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The Update

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



2017 Wat Lecture: Living the Cultural Revolution— Impact Events and the Making of Cultural Memory

Why is it that for a while in the early 2000s, Mao's portrait dangled in almost every taxi? Why is it that Mao's image is to be found everywhere today, in high-market as well as popular accessories? Why do numerous Chinese websites feature memories of producing and consuming Maoist propaganda art? In addressing these questions, Barbara Mittler will argue that the Cultural Revolution was an "impact event" that touched not only those who have written about it—intellectuals, the well-off, the middle class—but everyone down to peasants and workers. The Cultural Revolution was there for—or against—everyone.

 Guest speaker Prof. Dr. Barbara Mittler is Professor of Chinese Studies at the Institute of Chinese Studies at the University of Heidelberg and Director of the Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies—Asia and Europe in a Global Context.

Wednesday, March 15th, 2017

6:00pm Reception

7:00pm Lecture

Auditorium, Asian Centre, 1871 West Mall

Free and open to the public – registration required

[Details >>](#)

Coaching Cantonese in Canada—Raymond Pai Bridges Cultures and Generations

This past December, Raymond Pai was featured by the The Chinese University of Hong Kong, where he is an alumnus of Biology, for his dedication and achievements in teaching Cantonese.



Photo by Keith Hero

Read the full feature [here](#).

Professor Edward Slingerland Interviewed by the American Academy of Religion

[Professor Slingerland](#) was interviewed by the American Academy of Religion in an article titled, "Making Religious History Digitally Native," about UBC's work on the creation of the [Database of Religious History](#), a crowd-sourced, interactive, dynamic, and searchable encyclopedia.

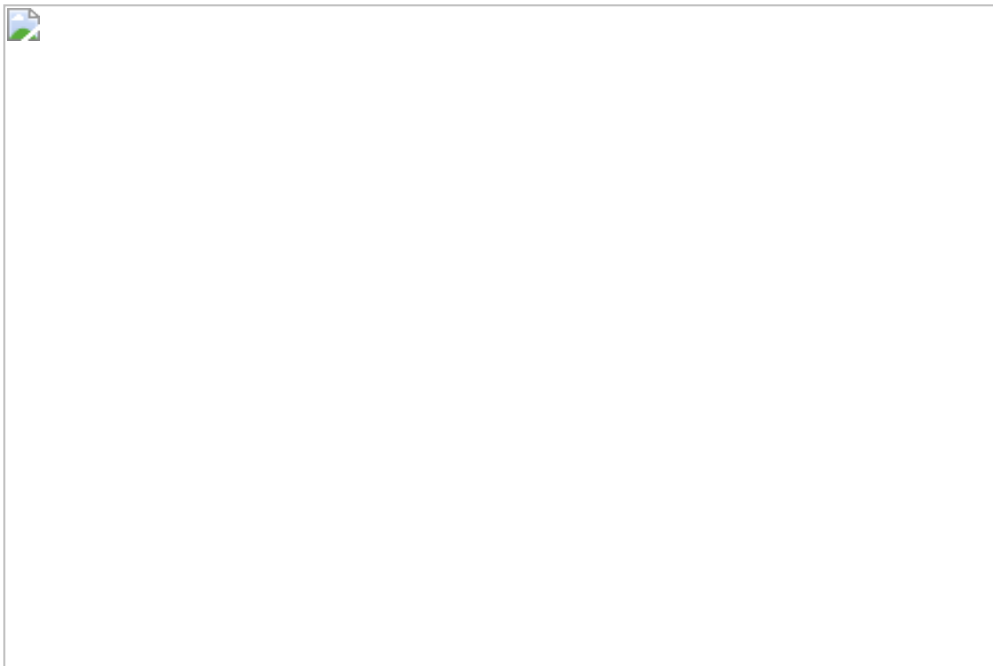



Photo by Martin Dee

Read the full article [here](#).

