

Conference/Symposia Reports

Eric Strahorn, Florida Gulf Coast University, Editor

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

We encourage conference organizers to provide individual submissions, which should be thematic and descriptive (i.e. not merely a listing of papers presented). The following are some more specific suggestions regarding content.

1. Overall theme title, location of conference, and origins of participants.
2. Topics discussed within the overall theme and the predominant disciplines represented by the participants.
3. The Organizing Committee and Sponsors.

4. A succinct description of the theme.
5. Major issues raised within the theme.
6. Presenters and their topics (if space permits).
7. Contact email address for abstracts or other details on papers and presentations.

Reports should be approximately 500–800 words in length. Submissions by e-mail are preferred, and should be sent to Dr. Eric Strahorn at estraho@fgcu.edu.

Report on “Popular Culture Co-productions and Collaborations in East and Southeast Asia”

Kyoto, December 10–11, 2008

Submitted by Nissim Kadosh Otmazgin, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

On December 10 and 11, 2008, a workshop entitled “Popular Culture Co-productions and Collaborations in East and Southeast Asia” was held at the Center for Southeast Asia, Kyoto University. The workshop was co-sponsored by the Center for Southeast Asian Studies and the GCOE Program.

The purpose of this workshop was to examine the recently emerging regional cultural production system in East and Southeast Asia and analyze some of the latest co-productions and collaborations in the making and marketing of musical and visual cultural commodities, such as television dramas, music, animation, and movies. The papers at the workshop focused on recent collaboration and co-productions relating to the Japanese, Chinese, and Korean, Philippine, and Indonesian culture industries.

The workshop is a part of a wider research project that seeks to understand the cultural economics underlying this field and the processes of region-wide appropriation of cultural formulas and styles. Beyond the case studies that were examined, this project offers an opportunity to further explore the production and exploitation of cultural imaginaries in the context of intensive regional circulation of cultural commodities and images and present a potential for a regional economy of transcultural production. More over, this project attempts to develop a theoretically plausible framework to look at the transnational flow and consumption of popular culture across East and Southeast Asia and not settle only relying on the globalization theory or the global-local relations.

Four key themes emerged in the discussions:

(1) There is a discipline-bound limitation in the available literature on the issue of popular culture in Asia. Cultural critics focus mainly on the consumption and reception of popular cultural products in specific Asian countries while neglecting the networks of production and distribution that put these products into circulation. International studies experts train their lenses on security and political economy but offer very few insights into the cultural dimensions of international relations. Hence, there is a strong need for an interdisciplinary approach that will combine these two approaches.

(2) There is also a need for developing a regionally-based framework of analysis that can more accurately recognize and map densities and specificities which are transnational in nature yet regionally embedded. Not all popular culture flows in Asia are simply a manifestation of globalization or of global-local relations.

(3) Regions are a major source of creation. Transnational collaborations and co-productions have a great potential not only to market popular culture products but to also create common commodities and genres depicted as “Asian.”

(4) Popular culture collaborations and co-productions may underpin regionalization by creating and disseminating the same variety of popular culture products among different people from different places in East and Southeast Asia, and with them the consequential appropriation of fashions, perceptions, beliefs, and ideals.

A group of twelve scholars participated in this project. They include Eyal Ben Ari, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem; Nissim Otmazgin, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem; Robert Efid, Seattle University; Lisa Yuk Ming Leung, Lingnan University; Caroline Hau, Kyoto University; Shim Doobo, Sungshin University; Jean-Marie Bouissou, Sciences Po; Nakano Yoshiko, Hong Kong University; Kukhee Choo, University of Tokyo; Abidin Kusno, University of British Columbia; Rolando B. Tolentino, the University of the Philippines; and Helena Grinshpun, Kyoto University.

Fourth Annual Workshop of the Asian Network for the Study of Local China (ANSLoC)

Taipei, May 7–10, 2009

Submitted by: John Donaldson, Singapore Management University

The fourth annual workshop of the Asian Network for the Study of Local China (ANSLoC) convened in May 2009 in Taipei. This year’s workshop, co-hosted by National Taiwan University’s (NTU) Center for China Studies and National Chengchi University’s Department of Political Science, featured six papers focusing on local governance in China.

Hongyi Lai, School of Contemporary Chinese Studies, University of Nottingham, presented his observations regarding the changes in the local management of natural disasters and other crises, particularly the SARS outbreak and Sichuan earthquake. S. Philip

Hsu, director the Centre for Chinese Studies at NTU analyzed the new Wenling model of elections in Zhejiang. In the paper, Hsu applied data gathered during fieldwork and interviews to discuss the significance of reforms for broader political liberalization in China. Jae Ho Chung of Seoul National University traced the historical continuities and institutional resilience of central-local dynamics in China, focusing on how an understanding of history illuminates the balance of power between Beijing and its local governments. Tse-Kang Leng, from National Chengchi University, based on extensive fieldwork, analyzed the challenges facing Shanghai's Yangpu District as it implements a development model based on Silicon Valley in California and research triangle in North Carolina. Crison Shiuh-shen Chien of the Department of Geography of National Taiwan University presented his research on cooperation among China's provinces regarding development, poverty alleviation and fighting corruption. Finally, Tao-chiu Lam, Department of Management and Marketing, Hong Kong Polytechnic University, focused on the bureaucratic systems related to environmental protection in Guangzhou. His research challenges and clarifies the poorly understood institutional construct of "system" in the Chinese context and the term "shiyedanwei," often (misleadingly, Lam argues) translated as "service organization."

Also participating in the workshop as discussants were Szu-chien Hsu, Institute of Political Science, Academia Sinica; Him Chung, Department of Geography, Hong Kong Baptist University; and John Donaldson, School of Social Sciences, Singapore Management University.

