



Visit our reading room to stay updated on events and other departmental happenings! CLE C226

# PASS

PACIFIC-ASIAN STUDENTS' SOCIETY



Representing Students  
of the Department of  
*Pacific and Asian*

JAN  
2019

## Important Dates

- Feb 1 Lunar New Year Dinner
- Feb 2 Explore Uvic
- Feb 6 Student Meeting with Chair (all students welcome to join the conversation)
- Feb 8 A regular Tea and Go (Weiqi/Baduk) get-together at 3pm in CLE A211 – Every Friday
- Feb 28 Speech Contest Entry Form Deadline
- Mar 6 JCURA Fair
- Mar 8 Speech Contest (2:30-7pm in Elliot 168)
- Mar 29 Culture Fair (2-7pm in MPJ Room in Sub)

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## Contact us

[uvicpass@uvic.ca](mailto:uvicpass@uvic.ca)  
[facebook.com/passuvic](https://facebook.com/passuvic)





# INTRODUCTION

Thank you so much for taking the time to appreciate this PASS publication! This newsletter represents our community's ongoing desire to facilitate connections between students, faculty, and the department in order to facilitate our growth.

In this publication, you will find news, helpful information, discourse, opinions, and stories shared by your peers. Produced completely by students, this newsletter is your platform, so seize this opportunity to get to know your department and learn how important your voice is to the greater Pacific and Asian Studies community.

Publication of this newsletter is made possible by financial support from the Department of Pacific and Asian Studies and the Associate Dean Research of Humanities in support of student participation in community discourse.

Thanks is due the students and faculty who gave their time to the completion and content of this newsletter. It was a pleasure working with you.



Tim  
Executive



Kai  
Equity Rep



Justin  
President and  
Undergrad Rep



Anna  
Executive



Pacific-Asian Students' Society



Jayson  
Vice-President



Wae-Shan  
Executive



Hanako  
Executive



Veronica  
Treasurer

~Meet the 2019 Course Union for the Department of Pacific and Asian Studies~

# NEWS

## SPEECH CONTEST

~FOR STUDENTS OF ASIAN LANGUAGES~



Submit your entry by February 28 to show off the results of your tireless studying! Do a 3 to 7 minute speech, skit, or sing a song either competitively

for fun! We'll have judges available to evaluate the Korean, Chinese, and Japanese performances, but learners of other Asian languages are welcome to perform anyway! Check CourseSpaces for a copy of the entry form, or ask us to email you one!

## CULTURE FAIR

~CELEBRATING ASIAN STUDIES~

Come celebrate the cultures, histories, and traditions of the continent we study here in the PAAS department! Present your research, favorite cultural traditions, foods, games, music, or anything you love about Asia! The general public will be invited to join us for this exciting opportunity to get to know our community by experiencing a variety of cultures through the creative expression of students from the department of Pacific and Asian Studies and beyond!

February 1<sup>st</sup>

Join us for some Chinese take-out after our Tea party – Bring 10\$ and we'll order in at 3pm!

February 28<sup>th</sup>

This is the deadline to submit your entry form for the Speech Contest; Submit the entry form by email at [uvicpass@uvic.ca](mailto:uvicpass@uvic.ca)

February 6<sup>th</sup>

Come make your voice heard at our next regular meeting with the Chair, Richard Fox, at 2:30pm in CLE A307

March 6<sup>th</sup>

Come support your PAAS peers as they present their work at the JCURA fair in the SUB – 11:30pm to 3:00pm

March 8<sup>th</sup>

**Speech Contest** (2:30-7pm in Elliot 168) – sign up fast!

March 29<sup>th</sup>

**Culture Fair** (2-7:00pm in MPJ Room in SUB) – let us know if you'd like to book a table soon! There's room for everybody!

Every\* Friday

**Tea and Go!** Come visit us in CLE A211 every Friday at 3pm to enjoy a variety of teas and regular Go games, lessons, and tournaments!

\*Excluding Fridays with other events planned



# COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

## What are PAAS students saying about their classes?



PAAS 499

"The Honours Thesis gave me a chance to work 1-on-1 with a prof on my topic of my choice – So thankful for the opportunity this course offers."

-Justin



PAAS 380

"A Socioeconomic look at Japan. I'm currently looking at the evolution of gender roles in Japan in recent decades; pretty cool so far!"

