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NZASIA New Zealand Asian
Studies Society Inc

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Contents

1. Report from the NZASIA President2
2. Regional Updates
 - 2.1 Auckland University of Technology5
 - 2.2 University of Auckland7
 - 2.3 University of Canterbury9
 - 2.4 University of Otago 11
 - 2.5 Victoria University of Wellington 14
3. 2015 NZASIA Conference CFP 17

1. Report from the NZASIA President

Dear all,

As this is my first report as the newly elected President of NZASIA, I would like to start with a personal note of thanks. I want to acknowledge two outgoing members of the executive. I am very grateful to Stephen Epstein, who has served as president for the past two years for all his encouragement and willingness to share his thoughts on what has been done and needs to be done. I also would like to thank Rosemary Haddon for her contribution as our publication officer. The compilation of our newsletter is not an easy task. Some years ago, when I was serving as secretary, I prepared one newsletter when our publication officer was on RSL and had the opportunity to experience how difficult collecting information from busy academics can be! My thanks are extended to Emerald King who has enthusiastically taken over this role and has in fact already successfully completed the very issue you are now reading. Stay tuned for innovations on this front as Emerald has some interesting ideas on how to make our newsletter, and more broadly, the circulation of information more effective.

To the other valuable members of the executive -Paul Clark, Naimah Talib, and Vanessa Ward- who are continuing in their role as, respectively, Journal Editor, Treasurer and Secretary, also goes my sincere gratitude for their on-going support to our Society.

Stepping up into this role, I am reminded of how incredibly helpful NZASIA has been in my own professional and personal journey as an Italian-born, US-educated Chinese studies scholar who relocated to New Zealand about 12 years ago. I am both honoured and surprised (“has it been already that long?” and “can it be only 12 years?”) to write this report as NZASIA president. When I moved to New Zealand, I found myself in urgent need to localize my own academic work into a new cultural context. My research networks had developed within and beyond China, in the northern hemisphere, mostly in Europe and the US. I wondered how I was going to learn about and connect with the local academic community. Two colleagues - Brian Moloughney and Henry Johnson (who both also served our Society in various roles, e.g., journal editor, president, and conference convener) - warmly encouraged me to join NZASIA and attend the biennial conference that was going to take place in December of that year, in Auckland. I still remember quite vividly my first encounters with postgraduate students and many of the colleagues with whom later on I developed important collaborations. Since then, our journal and our conference have remained crucial channels to foster my own understanding of Asian studies in Aotearoa as well as develop locally-based but internationally-directed research collaborations (which ranged from bringing distinguished speakers to NZ, to organizing symposia or publishing edited collections) with colleagues whom I had met thanks to NZASIA.

Besides intellectual and personal drives, there are indeed also ideological

and pragmatic reasons why we should support this Society. Our government has become increasingly aware of the importance of the Asian region in economic and foreign policy terms. On the one hand, initiatives such as the Prime Minister Scholarship for Asia go in the direction of supporting academic understanding of the complexity of Asia. On the other hand support for humanities and social sciences disciplines (areas in which most of Asian studies scholars work) has declined and a national society such as NZASIA needs to remain visible and active so that our political leadership is reminded of the plurality of scholarly perspectives available and necessary for such understanding. I wish to convey to you all how important is to keep this society alive and well.

Membership drive should therefore be our first priority. I would like to appeal to our members so that they not only make sure that they renew their membership timely, but that they also make an effort to invite new colleagues and - above all - graduate students to join. New people and new ideas are essential for the growth of our society.

Our executive has held an audiovisual meeting on the 27 March and we have begun to brainstorm about how we can actively engage in an effort to increase our membership. In particular, given that 2015 is a conference year, we wish to encourage both old and new members to join us in Christchurch, and submit proposals for the upcoming conference on “Asian Intersections: Identities and Linkages” (held at the University of Canterbury, 29 November - 1 December 2015). The organizing committee is now working on securing keynote speakers. In order to support the committee, our executive is also exploring a number of additional events targeted to postgraduate students (i.e., a best paper award for postgraduate students, and a special workshop with reception to follow hosted by senior members of NZASIA). Please keep an eye on the Conference website (<http://www.arts.canterbury.ac.nz/nzasia/>) as more updates will soon become available.

I look forward to seeing you at our conference.

