



Top Stories



[2017 Yip So Man Wat Memorial Lecture](#)

Held annually, the Wat lecture honours the late mother of Messrs. Alex and Chi Shum Wat and her passion for Chinese literature and culture. This year's lecture, held on March 1st, will feature guest speaker Professor Barbara Mittler from the University of Heidelberg and author of *A Continuous Revolution: Making Sense of Cultural Revolution Culture*. Save the date in your calendar!



[2017 Asian Studies Careers Night](#)

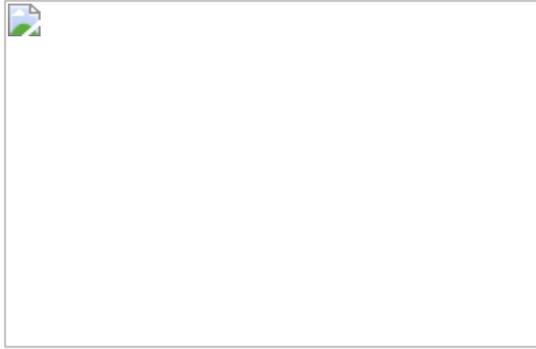
On February 15th, 2017, Asian Studies will be hosting our annual Asian Studies Careers Night. This year's event will begin with a keynote from Ambassador Joseph Caron (previous Canadian Ambassador to China, Japan and India) and will then open up to a panel of Asian Studies Alumni and a networking session for students. If you are an Asian Studies Alumnus interested in being a speaker/participant at this year's event, please send an email to oliver.mann@ubc.ca.



[2017 Asian Studies Lunar New Year](#)

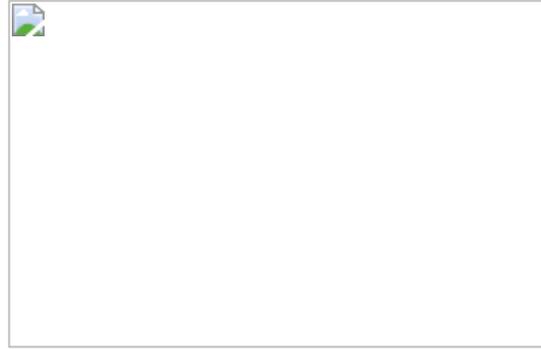
On January 27th, 2017 the Department of Asian Studies will be hosting our annual Lunar New Year Celebration! Come to the Asian Centre and participate in fun activities that will celebrate the cultures of China and Korea. Save the date and stay tuned for more details.

Connect



[Letterman Jackets: Pre-Order Sign Up](#)

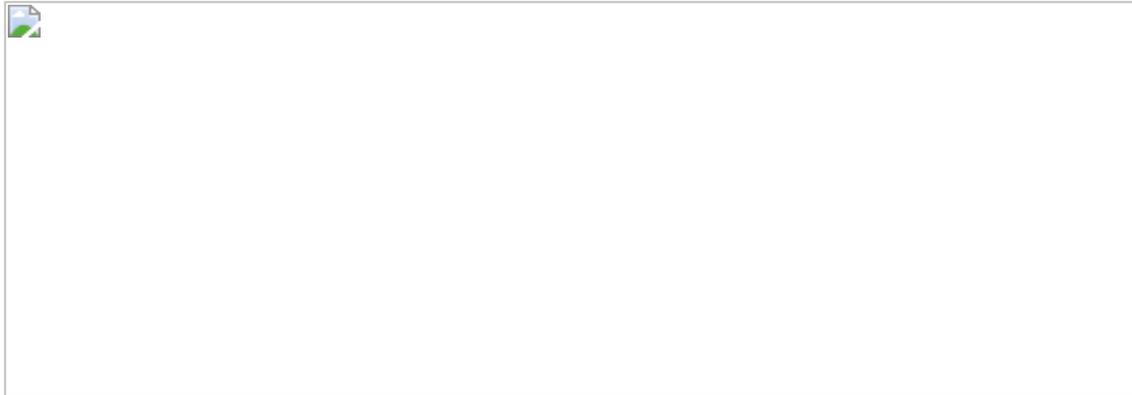
Back by popular demand, we will be doing another limited run of our Asian Studies Letterman jackets (last ordered in 2014)! As we will only be ordering 50 units, pre-order a jacket today to make sure that you get one.



