Design and layout
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Photographs

Cover photo by Gabriel Rose
Just before the celebration of Ho Chi Minh's birthday outside the mausoleum in Hanoi, Vietnam

Other photos
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Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives
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Congratulations

Coming up next year

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This report covers the period July 2013 to June 2014
Welcome to CAPI’s 2013-2014 Annual Review. It seems impossible that another academic year has swept by, however, as you will see from this report, the Centre was busy and the fast pace never let up. This was a year of events starting with our “Perspectives on China’s Transition” conference in September. That event was kicked off with our annual Albert Hung Chao Hong lecture, presented by public intellectual Minxin Pei. To a packed audience, Professor Pei offered a comprehensive look at where China is today and what we might anticipate in the future. If you did not have the chance to join that event, a video of Dr. Pei’s talk can be found on our website.

Our China conference was followed by many other events, including three public panels: “What is the real cost of a $10.00 dress? Lessons from the Rana Plaza tragedy: labour rights, commodity chains and shared accountability”, “Fallout from Fukushima: Nuclear Energy, Civil Society and Political Positioning”, and “Tiananmen Square Protests: A Reflection 25 Years On”. These events brought scholars together from both across and off campus, to address some of the multifaceted and interconnected complexities of tragedy.

Our energies were also directed at our Migration and Mobility Program (MMP), which included organizing and hosting a Migration Master Class in May that was led by Drs. Leslie Butt and Lisa Mitchell as part of their SSHRC-funded project “Southeast Asian women, migration and family in the global era”. The Master Class sessions were taught by visiting scholars Jennifer Hirsch and Heather Horst and involved 25 researcher and graduate student participants. We were also busy with the preparations of our new open-access, online e-journal, Migration, Mobility & Displacement. Watch for our inaugural edition, due out in early 2015. We also started organizing our upcoming migration focused conference, “Migration and Late Capitalism: Critical Intersections with the Asia-Pacific and Beyond” that will take place in June 2015. This conference will be the first of many attached to the MMP and will bring together researchers, policy-makers and activists to engage in critical dialogues.

Our year also included welcoming many visitors to the Centre including two graduate researchers from Bangladesh as part of our CAPI International Internship Program. Sharmin Ahmed came to us from BRAC University and Pulak Chakma from East West University, both from Dhaka, Bangladesh. As well, we hosted Rowena He from Harvard University, Patrick Brown, former CBC Asia Bureau Chief, Claudia Li, founder of Shark Truth, author Grant Menzies, alumnus Ian Baird, and CAPI Associates Ivan Somlai and Anne Park Shannon.

The descriptions above are but a small slice of life at the Centre over the past twelve months. No wonder the year flew by!
About the Centre

In 1988, the Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives became the first Senate approved research centre at the University of Victoria. Recognizing the importance of the Asia-Pacific region to Canada, the concept of a Centre focusing on Asia-Pacific issues was given financial support by the Dorothy and David Lam Foundation, the Federal Secretary of State and the Provincial Government of British Columbia. Since its inception, CAPI has acted as a vital link between the University of Victoria and the Asia-Pacific region, providing interdisciplinary programming and research initiatives that have brought together scholars from the region with those from UVic.

With our executive committee we have identified a vision, mandate and values for the Centre that reflect our strengths and commitment to supporting the goals of the University, particularly in the area of internationalization. The focus of our mandate is consistent with the four key areas of the UVic strategic plan, A Vision for the Future – Building on Strength: People, Quality, Community and Resources.

Our Vision Statement

Through the continued excellence of its research and programming, CAPI will be recognized as the pre-eminent Asia-Pacific focused academic centre in North America. The Centre will engage with institutions, civil society and leading scholars at the University of Victoria and across the world to broker and facilitate meaningful relationships that will make a difference.

Our Mandate

By providing a supportive environment for scholarly excellence and community engagement, CAPI will deepen the connection between the University of Victoria and the Asia-Pacific region. Through the work of CAPI’s Chairs and programming, CAPI will be a catalyst for the creation, recognition and dissemination of knowledge concerning issues affecting the region.

Our Goals

- To create and maintain connections between the UVic community and the Asia-Pacific region.
- To create and provide research programs and learning opportunities of such quality as to ensure CAPI’s leadership among Asia-Pacific research centres in North America.
- To recruit, retain and support talented faculty, students and staff at the Centre; supporting them to achieve their highest potential.
- To access external funding to increase our programming and thus to increase the benefit to the University and the wider community.

Thanks

We could not do the work that we do without our funding partners. A special thank you goes to: the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council; the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada; the Canadian International Development Agency; the Jarislowsky Foundation, and Albert Hung Chao Hong.

Tokyo Umbrellas by Peter Rosenbluth.
The winning photo from CAPI’s 2012 Photo Contest.
Our people

Some of the CAPI team. From left to right: Natasha Fox, Dr. Mary Yoko Brannen, Catherine Dooner and Helen Lansdowne.