Four Women – Four Lovers – Four Documents: female bodies and voices in Kishida Rio’s play Four Letters

Kishida Rio was the only female playwright in *angura* (underground/avant-garde) movement in 1960-70’s Japan. She headed a series of her own theatre companies throughout her career, focusing on strong female characters, women’s bodies, and the use or loss of language. In 1989 Kishida wrote and directed *Four Letters*, a play for four of the core female actors in Kishida Jimusho Rakutendan, the theatre company she ran with director Yoshio Wada. *Four Letters* is about four women at the funeral of the man with whom they were all in love. In this presentation, Colleen will talk about this unpublished play, and her work-in-progress translation of the piece. She will also discuss some of her research on Kishida Rio’s plays and Kishida’s work with strong female characters throughout her career. In this presentation, guest speaker [Colleen Lanki](#) will talk about this unpublished play. Colleen has been directing, choreographing and performing internationally for over two decades.

 Photo courtesy of Hina Ryōko 雛涼子

Wednesday, March 8th, 2017

12:30-1:30 pm
Asian Centre 604

[Details >>](#)

Asian Studies Graduate Student Conference 2017

This day-long conference will be held on Saturday, March 11th, 2017 at the Asian Centre Auditorium on the University of British Columbia – Vancouver’s main campus. Over the course of the day, participants in the conference will present original research, receive feedback on their papers or presentations, and hear other scholars present their own work.

For all inquiries, contact gradcon2017@gmail.com

 **Saturday, March 11th, 2017**

9am-4:30pm
Asian Centre Auditorium

[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.

 **Tuesday, March 14th, 2017**

[Special Undergraduate Presentations](#)
12:30pm
Room 604, Asian Centre

Tuesday, March 28th, 2017

[Old Stories in New Forms: Mapping a Medieval Japanese Buddhist Purgatory onto a Modern Urban Ghetto](#)

With [Dr. Jessica Main](#)
12:30pm - 2pm
Room 604, Asian Centre

Screening of Xu Xing’s Independent Documentary Film, Criminal Records 罪行摘要

In 2011, Xu Xing accidentally came across registration documents of prisoners who were detained as active counter-revolutionaries during the Cultural Revolution. Unlike most other political prisoners of the time, these were all peasants, and from the same region in Zhejiang.

This documentary film shows Xu Xing's journey to find these people to discover their stories as prisoners and their later lives. In Chinese, with English subtitles.

 **Tuesday, March 14, 2017**

2pm – 4pm

Room 221, West Mall Swing Space, 2175 West Mall

This event is held in conjunction with the [2017 Yip So Man Wat Memorial Lecture](#).

[Details >>](#)

A King's Two Bodies? Mao's Death and his Legacy

Research Seminar with Prof. Dr. Barbara Mittler (University of Heidelberg).



In late July 1976, a devastating earthquake flattened the city of Tangshan—and violently shook the Beijing sickbed of Mao Zedong. In China, nature's signs have been traditionally understood to foreshadow political events, and a severe earthquake indicated the end of a dynasty and its mandate to rule.

Tuesday, March 14, 2017

4pm – 6pm

Room 604, UBC Asian Centre, 1871 West Mall

Registration required

This event is held in conjunction with the [2017 Yip So Man Wat Memorial Lecture](#).

[Details and registration >>](#)

A Billion Voices: The Past and Future of *Putonghua*

Throughout the world, hundreds of millions of people, Chinese and foreign, are learning a version of Chinese called *Putonghua*. Since the turn of the twentieth century a host of linguists and political leaders, from the radical intellectuals of the May Fourth Movement, to leaders such as Chiang Kai-shek and Mao Zedong, all fought linguistic wars to establish a national language for a linguistically fractured China. In the process, many radical proposals were put forth, such as abolishing the Chinese language itself and replacing it with Esperanto, and eradicating the Chinese characters in favor of an alphabetic script. This talk traces the story of China's language unification project, the current language policy in China, and the pedagogical issues of teaching Chinese language and script in the 21st century era of cyberspace and the Internet. Guest speaker Dr. David Moser holds a Master's and a Ph.D. in Chinese Studies from the University of Michigan, with a major in Chinese Linguistics and Philosophy. He has been based in Beijing for over 25 years, active in academic and media circles.