[Asian Studies is on LinkedIn](#)

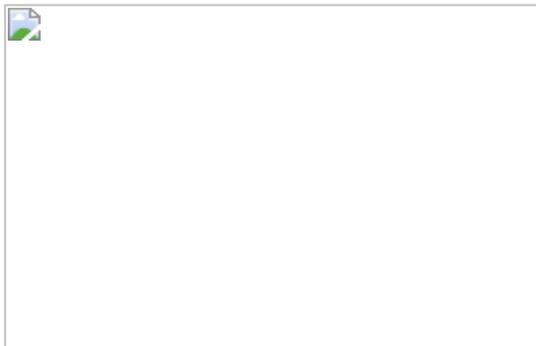
With over 270 members already, start reconnecting with other Asian Studies alumni and students today!

Interviews

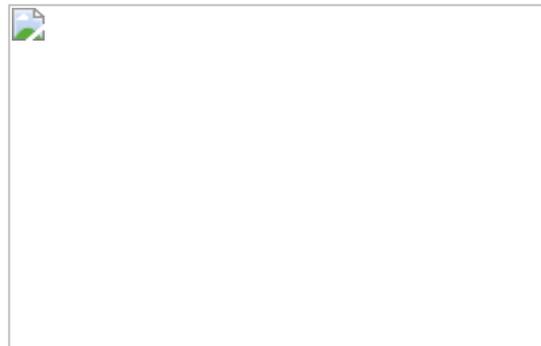


[Don Baker - Faculty Spotlight](#)

"I wanted to return to East Asia after I graduated from LSU, but didn't have enough money to do so. But then I learned that the US Peace Corps was recruiting volunteers to work in Korea. I thought "how different can Korea be from China?" (How little I knew back then!) I applied to the Peace Corps and ended up teaching English in the southwestern city of Kwangju (now spelled Gwangju) for 3 years."



[Bruce Fulton - Faculty Interview](#)



[Ross King - Faculty Interview](#)

"I've always hoped, along with my good wife and translation partner, that our translations will bring increased attention, both abroad and in Korea, to the vibrant Korean literary tradition. I hope that through my teaching and our translation I can impress upon others the connections and commonalities, rather than the barriers and differences, shared by different peoples and cultures."

"My training originally was in Korean language and linguistics; especially the history and structure of the Korean language. Lately I am interested in the history of reading—in East Asia more broadly, and in Korea, more specifically. I am especially interested in the technologies and texts that helped non-Chinese (like Koreans and Japanese) learn to read and write Literary Sinitic (Classical Chinese)."



[Clayton Ashton - Meet our Students](#)

"I study the political and intellectual history of early China. My dissertation is focused on the period of about 300 BCE. This was a period of history when people were beginning to ask some fascinating and original questions about some big topics that we're still struggling with today: how to organize a state, how to balance individual desires with collective needs, and what it means to be ethical during a period of upheaval."



[Julie Vig - Meet our Students](#)

"My dissertation wishes to engage with gurbilās literature as a literary genre that was not only part of the Sikh and Punjabi world but also part of the wider world of Brajbhasha literature."



[Douglas Ober - Meet our Students](#)

"My dissertation rests at the intersection of South Asian history and Buddhist studies. Put simply, the conventional view in academia (and beyond) is that sometime between the 12th – 15th century, Buddhism “died” or “disappeared” from India before being “reborn” in 1956 when the Indian constitutionalist, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, converted to Buddhism along with half a million of his Dalit (“Untouchable”) followers."