Throughout the workshop, participants discussed several themes. These include changes in governance and institutionalization, the challenges emerging from the deepening of liberalization, and the signs and effects of Beijing's efforts to recentralize control.

Established in 2005, ANSLoC (<http://www.ansloc.net>) is an organization of Asia-based scholars who research China's local government and central-local relations. The organization's annual workshop is held in turn in each of the founding member's countries or regions. Accordingly, the 2006 inaugural workshop was held in South Korea (Seoul National University), the 2007 workshop in Singapore (Singapore Management University), and the 2008 workshop in Hong Kong (Hong Kong Polytechnic University). In 2010, ANSLoC's annual workshop will again be hosted by Seoul National University.

Report on "Japanese-Chinese History Scholars Forum"

Tokyo, Japan, December 6–7, 2008

Submitted by Mike Shi-chi Lan, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

An international symposium, "Japanese-Chinese History Scholars Forum," sponsored by Keio University's scientific research grant "Investigation on China's interpretation of Japanese history and history research" was held on the Mita campus of Keio University in Tokyo, 6–7 December, 2008.

Designed by Shin Kawashima and organized by Tomoki Kamo and other Japanese scholars, the symposium set out to explore the following topics: (1) in the realm of empirical research, what is considered an "issue"? (2) how was the issue of "interpretation

of history" created? (3) in promoting joint history research, what are the points of contention? (4) is it possible to promote joint research beyond the singular national history? In proposing these questions, the organizers aimed to establish the symposium as a platform that combined "history research" and "interpretation of history" in its discussion.

The symposium started with opening remarks by Ryoko Ichika (Keio University). Shin'ichi Kitaoka (University of Tokyo) and Ping Bu (Chinese Academy of Social Sciences) respectively gave the two keynote speeches on the general issues and prospect of joint research on Japanese-Chinese history, followed by a roundtable discussion by Tatsuo Yamada (Keio University), Nobuko Kosuge (Yamanashi Gakuin University), and Bing Sang (Sun Yat-sen University).

Three sessions of paper presentations were conducted during the first day of the symposium. The first session, chaired by Ryuji Hattori (Chuo University), was centered on the theme of "History before and after the outbreak of the Japanese-Chinese War"; Naotaka Uchida (Shukutoku University) discussed pre-war Japanese-Chinese relations as seen through the Ji-Cha Political Affairs Commission in northern China, while Yoshie Takamitsu (Chiba University) discussed the Japanese-Chinese War in the context of American foreign policy; Qianping Chen (Nanjing University) commented on the papers. The second session, chaired by Akira Yamada (Meiji University), focused on "History of the Japanese-Chinese War from the perspective of military history"; Li Chang (Academia Sinica) presented a historiographical analysis of military confrontation in Chinese publications and Yoko Kato (University of Tokyo) analyzed the Japanese scholarship of military history; commentator Nobuo Tajima (Seijo University) enriched the discussion by drawing comparisons with Nazi Germany's military aid to China. The third session, chaired by Ryoko Ichika (Keio University), dealt with the issue of "Nanjing" and its relevant questions. Lianhong Zhang (Nanjing Normal University) analyzed the Nationalist government's post-war social survey on the "Nanjing massacre", while Shin Kawashima (University of Tokyo) examined living conditions in Nanjing under the Wang Jingwei regime; two Japanese experts who have published extensively on the issue of Nanjing, Tokushi Kasahara (Tsuru University) and Yuichi Kanemaru (Ritsumeikan University) respectively provided comments on the two Nanjing papers.

The second day of the symposium began with the fourth session on "Hanjian and other Chinese collaborating with Japan." The session was chaired by Jianhui Liu (International Research Center for Japanese Studies) and featured a presentation by Jie Liu (Waseda University) on the historical significance of Wang Jingwei's Nanjing government and the issue of war responsibilities; a presentation by Shihua Wang (Chinese Academy of Social Sciences) on food trade mechanism and network in northern China under the Japanese occupation; I-lin Ho (National Taipei University of Education) added the Taiwanese dimension to the issue of collaboration with his comments, and Kazuro Ichitani (Chubu University) also commented on this session. The fifth session, chaired by Yujiro Murata (University of Tokyo), was aptly titled "Attempts to go beyond the singular national history"; Hongyun Sun (Sun Yat-sen University) discussed the influence of Japanese scholars and scholarship in shaping the field of political science in China in the early twentieth century; Donglan Huang

(Aichi Prefectural University) examined and compared the image of the “other” in pre-modern history as represented in Japan’s and China’s textbooks; and Tetsuya Sakai (University of Tokyo) and Takashi Saga (University of Shizuoka) provided comments. The sixth session, chaired by Kenichiro Hirano (Waseda University), dealt with “the issue of history textbooks and its implication on East Asian international relations”; three papers were presented: Haruo Tohmatsu (Tamagawa University) discussed the politics of history textbooks between Japan and China by drawing comparison with textbooks from Korea, Taiwan, and the United States; Nahoko Eto (Keio University) examined China’s policy-making process in response to Japan’s textbook controversy in 1982; and Xueping Wang (Kwansei Gakuin University) analyzed Japan’s discussion of China’s textbooks since the 1970s and the more recent criticism (and its bias) since 2005; Biao Yang (East China Normal University) commented on these papers from the perspective of history education. The seventh session, chaired by Mike Shi-chi Lan (Nanyang Technological University), further expanded the scope of existing scholarship by reaching into the issue of “memory and interpretation of history”; Yoshinobu Higurashi (Kagoshima University) examined the “Tokyo Trial” in the context of international politics; Ryota Murai (Komazawa University) provided a historical analysis of the Yasukuni Shrine and the relevant issue of commemoration in post-war Japanese politics; and Ryuji Hattori (Chuo University) and Qisheng Wang (Chinese Academy of Social Sciences) provided comments. The two-day symposium concluded with a session of general discussion, chaired by Ryoko Ichika (Keiai University). A panel of three leading historians, Yoko Kato (University of Tokyo), Toru Kubo (Shinshu University), and Hongmin Chen (Zhejiang University), led the discussion.

