



Association for Asian Studies  
CELEBRATING 80 YEARS

# ANNUAL REPORT

# 2021

SUPPORTING THE FUTURE OF ASIAN STUDIES



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ASSOCIATION FOR ASIAN STUDIES

MESSAGE FROM  
**THE PRESIDENT**

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In 2021, the Board of Directors of the Association for Asian Studies (AAS) completed a governance review and, through its Strategic Planning Committee, drafted a strategic plan. Both these landmark initiatives seek to strengthen AAS' contribution to Asian Studies and to better serve a global membership. As a part of the governance review, the AAS Board of Directors formed a Special Initiatives Committee and also recommended to the membership the official formation of an Executive Committee of the Board, as well as a Diversity and Equity Committee.

The AAS Board is committed to strengthening dialogue and communication with members, and the detailed 2021 annual report you will read in the following pages reflects this strong commitment. The Strategic Planning Committee completed a self-study report and conducted extensive consultation with current and former members, as well as non-members, in carrying out its work. It was thanks to the vision and dedication of AAS Board members, the hard work of the Secretariat, and the support of many Asianists that AAS could undertake these major strategic initiatives. I hope that we can count on the continued support of fellow Asianists in order to strengthen Asian Studies and global collaboration in the years to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hy V. Luong".

HY VAN LUONG, Ph.D.

*AAS President, 2021*

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ASSOCIATION FOR ASIAN STUDIES

MESSAGE FROM  
**THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

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The Association for Asian Studies celebrated its 80th year in 2021. As evidenced by the details in this annual report, it was a busy year! In 2021, we continued to bring our membership programming and benefits in the form of Digital Dialogues, the Annual Conference, diverse publications, and grant opportunities while developing new initiatives focusing on expanding our engagement in Asia. At the center of Board activities in 2021 was the development of a strategic plan that benefited greatly from the input of Asianists the world over. The strategic planning process began in April of 2021 and reached close to its final form by December. The work was intense, but very worth it. In addition, the AAS Board of Directors launched a review of governance to enhance the work we do on the behalf of Asian Studies.

AAS exists because of our membership and the work of those who remain passionate about the contributions of Asian Studies to education, research, public knowledge, and development. Our Board of Directors and members of editorial boards and councils work pro bono, driven by the commitment they have to the field. We are grateful for their dedication. In addition, our staff is at the heart of operations, ensuring the work we envision as a community becomes a reality.

This annual report is designed to inform you of all that we have done and continue to do as a membership organization. We hope you find the following pages useful in better understanding how we work together as a community of Asianists. As always, be sure to reach out to us with questions and comments. We appreciate your support.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hilary Vanessa Finchum-Sung". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

HILARY FINCHUM-SUNG, Ph.D.  
*Executive Director*



# Association for Asian Studies

CELEBRATING 80 YEARS

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## 80 YEARS OF AAS HISTORY

**1941:** The Far Eastern Association is officially established as publisher of the *Far Eastern Quarterly*.

**1949:** First Annual Conference is held, featuring 600 attendees and 15 panel sessions, on the campus of Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut.

**1956:** The Far Eastern Association is reorganized as the Association for Asian Studies and South Asia is officially recognized as an area of interest for the organization. The *Far Eastern Quarterly* becomes the *Journal of Asian Studies*.

**1965:** The first AAS Annual Conference on the West Coast is held in San Francisco.

**1975:** The Harry J. Benda Prize is established, the earliest award given by the AAS.

**1996:**

- Launch of *Education About Asia*, the teaching journal of the AAS.
- The AAS goes online, establishing its first website.

**2021:** The AAS Annual Conference goes virtual for the first time in its history.

**1948:** The Far Eastern Association is formally organized into a membership-type organization, with Arthur W. Hummel of the Library of Congress elected the first president.

**1955:** The Board of Directors authorizes the establishment of a permanent Secretariat for the Far Eastern Association—now approximately 1,000 members strong—in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

**1960:** Meetings of Regional Conferences of the AAS are officially recognized and sanctioned by the Board of Directors.

**1970:**

- Cora Du Bois is elected as the first female President of the AAS.
- The AAS organizes four Area Councils to represent the interests of scholars working in their respective geographical areas. In 1977, the Council of Conferences is added to liaise with regional conferences.

**1976:** The AAS Annual Conference takes place in Toronto, marking the first time the event is held outside the United States.

**2014:** Inaugural AAS-in-Asia conference held in Singapore.

## 2021 AAS BOARD/COUNCILS/COMMITTEES

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** President: Hy V. Luong, *University of Toronto*; Vice-President: Kamran Asdar Ali, *University of Texas, Austin*; Past President: Christine R. Yano, *University of Hawai'i*; Past Past President: Prasenjit Duara, *Duke University*; Peter Carroll, *Northwestern University* (CIAC Chair); Lori Watt, *Washington University in St. Louis* (NEAC Chair); Elora Shehabuddin, *Rice University* (SAC Chair); Richard Fox, *University of Victoria* (SEAC Chair); Catherine Phipps, *University of Memphis* (COC Chair); Joseph Alter, *University of Pittsburgh* (JAS Editor); Hyaeweol Choi, *University of Iowa*, (2022 Annual Conference Program Committee Chair); Thomas G. Rawski, *University of Pittsburgh* (AAS Finance Committee Chair); William M. Tsutsui, *Ottawa University* (Editorial Board Chair); Hilary V. Finchum-Sung, AAS Executive Director (Ex-Officio)

