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1. Report from the NZASIA President

Welcome to the first of NZASIA's *Newsletters* for 2012. This issue offers the final reports for the 2011 ASIA:NZ-NZASIA Research Awards. As reported in 2011, it is with much regret that the Society is unable to continue to offer these awards this year and in the foreseeable future. However, I can report that the Executive is still investigating other possible ways of replacing the Awards, although trying to find and convince potential donors is a difficult task in the current economic climate. So, with this *Newsletter*, congratulations should go to Brendon Blue, Sun Ku and Corey Wallace for showing the extremely high cultural value of the Awards and their personal contribution as emerging scholars in helping to develop Asian Studies in New Zealand.

Next year, the Society's membership categories will be revised very slightly, mainly to include an additional category, and a note will be circulated with the second issue of the journal later in the year. The 20th New Zealand Asian Studies Society International Conference 2013 will be hosted by Auckland University. Auckland is currently busy making plans for the conference, and the final dates will be set very soon with a notice to members via the electronic NZASIA members' listserver. The biennial conference is extremely important for the Society and is an excellent opportunity for presenting research to national and international delegates, as well as catching up with the world of Asian Studies more generally. The website directories have now been updated and revised with two main lists: region and discipline. Separate postgraduate directories will no longer be included.

The next issue of the Journal will be distributed to members very soon, and this *Newsletter* includes a list of the excellent research that has made its way into this issue. The Society acknowledges the first-rate work of the Editor in producing the journal twice a year, and thanks all contributors for helping to support our national journal of high international standing in the field of Asian Studies.

Henry Johnson
President
1 June 2012

2. Fieldwork reports by the recipients of the 2011 ASIA:NZ-NZASIA Research Awards.

2.1 Brendon Blue, PhD candidate, School of Environment, The University of Auckland

Thesis topic: Geomorphic Fluvial Classification for the upper Yellow River, Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau, China

Fieldwork: Qinghai, China, August-September 2011

My PhD research involves the development and implementation of an integrative methodology for the assessment and interpretation of the diversity of river form and process on the upper Yellow River as it flows across the Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau. Supervised by Professor Gary Brierley, my research will inform conservation efforts in this unique and threatened region through improving understandings of the range, distribution and controls on riverscapes in the upper Yellow River catchment.

The Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau is an area of international significance. The ‘water tower of China’ and the source of many of the world’s largest rivers including the Yellow, Yangtze, Mekong and Tsangpo-Brahmaputra, it has a mean elevation of 4500-5000m and contains over 80% of the world’s land over 4000m. The importance of the area was recognised in 2000 with the establishment of the Sanjiangyuan National Nature Reserve covering 318,000 km²: over twice the area of England and Wales combined. Established in response to a variety of interlinked threats including climate change, environmental degradation and direct human pressures resulting from population growth, the stated primary aims of the reserve’s formation are to conserve biodiversity and to enhance and sustain the livelihoods of local people.

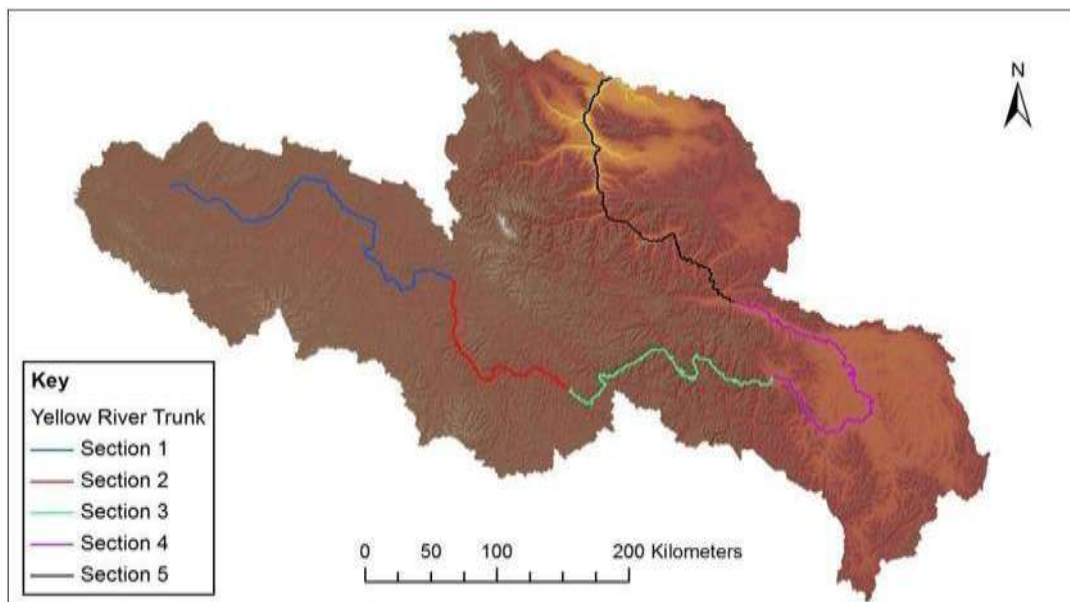


Figure 1: The upper Yellow River catchment, showing the five broad-scale morphological sections of trunk stream. Section 1 is unconfined braided/anabranching, section 2 is partly confined anabranching/braided, section 3 consists of a confined single channel, section 4 is partly confined anabranching and section 5 a valley and terrace-confined single channel

As the second longest river in China, and the sixth longest in the world, the Yellow River is an extremely important constituent of geodiversity on the Plateau (e.g. Figures 1, 2 and 3). Providing freshwater to approximately 107 million people, 8.7% of China's population, it is integral to China's future: management decisions made on the

Plateau will have far-reaching consequences. Systematic understandings of the landscapes, riverscapes and ecologies in the upper Yellow River basin are fundamental to further research and effective management of the region.