In comparison to past meetings and conferences that were proposed to promote historical dialogue between Japan and China, this symposium was particularly successful by achieving three goals set out by its organizers: 1) it presented an atmosphere and a high level of “academic dialogue” between Japan and China rarely found among non-scholars and media; 2) it provided a rare cross-disciplinary platform by giving distinguished scholars of Japanese history (such as Yoko Kato, Tetsuya Sakai, and Yoshinobu Higurashi) and Western history (such as Nobuo Tajima and Nobuko Kosuge) a rare opportunity to experience and engage “real and vivid” dialogue with China and scholars of Chinese history; 3) it presented a high level of scholarly work in Chinese history from China to the Japanese scholars and audience and, consequently, helped to change the mis-perception of many Japanese—including some historians of Japanese and Western history—who tended to dismiss history works from China as more political than academic.

Of course, one symposium could not resolve all issues or controversy over the interpretation of Japanese-Chinese history. But as this symposium has proved, open and scholarly dialogue could help to resolve some of the points of contention and pave ways for future exploration and collaboration across national boundaries. The post-symposium plan is underway to publish a book about Sino-Japanese historical problems, in which each history controversy will be presented with historical documents and interpretations from both sides.

Report on the ACPS-NCCU International Symposium on “Peaceful Development and Deepening Integration in the Greater China Region”

Taipei, July 11–12, 2009

Submitted by Baogang Guo, Association of Chinese Political Studies

In collaboration with the College of International Affairs at the National Chengchi University (NCCU), the ACPS held a joint conference on “Peaceful Development and Deepening Integration in the Greater China Region” in Taipei, June 11 and 12, 2009. The co-sponsors of the conference also include Taiwan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Science Council, Mainland Affairs Council, Research, Development and Evaluation Commission, Foundation on Asia-Pacific Peace Studies, and Research and Development Office of the NCCU. Over 100 Scholars from Taiwan, the United States, Chinese Mainland, Hong Kong, Macao, Australia, Canada, Belgium, Germany, Italy, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea, Portugal and Romania participated in the conference, and presented over 50 papers on 19 panels. Topics included: “the future of mainland China-Taiwan relations,” “Taiwan’s mainland policy” “ The U.S. factors in cross-strait relations,” “China and the world,” “political culture and Taiwanese identity,” “Taiwan experience and its impact on mainland China,” “China in transition,” “Taiwan’s political development and its implications,” “the development of civil society in mainland China and Taiwan,” and “globalization and cross-strait relations.” The participants took notes of the recent positive development in the cross-strait relations, and provided many insightful and in-depth analyses of the background, political logic, and economic implications of these encouraging developments. President Se-Hwa Wu of the NCCU and Dr. Baogang Guo, President of the ACPS made remarks at the opening ceremony. Although Mr. Wang Jin-pyng, the President of Taiwan’s Legislative Yuan, was unable to deliver his keynote speech at the opening ceremony due to a last-minute schedule change, several members from the Legislative Yuan and the Control Yuan attended the conference and presided over several panels. Two dozen NCCU graduate students volunteered to provide services to the conference. Dr. In-ming Lee, Dean of the College of International Affairs, and Dr. Chung-Chian Teng devoted a tremendous amount of time, energy, and resources to the conference. ACPS will publish a special issue on the cross-strait relations, and a number of co-edited volumes based on the selected papers presented to the conference.

“The 30th Anniversary of China-U.S. Relations: China’s Domestic Politics and International Relations”

Beijing, July 4–5, 2009

Submitted by Sujian Guo, Association of Chinese Political Studies

This ACPS-sponsored international symposium was successfully held between July 4–5, 2009 in Beijing in collaboration with the School of International Studies at Renmin University of China. The broad theme of the conference was “The 30th Anniversary of China-U.S. Relations: China’s Domestic Politics and International Relations.” Professor Chen Yue, Deputy Dean of School of

International Studies chaired the opening sessions. Opening speeches were delivered by Professor Yuan Wei, Vice President of Renmin University of China, Professor Liu Lihua, Party Secretary of Inner Mongolia University, Professor Sujian Guo, PR Director of Association of Chinese Political Studies, Professor Chen Jian, Dean of School of International Studies and President of the United Nations Association of China.

The two-day conference brought together more than seventy China studies scholars, among whom about thirty were from outside of mainland China, such as the U.S., Canada, Australia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan, UK, Belgium, and Poland. There were 12 panels and about 60 papers presented. Participants explored a wide variety of topics related to the central theme, such as China-US Relations in a Changing Global Context, the 30th Anniversary of China-U.S. Relations: History and Status, An Understanding of China and U.S. Foreign Policy Behavior, Retrospect and Prospects for China-U.S. Relations, China-US Relations: Soft Power and Image Constructs, China's Reform and Opening-up and China-U.S. Relations I, China's Reform and Opening-up and China-U.S. Relations II, State- Society Relations, The Cross Taiwan Strait Relations, The Political Economy of China's Reform and Opening-up, The International Order in Transition and China-U.S. Relations, The Obama Administration's China Policy and Prospects for China-U.S. Ties.

