

If you are having difficulty viewing this email properly, please click here:

[View Online](#)

Thursday, November 24, 2016

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Printable Version](#) | [Send this to a friend](#)

# The Update

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



---

## 2017 Lunar New Year Celebration!

This Friday, 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.



### **Friday, January 27th, 2017**

10:30am – 4:30pm

Asian Centre and Asian Library (1871 West Mall)

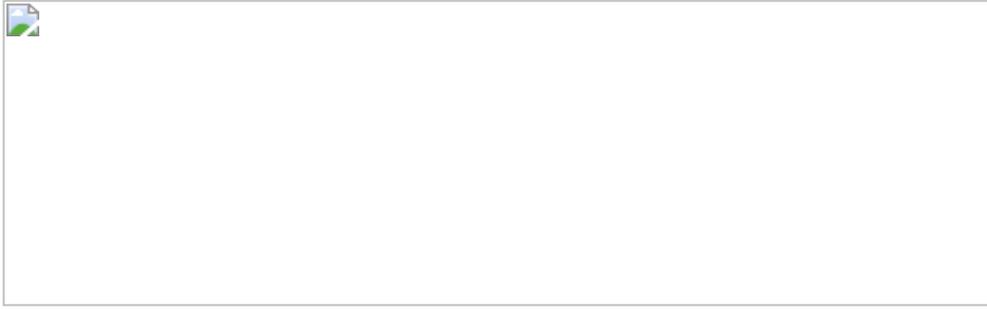
*Free and open to the public.*

[More details and event schedule >>](#)

---

## 2017 Asian Studies Annual Careers Night

The Department of Asian Studies is pleased to invite you to our Annual Asian Studies Careers Night on Wednesday, February 15th. This is a wonderful opportunity to gain advice and network with people who have found exciting careers after an Asian Studies degree. We will be inviting alumni with diverse experiences – at home and in Asia – to come share their inspiring stories with you.

**Wednesday, February 15th, 2017**

6:00 PM

Auditorium, Asian Centre, 1871 West Mall

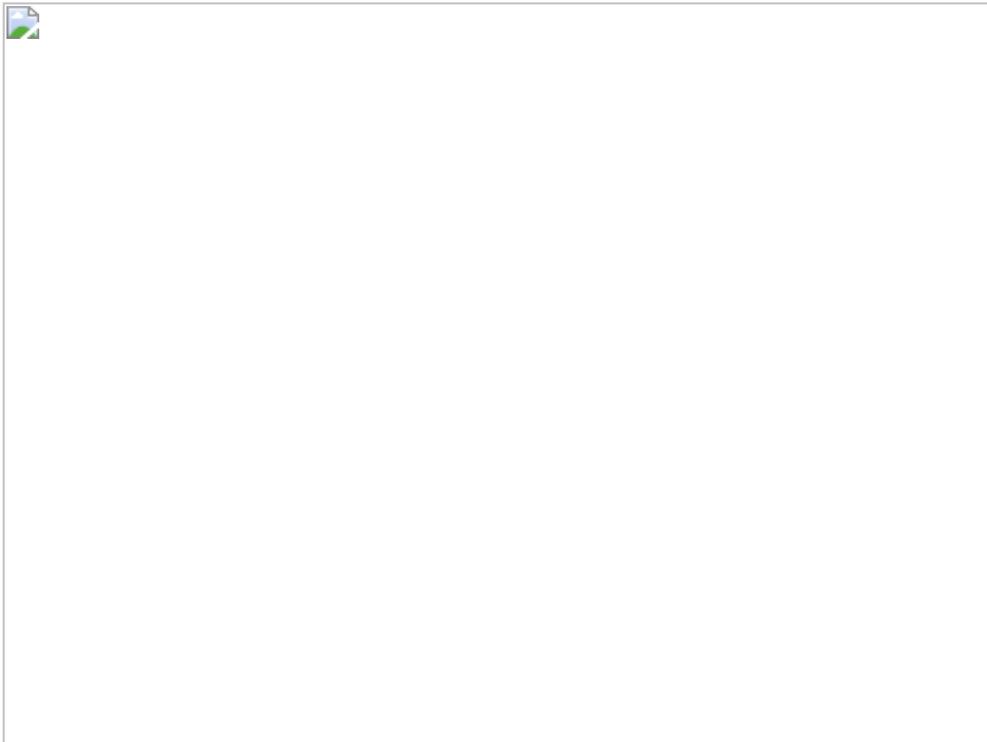
Free – **Registration required**

[See the event program and our growing list of alumni speakers >>](#)