Staff

Associate Director — Helen Lansdowne
Chair in China and Asia-Pacific Relations
– Dr. Guoguang Wu
Jarislowsky East Asia (Japan) Chair
– Dr. Mary Yoko Brannen
Assistant to Jarislowsky East Asia (Japan) Chair
– Natasha Fox
Asia Desk Forum Coordinator – Sarah Close-Humayun
International Internship Program Manager – Robyn Fila
Migration and Mobility Program Assistant – Joel Legassie
Communications Officer – Catherine Dooner
Secretary – Liana Kennedy / Shannon Bowie

Executive committee

CAPI’s Executive Committee advises on policy directions and contributes to achieving the goals and objectives of the Centre.

Helen Lansdowne (Chair) – Associate Director, CAPI
Andrew Marton – Associate Vice-President, International
Micheal Miller – Associate Vice-President, Research
Howard Brundt (Ex-Officio) – Vice-President, Research
Philip Dearden – Department of Geography
Peter Keller – Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences
Jon Muzio – Department of Computer Science
Jeremy Webber – Faculty of Law
Guoguang Wu – Chair in China and Asia-Pacific Relations, CAPI
Feng Xu – Department of Political Science
Capi Associates advise on projects and Centre activities. They are drawn from the campus and the community.

Ercel Baker
Jessica Ball
James Boutillier
Christine Bradley
Connie Carter
Xiaobei Chen
Timothy Craig
Philip Dearden
Lu Ding
Derek Ellis

Nicholas Etheridge
Stewart Goodings
Thomas Gu Guoting
Jingjai Han Chanlash
Carin Holroyd
Ralph Huenemann
David Chuennyan Lai
Stacey Lambert
Sharon Lee
Tim Lindsey
Lawrence Liu
Isabel Lloyd
Gordon Longmuir
Kenneth MacKay
Peter Maidstone

Ted McDorman
Chris Morgan
Catherine Morris
Masafumi Nakahigashi
Pip Nicholson
Linda Pennells
Saikai Pahi Saikia
Anne Park Shannon
Mark Sidel
Ivan Somlai
Tad Suzuki
Robby Tulus
Stephen Tyler
Art Wright
Francis Yee

Visitor to the Centre

Dr. Leslie Butt, Associate Professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Victoria has been a visiting scholar with the Centre since September 2012 as a Professor in Asia-Pacific Relations.

Dr. Butt is leading the research on two projects that are part of our Migration and Mobility Program. Both projects have received SSHRC Insight grant funding. These projects are:

- Southeast Asian women, migration and family in the global era
- Stateless children, parents and undocumented migration: An Indonesian pilot study

See page 11 for more information about the Migration and Mobility Program.
Research is at our core

During the past two decades, CAPI has built a strong reputation as one of the major Asia-Pacific focused research centres in Canada. Its position on the West Coast, in close proximity to the University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University and the University of Washington, has provided tremendous opportunities for collaboration and research sharing. CAPI continues to be a catalyst for knowledge mobilization through collaborative research in the areas of law, history, politics, society and economics, and continues to build on its strengths to expand its areas of expertise. In addition, the Centre’s research is enhanced by the expertise of its Research Chairs, who are leaders in their field.

Research Chairs

Chair in China and Asia-Pacific Relations, Guoguang Wu

Guoguang Wu joined the Centre in July 2004 as the Chair in China and Asia-Pacific Relations. He is a Professor at the University of Victoria, teaching in both the Departments of Political Science and History. He received his BA from Peking (Beijing) University in China, an MA from the Graduate School of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (Beijing), and an MA and a PhD in Political Science from Princeton University. Dr. Wu’s research interests include comparative politics and international relations with an emphasis on East Asia, particularly China, Hong Kong and Taiwan. Thematically his research interests cover institutional transition from communism, the political economy of globalization, liberalization and democratization, the politics of authoritarian mass media, and foreign-domestic linkages in foreign policy and regional security.

Jarislowsky East Asia (Japan) Chair, Mary Yoko Brannen

Mary Yoko Brannen is the Centre’s Jarislowsky East Asia (Japan) Chair and joined us in July 2012. This Chair position, shared by CAPI and the Gustavson School of Business, came into existence as a result of a $1 million gift from Canadian financier, businessman and philanthropist, Stephen Jarislowsky. Trained as an organizational anthropologist, Dr. Brannen’s research interests and consulting specialty are in helping multinational firms realize their global strategic initiatives by aligning, integrating and deploying critical human resources. Born and raised in Japan, having studied and taught in France, Spain, China and the US, and having worked in the field of cross-cultural management for over 20 years, Dr. Brannen brings a multi-faceted, deep knowledge of today’s complex cultural business environment to the Centre.

Law Chair, Victor V. Ramraj

Victor V. Ramraj will be joining the Centre in July 2014 as our Law Chair, a position shared with the UVic Faculty of Law. Dr. Ramraj has already started working on some exciting new projects and conferences for the Centre. Most recently, Dr. Ramraj has taught in the Faculty of Law at the National University of Singapore where he served twice as the law faculty’s Vice-Dean for Academic Affairs (2006–2010, 2011–2012). He has also served a one-year term (2010–2011) as the co-director of the Centre for Transnational Legal Studies in London. He holds degrees in law (LLB, Toronto; LLM, Queen’s University Belfast) and philosophy (BA, McGill; MA, PhD, Toronto). His current research interests include comparative constitutional law (with a particular interest in emergency powers in Southeast Asia), the legal history of state and company (with a particular interest in the British East India Company and its comparison with modern state-owned enterprises), and the theoretical and practical implications of transnational law and legal pluralism.

