Top Stories

2017 John Howes Lecture in Japanese Studies:

**Stolen Secrets: Intercepting Dispatches between Wartime Berlin and Japan**

With guest speaker Dr. Peter Komicki (Emeritus Professor of Japanese at Cambridge University).

During World War II, British intelligence read the dispatches of Japanese diplomats in Europe, including those of Oshima Hiroshi, long-serving ambassador in Berlin. These acts of espionage would prove invaluable in the struggle with Nazi Germany but would remain a secret for decades. Why? And what impact did this all have on the postwar development of Japanese studies?

- **Date:** November 16, 2017
- **Time:** 6:00pm - 8:00pm
- **Venue:** Auditorium, Asian Centre, 1871 West Mall

**MA student Chen Xin featured in interview on the literary genre of “Boys’ Love” in China**
Chen Xin, who did her UBC MA dissertation on Chinese incarnations of Boys’ Love, was recently interviewed by online blog *Slutever* about the power of slash fiction, gay male eroticism, and what the phenomenon means for notions of gender and sexuality in China.

>> Check out her interview here

**New Translation by Christopher Rea and Bruce Rusk: The Book of Swindles**

“‘I won’t lie to you,’ he said in a low voice. ‘I’m a petty thief… I’ve got a plan, and I just need your help to pull it off.’” — Zhang Yingyu

Our Department's very own Dr. Christopher Rea and Dr. Bruce Rusk have translated *The Book of Swindles*, a chronicle of scams and deception from Ming China. These stories of fortunes made and lost, of cunning crooks and unsolved crimes make us ask: was swindling so widespread in 1600s China? What caused the profound social changes and moral anxiety at the time?

>> Click here for a selection of podcasts, interviews and reviews

https://secure.campaigner.com/csb/Public/show/kro34--du8mk-5i47ul84
Featured Course

**ASIA 302: Theravada Buddhism**

Taught by Dr. Jessica Main, this course will focus on the history, story, and culture of the major form of Buddhism primarily focused on the regions of Sri Lanka, and mainland Southeast Asia, including southern Vietnam, parts of southern China, spread to Nepal, and modern global diffusion.

>>Seats are still available for Term 2!

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Events

**Trust and Promise: Foundations of Tokugawa Altruism and Cooperation**

**CJR Lunchtime Lecture Series**
CENTRE FOR JAPANESE RESEARCH

**Wednesday, Nov 8**
12:30 - 1:30 PM
Asian Centre 604
1871 West Mall
This talk will feature speaker Minami Orihara (PhD Candidate) as she discusses her dissertation. Tentatively entitled Bonds of Trust: Foundations of Altruism and Cooperation in Early Modern Japan, it is an inquiry into the evolution of trust and cooperation in Tokugawa Japan.

Date: November 8, 2017  
Time: 12:30pm - 1:30pm  
Venue: Room 604, Asian Centre, 1871 West Mall

The Lost Books of Modern China  
Moral Censorship and the Preservation of "Obscene" Texts

This lecture, by Professor Michel Hockx, draws attention to linkages between the craft of writing and its legal context, as well as to the sometimes long-lasting consequences of legal restrictions for the preservation of literary material. The focus is on magazines and books published in China in the early twentieth century. In recent years, a wide variety of early modern Chinese print publications have resurfaced and been digitized. Yet it seems clear that a powerful combination of political ideology, moral taboo, and scholarly bias is excluding some types of publication from the emerging digitized canon.

Date: November 8, 2017  
Time: 2:00pm - 4:00pm  
Venue: Room 604, Asian Centre, 1871 West Mall

The Social Worlds of Indian Aesthetics: a View from the Mughal Period
Professor Busch shares highlights from a book project (in collaboration with Dr. Molly Aitken) on “Aesthetic Worlds of the Indian Heroine” that explores Mughal India’s deep engagement with classical aesthetics through paintings and poems about female beauty.

Date: November 16, 2017  
Time: 4:00pm - 5:30pm  
Venue: Room 120, CK Choi Building, 1855 West Mall

>> Click here for details

One Asia Forum

Hosted by Dr. Nam-lin Hur, this series will feature different speakers throughout Term 1.
The Making of Chinese Hegemony in Early Modern East Asia

In this talk, Lee argues that the international order of Asia’s past was not as Sinocentric as conventional wisdom suggests.

