This has been another year of achievements and exciting developments for the Department of East Asian Languages & Cultural Studies here at UC Santa Barbara. One of the highlights of the year is the inauguration of the UCSB Confucius Institute in January 2015. The Institute, directed by Professor Mayfair Yang, is affiliated with the department. The Confucius Institute is already fully operational and has organized several events on campus. It is an important addition to our department’s research and educational structure, which already includes the Center for Taiwan Studies, directed by professor Kuoch’ing Tu, and three endowed chairs. We also hosted an international conference on childhood (Child’s Play: Multi-sensory Histories of Children and Childhood in Japan and Beyond), organized by Professor Sabine Frühstück, an international conference on Chinese language transformations, organized by Professor Hsiao-Jung (Sharon) Yu, and a symposium on literary and theatrical representations of samurai culture in premodern Japan (War and Remembrance: Cultural Imprints of Japan’s Samurai Age), organized by Professor Katherine Saltzman-Li. In addition, we have organized a large number of cultural initiatives (guest lectures, workshops, and film screenings) on various aspects of all East Asian cultures.

Sadly, we also had to bid farewell to our former colleague, emeritus professor Robert Backus in November 2014. Professor Backus, an eminent scholar of Japanese intellectual history, joined UCSB in 1966 and was one of the founding members of our department. We express our deep sense of gratitude for the many contributions he has made to the research and teaching agenda of the department.

Our revised and expanded Asian Studies Major, which started in September 2014, is doing very well, and in September 2015 we will launch a new high-proficiency track for the Chinese major (which will add to the already existing high-proficiency Japanese major). These high-proficiency tracks make it easier for students already fluent in Chinese or Japanese to major or double major with us. In addition, all of our three majors (Asian Studies, Chinese Studies, and Japanese Studies) have been enriched with new, attractive courses.

The number of students enrolled in our courses is growing, a clear indication of the wide interest in the languages and cultures of East Asia at UCSB. We continue receiving graduate applications from top candidates from the US and several other countries. In September 2015 we will have the pleasure to welcome 5 new PhD students and 3 new MA students, including one central fellowship recipient.

Last but not least, we are very proud to announce that one of our language lecturers, Chikako Shinagawa of the Japanese Language Program, is the recipient of the Distinguished Teaching Award 2015.

In the coming year, we expect to continue our cutting-edge research and educational activities at the department with international conferences, events, and guest lectures.
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The U.C. Santa Barbara Confucius Institute was established on campus with its launch ceremony on February 2, 2015. Housed in the East Asian Languages & Cultural Studies Department, the Institute is funded by the Office of Hanban in Beijing, China, with matching funds from UCSB. We seek to strengthen China Studies at UCSB, including the learning of the Chinese language, as well as humanistic and social science research on Chinese culture, history, and society. We will work with our partner university in China, Shandong University, to promote educational exchanges and cooperation between our two campuses, and other academic institutions in China.

The Institute Director is Professor Mayfair Yang, the Vice-Director is Professor Lijuan Zhang, a professor of Economics at Shandong University. Ms. Xiao Xiao is a Chinese-language lecturer from Shandong University who helps our Chinese Language Program lecturers teach Mandarin Chinese. Angela Zeng is the Office Manager who schedules our lectures and events. The Institute organizes lectures, film screenings, academic workshops and conferences, and cultural and artistic performances and events at U.C. Santa Barbara. It also provides scholarships and grants for research and travel for UCSB graduate students and faculty pursuing China Studies in the humanities and social science disciplines. We also offer undergraduate prizes for Chinese Studies majors and support for Chinese cultural activities associated with Chinese Studies, such as New Year and other festival celebrations. Together with the Chinese Students & Scholars Association at UCSB, we provide a Chinese-English Language Exchange that benefits American students learning Chinese, as well as Chinese international students enrolled at UCSB. We will also make outreach efforts with the larger community of Santa Barbara County.

Brass plaque gracing the door to the Confucius Institute in HSSB 2220
Photo credit: Sonia Fernandez

UCSB Executive Vice Chancellor David Marshall speaks at the opening ceremony for the Confucius Institute at UCSB
Photo credit: Sonia Fernandez
The Confucius Institute has screened two major films on campus: the Berlin Film Festival prize-winner, “Black Coal, Thin Ice,” directed by Diao Yinan (2013), and “The Golden Era”, by Hong Kong director Ann Hui, about the life of modern Chinese woman writer Xiao Hong. The Institute has sponsored or co-sponsored the following public lectures by visiting scholars:

» Professor James Miller of Queens University on Daoism and ecology
» Professor Kenneth Dean of National University of Singapore on the history of Daoism in Southeast Asia
» Professor Robert Rogowski of the Monterey Institute of International Religions on U.S.-China Trade
» Professor Rongdai Lai of University of Southern California on Buddhist education in the early 20th century
» Professor Richard Madsen of the Fudan-U.C. Program at U.C. San Diego
» Professors Lizhu Fan and Na Chen of Fudan University in Shanghai on lineage revival in Wenzhou, China
» Professor Steven Bokenkamp of Arizona State University, Phoenix, on ancient Daoism

The Institute also offered an informational session for students and faculty members wishing to apply for Hanban Chinese government grants to study at a Chinese university. Finally, we offered a public presentation on Chinese tea ceremony.

For January 2016, we are co-organizing a large international conference with the UCSB Bren School of Environmental Science and Management, called “Environmental Protection: Issues and Strategies in China and the U.S.” This conference will bring scholars and scientists in the Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, and Humanities from China, the U.S., and UCSB together to exchange ideas on efforts in both countries to preserve clean air, water, soil, and natural resources for future generations. The conference will also feature a few scholars engaged in exploring the rich traditions of Chinese Daoist, Buddhist, and Confucian cultures, and their relevance in modern environmental ethics and eco-philosophy.

In Winter 2016, professors Zhang and Yang will co-teach a graduate seminar called “Issues in Contemporary China Studies,” which is designed as a colloquium that will bring in major scholars of China in the U.S. as visiting lecturers.

Scrolls were given to UCSB from Shandong University as part of a gift exchange between the two universities in honor of the establishment of the Institute.

Photo credit: Sonia Fernandez

Student participants of the Chinese-English Language Exchange Program
Recent CLP Activities

Chinese New Year Celebration Welcomes Additions to EALCS!

Always one of the most welcomed and important cultural events of our program, the celebration was co-organized by the Chinese instructors, Bella Chen, Daoxiong Guan, and Chen-chuan Hsu, the celebration was held at a local Chinese restaurant in February. The Confucius Institute generously sponsored the Chinese New Year Party and over one hundred students from all Chinese language classes along with EALCS faculty joined us in celebrating the Year of Sheep or Goat. Department chair Fabio Rambelli gave the opening remarks. Mayfair Yang, the Director of the Confucius Institute, together with Kuo-ch’ing Tu, the Director of the Center for Taiwan Studies, introduced the Confucius Institute and attending faculty members. Students welcomed the New Year with delicious Chinese cuisine and entertained the large crowd with a variety show that included performances of Chinese songs, the playing of Chinese instruments such as Er Hu, Chinese folk dance, poem recitation, martial arts, tongue twisters, and raffles. What a wonderful occasion for fostering genuine conversations between professors and students of all levels and allow them to practice their language skills. Thanks to everyone who helped make this event possible!

2014-2015 Highlights

» Confucius Institute brings a new instructor, Ms. Xiao Xiao, as well as more language courses!

» Test of Chinese as Foreign Language (TOCFL) test held at UCSB for 6th time. Promotes Chinese fluency and scholarship opportunities

» Huayu Enrichment Scholarship recipient Carolyn Mae Chase-Dunn will study Mandarin in Taiwan for 12 months!

» Nine Drew Fund / Center for Taiwan Studies Award recipients

» Mr. Daoxiong Guan leads ten students on 3-week study group tour to China at Shanghai University

Welcome to Ms. Xiao Xiao! New Chinese language instructor

We would also like to express a warm welcome to our new instructor, Ms. Xiao Xiao, who has joined the Chinese language teaching team through the Confucius Institute. Thanks to her help and expertise, the Chinese Language Program has been able to offer more sections for first-year Chinese and reinstate both the elementary and intermediate levels of conversational Chinese language classes.

Ms. Xiao Xiao, new Chinese Language instructor
TOCFL test held at UCSB for 6th year; Several students pass advanced level III

On April 4, the Test of Chinese as a Foreign Language (TOCFL) was held at UCSB for the 6th time. As of Spring 2014, local high school students have been able to take the test at UCSB. This test gives our students the opportunity to establish a standard level of proficiency in Chinese and apply to the Huayu Enrichment Scholarship sponsored by the Taiwan Ministry of Education. The certification one receives after passing this test is especially important to students who want to work or pursue advanced study in Chinese-language countries. Therefore, securing the opportunity to take this test at UCSB has been a great encouragement to local students of Chinese. Congratulations to Charles Fernandez, Emily Amanda Zhou, Szu-yuan Mao, QiQi June Chin, Nathan O-Jun Ling and Jackson Wu who passed the advanced Level III, and Rebecca Bu, a first year heritage student, who passed Level II!

Carolyn Mae Chase-Dunn

2015 Drew Fund / CTS Language Awards recipients

Congratulations also to the nine Drew Fund and Center for Taiwan Studies Language Award recipients for 2015: Mathew Anderson, Alejandro Danko Sobrera, Suzanna Honkanen Ackroyd, Margaret Maccoun, Kathy Connie Hu, Chin Lun Lin, Kayla Lynn Bailey, Marika Goossens and Patrick Laboon. These awards are given to students with excellent academic achievement in Chinese language and are made possible by the generous sponsorship of the Drew Family and CTS under the leadership of Kuo-ch’ing Tu. Our heartfelt gratitude goes to the Drew Family and Professor Tu for their support of the Chinese Language Program!

USCB Chinese language students with their pupils

Chinese Language Students Progress to Higher Levels

Three students from our Chinese classes received two- and three-year full scholarships for Master’s degree study at Shanghai University of Finance and Economics and Nanjing Normal University in China: Nataly Alvarado (major in Law) and Forrest Liu (major in Accounting), Angelique Ung (major in Chinese & International Business). Two of our students, Marco Legorreta and Cheyenne Johnson also found careers as bilingual teachers at Newton Kindergarten, an international bilingual program by the Newton Education Group with 4 campuses in China.

3-Week study tour in China hosted by Shanghai University

Last but not least, in the summer of 2014, Mr. Daoxiong Guan organized a 3-week language and culture study group tour to China that was hosted by Shanghai University of Finance and Economics. Ten students participated in the program that was very well received. Students took language classes in the morning, participated in cultural activities in the afternoons, and took excursions to other cities, including Kunming and Guilin during the weekends.

EALCS students in Shanghai

The year has been very active for the Center for Taiwan Studies (CTS). In addition to presenting the Visiting Scholars Lecture Series in 2015 Winter Quarter, CTS provided editorial assistance for the publication of the 34th issue: Special Issue on Lü Ho-jo (July 2014) and 35th issue: Special Issue on Chung Li-ho (January 2015) of the Taiwan Literature: English Translation Series, and also sponsored a mini Fall Film Series in 2014 Fall Quarter.

The first Fall Film Series event, on Nov. 15, 2014, was showing ‘Dust in the Wind’ by Taiwanese Director Hou Hsiao-Hsien. A second film ‘God Man Dog’ by director/writer Singing Chen was shown on Dec. 6, 2014.

