

# CGA Newsletter



Center for Global Asia  
环球亚洲研究中心



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## NYU Shanghai

NYU Shanghai was founded in 2012 through a unique partnership between New York University and East China Normal University. NYU Shanghai is the first Sino-U.S. joint research university in China and the third degree-granting campus of NYU. With an enrollment of 1,300 students and a distinguished international faculty of 200, NYU Shanghai exemplifies the highest ideals of contemporary higher education by uniting the intellectual resources of New York University's global network with the multidimensional richness of China. At the undergraduate and postgraduate level, NYU Shanghai's programs prepare graduates to be creative and culturally adept leaders with global vision.





# Director's Note



The Center for Global Asia at NYU Shanghai was established in September 2015 with the aim of studying multiple aspects of intra-Asian interactions. Over the past three years, the Center has collaborated with local and foreign institutions, and with faculty within NYU's Global Network University system, to organize monthly lectures, annual conferences, workshops, summer schools, and special cultural events. It has hosted postdoctoral fellows, doctoral students, and distinguished visitors such as Amitav Ghosh.

The Center for Global Asia has received two prestigious grants in support of its research activities. A three-year (2018–2021) Henry Luce Foundation Asia Responsive Grant for US\$ 450,000 is funding collaborative research on Indian Ocean port cities being undertaken by Global Asia centers in New York, Abu Dhabi, and Shanghai. From 2016 to 2018 another three-year grant for € 150,000 from the Volkswagen Foundation supported three Summer Schools on “The Indian Ocean World and Eurasian Connections”. These Summer Schools were jointly organized by the Center for Global Asia and the Center for Interdisciplinary Area Studies at Martin Luther University, Halle-Wittenberg, Germany. Two of these Summer Schools were held in Germany, and a third took place in Shanghai in July–August 2018. In addition, the Center for Global Asia was one of the partner institutions of the Indian Ocean World Centre, McGill University, which was recently awarded a Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council grant for a project entitled “Appraising Risk, Past and Present: Interrogating Historical Data to Enhance Understanding of Environmental Risk in the Indian Ocean World”.

During the past three years, the Center for Global Asia has entered into collaboration with several institutions in China and elsewhere. It has partnered with the Asia Research Center at Fudan University in analyzing the state of Asian Studies in China. Together, the two institutions offer a postdoctoral fellowship on intra-Asian interactions for citizens of the People's Republic of China, organize an annual conference, and contribute the “China Connections” section to the prestigious *The Newsletter* published by the International Institute for Asian Studies in Leiden in the Netherlands.

In the next few years, the Center for Global Asia plans to strengthen its existing collaboration and research on the Indian Ocean world. For example, it will be editing the *Journal of Indian Ocean World Studies* in collaboration with the Indian Ocean World Centre at McGill University. The Center is also in the process of setting up a consortium to study interactions between India and China. This consortium will include the India China Institute at the New School in New York, the Harvard-Yenching Institute at Harvard University, the Institute of Chinese Studies in Delhi, and Peking and Tsinghua Universities in Beijing.

To disseminate research outcomes and information on the study of Asia and the global significance of intra-Asian interactions, the Center for Global Asia is collaborating with its partner institutions to create databases on the state of Asian Studies in China, archival and documentary sources on India-China interactions, and Chinese sources on maritime Asia.

Through the above partnerships and initiatives, the Center for Global Asia at NYU Shanghai aims to become a key research and knowledge hub for Asian Studies.

**Tansen Sen**  
Director  
Center for Global Asia  
NYU Shanghai

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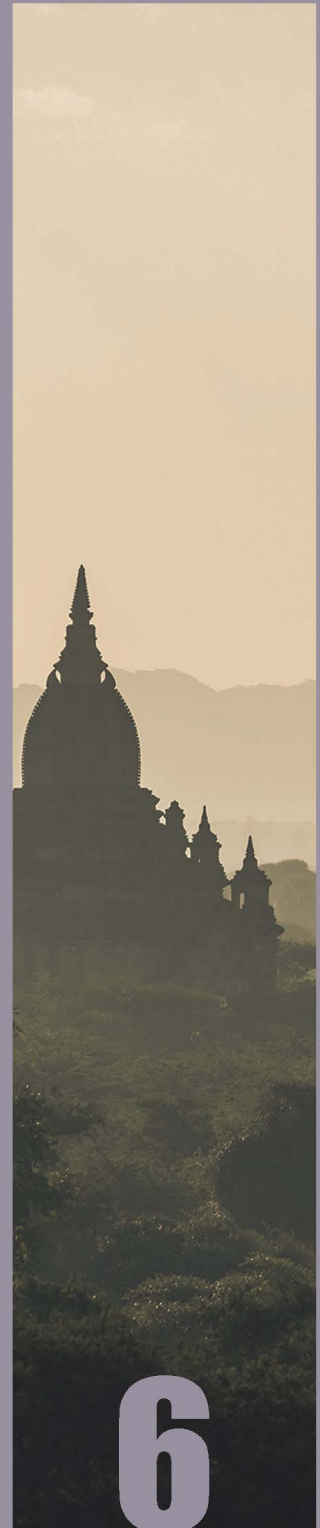
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# Global Network University Connections



NYU Shanghai. Photo by Ruijun Zhang.

## The Center for Global Asia, NYU Shanghai

The Center for Global Asia at NYU Shanghai serves as the hub within the NYU Global Network University system that promotes the study of Asian interactions and comparisons, both historical and contemporary. The overall objective of the Center is to provide global societies with information on the contexts in which connections are re-emerging between different parts of Asia through research and teaching. This includes exploring how Asian polities and societies have interacted over time and are now beginning to interact again on broad fronts. The Center also encourages the examination of Asia's connections with the wider world, focusing specifically on the impact on Asian societies of these connections both past and present. Collaborating not only with the various NYU campuses and portal sites, but also with other institutions around the world, the Center seeks to play a bridging role between existing knowledge silos within Asian Studies. It will take the lead in drawing connections and comparisons between the existing fields of Asian Studies and in stimulating new ways of understanding Asia in a globalized world.