**CHINA AND INNER ASIA COUNCIL (CIAC):** Peter J. Carroll, *Northwestern University*, (Chair); Christopher P. Atwood, *University of Pennsylvania*; Ching Kwan Lee, *UCLA*; Joanne Smith Finley, *University of Newcastle*; Patricia Thornton, *Oxford University*; Michelle C. Wang, *Georgetown University*; Shellen Xiao Wu, *University of Tennessee, Knoxville*; Yi-Li Wu, *University of Michigan*; Yongming Zhou, *University of Wisconsin*

**NORTHEAST ASIA COUNCIL (NEAC):** Charles Kim, *University of Wisconsin*, (Chair); Joan Ericson, *Colorado College*; Sonja M. Kim, *Binghamton University, State University of New York*; Suzy Kim, *Rutgers University*; Christina Laffin, *University of British Columbia*; Jolyon B. Thomas, *University of Pennsylvania*; Alice Y. Tseng, *Boston University*; Lori Watt, *Washington University*; Marcia Yonemoto, *University of Colorado*

**SOUTH ASIA COUNCIL (SAC):** Elora Shehabuddin, *Rice University*, (Chair); Mona Bhan, *DePauw University*; Manan Ahmed, *Columbia University*; Nusrat Sabina Chowdhury, *Amherst College*; Shenila Khoja-Mooliji, *Bowdoin College*; Amrita Basu, *Amherst College*; Ayesha Irani, *University of Massachusetts Boston*; Jinah Kim, *Harvard University*

**SOUTHEAST ASIA COUNCIL (SEAC):** Richard Fox, *University of Victoria*, (Chair); Chiara Formichi,

*Cornell University*; Eunsook Jung, *University of Wisconsin-Madison*; Ehito Kimura, *University of Hawai'i at Mānoa*; Erik M. Kuhonta, *McGill University*; Doreen Lee, *Northeastern University*; Jonathan Padwe, *University of Hawai'i at Mānoa*; Christina Schwenkel, *University of California, Riverside*; Eric Thompson, *National University of Singapore*

**COUNCIL OF CONFERENCES (COC):** Council Chair: Catherine Phipps, *University of Memphis*; Karl Friday, *Saitama University* (ASCJ); Shawn Bender, *Dickinson College* (MAR/AAS); Kendra Strand, *University of Iowa* (MCAA); Keiko Hirata, *CSU-Northridge* (ASPAC); Matthew Fraleigh, *Brandeis University* (NEAAS); Greg Lewis, *Weber State University* (WCAAS); Tiantian Zheng, *SUNY-Cortland* (NYCAS); Catherine Phipps, *University of Memphis* (SEC/AAS) Patricia Schiaffini-Vedani, *Texas State University* (SWCAS)

**SERIAL EDITORS:** David Magier, *Princeton University*, Interim Editor (*Bibliography of Asian Studies*); Joseph S. Alter, *University of Pittsburgh* (*Journal of Asian Studies*); Lucien Ellington, *University of Tennessee, Chattanooga* (*Education About Asia, Key Issues in Asian Studies*); David Kenley, *Dakota State University* (*Asia Shorts, Asia Past & Present*)

**EDITORIAL BOARD:** William M. Tsutsui, *Ottawa University* (Chair); Jan Bardsley, *University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill* (Vice Chair); Olga Fedorenko, *Seoul National University*; Dong Wang, *Shanghai University*; Natasha Heller, *University of Virginia*; Susan M. Darlington, *Hampshire College*; Kai Ostwald, *University of British Columbia*; Ramya Sreenivasan, *University of Pennsylvania*; Will Glover, *University of Michigan*; Brad Hebel, *Columbia University Press*

**AAS STAFF:** Angie Bermudez, *Conference & Events Coordinator*; Maura Cunningham, *Digital Media Manager*; Molly DeDona, *Programs Assistant & Grants Coordinator*; Hilary Finchum-Sung; *Executive Director*; Robyn Jones, *Director of Conferences & Events*; Krisna Uk, *Director of Special Initiatives*; Jenna Yoshikawa, *Advertising & Marketing Manager*; William Warner, *Membership Manager*; Jonathan Wilson, *Publications Manager*

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## GOVERNANCE

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In 2021, the AAS Board of Directors issued or co-signed 11 statements on current issues affecting the field of Asian Studies:

- [AAS Statement on January 6, 2021 Insurrection in Washington, D.C.](#)
- [ACLS Statement Urging Kansas Board of Regents to Uphold Employment Protections for Faculty](#)
- [AAS Letter to the Chinese University of Hong Kong Regarding Reorganization of the Universities Service Centre](#)
- [AHA Statement Opposing New Policy on Virtual Scholarly Exchanges in India](#)
- [AAS Statement on Military Rule in Myanmar](#)
- [AAS Statement on Anti-Asian Racism and Violence](#)
- [AAS Statement on Chinese Government Sanctions](#)
- [AAS Statement on Academic Freedom in Thailand](#)
- [AAS Statement on Proposed Demolition of the Annex of the National Archives in Delhi](#)
- [AAS Statement on the Dismantling Global Hindutva Conference](#)
- [Northeast Asia Council Statement on Academic Integrity and Online Harassment](#)

### DIVERSITY AND EQUITY COMMITTEE

In the AAS Fall 2020 election, association members voted to create a **Diversity and Equity Committee (DEC)** to advise the Board of Directors on matters relating to diversity, equity, and inclusion. In the Fall 2021 election, four AAS members were elected to the DEC: two tenure-track faculty, one contingent faculty member, and one graduate student.

