

# FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2024 – 8:00AM-9:30AM

Area of Study: East and Inner Asia

## (Un)Tying the Knot between Farming and Sustainability in Developmental Taiwan

8:00 AM-9:30 AM

Chaired by Isabelle Cockel, *University of Portsmouth*

Diligent, Productive, and Free: Visions of Agricultural Labor and Development in Cold War Taiwan, 1949-1968

Leo Cho, *University of Cambridge*

Danger at Large: The Imagination of Migrant Farm Workers' Mobility and Remoteness in Rural Taiwan

Isabelle Cockel, *University of Portsmouth*

Marrying Solar Energy with Local Communities through Environmental Non-Profit Organizations: The Case of Taiwan

Anthony Li, *University of Hong Kong*

Contemporary Development of Indigenous Communities in Taiwan: Collective Well-Being and Individual Happiness in Public Affairs

Hao-Tzu Ho, *National Chengchi University*

**SESSION ABSTRACT:** This panel raises a straightforward but critical question: how is sustainability perceived by a post-industrial economy like Taiwan? Industrialisation made rural Taiwan a hinterland conceived as remote, traditional, low-productive and hierarchal with marginalised indigenous community. When development continued to underpin electoral politics, agricultural and rural Taiwan struggle to resonate with the dominant discourse on sustainability, the conceptualisation of which cuts across a value, a policy guideline, or simply a buzz word. This panel argues that the perception cannot be decoupled with the use of farm lands. This panel points out that the Green Revolution generated a tunnelled view of farm labour, a commodity that has been under-valued and become locally unavailable in the wake of urbanisation and industrialisation. When the employment of foreign labour was embraced as a solution to food security but cautioned against for its potential to further marginalise the indigenous community, the indigenous community continued to assert their autonomy through fostering grassroots participation in public affairs. Recently, a growing interest in the renewable energy, prompted by public policy, emerged as an unforeseen challenge to rural Taiwan where the legitimate use of land now competes with food security and the identity and wellbeing of rural community. Meanwhile, civil society organisations formed by advocates or the indigenous community become a stakeholder who disseminates as well as enacts the perceived value of sustainability. This panel contributes to a much needed socio-political and emotional approach to understand sustainability not insomuch as its conformity, but its justification across different sectors and identities.

Area of Study: East and Inner Asia

## China-Africa Visual Politics, Affective Communities, and Global Infrastructures of Feeling

8:00 AM-9:30 AM

Chaired by Kaian Lam, *University of Macau*

Unnarrating China-Angola Relations: Visual Memory, Mediating Bodies, and Bilateral Infrastructures of Feeling

Kaian Lam, *University of Macau*

These Quiet Things: The Politics of Chinese Aesthetics Embodied in a Photo Postcard on the Rand

Binjun Hu, *Rhodes University*

Northern Frontier: Dreams in Reality

Qi Lin,

Discussant:

Jorge Alves, *Universidade Católica Portuguesa*

**SESSION ABSTRACT:** This panel explores China-Africa aesthetics in international relations. Inspired by Hansen's and Spanner's creative IR method, we explore physical, virtual and figurative sites where visual politics is activated, performed, remembered, imagined and debated, and we particularly welcome proposals in the photo-essay format. Visuals are, in Callahan's conception, an artifact, a site, an institution, an enactment, an encounter, an ideology; the way that visuals do things and make us feel, i.e., "affect-work", produces political meanings and consequences, such that visual artifacts can mobilize and connect people in "affective communities of sense". The sensible is more than just visual, it is audible, and tasteable. We call for proposals that complexify the embodied, emotive memories of the "global infrastructures of feeling" of China-Africa relations. Even as postcolonial, post-war China-Africa relations scholarship is in expansion, there is a dearth of theoretical discussion that integrates the personal and the collective, the contemporary and the historical, the anthropological and the political. We work towards connecting IR as a discipline and IR as an everyday practice. This is not to forget the reiterated call for courage and creativity in decolonizing IR knowledge production. While China-Africa relations has benefited from important academic forays, IR theorizing remains lopsidedly hegemonic. To understand "Global China", we need serious engagement of Africa and African perspectives. Therefore, this panel also accepts critical, historicized reviews of China-Africa visuality that tackle questions of colonialism, power and resistance from an Africa-focused viewpoint.

Area of Study: Inter-Area/Border Crossing

**Emerging Research in Asian Studies I:  
The Power of Stories and Storytelling-  
Sponsored by AAS Council of Conferences**

8:00 AM-9:30 AM

Chaired by Shawn Bender, *Dickinson College*

D-I-Y Renovation Culture in Contemporary Japanese  
Architecture

Nancy Ji, *Keio University*

Finding the Rainbow World: Queer Translation and Utopian  
Imaginations in Postwar Japan

Patrick Carland, *University of Pennsylvania*

Who Made Margaret Mead? The Native Research Assistant  
as Intellectual

Amrina Rosyada, *Northwestern University*

**SESSION ABSTRACT:** This special panel brings together award-winning graduate students from the AAS-affiliated regional conferences to share their research. Selected from among the prize-winning students of nine regional academic organizations, these students' papers are among the best of up-and-coming scholarship. Collectively, the papers on this panel explore relations of power, authority, and identity in the act of telling the stories of others. Amrina Rosyada examines the role of "native informant" I Made Kaler in helping to construct Margaret Mead's ethnographic depiction of Bali. Patrick Carland-Echavarria looks at the ways in which literary translation of Japanese works into English was shaped not just by the geopolitical tensions of the Cold War but also by the queer identities of the translators themselves. Xuesong Shao's paper explores how film representations of blind storytellers index shifts in relations of power between the party-state and rural communities from the Mao to post-Mao period in China. This is a designated panel sponsored by the AAS Council of Conferences (COC).

***Emerging in Research Asian Studies II: The Power of Stories and Storytelling is scheduled for March 15 in Seattle. Emerging in Research Asian Studies II: The Power of Stories and Storytelling is scheduled for March 15 in Seattle.***

Area of Study: South Asia

**Migrant Labor, Urban Space, and Agency:  
Explorations of Migrant Urbanisms in South  
Asia**

8:00 AM-9:30 AM

Chaired by Arup Sen, *Serampore College*

"Adjusting in the City": Skill, Spaces and Subjectivity  
Anasma Gayari, *Jawaharlal Nehru University*

Engendering Migrant Emplacement in Cities: Malayali  
Muslim Women in Business and Mutual Aid Organizations  
in Bangalore

Fathima F, *Indian Institute of Technology Madras*

Power Dynamics in Informal Settlements: A Study of the  
Role of Informal Space in Exacerbating Precarity

Nivash Prakash, *Jawaharlal Nehru University*

In Search of a Suitable Dwelling: Analyzing the Settlement  
Pattern of the Bhariyas (Porters) in Darjeeling Hills

Ambika Rai, *University of North Bengal*

**SESSION ABSTRACT:** Recent scholarship of urban studies in South Asia, particularly India, have highlighted the deeply segregated nature of cities. Marginalized communities such as Muslims, Dalits and urban poor are relegated to peripheral spaces within metropolitan cities where there is a huge lack of basic infrastructure and access to resources. Governmental practices of demolishing livelihood spaces, informal settlements or 'slums' under the garb of 'illegal construction' or 'occupancy' has led to large scale displacement and disenfranchisement of low waged labor. In the absence of a nationwide political discourse or apparent migrant friendly urban policies, how do migrant labor navigate the intertwined system of power and space? What strategies do they resort to in the claim-making processes in cities? In this panel we seek to present an array of cases on place-making practices of internal as well as transnational migrant labor from different cities across India. The papers, based on latest ethnographic studies conducted across different urban contexts, explore the questions of gender, religion, class, caste and even race in understanding the intricate relation between labor, migration and spaces, and the alternative mechanisms or pathways that migrants seek in order to survive and make a living in the cities. We seek to contribute to the emerging body of scholarship on 'Migrant Urbanism' that attends to myriad ways of migrants navigating threats and creating opportunities in the city.

Area of Study: East and Inner Asia

## Reconsidering Chinese Citizenship: Cultural Roots and Cultural Reach

8:00 AM-9:30 AM

Chaired by Zhonghua Guo, *Nanjing University*

Confucian Revival, Civic Action, and Chinese Identity: Why Do Chinese Immigrant Parents Engage Their Children in Learning Confucian Classics?

Canglong Wang, *The University of Hull*

Cultural Roots of China's Education of New Era Citizenry

Zhenzhou Zhao, *The Education University of Hong Kong*

Affecting Belonging: Experimental Education, Cultural Resources, and Affective Cultural Citizenship in Contemporary China

Liangliang Zhang, *New York University Shanghai*

The Interplay between Cultural and Disciplinary Citizenship: A Case Study of the Ethnic Minorities in Yunnan Province, China

Taihui Guo, *Yunnan University*

Discussant: Zhonghua Guo, *Nanjing University*

**SESSION ABSTRACT:** This panel delves into the distinctive historical and cultural roots of Chinese citizenship. Studies often overlook these dimensions; thus, our aim is to shed light on them, viewing from local and international viewpoints. The presentations of this panel investigate the influence of varied cultural traditions on citizenship discourse and practice in modern China. This broad spectrum includes indigenous concepts like the hua/yi distinction and the tenets of Confucianism and Daoism, along with imported religions like Islam and Christianity. Our exploration reveals the dynamics between Chinese and non-Chinese cultural groups, advancing a cross-cultural dialogue on citizenship after orientalism and expanding Chinese citizenship beyond Han-centrism.

Moreover, the existing notion of the Chinese nation, created by early 20th-century elites, highlights cultural uniformity, often neglecting China's ethno-religious intricacies and ideological diversities. In this regard, the panel probes the nationalist approach adopted by the communist regime, especially under Xi Jinping, to shape citizenship discourse, while also integrating traditional culture into their political legitimacy.

By dissecting the influence of these diverse traditions on Chinese citizenship, presenters of this panel challenge the nationalist paradigm, offering insights into emergent forms of 'Chinese cultural citizenship' reflecting multifaceted cultural dynamics. This session thereby contributes to an enriched understanding of Chinese citizenship in its historical, cultural, and political complexity.

Area of Study: Northeast Asia

## Situated Agency in Music Making Under the Japanese Empire

8:00 AM-9:30 AM

Chaired by Ying-fen Wang, *National Taiwan University*

Keeping Korean Chaejŭ-Song Afloat in Japan's Total War Era

Hye Eun Choi, *New York University Shanghai*

Audible China in Wartime Japan: Propaganda Music and Revues Torn between the Exoticism and Pan-Asianism

Amane Kasai, *Kyoto University of the Arts*

"Better Than Any Music Schools": Recorded "Western Music" and Its Impact on the Korean Music Scene during the First Half of the 20th Century

Jihun Suk, *Yonsei University*

Discussant:

Ying-fen Wang, *National Taiwan University*

**SESSION ABSTRACT:** From the turn of the twentieth century, imported classical and popular music from Europe and the United States profoundly influenced the music culture of East Asian countries. Despite the power and reach of its empire, Japan was primarily a mediator between its colonies and Western powers. Our panel therefore traces the paths Japanese and Korean musicians took in creatively navigating imperial rule. With "Better than Any Music Schools," Jihun Suk reveals that Korean musicians used foreign subscription album sets as study materials. They sought to excel in Western classical music by mimicking these recordings, which featured famous Western performers. Suk further reveals that this practice persisted until the 1950s. Hye Eun Choi's paper, "Keeping Korean Chaejŭ-song Afloat in Japan's Total War Era," investigates how Korean musicians continued to write syncretic popular music with Korean and Western elements, initially called chaejŭ-song ("jazz songs"), even after Western genres were suppressed as "enemy music." To escape being censored, they re-positioned their music within politically acceptable genres. These musicians' strategy, which Choi calls "creative self-censorship," helped sustain the vibrant Korean popular music scene even during the mobilization era. In "Audible China in Wartime Japan," Amane Kasai shows how Japan's engagement with China and Manchuria allowed Japanese musicians to create music using the "continental melody" and produce various kinds of acts, such as all-female shows. Through an exploration of exoticism and Pan-Asianism represented in wartime propaganda music and revues, Kasai also shows how circuit-listening was established between the front lines and the home front.