[Alumni Spotlight – Jimmy Mitchell, MA '95](#)

With an MA in Modern Chinese History with a thesis on the end of WWII in China, Jimmy Mitchell is currently Vice President, Business Development at AdvantageBC.



[Alumni Spotlight – Nick Stember, MA '16](#)

This interview features Nick Stember, MA '16, who works as a freelance Chinese to English translator in Vancouver, BC.



[Alumni Spotlight – Taylor Sadler, BA '15](#)

Taylor Sadler, BA '15, worked as a Cultural Ambassador for the Labo International Exchange Foundation in Japan after graduating. Her job involved going to different community groups and giving children a chance to interact with a foreigner, learn about a foreign culture, and practice their English.



[Kyoto, Japan with Chriss Goeb](#)



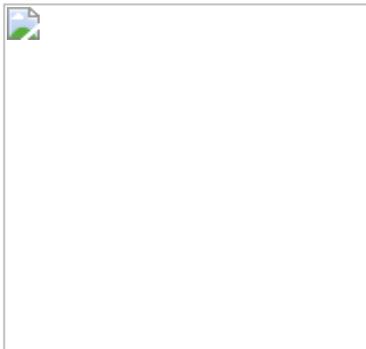
[Osaka, Japan with William](#)

Currently on exchange to Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto, Japan, Chriss Goeb, a 3rd year Asian Studies major (Japanese), has agreed to share his experience as it unfolds. This is part one, of a three-part interview, chronicling his exchange abroad. The first interview will be conducted after his first week in Japan, the second, halfway through his exchange and the third, one week before he returns.

[Strausser](#)

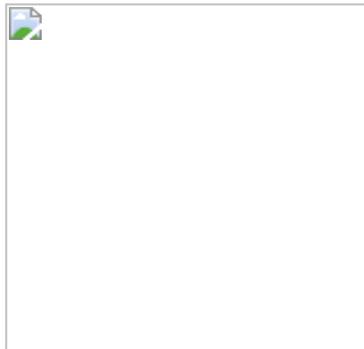
Recently returned from a 1-semester exchange to Osaka University in Japan, William Strausser, a 4th year Asian Area Studies major, agreed to share his experience as it unfolded. This is the final part, of a three-part interview, chronicling his exchange abroad. The first interview was conducted after his first week in Japan, the second, halfway through his exchange and the third, after he returned.

Term 2 Courses



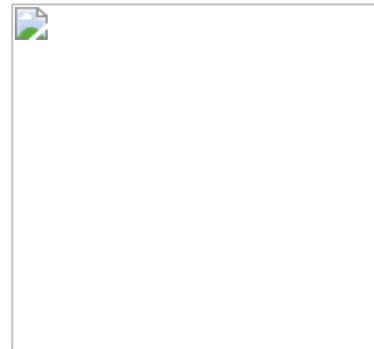
[ASIA 392](#)

Classical Persian Literature in English Translation



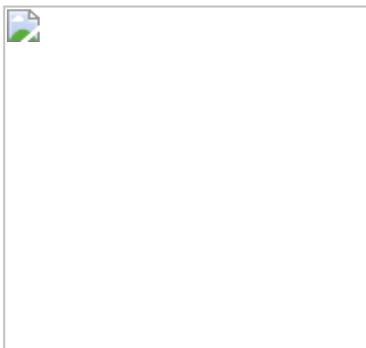
[ASIA 303](#)

Mahayana Buddhism



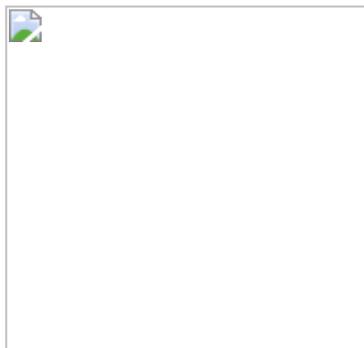
[ASIA 377](#)