**Tansen Sen** is Director of the Center for Global Asia and Professor of History at NYU Shanghai, as well as Global Network Professor at New York University. He specializes in Asian history and religions.

## The New York Center for Global Asia, New York University

The New York Center for Global Asia is a hub focusing on Asia in its broadest definition, from prehistoric times to the present, its aim being to connect regions covered by Area Studies. It understands Asia as an expansive space of connective mobility and territoriality, spanning Silk Roads and the Indian Ocean from ancient times to embrace what are now Russia, East Asia, South and Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and East Africa, but also extending around

the globe after 1500. It examines travels and connections of all kinds, exploring technology, economics, migrations, travel, tourism, language, literature, art, religion, political power, all kinds of ideas and material culture, and more. The Center's Friday Colloquium is the venue for ongoing conversations based on research work and special projects by NYU faculty. A series of special events will punctuate the academic year, offering major opportunities for collaborative work.

**David Ludden** is Director of the Center for Global Asia in New York and Professor and Chair of the Department of History at New York University. His current work focuses broadly on histories of empire, capitalism, globalization, and the urbanization of agrarian environments in Asia.

## The Global Asia Initiative, NYU Abu Dhabi

The NYU Abu Dhabi "Global Asia Initiative" is an interdisciplinary network of faculty working on Asia at NYU Abu Dhabi. It works as a platform for scholars to come together and discuss each other's work, hosts talks by external speakers, and engages in thinking about curricular ideas. The Initiative draws its partners from the arts and humanities, sciences, and social sciences, and currently has over twenty interested faculty members. One of the Initiative's primary interests is to offer insights into the study of Global Asia from the vantage point of western Asia, and to conduct new research on historical and present-day connections between West Asia and other parts of the Asian continent. The Initiative is currently planning its development into a formal NYU Abu Dhabi research center, having curated a series of talks across the divisions in spring 2018.

**Mark Swislocki** is Director of the NYU Abu Dhabi "Global Asia Initiative". He is also Associate Professor of History at NYU Abu Dhabi. He specializes in the history of China. His current research focuses on the environmental history of southwest China.



# Henry Luce Foundation New York University Project

## Port Cities Environments in Global Asia

**PI:** David Luden

**Co-PIs:** Tansen Sen and Mark Swislocki

**NYU Shanghai Research Cluster:**

Duane Corpis, Tzu-Hui Celina Hung, Lena Scheen, Tansen Sen



*Pudong, Shanghai, China. Photo by Tansen Sen.*

The inter-regional arena of the Indian Ocean has emerged as an important field of research in several different disciplines. While the case for integration has been strongly suggested by archaeological and historical scholarship since the early twentieth century, comparisons, connections, and conflicts across the Indian Ocean in both the colonial and contemporary periods have now featured prominently in the works of anthropologists, sociologists,

political scientists, and economists. Aiming to advance this multidisciplinary research on the Indian Ocean, the “Port Cities Environments in Global Asia” project focuses on the study of ports and port cities as important sites for connections across maritime space along with their relevant hinterlands.

The study of seaport environments provides fertile ground for collaborative endeavors among different disciplines. Travels on the monsoon between countless linked ports around the Indian Ocean and western Pacific formed spaces of mobility connecting East Asia with Southeast, South, and West Asia from ancient times. Seaborne mobility by migrants, merchants, warriors, and cultural agents shaped all of Asia for many centuries before the presence of Europeans and the launching of a global modernity. Subsequently, modern industrial infrastructure—railways, steamships, and deep-sea ports—privileged strategic coastal cities in a world of empires, with each new technology increasing its prominence in the world of nations and turning select port cities into airline hubs and financial capitals.

The ports of the Indian Ocean thus inhabit environments on many spatio-temporal scales: their natural and social ecologies are local; their archaeological remains provide evidence of maritime connections over long distances; they are hubs for the development of coastal regions; they are transcontinental innovators in the arts, architecture, cuisine, and technology; and they serve as laboratories for urban planning and conduits of mobility. They also house vast populations and concentrate generations of invested wealth facing the stormy winds and seas of global climate change. The research clusters proposed under this project will address several of these topics and consider new ways of conceptualizing historical and contemporary connections across the Indian Ocean world. The aim of the project is also to build institutional collaboration, not only among the NYU campuses, but also with several partner institutions, and to disseminate research outcomes





Arabic calligraphy, Quanzhou. Photo by Tansen Sen.

through curricular development, as well as conferences, workshops, and publications.

Within the larger project, the NYU Shanghai research cluster will focus on circulation among port cities across the Indian Ocean, the links between port cities and their hinterlands, and the internal compositions as well as socio-cultural and politico-economic dynamics *within* port cities. "(Trans)ports"—these special places-cum-people—are regarded as “hubs”, i.e., as highly connected nodes of convergence, entanglement, and divergence in the global streams of human beings, animals, plants, finance, ideas, and other matters. The aim is to examine the mobile and multifaceted connections, networks, circulations, and routes of exchange that flow within the life worlds of port cities and beyond, into their immediate hinterlands or even more distant localities. This research cluster aims to demonstrate that port cities are not only market places but also sites for the incubation and transmission of new ideas, values, habits, cuisines, religions, technologies, and medical knowledge into their hinterlands, as well as across the seas.