With best wishes,
Paola Voci
President, NZASIA

15 May 2015

2. Regional Updates

2.1 Auckland University of Technology

Sharyn Graham Davies (School of Social Sciences) submitted the following report:

AUT and Vietnam

AUT University marked the 40th anniversary of New Zealand's bilateral relationship with Vietnam by hosting Prime Minister Nguyễn Tấn Dũng and signing an education Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Vietnam's Quang Ninh province. Discussions with the Vietnamese delegation, headed by the Prime Minister, covered AUT's educational partnership with the country, including training of more than 300 Vietnamese officials in 2014 in areas of human resource development, public policy and English language.

AUT and Nepal

AUT has been actively collecting donations to assist with the relief effort in Nepal.

AUT and Malaysia

Dr Nancy McIntyre is presenting a paper on 'food as a language: a Malaysian perspective' at AUT's Hospitality and Tourism conference 10-13 June, 2015.

AUT, Asia and Fulbright

Sharyn Graham Davies and Ineke Crezee have been appointed as Fulbright Campus advisors. The pair are encouraging staff and students to apply for one of the many Fulbright awards. The awards can be used to bring US-based Asia experts or scholars to New Zealand or to send NZ-based Asian experts or scholars to the US (sharyn.davies@aut.ac.nz).

AUT and the Philippines

Dr Alwin Aguirre's Phd thesis, entitled 'Negotiating the Filipino in Cyberspace: Online new media identity constructions of Filipinos in New Zealand, was recently marked by an international panel and passed with no amendments.

AUT and Indonesia

AUT has published a number of articles concerning Indonesia, including work on beauty in Indonesia, and policing in Indonesia. Two examples include the 2015 publication of '**Gangnam Style versus Eye of the Tiger: People, Police and Procedural Justice in Indonesia**' in *Policing and Society: An International Journal of Research and Policy* and '**The Pretty Imperative: Handcuffing Policewomen in Indonesia**' in *Intersections: Gender and Sexuality in Asia and the Pacific*.

AUT and the Bali 9 Executions in Indonesia

Sharyn Graham Davies has been writing about the recent executions of the so called ring leaders of the Bali 9 drug smugglers in Indonesia.

Contextualising the executions: A comment for NZASIA newsletter by Sharyn Graham Davies

When Joko Widodo became president of Indonesia in 2014 he removed the moratorium on the death penalty and stated that it was time to get tough on crime. Under Widodo's watch a number of Indonesian and foreign nationals have been executed by firing squad - 7 foreign nationals this year alone.

Many other Westerners are currently on death row in Indonesia - most notable perhaps is Lindsay Sandiland, a British grandmother currently fighting execution in Indonesia on drug trafficking grounds. A New Zealander, Antony de Malmanche, is also on death row in Indonesia.

The executions of the Bali Nine shows not just a lack of clemency, but the severe failings of the Indonesian justice system. This system is about getting a confession, coerced if necessary, and then cramming inmates into confined spaces with little food or access to health care, and limited access to diversion, parole or legal aid.

In 2010, I visited a maximum security prison in Indonesia and noted the overcrowding and poor conditions. Davies also witnessed what money can buy - it buys freedom, it can even buy weekly release passes. At the very least, it buys proper food and medical treatment.

Indonesia's justice system is a system that has little time or money to care about inmates -forced confessions mean everyone is guilty and no one has sympathy for the guilty, even if they are reformed.

What is lacking in Indonesia's justice system is any semblance of procedural justice. What this means is that it is a system where money buys freedom; a lack of money can mean execution.

Corruption within Indonesia's justice system starts at the very bottom and extends right to the top. You are unlikely to be arrested if you can bribe a cop; failing that you are likely to be quickly released from prison if you can bribe a warden; failing that you are likely to have a sentence reduced if you can bribe a judge.

We should remember that the Australia government has not been consistent about this issue. It pushed for the death penalty for the Bali Bombers.

Moreover, Indonesia is currently pleading with foreign governments, such as Saudi Arabia, to commute the death sentences of its own citizens there. Indeed, Indonesia has previously paid '**blood money**' to Saudi Arabia to have the death sentence of one of its citizens commuted to life in prison. Governments it seems all support the execution of people as long as they are not their own citizens.