Figure 2: Braided-anabranching section 2 of the upper Yellow river at Dari, Qinghai Province



Figure 3: Terrace and fan-confined section of the upper Yellow River in the Tongde Basin, Qinghai Province (section 5)

My research aims to develop and implement a multi-scalar, process-based classification of the riverscapes of the upper Yellow River. I hope to build upon existing geomorphic classification schemes to develop a field-based ‘real-world’ approach to describing and understanding these unique riverine environments in terms

of their physical characteristics, the processes that have shaped them, and the historical and contemporary controls on their distribution. In particular, my work aims to improve the ecological relevance of fluvial geomorphic classification by examining the links between reach-scale morphologies (in the order of hundreds of meters to tens of kilometres) and the availability of microhabitat at the scale at which individual organisms interact with the river (centimetres and metres). By improving understandings of river change, from the historical circumstances that shaped the Yellow River's valleys to the contemporary controls and processes acting at the finest scales, my work will inform and improve conservation efforts in the region. In particular, it will allow the identification of sites containing particularly important geodiversity in need of protection, as well as providing insight into the potential sensitivity of the river and its ecosystems to disturbance due to changing land use as the Plateau is developed.

My fieldwork in 2011 was essentially exploratory, identifying broad-scale morphological patterns (Figure 1) and finding potential sites for more in-depth fieldwork in 2012. As a result, many hours were spent in the back of the van trying to convince our driver, whose English was even worse than our Mandarin, that 'this road on the map that runs handily alongside the river is, in fact, marked as green should therefore be navigable.' Unfortunately the 'Golden Dragon' was more designed for city streets than Qinghai's secondary roads, and we got some nasty glances in the rear-view mirror when the larger rocks crashed into the sump or vibrations from the heavily rutted roads broke the latch on the boot causing it to occasionally fly open, risking the bags holding our laptops and underwear. Enlisting the help of a nearby gang of road workers after driving off the road they were building was a particular highlight; payment was made in cigarettes that we had bought the driver in a somewhat successful attempt to keep him keen.

Fieldwork in 2012 will be much more intensive. In June this year I will be departing to spend two further months carrying out fieldwork on the Plateau. Full surveys will be carried out in chosen locations, mapping morphological units (mid-channel bars, for example) and the smaller 'habitat units' they comprise. This will involve detailed analysis of substrate (sediment size, composition and sorting) and hydraulic units (small-scale variations in flow patterns) at the microhabitat scale for selected sites.

Although this research is still in progress, my preliminary findings have been presented at the 7th IAHR Symposium on River, Coastal and Estuarine Morphodynamics, Beijing (Blue, 2011, 'Controls on river diversity in the Upper Yellow River: Challenges and implications'), and, supported by the Ecohydraulics Travel Trust Award, proceedings have been accepted for a poster presentation at the 9th International Symposium on Ecohydraulics in Vienna in September 2012. Additionally, a paper is currently under review for publication in a special issue of the *Journal of Geographical Research* (Blue, B. and Brierley, G., 'Geodiversity on the upper Yellow River').

Working on the Plateau can be challenging at times, with the altitude often reaching over 1km higher than Mt Cook, the food of questionable vintage and... characterful accommodation waiting after long days in the van. In such testing conditions, the people you are travelling with make a huge difference. Dr Du Jun, a postdoctoral fellow from Tsinghua University, did a fantastic job of looking after Tami Nicoll (another PhD student from Auckland) and me despite being the intermediary between us, who wanted to go everywhere, and the driver, who did not! In fact, before he returned to Beijing he told us that he had never laughed so much as he had on our trip. This collaborative spirit has persisted since our return to New Zealand,

and it is hoped that we will have a publication based on Dr Du's work accepted within the next few months.



Figure 4: Dr Du Jun and the author above the Yellow river at Qari, Qinghai Province

The opportunity to travel to such remote parts of China is a privilege that I value greatly. It has been made possible due to funding from an NZASIA Postgraduate Award, the Rewi Alley Scholarship in Chinese Studies and support provided through the Three Brothers (Plus) agreement between The University of Auckland, Tsinghua, Qinghai University and the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Local people have been exceptionally welcoming, at least after overcoming their initial shock at seeing us: whether being mobbed by Tibetan monks wanting a photo with us or being invited into private homes for tea, we have always been surrounded by friendly faces.

2.2 Sun A Ku, MA candidate, Political Science and International Relations Programme, Victoria University of Wellington

Thesis topic: Multiculturalism vs Patriarchy: Female Marriage-based Immigrants in the South Korean Multicultural Nation-Building Project

Fieldwork: South Korea, June-July 2011

This project looks at the ways in which multiculturalism could impact negatively on women. Some feminist scholars argue that 'group rights' allow members of minority groups in some western democratic, pluralist, multicultural countries to retain their cultural identities without facing discrimination; this claim is problematic because such rights include what could be perceived as oppressive 'cultural' practices involving women, such as polygamy, female genital mutilation and forced marriages. The feminist scholars question the common belief that multiculturalism is a liberating mechanism for all members of minority groups, and also highlight the existence of inequality within minority groups, especially between men and women. However, these feminist insights are applicable only to those countries where minority groups possess the legal and social status which enables them to claim such rights. Also, in those countries, many immigrants arrive with their own family members, and their households function as cultural communities that enable them to maintain their cultural identities in the host societies.