 **Monday, March 20th, 2017**

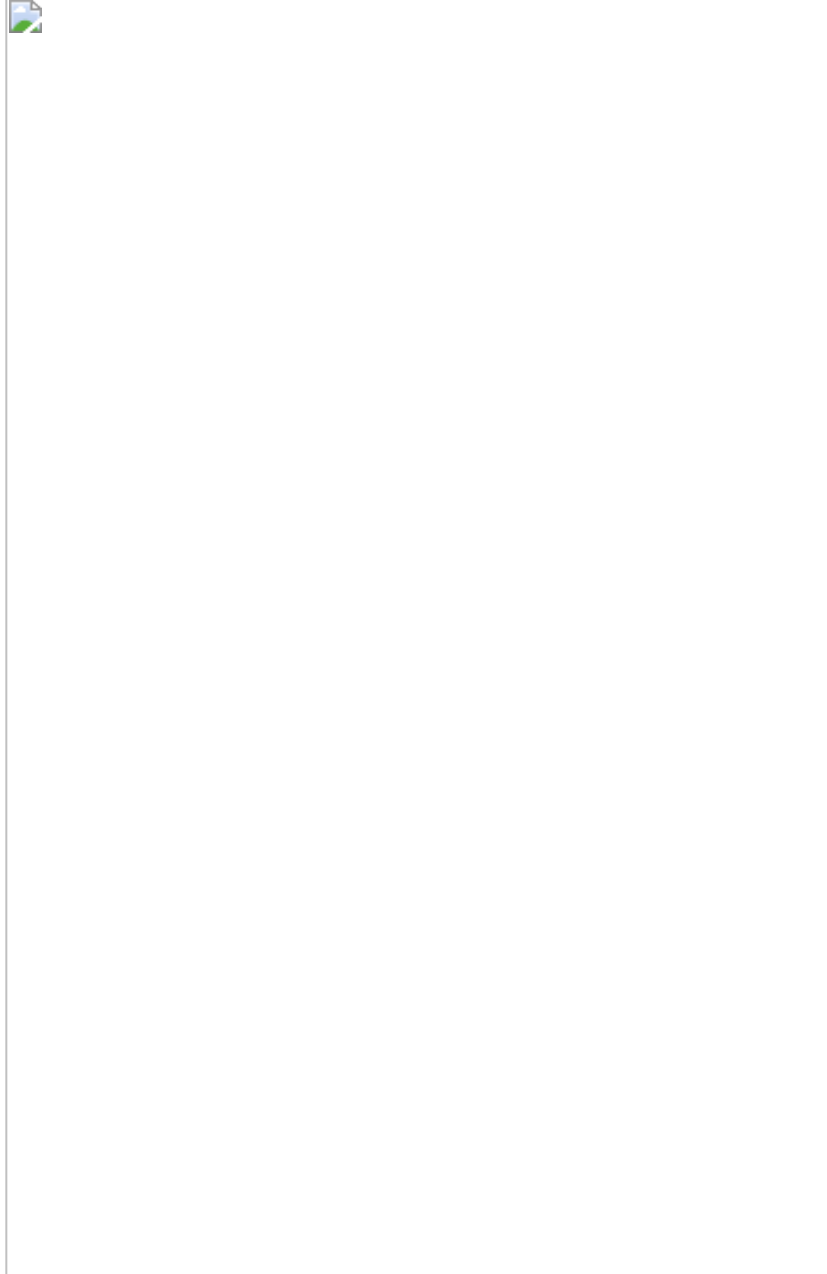
4-6pm

C.K. Choi Building, Room 120

[Details >>](#)

Symposium: What is China?

Professor Ge Zhaoguang, Professor Wang Fansen, and Professor Dai Yan will each give a lecture on an individual topic and then lead a discussion. Topics covered include the discourse on "China," the self-image of imperial China, and Chinese literature.



Thursday, March 23rd, 2017

4-6pm

Fairmont Social Lounge, St. John's College

[Learn more about the lecturers and RSVP here >>](#)

Deadline for 2017 Korean Speech Contest is coming up!