Area of Study: Southeast Asia

## The Challenge of Political Reform in the Philippines

8:00 AM-9:30 AM

Chaired by Dominique Caouette, *University of Montreal*

The Rise of “the National” in Philippine Politics: Neoliberal Screening of Welfare Inclusion and Violent Exclusion  
Wataru Kusaka, *Tokyo University of Foreign Studies*

Duterte’s Federalism and Constitutional Change Project: From Campaign Promise to Abandoned Reform  
Maria Ela Atienza, *University of the Philippines, Diliman*

An Unchanging Terrain? Environment and Climate Change in the Philippines from Duterte to Marcos, Jr.  
Ruth Lusterio-Rico, *University of the Philippines, Diliman*

State Policy Toward Philippine Migrant Workers: A Typological Framework  
Kazue Takamura, *McGill University*  
Erik Kuhonta, *McGill University*

Discussant: Dominique Caouette, *University of Montreal*

**SESSION ABSTRACT:** Philippine politics has historically been characterized by patronage, clientelism, and the failure of political reform. Yet, the mass public has consistently hankered for political change, while political elites have perennially built their campaigns on a vision of reform. This panel brings together political scientists and anthropologists based in Japan, the Philippines, and Canada to examine rhetorical and institutional efforts directed toward political change and policy reform.

The first paper by Wataru Kusaka provides a wide-angle historical perspective on reform in the Philippines. Kusaka argues that due to social demands and neoliberal discipline, a “national” agenda has recently arisen under the governments of Aquino III, Duterte, and Marcos Jr., that has sought to advance policy reform. The second paper by Ela Atienza analyzes Duterte’s initiatives to create a federal system. By comparing other administrations’ efforts to pursue constitutional change, Atienza explains why Duterte’s much vaunted, federal initiative failed. In the third paper, Ruth Lusterio-Rico looks closely at the Duterte administration’s promises to protect the environment. Similar to Atienza’s paper, Lusterio-Rico concludes that the Duterte government had high goals that it ultimately could not deliver. In the final paper, Kazue Takamura and Erik Kuhonta develop a typological framework to assess national policy toward migrant workers. They argue that government efforts to address the needs of migrant workers have spanned four types of action: disciplinary, regulatory, rhetorical, and responsive. These four papers thus provide distinct angles from which to understand the much desired, and yet often failed, efforts for reform in the Philippines.

Area of Study: Northeast Asia

## The Interplay between Human Security and Traditional Security in East Asia: Refugee Protection in Japan and Taiwan

8:00AM -9:30AM

Chaired by Polina Ivanova, *Ritsumeikan University*

Refugee Protection in Japan and Taiwan: Common Challenges and Ways Forward for Human Security  
Bonny Ling, *Work Better Innovation*

The Legal Framework for Refugee Acceptance and Protection in Japan  
Yingjiao Zhu, *Kyushu University*

Examining Refugee Protection in Non-Signatories to the Refugee Convention and Protocol: Lessons Learned for the Taiwan Context  
Christine Lin, *University of California College of the Law, San Francisco*

From Non-Existence to Unrecognised Existence: The Evolution and Limitations of Taiwan’s Hong Kong Asylum Mechanism after 2019  
Min-yen Chiang, *Flow Hong Kong*

Discussant:  
Lara Momesso, *University of Central Lancashire*

**SESSION ABSTRACT:** Since 1994, when the UNDP declared “human security” as its primary development goal stressing the necessity to develop a “people-centred development” for the 21st century, there has been a shift in the way security is framed. Differently from traditional security, focused on state-based approaches linked to the territorial state, human security revolves around two points: the idea that securing people would be the best way of securing states, and the centrality of the individual human being’s safety and dignity vis-à-vis the power and authority of the state. In light of this shift, an increasing number of global issues linked to economic and social challenges, such as poverty, environmental change, global epidemics, have been addressed as matters linked to human security, hence deserving governments’ attention and intervention. Refugee and asylum seeker protection has also started to be discussed as a “human security” concern, leading to a paradigm shift in the way policymakers and states manage refugee rights and protection.

In this panel, by building on the specificity of the geopolitical circumstances of Japan and Taiwan, their legal and judicial systems, and the challenges that both governments and societies have been facing in promoting refugee and asylum seeker protection in line with international standards, we will discuss up to what extent a human security framework can be the way forward to refugee protection in Japan and Taiwan. This panel will bring together a diverse group of activists, academics, and legal experts to suggest different angles to look at the problem.

Area of Study: East and Inner Asia

## Tibetan *Tendrel* (རྟོན་འབྲེལ་) As a Vital Relational Epistemology

8:00 AM-9:30 AM

Chaired by Sarah Jacoby, *Northwestern University*

Discussants:

Tashi Monet, *University of Virginia*

Lama Jabb, *University of Oxford*

Janet Gyatso, *Harvard University*

Sarah Jacoby, *Northwestern University*

Wandejia Wandejia, *Sichuan University*

**SESSION ABSTRACT:** Interdependence, fortunate conditions, dependent origination, auspiciousness, good omens, relationality—all these meanings coalesce in the rich Tibetan term “*tendrel*” (རྟོན་འབྲེལ་). *Tendrel* is a compound made up of *ten* (རྟོན་), meaning “support, basis, that which holds,” and *drel* (འབྲེལ་), meaning “connection, relation, link.” It is well known as the abbreviated Tibetan translation of the Buddhist theory of causality called dependent origination (Skt. *pratītya-samutpāda*), but it also has a broad range of under-examined indigenized Tibetan meanings. The focus of this roundtable is to center a variety of shades and dimensions of *tendrel* drawn from Tibetan songs, poetry, literature, philosophy and life.

The participants in this conversation bring diverse perspectives to the table, both in terms of interdisciplinarity (specializations in religion, education, literature, and anthropology), career stage (one full professor, two associate professors, one lecturer, and one graduate student), ethnicity (three Tibetans from eastern Tibet and two Caucasians from the United States), and gender (3 female and two male panelists).

One panelist will discuss how Tibetan songs describe stars, rainbows, clouds, animals, and plants act as agents who know, decide, and deliver messages of favorable conditions to humans, who must maintain certain ethical, spiritual, and epistemic relationships with the more-than-human lifeworld of their homelands. The second panelist will explore Tibetan songs and expressions that demonstrate the ways in which *tendrel* suffuses Tibetan speech, impacts Tibetan minds, and shapes Tibetan conduct, taking his lead from the popular Tibetan saying that བོད་ནི་རྟོན་འབྲེལ་གྱི་བདག་པོ། “Tibetans are the masters of *tendrel*.” The third panelist will expand the phenomenological implications of *tendrel* out of its use in historical Tibetan Buddhist revelation and into its more general significance for the flourishing of creatures. She will also ponder the fact that there are ways to adjust *tendrel* gone wrong, as well as ways to amplify auspiciousness (བཀྲ་ཤིས་ལྡན་པ།) when it goes right. The fourth panelist will consider how the Tibetan concept of *tendrel* resonates with aspects of posthumanist and materialist turns in critical theory, and the fifth will explore *tendrel* in the religious lives of people in far eastern Tibet.

Area of Study: Inter-Area/Border Crossing

## Time out! Borrowed Time and Shifting Sands: The Temporal Escape and Identity Remapping of Chinese Overseas Students

8:00 AM-9:30 AM

Chaired by Yang Zhao, *Universiteit Antwerpen*

Between Two Shores: Challenges and Negotiation Among Chinese Transgender Students in the UK

Yuyang Li, *University of Bath*

Jiali Ma, *University of Kentucky*

Romance of Resistance: Overseas Graduate Women Bargaining with Patriarchy in China

Xinyi Zhu, *The University of Sheffield*

Returning to the Unfamiliar: Extended Waithood and the Paradox of Oversea Education for Chinese Students

Yang Zhao, *Katholieke Universiteit Leuven*

Ying Huang, *University of Warwick*

Discussant:

Ying Huang, *University of Warwick*

**SESSION ABSTRACT:** This panel delves into an examination of the unique temporality of Chinese students' overseas experiences, where the period spent abroad represents a liminal space and time. Studying abroad provides these individuals with an opportunity to pause from the mainstream Chinese life narrative, offering a hiatus from societal gender norms, and the competitive employment sphere. This “extra time” purchased through overseas education becomes a transformative platform for negotiating gender identities and future life trajectories. Breaching disciplinary boundaries, we seek to form conversations on how these students leverage this temporal space to redefine their identities, and, upon the conclusion of their studies, how they incorporate these experiences into their life narratives. Yuyang Li and Kira Ma explore the experiences of Chinese transgender students studying in the UK, and how they handle the dissonance between their expectations and reality. Yang Zhao and Ying Huang investigate the unconventional career pathways as “waithood” among returning Chinese students, specifically focusing on those working for application agencies, and offer a nuanced perspective on the diverse career trajectories of these returnees. Last but not least, Xinyi Zhu centers on the experiences of female Chinese students returning from Western countries, who grapple with the dilemma of balancing their newly formed subjectivities with traditional Chinese values. By looking at their life course encountered with international education, we revealed both the opportunity and paradox brought by international education while contributing to the sociological nexus of education, gender and labor market.

Area of Study: *Inter-Area/Border Crossing*

## **Transnational Adoption and Motherhood: Theorizing Transnational Identities, Feminism, and Familyhood**

**8:00 AM-9:30 AM**

Chaired by Ziyong You, *College of Wooster*

“Rescuing Our Own People:” Adoption of Hong Kong Children By Chinese Americans from 1953 to 1965  
Yang Zhang, *Florida State University*

Forgotten Mothers: Silent Birth Mothers of Korean Adoptees  
Sina Lee, *College of Wooster*

Mothering from a Short Distance: Care and Tension in Indonesian Migrant Families in Taiwan  
Tzu-Chi Ou, *National Chengchi University*

Chinese Immigrant Mothers, Communities of Support, and Political Activisms during the Covid-19 Pandemic  
Ziyong You, *College of Wooster*

Discussant:

Jack Neubauer, *National Chengchi University*

**SESSION ABSTRACT:** By highlighting diverse and complex experiences and voices of transnational adoptees and mothers, this panel explores the dynamics and politics of transnational migration, adoption, motherhood, and family-making. The first panelist surveys Chinese adoption case records, newspapers, and institutional records to study the adoption of Hong Kong children by Chinese Americans from 1953 to 1965, reframing Chineseness as a cultural identity by expanding on Chineseness as a racial category in U.S. immigration law and adoption records. To document the lost histories of birth mothers of Korean adoptees in South Korea, the second panelist brings the non-normative lived experiences and marginalized narratives to the fore by examining the forgotten narratives on South Korean birth mothers and by analyzing their political movement to raise their voices. By engaging the study of “mothering from a distance,” the third panelist draws on ethnography to explore how Indonesian migrant workers start and sustain a family in Taiwan while living separately from them on the same island. The fourth panelist integrates virtual ethnography, interviews, media reports, and virtual panel analysis to study how Chinese immigrant mothers in the U.S. have strategically built communities of support to combat anti-Asian racisms and advocate for social justice for their children and all children in America. This panel aims to contribute to the ongoing dialogues on transnational identities, feminism, and familyhood in transnational Asian studies, history, women’s, gender, sexuality studies, Asian American studies, and beyond.

Area of Study: *Inter-Area/Border Crossing*

## **Valuing the Devalued: The Making of Gendered Economy in Contemporary Asia**

**8:00 AM-9:30 AM**

Chaired by Irwan Hidayana, *University of Indonesia*

Re-Valuing Non-Market Practices Among Female Sellers in the Hanoi Flower Market  
Kyungmin Kim, *Seoul National University*

Engineering the Waste Economy at Home: Waste Banks, Housewives, and the Politics of “Behavior Change” in an Indonesian City  
Jiwon Kim, *Johns Hopkins University*

“Marriage” in Korean Live Streaming  
Soojin Kim, *Harvard University*

Discussants:

Hyun Mee Kim, *Yonsei University*

Emmanuel Pannier, *French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development*

**SESSION ABSTRACT:** As structuring forces that organize social reality, how do gender and economy organize one another? Said otherwise, (how) do arrays of values, relations, and narratives that allegedly constitute “gender” and “economy” as distinct domains reinforce or destabilize each other or shift altogether in unforeseeable ways? The making of what might be called “gendered economy” is subject to local specificities of culture, politics, and history—the realm of ethnographic inquiry. Building on ethnographic observations across Asia, this panel addresses this subtle relation between “gender” and “economy” through the question of (de)valuation. Each paper foregrounds various manners in which women’s labor is valued and devalued in places where they remain central actors of economic activity—flower markets in Vietnam, recycling businesses in Indonesia, and live-streaming platforms in South Korea. These papers, in turn, analyze how the valuation of women’s labor is in tandem with the exchange of commodities conventionally treated as futile by-products of productive process at best, be it unmarketable flowers, household garbage, or performance of sexual intimacy. We aim to tease out the modes of “valuing the devalued” as a window to the gendered economy in the making, revisiting the classic questions intersecting key concepts such as gender, woman, commodity, and economy in the current moment. What power do “unproductive” by-products hold, if any? How does monetary exchange in both paid and unpaid work reorganize gender relations? What does it reveal about the rapidly changing political-economic landscapes in Asia—as experienced by them?