Further information about our Chairs and their work is available on the CAPI website.
China Chair report

Over the past year, Dr. Guoguang Wu has devoted most of his time to revising a research monograph (Cambridge University Press, forthcoming in 2015) based on his last SSHRC-sponsored research project. As the CAPI China Chair, Dr. Wu organized a series of activities that included a major workshop on China’s political and economic transitions (the conference volume will be published by Routledge) and an Albert Hung lecture. He also served the Centre in many other ways such as joining various committees and participating in CAPI-sponsored events. Dr. Wu was active in promoting the profiles of CAPI and UVic both nationally and internationally, mainly via research collaborations with other institutions, attendance at conferences, meetings with guests and media interviews, as well as involvements in professional services in various channels.

Activities Organized

Organizer of a workshop on “China’s Transition in Perspectives,” University of Victoria, Victoria, Canada, September 27–28, 2013.

Organizer of an Albert Hung Lecture given by Minxin Pei, University of Victoria, Victoria, Canada, September 27, 2013.

Involved to set up the “Overseas Class” program of the Canvard College, the Beijing University of Technology and Business, at the University of Victoria, Spring 2014.

Referred Publications


Other Publications


Wu, Guoguang, “The China Smog, the China Model, and the China Dream,” the Trend magazine (Hong Kong), the January issue, 2014.

Conference Papers, Presentations, and Public Talks

“Societal Capacity for Governance Challenges: Democratic Transition and China’s Experience,” a presentation delivered at the workshop “Perspectives on China’s Transition,” University of Victoria, Victoria, Canada, September 28, 2013.


“Political Stability and Political Development,” a presentation at the workshop on China’s development, the Keck Center of Claremont McKenna College, Kyoto, Japan, November 16, 2013.


A speech at the “Overseas Class” ceremony of Canvard College of the Beijing University of Technology and Business, Victoria, BC, Canada, January 10, 2014.
Presentations at the symposium “Rewriting the History of Twentieth-Century China,” the Boya Foundation, Sanya, China, January 21, 2014.

Presentations at “Tiananmen at 25; A Symposium,” Saint Joseph’s University, Philadelphia, USA, April 23 and 24, 2014.

A talk at the conference “Tiananmen in History and Memory,” Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, USA, April 26, 2014.

“Split of Ruling Elite and Its Implications for Regime Transition,” a presentation at the workshop on “China’s Transition,” Claremont McKenna College, California, USA, May 17, 2014.

“The Pitfalls of Prosperity: China’s Future Democratic Transition Against the Cost of Development?” a paper delivered at the workshop “Democratic Transitions Under One-party Rule,” the Chinese University of Hong Kong, June 6, 2014.

Other Conference Participations


Panel chair, “Panel 1: Regime Resistance to Democratic Transition,” the workshop “Perspectives on China’s Transition,” University of Victoria, Victoria, Canada, September 28, 2013.

Panel chair, “Concluding Panel,” the workshop “Perspectives on China’s Transition,” University of Victoria, Victoria, Canada, September 28, 2013.

Panelist, the workshop on China’s development, Kyoto, Japan, November 14-16, 2013.

Panel discussant of panel two, the symposium “Patterns and Regularities of Social Change in 20th-Century China: Cycles of Social Instability,” Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan, November 18, 2013.

Panel discussant of panel three, the symposium “Patterns and Regularities of Social Change in 20th-Century China: Cycles of Social Instability,” Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan, November 18, 2013.

Services

As well as continuing membership on the Editorial Boards of nine international academic and public-affairs journals based in Canada, France, Hong Kong, India, Singapore, Taiwan, UK and USA, during the reported year I was invited to join the following organizations:

Member of Academic Board, the Boya Culture Foundation, Shenzhen, China, since 2013.

Member of Academic Board, The Tiananmen Academy of Democracy, USA, since 2013.

Member of the Standing Review Board, the Humanities and Social Sciences Panel of the Research Grant Council of Hong Kong, China, 2013-15.


As well, during the reported period I was invited to serve as an assessor of journal articles, book manuscripts, research proposals, and professional promotions for many institutions in Australia, Canada, China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, UK and USA.

On the home front, I rendered regular services on various department, faculty, and university committees through the Department of Political Science, which this report does not cover. Relevant to CAPI, however, I sat on the Executive Committee, co-chaired the Faculty Research Grant Committee, served on the editorial board of the new electronic journal on migration, and joined the Pacific and Asian Studies department Chair Search Committee as an external member, as well as participated in the Migration and Mobility Program forum and many other CAPI-related activities.

Media Activities and Social Recognition

September 19, 2013, National Public Radio (USA), interview on Chinese politics.


June 2, 2014, appeared as an interviewee on the CBC program “The National” on the anniversary of Tiananmen.

June 4, 2014, featured in The Apple Daily (Hong Kong) on Chinese politics.

The year end of 2013, listed by the Zhengyou jingzuo [Rightist politics and leftist economy] Studio (China) as one of the ‘100 Chinese Public Intellectuals of the Year’ http://zhegnyjz.freeblog.biz/
Dr. Brannen's activities in the second year of her post have included the hosting of panels and workshops, delivering international keynote addresses and research talks, reinvigorating networks with East Asia and Japan scholars, developing new partnerships, providing cross-cultural and Japan-related insights and mentorship to the business sector and students at all levels of the University, and serving as Deputy Editor of the leading international business journal—the Journal of International Business Studies.

