

MY CHOICE!

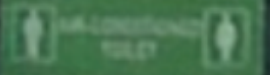


**MARCOS
PRESIDENT**

*sama-sama tayong
babangon muli*



DRIVER'S
REWARDS



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Annual Report

2022-2023

Academic Year

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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

The future of democracy across Asia remained an urgent global priority in the 2022-23 academic year. The Varieties of Democracy (V-DEM) project reports that, in 2022, the Asia-Pacific region showed the most dramatic global decline in democracy, returning “to levels last recorded in 1978.” India, Thailand, Myanmar, and Afghanistan were among the world leaders in growing authoritarianism in V-DEM data. China remains a robust regional influence.

At the same time, movements for democracy and rights persist in the region. In Sri Lanka, protesters forced President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to leave office. In Malaysia, longtime opposition politician Anwar Ibrahim ascended to the Prime Minister’s office after decades of political persecution. Local elections in Taiwan showed the resilient energy of its democratic institutions.

The mission of the Center for Asian Democracy, established in 2006, is to promote research, student opportunities, and community engagement that advances our understanding of democracy in this diverse region. The 2022-23 academic year saw CAD return to extensive activities advancing scholarship, teaching and policy engagement. This report details those activities.



DR. DAVID BUCKLEY

CAD Director

Paul Weber Endowed Chair of
Politics, Science & Religion

The Center for Asian Democracy's Annual Lecture on Asian Democracy is a flagship event bringing leading thinkers, writers, activists, and diplomats to discuss pressing topics in democratization in the region. The event brings the University of Louisville together with the general public and frequently involves collaboration with local institutional partners.

Prof. Sheila Coronel, Columbia Journalism School *Democracy, Disinformation, and the Struggle for Historical Memory*

Sheila Coronel is a global leader in investigative journalism regarding democracy. She began reporting in the Philippines during the twilight of the Marcos dictatorship, when she wrote for the underground opposition press. As Marcos lost power and press restrictions eased, she reported on human rights abuses, the growing democracy movement, and the election of Corazon Aquino as president. In 1989 Coronel and her colleagues founded the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism. Under Coronel's leadership, the Center became a leading investigative reporting institution in the Philippines and Asia. In 2003, Coronel won Asia's premier prize, the Ramon Magsaysay Award. She is now Director of the Toni Stabile Center for Investigative Journalism at Columbia University School of Journalism.



Coronel's lecture addressed the recent election of Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr., and highlighting its implications for the Philippines, democracy, disinformation, and the struggle for historical memory across Asia and around the world.

Prof. Tariq Thachil

Migrants & Political Machines: Political Networks in Urbanizing India

Prof. Tariq Thachil (University of Pennsylvania) presented research from his new book, "Migrants & Political Machines: Political Networks in Urbanizing India." The work takes up a crucial question regarding the world's largest democracy: how has India's politics changed as citizens migrate from the countryside to vast urban slums? Tariq Thachil explains how new urban migrants build networks to meet their needs and hold political elites accountable.



Prof. Robert Sutter

Defending America and China's Challenge

Prof. Robert Sutter (George Washington University) addressed the crucial and contentious US-China relationship. The US-China relationship has entered a new phase of competition, with implications for security, economics, and technology. How will American policymakers navigate this challenging period? Sutter drew on decades of policy leadership and academic research in addressing this crucial topic.



