DIRECTOR’S LETTER

TRANSITIONS

This past year was one of many transitions. The world of COVID-imposed isolation waned, and in-person gatherings, classes, and lectures returned. We could once again experience the joys of formal and informal human interactions no longer solely mediated by computer screens.

It was also a year of passing as we lost two noted scholars, Yoshiaki Shimizu and Ying-shih Yü, who were giants in their respective fields of Japanese art and Chinese history and foundational figures here at Princeton. They are irreplaceable and will be sorely missed.

A new academic position was formalized as well. Thanks to the support of the Korea Foundation and the Tiger Baron Foundation, a new position in Korean history will be established. The signing ceremony for this happy occasion occurred on November 18, 2021.

This past August, I succeeded “Buzzy” Stephen F. Teiser as the Director of the East Asian Studies Program. Buzzy shared his wisdom, humor, insights, and his impeccable records with me, and this made taking over the reins of this Program as easy and smooth as conceivably possible. I want to thank Buzzy for his nine years of service. Likewise, it has been a great pleasure for me to work with Richard Chahey and Chao-Hui Jenny Liu and I would like to thank them too for their hard work and good humor in keeping the Program functioning smoothly.

GRADUATE STUDY

Our students endured long years of isolation and constraints on their ability to conduct research. They experienced an opening in some sectors, as classes resumed, and libraries and archives accessible and have purchased a variety of texts, including works on epidemics in Chinese history, medieval Japanese manuscripts, surveys of the Ainu and books on monsters. In addition, subscriptions to varied data bases has led to improved access to digital collections of works in Korean, Japanese and Chinese.

The Marquand Library of Art and Archaeology has also acquired, among other things, Qing imperial architectural drawings, avant-garde photographs by Araki Nobuyoshi, a copper plate book on the iconic Tōkaidō Road and a handscreen depicting Commodore Perry’s visit to Japan. Our museum collections were enhanced with donations and purchases, including a rare Korean royal fan from the 1880s and a marvelous print by Kunitaka Utamaro (1753–1806).

I invite you to explore the wide range of teaching and research relating to East Asia in the pages that follow. Please read of the activities of our students, staff, and scholars, and learn more about the library, museum, and the many departments, centers and programs that constitute the study of East Asia at Princeton.

Thomas D. Conlan
Professor in East Asian Studies and Professor of History

Director, Program in East Asian Studies

DIRECTOR’S LETTER...CONTINUED

OUTREACH

Lesley Solomon organized our continuing series of teacher training workshops for secondary education teachers. This program, funded through the generosity of Freeman Foundation and the East Asian Studies Program, is part of the National Consortium for Teaching about Asia (NCTA), an initiative to facilitate teaching and learning about China, Japan, and Korea for secondary school teachers. This past year, there were two sessions, with the first focusing on teaching “Traditional East Asia” and the second focusing on “Modern East Asia.”

ACQUISITIONS

Our dedicated librarians have worked on making our collections accessible and have purchased a variety of texts, including works on epidemics in Chinese history, medieval Japanese manuscripts, surveys of the Ainu and books on monsters. In addition, subscriptions to varied data bases has led to improved access to digital collections of works in Korean, Japanese and Chinese.

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Director, Program in East Asian Studies

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EAST ASIAN STUDIES ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022
DEPARTMENT & PROGRAM NEWS

APPOINTMENTS

On August 1, 2021, Thomas D. Conlan became the new Director of the East Asian Studies Program, succeeding Stephen F. Teiser, who led the program for nine successful years.

Anna Shields is in her third year as Chair of the Department. Paige Keulemans began his first year as the Director of Graduate Studies. Amy Borovoy served as Acting Director of Undergraduate Studies next fall.

Japanese Language Director Shinji Sato has been promoted to Undergraduate Program, succeeding Stephen F. Teiser, who served as Director for the past three years.

ARRIVALS

Anna Lovett (EAS) is the new Undergraduate Program Manager at the East Asian Studies Library. Anna Shields is in her third year as Chair of the Department.

The Korea Foundation recently appointed interim Associate Director of Princeton in Beijing for next fall.

APPENDIX

On November 18, 2021, for a signing ceremony to pledge their support. Members of The Korea Foundation, led by Dr. Guen Lee, President of the Korea Foundation, visited campus on November 18, 2021, for a signing ceremony to pledge their support.

VISITOR

Jeng-guo Chen (EAS) is a Research Fellow at the Institute of History and Philology, Academia Sinica and is a visitor this year at the EAS Department. His research interests lie in British intellectual history, particularly that of the Scottish Enlightenment. Apart from the history of Britain, he also works on the transmissions and the receptions of the Enlightenment in China.

AWARDS

Two language lecturers have been awarded Princeton Center for Language Study Fellowships for summer research during summer 2022. Susie Kim from the Korean Language Program (KOR) will work on “Web Korean Text Analyzer” and Xin Zou from the Chinese Language Program (CHI) will work on “A Pilot Module to Develop Writing Proficiency for Intermediate-to-Advanced Level Learners of the Chinese Language.”

A NEW POSITION

A new position in Korean History will be established, thanks to the generous support from the Korea Foundation and the Tiger Baron Foundation. Members of The Korea Foundation, led by Dr. Guen Lee, President of the Korea Foundation, visited campus on November 18, 2021, for a signing ceremony to pledge their support.

THE JAPANESE LANGUAGE PROGRAM

The language programs sustained strong enrollment numbers, with 179 students taking Chinese language courses in the Fall and 175 in the Spring. The Japanese program had 97 students in the Fall and 88 in the Spring, and the 92 students took Korean in the Fall, and 74 in the Spring of the 2021-22 academic year.

The language programs employed a dozen undergraduate course assistants this past year—Edelyn Lau, Gemrieta Churbanova, John Patrick, Tori Laurencin, Taylor Yamashita, Ricky Lin, Esther Lee, Jasmine Li, Sophia Chang, Peter Yang, Tracie Kwon, and Hanyunsung Yun. These course assistants tutored students, assisted in elementary, intermediate, and heritage-level language courses, served as peer role models, ran review sessions, and aided language lecturers with grading.

THE CHINESE LANGUAGE PROGRAM

With a return to full-in person instruction since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chinese Language Program organized a series of co-curricular and extra-curricular cultural and language activities to enrich students’ learning experiences. These activities included Chinese Tables which were conducted both in-person in Frist and on Zoom three times a week throughout the academic year, Mid-autumn Festival celebration, poster exhibits at the end of the Fall and Spring semesters, The Three-Line Love Poem to celebrate Valentine’s Day, and the Chinese Culture and Game Night held on April 12th, 2022. With generous support from the EAS Department, the Culture and Game Night event was a success with 120 participating students.

During Winter session, the Chinese Language Program offered three workshops: Watching Chinese TV Shows and Act Out by Jieyun Zhu and Yu Zhang, Advanced Chinese Writing by Luangfeng Huang, and Advanced Chinese: autobiography and Culture in Early 20th Century China by Jing Wang and Jue Lu.