By actively engaging with scholars and experts in a range of disciplines, as well as pursuing her own cutting-edge research in cross-cultural management particularly in the Asia-Pacific region, Dr. Brannen has worked toward developing Asia-Pacific programming that connects the academic community across campus, cultures and countries.

**CAPI campus events**

Open to both UVic and the Greater Victoria community, these CAPI-organized events are intimate functions designed to bring a breadth of in-depth knowledge around various issues affecting and concerning the Asia-Pacific. On October 29, 2013, Dr. Brannen introduced Anne Park Shannon for the launch of her book *Finding Japan: Early Canadian Encounters with Asia on Japanese-Canadian history.*

**Media Interviews and Awards**


Received the prestigious All-Academy 2013 Best International Symposium Award of the session entitled "The Upside of Foreignness" by the Academy of Management at the Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida, August 9-13, 2013.

**Conferences, Keynote Addresses and other Talks**

Attended the Consortium for International Marketing Research at UVic, June 28-29, 2014.

Chaired the panels “The Multifaceted Role of Language in International Business,” “Knowledge, Culture and Innovation,” “Current and Future Research on Multiculturals: Conceptualization, Development and Implications” and was a panelist for “From Friction to Synergy: A Look at the Bright Side of Culture in Cross-Cultural Management Education and Learning” at the Academy of International Business in Vancouver, June 23-27, 2014.


Presented on ethnographic methods and contextually deep cross-cultural research at the Western Washington University School of Business, February 19, 2014.

Delivered research seminar on ethnographic methods and action research at Hitotsubashi University in Japan, January 19, 2014.

Presented the paper “Bicultural Bridging in Multicultural Teams” at the Research Institute for Economics and Business Administration at Kobe University, Japan, January 17, 2014.


Presented the papers titled “Leveraging Inside-Out Bicultural Knowledge to Reinvent the Core: The Case of Tesco Plc” and “The Upside of Foreignness—Exploring Outsider Competitive Advantage” at the Academy of Management Annual Meeting, Lake Buena Vista, Florida, August 9, 2013.

Chaired two sessions and was a panelist on two sessions at the Academy of International Business Annual Meeting, Istanbul, Turkey, July 3-7, 2013.

**Cross-Disciplinary Workshops and Panels**


Attended the Master Class Workshop on Family Entanglements, Migration and Media at UVic, sponsored by the Migration and Mobility Program at CAPI, May 27-29, 2014.

Organized and hosted Pipeline Palooza III—an unconventional, engaging research conference involving Gustavson School of Business researchers at all stages of their careers and research including PhD students, March 14, 2014.

Introduced the interdisciplinary panel on Japan’s March 11 disasters, titled “Fallout From Fukushima: nuclear energy, political positioning, civil society and social consequences”, March 11, 2014.

Hosted Professor Nancy Adler, the S. Bronfman Chair in Management at the Desautels Faculty of Management at McGill University. Professor Adler gave a seminar titled “The Artistry of Global Leadership—Finding Beauty in a Fractured World”, March 10, 2014.
Organized two workshops on Qualitative Data Analysis Software Tools, led by Professors Julia Gluesing and Ken Riopelle, November 8, 2013.


Teaching and Program Development

BUSI 601 – Fundamentals Course for incoming doctoral students in the Gustavson School of Business PhD program, Fall 2013.

Guest lecturer for the PhD programs course on methods and occasional lecturer in the MBA and Masters of Global Business Program.


Hosted Ms. Mandel at CAPI for the month of July, 2014.

Predeparture training for outgoing CAPI interns on language, communication and cross-cultural awareness, April 18, 2014 and June 18, 2014.

Hosted Professor Hiroko Akiba from Hitotsubashi University, Japan, March 8, 2014.

Visited the internship organization (Citynet) home offices in Yokohama, Japan, January 16, 2014.

Appointed and served as Director of Research at the Gustavson School of Business, July, 2013.

Refereed Publications


Editorials and Edited Volumes


Further information about our Chairs and their work is available on the CAPI website.

“The growing proportion of people of mixed cultural identities in the global workforce provide companies operating globally with an unacknowledged opportunity to better bridge across cultural contexts and integrate and meld knowledge from around the world.”

Dr. Mary Yoko Brannen
The Migration and Mobility Program (MMP), established in 2012, has had a successful first year. The program is a long-term interdisciplinary initiative at CAPI aimed at exploring the processes and impacts of the Asia-Pacific’s place in global migration trends in the 21st century. The program supports cutting-edge research activities on critical new patterns in migration and mobility.

Since the program’s inception, several projects have been developed. First, an interdisciplinary steering committee has been actively organizing a conference entitled Migration and Late Capitalism: Critical Intersections with the Asia-Pacific and Beyond, to take place at UVic in June 2015. In addition, the Program has published a Working Paper and a Research Brief (available online), with more working papers and research reports in development. Next, MMP has conceptualized and set in motion the first-ever open-access journal on migration and mobility in the Asia-Pacific region, called Migration, Mobility & Displacement. Under the editorial leadership of Dr. Feng Xu (UVic, Political Science) and an international advisory board, the journal has asked leading scholars to write boundary-pushing articles for the forthcoming inaugural issue.

