



Newsletter No. 11, August 2002

Contents

1	Travels in Rural China	3.2	News from Massey University
2	News and Announcements	3.3	News from Otago University
2.1	From the Secretary - ASIA 2000/NZASIA Awards	3.4	News from Auckland Institute of Technology
2.2	Amnesty International NZ Asia-Pacific Internship	4	Conferences
2.3	National Language Workshop	4.1	Central Eurasian Studies
2.4	Ogasawara Research Report	4.2	New Zealand-Japan Peace and Friendship Exchange
2.5	NZASIA website	5	People in NZASIA
3	Reports from the Regions	5.1	New Books
3.1	News from Victoria University	6	Membership

1. Travels in Rural China – by Malcolm Cone (University of Otago)



My research project in China in 2001 and 2002 has two research objectives but one medium of representation. The project is designed around using film to record the lives of a matriarchal minority in Yunnan Province and Tibet and carry out a series of film studies of small businesses in rural China. To accomplish these objectives a small team of researchers usually no larger than four members supported me at any one time, comprising the researcher, a translator and two-camera crew from the University of Otago, Ms Tiffany Cone and Mr Daniel Lees. We used two digital video cameras in tandem in interviews and general filming and compiled in excess of 20 hours of film that will over the next few months be edited into half hour films on the two topic areas.

There were many sceptics who vowed that such a project was doomed to fail. A number of colleagues, in both New Zealand and China were sure that the sensitivity of authorities in China to any study of minorities was such that access would automatically be denied. In fact the study was so well received in Yunnan province (north of Myanmar and east of Tibet) that we were emboldened to visit Tibet as well and gained supplementary footage there of the life of Tibetans in a rapidly modernising Tibet. Even greater doubts were cast (by colleagues at Huazhong University in Wuhan) on the chances of filming inside small businesses in rural

China. We found, as was the case with our work with minorities in Yunnan and Tibet, that the owners and managers of small business (a relative term as some are selling their products in 30 countries world wide and have turnovers in excess of \$15,000,000 US) were open and generous with their time and in the answers they gave to our questions and the access they granted to the camera crew.

Explanations for the level of access are without doubt multiplex, however I am sure that our success had a lot to do with the calibre of the my two co-researchers. They were Dr Haixin Jiang, a Senior Lecturer from the Chinese Section at Otago University who was on sabbatical in Sichuan province (adjacent to Yunnan and Tibet). She acted as both interpreter and co-researcher in Yunnan and Tibet, and Professor Zhilong Tian head of the marketing department Huazhong University who acted as interpreter and front man in our organisational studies in rural Hubei province.

Yunnan and Tibet

The theme of the study in Yunnan looked at the effects of government policy on Naxi identity and in Tibet on Tibetan identity. In the case of the matriarchal Naxi in Yunnan we were interested to find out if there was a continuation of matrilineal property and naming rights, in this minority group. To judge by the information provided by contacts in both Yunnan and Tibet on this visit, reports of discrimination against minorities by the Chinese government seem exaggerated. We found that there was a policy of affirmative action for minorities both locally and at the national level. At the local level schools in minority areas taught in both the language of the particular ethnic group and in Mandarin in an attempt to prepare local children for the wider Chinese world and at the same time ensure the continuity of their own culture. The intention seemed to be to support the continuation of indigenous culture and the economic viability of the minority communities by supporting farming and tourist initiatives with state subsidies and low interest loans. There was evidence of considerable diversification away from subsistence agriculture in both Yunnan and Tibet with large apple, peach and apricot orchards, vegetable growing under glass at 4500 meters with extensive bean fields, cornfields and large fields of barley and rape.



The only access to Naxi country is via a very long and winding mountain road, all in all an 8-hour journey from Lijiang in northwest Yunnan. The highest pass is just over 4000 metres and is crossed just before entering Naxi country the road then winding through a landscape of azalea and rhododendron groves and steep rushing mountain streams to Lake Lugu at an altitude of 3000 metres. The lake, once a favoured place of residence by the noted 1930s American ethnologist Joseph Rock who built a house on a small island, is surrounded by high mountains on every side. In the winter these are covered with snow down to the lake shore.

The culture of the Naxi has unique characteristics not found to my knowledge among other matrilineal cultures. Once a Naxi woman has reached puberty, she has a lifelong right to have multiple sexual partners, she alone has the power to accept or spurn (a practice apparently frowned on for a brief period by the Chinese authorities in the moralistic time of the cultural revolution) but now accepted and even encouraged, if the Naxi women we interviewed were reliable informants. The women seemed especially content, masters of their own destinies to a remarkable degree, they showed strength of character, quiet authority and easy command that could not fail to impress. Tibetan women were equally strong and self reliant although they lacked the advantages of the women of Naxi. There is a contrast between the success of the Naxi who seem to be adapting the cash economy and its attendant diversions with style, to the people of Tibet who seem caught in the contradictions of pastoral farming and Buddhist devoutness on one hand and the attractions of the burgeoning job market and industrialisation that has emerged in Tibet on the other.