8

Sponsored/Cosponsored
Events

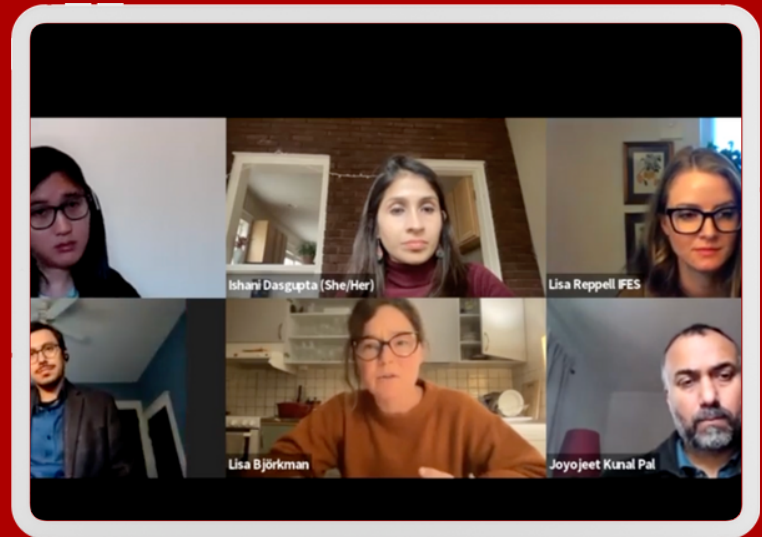
500 +

People
Reached

Online Disinformation and Democracy: India and Beyond

CAD hosted an online panel of researchers and practitioners analyzing this crucial topic. They answered tough questions such as: What role does disinformation play in challenging democracy in India and other Asian countries? And what steps can tech companies, election authorities, and civil society take to address it?

Panelists included Sophie Zhang, Data scientist & Facebook whistleblower, Dr. Joyojeet Pal, School of Information, University of Michigan, Lisa Reppell, International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES). CAD Postdoctoral Fellow Ishani Dasgupta moderated the panel.



Steven Feldstein Grawemeyer Award Winner

Steven Feldstein, a former State Department official and current Senior Fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, received the 2023 Grawemeyer Award for World Order from the University of Louisville. His book, "The Rise of Digital Repression: How Technology is Reshaping Power, Politics, and Resistance," examines how governments use a wide range of digital tools such as internet shutdowns, disinformation campaigns, artificial intelligence, and even DNA collection to undermine democracy. On receiving his award, Feldstein delivered an on-campus lecture and appeared on CAD's Inside Asia podcast to discuss Asian cases central to his argument: China, Thailand, and the Philippines.



POLICY ENGAGEMENT

The Center for Asian Democracy brings research expertise to bear on policy questions related to the future of democracy in the region

RELIGION AND ELECTORAL INSTITUTIONS IN ASIA

In April 2023, CAD partnered with the International Foundation for Electoral Systems and the United States Institute of Peace to convene a first-of-its-kind practitioner-researcher workshop on the relationship between religion and electoral institutions, with a particular focus on Asian cases. Participants included representatives from the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, the Carter Center, Catholic Relief Services, Harvard University, Georgetown University, the Wilson Center, IFES, IREX, IRI, the Joint Learning Initiative on Faith and Local Communities, Lipscomb University, NDI, Open Society Foundations, the United Nations Electoral Affairs Division, UNDP, the United States Department of State, USAID, the World Faiths Development Dialogue, and the University of Denver.



CAD LAUNCHES INITIATIVE ON RELIGION AND ELECTORAL INSTITUTIONS

Religion is a key force shaping democracy across Asia. The CAD research team traveled to Washington, DC to co-convene a groundbreaking workshop of policymakers and academic researchers grappling with these topics.

[CLICK FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS DEVELOPING INITIATIVE](#)