Visiting Scholars Lecture Series

CTS presented the Visiting Scholars Lecture Series in 2015 Winter Quarter, inviting scholars from different humanities and social science fields, including History, Languages and Literatures, Anthropology, Political Science and Sociology, to give talks on various topics related to Taiwan Studies. Following are the lecture speakers and titles:

Douglas Fix, Professor of History, Reed College
- Jan. 12: Different Routes, Disparate Perspectives: Missionary, Photographic and Local Images of Baksa, Southern Taiwan, 1871.
- Jan. 14: Local and Global Encounters on the Hengchun Peninsula, 1850-1874

Hiroko Matsuzaki, Ph.D. in Chinese Language and Literature, University of Tokyo, Japan Postdoctoral Research Scholar, Center for Taiwan Studies, UCSB
- Jan. 18 and Feb. 18: Mobility of the Memory: Colonial Memory and Taiwan Identity, Part I and Part II

Faye Yuan Kleeman, Professor of Japanese, Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations, University of Colorado at Boulder
- Jan. 26: To Write or Not to Write: Japanese Colonial Literature in Taiwan
- Jan. 28: (Post) Colonial and the “Popular”—Taiwanese Studies in Comparative Transnational Contexts

C. Julia Huang, Professor of Anthropology, National Tsing Hua University, Taiwan; Visiting Scholar, the Ho Center for Buddhist Studies, Stanford University

continues on page 9
In what other language programs would you learn not only the grammar and vocabulary of a language but also how to make sushi rolls, unleash your artistic self by singing Japanese songs with a microphone in front of people, and spread the wings of your imagination by reading books written in Japanese among many other exciting activities? The past year was another successful one for both language instruction and extracurricular activities designed to enhance in-classroom learning.

Recent JLP Activities

Shinagawa sensei won an Academic Senate Distinguished Teaching Award!

It was a great encouragement for all of us that our own Chikako Shinagawa, former coordinator of JLP and “one of the main actors behind the growing success of the Japanese Language Program,” as the university describes her, won an Academic Senate Distinguished Teaching Award this year. Shinagawa has always been one of the top-rated instructors and has been tirelessly serving JLP both instructionally and administratively for years. Twice a year she has also coordinated sushi workshops for Japanese language students by inviting the local chef and owner of Studio Japan, Miyazaki Fukiko. Congratulations, Shinagawa sensei.

The Japanese Language Café continues to bring students together for conversations in Japanese

Another force that contributes to JLP’s success is students’ involvement with language learning outside the formal classroom is, along with Tadoku and the sushi workshops, the Japanese Language Café (JLC). JLC meets weekly throughout the school year and provides an informal platform for learning Japanese by watching Japanese movies, enjoying potluck dinners, and Japanese conversations. Thanks to the continuous help from Japanese lecturer Yoko Yamauchi, JLC also constitutes a window to connecting students learning Japanese with international students from Japan and Japanese heritage students.

As we enter a new academic year, we gratefully acknowledge the support from the Department, particularly the Japanese Program Committee. We look forward to another year of a JLP that brings together students and colleagues, in and outside the classroom!
Tadoku: 44 to 100+!

Since its start in 2013, the Nihongo Tadoku Club has met weekly to provide students with opportunities to read Japanese books of a wide variety of genres. This year, with support from the university library as well as from a grant obtained by Hiroko Sugawara, one of our accomplished lecturers, the number of books jumped from 44 to more than 100! The significantly expanded collection now include Ghibli animation books such as Totoro and Naussica as well as classical Japanese literature by Dazai Osamu and Akutagawa Ryūnosuke. Tadoku hopes to continue offering each student the chance to practice reading in Japanese and to enjoy the imaginative world of Japanese literature.

Sing, sing, sing in Japanese!

At UCSB, Japanese language learning stays neither inside the classroom nor on an office desk. We also learn Japanese by singing with a microphone! Instead of our traditional annual Kanji Championship, we had the first Karaoke Party in Spring. More than 20 students sang their favorite Japanese songs to a classmate audience and impressed with their language and musical talents. They sang songs ranging from recent anime and pop songs to some oldies from the Sixties. With the help of the Japanese Student Association, the Japanese Language Café, and Yea-Seul Han, a skilled MC and attendee of JLP, students immensely enjoyed themselves with what they had been learning: Japanese.

Four Gauchos go to Japan through the JET Program!

The JET Program announces on its website that the “application process is very competitive. Several thousand applications are received each year, of which only a portion are [sic!] invited to an interview. Of those interviewed, the top candidates are selected to participate” (http://www.us.emb-japan.go.jp/JET/). Knowing this we are very proud to announce that four of our students are going to Japan to teach English through the JET Program this year! We hope that the four Gauchos who took Japanese in JLP, Derek Yamashita, Eric Lee, Julian Bustos, and Michael Aiken, will enjoy experiencing what they have learned in the classroom and far beyond as they live and work in Japan! Omedetō!
The Reinventing ‘Japan’ Research Focus Group: Year 3

Kate McDonald

ABOUT

The RFG Reinventing ‘Japan’ has been in action for three years, first as an informal workshop and then for the past two years as a Research Focus Group (RFG). Over the past three years, we have created a strong interdisciplinary community of Japan scholars. This past year, the RFG emerged as a key tool in our graduate recruiting efforts as well. The Reinventing Japan RFG is extremely active. Over the course of the past three years, almost all UCSB faculty working on Japan have presented at an RFG meeting. A majority of our graduate students have also presented their work.

This past year we doubled the number of meetings, moving from a once per month schedule to a twice per month meeting schedule. Second, we created a graduate-level colloquium (HIST/JAPAN 287J) to run concurrently with our RFG meetings. The colloquium increased the attendance of graduate students at RFG events tremendously. An average of nine students were enrolled each quarter, with the majority of them attending each meeting. ABD students presented their research at regular RFG meetings, while more junior students wrote and circulated reports about our visiting speaker events and annotated bibliographies for further reading on the subject of that visiting speaker’s lecture.

During the past year, we met seventeen times. Eleven meetings were devoted to discussing papers from faculty and graduate students in History, EALCS, Film & Media Studies, and Religious Studies. We also had the pleasure of hearing from four visiting speakers: Anne Allison (Anthropology, Duke); Amy Stanley (History, Northwestern); Katarzyna Cwiertka (History, Leiden); and Ian Condry (Global Studies and Languages, MIT). Faculty and graduate students from a wide range of departments attended, including many that are not represented in our regular RFG meetings: Feminist Studies, Global Studies, Environmental Studies, and Anthropology. Finally, we devoted two meetings to professionalization events, which brought graduate students and faculty mentors together to discuss issues of time management, research design, and work-life balance. Each visiting speaker also participated in a special lunch with graduate students.

IN REVIEW 2014/2015

» John Nathan (EALCS), chapter from new manuscript, Dark on Dark: the life and art of Natsume Soseki, October 8.
» Naoki Yamamoto (Film and Media Studies), “Montage Theory in Japan,” October 22.
» Visiting Speaker: Anne Allison (Anthropology, Duke), November 19.
» Professionalization and Pizza: Thinking Grad School, December 3.
» Viktor Shmagin (Ph.D. Candidate, History), “‘They Fear Us, yet Cling to Us’: Conflicting Views of Russo-Japanese Borderlands During the 1861 Tsushima Incident,” February 11.
» End of Year Party and Professionalization Discussion: Building Academic Networks, June 10.
THE PLAN
2015/2016

For 2015-2016, Ann-Elise Lewallen (EALCS) and Luke Roberts (History) will take over as our new convenors. Sabine Frühstück (EALCS) and Kate McDonald (History), who have convened the workshop and RFG for the past three years, will be on leave.

This year, we propose to come together as an interdisciplinary group of graduate students and faculty members from the departments of History, East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies, Religious Studies, Music, and Film & Media Studies to continue to examine, discuss, and analyze a singular topic: the reinvention of Japan. “Reinvention” and “renewal” are prominent themes in Japanese religion and philosophy. They have also been taken up vigorously in public discourse at various moments throughout history, ranging from the Edo period world renewal movements, a complex of carnivalesque religious celebrations and communal activities that were often fashioned as social or political protests, to Japan’s late nineteenth-century dramatic turn to the West, the quasi-fascist imperialist program of the 1930s and early 1940s, the rise from the ashes of the Asia-Pacific War in the 1950s, the almost revolutionary era of the 1960s and 1970, up to the current debate over how to renew Japan in the wake of the 2011 disaster in Northeastern Japan and this year’s 70th anniversary of the end of World War II.

For this year, we propose to explore methodologies of the margins. In recent years, high profile events and debates have placed questions of economic justice, war memory, and citizenship at the front and center of Japanese political life. Long lauded as a relatively homogenous “middle-class society,” contemporary political debates over sexual slavery in World War II, critiques of the government’s handling of the 3.11 earthquake and tsunami, and an increasing reliance on migrant labor have turned a spotlight on the inequalities in Japanese society. Such debates raise important questions for scholars of Japan: Who is the subject of studies of Japan? How do we design research projects that decenter rather than reinforce national narratives? What kinds of methodological sensibilities are required to write from the margins?

The proposed program for the Reinventing Japan RFG this year directly engages these questions. We will maintain the research workshop framework, which includes discussing pre-circulated works-in-progress and bringing in two visiting speakers to address our theme. This year, however, we will make two important changes to further the methodological inquiry at the core of this year’s program. First, Ann-Elise Lewallen (EALCS) will direct the RFG and concurrent graduate colloquium. Lewallen is a specialist on the contemporary cultural revival of Japan’s indigenous Ainu and has grappled with issues of marginality and methodology in her own work. Second, we will focus one of our bi-weekly meetings each quarter on diverse approaches to methodologies that engage the margins of Japanese society, culture, and history. These events will feature an affiliate faculty member from across campus. Stay tuned for the program that will be announced during the first week of Fall quarter on the EALCS and History websites.

THE INTERNATIONAL SHINTO FOUNDATION ENDOVED CHAIR IN SHINTO STUDIES

The International Shinto Foundation Endowed Chair in Shinto Studies, affiliated with the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies and currently held by Professor Fabio Rambelli, promotes undergraduate and graduate teaching and research on all aspects of the Shinto tradition; invites to campus leading scholars of Shinto and Japanese religions for talks and meetings with faculty and students; aims at expanding the scope of Shinto Studies by engaging with broader, comparative issues; organizing international conferences, symposia, and workshops related to Shinto, Japanese religions, and East Asian religions more generally. All events organized by the Shinto Studies chair are open to the public and the community.

This year, we had the privilege of welcoming the following guest lecturers: Anna Kim (University of Virginia) for a workshop in iconoclasm and image violence (April 2015); Yoshinaga Shin’ichi (Maizuru National College of Technology, Japan) for a mini-symposium on the modern, international origins of Yoga and hypnotism (April 2015); Hank Glassman (Haverford College) on international connections in the development of a material culture of death in medieval Japan (May 2015); and Ōuchi Fumi (Miyagi Gakuin Women’s University, Japan) for a lecture on contemporary Shugendō (mountain religions) and another one on Buddhist vocal music (shōmyō) (May 2015).