In the weeks to come Australia will interrogate their own activities; why did they allow the men to be arrested in Bali when they had allegedly agreed to let them travel to Australia and arrest them there?

2.2 University of Auckland

Ellen Nakamura (School of Cultures, Languages and Linguistics) submitted the following report:

Visitors

In the first half of this year, Asian Studies scholars and students have enjoyed a number of seminars and public lectures given by visiting scholars.

Professor Hiroaki Sera, Emeritus of Shikoku University, spoke on *The Tale of Genji* in March. His presentation, entitled, 'Discovering the Tale of Genji, the World's First Full-length Romance' drew on his years of experience working to introduce more effectively this work as well as other works of Japanese literature into the school curriculum in Japan.

Professor Sera spoke with the aid of an interpreter, Ms Ria Shibata, a PhD student at the University of Otago, and addressed an audience of some 40 readers of the work in English translation.

Professor Charles Shirō Inouye from Tufts University spoke on the topic of "Translation, a Lover's Quarrel: The original, the translator, & the lose-lose situation" on 17 March. . Professor Inouye, an award-winning translator of the stories of Japanese writer Izumi Kyōka (1873-1939), spoke to an enthusiastic group of some 50 students and staff on both the joys and the struggles involved with translating literary works from Japanese into English. Professor Inouye's talk was punctuated by humorous anecdotes generated over three decades of teaching and translating. Professor Inouye's lecture was jointly sponsored by the School of Cultures, Languages, & Linguistics and the New Zealand Society of Translators and Interpreters.

Events

On 28 April 2015 Professor Paul Clark (Asian Studies) gave a seminar titled "Inventing Leisure in Contemporary China: Time Off in Beijing since 1949." Drawing on his Marsden Fund research on changing leisure and leisure spaces in Beijing, Clark outlined the shifts in popular recreation between two broad eras defined around 1980. In the period before then leisure was often a collective project, though there was space for more private pursuits. The shift to more individual leisure activities was associated with changes in living standards and life-styles from the 1980s. In the third part of the talk, Clark examined the early issues of a popular magazine, *Spare Time (Ba xiaoshi yiwai)* that first appeared in 1980. Articles tackled the idea of leisure as a non-productive, private space, but tended to exhibit a kind of Victorian attitude that "idle hands are the devil's workmates." The idea of leisure took time to become acceptable.

On 15 May, world-renowned novelist Haruki Murakami came to Dr Lawrence Marceau's undergraduate course, "Geisha & Samurai?: Edo Literature", on a private visit while in New Zealand as an invited guest of the Auckland

Writers Festival. Mr Murakami shared his insights regarding the relationships found between his fiction and the work of early modern Japanese writer, scholar, poet, and tea connoisseur Ueda Akinari (1734-1809). Approximately 50 students and colleagues were enthralled with his talk, and took this rare opportunity to ask him questions on a range of issues, from his fiction to his political views.

On 21 May Dr Lawrence Marceau gave an invited public lecture to the Friends of the Devonport Library, a branch of the Auckland Libraries. The lecture, entitled, "Japanese Woodblock Printed Illustrated Books in the Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland Library," attracted approximately 60 attendees, who asked a number of engaged questions following the talk. The talk featured images from some of the 48 volumes, dating from the 1870s and 1880s, in the collection. Several of the works are rare, even in Japan, and one of Dr Marceau's aims while in residence at the Art Research Center, Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto, this year, is to identify and further clarify the nature of several of the most unusual works from the collection, a set of 15 very small volumes of fully illustrated books for children dating from ca. 1880.

News from the New Zealand Asia Institute

NZAI's Japan Studies Centre welcomed two political scientists from Sophia University, Tokyo, for the month of March. Koichi Nakano, Professor of Political Science in the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Graduate School of Global Studies, was invited as a Distinguished Visitor and supported by a grant from the University of Auckland Foundation. His seminar for staff and students in Asian Studies and Political Studies addressed the question "Is Japan Shifting to the Right?" He also was guest lecturer for several courses in Asian Studies and Politics, and provided a talk for a roundtable on "Japan in Northeast Asia: Challenges of Reconciliation in a Neoliberal Age," which was moderated by Dr. Stephen Noakes, and included responses from Professor Gerald Chan and Mr. Corey Wallace (Political Studies and International Relations). The second visiting scholar, Mari Miura, Professor of Political Science in Sophia University's Faculty of Law, gave a seminar entitled "Neoliberal Motherhood: Care and Work in Japanese Welfare State." Both scholars contributed to fruitful discussions with staff and students about current research on contemporary Japanese society over the course of their five-week stay.