Report on "The Third South and Southeast Asia Association for the Study of Culture and Religion (SSEASR) Conference"

Denpasar, Indonesia, June 3–6, 2009

Submitted by Amarjiva Lochan, South and Southeast Asia Association for the Study of Culture and Religion

Some 567 participants from 63 countries, discussing the relationship between water, culture, and religion participated at the 3rd South and Southeast Asia Association for the Study of Culture and Religion (SSEASR) Conference which was held at Denpasar, Bali/Indonesia, and successfully organised by the Institute Seni Indonesia (ISI) and Universitas Hindu Indonesia (UNHI) between June 3–6, 2009.

The Head of the Organising Committee, Prof I Wayan Rai, Rector, ISI and the Chair of the Steering Committee Prof IGB Yudha Triguna, Rector, UNHI welcomed experts from around the world. SSEASR's President, Dr. Amarjiva Lochan, said that people need to understand not only the role of culture and religion as a foundation for life, but water as an important element for life in the universe. "We want to touch on religion and culture respecting water, so there will be awareness to preserve it," he said.

Professor Wang Gungwu, Chairman of the East Asian Institute, National University of Singapore, gave the inaugural keynote speech, talking about cultural diffusion and the inter-ocean exchange in the past and present. He postulated that the open seas should stay open and not become stages of future conflicts.

Academic sessions followed, with presentations about seas, ports, isles and the spreading of religion, ethnicity and religion, and culture and religion along the rivers. Furthermore, the sacred Ganges in India and the mysterious Mekong River in Southeast Asia dominated some other presentations.

In this context, it was very enlightening to hear the plenary address of Professor Emeritus Frits Staal, University of California at Berkeley, about the theme of River Foursomes, touching on the worldviews of ancient India and Mesopotamia. Prof Rosalind Hackett, IAHR President, was also present and chaired a significant panel on the role of water and rituals in other parts of the world civilisations. Prof Morny Joy, the EC Member of the IAHR, came up with two significant panels on Women and Religion which was highlighted in the local media.

Professor Ms. Yolotl Gonzales Torres from Mexico City gave another fascinating plenary talk about temple-mountains in ancient Cambodia and Meso-America. On the third day of the conference, she also presented a bold and rare film from the 1930s by Miguel Covarrubias about his "Island of Bali"—still the most authoritative piece of ethnological studies about the Balinese culture.

Cultural "gamelan" and dance performances signalled the end of the busy conference days, while a cultural afternoon tour on June 6 to the King's Palace of Gianyar and a farewell dinner at Ubud, the cultural heart of Bali, officially ended the event in style.

Finally, there was the important announcement that the 4th SSEASR Conference will be held in the Kingdom of Bhutan in 2011.

Report on "The Melbourne Conference on China: 60 Years of the People's Republic: Transformations and Challenges"

Melbourne, Australia, July 13–14, 2009

Submitted by Yangzi Sima, The University of Melbourne

The first Melbourne Conference on China, organized by the Faculty of Arts, the University of Melbourne, took place on Monday 13 July and Tuesday 14 July 2009 at the University's Asia Institute on its Parkville campus. Titled '60 Years of the People's Republic: Transformations and Challenges,' the event attracted an international audience of over 100, including researchers, educators, and specialists from China (including Hong Kong SAR and Macau SAR), Australia, the United States, the United Kingdom, South Korea, India, and Japan.

The conference had an impressive line-up of locally and internationally-renowned keynote speakers. On 13 July 2009 Professor Cheng Li from the Brookings Institution addressed the conference audience on China's rise to economic prosperity and related implications. His speech was titled 'The PRC Beyond 60: A Paradox of Hope and Fear.' Professor Li was interviewed by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) and appeared on the channel's evening news programs.

The second speaker on Monday was Professor Ross Garnaut from the University of Melbourne. Professor Garnaut is currently conducting The Garnaut Climate Change Review, which is an independent study commissioned by Australia's Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments. His speech, 'How Thirty Years of Chinese Reform and Economic Growth Have Changed the World,' examined the impact of China's economic growth has had on itself and the world.

The second day of the conference welcomed two other leading China scholars: Professor Zhenwu Zhai from Renmin University,

REACH
YOUR
SPECIALIZED
ASIAN
STUDIES
AUDIENCE

AAS MAILING LABELS

CHOOSE FROM THE FOLLOWING:

- **The AAS Membership List**—approximately 8,000 scholars, students, and others interested in East, South, and Southeast Asia.
- **The “Subscriber List”**—1,500 libraries and other organizations that purchase publications from the Association for Asian Studies.
- **List of Asian Studies Programs, Centers, and Institutes** in universities in the US and around the world.

CHARGES:

\$130/1,000 for cheshire labels, pressure-sensitive labels, or digital one-time use.

SPECIALIZED SELECTIONS POSSIBLE

Please contact Teresa Spence at tspence@asian-studies.org.

Association for Asian Studies, Inc., 1021 E. Huron Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48104 USA
Tel: 734-665-2490; Fax: 734-665-3801; E-Mail: tspence@asian-studies.org

China, and Professor Shaoguang Wang from the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Professor Zhai’s talk presented a unique look at China’s population issues, which attracted substantial interest from the audience. Professor Wang’s speech, titled ‘In Search of a Chinese Model of Socialism,’ provided an historical analysis of the evolution of socialism in China and its outcomes. Professor Wang was interviewed by the Mandarin Program of SBS Radio.

During the two-day event, around 80 researchers from leading Australian and international academic institutions gave presentations at the 26 plenary sessions. Their papers offered informed analyses and perspectives surrounding a wide range of topics, including corporate governance, new and traditional media, domestic politics and international relations, education, law and rights, the environment, China’s past and future, minorities, and cultural histories and traditions. The conference also saw a notable contribution from the rising generation of China scholars in their 20s and 30s, who are currently carrying out China-related research at universities worldwide.

