s paper explores the revaluing and renovating of uninhabited spaces (akiya) in Japan and Korea’s peripheral areas by young “migrants” committed to connection and community building. Gabriella Lukacs looks at a genre of women’s photography, which critics described as “girly” and which she reinterprets as efforts to envision alternative forms of familial intimacy in Japan. Olga Fedorenko’s paper investigates a celebrated example of Seoul’s “sharing economy,” a nonprofit that rents donated suits to young jobseekers while circulating sentimental notes among donors and lenders. Shimpei C. Ota’s presentation demonstrates that South Korean youth emigrate not only to seek new economic opportunities, but also to evade oppressive social expectations. Collectively, the papers explore the creative and productive activities of young people in Japan and South Korea. Their aesthetics of life, notions of value, affect, and non-exclusionary identities are producing new possibilities of sociality and livelihood.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Anthropology Urban Studies Communications
Exploration and Management of Knowledge in Early Modern China and Japan

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Yun-Ju Chen | Institute of History and Philology, Academia Sinica

Session Abstract:

Early modern China and Japan were flooded with texts, in the forms of both manuscript and woodblock. The flood of texts and thereby the growing amount of knowledge ignited new and multiple strategies of advertising, circulating, reading, classifying, and producing texts and knowledge. This panel discloses and compares such new developments in early modern China and Japan. Drawing from a variety of materials, the four papers in the panel aim to chart dynamic processes whereby textual production and consumption shaped each other in early modern East Asia. Chen Yun-Ju will trace how new textual forms of presenting drug knowledge emerged in the Song dynasty (960-1279) as a response to contemporary changes in textual transmission of medicine. Li Ren-Yuan will show roles of commercial imprints in creating a field of domestic knowledge by examining encyclopedias generated in southeast China from the fourteenth to the sixteenth centuries. Adding a comparative perspective from Japan, Fumiko Joo will examine Hayashi Razan’s transcribed copies of Chinese fantastic tales to reveal the materiality and visual expression of reading in seventeenth-century Japan. Daniel Trambaiolo will use a newly constructed database of publishers’ catalogues, advertisements, and private book collections to demonstrate the marketplace for medical books in Japan from the seventeenth century onwards. Taken together, the four papers aim to explore understudied transitions in textual consumption and production of early modern East Asia.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): History
Exploring Opportunities for Research in the Asian Division at the Library of Congress

_Sponsored by:_ not applicable

_Organizer | Cameron Penwell | University of Chicago_

_Organizer | Jonathan Loar | Library of Congress_

_Session Abstract:_
This workshop introduces the vast Asian collections of the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. While the Library serves as the main research arm of the U.S. Congress, some scholars may not be familiar with how it also supports diverse and robust research in the field of Asian Studies. This workshop is part of the Asian Division’s outreach and the Library’s mission to share its unparalleled collections with national and international audiences. Founded in 1928, the Asian Division has custody of more than 4 million physical items in over 100 different Asian languages found in seven collections: Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Mongolian, South Asian, Southeast Asian, and Tibetan. This assemblage is one of the world’s largest Asian collections outside of Asia. In addition to contemporary scholarly literature, these collections contain rich primary source materials, including rare books, manuscripts, government publications, and historical serials, with strengths in most disciplines in the humanities and social sciences, as well as the physical sciences and technology. The Asian Division also maintains the world’s most comprehensive collection of electronic resources and databases for Asian Studies in English and Asian languages. The workshop begins with a concise overview of the Asian Division’s function within the Library of Congress, covering access to Asian-language materials in the Asian Reading Room, special events and lectures, new social media resources, and how to find Asian materials (e.g., maps, photographs, films) housed in other divisions of the Library. Next, the division’s subject specialists outline each of the Asian collections, highlighting materials of greatest interest to scholars. Examples include the North Korean periodicals collection, Chinese local gazetteers from the Ming and Qing dynasties, Sanskrit manuscripts from South Asia, and 300,000 volumes acquired from the archives of the South Manchurian Railway Company (SMRC) and the Japanese Imperial Army and Navy. To conclude, Emer O’Dwyer, Associate Professor of History and East Asian Studies at Oberlin College, speaks about her experience conducting research in the SMRC collection as a Library of Congress Kluge Fellow (2011-2012), the results of which appear in her Significant Soil: Settler Colonialism and Japan’s Urban Empire in Manchuria (Harvard University Press, 2015).

_Area of Study:_ Inter-area/Border Crossing

_Discipline(s):_ Library Science  History  Literature  Political Science
Festivals, Celebrations & Events ? Identities Shaping and Resistance to Hegemony by Asian Communities

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Clement Tsz Ming Tong | Carey Theological College

Session Abstract:

Large-scale international events and celebrations are often tied with the declaration and definition of national identities, as evident in the many opening and closing ceremonies of the Summer and Winter Olympic games happening every other year. The identity-building process can happen on a much lesser scale too, with small and local societies and groups making use of festive and celebratory occasions to construct and strengthen their identities, both for internal and external purposes.

This panel focuses on various Asian communities that make use of public spectacles such as festivals and celebrations to shape, reshape, strengthen and promote their identities, especially with an effort to resist marginalization or assimilation against a hegemonic cultural or political presence. Violetta Ravagnoli examines how Chinese immigrants in the early 20th century Boston attempted to project and safeguard their culture and lifestyle using ethnic performative celebrations such as the Lion Dance. Inatoli Sema takes us to the mountainous Nagaland within the states of India, where the different Naga tribes work hard to construct and project a cohesive culture using the Hornbill Festival, against a backdrop of ongoing Indo-Naga conflicts. Michel Chambon looks at how some Chinese Protestants have adopted the American Thanksgiving celebration and claimed that it is rooted in the ancient Chinese rituals, in order to negotiate their identity in parts of China. Satsuki Kawano explores how the Asia-Pacific Dyslexia Festival has helped raise awareness for the dyslexia community in Japan, against the myth of homogeneity and extreme low illiteracy, prevalent within the Japanese Society.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Sociology History Anthropology Religion
Flipped Script: Mid-20th Century Literary Expressions of Bilingualism in East Asia

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Evelyn Ming Whai Shih | UC Berkeley

Session Abstract:
An under-explored but rich vein of bilingual literature cuts across mid 20th century East Asia, tracing the mark of colonial education on tongues, hearts and minds. This panel highlights texts that lived in two languages; authors who wrote in and between two literary traditions; and works that thematized the possibilities and limitations of being bilingual. What did it mean to write in more than one language, informed by different traditions, and how was such a linguistic consciousness manifest in literary expression? How did writers navigate power relations between languages and articulate this process in their practices of major and minor literatures at a time of tremendous upheavals and divisions? The panel begins with David Krolikoski’s reflections on Korean author Yu Chin-o’s story, “Lecturer Kim and Professor T.” Published in Korean and Japanese versions, Yu’s texts reveal the oscillation inherent in colonial bilingual consciousness by presenting Japanese speech in transliteration and translation. Cindi Textor takes up similar questions in the postwar works of “zainichi” writer Kim Sok-pom, who shifted between careers in Korean and Japanese, and challenged the establishment of a postcolonial monolingual literary horizon. Faye Kleeman’s paper offers a different vision for crossing the colonial divide by examining the translation of multilingual works by two colonial-era Taiwanese writers, Wu Zhuoliu and Lü Heruo, into monolingual texts in the postwar period. Finally, Evelyn Shih compares the literature of bilingual writers in postwar Taiwan and Korea, a period in which their linguistic competencies have troubling new implications of complicity with neo-imperial economics.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Literature History Translation
From Land to Sea: Scaling Asian Environmental History in the Age of Revolutions

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Anthony David Medrano | University of Wisconsin, Madison

Session Abstract:

The period between 1860 and 1940 was a watershed moment in Asian environmental history, marked by scientific, technological, and political changes that transformed how people understood, used, and experienced the natural world. It was a time when ecological frontiers became industrial plantations, steam conquered oceans, and scientific ideas opened the Asian environment to new forms, levels, and circuits of exploitation. These changes, what we have termed "revolutions," were linked across space and time, and affected Asian lands before repurposing Asian waters.

Drawing on multilingual sources and interdisciplinary methods, this panel examines these environmental changes in the making of modern Asia. From land to sea, and from the Brahmaputra to Gokasho Bay, it opens new scholarly ground by exploring coastal/offshore changes alongside rural/urban transformations, and by analyzing these developments not only through historical frames of science and technology, but also along different scales of space and interaction. For example, Lavelle traces the transformation of China’s rural wastelands into productive landscapes through the cross-border flow of ideas and machines. Ericson uses a Japanese pearl farm to reflect on the littoral sea as an interwar site of industrial production and global connection. Medrano explains why estuaries along the Straits of Melaka were central to the rise of urban Southeast Asia. Finally, Iqbal complicates the “area studies” imaginary by showing how old regional rivers could yield new transregional histories, and how these new histories and perspectives can help us rethink the field of Asian studies through the lenses of science, technology, and the environment.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): History Economics Anthropology Urban Studies
Gender and Career Outcomes in Japanese and South Korean Workplaces

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Choon Ha Yorum Beekman | Leiden University

Session Abstract:

The utilization of female talent is a strategic policy objective in Japan and South Korea to revitalize the economy. Consequently, government and business introduced various policies over the last two decades. While these measures offered a select group of women better opportunities, they have not done so for the majority. More women are full-time employed, yet narrowing of the gender wage gap is marginal and female graduates continue to exit the labor market after child birth at disproportionately high numbers.

This panel analyzes and compares what type of corporate and social policies structurally improve women’s career outcomes in Japanese and South Korean workplaces. Machiko Osawa identifies determinants of successful labor market re-entry among female university graduates in Japan. Eunmi Mun examines the effect of performance pay on the gender wage gap in Japanese workplaces using employee-employer panel data collected from 1998 to 2009. Kuniko Ishiguro focuses on government work-life policies and career trajectories of individual women to find out what lessons can be learned from the Netherlands case. Yorum Beekman explores what corporate initiatives, in policy and practice, facilitate career progression of female core workers within South Korean work organizations based on case studies of two large firms. Discussant Keiko Hiroa contributes her expertise on the interface between family, education and work background in relation to women’s labor market outcomes. Collectively, the panelists identify the issues that must be addressed by policies and future scholarship to improve the career outcomes of a larger group of women at various life stages.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Sociology  Woman Studies
Gender, Activism, and Alternative Feminisms of Women in Asia

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Akiko Takenaka | University of Kentucky

Session Abstract:

This interdisciplinary panel assesses various manifestations of feminism in three Asian countries (South Korea, Japan, and India) with a particular attention to gendered, generational, and ethnic tensions among the activist participants examined. With a focus on activist groups and activism more generally, the papers highlight negotiations and confrontations between feminist and antifeminist women, between second and third wave feminists, and between ethnic minority groups and women that belong to the majority. Many of the tactics observed can be considered alternative feminisms that are employed as a result of site-specific social, cultural, political, and economic circumstances. Sociologist Jennifer Chun interrogates the tensions resulting from exclusionary tendencies between minority worker groups in South Korea (e.g. Korean Chinese labor migrants vs. working-class women). Historian Janice Kim traces the development of maternal feminism in South Korea by taking into account the legal and structural frameworks that account for unequal civil rights in Korea. Historian Akiko Takenaka analyzes ways that women peace activists in Japan deliberately employ femininity and maternal qualities as an empowerment strategy. Anthropologist Srimati Basu examines the challenges of feminism through the lens of women who have taken leadership positions in anti-feminist men’s rights groups in India. By focusing on site-specific case studies from around Asia together as a panel, we attempt to highlight the individual and the local, as well as the tensions between the individual and the collective, the local and the global.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): History Anthropology Sociology Gender & Sexuality
Gender, Ethnicity, and Encounter: Ming-Qing China in a Comparative Perspective

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Guotong Li | California State University, Long Beach

Session Abstract:

The world was remapped by intercontinental interactions during the early modern period. Recent studies on Ming-Qing China have shifted their analytical emphasis from European expansion to transnational networks, cultural encounters, and material circulations. The early cultural encounters provided the foundation for modern globalization. This proposed panel brings together junior, mid-career, and senior scholars to examine the border-crossing impact of cultural encounters. The papers which each takes a different thread of Chinese encounters range from the humanities to the social sciences, from studies of visual materials to analyses of land contracts and lawsuits of Chinese diaspora, from the early Ming through the late Qing. This panel also has a widely geographical coverage of China, Japan, Southeast Asia, and the West. All four papers use comparative perspective to examine Chinese encounters with an emphasis on the border-crossing impact on gender and ethnicity. Chronologically, G. Li places the Ming voyages (1405-1433) in the context of the formation era of the South China Sea world economy to explore the Chinese fleet’s encounter with Muslim trade diaspora. Ho focuses on varied societal expectations of women’s roles in High Qing and 19th-century Britain. X. Li investigates a late Qing metropolitan man’s representation of foreign women in his pioneering work. Chen explores female Chinese diaspora’s commercial activities in Southeast Asia. Four papers together demonstrate how the interaction of cultural encounters impacted gender and ethnic relations in both societies. This comparative approach enriches our understanding of Ming-Qing China and the world in a larger picture.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): History Literature Gender & Sexuality International Relations
Gendered Experiences: Social Institution, Intermarriage, and Family in the Japanese Empire

Session Abstract:

Family was at the center of nation-building in Japan since the 1890s and colonial Korea (1910–1945) and Taiwan (1895–1945). Officials, jurists, and critics worked on redefining patriarchy, love marriage, and nuclear family as the microcosm of the nation. Studies of new normative family ideals in each nation have revealed the contrasting effects of family formation between men and women. The gendered dimensions of the family, however, shifted with the boundaries of imperial expansion and war, forging connections between nations and manifesting the circulation of ideas and practices in both the metropole and the colonies. This panel thus moves beyond a nation-based, metropole-centered analysis and demonstrates the roles family played in complicating gender relations in colonial social systems and wartime ideologies.