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Award-winning EALCS Lecturer Chikako Shinagawa creates Japanese language apps

“Genki Conjugation Cards – Exercises for Japanese Verb/Adjective Conjugations”

Over the past two years, Chikako Shinagawa, Lecturer of Japanese in EALCS, has created three iPhone applications for Japanese language learners, including “Genki Vocab Cards – Japanese Words Essential for Beginners,” “Genki Kanji Cards – Learning Basic Kanji Through Vocabulary,” and “Genki Conjugation Cards – Exercises for Japanese Verb/Adjective Conjugations.” The applications are based on her successful textbook Genki: An Integrated Course in Elementary Japanese that has appeared in two volumes and a number of editions and has sold 1.2 million copies worldwide. Genki has been widely adopted around the world as one of the most highly regarded textbooks for teaching the Japanese language. It covers speaking, listening, reading, and writing in order to cultivate overall language ability. The current edition includes an audio CD companion in mp3 format ready to install on any music player. We spoke with Shinagawa about the creation of the apps, her longterm experience of developing teaching and learning tools, and her vision of the future of language learning tools for a range of Japanese language learners.

**HOW DOES IT WORK?**

You can view the cards and listen to the recordings as you like, and, thus, study at your own pace. The different conjugations are mastered through two types of practice, saying the conjugated forms aloud or typing them. All conjugation forms studied at the elementary level are covered: 18 for verbs and 10 for adjectives. As you go through each conjugation card deck, the cards answered correctly are automatically removed, allowing you to efficiently focus on the trickier words in the next round of practice.

**STUDY METHODICALLY**

MyDeck allows you to practice each word by looking at the cards and repeatedly saying the conjugated forms aloud. Each card has a word and the conjugation type to be practiced. Say the word in the conjugated form indicated. Tap the sound icon to check whether you said the conjugated form correctly. Tap the Rule icon to see the conjugation rule. Study the use of the conjugated form by referring to the example sentence and illustration on the backside of the card. Tap the Rule icon to see the conjugation rule.

**CHECK YOUR PROGRESS**

Type in the conjugated form as instructed. If you entered the correct form, the card will be removed from MyDeck. Cards answered incorrectly or skipped will remain in the deck for further practice.

*TO STUDY WITH THE CHECK METHOD, YOU WILL NEED TO ADD A JAPANESE KEYBOARD TO YOUR iPHONE SETTINGS BEFORE STARTING.

VIEW/DOWNLOAD THE APP HERE: genki.japantimes.co.jp/archives/2611
### Interview with app creator

**Chikako Shinagawa**

Interview conducted by Sabine Frühstück

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**Frühstück**: You have close to two decades of experience with developing textbooks and other teaching materials for Japanese language learners. Your textbooks *Genki I & II* were originally published as traditional books. The current editions are available with an audio CD companion in mp3 format. Together with other members of the Japanese Language Program team at UCSB you also maintain a JLP website [http://www.eastasian.ucsb.edu/projects/ejapanese/3_spring.htm](http://www.eastasian.ucsb.edu/projects/ejapanese/3_spring.htm). Now you have created three iphone apps.

**Shinagawa**: Compared to making a textbook, the process of making an app was surprisingly quick. It took my co-authors and me several months to create each app. The process was completed with weekly meetings via Skype and the use of Google documents. We wanted to make flash card apps with pictures and sounds. Prior to making apps, we had created and published picture cards for vocabulary of the *Genki* textbooks and a book of Kanji learning materials, *Kanji Look and Learn*. So we already had the main materials to create these apps. We used a technology firm, so we did not have to deal with technical issues ourselves. After we decided the format of the apps, all we needed to do was to create sample sentences for the apps and choose basic verbs and adjectives for the conjugation app.

Making the *Genki* textbooks, by contrast, was a long process. The first edition was made from scratch. It took us about seven years to create the original *Genki* textbooks and five years to create the second editions. At one point in time, we thought we would never publish the textbooks. I sometimes joke about the fact that the real title of these textbooks should be “*Genkijōnai*” because we were so exhausted at the end of it all.

**Frühstück**: What can a user expect to learn with the help of these apps? Would one ideally use them in conjunction with the *Genki* textbooks or other materials? What makes them attractive learning tools? Have the apps been well received?

**Shinagawa**: Unlike the paper flash cards, these apps provide essential elements to learn vocabulary, Kanji and conjugations more effectively: (1) Sounds and pictures help students to memorize vocabulary, Kanji and conjugations, (2) Kanji stroke animations, pictures and mnemonic hints make it easy to learn Kanji, and (3) Sample sentences provide the context how to use Kanji words, vocabulary and conjugations. In addition, users can study at their own pace. The apps are also great review tools for users at all levels.

All three apps are based on the *Genki* textbooks and cover all the vocabulary, Kanji and conjugations of the *Genki* textbooks. It is perfect for *Genki* users. However it is also very useful for elementary level learners since main elementary level textbooks cover pretty much the same vocabulary, conjugations and Kanji.

Generally most students love the illustrations and characters in the *Genki* textbooks. *Genki* users especially are very familiar and attached to the characters. The style of the illustration has a Japanese “*kawaii*” (cute) touch. We use the same illustrations in the apps. In my opinion, they make the apps fun to study with since many Japanese learners are fond of the Japanese style illustrations. So far these apps have been well received with a four out of four star rating.

**Frühstück**: Compared to your experience of teaching Japanese early on in your career, do students today learn differently? If so, how so and how do you respond to such new styles of learning on the part of students?

**Shinagawa**: When I started teaching, the classroom was the pretty much the only place where students in the U.S. could study Japanese. They had very limited opportunities to be exposed to real Japanese elsewhere. Today, thanks to the Internet and the popularity of Japanese subculture, students have been exposed to Japanese before they enter a formal classroom. Most of the students who study Japanese in the U.S. are interested in Japanese subculture and particularly animation. They already know a lot of phrases and words, before they even start taking classes at UCSB. This early exposure to the Japanese language on their terms is definitely beneficial to our students who learn Japanese. In order to make the most of such resources, it is important for a teacher like myself to select appropriate materials related to teaching lessons, cultural references, speech styles, etc. and to effectively implement them into the lesson plan. For example, I have created interactive web-based practices using youtube videos to promote students’ understanding of cultures that are introduced in the textbook.

An unfortunate aspect of students’ learning experience nowadays is that there is not much student-to-student communication before each class. They are busy texting, playing games on their smartphones, essentially avoiding interaction with their classmates outside of the classroom. There used to be lively chatting in Japanese among students before class. Students used the minutes before class and every other opportunity that presented itself in their daily routines to use Japanese. To me it is sad to note that this lively practice is a thing of the past.

**Frühstück**: What is your next project with regards to teaching and learning tools?

**Shinagawa**: Currently there is no technological element in our project. Since last summer, we have been creating extensive reading materials based on the *Genki* textbooks. Extensive reading is a good way to promote a positive attitude towards reading and to eventually promote students’ reading skills. I find it very challenging to come up with intriguing stories with the limited vocabulary and structures of the textbooks. So far, we have created scary stories, old tales and intriguing stories with the limited vocabulary based on the *Genki* textbooks. We hope to complete this project and make it available soon.

**Frühstück**: What is your perspective on new learning tools and their efficacy with regards to language learning?

**Shinagawa**: All learning tools such as smart phone apps and the Internet are great tools to help students learn better. However, I truly believe that language is a person-to-person communication. One can only learn by real interactions with real people. As a language teacher, I feel my real mission is to continue to practice real communication in the classroom and make language learning a fun and rewarding experience.
The Fourth Dream of the Red Chamber


“My First Film: An Interview with Chang Tso-chi” and “My First Film: An Interview with Hou Hsiao-hsien” in Young Filmmaker’s Handbook Volume 6, ed. Cheng Qingsong. China Citic Press, 2014.


Presentations & Other Professional Activities

 Suppressing the Suicide Complex: “Home Sweet Home” and the Taiwanese Imagination of America USC, May 2015.

“Paper Workshop: SARS @ Hong Kong” USC Graduate Student Conference Keynote, April 2015.


Served as organizer, moderator, discussant and interpreter for UCSB campus events featuring Matthew Torne, Yang Yishu, Wu Wenguang, and others. Berry was also interviewed or featured in articles/programs on Australian National Radio, National Public Radio, ChinaFile, China Daily, fleurs des letters, Nanfang wentan, the Wall Street Journal, etc., and has served as a Book Review Editor for translations, Modern Chinese Literature and Culture, as a jury member for the Dream of the Red Chamber Prize (2014), and as Director of the East Asia Center at UCSB.

Shu-Chuan (Bella) Chen
Lecturer, Chinese Language

Presentations & Other Professional Activities


Chen also served as Steering Committee Chair of CLTA-SC Fall 2014 Technology Workshop, CSULB, Oct 18, 2014; and participated in the 27th North American Conference on Chinese Linguistics, UCLA, April 3-5, 2015, as well as the CLTA-SC Spring 2015 Chinese Language Pedagogy Workshop, PCC, April 25, 2015.

Sabine Frühstück
Professor, Modern Japanese Cultural Studies

Publications


Presentations & Other Professional Activities


“On the Uses of Children’s Bodies for the Cultural History of Modern Japan.” Invited talk at the University of Virginia, East Asia Center, February 13, 2015.


Organizer of international interdisciplinary conference on Child’s Play: Multi-sensory Histories of Children and Childhood in Japan and Beyond, University of California at Santa Barbara, February 27–28, 2015.


Frühstück has also been interviewed by Asahi Shinbun, one of Japan’s largest newspapers, on the Self-Defense Forces’ new public relations strategies in the wake of their largest deployment in their history following the March 11, 2011 tsunami-earthquake-nuclear disaster in Northeastern Japan (November 2014); Shinano Mainichi, a regional edition of one of Japan’s largest newspapers, about the significance of the Japanese administration’s approval of “the right of collective self-defense” (July 2014); and Thomson Reuters, the global news and information company (January 2014, http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/03/14/uk-japan-military-image-idUKBREA2D04L20140314).

This past year, Frühstück has chaired the Hall Prize Committee for the best book in Japanese Studies published in 2013, awarded by the Association of Asian Studies (2014), and was a member of the NEAC Best Graduate Student Paper Committee, Association for Asian Studies (2014). She has also completed her terms as an elected member of the North East Asia Council, Association for Asian Studies (2012–2015); Director of the Executive Board of the UC Pacific Rim Research Program (2010-2015), and the Board of Trustees, Society for Japanese Studies (2008-2014). She remains on the editorial board of Japan Forum and the advisory board of The Journal of Japanese Studies, and has joined the advisory boards of two book series, “Children, Youth and War” of the University of Georgia Press, and “Transnational Asian Masculinities” of Hong Kong University Press.
ann-elise lewallen  
Assistant Professor, Modern Japanese Cultural Studies

Publications


Presentations & Other Professional Activities


Xiaorong Li  
Associate Professor, Late Imperial Chinese Literature

Presentations & Other Professional Activities

» “Fragrant and Bedazzling: The Poetics of Sensuality in Late Imperial and Modern China.” Invited talk at Indiana University, September 19, 2014.
» “Representing the Feminine ‘Other’: Gu Zhenli’s顧貞立 (1623-1699) Song Lyrics to her Female Friends.” Invited talk at California State University, Los Angeles, April 6, 2015.
» Member for Levenson Book Prize Committee (pre-1900), Association for Asian Studies, 2015-2016.