Hubei

The research carried out in Hubei province had a similar intention, that is, to understand rural responses to development but with a different focus; to study the dynamics of the small businesses in rural China that now account for over 50% of China's GDP, yet have received little government investment or been the recipient of foreign investment. Like the Naxi of Lugu Lake, but unlike the people of Tibet (who seem somewhat confused by the variety of choice to which they are now exposed) the people of rural China are self reliant, and highly motivated.

The study (begun in 2001) has been an attempt to understand how the rural Chinese have been able to thrive in small and isolated villages, often served by poor country roads thousands of kilometres from the ports of Shanghai or Hong Kong. The question was, how could these people on their own initiative have developed collectively owned manufacturing enterprises that export to countries around the world. And equally intriguing, how they have used the profits from their enterprise to put a car in every garage and new schools and medical services in their communities, all funded from the commercial activities of local entrepreneurs who do not own the business they start.

As with informants in Yunnan our research was met with a high degree of openness and self-critical analysis. In each organisation the issues of management responsibility, profit sharing, staff training and personal commitment were discussed with confidence and insight. A telecommunications company was especially generous allowing our film crew access to their assembly line to see the actual manufacture of what will be totally new (for China and maybe the world) communications technologies, a pay internet/email/phone device that will be placed in the phone booths that are visible every few hundred metres on the streets of many of the large cities of China.

The study has another year to run and I anticipate that the present situation will not remain the same, the only constant in the social landscape in rural China is change. If present trends are a reliable guide change will occur in the context of an increasing industrialisation of rural China. One thing I feel sure of is that the motivation to succeed will not abate. With rural China still supporting over 70% of the country's population, the pressure to succeed is pervasive.

2. News and Announcements

2.1 From the Secretary - Asia 2000/NZASIA Research Awards 2002

Greetings from the Secretary's chair. Life continues to keep us all fully busy and more. And in my naivety I thought the postmodern age was supposed to prioritise leisure! The main business of NZASIA of late has been the ASIA 2000 / NZASIA Research Awards (including the Malay Studies Award). The awards were hotly contested, across a variety of disciplines, geographical areas, and home-bases, and we received five times as many applications as we could fund. After careful scrutiny, awards went to:

- **Sian Halcrow** (Otago): Health and disease of prehistoric Southeast Asian adults.
- **Charles Campbell** (Canterbury): Systems of wealth distribution in the Bombay Karnatak.
- **Jane Havemann** (Waikato): Community resource management of the nipa palm in the Philippines.
- **Glen McCabe** (Canterbury): Sociology and management of soccer in Japan.
- **Robyn Andrews** (Massey): Maintenance of community among the Anglo-Indians of Calcutta.
- **Tan Bee Hoon** (Massey): Malay Studies Award: the applicability of online writing labs to Asian ESL undergraduates.

Congratulations to these recipients, as well as to Garrett Wong (Auckland), for winning the Rewi Alley Scholarship earlier, and commiserations to those who dipped out. Thanks also to all who contributed in some way or other to the awards, especially ASIA 2000 (and in particular Pamela Barton), and Professor Yaacob Harun at VUW.

Our next business will be the formalisation of councillor appointments, which will take place within the next few weeks.

2.2 Amnesty International NZ Asia-Pacific Internship Programme

Amnesty International New Zealand, as part of its vision of NZ as a strong promoter and protector of human rights in our region, undertakes specialist research and campaigning on the Asia-Pacific, especially its sub-regional mechanisms such as ASEAN, APEC and others. We are constantly recruiting interns to work with us in this programme. Among other things, the internship may consist of research on the Asia-Pacific inter-governmental mechanisms, human rights mechanisms, lobbying, keeping track of developments in the region which impact on human rights, following developments in human rights in high risk Asia-Pacific countries and advising appropriate responses from Amnesty International, preparing reports and documents and helping in preparation for Amnesty International's presence at intergovernmental and other meetings. The intern works directly with the Executive Director and Campaign Manager of Amnesty International NZ. This internship provides an opportunity for an intern to make a significant impact on Amnesty International's work in this area and gain a great deal of work experience. For further information about the internship programme please visit: www.amnesty.org.nz

2.3 National Language Workshop

Edwina Palmer (Head, Department of Asian Studies, University of Canterbury) represented the University at the Deans of Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities' National Language Workshop: "Teaching and Research in University Language Programmes: Successful Practices, Creative Strategies," held in Brisbane, 14-16 June 2002. Asianists in New Zealand are recommended to read "Maximizing Australia's Asia Knowledge: Repositioning and Renewal of a National Asset," published by the Asian Studies Association of Australia, Inc., 2002 (ISBN 0-9580837-0-3). This report outlines recent trends in both Asian Studies and Asian Languages programmes in Australia, and is instructive for us in New Zealand.