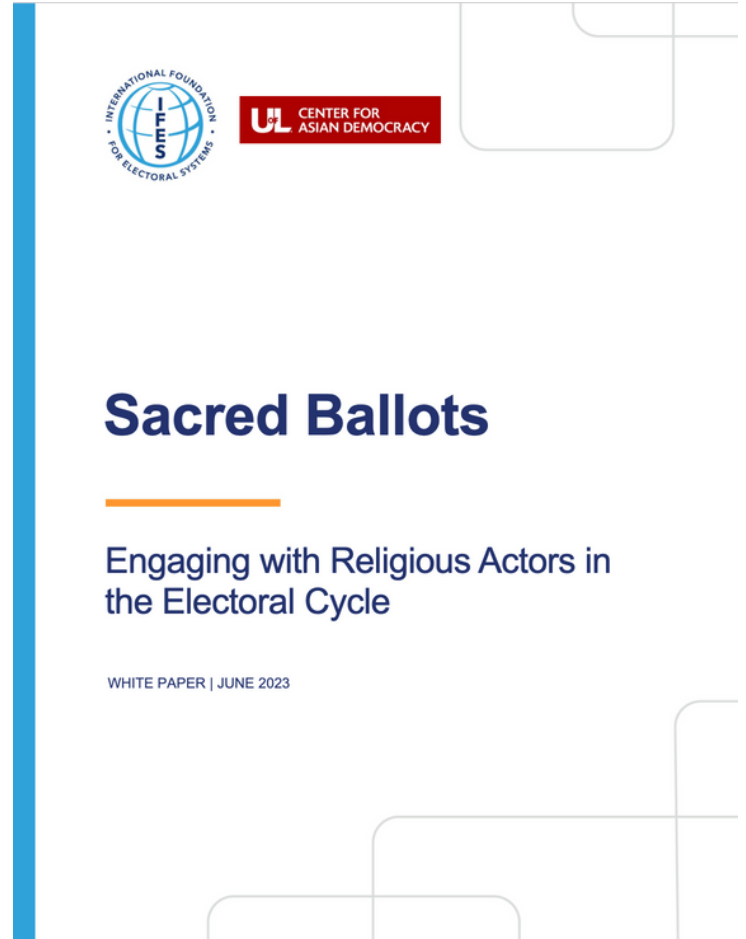
POLICY ENGAGEMENT

"SACRED BALLOTS" WHITE PAPER LAUNCH

Building on the successful April workshop, CAD leadership returned to the United States Institute of Peace in June 2023 for the public launch of a white paper on the topic, coauthored with experts from the International Foundation for Electoral Systems. The launch event began with comments from Rosarie "Ro" Tucci, Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator in the Bureau of Development, Democracy, and Innovation at USAID.

This white paper aims to provide practical guidance to the electoral support community—election management bodies (EMBs), other interested government institutions, and NGOs—to better (1) assess the range of ways in which religious actors shape the electoral cycle and (2) respond appropriately to religious dynamics in electoral planning.

Whether a source of exclusion or a force for democratic resilience, religion has potent electoral effects across much of Asia. CAD plans to continue this partnership with USIP and IFES, drawing on the white paper's framework to guide next steps.



"INSIDE ASIA" PODCAST RELAUNCH

CAD RELAUNCHED A PODCAST WITH A UNIQUE MISSION: BRINGING SCHOLARLY EXPERTISE TO TIMELY ISSUES FACING DEMOCRACY IN THE REGION.

UNIVERSITY OF
LOUISVILLE

CENTER FOR ASIAN
DEMOCRACY

Inside Asia

The Center for Asian Democracy

EDUCATION



This podcast spotlights the thinkers, researchers and leaders shaping our understanding of democracy in Asia.



Dr. Ishani Dasgupta

CAD POST-DOCTORAL FELLOW

"Inside the Deterritorialized Tibetan Nation"



Prof. Sheila Coronel

DIRECTOR, COLOMBIA UNIVERSITY TONI STABILE
CENTER FOR INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM

"Inside Online Historical Memory in the
Philippines"



Dr. Jeevan Sharma

DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRE OF SOUTH ASIAN
STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ST. ANDREWS

"Inside the Nepal Election"



Dr. Kharis Templeman

STANFORD UNIVERSITY'S HOOVER INSTITUTION

"Inside Taiwan's Local Elections"



Dr. Darren Byler,

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF INTERNATIONAL
STUDIES AT SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

"Inside China's 2022 Protests"



Dr. Meredith Weiss

PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AT
ROCKEFELLER COLLEGE

"Inside the 2022 Malaysia General Election"



Steven Feldstein

WINNER OF THE 2023 GRAWEMEYER AWARD
FOR WORLD ORDER & SENIOR FELLOW AT THE
CARNEGIE ENDOWMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL
PEACE