However, there are countries in East Asia that have only recently experienced an influx of immigrants, for example South Korea (henceforth, Korea), Japan and Taiwan. These countries are under pressure to increase immigration due to low birth rates and an ageing population, with a subsequent decrease in the number of prime-age workers. In these countries, immigrants often do not have the legal and social status that enables them to demand their cultural rights. Also, these countries often do not allow immigrants to bring their family members from the country of origin. Most of the immigrants arrive individually and intermarry with the local community, thus the private sphere does not necessarily function as a favourable place for immigrants attempting to maintain their cultural identity.

This project intends to expand on the feminist critique of multiculturalism by considering its nation-building purpose. Nation-building projects used to be designed to achieve the goal of establishing a 'homogeneous' nation. However, as a result of the increasing cultural diversity and political consciousness of democratic values, some countries have changed their goals and attempted to construct a multicultural nation. As a case study, I analyze the embodiment of the notion of patriarchy in the current nation-building project in Korea that is carried out under the name of multiculturalism. More specifically, I focus on the ways in which a particular group of immigrants, female marriage-based immigrants, are mobilized by the government for the purpose of multicultural nation-building.

In Korea, there has been a significant increase in the number of 'foreign residents' since the mid-1990s. In 2011, the number reached a record high, 1,418,149 (3% of the population). This figure shows a thirteen-fold growth compared to 1995, and foreign residents are expected to make up 20% of the total population by 2040. The most populous category of foreign residents comprise foreign workers (42% of the total foreign residents). The vast majority of them are non-professional workers from China and other Southeast Asian countries. The next largest group is made up of marriage-based immigrants (10% of the total foreign residents) who came to Korea by marrying a Korean citizen, and the majority of these immigrants are women (86% of the total marriage-based immigrants) from China and Vietnam.

This relatively short history of immigration and the pattern of individual immigration have contributed to the creation of an assimilationist form of multiculturalism that is often understood simply as 'anti-discrimination' without necessarily embracing pluralism and cultural relativism. Also, multiculturalism is largely formulated by the government without much involvement of foreign residents. This government-led multiculturalism reflects assimilationist aspirations that aim to minimize the impact of increasing cultural diversity on the existing national and cultural identity.

I carried out extensive research on government policies affecting foreign residents, then I focused on the specific policies targeting female marriage-based immigrants and their families that are developed based on the Support for Multicultural Families Act (this is the only law enacted under the name of multiculturalism in Korea). These policies are implemented through the nation-wide network of government agencies called Multicultural Family Support Centers (henceforth, MFSCs). These Centers provide female marriage-based immigrants and their families with 'special' programmes and services including Korean language and cultural classes, workshops on improving family relationships, and pregnancy and childcare support services. The government intervenes in the private life of female marriage-based immigrants and their families through these programmes and services. However, reading about these policies was not enough to understand how the policies were delivered in practice, for example, the methods of delivery and the attitudes of

the people who handle these policies. In order to fill the gaps, it was necessary to undertake field research.

My field research involved visiting two different groups of organizations, MFSCs and independent NGOs working for foreign residents including female marriage-based immigrants, and conducting interviews with workers from both groups of organizations in order to hear different perspectives about the government policies. As most of the MFSCs around the country seem to have similar structures, programmes and services, I limited the research area to Gyeongnam Province. One of the reasons why Gyeongnam Province was chosen was because it has MFSCs in both urban and rural areas which enabled me to consider the different socio-economic conditions of the two environments. I also conducted interviews with four NGO workers based in the region and two NGO workers based in or near Seoul. In total, I visited three MFSCs and interviewed five social workers from MFSCs and six NGO workers.

Undertaking field research was a great experience for me. Interviews with the stakeholders helped me to understand the policies better, especially the purpose and the process of implementation of the policies, and other issues related to the policies. Also, having a network in Korea will be helpful for my future projects on other issues in Korea. In addition, I obtained some useful primary materials directly from the stakeholders. I brought *koha* to say thank you for their time and willingness to participate in the interviews. My project could not have been completed without the help of the interviewees and also the generosity of the Asia New Zealand Foundation. I am sincerely thankful to all of them in enabling me to complete the project successfully.

Based on data and information that I gathered during the field research, I have developed a number of observations. First, I argue that the current government-led multiculturalism in Korea is another form of the nation-building project. The government carries out this nation-building project particularly by mobilizing female marriage-based immigrants through its multicultural policies. Secondly, I argue that the policies developed are based on the patriarchal notion that designates superior roles for men as active citizens and defenders of the nation and inferior roles for women as biological and cultural reproducers, and as symbolic figures of the idealized Korean family, culture and nation. Finally, I argue that this government mobilization of female marriage-based immigrants to serve the nation-building purpose undermines their rights and self-determination. In this way, I speak to the feminist scholars who argue that multiculturalism is oppressive to women not only in the private sphere but also in the public sphere when it is implemented as a policy tool for the nation-building purpose.