2.4 Ogasawara Research Report

Project Director: Dr Nanyan Guo (University of Otago): "Comparative Reflections on Nature of the Asia-Pacific Region: Moving from Paradigms of Development to Paradigms of Understanding and Conservation"

The project includes three parts:

- Exchange of information, research results and opinions among the participating scholars from six countries, New Zealand, Japan, Australia, Korea, the United States and China, on environmental issues of Ogasawara and the Asia-Pacific during the period of May 2001-April 2002;
- Conference entitled 'The Ogasawara Forum 2002, Nature and Humanity of the Asia-Pacific: A Search for the Sustainability' was held in Chichijima, Ogasawara on 28 - 30 March, 2002;
- A book tentatively titled Nature and Humanity of the Asia-Pacific: Viewing from Ogasawara is being edited by the scholars of Otago University, and will be published in two languages, Japanese and English, and possibly also in Chinese.

The project aims at understanding several environmental issues by examining their historical, ecological, economical, political and religious causes. Although the past, current and future situations of nature and culture of the Ogasawara Islands are the main focus of the project, we believe that Ogasawara's situation will be well understood, and the problems will be resolved when the experiences of the Asia-Pacific region are taken into consideration. Therefore, experts on the Asia-Pacific environmental issues from a wide range of perspectives, such as ecology, anthropology, sociology, musicology, literature, geology, botany, economy, history, political science, tourism and environmental science, are involved in the project. The project was carried out successfully, and the excellent outcomes will result in a book. The 12 participants and their papers were:

Dr Henry Johnson (University of Otago)

'Sound, environment, and the politics of place: a study of the popular music of Ringu Rinkusu and their reflections on nature in Ogasawara, Japan'

Mr. Takaya Yasui (Research Society of Ogasawara's Wild Life)

'The current situation and the future of Ogasawara's natural environment'

Ms Haruko Miki (PhD student of Sophia University)

'The reasons for going on sightseeing tours and the position of Ogasawara - Towards growing out of tourists' gaze'

Prof. Kunitoshi Sakurai (University of Okinawa)

'Development or environment: the past and the future of Okinawa'

Prof. Jianmin Zhao (Fudan University)

'The Turning Point of the Transition From Japanese Herbal Materia Medica to Botany: Contributions of Von. Siebold to Japanese natural history studies'

Prof. Richard Steiner (University of Alaska)

'Tigers, albatrosses, rainforests, and Homo sapiens - relearning to live together in an Egalitarian Biosphere'

Prof. Hongzhen Chen (Research Institute of Steel)

'Iron and steel industry and its pollution in China'

Prof. Yoko Fukao (Osaka University of Foreign Studies)

'Development, environment and local society: a report from northwest and southwest regions of China'

Dr Yosuke Kawachi (University of Otago)

'Environmental problems in northern China with special reference to water resources'

Prof. Kyung-Koo Han (Kookmin University)

'The sustainability of sustainability: struggling to overcome the development-at-all-costs syndrome in Korea'

Prof. Gavan McCormack (Australian National University)

'From the age of growth to the age of sustainability: paradigm shift turmoil in Japan'

Dr Nanyan Guo (University of Otago)

'The direction toward sustainability in Ogasawara'

2.5 NZASIA Website

The NZASIA Web Site has been recently transferred to its new location in the Asian Studies Department, University of Canterbury. Though the site is still under development and improvement, you will be impressed by the simple but user-friendly design it has now. Please take a few minutes to visit the new site at <http://www.asia.canterbury.ac.nz/nzasia/nzasia.htm>. You are welcome to submit suggestions and updated information. Please send them to the Webmaster, Dr Adam Lam, at a.lam@asia.canterbury.ac.nz. When you visit the new site, don't forget to bookmark it for future reference.

3. Reports From The Regions

3.1 News from Victoria University

Conference Papers and Lectures

Dr Jay Shaw presented a paper entitled "Consciousness: Mental States and Minds" to the International Seminar on "Philosophy and Science: An Exploratory Approach to Consciousness", which was held in Calcutta on 8th - 9th February 2002.

