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Top photo: Yangyang Guo ‘12 performs in a production of “Das Kapital” by visiting playwright Nick Yu. Read more about the residency on page 8.
Bottom photo: An urban landscape in Liwan District, Guangzhou China taken by PhD candidate Qiang Fu during his APSI supported summer research. Read about his research on page 9.
The Asian/Pacific Studies Institute (APSI) is the focal point of research and teaching on the Asian/Pacific region at Duke University. Started in 1981, today APSI has over 40 full-time faculty members at Duke and over 20 affiliated faculty members from regional universities. It is the largest center for research and teaching on East Asia in the southeast.

APSI is a Title VI National Resource Center for East Asian language and area studies funded by the US Department of Education. It supports faculty in their research and teaching and sponsors speakers, conferences and course development. APSI offers a Master's program for East Asian Studies and provides students, both graduate and undergraduate, with opportunities to conduct language study or research in East Asia. APSI also conducts a wide variety of outreach work on campus and beyond, for the purpose of promoting the study and understanding of East Asia.

Faculty News

**ANNE ALLISON**, Professor of Cultural Anthropology, is currently the Managing Editor for the Journal of Cultural Anthropology.

**CLAIRE CONCEISON**, Professor of Asian & Middle Eastern Studies and Theater Studies, had her article, “Behind the Play: The World and Works of Nick Rongjun Yu” and a play translation, “Behind the Lie” published in Theatre Journal, October 2011. Conceison also translated Beijing-based director Meng Jinghui’s play, “Two Dogs’ Opinions on Life” for its tour to the Kennedy Center in September 2011, and it will be published in a forthcoming anthology.

**RICHARD JAFFE**, Associate Professor in the Religion Department, participated in a panel, “India in the Buddhist Imagination,” at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting in San Francisco, CA, in November 2011.

**HSIAO-MEI KU**, violinist of the Ciompi Quartet and Professor of the Practice from the Department of Music, led the Ciompi Quartet’s third concert tour in China in December 2011 after two previous visits in 1991 and 2004. Twenty years ago, the Ciompi Quartet was one of the first Western string quartets to be invited to share its expertise with Chinese audiences at the celebration of the Bicentennial Celebration of the Mozart Festival in Beijing. On this tour in 2011, the Ciompi Quartet, as the cultural ambassador for Duke University, played concerts in Shanghai, Xuzhou, Qingdao (Tsingtao), Tianjin, and Chengdu. While in Chengdu, the Quartet conducted a three-day residency in the Sichuan Conservatory where its members gave master classes and coached chamber music.

**MEG MCKEAN**, who just retired from the Political Science Department, is co-chairing, with Akimichi Tomoya of RIHN (Research Institute for Humanity and Nature in Kyoto), the organizing of the 14th Biennial Conference of the International Association for the Study of the Commons, which will be held on June 3-7, 2013, on Mount Fuji in Japan. The IASC was founded at Duke in 1989 and held its first international meeting at Duke in 1990. This will be the first IASC meeting to be held ON a resource commons and to be sponsored by the resource commoners themselves.


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Yan Li, Associate Director
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Nan Lin and Meg McKean Retire

The end of the 2010-2011 academic year saw the retirements of two founding members of APSI, Nan Lin in Sociology and Meg McKean in Political Science.

Nan Lin came to Duke in 1990 as the first director of APSI and served in that position until 2002. Nan established the endowment that still generates the key income for APSI today and created at least 6 faculty positions. Nan also oversaw a great increase in library funding for East Asian studies and the creation of APSI’s MA program.

Nan’s scholarly work has focused on social networks and social capital, the life stress process, social stratification and mobility, and Chinese societies. He has authored numerous books and served on over 70 dissertations committees. His scholarly achievements are widely recognized, both in the US and abroad. He received an honorary doctorate degree from National Chengchi University, Taiwan, in May 2008, for instance, and Tsinghua University in China organized a special seminar in his honor in the same year. More recently, he was awarded the 2010 International Association for Chinese Management Research Distinguished Research Contribution Award. At Duke, Nan was awarded a distinguished professorship in Sociology in 2006. The Oscar L. Tang Family Professor of Sociology was also the first distinguished professorship established to honor a faculty member whose work primarily focused on East Asia.

Meg McKean came to Duke in 1974 to join the Political Science Department, fresh out of graduate school at Berkeley. She was one of the few faculty who specialized in Asia at the time and played an important role that secured the endowment funding to establish APSI. She also served as the acting director of APSI twice, 1981-82 and 1983-84, until Nan Lin was recruited. She served on search committees for language faculty, a librarian, the APSI director, an economist and a historian of Japan.