The DEC will work directly with the AAS Board of Directors, and through the Board, liaise with the Councils, the Program Committee, the Editorial Board, and the *Journal of Asian Studies*. The responsibilities of the DEC include proposing new programs that advance the cause of diversity, equity, and inclusion in Asian Studies; providing feedback on existing programs and initiatives; and representing membership views on these issues to the Board.



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## GOVERNANCE REVIEW

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The AAS Board of Directors instituted a review of AAS governance—the first in our 80-year history—in the fall of 2020. A change in executive leadership, coupled with rapidly changing needs of the membership, encouraged the Board to embark on this process. The goal of the governance review was to build on the work we have been doing by seeking more efficient and coherent ways to work for the association. The review took place over several months and resulted in the following proposals:

**Move to quarterly Board meetings and focus on intentional Board planning:**

A quarterly meeting structure encourages more efficient Board response to member needs. Intentional Board planning encourages an agenda-designing methodology that is focused on the institutional mission.

**Require two-year terms for Council Chairs:**

Through this process, we formalized a two-year Board service term for all Council chairs—who had previously often only served one year—thus ensuring more stability on the Board and less frequent turnover of Board members.

**Strengthen the connection of the AAS Board with our members:**

This very important goal aims to fill gaps in our routine communications with members. New approaches to communication include implementing a members' meeting at the Annual Conference and issuing an annual report, as well as circulating public summaries of Board meetings and improving email newsletters to the AAS membership.

**Role of the Executive Director:**

The Board of Directors reviewed the job description and clarified areas of responsibility for the AAS Executive Director (ED). The aim is to enhance further the collaborative relationship between the ED and the Board and support transparency of communications, as well as ensure a solid, regularly-monitored system of checks and balances and a strong relationship between the ED and the Board.

**Establishment of the AAS Executive Committee:**

The purpose of the Executive Committee is to add value to the work of the Board of AAS by taking action on behalf of the Board in the case of a crisis or other urgent circumstances when it is difficult for the full Board to meet; by exploring complex strategic issues in order to advise the full Board; by providing counsel to the President and ED, as requested; by overseeing the evaluation of the ED; and by undertaking any other specific tasks formally delegated to the committee.

The extension of Council Chair terms and creation of the Executive Committee will be included in the Fall 2022 AAS ballot for member approval before we add them to the AAS [constitution](#) and [bylaws](#).



## STRATEGIC PLAN

Since 1941, the AAS has served a global community of Asianists through its flagship journal, annual conferences, publication series, educational resources and programs, and grant funding, among other programs and initiatives.

The AAS has experienced a relatively high degree of turbulence in the last three years, which has both tested the robustness of its governance capabilities and inspired re-considerations of institutional goals and contributions to the field. Recent socio-cultural upheavals, such as the COVID-19 pandemic; events such as the controversies surrounding the 2018 AAS-in-Asia conference in New Delhi; growing concerns over social injustice and structural inequities; and transitions in higher education, global collaborations, and AAS leadership have prompted a re-evaluation of our contributions and the development of a clear strategy and goals to more effectively serve the field of Asian Studies.

In this context, 2021-22 AAS President **Hy Luong** made it a priority for AAS to develop a strategic plan that will provide a road map which takes into account the effects of these changes. To this end, the AAS Board established a Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) tasked with developing a five-year strategic plan for years 2022 to 2026.

The strategic planning process began in April 2021 with a self-study review, which looked at the AAS's many programs over the past twenty years. In particular, we examined these programs in relation to the changes that have taken place in the field of Asian Studies over the past two decades. In the summer of 2021, Board members ran focus group interviews with 16 different groups of constituents, including graduate students, scholars based in Asia, Asianists outside of the professoriate, librarians, non-tenure-track faculty, and tenure-track faculty, among others. The Strategic Planning Committee examined the results of the interviews, which were then applied in the construction of surveys that were sent to three sets of AAS constituents in early fall: members, lapsed members, and non-members. The data from the surveys was analyzed and compiled for the SPC to determine the needs of Asianists today, which has served as the foundation for strategic plan drafts, work on which began at the end of 2021.

We appreciate the assistance of **Richard Brewster** in carrying out our governance review and helping us navigate the strategic planning process.

## AAS FALL 2021 ELECTIONS



**YOUR VOTE  
IS YOUR  
VOICE.**

**5,257** → **1,120**  
BALLOTS SENT BALLOTS CAST

21.3% PARTICIPATION RATE

The AAS Fall 2021 election opened on September 15 and concluded on November 15. All current AAS members received an electronic ballot to vote in the election; of the 5,257 ballots sent, 1,120 were cast, representing a participation rate of 21.3 percent.

Many thanks to **Survey and Ballot Systems** for administering the 2021 election on our behalf, and all the AAS members who participated in the election by voting, as well as those who stood for election. [Election results are available at #AsiaNow.](#)

## MEMBERSHIP

As of December 31, 2021, **5,482** Asianists belonged to the Association for Asian Studies.