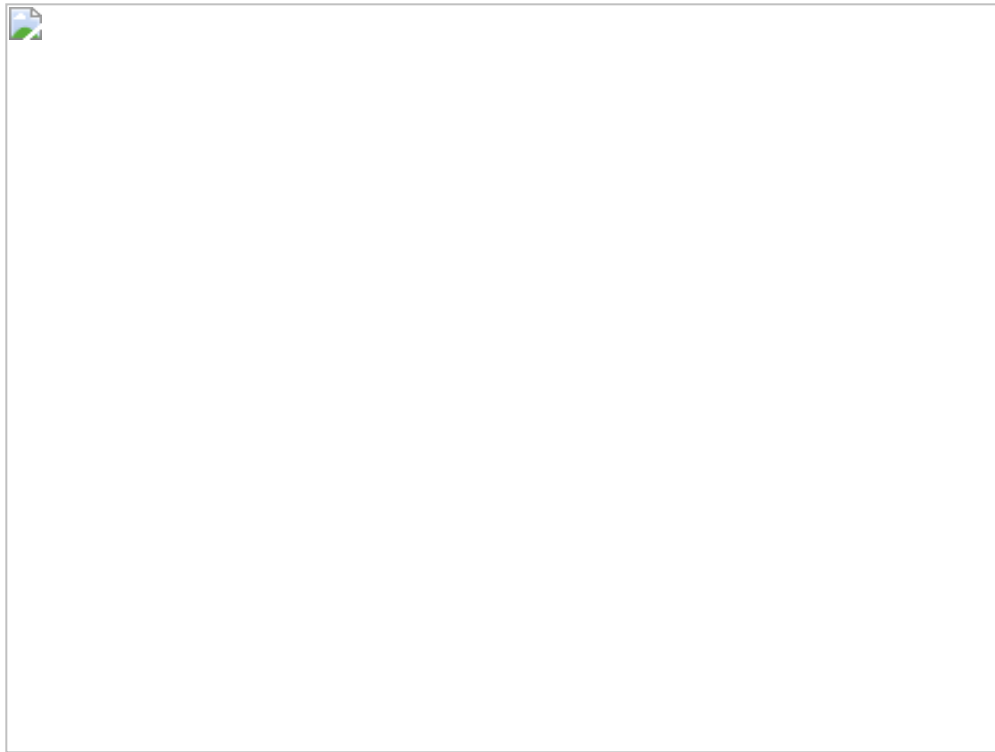
The deadline to apply for the 2017 Korean speech contest is March 13, 2017.



[Visit the consulate website for more details >>](#)

2017 One Asia Forum/Korean Studies Lab Conference:

The Imjin War in Premodern East Asia and its Aftermath



March 10th - 11th, 2017

8:15am - 4:00pm

Westpoint Room, University Golf Club, 5185 W 10th Avenue

Language: Korean and Japanese (한국어/日本語)

Free to attend but registration required by February 25: Please send your RSVP to Jiyoung Suh at jiyoung.suh@alumni.ubc.ca

[See the event program and more details>>](#)

The Shikoku Pilgrimage: Its History, Culture and Traditions

As part of the One Asia Forum talks hosted by Dr. Nam-lin Hur, Professor Moreton will present some tales about cures and punishments that, in some cases, have been overlooked yet strongly influenced the faith of the local people in the past. Guest speaker David C. Moreton is an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Tokushima. He graduated from the Department of Asian Studies, UBC (BA,1995; MA, 2001).

