

# Asian Studies Program

# Newsletter Spring/Fall 2014



## Welcome New Faculty Affiliates!

- Nan-ting Chou, Associate Professor in Economics
- Kristopher Grady, Assistant Professor in Political Science
- Michael M. Losavio, Assistant Professor in Justice Administration



## The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Lang Seminar: International Cooperation in Asia, April 5, 2014

Asian Studies Hosted this year's Lang Seminar in association with the Center for Asian Democracy. The panelists were:

-**Dr. Alice Ba**, University of Delaware, Political Science & International Relations "Asia's Shifting Institutional Landscape: ASEAN, China, and the United States"

-**Dr. Michael Martin**, Congressional Research Service, Specialist in Asian Affairs, "Regional Implications of the Globalization of China's Renminbi"

-**Dr. Rina Williams**, University of Cincinnati, Political Science, Women & Gender Studies, Asian Studies, "A Billion People Vote: Possible Implications of Indian Elections"

-**Dr. Sumit Ganguly**, University of Indiana, Political Science, "Indian Views on the Responsibility to Protect"

## Faculty Interviews

### Interview with Dr. Patrick Pranke on South-East Asia and his work

#### Q. What is your area of specialization?

A. I specialize in Buddhist Studies, particularly Burmese Buddhism. I've done field work there and I do both ethnographic studies and textual studies. I have a lot of background in South Asia as well, particularly in North Indian religious culture: Hindu culture, being first trained in India on Hindi, Sanskrit, and other languages. My graduate work was on S. East Asia and Burma, which of course are closely linked.

#### Q. In regards to our specific Asian Studies Program, what are your plans for class offerings in the future and are there any plans for new classes or seminars to be offered in the future?

A. Well I'm going to be on sabbatical this coming year, so I won't be teaching. But my survey classes in religious studies will continue to be offered, and in the future, in my upper-level classes in religious studies, there will continue to be a heavy emphasis on literature, with most of my upper-level courses dealing with Buddhism. The survey courses start with South Asian religion and then transition over to East Asian religion (Fall and then Spring). So in terms of what we do here in this department [South Asia], that's probably going to continue to increase. Because of my hiatus, the upper-level classes will not be offered, but Professor Brandon Harwood will take over some of my survey classes like South and East Asian Religions and Culture.

#### Q. What will you be working on during your sabbatical?

A. Two things, one being early modern Burmese Monastic History, which I've done work on before. I'll mostly be examining historiographical chronicles and especially ones that have never been translated. So I plan to do some translations of those and publish them. Also, I've always been interested in Ethnography, and there are a number of Burmese popular cults that now people are beginning to study, which I have some background in. I would like to continue doing ethnographic work with that. For example, there's mummy veneration in Burma, which is a focus of cult practice by rival traditions that otherwise really dislike one another, but sometimes they venerate the same corpses that represent their own saints. This notion of a shared religious "body" is something I want to explore

#### Q. In South Asian Studies in general, what are some of the topics that are the most popular for research right now?

A. In Political Science and current events, the big deal right now is the election in India. In connection with Religious Studies, the Hindutva Nationalist movement is pushing back strongly against a lot of Western scholarship on Hinduism, inspired by a nationalist, somewhat revisionist interpretation of the past. So some prominent Western scholars of Sanskrit and Hinduism are having their work banned in India because it is felt as disrespectful to Hinduism. The controversy is over who controls the discourse, and in the post-modern era we understand the idea of Orientalism and how it constructs the identity of in this case South Asians and we can understand this pushback. That should be a hot topic in South Asian Religious studies for some time, and while it has not yet happened in Burma, it likely will, with the rise of Burmese Buddhist nationalism as well.

### Interview with Dr. Jianhua (Andrew) Zhao on new Anthropology course on Japan and his work

#### Q. For those unfamiliar, what is your area of expertise and research?

A. I'm a Cultural Anthropologist, interested geographically in China and East Asia. My theoretical interests are capitalism, family and kinship, and the fashion industry. For the past few years I've worked on two research projects. One is on the Chinese fashion industry. My first book came out last year, entitled *The Chinese Fashion Industry: an Ethnographic Approach*. And I've been working on a newer project since 2009 about the intergenerational transition and succession in Chinese family businesses. I will potentially... (Cont. on 3<sup>rd</sup> page)

# Meet the Faculty Affiliates of the Asian Studies Program!



**D'Silva, Margaret:**

Professor D'Silva published two co-authored journal articles and two co-authored book chapters. She delivered an invited plenary address at the annual conference of the International Association for Intercultural Communication in Vladivostok, Russia. She presented five papers and a poster at academic conferences, and an invited poster at the University of Louisville's Engaged Teaching and Research Showcase. She continued work as Co-Investigator on \$397,000 National Institutes of Health grant, with Lindsay Della, Principal Investigator. She was instrumental in publishing the book, *Facing Finality*, edited by Berendt, under the auspices of the Institute for Intercultural Communication now available for sale through Amazon. With assistance from intern, Brian Moody, she organized the eighth annual International Film Series showcasing films from Ecuador, India, Japan and Mali.



