

Pacific and Asian Studies Newsletter 2010-2011

FACULTY

Dr. Cody Poulton
Chair (until June 30)

Dr. Martin Adam
Dr. Michael Bodden
Graduate Advisor

Dr. Leslie Butt
Dr. Shelly Chan
Dr. Katsuhiko Endo
Ms. Yasuko France
Dr. Timothy Iles
Ms. Mika Kimura
Dr. Richard King
Dr. Hua Lin
Dr. Tsung-Cheng Lin
Dr. Chris Morgan
Dr. Hiroko Noro
Chair (from July 1)

Mrs. Nozomi Riddington
Dr. Daromir Rudnycky
Mrs. Karen Tang
Ms. Jun Tian

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Ms. Keiko Ota
Mr. Hayato Sakamoto
Ms. Ying Sun

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Mrs. Joanne Denton
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Dr. James Boutilier
Dr. Daniel Bryant
Dr. Robert Florida
Dr. Harry Hsiao
Dr. David Lai
Dr. Joe Moore
Dr. Jordan Paper
Dr. Yuen-Fong Woon

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From Our Department Chair...



TŌHOKU EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI

On March 11 at 2:46 pm (10:46 pm March 10 in Victoria), a magnitude 9 earthquake—the largest on record for the country—struck Japan, followed minutes later by a huge tsunami that devastated many of the coastal communities in Miyagi, Iwate and Fukushima in Japan's Northeast (Tōhoku) region. The entire region as far south as Tokyo and beyond has been rocked by more than a thousand aftershocks, some of them as powerful as 7 magnitude, significantly stronger than the earthquake that destroyed much of Christchurch in New Zealand on February 22 of this year. The quake also disabled several nuclear power plants along the coast, with the most severely damaged, the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant, having its accident rating recently raised to 7,

the highest level. Only once before, at Chernobyl in 1986, has there been a nuclear crisis of this magnitude. Tens of thousands of people have been evacuated within a 30-kilometer radius of the epicentre as radiation has been leaked into the air, soil and sea. As many as 30,000 people are dead or missing in Japan, with many hundreds of thousands still homeless or evacuated from their homes. Food and water shortages exist for much of Japan's Northeast, transportation to the region is still severely limited, and rolling blackouts are still in effect throughout Japan, especially in the Tokyo region, to conserve energy and reroute electrical power to the affected areas. Images of the devastation, coupled with continuing fears of nuclear disaster, conjure up memories of the country during the last days of the Pacific War in 1945.

Many students and faculty at UVic have friends and family in this region, and people were quick to organize fundraising activities. Within days students in Pacific and Asian Studies and other units across campus were collecting money for the Red Cross. P&A and the Office of International Affairs held a public forum on the earthquake and tsunami at the School of Earth and Ocean Sciences on March 17, which was attended by more than a hundred members of the university and Victoria community. Since then students and local Japanese-Canadian community groups have held a number of events including concerts, gala dinners and film nights, to raise funds to help the people of Japan. On June 4, Senior Instructor Nozomi Riddington will run the half marathon in Whistler to raise money for earthquake relief. We would like to thank Nozomi and everyone who has been active in helping the people of Japan recover from this terrible disaster.

CHANGE OF GUARD

On June 30, 2011, I will end my term as chair of the department. Since I first stepped into this office in 2005, the department has seen many changes. Some veteran members of the department, like Daniel Bryant and Fong Woon have retired, while several new members, including Shelly Chan, Katsu Endo, Mika Kimura, Tsung-Cheng Lin, Jun Tian and Daromir Rudnyckyj, have joined our ranks. The department underwent an external academic review in 2005, as a result of which we radically restructured our undergraduate program. The graduate program, inaugurated in 2004, has grown by leaps and bounds, such that we will have as many as 21 new and continuing MA students in the coming year. I want to thank everyone for the hard work and cooperation they have shown in ushering in the changes we have seen over the past few years. Hiroko Noro will be taking over as chair in July. She has stepped in to take over for me more than once in the past six years, and we all look forward again to the experience, patience and good judgement she will apply to the position for her term as chair.