Conference Panel Topics: Governing China’s Corporations; Media: Long term histories of Chinese Media Systems; Minorities and Political Economy: Local and Central Perspectives; Cultural Histories of East China: Shanghai and Its Hinterland; Domestic Politics: Challenges for Governance; The Domestic Economy – Labour, Investment, and Finance; Law: Institutional Developments and the Rights of Citizens and Consumers; Arguing about Chinese Tradition: Medicine, Tea and Writing; Urban Systems: Migration and Housing in China’s Cities; New Histories of the People’s Republic of China; Cultural Practices: Communities and Moral Economies; Cultural Practices: Accumulating, Collecting and Preserving; The Reach of the State: Culture, Politics and the Economy; Media: Film and Performances; Social Work; Education: Higher Education at Home and Abroad; New Media: Virtual and

Real Communities; China and the International Order 1: Current Conditions and Future Projections; Environment: Macro and Micro Perspectives; Ideology: Political Power and Systems of Thought in the Post Deng Era; China and the International Order 2: Security and Border Issues; Minorities: Cultural Policy and Cultural Practice; Law: Economic Systems and Legal Regulation; Urban Systems: Visions of the City; Chongqing panel: ‘Spaces and Cultural Practices in Chongqing’; Law and Human Rights: Legislation, Practice and Theory.

The Melbourne Conference on China is designed to involve researchers, policymakers and advisers, educators, and specialists working in any area of China studies in intellectually-stimulating discussion to explore the many challenging questions posed by the ongoing and rapid changes that have occurred and are occurring in China’s economy, politics, culture, and society. Following this year’s success, the conference is expected to continue. Interests in the conference should be directed to Dr. Lewis Mayo (lmayo@unimelb.edu.au) or Dr. Jia Gao (jia@unimelb.edu.au).

The University of Melbourne’s Faculty of Arts was ranked No. 16 for Arts and Humanities and No. 19 for Social Science by the Times Higher Education Supplement’s World University Rankings. Its Asia Institute actively promotes the study of Asian languages, cultures and traditions to students from all disciplines.

Report on "Understanding Timor-Leste: A Research Conference"

Dili, Timor-Leste, July 2–3, 2009

Submitted by Michael Leach, Swinburne University of Technology

The 2009 Timor-Leste Studies Association conference, "Understanding Timor-Leste: A Research Conference," was held at the National University of Timor-Lorosa'e (UNTL) in Dili, Timor-Leste, July 2–3, 2009. More than 100 international and East Timorese delegates presented papers over two days. Alongside the large contingent of Timorese academics and researchers, international delegates came from Australia and Portugal, and also as far afield as Brazil, Mozambique, Angola, France, Russia, Japan, Denmark and the UK.

The conference was formally opened by the East Timorese Minister for Education, Dr João Cancio Freitas. Panels canvassed a diverse range of critical issues from development policy, gender issues, popular education, history, politics and international relations, agriculture, literature and heritage preservation. One distinctive feature of the conference was its organization into four language streams; with a diverse range of interdisciplinary panels presented in Tetum-Dili, Portuguese, Bahasa Indonesia and English. This approach sought reflected and embraced the linguistic diversity of Timor-Leste, and proved a great success. The Tetum-Dili language stream panels were particularly attended by UNTL students. In addition, a special stream of papers on the theme of Adult and Popular Education ran over six sessions of the two-day conference, addressing a critical issue in East Timorese development.

The 2009 Dili conference was the 2nd Timor-Leste Studies Association conference, following an inaugural symposium in Melbourne in 2005. Hosted by the Faculty of Science and Education at UNTL, the conference was co-organised by an international consortium of four universities: UNTL, Swinburne University of Technology, Victoria University and the Technical University of Lisbon.

A multi-lingual refereed conference proceedings is in preparation, and will be published in late 2009. See www.tlstudies.org or contact Dr Michael Leach from Swinburne University of Technology, mleach@swin.edu.au for further details.

Report on "The Second Yale Indonesia Forum International Conference"

Yogyakarta, Indonesia, July 1–2, 2009

Submitted by Frank Dhont, Yale University

The 2nd Yale Indonesia Forum International Conference was held at Sanata Dharma University in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, July 1–2, 2009. As at the first conference, international and local scholars of various disciplines were invited to create multidisciplinary and multinational interaction centered on a major issue in current Indonesia. This year, taking Sukarno's concept of Pancasila as a basis, the conference addressed Pancasila as an Indonesian national ideology today, both its problems but also how the Pancasila's internalization in various communities,

groups and social categories. Scholars came to the conference from different disciplines to consider Pancasila's contemporary appeal from different angles, largely but not exclusively political science, history and anthropology. Half of the speakers were from Indonesian universities and institutions, while others came from universities and institutions from the rest of the world.

Several panels addressed aspects of Pancasila as an overarching theme. In the first, Jennifer Goodlander (Ohio University), Sita Hidayah (Florida International University and the Institute for Interfaith Dialogue in Indonesia) and M. Endy Saputro (Gadjah Mada University) explored the ways Pancasila is interpreted, perceived and expressed by Indonesians today. The second panel was more comparative and focused on Pancasila as the ideological inspiration of the nation. Satish Kumar Singh (DAV PG College, Banaras Hindu University) compared Indonesia with India, Rommel A. Curaming (National University of Singapore) compared Indonesia with Malaysia, while Michael O'Shannassy (Australia National University) and Saafroedin Bahar (Nusantara Institute) discussed national identity and the Indonesian nation-state. The third panel examined those on the fringes of Pancasila: Johannes Herlijanto (Macquarie University) spoke about the Indonesian Chinese community, and Yuwanto (Diponegoro University) addressed the relationship between Islam and Pancasila.

