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The Department of Asian Studies

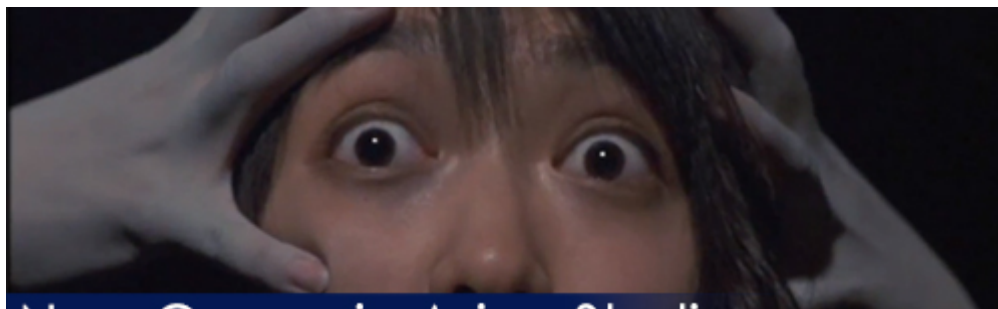
Tuesday, July 09, 2013

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The Update

A bi-weekly roundup of news in the [Department of Asian Studies](#)
For our Students, Faculty and Staff

Brand New Courses Being Offered this Winter Semester



[ASIA 360D: Asian Horror Cinema](#)

Examine the film-historical and socio-cultural contexts of horror films from around Asia. This course will discuss the recent Asian horror phenomenon, beginning with the success of the Ring franchise, as well as the origins of the genre within each national cinema. Throughout the semester we will explore how the horror genres ability to expose our subconscious fears and its capacity for allegory are employed to re-narrate national trauma and its impact on the individual.

ASIA 360D will be offered in Term 2 of 2013W and is now open for registration. For more information, [visit the UBC online course listings](#)

Dr. Ross King is Back!

Our Asian Studies Department Head has returned from sabbatical!

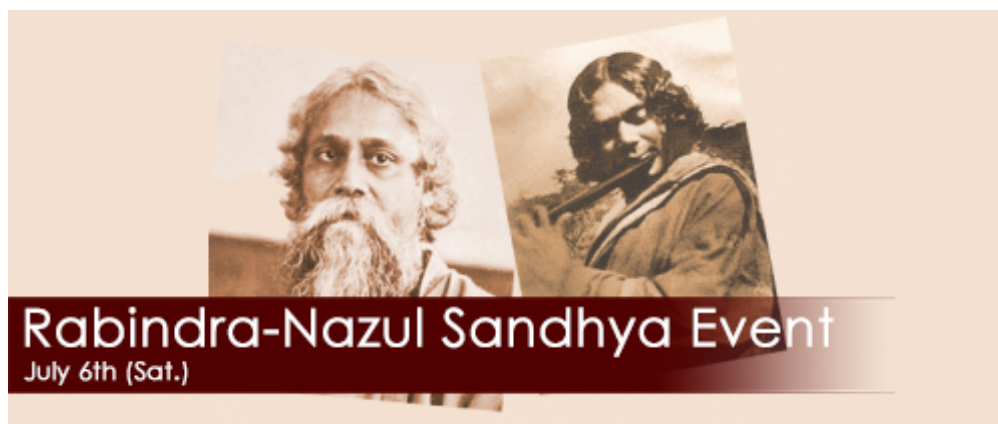


Ross has been in Japan at Waseda University for the past 10 months doing research and has now returned to resume his service as Head of the Department.

Dr. King's research interests lie in Korean historical linguistics with a particular focus on the language history of ethnic Koreans in the former Soviet Union. He was recently involved in the Koryo Saram Studies workshop, the first of its kind at UBC. He will be teaching a graduate seminar in the fall on 'Language and Colonialism in (mostly East) Asia'.

[full bio >>](#)

Rabindra-Nazul Sandhya 2013 – July 6th



Saturday July 6th, 2013

5:00 – 9:00 pm

Auditorium, Asian Centre

University of British Columbia, 1871 West Mall, Point Grey Campus.

Free General Admission

(For Food Coupons RSVP [here](#))

LMBCS members: \$5

Non-members: \$8

Children below 10 yrs: free.

[more info >>](#)

Nathan Clerici Receives Tenure Track Position in New York

Nathan Clerici is one of our Ph.D. Students completing his program this summer.

