The Asian Studies Update - September 18th

Top Stories

Featured Courses:

**ASIA 308 Myth, Ritual and Epic in Ancient India**
Myths of creation gods and goddesses of the Vedic pantheon. Connections with myths in other parts of the world, particularly in the Indo-European tradition. Literary representations of the myths.

**ASIA 356 Korean Cinema**
Introduction to the work of the major filmmakers.

**ASIA 393 History of Iran from the Sasanians to the Safavids**
Iranian history from the fall of the Sasanian empire and the Arab conquest of Iran to the rise of Iranian dynasties in the east, the reign of Turkic and Turko-Mongolian rulers, and the formation of a Shi‘ite Iran under the Safavids.

**New Visiting Associate Professor: Allison Busch**
Dr. Allison Busch's expertise is in the early modern period (c. 1500-1800), with a special interest in India's courtly traditions. Her book *Poetry of Kings* (Oxford, 2011) aimed to reframe conversations in Hindi studies about the precolonial literary past.
This term she will be teaching:

**ASIA 208 Cultural Foundations of South Asia**
A survey of South Asian cultures, including language and literature, art, religion, polity and society, as they developed in the past and have been transformed in the modern period.

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**Events**

**Book Launch: The Book of Swindles. Translated by Christopher Rea and Bruce Rusk**

In *The Book of Swindles*, Rea and Rusk give us hilarious and sobering proof that swindling isn’t just a contemporary concern but has been around for centuries. We are treated to stories of porters cheating officials who cheat porters, of conniving Taoists and gullible officials, of lusty widows who provoke their husbands’ death, and of debauched gentry who prey on poor locals.
THE BOOK OF SWINDLES
Selections from a Late Ming Collection

ZHANG YINGYU
TRANSLATED BY CHRISTOPHER REA AND BRUCE RUSK

Date: 20 September 2017
Time: 4:00pm - 5:00pm
Venue: Room 120, CK Choi Building, 1855 West Mall

The Art of a Cantonese Blind Singer
Hong Kong’s Folk Music and Local Culture: The Art of a Cantonese Blind Singer

In 1926, the blind singer Dou Wun arrived in Hong Kong from Guangzhou at the age of sixteen. For fifty years, he sang professionally in brothels, opium dens, teahouses, a radio station, private homes, and, when destitute, on street corners. In 1975, I arranged for him to sing for three-and-a-half months in the Fu Lung Teahouse in Sheung Wan. In this presentation I will show images of Dou Wun, Hong Kong, and the Fu Lung Teahouse, and I will play the historical recordings of three of his songs: Dou sang: Naaimyan ("Southern Tone" Song), Lungzau 龍舟 (Beggars Song), and Baan'ngaan 網歌 (Brother Song)—songs that had been widely heard in Cantonese-speaking communities around the Pearl River Delta but have long since disappeared.

Date: 21 September 2017
End: 7:00pm - 9:00pm
Venue: Fairmont Social Lounge, St. John’s College, 2111 Lower Mall

An Audience of One: The Private Music of the Chinese Literati

An Audience of One: The Private Music of the Chinese Literati

To most ethnomusicologists, music is a social activity with the main goal of interacting with an audience. China’s qin music, often associated with the literati who play primarily for themselves as a private activity, is an exception. While qin ideology stresses extra-musical meaning and cultural significance, it is also an expressive art. In this talk I will argue that, in playing privately, the player turns inwardly toward himself rather than outwardly toward an audience. In such a performance context, music and musically need to be assessed by criteria different from those commonly accepted for public music.

Date: 22 September 2017
Time: 11.45am - 12.45pm
Venue: Room 116, School of Music, UBC
Two Conversations with Chris Goto-Jones

Educated in Cambridge, Keio (Tokyo), and Oxford Universities, host Chris Goto-Jones is Professor in Philosophy and Dean of Humanities at University of Victoria. He is also a Professorial Research Fellow at SOAS, University of London, and a Senior Research Fellow in the Centre for International Studies at Oxford University. He was previously Professor of Comparative Philosophy & Political Thought and Professor of Modern Japan Studies at Leiden University (The Netherlands).

Orientalism, Magic, And Modernity At The Turn Of The 20th Century
Date: 28 September 2017
Time: 4:00pm - 5:30pm
Venue: Room 120, C.K. Choi Building, 1855 West Mall

Virtual Ninja Manifesto: Ethics, Violence, Video Games, and Martial Arts
Date: 29 September 2017
Time: 2:00pm - 3:30pm
Venue: Room 604, Asian Centre, 1871 West Mall

Canada at 150 Trauma, Memory and the Story of Canada
Artists’ Roundtable

Join artists, curator Raghavendra Rao K.V., and members of the South Asian Canadian Histories Association to explore this artistic intervention in the story of Canada at 150. Sameer Farooq’s work for the exhibition, entitled Pouf, Sausage, Weight, Arc (2017), will be on view. Free event with light refreshments.