2.3 Corey Wallace, PhD candidate, Political Studies Dept, The University of Auckland

Thesis topic: Generational Change and the Japanese Strategic Imagination

Fieldwork: Japan, Oct-Dec 2011

Since the early 1990s there has been much discussion on the nature of post-Cold War Japanese society and how sociological changes, combined with changes in the international geopolitical environment, may be putting pressure on Japan's traditional low-profile diplomatic approach and antimilitarist security policy. On the one hand, there have been disapproving claims from East Asian scholars and elite commentators that the rise of a more nationalistic, potentially militaristic, approach to security policy is a challenge to East Asian security. On the other hand, there are more approving claims from Western, particularly American scholars, that Japan is

embracing an increasingly 'realistic' security policy. The focus of both narratives is the younger Japanese generation. This generation is said to lack memories of wartime deprivations and/or have not participated in the post-war antimilitarist movements in Japan that reached their peak in the 1960s, and therefore more willing to entertain departures from Japan's antimilitarist security orientation.

Irrespective of the interpretation, it is clear that Japan's security policy is changing. However I felt that both the aforementioned explanations were overly simplistic and noticed that there was very little robust research conducted on what the younger generation, and in particular the next generation of professionals who will shape the debate on Japan's foreign and security policies, really believe about how to address the challenges to Japanese security. Most previous attempts to look at the issue were weak in the sense that they relied on interpreting isolated opinion polls, offered simplistic anecdotes, or focused on one particular (often controversial) aspect of modern Japanese politics. I felt that a robust approach, combining both quantitative and qualitative methods was essential. The Asia:NZ/NZASIA scholarship enabled me to undertake the qualitative research component of my PhD research.

My research trip to Japan was mainly focused on conducting interviews with a wide range of foreign policy-interested Japanese professionals aged between 25 and 45 years of age. People in this age group would have 'come of age' (that is, they would have been between the politically critical 18 and 25 years old age range) during the current post-Cold War period when Japanese economic prosperity and social unity was threatened, and diplomatic strife with East Asian neighbours became commonplace. I spent most of the two months dedicated to this research in Tokyo, where my scholarship enabled me to take up a research exchange with Waseda University. From this base, I was able to interview a large number of professionals who had an interest in Japanese foreign policy. I drew respondents from a wide range of fields - national and local politics, business and economics, the non-government sector, the public service, the Self-Defense Forces, religion, the media, and academia. I also spent two weeks in the Kansai region conducting interviews in order to avoid accusations of having an overly Tokyo-centric sample. Overall, I managed to conduct a little over 50 interviews (Japanese language) with a wide range of professionals.

Contrary to the often asserted belief that younger Japanese are ignorant of foreign policy and diplomatic matters, I found all interview subjects to be well informed, engaged and enthusiastic. Rather than not having an opinion on pressing matters of international importance, it was clear to me that many younger Japanese felt that their views are paid little attention to by the older generation. Thus I found many interviewees eager to give their direct and honest opinions on a number of pressing foreign policy problems. As for the questions asked, I deliberately selected them in order to draw out how their personal conceptions of national identity influences their thinking about pressing strategic security problems and what approach Japan should take in the future. Obviously there were a number of questions about their perception of a rising China, growing East Asia regional cooperation, questions on history issues, the preferred degree of intensity of relations with the US as a security partner, and a number of questions on the relationship between the SDF and Japan's international contribution. Given that the 'triple disaster' had only taken place seven months prior to my arrival, that Japan's economy was in dire straits, and that there had been a considerable amount of tension between Japan and China dating back to the Senkaku-shoto/Diaoyutai conflict one year prior, I expected the interview outcomes would reflect a significant degree of insecurity in regards to Japan's international relations.

The attitude towards China in particular was quite interesting. Many of the respondents intimated that while a constructive relationship with China was desired, they had strong doubts about whether the relationship could go beyond strengthening mutually beneficial economic relations. There was a general sense that while the two countries have some mutual interests, the general differences in Japanese and Chinese worldview and foreign policy values was the main barrier to warmer diplomatic and cultural relations. What was interesting however was that many in the younger generation were unwilling to declare China a definite threat to international security even while they expressed some unease - rather, China's actions from now on was seen to be the appropriate basis for evaluating the nature of China's rise, and how Japan should react to it.

Additionally, the scholarship allowed me to take up a very valuable opportunity with the Japanese House of Councillors. While contacting Japanese members of parliament for interviews, I was offered a one-month internship after my initial two-month research period, to work as a political secretary in the Japanese House of Councillors (the upper house) for Makiyama Hiroe, a member of the governing DPJ. This experience was valuable as it gave me greater insights into Japanese politics, but it also enabled me to make contact with a number of younger Japanese MPs. In all, I was able to conduct nine interviews with younger MPs, thus significantly improving the robustness of my interview sample. I was also tasked with attending various DPJ policy discussions on behalf of Makiyama Hiroe when she was unable to attend. This was a fascinating experience and a great privilege given the importance of such meetings. I also had the opportunity to conduct research for her participation in the prestigious *yosan-iinkai*, on which she sits (the budget committee - the highest ranking parliamentary committee). The timing was excellent because during this month she had the rare opportunity to directly question cabinet ministers, including Prime Minister Noda, on a variety of issues.



My attendance at a meeting inside the Japanese parliament (Diet) along with Japanese MPs to welcome Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki

Not only did this experience give me the credibility to make contacts that improved the quality of my research sample, it also gave me valuable contextual insights. My research was an overwhelming success, both the quantity and richness of the research exceeded my initial expectations. I wish to sincerely thank the Asia New Zealand Foundation and NZASIA for providing me with the opportunity to conduct this research in Japan. The New Zealand Embassy in Tokyo was also extremely helpful. Overall, not only was this a great research opportunity, but it was an amazing and unforgettable personal experience.

