The Update

A bi-weekly roundup of news in the Department of Asian Studies
For our Students, Faculty and Staff

John Howes Lecture in Japanese Studies - Postwar Tokyo: Capital of a Ruined Empire

The Department of Asian Studies at the University of British Columbia is pleased to invite you to our annual John Howes Lecture in Japanese Studies featuring guest speaker Dr. Seiji M. Lippit, Professor in Asian Languages and Cultures at the University of California, Los Angeles. This year's lecture, entitled Postwar Tokyo: Capital of a Ruined Empire, will discuss the remarkable efflorescence of literature and culture that emerged in Tokyo during the immediate postwar period, as intellectuals and artists, many of them returning to the city from the countryside or from overseas territories, grappled with a simultaneous sense of immense loss and hopeful visions of the future.

Lecture: Postwar Tokyo: Capital of a Ruined Empire

Thursday, November 17, 2016
5pm Reception with light refreshments
6pm Lecture
Auditorium, Asian Centre, 1871 West Mall, UBC, Vancouver

This lecture is free and open to the public. Online registration is required. Space is limited.

Register now >>
New Sections and Seats Still Open for Basic Chinese in Term 2

Since offering its first Chinese language courses in 1957-1958, UBC has developed one of the most comprehensive programs of Chinese studies in North America. Thanks to popular demand for beginner Chinese, we are now offering a completely new section in term 2 for CHIN 141 004 (heritage) and, for non-heritage learners, there are still seats available in CHIN 131 009 and 010.

CHIN 141 004 - Basic Chinese I: Part 1 (Heritage)
CHIN 131 009 - Basic Chinese I: Part 1 (Non-Heritage)
CHIN 131 010 - Basic Chinese I: Part 1 (Non-Heritage)

See all CHIN courses offered in 2016W >>

Narcissus at the Fountain

With speaker Ignacio Adriasola, Assistant Professor, Department of Art History, Visual Art and Theory, UBC.

This paper will address the singular practice of portraiture within Postwar Japanese experimental art. Despite its centrality to fine arts ideology, postwar Japanese art history usually has marginalized portraiture for its perceived mimeticism. But instead of a “subject” oriented reading, I will propose an anti-mimetic, objectual account of portraiture, hinging on ideas of transformation and performance.
Thursday, November 10, 2016
4pm – 5pm
Room 213 at MOA

One Asia Forum Talk Series

Hosted by Dr. Nam-lin Hur, this series will feature different speakers every other week throughout Term 1.

Upcoming events:

Thursday, November 10, 2016
Courts, families, and sovereigns: The Chinese empire and China’s option of provincializing Korea, 1392–1902
Thursday, November 17, 2016
Tributary Twilight and the Global Modern: Lost Visions of Qing-Chos?n Relations in the Late Nineteenth Century
With guest speaker Professor Joshua Van Lieu (LaGrange College)
4:00pm – 6:00pm
Room 461, Irving K. Barber Learning Centre, 1961 East Mall

Thursday, December 1, 2016
“Lu Xun and Uchiyama Kanz?: Friendship in a Time of War”
With guest speaker Professor Joshua A. Fogel (York University)
4:00pm – 6:00pm
Room 604, Asian Centre, 1871 West Mall

Understanding Caste and Class in Contemporary India
A talk by Dr. Anand Teltumbde: Scholar, Author, Civil Rights Activist and Professor of Business Analytics at the Goa Institute of Management, Goa, India

Dr. Teltumbde argues that caste and class is a duality which has killed a potential revolution in India, dragging India into a socio-political morass. While castes have been the lifeworld of people, as a system their attributes have undergone change due to political and economic transformations in the subcontinent throughout history. The discourse of class that arose with the advent of communism missed this fundamental reality of Indian society and gave rise to this duality. The anti-caste movement articulated by the Dalits, in response, was alienated from this discourse and went on a divergent path. Dr. Teltumbde will present the historical backdrop to the current problem that afflicts the struggles of Dalits and the Left and discuss strategies to overcome it.

Monday, November 14th, 2016
4:30pm - 6:30pm
Room 120, Choi Bldg
Changes in the Conceptualization of Body in Japanese Science Fiction

With Speaker Dr. Yuki Ohsawa (UBC), as part of the Centre for Japanese Research Lunchtime Lecture Series.

This research investigates changes in the conceptualizations of technologically-enhanced beings and bodies in contemporary Japanese science fiction anime, manga, and literature. These stories/images and real-life transitions make us consider such issues as what constitutes the
body, how the body is now changing, and what the relationship between the body and the self/mind might be. In order to understand ourselves and contemporary conditions and issues, which occur in specific relation to differences inherent in each body—sex, race, disability, disease, and so on—it is essential to analyze these changes in body notions as contemporary visual media themselves critique and discuss them.