Monday, March 13th, 2017

3-5pm

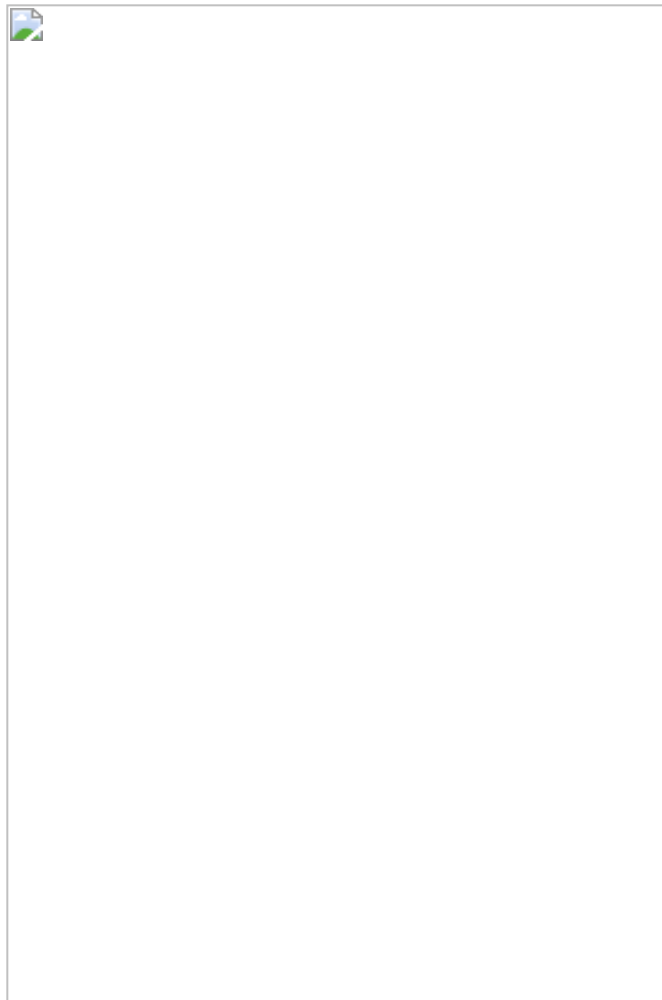
Room 604, Asian Centre

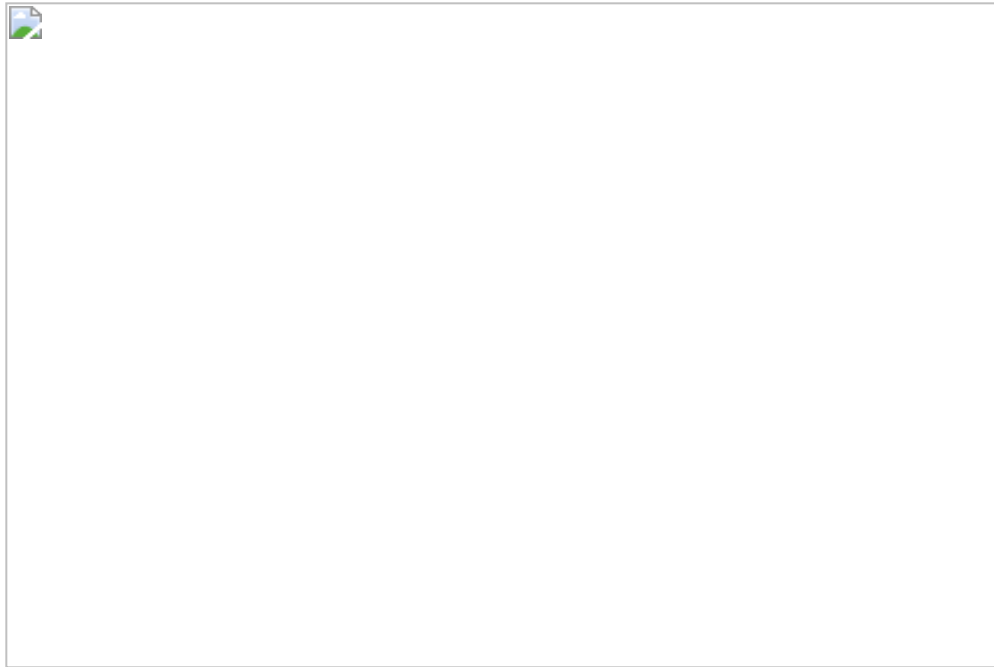
[Details>>](#)

