Dear Friends, Colleagues and Students,

I write to welcome you back to a new academic year and want to bring to your attention our most recent Annual Report on the Asia Center’s accomplishments. Last year has been a busy year and this year promises to be just as exciting. If you have looked at our updated website, you will have noticed that the Center has been formally renamed as The Asia Center at ASU, signaling our commitment to both faculty and students as well as to supporting research and learning about Asia and its global linkages. I invite you to browse the pages of our website periodically as up-to-date information is continually added.

ASU welcomes several new faculty members who research and teach about Asian topics in a variety of fields and I invite you to take a look at their profiles. In addition to Doug Guthrie and Sophal Ear in the Thunderbird School of Global Management, Itty Abraham in the School for the Future of Innovation in Society, Kristy Kang in the Herberger Institute, and Nandita Punj in the School of History, Philosophy and Religious Studies, we are delighted to welcome this fall two scholars in Korean studies, namely Areum Jeong in the School of International Letters and Cultures and Sungik Yang in History.

Our Global Asia lecture series continues now in its fourth year and we look forward to more innovative and insightful presentations during this academic year and we invite you to register via our website or by responding to email announcements and attend these timely and interesting presentations as they are announced. In these pages, you will find information on past lectures that remain available for asynchronous viewing. Also available for viewing is Albert Park’s Inaugural Aaron Moore Lecture supported by the Aaron Moore Fund.

As Covid-related travel restrictions have been lifted in many Asian countries, the Asia Center has resumed awarding A.T. Steele Travel Grants to ASU faculty. In 2023, the Center’s ad hoc committee awarded eight grants in support of ASU faculty research projects described in this report. Be on the look-out for research presentations resulting from their work.

The 2023 Sage Family Scholarship for study in Southeast Asia supported a project on fisheries and coral reefs in maritime Indonesia. Two summer FLAS awards to students studying Vietnamese and Japanese this summer completed a total of 110 Title VI Foreign Language and Area Studies fellowships awarded to ASU students since 2018. I want to remind our students to stay tuned to forthcoming announcements about student support. In addition to some of the new courses on Asia featured in this report, a more complete list of courses offerings in Asian studies is found each semester on the Asia Center’s website.

I want to conclude by thanking our donors who are actively supporting the Center’s activities. If you find what we do worthy of your attention, please make a donation through the ASU Foundation or by following one of several QR codes throughout this publication. Whether you choose to support Friends of Asia, the Aaron Moore Fund or the tuition fund for displaced Myanmar students, your contribution recognizes the many cultural, economic and social connections Arizona has to all of Asia’s regions. Feel free to contact us at Asia@asu.edu for information.

With best wishes for a productive year,
Juilane Schober
**Meet Our Team**

**Juliane Schober** is Director of the Asia Center at ASU and Professor of Religious Studies in the School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies. She is an anthropologist of religions and scholar of Theravada Buddhist formations in Southeast Asia, especially Burma/Myanmar. She is the author of Modern Buddhist Conjunctures in Myanmar (2011, University of Hawai‘i Press) and numerous essays, including three edited volumes.

**William C. Hedberg** is Associate Director of the Asia Center at ASU, and an Associate Professor of Japanese Literature in the School of International Letters and Cultures. His research centers on literary and cultural relations between China and Japan during the 18th-20th centuries, and his monograph, The Japanese Discovery of Chinese Fiction, was published by Columbia University Press in 2019.

**Alexander Henn** is Director of ASU’s BA program for Asian Studies, and a Professor of Religious Studies in the School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies. He is the author of Hindu-Catholic Encounters in Goa: Religion, Colonialism, and Modernity (Indiana, 2014).

**Itty Abraham** is an Executive Committee member of the Asia Center at ASU, and a Professor in the School for the Future of Innovation in Society, and a senior global futures scholar. His expertise joins international relations and science and technology studies, with a special interest in nuclear studies. He has written two single authored scholarly books and edited and co-edited three volumes and two journal collections.

**Han Hsien Liew** is an Executive Committee Member of the Asia Center at ASU, and an Assistant Professor of the premodern Islamic world at the School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies. His research interests include the history of Islamic political thought, Islamic scholarly and intellectual culture, and Islamic historical and biographical writings.