---

## **Asian Studies Letterman Jackets are coming back! Order for Spring 2017.**

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

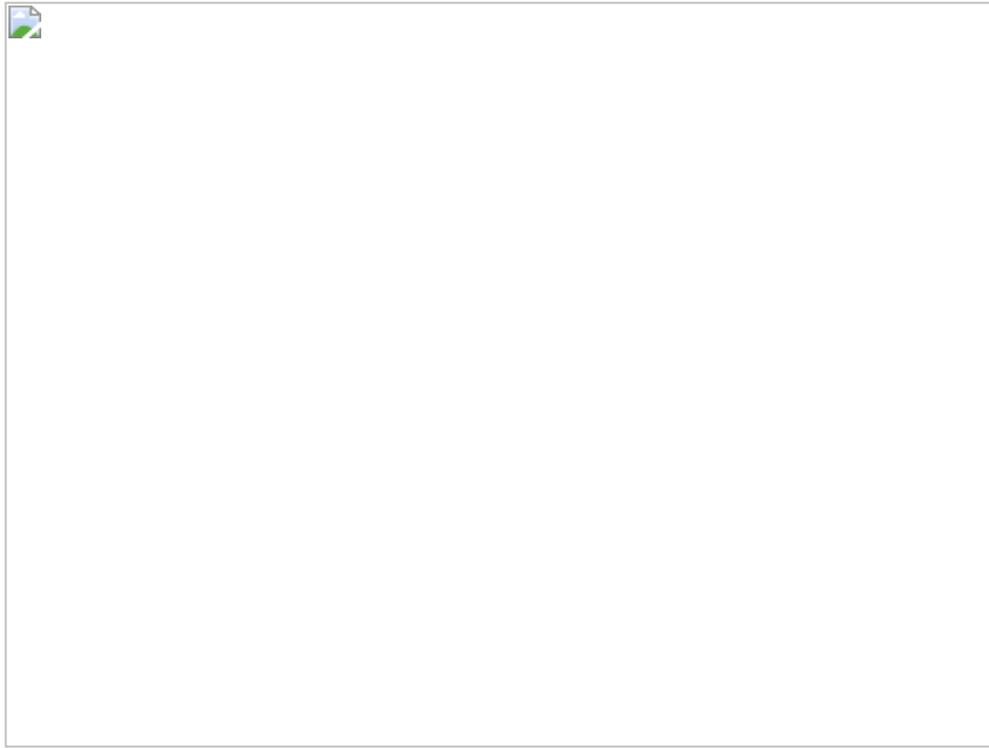


[Details >>](#)

---

## **Okinoshima: A Field Visit Report With Dr. Christina Laffin**

From October to November 2016, [Professor Christina Laffin](#) and four graduate students of Japanese literature travelled to the remote islands of Okinoshima in Shimane Prefecture to present an exhibit, workshop, and series of lectures aimed at making local cultural heritage more accessible. This presentation will offer an explanation and visual introduction into our journey through the Dozen Islands of Okinoshima while inviting us to consider the global and national issues Japan is currently facing.

**Wednesday, January 25th, 2017**

12:20pm – 1:30pm

Room 604, Asian Centre, 1871 West Mall

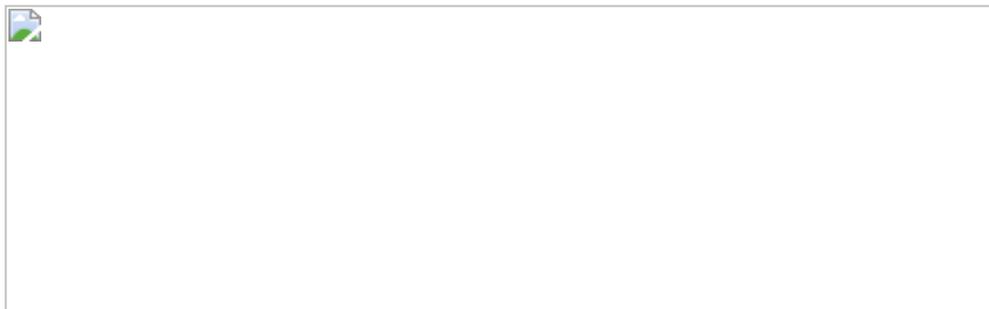
[Details >>](#)

---

**Laughing in the Year of the Chicken: The Past and Future of Chinese Humour**

With comedian Jesse Appell, in conversation with Christopher Rea.