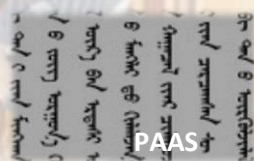
-Jayson



PAAS 103

War and Peace in South East Asia: "we talk about the relationships between China, Korea, and Japan and the cold war; it's super interesting!"

-Tim



PAAS

"...By far my favourite, directed readings allowed me to explore exactly what I was passionate about, letting me explore translation at my own pace!"

-Cat



PAAS 372

Southeast Asian Cinema: "was a great course where I learned about different traditions, modernization, and exploitation in the Southeast region."

-Yvonne



PAAS 101

"How Propaganda is used to manipulate peoples; it's interesting learning about how Propaganda varies from culture to culture"

-Quentin

"My favourite PAAS class was definitely PAAS 393, Humanism in Japanese Cinema to the 1060s taught by Tim Illes. Before taking this class, I was very certain I hated philosophy, but this class really changed my mind on that. And the films were amazing, depressing, and bizarre."

-Talia

PAAS 280: A Taste of Japan: "we could be creative with Japanese cooking. I did my research on soba noodles, which are made from buckwheat. It turns out that buckwheat can only grow in mountainous areas, and such mountains were only located in the top half of Japan."

-Raffi

PAAS 357, Chinese Cinema: Text to Screen, was an interesting course because I was able to see the differences from literature to film

-Yvonne

PAAS 206 Comics and Graphic Novels in Asia and the Pacific: "probably my favourite class out of everything I've taken – I learned tons of new things and made tons of friends!"

-Hope



# COURSE REVIEW

## What's offered in PAAS?

### Sept 2018

100: Intro to PAAS  
103: War+Peace in Asia  
118: Beginner Chinese  
138: Beginner Japanese  
152: Chinese Civilization  
170: SE Asian Culture  
206: Comics  
238: Japanese Language  
300: Socio-Econ Change  
302: literary-culture...  
318: Chinese Language  
338: Japanese Language  
356: PRC Lit. post-1949  
394: Japanese Theatre  
457: Chinese Literature  
459: Chinese Linguistics  
484: Japan Animation  
493: Seminar-Buddhism  
495: Special Topics  
499: Honours Thesis  
500: Theory  
501: Culture, ling., lit...  
520: Special Topics  
521: Special Topics  
599: M A Thesis  
693: Candidacy Exam

### Jan 2019

101: Propaganda  
138: Beginner Japanese  
151: Chinese Culture  
181: Japanese Culture  
200: Theories in PAAS  
204: Asian Religions  
207: Ghosts and Spirits  
218: Chinese Language  
238: Japanese Language  
338: Japanese Language  
340: Japanese Language  
353: Chinese Literature  
357: Chinese Cinema  
380: Japan-Socioecon...  
400: Research Seminar  
412: Chinese Media  
418: Chinese Prose  
456: Chinese Literature  
550: Research Methods  
599: M A Thesis  
693: Candidacy Exam

For more info on courses:

<https://www.uvic.ca/humanities/pacificasia>

"I want to see more South East Asian focused Courses, like Vietnamese history or Sanskrit studies, or the Khmer Rouge."

-Jayson

"While I was a student, I would've loved to take some classes on Korean pop culture. Korea always seemed like an area that was skipped over in the broader theory classes."

-Talia

"language courses have too much of a time commitment as double unit courses, so I wish there were less intensive options available or business language courses for people studying professionally."

-Veronica

## How do our students feel about their options?

"The program could really benefit from more hands-on experience for speaking Japanese, either through Tutorial blocks or something similar. I just feel like that portion of language practice was lacking within the classroom."

-Cat

"I've really enjoyed the courses that integrated linguistic and cultural studies, like ancient Japanese theatre and Sociolinguistic issues in Japanese society, but I want to see more languages offered, like Mongolian, Cantonese, or Korean. There's a big connection between language and the rest of what we learn, so I think it would be great to see a few courses or units dedicated to learning more languages."

-Justin

"Course offerings feel to narrow right now, profs focus too much on their own research. I wish there was less focus on basic languages and more international issues in content courses. I want to study a bigger variety of issues, like Taiwanese or Hong Kong issues."

-Tim

## A MESSAGE TO ALL STUDENTS OF PAAS

The department of Pacific and Asian Studies is made up of all kinds of courses, whether they are offered every term, every year, or very rarely. If you ever feel like a course is missing, make that opinion heard! Contact the PAAS Undergraduate Representative at [uvicpass@uvic.ca](mailto:uvicpass@uvic.ca) to ensure that the department knows what you want.