Members of this research cluster, each focusing on different port cities of the Indian Ocean using interdisciplinary perspectives, will address several issues in order to understand the internal dynamics and external entanglements of Indian Ocean port cities across time and space. How were and are the port cities governed? Are the various ethnic, occupational, and religious groups within them quasi-autonomous, or are they embedded in and subject to hegemonic and hierarchical political systems? Other important aspects in this context include the connections between ports and their hinterlands; between trading companies and fishing communities and the other social, political and/or military establishment(s) of a port city; between port residents, foreign settlers, and religious institutions; heritage-making in port cities; and the impact of individual ports on wider Indian Ocean connections.

The funding from the Henry Luce Foundation grant will reinforce the ongoing collaboration among researchers engaged in the study of the Indian Ocean at NYU Shanghai, and Martin Luther University, Halle-Wittenberg (MLU). The researchers at NYU Shanghai are affiliated to the Center for Global Asia (CGA), those at MLU to the Center for Interdisciplinary Regional Studies (Zentrum für Interdisziplinäre Regionalstudien, or ZIRS). Thanks in part to a grant from the Volkswagen Foundation, this collaborative research cluster has already developed a series of projects under the overarching theme of “(Trans)Ports”. In addition to conducting individual research, the research cluster will meet every year to discuss research findings, plan presentations at conferences, and publish their results in edited volume(s).



Illustration of maritime travel, Dunhuang. Photo by Tansen Sen.





2017 Summer School participants at Halle (Saale), Germany. Photo by Kim Dittmann.

# Indian Ocean Summer Schools

For the last three years, the Center for Interdisciplinary Area Studies (ZIRS) at Martin Luther University, Halle-Wittenberg (MLU), Germany, and the Center for Global Asia (CGA) at NYU Shanghai have collaborated in offering a series of three interconnected Summer Schools on the topic of “The Indian Ocean World and Eurasian Connections”. The series was funded through a generous grant from the Volkswagen Foundation. Over the years, the Summer Schools have introduced historians, anthropologists, geographers, art historians, and archaeologists to each other in an interdisciplinary spirit of scholarly engagement, discussion, and debate. In this issue of the CGA Newsletter, we have summarized the programs and achievements of the 2017 and 2018 Summer Schools.

## 2017 Summer School, Halle, Germany

The 2017 Summer School, the second of the three planned Summer Schools, was held in Halle, Germany in the building housing the ZIRS. The lead organizers of this Summer School were Professors Tansen Sen and Duane Corpis of NYU Shanghai, and Professor Burkhard Schnepel and Dr. Hanne Schöning of MLU.

Eight specialists working at institutions in Germany, China, Australia, Austria, Canada, and South Africa, all conducting research in the field of Indian Ocean studies, delivered lectures and held seminars on specific topics related to the Summer School’s overarching theme. Twenty junior scholars at the doctoral or post-doctoral stages of their careers—mainly from Germany, the United States, and China—were selected to participate in the 2017 Summer School.

The theme for the 2017 Summer School was “Connectivity in Motion: People, Ideas, and Animals across the Indian Ocean”. Topics explored during the seven days of lectures and seminars included the economic and political impact of pirates and piracy; the historical role of the monsoon in creating networks of trade and cultural exchange; the

movement of animals, ranging from giraffes sent as diplomatic gifts to Central American cochineal insects used to create red textile dyes; and the diffusion of Islam and Buddhism across the region. The diversity of topics intersected around the theme of movement and circulation across networks of connectivity in the Indian Ocean, in which terrestrial and oceanic environmental structures shaped the long-existing trade routes across the region. The networks then assisted in the circulation of human migrants, non-human animal species, technologies, and ideas, as well as trade commodities.

The remarkable success of the 2017 Summer School rested upon the dynamic and interactive engagement of both student participants and scholarly experts. For example, over the course of the week, student participants presented their own on-going research projects to their peers in an open environment of intellectual exchange and dialogue. The NYU-affiliated students and faculty who travelled to Halle consisted of a stellar group of historians, art historians, and anthropologists, including Professor Ismail Fajrie Alatas (NYU); Dr. Alan Crawford (NYU Shanghai Global Perspectives on Society Teaching Fellow); Dr. Ruth de Llobet (Postdoctoral Fellow, CGA); Dr. Tian Mo (Postdoctoral Fellow, CGA); Dr. Ming Zhu (East China Normal University); Hui Fang (PhD candidate, NYU); Joshua Sooter (PhD candidate, NYU); and Arran Walshe (PhD candidate, NYU).