3. Regional Updates

3.1 Massey University

Conference

Penny Shino attended the Asian Conference on the Arts and Humanities 2012 held on April 5 - 8 at Osaka, Japan, presenting a paper 'Exploring Nagusamegusa (1418): the semiotics of encounter and exchange for a poet-traveller in Muromachi Japan.' This is a relatively young interdisciplinary conference held annually in Osaka organised by the International Academic Forum (www.iafor.org). The vision of IAFOR is to provide a forum outside strict disciplinary and professional structures for the creative consideration of core issues of our time. The theme for the 2012 conference was 'Exchange and Encounter,' generating a diverse, colourful and thought-provoking range of papers representative of the broad spectrum of the humanities, though with a distinct Asian bias.

Japanese Programme

The Japanese programme at Massey University has been awarded a grant of approximately \$15,700 by the Japan Foundation (as a member of the Japan Foundation's Sakura Network) to host a symposium on the topic 'The Tertiary Teaching of Japanese in New Zealand: Issues in the Asian Century' (a nationwide symposium on Japanese language teaching issues at tertiary level). This is planned for December 8-9 this year. Further information and a call for papers will be provided shortly. It is hoped that issues raised at the symposium, and possible solutions, will contribute to a wider discussion of the place of Asian Studies teaching in NZ universities and consideration of alternative paradigms. Any enquiries about the symposium may be directed to Penny Shino (p.a.shino@massey.ac.nz)

20th NZASIA Conference - suggestion for panel theme

During the past several years, a number of articles have circulated discussing the crisis facing Asian Studies in the Australasian region. No doubt many of us read the article in The Australian titled 'Where have all the Asianists gone?' (posted 11 April on the [nzasiamebers](#) list). The article discusses the decline in Asian literacy, the expertise cave-in and the issue of successors once the current generation retires. In New Zealand's tertiary institutes these issues are exacerbated due to our isolation and the low level of funding of our teaching programmes. Need I add that in many places the results are worrisome indeed. In short, do we need a wider conversation to address some of these issues? Can we find new paradigms to replace the Cold War model that once worked well but is no longer relevant? These are some of the issues that Penny Shino aims to address in her symposium titled 'The Tertiary Teaching of Japanese in

New Zealand: Issues in the Asian Century' scheduled for later this year. A panel discussion at the next NZASIA conference may also help to carry on the momentum and to generate ideas and solutions. If you are interested in the issue, please contact Rosemary Haddon (R.M.Haddon@massey.ac.nz).

Rosemary Haddon

3.2 University of Auckland

Professor Mark Mullins of Sophia University, Tokyo, has been appointed to the position of Professor of Japanese Studies and is expected to take up his position late this year or early next year. Professor Mullen is the current editor of *Monumenta Nipponica*, and his research and writing has focused on the transplanted and indigenisation of world religions (Japanese Buddhism in the West and Christianity in East Asia) and the role of new religious movements in modern societies, in particular, the new socio-cultural expressions of religious traditions that emerge in the process of cross-cultural transmission (Japanese Christian movements that are independent of the Western mission churches). His current research focuses on neo-nationalism and religion in contemporary Japanese society. The Auckland professorship was jointly established with funding from the Japan Foundation and the Faculty of Arts.

Dr Richard Phillips retired at the end of February after 37 years at the University of Auckland, including two terms as the head of the School of Asian Studies. Dr Phillips' association with the university continues in his capacity as director of the Korean Studies Centre of the New Zealand Asian Institute, and as honorary research fellow in the School of Asian Studies.

Thus far this year the following PhD students have completed their degrees with supervision by members of the School of Asian Studies: Tonghong Cai ('Redefining a new cinema: A textual study of Chinese new-generation films'); Jung-hsuan Chen ('Crafting lives: The evolution of identity in the works of Zhu Tianxin and Kapka Kassabova'); Jing Shen ('Masculinity and the nation: Film narratives of the nation in 1930s and 1980s China'); Jige Zhang ('Media evolution and reform politics in China: A case of Guangdong'); Haifeng Zhang ('A Comparative Study of Shen Congwen and Witi Ihimaera as Indigenous Writers').

A formal agreement was signed between the Confucius Institute at the University of Auckland and Shanghai Jiaotong University in China on 24 April. This agreement marked the launch of the Shanghai Jiaotong University Training Centre for Graduate Students, the formalisation of a cooperative enterprise which has arisen over the last few years and which has involved mentoring by the Confucius Institute of trainee teachers from Jiaotong University while they worked with New Zealand teachers in primary and secondary schools. The Confucius Institute in Auckland is currently mentoring 22 masters students from six Chinese universities. The Confucius Institute, in partnership with Fudan University and Hanban, offered 1 two-year postgraduate degree scholarship, 4 one-year scholarships, and 4 one-month scholarships during first half of 2012. It sponsored the 60th New Zealand China Friendship Society Conference (May 18-19), and also organized the 11th Chinese Bridge Competition for Tertiary Students / 5th Chinese Bridge Competition for secondary school students, with a total of 107 participants in the Auckland region.