# PAAS STUDENTS AROUND THE WORLD

"While studying abroad at Kansai Gaidai, a sister school of UVic for five months, I experienced more culture than I ever thought possible. I made lifelong connections with whom I am still in regular contact, and I experienced Japanese music, food, history in an incredibly intimate way. I plan to go back as soon as I can!"

-Mason

PAAS 397: Field School: "...I really enjoyed the presentation that we did for the community including the vice mayor of the city. Another part that I really enjoyed was experiencing the hot springs all around town. There were 7 in total, and I went to 6 of them. I made friends with a dance troupe from Tokyo and went to one of hot springs together. The people there were very accommodating, and very friendly, so I had a great time there."

-Raffi

"The field school was a wonderful chance to contextualize the ideas that I had been immersed in for the preceding years of study at UVic. The course effectively balanced structured excursions with free time to explore the various cities and districts that we visited... It was undoubtedly one of the most significant and valuable experiences of my degree."

-David

"For the 2018-2019 school year I was able to go to East China Normal University in Shanghai. I've made many friends, improved my Chinese language skills, and expanded my knowledge of China. I've also had opportunities to travel to Hangzhou and Suzhou, which also have significant historical value in China."

-Joey

"My year-long exchange in Konan University changed my life! I was able to enhance my Japanese skills, become more confident at speaking (in Japanese and in English). Staying in Kobe was great – it's definitely one of my favorite places in Japan now! I paid regular UVic tuition and really enjoyed the homestay situation I was in; they were like family! I was able to converse with them and get the hang of the everyday Japanese you don't usually get to learn in class. There were scholarships offered which made the trip way more fun and gave me tons of different opportunities to experience Japan to the fullest!"

-Hanako

# BEYOND THE DEGREE

*Pacific and Asian Studies can lead you down any number of paths, and our grads have wound up in so many unique and interesting positions around the world. Hear is a short word from a PAAS alumni who exemplifies this quality. Thank you, Brett, for sharing your story with the next generation of PAAS!*

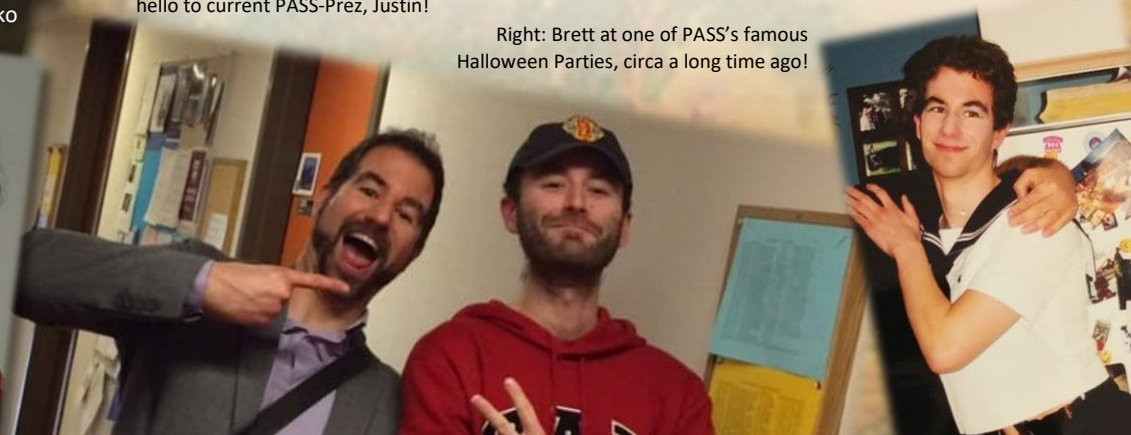
"Since graduating from the Pacific & Asian Studies department in 2005, I've taken roads both well-traveled and less trodden. Soon after departing UVic, I took the traditional PAAS route of teaching English in Asia, specifically in rural Japan via the JET program. That was a mixed experience – I met wonderful people, greatly expanded my language ability through daily immersion, and got up from my academic armchair and gained real-life experience in the region – but life in *inaka*, with limited access to larger cities, was difficult at times. Living up in Japan proved important to my next step from JET, as my Japan skills were key to taking up a job with the Department of National Defence (DND) in Victoria. Since 2007, I've worked as a geopolitical analyst for the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN), which primarily involves keeping on top of security issues in the Indo-Pacific (though the rest of the globe is never ignored) and briefing RCN and DND officials on critical hotspots and over-the-horizon issues. I've had an amazing array of opportunities at DND, including sailing on three RCN frigates, twice in the Indo-Pacific, working for two months in Hawaii for the US Navy's Rim of the Pacific naval exercise, and hosting the Japanese and South Korean navies for official security cooperation talks. PAAS has undoubtedly been an important part of my career, giving me a foundation for broader government work, and there's definitely more to post-PAAS life than teaching English!"