Meg served as the first Director of Graduate Studies for APSI’s MA program and on 7 capstone committees. Meg’s first book was on the environment and citizen’s movements in Japan; her focus is on the management of common property, most often natural resource systems that are used and managed jointly by local people, which can then be called “commoners.” As a result of her work on the link between property rights and environmental outcomes, she has had a joint appointment in the Nicholas School of the Environment and has been heavily involved in the founding of the International Association for the Study of Common Property, serving as its Program Chair and President. She is in fact retiring so as to be able to write and to pursue her professional interests. She has since organized a symposium on “Communities, Resource Management, and Health in Modern Japan” at UNC-CH and Duke. Meg is now teaming up with Japanese colleagues to organize the 2013 international meeting, to be held at Mount Fuji.

Simon Partner

Greetings to all of our members and friends! This has been an exciting year for Asian studies at Duke on many fronts. APSI, together with its partners at UNC-Chapel Hill and NC State University, spearheaded two major new initiatives aimed at broadening cooperation and collaboration across the Triangle. On the Japan side, last July we launched the Triangle Center for Japanese Studies with UNC’s Morgan Piteika as its founding Director. I encourage you to visit the Center’s website at trianglejapan.org to find out more about its extensive activities. Meanwhile, on the China side, APSI’s Carlos Rojas partnered with colleagues at UNC and NC State to launch the Triangle China Forum. These initiatives are featured in more detail in this newsletter, so suffice to say here that they reflect our broader vision, that the Triangle East Asian studies community is greater as a whole than the sum of its parts – indeed, that collectively we represent one of the strongest research and teaching centers in the nation. With these initiatives, we feel that we are going a long way toward realizing that potential.

At the same time, Duke has been deepening its corporate commitment to East Asia with preparations for the opening of Duke Kunshan University, a brand-new education and research institution, close to Shanghai. DKU’s programs are still under development, but needless to say, APSI faculty have a major role to play in realizing the potential of this exciting new venture. APSI is well represented on the China Faculty Council and other key committees charged with planning and oversight of the project’s academic programs.

Our MA program goes from strength to strength. The number of applicants has more than doubled over the last three years, enabling us to admit a stellar line-up of students. The program contributes to our academic life in many ways, bringing bright new minds into our intellectual community and allowing us to support a variety of classes and programs.

The year has not been without its challenges. The Department of Education cut the Title VI budget in half last year, so our major grant as an East Asian Studies National Resource Center has been sadly reduced – and we anticipate similar cuts in the year to come. And we lost through retirement two of our most valued colleagues in the Social Sciences, Nan Lin and Meg McKean. Both of them had amazing careers at Duke (see the article at left), so there was much to celebrate as they took their well-earned retirement. But their departure, together with the untimely death of T.J. Shi in 2010, has left us with severely depleted resources in the Social Sciences. We are pressing the Administration to put a high priority on rebuilding in this area.

Looking ahead, we see much reason for optimism. East Asian studies are increasingly being recognized as a core priority for the University, and we have a strong vision for the development of our community through internal expansion and through building scholarly and educational networks within Duke, across the Triangle, and across the Pacific.
Graduate Fellowships | Master’s Program

APSI Awards Record Number of FLAS Fellowships

For summer 2011 and academic year 2011-2012, APSI awarded a total of thirteen Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowships. The summer FLAS fellowships supported five graduate and three undergraduate students to study Chinese, Japanese, or Korean on an intensive basis. Four fellows studied in Japan, two in China, one in Korea, and one with the Indiana University Chinese Flagship program. APSI also provided 5 academic FLAS fellowships to support students in the Master’s Program in East Asian Studies as well as Master’s Program in Religion.

APSI anticipates providing at least eight summer FLAS fellowships again for summer 2012 and five academic year fellowships for the 2012-2013 year. The fellowships are funded by Congress and provide much needed resources to train language and area specialists. The fellowships offered through APSI support the study of Chinese, Japanese, and Korean, with priority given to students pursuing advanced level of study and also to master’s and professional school students who are more likely to go into government service or a professional field.

The five National Resource Centers at Duke, all of which offer FLAS fellowships to support the study of foreign languages and culture of different world areas, jointly organized two information sessions in January 2012, one for graduate students and one for undergraduate students, about the coming year’s competition. The National Resource Centers at Duke also held a joint reception for the FLAS fellows in fall 2011, which recognized the fellows for their achievements and provided an opportunity for them to meet each other and share their experiences.

Summer Research in East Asia

Five graduate students conducted research in East Asia in summer 2011 with the help of the APSI Summer Research Fellowship, which funds travel associated with field research for a dissertation or MA capstone project. Students traveled to China, Japan, and Korea to explore their chosen topics and, upon their return, shared their findings with peers and faculty in the Asian Pacific Forums. Topics of research ranged from transgender fantasy in Japan (Jui-An Chao, PhD Candidate, Literature) to migration and development on the border of China and Korea (June-Hee Kwon, PhD Candidate, Cultural Anthropology) to sub-temples of Zenkōji Temple (Matthew Mitchell, PhD Candidate, Religion).

See page 9 for more on summer research.

Incoming MA Students

In August 2011, APSI welcomed its largest incoming class to date for its Master’s Program in East Asian Studies. Ten new students, including five international students and one joint JD/MA candidate, joined nine continuing students in the program.