*Area of Study: Northeast Asia*

## **War and State in Pre-Westphalian Continental East Asia: Historical Perspectives**

**8:00 AM-9:30 AM**

Chaired by Peter Lorge, *Vanderbilt University*

Resource War in Early China

Youpyo Lee, *Northeast Asian History Foundation*

The Northern Song Navy, Shipyards, and Timber

Geography

Yuan Chen, *Duke University*

War Mobilization of Chosŏn Korea during the East Asian War, 1592-1598: Mountain Fortress Against the Japanese Lightning Tactics

Jeong-il Lee, *Northeast Asian History Foundation*

Ming-Chosŏn Naval Cooperation during the Imjin War (1592-1598)

Barend Noordam, *The Autonomous University of Barcelona*

Discussant:

Peter Lorge, *Vanderbilt University*

**SESSION ABSTRACT:** Our panel explores the way in which continental East Asian states before the 17th century mobilized human and material resources. Specifically, what were their policies, tactics, and strategies? How did they promote military cooperation with other states, improve weapons, and exploit their natural resources? And, how did their underlying *raison d'état* drive the maintenance of state security? With these in mind, the first presentation reexamines how copper acquisition, inseparable from the public rituals of the Shang and Zhou states for social integration, was connected to their regional conflicts with their neighboring polities. The next presentation describes the connections between the Northern Song government's design and construction of naval armaments, specifically battleships and shipyards, and its centrally managed policies on the southern frontiers. The third presentation treats how the Chosŏn state readapted mountain-fortress tactics to the fast-moving and large-scale offensive operations of the Japanese armies while striving for a collaboration between ground and naval forces during the East Asian War, 1592-1598. The last presentation revisits the strength of Chosŏn navy and its influence both on the Chosŏn-Ming naval joint operation and the naval policy of the Ming state during the war. The above approach will inspire us to scrutinize the significance of state security, interlinked with use of human and material resources in various forms before the Westphalian System in continental East Asia and to chart another promising area of comparative research regarding a vital pre-Westphalian nexus of war and state in Eurasia.

# FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 10:00AM – 11:30 AM EST

*Area of Study: Southeast Asia*

## **LATE BREAKING SESSION - Digitalization, Labor, and Displacement: Lessons and Questions from Southeast Asia**

Chaired by Rhacel Parreñas, *Princeton University*

The Lived Lives of Global Logistics: Migration, Transnational Labor and Invisible Trade from and through Taiwan

Beatrice Zani, *French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS)*

Smart Labor and the Fantasy Production of ASEAN Smart Cities

Stephanie Santos, *Chulalongkorn University*

Selling the “Canadian Dream” and Normalizing Downward Mobility: Citizenship Pathways and Migration Influencers in Asian Migrations

Maria Cecilia Hwang, *McGill University*

Getting Paid to “Live My Own Life”: Disrupting the Notion of Kathoey through “Platform-Dependent Creative Labour”

Trepon Kirdnark, *Chulalongkorn University*

Discussant:

Rhacel Parreñas, *Princeton University*

**SESSION ABSTRACT:** This interdisciplinary panel draws from new research in the fields of digitization, labor, and migration studies to theorize how Southeast Asian and Southeast Asian diasporic workers navigate continuing and emerging modes of invisibility and displacement.

Drawing from her ethnographic work in the Taiwanese ports, Beatrice Zani examines how Indonesian, Chinese, and Vietnamese migrant workers develop networked and digitized economies to import and export forbidden commodities. Zani argues that by using these digitized circuits to transport and circulate illegal goods, migrants in globalized Taiwanese ports create pathways to social mobility to counter their current states of precarity and invisibility.

Stephanie Santos analyzes another population of invisible workers, namely, Philippines-based remote workers who provide medical care and companionship for elderly clients in the US while hidden behind “artificial intelligence” technologies. Santos studies the implications of remote carework on the international division of reproductive labor, as internet and communications technology enables the transnational distribution of carework sans the migration of careworkers.

Similarly, Maria Cecilia Hwang’s examination of the creative work of “migration influencers” reveals myriad narratives of relationships between Southeast Asian migration, displacement, citizenship, and digitalization in Canada. Hwang’s analysis of content creation on Youtube, argues that diasporic Filipino migration influencers can inadvertently normalize suffering and misery as a precondition for migration under Canadian regimes of care.

In his examination of Thai transgender lifestyle influencers, Trepon Kirdnark illuminates how marginalized kathoey turn their lifestyles into commodity (e.g. vlogs, status updates) via their creative labors. Kirdnark conceptualizes the “platform-dependent creative labour” of kathoey to illuminate how a marginalized and ostracized population mobilizes platform work as forms of cultural work that assert and self-validate nascent modes of non-normative gender identities.

This panel thus brings together fields such as anthropology, media studies, feminist theories, and migration studies with new scholarship centering the voices and lived experiences of Southeast Asian workers. By centering the knowledge production of port workers, Philippines-based remote caregivers, migration influencers, and kathoey lifestyle influencers, these papers theorize emerging engagements with labor, migration, and displacement from the situated knowledge and digital labor of workers from Southeast Asia and its diasporas.



Area of Study: *Inter-Area/Border Crossing*

## **LATE BREAKING SESSION: Gendering Asia in Negotiations**

10:00 AM-11:30 AM

Chaired by Zelin Wang, *Harvard University*

Discussants:

Hongmin Ahn, *Harvard Divinity School*

Han Na Jun, *Harvard University*

Jacqueline Jingyi Yu, *Harvard University*

Hongyi Zhang, *University of Florida*

Vicky Hsing, *Independent Scholar*

**SESSION ABSTRACT:** In what ways have norms, images, and ideas relating to gender and sexuality been transmitted and circulated across Asia? How has the circulation of these ideas shaped and affected gender politics, social activism, and migration patterns? Have gender ideas successfully taken root in recipient countries, or were they impeded by context collapse? Gender is a highly contested site, constantly subject to negotiations between a plethora of actors on state and grassroots levels.

With training from history, sociology, literature, religious studies, and performative studies, the panelists will hold this roundtable discussion focusing on recent trends in China, Japan, Singapore, North Korea, and South Korea. In mainland China, feminist Ueno Chizuko's works topped bestsellers' lists in 2023. Despite government censorship on homegrown feminism, Ueno was received as an icon that re-ignited debates about gender and sexuality. In November, the unprecedentedly massive Shanghai Halloween parade provided a rare opportunity to publicly exhibit sexual desires, challenging the limit on sexual expression. In Japan, while the government continued to pay lip service to gender parity, news of sexual harassment still frequently broke out and frustrated efforts toward real equality. In Singapore, although the law against sodomy has been repealed, the government has formally instituted a ban on gay marriage, raising concerns about LGBTQ+ rights. Meanwhile, the current housing policy continues to affect young women's choices with respect to dating and marriage. In both South and North Korea, the conventional gender norm has been under challenge. Struggling to maintain enough military servicemen amid declining population, the South Korean government is facing growing pressure to expand the compulsory military service to women. North Korean leader Kim Jung-un has been seen publicly accompanying his daughter, Kim Ju-ae, which sparked speculation on the prospect of a female-ruled communist hermit state.

Presenting a complex and dynamic landscape of the admixture of gender, sexuality, and other social-cultural factors, our roundtable panel hopes to track trending events and emerging themes and contribute to the ongoing discussions of circulations, mutations, and negotiations of gender and sexuality in Asia.

Area of Study: *South Asia*

## **Histories of Women and Representation in South Asian Art, Literature, and Law**

10:00 AM-11:30 AM

Chaired by Deborah Stein, *San Francisco State University*

Nexus between the Vedic Marriage System and the Transition in the Hindunation of Kathmandu, Nepal  
Poonam Rana, *Tribhuvan University*

Evolution of Women's Socioeconomic Status in Ancient Sri Lanka  
Lakmini Gamage, *University of Ruhuna*

Of Rebel Women and Power Structure: Voice for Change and Change of Voice in South Asia  
Komal Phuyal, *Tribhuvan University*

From Object of Love to Pleasure of Self: Maiden and Widows on the "Lonely" Beach  
Deb Ganguly, *Auroville Film Institute*

Discussant:

Nirmala Pokharel, *Tribhuvan University*

**SESSION ABSTRACT:** Histories of Women and Representation in South Asian Art, Literature, and Law invites scholars in Nepal, India, and Sri Lanka to reflect on the history of South Asia through the lens of Women's Histories specifically. This panel with a focus on women eschews recent intersectional divides around how we practice feminism, to return to the basics--agency and representation. We will learn about the history of marriage in ancient Vedic literature and modern practice in Nepal, and return to the topic of maidenhood and widowhood through cinema. We will examine rebel women and agency in early modern South Asian literature and film. We will think about economics specifically pertaining to the history of women in Sri Lanka. Moreover, our discussant, herself an expert in Shakti Pithas, will contextualize the papers in terms of real and ideal. This panel is largely by women, to study women, in new diachronic ways, and serves as a corrective to an understudied region and over half of its population then and now.

Area of Study: *Inter-Area/Border Crossing*

## India's National Movement and Early State Views on Zionism, the Palestine Question, and Israel

10:00 AM-11:30 AM

Chaired by Sujata Ashwarya, *Jamia Millia Islamia University*

Revisiting Gandhi on Zionism and the Jewish State  
Devender Kumar, *Rashtriya Raksha University*

Nehruvian India and Israel: An Analysis of Recognition and Early Diplomatic Relations through Historical and "Levels of Analysis" Perspectives  
Sujata Ashwarya, *Jamia Millia Islamia University*

The Indian Socialists and Israel: Bridging the Relationship Gap  
Sumana Singha, *Jawaharlal Nehru University*

The Role of the Indian Jewish Diaspora in the Development of India-Israel Relations  
Divya Malhotra, *Jawaharlal Nehru University*

Discussants:  
Divya Malhotra, *Jawaharlal Nehru University*  
Premanand Mishra, *Jamia Millia Islamia University*

**SESSION ABSTRACT:** India's unusual policy towards Israel prior to 1992 was recognition without normal diplomatic relations. Indian national movement leaders established this trend. Both Jawaharlal Nehru and Mahatma Gandhi opposed the Zionist plan to create a Jewish homeland in Palestine. Gandhi acknowledged the persecution of European Jews and the need for redress, but he believed that the imposition of a Jewish state in Palestine would foreshadow permanent Arab unrest. Nehru, an anticolonial and anti-imperialist, held that the British favored Zionism over Arab nationalism, which could not be supported. Moreover, Gandhi, and Nehru, as leaders of an inclusive anticolonial movement, were loath to endorse a potential religious-communal state. Independent India's official "consensus" on Israel, shaped by Gandhian-Nehruvian perspectives, was bolstered by successive governments' efforts to appease indigenous Muslims, and gain diplomatic leverage in the Arab world. Ironically, the early 1950s witnessed 'Gandhian socialists' emerge as Israel's greatest supporter, finding parallels between Gandhi's autonomous village republics and Israeli kibbutzim. Together with Indian labor leaders' strong ties with Israel's national trade union, they created an informal network that kept India-Israel linked. The émigré Indian Jews mirrored this 'decentralized diplomacy' through travel, charity, and relationships with Indian leaders. One could argue that formal relationships in 1992 were built on such non-formal, non-official networks. The panel papers use a historical approach and qualitatively analyze original documents such as diaries, books, letters, and articles of Indian and Israeli leaders, as well as ethnographic interviews with the Indian Jewish diaspora. One paper integrates historical methodology and International Relations theory.