Last, the MMP continues to house two major SSHRC-funded research projects on Southeast Asia. The first project, led by Dr. Leslie Butt (CAPI Visiting Scholar) and Dr. Lisa Mitchell, is entitled Southeast Asian women, migration and family in the global era. The researchers hosted a Master Class at UVic in May 2014 entitled Family Entanglements, Migration and Media. The second study, led by Dr. Leslie Butt and Dr. Jessica Ball, is called Stateless children, parents and undocumented migration: An Indonesian pilot study, and explores how migrant parents who travel without documentation understand the idea of citizenship for their children. All these activities help place CAPI at the forefront of research on leading issues related to the extraordinary mobility of persons to, from, and within the Asia-Pacific region.

“It has been gratifying to work with the CAPI team on the Migration and Mobility Program, and to see so many important initiatives take shape in 2013 and 2014. The program is already having a significant impact on understandings about the Asia-Pacific in the current global era.”

Dr. Leslie Butt
Since 2003, CAPI has been sending Canadian interns to work with civil society organizations in the Asia-Pacific region. This year was another exciting period for CAPI's International Internship Program.

From June to December 2013 we sent our last group of interns that were funded by the Students for Development projects awarded through the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, and funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

During this period, we not only sent six extraordinary UVic students to work with our partners in India, Bangladesh and the Philippines, we were also able to support Sharmin Ahmed and Pulak Chakma, visiting graduate students from Bangladesh, to join the Centre from September to December 2013. Both Sharmin and Pulak spent the fall term working on their own research and completing graduate course work. Ms. Ahmed also participated in a panel discussion on the Rana Plaza incident and provided a Bangladeshi development perspective to our successful dialogue about the ‘true costs of a $10 dress.’

To support CAPI’s increasing interest in migration and migration-related issues, we have continued to work with our incredible partner organizations doing important work in the area of migrants’ rights. Our partners in 2013–2014 were Migrant Forum Asia and the Center for Migrant Advocacy in the Philippines, WARBE Development Foundation and the Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit in Bangladesh, and Migrant Forum India and the Society for Participatory Research in Asia in India. During this period we have also developed a new partnership with CITYNET Yokohama who will be hosting two interns from May 2014. We are excited to work with CITYNET and look forward to a fruitful relationship with them in the coming years.

With the dismantling of CIDA and as a result, the loss of our program funding, CAPI needed to come up with some creative ways to keep our program going. With the continued support of the Centre, we were able to fund six student placements from May to November 2014.

“The Society for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA) is an international centre for learning and promotion of participation and democratic governance that focuses on capacity building, knowledge building, participatory research, citizen centric development and policy development.

During my time at PRIA I worked with the gender team on a few projects pertaining to addressing violence against Dalit women in Sonepat, Haryana. With the guidance of some extraordinary women, I gained a better understanding of the ways in which social and cultural constructs of class, caste and gender affect people’s experience of violence in India.”

Sonia Preisler
Intern at the Society for Participatory Research in Asia in New Delhi, India

Sharmin Ahmed & Pulak Chakma
Visiting graduate students from Bangladesh
The interns

2013 Interns

Our final round of Students for Development funded interns left in June 2013 for their six month placements.

Natalia Yang
Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit
Dhaka, Bangladesh

Sonia Preisler
Society for Participatory Research in Asia
New Delhi, India

Elena Lopez
Center for Migrant Advocacy
Quezon City, Philippines

Christine Galipeau
WARBE Development Foundation
Dhaka, Bangladesh

Cory de Vries
Migrant Forum Asia
Quezon City, Philippines

Jacquie Day
Migrant Forum India
Kerala, India

2014 Interns

Our next group of interns left in January 2014 for their six month placements.

Elsie Daoust
Migrant Forum Asia
Quezon City, Philippines

Harrison Ellis
National Domestic Workers Movement
Chennai, India

Shannon Doyle
Center for Migrant Advocacy
Quezon City, Philippines

Alanah Nasadyk
CITYNET Yokohama
Yokohama, Japan

Kip Jorgensen
Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit
Dhaka, Bangladesh

Sean Grisdale
CITYNET Yokohama
Yokohama, Japan
China Youth Leadership Program

In June of 2014 CAPI conducted its pilot project of the China Youth Leadership Program. Partnering with eight universities in China, the week-long programs provided Chinese university students from Kunming, Yunnan and Beijing with both an on-campus academic lecture series and off-campus field trips covering local history, arts and culture, gender and identity, and environmental studies.

CAPI’s Associate Director Helen Lansdowne delivered a lecture on Gender and Society, and CAPI’s Migration and Mobility Program Assistant Joel Legassie lectured on the local history of Victoria’s settlers and First Peoples. Field trips included a walking tour of Downtown Victoria and Chinatown, the Royal BC Museum, the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, Craigdarroch Castle, Butchart Gardens, and a visit to the Tsartlip First Nation at Tod Inlet to take part in the environmental education and restoration project on site.