In the fourth panel, Frank Dhont (Yale University), Hastangka (Gadjah Mada University) and H. Purwanta (Sanata Dharma University) focused on educational dimensions of the Pancasila values created by Sukarno. Seung-Won Song (Sogang University), Victor Sumsky (Institute of World Economy and International Relations), G. Budi Subanar (Sanata Dharma University) and Michael Wood (Dawson College) participated in a fifth panel focused on the continuing relevance of Pancasila. Finally, Kevin W. Fogg (Yale University), Silverio R.L. Aji Sampurno (Sanata Dharma University), Pius S. Prasetyo (Parahyangan University) and Lukas S. Ispandriarno (Atma Jaya University, Yogyakarta) considered community and group understandings of Pancasila.

The conference was organized by representatives of the Yale Indonesia Forum and local co-host Sanata Dharma University. Other support was provided by representatives of Atma Jaya University Yogyakarta and the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology. Sponsors were Sanata Dharma University, Yale University and Atma Jaya Yogyakarta University.

Detailed information can be found at www.yale.edu/seas/YIF-Yogyakarta09.htm. The papers will be published as no 2 of the Yale Indonesia Forum International Conference Book Series.

Report on Religion and Rights in China

Toronto, May 30, 2009

Submitted by Michael Stainton, York University

York University Centre for Asian Research, The Centre for Asian-Canadian Theology and Ministry at Knox College (University of Toronto), and The Hudson Taylor Centre for Chinese Ministries at Tyndale Seminary co-sponsored this day-long conference on May 30, 2009. The event, held at Knox College, drew forty-four participants, coming from churches, the academy, China human rights activists, and members of affected groups—Tibetan Buddhists, Uyghur Muslims and Falundafa practitioners.

While the variety of perspectives was gratifying to the organizers, and the participants, we regret that there were no voices from (non-Tibetan) Buddhists, or China itself, despite efforts to encourage this. There were also few attendees from the many Chinese churches in Toronto. Organizers believe this evidences some of the problems the conference addressed. Chinese Buddhist organizations (including those based in Taiwan) currently have a uniquely harmonious relationship with the state, and the presence of Falundafa was a further obstacle to some. Many diaspora Chinese churches are active in their support of non-registered churches in China, but reluctant to talk about their activities outside of Christian circles.

Presenters examined the contradictions between the fact that China is experiencing the greatest religious revival in human history while facing serious issues of party state control and repression against Tibetan Buddhists, Uyghur Muslims, non-registered churches and Falundafa practitioners. Dr. Pitman Potter (University of British Columbia Law School) was the keynote speaker, presenting by video. Other presenters include Michael Dillon (Tsinghua), Joseph Tse-hei Lee (Pace), David Matas (Canadian human rights lawyer), Brian Swords (Scarboro Foreign Missions), Razmik Panossian (Rights and Democracy), Tsewang Tethong (Canada Tibet Committee) and Rukyie Turdush (Uyghur Canadian Association), and a showing of the film *China's Leap of Faith*, with comments by director Paul Webster. The strength of the symposium was also perhaps its weakness. Combining presentations from different experiences—believers, activists, and academics, made for lively exchanges, but also meant that discussion was pushed in several directions at once. Such an experiment in dialogue needs two days rather than one for some common ground of discussion to emerge.

A one-hour discussion at the end of the day encouraged participants to consider how religions, as civil society organizations, might contribute to the building of human rights in China. This discussion was not as fruitful as organizers had hoped. Ideas about the importance of religious organizations as providing critical space for conscience, and the importance of the peaceful middle way approach of the Dalai Lama were raised, but in general most participants were too conscious of the problems to see many possibilities.

Organizers are grateful for the support provided by the Dr. E.H. Johnson Memorial Fund, Kiervin Family Foundation and the St. Stephen's-Broadway Foundation. To continue this initiative, presentations at the conference will be placed on the YCAR and Knox websites, and we shall attempt a book of proceedings. The generous support of the three foundations allows us to continue this discussion with occasional talks or roundtables on the themes of the conference, to be held at the three sponsoring centres.

Conference organizer was YCAR Associate Michael Stainton, whose combination of positions as anthropologist, Christian minister, and human rights activist were the elements out of which the idea for this symposium grew. Inquiries may be sent to him at michaels@yorku.ca or to the York Centre for Asian Research, ycar@yorku.ca.

Report on "Reconstruction and Representation of Emotions in Imperial China"

Rome, July 20–23, 2009

Submitted by Paolo Santangelo, Sapienza Universita di Roma

This conference focused on the ways mentality, culture and values were linked in Ming-Qing culture history (1400–1900), and particularly on the methods of collecting related information from the written materials of the period. Most of the participants have started to cooperate to the textual analysis of various sources for the study of the representation of states of mind, and their work has reached different stages.

Each of the contributions in the conference focused on the specific relationship between text, author and sociopolitical environment, keeping in mind the perception of the affective world. Paolo Santangelo discussed the Suzhou-dialect collection of Mountain-Songs (*Shan'ge*) and its relevance to emotional expressions which contain a high rate of local cultural elements. Feng Menglong (1574–1645), the editor the *Mountain-Songs*, is a crucial figure in understanding Late Ming literature. Barbara Bissetto discussed another work by Feng Menglong, *The History of Love (Qingshi leilue)*, which is a collection of short stories in wenyan from past to present, all related to love and passions. From this particular work she specifically investigates the "cult of emotions" in Late Ming Society. Lee Cheuk yin through the study of Zhang Dai's (1597–1680) *Tao'an Mengyi* (Dream recollection of Tao'an) tried to examine the emotional memory of the historical past and the extravagant lifestyle of the Late Ming literati. We find many similarities in emotional terms and expressions, since both authors, Feng Menglong and Zhang Dai, stemmed from the same time and place, and yet made different use of the language and vocabulary. Angelika Messner and Rudolf Pfister presented the medical works *Shishi milu* (Hidden records from the Stone chamber) and the *Bianzheng lu* (Records of differentiating pattern) by Chen Shiduo (1627–1707). Messner concentrated on the textual history of these works by highlighting the high complexity of the paratextual apparatus which should be taken seriously as a primary source. Pfister presented a close reading of selected passages from the *Shishi milu* to illustrate the specific physiological alchemic and technical vocabularies in relation to their emotional contents. These investigations will provide insights in some fundamental features of the emotion-knowledge of the respective time and place. Wolfgang Schwabe and Elisa Sabattini presented a preliminary survey on the emotional vocabulary in the *Chuanxi lu* (Instructions for Practical Living) by Wang Yangming (1472–1529), one of the most important philosophical essay in Late Imperial China. The study provides a good foundation for comparisons of the various vocabularies to be found within literary, medical and philosophical works. The sessions were concluded by a description of the Rescripts of the memorials by the Emperors Kangxi, Yongzheng and Qianlong, analysed under the perspective of the emotional vocabulary and political rhetorics.