Individual papers center on two lines of question on how Japanese and colonized men and women viewed and performed familial practices. First, how did colonial knowledge, such as law courts (Ishikawa) and life insurance (Moran), redefine and destabilize preexisting marital and familial relationships in colonial Taiwan and Korea before the outbreak of the Sino-Japanese War in 1937? Second, how did intermarriages between Korean men and Japanese women allow metropolitan Japanese women (Baba) and male Korean writers (Kim) to find their own voices amid the renewed emphasis on Japan’s imperial integration through the intermarriages after 1937? The panelists all examine what was at stake in the differential repercussions of family in the new constellations of knowledge, ideology, and legal practice, contributing to the conversation about engendering the Japanese empire.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): History Gender & Sexuality Literature Law
Gendering China from the Outside In: Images of Chinese Bodies in Japan, Korea, and the West

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Chinghsin Wu | Rutgers University

Session Abstract:

Over the past three decades, gender studies has played a significant role in stimulating new research on the visual arts in modern China. The representation of “new” women, modern girls, erotica, and nudes within the mass media and fine arts have frequently been spotlighted when scholars discuss gender construction in modern China. Yet with a few exceptions, the majority of recent studies have focused on the construction of gender within China. This panel seeks to expand our understanding beyond China’s borders, to elucidate how Chinese gender and sexuality were visualized and viewed outside China, including the United State, imperial Japan, and colonized Korea. Moreover, this panel reconsiders gender in China from both men’s and women’s perspectives, and analyzes the representation of both male and female bodies. The first paper explores the transforming definition of womanhood in late Qing China as seen through the eyes of Western female artists, missionaries, and diplomatic personnel. The second paper examines rarely discussed images of Chinese male figures and contrasts their portrayal to more popular and frequently represented images of Chinese women in Japanese art during the imperial era. The third paper examines how images of Chinese women were viewed, interpreted, and reproduced in colonial Korea and how gendered images evolved along with the construction of a modern, pan-Asian identity. By offering these new perspectives, this panel aims shed new light on the construction of gender in modern China, broadening our understanding to situate Chinese sexuality in regional and transnational context.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Art/Art History Gender & Sexuality History Woman Studies
Getting Published: Academic Journals and the Publishing Process

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Paul H. Kratoska | National University of Singapore

Session Abstract:

Young scholars leave graduate school aware that research publications will be a critical feature of their future careers, but without much information about how academic publishing works. Suddenly, questions of what editors and publishers look for in a manuscript, and how to approach them, loom large. So do peer reviews, impact factors, altmetrics, pay walls and open access, APCs (article processing charges), mega-journals, copyright and the Creative Commons, and institutional repositories. Authors who understand scholarly publishing stand a better chance of success when they submit manuscripts for publication. This workshop brings together three experienced journal editors and an academic librarian to discuss what makes a manuscript successful, and current trends that are changing the nature of scholarly communication.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Communications
Globalization of Chinese: Localizing the Teaching of Chinese Language, Literature, and Media

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Ping Fu | Towson University

Session Abstract:

In the globalization of Chinese, which is characterized by the spread of Putonghua in Chinese diasporas, the global adopt of the Putonghua standards at all levels of schools, and the mushrooming of the Confucius Institutes on every continent (Zhou, 2012), it is a great challenge to bridge China’s self-presented image and diverse perspectives of China in local classrooms crossing borders and regions. How do local educators facilitate students’ learning of Chinese and understanding of China? How are Chinese themes and topics transformed and reconfigured locally crossing continents? This panel responds to these inquires from the American, South Korean, Vietnamese, and Zimbabwean perspectives. Dr. Mushangwe offers a critical exploration of Zimbabwean students’ motivations in learning Chinese and Zimbabwean teachers’ approach to Chinese language and culture in local classrooms. Dr. Nguyen examines how the Vietnamese mass media shapes the Chinese literature readership among Vietnamese university students, and how Vietnamese educators strive to close the gap between the “real” and “imagined” in Chinese literature courses. Dr. Son discusses effective ways in helping Korean students uncover internal aspects of China’s cultural policies and relate these aspects to public China-debates in a topic course with CCTV documentary films as the intermediaries. Dr. Fu brings China’s TV advertisements to the American classroom, investigates the schizophrenic marriage between the Party-state ideology and commercialism, and compares them with American TV advertisements. In conclusion, this panel sheds light on the intricate relationship between “local”, “global”, and “scholarly” or “real” perspectives of China crossing borders in the globalization of Chinese.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Language Literature Cinema Studies/Film Education
Identification and Incommensurability: Translating Between Chinese, Persian, and Arabic, 17th-20th Centuries

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | John T. Chen | Columbia University

Session Abstract:

While histories of the Islamic world and intra-Asian connections have expanded greatly in the past decade, most theoretical works on translation remain rooted in Eurocentric or colonial contexts. How did translators (Arab, Chinese, or otherwise) establish equivalence or difference between ideas and experiences outside the clear power discrepancies of European domination? How did Western norms still condition from afar discursive encounters that were ostensibly “East-East”? This panel addresses such questions by exploring the varieties and conceptual limits of translating texts and experiences between Persian, Arabic, and Chinese during early modern and modern times. Such translations took place within numerous conceptual models, including Islam, science and medicine, anticolonial consciousness, and on-the-ground Cold-War politics. Dror Wiel examines how Persian and Chinese physiological theories were synthesized in Qing China. Michael Hill focuses on the Chinese Muslim Azhar student Ma Junwu’s translation of Taha Hussein’s al-Ayyam (The Days), particularly how Ma compared Chinese and Egyptian conceptions of cultural iconoclasm. Mohammed al-Sudairi surveys how Arab travelers to China during the 1950s wrote about and experienced Mao and Maoism, often refracted through Middle East politics. In order to take full advantage of opportunities for in-depth discussion, this panel will pre-circulate short position papers, and relatively brief presentations of five to ten minutes will focus on highlighting new primary sources rather than reiterating claims made in the papers.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): History
Imperial Formations in 17th Century Asia: State Consolidation and Institution Building in the Transformation of Empire

*Sponsored by: not applicable*

**Organizer | Subah Dayal | Tulane University**

**Organizer | Macabe Keliher | West Virginia University**

**Session Abstract:**

Historians have recently begun to ask whether a new form of empire emerged in the 17th century. While imperial formations in the 15th and 16th centuries were characterized by universal rulership and uncontested sovereignties, the 17th century saw increasing centralization that brought states into contact with other imperial and non-imperial formations, which challenged traditional structures and institutions. This forced states to adapt to accommodate new types of political and social groups, as well as to navigate new forms of commercial, social, and legal interactions. The papers of this panel explore the re-constitution of imperial polities and their institutional functions in 17th century Asia. Each paper examines the developments of a particular Asian state, noting that a key transformation occurred in the 17th century that lay the basis for later expansion and consolidation. Keliher looks at the emergence of the Manchu state in 17th century China and how autonomous military actors were turned into a military nobility, enabling the rise and expansion of the Qing dynasty. Dayal looks at the Mughal occupation of south India, where imperial military institutions faced challenges from regional Islamic sultanates. Lee examines how the Choson state utilized naval garrisons to consolidate postwar recovery and expand administratively throughout the Korean peninsula. Shmagin argues that 17th century Japanese domination of borderlands constructed an imperial Tokugawa polity, and lay the basis for its transformation into the modern Japanese imperial state. This inter-regional panel introduces new sets of local archival documents and understudied materials from each of these Asian states.

**Area of Study:** Inter-area/Border Crossing

**Discipline(s):** History Sociology Geography Economics
Imperial Violence, Literary Visions: Revisiting Narratives of Atrocity and Displacement from Japan’s Colonial Empire

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Michiko Suzuki | University of California, Davis

Session Abstract:

Fictional narratives of Japanese imperialism and colonialism inevitably explore human aggression and violence, whether as an overt feature or a subtle undercurrent of the text. Even as they draw on historical realism, however, such works are not always straightforward, as they engage with the complexities of power and identity. This panel examines twentieth-century narratives that represent “the violence of empire” from different perspectives and regions (Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Manchuria), examining its destructive force as well as literary potential for critique and self-reflexive interrogation. Presented in chronological order of the events/setting, these papers explore questions unique to particular texts along with ideas shared across time. In exploring the representation of the 1923 Great Kanto Earthquake massacres of Koreans in works by prewar and postwar Zainichi (resident Korean) novelists, Haag analyzes the event’s role in memorializing ethnic identity and defining national borders. Next, Tierney discusses the 1930 Musha Incident in Taiwan that led to the massacres of both Japanese and so-called native aboriginals; through readings of 1930s and postwar works, he suggests that this event encapsulates specific ideas about savagery and civilization. Kono examines a 1938 story by a Korean writer set in Manchuria against a backdrop of widespread fear of attacks by bandits, focusing on the role of fear and aggression in colonial identity production. Finally, Suzuki discusses a 1980s semi-autobiographical novel about being a refugee and repatriate in 1945-46 Manchuria; through the material object of the kimono, the narrative explores ideas and events that still persist today as taboo.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Literature  History
Imprints of Violence - Objects, Sites, and Memories

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Linh D. Vu | Arizona State University

Session Abstract:

Our interarea panel grapples with the question of what is violence. Eschewing theories developed from Western contexts, we seek theoretical insights from East and Northeast Asia within the last one hundred years. Rather than focusing on episodes of overt brutality, we focus on particular imprints of violence in objects, sites, and memories. Collectively, our papers assert that violence is related to the deprivation of cultural and social subjectivities in the environs of political conflicts, and uncover such subjectivities in a wide range of mediums - writings, photographs, sculptures, and structures. The forms of violence explored in the intertwined histories of China, Japan, Korea in the age of (semi-)colonialism and global wars are not marginal to the political violence, but constitute critical dimensions of individual and societal experience, both firsthand and memorially. Hye-ri Oh analyzes how colonial photography, as a means of visual surveillance, played a critical role in facilitating political oppression and cultural hegemony in Korea during the long 1920s. Linh Vu examines how the metaphysics of violence in the writings of the Chinese Spirit-Molding Scholastic Society defied the official discourse of the War of Resistance in the 1940s. Justin Aukema, in his study of the reconstructed Ryukyuan Palace/Japanese Army’s defense tunnels, asks how cultures of disremembrance, or refusals to acknowledge multilayered history, can compromise integral memories of a site. Patricia Yu argues that contemporary creative reproductions of the lost Yuanming Yuan artifacts reflect not only material destruction of a site, but also the trauma of confronting fragmented memories.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Art/Art History History Translation Anthropology
In China’s Own Backyard - Energy and Infrastructural Investments in Southeast Asia from China and Beyond

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Alvin A. Camba | Johns Hopkins University

Session Abstract:

While the literature on Northeast Asian countries' economic relations and investment in Southeast Asia has been expanding in light of China's rise, a key problem has been to distinguish the characters of different kinds of investments and different strategies among those Northeast Asian investors. Large investments often supported by huge government grants are often compared to small and medium business enterprises across different contexts, producing interesting yet disparate results. To remedy this, the panel focuses on Chinese Energy and Infrastructural (E & I) investments in Southeast Asia and how Chinese compete with other Northeast Asian investors. With the advent of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) into the Middle East, Central Asia, and Southeast Asia, the existence of a single initiative could potentially be the basis for future comparisons within and across regions.

To explore these issues, the panel presents four multi-methodology and comparative papers. Lim Tai Wei argues that Japan and China influence the Southeast Asian state’s continuing reliance on coal. Jessica Liao and Ngoc Dang suggest that Vietnam successfully managed its relations with Japan and China, leading to key infrastructural investments. Alvin Camba analyzes how the Chinese State Grid Corporation in the Philippines succeeded while all the other major Chinese projects were canceled or transferred to Northeast Asian competitors. Youyi Zhang and Ying Yao present the results of the the first ever, nation-wide survey experiment on the perceptions toward the Chinese projects in Myanmar. Saori Katada will comment on the presentations with her expertise in international political economy.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Political Science International Relations Sociology Economics
JAS at AAS: The Market, the Media, and the State in Asia II

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Jennifer H. Munger | Journal of Asian Studies

Session Abstract:
At the AAS in Asia meetings in Seoul, a group of scholars and academics explored the notion that the market and the state are two ends of a continuum when it comes to censorship and freedom of expression. One would expect that media controlled by the state is more heavily censored than media controlled by the market, and that repressive and controlling governments will have state-driven media, while less repressive governments will have market-driven media. Panelists challenged that received wisdom, noting the ways in which state run censorship could be rather clumsy, and ways in which the market could stifle expression. We brought in two members from the Seoul conference and four new voices to carry that discussion further, while acting as a stand-alone discussion. We will follow new inquiries that benefit and build on the earlier panel to question the extent the market and the state intersect, and examine the ways that technology has changed or solidified relationships. We can address the issue from numerous angles ranging from scholars of diverse backgrounds with specialties in Japan, Vietnam, Thailand and China, to journalists who focus on Bangladesh and Asia as a whole. To organize our discussion, we will ask each participant to address a series of common questions to get a sense of diversity and commonality across Asia. After a series of questions, we will open the floor to general discussion. Results of this roundtable will be published in the November issue of the JAS. Our participants include Jeff Kingston, Director of Asian Studies and Professor of history at Temple University Japan; Nguyen Thu Giang, Lecturer in Journalism and Communications at Vietnam National University; Dominic Ziegler, Banyan columnist for The Economist; K. Anis Ahmed, Journalist and publisher of the Dhaka Tribune; David Moser Academic Director of the CET Chinese Studies & Internship in Beijing; and Pavin Chachavalpongpun is Associate Professor of Politics and International relations Kyoto University.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Communications  Information Technology  Political Science  Political Science
Jewels from the Mouth of a Mongoose: Buddhist Conceptions of Value, Prosperity and Fortune in East and Inner Asia and the Himalayas

*Sponsored by: not applicable

*Organizer | **Kalzang Dorjee Bhutia** | Grinnell College
*Organizer | **Saskia Abrahms-Kavunenko** | New York University Shanghai

*Session Abstract:*

East, Inner Asian and Himalayan forms of Buddhism are often portrayed as ascetic, otherworldly traditions with no material interests. Criticisms of lamas and spiritual leaders accumulating luxury goods are frequent in Buddhist communities from America to Taiwan. The historical realities of Buddhist societies in Tibet, Mongolia and the Himalayas are considerably more complex. For over a millennia, ritual traditions and social institutions have existed that have been focused on the accumulation of material wealth as well as other forms of prosperity. Concepts of fortune and value are also invoked in a wide variety of other soteriological contexts. This panel will explore these traditions and institutions, critically considering the interplay between material and spiritual affluence and how Buddhist communities bring together these seemingly contradictory concerns using interdisciplinary methods from anthropology, religious studies and material culture. Jixiancairang explores the rise of economic affluence in Amdo and how it has impacted material offerings in Gling rgya village pre-death rituals. Yasmin Cho highlights the tension between materiality and spirituality in attitudes towards technology in the monastic community of Yachen Gar in Kham. Saskia Abrahms-Kavunenko examines bumba rituals that reflect broader anxieties around authenticity and efficacy in contemporary Mongolian Buddhism. Kalzang Bhutia outlines the contents of yangdrom offering boxes in Sikkim and reflects on how specific objects in these boxes demonstrate changing economic and cultural values. These cases underscore the centrality of conceptions of prosperity in Buddhist cultures, as well as the ambivalence in which these conceptions are held on both material and soteriological levels.

*Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

*Discipline(s): Religion Anthropology History Sociology*
Language Choice and Identity in South and Southeast Asia

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Abigail C. Cohn | Cornell University

Session Abstract:

Cutting across South and Southeast Asia is the issue of language policy and language use as it has evolved since the middle of the 20th Century. Here we present several perspectives on the sociolinguistics of the major languages of South and Southeast Asia, as linguae francae, vernaculars, and local languages of wider communication against the backdrop of the post-colonial linguistic landscape of Indonesia, India, and the Philippines, where three different types of language policies have emerged. In Indonesia one indigenous language (Indonesian, Bahasa Indonesia) was developed and promoted over other socially dominant languages (e.g. Javanese, Sundanese) as the national language; varieties of Indonesian/Malay are also local vernaculars, and an emerging colloquial variety of Indonesian serves as a national lingua franca. In India, one indigenous and one non-indigenous colonial language (Hindi and English) are promoted as national/official languages, alongside multiple regional official languages (e.g. Bengali, Tamil). In the Philippines, several constitutions and different language policies have existed over the corresponding time period, with different official functions for Tagalog (Filipino, Pilipino) and English, both with and without official recognition of big regional languages (e.g. Ilokano, Cebuano). Some of the topics that we address are:

What is the official language policy? How does it privilege languages based on population or indigeneity? How has this changed over time?

Attitudes toward “official languages” and language policy

Sociolinguistic variation and change in the major languages of these nations

Domains of language use and diglossia in these different linguistic landscapes

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Linguistics
Law, Emotion, and Gendered Violence in Imperial China and Choson Korea

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Shiau-Yun Chen | Cornell University

Session Abstract:
This trans-border panel explores the complex ways in which legal and socio-cultural discourses on the role of the family in imperial China and Choson Korea framed and articulated gender, class, violence, and emotion. The panel seeks to show how gendered violence in Confucian patriarchal societies shaped family, sexual, and class/status relations and concomitant emotional and legal responses, as inflected across time and space. Focusing on Song common soldiers’ families, Alyagon highlights the difficulties (poverty, abuse, and war) these families faced and how women in soldier’s families were vulnerable to sex trade. Chen studies intersections between social inequality and Confucian rhetoric in Ming period elite households, where the practice of treating master-servant relationships as a parent-child relationship contradicted with the physical and sexual violence typical of master-servant power dynamics. By examining an eighteenth-century crime of vengeance committed by a married daughter on behalf of her father, Kim’s paper reconsiders the complex nature of women’s filial emotion toward their parents, married women’s close ties with their natal families, and the contested nature of revenge in late eighteenth century Choson society. Through a close reading of legal testimonies on women’s fights triggered by gossip and their subsequent deaths, Park’s paper sheds light on how late-nineteenth-century Korean commoner families and villagers understood Confucian notions and how they reacted to sexual defamation and dishonor. The four papers offer new insights into the lives of the non-elite and their negotiations with established systems of hierarchies, power, and social structures.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): History Gender & Sexuality Law Woman Studies
Leftist Aesthetics: Comparative Literary Perspectives from China and India (1930-1960)

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Adhira Mangalagiri | University of Chicago

Session Abstract:

In the passage from (semi)colony to nation to international state on the global stage, how did the paths forged by China and India intersect and diverge? This panel extends a uniquely literary lens to this conventionally historiographical line of inquiry. Illuminating an understudied network of leftist aesthetics and highlighting overlooked moments of contact, the panel sheds new light on artistic practice and nation-making in China and India.

Each paper explores a single conceptual category – folk, femininity, and friendship – as a productive site of comparative investigation into Chinese and Indian leftist aesthetics. Van Fleit examines folk culture as central to Chinese and Indian ideas of nationhood, national liberation, and international belonging. Recasting the folk through the lens of femininity, Grewal studies representations of peasant women, labor heroines, and female embodiments of the nation in Chinese and Indian socialist realism. Mangalagiri bridges such political aspirations of socialist realism with concurrent political practice, studying expressions of friendship in Chinese and Hindi travelogues by delegates involved in China-India cultural exchange.

Taken together, the papers bring methodological innovation to China-India studies in two ways. First, the panel’s comparative literary approach furthers historical scholarship on this period and breaks with nationally-defined academic areas of study. Second, the temporal focus of the panel (1930-1960) blurs commonly used periodizations (pre- and post-1949) in both Chinese and Indian studies. Ultimately, this panel engenders new understandings of mid-twentieth century China and India, and provides crucial context for the continued cultural and political valence of both nations today.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Literature  Performing Arts  Gender & Sexuality
Lips and Teeth: Sino-North Korean Relations During the Cold War

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Alsu Tagirova | East China Normal University

Session Abstract:

Cold War history is replete with stories of national power struggle and international friendship, ideological solidarity and geopolitical clash. Sino-North Korean relations brings an East Asian dimension to the historical mosaic of this era. The panel attempts to look under the surface of a comradely alliance between the PRC and DPRK, and examine the intricacies of their cultural, economic, political and strategic interactions. Zhao Ma in his paper combines cultural and intellectual history to examine the formation of the image of the North Korean ally in Chinese literature and society at large. Dingyuan Xie traces the evolution of Beijing’s approach to assisting its Korean ally: from fighting off a common enemy to helping Koreans build a state. John Delury looks at the relationship dynamics between the political elites of two countries: while one is trying to establish a de facto dynastic succession, another one is embarking on a path to transcend “feudalistic” tendencies of the past. Alsu Tagirova explores the relationship from a greater Cold War perspective, where North Korea is forced to push its agenda with two political giants, the Soviet Union and China, often by playing them one against the other. Further examination of the depth and extent of PRC-DPRK relations is particularly important in the context of current tumultuous relations between North Korea and the United States, which looks to China to play the key role of intermediary.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): History International Relations
Literary Cinematic Adaptations as Transnational Dialogues in Asia

*Sponsored by: not applicable*

*Organizer | Le-Na Dao | Vietnam National University*

*Session Abstract:*

In the cinematic history, film adaptations of foreign fiction do not only manifest the special relationship between directors and writers but also create dynamic transnational dialogues among disparate parties. Such adaptations borrow (employ imaginatively and creatively) ideas from foreign fiction to address issues of their own nations through the process of re-contextualization and re-construction. How do filmmakers perceive contextual factors from foreign books and adapt them into their own films? What are their purposes? What ideological, aesthetic, transgeneric, and translingual transformations are involved? This panel uses interdisciplinary approaches to address these questions through analyzing, evaluating, and comparing transnational factors in film adaptations. Seio Nakajima compares the two productions of Japanese movies to examine the discourse and institutions constructed by film adaptations, while Le Na Dao explores the national identity in two Kurosawa’s films adapted from Western fiction, and investigates the ways in which Japanese aesthetics and culture are reshaped in adaptations, and the reception of those films in Vietnam. Haomin Gong explores the politics of postsocialist Chinese filmmakers’ employment of Western material for their movies. Sneha Kar Chaudhuri examines the reception and re-creativity of the Indian filmmaker Vishal Bharadwaj’s adaptation of Shakespeare’s plays. We have two discussants: Seigo Nakao, Professor of comparative literature and cinema, and Hiroshi Kitamura, Professor history, comparative and transnational studies. With their expertise in the field of transnational literary-film adaptation, they will broaden and deepen our discussions, and hopefully explore not only Asian film adaptations but also the reverse phenomena: Asian literature adapted to foreign films.

*Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing*

*Discipline(s): Cinema Studies/Film  Literature*
Locating China in the "South"

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Melissa Lefkowitz | New York University

Session Abstract:

The “Rise of China,” especially in the Global South, has incited a spectrum of discourses about South-South geographies where imaginaries of imperial repetition (i.e. “neo-colonialism”) are frequently paired against the afterlives, ideologies, and aspirations of alternative global relationships (i.e. “friendship,” “cooperation”). While these discourses emphasize the role of states and policymakers, this panel centers on the often obscured role of transnational migrants as key authors in the constitution of the new South-South geographies. Their ambivalent positions as either/both subaltern subjects and/or “global modernizers” (Nyiri 2006) provide an alternative standpoint for interpreting what the contending imaginaries of “neo-imperialism” and “cooperation” mean for ordinary Chinese and their “southern” interlocutors. What we seek to understand are not the conditions of already formed geographies, but the kind of relationalities of power, ethics, and evaluation that produce privileged and valued “norths” and vulnerable, devalued, or exoticized “souths.” We interrogate the work that “south” is doing vis-à-vis “north,” as these terms are less geographical terms but synonyms for “periphery,” “undeveloped,” and “low value,” and “core,” “developed,” and “high value,” respectively. These terms and positions are relational, and in China’s reorientation to the north, it is often China’s intimate connections with other “souths” that have become the focus of anxieties and ambiguity about both China and these regions in global hierarchies of value.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Anthropology
Looking Back and Looking Ahead: New Perspectives on Memorialization and Reconciliation on the Tenth Anniversary of the US House of Representatives Comfort Women Resolution

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Linda Choi Hasunuma | Franklin & Marshall College
Organizer | Mary McCarthy | Drake University

Session Abstract:

2017 marks the tenth anniversary of the passage of US House of Representatives Resolution 121, calling on Japan to acknowledge and apologize for the use of “Comfort Women” during wartime. This came on the heels of a perceived rise in nationalist conservatism in Japan and the evolution of the issue into a global women’s and human rights issue. Rather than leading to a solution that would allow the relevant parties to move forward, the “Comfort Women” issue became a major impediment to diplomatic cooperation and societal reconciliation in East Asia. This anniversary is an appropriate time to reflect on the last decade of activity and scholarship, explore new interpretations and findings, and look ahead to the next generation of scholarship on legal issues, activism, education, archiving, and memorialization. We have a diverse and interdisciplinary panel. Melanie Sonntag provides findings from data analysis of Japanese political parties’ positions on the issue over time; Hyun Kyung Lee uses a heritage studies approach to show how South Korea’s War and Women’s Human Rights Museum commemorates the “Comfort Women”; Hasunuma and McCarthy analyze how memories are contested at local, national, and international levels of government; and William Lay provides a much needed legal perspective with his analysis of litigation in US courts on the siting of monuments. With Peipei Qiu as Chair and Hiro Saito as discussant, we have two leading authorities on memory studies that can draw a broad audience and generate engaging discussions with and among panelists and audience members.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Law Political Science History Asian American Studies
Masculinity Through the Female Gaze in South and Southeast Asia

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Susmita Roye | Delaware State University

Session Abstract:

This proposed panel aims at exploring how South and Southeast Asian women (writers, philosophers, politicians, filmmakers, folk-singers, etc.) represent the concept of masculinity in their literary works, speeches, publications, discussions or other modes of representation. How do they evaluate, challenge, mock, refute and/or regulate masculinity (or the lack of it)? How do they relate it to femininity? Do they use their representation of masculinity to contest men’s depiction of and prescriptions for women and womanhood?

In an attempt to respond to the above-mentioned questions, the four presenters of this panel will focus on creative products by women, ranging from ancient epic chant traditions to diaspora fiction to contemporary media. Two of the papers concentrate on the Indian subcontinent (India and Pakistan), while the remaining two draw our attention to Philippines and Vietnam. The first paper takes into consideration the representation of manliness among the Indian Diaspora, who, by their very definition, are compelled to wrestle with the super-imposed identity of the ‘Other’. The second paper, also on South Asia, explores the construction of masculinity in contemporary Pakistani media, that invariably involves the dictates of both region and religion. The third paper travels across both space and time to analyze women's visualization of manhood in the ancient epic chant tradition among early modern Visayans in the Philippines. The final paper is also from Southeast Asia, focusing on the contemporary rebellious feminist works by Vietnamese women writers. Astoundingly, the diversity of regional and creative foci reinforces the underlying unity of gender/women's studies.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Gender & Sexuality Woman Studies Literature Cinema Studies/Film
Materialities of Interchange  Across Early Modern Asia

Sponsored by:  not applicable

Organizer | Martha  Chaiklin |

Session Abstract:

European expansion was a distinctive feature of the early modern world, which evolved as East India companies, facilitated by advances in navigation and shipping, formed to supply Asian luxuries. Company goals were sometimes achieved through aggression but were more often the result of local interactions that required flexibility and accommodation to local mores. Commercial and political wrangling were frequently accompanied by pageantry and gift exchange. This panel will focus on the objects that supported exchange, diplomatic and commercial, because they reflect not just cultural understandings and misunderstandings but also underlying trade patterns that impacted local populations. The contexts of material culture in the form of commodities and gifts elucidate the motivations and reactions that shaped the early modern world.