Hyung-Il Pai  
Professor, Korean History and East Asian Archeology

Publications


Presentations & Other Professional Activities

» Invited final roundtable discussant, Ideas of Asia Museum in the Museum Symposium, Sponsored by the University of Southern California Dornsife, Los Angeles County Museum, and the American Council of Learned Societies, USC, Los Angeles (January 2015).
» The Romance of Kyŏngju’s Ruins: Archaeological Photography and the Tourist Imagination in Colonial Korea, Academy of Korean Studies 7th International Conference, Co-sponsored by the University of Hawaii, Honolulu (November 2014).
» Re-surrecting the Ruins of South Gate: The National Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Excavating the Past in the Republic of Korea, AAS-in Asia Conference-Heritage in Motion. Sponsored by the National Singapore National University and the Association for Asian Studies Joint Conference (July 2014).
Fabio Rambelli
Professor, Japanese Religions and Semiotics
International Shinto Foundation Chair in Shinto Studies

Publications

Presentations & Other Professional Activities
» Presented invited lectures at Munich University, Liverpool Hope University, University of Manchester, at the Nihon Bukkyō Sōgō Kenkyū Gakkai, Tokyo, and the East-West Center, Honolulu; and papers at the International Association for Buddhist Studies (Vienna), European Association for Japanese Studies (Ljubljana), American Academy of Religion (San Diego).

Rambelli is the new series editor of the Shinto Studies Series, Bloomsbury, London and New York; and series co-editor of Semiotics of Religions Series, De Gruyter, Berlin. He is an editorial board member of the journals Monumenta Nipponica, Journal of Religion in Japan, and the e-Journal of East & Central Asian Religions. Rambelli has recently been elected a member of the American Society for the Study of Religion, the Board of Trustees of the International Shinto Studies Association; co-chair of the Economics and Capitalism in the Study of Buddhism Seminar, American Academy of Religion; fellow at the Centre for Asian Studies, University of Groningen; and member of the research group on Buddhism and Religion in Medieval China, Japan and Tibet, East Asian Civilisations Research Center, CRCAO, Paris.

Chikako Shinagawa
Lecturer, Japanese Language

Publications
» iPhone app: Genki Conjugation Cards Exercises for Japanese Verb/Adjective Conjugations (co-authored), The Japan Times, 2015.

Dominic Steavu-Balint
Assistant Professor, Chinese Religions and Chinese Buddhism

Publications

Presentations & Other Professional Activities
» “Buddhist Medicine and the Affairs of the Heart.” Invited presentation, McMaster University, March 2015.
Recent Activities & Publications

Mayfair Yang
Professor, Anthropology and Chinese Religions

Publications


» “Gazing into the Future of Religion and the State in China.” In The Immanent Frame, an academic blog of the Social Science Research Council, New York City, 2013.


» Yang is currently working on two books that are entitled Re-Enchanting Modernity: Ritual Economy & Religious Communities in Coastal China and Religiosity, Sovereignty, & Indigeneous Civil Society in Coastal China.

Presentations & Other Professional Activities


» “Confucianism and Ancestor Worship: Fieldwork in Wenzhou, China,” guest lecture given in the class Comparative Religion, Santa Barbara Community College, March 10, 2014.


» Keynote Speaker, “The Jade Emperor: Sovereign Power, Celestial Bureaucracy, and the Political Theology of the Masses in China,” at the Faculty of Social Sciences, Hong Kong University, September 18, 2014.


» Panel discussant for the panel “Faces of Han Buddhism in Contemporary China: “Placing” Monastics and Laity in Dialogue,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Chicago, November 2012 (Yang’s discussion was read in absentia)


» Invited speaker for the ‘Field of Guanxi Studies’ Conference, Institute of East Asian Studies, University of California, Berkeley, March 6-7, 2015.


» Organized panel on “Political Theologies: Intersections with Secularism, Nationalism, and Other Religions,” at the Society for the Anthropology of Religion Conference, Pasadena, April 11-14, 2013.

» Attended 9th International Confucius Institute Conference, Xiamen University, Xiamen, Fujian, China, December 4-6, 2014.

» Yang is serving as the first Director of the Confucius Institute at UCSB (see the Confucius Institute Report on p. ??). She has been elected to the Board of Society for the Anthropology of Religion (SAR), American Anthropological Association (2013-2015), re-elected for a second term (2015-2017), also served as an Editorial Board member of Review of Religion and Chinese Society.

Hsiao-jung Yu
Professor, Chinese Linguistics

Publications


» “Controlled Processing and Automatic Processing in the Cases of Language Contact in China,” the 6th International Symposium on Studies of Language Contact and the History of Chinese Syntax, Santa Barbara, March 2015.


» “The Atypical Linguistic Features in the Translated Chinese Buddhist Sutras,” The 9th International Conference on the Linguistic Studies of Buddhist Texts, Hokkaido University, Japan, August 2015.


» Visiting Scholar, Centre de Recherches Linguistiques sur l’Asie Orientale (CNRS-EHESS-INALCO), June 22-July 22, 2015

Director, Ph.D. Emphasis in Applied Linguistics, 2015-2017. Applied Linguistics is an interdisciplinary field of research and instruction that provides theoretical and descriptive foundations for the empirical investigation and solution of language-related issues, especially those of language education (first-language, second-language, foreign-language and heritage-language teaching and learning), but also issues of bilingualism and biliteracy, language policy, language assessment, translation and interpretation, lexicography, rhetoric and composition. Graduate students pursuing a Ph.D. degree may add this emphasis at any time. Students may take courses with 21 Affiliated Faculty members from 12 departments and the Program in Comparative Literature on campus (http://www.appliedlinguistics.ucsb.edu/).

Presentations & Other Professional Activities


» “Perspectives from the Qing.” Conference titled “Diplomatic History in a New Interdisciplinary Perspective.” China Foreign Affairs University, Beijing, China, October 2014.

Xiaowei Zheng
Assistant Professor, Modern Chinese History

Publications


» The 9th International Conference on the Linguistic Studies of Buddhist Texts, Hokkaido University, Japan, August 2015.


» Visiting Scholar, Centre de Recherches Linguistiques sur l’Asie Orientale (CNRS-EHESS-INALCO), June 22-July 22, 2015

Presentations & Other Professional Activities


» “Perspectives from the Qing.” Conference titled “Diplomatic History in a New Interdisciplinary Perspective.” China Foreign Affairs University, Beijing, China, October 2014.

University of California, Santa Barbara, Fall 2015
Recent Activities & Publications

Graduate Students

Cara Healey

Publications


Presentations & Other Professional Activities

» “Ecocatastrophe, Cyberpunk, and Lu Xun: Chen Qiufan’s Waste Tide as Bricolage.” Presentation in panel on “Detritus and the Modern City” at the Berkeley-Stanford Graduate Student Conference in Modern Chinese Humanities, Palo Alto, April 2015.

» “Memory and Writing in Wu Ming-yi’s The Man with the Compound Eyes.” Presentation in panel on “Contesting the Nation: Rethinking Visions of the State” at University of Southern California’s “Memory, Moment and Mobility in East Asia” Graduate Conference, Los Angeles, April 2015.

» “Speculations of Ascendency: Imagining China’s Rise Through Science Fiction.” Presentation in panel on “Rising Asia” at the annual meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association, Seattle, March 2015.

» “Speculation and Marginalized Voices in Wu Ming-yi’s Man with the Compound Eyes.” Presentation in panel on “Defining the Self: Genre, Gender, and Nationality in Modern Literature in East Asia” at Columbia University’s Graduate Student Conference on East Asia, New York, February 2015.

» Healey was awarded a Graduate Humanities Research Fellowship (UCSB 2015-2016 Central Continuing Student Fellowship). Congratulations, Cara!

Emily Simpson

Presentations & Other Professional Activities

» Chair of panel on “Siting Memories of the Dead” at UCSB’s “War and Remembrance: Cultural Imprints of Japan’s Samurai Age” Conference, May 2015.


Silke Werth

Publications


Presentations & Other Professional Activities


» “Questioning centralized education: Young Japanese Adults go Global.” Presentation in panel on “Education, War, and Democracy” at the Western Conference of the Association for Asian Studies (WCAAS), Arizona State University, Phoenix, October 2014.

» “Glocalization of lifestyle sports: Californian dreams of Japanese skaters.” Presentation in panel on “The perspective of glocalization: addressing the changing society and culture under globalization” at the conference of the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES with JASCA), Chiba, May 2014.


» Conference organization assistant for “Child’s Play: Multi-sensory Histories of Children and Childhood in Japan and Beyond,” University of California at Santa Barbara, February 27-28, 2015.

» Werth was awarded a UCSB Graduate Division Dissertation Fellowship for Fall 2014. Congratulations, Silke! She is also becoming an accomplished instructor. This past year, Werth has independently taught Japan 150: Globalizing Japan: Culture and Society (Summer 2014) and EACS/ANTH 130B: Anthropology of Japan (Summer 2015).
Keywords in Sound

In twenty essays on subjects such as noise, acoustics, music, and silence, Keywords in Sound presents a definitive resource for sound studies, and a compelling argument for why studying sound matters. Each contributor details their keyword’s intellectual history, outlines its role in cultural, social and political discourses, and suggests possibilities for further research. Keywords in Sound charts the philosophical debates and core problems in defining, classifying and conceptualizing sound, and sets new challenges for the development of sound studies.

Peter Sturman
Professor, Art History
Department of the History of Art and Architecture

Publications

» “Sculptor as Creator: Li Chen and his Soul Guardians” (in French and English), La Légérété Monumentale de Li Chen (Asia Art Center Company, Ltd., 2014), 126-143.


» Chinese Paintings from Japanese Collections, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, CAA Online Reviews (2014).

Presentations & Other Professional Activities


» “Xu Wei’s Calligraphy,” panelist for "The Question of Subject in Wen Tong’s Poetic Ideas," University of California, Santa Barbara, Fall 2015. (October 2014).

» “The Familiar and the Obscure” Folklore and Ethnomusicology Joint University Conference, Indiana University. April 2015.


Novak is the recipient of the prestigious British Forum for Ethnomusicology Book Prize for Japanoise: Music at the Edge of Circulation (Duke UP, 2013) and has received an Honorable Mention, David Plath Media Award, from the Society for East Asian Anthropology, American Anthropological Association for “The Sounds of Japan’s Antinuclear Movement” podcast and online resource.

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» “The Familiar and the Obscure” Folklore and Ethnomusicology Joint University Conference, Indiana University. April 2015.


» “From Music to Noise and Back (and Forth).” Invited talk at Reed College. April 2014.

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» Chinese Paintings from Japanese Collections, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, CAA Online Reviews (2014).
"Child’s Play: Multi-Sensory Histories of Children and Childhood in Japan and Beyond"

February 27-28, 2015

Sabine Frühstück

On February 27-28, EALCS hosted “Child’s Play: Multi-Sensory Histories of Children and Childhood in Japan and Beyond,” an international and interdisciplinary conference organized by Sabine Frühstück with the assistance of Silke Werth, a Ph.D. candidate in EALCS.

The workshop brought together scholars who are currently working on histories of children and childhood primarily in Japan and are also situating these works within a larger transregional, transnational or global context. Ten papers were organized in several sessions on Playing + Games, Visual + Writing Cultures, and Visual Cultures, covered the period from medieval to contemporary Japan, and engaged the methodologies of Religious Studies, History, Anthropology, and Film Studies. The concluding element was a panel discussion with the artist Machida Kumi, cultural critic Dick Hebdige (Art and Film & Media Studies, UCSB), and Jennifer Robertson (Anthropology and History of Art, University of Michigan). A total of about 150 audience members, including students, scholars, and community members, joined the group and addressed questions about how children and childhood have been construed and what roles they have played in cultural production processes from the Edo period to today. Reoccurring questions included the following: What makes a child a child? What constitutes childhood? What was the currency of children for the imperialist regime in early twentieth-century Japan? How do contemporary state institutions, commercial enterprises and other entities mobilize children for political goals and public relations campaigns? We focused on analyses of links across time and space that pay attention to affect, embodiment, and subjectivity, and attempt to rethink theoretical parameters of the study of childhood, gender, and a variety of associated sensibilities.