**Wednesday, November 16, 2016**

12:30pm - 1:30pm
Room 604, Asian Centre

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**Colloquium on Religion, Literature and the Arts**

Hosted by Dr. Anne Murphy, this colloquium will feature different speakers every other week throughout Term 1.

**Upcoming events:**

**Tuesday, November 15, 2016**

[Saviour or Trickster God? Reexamining Ea’s Motives in Two Babylonian Myths](#)
With Sara Milstein (Classical, Near Eastern, and Religious Studies)
12:30pm
Room 604, UBC Asian Centre, 1871 West Mall
In modern contexts, the legal notion of rape is inextricable from the issue of consent. Our general recognition of this principle, however, has the capacity to mislead us in the interpretation of legal material from the ancient Near East. For some scholars, biblical and Mesopotamian laws that pertain to sexual assault make a clear distinction between consensual and non-consensual sex. Others claim that there was no notion of female consent in the ancient Near East, and that therefore, there was no concept of “rape” as we know it. I aim to carve out a middle position between these two views, one that acknowledges the possibility of a legal conception of rape in the ancient Near East that does not rely on consent. This analysis is rooted in Deut 22:23-29, a set of three scenarios pertaining to sexual assault that result in different verdicts for the man and woman involved. I shall demonstrate that the presence of absence of witnesses—not consent—is the key to understanding how the lawmakers determine the innocence or guilt of the woman in each case.

This talk is part of a yearlong Colloquium on Religion, Literature, and the Arts on occasional Tuesdays (and one Thursday). For more information, see: http://rgh.arts.ubc.ca/

Sponsored by the Religion, Literature, and the Arts Interdisciplinary Program, with the additional support of UBC Asian Studies

Movie Screening: Yellowing

Hong Kong’s fraught, tense relationship with mainland China came to a head in 2014’s Umbrella Movement. Vivid, moving portraits of selected students who camped out on the streets and organized a temporary, alternative, communitarian Hong Kong animate this fly-on-the-wall documentary. Richly detailed, engrossing and dramatic, it captures the sights, sounds and
feelings of a time when tens of thousands of Hong Kong citizens—energized idealistic youth—defied their government and demanded democracy.

Tuesday, 22 November 2016
6:30pm
Frederic Wood Theatre, UBC
Length: 133 mins; Language: Catonese with English subtitles

Free & open to the public but registration required.

TEDx Talk with Dr. Edward Slingerland

Dr. Edward Slingerland claims that recent research suggests that many aspects of a satisfying life—such as happiness and spontaneity—are best pursued indirectly. The early Chinese philosophers knew this, and they wrote extensively about an effortless way of being in the world. We've long been told that the way to achieve our goals is through careful reasoning and conscious effort. Can Dr. Slingerland change your perspective to stop trying?

Japanese Movie Night Summary

The instructors in the Japanese Language Program hosted their second Japanese movie night on Friday, November 4th. The event was attended by Japanese language students from all levels along with Ritsumeikan students. There were lots of laughs during the movie, after which the
students and instructors had a chance to talk while enjoying pizza and snacks. It was a very enjoyable way to end the week after midterms!

November is Free Coffee Month at the Asian Centre!

Days are getting darker and exams and papers are getting us stressed. November is tough... but Asian Studies is coming to the rescue! For this month only, we are offering free coffee to students, faculty and staff to help us get through the rest of November.

Bring your friends and get your caffeine-kick on the 4th floor of the Asian Centre. We know that working hard is the key to success but don’t be afraid to take a break, de-stress and socialize in our lounge.

As always, with our commitment to sustainability, we ask that you bring your own mug to enjoy our organic Fair Trade coffee.
If you are having a hard time finding the coffee pot or if we are out of fresh coffee, come to the Asian Studies office (room 607). We will be happy to assist you.

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**Student Opportunities**

Sessional Lecturer Position (2016W T2) - FIST 230 Intro to Asian Cinema. Deadline Nov 10, 2016


2017 Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme Recruitment. Deadline to apply Nov 18, 2016

Ise and Japan Study Program 2017. Fully funded study program (lectures and field trips) for researchers (graduate or post-graduate). Application deadline November 30, 2016


Language Sciences Undergraduate Research Conference - Abstract Submissions open from Nov 1 - Dec 5, 2016

The Call for Papers for LSURC is now open until December 5, 2016 at 11:59pm!

Yokohama IUC 10-Month Program: The Inter-University Centre for Japanese Language Studies (http://www.stanford.edu/dept/IUC) is the leading institution for training graduate students in Japanese and equipping them for further research. UBC is a member of the consortium, which enables a reduced tuition and better access to funding. The deadline for the ten-month program is December 9 if you wish to be considered for a Nippon Foundation fellowship. Those interested in applying are encouraged to contact Dr. Christina Laffin at christina.laffin@ubc.ca.