**Chan Lwin** is Senior Program Coordinator for the Asia Center at ASU, and a Burmese Lecturer at ASU & the Southeast Asian Studies Summer Institute (SEASSI) at UW-Madison. Lwin graduated from the University of Arizona with an MPH in the Health Services Administration. Currently, she is working on a second master’s degree in Bioethics, Law and Policy at ASU with a focus on biological nationalism in Asia.
New Faculty Affiliates

**Itty Abraham**  
Professor  
Global Futures, SFIS

**Kristy Kang**  
Associate Professor  
School of Arts, Media and Engineering, The Design School

**Natasha Behl**  
Associate Professor  
School of Social and Behavioral Sciences

**Daniele Lauro**  
Asst Teaching Professor  
School of School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies

**Lena Booth**  
Deputy Dean & Professor  
Thunderbird School of Global Management

**Andrew Le**  
Assistant Professor  
School of Social and Family Dynamics

**Sophal Ear**  
Sr. Associate Dean  
Thunderbird School of Global Management

**Nandita Punj**  
Postdoctoral Scholar  
School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies

**Hue-Tam Jamme**  
Assistant Professor  
School of Geographical Science & Urban Planning

**Areum Jeong**  
Assistant Professor  
School of International Letters and Cultures
Congratulations to the A.T. Steele Faculty Grant Recipients

The Asia Center at ASU awarded eight ASU faculty with A.T. Steele Travel Grants to conduct research abroad. Covid travel restrictions forced a hiatus in making these awards in recent years and we are pleased to be able to resume this decades-long tradition of awarding travel funds for research in Asia supported by the A.T. Steele Endowment.

Here are this year's recipients:

**Natasha Behl**  
*Associate Professor*  
School of Social & Behavioral Sciences

**Hjorleifur Jonsson**  
*Professor*  
School of Human Evolution and Social Change

**Huaiyu Chen**  
*Associate Professor*  
School of Historical, Philosophical & Religious Studies

**Daniele Lauro**  
*Assistant Teaching Professor*  
School of Historical, Philosophical & Religious Studies

**Sookja Cho**  
*Associate Professor*  
School of International Letters & Cultures

**Andrew Le**  
*Assistant Professor*  
School of Social & Family Dynamics

**Hue-Tam Jamme**  
*Assistant Professor*  
School of Geographical Science & Urban Planning

**Linh Vu**  
*Associate Professor*  
School of Historical, Philosophical & Religious Studies
Global Asia Lecture Series 22-23

As part of ASU's commitment to global engagement, sustainability, and future-oriented knowledge and research, the Asia Center at the Arizona State University organized a series of virtual lectures for the 2022-2023 academic year on the theme of "Global Asia in a Multipolar World." This virtual lecture series highlights research from prominent scholars in disciplines in the humanities, social sciences, and beyond. Presentations center on Inter-Asian networks and flows of ideas, peoples, and things across national and linguistic borders.

Natasha Behl, Assoc. Professor, Social & Behavior Sciences, ASU
- India's Farmers' Protest: An Inclusive Vision of Indian Democracy

Tianlong You, Assoc. Professor, Sociology, Yunnan University
- The Whole-of-Society Approach: The Immigration Integration in Yiwu, China in a Multi-Level Governance Perspective

Nick Cheesman, Professor of Democracy, University of Birmingham
- Myanmar's Revolutionary Situation & Political Theory

Miriam Kingsberg Kadia, Assoc. Professor, History, UC - Boulder
- The Making of the "Nikkei": Human Scientists & Japanese Settlers in Postwar Brazil

Chris Lundry, Professor, Centro de Estudios de Asia y Africa, El Colegio de Mexico
- Papuan Lives Matter: Race and Justice in Indonesia & the Connections to the Global Black Community

Daniele Lauro, Lecturer, Asian History, ASU
- The Malleable Nature of Early Modern Japanese Rituals: the Case of the Shogunal Pilgrimage to Nikkō (Nikkō shasan)

Hue-Tam Jamme, Asst. Professor, Urban Planning, ASU
- Home-based Work Opportunities on Online Platforms and Gender Equity in Cambodia and Thailand

Sophal Ear, Assoc. Professor, Global Management, ASU
- The Political Economy of Diseases in Southeast Asia
This spring, the Asia Center initiated a pilot program for 60 university students in Myanmar to take online University Learner Courses at ASU. This curriculum provides a bridge to higher education for displaced Myanmar students whose education has been disrupted by the military coup in 2021.