**Date:** November 9, 2017  
**Time:** 4:00pm - 6:00pm  
**Venue:** Room 604, Asian Centre, 1871 West Mall

The Kangxi Emperor: China's Deng Xiaoping in the 17th Century

It is clear to almost everyone that Deng Xiaoping’s opening policy in the 1980s and after has radically transformed the historical direction of contemporary China and laid solid foundation for it to rise as the world’s second largest economy in the new century.

**Date:** November 16, 2017  
**Time:** 4:00pm - 6:00pm  
**Venue:** Lillooet Room, Irving K. Barber Learning Centre, 1961 E Mall

Taiwan in the Age of Global China: Challenges and Opportunities

In the face of China’s continued rise and transformation into a global power, how should we think of Taiwan?

**Date:** November 23, 2017  
**Time:** 4:00pm - 6:00pm  
**Venue:** Lillooet Room, Irving K. Barber Learning Centre, 1961 E Mall

Reflections on Self-Immolation in Chinese Buddhist and Daoist Traditions
Dr. Jimmy Yu, a Sheng Yen Associate Professor of Chinese Buddhism at the Florida State University, will come to UBC and give a guest lecture with the title "Reflections on Self-Immolation in Chinese Buddhist and Daoist Traditions."

**Date:** November, 22 2017  
**Time:** 4:00pm - 5:00pm  
**Venue:** Room 604, Asian Centre, 1871 West Mall

**Words, Images, and Sounds: One Hour in Chinese Literature**

You are cordially invited to this event presented by students in CHIN 481. We would like to share our joy in reading modern Chinese literature (1900s to 1940s) with you!

Students will present their understanding of the text in words, images, and sounds. Poetry, fiction, and drama, all will be explored in our creative journey of discovery. Among the gallery of writers you will find such names as Lu Xun, Xiao Hong, Wei Yiduo and Xu Zhimo.

**Date:** November 23, 2017  
**Time:** 11:00am - 12:30pm  
**Venue:** Auditorium, Asian Centre, 1871 West Mall

**Identity / Assimilation / Assertion**
Join faculty, students and members of the greater Vancouver arts community for this series of talks exploring theatre and film practices across the disciplines. Most talks feature two speakers, who will address the theme from diverse disciplinary locations.

**Date:** November 27, 2017  
**Time:** 4:00pm - 5:00pm  
**Venue:** 1099, Buchanan Tower, 1873 East Mall

>> Click here for details

**Special Korean Studies Lab Seminar:** 조선후기 불교사의 지형과 해석
Event Recap

Professor Bell Yung at UBC

The second season of the UBC Hong Kong Studies Initiative kicked off with a reception, a special lecture on Hong Kong’s folk music, and a School of Music colloquium by Prof. Bell Yung of the University of Pittsburgh. For webcasts and photos of the events, please see here and here.
Japanese Movie Night

The instructors in the Japanese Language Program hosted another successful Japanese movie night on October 20th. It was attended by approximately 100 Japanese language students of all levels along with students from Ritsumeikan House. There were a lot of laughs during the movie, after which the students and instructors had a chance to socialize while enjoying sushi and yakisoba. It was a very enjoyable way to end the week after midterms!
Master of Public Policy & Global Affairs Info Session

Learn more about the UBC Master of Public Policy and Global Affairs (MPPGA) program from their Graduate Program Director, Shashi Enarth, alumni, and MPPGA program staff. Event on November 14th at 5:30pm.

Backpacking with a Purpose

If you're into the idea of traveling to a foreign country in order to volunteer and play a part in hopefully making a social impact, then this could be the opportunity for you. Experience how it's like to live like the locals do with this immersive program that's meant to put you directly in the shoes of the locals who live in the foreign countries as you complete your volunteer journey. Apply by November 22.

