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This report covers the period July 2019 to August 2020

Design and layout - **Katie Dey**

Cover photograph - Layover in Bangkok, **Jonathan Woods**

Inside back cover - Food photography by CAPI interns

All photographs by **Jonathan Woods** unless otherwise credited

Infographics by **Jonathan Woods**
Introduction

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.
Director’s Message

Looking back at 2019-2020, I feel compelled to divide this report into pre-pandemic and pandemic phases. As the months go by, it’s increasingly difficult to remember the world of before. So as a reminder, and a record for posterity, here’s a glimpse of this remarkable year at CAPI.

After a restorative summer break in August 2019, we welcomed our friends and associates back to campus at the University Club, and returned quickly to CAPI’s usual flurry of activities, including holding weekly seminars and roundtables, hosting visitors from near and far, and fielding reports from student interns scattered across Asia. The topics covered at our events were wide-ranging and impossible to capture fully here (they are listed later in this report), but among the “firsts” for CAPI this year were a co-hosted seminar (on open source software in China) with our colleagues in the Faculty of Engineering (a new partner for us), organized by CAPI Associate Daniela Damién, and an off-campus edition of our regular Southeast Asia in Global Context roundtable series, which saw Phil Calvert, Helen Lansdowne, and myself travel to the nation’s capital and Al gonquin Territory to co-host a discussion with our colleagues at the University of Ottawa. On a more somber note, we deeply were saddened when our former colleague, Shannon Bowie, passed away much too early, in December 2019. The university flag was lowered on 26 January 2020 in her honour.

Despite whis perings of a new coronavirus emerging from Asia, 2020 started off innocently enough. Mike Abe and Robyn Fila returned home from a brief trip to China with a group of UVic students at the beginning of January. Among our seminars and events, visiting QES-AS scholar* LyAnh Hoang (from Hanoi Law University) and Vandanet” Danet” Hing (from Royal University of Asia) presented their research collective met another remarkable milestone with the publication of their eponymous volume, Landscapes of Injustice: A New Perspective on CAPI’s Steering Committee, Feng Xu continued her work as Editor-in-Chief of our Migration, Mobility & Displacement journal. Canadians, one of several major culminating outputs of their seven-year project. Meanwhile, China Chair Guoqiang Wu’s book, Globalization against Democracy: A Political Economy of Capitalism after Its Global Triumph, reached an even larger audience with a translation into Chinese and his co-edited book, with Yuan Feng and Helen Lansdowne, Gender Dynamics, Feminist Activism, and Social Transformation in China, was released in paperback. Neilesh Bose, in addition to leading CAPI’s South Asia Global Forum and Global Governance conference, organized in collaboration with partners at Jigme Singye Wangchuck School of Law. Meanwhile, sixty-one colleagues from near and far (including 17 with UVic affiliations) took up my invitation to contribute to a collection of essays on the law and policy aspects of Covid-19 in Asia. Many of the draft chapters were presented as CAPI-hosted webinars and featured participants based in Hanoi, Hong Kong, Phnom Penh, Seoul, and Singapore (among other locales). The final manuscript was delivered to Oxford University Press in July 2020. We were also delighted that our colleague Qian Liu successfully defended her doctoral thesis on leftover women in China—yet another activity transposed to the virtual world. Dr. Liu was swiftly appointed a CAPI Associate, along with Dr. Thanh Phan, who also transitioned from serving as our QES-AS program manager to becoming a virtual “outbound” QES-AS scholar himself. Even our recruiting efforts shifted online. Together with our colleagues at the Gustavson School of Business, we were delighted to recruit a new Janislawsky East Asia (Japan) Chair, Professor Endo Takahiro, who will be joining us in the second half of 2021.

Such was the strange year in which we found ourselves. Yet CAPI continued to disseminate its research. A few lesser highlights will have to suffice. Under the leadership of Jordan Stagner-Ross, the Landscapes of Injustice research collective met another remarkable milestone with the publication of their eponymous volume, Landscapes of Injustice: A New Perspective on the Internment and Dispossession of Japanese Americans, one of several major culminating outputs of their seven-year project. Meanwhile, China Chair Guoqiang Wu’s book, Globalization against Democracy: A Political Economy of Capitalism after Its Global Triumph, reached an even larger audience with a translation into Chinese and his co-edited book, with Yuan Feng and Helen Lansdowne, Gender Dynamics, Feminist Activism, and Social Transformation in China, was released in paperback. Neilesh Bose, in addition to leading CAPI’s South Asia Global Forum and Global Governance conference, organized in collaboration with partners at Jigme Singye Wangchuck School of Law. Meanwhile, sixty-one colleagues from near and far (including 17 with UVic affiliations) took up my invitation to contribute to a collection of essays on the law and policy aspects of Covid-19 in Asia. Many of the draft chapters were presented as CAPI-hosted webinars and featured participants based in Hanoi, Hong Kong, Phnom Penh, Seoul, and Singapore (among other locales). The final manuscript was delivered to Oxford University Press in July 2020. We were also delighted that our colleague Qian Liu successfully defended her doctoral thesis on leftover women in China—yet another activity transposed to the virtual world. Dr. Liu was swiftly appointed a CAPI Associate, along with Dr. Thanh Phan, who also transitioned from serving as our QES-AS program manager to becoming a virtual “outbound” QES-AS scholar himself. Even our recruiting efforts shifted online. Together with our colleagues at the Gustavson School of Business, we were delighted to recruit a new Janislawsky East Asia (Japan) Chair, Professor Endo Takahiro, who will be joining us in the second half of 2021.

