

ASU Center for
Asian Research
Arizona State University

Bi-weekly Newsletter

Message from the Director, James Rush

Hello Everyone,

As I think you know, I will be stepping in this year as interim director of the Center for Asian Research (CAR) as Juliane Schober undertakes a well-earned sabbatical. It is an honor to do so. We anticipate a busy year here at the Center, including some big events coming up soon. These include two performances by biwa master Arao Tsutomu of *The Tale of the Heike* on September 24 (Katzin Concert Hall, ASU) and 25 (Caberet, Taliesin West), accompanied by several related programs on- and-off campus. See below for more information. Our great thanks to Miko Foard and Claudia Brown for organizing these exciting events and to the many friends and donors who have made contributions to support them.

Also coming up soon is a visit and public lecture by Ramachandra Guha, the prominent historian of modern India and environmentalism (and South Asian cricket). Guha will be speaking on October 10 at 4:00pm in the Ballroom at Old Main. His topic will be “Gandhi as an Environmentalist.” Guha’s visit is being collaboratively sponsored by the Faculty of History, the Center for Asian Research, the Institute for Humanities Research, the School of Sustainability, and the Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict. Later in October the Center in collaboration with the Institute on the Future of War will sponsor an Asian contemporary affairs roundtable featuring current and emeritus faculty members (Steve MacKinnon, Sheldon Simon, Aaron Moore, and me) focusing on urgent current issues involving China, Korea, Japan, and the Philippines. Time and place TBD.

Meanwhile, the Center will be bringing to a close its very successful Asia Mediated project, funded by the Department of Education, which has yielded 17 learning modules created by 18 faculty members from schools across the university. This collaborative project led by Juliane Schober and Pauline Cheong has been a breakthrough for us.

Sometime in the next month or so we will learn the results of our application to the DOE to become a National Undergraduate Resource Center for Asia. If successful, the new grant will yield funds for undergraduate and graduate-school fellowships (under the FLAS program), new faculty and staff positions, and enhanced language instruction, community outreach, and library acquisitions.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge and thank the Center’s current staff members. Alexander Plum is our new assistant director. Alex is an ASU graduate in Asia studies who recently received his masters degree from Georgetown, also in Asia studies. We are delighted to have him on board. You will be hearing from him. Ronae Matriano has been with the Center for a year and a half through Barrett Honors College. Much of her work revolves around the Asia Mediated project—in which she has helped many of us to assemble our modules—but her cheerful contributions to the day-to-day operations of the Center certainly transcend that. I am very grateful to Alex and Ronae for all their good work.

We are ramping up the Center’s communications program. This newsletter will become more frequent and will contain more information in the coming months. Please take the time to peruse each issue . . . and please share it with others. In the near future we will schedule a Fall Semester meet-and-greet for our faculty and students. Stay tuned for the details. As I write this, I am fresh from a trip to India where our colleague and Association-for-Asian-Studies president Professor Anne Feldhaus hosted the first India-based AAS-in Asia in early July. I am excited for the year ahead. And I look forward to working with everyone to advance the quality, vitality, and visibility of Asia studies at ASU this year.



- Jim

NEWS & EVENTS

TALE OF HEIKE, PERFORMANCE & JAPANESE PRINTS

Coming September 24-28

The Tale of the Heike is the greatest of all samurai tales and one of the seminal works that have shaped Japanese literature, theatre, art, and film down to the present day. The Heike were the most powerful clan in the late 12th century, and had close ties to the Imperial Court. The story is about the battle between the Heike and another powerful clan, the Genji, and it ends with the total defeat of the Heike in the tragic sea battle at Dannoura.

The American architect Frank Lloyd Wright became interested in Japanese art in the 1890s and in 1905 he traveled to Japan. Taliesin West holds his collection of surimono, the privately printed Japanese prints commissioned by poetry societies in the early 19th century. A selection of surimono relating to The Tale of the Heike will be lent to ASU Art Museum for several weeks so that ASU students and faculty and members of the community can view them. ASU Art Museum will make its collection of ukiyo-e prints relating to The Tale of the Heike available for viewing as well.

[More info](#)

RAMACHANDRA GUHA, "GHANDI AS AN ENVIRONMENTALIST"

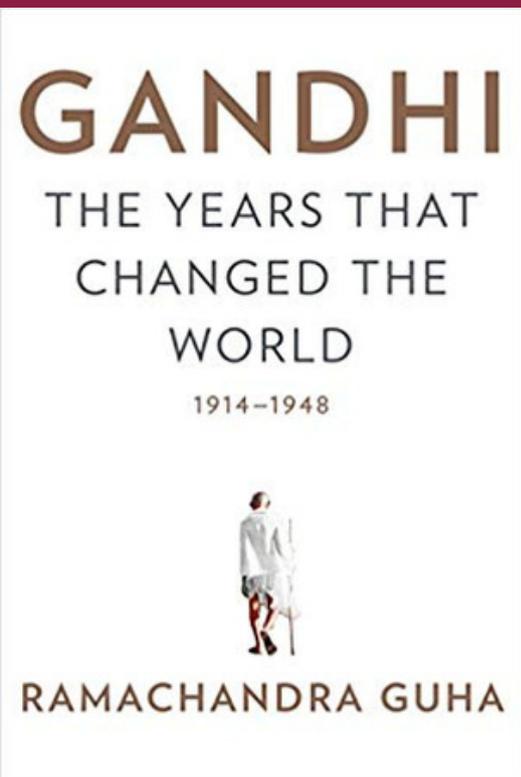
October 10, 4 pm, Old Main

Ramachandra Guha will be speaking at ASU on Wednesday, October 10 (4:00-6:00pm in Old Main). His topic will be "Gandhi as an Environmentalist."