## 2018 Summer School, Shanghai, China



2018 Summer School opening remarks: Burkhard Schnepel (left) and Tansen Sen (right). Photo by Maho Sebiane.





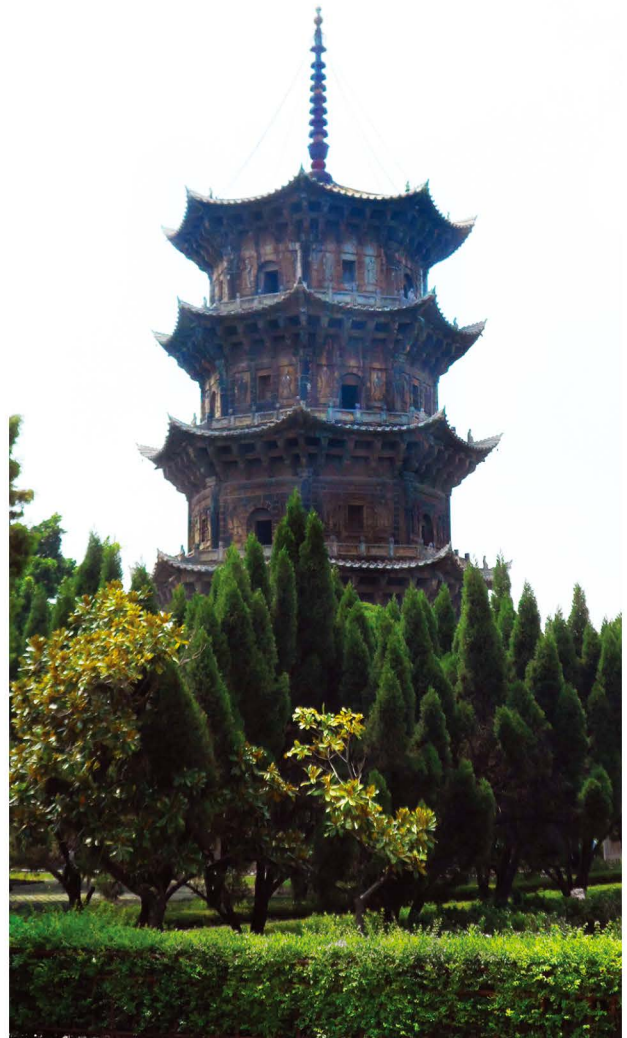
2018 Summer School participants at China Maritime Museum, Shanghai, China. Photo by Yiyun Chen.

“The Indian Ocean World and Eurasian Connections” Summer School recently completed its third and final summer of activity. From July 30 through August 12, four instructional faculty members and twenty doctoral and post-doctoral participants from China, Europe, and the United States met in China to engage with this summer’s theme “Archaeology, Cultural Heritage, and Contemporary Connectivities of Indian Ocean History”. For two weeks, the participants investigated the cultural, social, and political implications of historical memory, remembrance, reenactment, and commemoration. Topics of discussion included the presentation of the past in museums, shipwreck excavations, memorials and heritage sites, heritage tourism, as well as the preservation of intangible forms of heritage such as cultural practices, rituals, dance, and music. Through a combination of lectures and seminar discussions, the participants explored both theoretical frameworks and empirical examples of heritage production in African and Asian sites around the Indian Ocean world.

The second week of the 2018 Summer School introduced the participants to the China Maritime Museum and the cities of Nanjing and Quanzhou in order to show them a variety of heritage sites that, as well as be tied to the history of China, were also connected to the broader Eurasian and Indian Ocean world. For example, in Nanjing the group traveled to memorial sites dedicated to the fifteenth-century admiral Zheng He, whose treasure fleets sailed to Southeast and South Asia, and even as far as the east coast of Africa, while in Quanzhou they visited the oldest mosque in the city along with Muslim burial sites, which mark the continuing history of Muslim migrants having lived in the Chinese port city for centuries.

Three of the core faculty members—Professors Burkhard Schnepel (MLU), Tansen Sen (NYU Shanghai), and Duane Corpis (NYU Shanghai)—participated in all three summer schools, while Dr. Geoff Wade (Australian National University) made his second appearance, and Professor Leksa Lee (NYU Shanghai) joined the team for the first time during the 2018 Summer School. This year, the NYU Global Network supplied an enthusiastic and engaged group of doctoral candidates and post-doctoral researchers who took part in the Summer School, including Dr. Luo Di (Postdoctoral Fellow, CGA); Hui Fang (PhD candidate,

NYU); Elizabeth Lee (PhD candidate, NYU); Joshua Sooter (PhD candidate, NYU); Arran Walshe (PhD candidate, NYU), Meng Wei (PhD candidate, NYU), Dr. Kunbing Xiao (CGA-ARC Postdoctoral Fellow); and Dr. Fan Zhang (PhD, NYU and NYU Shanghai Global Perspectives on Society Teaching Fellow).



Pagoda at Kaiyuan Temple, Quanzhou, China. Photo by Anil Paralkar.



# Faculty Highlight

**Tzu-hui  
Celina Hung**

Assistant Professor of Literature  
NYU Shanghai



As a scholar trained in comparative literary and cultural studies with a focus on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries Chinese and Sino-phone worlds, Celina has always attached great importance to what Benedict Anderson describes as the “specter of comparisons” and what Édouard Glissant calls the “poetics of relation” when exploring the question of Chineseness. Her broader research interests lie at the intersection of global migration history, colonial and settler colonial encounters, and interethnic imaginations. In the specific context of transpacific Chinese migration in modern times, her work has been dedicated to exploring how categories like the Chinese *hanren* (漢人) and *huaren* (華人), along with their variegated associations, find local articulations and develop epistemologically charged meanings at sites where these identity markers often prove unstable and necessitate reframing.

## Book Project 1. *Creolizing the Sinophone Pacific*

Celina’s first book-in-progress, *Creolizing the Sinophone Pacific*, is driven by the above concern and is greatly informed by historical scholarship. It offers a simple argument: although creolization is most frequently associated with the colonial subjects of European and African descents in the Indian Ocean and the Americas, and although existing scholarship on this often dismisses the role of the Chinese figure, creolization in fact has long formed an integral part of the culture-making process for sojourners and settlers from China. Particularly in maritime Southeast Asia, localized Chinese communities like the Chinese Peranakans in Dutch Java, Chinese Mestizos in Spanish Manila, and Baba Chinese in the British Straits Settlements emerged from the tension-filled long-term encounters between Chinese merchant settlers, indigenous and migrant laborers, and European colonizers. These local communities played highly versatile and powerful—although also often contradictory—roles in the colonial societies between the mid-18<sup>th</sup> and mid-20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Over the years, through support from both the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation and the Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowships Program at UCLA, Celina has gathered material from a multilingual body of essays, stories, newspaper articles, and films produced locally, both at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and in the postcolonial contemporary days. These sources provide invaluable insights into how notable figures from these simultaneously westernized and indigenized communities exercise flexible cultural affinities and talk

about their changing identities. Upon publication, hopefully within the next two years, the book aims to prompt sinologists from various humanistic disciplines who take an interest in the migration of people and their cultural forms to think about the ways colonial racial thinking in Southeast Asia has not only contributed to the 20<sup>th</sup> century notions of Chineseness across the Pacific, but in the postcolonial era, also laid the foundation for the region’s multiracial governance, with lasting impact on the Chinese-descended locals.