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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  
Landscares 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

Thanh Phan  
QES-AS Project Manager

Jonathan Woods  
Communications Officer

Senior Research Fellows

Neilesh Bose  
UVic History

Phil Calvert  
Former Canadian Ambassador to Thailand and Vietnam

Marlea Clarke  
UVic Political Science

Steering Committee

Victor V. Ramraj (Chair)  
Director, CAPI

Susan Breau  
Dean, Faculty of Law

Richard Fox  
Chair, Pacific and Asian Studies

Lisa Kalynchuk  
Vice President Research

Saul Klein, Dean  
Dean, Faculty of Business

Helen Lansdowne  
Associate Director - CAPI

Pooja Parmar  
Faculty of Law

Real Roy  
Department of Biology

In Memoriam

Shannon Bowie  
1972 - 2019

Shannon was CAPI’s administrative coordinator between 2014 and 2018. She was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in the late spring of 2019 and died in December the same year. Shannon shone a beacon of light on all who worked at or visited our Centre. She personified sociability, always offering a smile, a warm embrace and a follow up to the last conversation you had with her. A true testament to the love, warmth and humour that Shannon brought to life were her many, many friends that she had on campus and beyond. She is sadly missed.


Organizer, the forum “US-China Trade War in Multiple Perspectives,” Victoria, BC, October 24, 2019.

Member, CAPI Steering Committee.

An interview published as a blog with “Global South Politics Commentaries,” Uvic Political Science Department, on my book on globalization, Sep 3, 2019 https://onlineacademiccommunity.uvic.ca/globalsouthpolitics/2019/09/03/exploring-the-globalization-against-democracy-paradigm/.

Assessment of an application to promotion to full professor, Council of Hong Kong, China, 2020.


As Exam Committee member of two MA students, one with History (completed in 2019) and one with Pacific and Asian Studies (completed in 2020).

As member of doctoral students’ comprehensive exam committee for two students (Oct 2019).

As member of doctoral students’ comprehensive exam committee for two students (October 24, 2019).

As member of doctoral students’ comprehensive exam committee for two students (September 17, 2020).

As member of doctoral students’ comprehensive exam committee for two students (September 24, 2020).

Panelist, the concluding session, the conference “Hundred Years of Turbulence: The East and the West, Nationalism and Democracy, May Fourth and Today,” Sapiens Institute, Napa, CA, USA, Aug 7, 2019.


Teaching and Graduate Supervision
- Fall 2020 POLI 371/HSTR 365D Chinese Politics
- Fall 2019 POLI 590 Directed Reading of a POLI doctoral student
- Spring 2020 POLI 310/HSTR 365C China and the World
- Spring 2020 HSTR 501 Directed Reading of a HSTR MA student
- Spring 2020, joined group teaching of HSTR 101A Ten Days That Shocked the World
- Supervising three PhD students in Poli, ongoing
- Supervising two MA students in Poli, one ongoing and one completed the degree in 2020
- Supervising one MA student in History, degree completed in 2020
- As Exam Committee member of two MA students, one with History (completed in 2019) and one with Pacific and Asian Studies (completed in 2020)
- As member of doctoral students’ comprehensive exam committee for two students (Oct 2019)

Services and Outreach
- Organizer, the forum "US-China Trade War in Multiple Perspectives," Victoria, BC, October 24, 2019.
- Organizer, the forum "Taiwan Elections 2020 in Multiple Perspectives," Victoria, BC, January 16, 2020.
- Organizer, the forum "The Hong Kong Crisis in Multiple Perspectives," Victoria, BC, August 7, 2019.
- Member, CAPI Steering Committee.
- An interview published as a blog with “Global South Politics Commentaries,” Uvic Political Science Department, on my book on globalization, Sep 3, 2019 https://onlineacademiccommunity.uvic.ca/globalsouthpolitics/2019/09/03/exploring-the-globalization-against-democracy-paradigm/.
- Assessment of 2 research proposals for the Research Grant Council of Hong Kong, China.
- Assessment of 4 research proposals for the Research Grant Council of Hong Kong, China.
- Assessment of 4 research proposals for the Research Grant Council of Hong Kong, China 2020.
- Assessment of 2 research proposals for Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan, 2020.
- Assessment of an application to promotion to full professor, University of California, San Francisco, USA.
- Member, the Editorial Board, China: An International Journal (National University of Singapore).
- Member, the Editorial Board, China Perspectives / Perspectives Chinois (French Centre for Research on Contemporary China, Hong Kong and Paris).
- Member, the Editorial Board, East Asia: An International Quarterly (University of Durham, UK).
- Member, the Editorial Board, International Journal of Politics and Good Governance (St. John’s College, Agra, India).
- Member, the Editorial Board, Journal of Contemporary China Studies (Waseda University, Tokyo).
- Member, the Standing Review Board, the Humanities and Social Sciences Panel of the Research Grant Council of Hong Kong, China.
- Member, the Academic Board, the China Democracy University (Hong Kong).
- Member, the Academic Board, the Tiananmen Academy of Democracy (San Francisco, USA).
- Member, the editorial Board, China: History and Future (https://www.chinesefuture.org) (Paris, France) (since May 2020).
- Member, the Editorial Board, China in Perspective (www.Chinainperspective.com) (Washington DC, USA).
- Member, the Editorial Board, East Asian Policy (East Asian Institute, Singapore).
- Member, the Editorial Board, the Journal of Public Intellectuals (Taipei, Taiwan).
Apart from my duties as CAPI Director, I continued in my role as CAPI’s Chair in Asia-Pacific Legal Relations. I am pleased to report on my general activities; my publications and presentations; and my teaching and graduate supervision.