The Korea Studies Centre has played host to two KSC-AKS international visitors, Professor Hyaeweol Choi of the ANU in March, who gave a seminar on her new research on New Women in colonial Korea; and Professor Byong-Won Lee (of the University of Hawai'i) in May, who gave two seminars, one in Asian Studies on the politics of Arirang, a favourite Korean song now claimed by North and South Korea, as well as the PRC, and one in Anthropology on the development of K-Pop from the earlier Korean popular music scene.

Other recent NZAI seminars have been given by the Indonesian Foreign Minister and by Professor Bo Zhiyue from Victoria University Wellington.

News from the Confucius Institute in Auckland

In early February the Confucius Institute in Auckland welcomed forty-four Mandarin Language Assistants from Chinese universities to work in near 100 schools and tertiary institutions for the academic year. Nine are returnees coming for the second time. A series of workshops for the MLAs and their lead teacher at schools was organized to ensure the smooth running of the program. Chinese New Year activities: These activities included events in several Auckland public libraries, specialist talks and cultural demonstrations at Auckland Museum, and a Tea House at the Lantern Festival. The Confucius Institute was invited to send a specialist teacher to the University of French Polynesia Tahiti to support their Chinese New Year celebration in February. The annual China Bridge Competition was completed in early May. The special award of a full paid scholarship in China for an academic year went to Thomas Nicholas, a University of Auckland student. He has been chosen to compete in China for the international semi-final and final competitions in July. This year the Confucius Institute in Auckland has started another customized business training program for the staff of Ministry of Primary Industries' Auckland office.

2.3 University of Canterbury

Naimah Talib (Political Science) submitted the following report:

The New Zealand South Asia Centre and the **New Zealand India Research Institute** hosted a one-day workshop, Indian Migration to the Pacific and Indian Ocean States, at the University of Canterbury in April this year. Themes covered in the workshop focused on early migration and settlement in both Australia and New Zealand, migrant health, gender and politics.

The Confucius Institute at the University of Canterbury (CIUC) recently hosted the National Finals of the Chinese Bridge Chinese Proficiency competition. Students from around the country converged on Christchurch to display their oral Chinese skills. The winner of the Senior Secondary School competition was awarded a grant by the New Zealand China Council and will travel to China to compete in the International Finals. Nathan Taylor and Bradley Meredith will represent UC in China for the tertiary competition. Last year's university representative, Emily Wilby, has been given a scholarship to study in China for a year at Xiamen University. The number of schools offering Chinese in the South Island continues to grow, with a total of 80 schools now offering Chinese. The number of Mandarin Language Assistants working in the South Island has also shown a corresponding growth. A delegation of New Zealand principals visited China with the Deputy Director of the Confucius Institute, Professor Hong Hu. They had the opportunity to see China's education system in action, and visit the Confucius Institute Headquarters in Beijing. CIUC visited Marlborough Girls' College (which does not currently have a Chinese language programme) and demonstrated Chinese cultural activities such as Tai Chi. Consul General Jin Zhijian gave a talk at UC on the topic, 'Great Opportunities Facing Sino-New Zealand Relations'.

Richard Bullen (Art History, UC) and **James Beattie (Waikato)** began research on their Marsden-funded project, investigating the Rewi Alley Collection at Canterbury Museum. Richard gave a paper at the 2nd Australian Studies Conference, hosted at Peking University, 11-12 September 2014 on the Collection. In addition, James and Richard co-authored a book, *Visions of Peace: The H.W. Youren Collection and the art of Chinese soft diplomacy*, and curated an exhibition held at UC in November/December of items from the Youren collection. Richard and James, together with Prof Paul Millar and John Chisstoffs were successful in securing contestable research funding from the UC College of Arts to make a film about H W Youren, which is underway.