A letter from Nathan:



From August I will be an Assistant Professor of Japanese at SUNY New Paltz in the New York Hudson Valley region. As is always the case with life transitions, even as I look forward to exciting challenges with my new job, I am already missing what I must leave behind in Vancouver. To name just a few: talking with friends at the annex grad space, the Asian Library (the Asian Centre is the most interesting building on campus, in my opinion!), strolls around Nitobe Garden in every season (Nitobe's moss is second to none), talking sourdough techniques, weekend dim sum, running the seawall, and the long summer evenings. I have come to truly enjoy living in Vancouver, and I can honestly claim to enjoy even the rainy days -- who could have seen that coming?

But of course it is the people that make UBC Asian Studies special. When I started the program in the fall of 2007, I knew it was the beginning of a great time in my life. Thanks to the great friends I've made here, the past six years have been that and more. I've struggled through with my fellow graduate students and benefitted from the great faculty and staff at UBC, and now I will do my best to represent everyone as I move on with my career. I offer my sincerest appreciation to everyone who's helped me along the way, and if you happen to be passing through the Hudson Valley, please get in touch. A drink is on me.

Nathen Clerici

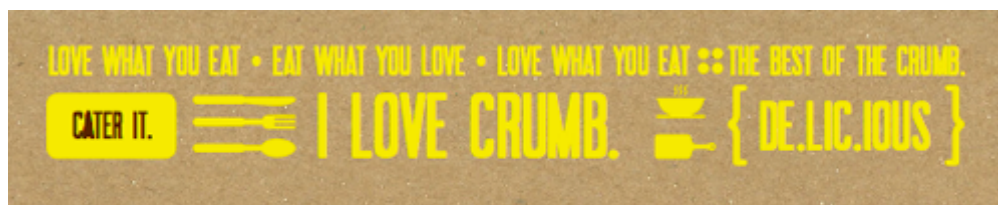
Last Opportunity to Join Asian Studies for a Roundtable Lunch!

We're looking for students taking Asian Studies courses to discuss events, communications, social media and swag with Asian Studies staff!

*Thursday, July 11th, 2013
1:00-2:30 pm
Asian Centre, Rm 604
1871 West Mall*

A free lunch will be catered by Crème de la Crumb.

Please RSVP to Julia Lovely at julia.lovely@ubc.ca by Tuesday, July 9th!



This invitation is open to students from all disciplines, as long as you are taking an Asian Studies class.

Sustainability Initiative of the Week!

The department has successfully completed the Soft Plastic Recycling Program pilot and I am happy to announce that we are now one of the few buildings on campus to recycle soft plastics! The main collection area for soft plastics is in the 4th floor copy room of the Asian Centre. There is one bag for clear plastics and another for coloured plastics. We also have a smaller collection bin by the mailboxes in the main office that will accept both coloured and clear plastics. Please keep in mind that we cannot accept any dirty plastics, so give those ziplock bags a rinse before dropping them off!



An Interview with Cam Vidler, Director of International Policy at the Canadian Chamber of Commerce

Cam Vidler graduated from his BA, at the University of Toronto, in 2008. In five years he has already become a Director at the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. Find out how he did it and get his insights on emerging Asia.

1) What is your personal opinion for Canada's role in the Asian centric global economy of the near future? And where will Canadian's need to develop relationships?

It's a truism that the rise of Asia presents a major opportunity for Canada. In short, we've got what they need: plentiful natural resources and the associated skills and technologies to exploit them, world-leading financial services, a high-quality education system and experience developing both physical and soft infrastructure across a wide geography. These are just some of the assets we have that can help feed and manage the rapid industrialization that is underway in Asia.

The opportunity is clear, but the more important question is whether Canada has what it takes to succeed. Despite high growth, the business climate in many countries is daunting. And we're not the only country seeking to make inroads in Asia. Our competitors tend to be bigger and more influential, which matters a lot in a region where business ties are often underpinned by political relationships. As the organizer for two senior Canadian business delegations to India, I saw firsthand how difficult it is for us to get attention from the country's elites.

To build stronger economic partnerships in Asia, we need to use all the tools at our disposal. The Canadian government is already shifting its overseas resources towards these markets. But we need to go beyond traditional diplomacy and strengthen the people-to-people ties with Asia that the business community, civil society and the public at large are already developing. This will require new forms of coordination and collaboration between different organizations and segments of society.