Dr Tim Beal presented the following papers in various conferences:

- 'Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Asia Pacific Countries: Evidence from Malaysia and New Zealand Centre for SME Research and Development' (with Moha Asri Abdullah), presented at a conference on Sustaining SME Innovation, Competitiveness and Development in the Global Economy, at the University of Wollongong, Australia, on 12-13 July 2002.
- 'Out of the Shadows: Emerging Political and Civil Participation of the Chinese in New Zealand', presented at the Asia Pacific Public Affairs Forum, Kaohsiung, Taiwan, 17-18 July 2002.
- 'Japan's unresolved relationship with Asia', presented at the British Association of Japanese Studies, Nottingham, United Kingdom, 8-10 April 2002.

Dr Sekhar Bandyopadhyay attended the 14th Biennial ASAA conference at Hobart, Australia on 30 June - 3 July 2002 and presented a paper entitled: 'Freedom and its enemies: politics of transition in West Bengal, 1947-1950'. On this occasion he was re-elected to the Executive Council of the South Asian Studies Association of Australia.

Publications

James H. Liu, Belinda Lawrence, Colleen Ward (VUW) and Sheela Abraham (University of Malaya), 'Social Representations of History in Malaysia and Singapore: On the Relationship between National and Ethnic Identity', in *Asian Journal of Social Psychology*, 2002, v.5(1), 3-20

The *Asian Journal of Social Psychology* may be a useful outlet for those interested in publishing on similar topics. Information on this journal is available at: <http://www.sites.psych.unimelb.edu.au/aasp/>.

Short Course Organised

Professor Gary Gorman has successfully tendered for six IFLA/ALP IT scholarship recipients to attend a 4-week, specifically tailored course organised by the Library and Information Management Group in the School of Information Management, 11 November - 6 December. The scholarships are for mid-level information managers who need to update their IT application skills, and this year the successful applicants come from India (2), Sri Lanka, China and Burma (2). The course is being co-ordinated by Philip Calvert in SIM.

Exchange Partners

As part of our memorandum of understanding and exchange agreements with Thai universities, two Thai academics will be spending part of 2003 in the School of Information Management: Dr Aree Cheunwattana from Srinahkarinwirot University in the first part of the year, Dr Sujin Butdisuwan from Maharakham University in the second part of the year. They will join Professor Yong Jean John of Woosuk University, South Korea, who has been with SIM since February and expects to be here for another six months.

Research and capacity-building in Thailand

Dr Sujin Butdisuwan of Maharakham University and professor Gary Gorman of VUW have been awarded an IFLA research grant for 2002/3 for a project on regional information infrastructures, specifically curriculum development in information management education. This includes needs assessment of the information sector for trained information managers in Thailand, Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, with Maharakham University to act as a regional focal point for curriculum development activities and VUW to serve as the focal point advisor. Focus groups of professionals and para-professionals have been convened in Vientiane and Phnom Penh, and the results are now being analysed.

Ongoing Project in Viet Nam

Information Networks for the Future, the project funded by MFAT's ADAF, is now in its second year, with three workshops in Hue and Hanoi for 2002. These have been or will have been run by Dr Dan Dorner, Philip Calvert, Rowena Cullen, Richard Wartho and Lan Anh Tran. The workshops focus on specific aspects of professional practice needed by Vietnamese information managers in the government sector, especially so that their services can become more responsive to the needs of clients in SMEs and rural enterprises.

New project in Viet Nam

Professor G E Gorman and Dr Ta Ba Hung of NACESTID in Hanoi have been awarded a 2003 research grant to conduct a feasibility study for a master's degree in information management in Viet Nam. Part of the feasibility study includes development of an information management curriculum suited to Vietnamese needs.

Activity in West Asia

As part of his sabbatical in 2002, Professor Gary Gorman has been based in Beirut as Visiting Professor at the Lebanese University and Balamand University, where he has been advising on a curriculum development project for Arab-speaking countries in West Asia and the Middle East. This has included assessment of the further training needed by Arab university academics who are embarking on higher degree teaching in information science and information management and also the preparation of a curriculum development and assessment manual in Arabic.

(Sekhar Bandyopadhyay)

3.2 News from Massey University

Publications

Dr Geoff Watson, Massey University History Programme, has recently published an article on Western images of Central Asia, 1200-1800 in Project Turk.

Geoff Watson, "1200-1800 Yillari Arasinda Bati'daki Orta Asya Imaji." In Kemal Cicek (ed.), *Turkler, Yeni Turkiye* Publication House, Ankara, 2002, Vol 8, pp. 334-44.

