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Over 30 years of Bridging the Pacific

The Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives (CAPI) was established in 1988 at the University of Victoria (UVic) in recognition of the importance of Canada’s relationship with the burgeoning Asia-Pacific region. For over three decades CAPI has served as a bridge for academics, students, policy-makers, and civic leaders to undertake a diverse range of initiatives on both sides of the Pacific, from hosting conferences, supporting original research, and fostering institutional capacity building to administering scholarly exchanges and professional training programs.

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.
As CAPI enters its fourth decade, it does so with energy and enthusiasm, but also mindful of its history and with the maturity that comes in one’s forties. We move forward in the company of friends, supporters, researchers, and partners from across UVic and around the world, from the shores of the Pacific and Indian Oceans to the upper reaches of the Himalayas. In our last annual report, we highlighted CAPI’s 30th anniversary and the upcoming gala dinner, which took place on 16 November 2018, with internationally acclaimed novelist Amitav Ghosh as our keynote speaker. The 30th anniversary dinner was also an opportunity to launch a fundraising campaign known as the CAPI Beyond Borders Fund, in support of our internship program. We were delighted by the enthusiastic response. The Fund received over $25,000 in contributions in its first year, allowing us to officially endow it. This new fund will help to support our internship program, which this year saw 14 interns return from placements and another cohort of 12 students head out into the field in India, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Japan, South Africa and Zambia. Our returning interns present their activities and projects at IdeaFest—typically to a capacity-audience consisting of many members of the Greater Victoria community.

Meanwhile, our research team of chairs, senior research fellows, and associates continues to expand. As the 2018-2019 academic year came to a close, we received news that CAPI, along with the Department of Pacific and Asian Studies and the Department of Political Science, was awarded a UVic Impact Chair in Indo-Pacific Studies and Engagement. This research chair will be held by a scholar who brings an interdisciplinary perspective on the Indo-Pacific region, engaging in research that addresses the connectivities that shape, and have shaped, the Indo-Pacific world. Recruitment for this position will take place during the 2019-2020 academic year. CAPI also welcomed former CAPI intern Shane Barter from Soka University of America in California as a visiting scholar, and Tiasa Basu Roy from the University of Calcutta in India, on a Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute grant to conduct research toward her Master’s degree.

CAPI’s weekly events calendar continued apace, in the spirit of CAPI’s decades-long tradition of research engagement and responsiveness to current issues and challenges. We continue to hold interdisciplinary lectures, workshops, seminars, and roundtables. For example, CAPI’s Roundtable series on Southeast Asia in Global Context, engages journalists, diplomats, industry leaders, NGOs, and public officials in matters of contemporary relevance. This roundtable format is now a model regularly used at CAPI; it serves as one important vehicle for expanding our research network. We also provide regular opportunities for graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, and visiting scholars to present their research, engage with the CAPI community, and to receive constructive feedback.
This year, our major international events spanned the Pacific. At home, we were honoured to host a distinguished delegation of family court judges from Thailand for a CAPI-organized Judicial Training on Family Law and Youth Justice Program for two weeks in June 2019, under the direction of Alison MacPhail, former Deputy Minister with the B.C. government. CAPI also had the pleasure of hosting the Canadian Association for Japanese Language Education (CAJLE)'s annual conference in August 2019, under the director of our colleague Mika Kimura from the Department of Pacific and Asian Studies—a venerable Canadian organization that we discovered shares a year of birth (1988) with CAPI. Across the Pacific in Asia, we co-organized two major events: a workshop on Sustainable Livelihoods & Climate Change Regulation: Asia Approaches, organized by Supriya Routh and hosted by Hanoi Law University (4 June 2019) and a conference on Public Law, Legal Orders & Governance: Regulating Globalization in Asia in Bhutan, co-organized by Nima Dorji and Victor V. Ramraj, and hosted by the JSW School of Law (17-19 July 2019).

Alongside all of our international activities, we have continued to engage our local supporters and constituencies, including the Canadian International Council, Retired Heads of Mission Association, the Pacific People’s Partnership, and the Victoria Film Festival. We also support and mark important cultural events at the initiative of members of the CAPI community, such as Lunar New Year. CAPI continues to attract and administer both internal and external grants from such funders as Universities Canada, SSHRC and the DND’s Defence Engagement Program, supporting different aspects of our programming, from our internships to scholarly exchanges to research conferences and publications. We have also provided grants to faculty and students to pursue their research and conduct fieldwork. News of all of these events and research activities now reaches an ever broader audience as we engage with a growing community, locally and internationally, through social media, newsletters, and our website. And finally, CAPI’s administrative team is as strong as it has ever been, so I am pleased to place on the record, for posterity, the names of our stellar group of colleagues: Mike Abe, Katie Dey, Robyn Fila, Keren Huang, Qian Liu, Thanh Phan, Kezang Wangmo, Jon Woods, and Associate Director Helen Lansdowne. The detailed reports in these pages attest to their tireless and often behind-the-scenes work supporting CAPI’s programming.

On the night of 16 November 2018, one hundred forty of CAPI’s closest friends gathered at the Inn at Laurel Point on Victoria’s Inner Harbour in celebration of the Centre’s three decades of “bridging the Pacific.” The evening’s keynote was delivered by internationally renowned, Indo-American author Amitav Ghosh (e.g., the Ibis trilogy), known for historical narratives “transnational in sweep, moving restlessly across countries, continents and oceans.”
Our People

Staff & Faculty

Victor V. Ramraj
Director, Chair in Asia-Pacific Legal Relations

Helen Lansdowne
Associate Director

Guoguang Wu
Chair in China and Asia-Pacific Relations

Michael Abe
Landscapes of Injustice Project Manager

Katie Dey
Office Administrator

Robyn Fila
International Student Internship Program Manager

Keren Huang
International Youth Leadership Program Coordinator

Qian Liu
Events Coordinator, Translator

Kezang Wangmo / Thanh Phan
Regulating Globalization in South and Southeast Asia (QES-AS) Project Manager

Jonathan Woods
Communications Officer

Senior Research Fellows

Neilesh Bose
UVic History

Phil Calvert
Former Canadian Ambassador

Marlea Clarke
UVic Political Science

Jonathan Woods
Communications Officer

 Associates

Jessica Ball
UVic School of Child and Youth Care

Sikata Banerjee
UVic Gender Studies

Melia Belli Bose
UVic AH History & Visual Studies

James Boultier
Special Advisor at Canada’s Maritime Forces Pacific

Leslie Butt
UVic Anthropology

Angie Chau
UVic Pacific and Asian Studies

Raveendra Chittoor
UVic Gustavson School of Business

Deborah Curran
UVic Law

Daniela Damian
UVic Computer Science (Software Engineering)

Phil Dearden
UVic Geography

Donna Greschner
UVic Law

Jingjai Hanchanlash
President of the Thai-Canada Economic Cooperation Foundation

Asad Kiyani
UVic Law

Sujin Lee
UVic Pacific and Asian Studies

Isabel Lloyd
CIDA, UN Development Fund for Women

Andrew Marton
UVic Pacific and Asian Studies

Ted McDorman
UVic Law

Catherine Morris
UVic Law

Renée Mulligan
Legal Counsel, BC Attorney General, Lawyers’ Rights Watch Canada

Sudhir Nair
UVic Gustavson School of Business

Sada Niang
UVic Law

Supriya Routh
UVic Law

Daromir Rudnyckyj
UVic Anthropology

Hugh Stephens
Pacific Economic Cooperation Council, Trans-Pacific Connections Consulting

