January 2021 Newsletter

Dear Colleagues, Students, and Friends of the Center,

Welcome to a spring semester that promises hope and new horizons. I write to invite you to look around on our newly designed webpage to stay informed about upcoming lectures and other news. This coming Friday, Professor Judit Kroo (SILC, Japanese linguistics) will present her work on the aspirations of young Japanese. More Friday zoom talks are planned throughout this semester. Please follow the embedded links to discover more details and gain access to the presentations via zoom.

This semester, we are supporting 27 FLAS undergraduate and graduate fellows and we hope to continue to foster this level of FLAS support for Asian languages and area studies. We are in the midst of recruiting FLAS applications for summer 2021 and the next academic year, due Feb. 28, 2021. This may be especially relevant to those of you engaged in recruiting new graduate students in Asian studies to ASU. Please email our Coordinator, Chan Lwin, if you think a brief zoom presentation to your class will benefit your students. We would like to invite potential applicants to attend an orientation session (Feb. 3, 4 pm, https://asu.zoom.us/j/81099124134) on how to submit a strong FLAS application. On Feb. 10, 2021, Diplomat in Residence, Laura Gritz, will give a presentation on career opportunities for graduates with strong language and area studies backgrounds.

You may recall that Professor William Hedberg has joined the Center as Associate Director. I want to draw your attention in this newsletter to an interview he recently gave about his book on the Japanese Discovery of Chinese Fiction. Will would also be happy to hear from you about your interest in presenting your work to the Center’s audiences.

In conjunction with a conference organized by SILC graduate students on An Inauspicious Year: Confronting Crisis in Chinese Literature, History and Culture, the Center for Asian Research is sponsoring virtual access for interested individuals to two keynote lectures. On Feb. 12, Professor Michael Berry (UCLA) will be speaking on Translation and the Virtus: COVID_19, Cyber Politics and Fang Fang’s Wuhan Diary. Professor Katherine Alexander (UC Boulder) will speak on Feb. 13. Details to follow.

Please mark your calendars for some very special events March 14-16. Professor Aihwa Ong, Robert H. Lowie Distinguished Chair in Anthropology at UC Berkeley, will present a public zoom lecture and a seminar at ASU. Professor Ong is a recipient of the MacArthur award and she was recently honored by the SSRC for her work on Inter-Asian connections. You can listen to that lecture here. Her presentation at the Center for Asian Studies in March will focus on Elite Asian identities in global mediascapes. More soon!

With my best wishes for a very good year,
Juliane Schober
Director
Foreign Language & Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship

Due: February 28, 2021

The FLAS fellowships award the graduate students up to $33,000 and undergraduate students up to $15,000 funded by the Title VI grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The FLAS Fellowship Applications for the Summer 2021 and Academic Year 2021-2022 is currently accepting applications. The applications will be due on **February 28, 2021**. A recording of the information session has been uploaded. For additional information, please click on the poster. If you have any questions regarding the fellowship, please email Asia@asu.edu.

FLAS Information Session II

Date: February 3, 2021 at 4:00 pm

The Center for Asian Research will host a second information session regarding FLAS applications on **February 3, 2021** at 4:00pm AZT via zoom. This session will be dedicated to answering any questions or concern regarding the application. To review the previous information session, please refer to the link above. For more information on the information session and the zoom information, please click on the link below.

Faculty Research Seminar: Judit Kroo

Date: January 22, 2021 at noon

The Center for Asian Research would like to invite you to the biweekly Faculty and Graduate Student Research Seminar this semester. Our first presenter is professor Judit Kroo from SILC. To join via zoom, please click on the link below. To learn more about the presentation, please click on the image.
**Faculty & Graduate Research Seminar: Sarah Gossett**

Date: February 5 at noon

Please join us on February 5th at noon for the graduate research seminar presented by Ms. Sarah Gossett, a FLAS Fellow, doing research in Japanese Art History. To join via zoom, or to learn more about the presentation, please click on the link below.

Sarah Gossett

**Internship Fellowship Opportunities at the Dept of State**

Date: February 10 at 4:00 pm

The Center for Asian research is hosting a zoom webinar on February 10 at 4:00 pm. The Diplomat in Residence, Laura Gritz, will be presenting all the opportunities for our students. Both graduate and undergraduate students from all majors are welcomed. Please click on the image to the left or the link below to learn more about this event. If you have any questions, please send them to Asia@asu.edu.