Summer research by Jui-An Chao, PhD Candidate, Literature – “Free from Gender: Otokonoko as Transgender Fantasy in Japan”

East Asian Studies MA Program Alumni News

YAO HSIAO (Dec. ‘10) is now working as a Foreign Service Officer in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Taiwan

MARI ARMSTRONG-HOUGH (May ’11) is Assistant Professor at the School of Political Science and Economics, Meiji University, Tokyo

RODNEY BARGE (May ’11) is an Instructor of Political Science in the Department of Political Science and Public Administration, UNC-Charlotte

ALANNA MORI (May ’11) is a SAT, LSAT, and MCAT Verbal Instructor for The Princeton Review

Fall 2011 New Students with APSI’s Director of Graduate Studies, Dr. Kristina Troost: Back row, left to right – Junning Fu, Chris Flaherty, Katherine Farley, Sam Baker (JD/MA). Front row, left to right – Ze Wang, HaoLin Liu, Cheng Zhang, Lisa Perry, Sarah Guest, Si Chen.
New Japanese Studies Center Established

The Triangle Center for Japanese Studies (TCJS) is a collaboration of Duke, NC State University, and UNC at Chapel Hill. It was established in 2011 with the support of a grant from the Japan Foundation, which provides three years of funding with the goal of making the Triangle the premiere center for Japanese studies in the southeastern U.S. The TCJS aims to accomplish this goal by supporting the research of graduate students and faculty at all three universities and by strengthening our sense of community through cross-institutional study, programming, and institutional development.

Programs this year have included a workshop on nuclear weapons and nuclear power from the perspectives of history, literature, and cultural studies in the fall, and a month-long series on Japan’s 3/11 disaster in the spring. Study groups, including one group focusing on recent research in Japanese history, and another assessing new intellectual trends in the field, meet on a monthly basis. Numerous scholars from around the region have visited the Triangle as well, taking advantage of the superb Japanese collection in the Duke Library as well as Japanese materials in NCSU’s Gregg Museum of Art and Design and UNC’s Ackland Art Museum. Please see the center’s website, http://trianglejapan.org for more information.

Triangle China Forum

With generous support from the Provost’s Office, the Franklin Humanities Institute, APSI, Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, the UNC Carolina Asia Center, and the UNC Center for Global Humanities, the Triangle area Chinese studies faculty jointly founded the Triangle China Forum on Urbanization and Migration. Its steering committee consists of Carlos Rojas and Ralph Litzinger at Duke, Michael Tsin (History, UNC) and Jonathan Ocko (Law, NCSU/Duke). The forum has hosted a variety of events this year, including a series of workshops featuring presentations and discussions led by outside guests and Triangle Area faculty or graduate students. Four of these workshops have been organized so far (on topics ranging from the Sichuan earthquake to “Asia and its diasporas”), with a fifth, on “reconfiguring urban forms,” to be held at UNC at the end of March.

The forum has also collaborated with a China/Africa group at Duke to host a faculty reading group on China/Africa relations, and co-hosted a screening of a documentary and a guest lecture on the topic. The forum is also co-sponsoring a Taiwan documentary film festival in early April, for which the directors of both works will lead post-screening discussion. In June, the forum will host a visit to Duke by Cheng Siwei, currently Dean of the School of Management of the Graduate School of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and, from 1998 to 2008, Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress.

Library News

The Korea Foundation announced that together with Princeton, Duke had been selected as a member of the Korea Collections Consortium http://ks111.moore.hawaii.edu/kccna/index.html beginning in 2012. Duke joins 12 major academic Korean collections in the U.S. and Canada (Harvard, Columbia, Stanford and the University of California - Berkeley and Los Angeles, Chicago, Hawaii, Michigan, Southern California, Washington, British Columbia, and Toronto) in receiving $20,000 annually towards collections. This announcement recognizes the investment Duke has made in its Korean collection, including hiring a professional Korean Studies librarian and exceeding 10,000 volumes, and the tireless efforts of our Korean Studies librarian, Miree Ku. The KCC was established in 1994 with the aim of developing and sharing comprehensive Korean Studies collections in North America.

Last fall, Luo Zhou, Chinese Studies librarian, traveled to China and Taiwan. In Taiwan, she attended the 2011 International Workshop for Professional Librarians: Sino-logical Resources and Services at the National Central Library of Taiwan. She also attended the second US-China Academic Libraries Forum in Xiamen, Fujian and gave a presentation on Digital Libraries in the United States. She visited Duke’s Kunshan campus and its partners, Wuhan University and Shanghai Economics and Finance University. She also visited Fudan University’s Historical Resources and Services at the National Central Library of Taiwan. She also attended the second US-China Academic Libraries Forum in Xiamen, Fujian and gave a presentation on Digital Libraries in the United States. She visited Duke’s Kunshan campus and its partners, Wuhan University and Shanghai Economics and Finance University.