**General Activities**

I have continued my work as project director for 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, and following the success of our joint conference with the JSW School of Law in Bhutan, Public Law, Legal Orders and Governance in July 2019, I organized the second Victoria-based round of the conference in June 2020. With Covid-19 upon us, we shifted the conference to an online format. With QES-AS scholars Nima Dorji and Pooja Parmar, and religious studies professor Ben Schonthal from the University of Otago, I started the process of compiling and editing the conference papers for publication. I also served on numerous Faculty of Law and university-level committees, and served as an ad hoc reviewer of article and book manuscripts for a variety of publishers, including Cambridge University Press.

**Publications & Presentations**


Also in the period under review, I co-organized (with Phil Calvert) CAPI’s eighth and ninth roundtables on Southeast Asia in Global Context: Financial Innovation, Systemic Risk & Climate Crisis in Asia (on 17 October 2019 in Victoria) and Southeast Asia Recent Trends and Perspectives (jointly with the University of Ottawa, in Ottawa on 29 November 2019). On 21 May 2020, I co-moderated (with Senator Marilou McPhedran) a special tenth virtual roundtable of experts, Justice for the Rohingya: The Role of Canada, led by CAPI Associate Catherine Morris, in collaboration with UVic Law, Senator McPhedran and the Human Rights Research and Education Centre at the University of Ottawa. This roundtable involved 75 invited experts from Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, Bangladesh, South Korea, and Australia.

**Teaching & Graduate Supervision**

In the Fall of 2019, I taught a seminar course at the Faculty of Law, States, Companies & Legal Orders in Asia (Law 343). On 11 October 2019, I gave a guest lecture and discussed my recently-published article, *International Institutional Bypasses and Transnational Non-State Regulation* in Jeremy Webber’s *Law 302 Graduate Seminar* in Law and Society, Faculty of Law, University of Victoria. I continued to have three PhD students under my direct supervision: Ngozi Nwoko, Nima Dorji, and Ratana Ly. All have completed their candidacy examinations. Benjamin Lawrence, successfully defended his dissertation in December 2019, and received his degree in June 2020. In January-February 2020, I taught a 45-hour course on Transnational Law in Theory and Practice at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand, as part of the Faculty of Law’s contribution to the LLM in Business Law which UVic’s Faculty of Law continues to support.
Phil Calvert

Phil was actively involved in CAPI’s activities throughout 2019-2020. 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: “Financial Innovation, Systems, Risk and Climate Change” (October 2019) and “Southeast Asia: Recent Trends and Perspectives” (November 2019) a joint session with the University of Ottawa. He co-authored a chapter with Daniel Ciuriak on the impact of Covid-19 on trade in Asia in the publication Covid-19 in Asia: Law and Policy Contexts, edited by Victor V. Ramraj.

Phil also participated in CAPI’s informal discussions on a range of issues related to Asia.

Neilesh Bose

During this review period, Neilesh focused on the research and writing of two books. One book is a research monograph, tentatively titled Religion before Gandhi: Universalism, Comparison, and Resources for Modern Religion, which is heading for submission by late 2021. He also finished an edited volume published in December 2020, titled South Asian Migrations in Global History: Labor, Law, and Wayward Lives, published by Bloomsbury. Neilesh edited and wrote an introduction for a special section containing related articles which appears in Journal of World History 32, no. 1 (March 2021): 1–63. He conducted research for both of these projects in India and Britain as a U.S.–U.K. Fulbright Scholar and American Institute for Bangladesh Studies Fellow.

South Asian Migrations in Global History includes Neilesh’s introduction as well as his chapter, “Taraknath Das: A Global Biography.” He published two peer-reviewed journal articles in 2020: “Taraknath Das (1884 – 1958), British Columbia, and the Anti-Colonial Borderlands,” BC Studies (204): 67–88 and “Lex Mercatoria, Legal Pluralism, and the Modern State through the Lens of the East India Company, 1600–1757” (co-authored with Victor Ramraj) in Comparative Studies in South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East 40, no. 2 (August 2020): 277–290. Neilesh enjoyed a five week writing fellowship as a Bogliasco Foundation Fellow, near Genoa, Italy in the early fall of 2019. During the 2019-2020 year, he delivered public presentations about his research in British (London), Bhutan (Thimpu), India (Delhi and Ahmedabad), Italy (Bogliasco), the U.S.A. (Madison, WI), and Switzerland (Zurich). In October of 2019, he delivered the keynote address for the one day workshop titled Decolonizing the Victorians at the University of Lisbon in Portugal. The keynote was titled “Four Lives in the Nationalist Imaginary: The Wayward Lives of Das, Dayal, Kankihoe, and Roy.” Neilesh had planned talks (currently being rescheduled for 2021–22) in Georgetown University-Qatar (Doha), Azam Premji University (Bangalore, India) and the Heritage Centre (Durban, South Africa).

Marlea Clarke

During the reporting period, Marlea focused on two main projects. First, she continued working on CAPI’s new “Asia in Africa” programming, which focuses on the issues and implications of increasing Afro-Asiatic economic, social, cultural and political relations. As such, she remained active with the Chinese in Africa/African in China Research Network, and began planning a seminar (6th in CAPI’s ongoing series) focused on China’s new International Development Cooperation Agency, which opened in 2018, and trends in Chinese development assistance to Africa. The seminar was postponed due to COVID-19, and will take place in 2021-2022.