*Cock-a-doodle doo!* Chinese comedians should have a lot to crow about during the Year of the Rooster. But should we expect Chinese humour in 2017 to be defined by wit, satire, parody, farce, or just cockiness? Come hear a practicing comedian swap perspectives with a cultural historian on the past, present, and future of Chinese humour. **Jesse Appell**, founder of Laugh Beijing, and **Christopher Rea**, author of *The Age of Irreverence: A New History of Laughter in China*, will share examples of their favourite types of modern Chinese humour, and their experiences with Chinese humour in the club, on the street, and in the archive.

**Thursday, January 26th, 2017**

4pm - 6pm

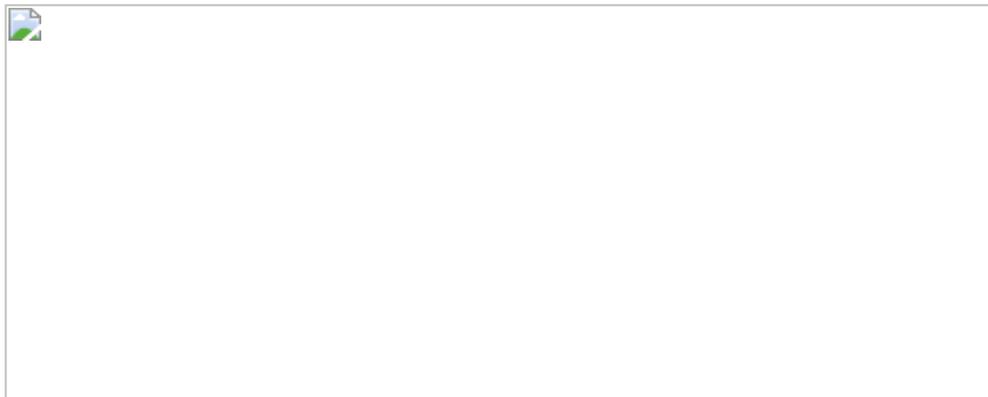
C.K. Choi Building (1855 West Mall, UBC campus), Room 120

[Details >>](#)

---

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

Hosted by Dr. [Anne Murphy](#), this colloquium will feature different speakers every other week throughout Term 2. Students who wish to present in March can submit a paper title, 250 word abstract, and contact information to [anne.murphy@ubc.ca](mailto:anne.murphy@ubc.ca) by Feb 1st, 2017.



**Tuesday, January 31st, 2017**

[Renaissance Magic, the Theatres, and the Word](#)

With Guest Speaker Katherine Sirluck

12:30pm - 2pm

Room 604, Asian Centre, 1871 West Mall

**Wednesday, February 1st, 2017**

[Infidels and Neighbours: The Muslims of Medieval Europe](#)

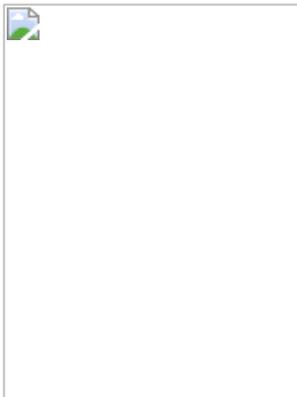
With guest speaker Brian A. Catlos

5pm

Room 604, Asian Centre

[Details >>](#)

## What Does it Mean to "Abolish" a Language? – Some Thoughts on Mori Arinori and Shiga Naoya



With Speaker Dr. [Christina Yi](#), (Assistant Professor, Department of Asian Studies).

Part of the [Centre for Japanese Research](#) Lunchtime Lecture Series.

With the outbreak of the Sino-Japanese War in 1894, Japan officially embarked on an enterprise of territorial expansion. Acquisition of Taiwan occurred in 1895, soon followed by the annexation of Korea in 1910. The unconditional surrender of Japan to the Allied Powers in 1945 signaled not only the end of the Pacific War but also the end of the Japanese empire, as one of the conditions of surrender was the redrawing of national borders. The Allied Occupation of Japan (1945-1952) that followed introduced changes not only in the political arena, but also in the ways "Japan" and "the Japanese" themselves were defined and

discussed. This talk illuminates some of these postwar changes - as well as prewar continuities - by examining the history of Japanese linguistic nationalism and language ideology. In particular, it will look at the writings of Mori Arinori (1847-1889) and Shiga Naoya (1883-1971), two prominent intellectuals who each proposed radical - though quite different - changes to the language use in Japan.