Reeta Tremblay
UVic Political Science

Jeremy Webber
UVic Law

Monika Winarnita
La Trobe University, Australia

Steering Committee

external members

Susan Breau
UVic Law

Richard Fox
UVic Pacific & Asian Studies

Lisa Kalynchuk
UVic Office of Research Services

Saul Klein
UVic Gustavson School of Business

Mike Masson
UVic Office of Research Services

Réal Roy
UVic Biology

Feng Xu
UVic Political Science

Some of the CAPI staffers on the federally-mandated annual snow day in Victoria: Mike Abe, Qian Liu, Robyn Fila, Helen Lansdowne and Victor V. Ramraj, February 2019.
Art Wright
CAPI Associate
When Art and Sylvia moved to Victoria, UVic’s Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives (CAPI) was avidly awaiting to recruit Art as an associate. He successfully chaired a number of ‘hot topic’ items, using his legendary deep commitment to inclusive and participatory approaches, the importance of listening, an unflagging respect for the value of human life and a deep appreciation for the diversity and interconnectedness of the human species.
- from Art’s obituary, which appeared in the Globe & Mail and Victoria Times Colonist on Jan 1, 2019

Art had a long and distinguished career in Canada’s Foreign Service, including in senior CIDA posts, particularly in Africa and Asia in a number of emerging nations and in Ottawa for over 45 years. When I was Director, CAPI appointed Art to our Associate ranks. His listening skills and collegial, collaborative manner were legendary [and he] was very committed to CAPI’s interests. Personally, I can recall asking him to chair various conference sessions to achieve consensual ends with civility.

Art and his artist wife Sylvia generously hosted more than a few year-end potlucks for CAPI and friends in their home.
- William Neilson, CAPI Director 1992-2004, on Art’s passing

David Chuenyan Lai
CAPI Associate
When David Chuenyan Lai died on June 15 after a prolonged illness, British Columbia lost an outstanding citizen who had been a role model to colleagues, civic leaders and ordinary citizens, and who, through his example, encouraged us all to have the courage to take risks in striving to enrich and improve the lives of all Canadians.

Lai was, among other things, professor emeritus of geography and adjunct professor of Pacific and Asian studies at the University of Victoria.

Throughout his life, he was a well-known promoter of multiculturalism and an explorer of the early Chinese community history in British Columbia, in particular Victoria.

Confronted with the overt discrimination against the Chinese population when he first came to Victoria in 1968, which meant being unable to find a suitable accommodation for him and his wife, Lai went on to distinguish himself as a renowned expert on the history of Chinese Canadians, the development of Canadian Chinatowns and ethnic groups in British Columbia.

Through his scholarly work and community engagement, he demonstrated an outstanding vision in preserving the history and culture of Chinese Canadians and more than 40 Chinatowns across Canada. He was awarded the Order of Canada, the Gabrielle Léger Award of the Heritage Canada Foundation, the Heritage Award of the B.C. government, a Victoria Leadership Award and was made an honorary citizen of the City of Victoria.

- excerpted from a UVic News article written by CAPI Research Associate UVic Political Science professor Reeta Trombly, and Grace Wong Sneddon, chair of the board of the Victoria Foundation and an adjunct faculty member at UVic, 12 June 2018
Guoguang China Chair
Guoguang Wu

CAPI Activities
- Organize CAPI forum on “One Hundred Years of China’s Awakening: The Current Relevance of May Fourth in Multiple Perspectives,” Victoria, BC, 2 May 2019 (photo on following page).
- Organizer and Chair, CAPI talk given by Prof. Tony Zhang of University of Saskatchewan, 10 December 2018.
- Member, CAPI Steering Committee.

Teaching, Services, and Outreaches
- In the fall term 2018 and the spring term 2019, teaching as usual.
- Supervisor of two PhD students and four MA students; member of examination committee of two PhD dissertations (one of which was completed in August 2018) and two MA theses (one of which was completed in August 2018); member of comprehensive examination committee of three PhD students.
- As a panelist, a panel chair, and a panel discussant on various academic occasions.
- Continuous memberships on editorial board of ten international academic journals and academic board of a number of educational or research organizations across the world.
- Continuously served as Member of the Standing Review Board, the Humanities and Social Sciences Panel of the Research Grant Council of Hong Kong, China, to regularly review research proposals in this capacity.
- Also, as a reviewer of refereed journal articles and book manuscripts, for, to name a few, American Journal of Political Science, Asian Survey, Globalizations, the Chinese University Press (Hong Kong).
- Media interviews with, for example, Asahi Shimbun (Japan), BBC, Central News Agency (Taiwan), Duowei News (China), Joitum Medias (Hong Kong), NHK (Japan), Nihon Shim bun (Japan).

Publications

Conference Papers and Public Lectures
- “The Circulation of Elites in Xi Jinping’s China: Political Practices, Policy Implications, and Possible Theorization,” a talk at the Institute of International Relations, the National Chengchi University, Taipei, Taiwan, 18 May 2019.
- “Learning from Chinese History for Studies of International Relations: The Warring States and the US-PRC Rivalry in a ‘Companionship’,” a talk at Department of Political Science, the National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan, 21 May 2019.
CAPI Chair in Asia-Pacific Legal Relations Victor V. Ramraj

Apart from my duties as CAPI Director and a particularly busy year planning CAPI’s 30th anniversary gala dinner in November 2018, I continued my research, teaching, and programming activities as Chair in Asia-Pacific Legal Relations. Here are the highlights of my general activities, my publications and presentations, and my teaching and graduate supervision.

General Activities

At home base in Victoria, I was busy with a full schedule of events at CAPI, including two Roundtables on South-east Asia in Global Context, which I co-organized with Senior Research Fellow Phil Calvert, “Ethno-Religious Nationalism and Authoritarianism in Southeast Asia” (25 October 2018) and “The South China Sea: What is Now and What is Next?” (21 March 2019). Both events were supported by a grant from the Department of National Defence Canada’s Defence Engagement Program. I also worked closely with CAPI Associates Jingjai Hanchanlakh (chair), Isabel Lloyd and Phil Calvert, and Professor Paul Evans at UBC, to organize a conference, Canada and Thailand: Lessons from the Past and Future Agenda, which took place in Vancouver on 12 October 2018.

I also have continued my work as the director of a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholarships Advanced Scholars (QES-AS) project, Regulating Globalization in South and Southeast Asia, with institutional partners in Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Thailand, and Vietnam. In connection with this project, in the months leading up to July 2019, JSW School of Law senior lecturer, QES-AS scholar, and UVic PhD candidate Nima Dorji and I were busy organizing a joint conference with the JSW School of Law in Bhutan, Public Law, Legal Orders and Governance. The conference took place in Thimphu from 17-19 July 2019. The conference consisted of approximately 30 speakers from Bhutan, Canada, Singapore, the Netherlands, South Africa, Cambodia, Thailand, India, New Zealand, and the United States, including 10 from the University of Victoria.

Teaching & Graduate Supervision

In the Fall of 2018, I taught an upper year seminar course at the Faculty of Law, University of Victoria on “Transnational Law: Why it Matters for Domestic Courts,” which took place in Vancouver on 12 October 2018. I also had the opportunity to visit Asia (by plane).”

Publications & Presentations


On 22 January 2019, I delivered a lecture to the judges and staff of the Court of Justice in Bangkok, Thailand on “Transnational Law: Why it Matters for Domestic Courts” and a public lecture on “Law and Society in Southeast Asia” to faculty and students at the Faculty of Law, Chiang Mai University on 27 January 2019. Back in Victoria, on 29 April 2019, I presented a paper, “Methodological Nationalism in Transpacific Legal and Historical Research” at a UVic-Zhejiang University conference, Bridging the Pacific, at the University of Victoria. On 24 June, I gave a lecture, “Introduction to the Canadian Constitution and Legal System,” to Thai Family Court judges, at the CAPI Judicial Training on Family Law and Youth Justice Program. Three weeks later, on 17 July, I provided an overview of the themes of the JSW-UVic conference, Public Law, Legal Orders and Governance (with Nima Dorji), and moderated the keynote panel. Later in the summer, on 7 August, I spoke to the Faculty of Law at the University of Victoria on “Why Greta Thunberg needs to visit Asia (by plane).”