The 29th Annual International Conference on Chinese Language Instruction, sponsored by the East Asian Studies Program and Princeton-in-Beijing, took place in a hybrid online and in-person format this year. The highlight of this year’s conference was the celebration of Professor Chih-p’ing Chou’s career and accomplishments. Over 150 people from all over the world participated in the online conference, which consisted of 12 presentations, on the evening of April 29, 2022, followed by a conference held on the campus of Princeton University the next day, attended by over a hundred scholars and instructors, which featured 24 presentations.

THE JAPANESE LANGUAGE PROGRAM

Community engagement both local and abroad (online) has been key for the Japanese Language Program. Students had opportunities to explore Japanese language and culture in settings both inside and outside the classroom.

Within the classroom, first and second-year Japanese students communicated online with Japanese university students in Japan (JPN101: Kansai University, JPN102: University of Sao Paulo & Yam Kag University in Taiwan, JPN105: Waseda University). For third-year Japanese (JPN301) life story projects, students interviewed Japanese speakers residing nearby or who are friends and family members and presented the life stories of these people in class.

For upper level, students conducted various projects through which they communicated within Japanese-speaking communities. Princeton students hosted cultural events, movie events, game nights, and a sushi workshop for fellow Princeton students as well as discussion sessions with students from a Japanese community school in New York City and the University of Tokyo.

EAST ASIAN LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

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EAST ASIAN STUDIES ANNUAL REPORT
The variety of Korean language events included a K-Pop experience and produced public events showcasing student talent on campus, the Program resumed workshops offering hands-on Korean Language Program. After returning to in-person learning, the academic year 21-22 was another eventful year for the Korean Language Program.

The Princeton Korean Pedagogy Workshop was held virtually on April 29th with the theme “Developing Advanced Korean Pedagogy after the Pandemic.” Invited speakers Dr. Mijeong Curriculum in Response to Diversified Learners and Changes in Pedagogy after the Pandemic.” Invited speakers Dr. Mijeong Seong of the University of California, Berkeley, talked about the fast-changing profiles of learners and classrooms. The Princeton University and Yonsei University pedagogy groups held a workshop together on May 27th and the faculty from both institutions discussed case studies and extracurricular programming. This workshop strengthened both research ties between Princeton and Yonsei and their joint plan to develop a Korean summer program in Seoul in the future.

The The East Asian Studies Department and Program celebrated an in-person Class Day with seniors and their families on May 23, 2022. Twelve East Asian Studies students graduated with the East Asian Studies Major, while 11 graduated with the East Asian Studies Department Language and Culture Certificate. On the Program side, 15 seniors received the Program Certificate. This group of students was quite impressive, with five of the cohort receiving Buchanan and Bienen prizes and six winning a total of nine other prizes from departments or academic units at Princeton other than East Asian Studies.

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The Marjory Chadwick Buchanan Senior Thesis Prize (The Buchanan) is awarded to a senior in the Department of East Asian Studies with the most outstanding thesis, based on extensive and appropriate sources in Chinese, Japanese, or Korean as well as Western language sources.

The winner this year was Edelyn Hoi Lam Lau for her senior thesis, “Shanghai’s Seasonal Fantasy: An Analysis of Select Foreign Terms in Mu Shiying’s ‘Shanghai de jijiemeng’ via Translation.” Lau explores the world of the author Mu Shiying, a Shanghai author writing in the 1920s and 1930s. She analyzed Mu’s use of “loanwords” to convey a sense of place and a sense of the character’s own identity formation. Lau undertook extensive research to bring 1920s cosmopolitan Shanghai—with its large expatriate communities, foreign businesses concessions, mansions, and dance halls—to life. In her analysis of the function of foreign loan words in the text, she took us into the protagonist’s mind and his identity formation as an intellectual in a new global world.

Honorable mention for The Buchanan went to Zeytun West’s senior thesis, “K-Pop and Islam in Turkey: The Pious Generation and the Heathen’s Music.” West’s work reveals the impact of K-Pop on a generation of young Turkish women, including daughters of conservative Muslim families in Istanbul studying in religious schools. These young women are both beholden to the religious standards of femininity and virtue and yet also identifies with K-Pop music and culture. She shows that conservative young women admire the small freedoms, social equality, and innocent sexuality they associate with the music as well as the economic stability in South Korea. “First the holy city of Kaaba, then, Korea” the young fans’ saying goes. Undergraduates

The The Lehigh Buchanan Bienen and Henry S. Bienen Senior Thesis Prize (The Bienen) is awarded by the Program to a senior in any department with the most outstanding senior thesis on an East Asian topic. The thesis must be based at least in part on source materials in an East Asian language.

There were two co-winners this year, Rebecca Han and Katherine McCallum. Rebecca Han (POL), “Crouching Censors, Hidden Scenes: What Kinds of Foreign Films are Allowed into China and Why,” analyzes over a thousand blockbuster films from 2001 to 2021. Han provides a fascinating study of the principles behind Chinese censorship and its symbiotic relationship with market forces, demonstrating that profitable films, most commonly of the action genre, were least likely to be censored. Likewise, Han shows how Hollywood is aware of the Chinese market, often altering its films to appease censors to ensure accessibility and profits. Han also revealed the censors’ surprising lack of concern for “moral” or “social” subjects such as drug use, with only sexual content being routinely censored. In addition to The Bienen, Han’s thesis also won the Lyman H. Atwater Prize in her home department of Politics.

Katherine McCallum (SPIA), “Picking Quarrels and Creating a Disturbance: An Analysis of the Survival of China’s Grassroots
Feminist Movement on Social Media" shows how Chinese feminist movements first ran afoul of censorship, particularly after the arrest of the “Feminist Five” in 2015, and how they then modulated their rhetoric and topics to survive and flourish in the increasingly repressive environment of Xi Jinping’s China. McCallum accomplishes this task by carefully analyzing thousands of WeChat and Weibo messages from 2014 through 2019.

Honorable Mention for The Bienen Prize went to Ange Ndaïyishimiye (Civil and Environmental Engineering, CEE). With her senior thesis, “OKKAKE-DAISEN-TSUBIG: An Exploration of the Construction Process and Mechanical Behaviour of Traditional Japanese Timber Splicing Joints,” Ndaïyishimiye studied the durability of Japanese splicing joints (okkake daisen tsugi). Going beyond historical analysis of Japanese joints and their flexibility in earthquakes which has been widely acknowledged, she traveled to Japan and learned first-hand about Japanese carpentry. Subsequently, Ndaïyishimiye created a workshop here at Princeton where she created joints and tested their durability, revealing both their flexibility and impressive load-bearing qualities. This senior thesis is the first from the School of Engineering to win a Bienen Prize.

EAST ASIAN STUDIES DEPARTMENT MAJORS

Nine seniors were concentrator within the Department. Of the majors, Edelyn Lau’s senior thesis won for best thesis (The Buchanan). In addition, Lau will be a Fellow of the Princeton Peking Opera Program in summer 2022 and begins her Fulbright award of English Teaching Assistantship in South Korea in 2023. Ange Ndaïyishimiye’s senior thesis won Honorable Mention for The Bienen Prize and also the CEE Book Award in the Department for Civil and Environmental Engineering.


Vivien Wei Qin Huang (ECO) Spotlighting the Shadows: Exploring Determinants of Academic and Non-Academic Shadow Education Investment in China and its Effects on Student Outcomes.