History of Korean Thought



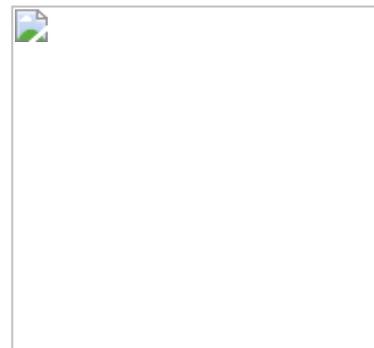
[ASIA 211](#)

Sex, Sexual Ethics, and Asian Religions



[ASIA 364](#)

Modern Japanese Literature in Translation



[ASIA 441B](#)

Masterworks of Chinese Fiction and Drama in Translation

Fall Highlights



[2016 John Howes Lecture in Japanese Studies](#)

Video is now available from this year's lecture, Postwar Tokyo: Capital of a Ruined Empire, by Dr. Seiji M. Lippit (University of California, Los Angeles). The lecture discussed the remarkable efflorescence of literature and culture that emerged in Tokyo during the immediate postwar period



[In the News: Raymond Pai](#)

On October 2nd, Raymond Pai, was invited onto Fairchild TV's Chatting Platform to discuss the significance of conservation and education on Cantonese language and culture and whether or not Vancouver could become a conservation site for Cantonese.



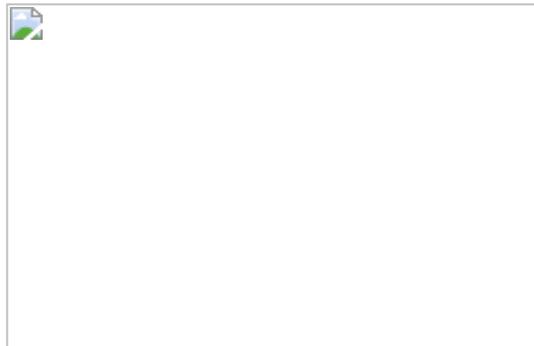
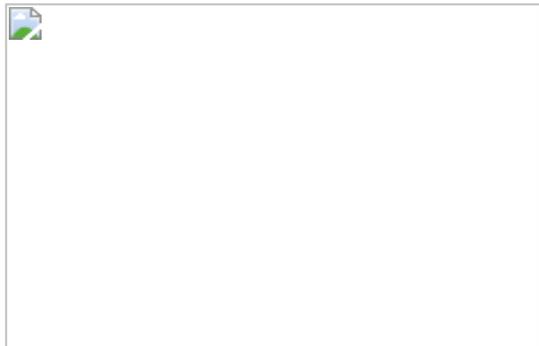
[TEDx Talk with Dr. Edward Slingerland](#)

Invited to Maastricht, Dr. Slingerland discusses the research in his latest book *Trying Not to Try: Ancient China, Modern Science and the Power of Spontaneity*. In his book he claims that recent research suggests that many aspects of a satisfying life - such as happiness and spontaneity - are best pursued indirectly.



[Dr. Jinhua Chen receives \\$2.5 million in SHRC Partnership and Insight Grants](#)

This SSHRC-sponsored project brings together 45 scholars from 25 institutions across the world. It will help develop the next generation of religious historians through field visits to religious sites and collections of religious material, in which texts, contexts, artifacts, and practices will be documented and analyzed.