-Brett Witthoeft



Left: Brett (President of PASS circa 2003) saying hello to current PASS-Prez, Justin!

Right: Brett at one of PASS's famous Halloween Parties, circa a long time ago!





# WHAT HAS PASS BEEN UP TO?



The Pacific and Asian Studies Department has offered me so many chances to be part of a community. I've made so many friends here among the faculty and students, and I owe a lot to the support I've had from that community over the years. I can't wait to see what's in store for us next!

-Justin

## PASS IS ALWAYS ACTIVE!

TEA PARTIES

GO TOURNAMENTS

DINNERS

CULTURE FAIRS

AND MORE!

SPEECH CONTEST

THE CHAIRS OF GOLD AWARDS

THE CHAIRS OF GOLD AWARDS

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CULTURE FAIR

CELEBRATING ASIAN CULTURE

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# STUDENT STORIES

**So, Cat! Why PAAS?** “I chose PAAS because my whole life I have been passionate about Japanese culture, and through this program, I have been to explore the culture, history, and language in such depth and in ways I never imagined before and has given me so many opportunities to travel and learn.”



## What's next for you?

“Well, through PAAS I discovered my passion for novel translations, so I want to further my education of the language through JLPT, and possibly look into using the skills I have gained to work in such a field.”

## Best experiences in PAAS?

“...how passionate and relatable a lot of the profs were, especially Dr. Iles, who really helped me explore so many opportunities like JCURA and doing my own research in Japan through scholarships!

## Advice for future PAAS students?

“Pursue your passions! Seek put every opportunity, do exchanges, go to conversation cafes, become active in PASS, and connect with your teachers! There are so many opportunities that will become your favourite memories and will let you graduate without any regrets!”

## Hey Talia, tell us about your PAAS journey!



“I started my journey at UVic attempting a degree in Psychology, but I quickly switched over once I learned that PAAS existed. I definitely enjoyed my studies more when I felt interested in the material. My favourite experience was the field school to Japan I did with Dr.

Iles and the class. I would love to come back someday and maybe complete a Masters, but for now, I'm really enjoying the freedom and following my career passions. My advice for future students: do the readings!”

## Any final thoughts?

“A huge thank you to everyone in the department who helped me along my journey. I hope the sense of community I felt there can grow and flourish under the direction of the new Chair!”

## Joey! You're one of the most dedicated members of our PAAS community; what's your story?

“As a Victoria local I had no clear path for what I really wanted to do when I graduated high school. I always knew that I wanted to learn the Japanese language, as well as explore my Chinese heritage and that opened the door for me. Pacific and Asian Studies helped me connect myself to my culture and taught me so much more.

A few road blocks along the way were failing some courses that I wasn't exactly fully interested in, and dealing with a full course load every semester I have had. These experiences lead to a mental health struggle and some social anxiety. I think it's important to do the best for you and not be pushed in a direction that isn't right for

you. Also the professors were super understanding when I was having a difficult time, so don't be afraid to reach out! My fourth year was one of the best experience of my life. I became the Vice-President and later that school year, the President of Pacific-Asian Students' Society. I've made life-long friends and I wish I could have participated sooner! Follow your heart! 跟隨

你的心! 心に従ってください!”



## How about you, Chan-hee?

우리 학과는 항상 많은 이벤트들이 있는 만큼, 새내기도 유학생도, 모두 함께 어울리며 공부할 수 있습니다. 저 역시 처음으로 학기를 시작했을 당시 여러 소셜 이벤트,



그리고 학생회에 조인하며 쉽게 새로운 친구들을 만들고, 또 그들에게 여러 가지로 도움을 받게 되었습니다. 교수님들 역시 항상 학생들에게 오픈되어있고 엄격하고 딱딱한 이미지보다는 학생들을 이해하며 도와주시려 했기 때문에 더 빨리 대학에 적응할 수 있었습니다. 아시아의 언어와 문화에 관심이 있는 학생들에게 좋은 학과라고 생각합니다.