**Wednesday, February 8th, 2017**

12:30pm - 1:30pm

Asian Centre 604

[Details >>](#)

## Fewer Left Behind: Documentary screening, Photo Exhibit, and Panel Discussion

A volunteer-based group of young women concerned about the social phenomenon of left-behind children in China will be hosting a free event at the Asian Centre (UBC). The event will screen documentaries and photography by a few award-winning artists, followed by a panel discussion on left-behind children by experts in international relations, Chinese studies, child development, etc. This event aims to raise awareness on this issue in North America and to generate more dialogue and solutions on the issue. The global social and economic impact of this issue will also be explored.



**Wednesday, February 8th, 2017**

6pm - 8:30pm

Asian Centre, 1871 West Mall

[Details >>](#)

---

## Mending Cracks: Trauma and Art Production

Talk and Video Screening by Raghavendra Rao K.V., Artist & Research Associate, CISAR on his current exhibition of mixed media works in the Asian Centre lobby. This exhibition will be on display until March 3rd, 2017. The talk and video are part of the Visual and Material Culture Seminar Series.

**Thursday, February 9th, 2017**

Mending Cracks: Trauma and Art Production

4pm - 5pm

MOA, Room 213

---

**Liturgy, Icon, and Text in the Development of Esoteric Buddhism**

Visualization is commonly regarded as the *sine qua non* of tantric Buddhist practice, and scholars have sought to trace the relationship between visualization and the use of images in the evolution of tantric or esoteric Buddhist ritual. Guest speaker Charles D. Orzech explores these ideas in his talk here at the Asian Centre.

**Thursday, February 9th, 2017**

Liturgy, Icon, and Text in the Development of Esoteric Buddhism

4pm

Asian Studies, Room 604

[Details >>](#)

---

**"The Post-Leung Chun-ying Era of Hong Kong"**

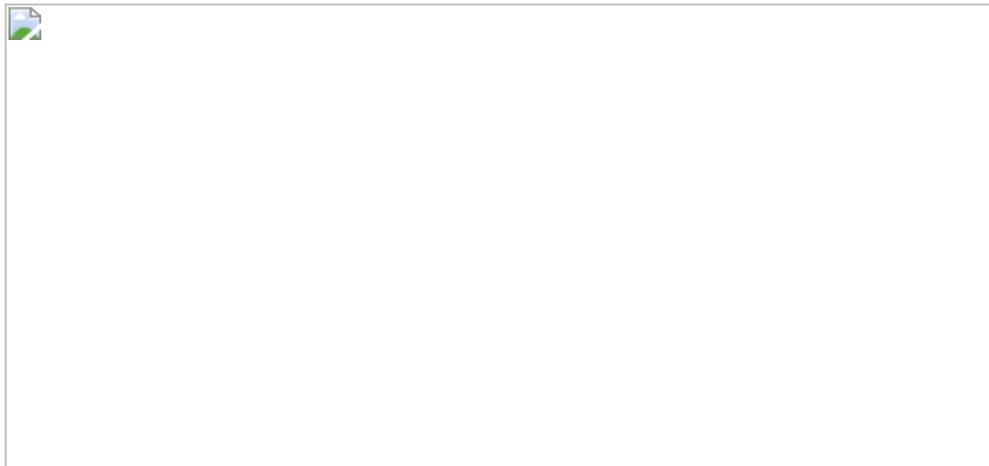
Jointly sponsored by the UBC Hong Kong Studies Initiative, the Vancouver Hong Kong Forum Society, and the Richmond Public Library, a talk on "The Post-Leung Chun-ying Era of Hong Kong" by noted political commentator Lau Sai-leung was presented to a standing-room-only audience on the evening of January 6th, 2017. The talk, moderated by Prof. Leo K. Shin, is part of a series of events sponsored by the UBC Hong Kong Studies Initiative to mark the twentieth anniversary of the handover of Hong Kong to the People's Republic of China.



---

## Donate Toiletries to the Downtown Eastside Center

The Asian Studies Department will be collecting toiletries throughout the month of January to donate to the women of the Downtown Eastside Center. Make a positive impact in someone's life by donating simple things like toothbrushes and toothpaste, feminine hygienic products, shampoo & conditioner (travel size preferred), hand cream, and makeup.



You can drop off toiletry donations at the Asian Studies office (room 607 in the Asian Centre).