Above: Presenting at Chiang Mai University, Thailand, January 2019
Above left: A visit to Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok in July 2019 en route to Bhutan.
Far left: Protestors rally in Hong Kong against a proposed bill that would allow extradition of alleged fugitives to mainland China (photo: CAPI chief correspondent - and Law Chair / Director - Victor V Ramraj)
Marlea Clarke

During the reporting period, Marlea continued to build and contribute to CAPI’s new “Asia in Africa” programming, which focuses on the issues and implications of increasing Afro-Asiatic economic, social, cultural and political relations. In particular, she remained active with the Chinese in Africa/African in China research Network, and organized two CAPI seminars on China in Africa. The first, held on 14 March 2019, was titled “China in Africa: Development Partner or the New Imperialist?” and featured Jesse Ovadia from the University of Windsor. The second was held 6 June 2019, in which Bingyu Liu presented her research focused on “China’s Corporate Social Responsibility Approach & Green Finance Overseas: The Case of Kenya”.

Marlea has also been working with CAPI’s Migration and Mobility program to prepare a SSHRC Connections Grant to support a conference in Greece on migration (originally scheduled for July 2020, but delayed due to Covid-19) and is in conversation with CAPI Director Victor V. Ramraj to lay the groundwork for a possible SSHRC partnership grant. She has continued to provide support to graduate students affiliated with CAPI.

In addition, Marlea presented at an invited symposium sponsored by the Department of Political Science and Cultural, Social & Political Thought Program on the migrant and refugee crisis in fall 2018 and was the keynote speaker for the Stephen Lewis Foundation’s “BC Island Regional Grandmothers Gathering”, Saturday, 28 September 2019, at which she presented her work on “The real costs of cheap clothing: African garment workers and the fast fashion industry.”

Neilesh Bose

In its third year, Neilesh’s Global South Colloquium program, a public seminar series about the history of globalization, explored the themes of world history, world systems, and world-making across disciplines. The first event in the series was a day-long workshop on the connections between global history and world literature, integrating scholars from several institutions across North America as well as respondents drawn from across the University of Victoria. Throughout the academic year, seminar participants included historians and literary critics, such as Kenneth Pomeranz, Cemil Aydin, Priya Sata, and Eli Jelly-Schapiro.

In the spring of 2019, Neilesh worked with UVic’s Centre for Studies in Religion and Society to host a one-day international symposium on religion and power in Indian history. Religion and its Others: Power, Sovereignty, and Politics in Indian Religions Past and Present and featured three sessions of original papers, covering topics such as monotheism and polytheism from a historical perspective and histories of religious reform in India. Selected papers are being revised and edited for inclusion into the Journal of Asian Studies.

Also in the spring, Neilesh organized the visit of Dr. Prabhat Patnaik, economist, public intellectual, and Professor Emeritus of Jawaharlal Nehru University who delivered two public talks with the support of CAPI, among other UVic units.

Neilesh accompanied the UVic delegation to Bhutan in July 2019 where he presented a paper on “Indic Religion-Making, Law, and the Indian Secular Sovereign.”

Phil Calvert

Phil was actively involved in CAPI’s activities throughout 2018-2019. As a former diplomat who served as Canada’s ambassador to Thailand, Cambodia and Laos, as well as serving for 10 years in China, he has been able to contribute his experience and contacts to CAPI’s activities. Phil has been active in building ties between CAPI and other institutions, government departments, media and the private sector.

With CAPI Director Victor V. Ramraj, he helped organize and co-chaired two roundtables in CAPI’s ongoing Southeast Asia in the Global Context series: the October 2018 discussion entitled ‘Ethico-Religious Nationalism and Authoritarianism in Southeast Asia’, and the March 2019 discussion on the South China Sea. For these roundtables Phil was able to help enrich the discussion by bringing in key academics from Thailand, as well as a representative of Human Rights Watch Asia, and Global Affairs Canada’s Director of Defence and Security Policy. He also organized a panel in which Nārāyana Gōshū (Shōwa Times Bureau Chief in Washington) and Patrick Brown (former CBC/Radio Canada correspondent and bureau chief in Beijing) gave their perspectives on US-Asia relations, and on reporting on Asia. Phil also participated in CAPI’s informal discussions on a range of issues related to Asia.

His CAPI-sponsored study of the China-Australia Free Trade Agreement, The China-Australia Free Trade Agreement: Implications for Canada, which argued for a cautious approach to a possible Canada-China agreement, was released in 2019.
VII. The South China Sea: What is Now and What is Next?  
21 March 2019

CAPI welcomed interdisciplinary experts from both Asian and North American institutions to explore contemporary trends in the Pacific Ocean’s most pressing maritime and territorial dispute: the South China Sea. As one of the world’s most biologically, economically and strategically significant marine environments, the South China Sea is a geopolitical hot-spot with implications for security, trade, and balances of power at a global scale.

Panellists:
- Nirmal Ghosh, US Bureau Chief, The Straits Times
- Nong Hong, Executive Director, Institute for China-America Studies, Washington DC
- Ted McDorman, UVic Law Professor
- Giles Norman, Executive Director, Defence and Security Policy, Global Affairs Canada
- Thitinan Pongsudhirak, Executive Director, Institute of Strategic and International Studies, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand [by video-link]
- Jeff Reeves, Vice-President, Research, Asia Pacific Foundation, Vancouver, Canada
- Brett Witthoeft, Royal Canadian Navy Indo-Pacific Security Analyst, Maritime Forces Pacific

VI. Ethno-Religious Nationalism and Authoritarianism in Southeast Asia  
25 October 2018

The Ethno-Religious Nationalism and Authoritarianism in Southeast Asia roundtable event invited cross-sector experts to join in a series of interwoven and evolving conversations about trends in human rights, as understood through shifting relationships among religion, the state and the political economy in Southeast Asia.

Panellists:
- Vitt Muntarbhorn, Faculty of Law, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand, and UN Independent Expert on violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity
- Phil Robertson, Deputy Director, Asia Division, Human Rights Watch
- Shane Barter, Director of the Pacific Basin Research Center, Soka University of America
- Kai Ostwald, Director, Centre for Southeast Asia Research, University of British Columbia
- Helen Lansdowne, CAPI Associate Director
- Melissa Crouch, Faculty of Law, University of New South Wales [by video-link]

Southeast Asia in Global Context

Roundtable discussion series

Situated between India and China, along the busiest maritime sea routes in the world, Southeast Asia remains today at the crossroads of ideas, commerce, migration, language, religion, and law, as it has for centuries. With a total population greater than that of the European Union, the countries of Southeast Asia have been working through ASEAN—the Association of Southeast Asian Nations—to integrate their economies and cooperate politically and economically on matters of common concern, increasing the region’s influence on global affairs. This roundtable series situates contemporary Southeast Asia in Asia and the wider world, examining the many ways the pressing issues in the region affect us all.

This project is co-led by CAPI Sensor Research Fellow Phil Calvert and CAPI Director Victor V. Ramraj, who both also serve as discussion Chairs.

CAPI gratefully acknowledges the support of the Department of National Defence Canada Defence Engagement Program.

“Discussion centered on the evolving relationships among claimants and key strategic players, with a particular focus on the relationships between the United States, China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Panelists agreed the dispute has reached a fragile equilibrium between China and US superpowers, with the US continuing to conduct uninterrupted Freedom of Navigation Operations (FONOPS) patrols and China asserting sovereignty through a strong military presence and surveillance of maritime activity in the region.”