Qingxi (Tim) Jia (NEU) Ownership of Organ's & Body in East Asia: The Individual, Family, or State.


Cameron Elizabeth Lee (ENG) Bodies of Resistance: Aesthetics of South Korean Feminism in the Work of Korean Artist Lee Bül.


Jasmine Li (ECO) East Asian IPO Performance During the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Alan Lin (SPIA) Not Just an Economic Divide, but a Political Divide: Does China’s Hukou Internal Mobility Regulation System Correspond with Political Riffs Among Chinese Citizens?

Owen Matthews (POL) China’s “Wolf Warrior” Diplomats: Who’s in the Pack?


Tammy Hoang Pham (SPIA) “3+1 Cs” American Cooperation, Competition, and Countering and Critical Engagement with China.

Will Terence Smith (HIS) Imperialism and Modern China: A Conceptual History with a Case Study of the Rare Earth Metals Industry.


Ryan Sung (SPIA) The Influence of Nationalism in Taiwanese Election Processes.


Cheyenne Zhang (COS) DaveMap: An Application Mapping the Movement of Chinese Surnames Over Time.
Graduate students across campus made the best of Princeton’s ample research resources on East Asia and excelled—winning awards and jobs. Five successfully defended their dissertations and graduated Graduate Class of 2022 and three more will be defending over the course of the summer. Two Buchanan Dissertation Awards were given out to outstanding theses in East Asian Studies. Nine graduate students in EAS, Anthropology, and Sociology were awarded a variety of research funding and teaching awards.

AWARDS

Kimberly Hassel (EAS) and Yixin Gu (EAS) were awarded the Marjory Chadwick Buchanan Dissertation Prize in East Asian Studies for outstanding dissertations. The Buchanan Prizes were established by Henry S. Bienen and Leigh Buchanan Bienen to honor the memory of Leigh’s mother.

Department Ph.D. candidate Joseph Henares won a Fulbright Study/Research Award for 2022-2023. This award will allow me to conduct dissertation research in Kyoto, Japan, starting in March 2023. Lili Xua (EAS) and Yinyin He (EAS) were both awarded Dean’s Completion Fellowship/PGRA program. The fellowship provides funding to advanced Ph.D. students who are completing their dissertations. Peter Wong (EAS) was awarded the Mabel M. Conlan, PhD ’71 Fellowship in Chinese Studies for his research. Lastly, Fumiyu Uchikoshi (SOC) has been awarded The Benjamin Coates, Class of 1939, and Prince Filumita Konoe, Class of 1939, Memorial Fund.

Ni Yanping (ANT) received a Data Fellowship from the Center for Digital Research and Societies in March 2023. Lili Xia (EAS) and Yingtian He (EAS) were awarded a Data Fellowship from the Center for Digital Studies for outstanding dissertations. The Buchanan Prizes were established by Henry S. Bienen and Leigh Buchanan Bienen to honor the memory of Leigh’s mother.

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Ni Yanping (ANT) received a PIBRS Winter Research funding and grad research funding from the Paul and Marcia Wythes Center on Contemporary China. Yuzhou Bai (EAS) won the GradFUTURES Clio award. Gion Duri Rominger (EAS) received a Data Fellowship from the Center for Digital Humanities at Princeton.

Soojung Han received a Collaborative Teaching Initiative (CTI) Graduate Teaching Award for her Medieval Asian Worlds (EAS HIS 253), a course she co-taught with Thomas Conlan in the Fall of 2021, and Jessica LeGare received a Graduate Teaching Award for her precepting of Franz Pritchard’s Japan: A Comparative Perspective (EAS/HIS 253), which included having students write briefs and argue cases based on medieval sources and laws. After graduation she was a post-doc in Japanese Studies/Digital Humanities at The University of Texas at Austin.

Yixin Gu (EAS) spent his final academic year at Princeton as a Ph.D. candidate as a graduate fellow of the Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies (PIIRS). On April 24th, 2022, he successfully defended his dissertation titled “After the Disaster: Architecture and Smartphone Culture in Contemporary Japan,” which was later awarded the Marjorie Chadwick Buchanan Dissertation Prize. After the PFOE, he earned his Ph.D. degree on May 24th. Earlier this year, Yixin accepted the job offer for the position of Assistant Professor in classical Chinese literature from Lingnan University in Hong Kong. During the same academic year, some of his other academic works were presented at conferences and workshops or considered for publication.

JOBS

Princeton Ph.D. graduates with research in East Asia have done well in what remains a challenging job market.

Chao Ying (EAS) accepted a position in Modern Korean Humanities at Harvard University. Xixin Gu (EAS) will start as this coming fall as Assistant Professor in classical Chinese literature from Lingnan University in Hong Kong. Kimberly Hassel (EAS) will join the Department of East Asian Studies at the University of Arizona as an Assistant Professor specializing in Contemporary Japanese Studies. Soojung Han (EAS) will join Northwestern University as an Assistant Professor of East Asian History. Megan Gilbert (EAS) has received a post-doctoral position at The University of Texas at Austin in Japanese Studies/ Digital Humanities. Ruo Jia (ARC) accepted a position as Adjunct Assistant Professor at the Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning & Preservation.

DISSERTATIONS COMPLETED


Ruo Jia (ARC) “Different Shades of the Concrete: Chinese Experimental Architecture or French Poststructuralist Theory,” defended April 2022.

Ziyao Ma (EAS) “Instituting Ideas: The Reclamation of Scholarly Subjects in the High Qing (1723-1795),” defended May 2022.


GRADUATE NEWS

Charlie Argon (EAS ’17, HIS grad) was thrilled to return to Princeton last fall to start a PhD in History. He completed Princeton’s French reading course last summer and spent the academic year learning to read academic Japanese with Keiko Ono and taking seminars in the history department. Outside of coursework, he also served as a research assistant to Professor Janet Chen for her forthcoming revision of The Search for Modern China. Additionally, he translated his Tsinghua University MA thesis into English, presenting it at AAS regional conferences in Philadelphia and Boston. This summer, he is looking forward to taking an intensive Japanese course and conducting preliminary dissertation research.

Yuzhou Bai (EAS) is working towards completing his dissertation on the nine-rank system (九品流) and meritocracy in early- to early-medieval China. In 2021, he presented at multiple annual meetings and workshops hosted by the American Historical Association, the Society for the Study of Early China, the Institute of Chinese Studies at CUKH, and the Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts. He also contributed to various professional development opportunities for Princeton graduate students in the humanities. After completing a three-
Gian Duri Rominger (EAS) spent his fifth year at Princeton focused on his dissertation on the modes of poetry in early Chinese philosophical texts and on Digital Humanities projects. For the latter, he was a recipient of a Data Fellowship from the Center for Digital Humanities at Princeton, for which he intended to compile a dataset for his dissertation on rhymes, alliterations, and other wordplays in early Chinese texts but ended up studying basic Python and regular expression searches instead to automate that task. In collaboration with Nick Budak (Stanford University), Gian also took part in the NEH-funded New Languages for NLP workshop series and set out to build a Natural Language Processing model for Old Chinese phonology. They ended up producing a model for Middle Chinese, with Old Chinese still being a work-in-progress. He also led a project, served as a University Administrative Fellow, and presented his research at Temple, Michigan State, and Stanford Universities.