The Japanese collection continues to grow; it is now more than 80,000 volumes. We have begun collecting in premodern history, especially material culture and medieval history, in response to the arrival of new faculty and graduate students. Interests continue to range widely from anime and manga to environmental conditions. The 3/11 earthquake and tsunami has led to a wave of publishing, and we have been buying selectively. This year, thanks to the creation of the Triangle Center for Japanese Studies, there has been an infusion of additional funds, and we have been able to acquire a number of additional prefectural histories (kenshi).
Duke Study In China (DSIC) 2011 Programs

Duke Study in China enjoyed another successful summer session this past year, with 47 students learning a year’s worth of Chinese in just eight short weeks at the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing. The program was led by Dr. Julian Wheatley (MIT) and lead teachers Xia Liang (Washington University in St. Louis), Jianhua Shen (Yale), and Dan Wang (Duke), with invaluable assistance from DSIC’s Academic Director Carolyn Lee and experienced local instructors and staff. Along with their peers from Yale, Brown, Georgetown, DePauw, and UPenn, Duke students immersed themselves in Chinese language and daily life in Beijing. Mornings were spent in intensive group and individual language classes, and students took the afternoons to test their new skills while experiencing the capital on their own or spending time with their language partners or host families. While the language curriculum kept the students very busy, they still had time to explore the Great Wall and other famous sites in Beijing, attend cultural performances like martial arts shows, take a mid-term break in Xi’an or Datong, and even bungee jump on a day trip to Shidu!

Last fall, our semester program was once again hosted by Yunnan Normal University in Kunming and directed by Brent Haas (Duke). Eight students enrolled in the program and undertook its intensive language classes, Chinese history and culture course, and independent research project. Below, Jason Leung, a junior majoring in Public Policy, shares his experience in Kunming. With the guidance of the excellent teachers at YNU, many of whom have taught a semester at Duke, students were able to progress through an entire year of Chinese coursework. The two area studies courses, taught by Professor Haas, allowed students to gain a deeper understanding of China and the city that was their home for a semester. The independent research course was especially successful, with students producing excellent term papers on topics reflecting Kunming’s rapid growth, such as the rise of entrepreneurship and the city’s expanding luxury market. This year’s program also saw a new partnership with the Heart to Heart Community Care Center for Rural Migrants, where students volunteered their time to teach English to the children of local migrant workers. We look forward to the continued growth and evolution of Duke in China - Kunming as it returns to the spring semester, beginning in Spring 2013.

DSIC, Kunming - In his own words

Jason Leung, who participated in fall DSIC programs, kindly submitted this piece on his experiences.

Before my arrival in Kunming, China, I had convinced myself to approach my semester abroad with no preconceived notions, to leave my mind open to the experiences ahead. Theoretically, the tabula rasa mindset seemed prudent; I would experience China like a sponge, ready to absorb the history and culture of a rising superpower. But the goal proved too idealist. In reality, I fantasized about living in the vast countryside of China, riding bikes on dirt roads in the exotic western regions of China – a stark contrast to the Chinese metropolitan cities of Beijing and Hong Kong I had grown up accustomed to. To my surprise, rather than experiencing merely one facet of China, studying abroad in Kunming opened my eyes to both the urban development and the natural beauty of the country. At the same time, my Chinese improved exponentially and I walked away in December possessing a more intimate relationship with the culture of my ancestors.

Days in Kunming passed relatively quickly. Each day, I worked on language skills for two classes and then attended a class on history or research in the afternoon. I spent most nights meticulously working on characters and preparing for future lessons. While the work seemed daunting at times, the investment proved worthwhile by the end. Tasks such as ordering dinner or riding a taxi transitioned from extremely troublesome to pleasant. Speaking in Chinese with my Duke peers became natural. I learned to see my time in China not as a compilation of test scores and paper grades, but instead as a development of character and an accumulation of valuable life experiences.

DSIC Kunming gave me the opportunity to experience a wealth of unforgettable memories. Teaching English to children of migrant laborers, trekking Tiger Leaping Gorge—the world’s deepest river canyon, and writing a research paper on a previously unfamiliar topic were just a fraction of my cherished experiences. DSIC Kunming taught me how to analyze, explore, and persevere. Before my abroad experience, I thought I subscribed to a set of logical ideals and truths. China, if nothing else, taught me to open my eyes to the alternative.
In Fall 2012, DSIC will introduce an exciting new semester program at the University of International Business and Economics, a top-ranking institution for finance and economics, in Beijing. Propelled by growing interest in China’s ever-expanding influence in the global economy, DSIC has created a program to appeal to students, especially those majors in social science disciplines, who are interested in learning about China’s history and culture, as well as its economic development. Two key features of Duke in China – Beijing set it apart from our other offerings: a focus on Chinese business and economics and a non-intensive language program, with an option for first-year Chinese.