---

## Student Opportunities



[Do you have a musical interest or talent, or simply want to make a difference? Come out to the information session for the MusicBox - UBC Chapter to find out about this exciting student group! Info session will be Monday, January 23rd, 2017, at 4:30pm in the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre room 155.](https://secure.campaigner.com/csb/Public/show/eevbv--bh5hi-5147ul80)

[UBC's Speech and Linguistics Student Association \(SALSA\) and UBC Language Sciences are pleased to present the brand new \*Language Sciences Undergraduate Research Conference \(LSURC\)\* taking place February 2 - 3, 2017 at the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre \(IBLC\) Room 261. Doors open at 4:30pm and the conference will run in the evenings from 5:00 - 8:00pm. To register for the conference, fill out the \[LSURC Registration Form\]\(#\) by Wednesday, January 25th, 2017.](#)

[Join a 3-day community service project during Reading Week! Apply online by our extended deadline of January 27th, 2017.](#)

[From the Ground Up, a large-scale research project on East Asian Religions run within the Department of Asian Studies, is seeking an undergraduate with strong communication abilities and proficiency in Chinese to act as Communications Coordinator for 10 hour per week. Deadline January 29, 2017.](#)

[The Graduate Students' Association at the University of Toronto's Department for the Study of Religion is dedicating its annual Symposium to the centrality of this tension to the practice of the study of religion in its call for papers. Please submit abstracts of no more than 300 words to \[2017symposium@gmail.com\]\(mailto:2017symposium@gmail.com\) by Monday, January 30th, 2017.](#)

[Call for papers: The March meetings of the Colloquium will be reserved for undergraduate student presentations; please send paper title, 250 word abstract, and contact info. to \[anne.murphy@ubc.ca\]\(mailto:anne.murphy@ubc.ca\) by Wednesday, February 1, 2017.](#)

[Call for Proposals: Second Racialized Student Resistance! Conference. Deadline February 3, 2017](#)

[The deadline for 2017 BC Japanese Speech Contest is Monday, February 6, 2017 at 5pm.](#)

[Anamesa, a graduate students' journal based at New York University, is pleased to send out the new Call for Submissions for our Spring 2017 issue. This issue's theme is Subversion. The submission deadline is February 26, 2017.](#)

[Study Abroad in Japan: Summer Program at Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University \(APU\). The Gateway Program offers intensive Japanese language courses from beginner to intermediate level. Apply by March 1st, 2017.](#)

[The Asian Conference on Education & International Development 2017 theme is "Educating for Change." Call for Papers deadline is from Sunday, March 26 to Wednesday, March 29 2017](#)

[For September 2017, the Department of Pacific and Asian Studies at the University of Victoria, Canada, welcomes applications for postgraduate students to work on the themes and subjects listed here. Apply soon!](#)

## On-Campus Events

### Monday, January 23rd, 2017

[Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Roundtable Discussion: Himalayan Research at UBC](#)

5pm - 7pm

C.K. Choi Building, Room 120

### Thursday, January 26th, 2017

[Anti-Colonial Machine Conference](#)

12pm - 1:30pm

Fairmont Social Lounge at St. John's College

### Thursday, January 26th, 2017

Images, Freedom, Global Consciousness

4pm - 5pm

Room 213, Museum of Anthropology

### Friday, January 27th, 2017

The Fugitive Sojourns of Gurdit Singh, 1914-1922 by Dr. Renisa Mawani

12pm - 1pm

Jack Bell Building, Room 028

**Friday, January 27th, 2017**[Health and Wellbeing of South Asian Immigrant Women](#)

2:30pm - 3:30pm

Room 351, C.K. Choi Building, 1855 West Mall

**Friday, January 27th, 2017**[ACAM dialogue: Breaking the Silence](#)

3pm - 4:30pm

UBC NEST room 2301

**Friday, January 27th, 2017**[Film Screening & Discussion: "The Last Tear," a Documentary About Comfort Women in Asia and Korea](#)