Kenneth Henshall (Japanese) retired from the University in January this year but he continues to do research. For the last two years he worked with Christopher Seeley and Jiageng Fan to produce an updated version of his Sino-Japanese character book following the addition (by the Japanese Ministry of Education) of around two hundred more characters to their formal character corpus. The book's title is *The Complete Guide to Japanese Kanji* and it is due out soon. Ken was asked by Jon Woronoff, the series editor of the renowned Historical Dictionary Series, to write a *Historical Dictionary of Japan to 1945*, published in late 2014 (690 pp).

Jim Ockey (Political Science) returned from Thailand in January this year after spending six months doing research on reconciliation and local politics. He recently published "Benedict Anderson and Siam Studies," *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies*, vol.46, no.2, 2015; "Thai Political Families: The Impact of Political Inheritance," [*TRaNS: Trans -Regional and -National Studies of Southeast Asia*](#), Special Issue on Families in Asia, vol.3, 2015; "Madness, Authoritarianism, and Political Participation: The Curious Case of Cham Jamratnet," in Maurizio Peleggi, ed., *A Sarong for Clio: Essays on the Cultural and Intellectual History of Thailand* (festschrift for Craig Reynolds), Ithaca: Cornell University Southeast Asia Program, 2015.

Alex Tan (Political Science) presented a paper on "Etiology of Party System Development and Voter Alignments in Democratic Taiwan" at the International Conference on Development of Democracy, Zagreb, Croatia on 28-29 April 2015. He also published with Michael Magcamit a journal article titled "Crouching tiger, lurking dragon: understanding Taiwan's sovereignty and trade linkages in the twenty-first century" which appeared in *International Relations of the Asia-Pacific* 15(1): 81-112.

Xiaoming Wu (Chinese) continues his research in 2015 in the field of Chinese thought, Chinese culture and comparative philosophy. He was invited to attend an International Symposium: Confucianism and Modern Society held at Bond University (Gold Coast, Australia) from the 14th to 15th of May, and gave a presentation "There is no ONE Confucianism". This is the second conference Xiaoming Wu attended with full sponsorship from the conference organizers since 2015, the first being an International Symposium on Chinese Classics, Classical Studies, and Modern Interpretation of Confucian Thought held at Shenzhen University, Shenzhen, China, 24-25

January 2015. There he presented a full paper entitled “Some Hermeneutic questions about *The Doctrine of the Mean*, a Chinese Classic”. In January 2015, he published “Zuowei fanshi de yuyan, zuowei yuyan de fanshi (Language as paradigm, paradigm as language)” in the Journal of Peking University (Philosophy and Social Sciences Edition, vol. 52, no. 1: 33-41).

2.4 University of Otago

Susan Heydon (Social Pharmacy) submitted the following report:

Activities:

Vanessa Ward (Department of History & Art History) is honoured to have received a 2015 Twentieth-Century Japan Research Award from the Nathan and Jeanette Miller Center for Historical Studies at the University of Maryland, to use the Prange Collection of Japan publications screened by the Civil Censorship Detachment of Occupation Administration. She is excited to be able to visit this archive in September and would very much like to hear from NZASIA members who have used the archive. She can be contacted at: Vanessa.Ward@otago.ac.nz.

Gautam Ghosh (Department of Anthropology & Archaeology) gave invited presentations on “The 1947 Partition of Bengal and its aftermath” at: Victoria University Wellington, under the auspices of New Zealand India Research Institute (June 2014); Heidelberg University’s South Asia Institute (December 2014); Kings College London, “Borders, Citizenship & Mobility” Workshop (February 2015) and Oxford University, Asian Studies Centre (February 2015).

Susan Heydon (School of Pharmacy) visited Kathmandu, Nepal in April where she gave an invited research seminar at the Martin Chautari research and policy institute about smallpox in Nepal before the global eradication programme and invited talks about social pharmacy at Kathmandu University and the Manmohan Memorial Institute of Health Sciences. She left just a week before the devastating earthquake.

New staff:

The Chinese Programme in the Department of Languages and Cultures welcomes two new staff members starting from January 2015, Dr. Sin Wen Lau and Dr Lorraine Wong.