She also was the keynote speaker for the Stephen Lewis Foundation’s “BC Island Regional Grandmothers Gathering” in September, at which she presented her work on the impact of Covid-19 on trade in Asia in the publication Covid-19 in Asia: Law and Policy Contexts, edited by Victor V. Ramraj. Finally, Marlea has continued to provide support to graduate students affiliated with CAPI.
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 Senior 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 and University of Ottawa CIPS - Centre for International Policy Studies.

Financial Innovation, Systemic Risk & Climate Crisis in Asia
17 October 2019

In this, the 8th installment of CAPI’s ongoing “Southeast Asia in Global Context” roundtable discussion series, we convened an interdisciplinary panel of international experts to examine issues in green finance as well as financial regulation/systemic risk, especially as they relate to climate issues and political instability in the region and beyond (e.g., Hong Kong, Brexit).

The discussions considered whether countries such as Hong Kong and Singapore (and Canada) can take credit for their relatively mild experience of the 2008 global financial crisis, and whether there would have been a global financial crisis if Islamic banking principles had been in operation. Finally, the panel considered how financial institutions are adjusting to the climate crisis.

Panellists:
• Meyer Aaron, CEO, 3Pi Capital Advisory Inc; former Policy Advisor, Bank of Canada
• Ravipal Bains, Associate, McMillan LLP, Vancouver

Southeast Asia: Recent Trends and Perspectives
29 November 2019

Co-organized with the University of Ottawa, and held in Ottawa, Canada

CAPI was pleased to collaborate with The Asian Studies Network at the University of Ottawa’s Centre for International Policy Studies (CIPS/CÉPI) to present a special roundtable discussion on Southeast Asia in Global Context in the nation’s capital. In this session, our expert panel examined three broad regional themes: (1) Ethno-Religious Nationalism; (2) Livelihoods, Precarious Labour & Climate Refugees; and (3) Investment, Human Rights, and Security.

Panellists:
• Susan Gregson (Chair), Senior Fellow, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, University of Ottawa, and former ADM Asia-Pacific with Global Affairs Canada
• Victor V. Ramraj (Chair), CAPI Director and Chair in Asia-Pacific Legal Relations and Professor of Law, University of Victoria
• Helen Lansdowne, CAPI Associate Director
• Melissa Marchkie, Associate Professor, International Development and Global Studies, University of Ottawa
• Kai Ostwald, Director, Centre for Southeast Asia Research, and Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science and the School of Public Policy & Global Affairs, University of British Columbia
• Phil Calvert, CAPI Senior Research Fellow and former Canadian Ambassador to Thailand, Cambodia, and Laos

Justice for the Rohingya: The Role of Canada (via videoconference)
1 May 2020

In a special international virtual roundtable of experts, CAPI, in collaboration with UVic Law, Canadian Senator Marilou McPhedran, and the Human Rights Research and Education Centre at the University of Ottawa convened about 75 invited experts from Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, Bangladesh, South Korea, and Australia, to consider the role of Canada in seeking justice for the Rohingya.

• Honourable Marilou McPhedran (Chair), Independent Senator, Parliament of Canada
• Her Excellency Jacqueline O’Neill, Ambassador for Women, Peace, and Security, Canada
• Honourable Bob Rae, Special Envoy on Humanitarian and Refugee Issues, appointed by the Prime Minister of Canada
• Prof. Susan Breaux, Dean, Faculty of Law, University of Victoria, Canada
• Prof. Payam Akhavan, Member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, The Hague, Faculty of Law, McGill University; Counsel for The Gambia at the ICI in the case of The Gambia v. Myanmar
• Prof. Yanghee Lee, United Nations (UN) Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar (May 2014 to 30 April 2020)
• Prof. Christine Chinkin, Emerita Professor of International Law, London School of Economics, UK
• Prof. Victor V. Ramraj (Chair), Faculty of Law and Director, Centre for Asia Pacific Initiatives, University of Victoria, Canada
• Prof. John Packer, Associate Professor of Law, Director of the Human Rights Research and Education Centre (HRREC) & Neuberger-Jesin Professor of International Conflict Resolution, University of Ottawa, Canada
• Ms. Razia Sultana, Chairperson, Rohingya Women’s Welfare Society, Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh
• Ms. Wai Wai Nu, Rohingya/Burmese founder, Welfare Society, Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh
• Ms. Mavic Cabrera Balleza, President, Global Network of Women Peacebuilders, New York, USA
• Ms. Aikla Radhakrishnan, President, Global Justice Center, New York, USA
• Ms. Ms Mavic Cabrera Balleza, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Global Network of Women Peacebuilders, New York, USA
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.

UVic Faculty member participants:

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

In addition to conference preparations, the Migration Program’s E-Journal, Migration, Mobility & Displacement published its Volume 5 during this reporting period. This particular edition was prepared under the guidance of guest editor Heather Johnson, Politics and International Studies, Queens University, Belfast and offers five articles focusing on refugees.

Migration & Mobility Program

During this reporting period, the MMP Program Committee (Leslie Butt, Marlea Clarke, Catherine Coitigan, Helen Lansdowne, Annalee Lepp, Scott Watson and Feng Xu) focused much of their work on planning and organizing with its partner organization, the University of Crete, the conference, “Creating Commons in an Era of Precarity: a Multi/Trans-Disciplinary Conference on Migration and Asia”, which was to be held in Rethymnon, Crete in June 2020. Greece continues to be the epicenter of migration into Europe and the University of Crete has focused much of their research attention on the particular challenges that Greece has faced over the past ten years.

In the Fall of 2019, a SSHRC Connections Grant application was prepared and sent for adjudication and a student workshop was held in December, the first of two workshops supported by the Dean of Social Sciences and designed to prepare graduate students who wished to present at the June conference. Due to the pandemic, the conference in Greece was postponed and will be held virtually in June 2021.