Prof. Srikanta Chatterjee, Applied and International Economics, published the following article by invitation:

Srikanta Chatterjee, "Keizai Kaikaku no Tenbou" ("A view of Economic Reform"), in F. Takahashi (ed.), "21 Seiki Nihon-Nyuujiirando ni Manabu no Saikochiku" ("Restructuring in Japan in the 21st Century: Learning from New Zealand"), Kyoto: Kouyou Shobou, 2002.

Visits and Lectures

Srikanta Chatterjee was a Sabbatical Visitor at Kingston University, Surrey, and a Visiting Professor at the London School of Economics in May-June, 2002. He gave a seminar at Kingston University entitled "The Political Economy of Tax Reform in New Zealand 2001" and a lecture at the Development Studies Institute of the London School of Economics entitled "Economics Reform in a Small, Open, Primary-exporting Economy: The New Zealand Experience." Srikanta Chatterjee visited the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Geneva in May to talk with the Head of the New Zealand Delegation at the Organisation, Dr Trevor Matheson, about the progress of the current round of international trade negotiations at WTO, and to appraise him about the research being conducted in the Department of Applied and International Economics of Massey University involving New Zealand's negotiating options at the WTO talks.

(Rosemary Haddon)

3.3 News from Otago University

Research Profile: Professor W R Garside, *Striving for Success: Governments, Markets and Industry in Britain and Japan, 1945-1990*

Investigations of Britain's macroeconomic performance since the Second World War have confirmed not only an exceptional period of growth by historic standards during the 'golden age' of the 1950s and 1960s but also the spectacle of the country suffering relative economic decline down to the early 1970s. The determined shift in economic priorities thereafter, but particularly after 1979, failed moreover to deliver a promised 'renaissance' save at the cost of rising inequality, lost manufacturing capacity and job insecurity.

It is in this context that post-war British governments have been accused of not confronting the foundations of comparative economic success, failing especially to develop effective policies of industrial modernisation. Instead, it is alleged, they inculcated a 'contempt for production' and latterly a passion for market-led solutions irrespective of whether they served either the medium- or long-term economic interests of the nation.

It is not a new tale. The 'declinist' debate has populated practically every sub-period of British economic history since 1870, producing an historiography awash with explanations of the country's relative fate. To the list of the usual suspects of entrepreneurial failure, fragmented industrial relations, and the class structure can be added educational failings, poor management, elitist civil servants, financial shortsightedness, and misdirected investment. Recent contributions to the debate have emphasised the continuation into the post-war period of the collusive behaviour of the 1930s which operated to weaken the competitive environment and to strengthen the sclerotic tendencies of established vested interest groups, especially among trade unions and employers. This, it is held, bequeathed to Britain an ossified industrial structure ill-equipped to face the full force of international competition in contrast to Japan where defeat and occupation after 1945 led to radical restructuring of domestic economies and to higher relative rates of economic growth.

The deterministic explanations of economic retardation to which these perspectives can give rise (especially a sense of 'inevitable' decline for Britain as an early starter in industrialisation and of 'success' for Japan as a nation merely catching-up with her major competitors, with each country wedded to some form of cultural predisposition to adapt) must be resisted. The vigour and flexibility of Britain's wartime productive economy and the fact that the country emerged in peacetime with considerable comparative advantages poses a question yet to be satisfactorily addressed in the literature, namely why a national programme of economic modernisation and industrial restructuring remained at variance with the prevailing priorities of economic policy for the greater part of the post-war period. Current literature offers extremely detailed accounts of what was done in the policy sphere, particularly to enhance industrial efficiency, but there is little sustained analysis of what set of concerns informed policy; of why governments failed for so long to recognise the role they could play through markets to promote growth; of why a coherent pattern of industrial intervention remained so problematic; or of how and why the aims and

objectives of a strategy for industrial modernisation were altered over time. Here the contrast with Japan is intriguing. The central role of government in strategic planning, allocating resources among industries, 'picking winners' in sectors or firms, subsidising their financial needs, and protecting 'infant' industries through high tariffs and non-tariff trade barriers stood in stark contrast to British practice. Although recent literature has begun to challenge such over-arching perceptions of Japanese policy, shifting attention away from earlier descriptions of a powerful bureaucracy able to steer the economy by the use of incentives and sophisticated administrative interference towards a more critical view of a divided, ineffective and at times counterproductive political and bureaucratic apparatus, it has not entirely removed the 'strong' view of the role of government in Japan's post-war economic success. What it has done, rightly, is to establish that Japan's industrial and wider economic experience was never readily transplantable as a blueprint for success to other industrialised countries.