Guha is a prominent historian of modern India and the biographer of Mahatma Gandhi. His books include a pioneering environmental history, *The Unquiet Woods* (1989), and an award-winning social history of cricket, *A Corner of a Foreign Field* (2002). His *India after Gandhi* (2007) was chosen as a book of the year by the Economist, the Washington Post, and the Wall Street Journal. The first volume of his biography of Gandhi, *Gandhi Before India* (2014), was chosen as a notable book of the year by the New York Times. The second volume, *Gandhi, the Years that Changed the World: 1914-1948*, has just been published by Knopf.

Apart from his books, Guha also writes a syndicated column that appears in ten languages in newspapers with a combined readership of some twenty million. Time Magazine has called him 'Indian democracy's pre-eminent chronicler'.

Guha has taught at Yale, Stanford, the University of Oslo, and the London School of Economics, where he was Philippe Roman Professor of History and International Affairs.





University of Hawaii Khmer Language Courses Available

Khmer is the official language of Cambodia and is one of the oldest languages in Southeast Asia. Khmer has inspired architecture, plastic arts, music, dance, literature, and statecraft to Cambodia's neighbors throughout the region. The writing system is a member of the Indic script family and is non-tonal, but has vowel distinctions not found in English; its grammar is uncomplicated, with neither verb conjugations nor noun declensions.

Courses are online and noncredit beginning August 20-December 14, 2018.

For more information and application:

[Click here](#)

RESEARCH & FELLOWSHIPS

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS FOR INDONESIA

DUE September 24, 11:59 pm

The American Institute for Indonesian Studies (AIFIS), with which CAR is affiliated, is pleased to announce a new round of fellowship applications for 2018-2019. Awards are available for both Americans to work in Indonesia, and Indonesians to work in America. Applications are due on Monday September 24, 2018 at 11:59pm EST. Please see below for information on applying for the fellowships, or email the

AIFIS office at:

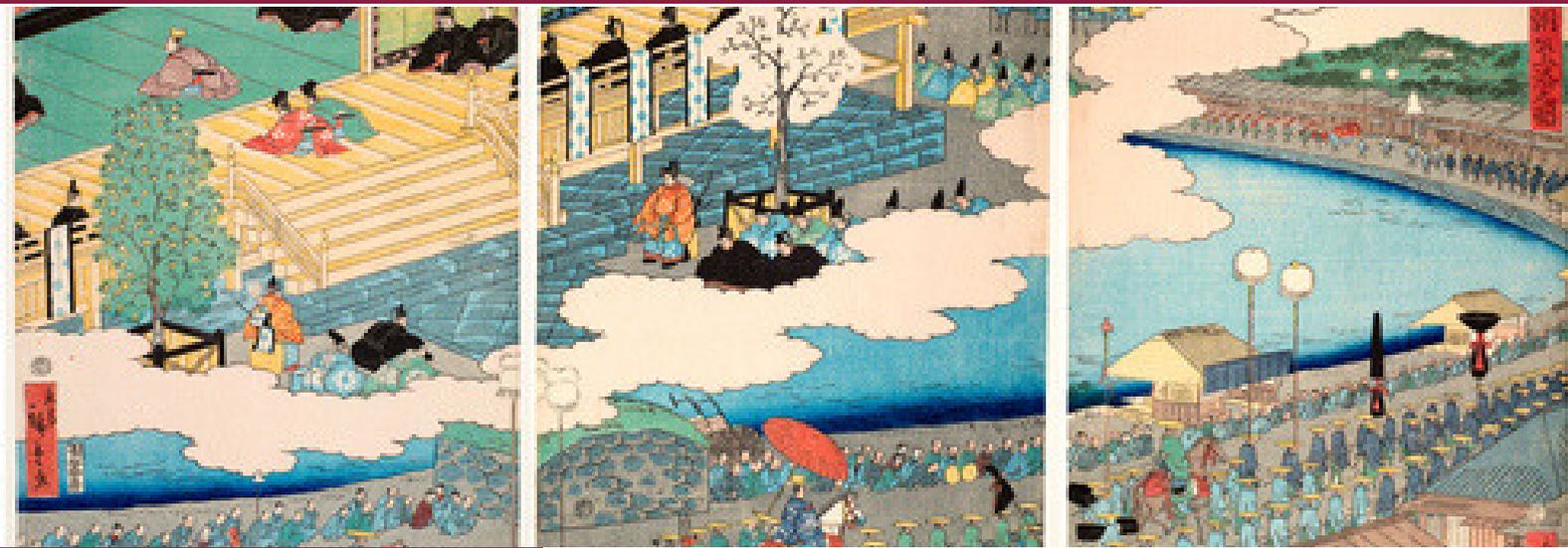
fellowships@aifis.org

AIFIS/Henry Luce Foundation Grants for American scholars:

[Click here](#)

AIFS/Henry Luce Foundation Grants for Indonesian scholars:

[Click here](#)



Student Spotlight: PhD Student, Mu-Lung Hsu

Mu-Lung Hsu is a PhD student with the School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies. His studies focus on Anthropology and Anthropology of Religion. This semester, he will be a TA for Dr. Doe Daughtrey (REL 374, Witchcraft and Heresy in Europe) and Dr. Shahla Talebi (REL 202, Religion and Popular Culture). This summer, he explored the Buddhist Social Welfare Network- Free Funeral Service Societies in Myanmar.

Read more about Mu-Lung's research and experience on the Center for Asian Research student blog.

To view the blog:

[Click here](#)



Mu-Lung Hsu (right) and U Kyaw Thu (left). Thu is a two-time Myanmar Motion Picture Academy Award winner and a humanitarian star who has helped popularize free funeral service in Myanmar. Thu is also a father to an ASU graduate.