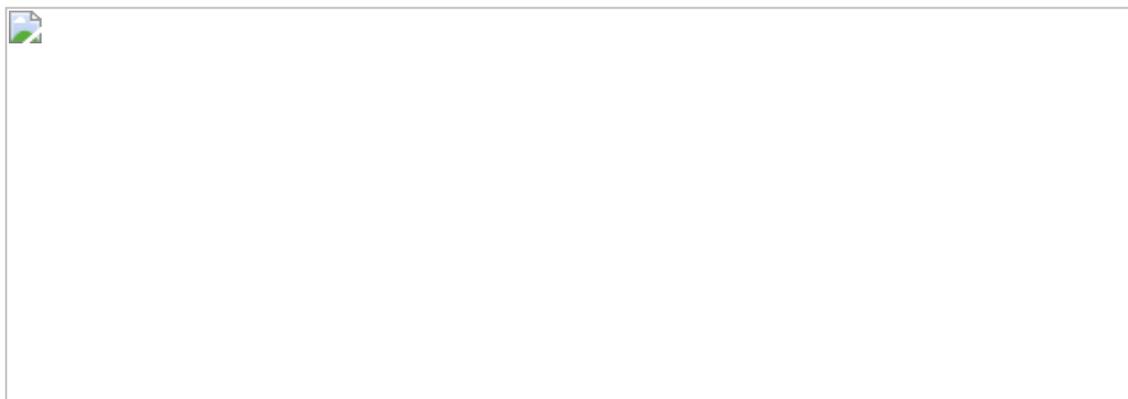


[In the News: Dr. Chris Rea](#)

In an interview with the New York Times, Dr. Chris Rea discussed cursing as a spectator sport, the invention of humor and his debt to Monty Python.

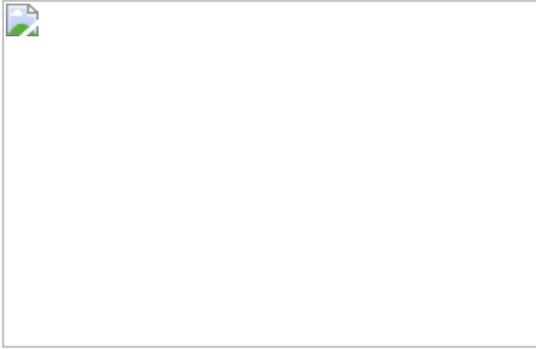
[In the News: Qian Wang](#)

Qian Wang was quoted in Macleans' article "*Canadian students need to go to China, but they need some help.*" The article discusses new scholarships and programs are working to bridge the east-west gap between Canada and China that could define the coming decades.



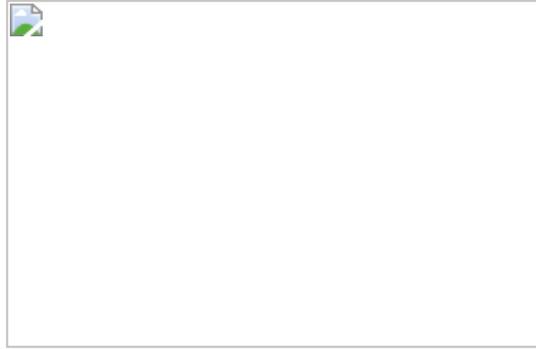
Congratulations to Dr. Sunera Thobani for Receiving the CAUT Sarah Shorten Award!

The Council of the Canadian Association of University Teachers has awarded Dr. Sunera Thobani with The Sarah Shorten Award. This award recognizes outstanding achievements in the promotion of the advancement of women in Canadian universities and colleges.



[Understanding Caste and Class in Contemporary India](#)

On November 14th, Dr. Anand Teltumbde: Scholar, Author, Civil Rights Activist and Professor of Business Analytics at the Goa Institute of Management, Goa, India gave a talk at UBC.



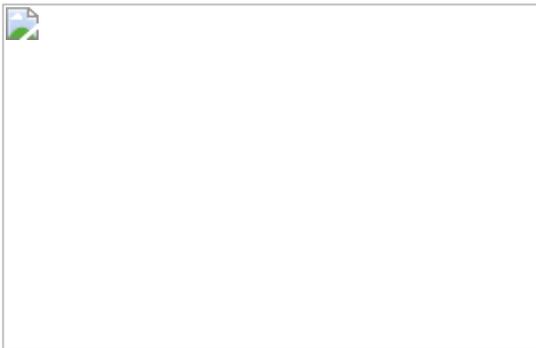
[Islam and Empire in India](#)

On November 3rd, Corinne Lefevre gave a talk on Padshah's sacred authority and religious pluralism in Mughal times.