**Eight** departments and centers are AAS Institutional Members.

### WHO ARE AAS MEMBERS?

- Students, from high school through the graduate level
- Postdoctoral fellows
- Secondary school teachers
- College and university faculty
- Independent scholars
- Editors and publishers
- Non-profit organization staff members
- Librarians

AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2021

**5,482**  
MEMBERS

**EIGHT**

AAS INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS

The University of Texas at Dallas, Center for Asian Studies • Indiana University, East Asian Studies Center • Institute of International Education • Museum of Fine Arts, Boston • Rutgers University, Department of Asian Languages & Cultures • University of Notre Dame, Liu Institute for Asia and Asian Studies • University of Pittsburgh, Asian Studies Center • Yale University, Council on Southeast Asia Studies

### ASSIST-A-SCHOLAR CAMPAIGN

Thanks to the generosity of the Association for Asian Studies community and the Henry Luce Foundation, our Assist-A-Scholar sponsored membership campaign raised a total of **\$20,810** between May 17 and August 20, 2021. These donations enabled us to provide over **450 AAS memberships** to Asian Studies scholars who could otherwise not afford to join the Association.



### MEET THE STAFF

**H William (Bill) Warner,**  
PhD

Membership Manager  
(beginning August 2021)

After 15 years as AAS Membership Manager, **Doreen Ilozor** retired in July 2021. We thank Doreen for her long dedication to building the AAS community and wish her well in retirement!

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE

In March 2021, the Association for Asian Studies held its inaugural Virtual Annual Conference.

### AAS 2021 BY THE NUMBERS

**3,592**  
ATTENDEES

**2,154**  
MEMBERS  
IN ATTENDANCE

**352**  
PANELS

**1,944**  
PROGRAM  
PARTICIPANTS

**55**  
EXHIBITORS

**1,040**  
FIRST-TIME  
ATTENDEES



### AAS 2021 SPONSORS

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Harvard-Yenching Institute

PLENARY SESSION: Henry Luce Foundation

FILM EXPO: Asian Educational Media Service (AEMS)

#### GOLD SPONSORS:

- Adam Matthew Digital
- East View Information Services
- China National Publications Import & Export Corp.

#### SILVER SPONSORS:

- Cambria Press
- University of Hawai'i Press

#### 2021 CONFERENCE PROGRAM COMMITTEE:

Brian Hatcher, *Tufts University*, (Chair-Inter-area/Border Crossing); Hyaeweol Choi, *University of Iowa* (Vice-Chair-Inter-area/Border Crossing); Ronit Ricci, *Hebrew University of Jerusalem* (South/Southeast Asia); Catherine Becker, *University of Illinois, Chicago* (South/Southeast Asia); Erica Fox Brindley, *Pennsylvania State University* (China & Inner Asia); Natasha Heller, *University of Virginia* (China & Inner Asia); Liang Luo, *University of Kentucky* (China & Inner Asia); Leigh Jenco, *London School of Economics and Political Science* (China & Inner Asia); Thomas D. Looser, *New York University*; (Japan); Miyako Inoue, *Stanford University* (Japan); Ji-Yeon Jo, *University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill* (Korea)

### MEET THE STAFF

**Robyn M. Jones, CMP**

Director of Conferences & Events

**Angela Bermudez**

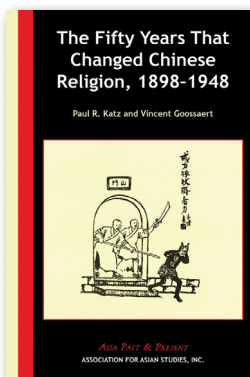
Conference & Event Coordinator

We thank **Cadmium** and **Bright AV** for providing the online platform and technological assistance that enabled us to hold a successful event.



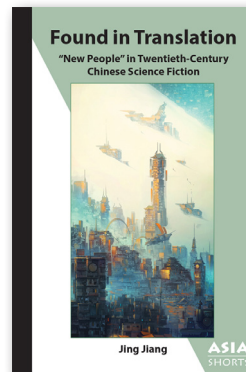
## PUBLICATIONS

In 2021, AAS Publications released four new books:



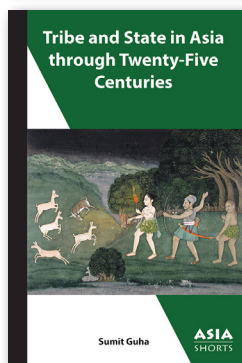
**Paul R. Katz and Vincent Goossaert,** [\*The Fifty Years That Changed Chinese Religion, 1898-1948\*](#)

(Asia Past & Present book series)



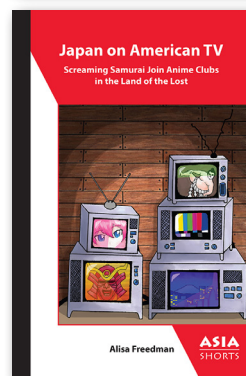
**Jing Jiang,** [\*Found in Translation: "New People" in Twentieth-Century Chinese Science Fiction\*](#)

(Asia Shorts book series)



**Sumit Guha,** [\*Tribe and State in Asia Through Twenty-Five Centuries\*](#)

(Asia Shorts book series)



**Alisa Freedman,** [\*Japan on American TV: Screaming Samurai Join Anime Clubs in the Land of the Lost\*](#)

(Asia Shorts book series)

The **AAS Editorial Board** offers sound guidance on our publications program, and series editors **Bill Tsutsui** (Asia Shorts, January-June 2021), **David Kenley** (Asia Shorts, July 2021-present), and **Lucien Ellington** (Key Issues in Asian Studies) work with speed and alacrity to assist authors in turning their ideas into books. We appreciate the work of everyone at **Columbia University Press**, our AAS Publications distribution partner, for their assistance in bringing these books into the hands of readers.



