The Update is a bi-weekly roundup of news in the Department of Asian Studies for our Students, Faculty, and Staff.

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2017 Imagine Day: Welcome Back Lunch

All transfer and returning Arts Undergraduate students are welcome to join us for our Welcome Back Lunch on Imagine Day (2nd-, 3rd- and 4th-year students). Come learn about the Asian Studies Experience and join the Asian Studies community. Meet with faculty and staff, network with alumni and mingle with students over lunch.

Tuesday, September 5th, 2016
Time: 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM
Location: Asian Centre Auditorium, 1871 West Mall
Price: Free

New Course: ASIA 433 - The Cinematic Lives of Muslims in South Asia

This class examines depictions of Muslims in South Asian cinema, with a particular focus on the Hindi film industry. ASIA 433 is a Term 1 course taught by Dr. Sunera Thobani. There are still seats open!
New Hire: Dr. Clayton Ashton

Dr. Clayton Ashton is a newly hired Lecturer in Chinese Thought, after receiving his Ph.D. from UBC's Department of Asian Studies this summer.

This term he will be teaching:

**ASIA 332 Confucianism in China and Beyond: reinventions of Tradition**
Key ideas and trends in Confucian thought and practice from its origins to modern times through
primary sources in translation and secondary scholarship.

**ASIA 381 Daoist (Taoist) Religion and its Philosophical Background**
A study of the Daoist religious traditions from their beginnings in the second century CE in their cultural, intellectual and social contexts

**ASIA 382 Buddhism in China**
History, thought, and practices of Chinese Buddhism from its beginnings until the twentieth century.

Get to know Dr. Ashton a little more through his [Graduate Student interview](https://secure.campaigner.com/csb/Public/show/ixcyp--d6jap-5l47ula6) from a previous edition of *The Update*.

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**Writing Beyond Tradition: Chivalric Stories by Chen Jinghan in Late Imperial China**

A public talk by Dr. Iris Ma, University of Texas at Austin.

This talk draws attention to a series of writings about knights-errant published in the literary journal New-New Fiction 新新小說 (1904) and reveals how Chen Jinghan 陳景韓 (1878-1965), the journal editor and main contributor, established a global context for his writings through selecting and translating knight-errant stories that originated in different countries. Iris Ma is a post-doctoral fellow of the Institute for Historical Studies in the Department of History at University of Texas at Austin.

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**Workshop on Literary Production and Language Politics in Postwar Japan**

This event features keynote talks by [Toeda Hirokazu and Tanaka Yukari](https://secure.campaigner.com/csb/Public/show/ixcyp--d6jap-5l47ula6).
Monday, September 11th, 2017
1:15pm-4pm
Asian Centre, Room 604, 1871 West Mall

The Ebb and Flow of Everyday Contacts: Forging Literary Communities in Early Modern Punjab

Public talk by Purnima Dhavan (Dept. of History, University of Washington).
Texts in Punjabi have for much of its history been written in multiple scripts and engaged deeply with myriad textual, aural, and oral communities. The words and letters of literary agents in 17th century Punjab, this lecture argues, actively shaped communities and networks, pointing to the boundaries some wished to enforce, and the boundaries that others transgressed.

The talk is sponsored by the Dept. of Asian Studies and the Centre for India and South Asia Research. A workshop will precede on Sept. 13; people interested in participating can contact anne.murphy@ubc.ca for information. Knowledge of early modern Punjabi is required.

Thursday, September 14th, 2017
4pm-5:30pm
Room120, C.K. Choi Building, 1855 West Mall

2017 One Asia Forum Talk Series

Hosted by Dr. Nam-lin Hur, this series will feature different speakers throughout Term 1.
Thursday, September 14th, 2017
The Aesthetics of Korean Dance
With speaker Judy Van Zile (University of Hawaii)
4pm-6pm
Asian Centre, Room 604, 1871 West Mall

Thursday, September 21st, 2017
Kings in All but Name: The Ōuchi and the Age of Yamaguchi 1408-1551
With speaker Tom Conlan (Princeton University)
4pm-6pm
Asian Centre, Room 604, 1871 West Mall

Thursday, September 28th, 2017
A Forensic Analysis of the Demise of the East Asian Tributary System
With speaker Saeyoung Park (University of Leiden)
4pm-6pm
Asian Centre, Room 604, 1871 West Mall

Special Seminar “江戸時代の遊行上人”
Featuring guest speaker Tamamuro Fumio (Meiji University). This public lecture will be held in Japanese.
Friday, September 15th, 2017
3pm-5pm
Asian Centre, Room 604, 1871 West Mall

Enacting Culture/s: Theatre and film across disciplines

Graduate Student & Faculty Roundtable.