And as we look to Asia, we cannot forget our traditional relationships. For all the talk of America's decline, the U.S. economy is showing new signs of life and will forever be Canada's largest trading partner. The legacy of NAFTA means that our supply chains in everything from agriculture to aerospace are highly integrated. Attempts to arbitrarily shift our trade away from the U.S. and towards Asia ignore this reality. A better approach is to work with our American partners on joint initiatives such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership that improve market access in Asia for North American industry as a whole.

2) As Asian economies start to grow, what kind of skill sets will be demanded of new graduates and the working force?

Asia's growth has implications for a span a wide range of skill sets and career paths. High-paying jobs in mining, energy, forestry and agriculture are all being supported by the region's demand for resources. Increased global competition in advanced manufacturing and services will require Canadians who work in these sectors to constantly refine their skills and build new specializations. And across all jobs, familiarity with Asia—its geography, its languages and its cultures—will become more important.

3) As students educated in Asian languages and cultures, what kind of work do you think we could have an advantage in?

While Canadian businesses are eager to find opportunities in Asia, their lack of familiarity with these markets can be overwhelming. This is particularly the case for small and medium-sized companies. As our CEO likes to say: it's always easier to drive down to Cincinnati with your marketing materials, check-in to the Days Inn, have a few meetings, and be back in time for dinner the next day. Graduates with knowledge of the languages, history, politics and culture of key Asian markets—and especially those with experience and networks on-the-ground—are well-placed to help Canadian firms develop effective strategies to navigate these unfamiliar business climates.

4) Many students nowadays question the value of an Arts degree. As someone who has an Arts background is there anything you could say to that? How did you transfer your education into a career?

At various points in my academic and professional career, I've questioned whether I made the right choice by studying social sciences and international affairs. Other fields, such as business and law, seemed to offer such clearer direction after graduation. But ultimately, my passion and academic interests got the best of me and I felt I'd perform better as a student if I continued in this direction.

Today, I feel lucky to have a career that matches my academic background. But it didn't happen entirely by accident. One of the main dangers of an Arts degree is that your studies end up being too general, leaving you comfortable in many areas, but expert in none. Sure, you leave with strong analytical and writing skills, but no professional identity. Another danger is that you do specialize, but that the field you've chosen lacks relevance to the job market. I tried to address both of these concerns by focusing my broad passion for international politics towards international trade and economic policy—an area in which I excelled and that I felt would not only be valuable for a career in government, but for one in the private sector too.

Once you've identified a field or focus, it's important to match it with extracurricular and

professional activities. For me, this meant writing opinion pieces on international economic issues for my school newspaper, and applying to an internship with a prominent think-tank where I helped evaluate the investment policies of different mining jurisdictions around the world. These experiences helped narrow my professional objectives and demonstrated some basic expertise that I could build on and sell to future employers.

5) You have accomplished a lot in your career in a short period of time - how?

One reason that my career developed so quickly is that I had a steady-stream of internships and consulting projects during my studies. For this, I have to thank the student career office and my professors for opening the door to research opportunities both on and off campus. This meant that by the time I left school, I could reasonably claim to have 2-3 years of work experience.

Networking has also been essential throughout my career. I think I've only ever had one job offer from an online posting, and I've applied to my fair share. I'm always impressed by how willing people are to meet with you—and refer you to their friends and colleagues—if you demonstrate enthusiasm, competence and a common interest. The main challenge is to work up the energy and courage to ask for these sorts of meetings, especially when they're quite senior to you.

6) What advice would you give your university self?

Find your niche. Make sure that it's something you like, something you're good at and something that others will need. And then build on your niche by clustering your coursework, extracurricular activities and work experience around it. Frequent contact with your professors can be a huge help here.

7) What advice would you give your early career self?

Don't be shy—get out there! Try to meet as many people in your field as you can, both peers and potential mentors. Online tools today make this easier than ever. Get your LinkedIn profile up and running. Consider a personal website. Set up a blog or twitter feed where you can post content and comment on topical issues related to your field. And in the age of information overload, don't underestimate the power of a well-timed phone call.

We Welcome your Submissions

If you have a story that you would like featured in our biweekly update please send an email to oliver.mann@ubc.ca

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11/30/2016

The Update - July 9th

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