—**Cody Poulton**, outgoing chair of the Department

The Significance of “Too Asian” and its Countermovement

By Shelly Chan

The now infamous November 10 Macleans article that claims our universities are becoming “too Asian” at the expense of white students stirred a storm last winter. Looking back, not many of us would have anticipated the countermovement that brought together so many university campuses and city councils across the country. As the academic year is nearing its end, it is worth reflecting—how on earth did that happen?

The UVic response to “Too Asian” was strong and swift. The UVSS banned the sale of Macleans at the SUB for a limited term. A teach-in that I co-organized with Dr. Cody Poulton drew an enthusiastic crowd of over 150 people in December. In February, the Vice-Provost’s Diversity Conference hosted a special panel called “Too Asian,” for which campus participants and Senator Vivienne Poy provided moving stories, keen insights and sharp critiques. Here and elsewhere, a new generation of Canadians put together youtube videos, blogs and facebook campaigns to meet the ugly polemic of “Too Asian” with energy, creativity and hope.

Although Macleans largely chose to ignore these voices, it remains significant how concerned members stood up for cultural diversity and rational discourse. Whatever may be the challenges in higher education and civic engagement, only these ideals will guide us to a better future. It is reassuring that our university community rose to the occasion so admirably last winter.

Japan’s earthquake and tsunami -- our students respond

The Great Tsunami Bake Sale and Fundraiser: Yuki Ohsawa, Joel Van Loon, Joanna Kriese and Yuumi Noto together organized a bake sale event which raised over \$700 to go to the Red Cross in support of people affected by the tsunami in Japan. Yuumi Noto, pictured below, also organized department t-shirts, with all profits going to the Red Cross. Scott Aalgaard and Natasha Fox, along with other students, helped

organize a concert and dance performance fundraiser called Victoria Stands for Japan, which raised over \$1300 for victims of the disaster.



Photos: Scott Aalgaard

Singing, Speech Contests, and Beyond

Photos and story By Jun Tian

Our Chinese students improve their Chinese learning through various and fun ways. In 2010, UVic and Camosun co-organized the first **Vancouver Island Chinese Singing Contest**, and the event took place on Oct 15th with over twenty students singing Chinese songs, solo, duet, or as a group. The songs varied from children's songs to classic songs and pop songs. The Final Round of the Chinese Bridge Singing Contest was successfully held on Oct. 30th at BCIT Burnaby. There were twenty-eight entries and thirty-five contestants participating in the event. Nine UVic students were selected to participate in the final round, and they all gave excellent performances and had a really good time there. Two of them, Danielle Harvey and Samuel Wade, performed a song "Friends" and the audience all sang along and cheered for them loudly because they were not only pronouncing Chinese very clearly, but also acting surprisingly well, just like superstars on the stage. They waved hands to the audience, smiled at each other, putting on the national flags of Canada and China, and even went off the stage and shook hands with their crazy "fans" sitting in the audience.

They won second place! Especially considering that they have been learning Chinese for only two months, it is an amazing accomplishment. To see their great performance, visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vq37w2O6acY>.



In addition to a \$300 cash award each, they both received a full scholarship to study Chinese in China and will start in September 2011. Danielle wants to go

to Sichuan because she loves pandas, and Samuel wants to go to Xi'an because“我对中国历史和文化非常感兴趣。(I'm very interested in Chinese history and culture.)”

The annual event of **BC Chinese Bridge Speech Contest** always attracts a lot of Chinese language learners from all the universities and colleges in the province. On March 30th 2011, four UVic students participated and shared their Chinese learning experience with the audience. Connor Bildfell, a second year UVic business student, won third place. He talked about his dreams in the future – to fly around the world, and how learning Chinese would help him realize his dreams. He also sang a Chinese song he composed himself accompanied by his guitar. Afterwards, he was approached by OMNI News for an interview, and you might have seen him on TV! The news reporter asked her questions in English, and Connor answered all questions in Chinese!