"Inside Digital Repression in Asia"



Jawad Patwal

FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR, AND WORKED FOR A DECADE ON DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE IN AFGHANISTAN

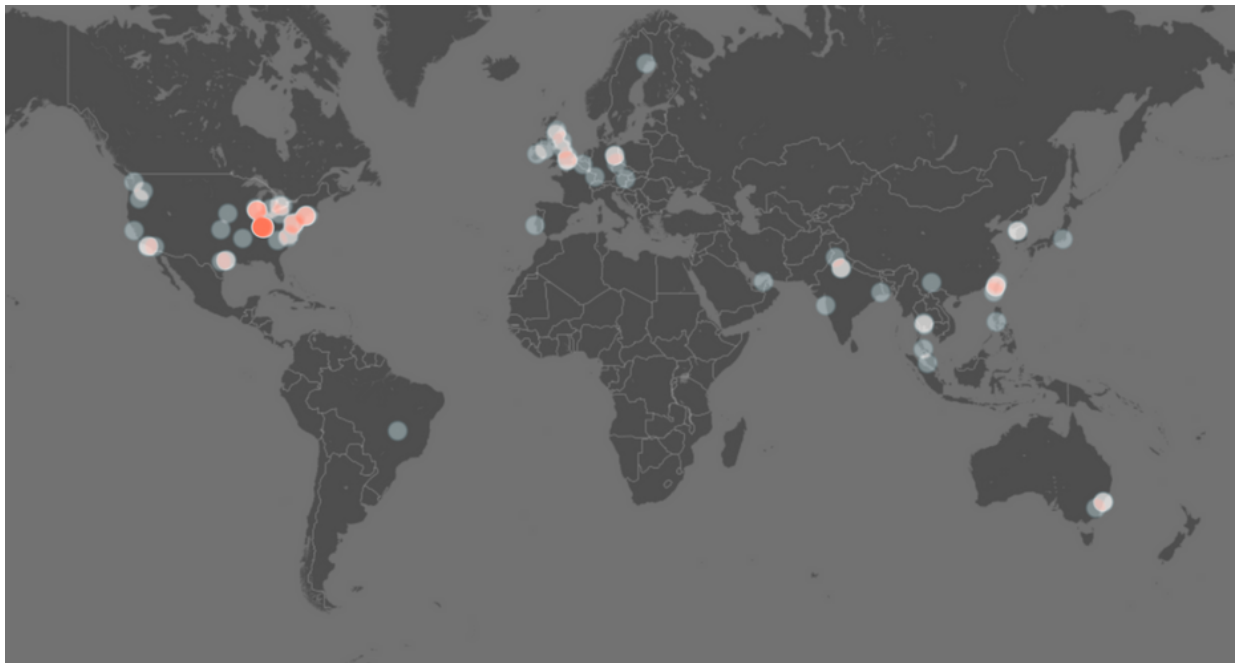
"Inside Lessons Learned from Democracy in Afghanistan"



Dr. Janjira Sombatpoonsiri

PROFESSOR AT CHULALONGKORN UNIVERSITY & GERMAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL AND AREA STUDIES (GIGA) RESEARCH FELLOW

"Inside the 2023 Thailand General Election"



1k+

Episode
Downloads

25+

Countries
Reached

Supporting Scholarship

The Center for Asian Democracy is proud to support the world-class research of several associated scholars at the University of Louisville.

PROF. DAVID BUCKLEY

Buckley remains heavily engaged in research on religion and the stability of democracy in the Philippines. In 2022, he and coauthors published an original analysis of religion's impact on the 2016 election of populist President Rodrigo Duterte, continued extensive work on a book manuscript documenting grassroots religious responses to human rights abuses associated with Duterte's "drug war," and began an analysis of the political effect of clergy endorsements on the 2022 election of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

CAD supported various aspects of this research in the 2022-23 academic year. Most importantly, in Summer 2022, Buckley traveled to Metro Manila with CAD support for roughly 40 field interviews with clergy, local government officials, journalists, and human rights activists related to his project on religious responses to the country's drug war. Buckley presented research to the Ateneo School of Government in a public forum, and furthered research partnerships with several local scholars and research institutes.