## Book Project 2. *Staging Original and New Residents: Settler Colonial Imagination in Multicultural Taiwan*

Celina has also begun her second book project, tentatively titled *Staging Original and New Residents: Settler Colonial Imagination in Multicultural Taiwan*, under the support from the Henry Luce Foundation/ACLS Program in China Studies as a postdoctoral fellow during the calendar year of 2018. Also interdisciplinary in approach, this new project continues her interest in the Han-Chinese settlers’ engagement with racialized thinking but elaborates upon it in the context of the 21<sup>st</sup> century Taiwan, where their exercise of political and cultural sovereignty has been much more aggressive than that in Southeast Asia. Combining text-based discourse analysis with interviews and archival work, Celina examines Taiwan’s parallel cultural politics in the 2000s concerning its indigenous Austronesian peoples and Southeast Asian new immigrants in the face of the contradictory official discourse that posits Taiwan as a multicultural society despite its continued settler



*The Fourth Literature Award for Migrants. Poster by Taiwan Literature Awards for Migrants.*

colonial domination. Specifically, Celina uses two recent milestones in Taiwan’s multicultural market—the controversial indigenous musical *On the Road* (2010) and the Taiwan Literature Awards for Migrants (2014–present)—to scrutinize the evolving Han/Hoklo-centered imagination of minorities and to highlight the historical ties among Taiwan, Southeast Asia, and Oceania. Two recent articles of her have paved the way for this new book: “Documenting ‘Immigrant Brides’ in Multicultural Taiwan” in *Asian Video Cultures: In the Penumbra of the Global* (Duke UP, 2017), co-edited by Bhaskar Sarkar and Joshua Neves; and another written in Chinese, titled “Translator” 譯鄉人 in *Keywords of Taiwan Theory* 台灣理論關鍵詞 (Linking Publishing, forthcoming in 2018), co-edited by the Knowledge Taiwan Collective from the Center for Taiwan Studies at National Taiwan University.



# CGA Fellows

## 2016–2018 Doctoral and Postdoctoral Fellows



### Di Luo: Postdoctoral Fellow 2017–2018

Di Luo received her PhD in East Asian Languages and Cultures from the University of Southern California in 2016. Before joining NYU Shanghai, she was Visiting Assistant Professor of Asian Art at the University of Pittsburgh. Di previously worked as an architectural designer and modeler in Los Angeles and Beijing. Her professional training as an architect has led her to embrace various visualization and digitization tools, especially 3D modeling and photogrammetry, in her studies.

#### Di Luo

PhD in East Asian  
Language and  
Cultures |  
*University of  
Southern California*

Di's research focuses on Chinese architecture and its intersections with art, archaeology, and material culture. Her first book project, *A Grain of Sand: Buddhist Architecture in Miniature*, adopts an Intra-Asian perspective in studying the phenomenon of miniature-making in Buddhist art and architecture in premodern China and its neighboring areas. The examples she examines encompass miniature shrines, baldachins, sutra repositories, model pagodas, reliquaries, architectural drawings, ceiling domes, and grave goods. They add new understandings of cross-cultural exchanges in Asia's past between South Asia, China, Korea, Japan, and Southeast Asia, highlighting not just the dissemination of religious ideas and the proliferation of religious images, texts, and rituals, but also the spread of scientific knowledge and building practices. This project was funded by the Graham Foundation, the Society of Architectural Historians, the University of Southern California, the Metropolitan Center for Far Eastern Art Studies, and the Harvard-Yenching Library.



### Ka-Kin Cheuk: Postdoctoral Fellow 2017–2018

Ka-Kin Cheuk completed his PhD in Social and Cultural Anthropology at the University of Oxford. Prior to joining NYU Shanghai, he was Postdoctoral Researcher at Leiden University's Institute for Area Studies (LIAS), where he remains a research member of the Europe-China interdisciplinary research consortium "Immigration and Transformations of the Chinese Society" (2015–2018). Trained as a social and cultural anthropologist, Ka-Kin has conducted long-term ethnographic research on Sikh migrants in Hong Kong and Indian textile traders in southeast China.

#### Ka-Kin Cheuk

PhD in Social  
and Cultural  
Anthropology |  
*University of Oxford*

Ka-Kin's on-going book project is an ethnographic study of a third-tier Chinese city called Keqiao. A municipal district located in eastern Zhejiang Province, Keqiao is not only a global trading frontier in Asia, but also a "Little India" in China. Its wholesale market accounts for one-third of the annual turnover of China-made fabrics—semi-finished textiles—before being exported to over 180 ports around the world. This makes Keqiao one of the major textile-trading centers in Asia. In the local fabric market, Indian traders have established a particularly vibrant trading economy, exporting large quantities of fabrics not only to South Asia, but also to Southeast Asia, the Middle East, eastern Europe, West Africa, and South America. Based on two periods of long-term fieldwork in 2010–2012 and 2016–2017, this project aims to demonstrate the significance of this Indian–Chinese trade in terms of its transnational connectivity and global economic influences. Ka-Kin has published articles in journals such as the *Cambridge Journal of Anthropology* and is currently co-editing a journal special issue for *Transitions: Journal of Transient Migration* (Intellect Ltd).