Area of Study: *East and Inner Asia*

## Mapping Transgender Survival and Transfeminism in Contemporary China

10:00 AM-11:30 AM

Chaired by Yvon Wang, *University of Toronto*

Antinatalist Feminism, Necrotrans Haunting, and the Afterlife of the One-Child Nation  
Heng Wang, *University of Toronto*

Care in Transition: Transnational Adaptation and Family-Centered Approach to Gender-Affirming Care in China  
Xiaogao Zhou, *University of Chicago*

Surviving Gender Borders: Trans People's Online/Offline Spatial Practices in China  
Songyin Liu, *Shenzhen University*

Debates about Security: Guangzhou NGO's Survival Under Chinese State Censorship  
Tianyi Bai, *Boston University*

Discussants:  
Shana Ye, *University of Toronto*  
Zhuanxu Xu, *University College London*

**SESSION ABSTRACT:** With the founding of several trans-centered NGOs and the advancement of transgender medicine, the visibility of transgender and gender-nonconforming people in the PRC has significantly increased since 2016. However, the material realities that Chinese trans and gender-nonconforming people face are challenging in the context of progressively stringent governmental censorship towards trans and queer digital activism, further restrictions on accessing transgender healthcare, and trans NGOs' funding shortages. This situation urgently calls for feminist scholars to reevaluate transgender survival and imagine a livable future for trans people in China. As a cohort of scholars whose research interests overlap trans and queer studies, China and Sinophone studies, and transnational feminism, we focus on transgender survival and transfeminism in contemporary China in an interdisciplinary approach across anthropology, sociology, and media studies. Wang's paper frames "necrotrans haunting" and argues that the collective narratives in relation to birth, death, and life within trans communities are antinatalist feminist practices and implicate the radicality of trans politics. Zhou chooses transgender healthcare providers as their subjects to examine how the interplay between a transnational care model and the local medical system simultaneously alleviates and reinforces barriers to care for transgender people. Liu theorizes Chinese transgender people's experiences in online and offline spaces as liminal spatialities through in-depth interviews and investigates the concept of trans authenticity. Bai draws on interviews and participant observations with several trans NGOs in Guangzhou and discusses the lesser institutionalization of them as the unintended consequence of the party-state's censorship.

Area of Study: Southeast Asia

## **Mobilities and Representation of Vietnamese Migrants in the West**

10:00 AM-11:30 AM

Chaired by Anne-Cecille Delaisse, *University of British Columbia*

Crossing Borders: Identity, Recognitions, and the Presentation of Vietnamese Women in Western Cultures  
Thuy Do, *Simon Fraser University*

The Return Decision Making of Highly Skilled Vietnamese Migrants  
Anne-Cecille Delaisse, *University of British Columbia*

Material and Mobile Affordances: Southeast Asian American Dispersion and Reassemblages Since 1975  
Ivan Small, *University of Houston*

**SESSION ABSTRACT:** Vietnam has seen different outflows of migration to Western countries since 1975, from refugees and their relatives constituting a major part of the diaspora, to more recent but increasing voluntary emigration, including international students or investors. Based on their migration history, the timing and the conditions of their mobilities, Vietnamese migrants have differentiated experiences in Western countries, which affect their future trajectories. This panel focuses on migrant mobilities subsequent to their initial migration from Vietnam to their destination countries. We examine the mobilities of their bodies but also of ideas, representation, and agential strategies. Ivan Small presents insight into the multi-layered trajectories of migrant aspirations and adaptation—quite different than the assimilation model imagined by 1975 refugee policymakers. Anne-Cecille Delaisse analyzes the factors that the decisions to return Vietnam of highly skilled Vietnamese migrants in Canada and France. Thuy Do presents how the media and migrant history affect the representation of Vietnamese women in Western culture, which differs from what it is in Vietnam. Together, these presentations stress the differential experiences, mobilities, and representations of Vietnamese migrants like other Southeast Asian diaspora in Europe and North America as shaped by the legal, social, and cultural structures of their migration processes across different geographies.

Area of Study: East and Inner Asia

## **Spies, Saboteurs, and Secret Police: Toward a Transwar History of Clandestine Work in China (and Beyond), 1930s-1970s**

10:00 AM-11:30 AM

Chaired by Yun Xia, *Shanghai University*

Civilian Women Operatives of the Chinese Communist Party in North China during the Second Sino-Japanese War  
Amanda Zhang, *Birkbeck College, University of London*

Was Frank Yee a Secret Agent? Untangling the Public and Clandestine Commitments of a Nationalist Police Expert  
Daniel Asen, *Rutgers University-Newark*

"Intelligence with Chinese Characteristics": The Evolution of Chinese Intelligence Operations in Western Europe in the Early Years of the PRC  
Ariane Knüsel, *University of Fribourg*

The Investigator's Photo Album: Photography and Narrative in Internal Security Work  
JM Chris Chang, *Columbia University*

Discussants:  
Yun Xia, *Shanghai University*  
Sara Castro, *U.S. Air Force Academy*

**SESSION ABSTRACT:** Amid the Second Sino-Japanese War, Chinese Civil War, and early Cold War, spies, saboteurs, and secret police seemed to be everywhere in China. These decades saw the development of the GMD and CCP's intelligence apparatuses, an expansion of domestic and international spy networks, and mass mobilization against hidden threats. This panel explores this history through the stories of a range of actors, some well-known in the historical literature and others largely unexamined, who became implicated in these efforts. These include female civilian agents recruited for their perceived sexual promiscuity, academics who supported Nationalist spy training, members of the PRC's new diplomatic corps, and county-level police within the Maoist public security apparatus.

By framing our collective inquiry around this decades-long transwar period rather than a more conventional periodization (Hofmann and Ward 2022), this panel seeks to establish a fuller understanding of how ongoing political insecurity and blurred boundaries between war and peace influenced the long-term evolution of the institutions, priorities, and tactics of clandestine work in China. In its own way, each paper also speaks to the intriguing methodological question of how to study activities that were meant to be invisible or deniable and the different kinds of primary sources – and practices of source analysis – through which China's clandestine histories have become a focus of scholarly study. The panel's two discussants, Yun Xia (Chair) and Sara B. Castro, bring expertise in this period of wartime Chinese history and intelligence history, and will encourage discussion among presenters and the audience.

Area of Study: East and Inner Asia

## The Child Ambassadors of Cold War China

10:00 AM-11:30 AM

Chaired by Isabella Jackson, *Trinity College Dublin*

Little Tigers: Crafting the Committed Child in the Early Mao Era

Valentina Boretti, *School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London*

Recruiting UNESCO Child Diplomats on the Eve of the Cold War

Margaret Tillman, *Purdue University*

Front Row at the Revolution: Children's Theatre, Propaganda, and Youth Mobilization in Cold War China

Jack Neubauer, *National Chengchi University*

Children in the Free World: Young Donors and Recipients in American Religious Humanitarian Practice in Colonial Hong Kong

Rosaria Franco, *University of Nottingham Ningbo*

Discussant:

Isabella Jackson, *Trinity College Dublin*

**SESSION ABSTRACT:** This panel highlights the significance of child ambassadors—children asked to represent a variety of competing domestic and international political causes—in Cold War China. With the deployment of Boy Scouts and Hitler Youth as paramilitary organizations, the world wars had proven that youth were a significant political force – even as the wars had also, concurrently, increased fundraising drives to alleviate children's wartime suffering. These two global trends—the mobilization of children and mobilization on behalf of children—converged through the emergence of child ambassadors during the Cold War. In China, where WWII gave way to a civil war and proxy battle in the emerging Cold War, child ambassadors were particularly prominent.

Chinese cultural institutions, foreign voluntary agencies, and international organizations mobilized Chinese children and youth in the service of competing political agendas. Thrust onto the national and international stage, Chinese young people were asked to perform a variety of roles—anti-imperialist soldiers in training, grateful recipients of American humanitarian aid; cosmopolitan pen pals debating foreign youth; and child actors dramatizing the revolution for local and international audiences. Yet as the papers in this panel demonstrate, children often went off script, engaging in political speech and action that diverged sharply from adult expectations and, sometimes, even undercut the political projects for which they had been mobilized. Cumulatively, the papers in this panel show how a focus on children and youth offers new insights into momentous changes that occurred in China's domestic and international politics during the tumultuous years of the Cold War.

Area of Study: East and Inner Asia

## The Production and Reception of Books: Compilation, Information Management, and Access in 12th to 18th Century China

10:00 AM-11:30 AM

Chaired by Margaret Wan, *University of Utah*

Information Management in Chinese Woodblock-Printed Books from the 12th to 14th Century: Cases from the Reading Aids for Zizhi Tongjian

Ren-Yuan Li, *Academia Sinica*

Transmission, Access, and Canon Formation in Vernacular Short Stories: Popularity Vs. Prestige

Margaret Wan, *University of Utah*

On Literature and Lineage: A Genealogy Manuscript from Shandong

Zhenzhen Lu, *Bates College*

Discussant:

Roland Altenburger, *Julius Maximilian University of Würzburg*

**SESSION ABSTRACT:** The availability and format of books shaped their influence on Chinese society and culture, but these factors are as yet understudied. Drawing on sources ranging from fiction to genealogy to history, this panel explores new approaches to the transmission of knowledge through texts, analyzing information management, anthologizing, manuscript compilation, and how each of these affects audiences, access, and reception.

This virtual panel presents insights by scholars from three continents. Ren-Yuan Li examines reading aids for the Comprehensive Mirror for Aid in Government (Zizhi Tongjian) to demonstrate how editors and publishers between the 12th and 14th centuries developed methods to assist readers in quickly grasping the content of books; these became an integral part of book production in Late Imperial China. Margaret Wan charts the availability through anthologies and reprints of vernacular short stories (huaben) over space and time in the Ming and Qing; significant surprises in both obsolescence and transmission raise the question of how representative our conventional understanding of literary history is. Zhenzhen Lu analyzes a manuscript genealogy by Pu Songling and its relationship to Liaozhai Zhiyi to show connections to rural Shandong and the role of manuscript culture in the transmission of knowledge. Our discussant, Roland Altenburger, will draw on his extensive research on literary geography and cultural history. Together these case studies demonstrate the great impact of compilation processes, which shaped readers' access to and reception of texts.

Area of Study: *Inter-Area/Border Crossing*

## **Trans-Asian Cinemas at Home in the World**

10:00 AM-11:30 AM

Chaired by Zhen Zhang, *New York University*

### Discussants:

Daisuke Miyao, *University of California, San Diego*

Ran Ma, *Harvard-Yenching Institute*

Lotte Hoek, *University of Edinburgh*

Olivia Khoo, *Monash University*

Helen Leung, *Simon Fraser University*

This roundtable is a forum where several contributors from different parts of the world to the large collaborative project, *The Routledge Companion to Asian Cinemas* (forthcoming in late 2024), have a precious opportunity to meet virtually and share their findings and observations with each other and colleagues in the field. The feedback and new ideas inspired by the conversations will be either incorporated into the final revisions or future research. The volume was conceived and developed to update and revise existing scholarship on Asian cinema, a bulk of which primarily centers on national cinema, auteur criticism, and “extreme Asian genres” such as horror and martial arts.

To highlight both the scope of the volume and the diverse topics and methods informed by the volume’s trans-Asian, inter-media, and activist approaches, the participants of this roundtable will discuss the “origins” of the concept of Asian cinema in historically circumscribed context such as pre-WWII Japan and its repercussions until today (Miyao); contemporary border-crossing film practice by the Chinese-Korean filmmaker Zhang Lü, who has forged a film style that funnels between spatiality, cinematic temporality and affects (Ma); and the political significance of film societies and “open air screenings amidst protesting crowds in Bangladesh (Hoek). Beyond the geographical territories of Asia proper, we will also consider trans-Asian circuits of cinema and media exchange between Australia and Asia in the forms of official co-production, the runaway production, and the independent production and their products with varying appeals (Khoo), and finally, a diasporic Asian screen culture and community that has survived and thrived in the complex dynamics of Vancouver, Canada, with its commitment to place-specific aesthetics and a multidisciplinary and collaborative approach to filmmaking (Leung). The participants will have read each other’s contribution and identify the resonances and ramifications of their own and peer’s work in a dialogical and engaging manner, also in dialogue with the audience. The roundtable also serves as a platform for pre-publication publicity for the volume, which is hoped to be an updated critical reference for scholars, students and industry professionals interested in Asian cinemas in their homelands and across the world.

# FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2024, 1:30PM – 3:00PM EST

*Area of Study: East and Inner Asia*

## **Art and Empirical Inquiry in Pre-Modern China**

**1:30 PM-3:00 PM**

Chaired by Jennifer Purtle, *University of Toronto*

Discussants:

Eugene Wang, *Harvard University*

Michelle McCoy, *University of Pittsburgh*

Ziliang Liu, *Williams College*

Kathleen Ryor, *Carleton College*

Jennifer Purtle, *University of Toronto*

**SESSION ABSTRACT:** Long before the “Scientific Revolution” in Europe, Chinese scholars, technicians and artisans explored their world and produced empirical knowledge of it. This aspect of the intellectual history of China has moved well beyond its Eurocentric framing using the term “science,” and instead has focused on the ways in which indigenous epistemologies have generated various forms of knowledge about the world, both abstract and concrete. While narrow studies on topics such as optics have explored the intersection between art and “science” in China, the active role that visual art has played in the production of empirical knowledge (and vice versa) has often been overlooked.