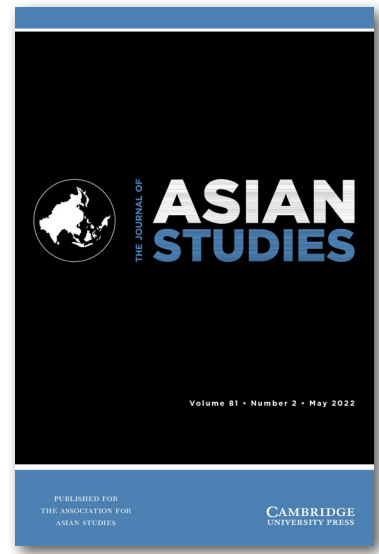
## JOURNAL OF ASIAN STUDIES

In 1941, the AAS began as publisher of the *Far Eastern Quarterly*. Over the years, the *Far Eastern Quarterly* evolved into the *Journal of Asian Studies* (JAS), and the AAS expanded into the robust organization we are today. In 2021, both the AAS and *Journal of Asian Studies* celebrated their 80th anniversaries.

We also saw a transition in JAS editorial leadership during 2021, as **Vinayak Chaturvedi** ended his tenure as the Editor of JAS. We thank Dr. Chaturvedi for his excellent service and leadership of the journal over the past three years!

In July 2021, we welcomed our new editor, **Joseph Alter**, Professor of Anthropology and Director of the Asian Studies Center at the University of Pittsburgh. Alter is a scholar of South Asia whose research interests include health, medicine, gender, nationalism, and sport.

The change in editorial leadership also instituted a change in institutional home for the journal, from the University of California, Irvine to the University of Pittsburgh. Thank you to all the staff members of both institutions who have facilitated this transition. We also appreciate the hard work and dedicated service of JAS **Associate Editors** and **Book Review Editors**, who contribute immeasurably to the journal's success, as well as the journal's production staff at **Cambridge University Press**.



## MEET THE STAFF

**Jonathan Wilson**

Publications Manager

## EDUCATION ABOUT ASIA

In 2021, *Education About Asia (EAA)* marked its **26th year of publication** as the teaching journal of the AAS. Each of the three *EAA* issues published in 2021 included a special thematic section:

- Asia's Environments: National, Regional, and Global Perspectives (Spring 2021)
- Engaging Asia: Film, Documentaries, and Television (Fall 2021)
- Asia in World History: Comparisons, Connections, and Conflicts (Part 1) (Winter 2021)

With the assistance of AAS interns, we continue to build out the [open-access EAA archives](#) at the AAS website. We are pleased to feature over **1,600** articles at the site, freely available for download by students and educators.

- We recorded **210,597** page views for the EAA online archives in 2021 (**37.1%** of total AAS website traffic)

Most popular article: Dana R. Herrera, "[The Philippines: An Overview of the Colonial Era](#)," first published in the Spring 2015 issue and downloaded over **34,850** times.

We appreciate the continued dedication of *EAA* Editor **Lucien Ellington** and Managing Editor **Jeffrey Melnik**, and thank the many members of the *EAA* Editorial Board and Editorial Advisory Board for their time and input.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY OF ASIAN STUDIES

In December 2020, long-time *Bibliography of Asian Studies (BAS)* Editor **Anna Leon Shulman** and *BAS* Associate Editor **Frank Joseph Shulman** retired. Prior to their retirement, Anna and Frank Shulman dedicated a combined 85 years of service to the *BAS*, a recognized cornerstone of research on Asia. During their decades of service, the Shulmans transformed the *BAS* from an annual printed bibliography of the books, articles, and chapters in edited volumes published during a single year to a cumulative, regularly updated, increasingly annotated database of over 935,000 bibliographical entries on East, Southeast, and South Asia. We are grateful for their many years of steadfast leadership and service and wish them well in their retirement.

In January 2021, **David Magier** took the helm of the *BAS* as Interim Editor and consulted closely with Anna Shulman and the *BAS* Advisory Committee during this period of transition. Magier worked with the *BAS* Advisory Committee and the AAS Executive Director to recruit applicants for then-vacant positions of East Asia and Asia (general) Associate Editors. Three new editors were hired in the fall of 2021: **Liladhar Pendse** (Asia general), **Ari Borrell**, and **Katsuyo Motoyoshi** (both East Asia). We welcome our new Associate Editors to *BAS* and look forward to seeing their valuable contributions!

## GRANTS

### COUNCIL GRANTS

The AAS Northeast Asia Council offers grants in Japan Studies (funded by the **Japan-US Friendship Commission**) and Korean Studies (funded by the **Korea Foundation**). In 2021, the Northeast Asia Council awarded

**37**  
GRANTS

- Two** grants to support workshops and conferences in Korean Studies
- Three** grants for Japanese Studies research travel within the United States
- Three** grants to support Korean Studies research travel within North America
- Four** grants to support small scholarly conferences in Japanese Studies
- Eleven** grants for short-term Korean Studies research travel outside North America
- Fourteen** grants for short-term research travel to Japan

AAS China & Inner Asia Council Small Grant awards are made possible through funding provided by the **Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation** and from AAS member donations. In its 2021 grant competition, the China & Inner Asia Council awarded

**30**  
GRANTS

- One** grant to support the organization of conferences, workshops, or seminars
- One** grant for a research trip by a tenure-line faculty member
- Two** grants to facilitate the creation of website, exhibit, or digital archive projects
- Six** grants to fund research trips by non-tenure-line faculty members
- Twenty** grants to support the research travel of graduate students

MEET THE  
STAFF

**Molly DeDona**

Grants Manager

**Krisna Uk, Ph.D.**

Director of Special Initiatives



## FIRST BOOK SUBVENTION PROGRAM

The AAS offers a grant for AAS-member authors who require subventions to ensure publication of their first books. Established in 2006, the First Book Subvention Program has supported **101** AAS members, providing a total of **\$217,338** to facilitate publication of their research. In 2021, the AAS awarded **six** First Book Subvention Grants, totaling **\$13,500**.