A number of papers explored such questions as how the boundaries between adulthood and childhood have been historically drawn, what the place of play and games have been in education, and how children have been sexed and gendered in different settings. Koersawa Hiroaki (Otsuma Women’s University) and Jinno Yuki (Kanto Gakuin University), both expert of the history of toys and the commercialization of childhood, for instance, examined how the proliferation of certain toys might serve as an indication for the changes of attitudes towards children and childhood. Lizbeth Halliday Piel (University of Manchester), Elise Edwards (Butler University), and Aaron Moore (Manchester University) explored the role of play for children’s self-determination from outside play during wartime Japan to contemporary children’s soccer. In papers on the visual culture of childhood, Harald Salomon (Humboldt University) analyzed the subversive potential of films that featured children in the 1920s and 1930s, Sabine Frühstück (University of California at Santa Barbara) presented a paper about the rhetorical and visual mobilization of child innocence in twentieth century publications, and Noriko Manabe (Princeton University) addressed the role of children’s culture in anti-nuclear protest in the aftermath of the 2011 triple disaster in Northeastern Japan. Papers by Kathryn Goldfarb (McMaster University) and Teruyama Junko (Tsukuba University) took up socio-medical questions regarding children who are institutionalized in child welfare facilities and treatment centers for autistic children. A panel discussion with artist Machida Kumi, cultural studies expert Dick Hebdige and anthropologist Jennifer Robertson about the place of children in contemporary Japanese art constituted the final component of the conference. An edited volume is in preparation.

In addition to the generous co-sponsorship from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science and UCSB’s Division of Humanities and Fine Arts, the following institutions and university units provided co-sponsorship: The Society for the History of Children and Youth, the Division of Letters and Science, the Interdisciplinary Humanities Center, the East Asian Center, and the departments of Art, East Asian Languages & Cultural Studies, History, Sociology, and Anthropology at the University of California at Santa Barbara.
During the 2014-2015 academic year, the UCSB East Asia Center (EAC) sponsored a series of events that brought a number of scholars and cultural figures to campus. In Fall, EAC invited a group of four filmmakers from China for a mini-film festival highlighting the work of Wu Wenguang’s Memory Project. This multi-day event included screenings of documentary films by Wu Wenguang, Zhang Mengqi, Li Xinmin, and Zou Xueping, panel discussions, post-screening Q & A sessions, and even a performance art piece. The Memory Project uses oral history, documentary film, dance and performance art to document the Great Famine in China of 1958-1962 and open up new avenues for understanding modern Chinese history. During Winter, EAC hosted British documentary film director Matthew Thorne, who screened his documentary film Lessons in Dissent, about student protests in Hong Kong and engaged in an extended dialogue about the film and the 2014 Umbrella Revolution in Hong Kong. Professor Hu Ying from UC Irvine delivered a lecture on “Burying Nie Zheng’s Bones: The Making of Martyrs in 1911 China.” During Spring, award-winning filmmaker and Nanjing University Professor Yishu Yang presented her film One Summer and also gave a special lecture on “The Cultural Revolution in Film.”

In addition to these core events, EAC also co-sponsored numerous other events, including the lectures by Haicheng Wang (University of Washington) on “Writing and the Ancient State,” Alfreda Murck (Independent Scholar) on “Sancification of Mangoes: Symbol Creation in the Cult of Mao Zedong,” Anne Allison (Duke University) on “Greeting the Dead: Managing Solitary Existence in Japan,” Amy Stanley (Northwestern University) on “Maidservants’ Tales: Domestic and Comparative Histories of Women in Early Modern Japan,” and Katarzyna Cwierka (Leiden University) on “The Afterlife of Tokyo’s Landfills.” EAC also co-sponsored the interdisciplinary conference “War and Remembrance: Cultural Imprints of Japan’s Samurai Age” and the international and interdisciplinary conference “Child’s Play: Multi-Sensory Histories of Children and Childhood in Japan and Beyond.” In addition to lecture and conference sponsorship, EAC also hosted an information session for undergraduates interested in the Hopkins-Nanjing Center and awarded Graduate Student Travel Grants in the amount of $300 each to a total of eight UCSB graduate students engaged in research on East Asia. Through scholarly lectures, dialogues with artists and filmmakers, and graduate student funding, the EAC has continued to bring the cultural life of East Asia to life for the larger UCSB community.
In her upcoming book, The Fabric of Indigeneity: Contemporary Ainu Identity and Gender in Colonial Japan, Assistant Professor ann-elise lewallen focuses on Ainu women and their struggles with indigenous identity, and the resulting practice of identity-making. Dr. lewallen has engaged in research and activism with the Ainu community for the last 15 years and the book is the culmination of her scholarship on Ainu issues. EALCS graduate student Ema Parker spoke with Dr. lewallen to learn about her book, its academic contributions, her dedication to the indigenous community, and much more.

Parker: Congratulations! We are excited about your upcoming book The Fabric of Indigeneity. Tell us about the book and some of its key topics.

lewallen: My book focuses on the question of how Ainu women engage in identity-making or what I call “self-craft”. By this, I mean how they create heritage objects, specifically through fabric, cloth and textiles. Within the process of making these textiles, I argue they explore what it means to be Ainu; both in the way of their ancestors, but also in the way they imagine that for contemporary Japan. So I track that process of “self-craft” and making cloth-work across many different spaces.

Parker: You have established strong relations with the Ainu community and your project has a long history. How did you begin studying practices of identity-making?

lewallen: I became interested in this question when I returned to Japan during the summer of 2000. I traveled around Hokkaido and at that point I was very interested in trying to understand the contemporary Ainu cultural revival process that was happening. It wasn’t just confined to Hokkaido, it was happening all over Japan at the time. I went to a mat-weaving workshop (goza) in Tokyo. A widely respected Ainu woman leader in Tokyo had invited her friends from her hometown—a rural town in southern Hokkaido called Urakawa.

I rode the bus out to Chiba from Tokyo and met this group of women. They were excited to be together and the air was filled with raucous laughter and conversation, especially by the elder woman “obāchan” from Hokkaido. To be honest, I could barely understand what she was saying because she spoke with a heavy Hokkaido dialect, mixing Ainu language into her speech. We sat together on the floor and she taught everyone how to twine fiber into cord and then to use that cord as the binding thread to weave together pieces of cattail reed (kama), and using those together they wove a mat.

Just being part of that conversation, or at least, being part of that space I could see that something very powerful was happening. Being able to sit together, to relax and not have to pretend that they were Wajin (ethnic Japanese), they could completely immerse themselves in the language of this elder woman. The room was full of laughter, so much laughter, joy and pure relaxation. Even though you could see they were nervous and clumsy because their fingers weren’t used to doing these delicate tasks, you could sense something inside them being released. It was a liberating moment. So that was one of the “aha” moments of my fieldwork.

I began to comprehend that in these workshop type spaces where Ainu women were coming together from all around Japan, spaces that were not oriented toward public performance, women could explore an ancestral heritage secure from the public gaze.

In Tokyo, you have to remember, these are women, many of whom left Hokkaido after high school, and some after junior high, for two reasons. First, they wanted to get a job—they didn’t have many job opportunities in Hokkaido. And two, they were afraid of racism and discrimination in Hokkaido. They felt the only opportunity for them was to leave Hokkaido and come to Tokyo. But that also meant that many of them completely denied everything about their Ainu ancestry and tried to live their lives as Wajin.

The woman who had organized the mat-weaving workshop was a major leader in the Tokyo Ainu movement from the 1970s, so her story is a little different, but part of what was happening is that by creating this space they were making safe zones for being Ainu. They were forging spaces where women could explore what being Ainu might mean, as well as being open and honest about all of their frustration, anger, stress, and the violence they had experienced—sometimes from their own husbands, most of whom were Wajin. I was very moved by this empowerment, that transformation I saw in that space and that’s what inspired me to begin pursuing this topic.

The Heart of an Interdisciplinary Project

An Interview with Assistant Professor ann-elise lewallen

Interview conducted by Ema Parker

ann-elise lewallen

In her upcoming book, The Fabric of Indigeneity: Contemporary Ainu Identity and Gender in Colonial Japan, Assistant Professor ann-elise lewallen focuses on Ainu women and their struggles with indigenous identity, and the resulting practice of identity-making. Dr. lewallen has engaged in research and activism with the Ainu community for the last 15 years and the book is the culmination of her scholarship on Ainu issues. EALCS graduate student Ema Parker spoke with Dr. lewallen to learn about her book, its academic contributions, her dedication to the indigenous community, and much more.

Parker: Congratulations! We are excited about your upcoming book The Fabric of Indigeneity. Tell us about the book and some of its key topics.

lewallen: My book focuses on the question of how Ainu women engage in identity-making or what I call “self-craft”. By this, I mean how they create heritage objects, specifically through fabric, cloth and textiles. Within the process of making these textiles, I argue they explore what it means to be Ainu; both in the way of their ancestors, but also in the way they imagine that for contemporary Japan. So I track that process of “self-craft” and making cloth-work across many different spaces.

Parker: You have established strong relations with the Ainu community and your project has a long history. How did you begin studying practices of identity-making?

lewallen: I became interested in this question when I returned to Japan during the summer of 2000. I traveled around Hokkaido and at that point I was very interested in trying to understand the contemporary Ainu cultural revival process that was happening. It wasn’t just confined to Hokkaido, it was happening all over Japan at the time. I went to a mat-weaving workshop (goza) in Tokyo. A widely respected Ainu woman leader in Tokyo had invited her friends from her hometown—a rural town in southern Hokkaido called Urakawa.

I rode the bus out to Chiba from Tokyo and met this group of women. They were excited to be together and the air was filled with raucous laughter and conversation, especially by the elder woman “obāchan” from Hokkaido. To be honest, I could barely understand what she was saying because she spoke with a heavy Hokkaido dialect, mixing Ainu language into her speech. We sat together on the floor and she taught everyone how to twine fiber into cord and then to use that cord as the binding thread to weave together pieces of cattail reed (kama), and using those together they wove a mat.

Just being part of that conversation, or at least, being part of that space I could see that something very powerful was happening. Being able to sit together, to relax and not have to pretend that they were Wajin (ethnic Japanese), they could completely immerse themselves in the language of this elder woman. The room was full of laughter, so much laughter, joy and pure relaxation. Even though you could see they were nervous and clumsy because their fingers weren’t used to doing these delicate tasks, you could sense something inside them being released. It was a liberating moment. So that was one of the “aha” moments of my fieldwork.

I began to comprehend that in these workshop type spaces where Ainu women were coming together from all around Japan, spaces that were not oriented toward public performance, women could explore an ancestral heritage secure from the public gaze.

In Tokyo, you have to remember, these are women, many of whom left Hokkaido after high school, and some after junior high, for two reasons. First, they wanted to get a job—they didn’t have many job opportunities in Hokkaido. And two, they were afraid of racism and discrimination in Hokkaido. They felt the only opportunity for them was to leave Hokkaido and come to Tokyo. But that also meant that many of them completely denied everything about their Ainu ancestry and tried to live their lives as Wajin.