2022 Election Mural from Catholic advocates of candidate Leni Robredo
Metro Manila, June 2022

Supporting Scholarship



DR. ISHANI DASGUPTA
CAD Post-Doctoral Fellow

At CAD, Dr. Ishani Dasgupta expanded her dissertation, “Emergence of a Deterritorialized Nation: How Tibetan Refugees Confront the Precarity of Statelessness” into a book manuscript, tentatively titled *Refugee Nation: Citizenship, Resistance, and the Deterritorialized Tibetan Polity*. This book is based on 36 months of field research in Tibetan settlements in India and communities in the United States, where she studied the unique democratic polity of an exiled and fragmented refugee community. The manuscript has received interest from several academic publishers.

CAD sponsored Dasgupta's 2023 field research—a trip she had been eager to make, to Dharamsala, the political capital of Tibetan exiles. This fieldwork will inform a final chapter in her book, where she considers how Tibetan refugees recast the Buddhist concept of “impermanence” into a political philosophy that facilitates acceptance, transformation, and the growth of their community over an extended period of exile.

Supporting Scholarship



Prof. Charles E. Ziegler

Ziegler continued his distinguished research into Russian foreign policy in Asia. CAD supported his forthcoming book on Russia as a Pacific power, which will be published by Oxford University Press in 2023.



Prof. Shiping Hua

Hua continued his extensive research into Chinese foreign policy and world affairs. CAD partnered with Hua and his Asian Studies Program on several events.



Prof. Jason Gainous

Gainous continued his award-winning research on digital politics. His data collection on digital authoritarianism in China, with former CAD Postdoctoral Fellow Andrew MacDonald, has received significant CAD support.

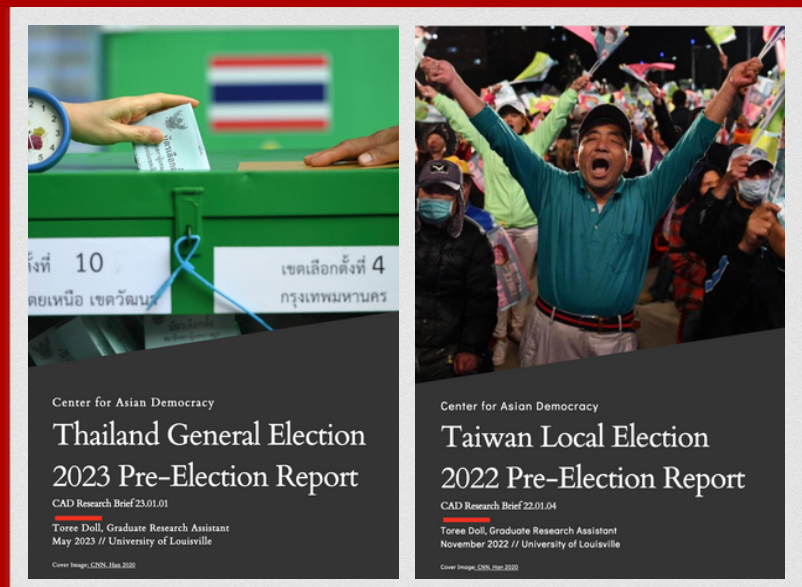
Promoting Student Success

The Center for Asian Democracy engages Graduate and Undergraduate students in research projects and career development.



Toree Doll is a second-year Political Science MA student and CAD Graduate Research Assistant, with interests in US foreign policy, economics, and democratic trends in Asia. In 2022, Toree studied abroad in Thailand and attended classes at Chiang Mai University. Toree edits and produces CAD's "Inside Asia" podcast, and researches upcoming elections in Asia to produce Election Research Briefings. In 2022-23, Toree was lead author of CAD reports on elections in Taiwan and Thailand.