MMP committee members and graduate student participants at the first Creating Commons student workshop, 6 December 2019

Migration, Moblility, & Displacement

Cover image: “Galaxy Running’ by Bita Golmohamadi, a participant in the Youth Migration Project (page 83)
Landscapes of Injustice

The CAPI-based Landscapes of Injustice project continued its work, with the release of a book, ongoing community engagement, and preparation for 2020-2021, which includes the launch of major project outputs.

The project’s summative search statement, Landscapes of Injustice: A New Perspective on the Internment and Dispossession of Japanese Canadians, which reinterprets the internment of Japanese Canadians by focusing on the permanent destruction of home, appeared as a book with McGill-Queens Press in 2020. It has been heralded as an “Outstanding and eminently readable volume [that] increases by an order of magnitude our knowledge and understanding of the tragic persecution of Japanese Canadians during World War II.” Its release was accompanied by online events including a popular zoom session with editor Jordan Stanger-Ross and three authors of chapters, Kaitlin Findlay, Nick Blomley and Audrey Kobayashi. Subsequent presentations in association with the Wilson Institute, Michiko Ayukawa Commemorative Lecture, US Holocaust Memorial Museum, and the Federation of Asian Canadian Lawyers are slated to continue throughout the fall and into 2021.

The project also continued to support the campaign by the local Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society (VNCS) to re-create a Japanese Teahouse in Esquimalt-Gorge Park and help pay homage to the successful Japanese Tea Garden and amusement park that ran from 1907 to the beginning of World War II before it was subjected to the confiscation and vandalism due to the forced uprooting and dispossession of Japanese Canadians.

The campaign gained momentum in the fall of 2019 with a talk for the Café Historique series by Jordan Stanger-Ross, Kaitlin Findlay, VNCS president Tsugio Kurushima and Dr. Dillon Takata, great grandson of one of the proprietors of the Japanese Teahouse. An op-ed in the Globe and Mail and media coverage on CBC Radio, CTV news and provincial newspapers brought further attention to this cause and plans to move forward saw the design and ground breaking in 2020.

Landscapes of Injustice also incorporated a public history class at UVic led by Dr. Yasmin Amataranga Railton to help brainstorm how this important history could be incorporated into interpretative elements of the design of the teahouse.

This is one of many examples of how Landscapes is working with the Japanese Canadian community both locally and across Canada. The project was honoured to learn that the Project Director was recognized and bestowed as one of the 2020 Provost’s Community-Engaged Scholars.

Research assistants and programmers in the Digital Research Database cluster worked throughout the summer with cluster co-chairs Stewart Arneil from the Humanities Computing and Media Centre at UVic and Lisa Uyeda, Collections Manager at the Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Centre to prepare the tremendous amount of research material for the database. This database scheduled for launch in March 2021 will be an incredible asset to members of the Japanese Canadian community to explore their family history and for researchers in this topic.

In the lead up to the launch of the database, Landscapes of Injustice held several successful online presentations with members of the Japanese Canadian community sharing the experiences they had using the documents and files related to their family history evoking emotions of shock, sadness, anger, and often new perspectives on those who helped pave the way to a better life for them.

Monthly articles continue in local and national Japanese Canadian publication and project outreach to help community members share their stories.

The project remained busy throughout the summer of 2020 despite the pandemic and plans are in full swing for the virtual launch of the Broken Promise Museum Exhibit that will open at the Nikkei National Museum. This will also include the launch of the elementary and secondary school teacher resources websites. To complement all of the project outputs, a digital storytelling narrative website will also be launched as an interactive digital platform to express the internment and dispossession through Japanese Canadian families and a historical timeline.

Left: The May S, one of 4 fishing vessels owned by Kunimatsu Saimoto, seized by the Canadian Government (photo courtesy of Laura Saimoto).
Regulating Globalization in South & Southeast Asia

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.
Short term QES-AS incoming scholar Dr. Ly Anh Hoang came to CAPI from Hanoi Law University for a 3 month term in November 2019. Ly Anh is a Lecturer in International Law and Acting Head of the Department of Research Management and Journal Administration. She is investigating Vietnam’s compliance with the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and while at UVic she undertook a research placement with UVic’s Environmental Law Centre. Below (with Keren Huang): LyAnh teaching the CAPI Team the correct way to prepare Vietnamese tea.

Short term QES-AS incoming scholar Vandanet (Danet) Hing is a researcher and lecturer at the Center for the Study of Humanitarian Law at the Royal University of Law and Economics in Cambodia whose time at CAPI included conducting research on “the development of international criminal law: assessing Extraordinary Chamber in the Court of Cambodia (ECCC) precedents.” Scheduled to depart in March 2020, the pandemic grounded air travel and Danet was unable to return to Cambodia and was stranded in Victoria until June. Below: Danet Zooms with the CAPI Team from the Victoria airport.

INCOMING SCHOLARS

From left to right: Sangay Dorjee (Dean), Tshering Dolkar? (Junior Lecturer), Karma Yeshay (Registrar of Companies at Ministry of Economics, Affairs, Bhutan), Ngyawang Phrabi Lhundrup (Assistant Professor), Dema Lham (Senior Lecturer), Pema Wangdi (QES-AS scholar), and Nima Dorji (QES-AS scholar) participate in the conference through Zoom.