The woman who had organized the mat-weaving workshop was a major leader in the Tokyo Ainu movement from the 1970s, so her story is a little different, but part of what was happening is that by creating this space they were making safe zones for being Ainu. They were forging spaces where women could explore what being Ainu might mean, as well as being open and honest about all of their frustration, anger, stress, and the violence they had experienced—sometimes from their own husbands, most of whom were Wajin. I was very moved by this empowerment, that transformation I saw in that space and that’s what inspired me to begin pursuing this topic.
After several more trips during the summers, I returned for my fieldwork from 2004-2005. And I actually went back to live with the same woman who had served as the workshop instructor. She became my host “obāchan” and I lived with her for six months. Next, I moved to Lake Akan in eastern Hokkaido and worked in her daughter’s restaurant. For the final six months I moved to Sapporo and worked with a group of women concerned about how minority and women’s issues intersect. This encounter in the Chiba workshop became the guiding theme for the project. Interestingly, for me it didn’t start in Hokkaido, but became clear in Tokyo and then I traveled to Hokkaido. And this is a reverse of the Ainu pattern of migration to Tokyo.

Parker: This book deals also with gender, race and ethnicity. Which scholarly debates are you most interested in contributing to?

lewallen: This book project is, at its heart, an interdisciplinary project. There are two disciplines with which I see it in conversation. On the one hand I’m trained as a cultural anthropologist, but I work and teach in a Japanese studies position. I intended this book to speak to people in both Japanese (and Asian) studies and indigenous studies. While Japanologists are somewhat acquainted with the Ainu case, Japanese studies literature has predominantly focused on studies of the Ainu in historical perspective or as ethnographic studies from the 1950s, 1960s, or 1970s. Instead in my book I focus on self-craft as a contemporary expression of Japanese identity. At the same time, I question the periodization of Japanese history, which conventionally marks the start of Japan’s colonial project with Taiwan in 1895. Instead, I urge readers to think critically about how gender shapes our view of history by looking at how Ainu women were colonized under the institution of the “local wives” policy, whereby they were compelled to marry Wajin settlers in the 18th century.

The second field the book addresses is indigenous studies, a newer field, wherein scholars study indigenous movements, politics, and communities around the world. Yet up until now, most of that conversation has focused on the Americas, Hawaii, the Pacific, Australia and New Zealand. There has also been some attention to South America, but very little attention to Africa and Asia. While there are many complex historical reasons for this, the flows of people across Asia are old and quite diverse, making it difficult for ethnically distinct communities to make an argument that they are indigenous. It’s more difficult in an Asian context than it is in perhaps Canada, or North America, or even Hawaii, New Zealand, or Australia, because there isn’t one clear settler population, but many settler populations—many waves of migration over time.

However, in the Ainu case I think it’s quite clear that Japanese settler colonialism is the most recent major historical shift that has transformed Ainu lives. I wanted this book to interrupt this narrative that one cannot be Asian and indigenous, which is the reigning argument in China, India, Indonesia, and much of Asia. Ultimately I hoped to situate Japan’s continued claims of Japan’s homogeneity and its recent celebration of (immigrant-focused) multiculturalism in dialogue with the diversity of expressions of Ainu vitality in contemporary Japan.

One of my central concerns is the question of indigenous modernity, and this one is a little more complex because some scholars in indigenous studies urge that this is a non-issue. They argue that indigenous peoples have always been modern, so there’s nothing new about “indigenous modernity”—and that indigenous peoples have always been incorporating strategically from their surroundings. And while I agree with them, I feel it’s important to acknowledge that because there is a historical rhetoric of nihonjinron or theories of Japaneseness in Japan—this idea that at the core of being Japanese is having Japanese blood, identity and values—ethnic diversity in Japan has been seen as an anomaly. And that story erases Ainu presence as a part of Japan. This narrative I relate, that of Ainu women recreating what it means to be Ainu is a story about survival, it’s a story of indigenous modernity and it’s a story that changes the way we understand Japan and indigenous peoples in the world.

lewallen: I’m a cultural anthropologist and I chose to do this as an ethnographic field study, meaning that I designed it with the participant observation approach as my chief methodology. I also envisioned it as a multi-sited project; in an urban and rural setting and a tourist town setting. I was fortunate in being able to live with one of my main collaborators and the person who becomes the center of the book, my Ainu obāchan. In the text, everything flows

Tōyama Saki, Lewallen’s adopted grandmother and Ainu host, is pictured here in front of her garden with her daughter Hori Etsuko and a two-legged daikon radish that sprouted amidst the gravel. Lewallen explained that this radish’s life-force, evident in its determination to thrive despite the gravel choking its roots, was an apt symbol of Tōyama’s refusal to let go of her Ainu ancestral ways, by passing them down to her daughters and granddaughters. continues on page 25
from her network of relations but also from her philosophy and worldview of what it means to be Ainu.

I sought to honor the words and perspectives of the Ainu people, who are at the heart of the study. And really that is what the ethnographic approach is all about. So my strategy was to listen to their stories and look for patterns that I could identify in their approach to crafting what it means to be Ainu in 21st century Japan. The theoretical argument of my book emerged from the themes I saw threaded through these narratives. This is a grounded theory approach, and I allowed that theory to percolate up from the ground, from Ainu experiences.

That was my approach, but the reality is that, like many indigenous communities, some indigenous scholars have said that the word “research” is the dirtiest word in the indigenous world’s vocabulary. Ainu have had an invasive, oftentimes devastating relationship with researchers over many decades. So when I arrived and introduced myself as an anthropologist, many people did not want to interact with me. As such I had committed to building collaborative relationships with Ainu that were useful to them. No infrequently I experienced “ethnographic refusal,” meaning that I would run into Ainu friend or contact with whom I thought I had developed a good relationship, and then suddenly, they would refuse to interact with me. They just refused. I understand why this happened, because there has been so much invasive presence in those communities, including, for example, the practice of grave-robbing (1890s-1970s). This has long been a problem for researchers. As such I’ve become very interested in questions of research ethics and methodologies. That was my approach, but the reality is that, like many indigenous scholars, some indigenous scholars have said that the word “research” is the dirtiest word in the indigenous world’s vocabulary. Ainu have had an invasive, oftentimes devastating relationship with researchers over many decades. So when I arrived and introduced myself as an anthropologist, many people did not want to interact with me. As such I had committed to building collaborative relationships with Ainu that were useful to them. No infrequently I experienced “ethnographic refusal,” meaning that I would run into Ainu friend or contact with whom I thought I had developed a good relationship, and then suddenly, they would refuse to interact with me. They just refused. I understand why this happened, because there has been so much invasive presence in those communities, including, for example, the practice of grave-robbing (1890s-1970s). This has long been a problem for researchers. As such I’ve become very interested in questions of research ethics and methodologies and how we can change the way we do ethnography to make it more respectful and more useful to the communities being researched.

Unconsented looting of Ainu ancestral burial sites by ethnic Japanese researchers is reminder of the violence of academic colonialism and early interactions between Japanese academics and Ainu communities.


Parker: Looking forward, what are projects your are currently working on?

Iewallen: In the aftermath of the Fukushima nuclear disaster in March 2011, I’ve been very interested in how the Ainu community is responding to the question of nuclear power in Japan. I’ve also been interested in the entire nuclear cycle from cradle to grave, meaning everything from uranium mining to disposal of nuclear waste. Because it turns out that much of the uranium mining and many of the nuclear waste disposal sights are located on indigenous land. So I am trying to understand how Ainu in Japan are connected with indigenous people overseas through their anti-nuclear activism, especially after Fukushima.

Many Ainu, like the rest of Japan, had not paid any attention to nuclear power before the Fukushima Daiichi disaster. But Fukushima shook people from their complacency. Many Ainu are connected to this question of post-Fukushima Japan both as anti-nuclear activists but also as indigenous peoples, because they recognize that they consume electricity in Japan that is being produced by indigenous peoples in other countries. They are becoming more and more concerned about that relationship. So, specifically I want to focus on Japan’s new post-Fukushima nuclear diplomacy, whereby Japan is now trying to export nuclear reactors to developing nations. I am particularly interested in the India-Japan nuclear relationship, because India is now trying to develop much of its energy from nuclear power, and the uranium mining in India is located on indigenous land.

As part of that, I want to understand how civil society around Japan (including Ainu) and India, is using this idea of irradiated bodies (kaku-higaisha) as a site of transnational protest. Both irradiated bodies, as in bodies that are being contaminated by nuclear radiation, but also the idea that you can choose not to ingest nuclear into your body by giving up everything in your life that requires electricity. For example, my Ainu friends have given away their most basic electrical appliances, including their microwaves, their rice cookers and some have even given up their refrigerators. They live without a refrigerator, without a microwave, without a rice maker. They still use their smart phones and their computer, but they are trying to give up everything else. This is a trend I am seeing among Fukushima evacuees as well. They recognize that their dependence on energy produced this disaster and they want to change their lifestyle. There are two primary ways the body is involved. In the first, the body becomes a site of contamination. In the second, the body becomes a site of consumption. In the next project I will focus on issues of the material impacts of nuclearity in the body and the circulation of transnational resistance through civil society formations.

Parker: That sounds fascinating! We look forward to hearing more about this project in the Reinventing ‘Japan’ Research Focus Group that you will be co-coordinating this year on the topic of “Methodologies of the Margins.” Thank you for sharing these insights!
Emotional Citizenship and the (Performance) Art of Decentralizing Korean History

An Interview with Professor Suk-Young Kim

Interview conducted by Kai Wasson

EALCS graduate student Kai Wasson spoke with Suk-Young Kim, Professor of Theater and Dance and EALCS affiliate, about her award-winning book, *DMZ Crossing: Performing Emotional Citizenship Along the Korean Border*. The book won the Outstanding Book Award for 2015 from the Association for Theatre in Higher Education. Kim bases her narrative on the absurdity of the creation of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), which was arbitrarily established without even a moment’s consideration of the effect it would have on the peninsula’s inhabitants. It’s establishment forced families to separate and, since the end of the Korean War, has become one of the most heavily fortified borders in the world. The very impossibility of crossing the DMZ, along with its division through the center of what was once undeniably a single nation, has made the DMZ itself a site where imaginaries of the other side manifested themselves. It has become what Marvin Carlson would call a “haunted stage.” Kim presents people who cross the DMZ, in both real life and in dramatic productions in a range of media, as performers of lingering war trauma, performers who demonstrate a decentralized concept of citizenship that cannot be entirely contained by either the North or South Korean states. Rather than indicating the shared duties and rights of members of a particular state, Kim’s use of “emotional citizenship” privileges the experiences of kinship engraved on bodily senses and emotional registers—an intuitive sense of belonging.

With this conceptual lens in mind, each chapter of the book centers on a particular medium that features the transgression of the DMZ, beginning with stage-play, film, documentary, museum exhibition and, finally, the ethnographic survey of the DMZ area. Each chapter contains two case studies, each comprised of a cultural production, one from South Korea, the other from the North. Due to South Korean citizens being legally prevented from entering North Korea, Dr. Kim could not conduct an equivalent ethnography of a North Korean DMZ peace park, so her final chapter only contains a case study situated in the South. Additionally, the book’s narrative follows a chronological order, reflecting both the effects of the passage of time on the emotional politics of the DMZ as well as the technological advancements in cultural productions that have also affected the imaginaries of the other side of the border.

Wasson: As a first year graduate student I am beginning to appreciate how much dedicated work, time, and sacrifice goes into writing a book. Your book reads as if carrying out this project was an intimate and personal journey. What motivated you to write this book?