The success of the pilot project will lead to its implementation full-time starting Fall 2014, to be facilitated by Program Coordinator Charlie Gordon.
CAPI events cover the issues

Throughout the academic year CAPI holds events addressing the issues affecting the Asia-Pacific region. Our conferences, workshops, symposia and on-campus lunch and learn series inform the hundreds of people who come to explore the history, religion, science, politics and civil society of the Asia-Pacific. Many of our events are free and open to the public. Check out the CAPI website for links to videos of past events.

Lunch and Learn series

New Boss Same as the Old Boss? China’s New Generation of Leaders Settles In
Patrick Brown (former CBC Asia Bureau Chief)
November 20, 2013

Working in Military Environments
Ivan G. Somlai (Director of Global Collaboration and CAPI Associate)
January 22, 2014

Spiriting Away the Homeless: Cambodia’s Urban Apocalypse
Simon Springer (Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, UVic)
February 3, 2014

Surfing and Cycling for Peace in West Papua
Jeremy Bally (UVic Alumnus), Geoff Clark (Filmmaker, Isolated) and Todd Biederman (Pacific Peoples Partnership)
February 14, 2014

Considering the Concept of Indigeneity for Land and Natural Resource Management in Cambodia, Thailand and Laos
Ian G. Baird (Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Wisconsin – Madison)
March 14, 2014

Book Launch series

Shadow Woman – The Extraordinary Career of Pauline Benton
Grant Hayter-Menzies (Author of Imperial Masquerade: The Legend of Princess Der Ling)
October 9, 2013

Passage to Promise Land: Voices of Chinese Immigrant Women to Canada
Vivienne Poy
October 10, 2013

Finding Japan – Early Canadian Encounters with Asia
Anne Park Shannon (CAPI Associate)
October 29, 2013
HUNG LECTURE

The end of China’s one-party state: a predictable event?

September 27, 2013

Dr. Minxin Pei, Director of the Keck Center for International and Strategic Studies at Claremont McKenna College, presented our 2013 Albert Hung Chao Hong lecture. Dr. Pei reflected on China’s transition to democracy and analyzed the drivers of this transition, explored possible pathways to democracy and analyzed some of the critical consequences of this revolutionary change. Since its near-death experience in the Tiananmen crisis in 1989, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has adopted a comprehensive strategy of survival that uses a mix of performance-based legitimacy, repression and co-option. The effectiveness of this strategy has led many to believe that the CCP will be able to maintain its political monopoly for the foreseeable future. However, historical experience around the world, insights from decades of social science research and emerging trends inside China suggest that a transition to some form of democracy in China in the coming 10–15 years is highly probable.

This lecture was the keynote for the conference, Perspectives on China’s Transition. Dr. Hung has funded the Hung lecture series since 2007. The lecture series provides an opportunity for a distinguished visitor to address a community audience on a topic of current public interest in the Asia-Pacific region.

NEIL BURTON LECTURE

Shark Truth: Bridging the Worlds of Culture and Environmentalism

February 26, 2014

In this lecture, Claudia Li, founder of Shark Truth (the initiative that began as a campaign to ban shark fin soup) and co-founder of the Hua Foundation, shared an intimate story of the success and ethnic challenges of bringing an environmental and conservation lens to her community and a lens of culture to environmental and conservation movements. A first generation Chinese-Canadian who grew up in a big traditional family that emigrated from Hong Kong in the 1980s, Claudia Li discussed the struggle of constantly straddling the worlds of culture and environmentalism. How do we create solutions that can make both worlds happy? How do we redefine the meaning of culture and tradition to benefit both worlds?

Neil Burton (1941-2010) was a long-time advocate for closer Asia-Canada relations and went to China as part of the first Canada-China student exchange in 1973. He lived in China for eight years and then in Japan for 18 years before returning to Canada in 1990. Neil taught at Sophia University, the University of Toronto and at UVic. A commemorative fund has been established in his honour.

CONFERENCE

Perspective of China’s Transition

September 28, 2013
Senate Chambers, University of Victoria

CAPI China Chair, Dr. Guoguang Wu, brought together leading scholars for a keynote lecture, and a conference entitled, “ Perspectives on China’s Transition.” The keynote was our annual Albert Hung Chao Hong lecture on September 27, 2013. The conference included top scholars on China from all over the world.
Facing Tragedy

CAPI presented a series of public panels to address some of the multifaceted and interconnected complexities of tragedy. We looked at three events that have shaken the Asia-Pacific region and the world: the Rana Plaza disaster, the fallout from the meltdown of the nuclear plant in Fukushima and the Tiananmen Square protests. These panels brought together scholars from both across and off campus.

What is the real cost of a $10 dress?

November 6, 2013

On April 24, 2013, Rana Plaza, an eight-story commercial building housing five garment factories collapsed in Savar, a sub-district on the outskirts of Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh. A total of 1,131 factory workers were confirmed dead and many others suffered grave injuries.

We gathered an interdisciplinary panel to address some of the multifaceted and interconnected complexities that the Rana Plaza tragedy reveals about human rights, precarious labour, contemporary commodity chains and shared accountability. This event’s panel was moderated by CBC’s former Asia Bureau Chief, Patrick Brown and included panellists from across the university campus. We were pleased to include Sharmin Ahmed (visiting Graduate Researcher in Development from BRAC University, Dhaka, Bangladesh).