The complex management practices, labour relations, forms of education and training upon which the Japanese fashioned their industrial growth and performance arose from particular synergies of culture, technology and patterns of industrial and social organisation. Current revisionism could suggest that Japanese industrial experience was so unique that few useful comparative lessons can be drawn, especially with Britain. That is mistaken in my view. There are many common features of policy between the two countries that have been insufficiently addressed in the literature. Each country 'picked winners' and subsidised losers in the industrial field, and both rejected the unfettered guidance of market forces. Likewise, there are intriguing differences between the countries concerning, for example, the business-government-banking nexus and the nature of the competitive environment, to mention but two that warrant further comparative investigation.

A significant part of the argument surrounding the comparative economic performance of Britain and Japan since 1945 concerns the differing cultural, social and political bases that existed for a strategy of industrial modernization. Much of the existing literature, however, suffers from an unhealthy degree of cultural determinism subjugating the complexity of comparative political economy to notions of national 'uniqueness' or 'obduracy' or whatever other shorthand term enables sweeping and often simplistic conclusions to be drawn. Moreover, comparisons of British and Japanese industrial policy since 1945 are rare. There are numerous conference volumes that explore particular policies and sectors but there is as yet no single-authored comparative study offering a comparative synthesis of the burgeoning literature. There is an opportunity in the field of industrial/ business history to move away from the American-dominated Chandlerian thesis of large-scale corporate development towards an informed reappraisal of the industrial experience of two countries which display a very different emphasis upon the role of government, human resource management and national commitment to economic growth but for whom blanket explanations of relative success or failure are more elusive than is commonly supposed.

Recent investigations of postwar economic performance which draw upon the new growth economics have given prominence to the need for greater historical investigation of the neglect of human capital, innovative investment and the diffusion of new technologies. They have also pointed to the importance of institutional arrangements and to the constraints such arrangements have placed on the policy choices before government. Encouraging though this is, we need to go further and assess for both Britain and Japan the overall pattern of industrial policy, the fate of the arguments underpinning the alternatives on offer, the shifting attitudes towards regulated and unregulated market forces, and the origins and fate of interventionist policy.

This is not to suggest in Britain's case that governments should have been developing a stylized policy of corporatist intervention, but rather that we should investigate why timely and beneficial reforms favourable to improved productivity, competitiveness and industrial development over the longer term were so regularly and effectively by-passed. In the case of Japan we need a fuller explanation of the *approaches* to industrial policy after 1945, of the evolving debates and the struggle to devise effective strategies for economic development. The emphasis in much of the current literature is upon the *outcomes* of policy choices in terms of comparatively high rates of economic growth. This often obscures conflicts and tensions in the policy-making process, the degree to which 'success' was often neither anticipated nor planned, and the roles of chance, timing and opportunism.

My current research offers a detailed comparative approach to policy formulation in the industrial field, investigating the circumstances in which each country elected to pursue particular economic options, sometimes with variable success, and the reasons why, without subscribing to a notion of path dependency, the shift to an advanced industrial structure developed so differently in the face of many common international opportunities and constraints.

(Professor Garside was appointed Chair of the Department of History in 2002. He currently teaches a 400 level paper entitled: *Wrought by defeat: the consolidation of Japanese economic power since 1945*.)

New Appointment in History

Tony Ballantyne has recently returned to the history department at Otago from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. A graduate of Otago, Tony completed his PhD on racial thought in South Asia and the Pacific at the University of Cambridge under the supervision of the leading historian of India, C A Bayly. After leaving Cambridge Tony taught South Asian and British imperial history for two years at the National University of Ireland at Galway, before assuming a position in history and South Asian studies at the University of Illinois. A revised version of Tony's PhD was recently published in the Cambridge Imperial and Postcolonial Studies Series (published by Palgrave-Macmillan) as *Orientalism and Race: Aryanism in the British empire*. Tony's current research focuses on the history of the Sikh community, both within India and North America, the United Kingdom and Australasia.

Otago Conference On Japanese Cultural Nationalism

The Otago Conference On Japanese Cultural Nationalism was held in the Valentine Common Room at St Margaret's College from 9-12:30 and 1:30-5:30 on Wednesday, August 21, and from 9-12:30 on Thursday, August 22. The conference was organised by Dr Roy Starrs and a number of speakers from Japan, the US, Australia and New Zealand presented research papers.

Haixin Jiang is undertaking field study in China on laid-off women workers where, according to official statistics, there is gender discrimination in state-run enterprises. Her initial investigation shows that it is not gender discrimination that plays the main factor in shedding women workers, but "guanxi" or relationships. There are also factors such as the fact that women workers' mastering of technologies and skills on the whole are lower than those of male workers. If there is discrimination it lies at a deeper level and was practised long before the shedding, so her original plan has undergone a large revision.