This panel will examine this phenomenon from several perspectives. Peter Good will look at the multifaceted motivations for European purchases of Persian luxuries, which included trade, diplomacy and personal pleasure. Tristan Mostert examines how Makassan rulers utilized European goods to extend their influence. Martha Chaiklin investigates the demand for ivory to show how it defined trade networks and shaped craft production in the regions around the Bay of Bengal. These papers are each broadly transnational and linked by the utilization of both Dutch and English East India Company documents and their focus on material culture. They provide rich fodder for discussion about the trade and its impacts on European and Asian peoples.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): History  Art/Art History
Narrating Pirates: Identity, History, and Fiction in Early Modern China and Southeast Asia (1550-1750)

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Yuanfei Wang | University of Georgia

Session Abstract:
Tonio Andrade’s and Xing Hang’s recent edited volume Sea Rovers, Silver, and Samurai carves out an early modern maritime world to connect East Asian history with global history. At the center of this narrative of maritime global history is the fluid and malleable identity of pirates. Powerful maritime merchants who resisted central authorities were labelled as pirates and rebels. But through their overseas settlements, they appropriated the land-based Confucian civilization into sea-oriented cultures. This panel further investigates how commemoration and literary representations of pirates played an important role in shaping discourse on empire and transnational flow of people and ideas. Calanca Paola examines the case of the Chinese pirate Xu Hai whose romance with a courtesan metamorphosed from Southeast China to Vietnam, from the 16th century to the 20th century. Yuanfei Wang studies how late Ming cultural memory of Yuan/Ming-Java relations as narrated in unofficial histories and vernacular novel illuminated late 16th century discourse on the pirates Wang Zhi and Chen Zuyi, maritime commerce, and multi-ethnic peoples. Xing Hang examines the contested legacy of the exploits of the late 16th century Chinese pirate Lin Daoqian in China and Southeast Asia. Hang argues that Lin Daoqian’s enigmatic past, and the legends revolving around him, became an instrument for the perpetuation of Chinese communities outside China. Our discussant, Peter Shapinsky, will make comments on the three Chinese cases with comparison to the case of Japan from a transnational perspective. Our chair is Engseng Ho, an expert on pirates across the Indian ocean.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): History Literature International Relations
Networking, Sustainability, and Impact Assessment of Interactive Digital Resources in Asian Studies

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Kaoru Ueda | Hoover Institution, Stanford University
Organizer | Thu Phuong Nguyen | Hoover Institution Library & Archives, Stanford University

Session Abstract:

Digital archives and collections are playing an increasingly prominent role in the ongoing support of research and teaching within the field of Asian Studies. This roundtable brings together scholars and experts actively involved in the curation of significant digital collections dealing with Japan, China and South Asia to evaluate the benefits and examine the challenges institutions face in developing and maintaining interactive digital resources in Asian Studies. While digital resources are widely recognized for their growing appeal and the role they plan in preserving and disseminating original materials, the challenges of supporting Asia-related digital collections are also considerable. Such issues include copyright concerns and ethical frameworks of providing online access to materials, rapidly changing technologies and platforms, and complexities related to language and audience. Drawing from personal experiences related to the management of existing archives, the roundtable panelists will address the topics of networking, sustainability, and impact assessment related to digital resources and work to tease out both theoretical issues and practical advice for consideration in the advancement of digital resources development in Asian Studies.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Library Science  Information Technology

Sponsored by: not applicable
Organizer | Elizabeth Lhost | University of Chicago

Session Abstract:

Recent years have witnessed a renewed interest in the Indian Ocean as an arena for historical study, as scholars bring diverse disciplinary perspectives and trans-regional approaches to the study of this highly traveled zone of exchange. But what do studies of maritime exchange contribute to global histories of capitalism, empire, and law? Focusing on two recent monographs in Indian Ocean studies, this author-meets-reader roundtable considers the current state of the field and its future directions in relation to Asian and World History.

The first work, Johan Mathew’s Margins of the Market: Trafficking and Capitalism Across the Arabian Sea (2016), considers the role smuggling and illicit trade played in the evolution of European imperialism and global capitalism in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Likewise, Fahad Bishara’s A Sea of Debt: Law and Economic Life in the Western Indian Ocean, 1780–1950 (2017) analyzes the legal frameworks that knit together merchants in East Africa, Arabia, and Western India. Both works thus investigate the importance of Indian Ocean commerce within the global history of capitalism and necessarily complicate traditional narratives of Asian stagnation and European domination.

The authors will be joined by a panel of readers from different disciplinary backgrounds (history, law, political science) and regional specialties (South Asia, Southeast Asia, Africa, the Middle East). Seema Alavi, professor of South Asian history and author of Muslim Cosmopolitanism in the Age of Empire (2015) will chair the session. Scott Reese, author of Imperial Muslims (forthcoming, 2017), will offer comments from his perspective as a historian of Islam in the western Indian Ocean. Elizabeth Lhost, whose research focuses on the transformation of Islamic law in British India, will discuss these works from the perspective of legal history. And Diana Kim, whose research analyzes prohibitions against the opium trade in British Burma and French Indochina will offer insights from her perspective as a scholar of Southeast Asia. After the panelists have commented and the authors have responded, the audience will be invited to participate in what we expect will be a lively and productive conversation.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): History Law Anthropology
On and Across the Margins: Tracing Buddhist Cross-Cultural Creativity on the Silk Road

Sponsored by: The Ho Center for Buddhist Studies at Stanford

Organizer | Daniel R. Tuzzeo | Stanford University

Session Abstract:

This panel examines cross-cultural amalgamations and innovations by Silk Road Buddhist communities, each situated on the margins of cultural, linguistic, and political domains while simultaneously serving as central hubs of regional Buddhist activity. The panelists draw on understudied Central Asian, Chinese, and Tibetan manuscripts from Gandhara to Dunhuang, exploring how religious actors borrowed and localized non-native categories of Buddhist time and space, prophecy and practice, and merit and magic. A comparative examination of wide-ranging appropriations and alterations of Buddhist traditions, translation activities, localized knowledge production, and liturgical practice demonstrates how communities across Asia freely and actively incorporated circulating concepts from across cultural, linguistic, and political boundaries while adapting them for their own cultural and ritual milieux.

Collectively, the panelists illuminate the inherent hybridity of Buddhist learning, practice, and worldview: Tibetan Buddhists bring Indic liturgical recitation to Dunhuang where it is sustained by Han elite; Gandharans localize Indian texts by injecting local kings and medicinal herbs into Buddhist narratives and employing native linguistic and educational systems; Chinese scribes translate a Tibetan record of a Khotanese prophecy, perhaps inspired by Persian sources; and Dunhuang authors fabricate syncretic catechisms, incorporating both Indic and Chinese concepts of cosmological time and space.

Focusing on religious exchange and innovation on and across the margins, we engage in boundary-crossing discourse spanning the geographic regions of China, Inner Asia (Gandhara and Tibet), and South Asia (India), drawing on historical periods from the first to the tenth centuries, with a discussant specializing in Dunhuang intellectual and material culture.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Religion  History
On Purity of the Discipline: A Transpacific Critique of Race, the Liberal Subject, and Knowledge Production

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Annmaria Shimabuku | New York University

Session Abstract:

This roundtable, chaired by the transpacific scholar Lisa Yoneyama, brings together participants from anthropology, history, literature, and philosophy across the areas of Japan, Korea, Okinawa, and the United States. The participants will discuss the racialization of subjects in motion across geographical “areas” implicit in the traditional area studies discipline as an optic for problematizing the notion of a liberal subject. In what ways are states mutually complicit in the production of the racial, national, and/or gendered norms of a universal liberal subject? In what ways do subjects who traverse these areas expose a similar underlying logic of liberalism that is too often disguised by the superficial coding of “difference” within a locality? Nahum Chandler offers reflections on the question of “Blackness/blackness,” the concept of race, and the supposed Asian century as a way to think beyond the limits of the liberal subject. With matters of Japan as a signal reference, he will probe ways to rethink the borders of matters of Asia as a problem for thought. Tak Fujitani will query the divide between Japanese Studies and Japanese American Studies with special attention to the racialized and nationalized boundaries that have historically emerged in the context of U.S. and Japanese domestic as well as international politics. He will focus on how this boundary making has made it difficult to recognize the limits of liberalism and the commonalities of Japan and the U.S. Yoon Jeong Oh will speak about how postcolonial diasporic subjects radically deconstruct the singularity of Korean-ness, whose existence is presupposed under Japanese colonialism, Cold War ideologies, and Asian American studies. She will focus on translingual and transmedial aesthetics to discuss what lies between the socio-historical fragments that are excluded from these normalizing discourses. Annmaria Shimabuku will discuss how the ethnic/racial politics of the U.S. military basing project and postcolonial Japanese state converge in the practice of American-Okinawan miscegenation in postwar Okinawa. She will consider how mixed-race subjects constantly fail to become legible in terms of a transpacific rendering of the liberal subject, and consider this “failure” as the possibility for a different kind of thought.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Anthropology History Literature Philosophy
On the Spectrum of Islamism

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Nawab Mohammed Osman | S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies

Session Abstract:

The proliferation of the nation-state model was accompanied by the hegemonic conception of the private-public sphere dichotomy. States in Asia that adopted this dichotomy often met with local contestation over the role of religion in the public sphere. In many instances, religion was appropriated by state actors as governance tools, adding to the complexity of socio-politically locating religion in the public sphere. This panel seeks to examine this complexity and understand how the contemporary interaction between governments and Islamist actors impacts perceptions of Islam’s role in the public spheres of Malaysia, Southern Thailand, Bangladesh and Pakistan. For instance, the Islamisation process initiated by the Malaysian state since the 1980s has led to the entrenchment of Islamist actors within the state structures which is currently challenged by newer Islamic actors. Likewise, increasing pressures from Islamists in Bangladesh against atheists and Ahmadis has forced the state to rethink its policy of managing Islam. The panel also explores how interactions between state actors and Islamists influenced the mobilization of Islamist political actors in these countries. In Southern Thailand, Islamic religious scholars disavowed violence and adopted a more pacificist stance toward the state mainly due to the Thai government’s militaristic approach towards its Muslim community. In Pakistan, Islamist parties previously in good ties with the military were forced to re-calibrate their relationship following the re-introduction of military courts to try terrorists. This panel brings together senior and junior scholars employing a multi-disciplinary approach by taking case studies from the South and Southeast Asian regions.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Political Science  Religion
Performances of Struggle and Resistance in South Korea, India, and Taiwan

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Katherine In-Young Lee | UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music

Session Abstract:

While scholarly analyses of resistance abound within specific area studies contexts, studies of dissent from a broader inter-area or interdisciplinary context seem to be less prevalent. In a time of history when the sounds of resistance are ubiquitous in our political landscapes, it is an opportune moment to consider the work of performance (broadly construed) in sites of struggle, protest, critique, and political engagement. Within the discipline of ethnomusicology, scholars are attuned to music performance's centrality to resistance since it serves as an indexical sign (Turino 2008:224) that can mobilize and incite social and political change. This panel aims to bring this idea into conversation with other disciplines such as performance studies and inter-area studies by featuring stories of resistance as they appear in two vastly different regions—East and South Asia. These stories highlight, in particular, marginalized populations seeking to unsettle inequities and injustices. The papers on this panel respectively investigate: protest music in South Korea as an analytical figure and organizing form, music deployed as a “politics of self” among the hereditary Manganiyar in Rajasthan, hip-hop's role in achieving transitional justice during Taiwan's Sunflower Revolution, and a critical reading of the courtesan-dancer in South Indian cinema and tourism as an example of gender, caste, and aesthetic resistance. This panel aspires to address the points of convergence and divergence that emerge in the broader discussion of performative resistance in transnational contexts.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Music/Musicology  Anthropology  History  Performing Arts
Protection of the environment and development of the economy are often juxtaposed as conflicting goals or as divergent approaches to global challenges. In fact, however, nature, economies, and human welfare are intimately interconnected, for no matter where people live, nature is integral to all our endeavors—providing many of the building blocks that contribute directly to local livelihoods and ensure stable and growing economies as well as healthy populations. Yet, despite nature’s fundamental importance for life on this planet, no other feature on Earth is so dramatically influenced by human activities. Meeting the needs and “wants” of growing human populations, through ever-increasing production and consumption, is threatening the equilibrium and viability of local and global ecosystems. The relationship between people and nature has always been complex, but today it presents urgent challenges and crucial choices, especially as we confront the growing threats of global climate change. Asia’s hard-charging economies are fueled by raw materials, manufacturing, and trade, and these depend on biodiversity and healthy ecosystems. What would happen to our economic calculations if we factored the price of social and environmental benefits, such as human health, food security, and protection from natural disasters? Would we see the world around us differently? Would we view our relationship to one another as nations and peoples in a new way? This session draws on the knowledge and experiences of experts from different sectors, including environmental communication, peace and sustainability studies, education, and national security domain, to present practices and research on environmental and developmental issues in Asia and to encourage discussion of teaching about Asia through this interdisciplinary lens. Using real-world case studies, the participants will engage the audience in examining the complex ways in which managing resources and preserving environments are essential for economic growth, stability, and security of communities and nations in Asia. Importantly, the session will highlight the need to engage with and invest in the next generation of learners and leaders through education, communication, and research/collaboration as well as technological innovation to inspire action to advance conservation and sustainable development in Asia and across the globe.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Economics Communications Education
Playable Asia: The Politics of Playable Media in Networked Asia

Sponsored by: not applicable
Organizer | Iskandar Zulkarnain | Hobart and William Smith Colleges

Session Abstract:

This innovative workshop has two objectives: 1) to introduce participants to the roles of playable media, in the context of this panel defined as videogames and virtual/augmented reality environments/platforms in Asian socio-political cultures; 2) to promote the creation and recognition of playable media as critical scholarship and powerful research and pedagogical tools. This workshop will introduce the audience to a combination of lightning talk presentation styles as well as hands-on demos of augmented reality around one single theme: the politics of playable media in networked Asia.

Given the development of digital infrastructures across various regions of Asia, playable media has shown significant potential to be used as a medium for political expressions, from the utilization of “newsgames” (Bogost, Ferrari, Schweizer, 2010) in anti-corruption campaigns in Indonesia; to Chinese artists such as Feng Mengbo who use online gaming platforms. Playable media offer a novel way to approach archival research in Asian contexts. Through its focus on innovative and interdisciplinary approach, this workshop demonstrates the impact of playable media in shaping contemporary public lives and the interconnectedness between politics, cultural and artistic productions, and new media circulation in contemporary Asia.

It consists of three presentations/hands-on demonstrations: the first presentation examines the politics of playable media in Indonesia through the genre of “newsgames,” a broad body of work produced at the intersection of video games and journalism. The second presentation examines Cao Fei’s 2017 BMW Art Car that invites users to interact with her work through gaming platforms (augmented and virtual reality) leveraging digital media to critique the contemporary moment. The third presentation deals with the requirements of software emulation and digital preservation inherent in the study of these digital media works. Digital assets require careful decisions about their capture, preservation, storage, and emulation in order to be available to scholars. Best practices and workflows will be discussed. This panel also encourages alternative formats for participating (e.g. video conference), especially for participants who have restrictions in traveling to the conference in real life.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Art/Art History Communications Library Science
Populism and Popular Dissent in Asia: Will They Lead to Democratic Backsliding or Authoritarian Consolidation in the Region?