School of Asian Studies seminar series:

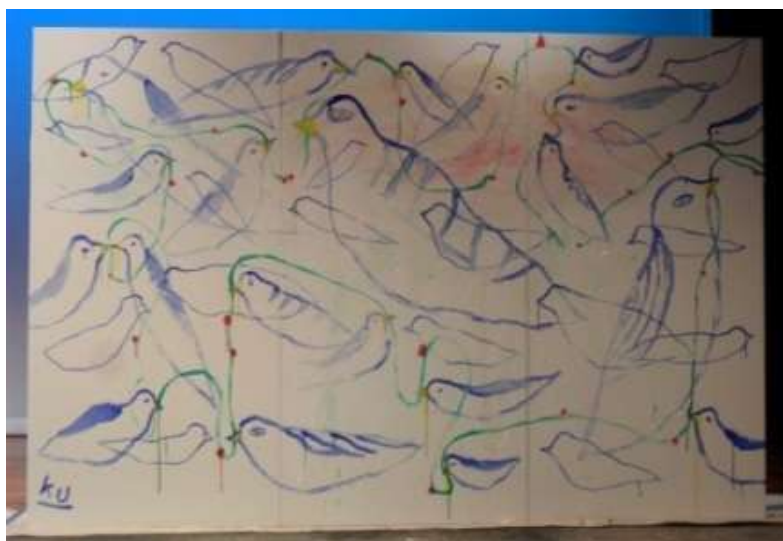
- 13 March 2012 - 'Talking Past Each Other: The Russo-Japanese War in Russian and Japanese Textbooks, 1997-2010,' Dr Elena Kolesova, Unitec

- 20 March 2012 - ‘Nationalism and Patriotism in Japan Today,’ Professor Kosaku Yoshino, Sophia University
- 27 March 2012 - ‘Varieties of Capitalism and International Standardization: Korea’s Activities in the International Telecommunications Union,’ Dr Kim Sung-Young, Department of Politics
- 4 April 2012 - ‘New Media and Chinese Diasporic Identity,’ Professor Manying Ip, School of Asian Studies
- 1 May 2012 - ‘War Museum, Affect and Revisionist History: The Case of Yūshūkan and *Kamikaze* Soldiers,’ Dr Rumi Sakamoto, School of Asian Studies
- 8 May 2012 - ‘From Indifference to Incorporation: South Korea’s Policy toward Non-resident Ethnic Koreans in the Last Four Decades,’ Dr Changzoo Song, School of Asian Studies
- 15 May 2012 - ‘Marking of Case and Referential Intent: A Study of the *ka*-indefinite Noun in Japanese,’ Dr Harumi Minagawa, School of Asian Studies
 - ‘Geminate Plosives in Japanese and Ryukyuan: A Phonological Perspective on a Phonetic Difference,’ Dr Wayne Lawrence, School of Asian Studies
- 23 May 2012 - ‘A Common Strangeness: Contemporary Poetry, Cross-cultural Encounter, Comparative Literature,’ Dr Jacob Edmund, University of Otago
- 29 May 2012 - ‘The Characteristics of the Earlier Manuscripts of *T’aengniji*, the Korean Classic for Choosing Settlements,’ Dr Inshil Yoon, School of Asian Studies
 - ‘Gender in the Production of Knowledge of Qiu Jin (1875-1907): Chinese Literature and Texts,’ Dr Robyn Hamilton, Honorary Research Fellow, School of Asian Studies

Wayne Lawrence

3.3 University of Canterbury

On 29 March, the University of Canterbury’s School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics hosted a special live performance by the Okinawan folk musician and vocalist Misako Koja and the Avant-garde Japanese artist Seitaro Kuroda. Koja, accompanied by her husband Kazuya Sahara on keyboard, performed a variety of traditional and original Okinawan songs. In particular, ‘Warabi-gami’ has attracted international recognition and several Japanese and Western musicians, including Hayley Westenra, have made covers of it.



Seitaro Kuroda live-action painting

While Koja was performing, Kuroda painted on a large canvas on stage using a unique type of live action painting that has brought him worldwide recognition. His creation evolved gradually during the performance, ending up as a striking picture filled with birds connected by a strand of foliage, symbolic of New Zealand's rich Nature. Following a long-held Japanese tradition, Kuroda deliberately left some birds without eyes, promising that he would return to paint these once his wish for Christchurch's full post-earthquake recovery has been achieved. This was an entertaining and emotionally moving event that brought together students and staff from Fine Arts, Music and Japanese Studies, and Christchurch's wider Japanese and Kiwi communities.

Panels Organised at the Association for Asian Studies Conference Toronto, 15-18 March 2012

A panel in honour of Bill Willmott (Professor Emeritus) was organised by Penny Edwards (University of California, Berkeley) at the recent AAS conference. The panel, 'The Chinese in Cambodia, 1962-2012,' addressed the many contributions made by Willmott in pioneering research on the Chinese community in Cambodia in the 1960s and also discussed more recent research on Chinese identity and community. The panel concluded with a discussion by Bill Willmott. The following papers were presented;

- Penny Edwards (University of California, Berkeley), 'Renegotiating Chineseness in Cambodia, 1970-1991'
- Sovatha Ann (University of Hawaii, Manoa), 'Chineseness in Phnom Penh: Does an Urban Setting Matter?'
- Shih-Lun A. Chen (University of Hawaii, Manoa) 'Social-Political Structure of the Chinese Community in Phnom Penh: Ethnic Congregations in the Cyber Era'
- Michiel Verver (Independent Scholar, Netherlands), 'Chinese Capitalism in Cambodia? Exploring Ethnic Chinese Entrepreneurship in Phnom Penh'
- Pal Nyiri (Independent Scholar, Netherlands), 'Investors, Managers and Brokers: How the "New" Chinese are Changing the Meaning of Chineseness in Cambodia'