China's Rise and Transformation: the View from its Fastest Growing City (UBC - SWUPL 2018 Summer Program) - Chongqing, China

The program will provide unique field visits on a daily basis with access to government, courts, companies, and research centers, allowing for interactions with many key players. Additionally, the program will offer unique opportunities to visit historical cities (Chengdu, Xian), including the Panda reserve, and to taste the
The cuisine of Sichuan and Chongqing, possibly the most colorful and endearing in China. **Apply by January 5th, 2018.**

**Job: Tenured Associate Professor or Professor and Chair of Department**

The Department of Pacific & Asian Studies at the University of Victoria is hiring for the position of tenured Associate Professor or Professor and Chair of Department, to begin 1 July 2018. **Apply by November 24, 2017.**

**Community Policing Patrol & Special Event Volunteer Opportunity**

Chinese Community Policing Centre is a non-profit organization, in partnership with Vancouver Police Department, established in 1992 to serve the Chinese community in police-related matters.

**Register today for ITST419/ITAL409: “Italy and China” for Term 2**

Through examining key contemporary Italian-Chinese events, such as Italian intellectuals’ discussions about the Cultural Revolution and Chinese migration to Italy, we will put Italian and European interpretations of China as a rising superpower in perspective.

**Access and Diversity Seeking ASIA 100 Tutor**

Access and Diversity is seeking a tutor to work for 4 hours a week in course content directly relating to ASIA 100. The position will start immediately and continues until approximately December 20th, end of Term 1. There is a possibility of extension into Term 2. The tutor role pays $21.43 per hour.

**Applications open for the Inter-University Centre for Japanese Language Studies**

The Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies (IUC), located in Yokohama, with space, services, and various amenities provided by the municipal government, provides an intensive 10-month training program in advanced Japanese for a select number of undergraduate, graduate and post-graduate students.

**Information session of graduate studies in the Hopkins-Nanjing Center**

Are you interested in using your Chinese language skills after you graduate? The Hopkins-Nanjing Center offers graduate coursework that elevates your Chinese language proficiency and prepares you for a career related to international relations.

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**On-Campus Events**

**Upcoming Calligraphy Workshop**

The UBC Asian Calligraphy Club is hosting a workshop on November 6th. There will be live demos and personal practice time with their calligraphy teachers.

**Date:** November 6, 2017  
**Time:** 5:00pm - 6:30pm  
**Venue:** Room 156, Irving K Barber, 1961 East Mall

**Stories of Social Enterprise: Tariq Hadhad**

Learn more about how a Syrian Refugee is creating incredible impact in Canada. Tareq Hadhad is the founder of Peace by Chocolate, which creates jobs for refugees and raises awareness to peacebuilding efforts around the world. Join the UBC Social Enterprise Club on November 7th to hear his compelling story.

**Date:** November 7, 2017  
**Time:** 4:00pm - 6:00pm  
**Venue:** HA 098, Henry Angus Building, 2053 Main Mall

**Flow, Progression, Rest**

Featuring Saygin Salgirli (Assistant Professor, Department of Art History, Visual Art & Theory, UBC), this talk is a conceptual exercise in two parts. It engages with three nouns (flow, progression, rest), and questions how they can be transformed into concepts for architectural and art historical analysis.

**Date:** November 9, 2017

https://secure.campaigner.com/csb/Public/show/kro34--du8mk-5l47ul84
Find out about SALA's graduate and undergraduate programs, including the new Bachelor of Design in Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Urbanism. Learn how to put together a well-designed portfolio, discover what our faculty and students are working on, and tour our studio spaces.

**Date:** November 18, 2017  
**Time:** 12:30pm - 5:00pm  
**Venue:** Forest Sciences Centre, 2424 Main Mall

**Voices of Contemporary Himalayan Literature: Manjushree Thapa and Tsering Wangmo Dhompa in Conversation**

Join us for a conversation with two acclaimed Himalayan authors: Manjushree Thapa and Tsering Wangmo Dhompa! They will be discussing their recently published novels, short stories, and non-fiction, considering what it means to represent Nepal and Tibet in the English-language literary scene.

**Date:** November 20, 2017  
**Time:** 5:00pm - 7:00pm  
**Venue:** Multipurpose Room, Liu Institute for Global Issues, 6476 NW Marine Dr

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**Off-Campus Events**

**South Asian Canadian Histories Association Presents: A Vancouver Guldasta**  
Nov 4 - 18 | 7pm | A Vancouver Special Home, 7425 Prince Albert Street, Vancouver

**The ASEAN Dialogues: A Student-focused Discussion**  
Nov 9 | 5:30pm | APF Canada Boardroom, 900-675 West Hastings Street, Vancouver

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**Interview**

**Ajay Bhardwaj, PhD Student in Punjabi Literature and Religion.**
Tell us a little about yourself, your background and how you became interested in Asian Studies?