Dr Sin Wen Lau read Sociology for her BSocSc at the National University of Singapore, and obtained her MA in East Asian Studies and PhD in Anthropology from The Australian National University (ANU). She was a Research Fellow at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity, and has taught Asian Studies and Anthropology at the University of Sydney and the ANU. She is currently a Lecturer at SIM University in Singapore. Sin Wen has worked primarily with the overseas Chinese in China. She has conducted extensive fieldwork in Shanghai, with shorter periods in Singapore and Australia. Her research interests cover the anthropology of China, globalisation, religion, migration, gender, and the Chinese diaspora. She co-edited a book (with Nanlai Cao), Religion and

Mobility in a Globalising Asia: New Ethnographic Explorations, and has published in The Australian Journal of Anthropology and The Asia Pacific Journal of Anthropology. Currently, her research explores the business-religious strategies of Singaporean business people in Shanghai in an attempt to determine the relationship between the transnational movement of a religious idea and the shaping of global business practices. She hopes ultimately to offer possibilities of conceptualising a Chinese mode of mobility.

Dr Lorraine Wong has a Ph.D in Comparative Literature (2013) from NYU (“The Chinese Latinization Movement, 1917-1958: Language, History and Politics”) and Master of Philosophy (MPhil) in Sociology (2004) from a Cambridge University, (“The Banality of a Multiculturalism: The Case of Hanif Kureishi’s Cultural Hybridity”) as Master of Philosophy (MPhil) in English Literature (2002) from University of Hong Kong, (“Cultural Fever, Consumer Society and Pre-Orientalism: China in Eighteenth-Century England”). Her research on the Chinese Latinization Movement challenges the standard understanding of Chinese writing as pure ideography by uncovering a cultural history of internationalism in the first half of the twentieth century that has been overshadowed by the perceived uniqueness of Chinese culture. She is also developing a new area of research focused on the current advocacy for the use of topolects in literature in areas beyond southern China.

Before joining us, Lorraine taught modern and contemporary Chinese literature and culture as well as critical theory as an adjunct instructor at the Queens College of the City University of New York.

Visitors:

On 19 March 2015, the Division of Humanities hosted a public lecture at the University. **Professor Sekhar Bandyopadhyay**, Director, New Zealand India Research Institute, VUW, talked about “Partition and Dalit Peasant Refugees in Eastern India, 1946-1964”.

On 20 April 2015, the Asian Migrations Research Theme (AMRT) also hosted a public lecture at the University. The guest speaker, **Dr Andrew Butcher**, Director, Research at the Asian New Zealand Foundation addressed “The migrant, the trader, and the country: How Asia is changing New Zealand and why it matters”.

Publication:

Recently published - *Asians and the New Multiculturalism in Aotearoa New Zealand*, edited by Gautam Ghosh & Jacqueline Leckie, University of Otago Press, 2015. See:

<http://www.otago.ac.nz/press/booksauthors/2014/multiculturalism.html>

Contents

1. Introduction: Multi-multiculturalisms in the new New Zealand- Gautam Ghosh
2. ‘I Made a Space For You’: Renegotiating national identity and citizenship in contemporary Aotearoa New Zealand - Paul Spoonley
3. Negotiating Multiculturalism and the Treaty of Waitangi -Camille Nakhid and

Heather Devere 4. Native Alienz - Hilary Chung 5. Under the Kiwi Gaze: Public Asian festivals and multicultural Aotearoa New Zealand - Henry Johnson 6. Whither Cultural Acceptance? Muslims and multiculturalism in New Zealand - Erich Kolig 7. The New Asian Faces of Kiwi Christianity - Andrew Butcher and George Wieland 8. (Mis)Reporting Islam: New Zealand Muslim women viewing 'us' viewing 'them' - Stephanie Dobson 9. Immigrant Economies in Action: Chinese ethnic precincts in Auckland - Paul Spoonley, Carina Meares and Trudie Cain 10. Valuing Multiculturalism: Business engagement with the challenge of multiculturalism - Tim Beal, Val Lindsay and Kala Retna 11. Afterword: Multiculturalism, being Asian and belonging in Aotearoa New Zealand - Jacqueline Leckie

Forthcoming events:

On **24 August 2015**, the Asian Migrations Research Theme (AMRT) and the Comparative and Cross-Cultural Studies (CCCS) groups are jointly presenting a **postgraduate symposium** hosted by the AMRT, at the University of Otago, Dunedin campus. This is an opportunity for students who received funding during 2014 from AMRT or CCCS to present their research.

'Asia and Education Conference' **11-13 December 2015.**

Call for Papers

Hosted by the AMRT group at the University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand.