PUBLIC LAW, LEGAL ORDERS & GOVERNANCE CONFERENCE: REGULATING GLOBALIZATION IN ASIA - PART II

25-28 June 2020

This was the second instalment of a two-part conference jointly organized by Jigme Singye Wangchuck School of Law (JSW Law) in Bhutan and the University of Victoria’s Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives (CAPI) and Faculty of Law (UVic Law) (conference part I). The overall goal of this second conference that emerged from the first is to consider through the lens of public law and regulation - how legal pluralism expresses itself in a global context. The conference was to take place in Victoria, but had to be held online due to the pandemic.

This conference, and the collections of essays and articles that continue to emerge from it, recognize that not all law is state law. We explore how norms emerging from non-state legal orders, including transnational standards, religious and customary norms, and private codes interact with state and international law and politics to regulate local, regional, and global challenges—challenges arising from globalization in all its dimensions. In exploring these questions, we approach the challenge of regulating globalization through an interdisciplinary lens, drawing on research and scholarly perspectives in history, anthropology, political science, religion, environmental studies, and law to better understand the interactions among normative systems, including state legal orders, and the challenges and promise arising from a multiplicity of legal orders.

We acknowledged that there is much to be gained in turning to the diverse experiences and practices of many parts of Asia, with its long history of legal pluralism. In pursuing these questions, we recognize a deep disenchantment with states as the source of inspiration and action in addressing the challenges of our time—and, indeed, the perilous rise of an increasingly toxic form of xenophobic nationalism. Although not all of the contributors to this conference were optimistic about the ability of legal orders, broadly understood, to mitigate the harsher effects of globalization, many still hold out a hope of re-enchantment—that we might, by thinking creatively about law’s promise, find a way out of some of the planet’s most confounding predicaments.
International Student Internship Program

Our 2019-2020 year started off like all others, we had 14 interns and scholars completing placements in Thailand, with the Global Alliance Against the Traffic in Women and the Karenni Social Development Center; in Indonesia with the Centre for Indonesian Policy Studies; in India with the Society for Participatory Research in Asia; in South Africa with Ukulapha and in Zambia with the SAM project.

In February 2020, we had our next round of 9 interns selected and ready to go, and were in the final stages of planning the pre-departure training. Dates were confirmed, tickets were purchased, agreements were signed, presentation topics selected and then on March 19, the world came to a screeching halt.

I spent the next 2 months working with our amazing travel agent Gail Keane (who retired this year), to watch the cancellation policies and practices of all of the airlines we had tickets booked with. Some were giving refunds without penalty, some were charging cancellation fees if you cancelled the tickets before they did etc. So, we played the waiting game, sometimes waiting until days before the flights were scheduled to leave before the flights were actually cancelled. As May rolled around and the start dates of the proposed internships passed, the work became to try and tie up all the loose ends.

Needless to say, there were a lot of disappointed students who had given up apartments, left jobs, turned down other opportunities when they accepted their CAPI internship.

This year has been a strange one to say the least. I have kept in touch with our partners and know that they are struggling with the reality on the ground, working with refugees, migrants and communities that have been profoundly impacted by the pandemic. GAATW has moved to working remotely, KSDC is facing serious funding issues, CIPS is working remotely, and MSRI is struggling to keep their doors open to the refugee populations they serve in Kuala Lumpur.

Universities Canada and Rideau hall have generously granted a one year extension to our QES ASEAN project that was to wrap up in December 2020. We now have an extension until the end of 2021. It doesn’t look like we will be sending interns into the field this summer, but I am hopeful that when we can travel once again, that our partners will still be able to receive interns.

Robyn Fila - Internship Program Manager
Clockwise from top left: Jemma Kosalko with fellow hikers on Mt. Dieng in Central Java; Luisa Schwarz (bottom left) with students and colleagues at KSDC, Thailand; Erin Spence in Yokohama, Japan; Robyn Fila visiting intern Kaylin Arason and colleagues at GAATW in Bangkok, Thailand; Kaylin Arason visiting a local temple in Bangkok, Olvie Li on the move in India.

Photos provided by interns.
Hisa and Hikaru Uzawa

An Evening of Japanese Noh Theatre
19 September 2019

One of the first women to act as a lead performer in a traditional Noh lineage, Hisa Uzawa is a prominent member of the Tessenkai branch of the Kanze School of Noh theatre in Tokyo. She has been designated as a “Living National Treasure” by the Japanese government. She and her daughter Hikaru, also an accomplished professional actor, introduced the dynamics and techniques of the 650-year tradition that lies at the heart of the Noh theatre to a packed house at the Phillip T. Young Recital Hall.

Nury Turkel

Lansdowne Lecture: China’s Mass Internment of Uyghurs: The Urgent Need for a Global Response
29 January 2020

Nury Turkel is the Chair of the Board of the Uyghur Human Rights Project. He was born in a re-education camp in Kashgar at the height of the Cultural Revolution. Turkel holds a Master of Arts in International Relations and a Juris Doctor degree, both from the American University in Washington, DC. He is the first US-educated Uyghur lawyer. Turkel practices law in D.C., specializing in regulatory compliance, federal investigation and enforcement, aviation, and immigration.

Miki Dezaki

Shusenjo: The Main Battleground of the Comfort Women Issue
15 February 2020

For several year CAPI has supported the VFF by sponsoring its Asian programming, but this year we were able to bring a film and its director to the festival. Dezaki’s film deals with “comfort women,” a euphemism for the mostly Korean women who were forced into Japanese military-run brothels during World War II, perhaps Japan’s most contentious present-day diplomatic quandary.