# GRAD SPOTLIGHT

Thanks for taking the time to fill us in on what you've been working on, Jerry! Our grad students are so busy, so sometimes it's easy to forget they're working right alongside us. What're you working on?

“I'm looking at Jiddu Krishnamurti's group dialogue approach, to propose that instructors in higher education might adapt or emulate the features of his approach in their classrooms. Krishnamurti (1895 - 1986) was not a traditional educator, since he never worked as a teacher at any school. Yet, even though he died over thirty years ago, there are still schools in England, California, and several in India, that integrate his approach to education in their instruction of children and young adults. I argue that university educators might be interested in applying Krishnamurti's uniquely collaborative approach in higher education.”



## For the undergrads out there, what is life like as a Grad student in PAAS?

“I'm so excited about life as a grad, and with my exploration around Krishnamurti, that I am enthusiastically working to continue with a PhD after I complete my Masters. I get to meet so many intelligent, interesting, and friendly people, and my work with Krishnamurti seems to offer up more and more inspiring discoveries as I go.”

**Questions about the graduate program in the department of Pacific and Asian Studies? Get in touch with our Grad advisor, Michael Bodden by email at [mbodden@uvic.ca](mailto:mbodden@uvic.ca) or talk to any PAAS prof – they'd be happy to help you explore your post-undergrad options, brainstorm some research topics, or enjoy a nice conversation with you!**

**Take a quick look at some other examples of our grads' work!**

**And Qichen, another of our hardworking grad students! Could you tell us a little bit about what you're working on?**

“It is a great pleasure for me to study here as a graduate student. I am very lucky to have the great opportunity to learn from our professors — they are not only knowledgeable teachers for my study but also trustworthy mentors for my life.



My thesis is about classical Chinese poetry, aiming to examine the image of women in Bai Juyi's (772-846) poetry. It is kind of joyous to work on what you really like in a supportive and friendly environment.”

## Do you have any thoughts on the PAAS community as a whole?

“It is exciting to see that more and more people are joining this group and making PAAS a more engaging and energetic department.”

Technology and Interactivity in Modern and Post-Modern Japanese Theatre

-Diana Draker

The chivalrous spirit in The Water Margin

-Jingwan Miao

Javanese Power and Popular Culture: Wayang Tales and Resistance to Hegemony During the Suharto Years

-Dave Long

The Transformation and Upgrading of Marine Industry and Impacts in East China

-Guodong Wang

De-revolutionizing the Red Classics: A Case Study of Track in the Snowy Forests a Genre from Novel, Drama, Television to Movie

-Liyong Lily Wang



# MEET THE PROFS

*It can be intimidating to walk down the long, orange hallway of big, orange doors, knock on a door, and walk in to find the person responsible for your GPA staring at you over a pile of unmarked papers. However, waiting for you inside is one of the most interesting, excited, helpful people you will ever meet! Maybe you only see them a few hours a week in class, and maybe you've managed to avoid eye contact with all or most of them for fear of being called on to answer questions – looking at you, Iles – but I guarantee you're missing out on one of the best resources available to you if you don't get to know at least a few members of the PAAS team. I wish I could introduce them all, but space is limited, so here's a little intro to a few of our old and new members who would love to hear from you.*



## Hello, Angie Chau! Tell us about you!

"Hello, I'm excited to be teaching Chinese literature and culture classes at UVic. I grew up in the U.S. and moved to Victoria from Shanghai last year."

## What's the best part about your job?

"The best part of my job is being able to spend time researching topics that I find interesting and entertaining but are often not treated seriously, such as celebrities and trashy



movies. I really enjoy bringing up my current work in class and hearing students share opinions or perspectives that are completely different from mine."

## What's the best essay you've read recently?

"I'm reading Andrew Jones' book *Like a Knife* (1992) on late 1980s early 1990s rock music in China. It's not new but it's helping me think through recent

conversations about censorship in rap and hip hop in mainland China. I also just re-read Zhang Ailing's autobiographical 1944 essay "Whispers" (Siyu 私语) for a directed readings course this term—a classic!"