This roundtable will explore the relationships between forms of art production in China before 1700 in relation to indigenous Chinese empirical knowledge, such as the analogs of astronomy (McCoy), botany (Ryor), chemistry (Liu), mathematics (Purtle), and physics (Wang), in addition other fields of inquiry raised by the audience members. Some questions for discussion will include: How does visual art enact or collaborate in the investigation of the physical world? What are the interconnections between fundamental concepts within Chinese cosmology, discrete areas of scientific knowledge, and visual imagery? How might the materiality of certain forms of Chinese art or visual culture contribute to concrete forms of scientific practice? How might the visual or descriptive aspects of different types of art act as adjacent or complementary forms of scientific investigation? Ultimately, this roundtable seeks to advance understanding of how indigenous ways of knowing and representing relate to each other.

*Area of Study: Northeast Asia - Korea Focused*

## **Art, Activism, and Social Engagement in South Korea**

**1:30 PM-3:00 PM**

Chaired by Hong Kal, *York University*

The Collective Project of Turöng As Participatory Art  
Inhye Kang, *Heidelberg University*

Protest Art

Hong Kal, *York University*

Remembering and Representing Sex Workers in Contemporary Korean Art

Vicki Kwon, *Royal Ontario Museum*

The Peril of Fetishizing Communication

Jae Hwan Lim, *University of California, San Diego*

Discussant:

Meiqin Wang, *California State University Northridge*

**SESSION ABSTRACT:** The question of art’s relation to society has gained renewed urgency in contemporary South Korea. The intensifying social injustice, economic disparities, and political corruption have prompted active involvement of artists in addressing pressing social issues and engaging in politics. This panel endeavors to gauge the empowering potential, limits, risks, and implications associated with artists’ social engagement through their art activism. It will also raise the question of the ethical quandaries inherent in the representation of marginalized communities and the challenges associated with the institutionalization of socially engaged art.

Consist of four papers, this panel will present 1) the artistic practices of Turöng, a minjung art collective which interacted with the oppressed people during the 1980s; 2) the activities of Dispatch art, a collective which involved in protests against forced eviction, labor injustice, and political corruption in the 2000s; 3) the works of artists and curators who attempted to address the lived experience of female sex workers and their communities; and 4) the impact of the institutionalization of artists’ socially engaged art under neoliberal socio-politics.

Area of Study: Southeast Asia

## Creating Spaces of Belonging through Music, Sound, and Dance in Cambodian and Cambodian American Communities

1:30 PM-3:00 PM

Chaired by Sokunthary Svay, *City University of New York, Queens College*

Voice As Cambodian American Architecture in Pailin Park  
Bradley DeMatteo, *University of Toronto*

Roam Vong: Cambodian American Dance  
Sophea Seng, *California State University, Long Beach*

Sensory Experiences of Belonging in Cambodian Collective Performing Arts Ceremonies  
Stephanie Khoury, *Tufts University*

Finding Phlaur: The Postmodern Human in Contemporary Cambodian Performance  
Allan Zheng, *University of California, Riverside*

**SESSION ABSTRACT:** Our panel centers the ways Cambodian and Cambodian American individuals and communities perform their presence and belonging in spaces where they are marginalized. Relying on ethnographic data on performance practices in Cambodia and the United States, we collectively ask: How can music, sound, and dance be used to inhabit one's surroundings? How do performances create and embody ideas of community and home? Amidst histories of contemporary migrations, intergenerational trauma, and social changes, people create a space of their own through the production of familiar sounds or the performance of known gestures and dance movements. These ephemeral, often repeated expressions of selves allow one to exist in unfamiliar, changing, or unwelcoming environments. Practices such as classical and social dances, religious music, songs, along with verbal interjections and sounds of popular games ground people into the land they live on, generate comfort, pride, and belonging in private and public spaces. From needing to affirm community amidst social and economic transformations, to feeling on the margins in conservative Cambodia, and being of Cambodian heritage in the US, we rely on concrete and diverse experiences to collectively discuss the processes by which Cambodian spaces are created through sound and movement, both in and out of Cambodia, and in and out of social norms and expectations. In doing so, we bring innovative perspectives on how notions of place and belonging are articulated across global Cambodia.

Area of Study: East and Inner Asia

## Funny/Not Funny: Changing Categories of Humor in China

1:30 PM-3:00 PM

Chaired by David Rolston, *University of Michigan*

Discussants:

Suoqiao Qian, *Newcastle University*  
Christopher Rea, *University of British Columbia*  
Xiao Rao, *University of North Carolina, Greensboro*

**SESSION ABSTRACT:** Humor is often judged by the single criterion of funny/not-funny, so one consideration for the humor researcher is: what are the “funny” categories that can help us find humor in the first place? But categories—especially humorous ones—also change and shift. So in thinking about what makes something funny, other questions and concerns arise. How does humor change through time? How do different genres, cultures, or practices affect the workings and uses of humor? In what ways do shifts in linguistic register change what audiences find funny? And if some humor can be confined to particular eras or communities, what happens when a joke or comic narrative moves across boundaries of time or culture? When is humor sustained across geography, genre, language, or time? And when, conversely, is it precisely at such boundaries that humor emerges? This virtual roundtable will explore how and why categories of humor endure or break down, focusing on late imperial and modern China.

Discussants will share perspectives and discoveries based on recent and ongoing research. Rao's exploration of the trope "beating is not beating" (打是不打) showcases how the humor of paradox operates at the intersection of Buddhist culture and vernacular comedic performance. Myhre traces the transformation of proverbs to jokes by tracking the use of wordplay in miscellany (zazuan 雜纂) and vernacular song (sanqu 散曲). Through analysis of the southern play *To Kill a Dog* (Shagou ji 殺狗記), Llamas uncovers comic moments in the shifts between ordinary sense, exaggeration, and the absurd. Qian investigates the workings of risible language across languages and cultures in the writings of the eccentric polyglot Gu Hongming 辜鴻銘. Rea considers questions of humor historiography, tracing moments during the past century when comic license in China has shifted. Together, discussants will use Chinese cases to invite a broader discussion of how, when, and why categories of humor change, as well as the kinds of qualities useful for scholars working in cross-linguistic humor research and translation.

Area of Study: *Digital Technology*

## Innovations in Digital Archives: An Asian Studies Perspective

1:30 PM-3:00 PM

Chaired by Gregory Green, *Cornell University*

Discussants:

Ellen Ambrosone, *Princeton University*

Richard Fox, *University of Victoria*

Carol Ng-He, *University of Chicago*

Jann Ronis, *Buddhist Digital Resource Center*

Emily Zinger, *Cornell University*

**SESSION ABSTRACT:** In an increasingly digital academic landscape, how can archives support researchers in innovative ways? Asian Studies digital collections must adapt to systems built largely for the presentation and preservation of Western materials while serving a global array of researchers within the inter- and trans-disciplinary fields of Asian Studies. Chaired by Gregory Green, (Cornell University) Curator of the John M. Echols Collection on Southeast Asia, discussants cover the challenges and opportunities of leveraging technology in the archives, including cross-institutional workflows, multilingual metadata, artificial intelligence, and usability beyond academia.

Ellen Ambrosone (Princeton University), South Asian Studies Librarian, discusses digital collections for the study of South Asia, including the South Asian Ephemera Collection and the inter-institutional initiative, the South Asia Open Archives. Both projects provide opportunities to reflect on collaboration, description, and outreach.

Richard Fox (University of Victoria), Chair of the Department of Pacific and Asian Studies, offers preliminary reflections on the Canadian Southeast Asian Studies Initiative, a LuceSEA-funded project to develop capacity in SEA Studies across a consortium of nine Canadian universities. He focuses on efforts to develop and expand access to research collections across this consortium.

Carol Ng-He (University of Chicago), Digital Collections Curator at the Center for the Art of East Asia, speaks on the development of digital collections for the Dispersed Chinese Art Digitization Project, an international project that digitally reconstructs damaged works of art and virtually places these models back in their original spatial contexts.

Jann Ronis (Buddhist Digital Resource Center), Executive Director, shares experiences adapting the BIBFRAME 2.0 model to describe digital archives of SEA palm leaf manuscripts. In recent years the BDRC has digitized millions of pages of palm leaf manuscripts and is now using BIBFRAME to model the complexities of SEA literature. This speaks to broader concerns of linked data, usability for a global audience, and OCR for metadata creation.

Emily Zinger (Cornell University), Southeast Asia Digital Librarian and project manager of the Southeast Asia Digital Library, covers the benefits of international aggregation in digitizing distributed archives for open access—focusing on

how these materials generate research, support teaching, and foster curiosity.

Area of Study: *East and Inner Asia*

## Queer/Trans-Related Dilemma, Activist Experiences, and Emotional Well-Being in Contemporary China

1:30 PM-3:00 PM

Chaired by Dian Dian, *Emory University*

Gender Minority Stress and Depressive Symptoms Among Transfeminine Individuals in China: Mediating and Moderating Roles of Coping

Cao Fang, *University of Washington, Seattle*

Embodied Fear and Actor Strategies: The Case of PFLAG China

Long Ren, *Free University*

Ethical Dilemma, Queer and Family Activism, and Maternal Logics: A Study of a Hotline

Yuan Wei, *Simon Fraser University*

**SESSION ABSTRACT:** Our panel focuses on the emotional world of trans/queer people and their families in contemporary China. Specifically, we are interested in the sense of ambivalence pervading queer/trans-related feelings, related to the social marginalization of gender/sexuality-based minorities as well as the escalating crackdown on LGBTQ activism in recent years. The study of queer/trans-related dilemma via the perspective of emotionality, we believe, can shed light on not only the evolving forms of cis-heteronormative hegemony and political control during Xi's era, but also the strategies and agency of queer/trans people and their families in opening up alternative horizons and spaces. Among the three papers, Fang probes into the underlying gender minority stressors associated with burdens of depression among trans feminine population in China; Ren studies the embodiment of fear and queer activists' strategies in reshaping the emotionality of state-society relationship; Wei examines the feeling of ambivalence among a group of mother activist and the underlying ethical dilemma in their endeavors to promote family acceptance of LGBTQ people. Despite the methodological differences between us—Fang's quantitative method versus Ren's and Wei's ethnographic method—we are all committed to understanding queer/trans wellbeing from a community-based approach. Fang is interested in the applicability of the psychological method developed out of the North American transgender community in the setting of China, and Ren and Wei are concerned with the possibility of queer activism amid China's unpredictable political environment. Our interdisciplinary methodologies cross-pollinate each other and promote the knowledge of Chinese queer/trans communities.



*Area of Study: Inter-Area/Border Crossing*  
**Tibetan Women Writing: Homeland,  
Borderland, and Diaspora**

**1:30 PM-3:00 PM**

Chaired by Janet Gyatso, *Harvard University*

Discussants:

Jue Liang, *Case Western Reserve University*  
Tashi Dekyid Monet, *University of Virginia*  
Dhondup Tashi Rekjong, *Northwestern University*  
Tsering Wangmo Dhomba, *Villanova University*  
Erin Burke, *University of Virginia*

**SESSION ABSTRACT:** Tibetan contemporary literature (bod kyi deng rabs rtsom rig) is known for its engagement with the theme of movement and diaspora in the twentieth century. However, it is also a site where Tibet's rich literary past and its dynamic connections with neighboring countries have long been in conversation.

By embracing the richness and dynamism of Tibetan contemporary writing, especially in the hands of women writers, this roundtable explores their writing as a place beyond the platitude of exotic land or a political dilemma, but as a generative site for many types of reflection. These include issues relevant to literature, modernity, globalization, and, of course, gender. Panelists speak as writers, translators, and scholars of contemporary literature by Tibetan women writers, and deploy a variety of scholarly methods – historical, literary/poetic analysis, religious studies, and sociological, to name a few. The writers in discussion also range from Tibet, Nepal, India, to China and the United States, each with their distinct choice of genre as well as range of experiences.

Each panelist brings to the roundtable their expertise on a variety of topics: • How Tibetan women writers play with elements of religious worldviews to create subject positions in their writing and to describe and define their creative work.

- Women writers who bear witness to everyday life through memoir, blogs, and social media posts.
- How Tibetan writers (in particular, Palmo Gyal, an essayist and scholar) navigate different epistemic spaces of academic writing and fictional/creative (gsar rtsom) writing with the opportunities and limitations each space presents.
- How Tibetan women writers employ religious metaphors and vocabularies as a literary device, effectively channeling their sense of exile in their poetry.
- The ambivalent attitude toward Tibetan Buddhism and women's role in it in Sinophone Tibetan writers like Baimanazhena.