CAD supported Toree in securing a 2023 internship with the World Affairs Council of Kentuckiana. Toree worked with WAC's Exchange Program, where she wrote proposals to be submitted to the U.S. Department of State to support international exchange. Toree also hosted visitors from numerous countries throughout Asia, Africa, and Europe, and attended resource meetings with state and local politicians, NGOs, and non-profits. Inspired by the work and support of CAD, she plans to work after graduation and then apply for Ph.D. programs .



Student Success



Tristin Black is a senior at the University of Louisville majoring in Political Science and minoring in Pan-African Studies. He has conducted research with CAD since his sophomore year and has published briefings on elections in South Korea, the Philippines, and Nepal. Tristin has been interested in Indo-Pacific politics since 2019, when he studied abroad in Jakarta, Indonesia. He recently completed an internship at the U.S. Department of State, where he worked in the Office of Multilateral Affairs, focusing on U.S.-ASEAN relations and maritime security in the South China Sea.

As part of the U.S. Foreign Service Internship Program, Tristin will complete an internship at the U.S. embassy in Tokyo next summer. He is a 2022 Rangel Scholar, Managing Editor of the Louisville Political Review, and Secretary of the local Model United Nations chapter. Tristin is a proud native of Georgetown, Kentucky and a first-generation college student. As an aspiring international affairs professional, he has drawn on opportunities through CAD to enhance his holistic understanding of geopolitics.



Student Success



Mikaella Tañales is a junior at the University of Louisville majoring in Political Science and Finance, with a minor in Chinese. She has conducted research support for CAD with a particular focus on her native country, the Philippines. She has been a crucial support to Dr. Buckley's research on religion and politics in the country, including scraping data from social media, transcription and translation of clergy sermons related to politics, and quantitative data management for analysis of precinct-level election returns from the 2022 presidential election.

In Summer 2023, Mika served as an intern at the Department of Justice in Washington, DC, which she will continue until her 2025 graduation. Her experiences at CAD helped her to apply for this position as well as obtain a fellowship from the Department of Political Science's "Ford Hall Goes to Washington" program. Dr. Buckley was proud to present Mika with the 2023 Esselburn Award, which the Department of Political Science presents based on academic excellence and interest in public service. Mika plans to pursue a career as an international affairs professional.



Partnerships

The Center for Asian Democracy is proud to partner with organizations at the University of Louisville and in the Louisville community dedicated to advancing the understanding of democracy and rights in Asia.



**Asia Institute
Crane House**



**Louisville Committee
on Foreign Relations**

Asia Institute Crane House hosts a Lunar New Year Gala that features silent and live auction, entertainment and a variety of delicious Asian-themed cuisine from renowned local chefs. CAD joined the event to support AICH in its efforts to support the Louisville-area AAPI community.

The Louisville Committee on Foreign Relations featured CAD's Postdoctoral Fellow Dr. Ishani Dasgupta to discuss her award-winning research on role of Tibet in the tense relations between the world's two largest countries, India and China. CAD and LCFR also collaborate on speaker events.

Partnerships



AAPI Faculty & Staff Association



Commonwealth Center for the Humanities and Society

CAD supported the AAPI Faculty and Staff Association's AAPI Heritage Week as a cosponsor of its keynote lecture. Dr. Evelyn Hu-DeHart (Brown University) joined the University of Louisville for an address entitled, "Black, or White, or Yellow? How Asians are Racialized in America."

CAD supported CCHS in sponsoring a panel discussion of ongoing protests in Iran. Faculty and community panelists analyzed the September 16th death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini at the hands of Iran's morality police, ostensibly for not wearing her hijab correctly, and its role igniting protest in Iran and around the globe.

Join our work

The Center for Asian Democracy is excited to be expanding events, research support, student engagement and policy outreach. We actively seek local, national and international partners dedicated to our work. Contact Dr. Buckley directly to explore future collaboration.

This report drafted and formatted by CAD Graduate Assistant Torea Doll.



Youtube

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