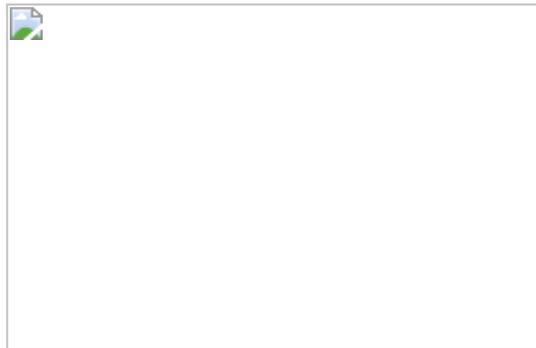


Screening of *Yellowing*

Some 250 campus and community members showed up on the rainy evening of November 22 at the Frederic Wood Theatre for a screening of *Yellowing*, a mesmerizing documentary about the 2014 Umbrella Movement of Hong Kong. The screening was followed by a conversation with Director Chan Tze Woon, who joined the audience via skype from Taiwan, where he was attending the Golden Horse Film Festival and Awards, for which his film had been nominated for "Best Documentary."



[In the News: Leo Shin](#)



One Hundred Poets Symposium in Paris

Dr. Leo Shin was recently featured as a guest on *Monday Forum*, a weekly current-affairs program produced by LS Times TV, a national Canadian Chinese TV station, to discuss the recent political developments in Hong Kong.

The *Hyakunin issyu* (HNIS, One Hundred Poets, One Poem Each anthology, 13th can.) symposium co-hosted by UBC Asian Studies successfully took place over two days (Sept. 19-20) at two venues: INALCO and at the Université Paris-Diderot. 14 speakers, delivering papers in French, Japanese, and English, including such topics as HNIS and divination, HNIS and woodblock prints, and translations of HNIS in French and Hungarian. Conference volumes in both Japanese and English are now underway.



A Book Talk and Release with Shauna Singh Baldwin

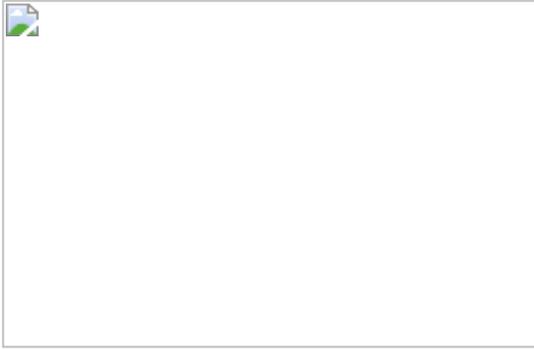
On September 21, UBC Asian Studies joined with the Centre for Indo Canadian Studies at the University of the Fraser Valley to welcome novelist, playwright and essayist Shauna Singh Baldwin to campus for the release of her new book of essays, *Reluctant Rebellions*.

Research



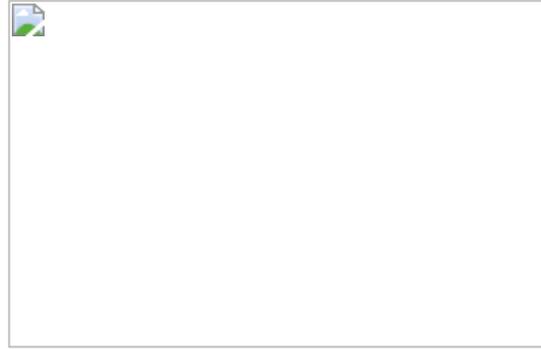
[Nasrin Askari - The Medieval Reception of the Shāhnāma as a Mirror for Princes](#)

Dr. Nasrin Askari explores the medieval reception of Firdausī's *Shāhnāma*, or *Book of Kings* (completed in 1010 CE) as a mirror for princes. Through her examination of a wide range of medieval sources, Askari demonstrates that Firdausī's oeuvre was primarily understood as a book of wisdom and advice for kings and courtly elites. Parts of her book can be read online through [Google Books](#).