Sponsored by: not applicable
Organizer | Lynette H. Ong | University of Toronto

Session Abstract:

From China to India, the Philippines and Indonesia in between, populism is on the rise across Asia. So is popular discontent that has erupted in widespread social protests. Yet, Asia is hardly unique—the western developed nations are also experiencing the rising tides of populism and popular dissent. Positioning themselves as the champions of everyday concerns, once elected, the populist leaders often put in place measures to remove institutional checks-and-balances on their power. This panel brings together scholars to analyze these critical issues in the Asian context.

Lynette Ong of the University of Toronto unveils the deep-seated insecurity behind Xi Jinping’s grandiose “China Dream”. Xi’s populist image is intended to partly counter the painful costs of economic dislocation as growth slows down. State repression has also intensified to crackdown on any potential regime threat. Relatedly, Ho-fung Hung of Johns Hopkins who observes Beijing’s increasing assertiveness over Hong Kong argues the rising influence of Third Reich legal philosopher Carl Schmitt’s work among official scholars in Beijing helps us understand the PRC’s HK policies before and after the umbrella uprising in 2014.

Moving to Southeast Asia, Aries Arugay of the University of the Philippines-Diliman asks how populists like Duterte maintain post-electoral support after capturing power. Structural conditions raise the appeals of Duterte’s anti-liberal messages, even though the populist’s majoritarian democratic vision contradicts the very foundations of democracy. Stephen Ortmann of the City University of Hong Kong contends that, despite its elitist tradition, the Singapore government has become more populist to counter growing oppositional challenge. This is reflected in the state’s gradual abandonment of the claim that it knows what is best for the masses to its distribution of handouts and building of social programs.

Irfan Nooruddin of Georgetown University argues that in India, Modi’s majoritarian and populist mandate has afforded him a strategy of Hindu vote consolidation against religious minorities, resulting in rising violence against Muslim and Christian minorities. Understanding these issues will provide important contextual information to analyze the political future of Asia. Andrew Mertha of Cornell University, a comparative scholar of China and Southeast Asia, will chair the roundtable.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Political Science  Sociology
Positioning Achaemenid Persian Empire Visual Studies in Asian History and Historiography

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Alexander Nagel | Smithsonian Institution

Session Abstract:

Between c. 550 and 330 BCE, the Achaemenid Persian Empire stretched from the heartlands of Iran, to the Indus, Central Asia and far beyond. Early on, the Achaemenid court developed an ideologically consistent program of sculpturally-embellished architecture and related sculptural and textual displays. This program included depictions and ideas of Asia and emphasized universal harmony and the righteousness of the king. Drawing upon earlier models in a deliberative process, these monumental visual landscapes of the heartland capitals of the Empire reverberated far afield across time and space—not least to the East, but well beyond the literal boundaries of imperial domain. Asian workmen were employed by the Great Kings, and they left their mark on sculpture and architecture.

The goal of this panel is to look eastward and beyond to explore a range of historical and contemporary disciplinary and theoretical approaches to the phenomena of acculturation, historiographies, and modern approaches to the cultures and art of Achaemenid Persia in Asia. Papers will discuss historiographic approaches which situated Achaemenid Persia in India and China, provide fresh approaches to aspects such as Achaemenid Persian architecture and ceramics in the East, and discuss the architectural influence Achaemenid Persia received from the East and vice versa.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Art/Art History Archaeology History Geography
Precious Stuff: Waste and the Remnants of History in Postwar China and Japan

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Jennifer E. Altehenger | King's College London

Session Abstract:

Discarded stuff and waste materials are fundamental elements in historical change and as such constitute both actor and archive. While studies of modern Chinese and Japanese history through material culture commonly examine individual objects, the social life of things, or the rise of consumerism, this panel focuses on remnants and their everyday materiality. Papers explore examples of waste and junk ranging from leftover raw materials to industrial rejects and discarded electronica, from rural to urban areas, and from the early years of reconstruction after 1945 to the 1970s. They demonstrate how waste and junk - as research lens and primary sources - can encourage fresh approaches to the sociocultural, political, and economic histories of East Asia. Jacob Eyferth traces how rural people in Mao-era China, having little access to mass consumer goods, found ways to obtain wasted cotton and textiles that allowed them to produce goods locally yet brought them into competition with the planned market economy. Exploring fibreboard production during China’s Great Leap Forward, Jennifer Altehenger shows how state-promoted experiments with waste materials and fibres supported the mass production of objects but harmed the image of an advanced socialist consumer culture. Sarah Teasley examines waste materials application research at a prefectural research institute in postwar Japan, and argues for the centrality of wood products, waste, and materiality for history. Finally, Thomas Mulaney illustrates why old monitors, printers, and other objects, though often considered junk today, are crucial sources that mandate a revisionist view of the global information age.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): History
Problematizing Historical, Nationalist, and Cultural Representations in Asia and Beyond

*Sponsored by: COC*

*Organizer | Lauren Meeker | State University of New York, New Paltz*

*Session Abstract:*

This is a designated panel sponsored by the Council of Conferences. The panel is composed of graduate students whose papers have received best-paper prizes from their respective regional conferences. As such, the papers cover a variety of topics and countries. As a group, the papers destabilize neat East-West binaries though critical and comparative examinations of such topics as nationalism in migrant education, cross-cultural and cross-temporal historical representation, medical and religious diagnosis of illness and suffering, and localized artistic representations of environmental devastation. The panel should be of particular interest to students of Japanese history at home and abroad, education, history of migration, contemporary Chinese art, Japanese Buddhism, Jesuits in Asia, and history of Chinese medicine.

*Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing*

*Discipline(s): History  Art/Art History  Education*
Problematizing the Infrastructural Promises of China’s Belt and Road Initiative

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Galen Murton | James Madison University

Session Abstract:

Hailed by Chinese president Xi Jinping as the ‘project of the century,’ China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) suggests a 21st century (re)turn to infrastructure as a platform for national and global development. In upland Southeast Asia and across the Tibetan Plateau, the inter-area region we identify as Highland Asia is increasingly characterized by prominent development projects that advance Beijing’s economic priorities, reconfigure Asian geopolitics, and impact local communities in uneven ways. Although a coherent framework for BRI development programs remains uncertain, the political-economic power of the initiative has become a discursive force with significant social and ecological implications. Drawing ethnographic attention to the development of highways, hydropower, airports, and military installations across Highland Asia, this panel brings analysis of BRI ‘to the ground’ from Nepal and Kashmir to Sichuan and Yunnan. In so doing, we highlight how geographically distant places have been variously affected by distinct development projects that are nonetheless conceived and promoted as a coordinated (if not singular) BRI effort. Examining the gaps between Beijing’s smooth promises and the uneven realities of BRI interventions, this panel makes an international analysis to show how China’s development projects also motivate trans-local and international reactions and resistance, both of which mark broader transformations taking place across Asian landscapes. Using infrastructure as a lens to examine how border-crossing happens in both material and social ways, we show how BRI developments are experienced locally and how the social, cultural, and political impacts of such projects complicate discursively powerful infrastructural promises of BRI.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Geography  Anthropology  International Relations
Producing Localness in the Everyday

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Edwin Keely Everhart | UCLA

Session Abstract:

“Globalization divides as much as it unites; it divides as it unites – the causes of division being identical with those which promote the uniformity of the globe.” (Bauman 1998) This panel considers the seemingly contradictory forces of globalization and localization, investigating locality as generated through everyday practice. In a context of increasing trans-local exchange and global-local contrasts, we look to localness as experienced in everyday practice. While studies of cultural heritage and tourism engage with conscious practices of local distinction, including the monumental and the spectacular, this panel adds a dimension that is often missing from such scholarship: how localness is experienced, appropriated, and contested in everyday terms. The panel is organized around two key concerns: how a local place, or a social connection to that place, is produced in cultural practices of everyday life; and what the attentiveness to localness through those practices achieves for those who produce it. The papers that constitute this panel all address local identification as articulated with state policies and national audiences – Assmann and Twu via food and agriculture, Everhart and Sum via intangible cultural production. Each paper is grounded in ethnographic study, and together they represent diverse locations and themes: local accent in northeastern Japan, traditional Mosuo dance in southwest China, food education in Hokkaido, and the ecology of the border in Hong Kong. A lengthy concluding discussion will start with comments by Didi-Ogren and Traphagan, who address other aspects of everyday locality in their own research.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Anthropology  Language  Sociology
Public Diplomacy, Non-Governmental Exchanges, and the Reconstruction of U.S.-Chinese Relations During the Cold War

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Kazushi Minami | University of Texas, Austin

Session Abstract:

Using new archival sources, this panel explores public diplomacy and non-governmental exchanges that helped to rebuild U.S.-Chinese relations after the restoration of official contacts in the early 1970s. Kazushi Minami analyzes Chinese performing arts troupes, one of the most popular cultural exchange vehicles in the 1970s, arguing that their role shifted from a propaganda tool that promoted communist ideology to a commercial instrument aimed at earning foreign currency. Norton Wheeler examines the different importance U.S. and Chinese policymakers attached to scientific and educational exchanges prior to normalization of diplomatic relations in 1979. He explains that Beijing viewed these ties as indispensable for modernization, while Washington expected them to have liberalizing effects on China. Charles Kraus investigates the role of consumer products, focusing on Coca-Cola and Tsingtao Beer. He finds that despite economic and cultural friction, their simultaneous introduction to the Chinese and U.S. markets in the late 1970s facilitated closer ties between Chinese and American citizens. Finally, Hui He studies the influence of Chinese Americans, who passionately participated in Sino-American exchanges. She maintains that Chinese Americans—be they prominent scientists or radical students—became unofficial ambassadors who contributed to the development of bilateral ties outside the U.S. government. With the expertise of Charles Hayford and Qing Simei in contemporary U.S.-Chinese relations, this panel not only offers fresh perspectives to rethink the scope and limits of informal diplomacy, but also discusses their implications for future bilateral relations.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): History Political Science International Relations
Reflections on Sacred/Miraculous Images

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Dorothy C. Wong | University of Virginia

Session Abstract:

Within the religious phenomenon of making and copying images of deities and saints, it is well-known that a certain class of images is considered more sacred than others. Purportedly they can perform miracles, move about, and possess healing or protective powers. Drawing on various traditions of religious imagery in Asia, this panel proposes to examine sacred/miraculous images from multiple perspectives. Susan Huntington’s paper, “When is An Image Not an Image,” investigates whether the practice of consecrating images existed at the time of the creation of the first images, and thus what implications this would have on our understanding of the origin of the Buddha image. Samuel Morse’ paper, “Sacred Image of Eleven-headed Kannon at Hasedera,” looks specifically at the lineage of copies of the sacred image at Hasedera, first made in the eighth century, and the numinous qualities of both the original and later copies. Murad Khan Mumstaz’s paper, “Objects of Devotion: Images of Muslim Saints and Their Patrons in India,” studies the emergence of depictions of Muslim saints as devotional objects in the seventeenth century and examines the functions of these saints’ portraits. Isabelle Charleux’s paper, “Living Icons of Mongolia: Buddha-palladiums and Wrathful Ancestors,” examines the religious material culture of modern Mongolia and asks whether specific Buddha images that possess agency and autonomy and are worshiped as living icons might have conflated with ancestors’ cults and shamanistic practices of the Mongol world.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Art/Art History Religion
Re-Framing the "Domestic" in India and China

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Elizabeth LaCouture | The University of Hong Kong

Session Abstract:
In this innovative session, scholars working on China and India, with perspectives from across multiple disciplines, will discuss what “the domestic” means to their research, to their disciplines, and to the regions they work on. It seeks to articulate alternative frames of understanding “domestic” practices and ideas rather than imposing Euro-American categories onto Asia. In the 19th century, Christian missionary teachings and writings designated Euro-American domesticity as a universal category. These ideals about domesticity and family became central to how historians of the US and Europe characterized modern historical change, with home and domesticity serving as a private and feminine complement to the public and masculine spheres of the factory and industrialization. The work of the scholars in this session aims to de-center Euro-American ideas of domesticity and de-naturalize the teleology of developmental “domesticity”. They propose new frames for thinking about domesticity as a both a shared and unique category of social and historical experience. Discussions will consider how nationalists, colonialists, builders, manufacturers, and tastemakers deliberately constructed “the domestic” in India and China, suggesting that domesticity was never a natural development. Moreover, it will link top-down ideas with everyday work on the ground: far from being an isolated private sphere, the “domestic sphere” was entwined both with the public politics of property rights and with domestic workers’ rights. Finally, the panelists will consider how the domestic has been gendered across multiple layers, producing a space central to both male and female identities. Each panelist will briefly outline research and questions on “the domestic,” allowing ample time for interdisciplinary and transregional conversation among panelists and with the audience.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Anthropology History Woman Studies
Religion and Translation Across Asia

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Chenxin Jiang | University of Chicago

Session Abstract:

Beliefs, religions, and practices have historically been disseminated across Asia through the medium of translation: not only has the translation process crucially shaped the vicissitudes of their reception, conversely, religions have themselves influenced the ways in which key sacred and secular texts are translated. Translators omit, embellish, abridge, and gloss the texts they translate, sometimes under the auspices of religious superiors, sometimes working independently with specific religious communities in mind. This panel explores the mutually defining -- not infrequently, mutually subverting -- relationship between the practices typically understood as religions and their mediation through translation, covering a range of historical periods as well as Buddhist, Muslim, and Christian thought. Daniel Boucher’s paper treats the translation of Indian scriptures into literary Chinese by foreign missionaries and their bilingual intermediaries, contrasting the translation practices of the third-century translator Dharmara{k}a with those of his successors. Chenxin Jiang, on the other hand, reads Richard Wilhelm’s influential twentieth-century translations of canonical Confucian and Daoist texts into German, showing how his translations of classical works were shaped by his own Lutheran training and echoes of the Luther Bible. Leopold Eisenlohr’s paper also treats the conversation between Chinese classical texts and other traditions, reading Ma Anli’s translation of the Qa'idah Burdah as an effort to place Islamic thought into the framework of Chinese classics. Gal Gvili’s paper considers the translation of the term “superstition” into Chinese as mixin by Liang Qichao in 1902 and shows how it informed the fictional output of the early Republican era.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Literature  History
Representations and Policies: Race, Gender, and Immigration