The pilot project comprises an ethnically and religiously diverse group of students from urban as well as rural areas. They are performing well in their online curriculum, with an average grade of 84%. The Universal Learner program allows students to earn admission to ASU or transfer credit hours to other institutions.

To read more about this story on ASU News, please scan the QR code below or click on the title below.

Online courses help Myanmar students continue their university education

"Students like me who are currently living in developing countries can complete coursework and participate in discussions from anywhere with a stable internet connection, making it easier to balance their studies with other daily tasks."

To donate to the Myanmar Education Funds, please scan the QR code or click the button on the right.
In early June 2023, Dr. Zaw Wai Soe visited with ASU experts and representatives of several Myanmar communities on the Tempe campus.

After the meeting with the Asia Center and members of the University Design Institute, the minister met with the Burmese community members from Phoenix, Arizona and the surrounding areas. Being able to host the minister and participate in the community meeting, the Center was able to make deeper connection with the Myanmar communities in Phoenix area and beyond.

The Asia Center at ASU has a long history of collaboration with Myanmar. In 2014, the Center along with the University Libraries and ASU Global hosted librarians from Myanmar's Universities Central Library and Yangon University Library as part the collaborative exchange program. This collaboration was extended until 2018 with support from the Henry Luce Foundation.

A decade later, as Myanmar faces political and educational crisis, the Center is collaborating with National Unity Government's Ministry of Education to assist displaced Myanmar students to continue their education. To date, the Center has supported 60 students taking Universal Leaner Courses online through which they can also earn admission. To read more about this story on ASU News, please click here.
"As a status symbol, it is reserved as an object of "bara-bangsa" which means dignity."
~ Grant Lu

Grant explains the history of the fabric:
"Inaul means 'woven.' It is a hand-woven fabric with geometric patterns from Maguindanao, a Muslim region in the southernmost part of the Philippines". As a status symbol, it is reserved as an object of "bara-bangsa" which means dignity.

The inaul is commonly used as the malong, a tubular fabric used for different kinds of purpose. However, in the present time, inaul is used as a scarf, clothing, and as an accessory together with other Maguindanaon symbols.”

The Asia Center is proud to add this item to our Asian Textile display case. To get a closer look, visit the second floor of Durham Hall. Our Asian Textiles display case features items from China, Burma, Brunei, Philippines, Thailand, India, Korea, Japan, Cambodia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Laos. If you would like to donate a textile from an Asian country not listed above, please contact the center at asia@asu.edu.

Grant Lu, YSEALI fellow, presents Dr. Juliane Schober, Director of the Asia Center, with a traditional Inaul scarf.
This summer, the Asia Center awarded two Foreign Language & Area Studies (FLAS) Summer Fellowships to students who are studying Japanese and Vietnamese. Since 2018, the Center has awarded 109 Title VI Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships to ASU students studying Asian languages for a total of $1.1 million with 45% of these fellowships going to members of underrepresented groups.

Samuel Watson, an undergraduate student majoring in the study of Global Asia with a minor in Economics was awarded a stipend and tuition fees to study Vietnamese at the University of Foreign Languages - Hanoi National University. Watson's stay in Vietnam also provides excellent opportunities to study and conduct research for his honor thesis on the reconstruction period of Vietnam after the war and the U.S. and the success of reunification of North and South Vietnam.

Payton Calderon is a graduate student in East Asian Languages and Civilizations (Japanese) program. This summer, Calderon is studying Japanese at the Kyoto Consortium for Japanese Studies in Kyoto, the ancient capital of Japan. She will also conduct research on Geisha, using anthropological and cultural perspectives. Calderon notes that "Receiving such a prestigious award is a great honor and contributes significantly to my studies."

FLAS 2023 Summer Fellow, Payton Calderon, in Kyoto, Japan. Calderon is a graduate student studying Japanese at Arizona State University. Photo Credit: Payton Calderon

Many FLAS fellows used the FLAS opportunities to achieve research and career goals. Regarding her future plans, Calderon added,

"My life goal is to make a positive impact on the world by spreading the beauty of Japanese culture and arts. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity."