## What's the worst part about your job?

"The worst part is hearing students say they don't see the connections between our course content and their everyday lives, but I accept that as a challenge!"

## What's your favorite class to teach?

"PAAS 302/501... it's a great way to get students from all different language backgrounds together to think critically about what it means to study and learn about other cultures and languages."

## Any advice for your students?

"Get to know your classmates and your instructors; establishing relationships within the university community is the best way to make your learning experience more meaningful."

## Timothy Iles! What's your deal?

I work on issues of identity, responsibility, and social engagement/ criticism in Japanese film, primarily, but also Asian film and literature, within the traditions of the Humanities—the intersection between narrative, ideology, and language (either verbal or visual)—the only traditions that have enduring merit.



## And what's YOUR favorite part of the job?

Working with my students! Hands down, by far, this is the very best part of my job. Working with students and watching them develop as students, as scholars, and as people is absolutely thrilling, and makes up for everything else.

## And your least favorite part of the job?

Anyone and everyone who knows me knows exactly what I dislike the most about my job, and exactly why.

## How about courses; any favourites to teach?

Actually, all of them—I don't have any courses that I don't enjoy; I build all of my courses because the content, approach, and outcomes all matter and are meaningful to me, and, I hope, to my students as well, to give them academic skills, specific knowledge, but also a sense of personal responsibility and pride in their accomplishments as people discovering their paths in life. I want to live in a world of dedicated, committed, socially engaged and responsible human beings, and so I hope in some small way the material and perspectives I work through with my classes can help create that.

## What's the best essay you've read recently?

Hard to say... I've had breathtaking essays in all my classes, and I try to give opportunities and encouragement for all my students to do their best work—and their most honest, in every sense.

## What's your number one message to students?

This one is easy: *be engaged* in your education—it's for you! Don't worry about grades or what your friends are studying or (to an excessive extent) what job is at the end of everything. Take the courses *\_you\_* want to take, and take them *fully*; that means, show up, do the readings, ask questions, get to know the prof, get to know the material, and find out what you do and don't like. If the course/prof doesn't satisfy you, find out why! And demand excellence from your prof, your fellow students, and yourself, most of all. Do this, and your education will literally be a life-changing experience.

## Hiroko Noro! A veteran of our department!

"I liked teaching even when I was a child... When I was in first grade, the teacher asked me to teach subtraction to one of my friends after school. I really got a kick out of it."

## Would you say you're a tough teacher?

"I believe in pushing my students to their limit, but often they don't notice it. At the first meeting of my language courses, I announce that we are going to disprove the myth that Japanese is a difficult language to learn."



## What's your secret?

"I don't think there is any one right way to teach—any one method. I'll use any method available as long as it works."

## Hello Sujin! Introduce yourself!

"I am Sujin Lee, a new faculty member in PAAS. My research interests include Japanese colonialism, Japanese intellectual history, politics of gender and sexuality, and history of modern medicine."



## And how would you answer our questions?

"The best part of my job is continuous learning through research, teaching, and interaction with my brilliant colleagues and students. The worst part of my job is that there is no end to learning so I will never be satisfied with my knowledge. It is too early to tell my favorite class since I have taught only 4 classes at UVic. Generally, I like to teach cross-border movements of people, ideas, and commodities in modern and contemporary history. Roxane Gay's *Hunger*: a memoir of (my) body is one of my favorite books I read recently. Her personal memoir about her body, misogyny, and rape culture helps us reflect upon the social construction of our own body as well as our body-image. My message to students is simple: read as much as you can and write as often as you can!"



University  
of Victoria

Pacific and  
Asian Studies

Some Profs of  
**PACIFIC AND ASIAN STUDIES**



# STUDENT-FACULTY DISCOURSE

*The following interview represents an ongoing conversation between students of PAAS and those in the faculty responsible for guiding the department – Be part of the conversation!*



Name: Richard Fox  
Position: PAAS Chair  
Office: CLE C205a  
Contact: rpfox@uvic.ca  
Classes: PAAS 400

## What are the unique strengths of this department?

"As a newcomer to PAAS, I've been greatly impressed by our faculty's commitment to education, and to developing programs that provide students with opportunities for real-world experience. The PAAS Field Schools exemplify this ideal, but it's also evident in more subtle ways throughout the Department. Here we might look, for instance, to the diversity of the student body itself—which is a great asset. Indeed, my sense is we could make much more of this, drawing on our students' – and faculty members' – wide range of experience to engage in a sustained and cross-cultural conversation about Asia and the Pacific—and its wider significance for the Humanities. Looking ahead, we'll be building on these strengths!"

