Dear Reader,

As we are entering into the post-Covid era in this country, we look back on a challenging and yet busy and rewarding year at the Center for Asian Research. We welcomed a number of new colleagues in Asian Studies to ASU and in January 2021, Professor William Hedberg joined the Center as Associate Director. We hosted a series of events that addressed the impact of Covid-19, constructions of Asian identity in media and art, and various forms of Anti-Asian racism.

The Title VI FLAS Selection Committee awarded 32 FLAS fellowships for the summer and academic year to ASU students. Since the inception of the Title VI award in 2018, more than 90 fellowships have been awarded to ASU Sun Devils. We are proud that nearly 40% of these prestigious fellowships went to ASU heritage speakers and students of color.

In light of the rise of violence directed at people of Asian descent, the Center joins the Association for Asian Studies and ASU President Michael Crow in issuing a condemnation.

*The Center for Asian Research condemns the recent wave of violence against Asian, Asian-American, and Pacific Islander communities and stands in solidarity with all groups and individuals affected by prejudice and discrimination. We remain committed to combating these shameful actions through education, and our events and programming reaffirm our dedication to public outreach and engagement.*

Thanks to Chan Lwin’s untiring efforts, our website is continually updated. You can also find videos of our FLAS fellows and of lectures presented in the course of the past year. I invite you to stay connected with the Center for Asian Research through our url asianstudies.asu.edu and our Facebook page @AsiaAtASU.

We look forward to welcoming you back in the fall in our new location on the second floor of an impressively renovated Durham Hall. Until then, we wish you a wonderful, healthy and productive summer,

Juliane Schober
Meet our Team

**Juliane Schober** is Director of the Center for Asian Research 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 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 Center for Asian Research, 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. He is currently working on a study of early modern Japanese travel literature, cartography, and representation of the foreign.

**Chan Lwin** is Program Coordinator for the Center for Asian Research, and a Burmese Lecturer at 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.

**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). He has received fellowships and grants from the Cluster of Excellence at Heidelberg University 'Asia and Europe in a Global Context,' and Kaete Hamburger Kolleg Bochum University 'Dynamics in the History of Religions Asia and Europe.'

**James Rush** is an Executive Committee Member and formally served as interim director of the Center for Asian Research. He is a Professor of History in the School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies. He published *Hamaka’s Great Story* (Wisconsin, 2016) which also appeared in Indonesian. His work explores issues of colonialism and religion in 19th and 20th century Indonesia and includes the books "Southeast Asia: A Very Short Introduction," "Opium to Java: Revenue Farming and Chinese Enterprise in Colonial Indonesia."

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**Arizona and Asia**

$9.5 Billion

Goods & Services Exports to the Indo-Pacific Region
A Warm Welcome to New Faculty Affiliates

The Center for Asian Research was delighted to welcome new colleagues in the School of International Letters and Cultures, the School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies, the Thunderbird School of Global Management, and the School for the Future of Innovation in Society. Over the course of the year, several new faculty introduced themselves and their research during the Research-in-Progress Workshop described below.

Doug Guthrie, Professor and Executive Director of the Thunderbird School of Global Management

Lucas Klein, Associate Professor of Modern Chinese Poetry and Translation

Judit Kroo, Assistant Professor of Modern Japanese Linguistics and Comparative Cultural Studies

Han-Hsien Liew, Assistant Professor of Islamic Studies

Yukari Nakamura-Deacon, Instructor of Japanese

Faheem Hussain, Clinical Assistant Professor in the School for the Future of Innovation in Society

Nicholas Morrow Williams, Professor of Premodern Chinese Literature

Arizona and Asia

27% of state exports globally go to the Indo-Pacific Region
Title VI FLAS Fellowship

2020-2021 was the fifth consecutive year of CAR’s Title VI FLAS funding. The U.S. Department of Education awarded the Center a $1.1 million-dollar grant for fellowships for language training and area studies for undergraduate and graduate students at ASU. FLAS funding enabled ASU students to participate in a variety of prestigious language study centers in the U.S. and Asia, and gain proficiency in Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Indonesian, Nepali and Vietnamese.

Since 2018, the Center has awarded 94 Title VI Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships to ASU students, with 37.2% of these fellowships going to students of color and heritage learners.

This year, a faculty committee awarded seven summer Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships to students who will be studying Chinese and Japanese. For the next academic year, six graduate fellows and 18 undergraduate fellows were selected to receive awards that will cover living stipends and tuition.

During their fellowship, students enroll in an Asian language and Asia-focused area studies courses. The Asia-Related course list at ASU is updated every semester for the students to select from in order to fulfill their FLAS requirement.
Regular meetings with CAR-affiliated faculty and other FLAS recipients provided a forum for students to share their experiences living in and studying Asia, and created a sense of community among students and faculty engaged in the study of Asian languages and cultures.