- excerpted from a reflection written by By Frances Ankenman, J.D. Candidate, UVic Faculty of Law

“Discussion centered on the evolving relationships among claimants and key strategic players, with a particular focus on the relationships between religion, ethnicity and the state across the region, and the concerning trend of political instrumentalization of ethnoreligious issues. While this trend is widespread throughout the region, panelists pointed to the Rohingya crisis in Myanmar and the relationship between the state and Buddhism in Cambodia as key examples of the intentional use of religion and ethnicity as state instruments to maintain power, control and popular support.”

- excerpted from a reflection written by By Frances Ankenman, J.D. Candidate, UVic Faculty of Law
Landscapes of Injustice

The CAPI-based project Landscapes of Injustice (LOI), a seven-year national research partnership examining the forced sale and dispossession of property owned by Japanese Canadians during the 1940s, is now in Phase II (2018-2021). This is an exciting period of knowledge mobilization that will distill the previous four years of research into meaningful and lasting public outputs.

Landscapes will launch a travelling museum exhibit that will begin in August 2020 at the Nikkei National Museum and Landscapes will launch a travelling museum exhibit that will begin in August 2020 at the Nikkei National Museum and will distill the previous four years of research into meaningful and lasting public outputs. This is an exciting period of knowledge mobilization that will distill the previous four years of research into meaningful and lasting public outputs.

In association with Nikkei National Museum's Sites of Internment Bus Tour, we ran an inaugural Canada’s Internment Era Field School. For two weeks 10 undergraduates and graduate students and 10 teachers from five provinces travelled for a week in the interior of British Columbia. On the field trip participants, many of whom had family connections to the internment and even a few who had lived through internment, they learned this history in the places where it happened. The tour was followed by an intensive week at UVic, reading, discussing, and completing group projects. Additional grant funding has been secured to ensure that this exciting initiative will continue for the next two years.

Another important output for the project is the creation of a searchable digital archive database that will allow researchers and community members to explore the rich and extensive collection of research documents from the project. At outreach events this year, we previewed how these documents can help community members enrich their understanding of their family history by accessing over 15,000 government case files and additional archival materials related to the forced uprooting and dispossession of Japanese Canadians. These materials were featured at a Maritime Museum of British Columbia event in January 2019 as part of their “Lost Fleet” exhibit at which Project Director Jordan Stanger-Ross and Project Manager Michael Abe were joined by David Suzuki, who spoke about his family’s history beginning as a child in the Slocan City internment camp.

The year was filled with additional outreach events, including presentations in Whitehorse, Hamilton, Toronto, Halifax, Winnipeg and closer to home Victoria, Vancouver, Delta, Salt Spring Island, Nanaimo, Duncan and Qualicum Beach. We also presented at conferences in Edmonton, Montreal, Berlin, and London. Landscapes also exhibited its work at the annual Steveston Salmon Festival, Powell Street Festival and at the Nikkei Matsuri in Burnaby. It was another busy but extremely productive year of public awareness and engagement.

This engagement has led to other opportunities to explore topics related to our mandate while keeping an eye on our original purpose. A grant from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the Japanese Consulate of Japan Vancouver office allowed us to fund many of these efforts as well as a major public panel event, inviting four noted law professors from the US and Canada to investigate the topic of constitutional stories and to present the efforts of Japanese Canadians and Japanese Americans in their fight against the injustices endured these injustices first-hand. Bringing historical experiences to life for me in a way that no textbook or documentary ever could. “One of the most valuable parts of this experience was having the unique opportunity to visit sites that were significant to the history of Japanese Canadian dispossession and internment. Sharing space with those who endured these injustices first-hand brought historical experiences to life for me in a way that no textbook or documentary ever could.”

was once home to a popular and successful enterprise

The park complements the existing Japanese Garden on the site. The VNCS was seeking to recreate a Japanese Teahouse in Esquimalt-Gorge Park, which would feature works by eight Japanese Canadian artists from across the country. The exhibit explored multi-generational responses to the exile, dispossession, and internment of Canadian citizens of Japanese descent and was produced and co-curated by Heather Read who conceived the idea while interviewing. To top off this year, it is with great pleasure that the project was accepted in August 2019 for publication.

In the summer of 2018 the local Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society (VNCS) approached Landscapes of Injustice to ask for their support of an initiative in the Township of Esquimalt. The VNCS was seeking to recreate a Japanese-Canadian tea house on a broken world featured by the Maritime Museum of BC, January 2019 (Photo: James Holkko).

The dispossession entailed the deliberate killing of home—the place where we belong—continues to hold lasting meaning, even (and perhaps especially) for displaced people. When the Canadian government destroyed the homes of Japanese Canadians and sold all of their belongings, it compounded the harms of the internment.

The dispossession required years of administrative work and the complicity of thousands of people. Hundreds of government officials laboured in the dispossession. Thousands of civilians stole and bought the belongings of their former neighbours. Japanese Canadians felt the burden of daily dispossession.

4. Dispossession is permanent. The internment era was far too long—7 years, most of them after the Second World War had ended. But dispossession lasts forever. The lands, possessions, and opportunities lost can never be fully restored. The communities and neighbourhoods destroyed can never be fully rebuilt. Japanese Canadians and others live with legacies of shame, silence, regret, complicity, and loss. Even legacies of resilience and activism in the face of wrongdoing come with their own costs. We are heirs to landscapes of injustice.

To ask for their support of an initiative in the Township of Esquimalt. The VNCS was seeking to recreate a Japanese-Canadian tea house on a broken world featured by the Maritime Museum of BC, January 2019 (Photo: James Holkko).

Perpetrators of the dispossession reasoned wrong. Dispossession was not the work of angry racists alone. Although racism permeated the corridors of power, notions of citizenship, good governance, and fair play were also twisted in service of injustice. Ideals that Canadians now repudiate folded together with ones we still cherish to deprive citizens of their rights.

In the summer of 2018 the local Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society (VNCS) approached Landscapes of Injustice to ask for their support of an initiative in the Township of Esquimalt. The VNCS was seeking to recreate a Japanese-Canadian tea house on a broken world featured by the Maritime Museum of BC, January 2019 (Photo: James Holkko).
Since 2017, CAPI and the UVic Faculty of Law and their partners in South and Southeast Asia have been activating a dynamic community of young global leaders around the world to conduct interdisciplinary research on innovative governance and justice strategies to mitigate the harsher effects of economic globalization in South and Southeast Asia (specifically Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Thailand, and Vietnam).

The project, funded by the Canadian Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Advanced Scholars (QES-AS) program, will bring thirteen advanced scholars whose work focuses on South and Southeast Asia to UVic to create lasting impacts both at home and abroad through cross-cultural exchanges encompassing international education, research, and professional training. It will also send five Canadian post-doctorate early career scholars to the region to develop valuable experience and build skills and networks in South and Southeast Asia.

Regulating Globalization in South & Southeast Asia

Institutional partners
- Azim Premji University
- Royal University of Law and Economics
- Chiang Mai University
- Bhutan National Legal Institute
- Jigme Singye Wangchuck School of Law
- Royal University of Law and Economics
- Raoul Wallenberg Institute
- Jigme Singye Wangchuck School of Law
- Azim Premji University
- Environmental Law Centre, UVic
- BC Ministry of Attorney General

Practicum placement partners
- Institute of Legal Science, Ministry of Justice
- Solidarity Center
- Royal Court of Justice
- Royal Court of Justice
- Royal Court of Justice
UVic Law prof Pooja Parmar at Jigme Singye Wangchuck School of Law in Bhutan. During her visit, she undertook collaborative research on property law and assisted with the newly formed Bar Council of Bhutan.