UBC graduate students and faculty are invited to this roundtable discussion to share research and creative interests that embrace theatre and film across the disciplines. Our goal is to foster interdisciplinary engagement with performance and media, and to create a network of students and faculty pursuing related projects. Participants should prepare a 3-5 minute introduction to their research/creative interests, highlighting their engagement with film and theatre. (This is a technology-free event! No powerpoints or other electronic media will be used, to keep it informal. Time-limits on presentations will be strictly enforced, to enable conversation.) This event is a part of a series of talks and performances over the course of W2017 on the same theme.

Monday, September 18th, 2017
12pm to 2pm
Location to be decided
Free with pre-registration (lunch to be catered by All India Sweets)

RSVPs are required by September 13th for catering planning.

This Roundtable and associated events are made possible with generous funding from the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies, and is co-sponsored by the Departments of Asian Studies and Theatre and Film.

Organized by Hallie Marshall (Theatre & Film) & Anne Murphy (Asian Studies). Please RSVP by September 13th to hallie.marshall@ubc.ca. Please include "Roundtable" in the subject line.

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, Professor Bell Yung arranged for him to sing for three-and-a-half months in the Fu Lung Teahouse in Sheung Wan. In this presentation, Dr. Yung will show images of Dou Wun, Hong Kong, and the Fu Lung Teahouse, and he will play the historical recordings of three kinds of songs Dou sang.

https://secure.campaigner.com/csb/Public/show/ixcyp--d6jap-5l47ula6
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. In this talk Professor Bell Yung will argue that, in playing privately, the player turns inwardly toward himself rather than outwardly toward an audience.
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).
Thursday, September 28, 2017
**Orientalism, Magic, And Modernity At The Turn Of The 20th Century**
4pm-5:30pm
Room 120, CK Choi Building, 1855 West Mall

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

South Asian Canadian Digital Archive Event Recap

On August 24th and 25th a workshop was held at the University of the Fraser Valley's South Asian Studies Institute (August 24) and in the Department of Asian Studies at UBC, with co-sponsorship by the Centre for India and South Asia Research, to brainstorm and plan the formation of a South Asian Canadian Digital Archive (SACDA). Participants included faculty, staff and students from both Universities, curatorial and archival staff from the Royal British Columbia Museum (which was a partner in planning the workshop), librarians and staff from Simon Fraser University, and a wide range of people engaged in arts, cultural and digital work. The Workshop and associated planning was made possible by a Social Science and Humanities Research Council Connection Grant.
Dr. Anne Murphy Took Part in the Max-Weber-Kolleg Research Project in Germany this Summer

Asian Studies Professor Dr. Anne Murphy spent May-July 2017 at the Max-Weber-Kolleg für kultur- und sozialwissenschaftliche Studien, which functions as an Institute for Advanced Studies and a Graduate Program and is affiliated with the Universität Erfurt. The research project she was a part of is entitled "Religious individualization in historical perspective," which is in its final year; the project seeks to explicate instances of religious individualization in diverse historical and cultural locations and challenge the assumption that such dynamics are a particular feature of the modern West. UBC Ph.D. student Kiran Sunar will spend 9 months at the Kolleg affiliated to the project in 2018. Dr. Murphy gave a talk to the Kolleg on June 20 entitled "Sufis, Yogis, and the question of

### Student Opportunities

- Outside-In International Photojournal is hiring for 2017/2018! Seeking **editors, graphic designers, promotions & event coordinators. Apply by September 11th, 2017.**

- Searching for **Graduate Student Mentors**: Research Experience Program (REX). Sign up for a REX **mentor information session**. Check out their [website](https://secure.campaigner.com/csb/Public/show/ixcyp--d6jap-5l47ula6) for more information on the REX program.