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Lisa Tran | California State University, Fullerton

Session Abstract:

How did representations of migrants from Asia change from the mid-nineteenth to the late twentieth century? How did those images both reflect and shape public policy? This panel uses the symbiosis between discursive representations and legislative acts to explore the permeability of seemingly fixed categories—whether defined by race, gender, or law—at two historical moments: one hostile to immigrants from Asia, the other seemingly more sympathetic. Constance Chen and Stephen McDowall explore the politics of imagining Asia/otherness during the turn-of-the-twentieth century. Chen analyzes the ways in which nineteenth-century portrayals of Chinese and Japanese femininity and masculinity shaped the development of exclusionist legislations in the U.S. McDowall considers the relationship between Edwardian public anxiety about racial pollution and government anti-opium policies in London's Chinatown. Lisa Tran and Sam Vong discuss refugees from Vietnam within the context of Cold War geopolitics and mid-twentieth-century shifts in immigration policy. Focusing on Australia, Canada and the U.S., Tran argues that conceptualizing “refugee” as a discursive site rather than a fixed identity highlights the fluidity between “refugee” and “immigrant.” Vong examines how Vietnamese refugee women lobbied for the release of reeducation camp prisoners in Vietnam by mobilizing a human rights discourse during the Reagan era, transforming themselves into activists, diplomats, and community leaders. Together, these papers explore the interplay between representations of peoples from East and Southeast Asia and changing international politics, institutional agendas, and immigration policies between the mid-nineteenth and late twentieth century.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): History  Asian American Studies  Gender & Sexuality  Woman Studies
Representing the Unrepresentable: ‘Comfort Women’ in Literature, Film and Art

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Eunah P. Lee | Independent Scholar

Session Abstract:
Artistic representations of wartime atrocities and human rights abuses can powerfully communicate historical knowledge to future generations, yet the series of mediations in the communication process inherently involve difficult ethical questions. Representing the stories of sexual slaves by the Imperial Japanese military or the so-called “comfort women” takes on special challenges: How does the writer depict sexual violence in the past in a way that avoids appealing to prurience in the viewers? How does the filmmaker tell the story without falling into the dominant nationalistic discourse within a victim’s country? How does the painter or the sculptor create images in a way that they can heal the trauma without further exacerbating the wounds? Here the task may be to think creatively about the ways to represent the images, but also to view these representations critically by crossing the boundaries of the various artistic media as well as combining these media to understand a particular history. This panel examines the importance of artistic representations of the “comfort women” in novels, films, paintings, and statues by focusing on the meanings or truthfulness that they create about the past rather than debating a particular representation of the past as true or false.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Philosophy Cinema Studies/Film Literature Art/Art History
Rethinking East Asian Families and Family Laws: Critical Legal, Historical, and Ethnographic Perspectives

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Allison Alexy | University of Michigan

Session Abstract:
Recent decades have brought tremendous change to families, and the laws governing families, in East Asia. From new household forms - including divorcees, single adults living alone, same-sex couples, and transnational marriages - to shifting ideologies of how families should be organized, families have been at the center of substantial social change in the region. South Korean and Japanese family law provide our interdisciplinary panelists a comparative perspective. For instance, in 2008, after decades of feminist and social justice activism, South Korea’s Household Head system, in which a man is legally designated as the head of every household, was abolished. In 2015, the Japanese Supreme Court once again upheld the legal requirement that all members of an immediate family share the same last name, a law that, in practice, means that more than 95% of married women must change their surnames. Critically considering such recent legal decisions, this panel explores the intersections and tensions between how families are lived and the structures of family law designed to regulate them. Papers will use critical legal approaches, historical analysis, and ethnographic perspectives to interrogate legal reforms and the efforts behind them and to highlight how family law is lived and contested in everyday practice. Rather than assume a simple causality - either that law inevitably dictates how families are formed, or that law merely reflects family norms - this panel examines points of tension, protest, and reform swirling around families and the laws that govern them.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Anthropology History Gender & Sexuality Law
Rethinking Geopolitics and Collective Identity in the Age of Ming-Qing Transition Period: A Historical Perspective

*Sponsored by: not applicable*

*Organizer | Jeong-il Lee | Northeast Asian History Foundation*

*Session Abstract:*

States in Northeast Asia during the sixteenth to seventeenth centuries witnessed a reshaping of the regional social order that culminated in the establishment of the Qing Empire. Polities in Japan, Korea, China and even the nascent states of the Jurchen, strove to reinterpret their socio-political and cultural identifications to better control state and international affairs. This was not merely manifested in oratorical political battles, but also through the re-appropriation and reinterpretation of cultural, diplomatic and economic procedures.

The presentations in our panel have been selected in order to demonstrate the great variety of perspectives in Northeast Asia during the Ming-Qing transition. The first presentation looks at the Ming-Qing transition through the diplomatic meetings of Japanese and Korean envoys. The second paper focuses on the rewriting of Qing ceremonies and customs with the Mongols khanates made in the early Qing. The third presentation explores how the Choson Korean court and ruling elites reformulated cultural and political arguments following the ‘Confucian’ Ming defeat. The fourth and final presentation readdresses the utility of the tributary system for domestic politics of late imperial China.

The aim of this panel is to demonstrate the diversity of changes both within and without the states in the region. The various levels of analysis will be helpful to a number of scholars interested in understanding multifaceted issues involving culture, geopolitics and identification. This cross-border research will also help open up a more constructive comparison between East Asian world order and other regions of the world during this period.

*Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing*

*Discipline(s): History  International Relations*
Science & Everyday Life in Twentieth-Century East Asia

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Joshua A. Hubbard | College of William and Mary

Session Abstract:

This panel offers an alternative view of histories of science in East Asia (China, Japan, Korea, and Taiwan) by focusing on everyday life as both an object of scientific inquiry and a site where knowledge is produced. The individual papers identify scientific discourses and practices that link the local, individual, and mundane to higher-order concerns of the systemic and universal. By examining these links and their historical conditions, this border-crossing panel highlights not only the effects of scientific developments on everyday life, but also scientific claims and processes profoundly shaped by quotidian practices. Fu and Hong explore epistemological and economic developments in interwar China and Japan that depended on habitualized, daily examinations and standardized diets. Kim and Hubbard focus on reproductive health as both practice and profession, revealing continuities between colonial and post-colonial health regimes in Korea and Taiwan, respectively. Both Fu and Kim highlight the role of individual, everyday encounters with public health regimes in shaping conceptions of self and society. Hong and Hubbard find tensions between grand ambitions for reforming everyday life and the limitations of scientific attempts at quantification and regulation. The panel will use an innovative format to highlight historical and conceptual links across the region. Each individual presentation will be a response to the other panelists’ pre-circulated papers and to pre-circulated comments on these papers by the discussant, Judge, who has written on and continues to research the relationship between science and the everyday.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): History  Gender & Sexuality  International Relations
Seeds of the Frontier: Botanical Interventions and State Expansion in East Asia, 1400-1945

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Wenjiao Cai | Harvard University

Session Abstract:

In Asia, borderland development and overseas colonization have long involved the transregional movement of plants and the study and management of flora. Yet, historical scholarship has largely focused on botanical exchanges associated with the expansion of European empires. Our panel seeks to fill this gap by exploring how, in early-modern and modern East Asia, agriculture and forestry were linked with the governance of peripheral territories. From farmlands in the Sino-Korean border region to orchards and forests at the edge of the Japanese empire, East Asian states shared a commitment to improving frontier spaces by means of “better” crops and trees. Interactions among natural organisms and human institutions in borderland contexts, in turn, shaped the economic, social, and geopolitical agenda of states. Together, our papers provide a long-term comparative perspective on the relationship between botanical intervention and state expansion in East Asia.

Wenjiao Cai demonstrates that while new crops facilitated fifteenth-century Korea’s northward advance, the state’s agricultural ambitions were constrained by the frontier environment. Masato Hasegawa shows how, in the Sino-Korean borderland of the late sixteenth century, military farming promised crucial wartime resources but also increased territorial contention. Michael Thornton examines how, through the shaping of urban space, global networks of fruit trees and botany aided Japan’s colonization of Hokkaido in the mid-nineteenth century. Finally, analyzing the critical role that forest ecologists played in the reforestation projects of colonial Korea, David Fedman investigates the relationship between knowledge production and empire building in Japan.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): History
**Seeking Refuge in Contemporary Asian Nation-States**

*Sponsored by: not applicable*

Organizer | Swati Chawla | University of Virginia  
Organizer | Christina Kilby | James Madison University

**Session Abstract:**

This panel is focused on the construction of refugee experiences in three regions of postcolonial South and South East Asia. Through analyses, respectively, of the aftermath of anti-Communist killings in Central and East Java (1965-66 to present), the establishment of the Central Tibetan Administration (government-in-exile) in India (1959 to present), and the Bhutanese state’s expulsion and resettlement policies towards the Lhotsampas of Nepali descent (1980s to present), the three papers reflect on how nation states variously categorize, circumscribe, prescribe, proscribe, and try to ameliorate experiences of displacement. The panel draws on recent scholarship that has sought to undo the distinctions between voluntary and forced displacement on the one hand, and rethink the labels ‘migrant,’ ‘refugee,’ ‘evacuee,’ ‘displaced person’ on the other (Zygmunt Bauman, 1998; Vazira Fazila-Yacoobali Zamindar, 2007; Yasmin Saikia, 2011; Niraja Gopal Jayal, 2013). In particular, we will each deliberate on contemporary nationalisms through the experience of populations on the fringes at moments of aggressive nationalistic self-assertion. We ask how a perceived ‘Other’—the host nation through its attempts at assimilation, an alienating ideology (Communism) —informs both the state’s definition of displacement and the refugees’ self-definition. Finally, we reflect on the impact of this ‘othering’ on public policy; bureaucratic procedures such as census collection and rehabilitation schemes; as well as ‘secular’ and ‘religious’ discourses. The richness of our sources (archival, demographic, exegetical, ethnographic, literary) is informed by the diversity of our disciplinary trainings in history, literary studies, economics, and religious studies.

**Area of Study:** Inter-area/Border Crossing

**Discipline(s):** History Economics Religion Population Studies
Singing to Buddha: Buddhist Music in Contemporary Asia

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Jack Meng-Tat Chia | National University of Singapore

Session Abstract:

Buddhist music is produced and performed for many purposes, ranging from liturgical ceremonies, self-cultivation, evangelism, and aesthetic pleasure. In recent years, it is even packaged for mass commercial consumption. Buddhist music comprises a variety of genres, including sacred chants, devotional songs, and rock and roll music in Asia today. Although scholars of contemporary Buddhism have studied issues such as activism, environmentalism, meditation, and philanthropy since the last decade, little attention has been given to study the production and performance of Buddhist music. This inter-area panel brings together Buddhist studies scholars, ethnomusicologists, and historians in order to explore the varied forms of Buddhist music in Indonesia, Japan, Sri Lanka, and Taiwan. It seeks to consider the intersections between music, ritual, and Buddhist modernism. Jack Meng-Tat Chia uses the case of True Direction to analyze the development and performance of contemporary Buddhist music in Muslim-majority Indonesia. Michaela Mross examines why and how Zen clerics create new crossover music rituals in present-day Japan. Jim Sykes explores the drumming ritual of the Sinhala Buddhist community in post-war Sri Lanka. Ming-yen Lee takes Fo Guang Shan’s “Ten Thousand People Praising the Almighty Buddha” Music Concert as a case study to illuminate the diverse forms of Chinese Buddhist music in Taiwan. The respondent, Scott Mitchell, will discuss these papers in the light of his research on Buddhist music in America.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Religion Music/Musicology Performing Arts Anthropology
Tales of the Field: On Place in Asian Soundscapes

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Elise M. Anderson | Indiana University

Session Abstract:

The “spatial turn” in the humanities and social sciences has made possible cultural research which reconsiders various fieldwork locations as sites of organic and vibrant cultural dialogues and political narratives. The participants on this panel, as anthropological and musical field researchers, have created their own research sites by having interacted with their own subjects within and/or beyond that particular place. Our papers, which are grounded in the theories and concepts of ethnography and drawn from the pages of our fieldnotes, discuss how various conceptions of place can shape and even come to define fieldwork, as well as how place can explain the very parameters of our research. We adopt an approach of ethnographic storytelling to speak to the experience of fieldwork and to foreground the methodological and analytical insights that can be drawn from reflexivity about personal experience in the field. The stories shared in these papers show varied conceptions of place: Anderson’s exploration of relationships between place and musical authenticity in urban Xinjiang, Yoon’s depiction of an array of roads in contemporary Mongolia, and Jones’s discussion of a remote rural island off the coast of South Korea. Thus, through our narratives, we describe our negotiations at the intersections of differing or divergent “spatial ideologies,” both amongst our interlocutors in the “sites” we study and in our very own academic communities and their notions of space, place, and “the field.”