After the short remarks, the chair will moderate a conversation on the intersections, challenges, and limitations of the topics proposed. With this open-ended format, not only are the panelists encouraged to engage with one another, they will also actively bring the audience into the conversation.

*Area of Study: South Asia*  
**Vernacular Archives: Research Methodologies  
for the Study of Early Twentieth Century  
South Asian Periodicals**

**1:30 PM-3:00 PM**

Chaired by Kritish Rajbhandari, *Reed College*

*A Wireless World: Betar Jagat and Its Role in Creating a  
Modern Bengali Identity*  
Sunayani Bhattacharya, *Saint Mary's College*

*At the Margins of the Hindi Periodical: Advertisements As  
Archives*  
Shobna Nijhawan, *York University*

*Dharma and Bhasa: The Role of the First Nepalbhasa  
Periodical in the Construction of Newar Identity and  
Language Resistance*  
Kritish Rajbhandari, *Reed College*

Discussant:

Anne Murphy, *University of British Columbia*

**SESSION ABSTRACT:** Vernacular print cultures played an important role in shaping colonial publics and modern identities across British India in the early twentieth century. As a technology of dissemination of vernacular writing, periodicals facilitated the development of local, regional and national literary formations and also brought forth nationalist articulations of linguistic, religious, caste, and class identities. This panel brings together researchers who engage with periodicals published in various South Asian languages—Hindi, Bengali and Nepalbhasa—in the early 20th century. Their papers explore the role periodicals played in shaping the public's social, political, religious and national sensibilities. How did upper-middle class readers imagine themselves as members and consumers of modern society? How did they circulate narratives of national or regional identity? What impact did the periodicals have in establishing vernacular languages within the regional, national, and international arena? The panel specifically aims to foster conversations on the methodologies and epistemologies of studying periodicals and engaging with primary sources by means of horizontal, vertical, and contextual reading practices. Through their specific case studies, the panelists also reflect on the form of the periodical that brought a variety of content from political tracts, literary texts, reformist and religious literature to advertisements, photographs, and news, to the readers. Lastly, they investigate how the periodicals worked in conjunction with other print genres and media technologies, such as the novel and the radio.

# FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2024 6:00PM – 7:30PM EST

## **LATE BREAKING SESSION - Godzilla Plus: Nostalgia, History, and Culture in the Latest Giant from Japan**

6:00 PM-7:30 PM

Chaired by Jonathan Abel, *Pennsylvania State University*

### Discussants:

William Tsutsui, *Ottawa University*  
Rachel DiNitto, *University of Oregon*  
Aaron Gerow, *Yale University*  
Katsuyuki Hidaka, *Ritsumeikan University*  
Jeffrey Angles, *Western Michigan University*

**SESSION ABSTRACT:** This roundtable discussion brings together experts on Japanese film, history, media studies, and ecocriticism to consider the contemporary politics and aesthetics surrounding the recent resuscitation of Japan's most famous monster. Since its 1954 film debut, *Godzilla* has been many things: an allegory of contemporary fears, a symbol of a Japan in the world, a hero of Asian pop culture, a sign of the times. Continuing this 70-year history of outsized importance, last year's *Gojira Minus One* reimagined and restarted the blockbuster series for the 21st century, becoming a worldwide sensation, and the highest grossing Japanese live-action film ever at the US box office. Beyond simply updating the creature itself with the latest special effects, the film more significantly and controversially, re-envisioned postwar history to make the series more relevant to today's audiences. Bill Tsutsui adds his expertise as a historian and megafan of the *Godzilla* franchise; Rachel DiNitto will bring her deep interests in ecocriticism and disaster cultures to bear; Aaron Gerow will provide a film historical perspective, evaluating the film's cinematic politics in relation to contemporary cinema; Katsuyuki Hidaka brings his understanding of recent fad for remembering postwar rapid development in recent culture. Our discussion will consider several contexts of this most recent addition to the *Godzilla* series, especially the aftermath of the 2011 Fukushima Triple Disaster, the emerging post-pandemic global culture, and contemporary Japanese politics.

Area of Study: Southeast Asia

## **A Discussion of *Faded Reels: The Art of Four Cambodian Filmmakers* (LinDa Saphan, 2022)**

6:00 PM-7:30 PM

Chaired by Penny Edwards, *University of California, Berkeley*

### Discussants:

LinDa Saphan, *College of Mount Saint Vincent*  
Leslie Barnes, *Australian National University*  
Rane Prak, *University of California, Los Angeles*  
Margaret Jack, *New York University*  
Emily Mitamura, *Brown University*

**SESSION ABSTRACT:** Centered on artist, film practitioner and sociologist LinDa Saphan's meticulously researched new book "*Faded Reels: The Art of Four Cambodian Filmmakers*" (Royal University of Phnom Penh, 2022) this roundtable will engage the author in conversation with five scholars from the disciplines of Ethnomusicology, Gender, Francophone Studies, Information Science and History.

Our aim is to explore the interventions and impact of *Faded Reels* in Cambodia and in the US, Australia and beyond. The author will first briefly introduce her book. Each participant will then respond and pose one or more questions in a conversation facilitated by the Chair, who will then open up the floor for questions from the audience. Specific questions will reflect the interdisciplinary expertise of the participants. Broader topics to be addressed might include:

What new sources and approaches has Saphan's book opened up for the study of film in Cambodia and Southeast Asia? How does the book's use of cinematic language in its analysis and historicization of such techniques as flashbacks and breaking the fourth wall in Cambodian films of the 1960s and 1970s, help Cambodians and foreigners understand both these early movies and their place in cinema history? What influence might lesser known films studied in the book have had on later generations of more globally renowned directors, such as Rithy Panh? How might this book be used in teaching at undergraduate and graduate levels in and beyond Asian Studies? What can the films introduced in the book teach us as cultural, historical and societal sources? Why has woman director Uong Citta (Kanthouk), been excluded from most earlier scholarship? What can we learn from this project about collaborative scholarship and publishing in Southeast Asia; and the translation and circulation of work in Southeast Asia? To what extent is such new scholarship part of broader projects of recovery, repair and the work of nostalgia?

Area of Study: East and Inner Asia

## China, in Pieces: Regionalism in Modern China's Nation and State Building

6:00 PM-7:30 PM

Chaired by Peter Carroll, *Northwestern University*

Guangxi Guanxi: Regionalism in Bai Chongxi's Political Career across the 1949 Divide

Kelly Hammond, *University of Arkansas*

Underground in Plain Sight: Regional Women's Publications and Communist Organizing in Wartime China

Kate Merkel-Hess, *Pennsylvania State University*

Juggling between National and Local Identities: Power and Belonging in Joseonjok (Korean Chinese) Literary Works

Se Hyun Kim, *McGill University*

Building China's Burma Road: Wartime Connectivity and Regionalism in China's Southwest (1937-45)

Andres Rodriguez, *University of Sydney*

Discussant:

Peter Carroll, *Northwestern University*

**SESSION ABSTRACT:** This interdisciplinary panel of modern China scholars working on diverse geographic regions and using various methodological approaches assesses how regional identities have been deployed since the 1911 fall of the Qing Dynasty to question, resist, and subvert nationalism and centralization in the Republic of China and the People's Republic of China. Kelly Hammond explores how Chinese Muslim General Bai Chongxi's deep connections to Guangxi raise questions about his commitment to the KMT's national vision. In doing so, she shows the KMT's state-building efforts from the 1930s to the 1950s were contingent on buy-in from non-Han participants with strong regional loyalties. Kate Merkel-Hess uses a case study of the periodical Jiangxi Women (*Jiangxi funü*) to investigate how underground communists in so-called "white areas" utilized regional identities to turn KMT women's mobilization toward communist ends. Se Hyun Kim explores the contemporary experiences of Joseonjok (Korean Chinese) to show how the South Korean and Chinese states loom over their daily experiences, with the regional geopolitics of the northern borderland shaping their fluid national identities. Moving to the Southwest, Andres Rodriguez examines how during World War II, the Burma Road was a key factor in creating new geographies of understanding for regional actors as it redefined their relationship with both China and the world. Together, these papers explore how regional ethnic, political, and cultural affiliations have framed and filtered allegiance to the nation, contributing to the construction of individual identities and alternate visions of the Chinese nation.

Area of Study: East and Inner Asia

## Circle of Life: Managing Bodies in Twentieth Century Hong Kong

6:00 PM-7:30 PM

Chaired by Carol Tsang, *University of Hong Kong*

Whose Body Is It?: The Politics of Abortion in Late Colonial Hong Kong

Carol Tsang, *University of Hong Kong*

Made to Measure: Quantifying Chinese Students' Bodies in Twentieth Century Hong Kong

Alison So, *Chinese University of Hong Kong*

Bathing Chinese Bodies: Hong Kong Bathhouses in the 1900s

Phoebe Tang, *University of Western Australia*

Sacralizing Bodies in Face of Modernity: Reinventing Meanings for the Dead in Twentieth Century Hong Kong

Bobby Tam, *University of Warwick*

Discussant:

Ria Sinha, *University of Hong Kong*

**SESSION ABSTRACT:** This panel explores how human bodies were managed and redefined at different life stages in twentieth century Hong Kong. Echoing Barbara Kruger, bodies from birth to death, young to old, and healthy to sick were a battleground where the state, physicians, sanitarians, educators and missionaries regulated life processes and offered new meanings to them. These regulations were intensified in twentieth century Hong Kong, where the body emerged as a critical site of contestation between British colonials and ordinary people, shaping the city's unique identity discourses. The four papers examine how body surveillance technologies quickly gained ground in abortion clinics, schools, bathhouses and mortuaries in twentieth century Hong Kong where stakeholders rationalized their intervention of life processes. Technologies of abortion, weighing, bathing and dissecting, while preached by professionals as "scientific", continued to be contested by many in the name of "tradition". Using the case of Hong Kong, the papers show that scientific medical advancement and information flow have further stratified access to healthcare across age, class, gender, ethnicity and ability. Local agents in Hong Kong, however, were not silent participants at the edge of the British and Chinese empires. They confronted, deflected and reframed body surveillance technologies with mixed agenda, decentering the West in global histories of body politics.

Area of Study: *Inter-Area/Border Crossing*  
**Intra-Asia Platforms: Creativity, Community,  
and Governance in Digital Lives**

6:00 PM-7:30 PM

Chaired by Jiarui Sun, *University of Chicago*

Transmedia Content Platforms: Webtoons and Web Novels  
Heekyoung Cho, *University of Washington*

Assembling a Lumpen Internet in Digital China: Agency  
from below, Platforms, and the State  
Jiaxi Hou, *University of Tokyo*

Sleeping Together, on a Platform: Embodied Resistance in  
Chinese Voice-Chat Rooms  
Jiarui Sun, *University of Chicago*

Loving Literature: Creative Labor and Platform Economics  
in Machiya Ryōhei's *Sakashita Ataru to, Shijō No Uchū*  
Nick Ogonek, *University of Chicago*

Discussant:

Amitabh Rai, *Queen Mary University of London*

**SESSION ABSTRACT:** Building on current re-evaluations of the “platform” concept through the lens of Area Studies, this panel spurs a collective theorization of the ontology of digital platforms. Bringing together the similarities and specificities of platformized digital lives across Asia, we seek to critically address the tension between the creativity and community opened up by platforms and the governance and extractivism they enact. To achieve a nuanced theorization of this issue, our presenters bring together theoretical innovations from platform studies, Area Studies, and literary studies while methodologically engaging with ethnography, cultural critique, and media archeology.

Heekyoung Cho discusses how Korean webtoons and web novels are co-created by the platforms they circulate on, showing that their forms and systems are the result of careful calibration to maximize commodity value. Jiaxi Hou describes how the increasingly unequal but widely platformized Chinese society has created a complex relationship between digital life and social differentiation, terming this emergent social formation the “lumpen Internet.” Jiarui Sun examines the trend of *lian shui*, where platform users sleep together in voice chat rooms, exploring the ways in which the seemingly totalizing force of platform time and attention economics may be resisted. And Nick Ogonek considers literary representations of platforms in contemporary Japanese fiction, and the relationship between creative labor and platformized value regimes. As we collectively analyze and discuss the manifold manifestations of agency and control on various platforms, this interdisciplinary panel proposes reparative understandings of platforms as contested spaces for social life and creativity in the digital age.