**Date:** 29 September 2017  
**Time:** 3:00pm – 5:00pm  
**Venue:** Asian Centre Auditorium, 1871 West Mall

Art Exhibition Opening and Art Walk

Join artists and members of the South Asian Canadian Histories Association for a public art display, performances, and art walk that explore the “Canada at 150: Trauma, Memory and the Story of Canada” works in Punjabi Market. Free event.

**Date:** 30 September 2017  
**Time:** 12:00pm – 4:00pm  
**Venue:** Punjabi Market & All India Sweets and Restaurant, 6560 Main Street

One Asia Forum

Hosted by Dr. Nam-lin Hur, this series will feature different speakers throughout Term 1.
Kings in All but Name: The Ōuchi and the Age of Yamaguchi 1408-1551

Japan during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries was not a politically divided and isolated land, but rather an integrated and segmented polity, with two complementary capitals at Kyoto and at Yamaguchi.

**Date:** 21 September 2017  
**Time:** 4:00pm - 6:00pm  
**Venue:** Room 604, Asian Centre, 1871 West Mall

What We Cannot See Coming: the Death of the East Asian Tributary System

What can we learn from the late 19th-century death of the East Asian tributary system? In addition, how can we, as researchers, study the death of practices, of ideas, or of ways of being whose death leaves few traces in the way of corpses or dates?

**Date:** 28 September 2017  
**Time:** 4:00pm - 6:00 pm  
**Venue:** Room 604, Asian Centre, 1871 West Mall

Classical Culture Abroad: Poetry and Politics in the Wider East Asian World

Poetry played an important role in traditional East Asian relations, allowing diplomats to form friendships and show off their learning. The friendship between the Vietnamese envoy Phùng Khắc Khoan and his Korean counterpart, Yi Sugwang, is a case in point.

**Date:** 5 October 2017  
**Time:** 4:00pm - 6:00 pm  
**Venue:** Room 604, Asian Centre, 1871 West Mall
Neighbors and Killers: Contacts between Qing China and Chosŏn Korea in the Tumen River

Poetry played an important role in traditional East Asian relations, allowing diplomats to form friendships and show off their learning. The friendship between the Vietnamese envoy Phùng Khắc Khoan and his Korean counterpart, Yi Sugwang, is a case in point.

Date: 12 October 2017  
Time: 4:00pm - 6:00 pm  
Venue: Room 604, Asian Centre, 1871 West Mall

Buddhist Women: Practitioners and Teachers Past and Present

In this workshop, we will hear about the activities of Buddhist women in both historical and contemporary contexts. The speakers will present examples from different cultural spheres, including China, Japan, and the US. Audience members will have opportunities to ask questions and participate in discussions about the inclusion of women in teaching and practice of the Dharma. Please register in advance.

Date: 30 September 2017  
Time: 9:00am - 4:40 pm  
Venue: 8240 No. 5 Road, Richmond, BC

Emergency Food and Traditional Korean Alimentotherapy in Wartime Society

A special seminar on traditional Korean society:
“전란기 구황식물과 한국전통 식치 콘텐츠 발굴 (Emergency Food and Traditional Korean Alimentotherapy in Wartime Society)

**Speaker:** 안상우 박사 (Dr. Sang Woo Ahn, Korea Institute of Oriental Medicine)

**Language:** 한국어 (Korean)

**Date:** September 18th, 2017

**Time:** 3:30pm – 5:30pm

**Venue:** Room 604, Asian Centre, 1871 West Mall

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**News/Events Recap**

**Imagine Day Photos**

All transfer and returning Arts Undergraduate students were invited to join us for our Welcome Back Lunch on Imagine Day along with alumni of the Asian Studies program.
Student Opportunities

**Trek Program**

The Trek Program is a year long non-credit local community service learning program that combines weekly community service with on-campus learning opportunities. Through Trek, you can contribute to your community, gain real-world experience, and build lasting connections. **Apply by September 22, 2017.**

**The Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada (APF Canada) is offering a three-month Junior Research Fellowship for applicants interested in learning more about Canada's engagement with Asia**

The Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada (APF Canada) is committed to fostering the next generation of Asia Pacific researchers and practitioners. To this end, it is offering a three-month Junior Research Fellowship for applicants interested in learning more about Canada’s engagement with Asia. Applicants should be Canadian citizens or permanent residents who are...
currently enrolled in undergraduate or masters-level programs, or who have completed their degree programs within the previous 12 months. **Apply by September 25, 2017.**

**Rice Paper Magazine - Reflection**

Asian writers of all cultural backgrounds are encouraged to submit non-fiction articles, stories, poems, and profiles relatable to Asian Canadians, many of whom are global citizens with ties to other parts of the world. **Apply by October 31, 2017.**

**Yenching Academy of Peking University**

The Yenching Academy of Peking University builds bridges between China and the rest of the world through an interdisciplinary master’s program in China Studies for outstanding graduates from all over the globe. This initiative brings young people who show promise to lead and innovate in their fields together in an intensive learning environment where they can explore China and its role in the world - past, present, and future. The Academy aims to thereby shape a new generation of global citizens with a nuanced understanding of China. **Apply by November 3, 2017.**

**Workshops at the UBC Farm**

35-50 workshops per year are offered at the UBC Farm, ranging from 1.5-3 hours to full-length short courses. Topics range from food production(gardening/farming, foraging, mushroom cultivation, aquaponics), food transformation(cooking, preserving, canning, cheese & beer making, baking), and other sustainable living skills(making fiber, craft-making, creating school gardens).

