

Issue 7, April 10, 2017



## News

### **Vulnerable Victims or Empowered Agents? Performance, Digital Media, and Migrant Women in Beijing**

**Professor Cara Wallis**

**Department of Communication, Texas A&M University**

**Friday, April 21, 1 - 2:30 p.m., Coor 5536**

**Please RSVP to <https://beta.doodle.com/poll/g87gxihk5zsgdqe>**

Professor Wallis analyzes the linkages between emotional labor, affect, and notions of voice and empowerment among a group of middle-aged domestic workers in Beijing. Based on online and offline ethnography, the research explores the intersections and contradictions between the women's involvement in a drama club sponsored by an NGO and their use of social media. Dr. Wallis shows how the drama club seeks to give the women a voice through relying on victimhood stories and requiring great expenditure of emotion on the part of the women, whose lives are already characterized by emotional labor. Such representations contrast greatly with the women's expressions online, where through their profiles, personal status updates, and forwarded posts, they use social media as a constrained yet important means of voice and personal agency. The women's limited economic, cultural, and social capital mean that their voices are rarely heard beyond their small personal networks. This presentation thus seeks to add to our understanding of the challenges of using various forms of media to amplify the voices of marginalized groups in the public sphere. Dr. Wallis is Associate Professor in the Department of Communication at Texas A&M University.

## **Lecture: State, Development and Political Geography in Contemporary Turkey**

**Dr. Faik Gur, Ozyegin University**

**Thursday, April 13, 4-6 p.m., Coor 4403**

Professor Gur will address the way in which the business class emerged and accumulated capital, and the type of enterprises and value chains they generated since the foundation of the Republic of Turkey. Understanding “business history” is one of the most essential ways of making sense out of what happened in the last two decades in Turkey. Drawing on historical and sociological accounts this talk will shed light on the relationship between politics and economy in contemporary Turkey. Dr. Gur is an Assistant Professor in the School of Social Sciences, Department of International Relations, at Ozyegin University.

## **Lecture and Book Signing: The Refugees**

**Viet Thanh Nguyen**

**Thursday, April 20, 7 p.m., Changing Hands Book Store**

The Virginia Piper School of Creative Writing and Changing Hands Bookstore present a lecture and book-signing by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Viet Thanh Nguyen at Changing Hands Bookstore (300 West Camelback Road, Phoenix) for his book *The Refugees*. Nguyen’s book is a collection of short stories documenting the Vietnamese-American experience. The event is open to the public and on a first-come, first-serve basis; as the capacity for the venue is only 200 or so, we recommend arriving early to secure your seat. Please RSVP through Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/events/161245751054849/>) or Eventbrite (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-refugees-with-viet-thanh-nguyen-tickets-32006026888>).

## **Truthful Facts and Historical Fictions:**

### **Artists’ Re-historicizations of the Vietnam War**

**Dr. Nora Taylor, School of the Art institute of Chicago**

**Sunday, April 30, 2 p.m., Whiteman Hall, Phoenix Art Museum**

**Free with Museum Admission**

The Vietnam War is known as the first Television War, or the most widely mediated war in history. It has become the subject of countless memoirs, films and political art. A considerable body of literature and visual art has come from the victims and refugees, and, in the words of Viet Thanh Nguyen, the dead. In using various sources and re-enactments, they employ historical relics and ready-mades. Their playful objectification of history prompts us to reflect on the veracity of artifacts and the reliability of our vision of the past. Dr. Taylor is Alsdorf Professor of South And Southeast Asian Art at the School of the Art institute of Chicago.

## Survey Research on Asian Studies at ASU

The ASU Library is participating in an Ithaka S+R survey on the field of Asian studies. They will generate a rich description of how faculty and graduate students in the field conduct their work and make actionable recommendations for how libraries (and others) can best support that work going forward. Approximately 12-15 universities and other educational institutions will serve as research sites, each fielding local researchers for its own scholars. These institutions will learn directly about their own scholars as part of this broader project. Dr. Ralph Gabbard is the lead researcher for this study at ASU. The structured interviews take a little less than an hour and will take place in April. Dr. Gabbard will be sending out invitations to participate in the study by the end of March; please consider participating in the study.

## Study Abroad, Chiang Mai, Thailand, Spring 2018

The New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences is offering a study abroad opportunity in Chiang Mai, Thailand, for the Spring of 2018 for both undergraduate or graduate credit (6-9 hours). Courses will be hosted at Chiang Mai University with weekly field trips and trips to Vietnam and Cambodia. For more information, please see the study abroad website: [https://studyabroad.asu.edu/index.cfm?FuseAction=Programs.ViewProgram&Program\\_ID=10021](https://studyabroad.asu.edu/index.cfm?FuseAction=Programs.ViewProgram&Program_ID=10021)

## New Course: Com 394 Digital Media, Culture and Communication in Asia Fall 2017 | Class # 90387

Asia is mediatizing rapidly and Internet usage in Asia outpaces every other part of the globe, with its online users making up close to 50 percent of the world's internet population. One third of the users of social network site Facebook come from Asia. Millions of Asians utilize multilingual Asian social media and mobile phone messaging applications. These online populations are using a wide range of digital devices and applications to restructure communication and create new ways of learning and interacting across multiple platforms. This new course, emerging from the #AsiaMediated project, will develop undergraduates' media literacy skills by helping students access, analyze, and evaluate information creation and sharing across communication platforms and create transmedia content across digital and social media sites. This course will examine app development and design, knowledge production and communication processes on popular Asian networks. To promote critical and interdisciplinary thinking on socio-cultural aspects of new media, this course will discuss implications of digital content and applications for identity, community, politics and authority relations in Asia and worldwide. The course will be taught by Dr. Pauline Cheong, Associate Professor in the Hugh Downs School of Human Communication and recipient of the 2017 Master Teacher Award from the Western States Communication Association.

## **2017 Scholarships for Doctoral Dissertation Research in Chinese Studies**

Applicants must be doctoral candidates in the humanities or social sciences with an approved dissertation prospectus. Enrollment in a university in the United States or Canada is required. Scholarships are \$6,000 each and awarded on the basis of scholastic achievement without regard to academic discipline, race or nationality. There will be a special award of \$10,000 to the top winner from among the applicants in memory of the Foundation's founder Mr. Chi-Chung Yu. The deadline is June 30, 2017. For more information, email [chinatimescf@gmail.com](mailto:chinatimescf@gmail.com).