Photos: South Asian Canadian Histories Launch Inaugural Project

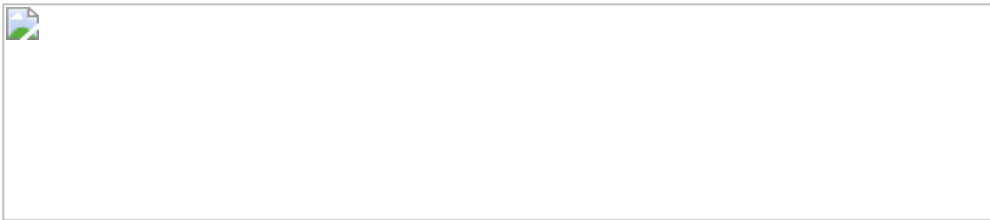
The South Asian Canadian Histories Association (SACHA) launched its milestone Canada 150+ project, "Trauma, Memory and the Story of Canada," at the Asian Centre to a full house on Thursday, March 2, 2017. The event featured poet Renee Saklikar, a short performance drawn from [The Undocumented Trial of William C. Hopkinson](#) featuring actor Patrick Nagel, and the recitation of Ghadar poetry by activists and elders, the Dhillons, as well as a film by SACHA co-founder Raghavendra Rao K.V. The event also served as the closing reception for Rao's related exhibition in the Asian Centre lobby, "Mending Cracks -- Limitions." Member of Parliament

Joyce Murray was in attendance to announce major funding for the "Trauma, Memory and the Story of Canada" project from the Canada 150 Fund/Heritage Canada. SACHA was co-founded by Naveen Ginn, Professor Anne Murphy (from UBC's Asian Studies Department), Raghavendra Rao K.V., Dr. Milan Singh, and Paneet Singh. The class "Documenting Punjabi Canada," to be taught in Term 1, W2017 will contribute to SACHA's Canada 150+ project, and an exhibition of related art works will take place from September 26 to December 1 in the Asian Centre lobby.





Student Opportunities



[Paid Communications Internship at First Steps.](#) First Steps is a Christian organization committed to preventing child malnutrition in North Korea through programs that provide essential nutrients to young children. Think you'd be a good fit? Please click here to see the job description.

[The International Relations Students Association is hiring its executive team for the 2017/18 year!](#) All candidates must send a resume and short cover letter to irsa.vpi@gmail.com by March 15th at noon.

[UBC Vancouver Summer Program - "The World of Manga and Anime: From Writing to Theory."](#) Runs from July 15th - August 15th, 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

[Apply to study the Global Institute for Leadership and Management Development \(GILMD\) summer course at the University of the Virgin Islands St. Thomas Campus from May 23-June 6, 2017.](#) Applications due by March 27th, 2017.

[2017 Huayu Enrichment Scholarship.](#) Application due March 31st.

[2017 Taiwan Scholarship.](#) Application due March 31st.

[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

Tuesday, March 7th, 2017

[Implementing the Paris Agreement: Are We On The Right Track?](#)

12pm - 2pm

Multipurpose Room, Liu Institute for Global Issues, 6476 NW Marine Drive

Wednesday, March 8th, 2017

[The Politics of Invisibility:Fukushima, 6 years after 3.11 \(Lunchtime Workshop\)](#)

12pm - 2pm

Room 120, C.K. Choi Building, 1855 West Mall

Wednesday, March 8th, 2017

[The Politics of Invisibility:Fukushima, 6 years after 3.11 \(Film Screening\)](#)

4pm - 6:30pm

Asian Centre Auditorium, 1871 West Mall

Thursday, March 9th, 2017

[Student Master Class with Homa Hoodfar](#)

12pm - 1pm

Robert H. Lee Alumni Centre, Jack Poole Hall

Thursday, March 9th, 2017

[The Sudden Expansion and Contraction of China's Microfinance for Women Program](#)

4pm - 6pm

Room 120, C.K. Choi Building, 1855 West Mall

Friday, March 10th, 2017

[MPPGA Global Policy Project Symposium](#)

10am - 1pm

Multipurpose Room, Liu Institute for Global Issues, 6476 NW Marine Drive

Friday, March 10th, 2017

[Contested Governance, Competing Nationalisms, and Disenchanted Publics: Kashmir beyond Intractability?](#)

2:30pm - 4pm

Auditorium, Asian Centre, 1871 West Mall

Monday, March 13th, 2017

[Women's Empowerment, Leadership, and Challenges in Greater Central Asia](#)

12pm - 2pm

Room 120, C.K. Choi Building, 1855 West Mall

Thursday, March 16th, 2017

[After the Fall\(s\) - Rewriting China's Securities Law and Regulation of the PRC Capital Markets](#)