### [Short-Term Research Grant in the History of Japanese Sexualities Established in Honor of Mark McLelland](#)

Professor **Mark McLelland** left a generous bequest to the Association for Asian Studies, with the request that it be used to establish a new category of award within the existing Northeast Asia Council (NEAC) grants program. With much appreciation to Professor McLelland, the AAS has established the Short-Term Research Grant in the History of Japanese Sexualities.

### [“Re-Envisioning Asia: Contestations and Struggles in the Visual Arts”](#)

With the support of funding from the **Asian Cultural Council**, the AAS held its first virtual film festival from September 20 to October 3, 2021. “Re-envisioning Asia: Contestations and Struggles in the Visual Arts” featured the work of a selection of Southeast Asian and South Asian films, documentaries, and visual arts from Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, India, Kashmir, Myanmar, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. These contributions provided a unique insight into the role of filmmaking in documenting the arsenal of resistance in the face of daily violence in places like Cambodia, Kashmir, and Myanmar.

### [National Endowment for the Humanities \(NEH\) Grant](#)

In 2021, the AAS received a \$1 million grant from the **National Endowment for the Humanities** (NEH), awarded through the NEH’s Sustaining the Humanities through the American Rescue Plan (SHARP) program, which supports humanities organizations, programs, and professionals at the local level, advancing economic recovery within a cultural sector devastated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Our project, “**Striving for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Asian Studies: Humanities Grants for Asian Studies Scholars,**” will enable the AAS to make approximately 30 individual awards to provide relief from the coronavirus pandemic to Asian Studies professionals to conduct humanities research, teaching development, and multimedia projects.

We are grateful to the technology providers for AAS grant programs, **Cadmium** and **OpenWater**, for their skill and responsiveness in helping us manage the grant management process.

## DIGITAL MEDIA

Begun in June 2020 with the support of a grant from the **Henry Luce Foundation**, **AAS Digital Dialogues** are online webinars on issues related to professional development and the field of Asian Studies. We held **twelve** AAS Digital Dialogues in 2021; those with videos available to view at the AAS website are marked with an asterisk \*:

- Meet Your Council: Council of Conferences Open House
- Critical Muslim Studies (Parts I-V)\*
- Black China Trailblazers
- Queering Our Worlds: A Tribute to Mark McLelland\*
- Unruly Subjects, Disruptive Mobilities: On Telling Stories of Everyday Struggles for Justice
- The Exclusionary Violence of the Modern Nation-State: Stories from South and Southeast Asia
- Japan on American TV\*
- Striving for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Asian Studies: Humanities Grants for Asian Studies Scholars\*

## AAS COMMUNITY FORUM

Powered by **Higher Logic**, the **AAS Community Forum** launched in August 2021 provides AAS members with more networking resources to connect, engage, and collaborate with fellow scholars.

## KEEP UP WITH THE LATEST FROM THE AAS



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## MEET THE STAFF

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Cunningham, Ph.D.**

Digital Media Manager

**Jenna Yoshikawa**

Advertising and  
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We are so grateful to all the technology providers—**TAZ Networks, 3.7 Designs, Ready to Run Software, Impexium, Naylor Association Solutions, and Higher Logic**—who keep the AAS online!

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## PROFESSIONALIZATION

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In February 2021, we relaunched the AAS Job Board as the **AAS Career Center**. All AAS members have access to the Career Center, where they can view job advertisements posted by employers and easily apply to jobs. In 2021, **231** job ads appeared at the Career Center. Those advertisements received **41,821** views and resulted in **797** job applications.

### AAS INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The **AAS Internship Program** provides opportunities for area-studies undergraduate and graduate students to use their research and writing skills to support educational and digital media initiatives. We appreciate all the hard work of our 2021 interns!

- Nyala Ahmed (Michigan State University)
- Alexandria Molinari (University of Michigan)
- Lucas Paschal (Vrije Universiteit)
- M. Zhu (University of Michigan)

### DISSERTATION WORKSHOP

The Association for Asian Studies and the **Social Science Research Council (SSRC)**, with support from the **Henry Luce Foundation**, jointly organize the AAS Dissertation Workshop Series. The workshops are held in conjunction with the AAS Annual Conference each spring.

In 2021, the SSRC contacted all scheduled participants from the 2019 and 2020 cohorts to arrange a virtual workshop. Eight participants from the 2019 workshop and ten of those who had been selected for 2020 joined virtual workshops, held after the 2021 virtual annual conference. Both cohorts also convened in a larger group to discuss topics more general to graduate school, pandemic research, and the career process.

### MENTORING WORKSHOP FOR BLACK GRADUATE STUDENTS

A virtual workshop for Black students in Asian Studies took place on Friday, April 9, 2021. Ten graduate and undergraduate students met with mentors including **Jolyon Thomas** (University of Pennsylvania), **Keisha Brown** (Tennessee State University), **Marvin Sterling** (Indiana University), and **Mitzi Uehara Carter** (Florida International University).