[Ross King - Score One for the Dancing Girl](#)

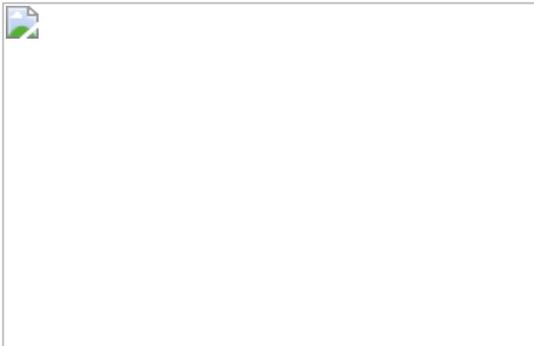
The first volume in an ongoing series of translations of classic Korean literature by the Canadian missionary James Scarth Gale (1863–1937), *Score One for the Dancing Girl* includes the original Literary Sinitic (*hanmun*) text and Gale's English translation.



[Josephine Chiu-Duke & Michael S. Duke - Chinese History and Cultures Volumes 1 & 2](#)

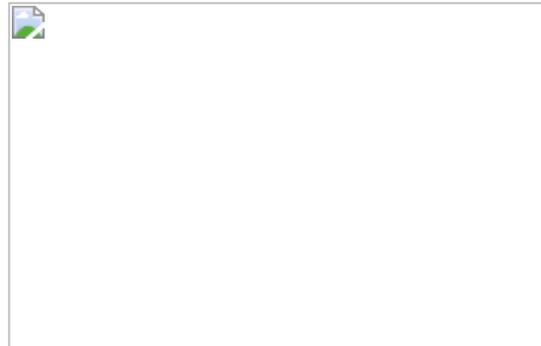
Spanning two thousand years of social, intellectual, and political change, the essays in these volumes investigate two central questions through all aspects of Chinese life: what core values sustained this ancient civilization through centuries of upheaval, and in what ways did these values survive in modern times?

Student News



Japanese Movie Night

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!



Ethnic Bai Tea Ceremony

Tea is an important part of Chinese life style. Tea ceremony is practiced in different ways and in different parts of China. On Friday, September 23rd, our special guests from China South West University performed a Tea Ceremony of the Bai ethnic group, living mainly in Dali Bai autonomous prefecture in south west China. Dressed in traditional costumes, the two girls shared a piece of their culture and their life with us through a cup of tea in the Tea Gallery of the Asian Centre.



Japanese Language Exchange Table End-of-term Party

On December 2nd the Japanese Language Exchange Table held its end of term party in the Asian Centre auditorium. It was attended by UBC's Japanese language students of all levels, as well as the Japanese language instructors and Ritsumeikan students. There were games with challenges in Japanese and English, videos, snacks, and of course the highly anticipated award ceremony for the most frequent participants! See you all again next term.



[2016 BC "Chinese Bridge" Mandarin Singing Contest](#)

On Saturday, November 19, 2016, the BC "Chinese Bridge" Mandarin Singing Contest for University Students was held at UBC. About 60 students from eight post-secondary institutions across BC participated in the contest. Out of the 18 prizes in total, UBC students won 9 of them.

Merchandise



[New Asian Studies Bowties!](#)

To celebrate Professor Ono's appointment as President of the University and as a nod to his trademark affection for bowties, Asian Studies has decided to jump on board with our own Asian Studies variation! Click the link to see prices and our collection of other Asian Studies merchandise.