After graduation, some fellows from the Asia Center continued their education by joining advanced degree programs while others joined the workforce.
The Asia Center awarded Zachary Whaley, an undergraduate student in Biological Sciences with a Sage Family Scholarship for 2023.

The scholarship supports travel and study in Laos, Thailand, Indonesia, Cambodia, Vietnam, and/or the Philippines. It is uniquely available to undergraduate students at Arizona State University. The Sage Family Southeast Asian Studies Scholarship is a tribute to William W. Sage's interest in and lifelong work in Laos and Southeast Asia and is provided in loving memory and honor of his parents, Lloyd G. and Twyla M. Sage.

This year's scholarship applications were competitive. Students in any majors were invited to apply. While some prior study of Southeast Asia courses at ASU is preferred, it is not a requirement to be eligible for the fellowship. Applicants must be enrolled as full-time, undergraduate student, with at least 56 semester hours completed.

The Sage scholarship provides recipients with opportunities to explore the Southeast Asian region with flexible travel plans. This year's scholar, Zachary Whaley, plans to travel to Laos and Indonesia. Whaley's interest and research project on coral reefs in Southeast Asia goes beyond the existing ecological system to socio-economical and politico-ecological entanglements. Whaley planned to use his time in Southeast Asia to complete field research for his honor thesis.

Whaley writes:
"As many rural and impoverished populations in Southeast Asia rely heavily on subsistence practices of fishing and farming, collaborative management of natural resources by local communities and central government authorities is an extremely important and understudied topic."

Sage scholarship at ASU provides the students with opportunities for fieldwork and research. In addition, it also contributes to the understudied topics in Southeast Asia to further their fields.

To watch the experiences of Brynn Szukala, a previous Sage scholar, please click on the picture or scan the QR code.
Humanities Week 2022 is a celebration of the human adventure across time, history, culture and place. During this week, the schools and centers in the Division of Humanities in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences host various events to highlight how studying the humanities can be fulfilling and lead to a more just world.

For the Humanities Week 2022, the Asia Center sponsored/co-sponsored four different events to promote the studies of humanities and Asian Studies. To enhance the students and community experience, the Center handed out Mochi Ice cream balls to those who came to our booth during the Open House at Armstrong Hall Courtyard on Monday, October 17th.

On Tuesday, October 18th, the Center hosted "Onigiri Action", where faculty and students were able to make their own onigiri (Japanese rice balls) and, enjoy delicious onigiri, raise money to deliver school meals for children in needs. At the same time as the Onigiri Action, the Center also hosted "Mastering Life in Late Choson: A Women's Guidebooks to Everyday Life." This talk examined how upper status women in Korea lived during the 18th century. As the main event, the center hosted "Anime, Manga, and Japanese Pop Culture," a very popular interactive lecture that explores the global reception and history of manga and anime.

The Center looks forward to participating in the 2023 Humanities Week, October 16-20. Please stay tuned.
During the spring semester, Zainab Nazir, Barrett Honors student and the Asia Center intern, developed a survey designed to collect students' input on language courses offered at ASU. As global citizens, we would like to understand the types of language courses that students are taking or wish to take in the future. If you would like to voice your input, please scan or click the QR code on the right to take the survey. It should take less than 5 minutes of your time to complete the survey. Thank you, and we look forward to hearing your voices.

The Aaron Stephen Moore Fund was established to provide grants and awards in the study of Asia to undergraduate and graduate students at ASU, as well as to faculty members. The fund is intended to honor the memory of Dr. Aaron Stephen Moore and his scholarly career and multiple contributions to the study of Asia and to the intellectual life of ASU where he taught for eleven years. The Center hosted the Inaugural Aaron Moore Lecture during the spring. For more information, click on the flyer.

If you would like to contribute to the Aaron Moore Fund, please scan or click the QR code to the left.
Please find below the events that the Asia Center has hosted or co-hosted during the 2022-2023 academic year. For many events, recorded lectures can be accessed via the digital version of this report and by visiting the Asia Center webpage. Click on the posters for additional information.