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Music/Musicology  Anthropology  Performing Arts
Telling Lives in Asian Studies: Auto/Biographical Narrative as Rhetoric, Technique, and Pedagogy

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Margaret B. Bodemer | California Polytechnic State University

Session Abstract:

Life narratives have been used as both research method and pedagogical tool across the humanities and social sciences. Such auto/biographical accounts are uniquely powerful in the ways that they offer access to, and claim authority over, lived experience. What are the particular ways in which life stories help us gain entry into diverse Asian perspectives? Whose stories get to be told? What rhetorical and political purposes are served by them, and who are their intended audiences? What nuanced analyses and reflexive reading practices should be engaged in order to balance empathy, insight and critical perspective when reading such genres? This interdisciplinary, border-crossing panel addresses such questions by means of four papers that explore life stories in the genres of biography, autobiography, memoir and auto-ethnography. Chloe Martinez interrogates the uses of autobiography by modern South Asian public figures for making polemical religious and political claims. Jessica Montez discusses an example of auto-ethnography as deployed to untangle difficult histories in a Vietnamese-American family. Lianying Shan analyzes memoirs written by Japanese colonists in Manchuria and weighs their impact in terms of postwar myth-making and identity in Japan. Po-hsi Chen explores the gendered and politicized uses of biography in the history of the Communist Party in Taiwan. The subsequent discussion will explore issues raised in the papers, such as the uses and limitations of genre, the reading of auto/biography as part of a research methodology, and critical pedagogical approaches to leveraging such narratives when teaching about complex socio-cultural, political and historical Asian contexts.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): History Literature Anthropology Religion
Territory in East Asia: Islands and Seas

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Paul Kreitman | Columbia University

Session Abstract:

In recent years, the spatial turn has encouraged a multi-disciplinary re-engagement with notions of state space, resulting in an understanding of territory as “produced, mutable and fluid” (Elden, 2010). Much research into the territorial composition of non-European states, however, still presumes a binary division between local understandings of graduated and non-exclusive sovereignty versus modern understandings of demarcated state space.

Consider the role played by islands and seas in the emergence of territory in East Asia. From the South China Sea to the Sea of Okhotsk, islands and the waters surrounding them are today central to increasingly shrill territorial disputes. However, islands and seas have long figured in attempts by East Asian polities to demarcate the limits of their sovereignty. How have they shaped administrative, diplomatic and socio-cultural understandings of territorial space? We are particularly interested in practices that represent, regulate, reify and reproduce terrestrial and marine space as part of state geobodies (Winichakul, 1994).

Our papers examine the contrast between the perceived fixity of islands and the fluidity of surrounding maritime spaces. Edward Boyle will explore how cartographic representations of “North Ezo” helped to demarcate Japan’s territorial authority over an amorphous barbarian space. Toshihiro Higuchi will explore the emergence of a trans-Pacific stateless enterprise of sealing in the late nineteenth century, as American hunters exploited the Unequal Treaties to challenge the Japanese state’s sovereignty over maritime space. And Paul Kreitman will examine Japanese, French and Chinese efforts to assert sovereignty over South China Sea guano islands during the interwar period.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): History Geography International Relations Law
Thai-Yunnan Borderlands: Remembering Nicholas Tapp

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Wasan Panyagaew | Chiang Mai University

Session Abstract:

From 2001-2010, Nicholas Tapp served as Director of the Thai Yunnan Project at the Australian National University. The project focused on the Thai-Yunnan Borderland, an area that stretches across regions of China, Burma, Laos, Vietnam and Thailand. Throughout his career, Tapp mentored many students with an interest in the Thai-Yunnan Borderlands, and indeed, many of his students originate from the region itself. Located at the crossroad between Thailand and China, Tapp’s own work on the Hmong and Southeast Asia reflects the transformative nature of the region as a hub of cultural flows. After leaving Canberra in 2010 to hold a position at the East China Normal University in Shanghai, and until his untimely death in 2015, Tapp continued to supervise students working in the region. This panel brings together Tapp’s students, and affiliated scholars, working on and in Thai-Yunnan Borderlands. This panel is in tribute to his outstanding contribution to the study of the region and its peoples, to borderlands studies, and to the field of Anthropology as a whole. While looking back on what Tapp’s work has accomplished, this panel aims to advance a new chapter of research and cooperation. Our main goal is defined by a quote from Tapp himself: We seek to “contribute to evolving understandings of the region in new ways, through a deepened appreciation of the complexities of border situations, the workings of state power, the intricacies of cultural identifications and reformulations of ethnicity, and the machinations of both formal and informal markets” (Tapp 2011).

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Anthropology Sociology History
Full Session Information including scheduling information, participant names, & paper abstracts will post in December/January.

The Anthropocene in Asia

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Arjun Guneratne | Independent

Session Abstract:

This roundtable will discuss the implications of the concept of an Anthropocene for Asian Studies and the range of ways in which scholars in non-science fields might draw on their regional expertise to engage with the dramatic paradigm shift that sees human beings as a planet-changing species. The challenge for Asianists is threefold: to understand this science, to grapple with what the Anthropocene means for Asia, and to explore what it means for our various disciplines. The roundtable discusses the second of three AAS initiatives on “Emerging fields in the study of Asia” funded by the Luce Foundation, which will culminate in a workshop to be held late in the summer of 2018. The five panelists (consisting of the organizing committee for the workshop) will discuss the topic from the vantage point of their own disciplines (history, anthropology and archaeology) and areas of expertise (China, Japan, South Asia) and then open the floor to a general discussion.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Anthropology Archaeology History Economics
The Boundaries of Global Asia: Transnational Approach to China, Japan, Korea, and Beyond

*Sponsored by: not applicable*

*Organizer | Suma Ikeuchi | University of Alabama*

*Session Abstract:*

The current political climate in many parts of the world attests to the growing tension between nation-states and transnational regimes. Although nation-states alone are not capable of addressing complex global issues such as climate change, nationalism still holds unwavering sway over the psyches of many subjects who politically enact their vision of sovereignty. The tide of nationalism is rising not just in Europe and the U.S., as seen in “Brexit” and “America First,” but also in East Asia, where the political conflict over the memories of war and violence continues. The general inquiry into the relationship between the national and the transnational is therefore of critical importance today more than ever. And such an analysis must approach Asia as a shifting boundary that has been historically negotiated in relation to other regions, territorial and imagined, ranging from Africa to Europe to the Americas. This panel is about this interconnected and border-crossing “Global Asia” and it poses the following question: How does Global Asia take shape in the contemporary world in interaction with various regimes of race, ethnicity, religion, labor, citizenship, and mobility? The panelists explore this core theme with four case studies—on Japanese Brazilians in Japan, Korean and Japanese communities in Germany, Cantonese senior migrants in the U.S., and media coverage of “bi-racial” individuals in Japan, respectively. With these critical examinations, the panel will stimulate a conversation about the tensions and confluences within the complex interactions between the regional, the national, and the transnational in contemporary Global Asia.

*Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing*

*Discipline(s): Anthropology  Asian American Studies  Religion  Geography*
The Cold War in Asia: Singular or Plural?

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Ria Chae | Indiana University

Session Abstract:

Upon the end of the global Cold War, the recognition that the superpower competition for spheres of influence and “hot” episodes of the Cold War had taken place primarily outside of Europe led to an increased scholarly interest in the way the Cold War unfolded in other regions, thereby opening a possibility of speaking of the Cold War in the plural rather than singular. The discussion has also evolved from seeking which superpower had been more responsible for the confrontation to an emphasis on systemic, economic, cultural, personality, and other factors. Building up on both trends, this panel examines the diversity of shapes that the Cold War took in Asia, seeking for patterns that would let us redefine what the Cold War in Asia was. The panelists look at cases of individual countries and characteristics of the Cold War by sub-region of Asia. Taken together, their findings reveal whether the “Asian Cold War” is as much imagined and constructed as “Asia” itself is. Cheng Guan Ang discusses the case of Southeast Asia with a particular emphasis on the unconventional ways the Cold War started and finished in the region. Rudra Chaudhuri challenges the common conflation of Cold War history of South Asia with that of the Non-Aligned Movement. Tae Gyun Park identifies the unique features of containment and alliance structures of the Cold War in Northeast Asia. Ria Chae discovers a close resemblance to the Cold War behavior of great powers in the cases of North-South Korea and Malaysia-Indonesia.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): History  International Relations  Political Science
The Handwritten and the Printed: Mediums of Literature in Early Modern Asia

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Zhenzhen Lu | University of Pennsylvania

Session Abstract:

Writing on book culture in early modern Europe, David McKitterick observes: “the boundary between manuscript and print is as untidy chronologically as it is commercially, materially or socially.” [1] The history of literature in Asia is no less an intertwined history, from the transference of calligraphic practices onto wood and stone blocks to the interwoven trajectories of stories and songs as they flowed between handwritten and printed pages. This panel seeks to explore the diverse interactions between manuscript and print culture in early modern Asia, from colonial Singapore to Japan and China. From studies of the physical book to literary and cultural history, the papers take a common interest in the continuity of handwritten practices in an age perceived to be dominated by print.

Darryl Lim opens the panel with a study of the early lithographed book in 19th century Singapore, where Malay-Muslim calligraphic sensibilities met with print modernity. The same century saw the continued flourishing of commercial woodblock printing in Qing China, while Zhenzhen Lu makes a case for the role of scribal copies in the propagation of entertainment literature in Beijing. Cao Lin follows with a detailed study of one printed Chinese chantefable from the 15th century which saw multiple handwritten afterlives. Finally, in a broad overview of the status of Chinese fiction in Edo Japan, William Fleming sheds light on the continued importance of manuscript practices in the transmission of printed texts.

The Issue of Comfort Women- Japanese and Korean Perspectives in the 1990s

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Kan Kimura | Kobe University

Session Abstract:

Even now, 72 years after the end of World War II, there is still wide-ranging debate in North East Asia on the history of Japanese war and colonial rule. This is particularly so with regard to the controversy surrounding comfort women, women forced into sexual slavery by the Imperial Japanese Army. In 1991, Koreans who had been used as comfort women by the Japanese sued the Japanese government. Shortly after this, the subject of Korean comfort women became an issue of great diplomatic importance. But what is the reason behind this issue suddenly receiving so much attention? In order to analyze this, we conducted interviews with a number of key participants in the debate, including politicians, diplomats, and victims both in Japan and South Korea. This session, comprising four presentations, will introduce the findings of these interviews. In the first presentation, Yongmin Kim will introduce the interviews with South Korean diplomats who worked on the comfort-women issue in the 1990s and analyze their human-rights perspective. At the second presentation, Kan Kimura will contrast the understanding of Japanese policy makers and South Korean diplomats and show why they were unable to reach the same conclusion. The third and fourth sessions concern the oral history of activists. Seduk Kim explores the oral history of South Koreans bereaved by the Japanese war to analyze their role in the dispute process. Lastly, Makoto Kin will focus on the role of Japanese activists and how they found cooperation with their South Korean counterparts.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): History International Relations Political Science Woman Studies
The Mongol Legacy in Early Modern East Asia

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Yonglin Jiang | Bryn Mawr College

Session Abstract:

After the Yuan Dynasty collapsed in the mid-14th-century, East Asian countries denounced the Mongols as “barbarians” and engaged in a variety of reforms to eliminate the so-called “cultural contamination” and military threat. This panel examines what impact the Mongols left on East Asia in post-Yuan early modern times despite the anti-Mongol campaigns and discourse. Yonglin Jiang examines the Mongol influence on Ming “restoring antiquities” programs, and states that the early Ming court silently and skillfully made the Mongol legal legacy a crucial component of the “Chinese” anti-“barbarian” enterprise. Frederic Constant finds that the Manchus in the Qing dynasty, unlike their Han counterparts in the Ming, viewed the Mongols as their close allies and extensively and openly incorporated Mongol legal culture into the Manchu dynastic law codes. Weiguo Sun explores the images of Kublai Khan portrayed in Choson historical records, and demonstrates that the portrait of Kublai Khan became an instrument to shape the post-Mongol Korean image and identity. Judith Fröhlich studies the impact of Mongol invasions on Japan’s national identity formation in the seventeenth-century, and finds the specification of “asymmetric counterconcepts” (the “style” in which the alien Other versus “our” country was imagined) an important Mongol legacy in Japan’s national identity construction. Together, these papers show that the Mongols who rose from the Inner Asian steppes exerted profound impact on East Asia and thus became shapers of the East Asian civilization.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): History
The Moral of the Story: Ethics and Fiction in Postwar Japan and Korea

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Dafna Zur | Stanford University

Session Abstract:

In a recent public event, American writer George Saunders, commenting on the relationship between ethics and literature, noted that writing is most ethical when it jolts; when it allows a multiplicity of truths to exist in discomforting proximity; and when it creates characters that are as real as the readers themselves. In Japan and the Koreas, literature has proven to be productive in delivering discomforting truths that have emerged from the postwar era of nation-building, industrialization and globalization. This panel interrogates how narrative form and content can be both complicit in, and resistant to, ethical and moral projects. Zur looks at postwar North Korean young reader magazines to show how raw scientific data relied on visual and textual narrative to convey “correct” views of the world and to redefine the relationship between individuals, the collective, and nature, and by doing so attempted to re-structure the imagination of young readers in moral terms. Yi reads a novella of postwar repatriation—a time of return to an “original” state—as one that refuses to bend to the political desires and instead problematizes the relationship between empire and narrative. And Lee turns to Korean fiction that has narrated the most traumatic events of the postwar period to push the boundaries of fiction and truth-telling in times of overabundance of raw historical narrative. This panel locates the question of ethics and storytelling at the center, and thus touches on the relations between fiction and empire, imagination and politics, and history and truth.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Literature  History
The Political Economy of Multinational Firms in Contemporary East Asia: Case Studies from the Pharmaceutical, Automobile, and Telecommunications Sectors

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Eric Harwit | University of Hawaii, Manoa

Session Abstract:

This panel focuses on East Asian investment strategies, and considers barriers to foreign capital movement and strategies for overcoming them. The presentations examine the role of both corporations and governments in efforts to produce optimum outcomes at both the national and firm levels. Kristi Govella sets the stage by assessing the political strategies multinational companies used to liberalize the Japanese pharmaceuticals market. Her paper analyzes the ways foreign firms forged alliances with Japanese corporations to reform relevant national laws and regulations. The result was expedited drug approval, and lower drug prices. Seung-Youn Oh’s paper chronicles the ways automobile companies from Japan, Korea, and the US interacted with Chinese sub-national governments and state-owned enterprises. Her case studies analyze the ways international trade rules, national industrial policies, and the varying nationalities of the foreign investors affected the progress of Sino-foreign joint ventures. Eric Harwit’s presentation continues the focus on China’s political economy by exploring the mobile app WeChat’s expansion to users outside the PRC. The success or failure of the endeavor will have important implications for facilitating communications between Chinese citizens and the global community. Finally, Kristin Vekasi’s paper ties together several panel themes. It builds on Govella’s paper by assessing the ways Japanese investment strategies shift in varying political and economic environments. Her focus on the automobile and electronics sectors complements Oh’s and Harwit’s presentations. Her findings serve as a template to measure future cross border economic interactions. The omission of a discussant will facilitate longer and deeper post-presentation audience participation.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Business Management  Political Science  International Relations
The Use of Culture in Foreign and Security Policy