Internships

**Meet the New Faculty from SHPRS**

Han Hsien Liew recently joined the Religious Studies faculty at the School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies as Assistant Professor of Islamic Studies. Originally from Penang, Malaysia, he earned his B.A. in College of Social Studies and History at Wesleyan University and his Ph.D. in History and Middle Eastern Studies at Harvard University. Professor Liew’s research focuses on premodern Islamic history, particularly in the fields of political thought; scholarly culture and transmission of knowledge; Qur’anic exegesis; and historical and biographical writings. His current book project explores the connections between politics, rhetoric, and emotions by studying the political thought of Ibn al-Jawzi, a twelfth-century Muslim scholar and preacher in medieval Baghdad. He is also working on a future project on the transmission of Arab and Persian Islamic political discourses to the Malay-speaking societies of Southeast Asia during the early modern period. Professor Liew’s research has been published in Arabica and the Journal of the American Oriental Society. He is also the recipient of the Middle East Studies Association Graduate Student Paper Prize (2017), the Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations (ANAMED) Junior Fellowship at Koç University (2016–2017), and the Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Fellowship for Islamic Studies at Harvard University (2012–2013). Prior to joining ASU, he was Assistant Professor of Arts and Humanities at the Minerva Schools at Keck Graduate Institute. Please click below for Professor Liew’s ASU profile.

Han Hsien Liew
The Mekong, China, & Southeast Asian Transitions
Various Dates

The East-West Center will be hosting a series of webinars regarding the Mekong, China, and Southeast Asia. The series can be accessed via zoom. This series of four webinars will explore how communities in these regions are experiencing the economic, social, and cultural dislocations of the transformations in agriculture, economies, migration and infrastructure. For more information about the series, please click on the link below.

Center's Associate Director's Interview On His New Book

The Associate Director of the Center for Asian Research, Professor William Hedberg, has been featured in an interview about his new book, The Japanese Discovery of Chinese Fiction: The Water Margin and the Making of a National Canon. The interview is hosted by Jingyi Li, a PhD Candidate at UofA, in Japanese History and can be accessed on New Books Network which is linked to the left. To read more about Dr. Hedberg's research, please see ASU iSearch link below.

Agnes Smedley Exhibition Opens in Xi'an

Agnes Smedley: A Revolutionary Life" opened at Northwest University in Xi'an, China, on Dec. 12, 2020. The exhibition, sponsored by the ASU Library, the School of Foreign Languages, and the Edgar and Helen Snow Center at Northwest University, began touring China last summer with its opening on May 1, 2020 at the Museum of the Former Residence of Sun Yat-sen.

The Dec. 12 opening date at Northwest University is important, as it is the date of the Xi'an Incident, which marked the turning point of China’s Anti-Japanese War. Speeches by dignitaries from the Northwest University and videos by Jim O’Donnell, Ralph Gabbard and Stephen MacKinnon were part of the opening ceremony.

This particular installation is unique, as it will be a part of a learning center, the Helen Snow Center, for the foreseeable future. In addition, graduate students from the School of Foreign Languages have been trained as docents and will be available to educate exhibition visitors.
**Elite Asians in Global Mediascape**
Lecture by Aihwa Ong, UC Berkeley

**March 15 & 16, 2021**

Please mark your calendar for a lecture by Professor Aihwa Ong, UC Berkeley on March 15, followed by a seminar on March 16, 2021. Professor Ong is a recipient of the McArthur award and she was recently honored by the SSRC for her work on Inter-Asian connections. Her Lecture will be on "Elite Asians in Global Mediascape" and the seminar will be on "Realignments of Identity, Capital, & Science." Abstract and additional information will be posted on our website below.

**An Inauspicious Year: Confronting Crisis in Chinese Literature, History, and Culture**

**February 12-13, 2021**

Join us on February 12 & 13 for a virtual graduate student conference hosted by the School of International Letters and Cultures at ASU. The conference sessions will be held from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm MST. There will also be two special keynote lectures during the conference by Prof. Michael Berry of UCLA and Prof. Katherine Alexander of UC Boulder. For any questions, please contact the conference organizers Jiangnan Li (jiangnan@asu.edu), Lucas Wolf (lawolf2@asu.edu), and Tyler Feezell (tfeezell@asu.edu). To access the schedule of the conference, please click on the link below.

**Contact Information**
If you have questions about the content of this newsletter or want information about classes offered in Asian Studies, please contact us at Asia@asu.edu.

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