**Hua, Shiping:**

Shiping Hua was elected "Council Member" of the Association for Asian Studies which has over 7,000 members worldwide in November 2013. He represents the Asian studies scholarly community of the 12 states of the Southeast region of the United States. He will serve for three years.



**Lai, Delin:**

Professor Lai has been on sabbatical this year in Taiwan with the support of the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation, and has been spending the spring semester in Taipei to continue my research on modern Chinese architectural history. He has not only found abundant research materials in libraries of the Academia Sinica, but has also studied the architecture of Taiwan first hand and communicated with scholars there.

His second paper on Wang Shu, the 2012 Pritzker Architecture Prize Laureate, of which the English title is "The architecture of Wang Shu in the discourse of the picturesque," was published in *Jianzhu Xuebao* (Journal of the Society of Chinese Architects) in April 2013. The first one, which was published in the same journal in May, 2012, was translated and published in the Japanese journal *Nemoha* in March 2014 under the title of "Wang Shu and the revival and development of Chinese literati architecture." His English paper, "Idealizing a Chinese Style: Rethinking Early Writings on Chinese Architecture and the Design of the National Central Museum in Nanjing" was published in the *Journal of the Society of the Architectural Historians*, also in March 2014.



**Ma, Yuxin:**

Professor Ma has continued writing her next monograph *Gender, Film and Media: Actresses at Manying (1937-45)*, a project exploring the lives of Chinese film actresses at Manchukuo Motion Picture Association, their screen performances, and media representation of them. The manuscript argues that actresses appropriated the opportunities offered by Japanese authority to receive professional training, develop personal skills, establish themselves, and form powerful networks that would sustain them through future political and cultural storms after the collapse of the Manying. She has presented a paper based on this project at the 19th ASCPS conference in Nov. 2013. She has penned two book reviews.



**McLeod, John:**

Professor McLeod and his co-author Kenneth X. Robbins have written an article on the ways in which Africans are depicted in paintings from India between the sixteenth and twentieth centuries. It will be published next year in a book entitled *The Image of the Black in African and Asian Art*, edited by Henry Louis Gates and David Bindman. Professor McLeod has been completing the revisions for a new edition of his *The History of India.*



**Pranke, Patrick:**

Over the course of the last year, Professor Pranke presented two professional papers: "History and Eschatology in Burmese Buddhist Chronicles," Association for Asian Studies Conference, Santa Barbara (March 2013), and "How the Buddha came to Upper Burma: the legend of Mahapon and Thissabanda," Theravada Civilizations Conference, Arizona State University, Tempe (March 2013). He was also Assistant Editor for the *Princeton Dictionary of Buddhism*, Donald S. Lopez and Robert E. Buswell, eds., Princeton: Princeton University Press (November 2013). This was the culmination of a more than decade-long project.

**Zeng, Li:****Referred Article:**

- “Manipulating the Sign: A Semiotic View of Li Shangyin’s Allusiveness,” published in November 2013 in *GSTF International Journal on Education* Vol. 1, No. 2, 2013.

**International Conference Presentation:**

- “Manipulating the Sign: A Semiotic View of Li Shangyin’s Allusiveness,” presented at the L3 (Language, Literature & Linguistics) International Conference, Singapore, June 2013.

**Award for Research Paper:**

- The paper presentation, “Manipulating the Sign: A Semiotic View of Li Shangyin’s Allusiveness,” was awarded the Best Research Paper at the L3 International Conference, Singapore, June 2013.

**Highlighted Service to the Profession:**

- Member of the 2013 Boren Awards Midwest Regional Selection Committee.
- Directed the Follow-up Program of the federal-grant sponsored STARTALK-Crane House Chinese Language Institute, January-February, 2013.
- Translated from English into Chinese the official webpage and brochure of academic majors and programs for Kentucky Christian University, 2013.
- Organizer of one panel and chair/discussant of three panels for the 41<sup>st</sup> Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture since 1900 (Feb. 2013) and the 19<sup>th</sup> ACPSS International Conference (Nov. 2013).