Graduate Student Adventures

We have a vibrant graduate program, with 20 students currently registered, and 8 more students beginning in September 2011. Here, three of our graduate students report on the adventures they had while gathering materials for their M.A. thesis.

Scott Aalgaard in Japan

My research centres on matters of subjectivity and the social in contemporary Japan. Specifically, I am looking at a form of Japanese popular music called enka, and the ambiguous roles that it plays in processes of what Deleuze and Guattari have called 'becoming'. I hope to be able to move beyond the knee-jerk assumptions of 'cultural nationalism' and 'Japaneseness' that are so often apparent in discussions of enka in order to reveal some of the diverse and complex roles that the genre actually plays in the lives of individual listeners, and why.

This research took me to Japan last year, where I carried out fieldwork in Tokyo and Fukushima Prefecture. In Tokyo, I was able to attend and observe a huge amateur enka singing competition. I also carried out group discussions with enka fans in Fukushima Prefecture in order to gain a deeper understanding of just how historically- and geographically-specific listeners approach the genre,



Scott Aalgaard (black t-shirt) calls for peace with his friends in the Fukushima Prefecture. Photo:S.Aalgaard.

and why. This very messy process of 'musical becoming' is, I think, ultimately a means by which we might consider the desires and lived realities that are firing the development of the social at a level that lies beyond assumptions of 'culture' and 'national history'.

Being able to use my research to attempt to untangle some of the complex and ambiguous threads that ultimately constitute what we loosely call 'Japan' has been a real delight.

Kathleen Gregson in Indonesia

I am currently finishing my MA degree in Pacific and Asian Studies. The project I am working on looks at HIV/AIDS-related stigma amongst healthcare providers in Papua, Indonesia.



Kathleen Gregson (centre) hard at work in Wamena, Indonesia. Photo: L. Butt

Heading into this project, I pictured myself talking about condoms, curses, and misled international organizations. Instead we talked about religion, racial

discrimination, and a multitude of explanations for HIV/AIDS. HIV/AIDS-related stigma is not as simple as people like to think. Stigma is a complex problem that needs to be understood within a specific cultural and historical understanding. The experience of conducting research in Papua has been challenging, interesting, and rewarding.



Photo:K. Gregson

Not only do I now have friends as dear as family in the small city of Wamena, but I have important information about a complex problem that very few people are exploring. I can now say I have lived in the largest city only accessible by air, I can speak Indonesian with moderate fluency, and I have a much clearer understanding of HIV/AIDS-related stigma in Wamena than when I began. In short, this was a fantastic departure from the desks of my classroom at school. How cool is that?

Yuko Kameda in Japan

In May 2010, I was in a small town called Akan located in Akan District, Kushiro City of Hokkaido in Japan. The reason why I visited this small town was to meet the well-known Ainu carver, Toko Nupuri. When I saw one of his masterpieces, Ainu totem poles located in Burnaby Mountain Park in British Columbia, I was very impressed by his artistic creativity. The opportunity to talk with him allowed me to actually feel the Ainu spiritual beliefs through the eyes of the artist, especially the relationship between the Ainu people and the Owl God.

I had a strong feeling that Ainu traditional beliefs are kept alive in his works. The goal of my thesis research has been to demonstrate that the representations of the Owl God have changed as time has passed; however, it is still important in contemporary Ainu societies as a symbolic expression of Ainu cultural

identity.



Yuko Kameda with Toko Nupuri. Photo courtesy Y. Kameda

Some of our graduate students' ongoing M.A. thesis projects

Alicia Lawrence, "Representing the Local: Local Ethnic Indonesian and Indigenous Canadian Literatures"

Galen Poor, "Re-imagining the Past at the Beijing Olympics"

Jason Wolf, "Transformation in Rural Laos: The Impacts of Rapid Modernization and Foreign Financed "Mega" Projects on Local Community Social Structures"

Joel Van Loon, "Looking Outside: Representations of the Periphery in Contemporary Japanese Cinema"

John Yehambaram, "'1Malaysia': New Nationalist Ideals Through New Age Media"

Yang Bai, "A Narrative Analysis of Love Reincarnate"



Japanese tattoo artist in Barcelona, Spain, tattooing in traditional Japanese style, "tebori" (lit. to carve out by hand). Joel Van Loon hopes to pursue the topic of tattooing for his doctoral research. Photo by J. Van Loon.