Global Asia Lecture Series: India’s Farmer’s Protest: An Inclusive Vision of Indian Democracy

Global Asia Lecture Series: The Whole-of-Society Approach: The Immigration Integration in Yiwu, China in a Multi-Level Governance Perspective

Pa’O Vocal Performance in Contemporary Myanmar

Chinese Contemporary Art and its Historical Context by Lu Peng
October

17

Humanities Week: Open House

Onigiri Action 2022
Tues, Oct 18 @ 1:30 PM
Durham Hall
1st Floor Lobby

18

Mastering Life in Late Choson: A Woman’s Guide to Everyday Life

19

Humanities Week 2022: Anime, Manga, and Japanese Popular Culture

25

Daily Life in a Medieval City

28

Global Asia Lecture Series: Myanmar’s Revolutionary Situation & Political Theory
January

Global Asia Lecture Series: The Making of the Nikkei: Human Scientists & Japanese Settlers in Postwar Brazil

Global Asia Lecture Series: Papuan Lives Matter: Race and Justice in Indonesia and the Connections to the Global Black Community

February

Global Asia Lecture Series: The Malleable Nature of Early Modern Japanese Rituals: the Case of the Shogunal Pilgrimage to Nikko

Global Asia Lecture Series: Home-based Work Opportunities on Online Platforms & Gender Equity in Cambodia and Thailand

East Asian Studies Graduate Students Conference Program

Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) Meeting with the Fellow Event
Global Asia Lecture Series: Political Economy of Diseases in Southeast Asia

In Search of the Stomach: Digestion and Interiority in Early Modern Japanese Comic Fiction

Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) Meeting with the Fellow Event (second cohort)

Managing Flows: Techno-Utopianism in the Age of Empire

The Politics of Culinary Masculinity in Contemporary South Korea: Focusing on Mukbang

The 18th Annual Robert C. Staley Distinguished Lectures in East Asian Studies
Faculty Members Win National Endowment for the Humanities Grant

Congratulations to William Hedberg and Robert Tuck of the School of International Letters and Cultures for winning a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute for Higher Education Faculty Grant. The $174,862 grant will allow Dr. Hedberg and Dr. Tuck to host a two-week residential Summer Institute for 25 higher education faculty members and advanced graduate students at ASU in June, 2024. The title of the Summer Institute is "Translation and Traveling Texts: East Asian National Literatures in an Age Without Borders" and will explore issues of translation and cultural exchange in East Asia from the seventeenth century to the present. This grant stemmed from and was supported by a Research Strategy Grant from ASU's Institute for Humanities Research that Dr. Hedberg received in 2022. The Research Strategy Grant involved applying for a competitive NEH grant and supported Dr. Hedberg's current research project on early modern Japanese travel and cartography.
Major, minor, or certificate in Asian Studies?

Here are some reasons to consider adding a major, minor, or certificate in Asian Studies:

- Asia is home to the world's largest population, the world's fastest growing economy, and the world's oldest civilizations.
- Asia is extremely important to the U.S.'s economy, politics, environment, tech industry, health industry, tourism, popular culture and more.
- Knowing Asia will be an essential asset to your career and to be a literate citizen of the world.

You don't have to be an Asian major or minor to be cultured. You can take one of many courses that introduce you to the Asian cultures, languages and histories. For inspiration, please see below for some suggested courses for Fall 2023.

**Explore the traditional cultures of China by enrolling in CHI 394.**

**Need to get some movements? Try out Chinese traditional dance with DCE 194.**

**Ever curious about how Japanese express identity? Take JPN 115.**

**Squid Game? K-drama? Engage with South Korean film, literature, & culture in KOR 347.**

Did you know that a Taiwanese semiconductor company is investing $40 billion in Arizona?

Play in the Gamelan, a traditional Indonesian music ensemble, in MUP 589.

Do you want to dive deeper into the anime culture? Why not take ARS 349?

A fan of the Age of Empire? Come learn the rise and fall of Asian empires in HST 303.
How do the rituals and politics intersect with each other in India? Come find out in REL 347.

Many famous artists, such as Gustav Klimt ("The Kiss" painter) studied Asian art and experimented with it in their work. Study Asian art in ARS 201.

To explore additional courses, please visit our website.

The Asia Center will continue our efforts to highlight upcoming scholarly research topics in the field of Asian Studies. In addition to lectures and events, the Center provides many opportunities for the students and ASU community to connect, explore, and participate in this fascinating field of study. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please click on the link below, or scan the QR code.

Visit Our Website  Follow us on Facebook and Twitter