Dear Colleagues, Students and Friends,

Welcome back to the fall semester of 2020. I hope all of you are doing well and coping as best as we can with these challenging circumstances. At the Center for Asian Research, we will continue to seek out new ways of interacting around issues in the study of Asia, even if that interaction is moved to Zoom for the time being. Hopefully by the spring, we will have again a greater on-ground presence.

Despite these shifts in our interaction style, there are some new developments to report. Several new faculty members with expertise in Asian studies are joining ASU this fall. By way of introduction, our newsletter will feature a short profile of each new faculty member in the coming months. In this issue, we welcome Judit Kroo (PhD. Stanford) who has joined SILC this fall as Assistant Professor for Japanese Linguistics and Comparative Cultural Studies. Please read her profile below.

Our four summer FLAS recipients dedicated their summer to studying Korean at Middlebury, Thai at Wisconsin-Madison, Indonesian through ASU's Critical Languages Institute, and Chinese at CET. No doubt, their endeavors were made especially demanding by the fact that their intensive language curriculum was delivered entirely online. Our own Chan Lwin, the Center's Coordinator, taught intensive online Burmese for SEASSI at the University of Wisconsin.

Looking forward, we welcome 8 graduate and 12 undergraduate FLAS recipients for the academic year, who are enrolled in area studies and language courses for all of the Asian languages offered at ASU, including Nepali. Among them are 8 students enrolled in the Chinese Flagship program and 7 graduate FLAS fellows in the humanities. Please take a look at the chart below showing the distribution of FLAS fellowships for this academic year across disciplines and regions.

We are planning a new series of speakers and round tables, entitled "Conversations about Asia." We invite faculty, students and friends of the Center to tune into these events delivered via Zoom. I invite you to suggest speakers of interest to their classes and to broader audiences. The Center will support these conversations with a modest speaker honorarium and event advertising. Please let me or Chan know if you have suggestions of speakers we might feature.

Lastly, I am pleased to share that the position of the Center Coordinator is now fully supported by CLAS. The Center is grateful for this support and I am delighted to continue working with Chan Lwin in her ongoing capacity as Coordinator of the Center for Asian Research.

Stay tuned, mask up and stay healthy!

Juliane Schober

Director
**Virtual Intensive Language Program**  
**Experiences of FLAS Fellows**  
**During the Covid-19 Pandemic**

Amid the uncertainties of the Covid-19 pandemic, four of our brave Foreign Language & Area Studies (FLAS) fellows participated in the very first Virtual Intensive Language Programs at Middlebury, SEASSI, CET & ASU's very own Indonesian summer program. The summer FLAS Fellows, Doctoral Candidate Lidan Liu and undergraduate student John Ransone, share their experiences here.

"This summer, I attended (virtually) the Southeast Asian Summer Studies Institute (SEASSI) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where I took second-year Thai. I was able to take the course because of a Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Scholarship that I received from ASU which covered the full cost of tuition for the 8-week course. The course is intensive, covering a full year's worth of material, but I wouldn't have it any other way. The virtual learning environment presents its own unique set of challenges for languages like Thai that are tonal and don't use a Roman script, but we were able to overcome those mostly. The best thing about SEASSI is that you are able to meet and network with people from around the country who have similar interests. The SEASSI courses are also great preparation for doing a study abroad or to retain your language skills after you return." - **John Ransone**

"This summer, I attended the Middlebury Korean School— an eight-week-long intensive language program. Previously, the advantage of this program was the target language environment it provided for students, so when we had to switch to online courses due to COVID-19, the language environment became the biggest concern for the effect of our studies. However, all the students in our class followed the language pledge (to use only Korean in class) strictly and we were able to create an immersive language environment by ourselves. The courses were redesigned to fit the virtual classroom. The features in Zoom allowed us to share screen to watch videos together, display blackboard, create small discussion groups, etc. Canvas and Google Drive also provided us almost all the convenience we needed. Besides regular classes, we also had special lectures, cultural events, and even "Karaoke contest" via Zoom. The only shortcoming for the online program was that we did not get a chance to meet each other face to face and we could not have meals or enjoy Korean movie nights together side by side. Overall, it was a very successful program and I enjoyed it a lot. Thanks to the dedication of our teachers, all the classes and events were well designed and delivered. I sometimes felt rather frustrated because of the load of the coursework, but I was never bored. I could feel my progress in Korean every week as the courses went on, and I made a bunch of good friends even though we haven’t met each other in person yet. I never thought an online language program could be so effective and inspiring. I would recommend it to anyone who are interested in taking a language program in the future." - **Lidan Liu**