## What would you like to see improve?

"Well, there's rather a lot one might wish to say here. In the first instance, a thoroughgoing review of the curriculum is long overdue. I'd also like to see us engaged more fully with the complexities of day-to-day life in Asia and the Pacific—both on the contemporary scene and historically. This is going to require breaking down some of the artificial boundaries – regional, disciplinary, linguistic – characteristic of a traditional Area Studies approach. If PAAS hopes to do something new and innovative, we must have the courage to lean forward and rethink the field afresh. Here it will be crucial to devote more effort to community-building both within PAAS and beyond. Here, too, the diversity of our student body is a great asset. But an intellectual community requires cultivation in order to flourish—and I will be calling on faculty members and students alike to offer their suggestions for future development."

## How do you respond to students' desire for more diverse studies, like Korean culture/language?

"Clearly this is an important issue. As Chair, I take the interests of our students very seriously. As a preliminary step, we're hoping to offer a special topics seminar in 2019-20 on Korean history and culture. Establishing Korean language as part of our regular curriculum would entail both careful planning and long-term commitment. And this is something I hope we

may be able to explore in the future. But, first, there are other pressing challenges that must be addressed—such as the need to provide a clear upper-level pathway for advanced students of Japanese. That said, I hope students will continue to press for the courses – and related programming – that they desire. This is merely the beginning of a conversation!"

## Could faculty be doing more to engage students?

"Yes. Absolutely. In the coming year I will be encouraging our faculty to plan, and participate in, events that enable conversation and community-building within PAAS, and beyond. Of course, community cuts both ways... I'd also like to see more students at events such as the PAAS research colloquium—where we all get the chance to learn about – and offer critical commentary on – our faculty's ongoing research."

## Please sum up your goals for the department.

"It is my hope to see PAAS develop into a community of vigorous critical enquiry, bringing together students and faculty in pursuit of scholarship – and learning – of the highest quality. This will require deepening our existing cultural and linguistic expertise, while at the same time breaking down the boundaries that artificially separate sub-regional and disciplinary commitments. To be sure, this paired agenda pulls in two directions at once. But it also reflects the demands of the field, and the nature of the world in which we live. What is more, it will help us to contribute to wider debates within the Humanities and the university at large."

## A Response by our Student Representatives

"It's great to see that our Chair has the PAAS community in mind, and he's right that it's going to take work by both faculty and students to build that community. But this is only the start! I encourage everybody to keep submitting questions! ☺"

-Undergrad Rep

"That sounds like a wonderful plan!"

-Grad Rep

# THANK YOU

## The last page! You made it!

What did you think of this experiment in community building? If you have any complaints about the presentation or messages conveyed, that's great! Contribute your own views to this ongoing conversation, and we'll continue using this newsletter format to connect and inform every member of our PAAS community.

## How to contribute?

The Pacific-Asian Students' Society (PASS) is always looking for people to join us and help out with event planning, community building, and other such things. Membership in PASS can involve any amount of commitment that works for you, whether you want to come to all our meetings and events or just enjoy tea and a game of Go with us once a term.



## Where does community start?

Look to your right, or look to your left. You see those people sitting next to you? Talk to them! It's frequently stated that the most valuable part of your time in school is the connections you make with the people going through the journey with you! Even if you feel you don't have time to join PASS for our events, keep making those connections, keep striving to create community!



Pacific-Asian Students' Society

## Get in touch with PASS



uvicpass@uvic.ca



facebook.com/passuvic

We absolutely need your feedback and participation to achieve great things in PAAS. With your help, we can make this department the most exciting, active, interesting, and engaging community possible. More events, more funding, more snacks, more games, more friends, more fun, more everything you could ever want from your time here in PAAS!

## What if you have a problem and don't want the whole world to know about it?

"That's what our Equity Rep is for! Hello, I'm the Equity Rep for Undergrads this term (you can see me on the right, there). Get in touch if you notice anything unfair, discriminatory, or otherwise inequitable going on around you, whether it be classmates, profs, or course content, and I'll pass your concerns on to the people who can deal with it while maintaining your anonymity. I'm here for you, and we'll work hard together to keep PAAS awesome."

-Kai