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Marco Milani |

Session Abstract:

In the realm of international relations and foreign policy, culture has been exploited in different directions. In recent years, culture has been repeatedly used as a means for creating soft power, on one hand, but also for nationalistic purposes, such as to reinforce territorial claims or support specific and controversial historical narratives. The idea of a supposed neutrality of culture has been surpassed by the constant use that policy-makers have made of it. Culture has been largely politicized and has become one of the most powerful tools for states in legitimating political decisions. This trend has been clearly visible among several countries in Northeast Asia. In particular, the growing role of China in the region has led Beijing to create new strategies in order to enhance its soft power, using culture and cultural products, but also for national security purposes, such as in the case of maritime disputes. At the same time, also South Korea and Japan have recently started to make a large use of culture in order to enhance their influence and support their national interest in the international and regional contexts. This panel explores the impact of the processes of politicization and securitization of culture within the context of Northeast Asia. This panel aims at elucidating the twofold relation between the use of culture in international relations and foreign-policy making, and the corresponding influence of this process on the production and conservation of culture.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): International Relations  Political Science  History
Traditions in Ongoing Translation: Comparative Perspectives on Narratives, Performances, and Cultures in Korea, China, and Beyond

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Sookja Cho | Arizona State University

Session Abstract:

Studying the literary and cultural relationships between countries allows us to see how a given tradition is translated from one culture into another, undergoing reinterpretation in both cultures and forming distinct links between them. The cultural richness that results offers a platform for a more inclusive and comparative discussion of the traditional literatures and cultures that remain part of East Asian lives today. This panel introduces four Korean sinologists’ nuanced work on the cultural dynamics of shared tales, images, and performances in the premodern and modern East Asian traditions, inviting further dialogue on each subject. Minho Kim and Jina Choi examine the popularity and adaptation, in Korea, of the Chinese narrative of the Brothers Boyi and Shuqi and of the Chinese story of Guo Ziyi, respectively—both famous tales, but ones that have been little explored in the context of Choson Korea (1392–1910). Sang Bok An’s investigation into the correlation among the Holy Mountains performances of China, Japan, and Korea calls for more attention to the effects of foreign elements on East Asian cultural evolution. Finally, Younghwan Park examines how traditions are continually reinvented by focusing on contemporary Chinese and Korean attitudes toward Confucius. This panel updates and expands our critical understanding of East Asian Studies by scrutinizing four carefully selected subjects from a Korean and comparative perspective. Their interdisciplinary approaches provide a fresh lens through which to understand each culture they examine and to enrich our perspectives on Asian Studies as a dynamic academic field.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Literature Performing Arts History Religion
Transformation and Tension: International Memory and the Asia Pacific War

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Michael F. Lynch | Kent State University at Trumbull

Session Abstract:

This panel examines shifting international perspectives on memory of the Asia Pacific War in the context of ongoing tensions between Japan and its Asian neighbors. The papers discuss the muting of war memory in Singapore, the voices of Korean “comfort women” in film, the alteration of memory for Chinese nationalism, and the revision of history in recent Japanese films. Both interdisciplinary and international, the panel encompasses research in international relations, history, political science, and film. Julia Lau explores the limits of war memory in Singapore, arguing that its emphasis has changed from an earlier focus on Japanese atrocities to a more muted, non-controversial approach in museums and memorials. So Hye Kim analyzes The Silence, a recent documentary film by a zainichi Korean, which features the silenced voices of “comfort women,” arguing that the film envisions transnational production as a mode of activist engagement and cultivates solidarity across linguistic, ideological, and national borders.

Grace Huang examines the shifting politics of war memory in China, reconsidering Chiang Kai-shek’s politics of shame in facing Japanese imperialism and contrasting the erasure of the Sino-Japanese war in the Maoist period with the post-Mao exacerbation of war memory in order to bolster its own legitimacy through nationalism. Michael Lynch discusses recent Japanese war films with a revisionist agenda in the context of Japan’s resurgent nationalism and efforts to deny or minimize widely verified atrocities, arguing that these films employ several strategies of forgetting while portraying Japan’s role in the war as thoroughly honorable and just.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): History  International Relations  Cinema Studies/Film  Political Science
Transnational Activisms in Post-1945 East Asia: Gender and Ethnicity in the Context of the Cold War

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Reiko Shinno | University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire

Session Abstract:
This panel showcases transnational activisms and activists in East Asia during and after the Cold War period. Challenging the notion that women and ethnic minorities were mere victims of Cold War politics, locked in the countries that they lived in, the panel demonstrates that they were at least as transnational as their male counterparts or counterparts of ethnic majority. The panel calls for a social and cultural history of activists, or agents of change, exploring the complexity of their lives and the multiple causes that they fought for. Jiang analyzes the Chinese government’s patriotic fundraising campaigns during the Korean War, pointing out that actresses used this campaign to fight against patriarchal pressures. Eskildsen focuses on how Japanese women activists assisted the mixed-race “GI babies” in postwar Japan in alliance with American activists and missionaries, highlighting their engagement with American categories of racial difference. Hasegawa’s focus is on the discourse and actions of Korean activists in the Japanese Communist Party in the early postwar period. He argues that they were a significant factor in the party’s radicalization during the Korean War. Shinno discusses a female Japanese Sinologist/Maoist and her father. Having lived in colonial Taiwan and lost an important member of their family during the war, they became leading pacifists, communists, and, in the case of the daughter, a feminist in postwar Japan.

This panel satisfies the goals of the Inter-area/Border-Crossing category because it looks at transnational activists in Japan, China, Korea, the United States, and the Soviet Union.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): History  International Relations  Gender & Sexuality
Unsettled Geographies: Using Cross-Border Perspectives to Rethink 20th Century Asia

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Andrea G. Wright | The College of William and Mary
Organizer | Purvi Mehta | Colorado College

Session Abstract:

What are the borders of Asia? How is the area constituted? These questions have been approached through investigations of Orientalism (Said 1978), colonial governance (Stoler 1989), area studies (Harootunian & Miyoshi 2002), or flexible imaginaries (Karl 1998). The papers in this panel build upon a growing trend in scholarship to attend to how non-elites imagine and give shape to a geography of place that disrupts the boundedness of empires, nations, and regions. The authors explore different forms of community, alliance, and affiliation in 20th century Asia through an exploration of the circulation of people, ideas, and material goods across political borders. We unsettle conventional landscapes of space and belonging in order to reveal an Asia continuously constituted through social relations. These social relations reveal the everyday logic of people as they creatively imagine transnational and transregional connections and belonging. While the papers in this panel share a cross-border perspective, they use a diverse set of disciplinary methodologies such as oral histories, archival research, textual analysis, and ethnographic research to execute this approach. This engagement brings to the fore actors often ignored in national historiographies and elucidates movements from the margins.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): History  Anthropology  Literature
Useful Categories: Encyclopedic Texts and Practical Knowledge in Middle Period East Asia

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Christopher Nugent | Williams College

Session Abstract:

The spread of paper in East Asia led to a massive increase in textually-based knowledge, creating in turn a need to condense and organize this knowledge into new forms that could better serve utilitarian purposes, whether they be preparing for the Tang civil service exam or preaching the dharma. One of these new textual forms—encyclopedic texts organized according to categorical divisions—began to appear in China in the late Six Dynasties period and spread to Japan and Korea soon afterwards. These four papers examine different aspects of how writers and compilers of encyclopedic texts in China, Korea, and Japan used a set of similar structural strategies to make diverse textual knowledge easier to retrieve and employ. Nugent’s paper shows how the seventh-century exam prep manual Tuyuan cefu both provides model questions and answers in perfect parallel phrases, and uses those phrases to help readers recall important passages from the classics and histories relevant to the topic at hand. Guest examines how the section on “people” in Sugawara no Tamenaga’s Bunposho organizes linguistic and textual knowledge to assist in literary composition while also integrating conflicting ideals of court service and ascetic reclusion. Hsu’s paper analyzes how Chinese Buddhists adapted the organizational structures of encyclopedic texts to facilitate spreading Buddhist teachings. Finally, Allen examines the tenth-century Taiping guangji as a failure of encyclopedic organization, whose inefficiencies prompted later users in both Korea and China to condense and re-organize it to increase its utility.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Literature Religion Education
Using Big Data to Conduct Comparative Studies of the Civil Services of Qing China and Joseon Korea

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Lawrence L. Zhang | HKUST

Session Abstract:

This panel applies Big Data methods to compare key aspects of the civil services of Qing China and Joseon Korea. Despite their similarities and many common questions related to social mobility and family strategies, due to various constraints such as language, institutional knowledge, and access to sources, systematic attempts to broadly compare these two systems have been profoundly limited. The goal here is to provide answers that can only be found through Big Data approaches that reveal previously undiscovered factors that affected individuals’ career prospects and our understanding of pre-modern East Asian bureaucracies. The two papers by Campbell et al. and Lee et al. investigate the impact of examinations on civil service careers in China and Korea respectively. Combining evidence from civil service records, examination rolls, and family genealogies, these two papers elucidate factors that influenced success or failure of those who obtained degrees beyond the binary of whether one passed or failed the examinations. The question of family background influencing individuals’ abilities to start and develop bureaucratic careers is also further investigated in Chen et al.’s paper by looking at the civil service profiles of the members of the Qing ruling family, the Aisin Gioro and the collateral Gioro clans. Finally, Park et al. uses text-mining methods to uncover shifting political alliances within the Korean civil service. Together, these papers point to new and innovative approaches to the study of East Asian bureaucracies that utilize the vast amounts of data available in the historical record.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Sociology History Information Technology
Waiting as Care? The Ethics of Terminal Illness in Asia

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Merav Shohet | Boston University

Session Abstract:
Recent decades have witnessed the rise of infectious and non-communicable diseases, including, e.g., AIDS/HIV, cancer, stroke, and mental illnesses, as well as the increasing medicalization of aging, more generally, in Asia and worldwide. How do families and other caregivers in South, East, and Southeast Asia cope with terminal and degenerative illnesses? What are the activities, practices, and moral orientations that structure patients’ or caregivers’ periods of waiting for death—or sometimes alternatively, hoped-for, if miraculous, recovery—in Asia’s different locales? How are these related to normative forms of care in different familial and state settings in South, East, and Southeast Asia? Who is involved and what types of relationships are enacted? How do different subjects emotionally experience or affectively express their sentiments about such periods of waiting? Drawing on long-term ethnographic fieldwork in China, India, Indonesia, and Vietnam, panelists theorize the ways in which waiting can be both a form of care and also, perhaps paradoxically, an experience of feeling stuck and of anticipating a dreaded yet desired future. Taken together, the papers collectively compare the ways in which the activities and practices involved in waiting when facing terminal illness or daily life within a “terminal care site” can suspend or embody mourning. By illuminating different Asian communities’ modes of coping with (future and present) loss, we also more broadly theorize their modes of orienting to time and enacting relationships.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): Anthropology  Woman Studies  Gender & Sexuality
Wonders of the Weak: Fraught Self-Fashioning by and Against Chinas in the Cold War

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Yanqiu Zheng | Northwestern University

Session Abstract:

This panel examines marginalized polities’ self-fashioning to survive and thrive in a changing Cold War order. Each presenter historicizes the recent rise of China and its global reach into far-flung polities, markets, and communities by examining the emergence of global Chinas in the mid-twentieth century. The diverse experiences of Cambodia, Vietnam, the former British East Africa, and the two Chinese governments indicate that the Sinosphere both shaped and was shaped by post-WWII decolonization in the developing world. Meanwhile, efforts from the PRC and ROC to extend their networks internationally were central to consolidation, political legitimacy, and to entrenching themselves in a globalized world. Barnes and Galway explore Communist China’s cultural diplomacy in Non-Aligned nations—Chinese medical missions in East Africa and intellectual student groups comprised of Paris-educated Cambodian progressives. Path explores North Vietnam’s multilateral state diplomacy strategies with its big-power allies: the Soviet Union and China. Zheng examines Republic of China’s cultural diplomatic efforts to court American public support for its legitimacy as the Chinese nation by deploying performance troupes that were well received yet did not generate sufficient political capital. Far from vacuous propaganda, these projects reflected cultural understandings of two Chinese worldviews, their respective visions of how “China” interacted with other nations and the international system, and how global forces affected Chinese understandings of themselves. To be “China” was inextricable from the world both Chinas cohabited. Our panel discusses competing ideological and cultural strategies both Chinas deployed to construct new transnational networks in the post-Chinese Civil War era.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): History Political Science International Relations
Writing, Technology, and Information Politics in East Asia

Sponsored by: not applicable

Organizer | Ulug Kuzuoglu | Columbia University

Session Abstract:

Starting in the late-nineteenth century, the Chinese writing system across East Asia encountered a world that it had never seen before. The rise of a capitalist world order, the constitution of new bureaucratic and legal regimes, and the inauguration of new communication technologies put unprecedented pressure on the use of Chinese characters. What kind of changes did the Chinese writing system go through to accommodate these transformations? How was it repurposed to inscribe new orders of social relations? What kind of alternative political possibilities did its “reform” open up?

This panel interrogates the interface between writing, language, and technology in East Asia from the late-nineteenth century onwards. Analyzing the originals of a large corpus of laws signed by the Japanese Emperor from 1886 to today, Raja Adal investigates the authority channeled by typewriting and handwriting in the making of Japanese legal modernity. Shifting gears from legal materiality to language politics, Daniel Pieper brings us textbooks from early pre-colonial and colonial Korea, and explains how Koreans and Japanese maneuvered through the contentious politics of Chinese characters and Korean vernaculars. Zhong Yurou traces how Chao Yuen Ren, father of modern Chinese linguistics, pursued the idea of sound writing, and raises fundamental questions about sound technologies and alphabetic universalism. Lastly, Ulug Kuzuoglu finds the historical origins of pinyin, the Chinese Latin Alphabet, in the reforms of the Arabic script in Western and Central Asia, and explores the value of political imaginations that came out of this forgotten Eurasian exchange.

Area of Study: Inter-area/Border Crossing

Discipline(s): History Information Technology Language Translation