I was born in Delhi into a family with deep roots in rural East Punjab, India. My first-hand experience of rural life, at my paternal family’s village during my summer vacations, imparted to me insights which would contribute to my cinematic exploration of the region.

From an early age, I was attracted to progressive politics and the arts which found expression in my engagement with the agit-prop theatre, or the street theatre movement, and performed plays at factory gates, markets, bus stops, university campuses and so on. I enjoyed watching political documentaries made by the Indian documentary filmmaker, Anand Patwardhan, who was influenced by the New Latin American Cinema.

My interest in politics and the arts encouraged me to pursue a Master’s in Political Science at Jawaharlal Nehru University followed by a Master’s in the Mass Communications at Mass Communications Research Centre, both in Delhi. I started off as an independent documentary filmmaker by making a protest documentary on the political murder of the Jawaharlal Nehru University's student union president, which exposed some of the basic fault-lines of Indian politics.

Five years on, I began looking inwards which led to a decade of engagement with the north-western state of Punjab. It resulted in a trilogy of documentaries located at the intersection of Dalit religiosity, performance traditions and memories of partition.

In 2009, I met Dr. Anne Murphy at an international conference hosted in Chandigarh by the University of Manchester. Dr. Murphy invited me to screen my films at UBC in 2010, and 2012. These interactions laid the foundation of my scholarly and cinematic engagement with the themes and form of my film practice. Eventually, it persuaded me to consider returning to academia and I applied for a PhD at the Department of Asian Studies.

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

In my own film work of the past decade in East Punjab, I have explored local histories, personal memories, social lives, and the vibrant lives of the texts in performance today. My research in both film and textual form
will expand on this prior work as I explore the impact of India's partition in 1947 on the language of subaltern resistance, performance tradition and social identity in post partition East Punjab. It interrogates the privileging of religion over caste in scholarly discourse, and foregrounds the voice of Dalit assertion for an independent identity that speaks through the tradition of Dalit Sufis in East Punjab. My research offers an exciting possibility where an art practice engages with academic scholarship on an equal footing. A dialogue between the two areas expands and enriches the domains of both, art, as well as academia, creating new audiences on both sides. It is facilitated by the Public Scholars Initiative award (PSI) at UBC which encourages the integration of multi-disciplinary scholarship and arts to produce knowledge that directly communicates with the public and is accessible to non-experts.

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 came to UBC for two reasons. First, I wanted to study under Dr. Murphy as she is deeply engaged in the study of text and performance traditions in Punjab – which are recurring themes in my own work. Dr. Murphy opened a unique possibility that enabled me to frame my research project at the intersection of film production, performance theory, and Dalit religiosity. I don’t think an interdisciplinary approach that brings together sensory, embodied and discursive knowledge on East Punjab would have been possible elsewhere. Second, the presence of a large Punjabi community in BC provides me with an immediate context to my research.

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

Right from the day when I joined the program, my supervisor Dr. Murphy and I both were keen to incorporate non-fiction film as a component of my thesis. My years of experience as a documentary filmmaker, and especially my decade long cinematic engagement with Punjab offered a unique opportunity to bring together discursive scholarship and art. It was the Public Scholar Initiative (PSI) award in 2015 and then again in 2016 that made it possible for me to re-imagine my thesis in a way that non-fiction film became integral to my research. It was like a dream come true for a filmmaker scholar.

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

I will return to documentary filmmaking equipped with discursive knowledge on my field as well as scholarly engagement with my non-fiction film practice. I hope to continue exploring the intersection of art and academia to produce new knowledge that's easily accessible to the public.

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

I feel one needs that ‘little extra’ commitment, over and above one’s academic engagement that keeps one inspired to creatively and passionately pursue one’s research goals. This ‘little extra’ in my case is working closely with the progressive South Asian Canadian activists and artists in BC.

>> For more student interviews

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asia.ubc.ca
1871 West Mall
#607
Vancouver, British Columbia
Canada
V6T 1Z3