Message From Graduating Fellows

Mary Kennedy (Chinese), MA in Linguistics

- “FLAS has been an amazing opportunity to help me re-focus on language & area studies.”

Delaney Shultz (Chinese), BAs in Supply Chain Management, Chinese Business & Culture, Spanish Business & Culture

- "Because of FLAS, I received very generous scholarships in order to fund my studies, and they were there to support during the duration of my program."

Ranjani Venkatakrishnan (Japanese) MA in Journalism

- "FLAS Fellowship is what enabled me to succeed in college."

James Edmonds (Indonesian) PhD in Religious Studies

- "During the FLAS Fellowship, I had the opportunity to edit a book that was translated from Indonesian to English by a famous Islamic figure."

Arizona and Asia

59,059

Total jobs supported by state exports to the Indo-Pacific Region
Awards, Fellowships & Publications

This year, CAR-affiliated faculty and students published many new works and received numerous national and international awards, including:

- **Stephen R. Bokenkamp**, Regents Professor in SILC, published *A Fourth-Century Daoist Family* (University of California Press) and was invited to join the American Society for the Study of Religion.

- **Judit Kroo**, Assistant Professor in SILC, published *Linguistic Tactics and Strategies of Marginalization in Japanese* and received an IHR seed grant for her next project, "Sustainable Artisanship: Mapping Alternative Lifeways in Contemporary Japan."

- **Will Hedberg**, Associate Professor in SILC, won a CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title Award for his monograph, *The Japanese Discovery of Chinese Fiction*.

- **Ebru Turker**, Associate Professor in SILC, published "Metaphoric and metonymic patterns with the body-part term nwun 'eye(s)' in Korean in *The Cambridge Handbook of Korean Language and Linguistics*.

- **Linh Vu**, Assistant Professor of History, is author of *Governing the Dead: Martyrs, Memorials and Necrocitizenship in Modern China* (Cornell U.P., 2021).

- **Natasha Behl**, Associate Professor in the School of Social and Behavioral Sciences, published *Gendered Citizenship: Understanding Gendered Violence in Democratic India*.


- **Yasmin Saikia**, Professor of History, and **Chad Haines**, Associate Professor of Religious Studies, authored *People’s Peace: Prospects for a Human Future* (Syracuse U. P., 2019).

- **Xiaoqiao Ling**, Associate Professor in SILC, was a member of the School of Historical Studies at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, NJ.

- **Sookja Cho**, Associate Professor in SILC, received a fellowship at Harvard University’s Korea Institute.

- **Young Kyun Oh**, Associate Professor in SILC, received a fellowship at Seoul National University.

- Three doctoral candidates in Religious Studies won external research funding to conduct field research. **Blayne Harcey** won a Fulbright Hays award for Nepal, **Mulung Hsu** won a ACLS/Ho Foundation fellowship for Myanmar, and **Beiyin Deng** won an award from the China and Inner Asia Council of the Association for Asian Studies for her work in China.
In collaboration with the School of International Letters and Cultures, the Center sponsored Professor Michael Emmerich of UCLA as this year’s Staley Lecturer in East Asian Studies. On April 6th, Professor Emmerich delivered his keynote lecture, “An Art of Listening: Murakami Haruki and the Structure of Literature,” and the following week, he hosted a roundtable discussion on the art and practice of literary translation with ASU faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students from a variety of disciplines. In addition to engaging nearly 200 faculty and students at the two events, Professor Emmerich was able to meet with advanced language students in SILC’s Japanese program during his residence.

In spite of the challenges raised by the pandemic, the Center for Asian Research was able to sponsor a number of well-attended public lectures by internationally renowned experts in a variety of disciplines.

On March 16th, the Center welcomed Aihwa Ong of the University of California, Berkeley who delivered the 2021 Annual Lecture on Asia. Professor Ong is the Robert H. Lowie Distinguished Chair of Anthropology at UC Berkeley, and over 150 faculty attended her keynote lecture, “Not-So-Crazy Rich: Elite Asians & the Re-Worlding of American Racial Hierarchy.” Professor Ong also hosted a roundtable entitled “Biopolitics: The Construction of the Human” attended by faculty and graduate students from across the university.
Dr. Chris Lundry  Professor-Investigator at the Center for Asian and African Studies at El Colegio Mexico, Mexico City delivered a lecture entitled Soekarno and Lopez Mateos  Mexico-Indonesia Relations and Foreign Policy, 1959-62.

Dr. Ken Brown, Professor of Asian Art History at California State University, Long Beach, delivered a lecture entitled Shin Hanga Landscape as Art and ART: How and Why North Americans Acquired Shin Hanga Landscape Prints.

Sarah Gossett, ASU graduate student in Asian Art History, hosted a viewing session entitled Tales of the Heike (and others). The presentation focused on rare Japanese woodblock prints from the 19th Century.