Fallout from Fukushima:
Nuclear Energy, Political Positioning, Civil Society and Social Consequences

March 11, 2014

On the third anniversary of the meltdown of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant following the magnitude-9 earthquake and tsunami that hit northeastern Japan, CAPI presented an interdisciplinary panel discussion that explored the complexities of the Japanese economic and political establishment, the role of civil society and the scientific discourse surrounding the disaster. This panel provided an opportunity for discussion, information dissemination and access to facts about Fukushima radiation and fallout from the disaster. The panel was moderated by Dr. Cody Poulton (UVic, Pacific and Asian Studies) and included panellists from across campus.

Tiananmen Square Protests:
A Reflection 25 Years On

May 30, 2014

In the spring of 1989, millions of citizens across China took to the streets in a nationwide movement against government corruption and authoritarian rule. What began with widespread hope for political reform ended on June 4 with martial law being enforced and the army firing on unarmed citizens in Tiananmen Square, Beijing. The scale of army mobilization and casualties was unprecedented in modern day China.

To respectfully mark the 25th anniversary, CAPI brought together two experts on China whose lives were forever changed by the tragedy. CBC Asia Bureau Chief Patrick Brown was in Beijing covering the student protests days before June 4th, and he has a unique perspective on covering the events for the CBC. Author and scholar, Rowena He, was born and raised in China. Her talk was based on her new book, *Tiananmen Exiles: Voices of the Struggle for Democracy in China*, which interweaves her own experiences with the accounts of three student leaders exiled from China in the aftermath of the military crackdown.
IDEAFEST
Stories from the field
March 4, 2014

This year CAPI held an interactive event about the experiential student learning opportunities available on campus to work or study in Asia. Past participants of the CAPI internship program shared stories and experiences from their placements in Bangladesh and the Philippines working with migrants’ rights organizations. Following the students’ presentations, there was a short documentary film screening of Chain of Love and student-led discussions about the Philippines’ second largest export product – maternal love – and how this export affects the women involved, both in the Philippines and in the West.

PANEL
India Votes 2014
May 22, 2014

CAPI and the Centre for Global Studies presented a panel discussion of the 2014 Indian election – one of the largest democratic elections in the world, with 814.5 million eligible voters set to elect members of parliament in all 543 parliamentary constituencies.

The election was not without its controversy, particularly around the prime ministerial candidate of the main opposition party, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Mr. Narendra Modi, the winner and current Prime Minister, was praised by many for his leadership. However, others have pointed to criticism of Modi’s past and his inability to tackle poverty in his state. Prior to the election, the country was divided and stakes were high for the ruling Congress Party and the BJP. The results of this election will have an impact on India and around the world for years to come.

The panel was moderated by Reeta Tremblay, Vice-President Academic and Provost. Panelists include: Sikata Banerjee, Associate Dean, Humanities and Professor of Women’s Studies; Sudhir Nair, Assistant Professor, Gustavson School of Business and Richa Sharma, PhD Student, School of Population and Public Health, UBC.

MASTER CLASS
Family Entanglements, Migration and Media
May 27–28, 2014

This Migration Master Class was designed to establish critical new veins of research in the areas of family and migration and is the opening event of the SSHRC-funded research project, Southeast Asian women, migration and family in the global era. The class brought together the research team, including graduate students and additional experts from the west coast, to explore key issues relevant to forming social science inquiries. This three-day class was led by two experts in the field of Migration and Mobility – Jennifer Hirsch, Professor and Deputy Chair for Doctoral Studies at the Department of Sociomedical Sciences, Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University in New York, and Heather Horst, Vice-Chancellor’s Senior Research Fellow, School of Media and Communication, RMIT University, Melbourne.
PERFORMANCE
ON TRIAL! The Panama Maru in Victoria: Performing a Hundred Year Retrospective

November 24, 2013
BC Supreme Court courtroom at the Maritime Museum of BC

On October 17, 1913, the Japanese ocean liner Panama Maru steamed into Victoria’s harbor. Among its passengers were 56 newcomers from India hoping to settle in Canada. Most were detained under Canada’s Continuous Journey regulations, imprisoned at Victoria’s immigration shed and ordered deported by immigration officials. However, the passengers refused to give in. Support from the new South Asian communities in Vancouver and Victoria (centred in the newly completed Topaz Street gurdwara), and from Euro-Canadian allies, prompted a legal challenge. The outcome in the Supreme Court of British Columbia surprised everyone, angered politicians in Victoria and Ottawa, sent shock waves across the Pacific and set the stage for the Komagata Maru tragedy six months later.

To commemorate the 100th anniversary, UVic students presented a creative performance of the trial and aftermath under the direction of Dr. John Price (UVic, History)

Sponsored by the UVic History department and the Maritime Museum of BC with the support of the UVic’s Asian Canadian Working Group, the Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives, the Centre for Global Studies, the Faculty of Graduate Studies, the Faculty of Humanities and the Centre for Studies in Religion and Society.