The goal of the workshop was to provide a space for supporting diverse identities in the field of Asian Studies. We instituted this workshop in recognition of problems of systemic racism in the academy as well as to take steps toward building a pipeline for junior Black scholars of Asia. We hope that this will be an important step towards active participation of Black and minority Asianists in the field of Asian Studies and, as well, lead to an impact on the field's development.

Student participants were asked to come to the workshop with concerns they had as young professionals in the field of Asian Studies. The group discussed topics such as professional development, applying for grants, applying to graduate programs, writing job applications, fieldwork and research issues, and self-care and self-advocacy.

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## AWARDS

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### BOOK PRIZES

#### Joseph Levenson Prize (China, Pre-1900)

Stephen Owen, *Just a Song: Chinese Lyrics from the Eleventh and Early Twelfth Centuries* (Harvard University Asia Center, 2019)

Honorable Mention: Macabe Keliher, *The Board of Rites and the Making of Qing China* (University of California Press, 2019)

Honorable Mention: Charles Sanft, *Literate Community in Early Imperial China: The Northwestern Frontier in Han Times* (State University of New York Press, 2019)

#### Joseph Levenson Prize (China, Post-1900)

Joel Andreas, *Disenfranchised: The Rise and Fall of Industrial Citizenship in China* (Oxford University Press, 2019)

Honorable Mention: Yurou Zhong, *Chinese Grammatology: Script Revolution and Literary Modernity, 1916–1958* (Columbia University Press, 2019)

#### John Whitney Hall Prize (Japan)

Benjamin Uchiyama, *Japan's Carnival War: Mass Culture on the Home Front, 1937-1945* (Cambridge University Press, 2019)

Honorable Mention: Kirsten L. Ziomek, *Lost Histories: Recovering the Lives of Japan's Colonial Peoples* (Harvard University Asia Center, 2019)

#### James B. Palais Prize (Korea)

Monica Kim, *The Interrogation Rooms of the Korean War: The Untold History* (Princeton University Press, 2019)

#### Bernard S. Cohn Prize (First book on South Asia)

Nosheen Ali, *Delusional States: Feeling Rule and Development in Pakistan's Northern Frontier* (Cambridge University Press, 2019)

#### Ananda Kentish Coomaraswamy Prize (South Asia)

Tony K. Stewart, *Witness to Marvels: Sufism and Literary Imagination* (University of California Press, 2019)

Honorable Mention: Arupjyoti Saikia, *The Unquiet River: A Biography of the Brahmaputra* (Oxford University Press, 2019)

#### Harry J. Benda Prize (First book on Southeast Asian Studies)

Christian C. Lentz, *Contested Territory: Điện Biên Phủ and the Making of Northwest Vietnam* (Yale University Press, 2019)

Honorable Mention: Taomo Zhou, *Migration in the Time of Revolution: China, Indonesia, and the Cold War* (Cornell University Press, 2019)



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## AWARDS

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### BOOK PRIZES CONTINUED

#### George McT. Kahin Prize (Southeast Asia)

Geoffrey B. Robinson, *The Killing Season: A History of the Indonesian Massacres, 1965-66* (Princeton University Press 2018)

#### Franklin R. Buchanan Prize for Asia Curriculum Materials

Rylan Sekiguchi, "What Does It Mean To Be An American?" (Published by Stanford Program on International and Cross-Cultural Education (SPICE) and the Mineta Legacy Project)

Honorable Mention: Kusum Knapczyk & Peter Knapczyk, *Reading Hindi: Novice to Intermediate* (Routledge)

### CAREER AWARDS

#### Distinguished Contributions to Asian Studies Awards

Nancy Abelmann (posthumous)

Norma Field

#### Distinguished Service to the Association for Asian Studies Awards

Anna Leon Shulman, *Bibliography of Asian Studies*

Frank Joseph Shulman, *Bibliography of Asian Studies*

### STUDENT PAPER PRIZES

#### China and Inner Asia Council

Chloe Estep (Columbia University), "Futurist Biopoetics in Republican China"

Katrin Heilmann (King's College, London), "'Shelter-mentality': China's 1969 Mass Underground Construction Campaign"

Chuncheng Liu (University of California, San Diego), "In Score We Trust: Examination of a Social Credit System Infrastructure in China"

#### Northeast Asia Council

Jing Sun (University of Pennsylvania), "Broken Promise: Rice, Manchuria and the Failure of Food Autarky of Imperial Japan, 1919-1941"

#### South Asia Council

Ayelet Kotler (University of Chicago), "The Origin of Poetry, Retold: On Translating the Ramayana into Persian"

#### Southeast Asia Council

Takahiro Kamisuna (National University of Singapore), "Beyond Nationalism: The Youth's Struggle for the Independence of East Timor and Democracy for Indonesia"

## FINANCES

The AAS derives revenue from membership dues, conference registration fees, sales of publications, and donations, as well as returns from association investments and support from grantmaking organizations to fund specific programs or projects.

### STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

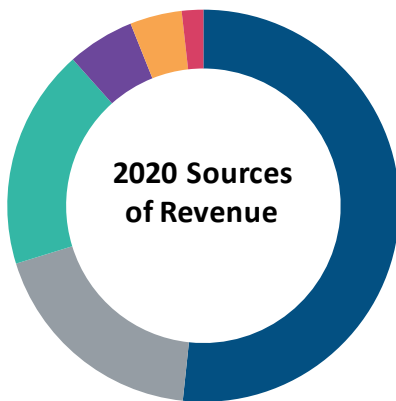
#### BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS	December 31		
	2021	2020	2019
<b>Assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 733,436	\$ 211,696	\$ 625,499
Accounts receivable	242,865	164,975	161,572
Prepaid expenses and other	220,114	122,931	102,173
Investments	13,589,116	12,094,031	11,268,151
Net property and equipment	3,492	6,892	11,888
Net intangible assets	39,847	67,615	26,423
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$ 14,828,870</b>	<b>\$ 12,668,140</b>	<b>\$ 12,394,923</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>			
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Accounts payable	\$ 44,669	\$ 54,536	\$ 60,832
Deferred revenue and refundable advances	1,715,415	1,310,838	1,252,646
Accrued liabilities	203,122	206,578	219,851
Due to committees	98,562	80,447	68,067
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>2,061,768</b>	<b>1,652,399</b>	<b>1,601,396</b>
<b>Net assets</b>			
Without donor restrictions			
Undesignated	6,123,658	8,977,442	8,273,277
Board designated	321,067	307,364	304,317
Total without donor restrictions	6,444,725	9,284,806	8,577,594
With donor restrictions	6,322,377	1,730,935	2,215,933
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>12,767,102</b>	<b>11,015,741</b>	<b>10,793,527</b>
<b>Total liabilities and net assets</b>	<b>\$ 14,828,870</b>	<b>\$ 12,668,140</b>	<b>\$ 12,394,923</b>

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

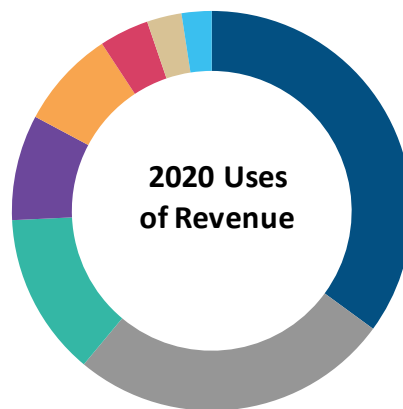
	2021	2020
Program revenue and other support		
Memberships	\$ 467,462	\$ 526,319
Publications	706,704	515,544
Conference	472,258	121,416
Research and education grants	331,585	157,166
Contributions and other support	275,896	50,264
Net investment return	1,647,438	1,465,852
	<u>3,901,343</u>	<u>2,836,561</u>
Total program revenue and other support		
Expenses		
Program services		
Membership services	161,560	159,952
Publications	590,943	704,601
Conference	398,540	522,736
Research and educational support	302,920	171,669
Career development and recognition	42,076	48,790
	<u>1,496,039</u>	<u>1,607,748</u>
Total program services		
Supporting services		
Officers and board	200,194	80,727
Development	162,158	56,482
Secretariat	291,591	265,305
	<u>653,943</u>	<u>402,514</u>
Total supporting services		
Total expenses	<u>2,149,982</u>	<u>2,010,262</u>
Change in net assets from operations	1,751,361	826,299
Post retirement health care plan - related changes other than net periodic postretirement benefit cost	-	(37,871)
Change in net assets	1,751,361	864,170
Net Assets, beginning of year	11,015,741	10,793,527
Cumulative effect of change in accounting principle	<u>-</u>	<u>(641,956)</u>
Net Assets, end of year	<u>\$ 12,767,102</u>	<u>\$ 11,015,741</u>

## FINANCE CHARTS



- Net investment return 51.7% - \$1,465,852
- Memberships 18.6% - \$526,319
- Publications 18.2% - \$515,544
- Research and education grants 5.5% - \$157,166
- Annual conference 4.3% - \$121,416
- Contributions and other support 1.8% - \$50,264

**Total Revenue: \$2,836,561**



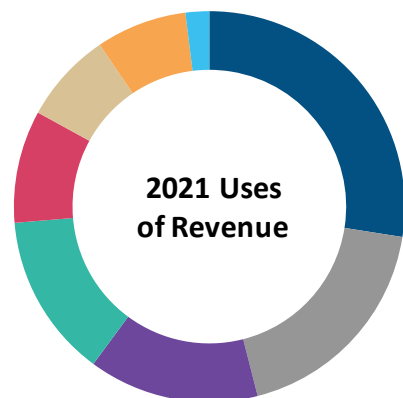
- Publications 35.1% - \$704,601
- Annual conference 26.0% - \$522,736
- General and administrative 13.2% - \$265,305
- Research and educational support 8.5% - \$171,669
- Membership services 8.0% - \$159,952
- Board and governance 4.0% - \$80,727
- Development 2.8% - \$56,482
- Career development and recognition 2.4% - \$48,790

**Total Expenses: \$2,010,262**



- Net investment return 42.2% - \$1,647,438
- Publications 18.1% - \$706,704
- Annual conference 12.1% - \$472,258
- Memberships 12.0% - \$467,462
- Research and education grants 8.5% - \$331,585
- Contributions and other support 7.1% - \$275,896

**Total Revenue: \$3,901,343**



- Publications 27.5% - \$590,943
- Annual conference 18.5% - \$398,540
- Research and educational support 14.1% - \$302,920
- General and administrative 13.6% - \$291,591
- Board and governance 9.3% - \$200,194
- Development 7.5% - \$162,158
- Membership services 7.5% - \$161,560
- Career development and recognition 2.0% - \$42,076

**Total Expenses: \$2,149,982**

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CELEBRATING 80 YEARS

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