Taught by three faculty experts from the School of International Trade and Economics at UIBE, including the school’s Dean, “Topics in Chinese Business and Economics” will introduce students to modern Chinese economic history, Chinese economics and business systems, trade and foreign investment, strategies for marketing and conducting business in China, and Chinese business culture and consumer behavior. This coursework will be supplemented by field trips to firms, factories, and corporations in Beijing. Students will also take a course on Chinese culture and history and complete an independent research component to discover more about the country’s social, political, and cultural past and present and learn how these issues affect the ways business is conducted in China.

Unlike our other programs, Duke in China - Beijing will offer students the unique experience of being able to arrive in August as absolute beginners and leave in December with a strong foundation in Chinese and experience using the language in their daily lives. Second through fourth year students will also be able to take advantage of this non-intensive language program. As with our other two programs, students who spend the fall in Beijing will immerse themselves in life in the city, experiencing cultural performances and activities, visiting sites in and around Beijing, and traveling to another part of China.

Working closely with UIBE and Duke’s Global Education Office for Undergraduates, we will continue to build Duke in China - Beijing in the coming months and anticipate sharing a successful inaugural session report with you in next year’s newsletter.

DSIC in Beijing
New program Fall 2012

Duke - UNC China Leadership Summit

The inaugural “Duke-UNC China Leadership Summit,” organized by students from Duke and UNC, took place in February 2011. The goal of the summit was to promote collaboration among student leaders of the two universities to explore US-China relations. Over the two-day summit students heard from a variety of speakers on topics ranging from US-China economic cooperation and Chinese soft power, to theories of modernization. Faculty from Duke that presented included Arie Lewin (CIBER), Corinne Krupp (Sanford), Claire Conceison (AMES/Theater), Nan Lin (Sociology), Kang Liu (AMES), and Dominic Sachsenmaier (History).

The 2012 China Leadership Summit, scheduled for March 16-18, will focus on “The Role of Changing Technologies in the US-China Dynamic.” This three-day summit will explore various technological developments and a variety of speakers from policy makers, academics, and entrepreneurs from across the Triangle will present. Helen Cai, Duke Executive Director for the Summit, reports that students from five different universities have applied to participate in the Summit, which is also sponsoring two graduate students from the University of Wuhan. See the Summit’s website for more information (http://www.dukeunccls.org/index.php).

The student executive team who organized the 2011 Duke UNC China Leadership Summit. Photo courtesy of Tucker Mills.
**Chinese Film Theory Workshop**

**January 14, 2011**  
Organized by Guo-Juin Hong, Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, with Jason McGrath, Asian Languages and Literatures, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

Bringing together scholars from across the US, this workshop launched an on-going project to produce a series of volumes on Chinese film theory/criticism consisting of translations of original Chinese-language texts from China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong since the turn of the last century heretofore unavailable in English.

The one-day workshop was divided into two sessions. The morning session began with Rey Chow (Literature, Duke) remarking on the broader questions of “theory vs. film theory,” parsing the disciplinary, categorial, and regional assumptions about those terms and situating how a project such as this workshop may intervene in revising those conceived distinctions. Ensuing discussion focused on the emerging reformation of film historiography particularly in Chinese-language film studies and concluded with a brainstorming session on various possibilities in organizing and structuring the anthology.

**Residency of Chinese Playwright, Yu Rongjun**

**March 15 - April 30, 2011**  
Organized by Professor Claire Conceison, Theater Studies and Asian & Middle Eastern Studies

Yu Rongjun (Nick Yu), the most produced living playwright in China and also the deputy general manager of the Shanghai Dramatic Arts Centre, was in residence at Duke during the Spring 2011 semester. During his residency Yu met with several classes at both Duke and UNC-Chapel Hill, introduced a film screening, and began writing a new play called “The File.” Yu also worked closely with the students in Professor Conceison’s course “The China Theater Experiment.” A student in the course, Yangyang Guo ’12, translated Yu’s latest play about money, the arts, and politics in urban China, “Das Kapital” into English. Conceison directed and presented the play to a packed house in Sheafer Theater on April 7th.

**Chinese Cinemas: Rethinking the Field**

**April 15-17, 2011**  
Organized by Carlos Rojas and Eileen Chow  
Dept. of Asian & Middle Eastern Studies,

The workshop surveyed the field of Chinese cinema as it is currently configured, while examining new directions in which it is moving. Interrogating the concepts of both Chinese and cinema, the workshop explored the diversity of ethnic, national, and linguistic dimensions conventionally bundled into our notion of what is “Chinese,” together with a great variety of formats and media that may be included under the rubric of “cinema.”

The organizers of the conference have been contracted to edit The Oxford Handbook of Chinese Cinemas, which will consist of approximately thirty original scholarly essays. The presenters of the workshop were all confirmed contributors to the volume, thus the workshop provided a fascinating opportunity to help establish a common discursive ground. The three-day workshop also provided an invaluable opportunity for Duke and Triangle scholars, students, and members of the community to engage in a lively discussion of one of the most exciting topics in East Asian studies today.