**Jhao, Jianhua (Andrew):****Journal articles:**

- Forthcoming. “Shame and Discipline: The Practice and Discourse of a ‘Confucian Model’ of Management in a Family Firm in China.” *Critique of Anthropology*.
- Under review. “New Wine in an Old Bottle: The Chinese Family Firm Re-examined in Light of the Changing Family.” *Journal of Family History*.

**Conference papers:**

- “To Create or Imitate: The Paradox of Copyright in the Chinese Fashion Industry,” for the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Chicago, November 2013
- “Second Generation Women in Chinese Business Families,” for the Annual Conference of the Association of Chinese Professors in Social Sciences, Louisville, November 2013

**Book review:**

- *Chinese Labor in a Korean Factory: Class, Ethnicity, and Productivity on the Shop Floor in Globalizing China* by Jaesok Kim, *Journal of Anthropological Research*, 70: 170-171.

**Interview:**

- Interviewed by [fashionista.com](http://fashionista.com) on my book, *The Chinese Fashion Industry: An Ethnographic Approach*, which was published by Bloomsbury Academic in 2013.

**Ziegler, Charles:**

- Published “Energy Pipeline Networks and Trust: The European Union and Russia in Comparative Perspective,” *International Relations* (March 2013)
- “Central Asia, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and American Foreign Policy: From Indifference to Engagement,” *Asian Survey* (May/June 2013)
- His edited book, *Civil Society and Politics in Central Asia*, was accepted and is forthcoming with University Press of Kentucky, for their Asia in the New Millennium series.
- Taught a course on American Foreign Policy at Kazakh National University Al-Farabi in Almaty, Kazakhstan.
- Presented papers at the International Studies Association, Association for Slavic, Eurasian and East European Studies, and Kentucky Political Science Association conferences.
- Spoke on Central Asia and Russia at Endicott College (Massachusetts), Indianapolis Committee on Foreign Relations, Boise Committee on Foreign Relations, and Louisville Committee on Foreign Relations.



(Dr. Zhao interview continued.) expand that project into a comparative study with family businesses elsewhere, starting with Taiwan and then possibly branching out into Korea and Japan later.

**Q. What have you been doing in preparation for the new course on Japan?**

A. In Grad School I was trained in Asian Studies and I previously was a TA for a Japanese Scholar’s course called “Japanese Society,” so I have a general idea of what an introductory course to Japan and East Asia is like. More recently, I attended a workshop that was designed to help non-Japan scholars offer courses on Japanese society. I applied and I received support for participation in the workshop from Asian Studies and the Anthropology department. The workshop was organized and sponsored by the Japanese Studies Association, Belmont University, and the Japanese consulate in Nashville. It was very intensive with a large amount of readings as well as lectures given by specialists from different disciplines giving lectures from their own expertise on topics like Japanese history, popular culture, politics in contemporary Japan, etc. from morning until night. As part of the workshop, we were required to develop a “course module” and my plan is to offer a course called “Japanese Society” sometime in the future. I’m not sure exactly when, but I will be thinking about it during my sabbatical time next semester. It will be a kind of introductory course to Japanese society and culture. There will be some time devoted to the history of Japan, but primarily the focus will be on *contemporary* Japanese society, with topics ranging from pop culture to politics to family, kinship, gender, and things like that.

**Q. What topics within the umbrella of Japanese society are you most excited about teaching?**

A. From my perceptions of what would be of most interest, I want to compare and contrast with the Japanese pop culture mediums that Americans are most familiar with and often view Japanese society through the lens of, such as anime, manga, (Japanese cartoons and comic books) video games, and so on. I want to go beyond that and question the types of stereotypes created by popular culture. In this way, I hope to generate more discussion with students and engage with them to go beyond the surface and look into the history, culture, and religious traditions of Japan. (More interviews on back page)

# Asian Studies Student News and Course Information!

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Enrollment in the B.A. degree program began in January of 2013 and since then 17 students have declared the major. The program graduated its first 2 majors in the fall of 2013. The minor currently has 12 students enrolled and since its inception in the fall of 2008, 10 students have been awarded the degree. 2 students are enrolled in the Graduate Certificate program.

## Interview with Dr. Li Zeng on the Chinese Spoken Drama Club

### Q. Why did you decide to start the Chinese Spoken Drama Club?

A. The club was created as a way for students to apply their linguistic knowledge of Chinese from the classroom in a culturally based environment that facilitates not only language fluency, but cultural and contextual fluency as well. Today, a popular way students practice Chinese in their free time is through listening to songs. However, much tonal emphasis and accuracy is lost in lyrical Chinese, and so this club is a way to experience a very historically significant part of Chinese performance arts, which is Spoken Drama. Moreover, due to its nature, mini spoken drama (no matter how short it is) demands more accuracy in pronunciation and fluency in speech than songs and therefore benefits the learner linguistically as well. With these ideas in mind, I formed the Chinese Spoken Drama Club in 2003.