4pm - 5:30pm

Room 104, Allard Hall, 1822 East Mall

Thursday, March 16th, 2017

[The Politics of Race, Diversity and Settler Colonialism](#)

8:30am - 5:30pm

Robert H. Lee Alumni Centre, Jack Poole Hall, 6163 University Blvd

Friday, March 17th, 2017

[Worlds at Home: On Cosmopolitan Futures](#)

5pm - 6:30pm

Peter Wall Institute Seminar Room (307), 6331 Crescent Rd

Tuesday, March 21st, 2017

[Individualization of War](#)

12:30pm - 2:00pm

Liu Institute for Global Issues - Multipurpose Room

Friday, March 24th, 2017

["Where is Korea Going?" - Thoughts from Korea's Leading Philosopher](#)

11:30pm - 1:00pm

Room 120, C.K. Choi Building, 1855 West Mall

Thursday, March 30th, 2017

[Health Care for 1.3 Billion: Successes and Challenges in China's Health System Reforms](#)

12:30pm - 2:00pm
Room 120, C.K. Choi Building, 1855 West Mall

Off-Campus Events

Tuesday, March 21st, 2017

[Mongolian Cultural Evening featuring "Khusugtun"](#)

7pm - 9pm

Heritage Hall Vancouver BC, 3102 Main Street, Vancouver

Thursday, February 23rd, 2017

[Does Confederation Matter? Canada and its Regions](#)

6:30pm

Rosalie and Joseph Segal Room (1420-1430), Harbour Centre, 515 W Hastings St Vancouver, BC

Sunday, February 26th, 2017

[Japanese Canadian Vegetables & Flowers Block Printmaking](#)

12pm - 4pm

Nikkei National Museum, 6688 Southoaks Crescent, Burnaby

Ongoing to March 31st, 2017

[Exhibition - Hong Kong: Heroes of the Dark Years](#)

Tuesdays to Sundays, 10am - 5pm

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

Asian Studies Faculty Spotlight Interview: Francesca Harlow

A new series where we ask our instructors about their early lives, career development and proudest accomplishments. This interview features Francesca Harlow, Professor in Social and Economic History of Early Modern India.

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

I'm interested in the interactions of Indians and the British during imperial conquest and pacification, generally from the mid-eighteen to mid-nineteenth centuries. I am especially concerned with how these interactions affect, and are affected by Indian social institutions such as family and kinship structures. In this context I am also concerned with ideas of place and space as they affect Indian social institutions. Another quite separate interest is in the historical geography of Hindu folk and/or regional deities.

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

I took a course in Buddhism from the late Professor Shotaro Iida here at UBC, which caused to change my major from Fine Arts to Religious Studies. (My poor late father thought I was going from bad to worse for a 'practical' career.) Thereafter, upon graduation I received a