Fumiya Uchikoshi (SOC) has published four peer-reviewed papers (two in English and two in Japanese) in sociology and demography. He also published a monograph entitled Educational Assortative Mating in Japan (Springer) with advisor Jim Raymo. During summer 2022, he plans to conduct a qualitative interview survey for his dissertation that investigates gender inequality in attending a selective college in Japan.

Having successfully defended his prospectus at the end of his third year, James Watson-Krips (EAS) used his fourth year -- one originally meant for China-based research -- to both begin the dissertation process and to expand his professional horizons. On the dissertation front, he spent much of the year collecting and cataloging sources, outlining, and laying the groundwork for a first chapter, due to be completed summer 2022. James also served as an AI for the first time, leading a precept session for HUM 335 / EAS 376 - A Global History of Monsters, taught by Federico Marcon. He was similarly active outside of the classroom, presenting his work at multiple conferences and seminars.

This year He Bian (EAS/HIS) returned from her leave to settle into a new rhythm of in-person teaching with continued social distancing. She enjoyed teaching a new graduate seminar on archives of the Chinese medical tradition, re-vamping her reading list and seminar series on the future of academic work as part of the Graduate School’s GradFUTURES University Administrative Fellowship (UAF) program. And last but certainly not least, James and his wife welcomed their daughter, Lexi Elisabeth, into the world this past April. James looks forward to introducing her to everyone when academic activities resume in the fall.

During his third year at Princeton, Peter Tsung Kei Wong (EAS) passed his general exams (see the attached photo), defended his dissertation prospectus in late April, and was awarded the Mary Wu So ‘87 and Ronald M.C. So, PhD ’87 Fellowship in Chinese Studies. His dissertation will investigate the birth of big books and its consequences in early China. In addition, his work on early Chinese classics, poetry, philosophy, and historiography, including three peer-reviewed journal articles and an invited book review, has been published in or accepted by Chinese Studies (燕京学报) and the Center for Digital Humanities at Princeton.

Amy Borovoy (EAS) is working on a journal article about the containment of Covid-19 in Japan based on her presentation on a Harvard panel last spring. The paper discusses Japan’s policies of containment, which relied very little on lockdowns or digital surveillance, focusing instead on public health messaging, contact tracing, and social surveillance. Borovoy’s medical anthropological research and teaching have focused on late-life and end-of-life issues. This year she completed an introductory essay to William LaFleur’s book, ‘Bohiah,’ Brain Death, and the Battle Over Organ Transplants, to be published posthumously in 2023 with Bloomsbury Press. The essay deals with ethical issues in declaring death by neurologic criteria. She is also completing a book manuscript, A Living Laboratory: Japan in American Social Thought, returning to canonical works in postwar Japanese studies in the U.S. She recently published an essay on sociologist Robert Bellah in the Anthem Companion to Robert Bellah. In November, Borovoy was invited to speak about Lira Vogel’s Japan’s New Middle Class (published in 1953) at a symposium at University of California, Berkeley, Institute of East Asian Studies and Center for Japanese Studies.

Ksenia Chizhova (EAS) has spent the past academic year working on her new manuscript project, Women in the Media History of the Korean Script, 1600/2000. This book will consider the gender politics of the longue durée techno-aesthetic genealogy of the Korean script, focusing on its distinctive graphic form—palace style calligraphy (간행체 갑판). Developed in royal correspondence in the seventeenth century, palace-style calligraphy became the prototype for the most widely used Korean fonts, school lettering instruction, and even North Korean mass mobilization art that extensively relies on calligraphy. To develop this project further, Ksenia is spending the Spring 2022 semester in Seoul as a fellow at the Kyu-jang-gak International Center for Korean Studies.

Thomas D. Conlan (EAS/HIS) became the Director of the Asian Studies Program in August. His sourcebook Samurai and the Warrior Culture of Japan, 471-1877 was published from Hackett (the electronic version came out in March, while the physical copy of his book became available in July). He also reports
that his Kings in All but Name: The Lost History of Ouchi Rule in Japan 1350-1569 will be published by Oxford University Press. Likewise, he was named a recipient of Samovar Weapons and Fighting Techniques 1200-1877 by Amber Press in February 2022. Thomas taught two collaborative and rewarding courses with Princeton graduate students, the first, Medieval Asian Worlds, was taught with Han and Meng, the second, a seminar, taught with Megan Gilbert The Law in Action, where students compared Japanese, Chinese and English law codes. Thomas looks forward to continuing his research while on his sabbatical starting in Fall 2022.

Joshua Freeman (HUM) enjoyed teaching two seminars this year, including what is known as full course offering at Duke. His seminar on Uyghur history taught at Princeton. Making use of newly available primary sources, he has continued work on his book manuscript, Print Communism: Uyghur Nationalism in Twentieth-Century China. Over the course of the year, Josh joined an online (online) talks at UC Santa Barbara, Indiana University, and Palacký University in the Czech Republic, as well as a paper at the Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference. He has also devoted time this year to public-facing scholarship, writing about the Xinjiang crisis for The New York Times, The New Review of Books, and Index on Censorship. In addition to online poetry readings at Harvard University and Haverford College, Josh’s poetry translations have appeared this year in The Guardian, Michigan Quarterly Review, and Asymptote, and on a regular basis on Twitter @jfreemant.

Shel Garon (EAS/HIS) spent his sabbatical leave in Paris, where he is a fellow at the Paris Institute for Advanced Study (Shonan Institute for Advanced Study). He continues to write his book, When Home Fronts Became Battlegrounds: The Global War on Civilians, 1914-1945. This sabbatical provided new opportunities to work with historians in Europe and to include more content on France in the world wars. Along with several historians of France, he presented two papers in an ongoing workshop on “Globalizing the History of the World Wars.” He co-organized a monthly seminar on sources among East Asian historians in Paris. He also co-organized this year’s annual-historical conference on blockades taking place in Norway. Sadly, his research has become relevant to the current war in Ukraine.

Tomo Hare (COM) in relation to East Asian material, Tom Hare published a chapter, “On the Origin of the Maze,” Culture and Empires at Cornell University Press, “Representing Memory in Warrior Plays,” in War and Memory in the Samurai Age. On campus, he introduced an extended sequence on Shakespeare’s Macbeth and several other classic cinematic versions of the play.