Submit your papers to the UBC Journal of International Affairs. The submission deadline is December 23rd 2016.

University of Colorado — Call for Graduate Studies Applications in Modern/Premodern Chinese and Japanese Literature/Culture. Applications are due on January 1st, 2017

MA In South Asian Studies at University of Washington, Seattle

Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme – Applications Open

Japan Foundation Programs (2016-2017) guide and application forms available online

UBC to Offer Three Professional Learning Courses in Indigenous Education in 2017

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**On-Campus Events**

**Thursday, November 10, 2016**

Narcissus at the Fountain - Part of the MOA Visual and material Culture Research Seminar Series

4pm - 5pm
Room 213 at the Museum of Anthropology

**Thursday, November 10, 2016**

Master the rules of Japanese SHUKATSU!

6pm - 7:30pm
Room 120, C.K. Choi Building
Tuesday, November 15, 2016
The Female Chieftain's Tribute
4pm - 6pm
Fairmont Social Lounge, St. John's College

Wednesday, November 16, 2016
Half-Lives Lived Otherwise: "calendars and geographies from below"
12pm - 1pm
Room 028, Jack Bell Building, 2080 West Mall

Wednesday, November 16, 2016
Reclaiming our Bodies: Discussing Asian Sexualities on Screen
3pm - 4:30pm
Room 2309, AMS Student Nest, 6133 University Blvd

Thursday, November 17, 2016
The Spectographies of Asian Divas: Focusing on the first Korean Colonial Diva, Lee Erisu and Unclaimed Memory
3:30pm - 5pm
Room 120, C.K. Choi Building

Thursday, November 17, 2016
Layers of Influence: Unfolding Cloth Across Cultures Exhibition Opening
Free admission after 6pm
UBC Museum of Anthropology, 6393 NW Marine Drive

Thursday, November 24, 2016
Life after Death: The Rebirth of Buddhism in Modern India - Part of the MOA Visual and material Culture Research Seminar Series
4pm - 5pm
Room 213 at the Museum of Anthropology

Thursday, December 1, 2016
Tenzing Rigidol: Artist’s talk on contemporary Tibetan art
5pm - 7:30pm
Room 102, Frederic Lasserre Building, 6333 Memorial Road

Off-Campus Events

November 10 & 11, 2016
Teahouse Play by Lao She. By Beijing People's Art Theatre
The Centre in Vancouver for Performing Arts, 777 Homer Street

Monday, November 14, 2016
The Pacific Islands' Rising - and Surprising - Geostrategic Significance
12:30pm - 1pm
Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada, 900-675 West Hastings

Tuesday, November 15, 2016
Can India be a hope for the world?
7pm
Room 1200, Segal Graduate School of Business, 500 Granville Street

Thursday, November 17, 2016
Okinawa: the Afterburn. John Junkerman's Award-Winning Film
5pm - 8pm
Room HC 1530, Harbour Centre Campus SFU, 515 West Hastings, Vancouver

Alumni Spotlight - Jimmy Mitchell, MA '95

The Alumni Spotlight is an interview series where we interview Asia Studies alumni about their career paths, how they became interested in Asian Studies and for any advice that would be useful to our students. This interview features Jimmy Mitchell, MA '95. His MA is in Modern Chinese History with a thesis on the end of WWII in China. He is currently Vice President, Business Development at AdvantageBC.
Tell us a little about yourself, your background and how you became interested in Asian Studies?

I grew up in Saskatchewan but travelled and lived overseas repeatedly due to my father’s work as a writer and academic. In 1979, while living in Scotland, we discovered that we had a family connection to Norman Bethune, a Canadian doctor and communist who went to China in 1938 to assist Mao Zedong’s 8th Route Army in their war effort, and whose death there (blood poisoning, from a cut during an operation) the following year prompted Mao to honour him in a poem, one that was subsequently memorized by generations of students there; until being more recently surpassed by Mark Rosewell (aka “Dashan”), Bethune was arguably the most famous foreigner in China.

This connection led my father to live and work in China the following year, although I did not go. But when I graduated with my first university degree (BFA in Theatre, University of Regina, 1986), my family was back in China again, and they suggested I give it a try as the country was, in my father’s words, “becoming very interesting”. I found a job teaching university in the city of Taiyuan in late 1986, and for the next 18 months worked, studied, travelled extensively — and have never looked back since then. From there I lived in Taiwan for three years, and realized that a career was shaping up but that I needed further education. I chose UBC.

While a student, was there anything you did to get ahead with your career? Or anything that you would recommend that other students do?