A photograph of one of the iconic moments in the 2008 Beijing Olympics opening ceremony. Galen Poor will be analyzing moments such as this in his M.A. thesis. Photo courtesy G. Poor.

Undergraduate Research Scholars report on their projects

By **Ruji Auethavornpipat and Nicole McFadyen**

In October 2010, we received the Undergraduate Research Scholarship (URS) We have been working with Dr. Leslie Butt and researching HIV/AIDS in Indonesia. We were interested in analyzing whether or not conservative political and sexual values enter into policy at the level of policy documents. We analyzed Indonesia's national AIDS policy documents, and found that a strong authoritarian structure reflective of Asian values is an important feature of HIV/AIDS policies. We also found narrow and entrenched views on sexuality, the opposite of what external donors such as AUSAID were aiming for with their funding.



Ruji and Nicole in front of their posters at the Undergraduate Research Scholars Fair. Photo: L. Butt

At first, we didn't think the project was going to be fun because it sounded like just another research paper. However, the fun part was using a qualitative data analysis software called MAXQDA to code and organize results. We actually got to learn how researchers conduct a real research project and it has been a valuable experience for both of us. We learned how to design an academic poster. The academic writing and poster design workshops put on by the

LTC were invaluable. Not only has the experience allowed us to practice our research skills through original research, it has also helped us to realize that research is something that we are passionate about and something that we look forward to pursuing through grad school. Being an undergraduate research scholar has been an amazing experience.

Our New Indonesian Language Exchange Program

The department is very pleased to announce a new language and cultural exchange option for our

students. Pacific and Asian Studies is collaborating with ACICIS to offer an Indonesia language exchange program in the beautiful Javanese city of Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

Students will be able to immerse themselves in Indonesian culture while taking beginner, intermediate or advanced Indonesian language and culture courses, all while earning credits towards their degree at UVic. More information is available on the department's website.

IMMERSE YOURSELF IN INDONESIA

Learn the language Live the culture

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We offer short intensive courses or full semester programs

<http://web.uvic.ca/pacificasia/>

ACICIS Study Indonesia

University of Victoria

Department of Pacific and Asian Studies

ECNU Chinese Language Exchange Students in Beijing, March 2011



Front (left to right) – Michael Pickering, Wendy Ashton. Back (left to right) – Brittney O'Neill, Dean Ashton, Karen Tang, Holly Benson. Photo courtesy of Karen Tang

Our Instructors: Research and News

Martin Adam

It has been an exciting year for the study of Asian religions at the University of Victoria. This past year saw the initiation of a new major in Religious Studies, including a number of electives offered through Pacific and Asian Studies. Most notable among these was PAAS 306: Indo-Tibetan Religious Traditions and PAAS 493: Readings in Buddhism. As the program grows, we are hoping to expand our offerings in courses dealing with traditions such as Buddhism, Confucianism, Daoism and Shinto.

Michael Bodden

2010 was a very productive year for publications. The first of my articles on Indonesian left-wing nationalist theatre during the Sukarno era was published in Cultures at War. In late 2010, two long term projects finally saw print: a collection of modern Indonesian plays which I edited and several of which I translated appeared as Volume 2 in The Lontar Anthology of

Modern Indonesian Drama; and my book on theatre and politics in the late Suharto era, Resistance on the National Stage, was published by Ohio University Press. In 2011 I created a new seminar on Graphic Narratives and Globalization. Finally, together with Dr. Daromir Rudnyckyj and Dr. Leslie Butt, I have been working on setting up an Indonesian Field School option for our students.