Details about the call for papers slated to appear soon on the AMRT's website include:

The past three decades have seen profound changes to education in parts of Asia and to patterns of educational mobility within, from and to the Asia region. Internationally, many countries compete to attract Asian international students, while top Asian universities also attract students and scholars from across Asia and the rest of the world. Asian countries and cities were at the top of the OECD's 2012 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) rankings in mathematics, reading and science, leading to intense global interest in Asian school systems. At the same time, some parts of Asia remain marked by striking educational inequalities and lack of access to formal education at all levels.

New Zealand's educational connections with countries in the Asia region are well established but have changed over time, from an initial focus on education as a form of foreign aid to the annual recruitment and enrolment of thousands of international students. At the same time, New Zealand schools are increasingly promoting Asian languages, particularly Chinese, and schools and tertiary education institutions alike are endeavouring to promote strengthened exchange relationships with Asian educational institutions. This conference is open to anyone conducting research with relevance to Asia and education broadly defined. Hosted by the University of Otago's Asian Migrations Research Theme, the conference aims to build a

network of researchers with an interest in this field and to further scholarly discourse relating to Asia and education. We welcome paper proposals from researchers in any discipline conducting work relating to education and Asia, Asian peoples or countries within the Asia region.

We also welcome papers that consider educational links between Asia and New Zealand. We conceptualise 'education' broadly as including primary, secondary and tertiary education, community education and informal education. Possible themes include: • Educational mobilities from, to and within Asia • Asian education systems, policies and practices • Theoretical, comparative, historical and contemporary perspectives • Educational issues in the Asia region • Asia-New Zealand educational connections • Education and development • Education and inequality • Gender and education • Intersections between health and education • Student perspectives. Postgraduate students and early-career researchers are especially encouraged to submit a paper proposal. We invite proposals that report on work in progress as well as completed work. All sessions will run as 20-minute presentations with 10 minutes for discussion. It is anticipated that a quality-assured publication will result from this symposium, and speakers will be invited to submit full-length papers for consideration.

Keynote speaker: Dr Keita Takayama (University of New England, Australia)
Important dates: **Abstracts due - Friday 31 July**. Please send a 250-word abstract and a 100-word biography to: asian.migrations@otago.ac.nz.

Notification of acceptance - Friday 14 August
Last day for registration - Friday 30 October
Registration fee: NZ\$200 (students NZ\$160; U of Otago students attend gratis). Please note that the AMRT website notification about the conference will include links to register for the conference and for information about securing accommodation in Dunedin.

2.5 Victoria University of Wellington

Activities:

BO Zhiyue (Political Science) reports the following publications and conference presentations, in addition to 25 articles published in *The Diplomat* online journal:

Book Chapters

(2015) “中共內政與安全治理：成效與風險” (“Domestic Governance and Security Management under Xi Jinping: Achievements and Risks”), in Chen Te-sheng, ed., *中共[十八大]：菁英甄補與治理挑戰* (“The 18th National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party: Political Recruitment and Governance Challenges”) (Taipei: INK Publishing), pp. 97-117.

(2015) “China’s new crop of provincial party leaders,” in Zheng Yongnian and Lance L. P. Gore, eds., *China Entering the Xi Jinping Era* (London and New York: Routledge), pp. 75-90.

(2014) "Political Leadership in China," in Paul `t Hart and Rod Rhodes, eds., *Oxford Handbook on Political Leadership* (Oxford: Oxford University Press), pp. 613-626.

(2014) "Paths to the Top Leadership in China: The Case of Provincial Leaders," in Chien-wen Kou and Xiaowei Zang, eds., *Choosing China's Leaders* (London and New York: Routledge), pp. 65-96.

Major Scholarly Presentations

(2015) "China Under Xi Jinping: Economic and Political 'New Normal'," New Zealand Asia Institute, the University of Auckland, New Zealand, May 14.

(2015) "China's Elite Politics and Characteristics of Xi Jinping's Power," Center for Security and Strategy, Korea Institute for Defense Analyses (KIDA), Republic of Korea, February 13.

(2015) "Changes in Xi Jinping's Power and Implications," Center for Chinese Studies, Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security (IFANS), Korea National Diplomatic Academy (KNDA), Republic of Korea, February 11.