Marin Kern (EAS) published another intervention on the intersection of Early China and Comparative Antiquity—this time in Chinese Medium, Culture and Empire in Taosiyan yuekan 学術月刊. Her essay “Chinese appearing the open chapter of How Literatures Begin: A Global History (Princeton University Press); and his article “Cultural Memory and the Epic in Early Chinese Literature: The Case of the Xueshu yuekan and the Lisan 論壇 看” was published concurrently in English (Journal of Chinese Literature and Culture) and Chinese (Wenshizhe 文史哲). He co-edited (with Yumi Pines, Jerusalem, and Nina Lurati, Oxford) Early Chinese Historiography: Zhuanzhuan in Comparative Perspective, to which he contributed a chapter “Quotation, Commentary, and the Ritual Order: Staging the Noble Man in Zhuanzhuan,” and is now co-editing (with Stephen Owen, Harvard) a book on Qu Yuan and the Chu 夏楚. This year, Paize Keulemans continued his research on games. A paper on the Japanese role-playing game Suikodens (a remediation of the classic novel Oath of the Marshes) is being published in the Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies. Another essay on Dynasty Warriors (a game version of the classic Romance of the Three Kingdoms) is forthcoming in the new Nanyang Journal of Chinese Literature and Culture. He presented on the game of mahjong at a conference at the University of Chicago, and a third essay on the game of go and dominance in the novel Lie Ping Mei is being published as well. Next, he hopes to tackle the game of go in the poetry of the neo-Confucian Song dynasty philosopher Shao Yong.

Harvey Lederman (PHI) continued his work on Wang Yanying this past year, resulting in three forthcoming papers on Wang’s writings. He is currently editing an essay collection on the unity of Peking Opera and theatre in China. In Spring 2022, he co-organized the conference “Wang Yanying and Ming Thought” which was supported in part by a grant from the Program. The conference featured twelve talks, two in Chinese, one in English, given by scholars from three continents working in history, literary studies, philosophy, political theory and religious studies.

Bryan Lowe (REL) spent the 2021–2022 academic year on a Robert N. Ho Family Foundation/ALCS research fellowship. He spent the year completing his second book, tentatively titled How Buddhism Spread in Japan. He enjoyed the writing and research time in Japan to play with his pandemic puppy, Ayuki (named after the first recorded dog name in Japanese history). He is also excited to return to the classroom in the fall of 2022.

During the AY21–22, Federico Marcon continued working on his manuscript of A History of “Fascism: An Essay on Historical Sources”. He published a chapter on “Tokugawa Philosophy: A Historical Introduction” to the New Cambridge History of Japan which is currently under peer review. He will have a sabbatical leave during AY22–23, which he plans to spend finishing his other book project on an intellectual/semitic history of money in early modern Japan, from 1601 to 1852.

AY21–22 was an exciting year for Ryo Morimoto (ANT) as he passed his third-year review as assistant Professor and became the Richard Stockton Bicentennial preceptor. He directed and produced a sabbatical leave during AY 22-23, which he plans to spend finishing his other book project on an intellectual/semitic history of money in early modern Japan, from 1601 to 1852. He produced a short animation film, “Titration: Nuclear Waste, Culture and the Law in Action,” where he contributed a chapter “Quotation, Commentary, and the Ritual Order: Staging the Noble Man in Zhuanzhuan,” and is now co-editing (with Stephen Owen, Harvard) a book on Qu Yuan and the Chu 夏楚. CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: NUCLEAR PRINCETON–laid by Ryo Morimoto, Buzzy Teisen, and Shinji Sato. Photos courtesy of Faculty community in the summer of 2022. He also published two articles and one commentary during the year: “A Wild Boar Chase: Ecology of Harm and Half-Life Politics in Coastal Fukushima” (Cultural Anthropology). “Home Otherwise: Living Archives and Half-Life Politics in Coastal Fukushima” (Cultural Anthropology), and “Ethnographic Lettering: ‘Pursed Lips: A Call to Suspend Damage in the Age of Decommissioning’ (Critical Asian Studies). In AY22-23, Ryo will start his second book project, which explores the U.S.-Japan collaborative efforts to use robots to continuously address seemingly unrelated though equally pressing issues in Japan: aging nuclear reactors and the aging population.

In 2021–22, James Raymo (SOC) published seven peer-reviewed papers, four book chapters, and gave nine invited talks focusing on multiple dimensions of family change and inequality in Japan. Ongoing collaborative projects with Princeton graduate students examine the impact of the pandemic on psychological well-being in Japan, class differences in parenting in South Korea, and measurement of mortality in China. He taught courses on sociological and demographic research methods and is currently serving as co-director of graduate studies for the Office of Population Research. He serves as faculty director of the Princeton-University of Tokyo Strategic Partnership, leads an international forum called Research on East Asian Demography and Inequality, and will be the founding director of Princeton’s Global Japan Lab (from July 1, 2022). He serves on the board of Princeton’s Global Japan Lab (from July 1, 2022). He taught the course on aging population.

Stephen F. Teiser (REL) was buoyed by the return to in-person classes, research, and conferences and harbor hopes for more. The COVID-19 years saw the publication of two new books, both resulting from long-term collaborations. The first was Duangkham Manuscripts: An Introduction to Texts from the Sihn Road (2020), his translation of the original work by HAO Chunwen. The other was a monograph, based on the Guanghua Lectures at the University of Chicago, and served as the Chair of the Board of Princeton in Beijing. He is also appointed to serve as a Trustee on the Board for Princeton in Asia and served as the Chair of the Board of Princeton in Beijing.

Brian Steininger (EAS) became a Faculty Advisor for First College, and enjoyed the new opportunity to hear from first-years about their high school experiences during the pandemic and their excitement beginning their Princeton career. He plans to have the Spring 2022 writing a book about Japan’s encounter with a new world of Sinistic literature and learning through maritime contact with the Mongol Empire.

In AY 2021–2022, Jing Wang (CHI) served as acting director of the Chinese language program, overseeing the administration of the program. She was invited to give a talk on “Homosexuality in Chinese Language Class: Survey Research and Pedagogical Implications” at the forum “Brining Diversity, Equity and Inclusion into Chinese Language Classroom” sponsored by Yale University’s Council on East Asian Studies in December 2021. She co-authored an article “Online summer Chinese Programs from the Perspective of Community of Inquiry: Curriculum Innovation, Community Building and Student Satisfaction” which was featured in the International Council Major Grant and Teaching in May 2022. Her two creative writings in Chinese, i.e., “May God Bless You” and “Bestie,” were included to talk about community involvement and proficiency at the Japanese Association of Language Proficiency 10th Anniversary Symposium. She also hosted an event, “Japanese language education in a multilingual society” at the Association of Teachers of Japanese (AATJ).
in Tales of Teachers: Case Studies and Reflections from CFL Classrooms in North America which was published by Beijing University Press in 2021. She served on the CLTA (The Chinese Language Teachers Association, USA) Board of Directors and the CLTA 2022 Awards Committee

Andrew M. Wattsky (ART) was pleased to return to the classroom with students this year. ART 425, “The Japanese Print,” is rooted in the study of the museum’s rich holdings of 18th and 19th century woodblock prints, and to do so this past fall required weekly trips by shuttle bus to the museum’s offsite location. For a variety of reasons, class was held at night, 7:30-10:20 p.m., which made for unusual hours for students and museum staff alike, and all was conducted with masks (pandemic-inspired, though in fact standard procedure when viewing art not behind glass in Japan). Dr. Izzard came to Princeton with a bundle of important prints, which we spent a seminar session studying, and he left five of them at the museum for us to work with for the rest of the semester. As the final act of the seminar, the students recommended one of the five to add to the museum’s collection, Utagawa Kuniyoshi’s rare 1830 all-blue triptych, “Snowy Morning.”