Leslie Butt

In the summer of 2010, I bravely asked graduate student Kathleen Gregson to accompany me to Papua, Indonesia, in order to conduct research under my supervision for her MA thesis. Within days of arriving, she had conquered the hearts of all of my friends in the town of Wamena. Abandoned by my fickle friends, I was quickly able to finish up the research interview portion of a SSHRC-funded project on gender, stigma and HIV-positive persons. I have been publishing the results, notably in an on-line report summarizing the project's main findings, and an article on confidentiality (or the lack thereof) in clinical encounters which has just appeared in the journal Medical Anthropology.

Shelly Chan

Let's see. This year I taught a new course on gender and women in China, which introduced students to the often misunderstood subjects of footbinding, "modern girl," prostitution and same-sex issues. I also continued to work with my two grad students, Yuumi Noto and Galen Poor. Quite excitingly, I started formulating ideas for my book that seeks to rethink diaspora. To give you a sneak peek, the organizing theme will be based on the Batman movies. Yes, you read it right. Stay tuned.

Richard King

In 2010, I edited two books, one of translations of Chinese fiction about the mid-20th century Great Leap Forward and the famines that followed, and another on the arts during the Cultural Revolution (1966-76). This year I have been concentrating on two other projects, a book on writing for Chinese socialism (now completed), and a multi-author volume co-edited with colleagues in the Department and resulting from

a conference held here on cultural aspects of the complex relationship between China and Japan. In addition, I am working with colleagues at the University library on a project to produce high-quality digital reproductions of two collections of Chinese propaganda posters for an archive to be made generally available on the Web.

Tsung-Cheng Lin

I participated in a roundtable panel, organized by Dr. Daniel Bryant, which was part of the annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, held in Honolulu from March 31st to April 3rd, 2011. The topic was "What Happens in (and to) Shi Poetry after the Song?" a topic which is essential to the understanding of Chinese poetry but has been ignored by modern scholars for decades. This panel aimed to stress the importance of the poetic tradition after the 13th century in China, review the current state of study in the field, and discuss the topics that scholars might devote their research to in the future. The entire panel was quite a success, attracting a good-sized of audience with lots of inspiring discussion and input.

Chris Morgan

At the Canadian Anthropology Society Conference in Fredericton, New Brunswick, May 10-14, I will be convening a Panel on the subject of "Indigenous

Ecumenes" together with M.A. student Jason Wolf. We will explore the "known inhabited worlds" of indigenous peoples. This concept of ecumene derives from the Classical Greek *oikouménē* used to denote the "civilised" world. I invert this usage to present indigenous perspectives, and re-introduces the concept as a means to organise field and archival data on a regional basis, rather than on the basis of particular cultures. Jason Wolf will present a paper on the pre-modern ecumene of Laos Hill people in Southeast Asia.

Hiroko Noro

I spent four months of my study leave at the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures, University of Hawaii at Manoa since mid December, 2010 as a visiting scholar. I was able to focus on writing the manuscript of a Japanese textbook, which will be published in the coming fall from a Japanese publishing house. I also attended an international conference on transnational Nikkei children at Waseda University, Tokyo. I developed another research network with some of the participants at the conference. It was a very fruitful meeting. My stay in Honolulu climaxed with participating in two conferences, AAS and ATJ. Although my study leave is not over, yet, all in all, it has been very productive.

Kudos to...

Tim Iles	2010 winner of the Humanities Award for Teaching Excellence
Cody Poulton	SSHRC grant recipient for "Encounters with the Non-Human in Japanese Theatre"
Daromir Rudnyckyj	SSHRC grant recipient for "Malaysia and the Globalization of Islamic Finance"
Richard King	Promotion to Full Professor

Nozomi Ridington

This past year I've slowed down, and taught with great pleasure, only teaching PAAS 230 and PAAS 330 (Intensive Intermediate Japanese I & II). I've focused on conversation and writing skills, and students have made great progress. I'm participating in The North Face Whistler Half Marathon in Whistler on June 4th, 2011. I am running to raise funds for Red Cross for Japan's victims of the earthquake and tsunami.