Hui Luo (Languages and Cultures) sent in the following report. Each year, the International Institute of Modern Letters publishes 25 Best New Zealand Poems. For the first time, in 2015, a Chinese translation of the latest edition of 25 Best New Zealand Poems will be published through a collaboration between the Confucius Institute, the New Zealand Centre for Literary Translation, the International Institute of Modern Letters and Wai-te-ata Press at Victoria University. The project is spearheaded by Dr Luo Hui, former director of the Confucius Institute and currently co-director of the New Zealand Centre for Literary Translation. The poems are being translated into Chinese by PhD student and poet, Liang Yujing, under the supervision of Luo Hui and IIML's Chris Price. Sydney Shep at Wai-te-ata Press will be in charge of design and production. Funded by the Confucius Institute, the book is scheduled to be launched in November 2015. A truly collaborative effort across languages and disciplines to watch out for!

Emerald King (Languages and Cultures) was a guest speaker on Cosplay (costume play) in Japan and Australasia at a workshop on Japanese Language Learning held by Tohoku University and later at a series of public seminars and workshops hosted by Yokohama University in January earlier this year.

Michael Radich (Religious Studies) reports that he has two new books: Lin, Chen-kuo and Michael Radich, eds. *A Distant Mirror: Articulating Indic Ideas in Sixth and Seventh Century Chinese Buddhism*. Hamburg: Hamburg University Press, 2014. 978-3-943423-19-8.

Michael Radich. *The Mahāparinirvāṇa-mahāsūtra and the Emergence of Tathāgatagarbha Doctrine*. Hamburg Buddhist Studies 5. Edited by Michael Zimmermann. Hamburg: Hamburg University Press, 2015.

From February to December 2015 Michael will be Guest Professor at the Numata Center for Buddhist Studies, University of Hamburg, with the support of an Alexander von Humboldt Foundation Fellowship for Experienced Researchers. In February he gave a talk at Kyoto University followed by talks at Oxford University and the University of Chicago (the latter by video-conferencing) in May.

New staff:

The Chinese Programme farewelled Dr. Vanessa Frangville who has taken up a position at the Université Libre de Bruxelles. The Asian Studies programme is pleased to welcome Dr. Catherine Churchman.

Catherine Churchman studied Chinese and Dutch Studies as an undergraduate in New Zealand and Taiwan before receiving her doctorate in Asian History from the Australian National University in 2012. Catherine's research interests include the history of the Lingnan region of southern China and Mainland Southeast Asia in the first millennium CE, Chinese contact creole languages of Southeast Asia (in particular Malaysian Hokkien), Southern Chinese local identities both within China and amongst the Chinese diaspora, Vietnamese and Tai literature written in *Nôm* (Chinese-based demotic script), Sino-Vietnamese literature, and the role of the Republic of China (Taiwan) in the Korean War.

3. 2015 NZASIA Conference CFP
21st New Zealand Asian Studies Society (NZASIA) International Conference

29 Nov - 1 Dec 2015, University of Canterbury

CALL FOR PAPERS

Conference Theme - Asian Intersections: Identities and Linkages

Asia has long been a crossroads, where civilizations, large and small, and their arts, and cultures, have intersected, interacted and evolved. This has led to complex patterns of social, artistic, political and economic interactions, which have shaped and reshaped identities over the years, in some places peacefully and syncretically, in some places resulting in long lasting conflict or disorder. While these exchanges are subject to power relations and cultural hegemony, they have nevertheless resulted in the emergence of networks that bring together disparate communities, at local, national and even international levels. These networks can promote a congruence of identities that intersect cultures and histories, contributing towards a sense of community that transcends spatial and social contexts. From political communities, such as ASEAN, to economic communities, such as APEC, to NGO communities, such as ANGOC, and even to informal communities organized through social media, interactions have accelerated dramatically in recent years. What trends can be identified? What will be the long term impact of the expanding interactions?

We welcome panel and paper proposals on any topic related to Asia, broadly defined, from all disciplines, and particularly encourage panels/papers that address some aspect of the conference theme.

Abstract submission deadline: extended to 31 August 2015

See our website for more information - www.arts.canterbury.ac.nz/nzasia.

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The views expressed in the Newsletter are those of the contributors and not the official position of NZASIA.