**Triangle East Asia Colloquium (TEAC) China and the World**

**October 22, 2011**  
Organized by Sucheta Mazumdar  
Department of History

In recognition of the emergence of China as a world power and its effect on academic research from global history to interdisciplinary studies, the 2011-12 TEAC approached the subject of “China and the World” historically as well as theoretically and conceptually. The three presenters, Peter Perdue, Joanna Waley-Cohen, and Richard Wolin, addressed the theme of the colloquium from very different angles.

Having addressed the issue of growing commercial networks and cultural uniformity in early modern Eurasia in a lecture the day before as part of APSI’s speaker series, Peter Perdue of Yale University focused his presentation at TEAC on MIT’s Visualizing Cultures project, which he helped launch. The innovative web-based project presents thematically organized units of digital images with contextualized scholarly commentaries. Focusing on the unit, “From Canton Trade to the Boxer Rebellion,” for which he wrote the commentary, Perdue gave a brief history of the project and illustrated how he used the unit in his own teaching.

The presentation of Joanna Waley-Cohen of New York University focused on food as a crucial element of eighteen-century consumption that helped forge international connections. She argued that the spread of certain consumable commodities such as specialty foods gave rise to new experiences of sociability and of the pursuit of pleasure that were part of a distinctively early modern culture that transcended geographic limitations.

Richard Wolin of City University of New York gave a paper on “Dreaming in Chinese: French Intellectuals, the Cultural Revolution, and the Legacy of the 1960s.” It traced the French intellectuals’ fascination and identification with the Cultural Revolution in the 1960s, and how in a process that he called “cross-cultural political translation and grafting” this identification produced, in later years, grassroots social movements such as feminism, ecology and gay rights movement.

The various ways China connected with, was influenced by, and in turn influenced the world, made an intriguing topic of rich discussion. The colloquium drew a large audience of students, faculty, and members of the public, of various backgrounds and interests.

Major support for all conferences and workshops was provided by APSI’s US Department of Education Title VI Grant.
Homeowners’ Associations in Urban China: Failures and Successes of Civic Organizations in an Authoritarian Regime

Qiang Fu, PhD Candidate, Sociology, Duke

A
fter massive transfers of urban housing property rights from workplaces to households in reform-era China, rival parties began to jockey for power across China’s urban neighborhoods. Consequently, urban homeowners, who are regarded as both winners and citizen-consumers during China’s market transformation, have formed associations to protect, enhance and preserve collective properties across urban neighborhoods. These collective actions from Chinese homeowners are garnering increased attention from the press; it has been argued that the once obedient middle class is challenging the political status quo and is ready to embrace civil society in urban China.

Unlike small neighborhoods in western countries, where all homeowners are members of a homeowners’ association (HOA), homeownership in urban China only guarantees a seat in a homeowners’ assembly, due to the fact that the size of urban neighborhoods in China varies from several hundred to over ten thousand households. Therefore, an HOA in China, mainly consisting of five to eleven homeowners elected by the neighborhood majority, is equivalent to an HOA’s Board of Directors in the US, which is authorized by homeowners to make decisions for them and direct property management companies to carry out these decisions.

My ongoing field research illustrates the failure of pure market relations between homeowners and property management companies, which are supposed to serve homeowners under property management contracts. Property management companies have power over homeowners for three reasons. First, as services and commodities involved in property management are becoming more and more sophisticated, it is impossible to write a contract that foresees and incorporates all contingencies. Property management companies can thus exploit this situation via their knowledge of the field. Second, the bigger the neighborhood the more powerful and resourceful the property management companies are in managing the neighborhood. Since a great amount of resources for property management, such as security guards, can be shared across housing complexes, the marginal management cost in a neighborhood reduces substantially as the size of a neighborhood increases. Hence, a property management company in a sizable neighborhood tends to be especially resourceful and powerful. Third, as most property management companies are affiliated with real estate developers in China, property management companies can inherit political power from these developers, who usually maintain political connections with the local or central government.

Whereas property management companies have de facto power over homeowners in most urban neighborhoods, several homeowners’ associations have succeeded in building network relations with property management companies. Based on a comprehensive examination of strategies adopted by these homeowners’ associations, my study further identifies three concrete mechanisms - adherence to institutions, transparency, and the use of network-based social capital - through which these homeowners’ associations are able to form network relations with property management companies. All these mechanisms allow members in homeowners’ associations to appear trustworthy while unilaterally benefiting others, which subsequently elicits trust from selective parties in neighborhood governance.