Angie Chau (Pacific and Asian Studies) and CAPI’s Helen Lansdowne with Nury Turkel

Director Miki Dezaki, hosted by UVic Pacific and Asian Studies professors Cody Poulton and Sujin Lee at the Victoria Film Festival

Hisa and Hikaru Uzawa on arrival at the UVic campus

Miki Dezaki on set

Hisa and Hikaru Uzawa on arrival at the UVic campus

Angie Chau (Pacific and Asian Studies) and CAPI’s Helen Lansdowne with Nury Turkel
Revisiting Feminist Ideals of Autonomy in Marriage Through an Asian Lens
9 September 2019
Qian Liu, PhD student, UVic Faculty of Law

Demise of “One Country, Two Systems”? Reflections on the Hong Kong Rendition Saga
12 September 2019
Cora Chan, Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, The University of Hong Kong (appearing via video-link)

The Kelsen-Schmitt Debate and the Use of Emergency Powers in Political Crises in Thailand
26 September 2019
Rawin Leelapatana, Faculty of Law, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand

Blood, Sweat, Tears, and Garments: Dilara Begum Jolly’s Affective Activist
7 October 2019
Melia Belli Bose, Art History & Visual Studies, UVic

Ayukawa commemorative lecture: Self- and Social Recognition & Japanese Canadian Women’s Histories
15 October 2019
Mona Oikawa, Associate Professor, Department of Equity Studies, York University

Panel Discussion: US-China Trade Wars in Multiple Perspectives
24 October 2019
- Phil Calvert, CAPI Senior Research Fellow
- Linda Hu Shu, Associate Professor, Peter B. Gustavson School of Business, UVic
- Michael Webb, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, UVic
- Guoguang Wu, CAPI China Chair, Professor, Departments of Political Science and History, UVic

Japanese Exclusion, Labour, and Environment in the BC Salmon Fisheries, 1900-1930
28 October 2019
- Benjamin Bryce, Assistant Professor, Department of History, University of Northern BC
- Hailey Massingham, Law student, UVic

Underdevelopment in rural China: Measuring the legacy of Mao Zedong’s Great Leap Forward policies (1959-61)
31 October 2019
Elizabeth Gooch, Assistant Professor of Economics at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California

Open source software practices in large Chinese internet companies - An analysis of OSS adoption at Baidu, Alibaba, and Tencent
7 November 2019
David Lo, Associate Professor of Information Systems, Singapore Management University

Global South Colloquium Panel discussion: Development and Entrepreneurship in the Global South
21 November 2019
- Shahinaz Rashad, Financial & Sustainable Development Advisor and Entrepreneurship Champion
- Sudhir Nair, Associate Professor, UVic Gustavson School of Business
- Chair: Neelesh Bose, Associate Professor, Canada Research Chair, UVic History

Demonstration of the Japanese “tea ceremony” (cha-no-yu)
18 November 2019
Cody Poulton, Pacific and Asian Studies, and Urasenke Mission, Canadian Trade Office in Taipei

Panel discussion: Taiwan elections 2020 from multiple perspectives - A run down and recap of the Taiwanese Presidential election taking place on 11 January 2020
16 January 2020
- Phil Calvert, CAPI Senior Research Fellow, former Deputy Head of Mission in the Canadian Embassy in Beijing, and former Canadian ambassador to Thailand, Cambodia and Laos
- Qian Liu, PhD Candidate, UVic Faculty of Law
- Hugh Stephens, CAPI Research Associate; Distinguished Fellow, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada; former Head of Mission, Canadian Trade Office in Taipei
- Guoguang Wu, CAPI China Chair, Professor, Departments of Political Science and History, UVic

Animal Intimacies: Interspecies Relatedness in India’s Central Himalayas
23 January 2020
Radhika Govindrajan, Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Washington

Panel discussion: Contemporary Issues in Biotech & Bioethics in China and Canada
23 January 2020
- Maneesh Deckha, UVic Law professor and Director of the UVic Animals & Society Research Initiative
- Michele Martin, Associate Professor, UVic Division of Medical Sciences and Veterinarian
- Réal Roy, Assistant Professor, UVic Biology
- Feng Xu, Associate Professor, UVic Political Science
China’s exportation of digital authoritarianism: Using Uyghur lives and homeland for the development and testing of surveillance technologies
30 January 2020
Nury Turkel (See page 27), Chair of the Board, Uyghur Human Rights Project

International Development Week: Youth & Students in Global Development: Experiences beyond the classroom
4 February 2020
• Marlea Clarke, UVic Global Development Studies program Director and Associate Professor, UVic Political Science
• Robyn Fila, CAPI Internship Program Manager

Compliance with the Convention on Biological Diversity: The case of Vietnam
11 February 2020
Ly Anh Hoàng, Visiting CAPI QES-AS scholar and Lecturer in International Law and Acting Head of the Department of Research Management and Journal Administration at Hanoi Law University

Renewable Energy in Mongolia and Summer Field School opportunities in Mongolia
26 February 2020
Charles Krusekopf, Executive Director of the American Center for Mongolian Studies (ACMS) and Professor and Director of the MBA program at Royal Roads University

The development of international criminal law: Assessing Extraordinary Chamber in the Court of Cambodia (ECCC) precedents
27 February 2020
Vandanet Hing, visiting QES-AS scholar and a researcher and lecturer at the Center for the Study of Humanitarian Law at the Royal University of Law and Economics in Cambodia

The Comfort Women Controversy: Political Ramifications and Censorship in Japan
5 March 2020
Miki Dezaki (see page 27), in conversation with Sujin Lee & Cody Poulton, UVic Department of Pacific & Asian Studies