To read more about the FLAS Fellows, please visit [https://car.clas.asu.edu/content/Meet-Our-Flas-fellows](https://car.clas.asu.edu/content/Meet-Our-Flas-fellows)
Meet Our New Affiliated Faculty

Dr. Judit Kroo is joining School of International Letters & Culture from Vassar College where she was a Mellon PostDoctoral Fellow. She has published widely in both linguistics and cultural studies journals including articles in Language, Culture and Society; The Journal of East Asian Popular Culture; Discourse and Communication; and Pragmatics and Society. She is also the co-editor of a forthcoming volume on tactics and strategies of marginalization in Japanese. Her research examines how younger adults use language and embodied practice to contest and re-frame ideologies associated with standard or desirable life ways. To see Kroo's Research interest and publications, please visit her iSearch page below. If you would like to send an email to her directly, you can reach her at judit.kroo@asu.edu.
Mexico-Indonesia Relations and Foreign Policy, 1959-62  
by Professor Christopher Lundry

Date: Tuesday, September 15th at 5:00 pm

We invite you to join us for Professor Chris Lundry's talk this month via Zoom. The talk addresses Mexican and Indonesian diplomatic ties that drew on Soekarno's and Adolfo Lopez Mateo's similar ideas about foreign policy. It will also examine the current relationship between the two countries. You may join the talk via Zoom, and all are invited. For more information, please click on the link below or the image to the left.

Religious Studies Doctoral Student Wins Fulbright-Hays

Religious Studies doctoral candidate and FLAS Fellow Blayne Harcey received a 2020-21 Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad (DDRA) Fellowship. The Fulbright-Hays DDRA Program provides opportunities to doctoral candidates to engage in full-time dissertation research abroad in modern foreign languages and area studies. Blayne plans to conduct 12-months of research in Nepal and India beginning in May 2021 with the support of the Fulbright-Hays DDRA Fellowship.

We offer our warmest congratulations to Blayne Harcey. To read more about Blayne's dissertation project, please click on the image to left. If you are interested in the Fulbright-Hays DDRA Fellowship offered by the U.S. Department of Education, please click on the link below.

MA Degree in Asian and African Studies in Mexico

Deadline: October 31, 2020

If you are interested in the MA Degree in Asian and African Studies and you speak Spanish, please consider the Center for Asian and African Studies (CEAA) at El Colegio de Mexico (Colmex) in Mexico City. CEAA offers specialization in one of six areas: China, Japan, South Asia, Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and Africa. Accepted students (including international students) do not pay tuition and all of the graduate students receive a stipend to study. For more information, please visit their website at https://ceaa.colmex.mx/ or click on the link below.
Opportunities

Fellowship Opportunities for Doctoral Students

Various Deadlines

If you are at the dissertation research or writing stage, you may qualify for one of many unique dissertation research fellowships for domestic and international doctoral students enrolled in U.S. universities. There are many funding sources available to support travel, fieldwork, supplies, language training and even living expenses. Please see the link below for more information.

2020 AIIS Fellowship Competition for Doctoral Candidates and Scholars

Deadline: November 15, 2020

The American Institute of Indian Studies (AIIS) invites applications from scholars from all disciplines who wish to conduct their research in India. There are various fellowship types for doctoral candidates, scholars and professionals. Eligible applicants include 1) U.S. citizens; and 2) citizens of other countries who are students or faculty members at U.S. colleges and universities. For more information and to access application, please visit the site below.

Language Study Fellowships for Undergraduates & Graduates

Various Deadlines

Thomas A. Pickering Graduate Fellowship: Deadline October 21, 2020

If you are interested in a career in Foreign Service with the U.S. Department of State, and you are a senior undergraduate student, this fellowship may interest you. For more information, visit: https://pickeringfellowship.org/graduate-fellowship/overview-and-eligibility/

Study Abroad Grants and Scholarships to Study Languages

This year may not be ideal for study abroad but if you are interested in study abroad in the future, you may want to check out these grant and scholarship opportunities. Some of these funding sources allow you to participate in a study-abroad program virtually. Visit here for more information: https://www.leadwithlanguages.org/language-programs/grants-scholarships/

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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