With regard to the potential of homeowners’ associations to build civil society in China, my research emphasizes the severity of persistent problems in China’s urban housing market. The dilemma in neighborhood governance is directly related to structural changes and institutional arrangements in urban China. After the fiscal recentralization and urban housing/land reform, local governments are zealous in obtaining non-budgetary revenues (land seizure and sales of land-use rights) to provide sufficient resources for local governance. Apart from the fact that land seizure is an unsustainable source of local finance, the strong fiscal ties that exist among local governments, real estate developers, and property management companies not only soften the budget constraints faced by the real estate industry but also generate numerous violations of shared-property rights across neighborhoods. These violations and subsequent collective actions (such as protests) need to be addressed in turn through more local resources. If left unabated, this vicious cycle in the urban housing market, neighborhood governance, and local governance will snowball. To address persistent problems in urban structure and fiscal arrangements, homeowners’ civic engagement in neighborhood governance may lead to a reorientation of relations among homeowners, property management companies and local governments, which can promote the rise of civil society in China.
**Outreach Highlights**

**Summer Institute on East Asia**  
*June 2011*

A PSI conducted its 9th annual summer teacher institute in June 2011. The two-day program focused on providing a balance between content knowledge about East Asia and resources for teaching. Day One’s program for elementary and middle school teachers was entitled, “Movement across East Asia: Music, the Arts, and Dance.” The teachers explored the Silk Road through music with ethnomusicologist Tanya Lee, Korean culture through children’s literature with professor Ji-Yeon O. Jo, and Japanese culture through Kamishibai storytelling with Mr. Who. The visit of a dance troupe from Beijing, the TAO Dance Theater, to the American Dance Festival, provided an opportunity for the educators to explore contemporary China through dance. Beijing-based Alison Friedman of Ping Pong Productions opened the session with a lecture on the history and trajectory of modern dance in China. Dancers Tao Ye and Duan Ni skillfully demonstrated their dance techniques, training practices, and passion for modern dance. Most importantly, the K-12 educators were exposed to a slice of contemporary China they might have never considered and had the opportunity to reflect on one aspect of today’s China not frequently seen in the US.

Day Two, for middle and high school teachers, focused on the theme of “Turning Points in East Asia: Then and Now.” Modern Japan was highlighted through the use of MIT’s Visualizing Cultures website, an image-driven teaching resource that pairs units of digital images with scholarly commentary (visualizingcultures.mit.edu). Professor David Ambaras provided context on turning points in modern Japanese history during a morning lecture, while classroom teacher and curriculum developer Kathy Krauth from the American School in Japan provided demonstrations of the curriculum developed for the site. Day Two also featured a session on contemporary China through dance with TAO Dance Theater and Alison Friedman.

**Indigo Artist Susan Fennell demonstrated the art of indigo during a hands-on session with elementary and middle school teachers.**

**Book Club**  
*August 2011*

A PSI organized its second summer book club for educators in 2011. The book selected was the novel “Plum Wine,” by North Carolina author Angela Davis-Gardner. The story follows a young American teacher in Japan who is gifted a unique set of plum wine bottles wrapped with sheets of calligraphy. In her search for the meaning of the calligraphy she is drawn into life in post-war Japan and the world of the hibakusha, Hiroshima survivors. Ten local teachers attended the book club where discussion was led by Dana Watson, a former staff member of APSI, and Nancy Hamilton, Cultural Programming Coordinator of the Culberson Asiatic Arboretum at Duke Gardens. Much of the discussion centered on World War II and the aftermath of the atomic bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki and connecting these events with high school history curriculum, conflict studies, and contemporary issues. Teachers were given information about additional classroom resources related to these themes and appreciated the opportunity to discuss the book and consider new perspectives for bringing topics about Japan into the classroom. As one teacher wrote in her follow-up evaluation, “This is my second year participating in the APSI summer book club. Each year I have gained a greater understanding of Asian culture and history. I am excited about using the information I learned to make connections in my history curriculum.

**Artists in the Schools**  
*Fall 2011*

This popular program is now in its seventh year and APSI received over 45 applications requesting artist visits for the 2011-2012 school year. In their fall visits to the schools Kamishibai storyteller Mr. Who (aka Laura Wolf), Chinese calligrapher Jinxiu Alice Zhao, and Haiku poet, Richard Krawiec worked with over 650 students in eight North Carolina schools.

**Farewell and Welcome**  
*A* PSI bid Dana Watson, Program Coordinator since 2007, a fond farewell in May 2011. Dana began working at APSI in 2007 and applied her international studies background and expertise to skillfully coordinate the MA program, visiting scholars, and Duke Study in China. APSI warmly welcomed Brianna Phillips into the position.

Brianna Phillips brings a background in international and Chinese studies to APSI. She has a Masters in Security Studies from Georgetown University and spent time studying Chinese in Beijing during her undergraduate years. Brianna is enthusiastic and committed to creating the best experience for students in APSI’s programs, whether in Kunming or Beijing for Duke’s undergraduates or for our students in the Master’s program. Brianna has also taken on additional responsibility to help launch the new web page for the Triangle Center for Japanese Studies and help publicize its events.
Engaging with Community College Faculty

With funding provided by our NRC grant, APSI has been working with NC’s community college faculty since 2009 to help them internationalize their curriculum and particularly infuse East Asian content into their teaching. We have collaborated with World View, an international program for educators based at UNC-Chapel Hill, to offer course development grants to community college faculty, to help review the proposals and provide feedback. North Carolina has the nation’s third largest community college system, with 58 colleges scattered throughout the state. Working with community college faculty gives us a unique opportunity to reach an important segment of our student population.