### Q. What does the annual performance of the Spoken Drama usually consist of?

A. I take extra care to write scripts and choreograph the event to accommodate our students' interests and abilities. There are three main types based on the level of student. The first is Performance of Proverbial Stories. Like any other language, Chinese is full of proverbs and idioms. A lot of these proverbs and idioms have very interesting stories behind them that developed long ago. Along with the Club's practices of mini spoken drama, the process of studying and performing the proverbial stories not only allows for a learner's proper use of proverbs, but also enriches their knowledge of Chinese language, literature, and culture. This outcome seems especially significant in today's learning language learning culture, in which, as some professors point out, most students tend to pick up the language in a utilitarian way, ignoring its literary and cultural aspects. Some mini-plays or skits our elementary-level students have performed in the Club are: "One Elephant and Six Blind Observers" and "Turning an Iron Pestle into a Needle" which are adaptations of proverbs to include roles for each student appropriate to their skill level. The intermediate students often perform dramatized versions of situations from the textbook, creatively adapting them and learning how to use their vocabulary. Advanced students usually perform comic dialogues along with tongue twisters to really show mastery of Chinese pronunciation and tones.

### Q. Does the Club also have significance for the University and Louisville community as a whole?

A. With an annual presentation of well-prepared mini skits and plays in authentic costumes (Borrowed from the University's Theater Department) along with Asian style lunch, funded by the continuous support of CML's Modern Language Fund, this innovative extra-curricular program has been successful in offering a flexible, relaxed, and enjoyable linguistic and cultural environment to our students of Chinese, their friends and others university students and faculty interested in Chinese, and residents of the Louisville area, satisfying the diverse needs of the local community. The plan is to expand the club this year for students that want to go above and beyond in their Chinese studies.

## Interview with Dr. Yuxin Ma on her research, teaching, and Japanese History course

### Q. For new students and others who might not know, what is your area of research and expertise?

A. In general, I was trained as an East-Asian historian, and particularly 19th & 20th century China. I also focus on 20th century Japan. Recently I have been studying the popular culture of Manchukuo (Japanese Manchuria 1931-1945), particularly focusing on the film industry. The Japanese created a puppet film industry in Manchuria, recruiting and training Chinese actors to perform in their movies that propagated Japanese imperialism. I am interested in exploring the careers of the Chinese actresses. In the 1920s, before Japan invaded Manchuria, the culture there was very similar to the rest of Northern China, with an emphasis on modernization and education, and women seeking more independence and participation in society. I would argue that there was a cultural legacy from this period and that the actresses were not simply puppets whose strings were pulled by the Japanese. Though they collaborated with the colonial regime, they had their own agenda of gaining independence for themselves through collaboration. After Japan's defeat, many of them were able to establish themselves somewhere else by using the skills and personal networks they developed in the propaganda film industry.

### Q. Do you have particular interest in women and gender studies?

A. Yes, for a long time my interest has been modern Chinese women. Two years ago I published my first book, which was my dissertation on Chinese feminism from 1898-1937, and discussed how Chinese women walked into the public space at a time when the nation was trying all kinds of models to build a modern nation state.

### Q. What kinds of classes do you usually teach at the university?

A. In regards to my Asian Studies related courses there is the History of Imperial China, Modern China, a 500-level course on East-Asian women's history, and Nationalism and Modernity, which is also 500-level, comparing the modern experience of imperial Japan with Korea which was colonized and decolonized, and China's nationalism. The latter is a political history course that hasn't been offered for a few years, and it will be offered next spring. I am also planning on teaching the History of Japan in the fall of 2015. I taught the course on Japan at my previous university and I want to teach it now to help fill the gap in Japan-related courses. I define the course as "Modern Japan: Imperialism and Democracy," and with that title I plan to focus on 20th century Japan, though it does have a survey of classical Japan before the Meiji era for a third of the course. Imperialism and democracy was a constant theme, with Meiji Japan having state-led nationalism, then in the Taisho era of the 1920s, there was pluralistic imperial democracy, and then by the 30s Japan had become very militarized and war-hungry. So it's not that the American military occupation post-WWII brought democracy to Japan, but rather the struggle for democracy has been a long, complicated process throughout the entire 20th century.