During the last section Paolo Santangelo presented some possible technical improvements of the database, in terms of additional cards, item lists and the software adjustment. The members of the research group discussed the pros and cons of such improvements. It was decided that the use of the present database

should continue, and that specialists should be contacted to find out how to incorporate older data. Finally the group provided a detailed work plan for the next year. In order to better coordinate individual and the group works, an online platform, "Emotion-project list," was started.

The results of each individual work will be presented at the next research conference in May 2010. At the next meeting we shall mainly dwell on the glossaries elaborated on the base of the database and each member can further investigate one topic of specific relevance for his own textual source.

The schedule of our publications already includes the following volumes:

- I. *Materials for an Anatomy of Personality in Late Imperial China*, in print (end of 2009);
- II. Shange, Songs of Love collected by Feng Menglong, *Text, annotated translation and glossary*, (2010);
- III. Zibuyu, a Gothic Collection by Yuan Mei, *Text, annotated translation and glossary*, (2010.);
- IV. Tao'an Mengyi, *Text, annotated translation and glossary*. (2011).

Other volumes will follow soon on: *Xiaofu*, *Liaozhai zhiyi*, *Mudanting*, and *Rulin waishi*. The next conference will schedule the list of the further publications of books and articles.

In conclusion, the conference—in the most beautiful environment and hospitality at Villa Vigoni—was successful from several points of view: 1. we intensively debated the organization and architecture of the database, 2. we presented the specific difficulties and issues within the respective texts under investigation, 3. we strengthened the organization and the cooperation within our research group.

Report on "Strategies and Consequences of Intercultural Exchange in Southeast Asia c.1500–1800"

Cambridge, UK, April 25, 2009

Submitted by Tara Alberts and David R. M. Irving, Cambridge University

Scholars from a number of different disciplines met at Jesus College, Cambridge, on 25 April 2009 for a one-day conference on intercultural exchange, interaction, and representation in early modern Southeast Asia. This event was organised by Tara Alberts (tmaa2@cam.ac.uk) and David R. M. Irving (drmi2@cam.ac.uk) as a means of bringing together a forum of specialists to explore, debate, and engage with issues relating to the study of the field from the disciplinary perspectives of history, geography, historical anthropology, art history, English literature, and musicology. It was made possible through financial sponsorship from the Association of South-East Asian Studies in the United Kingdom, the Trevelyan Fund (Faculty of History, University of Cambridge), and the John Stewart of Rannoch Fund (Faculty of Music, Cambridge). A special feature of the day was a rare performance of Thai classical music by the professional performing ensemble SEAmusic (www.seamusic.org.uk).

The day's programme began with a fascinating paper by Alan Strathern (University of Cambridge) on the politics of conversion to monotheism in early modern Southeast Asia. Strathern explored the differences between mainland and island Southeast Asian theological perspectives and their implications for the maintenance of state power, theorising a system of kingship categories, and exploring the potential for a conversion that never took place – that of Narai of Siam. He pointed out that the conversion from a transcendentalist to a monotheistic religion was often seen as an act of exclusivity, in the sense that it involved the abandonment of old rites; it thereby had the potential to undermine the legitimacy of kingship as perceived by the ruler's subjects. Marya Rosenberg (University of Hawaii at Manoa) then surveyed representations of women in artworks from the colonial Philippines, refiguring the position of women in Filipino society from one of dominance and sexual freedom in prehispanic society to one of submissiveness and chastity in the Spanish colonial period. Using artworks that ranged from prehispanic sculptures to images of the Virgin Mary (the Marian manifestations including those of Nuestra Señora de Guía, Antipolo, Casaysay, and Peñafrancia), she showed how Animist beliefs and associated elements of visual symbolism were able to survive suppression and persist in syncretic forms of Roman Catholic devotion.

In the next session, Marjorie Rubright (University of Toronto) focused on the little-known theme of Anglo-Dutch relations on the island of Bantam. She explored how representatives of these northern European nations used both the interchangeability of their national stereotypes and also particular representational strategies of cultural self-distinction as a means of furthering their respective and common commercial objectives, and also as a way in which they could strengthen their respective cultural identities in an unfamiliar host environment. Her re-reading of Edmund Scott's *An exact discourse of the subtilties, fashions [sic], pollicies, religion, and ceremonies of the East Indians* (London, 1606) in the context of Anglo-Dutch interchangeability opened up discussion on the crisis of cultural and national representation in Southeast Asia, in the face of emerging categories of sovereignty and statehood in the early modern world. Katrina Gulliver (Institute of Historical Research, London) offered a valuable examination of the urban development of Malacca from the perspective of comparative metropolitan history. The crucial geographical position of this city had important ramifications for the development of Portuguese, Dutch, and British colonial strategies in Southeast Asia, and consideration of Malacca's role as a locus of intercultural exchange provided the basis for discussion of how symbolic sites themselves swapped hands and were reconceptualised in the context of different power structures.