Area of Study: *Inter-Area/Border Crossing*  
**Toward an Expanded Field: Women's Manga  
Crossing Boundaries**

6:00 PM-7:30 PM

Chaired by Patrick Galbraith, *Senshu University*

Leading Manga Art and Literature Forward: How Moto  
Hagio Has Spread Women's Manga Globally  
Fusami Ogi, *Chikushi Jogakuen University*

Women Producing and Consuming Erotic Comics in Japan  
Patrick Galbraith, *Senshu University*

Groundbreaking Women: Recovering the History of  
Forgotten Prewar Female Mangaka  
Ron Stewart, *Daito Bunka University*

Contemporary Societal Issues in Women's Essay Manga  
Jessica Sugimoto, *Ryukoku University*

**SESSION ABSTRACT:** In the 21st century, the concept of manga has experienced dynamic change in terms of nationality and gender. Before 2000, “manga” was surely Japanese, linguistically. At present, manga is no longer limited to Japan, and rather represents a well-known comics style inspiring various types of international collaboration beyond Japan. In addition, Japanese manga, which had already established a market specifically for women readers, has inspired the participation of new voices who were previously marginalized in the male-dominated Western comics world. National boundaries look somewhat expungable in this case. In terms of manga, some artists work together beyond Japan, are creating expression crossing boundaries. Here, their own “life writing” (Elizabeth El Refaire 2012), often based on their experiences from their own perspectives beyond Japan, present manga as a global media from the start. This panel considers how the acceptance of manga has expanded beyond Japan and examines how artists globally use manga as a special form to go not only beyond Japan, but also establish a global culture characterized by independent, free expression.

# FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2024

*Area of Study: East and Inner Asia*

## **Journey to the West (2023): New Encounters from Cinema to Podcast, from Academic Theory to Public Engagement**

**8:00 PM-9:30 PM**

Chaired by Xuefei Ma, *The University of Tennessee, Knoxville*

Discussants:

Xinye Chen, *Fudan University*

Yilun Fan, *University of California, Riverside*

Xuefei Ma, *The University of Tennessee, Knoxville*

Xiangqi Qi, *University of California, Irvine*

**SESSION ABSTRACT:** One of the four masterworks of the Ming novel, *Journey to the West* 西游记 and its iconic characters have been appropriated into different media products for people to discuss the encounters of Chinese culture with the west in the ever-changing historical and global contexts. Director KONG Dashan's 2023 film *Journey to the West* 宇宙探索编辑部 remixes the story with folk science, media history and social psychology, offering nuances to understand contemporary China and its new journey to the west. In this roundtable, we explore these nuances and their implications in our specific fields – science fiction films, history of Chinese cinema, gender and social anxiety, and feminist philosophy – and the ways to engage them with the public.

Fan examines the film as a non-conventional entry within the historical coordinate of Chinese science fiction films and in their recent endeavor to establish a domestic science fiction film industry capable of competing against Hollywood. Qi situates the film in the generational history of Chinese cinema and discusses the unconventional film language, as both a film of database and a database film, diligently fostered by the young generation of filmmakers in their journey to the west. Focusing on male narcissism and female subjectivity, Chen elaborates how the film presents social anxiety in contemporary Chinese society and how the descriptions of a feminist killjoy become a key solution to the subjectivity issues. Ma analyzes the interactions of two leading characters, Ms. QIN Cairong and Mr. TANG Zhijun, through the lens of the Chinese category of the nannü (literally, male-female, “男女”) and discusses nannü's theoretical contribution to gender and sexuality studies in the Anglophone scholarship.

As hosts of the film's podcast discussion on Voice-Over 画外音 in June 2023, we draw from the audience's feedback and offer insights, from the perspective of public scholarship and engagement, on the reception of Chinese science fiction cinema, media innovations of the new-generation Chinese filmmakers, gender dynamics in contemporary China, and how the tradition-modern dynamics are taking shape in their new encounters with the west.

# 8:00PM – 9:30PM EST

*Area of Study: Northeast Asian – Japan Focused*

## **A Critical Disaster Studies Approach to Japan: Research Directions**

**8:00 PM-9:30 PM**

Chaired by Junko Otani, *Osaka University*

Disasters without Borders: The Coronavirus Pandemic, Global Climate Change, and the Ascendancy of Gradual Onset Disasters

James Goltz, *University of Colorado, Boulder*

Research on Women's Self-Help Community during Long-Term Evacuation: Following the 2011 Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant Accident

Li Jing, *Osaka University*

Storytelling and the Arts As Tools in Disaster Education: Tohoku University's “Kataritsugi” and the Stories of 3.11

Julia Gerster, *Tohoku University*

**SESSION ABSTRACT:** The social sciences have produced a considerable amount of studies on Japan's disasters, with research output peaking in the aftermath of two major recent earthquakes: the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake in 1995 and the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011. However, the latest disaster events, including the COVID-19 pandemic, have reoriented disaster research to question critically the very idea of disaster as a single, isolated event. Such an epistemological shift urges to regard disasters as events bounded up in the long-term embedded socio-political, historical, and economic processes and happening in a context of multi-hazard risks that cross temporal and spatial boundaries. Dr James Goltz's presentation will frame the concept of borderless disasters, which requires a reconsideration of the temporal, spatial, phasing and positioning classifications to accommodate the full range of disasters to which our globalised world is vulnerable. Ms Jing Li's research documents a reconstructive social innovation cycle driven by women evacuees of the 2011 Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant Accident. By taking the 2011 triple disaster as a reference point in time, Dr Julia Gerster discusses social memory as a critical issue of the long-term human interaction with disasters, elucidating the way it enables human beings to contain disasters through an exercise of disambiguation and framing that reveals its social construction beyond the time and space of the event. By adopting a critical disaster studies perspective with Japan as a case, this session will provide a framework for newer qualitative and theoretically oriented approaches to disaster.

Area of Study: East and Inner Asia

## A Liminal Space in Cold War Hong Kong from the Perspective of Infrastructures and Institutions

8:00 PM-9:30 PM

Chaired by Shuk Man Leung, *University of Hong Kong*

The Future Takes Wings: Kai Tak Airport and the Repositioning of Hong Kong, 1958-1978

Tze-ki Hon, *Beijing Normal University*

Sinophone Spaces in the Anglophone University: The Cold War, Chinese Student Politics, and "Chinese Studies" at Hong Kong University

Joshua Tan, *University of California, Santa Cruz*

Hong Kong Identity at Cold War: The Chinese Cultural Revolution Discourse in *Ming Pao*

Shuk Man Leung, *University of Hong Kong*

Marginalized Intellectuals in Hong Kong in the 1950s: A Study of the Democratic Socialists in the British Colony

Kenneth Yung, *Hong Kong University Press*

Discussants:

Angelina Chin, *Pomona College*

Brian Tsui, *Hong Kong Polytechnic University*

**SESSION ABSTRACT:** This panel examines the geopolitical, cultural, and historical developments of Cold War Hong Kong through two interrelated yet polarized lenses: infrastructures (i.e., airports and universities) and institutions (i.e., political groups and newspapers). As a controllable entity, infrastructures served as instruments of the capitalist bloc states to extend their power in Hong Kong. Hon Tze-ki calls Kai Tak Airport a pillar of "aeromobility" that transformed the colony into a Western bloc frontier by inscribing the lifestyle of "jet air aesthetic." The "Sinophone spaces" within the Anglophone University of Hong Kong in Joshua Tan's paper, reveal how the university was pulled into Cold War conflicts and Sino-American competition over refugee and diasporic Chinese students. As non-state organizations, the institutions considered in Shuk Man Leung's and Kenneth Yung's papers represent a force in-between Cold War extremes that formulated new knowledge. Such liminality, as Yung argues, was exemplified by democratic socialists, who could only survive in Hong Kong between hostile Communism in China and anti-utopian liberals in Taiwan. Leung argues that Ming Pao's nationalist discourse emphasized a position between five political orientations, which was achieved, geographically, through negotiating with local Maoism and capitalist-colonialism. Collectively, this panel reveals how knowledge of Cold War Hong Kong was shaped through the conceptual dialogue between infrastructures and institutions—state vs. non-state influence and manipulation, definite vs. ambiguous political positions, global vs. the local—and their creative potential to transcend the traditional understandings of the Cold War which privilege state actors and the dominant position of the United States.

Area of Study: Southeast Asia

## Archipelagic Southeast Asia and Marxist-Feminist Critique of Capitalism

8:00 PM-9:30 PM

Chaired by Thiti Jamkajornkeiat, *University of Victoria*

"Sugar and Spice" and the Materiality of the Commodity in Island Southeast Asia

Sylvia Tiwon, *University of California, Berkeley*

Articulating a Marxist-Feminist Critique of Colonial Capitalism through Communist Media Production

Rianne Subijanto, *City University of New York, Baruch College*

War and Social Reproduction: Rural Women in the Face of Counterinsurgency

Sarah Raymundo, *University of the Philippines, Diliman*

Planetary Questions and Marxist-Feminist Critique in the Philippine Context

Neferti Tadiar, *Barnard College, Columbia University*

**SESSION ABSTRACT:** Ruth I. Rahayu and Katharine McGregor's recent investigation of Indonesian Marxist feminist Umi Sardjono in the Palgrave Handbook of Communist Women Activists Around the World (2023) shows that Sardjono's critique of capitalism cannot be separated from issues of anti-imperialism, women/mother's emancipation, and children rights. Following current research in feminist Marxism like that of Tithi Bhattacharya and Kirsten Munro, we may call the last two issues "social reproduction."

The Indonesian Women's Movement (Gerwani), where Sardjono was its chairwoman from 1954-1965, drew political and intellectual inspiration from two celebrated activists against women's oppression in international and national histories: German revolutionary Clara Zetkin and Javanese anti-feudalist R.A. Kartini. While Sardjono's former intersectional critique points to what black feminist Marxist Claudia Jones calls "multiple oppression" through the interaction of ethnicity, gender, class, age, and colonialism, Gerwani's admiration of both Zetkin and Kartini indicates its internationalist outlook that allows a feminist dialogue from multiple locales.

Inspired by Sardjono's intersectional critique and Gerwani's internationalism, this panel brings Marxist feminist scholars from the "archipelagic" world of Southeast Asia – Indonesia and the Philippines – to think about the possibility of Marxist-feminist critique of capitalism through the overlapping and discrepant histories of capitalism and communism in two respective countries. Specifically, we aim to explore forms of intersectional critique emerging from the shared histories in the archipelagic world with the internationalist ethos of mutually learning from each other's feminist insights.

Area of Study: Inter-Area/Border Crossing

## Autoethnography in the Storytelling: Positionality of Gender, Generation, Culture, and Religion in the Study of Asian Regional Popular Music

8:00 PM-9:30 PM

Chaired by Ow Wei Chow, *Universiti Putra Malaysia*

Genderizing Chinese Rock: Negotiation of a New Rock  
Culture By Female Rockers in Modern China

Mingyu Na, *Universiti Putra Malaysia*

#Qingchun, #Huiyisha, #Huajiu Yinyue: Positioning the  
Cultural Belonging of Mandopop in the 2000s Among  
China's Millennials

Fan Li, *Baoding Preschool Normal College*

An Auto-Ethnography on the Bon Odori in Malaysia: Its  
Localization, Adaptability, and Controversy

Yannan Liu, *West Anhui University*

De-Religioning of Buddhist Music: Considering Inter-  
Religiosity in the "Popular Music" Made in Fo Guang Shan,  
Malaysia

Jiuchang Li, *Chongqing College of Mobile  
Communication*

Discussants:

Robin Visser, *University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill*

Ow Wei Chow, *Universiti Putra Malaysia*

**SESSION ABSTRACT:** Autoethnography is a qualitative research method using “personal experience (auto) to describe and interpret (graphy) cultural text, experiences, beliefs and practices (ethno)” (Adams et al., 2017). Instead of hiding behind the stage and distancing themselves with ethnographic objects with all possible objectivity, autoethnographers offer reflexivity from their unique experiences to see the ‘field’, and to make sense of their subjectivity related to the people, time, site, culture, and ideas that they encounter in the field. They play the role of a storyteller who chooses to incorporate positionality when starting to provide an illustration and interpretation of the ethnographic object, in which they illustrate not just what it is but also how it appears and what it means to them and their audience. Having a history of about half a century, this method becomes prevalent especially during and after the COVID-19 pandemic era as mobility and resources of ethnographers is significantly restricted and minimised.