While in graduate studies at UBC, I took 8 months out of my program to study Mandarin at a university in Taipei, and found a job editing and translating for a financial media organization. I’d recommend that anyone in Asian studies look for opportunities in the field, to either work, volunteer, or study there during the course of their university studies, even if it means taking some time out. This can not only give students valuable cultural, linguistic and personal perspective regarding the country or discipline of which they’re studying, but can also allow students to connect their formal studies with potential post-education career choices and opportunities.

How did you get your first “adult” job after graduating? Was it a simple transition?

I minored in English as an undergraduate, and so it was relatively easy to land a teaching job in China, as universities back then had a lot of difficulty attracting foreigners due to poor living
conditions, low pay, and lack of recruitment networks. Later, after earning my MA at UBC years later — because I had already worked as a journalist in Taipei — I was able to return and re-enter that career path without too much difficulty.

**After your first job, how did your career progress and what are you currently doing?**

In 1995 I found a job as a reporter at Taiwan’s English-language station, for which I often had to conduct interviews in Chinese. Being in radio, my public recognition then gave me other opportunities to do freelance work for both radio and print (e.g. CBC, Globe and Mail, Newsweek Magazine), which again expanded my professional network more widely. In 1998, I was approached by a group of foreign journalists in Taiwan who were interested in starting an English-language newspaper, and I subsequently became the founding news editor of what became the Taipei Times.

Fast forward to 2000, and I was approached by Canada’s chief representative in Taiwan with an offer to join the Canadian Trade Office in Taipei as a diplomat. That led to subsequent work over the next decade in both Ottawa and Shanghai. Following my tenure as political Consul in Shanghai, I was (again) approached by senior officials from the Department of Canadian Heritage who were organizing Canada’s presence at the Shanghai World Expo in 2010, and for which I became a project director for the business and trade program at our national Pavilion.

Finally, during the Expo in Shanghai I met the then-President of what is now AdvantageBC, who later offered me my current position.

**Can you explain to a non-expert what you research?**

My job description covers both Korean literature and literary translation. As for Korean literature, I’m increasingly interested in the Korean literary tradition as a whole—the oral tradition and recorded literature, writing in classical Chinese as well as writing in Korean, traditional as well as modern literature—and the rich intertextuality and intermediality it displays. For example, my students can appreciate the classic tale of Ch’unhyang in prose form, in a film by one of contemporary Korea’s most accomplished filmmakers, and even in a K-Pop song in which the singer wears period clothing.

I’m also interested in the way the Korean literature power structure (*mundan*) works, often in my opinion to the detriment of engaging a wide audience for Korean literature both in Korea and abroad. I’m interested in varieties of modern Korean literature that exist on the peripheries of this power structure, such as military camptown fiction; genre fiction; flash fiction and its slightly longer counterpart, the conte; and the literature of the Korean diaspora.
As for literary translation, I’m more active in the actual translation process than in researching and theorizing about it. I want my students to first have practical experience in Korean-to-English literature translation; students who are interested in the field of translation studies can then apply this experience in their research.


How and why did you start your journey in Asian Studies?

In 1978, when I first went to Korea (as a member of the U.S. Peace Corps). That I ended up in Korea was fortuitous (I was first asked if I wanted to go to Afghanistan!), but I had a distinct reason in wanting to go overseas, and that was to broaden my horizons.

What was the experience for you learning a second language?

I’ve had three different such experiences. I studied French from junior high school into college, but did so because the courses were required; I was not a committed French language learner. My study of Korean began the moment my Peace Corps group landed in Korea and it has continued ever since, in a variety of settings. One of my Korean teachers in Peace Corps remarked that the most fruitful language learning takes place when the learner desires to communicate with those who are native speakers of the target language; that has been my experience with Korean. Third, I undertook the study of Mandarin in graduate school to improve my understanding of the considerable proportion of the Korean language (slightly more than 50 percent) that consists of loan words from Chinese. But I ultimately began to enjoy studying Mandarin as a spoken language separate from spoken Korean.
Dr. Bruce Fulton. January 1980 (on trek with Ju-Chan Fulton in Nepal), near summit of Kala Patar (c. 18,000 feet), above Everest Base Camp, with the summit of Mt. Everest in the background.

Was there a point in your journey you struggled or questioned yourself? What happened?

Not until very recently, when I began to realize that human relations are no longer as important in Korea, at least in the metropolis of Seoul, as they once were. In recent years there has been an increasing emphasis in Korean public life on rules and regulations, an emphasis that has had the unfortunate effect of supplanting what I early on came to regard as the solidity of a personal relationship, in which the two parties would usually be able to overcome any obstacle or misunderstanding. I’ve recently encountered several problems related to the increasing institutionalization and commercialization of the translation of Korean literature into English.

Read the full interview >>