- Apply for a **full scholarship** to a one-year graduate program at Yenching Academy of Peking University. Further information and application details can be found [here](https://secure.campaigner.com/csb/Public/show/ixcyp--d6jap-5l47ula6). Applications are due on November 3rd, 2017.

### Off-Campus Events

**September 2-3, 2017**
**Nikkei Matsuri Festival**
Nikkei National Museum and Cultural Centre
6688 Southoaks Crescent, Burnaby, BC V5E 4M7

**Thursday, September 14th, 2017**
**APSIA: Graduate School Fair**
6pm to 8pm
UBC Robson Square

**Saturday, September 16th, 2017**
**Researching Contemporary Topics in Asia**
1pm to 5:30pm
SFU Harbour Centre Campus Vancouver, Room HC 1400-1410
515 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC V6B 5K3

### Graduate Student Spotlight: Minami Orihara

**Ph.D. student - Japanese Intellectual History**

[Photo of Minami Orihara]

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

My interest in Japanese history developed during my time in Singapore. I was born and raised there after my parents moved from Japan for my father’s job. There is a very large and secluded Japanese community in Singapore, and I initially attended a school set up for the children of Japanese expatriates. I eventually left this school for an international school where I found myself to be the only student from Japan in some classes, and later pursued my M.A. in history at the National University of Singapore before coming to Canada.
It was through my interactions with friends and teachers in these three different schools that I gradually came to gain a sense for the presence of diverse narratives on Japanese aggression in Singapore, became aware of the challenges a historian faces, and shaped subjective motives for doing and teaching history. Having said that, the decision to do PhD-level research did not come immediately; it took me some time of wondering and wandering (including working in the corporate world and failing at it!)

During my time at NUS, I researched on topics dealing with millenarian movements led by young radicals and the relevant state programs of thought control in prewar and wartime Japan. Since then my interests have drifted toward the social history of early modern Japan, but I continue to use the accounts of rebels and those on the social periphery to gain a better understanding of Japan.

**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?**

My decision to come to UBC was somewhat intuitive. Of course, I contacted a couple of potential advisers, read their publications, and pictured how it would be to work with each of them. Positive correspondence with my current adviser, Dr. Nam-lin Hur, and UBC’s Asian Library stood out, but it was difficult to get a full grasp of what I could expect in a place half way around the globe. In the end, I just opened myself to chance encounters.

It was through one of such experiences that I came across the material of my dissertation topic. It can be a long and sometimes anxious process before one finds his/her research focus, but I was very fortunate to receive the support I needed from people I met in this department during that trajectory. In addition to Dr. Hur, Dr. Peter Nosco and Dr. Jessica Main have offered me the training I needed to engage in a wide array of historical sources and questions. I also feel fortunate to have Shirin Eshghi and Naoko Kato, librarians at the Asian Library. They ensure that my research process is smooth and comprehensive with the assistance they offer.

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

My dissertation involves an examination on the evolution of trust and cooperation in Tokugawa Japan. It is often suggested in historical literature that Japanese people hold harmony and group conformity in high regard; I use what I call Bonds of Trust (tanomi shōmon), Tokugawa-period agreements, to study the mechanisms and guiding principles that buttress social cohesion. I was able to collect nearly seven hundred of them thanks to the help of wonderful historians in Japan.

The Bonds of Trust were written promises primarily used to elicit and sustain cooperation within a group of Tokugawa peasants when they stood in resistance to their competing groups and samurai feudal rule. Divine oaths (kishōmon) traditionally filled that role by using the threat of divine punishment as a deterrent to defection, but I argue that the Bonds of Trust emerged as a secular institution for meting out long-term rewards such as trustworthy reputation.

In my dissertation, I trace the development of these contracts from their rise in dominance over the medieval covenant with Buddhas and deities at the beginning of the seventeenth century, and through their vogue during the rise of market growth, social movements, and the sentiments of distrust toward the end of the feudal rule in the late nineteenth century. In doing so, I address trust as the key element for overcoming dilemmas of collective action, strong economic growth, the establishment of Japanese-type civil society, and the rise of democratic institutions.

Read the rest of the interview here >>

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**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.