“I’m curious about how we might understand the authority of legal texts in a place where the most foundational experiences with texts are shaped not in fixity but through motion”

Having completed her first year of PhD studies at UVic Law, incoming scholar Ratana Ly returned to her native Cambodia over the summer on a practicum placement with Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, providing training on human rights and the environment, attending a climate change conference, and conducting fieldwork in Kratie province in response to recent floods. Ly’s dissertation concerns the safety regulations of construction workers in Cambodia.

CAPI bid a fond farewell to our two visiting scholars from Azim Premji University (India) at the completion of their three-month visit: Professors Sushmita Pati and Sunayana Ganguly (pictured with CAPI Director Victor V. Ramraj, Associate Director Helen Lansdowne, fellow QES-AS incoming scholar Nima Dorji and CAPI Associate Reeta Tremblay (UVic Political Science) after presenting their work at a CAPI event.

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CAPI hosted Drs Vu Thi Lan Anh, Nguyen Van Quang, Nguyen Thi Van Anh, and Tran Kim Lieu from Hanoi Law University (HLU) to discuss QES-AS partnership activities.

U Vic is the first institution in Canada to have a formal relationship with HLU, after signing a memorandum of understanding last March.

CAPI QES-AS incoming scholar Ratana Ly participating in the Three Minute Thesis competition at U Vic.

QES-AS outgoing scholar UVic Law prof Pooja Parmar (front row, in black) back in Bhutan, where she delivered a Judicial Ethics Workshop in collaboration with JSW Law's Ms. Kezang Wangmo. The workshop was hosted by Bhutan National Legal Institute, and was attended by judges of district and appeal courts and registrars and legal officers from various courts in Bhutan. Pooja also participated in stakeholder consultations undertaken by the Bar Council of Bhutan to formulate their strategy for the next five years.

CAPI was a co-sponsor of a one-day workshop on “Sustainable Livelihoods and Climate Change Regulation: Asian Approaches” at Hanoi Law University featuring presentations from CAPI Associate Director Helen Lansdowne and QES-AS outgoing scholar Supriya Routh (CAPI Associate / UVic Law Assistant Professor) and incoming scholar Ratana Ly (UVic Law PhD candidate).

CAPI QES-AS incoming scholar Songkrant Pongboonjun presenting at the Environmental Law Alliance World-wide’s 2019 Annual International Meeting: “Participation in this meeting fostered my understanding of various successful legal strategies employed by environmental lawyers around the world . . . to protect the environment and human health.”

The fifth anniversary celebration of the national Canadian Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholarship (QES) program brought QE Scholars from across BC to Government House in Victoria, where they were hosted by Lieutenant Governor Janet Austin and former Governor General David Johnston. CAPI incoming QES-AS (Advanced Scholars) Nima Dorji and Songkrant Pongboonjun attended, as did several previous CAPI interns whose work placements abroad were QES-sponsored.

CAPI QES-AS incoming scholars Nima Dorji, Ratana Ly, and Songkrant Pongboonjun, led by CAPI Director Victor V. Ramraj at a national gathering of QES-AS scholars at Ryerson University in Toronto featuring eighteen Canadian universities (2012 CAPI intern Cate Lawrence (far left), was also in attendance, in her current role with Universities Canada).

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PUBLIC LAW, LEGAL ORDERS & GOVERNANCE CONFERENCE: REGULATING GLOBALIZATION IN ASIA
17-19 July 2019

Under the leadership of CAPi Director Victor V. Ramraj and UVic Law Dean Susan Breau, UVic formalized relations with Jigme Singye Wangchuck School of Law (JSW Law), the first law school in the tiny Himalayan nation of Bhutan. The school was inaugurated in 2017. Dean Breau and her JSW Law counterpart Dean Sangay Dorjee signed the memorandum of understanding at the launch of a three-day joint conference titled “Public Law, Legal Orders & Governance: Regulating Globalization in Asia” at Terma Linca resort on the outskirts of the country’s capital, Thimphu, in July 2019. The opening ceremony was overseen by a number of Bhutanese dignitaries, including Her Royal Highness Princess Sonam Dechen Wangchuck, Prime Minister Lotay Tshering, the Leader of the Opposition Pema Gyamtsho, Chief Justice Dasho Tshering Wangchuk, and Chairperson of the National Council Tashi Dorji.

In her opening remarks, Her Royal Highness highlighted the common interests of JSW Law and UVic in building resilient human and natural environments through the pursuits of legal discourse, research, and education and spoke to the significance of the conference theme: “We live in a world of changes so profound and rapid that no one can stand alone. The web of economic, social, and natural threats that connect us all is pervasive and impossible to untangle. As such, everyone on earth shares equally the responsibility to support our continued survival and well-being. And we bear the equally important burden to pass down this awareness to our children. As this conference will demonstrate, regulating globalization through law is a necessary and achievable component of that responsibility.”

The conference featured a stable of speakers from both UVic and JSW Law, in addition to an international collection of experts hailing from countries across the globe, including New Zealand, Singapore, South Africa, Germany and the United States, with research topics ranging from Buddhist law to environmental governance.

The group was assembled as part of a larger capacity-building project initiated by Ramraj with the aim of developing innovative governance and justice strategies to mitigate the darker side of economic globalization in South and Southeast Asia, such as detrimental effects on public health, community cohesion, individual livelihoods, and the environment. The project is supported by the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Advanced Scholars (QES-AS) Scholarships program. Additional conference funding came from the Royal Government of Bhutan and UVic’s Offices of Research Services and Global Engagement.

Victor V. Ramraj and Nima Dorji lay out the conference background, objectives, and format. The two represent the beginning of the relationship between JSW Law and UVic when, after reading about Bhutan’s new law school in the New York Times, Ramraj reached out to JSW Vice Dean Michael Peil, ultimately recruiting Dorji to undertake his PhD studies at UVic as part of Ramraj’s ambitious new project. Dorji began his studies at UVic in the fall of 2017 and completed his candidacy exams in the spring of 2018, returning to his teaching duties at JSW shortly prior to the conference.

The UVic and other international participants arrive at the conference venue on the final day.
Global South Colloquium

Project lead: CAPI Senior Research Fellow Neilesh Bose

2018/19 Theme: Worldliness, World Systems & World History

Inclusive of contributions by scholars across disciplines in the humanities and social sciences, this year’s seminar series investigates the current state of world history and approaches to globalization through re-appraisals of older debates in the field, such as the Great Divergence and historiographical concerns around Europe’s role in the industrial revolution, as well as new considerations of globalization from critical interpretations of the idea of the Muslim world, the links between recent iterations of global history writing and studies of world literature, the role of guns in the Industrial Revolution, the context of security and terror in the Americas, and new studies of debt and finance in Islamic Southeast Asia. All cohere within a conversation about the nature of globalization and the various worlds and types of worldliness that are generated from diverse disciplinary and political perspectives.