Daromir Rudnyckj

This past year I published my book, Spiritual Economies: Islam, Globalization, and the Afterlife of Development, in Cornell University Press's new series "Expertise: Cultures and Technologies of Knowledge." The book challenges widespread assumptions about contemporary Islam by arguing that Muslims today are reinterpreting Islam not to reject modernity but to create "spiritual economies" consisting of practices conducive to capitalism. Drawing on more than two years of research the book shows how self-styled "spiritual reformers" seek to enhance the Islamic piety of workers across Southeast Asia and beyond. Spiritual Economies reveals how capitalism and religion are converging in the developing and developed world and thus offers an alternative to the commonly held view that religion necessarily serves as a refuge from, or means of resistance against, capitalism.

Jun Tian

Teaching Chinese at UVic is such a rewarding experience. I am always amazed at how much my students can accomplish. I teach PAAS 110 (Intensive Chinese I) and PAAS 111 (Intensive Chinese II), as well as PAAS 459 (Directed Readings in Chinese Linguistics). The students have developed a good sense of the Chinese language and can do a lot of things. We did groups skits, participated in several singing and speech contests, went to Chinese restaurants... After teaching this year, I received a huge thank-you card, flowers, cookies and cakes from my students, and a touching letter from a parent of a student, saying how pleased she was to see her son's engagement and achievement in Chinese study. I love my students! I wish you all the best in your academic study and everything else.

Alumni Profile: Charlayne Thornton-Joe

Charlayne graduated from Pacific and Asian Studies in 1983 and enjoyed courses taught by many of the now adjunct/emeriti faculty such as Drs. Boutilier, Bryant, Hsiao, Lai and Woon. Wanting to make a difference in her community upon graduating, she volunteered for many non profits such as the President of the Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria, the Women's Transition House, the Lion's Society of Children with Disability and the Police Diversity Committee.

It was her years in the P & A Department that fuelled her passion for history, and her knowledge and appreciation of other cultures (especially learning more about her Chinese Culture). She has been a member of the Victoria Chinatown Lioness Club for the past 19 years.



The club works to promote Asian History and Culture and raises funds for causes both locally and abroad. As a club member she has organized tours of Victoria's Chinatown (with guidance from Dr. David Lai), and has organized highly successful guest speaker series.

Charlayne wants to make a difference in the community, and in 2002, she was elected to Victoria City Council. She was re-elected again in 2005 and 2008. Due in part to her volunteer work, Charlayne has received an Honorary Citizen of Victoria Award, the YW/YMCA Woman of Distinction Award, the Zonta Woman of the Year Award, the Lion Brian Stevenson Service Award, and the Rotary Community Leadership Award.

Book Launch!

Our department held its first ever book launch at the University Club on April 15, 2011. We celebrated the recent publication of ten books. A wonderful time was had by all!

THEY ARE HERE

4 . 15 . 2011
4:30pm - 6:00pm
Fire Place Lounge
University Club

 Department of
Pacific and Asian Studies

PASSS

The Pacific and Asian Studies Student Society (PASSS) represents all students who are in the Pacific Asian Studies department. The goal of PASSS is to unite all students who are involved in, or are interested in the Pacific and Asian region. PASSS hosts a variety of events where students can learn about different Asian cultures, utilize (and practice) their newly learned language ability, or simply make friends with similar interests.



PASSS celebrates Chinese New Year. Photos courtesy: E. Panter

Pacific and Asian Studies Student Research and Exchange Fund

The Pacific and Asian Studies Student Research and Exchange Fund is now entering its sixth year. This fund is intended to help Graduate and Undergraduate Students alike to be able to travel to the Asia and Pacific regions in order to undertake advanced language training and carry out thesis research and other kinds of critical study projects. Many of our alumni can easily recognise the value of such "first-hand" experience.

Please consider donating to our Student Research and Exchange Fund. No matter how small the amount, every bit will help us reach our goal of a \$10,000 endowment.