### Kunbing Xiao: Postdoctoral Fellow 2017–2018

Kunbing Xiao is Associate Professor of Anthropology at Southwest Minzu University, Chengdu, Sichuan. Her research interests include historical anthropology, sensory anthropology, cultural heritage studies, and particularly the history of the tea trade in modern China. Kunbing received her PhD degree in Ethnology and Anthropology from Xiamen University, Fujian, China for a dissertation on the tea trade in northern Fujian province from the seventeenth to the nineteenth century in the context of modern globalization. From 2014 to 2015 she was an ArgO-EMR research fellow affiliated to the Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology at the University of Oxford, where she completed research on the practice of Chinese tea in the cultivation of personhood and well-being.

Her on-going project is a historical study of the Pu'er tea trade and intra-ethnic interactions in Yunnan's border region in the Qing period. Kunbing has published two monographs and over forty essays. Her book titled *Materials, Spaces, and Histories: Tracing the Circulation of Tea in the Mountainous Region of Northern Fujian (1644–1949)* (Beijing University Press, 2013) is a study of Chinese tea trade, particularly the Bohea variety, between the seventeenth to the nineteenth centuries in the context of modern globalization. Her second book is titled *Strolling through the Flora: A Historical Anthropological Study of Ancient Tea Plants in Guizhou* (Guizhou Renmin Press, 2013).



**Kunbing Xiao**

PhD in Ethnology  
and Anthropology |  
Xiamen University

### Wonhee Cho: Postdoctoral Fellow 2016–2017

Wonhee Cho received his PhD from Yale University (2014) for a dissertation on "Beyond Tolerance: The Mongols' religious policies in Yuan China and Il-Khanate Iran (1200–1368)". He received his Bachelor's degree in English Language & Literature and Master's degree in Asian History from Seoul National University. As a historian of the Mongol empire (1206–1368), Wonhee is particularly interested in religion, comparative empire studies, digital humanities and cross-cultural interactions.

Wonhee's book project, entitled *Empire and Religion: Politics of Difference and Negotiation in the Mongol Empire (1206–1368)*, examines the different religions of the Mongol empire in China–Buddhism, Daoism, Christianity, and Islam—and their interactions with the empire. During his tenure at NYU Shanghai, Wonhee completed two articles, both of which have been accepted for publication: "Negotiated Privilege: The Tax Exemption Policies concerning Religion under the Mongol-Yuan Empire" (*Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient*, forthcoming), and "From Military Leaders to Administrative Experts: The Biography of the 'Treacherous Minister' Temüder and his Ancestors" (*Asiatische Studien - Études Asiatiques*). Wonhee is now a full-time researcher at the Jangseogak Archives, Academy of Korean Studies, where he oversees the various "globalization" projects.



**Wonhee Cho**

PhD in East  
Asian History |  
Yale University

### Ruth De Llobet: Postdoctoral Fellow 2016–2017

Ruth De Llobet received her PhD in Southeast Asian History from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Prior to joining NYU Shanghai, she was Postdoctoral Fellow at KITLV, Leiden, the Netherlands, and was recently FASS Postdoctoral Fellow at the National University of Singapore, as well as Visiting Postdoctoral Fellow at Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona, Spain. Her research interests include Southeast Asian history, the political and constitutional history of the Philippines, Asian interconnections, networks, and colonial elites, and the age of revolution in a global context.

At NYU Shanghai Ruth worked on a project entitled "Co-opting Empire: Chinese Mestizo Socio-political and Legal Strategies in Manila, 1730–1830", completing one article and one book chapter during this period, both of which have been accepted for publication: "Luis Rodríguez Varela: Literatura panfletaria criollista en los albores del liberalismo en Filipinas, 1790–1824", forthcoming in *Revista de Crítica Literaria Latinoamericana*, Tufts University (Special issue on Filipino literature, 2018); and "De ciudadanía a sedición: La trayectoria política de Domingo Roxas, 1820–1843" in *La Construcción de la Nación Filipina: Un Caso de Estudio a través de la Familia Roxas*, edited by María Dolores Elizalde and Xavier Huetz de Lemp (forthcoming).



**Ruth De Llobet**

PhD in Southeast  
Asian History |  
University of  
Wisconsin-Madison



**Mo Tian**

PhD in History |  
Australian National  
University

### Mo Tian: Postdoctoral Fellow 2016–2017

Mo received his PhD in History from the Australian National University. His dissertation examined the social control of rural Manchuria under Japanese occupation between 1932 and 1945. His research interests include modern East Asian history and Japanese imperialism in Asia.

During his tenure as CGA-ARC Postdoctoral Fellow, Mo completed two publications, both of which are in press: “The Korean War and Manchuria: Economic, Social, and Human Effects” in *The Korean War in Asia: A Hidden History*, edited by Tessa Morris-Suzuki and Adam Broinowski (Rowman & Littlefield, 2018); and “The Condition of Asian Studies in Post-war Australia” in *Re-narrating Asian History and Culture* (Fudan University Publishing House, forthcoming). Mo was a research fellow at Jinan University (2017). He is currently a Research Associate at the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, Germany.



**Yin Cao**

PhD in History |  
National University  
of Singapore

### Yin Cao: Postdoctoral Fellow 2016

Yin Cao received his PhD in History from the National University of Singapore. His research interests cover modern India, global history, and India-China relations in the twentieth century. His first book, entitled *From Policemen to Revolutionaries: A Sikh Diaspora in Global Shanghai, 1885–1945*, was published by Brill in 2017. This book demonstrates how the identity of the Sikh community in modern Shanghai was transformed in the context of the rise and fall of the British imperial network. His other publications can be found in journals such as the *Indian Historical Review*, *Frontiers of History in China*, *Journal of Punjab Studies*, and *Britain and the World*.