Global South Colloquium events

Beyond the “Great Divergence” Debate: What Have We Learned About the Origins of Modern Economic Growth?
Kenneth Pomeranz, University of Chicago
5 Sept 2018

Angles on Asia in the World
Panel I: History
Kenneth Pomeranz, University of Chicago, Neilesh Bose, UVic History, Greg Blue, UVic History Emeritus, Chair: Victor V. Ramraj, CAPI Director
Panel II: Literature
Kedar Kulkarni, Flame University, India, Alex Beecroft, University of South Carolina, Chris Chokra, San Francisco State University; Chair: Neilesh Bose (UVic History)
6 Sept 2018

Globalization, Global, and World: History and Literature
A day-long workshop with thirteen scholars from UVic, the US, and India (closed to the public)
7 Sept 2018

Islam, Law, and the State in the Modern World
Panel I: Islam, Law and the Modern State
Arif Jamal, National University of Singapore, Cemil Aydin, University of North Carolina, Amal Ghazal, Simon Fraser University, Neilesh Bose, UVic History; Chair: Victor V. Ramraj, CAPI Director
Panel II: The Idea of the Muslim World
Cemil Aydin, Arif Jamal, Megan Robb, University of Pennsylvania, Ali Qadir, University of Tampere, Finland; Chair: Kathy Chan, UVic Law
28 Nov 2018

Empire of Guns and the Industrial Revolution
Priya Satia, Stanford University (photo above)
16 Jan 2019

Security and Terror in the Making of American Modernity
Eli Jelly-Schapiro, University of South Carolina
Respondents: Rachel Cleves, UVic History, and Stephen Ross, UVic English
31 Jan 2019

Beyond Debt: Islamic Experiments in Global Finance
Daromir Rudnyckyj, UVic, Anthropology
Respondents: Greg Blue, UVic History Emeritus, Neilesh Bose, UVic History
4 March 2019

At left: renowned University of Chicago Historian Ken Pomeranz kicked off the 2018/19 academic year with force.
Above and at right: Neilesh convened two panels of distinguished interdisciplinary international scholars to examine the intersection of Islam and the modern state.
South Asia Global Forum

Established in 2016, CAPI’s South Asia Global Forum promotes academic research, teaching and public engagement with South Asia as a link to globally situated questions and conversations. The forum serves as a campus clearinghouse for faculty, students and UVic community members interested in South Asia.

CAPI gratefully acknowledges the support of the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute and Jessica Worsley, UVic International Grants Facilitator.

Events

- Opening reception for the 2018-19 South Asia Global Forum
  20 Sept 2018

- Amma’s Daughters - A Memoir
  Meenal Shrivastava, Athabasca University, in conversation with Sikata Banerjee, UVic Gender Studies
  10 Jan 2019

- The Collection of Indian Paintings at the Bibliothèque Nationale de France
  Dhir Sarangi, Jawaharlal Nehru University
  6 March 2019

- Learning to ‘See’ Today’s Caste
  Ramesh Bairy T.S., Indian Institute of Technology Bombay
  18 April 2019

CAPI welcomed two visiting scholars under the South Asia Global Forum banner this period: Tiasa Basu Roy (far left), an MPhil student of History at Calcutta University whose research focuses on the Canadian Baptist Mission in Orissa, India, 1870-1970. Her visit, from June to August 2019, was made possible with the support of the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute. Ramesh Bairy T.S., associate professor of sociology at the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, was jointly hosted by UVic’s Centre for Studies in Religion and Society and the Centre for Asian Studies. His research focuses on structures of contemporary caste, inequalities, the region of Karnataka (south India), and the “unfolding forms of Hindu-ness.”

UVic Faculty member participants

- Sikata Banerjee, Gender Studies
- Melia Belli Bose, Art History
- Neilesh Bose, History
- Raveendra Chittoor, Gustavson School of Business
- Rita Dharmooon, Political Science
- Aditi Gupta, Engineering & Science Librarian
- Rishi Gupta, Engineering
- Sudhir Nair, Gustavson School of Business
- Sadaa Nang, French
- Pooja Parmar, Law
- Victor V. Ramraj, CAPI and Law
- Supriya Routh, Law
- Reeta Tremblay, Political Science

MAJOR PROJECTS

- Sikata Banerjee in conversation with author Meenal Shrivastava (Athabasca University) on her new book exploring the remarkable life of her grandmother and her involvement in the Indian nationalist movement.
International Student Internship Program

Since 2003, CAPI has run its student internship program with the aim of providing Canadian post-secondary students with invaluable international experiences to work alongside civil society leaders across the Asia-Pacific. Each year, CAPI selects a small number of upper-level undergraduate and graduate UVic students to complete six-month funded internship placements with our partner organizations, whose work focuses on issues of governance, urban development, education, human trafficking and migrants’ and refugee rights. Interns develop deep and lasting personal and professional relationships with each other, their colleagues and the communities in which they live. The internship program has become a flagship staple of CAPI, a celebrated asset of the university, and a nationally acclaimed model for providing Canadian students with meaningful work placements abroad. Robyn Fila manages the program.

This year, thanks to the generous support of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholarship program (#QEScholars), a partnership of Rideau Hall, Community Foundations of Canada, and Universities Canada, CAPI placed eleven UVic students with partner organizations in Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, India, South Africa and Zambia. With additional funding from the UVic President’s Beyond Borders Fund and the Canadian Retired Heads of Mission Association, CAPI placed one intern in northern Thailand, and funds from the CAPI Jarislowsky East Asia (Japan) Chair supported the placement of two interns in Japan.

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Above: “Walking home after work and chatting with a friendly stranger, waiting for my plate of street food as the motorcycles zip by, walking to the market on a Sunday morning, watching the soccer game and hanging out with friends, or saying hello to everyone while trekking up the stairs at CIPS office – these are the things I treasure most from my experience and the things that I miss dearly.”
- Jacob Derksen (UVic Anthropology student) - pictured (in pink) with a local trail running group - spent six months with the Centre for Indonesian Policy Studies in Jakarta.

Left: “The most inspiring thing I have found in my almost four months of being here is the patchwork quilt of community that I have somehow been woven into at the school. Opening the door to that small stairway I can feel the thrum of chaotic energy. Knowing that I am small part of the buzz of energy of the floors above me is what I have come to know as a meaningful life.”
- Charlotte Whyte (UVic Anthropology student) - pictured (in pink) with a local trail running group - spent six months with the Malaysian Social Research Institute in Kuala Lumpur.

Above: “Students are not just students at KSDC. They can also be master chefs, landscapers, talented musicians or clever hunters. Likewise, teachers are not just teachers here. We can also be after-class activity coordinators, advice-givers, soccer players or sous chefs. The many hats that each person wears here is what makes KSDC special. Everyone’s willingness to take on multiple roles at KSDC makes the community here work in an incredibly beautiful way.”
- Nick Harrison (UVic Political Science student) spent six months teaching the Advanced Community Training Course to Karenni students living in refugee camps on the Thai-Myanmar border.

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At right: UVic Law student Courtenay Jacklin spent four months working with The Other Media, a community advocacy organization in Chennai, India.
Gender Dynamics, Feminist Activism and Social Transformation in China

CAPI Chair Guoguang Wu and CAPI Associate Director Helen Lansdowne are co-editors of a new volume on gender, feminist activism and social change in China (Routledge 2018), which comprises papers from a CAPI symposium held at UVic in April 2017. CAPI staffer/UVic Law PhD candidate Qian Liu and CAPI Associate Feng Xu were chapter contributors.

“This book explores the extent to which women have been initiators, mobilizers, and driving forces of social transformation in China. The book considers how conceptions of women’s roles have changed as China has moved from state socialism to engagement with capitalist globalization, examines the growth of women’s gender and sexual consciousness and social movements for women’s rights, including for marginalized social and sex/gender groups, and discusses women’s roles in society-state interactions, including many forms of social activism, cultural events, educational innovations, and more. Overall, the book demonstrates that women have not simply been passive receivers of the consequences of the forces of global capitalism, but that they have had a profound, active impact on social transformation in China.”

Multimedia, Mobility and the Digital Southeast Asian Family’s Polymedia Experiences

A special issue of CAPI’s Migration, Mobility, & Displacement journal, Vol 4(1)

Guest Editor: Monika Winarnita, La Trobe University, Australia

“Southeast Asia is home to the largest number of social media users in the world. It is also a region known for its mobile population, with high numbers of overseas workers, international students, refugees/asylum seekers, and migrants seeking permanent residency or citizenship in other countries. Digital technology is shaping the way Southeast Asians express themselves, interact, maintain contact, and sustain their family relationships. Online multimedia content is one way that migrants and mobile Southeast Asians express their sense of belonging, their multiple and varied identities, their cultural backgrounds, and their sense of connectedness to family members. This special issue aims to provide a contemporary understanding of online multimedia expressions of identity, belonging, and intergenerational family relationships of migrants and mobile Southeast Asians.”