Xin Wen (EAS-HIS) was on leave during this academic year supported by an ACLS Early Career Fellowship and a University Presidential Fellowship. He has been preparing his first book The King’s Road: Diplomacy and the Remaking of the Silk Road (forthcoming, Princeton University Press, January 2023) for publication, while starting to work on his second book: Chang an: The Death and Rebirth of China’s Eternal Capital, 900–1400. His article “The Emperor of Dunhuang: Rethinking Political Regionalism in Tenth Century China’s Eternal Capital, 900–1400” was published in the Dumbarton Oaks Papers (forthcoming, 2021), and his chapter “China” was included in China in Mediterranean interrupted: China and the Mediterranean through the ages (Cambridge University Press, 2021).

Yoshiaki Shimizu, Marquand Professor of Art and Archaeology, Emeritus, died of lung cancer at the age of 84 on January 29, 2021, at home in Portland, Oregon. He was a renowned scholar of Japanese art history, teacher, curator, painter, and Princeton graduate alumnus.


OBITUARIES

Professor Yoshiaki Shimizu. Photo courtesy of Denise Applewhite, Office of Communications

Yoshiaki Shimizu, Marquand Professor of Art and Archaeology, Emeritus, died of lung cancer at the age of 84 on January 29, 2021, at home in Portland, Oregon. He was a renowned scholar of Japanese art history, teacher, curator, painter, and Princeton graduate alumnus.

Born on February 27, 1936 and raised in Tokyo and Kyushu, Shimizu moved to the United States in 1953 to attend St. Paul’s School in New Hampshire. He received his bachelor’s from Harvard University in 1963, and his master’s from the University of Kansas in 1968. He earned his Ph.D. from Princeton in 1975, studying under the famed Japanese scholar Shūjirō Shimada. After teaching at Princeton briefly and the University of California, Berkeley, Shimizu spent five years as the curator of Japanese art at the Freer Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. and rejoined the Princeton faculty in 1984. Shimizu served as the department chair from 1990 to 1992, and in 1992 was named the Frederick Marquand Professor of Art and Archaeology. He transferred to emeritus status in 2009. In 2013, he was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Beginning in the early 1980s, Shimizu began publishing a series of innovative essays on a wide range of topics: narrative paintings by the Chan monk-painter Vinitulax, seasonal paintings and poetry in early Japan, workshop management of the Kano painting studio, the provocatively titled “Zen Art?,” and many others that endure. Among his later impactful publications was his 2006 book The Great Chef: Shimizu’s art was celebrated at a solo exhibition in 2017, “Irresolution,” at the Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies at Harvard University.

Professor Ying-shih Yu received the 2016 Tang Center Prize for sinology. Photo courtesy of the Tang Prize Foundation.

Professor Ying-shih Yu received the 2016 Tang Center Prize for sinology.

Ying-shih Yü, Gordon Wu ’58 Professor of Chinese Studies, Emeritus, was named President of East Asian Studies and History, Emeritus, passed away at his home in Princeton on Sunday, August 1, 2021, at the age of 91.

Born in Tianjin in 1930, Ying-shih attended the newly founded New Asia College in Hong Kong. After receiving his degree in 1952, he went to Harvard University as a visiting student and stayed to earn his Ph.D. in 1962. He taught at the University of Michigan and Harvard and served as President, and as Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the new Chinese University of Hong Kong (1973-1975). He was elected as a lifetime member of Academia Sinica in 1974. At Princeton, he taught in the Departments of East Asian Studies and History as first the Michael Henry Letterman University Professor and then the Gordon Wu ’58 Professor before also retiring in 2001. Among other accolades, in 2004, he was elected to the American Philosophical Society; in 2006, he was awarded the John W. Kluge Prize for achievement in the study of humanity; and in 2014, he was awarded the first Tang Prize in Sinology from the Academia Sinica in Taiwan for lifetime contributions to the study of Chinese history and culture.

Professor Yü’s publications and teaching made a profound impact on generations of students of Chinese history and culture around the world. He authored more than thirty books, forty-one monographs, and more than five hundred articles and essays in English and Chinese, on topics spanning from ancient Chinese history to the present day. His scholarly inquiry ultimately extended to four major areas: Chinese historiography, cultural and intellectual transformation in late imperial China, intellectual culture of modern China, and the modern value system of Confucianism. In each of these four areas he produced groundbreaking works that combined a deep concern for traditional sinology, the sensitivity of a literary reader, and the sharpness and depth of modern historical thinking. Trained in both Chinese and Western historical scholarship, he consistently brought a comparative lens to his work, drawing as easily from Thucydides, Max Weber, and Peter Burke as from Sima Qian, Dui Zhen, and Hu Shi on his discussion of history and philosophy. This too gave his scholarship tremendous reach across the globe.

His many publications exemplify his intellectual and linguistic breadth as well as his eloquent literary style. Yü Ying-shih was a lifelong frank commentator on many aspects of contemporary Chinese politics, society, and culture, and he maintained a steady presence in ongoing debates through his articles, critiques, and interviews in popular magazines and newspapers in the Chinese-speaking world.

As a teacher and colleague, Yü Ying-shih was known for his generous support and advice, both for his own students and countless others whom he encouraged and helped over the years, without expectation of acknowledgment. Beyond his formidable scholarly work and his commentary as a public intellectual, he was also a talented composer of classical Chinese poetry, an accomplished calligrapher, and a skilled Go player. As he said often, he loved above all the time to read and write. He leaves behind him his wife, Monica Shu-ping Chen Yü, who was also a teacher and scholar of classical Chinese, and two daughters, Judy and Sylvia Yü. His footprint in the Chinese world of Chinese history and culture was enormous, and he will be greatly missed by family, friends, and colleagues around the world.

This obituary was co-written by Anna M. Shields, C.P. Chou, Susan Naquin, and Willard Peterson. The East Asian Studies Library website also features another tribute to Prof. Yü. See https://library.princeton.edu/news/content/2021/06/24/tribute-yu-yuey-shih-chinese-history}.
The 2021 fall reception took place on September with more than 80 faculty, administrators, staff, and students on the first floor of Prospect House. Good weather and outdoor seating heralded the long-awaited celebration. The reception was one of the first cross-departmental events on campus to be held in-person.

Throughout the year, the Coffee-Hour Lectures continued its more than 50-years of tradition, with lectures both online on Zoom and also in-person in 202 Jones. Other Program-sponsored events were jointly hosted with other units on campus like the departments of Philosophy, History, and Music as well as with frequent partners the Center on Contemporary China and the Tang Center for East Asian Art.

Brian Steininger (EAS) and Columbia University’s John Phan hosted The Colloquium on Literacies across East Asia (CLEA) on April 28, 2022 at Princeton. CLEA is a collaborative workshop sponsored by Princeton & Columbia University, focused on exploring the diversity in structure, style, vocabulary, as well as social, intellectual, and political context of Literary Chinese composition across East Asia and over time.

On May 20, despite rain and stormy skies, over 50 friends and alumni of the East Asian Studies Department and Program gathered in 202 Jones to reconnect at our Reunions Open House. This was the first time EAS hosted a reunions event.