4:30pm - 6pm

Room 120, C.K. Choi Building

**Wednesday, February 8th, 2017**["How do we be together?"](#)

6pm - 9pm

Sty-Wet-Tan Great Hall, UBC First Nations Longhouse

**Thursday, February 16th, 2017**[How Can the New Governments in Washington and Seoul Tackle North Korea?](#)

11:30am - 3pm

Room 120, C.K. Choi Building

## Off-Campus Events

**Jan 23rd - Feb 28th, 2017**[The Antiques of the Qianlong Period - A Poly Art Gallery Showcase](#)

Hours vary depending on the day

#100 - 905 West Pender, Vancouver, BC

**Sunday, February 12, 2017**[BC Studies Special Issue Launch: Nikkei History](#)

2pm - 4pm

Nikkei National Museum, 6688 Southoaks Crescent, Burnaby

**Ongoing to March 31, 2017**[Exhibition - Hong Kong: Heroes of the Dark Years](#)

Tuesdays to Sundays, 10am - 5pm

Chinese Canadian Military Museum, 2nd floor, 555 Columbia St., Vancouver

---

## Meet our Students - Peder Gedda, Ph.D Student

**Tell us a little about yourself, your background and how you became interested in Asian Studies?**

I'm a renegade Swede who did my M.A. in Religious Studies with an emphasis on History of Religions at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden. However, these days I do consider myself a historian first and foremost. History was my major addiction since an early age, it was to me the only subject where two hours of reading felt like five minutes. My interest in Asia in general, and South Asia in particular, was almost immediate and to be honest I don't actually know why my response was so strong.

**Why did you choose the Asian Studies program at UBC? Was there an aspect of the program or location that was particularly attractive to you compared to other programs in Canada or internationally?**

I knew that if I was going to do PhD-level research, I needed to be guided by a genuine expert. I met my advisor from Asian Studies UBC, Dr Anne Murphy, in India when I lived there in 2010, and we got on very well so I thought that going to UBC made sense. In other words, I realised quickly that I would either do my PhD-project under her supervision, or not do it at all. Additionally, I wanted to take multiple languages such as Punjabi, Persian and Arabic as well as engage with other academic disciplines so Asian studies at UBC was a natural choice.

### **Could you explain to a non-expert what you are researching and why it is important?**

My research is focused on translating, contextualising and analysing a series of Sikh etiquette manuals (rahitname) composed in the early 18th century in North India. I hope that my research can shed some light on this genre of literature as well as its period of composition, since both deserve more scholarly attention.

### **As a graduate student, what are your main activities?**

My main activities are working on my dissertation, an article or two, as well as teach ASIA 376 this spring.

### **What has been the most memorable or impactful moment of your graduate experience?**

Three things stand out. The first has been my language training, which has been extremely enjoyable and has opened up many doors. It's really an indispensable tool and a must for the historian. Secondly, being able to engage with scholars from other fields and have their expertise inform my own work. Finally, the longer process of sharpening my research and dissertation project has been a wonderful experience. The process of reading, rethinking, re-evaluating and changing research is not always comfortable in the short term, but it is definitely worth it in the longer perspective. From a selfish point of view, I want to write the kind of history I want to read and this has given me the best possible circumstances for achieving that.

### **What are your goals (career or academic) once you've completed the program? And how is our program helping you achieve them?**

Apart from my specific dissertation-topic, I nurture a strong interest in Mughal India, Safavid Iran and pre-modern Central Asia so I would like to do research and write on these topics. I hope I can generate a career from doing so. My view is that that if a set of topics have many people working on them, then one should consider them "taken" and focus on something else. In other words, I would like to create my own area of specialisation. It's a luxurious but quite arduous and slightly daunting task I think. I have no idea whether it is doable or not, but it's a work in progress and opportunities do open up.

### **Can you give any advice to new students in our program or for students considering applying to it?**

I'm probably the least qualified to give advice to anyone about anything, but there are a few basics that I think can be observed. The first is to dare to be selfish. In other words, let interest and interest alone be the guiding principle. If you have it, go for it and don't look back. If people tell you that you don't know where it will lead, never forget that they have no clue either. Secondly, being able to surround oneself with good people is central. Iron sharpens Iron. Finally, I don't tolerate boredom of any kind under any circumstances. It's a haunting, choking poltergeist which must be fought by all means necessary. In other words, avoiding the tedium-generating aspects of life will help, especially when one is guided by interest.

---

## **We Welcome your Submissions**

If you have a story that you would like featured in our biweekly update please submit your story [here](#) and it could be featured in the next Update!

## **Missed an Update?**

All past newsletters may be found [here](#).



[Subscribe](#) | [Unsubscribe](#) | [Send this to a friend](#)

[asia.ubc.ca](http://asia.ubc.ca)

1871 West Mall  
#607  
Vancouver, British Columbia  
Canada  
V6T 1Z3