Haixin is now gathering information to research on the return of traditional male-centred ideology in China. Also, she is preparing a paper on ancient Chinese philosophy, comparing the Chinese philosopher Hu Shi's viewpoints and those of Chad Hansen's (an American philosopher interested in and researched Chinese philosophy) for an Asian Culture conference to be held in Moscow in August this year. She has been invited to attend an international conference about Chinese teaching to be held in Shanghai at the beginning of August, 2002. Also, she has just finished translation of Lauren Loche's biography *Bent Not Broken*. The translation was motivated by the staggering phenomenon of Chinese women engaged in sex trade.

Malcolm Cone (Management) has just come back from six weeks in China. During his field study he collected eighteen hours of film which will be used to produce two short ethnographies. One will be on Minorities in China: the matriarchal Naxi (Musuo) on the border between Yunnan and Sichuan and Tibetians in Lhahsa; Shigatse in Tibet; and the other on small businesses in rural China filmed in rural Hubei. He plans to complete the editing by the end of November and final film by January 2003.

Asian Studies Research Centre

Otago University has renamed one of its Centres of Research Excellence the Asian Studies Research Centre (formerly known as an Emerging Research Theme).

Lecture

On the 22nd May, Professor C F W Higham delivered the Albert Reckitt Memorial Lecture to the British Academy on the subject "The Origins of the Civilization of Angkor". The Reckitt Lectures are delivered biannually in London.

PhD Success

Arlene Garces Ozanne has recently gained a PhD for a thesis entitled *The Determinants of Total Factor Productivity: The High-Performing Asian Economies Revisited*.

3.4 News from Auckland Institute of Technology

AUT's Centre for International Development has had several visitors recently from Asia, from China, Korea, Thailand, Indonesia, and Viet Nam. The Centre is active with international project teams in Cambodia, China, Thailand and Viet Nam.

Seminar Series on Asian Communities in Auckland

The CID in collaboration with Auckland University will host a four-part series on issues affecting Asian communities in Auckland. The final seminar will be on 24 October: "Education and Asian Communities".

For further information about the above and other AUT activities please see the second Newsletter (August 2002). For further information contact:

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4. Conferences

4.1 Central Eurasian Studies

Central Eurasian Studies is coming into its own and we want to seek your cooperation to move this process forward. The signs of this development are various. We have much wider attention to Central Eurasia -- such places as Afghanistan, Chechnya, Georgia, Uzbekistan, Xinjiang -- than ever before, albeit often for unfortunate reasons. We have far more young scholars

exploring these domains than ever before. In 2001 alone, I suspect there were more books published in English on this region than in the three decades from 1960 to 1990. There has long been a core of scholarship on this region, though often it has been treated as peripheral to other fields of study such as study of Russia or of China. Now we have the chance to really build critical mass and strengthen the community and standards of scholarship.

These are the goals of the Central Eurasian Studies Society (CESS) -- building communication and scholarly standards. The CESS was established in 2000, and I had the privilege of being elected its first president. Over the last two years, membership has grown to approximately 800 now, representing over 50 countries and all fields of humanities and social science scholarship. We hope you might be interested in joining us in our efforts to build this field. Whether or not you wish to join now (perhaps you would prefer to watch our development for the time being), I hope you will do three things:

1) Join the CESS Occasional Mailing List. This is a very low volume list (average about one message per month) that will keep you up-to-date on our conferences, publications, elections, and the like. Visit this webpage to sign up (or just let us know of your interest): http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~cess/CESS_Mailing_List.html.

2) Have a look at our new journal, the Central Eurasian Studies Review. It addresses the state of the field from a variety of perspectives, and I think it is an impressive all-volunteer effort. We hope you will also contribute to it. This is distributed free of charge to all members and by subscription to institutions. It is also available on-line: http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~cess/CESS_Review.html.

3) Consider attending the third Central Eurasian Studies Society Annual Conference, to be held in Madison, Wisconsin, October 17-20, 2003. It is a wonderful opportunity to meet colleagues and see what interesting work is being done in the field. One month remains before the extended deadline for submissions -- Aug. 1. Find full information at: http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~cess/CESS_Conference.html.

Please also have a look at all the momentum which is developing in our activities (main webpage: <http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~cess/>). We hope you will join in actively in the team effort of pursuing these goals -- to consider where you can become involved, see: http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~cess/CESS_Participation.html. If you do wish to become a member, note that our dues are modest (from \$0 to \$30, depending on one's income) -- for details and registration, see: http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~cess/CESS_Membership.html. It is an exciting time to be involved in the study of this part of the world. And many of us who have become involved in the effort to build the Central Eurasian Studies Society have found it a gratifying way to contribute to worthy effort and become involved in the community. We hope you will join us!