The China-Australia Free Trade Agreement: Implications for Canada

A CAPI-sponsored report by CAPI Senior Research Fellow Phil Calvert

“As this study points out, free trade with China should be approached carefully. Alternatives to a standard, comprehensive agreement should be considered, especially given the significant gaps in the rule of law in China that China has demonstrated in its response to the Huawei case. But whether these discussions happen this year or next the questions this study poses, and the conclusions it reaches, will still be relevant. The government will have to address the issue of its trade relationship with China, and how best to advance Canada’s interests in a complex and challenging market.”
MAJOR CONFERENCES & SYMPOSIA

THE NONHUMAN IN JAPANESE CULTURE AND SOCIETY: SPIRITS, ANIMALS, TECHNOLOGY
21-24 September 2018

As the culminating project of Visiting Faculty Scholar Cody Poulton (Pacific & Asian Studies), CAPI hosted "The Nonhuman in Japanese Culture and Society: Spirits, Animals, Technology," a four-day conference at the University of Victoria featuring a line-up of leading international scholars and artists whose areas of exploration covered a wide array of "nonhuman" issues in both traditional and contemporary Japanese society, from animal studies and new materialism to augmented reality, artificial intelligence, and performance.

Conference keynotes included Timon Screech, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, who delivered a talk on "The Living Image [Mythologies of Artistic Production during Japan’s Edo Period]" as CAPI’s annual Albert Hung Chao Hong lecture; distinguished author Yōko Tawada, who read from her award-winning Memoirs of a Polar Bear, and Australian performance artist Stelarc, who gave a remote talk titled “Phantom Flesh/Hyper Human.”

Top: Larry Kominz and students of Portland State University perform The Mountain Wizard and the Crab, a kyōgen play, as part of an evening of Japanese theatre presented during the conference.

OCEAN POLICY FOR EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC ISLANDS
11-13 October 2018

CAPI acted as administrator for the 6th annual Jon Van Dyke Institute (University of Hawai‘i) and Korea Institute of Ocean Science and Technology conference on ocean policy for East Asia and Pacific Islands, which convened regional ocean experts at UVic to explore salient ocean issues confronting the region especially in relation to the UN Sustainable Development agenda. UVic Law Professor and longtime CAPI Associate Ted McDorman was one of the conference organizers.

CANADA AND THAILAND: LESSONS FROM THE PAST AND FUTURE AGENDA
12 October 2018

Capitalizing on our strong connections to Thailand, CAPI, led by Director Victor V. Ramraj, Senior Research Fellow Phil Calvert, and Associates Jangjai Hanchanlash and Isabel Lloyd - in partnership with Paul Evans at the School of Public Policy and Global Affairs at UBC - convened leaders in Canada-Thailand relations for a one-day symposium in Vancouver to identify opportunities and constraints in strengthening ties between the two nations.
BRIDGING THE PACIFIC: CONNECTIONS AND COMPARISONS BETWEEN EAST ASIA AND NORTH AMERICA

28-30 April 2019

CAPI, in collaboration with UVic’s Centre for Global Studies and Faculty of Humanities, and in partnership with Zhejiang University, China, hosted a three-day conference at UVic exploring connections between China and North America, from the local and historical (e.g., analysis of religion in the early days of Victoria’s Chinatown) to the global and contemporary (e.g., parallels between Britain’s 19th century empire and the Belt and Road Initiative). UVic History professor Zhongping Chen was the conference lead organizer.

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR JAPANESE LANGUAGE EDUCATION 2019

6-7 August 2019

CAPI served as administrator of the 2019 Canadian Association for Japanese Language Education conference at UVic. The annual conference includes lectures, workshops, and a general meeting and provides an opportunity for participants to exchange information and opinions on Japanese language education and linguistics. The 2019 theme was “Hyōgen: Literacy: Exploring Japanese Language Education in a Diversifying Society from the Perspective of Communication.” UVic Pacific and Asian Studies professor Mika Kimura was the main UVic conference organizer.

A visit from Chulalongkorn University Faculty of Law in April 2019. CAPI Director Victor V. Ramraj has been teaching an annual course at Chula as part of their LLM in Business Law.

A visit from members of The University of Hong Kong Law faculty, July 2018.

In October 2018, CAPI hosted the Thai Ambassador to Canada, Mr. Maris Sangiampongsa along with CAPI Associate / prominent Thai businessman Dr. Jingjai Hanchanlash. Each delivered a public talk and also met informally with a group of Thai students from UVic prior to heading to Vancouver for a conference about the future of Canadian-Thai relations.

In October 2018, CAPI hosted the Thai Ambassador to Canada and colleagues for a public talk on 70 years of Filipino-Canadian relations, September 2018.

CAPI was pleased to host Law Professor Tadahiro Matsuda and students from Kagoshima University, Japan, in September 2018.

CAPI hosted Petronila P. Garcia, Philippine Ambassador to Canada and colleagues for a public talk on 70 years of Filipino-Canadian relations, September 2018.
International Youth Leadership Program

CAPI’s International Youth Leadership Program is a one or two-week experiential learning program that provides Chinese post-secondary students with a global pedagogical experience through a hybrid of on-campus lectures and practical field trips around the capital region, covering topics such as environmental issues in BC and China, western art history, Canadian history, indigenous studies, gender identity and comparative sociology.

During the reporting period, CAPI welcomed over 350 Chinese students from our partner universities belonging to the Beifang International Education Group.

Cultural Immersion Program

CAPI’s Cultural Immersion Program (CIP) - delivered in collaboration with Education, Training, Consulting Canada Ltd. - provides two-week language and cultural immersion training to top performing students from the Shanghai Technical Institute of Electronics and Information. Since 2017, CAPI has hosted over 200 CIP students.

In June/July 2019, CAPI hosted 35 Thai judges for a two-week intensive “Judicial Training on Family Law and Youth Justice” program, developed and delivered in partnership with Alison MacPhail, former Deputy Minister with BC Ministry of Children and Family Development and Executive Lead for Criminal Justice Reform in the Government of BC (blue dress). The Thai delegation was led by Ms. Boonmee Thitarsiri, Vice-President of Thailand’s Supreme Court (centre).

The comprehensive program included lectures and presentations from UVic Law faculty, local practicing lawyers, and public service representatives, observations of proceedings at the provincial courthouse, and a visit to a youth social service centre.

Trauma Care Training Program for Thai Health Professionals

CAPI, in partnership with Triada Consulting, delivered a two week professional development program in Trauma Care for visiting nurses, nurse-educators, and physicians from Thailand. Over the course of the program, the participants visited several hospitals and other healthcare institutions on Vancouver Island and in Vancouver for sessions with nursing and information science scholars as well as clinicians and administrators who lead the management and delivery of trauma care practice and education in British Columbia. The program included a public talk featuring presentations from participants from both sides of the Pacific.