On June 16–18, 2022, Chair of East Asian Studies Anna M. Shields hosted a conference on the transition between the Tang and Song Dynasties, as part of a collaboration with Columbia University. 120 attended including 38 scholars from 31 institutions (including Academia Sinica, University of Cambridge, Leiden University, KU Leuven), who presented their research across a broad range of disciplines. This three-day event brought in registrants from across the U.S.

Program-sponsored Lectures and Events

Descriptions and details for most of the Program’s events are archived under https://eap.princeton.edu/events/archive. Unless otherwise stated, all events are sponsored and/or organized by the East Asian Studies Program either solely or in collaboration with other departments or programs on campus.


3/18-19 The Ballet des Porcelaines, organized by the Department of Music and co-sponsored by the East Asian Studies Program. https://csr.princeton.edu/events/2022/dunhuang-megasite-survey


4/22-23 Connecting Dunhuang: Sites, Art, and Ideas along the Silk Road(s), organized by the Tang Center, co-sponsored by the East Asian Studies Program. https://tang.princeton.edu/colloquia/symposium/connecting-dunhuang

3/25 2022 AAS conference the Princeton East Asian Studies Reception in Hawaii (in-person)

4/1 Chinese Buddhism and Dunhuang Manuscripts: Workshop with Emerging Scholars and Chunwen Hao, organized by the Buddhist Studies Workshop and co-sponsored by the East Asian Studies Program. https://eap.princeton.edu/events/2022/dunhuang-emerging-scholars-hao


4/11 Contemporary China Through the Prism of Its Literary Imagination—Four Major Novels, Their Authors, and How They Measure Up to Lu Xun, Xu Zhong Zhang (NYU), co-sponsored by the Center on Contemporary China. https://eap.princeton.edu/events/contemporary-china-through-prism-its-literary-imagination-four-major-novels-their-authors-and


SUMMER PROGRAMS

Princeton in Beijing (PiB)

The Princeton in Beijing Summer 2021 program was announced in early November 2020 to be delivered remotely due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The program began on June 7 with a week of teacher training, followed by student-teacher orientations and an Opening Ceremony on Sunday, June 13. Classes began on Monday, June 14 with an initial 53 student cohort and the eight-week program concluded on Friday, August 6. The virtual program consisted of a total of at least 120 synchronous class contact hours. The Summer 2021 program offered Second Year (CHI 105C/107C), Third Year (CHI 305C/306C), Fourth Year (CHI 405C/406C), and Fifth Year (451C/452C). All program activities, including classes, individual sessions, and talks, were held using the Zoom videoconferencing platform.

A total of 79 applications was received for the Summer 2021 program. Of the 79 applications, 19 were from currently enrolled Princeton students and 60 from non-Princeton applicants. 53 students were enrolled at the start of the Summer 2021 program. Of the 53 students, 14 were currently enrolled Princeton students (12 undergraduates and two graduate students) and 39 were non-Princeton students.

Perry Link hosted a series of talks that focused on various aspects of Chinese society, inviting experts in the fields of literature, business, law, journalism, and government to share hour-long sessions, and talks, were held using the Zoom videoconferencing platform. guest speakers included Jianying Zha, Perry Link hosted a series of talks that focused on various aspects of Chinese society, inviting experts in the fields of literature, business, law, journalism, and government to share hour-long sessions, and talks, were held using the Zoom videoconferencing platform.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in summer 2021 Princeton-in-Ishikawa was conducted virtually using Zoom as we did in 2020. A total of 18 students from eight institutions, including eight from Princeton, participated in the eight-week program. Last year, non-Princeton students did not receive any credits, but this year Princeton University issued credit to non-Princeton students in addition to Princeton students.

Regarding the class schedule, the Virtual PiB program held classes from 7:00 to 10:00 P.M. (Eastern Standard Time), the same as last year. Delivery hours made it possible for students to attend synchronously from various regions in the U.S. in addition to others in Asian countries.

We taught regular classes using materials such as textbooks and videos during the first and second periods, and we used the third period for various other activities. Like last year, we requested support from the office of the Ishikawa Foundation of international Exchange (IFIE) for the third period. Support was provided in two forms: (1) exchange sessions with local host families and college/high school students, and (2) culture and discussion classes connected with Ishikawa in the curriculum. We also invited guest speakers to hold weekly lectures on topics of interest to students, such as “Introducing Yose and Kamikiri (paper-cutting) Performance,” “Supernatural Kanazawa: An Introduction to Iiami Kyoka’s Weird Fiction,” and “Encounter with Nob.” Besides these activities, using feedback from last year’s PiB participants, this year we decided to include commercial ready-made virtual tours as an extracurricular activity to increase the students’ interest in Japanese culture. Attending the tours was not mandatory, but we allowed the students to attend as many tours as they wanted, such as “Harajuku - Colorful Tour - Animal Cafe & Pop Culture,” “Tea ceremony demonstration & Origami Experience - Sabo,” “Making a Cute CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Activity Poster for Princeton in Beijing for a Zoom event. ‘Introducing Yose and Kamikiri (paper-cutting) Performance for Princeton in Ishikawa. Triple Eight poster of their 2022 spring show. Peking opera superstar and supporter of the Princeton Peking Opera Program, Madame Shi Ji Hong performed for PPPO and PiB in summer 2021 in casual dress. Here she is in full dress as the ‘Drunken Consort.”

Princeton in Ishikawa (PII)

Character Lunch Box,” and “A Walking Sightseeing Tour in Kawagoe - Feel the Edo Atmosphere in This Historic Town.” After each tour, we solicited feedback from students through a survey. We found that students gave more positive evaluations if the tours involved hands-on activities (such as folding origami) and if the content of tour was interesting to them (such as Japanese pop-culture).

Our previous year’s experiences provided considerable valuable insight into predicting problems that may arise this year, which allowed us to better prepare for the problems that actually occurred. In addition, PiB students and instructors as well as Ishikawa residents and guest speakers were more used to using Zoom, which allowed the program to enroll much more smoothly and without as much stress as everyone experienced last year. We also felt that compared to PiI 2020, PiI 2021 had stronger connections with Japan, especially with Ishikawa through the third period’s culture classes and the virtual tours. All of the students collaborated with the goal of learning about Japanese culture and languages, and we were very proud of their motivation and efforts under extremely challenging circumstances.

Princeton Peking Opera Program

The Princeton Peking Opera Program is running its summer 2022 program online, building on the success of last year’s on-line program. The 2022 Peking Opera program will take place August 8-19, 2022 with nine students.

Princeton opera students incorporated their new skills and knowledge in creative performances during AY2021-22. Journey to the West 2 — Going Home, written and directed by summer 2021 participant Cindy Han ’22, featured opera singing and will be coming out as an LP at the end of 2022. Julia Zhou ’24, member of the Princeton University Asian dance group Triple Eight, cited her training in the opera program as one of the influences for their spring recital. For Peking opera program updates and the summer 2022 curriculum, see https://cap.princeton.edu/projects/peking-opera-immersion-program

SUMMER PROGRAM CONTINUED...