Kim: Well, you see, that was the question I was wondering myself. You know, you have to write a preface, and that’s where you have to lay out why you do what you do. But with this project, my purpose was very hard to pinpoint. With other projects I could easily tell what it is. I think, partly because this one was so personal, it didn’t feel like work. It just felt like life. It’s almost like asking, “Well, when did you start living, or when did you start thinking?” There were certainly some bumps along the way that really made me want to write this book. I believe that one of the moments when I really felt a debt to our history and really felt that urge to tell the history on other people’s behalf probably emerged around 2000. I was a graduate student in Chicago and they had local Korean cable channels. I was just randomly flipping channels and there was this reunion of North and South Koreans. We are very used to seeing that scene. We all learn how to sing, “reunification is our dream,” even as children, without even knowing what it means. Somehow, that really struck a nerve, even though it’s such an old topic in Korea. So, when you’re in Korea you don’t see the absurdity of this forced separation of family members so viscerally, but if you kind of remove yourself from that immediate historical context you somehow see it differently. And so, in this moment, it really somehow got to me. A second reason that somehow really pushed me to actually write this book was when my colleague and friend Sue Ellen Case at UCLA invited me to come and talk about Korean reunification and how performance captures its memory. Those were two moments when I really felt like I had to write this book.

Wasson: I am currently working on hate speech and racism directed at Koreans in Japan, and your discussion of the relationship between citizenship and emotion really struck me as productive in explaining the stakes of historical memory and understanding in this context. Could you talk about how you came to use “emotional citizenship” in this book?

Kim: Sure! That’s probably the only theory I rely on. It’s not a theoretical book; it’s a very personal book, as you said. But, I think it speaks very strongly to me because as a person who has lived in different countries, not only in Korea and the U.S., but in other countries as well, I understand that citizenship, as endorsed and articulated by the state, has so much less meaning than how you identify yourself as being a part of something. I was desperately looking for some kind of concise and memorable concept to capture this emotional baggage that we carry whenever we travel as diasporic subjects in history. I stumbled upon this very short article by a human geographer. Her name is Elaine Ho. In her very short article, she used this term “emotional citizenship,” and it truly captured what I was trying to delve into. In this case, emotional is also a differentiated word from “affect,” which we often circulate in humanities and social science. I wanted to make it as personal as possible with this term “emotional.” I think the difference that we can lay out as scholars between affect and emotion is that affect has this socially regulated dimension to it, whereas emotion is something more irrational, something more uncontrolled, something that is more difficult to explain for that reason. So, I wanted to go with emotion rather than affect. And, “citizenship” is a term that is more problematic because, if you think about Korean language, as I say in my preface, it doesn’t translate well into either/or, at least for South Korean definitions of citizenship. So, I wanted to make it clear that it is what an individual subject claims in that moment in history, rather than how it has been articulated by both states of Korea. You know, I am still not quite satisfied with that second part of the term, “citizenship,” but that was as close as I could get, in terms of trying to circulate my ideas through certain terminology. Terms are not perfect, unfortunately.

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Exploration of the emotional effects and commemoration of war are central to many pre-modern Japanese cultural forms and practices, from the beginning of what we refer to as “medieval” Japan (roughly the 13th through the 16th centuries) to the end of the early modern period (1603–1867; also known as the Tokugawa or Edo Period). The almost seven hundred years of the “age of the samurai” began with a heightened sense of instability related to the advent of wars and military control, and ended with a final two centuries of relative peace and stability, when samurai still ruled but no longer engaged in war.

On May 8, 2015, EALCS hosted a one-day conference, “War and Remembrance: Cultural Imprints of Japan’s Samurai Age” to address cultural legacies of war over these seven centuries. The conference presenters were an interdisciplinary group of scholars of medieval and early modern Japanese literature, history, religion, and performing arts and included professors Tom Hare (Comparative Literature, Princeton University), Hank Glassman (East Asian Studies, Haverford College), William Fleming (East Asian Languages & Literatures and Theatre Studies, Yale University), Elizabeth Oyler (East Asian Languages & Cultures, University of Illinois), Satoko Shimazaki (East Asian Languages & Cultures, USC), Luke Roberts (History, UCSB), Fujita Takanori (Ethnomusicology, Kyoto City University of Arts), and Katherine Saltzman-Li (EALCS, UCSB).

Preceded by opening comments from Interdisciplinary Humanities Center Director Susan Derwin, EALCS Chair Fabio Rambelli, and conference organizer Katherine Saltzman-Li, the presentations were organized into three panels, each followed by a Q&A: Narrating and Performing War Memories, Siting Memories of the Dead, and War and Peace. The papers for Narrating and Performing War Memories addressed methods in which war-related memories were performed in stage arts (noh and kabuki) and the important functions these performance moments carried dramatically. The presentations for Siting Memories of the Dead addressed literary and concrete sites of remembrance for the dead, especially fallen war dead. Finally, in the panel War and Peace, presenters considered the place of war in the cultural production of the early modern period, when actual war was an experience of the past, and yet the values – real or constructed – of samurai wartime behavior still maintained their hold. Panel chairs (Elizabeth Oyler, EALCS graduate student Emily Simpson, and Katherine Saltzman-Li) led discussions...
following each group of papers, and the day ended with a final period of comments and discussion on all presentations (led by Fabio Rambelli).

What was special about this conference other than our wonderful presenters and their papers? It was widely interdisciplinary, and cross-period, allowing presenters and audience alike to consider a range of important “cultural imprints” from the centuries of samurai rule. Under a broad thematic and temporal umbrella, the individually thought-provoking presentations combined productively, connecting in expected and unexpected ways and leading participants to fruitful discussion for future collaboration. An edited volume of the papers delivered at the conference is planned. For those interested in abstracts of the individual papers, please visit the conference website at: http://samuraiwarmemories.weebly.com

In closing, thanks are due to several EALCS students who contributed their talents to the event: graduate students Emily Simpson and Suzy Cincone, and undergraduate student Alisa Kubota. Finally, the conference was sponsored by several campus units and departments – College of Letters and Science, Interdisciplinary Humanities Center, East Asia Center, EALCS, Theater & Dance, Comparative Literature, History – as well as the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission and the Northeast Asia Council of the Association for Asian Studies. We gratefully acknowledge their generosity, without which this stimulating gathering could not have taken place.
Robert L. Backus, professor emeritus of Japanese literature, passed away at Cottage Hospital, Santa Barbara, on November 13, 2014. He was eighty-six years old.

Backus received his Ph.D. in Oriental Languages from the University of California at Berkeley in 1963 and joined UCSB in 1966. He taught classical Japanese and was in charge of the Japanese Program until he formally retired in January of 1993. Subsequently, the Department recalled him every year to teach two courses per year until 2009. Backus’ primary field was Japanese intellectual history. His monograph, The Riverside Counselor’s Stories: Vernacular Fiction of Late Heian Japan (Stanford University Press, 1985), a translation of the stories of the Tsuchumi chūnagon monogatari from the Heian period (794-1185), was hailed as a “graceful literary translation.” Among others, the ten short tales include parodies of high romance, medieval rhetoric, and scenes from the life of children.

An expert on Confucianism in Tokugawa Japan, Backus also pursued a range of other research interests in classical Japanese language and literature and offered a wide variety of courses in early and modern Japanese language, literature and culture. Early on, his institutional efforts were focused on increasing the stature of what then was the Japanese Program and the Oriental Section of the former Department of Germanic, Oriental and Slavic Languages and Literatures. Together with a handful of other faculty members Backus was instrumental in the eventual split from the European components of the original department and the foundation of the current Department of East Asian Languages & Cultural Studies Department.

In addition to his research and writing, he continued to tirelessly train several cohorts of graduate students in individual sessions on the most difficult premodern texts. Many of them will remember him warmly for years to come. Upon hearing about his passing, Matthew Mewhinney, one of Backus’s disciples and now a Ph.D. student at Berkeley, said, “Professor Backus inspired me to become a scholar and teacher of Japanese literature. He helped me understand the subtleties of the Japanese language, and taught me the importance of having a strong foundation in classical Chinese. His attention to philology and his passion for ‘getting it right’ has made me a better translator. I will always remember his patience as a mentor and friend.”

Likewise, Kirsten Ziomek who had also studied under Backus before earning her Ph.D. in History and accepting a position as Assistant Professor of East Asian History at Adelphi University in 2013, remembers him as a “teacher who had infinite patience and kindness when he taught. He loved the Japanese language and inspired students to not be satisfied with translations that just got the point across, but rather encouraged students to try get as close as possible to conveying the spirit or essence of the original text through the careful selection of words. Professor Backus went above and beyond for his students and was always there to help us with our studies. He also had a good sense of humor, which made learning from him enjoyable. I am so grateful for all his help over the years and miss him terribly.”

Even after Backus no longer felt energetic enough to return to the university for teaching, he served for another five years as a research professor with the Center for Taiwan Studies at UCSB. He and colleagues and former students in EALCS and Beyond.

Backus’s numerous publications and translations include the following:

- “Matsudaira Sadanobu and Samurai Education,” In 18th Century Japan, ed. C. Andrew Gerstle (Sydney: Allen & Unwin), pp. 132-152.
In 2013, EALCS's first Ph.D. in East Asian Languages & Cultural Studies, Dr. Jingyu (Joy) Huo, has landed a position as an Assistant Professor of Chinese at Earlham College (Richmond, Indiana), where she has been teaching Chinese language, linguistics, and cinema for the past year. In an online interview, her former dissertation director, Professor Hsiao-Jung Yu, has asked about her experience thus far.

INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY HSIAO-JUNG YU

Yu: What is your current position?

Huo: I am an Assistant Professor of Chinese at Earlham College and, since July, have also been serving as the Associate Director of the Chinese Flagship Program at Indiana University.

Yu: What was your dissertation about?

Huo: In my dissertation, I analyzed functions of the bèi-construction in contemporary Chinese and its pedagogical implications.

Yu: What courses have you been teaching at Earlham College?

Huo: At my first job as an Assistant Professor, I taught Chinese language courses at the beginning and intermediate levels, Introduction to Chinese Culture, Introduction to Chinese Cinema, Introduction to Linguistics, and Chinese Calligraphy.

Yu: Two years past your Ph.D., how do you think should Ph.D. candidates prepare themselves for the academic job market?

Huo: I recommend frequently checking The Professor Is In (http://theprofessorisin.com/) where Ph.D. candidates will find invaluable advice and personal stories, which are handy and inspiring.

Yu: If you were speaking to a current EALCS graduate student about to enter the job market, what would you advise?

Huo: Be versatile. Whether you teach at a major university or a liberal arts college, usually you will be expected to teach a range of courses besides those involving your primary research interest. Taking the language pedagogy major as an example, some schools are now asking their language lecturers (yes, not only Assistant Professors) to teach content courses such as Chinese Linguistics/Grammar, Chinese Society, Chinese Film, etc. If you look at job advertisements for Chinese literature or cultural studies positions, specialists of language instruction are in high demand. While still in graduate school, try to TA both language and content courses if possible. If you are currently doing research or are writing your dissertation, think about what courses you may be able to create out of your reading list and draft a sample syllabus.

Keeping connected with your peers and helping each other is another way to expand your horizon. When I made my Chinese Cinema syllabus, I received great help from Qian Yang who majors is Chinese Literature and Cinema at UCSB. In turn, I helped someone else with preparing their language teaching demo. The East Asian Colloquium may be a good place to help each other with the creation of sample syllabi. This will help you prepare for one question at your job interview: What courses can you offer besides … (your primary field or sub-field of research)?

Yu: What have you found most challenging about transitioning from being a graduate student to becoming a faculty member?