Anne-Marie Brady (Political Science) also organised an AAS panel, 'Foreign Bodies: Foreigners and Foreign Institutions in Republican China.' Her panel focused on the period of upheaval in China in the 1930s and 1940s. Foreigners were intimately involved in both creating and trying to resolve this state of upheaval. Their competing ideologies and interests were a complicating factor in China's ultimate rebirth into a modern, united nation state. Foreigners were participant-observers in this tumultuous process and frequently were personally transformed by what they experienced in China. The various papers in the panel examine how foreign communities in Republican China had an influence on literature, education, trade, sexual morality, warfare, and architecture, and were themselves influenced by the society of China in the period from the 1920s to 1940s. The following papers were presented;

- Eric Henry (Carleton University), "'The Smell of the Orient": Cultural Critiques and Connections in 1920s Peking Language Classrooms'
- Maurizio Marinelli (University of Technology, Sydney), 'Tianjin's Hyper-colonial Space and the Italian Dream of Empire'
- Barbara Hartley (University of Tasmania), 'Takeda Taijun in Shanghai: Recollections of Republican China and Imperial Japan'

- Douglas Brown (John Abbott College), ‘Sissywood versus Alleyman: Going Nose to Nose in Shanghai’

Confucius Institute, University of Canterbury

A student performance troupe from Huazhong University of Science and Technology (HUST), visited New Zealand at the beginning of the Lunar new year and presented a series of southern-China-styled performances at the Spring Festival Gala. The troupe, which was led by the Executive Deputy President, Prof Lin Pinghua, was sponsored by Hanban at the invitation of the Confucius Institutes at the University of Canterbury (CIUC), Auckland University and Victoria University of Wellington. The troupe performed at Lantern Festivals in both Auckland and Christchurch as well as eight schools in the North and South Islands. Altogether they presented eighteen performances and attracted a total audience of over three hundred thousand.

On March 15, CIUC opened a resource centre at the Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology. The opening ceremony was attended by more than 50 people including Christchurch Mayor Bob Parker and Chinese Consul-General Tan Xiutian. Adam Lam, Director of CIUC, emphasized that the resource centre would not only serve staff and students at CPIT but would also offer convenient Chinese language and cultural resources to the broader business community in Christchurch. The Centre is open to the public and will regularly organize seminars or workshops on Chinese language, culture, economics and trade.

CIUC was invited for the second time to the annual Nelson Multicultural Festival in March this year. The theme for this year’s festival was ‘race unity,’ and CIUC brought along a dragon dance group from Christchurch as well as a volunteer performance troupe recruited from among UC Chinese students who performed a Chinese Zheng (harp) solo and folk dance. The CIUC calligraphy stall attracted a lot of interest and visitors during the festival, including Nelson Mayor Aldo Miccio and Tasman Mayor Richard Kempthorne.



Nelson Mayor Aldo Miccio at the CIUC calligraphy stall

CIUC also briefed the New Zealand-China Friendship Society’s Nelson Branch on CI’s goals, mission and activities in the South Island. The presentation aroused keen interest from among the attendees, who expressed their willingness to cooperate with the Confucius Institute in providing better services to the Nelson public in the areas of communication and exchange between China and New Zealand.

On 5 May, CIUC hosted the South Island 11th Chinese Bridge Competition for tertiary students and 5th Chinese Bridge Competition for secondary school students. Mr Wang Xinmin, the Chinese Vice Consul-General, attended the event and during his speech he highlighted the importance of the Chinese Bridge competition in promoting Chinese language teaching and learning.

The finals of the Chinese Bridge competition for both tertiary (excluding Auckland) and secondary students were held at Canterbury on 26 May. A total of 25 students from tertiary institutions and schools participated in the final round and after intense competition, the following students were declared winners: Annelise

Posthuma (University of Canterbury), Asher Stadlin-Robbie (Victoria University of Wellington), Chaer Yoon (Auckland International College), David Tuipulotu (Mt Albert Grammar School), Tae Hyouk Kim (Lynfield College) and Ibold Haley (ACG Parnell College).

New Zealand South Asia Centre

On 17 February, five Vice-Chancellors from India (from the Central University of Orissa, Delhi University, University of Hyderabad, University of Mumbai, and North Eastern Hill University) visited the University of Canterbury. The objectives of the visit were to establish relationships with New Zealand tertiary institutions, assist the Indian government in shaping tertiary cooperation with New Zealand under the Prime Minister's initiative (e.g. sports scholarships, business internships) and explore New Zealand's approach to Maori/indigenous tertiary education at both the policy and institutional level. Members of the New Zealand South Asia Centre (NZSAC) met with the Indian Vice-Chancellors, organized a walking guided tour of the campus, had several rounds of discussions on various aspects of the university and discussed the possibility of establishing bilateral exchanges of academics and research programmes.

Starting in March this year, NZSAC initiated a series of monthly seminars. These lectures are held once or twice a month and are becoming increasingly popular. Since these lectures are organized in a way that enables live streaming, it is possible to join the lectures online. In March, Dr Jane Buckingham discussed her research in Chennai, South India; in April, Dr Sita Venkateswar from Massey University, Wellington, discussed her work about the social impact of a popular music video that went viral in India ('Why this Kolaveri Di') that was transmitted through the network. On 11 May, Dr Amal Sanyal from Lincoln University talked about the 'Bombay Plan' and its impact on India's subsequent economic planning, and on 16 May, Dr Piers Locke gave a seminar, 'The Hattisar: The Integral Role of the Elephant Stable in Nepal's Lowland National Park.' The videos of these lectures and additional materials can be obtained from the blog maintained by NZSAC members at <http://nzsac.wordpress.com>. If you are interested to offer a seminar on a South Asia related topic, please let us know.