APSI has awarded 15 course development grants to date to faculty at 11 colleges. The grant allows faculty to acquire materials related to their teaching and funds a research trip to UNC or Duke to use the library collection and to meet with faculty, staff, or librarians for consultation. Most recently Duke’s Chinese Librarian Luo Zhou met with a grant recipient from Central Carolina Community College to assist with his curriculum project of incorporating diet, exercise, and stress relief practices from East Asia into his Fit and Well for Life course.

In February of 2012, APSI also co-sponsored a workshop on “Globalizing the Community College Curriculum” with World View. Forty six community college faculty from 16 different colleges across North Carolina attended the day-long workshop. As we have been doing at all our teacher workshops, we tried to provide content knowledge about different world regions as well as resources for incorporating that content into the curriculum. For the former, representatives from different area studies centers such as the Carolina Asia Center gave presentations. For the latter, Stacy Korebelak from Howard Community College, Maryland, presented her college’s experience in successfully internationalizing its curriculum. A panel of community college faculty who had received course development grants also discussed their experience of adding international content to their courses. Participants then spent time working with their colleagues and representatives from area studies centers to create modules infusing international content into their curriculum.

Working with community college faculty remains a priority for APSI’s NRC. We look forward to working with many more community college faculty in the years to come.

Cine-East Welcomes Special Guests

APSI, in collaboration with Duke’s Screen/Society, has been screening films from East Asia at Duke for ten years. Cine-East shows both current and classic cinema seen on few big screens in the US. In fall 2011 we screened five films and welcomed visits from several special guests.

The first guest was the award-winning Chinese actor, Yang Lixin. A veteran actor of the Beijing People’s Art Theatre, Yang has played leading roles in numerous plays and most recently played a supporting role in the film Aftershock, which was released in 2010 and was the highest grossing domestic film in China’s history. His son, Eric Le Yang ’11, served as an assistant director of the film. The film follows the life of one family separated by the devastating earthquake of 1976 in Tangshan China and how they are impacted by another traumatic earthquake, the 2008 disaster in Sichuan province. After the campus screening of Aftershock, both father and son provided personal insights of the making of this epic drama. Professor Claire Conceison, who hosted Yang’s campus visit, also organized a public conversation with him where he discussed theatre in China.

In November, Miao Wang, the director of the documentary Beijing Taxi came to campus for a screening of the film. Released in 2010, this feature-length documentary follows the lives of three taxi drivers as they navigate the rapid changes in Beijing brought on, in part, by the 2008 Olympics. It is a rich story with stunning visuals and sound and, as Wang noted herself, is a “Ballad to Beijing.” A lively Q & A after the screening was followed the next day with a lunch-time conversation where students had the opportunity to explore topics from the film up-close with Miao.

Actor Yang Lixin and Eric Le Yang ’11

Miao Wang, Director of Beijing Taxi, answers questions at the post-screening Q & A.
Upcoming Events

Conferences | Workshops

Regions and Regionalism: (East) Asia in a Global World
March 12-13, 2012
Organized by Dominic Sachsenmaier, this international workshop will bring together members of a long-term faculty network between Duke and several universities in Germany, Korea, and Singapore. The network investigates regions and regionalism as key topics of academic research which have emerged during the past decade.

Taiwanese Documentary Festival
April 16-17, 2012
Organized by Carlos Rojas, Department of Asian & Middle Eastern Studies, this festival will feature documentaries and their directors from Taiwan.

Triangle East Asia Colloquium (TEAC)
Spring 2013
The next annual meeting of East Asian Studies faculty at Duke, UNC-Chapel Hill, and NC State University will be organized by Li-ling Hsiao and Wei-lin Chin, UNC-Chapel Hill.

Campus Community Events

Japanese Speech Contest
Saturday, March 24, 2012
Students from Duke and other Southeast area universities will compete in three levels of Japanese language proficiency. This will be the 26th annual university Japanese speech contest held at Duke.

Cherry Blossom Festival
Sunday, March 25, 2012
APSI and the Duke Gardens will celebrate the cherry blossoms at our annual Grand Tea Gathering. Guests will enjoy a presentation of the tea tradition in an open-air garden setting. Festivities will feature Japanese taiko drumming and a display of traditional Japanese arts. For tickets call Duke Gardens at 919-668-1707.

Duke University K-12 Summer Institutes on East Asia
June 19-22, 2012
APSI will present its 10th annual summer institute on incorporating East Asia into the K-12 curriculum.

Visiting playwright Nick Yu (left) with Yangyang Guo ’12 (translator of “Das Kapital”) and Professor Claire Conceison (adapter and director) before the dress rehearsal.

Professor Carolyn Lee talks with a student about Duke Study in China, Fall 2011.

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