Dr. Chan E. Park, Professor Emeritus at Ohio State University, with support from the Korea Foundation, presented a lecture entitled Toward Canon-building in Pansori, Korean Traditional Storysinging.

In collaboration with Asian Pacific American Studies, the Center co-sponsored a discussion on Anti-Asian Racism and White Supremacy mental health, belonging and racial solidarity.

Arizona and Asia

$528 Million
Asian Student spending in Arizona
Career Development Opportunities

On February 10th, U.S. Department of State Diplomat in Residence Laura Gritz spoke to an audience of more than 35 graduate and undergraduate students about her experiences in international diplomacy and career opportunities in government service. Dr. Gritz emphasized the centrality of language and area studies knowledge to her career, and students were able to hear ASU student and FLAS Fellow Olivia Parker speak about her experiences as a State Department intern in Washington, D.C.

Title VI Foreign Language and Area Studies Orientation

The Center hosted two information sessions for students interested in applying for Title VI FLAS funding. During their fellowship, students study an Asian language and Asia-related area studies. Each semester, the Center also hosted two information sessions for students applying for FLAS fellowships. For information on our current FLAS fellows and for details on how to apply for the award, please visit our website or watch this video.
Coping with Covid: A Student Forum

In the Fall semester, the Center hosted a student forum for students studying in Asia at the start of the pandemic, as well as students from Asia experiencing lock-down in Arizona. Participants shared their professional and personal experiences of the pandemic, and students and faculty engaged in a roundtable conversation centered on mutual support in the face of the pandemic and the rise of violence directed against Asian, Asian-American, and Pacific Islander communities. Please read about our panelists here.

Graduate Student Conference

In February, the Center co-sponsored with the School of International Letters and Cultures a conference organized by graduate students, entitled An Inauspicious Year: Confronting Crisis in Chinese Literature, History and Culture. This conference featured presentations from graduate students at both ASU and other universities around the world. Michael Berry, Professor of Modern Chinese Literature at UCLA, delivered the first keynote address, Translation and the Virus: COVID-19, Cyber Politics, and Fang Fang's Wuhan Diary. In the following day, Katherine Alexander, Professor of Premodern Chinese Literature at the University of Colorado, gave the second keynote lecture, What Times Are These?: Confronting Crisis with Literature During the Taiping War.

Please click on the images to watch the talks.

Arizona and Asia

$2.2 Billion

Asian visitors’ spending in Arizona
This year saw the highly successful launch of the Center’s Research-in-Progress Workshop series, which allowed faculty and graduate students researching Asia to present their current projects in an informal, interactive format. The workshop was designed to bring together researchers working in different units of the university, and this year’s series featured speakers from SILC, SHPRS, and the Herberger Institute:

- **The Limits of Hope: Discourses of the Future Among Contemporary Japanese Younger Adults** by **Dr. Judit Kroo** (Assistant Professor, SILC)

- **Alexander the Great in Malay Islamic Kingship** by **Dr. Han Hsien Liew** (Assistant Professor, School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies)

- **Locating Lumbini: Theravada and Modernity of the Frontier of Nepal** by **Blayne Harcey** (Ph.D. Candidate, Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies)

- **The Entanglement of Light with Dark: Picturing Traditional Japan in the Era of Modernization** by **Sarah Gossett** (Ph.D. Candidate, Herberger Institute)
The Center for Asian Research plays a key role in developing, coordinating, and disseminating information about Asia-related courses at ASU. For information about undergraduate and graduate programs at ASU, please click the following links:

[Undergraduate Degree Programs](#) and [Graduate Degree Programs](#)

In addition, CAR administers the Asian Studies Graduate Certificate at ASU. This graduate certificate provides students with transdisciplinary expertise in Asian language and area studies, and is available in two tracks: an East Asia track focused on China, Japan, and Korea; and a Southeast Asia track, centered on Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, the Philippines, Brunei, and Timor Leste.

[Asian Studies Graduate Certificate Program](#)

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**Arizona and Asia**

[ASU, Phoenix Art Museum](#) & the [Musical Instruments Museum](#)

all curate significant collections from Asia
Internship Opportunities

The Center for Asian Research strongly believes that education takes place both inside and outside the classroom, and students in our programs participate in a variety of internships and practicums that provide opportunities to apply skills to real-world situations. For example, the Japanese Friendship Garden (Rohoen) is a collaboration between the City of Phoenix and its Japanese sister city, Himeji, and an important symbol of friendship and cooperation between the United States and Japan. In the Japanese Friendship Garden internship, students earn university credit while assisting in a variety of tasks including garden maintenance and event coordination—all the while, perfecting their Japanese language skills. Dylan Cosgrove (B.A. Japanese, 2021) participated in the internship this year and described his experiences in the following video:

Dylan Cosgrove on Rohoen Experience
Center for Asian Research 20-21 Event Timeline

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