Buddhist Studies Workshop (BSW)

On February 18, 2022, BSW held a day-long symposium online entitled “Translating Sanskrit Buddhist Philosophy for the Philosophy Curriculum,” focused on a new translation of Vasubandhu’s Twenty Verses and Exposition. In North America today, philosophers are aware of and often respectful of non-canonical philosophical traditions, but still, Buddhist philosophical texts are taught almost exclusively in Religion departments. Perhaps the problem is partly one of translation. The Vasubandhu Translation Group (VTG) seeks to create texts that can be dropped into a non-specialist’s philosophy course. This includes their recently-completed draft translation of the 5th century Indian Buddhist philosopher Vasubandhu’s Twenty Verses and Exposition (Vinsśvatīyati). The symposium convened nine Philosophy professors from several universities and asked them each to provide their thoughts in response to the following question: “Can you imagine a place for a text like this in a philosophy curriculum?” In three panel discussions, the professors provided thoughtful feedback on the translation, from the very practical discussion of how the text and paratext should be laid out on the page, to the larger questions of what constitutes the study of philosophy. In a final panel discussion, the six members of the VTG interacted with the presenters in a fruitful and provocative conversation. The day concluded with a keynote lecture which was part of the Yin-Cheng Distinguished Lecture Series in Buddhist Studies. Parmal Patil of Harvard University spoke on “Philosophy, Scholars, and Buddhist Scholastic Texts (Sāstra).” Professor Patil addressed the question of how Vasubandhu’s Twenty Verses and Exposition could become a part of the curriculum in Euro-American style philosophy departments today by stepping back from Vasubandhu and his text to contemplate the broader project of whether, and if so how, to bring Buddhist philosophers and philosophical texts from classical India into our contemporary philosophy curriculum. Professor Patil evaluated the various ways Buddhist philosophy has been understood in modern scholarship and compared modern philosophers’ methods with those in traditional Buddhist scholastic texts. Trina Janiec
Juming Huang studied attitudes towards China, the science of science, and online opinion with two published papers and eight working papers. Juming published a paper “Between reality and perception: the mediating effects of mass media on public opinion toward China” in Chinese Sociological Reviews; with collaborators Gavin Cook and Yu Xie. Those studies leveraged a deep learning model to quantitatively analyze the impact of US media reporting on American public attitude toward China, revealing the intermediate role of media in propagating international relations signals to the general audience.


In AY 2021-22, the CCC had eight lectures, seven co-sponsored events (including those with the East Asian Studies Program), and four workshops and panel discussions. For details see https://ccc.princeton.edu/events?field_event_categories_tid%5B26%5D=26&

Celebrating 20 Years: P.Y. and Kinmay W. Tang Center for East Asian Art, Princeton University, published in 2022

P.Y. and Kinmay W. Tang Center for East Asian Art

Despite uncertainties caused by the pandemic, Director Andrew M. Wattsky and Deputy Director Dora C.Y. Ching prioritized marking the Tang Center’s twentieth anniversary with an in-person celebration in the spring. The 2021–22 academic year thus began with virtual programming but slowly transitioned to in-person events. In October, Chelsea Foxwell (University of Chicago) presented “Artful (Re)working: Pictures of Labor in Eighteenth-Century Japan” via Zoom. Foxwell investigated prints by Utamaro depicting labor and analyzed social and political factors, relationships between paintings and printed matter, and hidden cues about physical work, social status, and gender. By contrast, also in October, for the first time in two years, the Tang Center hosted a small dinner at Prospect House for graduate students in East Asian Art and Archaeology, with associated Department of Art and Archaeology faculty and staff, and special guests. The gathering provided the opportunity for some to meet for the first time, for others to renew old friendships, and for all to share research ideas and enjoy one another’s company. The Center hosted a second dinner in late spring, fostering a much-needed sense of community.

To celebrate its twentieth anniversary, the Tang Center organized an international symposium, “Connecting Dunhuang: Sites, Art, and Ideas along the Silk Road(s),” and hosted a weekend of gatherings. Held in a hybrid event, the symposium attracted over 120 in-person attendees, with close to 500 people attending online. The symposium served both as the physical scholarship event for the Tang Center’s anniversary and as a celebration of the publication of Visualizing Dunhuang: The Lo Archive Photographs of the Mogao and Yulin Caves (nine volumes), which was released in June 2021. With a roster of diverse specialists on Silk Road arts and sites, the symposium expanded on the Tang Center’s project in innovative directions.

To commemorate 20 years of activities, the Tang Center engaged in several other projects. A few years ago, Andrew Wattsky and Dora Ching decided to acquire for the Princeton University Art Museum three works of art—one in each of the East Asian cultures. Viewing potential acquisitions proved difficult during the pandemic, but the Tang Center was able to acquire a woodblock print by Kitagawa Utamaro (1753–1806), Komurasaki of the Miuraya and Shirai Gonpachi, from the series True Feelings Compared: The Founts of Love, ca. 1793–94. With the help and expertise of Asian art curators Cary Y. Liu and Zoe S. Kwok, Wattsky and Ching hope to acquire both a Chinese and a Korean work in the near future. The Tang Center also issued a 20-year retrospective publication of the Tang Center’s activities, celebrating the scholarly achievements of all those who have participated in the Center’s endeavors. It includes a chronology of those activities, organized by academic year, revealing the wide variety of projects the Tang Center has engaged in, as well as the broad range of their topics. Additionally, it documents the long-time collaboration of the Center with the Princeton University Art Museum by way of full-color reproductions of the 49 art acquisitions made over the years that now enhance the museum’s collection. For details about the symposium, acquisitions, and publication, please visit the Tang Center website: https://tang.princeton.edu
The academic year 2021 saw efforts to slowly return to normal. Temporary readjustments, due to social distancing requirements, were undone by August, and older students reacquainted themselves with their usual carrels, while newer students now for the first time could navigate the library freely. In August 2022, all employees had fully returned to work. With the appointment of the (new) evening and weekend manager, by late 2021 EAL circulation was finally completely staffed.

The EAL has always welcomed students, professors and independent scholars from the wider tri-state region. As of May 2022, however, such general access is still prohibited by university rules, although recently short necessary visits of students, professors and independent scholars from the wider tri-state region are approved by the Fondazione Prada in Venice to lend one of our Japanese books, the 1802 Kaishihen 藥師編 (Complete Notes on the Dissection of Cadavers), to an exhibition on the human brain.

With the support of the Friends of the Princeton University Library, Joshua Seuffer also acquired a collection of initially 36 items of Chinese ephemera relating to opium. These primary materials document the history of substance abuse, the medical use of opium, and the role of opium as an agricultural product in the 19th–early 20th centuries. It includes, for example, a household registration of an opium user, a permit to grow opium, a magical cure recipe against addiction, a short-term permit for an addict to smoke opium while seeking treatment, as well as several anti-opium broadsides. Further additions to this collection are still underway.

For a delegation of the Korea Foundation visiting Princeton last October for the signing ceremony to establish a new professorship in Korean Studies Hyoungbae Lee selected some of the Korean rare books we have, which included the, Kongpyo/Ch.: Guoyu 国語 (Discourse of the States), the oldest Korean book at Princeton, printed using metal movable type in the 15th century, the, Nausahon chipher 鼠疫籍 (Anthology of Traditional East Asia)
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