

Issue 6, March 27, 2017



News

Lecture: Writing Troubles: Lu Ji's Ideas and Anxieties about Literary Creation

Dr. Wendy Swartz, Rutgers University

Tuesday, March 28, 4:30, LL 275

In the “Rhapsody on Literature”, Lu Ji (261–303), always already the latterborn poet, expresses his worry that his work may unwittingly be a pale copy of one of the many works he has read or will one day read. Modern readers familiar with Western theories of influence and intertextuality might see a medieval Chinese articulation of what Harold Bloom called the “anxiety of influence,” whereby a writer heroically wrestles with his dominant forefathers. This lecture will explore how Lu Ji traces the process of the creative act and the questions his work of meta-literature raises about reading and writing, originality and tradition, and conception and representation.

Lecture: Facebook for the Hotshots: Social Media and Transition in Myanmar **Dr. Lisa Brooten, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale** **Friday, March 31, 12:30-2 p.m., West Hall 135**

Affordable access to mobile phones recently has led to an unprecedented growth in internet usage in Myanmar, and social networking sites (SNS) – especially Facebook – have taken on a social and cultural significance that eclipses traditional media. Many prominent figures adopt Facebook to interact directly with the public, in stark contrast to the lack of transparency only a few years ago. Drawing on both quantitative and qualitative data on Facebook usage in Myanmar, this presentation highlights an under-theorized area of research, namely the role of SNS in political transition periods, assessing the degree to which Facebook and other SNS are contributing to the development of a new public sphere in Myanmar.

Lecture: State, Development and Political Geography in Contemporary Turkey

Dr. Faik Gur, Ozyegin University

Thursday, April 13, 4-6PM, 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. Faik Gur is an Assistant Professor in the School of Social Sciences, Department of International Relations, at Ozyegin University.

China Times Cultural Foundation 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.

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. 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. Ralph will be sending out invitations to participate in the study by the end of March; please consider participating in the study.

Chinese Open House

Hayden Lawn, Wednesday, April 5, 1:30-4 p.m.

The School of International Letters and Cultures and the Confucius Institute are sponsoring a Chinese Open House on April 5. There will be information on course offerings, study abroad opportunities, scholarships, internships, jobs, student organizations, faculty, games, Chinese calligraphy, and more. Please come by and visit if you are interested.

Lecture and Book Signing: The Refugees

Vietn 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) on 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>).