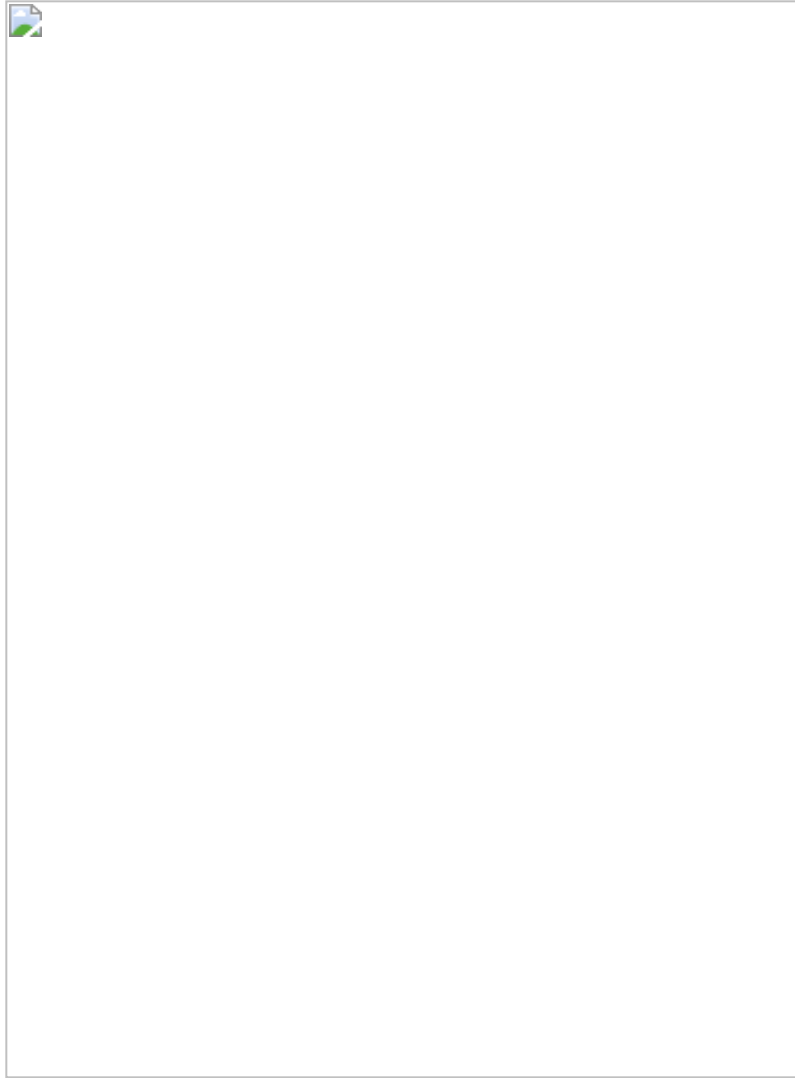
Commonwealth Scholarship to India for two years to study archaeology and Sanskrit at Deccan College, Pune. After that my course was set.



Deccan College Post Graduate Institute in Pune, which is a city in the Indian state of Maharashtra. This is the student hostel where Harlow stayed for two years.

What was the experience for you learning a second language?

I started Sanskrit at UBC under Professor Akhujkar, which gave me a fairly good foundation. Thereafter, in India, I more or less 'jumped in the deep end', and just started reading major texts with the help of my tutor, the late Professor V.W. Paranjpe, and with a lot of slogging through grammars and dictionaries. I am no 'language genius' by any means. Language is just an essential tool for a historian; it just must be learned. My reading ability in Sanskrit is pretty moderate, pretty mechanical in some ways, but serviceable. When I did my Ph.D. at the University of Toronto, Department of History, it turned out that the wonderful and unexplored sources that my supervisor, Professor Narendra Wagle, turned me on to are in Marathi. While my background in Sanskrit helped somewhat, as did a very limited speaking ability. Marathi became, much to my surprise, another slog, learning grammar etc. Oddly, I'm better at reading eighteenth century revenue documents in Marathi than reading the daily newspaper. But that's the way historians work.



Harlow in 1972 at the Deccan College, Pune. Photo with friend, roommate and tutor in Thai, Somrit Mongkolsombat.

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

In some ways, nearly every moment of the Ph.D. Apart from the pain of writing a dissertation, the uncertainty of employment pressed upon me at a time when I had a young family. I even took a two term course at UBC in primary level education as I was finishing writing the dissertation. I got the professional certificate, of which I am excessively proud! When I was writing my dissertation I had fantasies of throwing all my notes and drafts off the Lions Gate Bridge in a show of nihilistic resistance to academia. Didn't have the courage.

Is there a project that you are most proud of?

I don't think of things in this way. I'm most proud of what I actually am able to complete.

In class we study about events that shape Asia. Have you witnessed any such event firsthand?

Well, the full range of Indian politics and controversies from 1971 to the present. Very soon after I first arrived in India in 1971, the Indo-Pakistan Bangladesh war broke out. I learned how to sing the Indian national anthem with my fellow Deccan College students as we were called to patriotic assemblies around the flag pole. Later on I saw the paranoia and effects of Mrs. Gandhi's 'Emergency'. Later I lifted a drink or two in a Goan bar as we mourned the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi. etc. etc.

What change do you hope your work can make in the world?

To leave it a tiny fraction better perhaps? To inspire a few people with my love of India. I've had a bit of success in this I'm told. To make a nice home for my newly acquired rescue cat Bud. Not easy; he's a badass!

[Read more faculty interviews here >>](#)

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!

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