During the lunch-break, SEAmusic's performance of two brackets of Thai classical music brought the sonic aspect of early modern Southeast Asian culture to the foreground. Led by Larry Oliver Catungal on the *khong wong yai* (bronzed gong-circle), the instrumentalists played the *sor u* (two-stringed low-pitch fiddle), *sor duang* (two-stringed high-pitch fiddle), *ranad ek* (wooden xylophone with twenty-one bars), *klong khaek* (pair of double-headed drums), and a pair of *ching* (finger cymbals). In keeping with the theme of the conference, their selection included music demonstrating Thai imaginings of the musical cultures of foreign lands.

Beginning the first session after lunch, Matthew Sargent (University of California, Berkeley) explored the role of local informants used by European naturalists to gather scientific knowledge. Focusing on the employees of the Dutch East India Company in the Indonesian archipelago, he demonstrated how close ties between naturalist and their informants were necessary in order to gather detailed and useful information. The role of women in the transmission of medical and botanical knowledge was also thoughtfully uncovered. Christina Granroth (University of Cambridge) considered the importance of indigenous knowledge in her examination of two Swedish accounts of Java from the eighteenth century. The work of Carl Peter Thunberg and Carl Fredrik Hornstedt contrasted with many other European accounts of Java and its inhabitants. Granroth argued that by asking comprehensive questions of the local inhabitants, recording observations systematically and in detail, the Swedish authors apply a Linnean 'scientific gaze' which foregrounded indigenous knowledge.

Jeyamalar Kathirithamby-Wells (University of Cambridge) presented an intriguing exploration of the alternative networks of power in early modern Malay-Indonesian polities. Her treatment of the political economy of the region highlighted the complex systems of commerce and cultural exchange that contested and resisted forms of European colonial expansion; the Hadarami *sayyid* from the early modern period to the twentieth century formed the focus of this discussion. Janice Stargardt (University of Cambridge) closed the day with her consideration of the contrasts and similarities between Chinese voyages to Southeast Asia and beyond in the early fifteenth century and sixteenth-century Portuguese maritime projects. Drawing on material from archeological sites as well as written records, she considered the role of tribute missions between Southeast Asian polities and China, and how Chinese and Portuguese concepts of 'empire' could vary.

Important themes that emerged from the day included the idea of legitimacy of power (and of knowledge), changing ideas of indigenous sovereignty in the face of European colonial and trading projects, and the subsumption of local knowledge and social and economic structures by European colonial powers. Lively discussion followed each of the papers, and fruitful interdisciplinary dialogue continued at the dinner that followed. The organisers are currently proposing the publication of this day's proceedings, and hope that similar events focusing on early modern Southeast Asia will take place in the near future.

Workshop on "Re-assessing Chiang Kai-shek: An International Dialogue"

Queen's University, Canada, August 7–10, 2009

Submitted by Emily Hill, Queen's University, Kingston, Canada

A workshop was held August 7–10 in Kingston, Ontario, for the purpose of integrating new views of Chiang Kai-shek (Jiang Jieshi, 1887–1975). The eighteen authors who presented papers included two biographers (Jay Taylor of Washington D.C, and Yang Tianshi of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing), several scholars now engaged in research focusing on Chiang (including Lü Fang-shang of Tung Hai University in

ON THE MARGINS OF ASIA: DIVERSITY IN ASIAN STATES

Edited by Charles Keyes



This collection of ten articles from the *Journal of Asian Studies* focuses upon ethnic diversity in Asia. The articles are grouped under five main headings: Premodern Roots of Modern Ethnicity, On Understanding Human Diversity in Asia, Migrant Minorities and Ethnic Pluralism, States and the Politics

of Ethnic Minorities, and Ethnic Conflict and Ethnonationalism. The editor's introduction, "The 'Other' Asian Peoples of Asia," sets the stage for the articles to follow.

AAS RESOURCES FOR TEACHING ABOUT ASIA

ISBN 978-0-924304-48-4, 286 pages, paperback
List Price: \$28.00 (AAS Member Price: \$22.50)

Association for Asian Studies, Inc.

1021 East Huron Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48104 USA
734-665-2490, www.asian-studies.org

Taiwan, Steven Tsang of Oxford University, and Chen Hongmin of Hangzhou University), and a number of other contributors with expertise on the context of Chiang Kai-shek's career.

Research on Chiang Kai-shek has been stimulated by the recent opening of the diaries that Chiang kept for fifty-four years, now held in the Hoover Institution Archives at Stanford University (<http://www.hoover.org/hila/collections/19400629.html>). Thanks also to changing perspectives on the history of the Republic of China before and after 1949, new interpretations are emerging on Chiang Kai-shek's roles, decisions, motivations, and personality. The organizers of the workshop seek to integrate scholars' findings and analyses in a composite portrait of Chiang, and to frame their portrait with the help of current advances in the China field and the social sciences.

The organizers' collaboration in the project originated in a panel called "Chiang Kai-shek: The Unknown Story," formed for the 2008 AAS Annual Meeting in Atlanta (www.asian-studies.org/absts/2008abst/China/C-120.htm). The workshop in Canada was supported by partial funding awarded to Grace Huang by the China and Inner Asia Council of the AAS. The organizers are also grateful to several other funding agencies, namely the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation, the Historical Society for Twentieth-Century China, and sources at Queen's University.

Copies of the workshop program and other details are available upon request from one of the organizers: Emily Hill (Emily.Hill@queensu.ca); Grace Huang (g Huang@stlawu.edu); or Jeremy Taylor (Jeremy.Taylor@sheffield.ac.uk).