In March 2012, NZSAC began a group blog aimed at facilitating the sharing of news items, ideas, opinions, scholarly viewpoints, dissemination of videos of our seminar series and other information to the wider academic community. The URL of the blog is <http://nzsac.wordpress.com>. The blog is open to the wider world, and anyone who is an Associate Member of NZSAC or indeed a member of a society such as NZASIA can contribute to the blog. We encourage you to share your views through our blog and participate in our activities. More information on the blog is available at the above website or can be obtained by writing to Arindam Basu at arindam.basu@canterbury.ac.nz.

Naimah Talib

3.4 University of Otago

Launch of the Asian Migrations Research Theme by Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Enterprise) Richard Blaikie, 7 June, University of Otago

Directors: Associate Professor Jacqueline Leckie, Dr Jacob Edmond and Professor Henry Johnson

The Asian Migrations Research Theme focuses on movements of peoples and ideas-- past and present - in East, South, and South-East Asia and into the Pacific (encompassing the Pacific Islands, Australia, and New Zealand). It engages with the fields of diaspora, intercultural, global, and transnational studies, which have grown

over the last twenty years to become key frameworks for understanding culture beyond the boundaries of one nation. We see significant shortcomings in the current theories and methodologies of Asian migration and diaspora and especially in their application to the Asia-Pacific region. Our focus on Asian migrations allows us to highlight and address these shortcomings and to develop new approaches. The goal of the Theme is to develop a theoretical and methodological framework for understanding the Asia-Pacific region as comprised by movements of peoples, ideas, and commodities.

Reconsidering Gender in Asian Studies: A Pacific Perspective, 8-9 June, Asia-NZ Research Cluster Symposium, University of Otago

Co-convenors: Jacqui Leckie and Vanessa B. Ward

This symposium follows in the lines of those previously hosted by the Asia NZ Research Cluster at the University of Otago. It asks if gender matters within current research and practices relating to Asia. How central is this within Asian studies? How can we go beyond tropes of not only the 'seductive/submissive' 'Asian woman' but also well-established critiques and deconstructions of this? How are masculinities being addressed within Asian studies? We seek papers that are not just concerned with representation but also practice and praxis. We have also invited proposals for papers that address the key issue of Asian Studies research conducted in New Zealand especially at the nexus of Pacific and Asian studies.

Vanessa Ward

3.5 Victoria University of Wellington

Stephen Epstein organized a panel at the annual Association for Asian Studies conference, held in Toronto from March 15-18. The panel was titled 'Meanings and Practices of the Body in Contemporary South Korea' and took as its theme the growing emphasis on beauty in South Korean society and media since the turn of the millennium and what this increased emphasis tells about Korean understandings of the modern self. Epstein spoke on "'Healthy Legs": The Transnational Imagination and Korean Femininities,' while his former MA student Sun-ha Hong, now studying for a PhD at the Annenberg School of Communication at the University of Pennsylvania presented a paper entitled 'To Be Not-Beautiful: Negotiating the Ordinary Body in Korean Television.' Joanna K. Elfving-Hwang, who will soon be moving from the University of Frankfurt to take a position as the head of the University of Western Australia's fledgling Korean Studies programme, gave a paper on 'Before and After: Somatic Subjectivities and Cosmetic Surgery Discourses in Contemporary South Korean Popular Culture,' and although Rachael Miyung Joo of Middlebury College was not able to attend, her paper 'The Nude Torso and Korean Masculinities' was read by John Frankl of Yonsei University. Epstein and Joo have combined their papers under the title 'Multiple Exposures: Korean Bodies and the Transnational Imagination' and it is currently being considered for publication.

Edwina Palmer is this year's winner of the Inoue Yasushi Award for Outstanding Research in Japanese Literature. This annual award is presented for the best refereed journal article or book chapter published in English during the previous year by a researcher based in Australia or, from 2010, New Zealand. Palmer submitted her article, 'A poem to carp about? Poem 16-3828 of the *Manyōshū* collection,' *Bulletin of SOAS*, 74, 3, (2011), 417-436, and she is the first New Zealand recipient of the award.

Stephen Epstein

4. Forthcoming *New Zealand Journal of Asian Studies* issue

Vol.14, no.1 (June), 2012

Articles

Staying In Singapore? New Zealand's Third Labour Government and the Retention of Military Forces in Southeast Asia
DAVID MCCRAW

A Reluctant Friend: New Zealand's Relationship with North Korea, 1973-1989
PAUL BELLAMY

Negotiations between Conviction and Compliance: The Journeys of Yang Mo's Intellectual Characters
YUNZHONG SHU

Strengthening the Peace Building and Peacekeeping through Sport Nexus in Asia: Maximising the Potential of Sport, Olympism and Education
SAMANTHA NANAYAKKARA and IAN CULPAN

The Politics of Nostalgia in Vestiges of Japan: Yamada Taichi's Representation of Lafcadio Hearn
RIE KIDO ASKEW

Indonesian National Security during the Suharto New Order (1965 - 1998): The Role of Narratives of Peoplehood and the Construction of Danger
LENA TAN

Book Reviews

5. Membership

We remind you that the membership fee includes a subscription to the *New Zealand Journal of Asian Studies* (published twice yearly). The subscription period runs from 1 January to 31 December. There is an option of either a one-year or three-year subscription. Other benefits of membership include:

- 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, including scholarship opportunities

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