Above: A group of Chinese students from Swan College, Central South University of Forestry & Technology and Bowen College of Management at Guilin University of Technology take in a walking tour of downtown Victoria, including its Historic Chinatown, as part of CAPI’s IYLP program, June 2019.
Inhabitations of Violence: The Local and the Global Political Economy of Urban Delhi
Sushmita Pati, Azim Premji University, Bangalore, India (visiting QES-AS scholar)
4 July 2018

Green Consumption: The Role of Life Events and Communities of Trust
Sunayana Ganguly, Azim Premji University, Bangalore, India (visiting QES-AS scholar)
4 July 2018

“Like We Don’t Exist”
Film screening and discussion, hosted by CAPI Associate Renée Mulligan and Moora Paw, UVic Sociology undergraduate student (Directors: Ansley Sawyer and Corey Embring)
27 September 2018

What Stalks Japanese Literature Today: The Animals Approach
John Whittier Treat, Yale University
04 October 2018

Economic Re-emergence of the Asia Pacific Rim
Jingjai Hanchanlash, President of the Thai-Canada Economic Cooperation Foundation
10 October 2018

Restraining Great Powers: Soft balancing from Empires to the Global Era
T.V. Paul, McGill University
11 October 2018

Accountability for Human Rights Violations: Perspectives on Myanmar, North Korea, and Beyond
Vitt Muntarbhorn, UN Independent Expert on violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity and Faculty of Law, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand, and Phil Robertson, Deputy Director, Asia Division, Human Rights Watch; moderator: Susan Breau, UVic Law Dean
24 October 2018

Revitalization of Indigenous Knowledge and Challenges in Contemporary Taiwan: A Case Study of Three Indigenous Documentary Filmmakers
Tinicia Yi-Chun Lin, National Dong Hwa University, Taiwan, and Southern Connecticut State University, and Skaya Siku, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan.
Neil Burton Commemorative Lecture
31 October 2018

“The Enforced Disappearance of Sombath Somphone”
Film screening and discussion, hosted by CAPI Associate UVic Law professor Catherine Morris and CAPI Senior Research Fellow Phil Calvert (Director: Ran Quinn)
1 November 2018

Towards Alternative Conceptualizations of “care” in the Singaporean Domestic Labour Market
Lynn Ng Yu Ling, UVic Political Science PhD student; commentator: Qian Liu, UVic Law PhD student
08 November 2018

Bhutanese Election 2018
Nima Dorji, UVic Law PhD student / CAPI QES-AS visiting scholar
22 November 2018

The World of 2084
Michelle Fung, artist
22 November 2018

Eiko Henmi: Victoria’s Forgotten Poet
John Price, UVic History (Emeritus)
Ayukawa commemorative lecture in memory of Michiko ‘Midge’ Ayukawa, co-hosted by the Asian Canadians on Vancouver Island, Race, Indigeneity, and the Transpacific Research Project, the UVic History department, and the Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society
26 November 2018

Development Challenges in Asia and the Role of Asian Development Bank
Bart W. Édes, Asian Development Bank’s Representative in North America
28 November 2018

The Rise of Princelings in China: Career Advantages and Collective Elite Reproduction
Tony Huiquan Zhang, St. Thomas More College (University of Saskatchewan)
10 December 2018

Return from the Brink: Coral Recovery on the Kiritimati Atoll following the 2015-2016 El Niño
Kristina Tietjen, MSc student, UVic Biology
17 January 2019

The Huawei Case, Extradition & Canada-US-China Relations
Asad Kiyani, UVic Law, and CAPI Senior Research Fellow Phil Calvert, moderator: CAPI Associate Director Helen Lansdowne
24 January 2019

ADDITIONAL TALKS & EVENTS
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Asad Kiyani, UVic Law, and CAPI Senior Research Fellow Phil Calvert, moderator: CAPI Associate Director Helen Lansdowne
24 January 2019
“Dead Pigs”
CAPI-sponsored film screening at the Victoria Film Festival (Director: Cathy Yan)
4 & 6 February 2019

“Ramen Shop”
CAPI-sponsored film screening at the Victoria Film Festival (Director: Eric Khoo)
5 February 2019

CAPI Lunar New Year celebration
7 February 2019

Looking at Japanese North American Confinement during WWII
Greg Robinson, Université du Québec À Montréal
28 February 2019

Crossing Borders: Students’ Stories from the Field (UVic Idafest)
CAPI student interns
6 March 2019

The Belt and Road Initiative and Narratives of China-Africa Engagement
Jesse Ovadia, University of Windsor
14 March 2019

Covering the Trump Administration through an Asian Lens
Nirmal Ghosh, US Bureau Chief, The Straits Times, and Patrick Brown, former CBC foreign correspondent; moderator: CAPI Senior Research Fellow Phil Calvert
20 March 2019

Thailand’s Election
Songkran Pongboonjun, UVic Law PhD student / CAPI QES-AS incoming scholar; Kitpatchara Somanawat, Chiang Mai University, Thailand (via video-link); Chair: Lindsay Neilson, former Associate Director of Global Engagement at UVic and Director of the Canadian Education Centre in Bangkok
28 March 2019

Growth and Poverty Under Neo-liberalism
Prabhat Patnaik, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India
28 March 2019

A Theory of Imperialism
Prabhat Patnaik, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India; commentators: Jutta Gutberlet, UVic Geography and William Carroll, UVic Sociology
29 March 2019

Democratization, Governance, and Reform in Complex Political Environments
Tunku Zain Al-Abidin, Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs, Malaysia
10 April 2019

Plight of the Relational Self: Injury, Law, and Modernity in Thailand and the United States
David M. Engel, State University of New York at Buffalo
11 April 2019

One Hundred Years of China’s Awakening: The Current Relevance of May Fourth in Multiple Perspectives
Guoguang Wu, CAPI China Chair / UVic History / Political Science, Zhongping Chen, UVic History, Angie Chau, UVic Pacific and Asian Studies, Richard King, former CAPI Director / UVic Pacific and Asian Studies, Greg Blue, UVic History (Emeritus), Qian Liu, UVic Law PhD student, Phil Calvert, CAPI Senior Research Fellow
2 May 2019

China’s State-Centric Corporate Social Responsibility Approach and Green Finance Development Overseas: Linkages and Promises Demonstrated in Kenya
Bingyu Liu, Department of Treaty and Law of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China
6 June 2019

Above: Nirmal Ghosh, US Bureau Chief with The Straits Times, and former CBC foreign correspondent Patrick Brown discuss “covering the Trump administration through an Asian lens” with moderator CAPI Senior Research Fellow Phil Calvert.
**STUDENT LANGUAGE FELLOWSHIP**

Will Howling

4th year BCom student, Gustavson School of Business, UVic

This fellowship will contribute to Will’s Bahasa Indonesia language course as part of an international exchange he is undertaking through the Gustavson Business School at Universitas Gadjah Mada in Yogyakarta, Indonesia from August to December 2019. In addition to his language training, he will be studying Indonesian culture and approaches to commerce.

**STUDENT RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP**

Ratana Ly

PhD Candidate, UVic Faculty of Law

Project title: A Legal Pluralist Approach to Realizing the Occupational Safety and Health of Construction Workers in Cambodia: Regulating Multinational Construction Corporations

Supervisor: Victor V. Ramraj, Professor, UVic Law and CAPI Director

Towards completing her PhD dissertation, Ratana will further review literature on legal norms governing the occupational safety and health of workers. She will also conduct interviews in Cambodia with construction workers, trade unions, non-government organizations, employers, and government officers.

Following fieldwork and preliminary data analysis, she will be returning to the University of Victoria to continue with the data analysis and writing other chapters for her dissertation.

In 2003, CAPI sent a couple of fresh-faced UVic undergrad students to Bangkok, Thailand, as its very first interns (top). Shane Barter (a Political Science and History student) and Kate Vallance (a Pacific and Asian Studies student) worked with Forum Asia and the Asian Regional Resource Centre for Human Rights Education, respectively. Shane is now an Associate Professor at Soka University of America, in California, where he serves as the Director of the Pacific Basin Research Center, and Kate is now a Research Associate with UVic’s Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research (CISUR). During Shane’s visit back to his hometown of Victoria in July 2019, the pair had a mini-reunion on campus with CAPI Associate Director Helen Lansdowne (above), herself a UVic alums (BA ‘95, MA ’98), and the co-founder of CAPI’s internship program.

AWARD WINNERS

STUDENT LANGUAGE FELLOWSHIP

STUDENT RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

PARTING SHOT