South Korea: Democracy, Innovation, and Surveillance
28 April 2020
• Sunghee Chung, Chinese University of Hong Kong
• Sujin Lee, Pacific and Asian Studies, UVic

Cambodia: transparency, politics, and economy
30 April 2020
• Kimsan Soy, Director, Center for Study of Humanitarian Law at the Royal University of Law and Economics in Cambodia
• Ratana Ly, PhD student, UVic Faculty of Law, visiting QES-AS scholar,
• Vandanet Hing, visiting QES-AS scholar

Online talk: Covid-19 in Asia – Questions and Conundrums
5 May 2020
Victor V. Ramraj, CAPI Director & Chair in Asia-Pacific Legal Relations

Online talk: Vietnam: Marshalling State and Non-State actors against Covid-19
12 May 2020
• Cuong Nguyen, Institute of Legal Studies, Ministry of Justice, Vietnam
• Thanh Phan, UVic Faculty of Law

Online talk: Production and Pandemic in a Just in Time Economy: South and South-east Asia face the Coronavirus Fellow Traveller
21 May 2020
• Jamie Lawson, UVic Political Science
• Helen Lansdowne, CAPI Associate Director

Online talk: Mongolia: Self isolation leads to success and challenges
28 May 2020
• Charles Krusekopf, Royal Roads University
• Sainbuyan Munkhbat, Asia-Pacific Foundation of Canada

Online talk: Governing through Contagion
18 June 2020
• Lynette J. Chua, Associate Professor, Faculty of Law Yale-NUS College, National University of Singapore
• Jack Jin Gary Lee, Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Kenyon College, USA

Emerging Perspectives in the Study of Law and Family in China
9 July 2020
• Ke Li, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of NY
• Qian Liu, UVic Law
• Di Wang, University of Wisconsin-Madison
• Discussant: Rachel Stern, UC Berkeley
• Chair/Moderator: Lynette Chua, National University of Singapore

How is Myanmar responding to COVID-19? Insights from policymaking
14 July 2020
• Tun Myint, Simon Fraser University
• Kai Ostwald, University of British Columbia
• Commentator: Ngui Wah, Centre for Economic and Social Development, Yangon
• Commentator: Aung Hein, International Growth Centre, Yangon / University of Oxford DPhil candidate
International Youth Leadership and Cultural Immersion Programs

The International Youth Leadership Program (IYLP), an experiential learning-based leadership program, continues to provide students from China with a global learning experience through a hybrid of on-campus engaging lectures and off-campus practical field trips, covering topics such as environmental issues in BC and China; Western Art History, Canadian History, Gender Identity and Comparative Sociology.

During the time between September to December 2019, CAPI welcomed over 70 participants from China. With an attempt to deliver the best learning experience, students were instructed by faculty members, CAPI associates, PhD candidates from the Departments of History and Pacific and Asian Studies, as well as taking part in field trips with various CAPI’s community partners.

The IYLP is in partnership with the Beifang International Education Group, a union of 20 private universities in China, 11 of which send students to participate in the IYLP on a regular basis.

CAPI strengthens its bonds with China by delivering its Cultural Immersion Program (CIP), delivered in collaboration with Education, Training, Consulting Canada Ltd. CIP provides two-week language and cultural immersion training to top performing students from the Shanghai Technical Institute of Electronics and Information. CAPI hosted 38 participants in the second half of 2019, with a focus on English language training to improve English proficiency.

As the COVID-19 pandemic hit the world in January 2020, all international training programs were drastically impacted, including the China programming at CAPI. Due to the unprecedented and severe impact of the pandemic, the senior management of CAPI decided to take an initiative to collaborate with Beifang International Education Group, creating an online course for students in China offering a virtual experiential learning program delivered by the same group of instructors from CAPI. Currently, the design of the new virtual course is in progress and it is expected to be launched in 2021.
In November 2019 CAPI was pleased to host a delegation from Vietnam’s National Assembly, led by Madame Nguyen Thanh Hai (National Assembly Standing Committee, Chair of Commission for People’s Petitions, Chairwoman of Vietnam – Canada Parliamentary Friendship Group). The group met with UVic Law Dean Susan Breau and UVic Global Engagement’s Carolyn Russell and Ruth Wax, and were treated to a lesson on the legal system and structure of the BC legislature with Renée Mulligan, CAPI Associate and lawyer with the British Columbia Ministry of Attorney General.

In September 2020, CAPI had a visit from Indian Ambassador Sujan Chinoy (centre left), Director General of the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defense Studies and Analyses (IDSA), a think-tank in New Delhi in the field of defence, security and international relations. Seen here with Nicole Bates-Eamer (left), PhD student with UVic Political Science, Kenneth Macartney (center right), Associate Fellow and Diplomat in Residence with UVic’s Centre for Global Studies and Dr. Reeta Tremblay (right), UVic Political Science Professor.

Student Trip to Guangdong, China

Over the 2019-2020 winter break, CAP’s Robyn Fila and Mike Abe had the unique opportunity to lead a contingent of forty UVic students on a cultural/scholarly visit to China sponsored by the Department of Education, Guangdong Province, in collaboration with the BC Ministry of Advanced Education. Based out of the South China University of Technology (SCUT) and Jinan University in the provincial capital of Guangzhou, the cultural showcase included classroom sessions on Chinese architecture, philosophy and history, as well as excursions to cultural sites and landmarks.

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Student Research Fellowship Award Winner

Kevin Bruce, Department of Biology

“The Fluid backbone of coral reefs: changes in reef structure through a climate-change induced mass coral mortality event”

Postponed due to pandemic. Kevin hopes to be able to use the grant towards travel costs when he is able to travel again.