(John Schoeberlein)

4.2 New Zealand-Japan Peace and Friendship Exchange Programme

The Asian Studies Institute at Victoria University at Wellington will be conducting a symposium later this year for the Japanese Embassy under the auspices of the New Zealand-Japan Peace and Friendship Exchange Programme. The symposium will focus on tourism and cross-cultural communication between the two countries and is scheduled to be held 7 November at the Wellington Town Hall. For further information contact Stephen Epstein (stephen.epstein@vuw.ac.nz).

5. People in NZASIA

Gerald Chan will leave Victoria University of Wellington for the University of Cambridge as a Senior Fellow at its Centre of International Studies from October 2002. He will coordinate a China project there in collaboration with the Royal Institute of International Affairs in London. The project will look into the international aspects of China's development. He has also accepted a Visiting Professorship to the Department of Government and Public Administration at the Chinese University of Hong Kong from January to May 2003.

5.1 New Books

Robin Gauld and Derek Gould. *The Hong Kong Health Sector: Development and Change*, Dunedin, University of Otago Press, 2002, pp. 195. ISBN 1877276294. This is the first comprehensive analysis of the history and politics of development of the Hong Kong health care system, authored by a former Hong Kong based academic (Gauld) and former Principal Assistant Secretary of Health and Welfare (Gould).

Colin Mackerras. *The New Cambridge Handbook of Contemporary China* in 2001 was published by the Cambridge University Press. It covers various aspects connected with contemporary China, with the main focus on the 1990s. Chapters include a detailed and classified chronology, political structure, contemporary figures, a bibliography, and gazetteer, and treatments of foreign policy, the economy, population, the minority nationalities and education. This book should be useful to

all those doing research or interested in contemporary China. The author is a professor in the School of International Business and Asian Studies at Griffith University in Brisbane.

Anthony S. K. Shome. *Malay Political Leadership*. London, UK: RoutledgeCurzon, 2002. ISBN 0-7007-1629-7.

Roy Starrs (ed). *Nations Under Siege: Globalization and Nationalism in Asia*. New York: Palgrave, 2002. This wide-ranging, multidisciplinary collection of essays analyses the social, political, economic and ideological impact of the forces of globalization, and of the nationalist responses to these, in major Asian nations such as India, Malaysia, Indonesia, China and Japan. Some of the key issues dealt with are: the globalization of Hindu nationalism; the ideological struggle in East Asia between nationalists and the advocates of a pan-Asian civilization; the repercussions for Asian nations of the recent pan-Asian financial crisis; the rise of neo-nationalism in late-twentieth-century Japan; the Chinese nationalist response to Western economic domination; and the conflict between ethnic nationalism and national unity in Malaysia, Indonesia and Fiji.

Judy Van Zile. *Perspectives on Korean Dance*. 392 pp. 79 illus. (43 colour). 12 figs. 7 x 10". \$70.00 Cloth, 0-8195-6493-1. \$27.95 Paper, 0-8195-6494-X. From palace to village street to international stage, Korean dance is a vibrant and complex art comprised of many different forms. In *Perspectives on Korean Dance*, Judy Van Zile brings together the first comprehensive English language study of this multifaceted art. Van Zile's broad overview includes explanations of key terminology and iconography, as well as discussions of the Korean National Treasure system, the role of shamanic dances when they are performed outside of sacred or ritual contexts, and facets of the careers of Kim Ch'on-hung, a former court dancer, and Ch'oe Sung-hui, who toured the US in the late 1930s. A final chapter examines the role of Korean dance in Hawai'i, where it is an important and at times contested identity marker for residents of Korean ancestry.

6. Membership

Have you paid your 2002 subscription? We remind you that the \$40 annual membership fee now includes a subscription to the *New Zealand Journal of Asian Studies* (published twice yearly). The subscription period runs from 1 January to 31 December. Benefits of NZASIA membership include the *Journal*, the *Newsletter*, conference participation with reduced rates (including reciprocity with ASAA conferences), the potential for networking with other members, the benefits of keeping abreast of developments in Asian Studies in NZ (including scholarship opportunities), and the opportunity to become actively involved in those developments. If your details in the NZASIA Directory are unchanged, a cheque for the subscription amount (\$40.00), with a note of your name, institution and mailing address will be sufficient. If you are a new member and are not listed in the directory, or if your details have changed significantly, please let us know using the form found on our web site. The Directory can be found on the Society's web site: <http://www.asia.canterbury.ac.nz/nzasia/nzasia.htm>. Subscriptions should be sent to:

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