Yin is currently Associate Professor at the Department of History, Tsinghua University, Beijing, and is working on two research projects: one on the history of the Chinese community in Pakistan (sponsored by the All-China Federation of Returned Overseas), the other focusing on the Indian home front in China’s war against Japan in the 1940s (sponsored by the National Social Science Fund of China).



**Shuang Wen**

PhD in Transregional  
History | Georgetown  
University

### Shuang Wen: Postdoctoral Fellow 2016

Shuang Wen is a historian of the modern Middle East and East Asia. She is currently a lecturer in the writing program at NYU Abu Dhabi. She received her PhD in Transregional History (modern Middle East and East Asia) from Georgetown University and MA in Middle East Studies from the American University in Cairo. She received additional Arabic-language training from the University of Damascus and Middlebury College. Prior to joining NYU Shanghai, Shuang held fellowship at National University of Singapore. Before switching career to the academia, Shuang was a broadcast journalist for Phoenix Satellite Television InfoNews Channel in Hong Kong (2003–2006).

During her tenure at CGA, Shuang completed an article entitled “Soybean’s Journey from Manchuria to Egypt in the First Half of the Twentieth Century”. Using Arabic-and Chinese-language primary sources from multi-sited research in mainland and Taiwan China, Egypt, Syria, the UK, and the US, her forthcoming first book investigates the transformative processes of Arab-Chinese entanglements in the age of global empires from the mid-nineteenth century to the end of World War II.



**Hyeju J. Jeong**

Doctoral Student |  
Duke University

### Hyeju J. Jeong: Doctoral Fellow 2016

Hyeju J. Jeong was a doctoral fellow of Duke University at CGA. She is currently a PhD candidate in the Department of History at Duke University. For her graduate study, Hyeju explores the connections and networks between East Asia and West Asia through the lens of religion and diasporas. She received her BA degree from Duke University with a double major in Asian & Middle Eastern Studies and History. Since her tenure at CGA in the summer of 2016, she has completed dissertation research in Saudi Arabia and Taiwan with the support of a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship and a Center for Chinese Studies Fellowship. She has presented her findings at multiple conferences and is now completing her PhD dissertation based on the data she has gathered.





On May 10, 2016 at NYU Shanghai, Professor Joanna Waley-Cohen, Provost for NYU Shanghai and Professor Jin Guangyao, Director of Asia Research Center at Fudan University, signed the memorandum on behalf of Asia Research Center (ARC) at Fudan University and The Center for Global Asia (CGA), respectively, to promote the field of Asian Studies in China.

## Collaborations

**The Center for Global Asia has established collaborations with the following institutions:**

### **Asia Research Center, Fudan University, China**

Officially founded in March 2002, the Asia Research Center at Fudan University (ARC-FDU) is one of the achievements of the cooperation between Fudan and the Korean Foundation for Advanced Studies (KFAS). Since its founding, the Center has been making every effort to promote Asian Studies, including hosting conferences and supporting research projects. ARC-FDU maintains close connections with ARCs in mainland China and many institutes abroad.

### **The Center for Interdisciplinary Area Studies, Martin Luther University, Halle-Wittenberg, Germany**

The Center for Interdisciplinary Area Studies ("Zentrum für Interdisziplinäre Regionalstudien" or ZIRS) is the umbrella organization for institutions and people at Martin Luther University, Halle-Wittenberg, and its neighboring research institutions working in regional and area studies. One of ZIRS's main tasks is to bring together different regional expertise in Halle and their various disciplinary perspectives, and to foster academic exchange between them. ZIRS aims to initiate and support common research agendas that have a regional as well as a transregional focus and that address common thematic, theoretical and/or methodological questions. The Center also offers an inspiring research environment to individual projects. In cooperation with local as well as international partners, the ZIRS organises events such as guest lectures, workshops, summer schools, etc.

### **International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden, The Netherlands**

The International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS) is a global humanities and social sciences research institute and knowledge exchange platform that supports programs engaging Asian and other international partners. It aims to contribute to a better and more integrated understanding of present-day Asian realities and to rethink the discipline of Asian Studies in a changing global context. The institute works to encourage dialogue and link expertise, involving scholars and other experts from all around the world in its activities. Originally established in 1993 by the Dutch Ministry of Education as an inter-university institute, IIAS is now based at Leiden University, where it works as a globally oriented interfaculty institute with strong connections throughout the Netherlands, Europe, Asia, and beyond.

### **Indian Ocean World Centre, McGill University, Canada**

The Indian Ocean World Centre (IOWC) at McGill University is a research initiative and resource base established to promote the study of the history, economy, and cultures of the lands and peoples of the Indian Ocean world (IOW) from China to Southeast and South Asia, the Middle East, and Africa.

The IOWC pursues an interdisciplinary approach inspired by French historian Fernand Braudel (1902–1985) who posited history as an ongoing interaction between human and natural forces, encompassing geography, environment, climate and disease. The Centre's current research priorities include: The rise and development of the first global economy, Human migration and diaspora in the IOW, Systems of bondage and trafficking of humans in the IOW, IOW exchange of commodities, technology and ideas.