MOVIE
Reactors – Lessons from Fukushima

January 21, 2014

Media activist, Ian MacKenzie (Sacred Economics, Occupy Love) presented a free screening of his short film REACTOR, exploring post-Fukushima Japan and the unfolding crisis. The screening was followed by a Q&A and discussion. MacKenzie’s film asks questions such as: How can we see the shadow of our existing paradigm? and How can we awaken towards a world that works for all life?

Presented by CAPI, the Religious Studies program, the Centre for Studies in Religion and Society and the Department of Pacific and Asian Studies.
Congratulations to our 2014 award recipients

Faculty Research Grants

CAPI offers up to three Faculty Research Grants every year to support research activities focused on the Asia-Pacific region.

Congratulations to Dr. Veronica Pacini-Ketchabaw at the School of Child and Youth Care and Dr. Jo-Anne Lee at the Department of Women’s Studies for being awarded a 2014 CAPI Faculty Research Grant.

Dr. Pacini-Ketchabaw’s research project is “Addressing Intergenerational and Environmental Justice in Canada, Australia and Hong Kong.” Dr. Lee’s research project is “North American Asian Women’s Studies Curriculum and Network Building Project.”

Student Research Fellowships

Four Student Fellowships valued at $2,500 each are available on an annual basis to support student research and study in the Asia-Pacific region.

Debra McKenzie
PhD candidate in the Faculty of Law
“Hybrid Law in the Kingdom of Tonga: Maintaining the dynamism of tradition”

Harrison Ellis
BA student in the Department of Political Science
“Work Experience and Community Involvement”

Evelyne Laurin
Masters candidate in the Department of Geography
“Empowerment of vulnerability? Investigating the social impacts of microfinance programs on Cambodian women”

Danielle Claar
PhD candidate in the Department of Biology
“Elucidating mechanisms of coral reef resilience to El Niño on the world’s largest atoll”

For more information and application details, please see the CAPI website.

Student Essay Prizes

CAPI offers prizes for the best essays focusing on the Asia-Pacific region completed for a UVic course during the current academic year.

Hanning Wang (winner)
Masters candidate in the Department of Sociology
“An Alternative State-Centric Explanation of Chinese Citizens’ Preference of the Xinjiang System”

Boma Brown (runner up)
BA student in the Departments of Economics and Political Science
“Race and Gender: An Intersectional Examination of the Hiroshima Maidens”

CONGRATULATIONS

Dr. Veronica Pacini-Ketchabaw
Harrison Ellis, winner of a student research fellowship and a CAPI intern with National Domestic Workers in Chennai, India
CAPI is making plans for 2014–2015

The Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives has already started making plans for our 2014–2015 academic year! We have four upcoming conferences and have started planning to welcome some exciting speakers.

CONFERENCES

Zheng He’s Maritime Voyages (1405–1433) and China’s Relations with the Indian Ocean World from Antiquity

University of Victoria | August 22–24, 2014

This international conference will focus both on Zheng He’s epic voyages in the early fifteenth century and on China’s millennia of relations with the Indian Ocean world (extending from East Africa and the Middle East through South and Southeast Asia to the Far East).

Asia Desk Forum

Downtown Victoria | April 15–18, 2015

The inaugural Asia Desk Forum will provide a unique opportunity for private and public sector lawyers with an Asian dimension to the practice to extend and deepen their knowledge of cutting-edge legal issues through a series of workshops, panels, and lectures, led by those who know Asia best.

For more information and to register, visit us at www.uvic.ca/asiadeskforum.

Migration & Late Capitalism: Critical Intersections with the Asia-Pacific and Beyond

University of Victoria | June 11–13, 2015

CAPI’s Migration and Mobility Program will host a three-day conference, which will bring together researchers, policy-makers, and activists from diverse disciplinary and regional locations to discuss new theoretical directions, interdisciplinary approaches, and critical dialogues on migration and mobility in the context of late capitalism with a particular, but not exclusive focus, on the geopolitics of the Asia-Pacific region.

More information about this conference is available on the CAPI website.

Trans-Pacific Aviation Law & Policy

Downtown Vancouver | October 8–9, 2015

Bringing together airport, airline, government officials, and aviation law and policy academics from across the Americas and Asia, The Trans-Pacific Aviation Law and Policy Conference aims to discuss key legal-policy issues relating to Trans-Pacific aviation. With program sessions on air service agreements, antitrust immunity, visa and transit issues, security and safety, the environment and regional perspectives, this conferences seeks to engage with professionals and academics alike who have a stake in the industry.

For more information and to register, visit us at www.uvic.com/transpacificaviationlaw.

LECTURES & SPEAKER SERIES

Hung Lecturer – Linda Smith

Linda Smith will present the Hung Lecture as part of the Migration & Late Capitalism conference to be held in June 2015 by CAPI’s Migration and Mobility Program.

Neil Burton Lecturer – Tim Brook

Tim Brook, Republic of China Chair in the Department of History and at the Institute of Asian Research at the University of British Columbia will present the Neil Burton Lecture. Date to be announced.

Japan and the Other: Societal Change from 1945 – Present

Mary Yoko Brannen, the Jarislowsky East Asia (Japan) Chair is launching a new seminar series that will aim to Japan’s seeming homogeneity, uncovering the diversity of Others within Japan, as well as examining Japan’s changing relationship with its foreign Others.
CENTRE FOR ASIA-PACIFIC INITIATIVES
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