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**On-Campus Events**

**Reconstruction and State Restructuring in Nepal after 2015: A Community Forum**

A discussion and Q&A with visiting experts: Deepak Thapa, Jeevan Baniya, Dinesh Paudel, and Subin Mulmi.

**Date:** 17 September 2017  
**Time:** 2:00pm - 4:00pm  
**Venue:** Theatre C300, UBC Robson Square

**Hard Target: Sanctions, Inducements, and the Case of North Korea**

The speaker Stephan Haggard is the Krause Distinguished Professor at the School of Global Policy and Strategy (formerly the Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies) at the University of California San Diego. He has written widely on the political economy and international relations of East Asia.

**Date:** 22 September 2017  
**Time:** 3:30pm - 5:00pm  
**Venue:** Room 120, CK Choi Building, 1855 West Mall

**CKR Talk with Pomnyun Sunim - A Casual Conversation with a Zen Master about Life, Love, Success, Happiness, and Meaning**

**Date:** 3 October 2017  
**Time:** 11:30am - 1:00pm  
**Venue:** Room 120, CK Choi Building, 1955 West Mall

**UBC Day of Learning: Envisioning our future at the 75th Anniversary of Japanese Canadian Internment**

Through a series of panels and workshops, the Day of Learning will explore past and present societal themes of xenophobia, racism and discrimination, from the removal of indigenous peoples, to the incarceration of over 21,000 Japanese Canadians in 1942, and the rise of Islamophobia today.

**Date:** 10 October 2017  
**Time:** 10:00am - 8:00pm  
**Venue:** UBC Point Grey Campus
Hidden Treasures: The Changing Uses and Meanings of Wish-Fulfilling Jewels in Japanese Esoteric Buddhism

In new religions derived from Shingon—Japanese esoteric Buddhism—physical objects provide a tangible link with the past, even as they find new uses and become memetic vectors imbued with new meanings. The uses and meanings of “wish-fulfilling jewels” (Jpn. nyoi hōju nyoirin) are being adapted in movements that emerged in the twentieth century.

**Date:** 26 October 2017  
**Time:** 4:00pm - 5:00pm  
**Venue:** Room 213, Museum of Anthropology, 6393 NW Marine Dr.

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**Off-Campus Events**

**Salman Rushdie in Conversation**  
19 Sept | 7:30pm - 9:30pm | 6265 Crescent Rd  
One of the most celebrated public thinkers of our time, the multi-award-winning and bestselling author Salman Rushdie discusses his latest, brilliant epic, *The Golden House*, at this special event.

**LiterAsian**  
21 - 14 Sept | Multiple Events  
A festival of Pacific Rim Asian Canadian Writing

**Standup Comedy show with Dr. Mahmud Farjami**  
7 Oct | TBA

**Next Music from Tokyo volume 11 - Indie Rock Concert Featuring Bands from Tokyo**  
Oct 11 | 7:00pm - 11:59pm | 111 West Hastings  
If you loved Uchu Conbini’s sublime math-pop then you will love Daijiro Nakagawa’s new band JYOCHO.

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**Interview**

**Scott Wells (Ph.D. Student in Korean Linguistics)**
Tell us a little about yourself, your background and how you became interested in Asian Studies?

I grew up in the high desert of New Mexico's Four Corners region. I am the fifth child of seven, a father of three, and a husband of one. I first went to Korea in 2000 as a Mormon missionary. I took a B.A. from Brigham Young University in Korean and Linguistics.

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 to work with Ross King. In the senior year of my B.A. program, Dr. King visited BYU to recruit counselors for the Korean language summer camp that he shepherds in the northern Minnesota woods. While there he gave several talks and guest lectures. I was already considering graduate school, but hearing from Dr. King sealed the deal for me and I was determined that if he would have me, I wanted to be his student.

Though I didn’t know much about it at the time, UBC has a truly amazing student family housing community, Acadia Park. I came to UBC married and with a 10-month old daughter. Were it not for Acadia Park, I cannot imagine what my children’s experience of their dad’s 10 years of grad school would be like.

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

Imagine studying the transition in England from a traditional education in Latin and Greek to a modern education in English. I study a similar transition but in early twentieth century Korea, as Koreans developed a modern educational system that pushed Literary Chinese to the margins of their teaching and centered vernacular Korean as the primary medium of instruction.

As a graduate student, what are your main activities?

Reading, writing, fathering and husbanding.

Can you give any advice to new students in our program or for students considering applying to it?
If you’re halfway through your first year of grad school and are wondering why everyone knows so much more than you, don’t freak out. It’s normal.