Huo: Thank you for this question. It gives me an opportunity to reflect on the past two years of my life. If I could use one word to answer this question, it probably would be “expectations.” As graduate students, we attend classes, do a lot of reading, write papers, re-write them, TA for professors, work to meet deadlines, etc. You may think professors are harsh and life is hard. You might even be rolling your eyes and think, “What are you talking about? We don’t have a life!” Yes, it seemed hard then, but in retrospect, I personally think I was well guided and protected by my professors and graduate peers. Their expectation was simply to see me succeed in my academic work. (They want me to live a happy life too, but I guess I should keep it a secret. Shhh). Being a graduate student also means that you are allowed (if not expected) to make mistakes and you will be easily forgiven most of the time.

Based on my limited experience, when you become a faculty member, it seems like you hit your eighteenth birthday all over again. Suddenly, you are deprived of all the privileges of being taken care of. Now it is your turn to stand on your own feet and take on a whole new set of responsibilities. Besides teaching and research, you might be expected to participate in student advising, program promotion, co-curricular activities, service, and community building if you work at a small private college. You might also be asked to teach courses that are not entirely within your domain of expertise. These expectations are placed upon you seemingly under the assumption that you are an all-capable individual and that you will fulfill each and every task flawlessly and effortlessly. You can ask your senior colleagues for advice and mentoring, but there is no single person who is your designated advisor or protector.

At times, this can be exciting and terrifying. Again, this is just my experience at one college. Sometimes I remind myself of the first semester in graduate school. Wasn’t I nervous? Weren’t there also moments when I thought I could not handle this much work? How often have I thought about quitting? But I made it! We never know our strength and potential until we are challenged.
Several members of the Humanities & Social Sciences Administrative Support Center primarily or exclusively support EALCS faculty and students. Briefly featured individually below, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for doing so much every day throughout the year to help us fulfill the mission of EALCS, namely research and teach about the civilizations of China, Japan and Korea in all their richness and diversity. Thank you, AJ, Bob, Kate, Kelly, Ra, Ruby, and Todd!

Ruby Gutierrez says that the most rewarding aspect of her job as Undergraduate Advisor and Graduate Program Assistant for the Department is the day-to-day interactions with the students. One of the things she admires the most about EALCS is that each faculty and lecturer is very caring and supportive of their students. While handling two different roles has definitely been a balancing act, Gutierrez considers all highs and lows in the past two years great learning experiences. Outside of work, she enjoys strength training, outdoor jogging, reading, and taking naps at the beach.

AJ Hinojosa, our resident IT staff, provides IT administration, website management, and drop in technical support for the Department as well as three others (Classics, History, and Religious Studies). Being an individual who enjoys wearing many “hats” in his work, he embraces the chance to balance a wide range of duties between several departments. While his technical inclinations extend to his personal interest in modifying his and his friends’ cars, he also thoroughly enjoys recharging “off-line” – frequently making excursions to the wilderness of Yosemite National Park, Sequoia National Forest, and Colorado.

According to Todd Humphreys, the Manager of Academic Personnel & Financial Services, the EALCS faculty’s myriad set of requests never seems routine. A good day in his book is when AJ Hinojosa, Website Manager & I.T. Specialist, swings over Yosemite Valley.
everything goes seamlessly without unforeseen surprises, and everyone gets exactly what they want. Of course, this hardly ever happens but new challenges are what keep life interesting. Humphreys enjoys the academic environment and being surrounded by so many leading experts. Each brings deep insights to their respective fields of study. Away from his desk, Humphreys enjoys soccer (especially the international tournaments) and fondly remembers a wonderful trip through Japan for the 2002 World Cup.

Kelly Mellon is the department’s Academic Personnel Coordinator. She really enjoys working at UCSB and with the department’s diverse group of faculty members. Mellon is responsible for all personnel related processes and actions including Leaves, Merit/Promotion Cases, Visas, Temporary Appointments/Research Visitors, Recruitment/Appointments, and Salaries. Since EALCS has more visas than is typical in other humanities and social sciences departments at UCSB, she has been able to learn a lot about different visa types and application procedures. Processing visas always keeps you on your toes (with ever changing deadlines and processing requirements), but it makes it the more rewarding when a visa is approved. In her free time one will likely find Mellon in a comfy spot with her nose in a book, her eye to the viewfinder of a camera, or volunteering with a local YMCA Youth and Government Program.

Kate Tustin’s duties as Financial Coordinator include budget tracking, reimbursements, honorarium payments, fund management, general ledger reconciliation, Gateway and Flex Card purchases, staff position payroll, transfer of funds and expenses, and a host of related tasks. While balancing two departments, East Asian Languages & Cultural Studies and Classics, can be challenging, Tustin finds helping the departments stay on budget rewarding. Her favorite activity off work is the theater – on stage, acting!

Bob Ortega is the Director of the Center. He has been part of the UCSB campus for over 28 years. Ortega’s role is to oversee the administrative support of four departments in the Humanities and Fine Arts Division with regards to their academic and research missions, and work hand in hand with the department chairs. He experiences every day as an opportunity to learn build a spirit of collaboration between staff, faculty and students. While each department has its unique culture, Ortega acknowledges that EALCS is a department on the rise. With it comes the challenge of managing that growth, often times with limited resources. The rewarding aspects of this are seeing the satisfaction that derives from the successes of faculty and students. Away from campus, Ortega has many hobbies, including cycling, photography and two classic automobiles that he maintains. He is a passionate fan of college football and basketball and is loyal to the LAA Angels and his alma mater, USC.
Kim: That is a very tough question. I also feel like it is irresponsible for somebody like me to just claim that this is how it is going to be. I really think that the story belongs to people who have been in this place and are anxious about this historical amnesia that the whole nation is going through. But, if I can just humbly say my own limited view on this, it is quite alarming to see how younger generations, of South Koreans at least, are completely willing and ready to forget about all of this. I think that, once the war generation goes away and people who have never experienced war or have never had parents or grandparents who had firsthand experience of war it is going to be very difficult to reconcile why we are one nation and one people. I mean, we know it, from top-down education that, yes, reunification should take place for Korea, there is no question about that. But, emotionally, and out of personal urge or communal urge to really reconcile, I do not think it is there anymore for younger generation. I don’t think that longing for the other is there anymore. If you look at South Korean youth nowadays, they are incredibly indifferent, they are sick of it. I mean, for good reason. Having lived through the Cold War, at least their parents have, North Korea is not something that we openly want to talk about, you know, it’s a painful past that you want to put aside and move on. So, it’s going to be very difficult to argue for notions such as emotional citizenship once the war generation has passed away.

Wasson: It seems as if these two states are becoming completely different nations.

Kim: They really are. Even if Korea were to be reunited, the cultural shock of having to live with each other will just be hard to fathom. In my previous book, I worked with Korean refugees quite extensively. If you look at geographic locations, Seoul and Pyongyang are about only one hundred miles apart. It’s like going from Santa Barbara to LA, it’s a very short distance. But, this long-lasting division has turned people of what used to be the same nation into totally different subjects. It’s going to be quite shocking; it is going to be utterly shocking. You can already see that in North Korean settlers who end up in South Korea, they are struggling tremendously because it is such a culturally alien society. Even though they can communicate using the same language, we have turned into two different nation-states.

Wasson: You utilize different methodologies and different primary sources in each chapter from stage plays, to film, documentaries, museums, and finally, an autoethnography in the South Korean DMZ Peace Park. The book also flows in chronological order, which I thought lent a great sense of integration and consistency in a narrative that could have otherwise seemed disjointed. What led you to utilize this approach of drawing from so many different types of sources as well as disciplines?

Kim: It’s just the nature of my field. Performance studies is incredibly interdisciplinary. As far as you’re focused on the staging of human behavior and why we stage ourselves the way we do and how we craft our persona in the public sphere, you can really talk about any subject in humanities and social sciences. Performance studies is a voracious and very interdisciplinary field, and I feel very comfortable working in this trans-medial way. That journey is always very exciting. Why certain things translate a certain way in film as opposed to the stage as opposed to page, it’s just embedded in the discipline. The reason why I organized it in chronological order is because, in the past sixty years, so many different turning points have transformed our imaginations. It really has significantly changed a lot. And now, unfortunately, we seem to be reverting back to, well, I guess we can call it a “new Cold War” nowadays. I just wanted to show the ups and downs of different imaginations about the other side of the border. I thought the best way to do that is in a chronological arrangement. The reason why I chose those particular case studies is because I wanted to delve into sources that have not been tapped into too often. For example, in the film chapter, probably the most prominent film about border crossing, at least in South Korean film industry, is not the one that I chose. But that black and white film, DMZ, is almost forgotten in film history, just like the memories of the other Korea are sometimes being very aggressively wiped away from our historical memory. I just wanted to bring light to less studied cases and talk about those issues that show different imaginaries of North Korea and South Korea.

Wasson: My final question: How does this book fit into the current scholarship on the Koreas?

Kim: Well, I do think that it definitively has a unique position within the field. When you talk about the DMZ, the first thing that comes to mind is security, international relations, economic crisis in North Korea, and the entirety of the scholarship on the Korean War. Literary Studies also has focused a lot on works that address the division. However, what else is there? I really wanted to think about the niche that hasn’t been tapped into; otherwise, what is the point of repeating what other people have done already? I thought, this is a border that is so impossible to cross. Nobody crosses it freely. Yet, this is a border that so many people want to cross, at least among the war generation. How do we reconcile this gap? I thought, how about we look at the imaginaries of how we cross it, or how we do not want to cross it, especially in different venues where these imaginaries manifest themselves. That’s why I wanted to look into museums, tourism, and different sites where these imaginaries tend to really fly wild. I believe that my book is probably the first one to really tap into cultural studies as a discipline in thinking about different types of Cold War history by centering on the DMZ. As far as the border is concerned in Korean Studies, it’s really hard to talk about without mentioning the hardcore social science approach. Not that that’s wrong, but not all scholarship in Korean Studies has to take that line. I wanted to tap into that niche and really show decentralized perspective on our history. So much of the history of division taps into jaded rhetoric about who crossed it first, how the border shifted during the conflict, how Chinese intervention affected this. We have studied it for so long, so it’s time for a new field to open up different perspectives on how we memorialize it, especially from a much more personal and visceral point of view.

Wasson: What is the next project that you’re working on?

Kim: I am working on South Korean pop culture and its global reach through “K-Pop,” as well as its symbiotic relationship with digital culture. One of the reasons why I decided to shift to South Korean pop culture was to create a counterpart to my first book, Illusive Utopia, which looks into how the state produced propaganda performances intersect with everyday life practices in North Korea. The current book is looking into South Korea’s pop culture, which is also heavily manipulated by mass media. DMZ Crossing is a bridge between these two books.

Wasson: Thank you so much for sharing your thoughts and, again, congratulations on this prestigious award!

Wasson: If only they were! You discuss this paradoxical tension between each state’s use of hatred for the other regime as a way to legitimize its own rule, which then goes against citizens’ desires for reunification and for overcoming this hatred. As you said, it seems so absurd. I wonder what your thoughts are as we move forward. As more people who lived through the partition of the peninsula, or those peoples’ children, as they pass away, how is this going to affect the emotional politics that surround the DMZ?

Kim: That is a very tough question. I also feel like it is irresponsible for somebody like me to just claim that this is how it is going to be. I really think that the story belongs to people who have been in this place and are anxious about this historical amnesia that the whole nation is
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The Department of East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies is committed to providing students with the opportunity to understand the many facets of East Asian cultures, including (but not limited to) languages, literature, history, society, politics, economics, religiosities, media, and art. In a world of increasing international cooperation and globalization, students will be prepared to face a society in which Asia is now a significant factor in the foreign relations of the United States, and the rest of the world.

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