This panel features a set of storytelling on the study of Asian regional popular music, where four ethnographers deal with distinctive topics on Chinese Rock, Mandopop, the Bon Odori Festival and Buddhist music. By positioning themselves in four respective positions according to gender, generation, ethnic culture and religion, they offer insight through gazing the many conflicts and critical issues in Asian popular music, with a hope to share their enlightenment through the realization of autoethnography and the practicality of this method in storytelling.

Area of Study: Northeast Asia

## Influence of American Cowboy Culture on Asia

8:00 PM-9:30 PM

Chaired by Meebae Lee, *Jeonbuk National University*

Transnational Forms: Swordplay, Assassins, Wandering  
Ronin and Cowboys

Jean Amato, *Fashion Institute of Technology*

Cowboys and Other Heroes: Popular Music in U.S. Military  
Camps in Asia 2

Hawsuk Song, *Jeonbuk National University*

Making of the Arizona Cowboy: Cold War and Performance  
Art

Jaye Rhee,

American Influence on Japanese Fashion in the 1950s:  
Blue Jeans and Fashion Shows

Yayoi Motohashi, *Kyoto University of the Arts*

Discussant:

Ying-chen Peng, *American University*

**SESSION ABSTRACT:** This panel contemplates on the influence of American culture in genres of popular music, fashion, and film. Blue jeans and American style popular music emerged in the expansion of American popular culture by means of cold war cultural hegemony and underground economy of consumer products—both officially and unofficially. Artist Jaye Rhee will give a presentation about the Arizona Cowboy Project while others make a presentation about genres such as fashion, literature, movies, and popular music. The popular songs like Arizona Cowboy (1955) and Shoeshine Boy (1952) in the US army camps in South Korea were powerful mediators of disseminating the indigenous perception of as well as the misconception of American popular culture. Subsequently the generation born in the 1940s (so-called baby boomers) in Asian countries of the U.S. alliance (South Korea, Taiwan, Japan, and so on) grew up consuming blue jeans, American popular music, and American-brand consumer products. This panel includes an expansive version of “American cowboy culture” in post-WWII Asia with the introduction of Hollywood movies, tourist attractions, and children’s toys. For example, many Japanese tourists used to go to Hawaii to participate in cowboy-themed entertainment in the 1980s while children developed desire for “Woody” (Sheriff Woody Pride) in Toy Story (1995).

Area of Study: Northeast Asia - Korea Focused

## Music As Cultural and Political Propaganda in Cold War Korea

8:00 PM-9:30 PM

Chaired by Hessun Kim, *Kookmin University*

Pianists' Studies Abroad in the United States and the Reality of National Prestige Enhancement: Focusing on Korean Newsreel Coverage As Government Propaganda in the 1950s and 1960s

Hye Seung Shin, *Sogang University*

The Process of Canonization of National Music after Liberation in South Korea

Eun Young Kim, *The Academy of Korean Studies*

Children, Performing Arts, and National Propaganda in South Korea during the Cold War Period

Hessun Kim, *Kookmin University*

Compositional Ambition and Musical Identity in Wartime Korea

Yoon Joo Hwang, *University of Central Florida*

**SESSION ABSTRACT:** Music is often described as a resource for crossing boundaries and expressing emotions. Nevertheless, modern Korean music and performances have often been restricted and constrained by politics and war. The political and ideological struggles and conflicts of the Cold War between the USSR and the United States led to widespread cultural battles on the Korean peninsula. Despite efforts to reform Korean musical culture in the post-liberation era, music started to diverge on account of the confrontation between two ideologies: communism and anti-communism. The various forms of singing and performing are reflections of the tense relationship between the US and the USSR during the cold war confrontation on the Korean peninsula; that political climate empowered music in its capacity to serve as a tool of political and cultural propaganda during the hottest years of confrontation between the two Koreas from 1945 to the 1960s. Scholars and musicians have often neglected the role of music in political propaganda in the context of the "Cold War." In this panel, scholars with interdisciplinary backgrounds: music performance, ethnomusicology, musicology, and Korean traditional music will examine fresh perspectives on music as cultural and political propaganda by examining government documents, performance recordings, news sources, music scores, and song texts.

Area of Study: Northeast Asian – Japan Focused

## National(ist) Reinventions in Postwar Japan

8:00 PM-9:30 PM

Chaired by Reto Hofmann, *Curtin University*

Japan Boom: Nationalism and Consumerism in 1950s Japan

Kim Brandt, *Columbia University*

The Japanese Right and the Reformulation of Nationalism after World War II

Reto Hofmann, *Curtin University*

Police Power As Subject of History: The Writings of Sassa Atsuyuki

Max Ward, *Middlebury College*

Discussant:

Louise Young, *University of Wisconsin, Madison*

**SESSION ABSTRACT:** The nationalism of prewar Japan has been qualified as "ultra," "militarist," or "fascist," which has largely meant that it was "anti-democratic." By contrast, the few studies of postwar Japanese nationalism suggest that it was, along with the rest of Japan, compatible with democracy. Our panel challenges this binary by focusing on processes of nationalist reinvention which profoundly shaped the remaking of the Japanese state, nation, and economy. We present new research that changes our understanding of nationalism across the twentieth-century and the ways in which it defined postwar Japan.

In the first paper, Kim Brandt explores how consumerist nationalism—or nationalist consumerism—developed in the 1950s to mobilize society once again for international competition. In the second paper, Reto Hofmann examines the extent to which architects of the wartime New Order contributed to the making of the postwar ruling class and its nationalist political culture. In the final paper, Max Ward analyzes the writings of the security official Sassa Atsuyuki, and how they depict the police as the agent of postwar Japanese history. Louise Young will discuss how the papers re-examine the relationship between nationalism and "postwar," highlighting unstudied ways in which early twentieth-century nationalist actors, policies, and institutions became central to the new era.



Area of Study: Southeast Asia

## Sowing Seeds, Harvesting Fluency: Learning and Sustaining Southeast Asian Language and Culture through Agriculture-Inspired Content-Based Instruction

8:00 PM-9:30 PM

Chaired by Rhodalyne Gallo-Crail, *Northern Illinois University*

Integrating Foreign Language 5Cs in Creating Instructional Materials

Rhodalyne Gallo-Crail, *Northern Illinois University*

Over a Cup of Coffee: Brewing Opportunities in Southeast Asia through Coffee-Based Language Immersion Programs

Lady Aileen Orsal, *De La Salle University*

Harvesting Linguistic Growth: Integrating Community Involvement in Agriculture-Based Language Instruction

Ken Calang, *Central Luzon State University*

From Fulbright-Hays Cultural Immersion to Language Instruction: Role of Learners' Experiences in the Agriculture-Based Study Abroad Program Towards Development of Modules for Filipino Classes

Paul Edleman, *Sauk Valley Community College*

Discussant:

Lady Aileen Orsal, *De La Salle University*

**SESSION ABSTRACT:** The World Readiness Standard for Learning Languages developed by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages highlights the importance of culture and communities in cultivating lifelong communicative skills in students relevant to the context of the languages they are studying. Learning Southeast Asian languages through agriculture-inspired content-based instruction involves experiential learning that immerses students in authentic agricultural settings, enabling them to develop linguistic fluency while gaining firsthand cultural insights and practical knowledge from farmers, fisherfolks, and experts in the field. Agricultural education is undoubtedly a relevant area in understanding the daily lives of Southeast Asians with the region being known as a large global contributor of agricultural products. With this, using agriculture-inspired initiatives as backbone in developing language skills provides a more impactful language instruction, sustains language preservation programs, and fosters intercultural exchanges between the foreign language learners and the native speakers. This session aims to advocate language instruction through agriculture-based programs cultivating authentic and relevant linguistic skills while building connections between the language and community. It explores diverse ways of providing meaningful interactions that enhance fluency in the use of language in real-world settings while also building critical thinking skills in addressing community-based challenges during the agricultural immersion. The session aims to provide a holistic approach in understanding the various facets of language learning through the experiences of the students, the teachers, the community members, and the language researchers.

Area of Study: Southeast Asia

## Strategies to Survive, Resist, and Win the War: Comparative Historical Perspectives from Veterans and Youth in Timor Leste, Vietnam, and the Philippines

8:00 PM-9:30 PM

Chaired by Therese Nguyen, *Universidade Nacional Timor Leste*

Forsaken Young People of East Timor: "To What Extend Does Young People Contribute to Peace and Development of Post Independent East Timor?"

Azerino Vieira, *Universidade da Paz (UNPAZ)*

Commander David Daitula: A Heroic Journey for Timor-Leste's Independence – Lessons for the Young Generation  
Jose Cornelio Guterres, *Universidade da Paz (UNPAZ)*,

Food for Survival in War and Alternative Food to Survive in Climate Change: Comparative Experiences in Timor-Leste and Vietnam

Therese Nguyen, *Universidade Nacional Timor Leste*

Environmental History and Climate Justice from the Perspectives of Youth and Resistance War Veterans in East Timor/Timor Leste, the Philippines, and Indonesia: A Comparative Analysis

Jacqueline Siapno, *Universidade da Paz (UNPAZ)*,

**SESSION ABSTRACT:** Inter-generational wisdom-sharing: our panel is composed of four trans-disciplinary presenters using comparative historical approaches to create new spaces and engender new dialogues between youth and veterans. Dr. Nguyen's paper delves into the local knowledge about food, primarily gathered through interviews with guerilla veterans. Through these interviews, the author has documented new knowledge about different food preservation techniques learned during the war and passed down from their ancestors. Dr. Guterres' research explores the historical context and challenges faced by Timor-Leste as it sought freedom, with emphasis on Commander David Daitula's unwavering dedication, loyalty, courage, creativity, daring initiative, military strategy, and leadership. Dr. Siapno's paper examines the environmental injustice that occurred (in addition to the violation of the rights of humans), including conflicts over extraction of natural resources, land grabbing, deforestation, and deep sea mining during the Martial Law Period in the Philippines and Portuguese and Indonesian colonization of Timor Leste. Dr. Vieira's paper examines more than two decades of Timor Leste as an independent state, embracing the neo-liberal economic model as a basis for national economic development. Drawing from the hypothesis proposed by Hendrick Urdal (2004), Dr. Vieira's paper will analyse the claim that a country with large youth cohorts will put social and political pressure on social institutions such as the labour market and educational system and cause grievances that may result in violent conflict. What can youth learn from war veterans about survival and sustainability?

Area of Study: Northeast Asian – Japan Focused

## Widening the World: Translating Japanese Children's Literature into English

8:00 PM-9:30 PM

Chaired by Melek Ortabasi, *Simon Fraser University*

Discussants:

Cathy Hirano, *Independent Scholars of Asia*

David Boyd, *University of North Carolina, Charlotte*

Avery Udagawa, *Independent Scholars of Asia*

Takami Nieda, *Seattle Central College*

Emily Balistreri, *Independent Scholars of Asia*

**SESSION ABSTRACT:** As language professionals, literary translators are vital partners to academic researchers, providing access to literary texts and thereby greatly expanding their audience. Instrumental in the production of world literature, they are the often “invisible” mediators who negotiate the complex interlingual work required to translate. They are also those who work with the publishing industry to ensure that a text will travel beyond its original borders. In the Anglophone world, known for its resistance to translated literature regardless of genre, this is often difficult and largely thankless work. In an effort to recognize and publicize their important contributions, this roundtable gathers some of the foremost translators in the field of children's literature translation in particular.

Emily Balistreri has translated Eiko Kadono's *Kiki's Delivery Service* among other middle grade titles—as well as literally hundreds of picture books in-house for promotional purposes. David Boyd, who teaches translation at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, has also translated numerous picture books. With Asa Yoneda, he is currently working on a new translation of Kenji Miyazawa's *Ginga tetsudō no yoru*. Avery Fischer Udagawa's translations include Sachiko Kashiwaba's *Temple Alley Summer*, which won the 2022 Mildred L. Batchelder Award for translated children's literature published in the United States. Cathy Hirano has been translating children's and YA literature since the 1980s; her translations have won the Michael L. Printz Honor Award, the Mildred L. Batchelder Award, and the Boston Globe-Horn Book Award. Takami Nieda, winner of the Freeman Book Award for YA Literature for her translations of *GO* by Kazuki Kaneshiro and *The Color of the Sky Is the Shape of the Heart* by Chesil, teaches writing and translation at Seattle Central College.

We will discuss the challenges and pleasures of translating Japanese literature for English language audiences, focusing particularly on the following issues: • The common misconception that because children's books are “simple” they are therefore easy to translate

- How the process of “curating” world literature involves translators' negotiation with the expectations of English-language editors and publishers
- The fact that translation of children's literature into English can function as a form of decolonization and resistance