# 2017 Annual Conference

## Ports and Port-Cities in Indian Ocean Connections

The panels at the second annual conference of the Center for Global Asia addressed several issues related to the ports of the Indian Ocean that inhabit environments on many spatio-temporal scales: natural and social ecologies; the archaeological remains of maritime connections over long-distances; their roles as hubs for coastal regions of development; their contributions as transcontinental innovators in the arts, architecture, cuisine, and technology; and their roles as laboratories for urban planning and as conduits of mobility. The conference considered new ways of conceptualizing historical and contemporary connections across the Indian Ocean world. In the keynote lecture, Professor Campbell presented the different structures and functions of ports in the Indian Ocean world (IOW) in the context of the rise and development of the IOW global economy from about 300 BCE to the present day. He explained the physical, geographical, and environmental requirements of a port, describing how ports evolved, changed, and were transformed over time by catering to intra-IOW regional maritime exchange, trans-IOW maritime exchange, and exchanges between the maritime and continental spheres of the IOW. Professor Campbell's lecture included investigations of the relationship between ships, commodities, and ports, and of the European impact on IOW ports from about 1500.

The conference was co-sponsored by the Asia Research Center at Fudan University, the Center for Interdisciplinary Area Studies at Martin Luther University, Halle-Wittenberg, the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, and the Asian Civilisations Museum, Singapore.



2017 CGA Annual Conference participants. Photo by Xuan Li.

### Panel I: The Art of Port Cities: Hybridity and Appropriation across the Indian Ocean World

Chair: Kennie Ting | *Asian Civilisations Museum*, Singapore  
 Stephen A. Murphy | *Asian Civilisations Museum*, Singapore  
 Sujatha Arundathi Meegama | *Nanyang Technological University*, Singapore  
 Clement Onn | *Asian Civilisations Museum*, Singapore  
 William Sargent | Independent Curator

### Panel II: Port City Environments in Global Asia (Part A)

Chair: Burkhard Schnepel | *Martin Luther University, Halle-Wittenberg*, Germany  
 Ismail Fajrie Alatas | *New York University*, USA  
 Hsueh-Man Shen | *New York University*, USA  
 Krishnendu Ray | *New York University*, USA  
 David Ludden | *New York University*, USA

### Panel III: Port City Environments in Global Asia (Part B)

Chair: Duane Corpis | *NYU Shanghai*, China  
 Mark Swislocki | *NYU Abu Dhabi*, UAE  
 Zvi Ben-Dor | *New York University*, USA  
 Prita Meier | *New York University*, USA

### Keynote Address: Ports in the Indian Ocean World Global Economy over the Longue Durée

Gwyn Campbell | *Indian Ocean World Centre, McGill University*, Canada

### Panel IV. Trans-Ports: The Inner Life of Maritime Hubs in the Indian Ocean World

Chair: David Ludden | *New York University*, USA  
 Burkhard Schnepel | *Martin Luther University, Halle-Wittenberg*, Germany  
 Mareike Pampus | *The Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology*, Germany  
 Boris Wille | *Martin Luther University, Halle-Wittenberg*, Germany

### Panel V: Trade and Religion Across the Indian Ocean Port Cities

Chair: Zvi Ben-Dor | *New York University*, USA  
 Wonhee Cho | *The Academy of Korean Studies*, South Korea  
 Suchandra Ghosh | *University of Calcutta*, India  
 Jongkuk NAM | *Ehwa Womans University*, South Korea  
 Duane Corpis | *NYU Shanghai*, China

### Panel VI: Colonial Port Cities

Chair: Tansen Sen | *NYU Shanghai*, China  
 Donna Brunero | *National University of Singapore*, Singapore  
 Jayani Bonnerjee | *O.P. Jindal Global University*, India  
 Ruth de Llobet | *NYU Shanghai*, China  
 Mishi Saran | Independent Scholar

### Panel VII: Maritime Shanghai: Interconnections of People, Goods and Heritage

Chair: Zhang Ke | *Fudan University*, China  
 Pan Weilin | *Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences*, China  
 Lena Scheen | *NYU Shanghai*, China  
 Andrew Field | *Duke Kunshan University*, China

### Panel VIII: Politics of Port Cities

Chair: Mark Swislocki | *New York University*, Abu Dhabi  
 Simon Shen | *Chinese University of Hong Kong*, China  
 Kaho Yu | *Chinese University of Hong Kong*, China  
 Wilson Chan | *Chinese University of Hong Kong*, China  
 Leksa Lee | *NYU Shanghai*, China

### Roundtable: The Study of Indian Ocean Ports and Port Cities

Chairs: David Ludden, Burkhard Schnepel, and Tansen Sen



# Fall 2018 CGA Events



Sep 6

## The “Branding” of the Tang Dynasty (618-907 CE)

**Chao-Hui Jenny Liu** Field Director of The Peking Opera Immersion Program in Shanghai & Coordinator of The East Asian Studies Program | *Princeton University*



Oct 8

## Asian/American Women, Feminist Subjectivity, and the Sharing of Emotions on Social Media

**L. Ayu Saraswati** Associate Professor & Chair of the Women's Studies Department | *University of Hawai'i at Manoa*



Oct 11

## How the Indian Ocean Spice Trade Made the World Modern

**Eric Tagliacozzo** Professor of History | *Cornell University*



Oct 16

## Resonance of Wisdom: Thangka Conservation in the Digital Age

**Ann Shafte** Preservation Specialist



Nov 7

## Thirsty Cities: Social Contracts and Public Goods Provision in China and India

**Selina Ho** Assistant Professor | *Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore*



Nov 26

## Elite Returnees in Beijing and Bangalore: Information Technology and Beyond

**Kellee S. Tsai** Dean & Chair Professor | *School of Humanities and Social Science, Hong Kong University of Science & Technology*

Nov 29–  
Dec 1

## International Symposium on Water Heritage in Asian Cities

Organized by Urban Knowledge Network Asia, International Institute for Asian Studies, Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, NYU Shanghai, and Fudan University



Dec 3

## Fantasies of the Self: Chinese Lyricism and Modern Photography

**Shengqing Wu** Associate Professor of Chinese Literature | *Division of Humanities, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology*



Dec 13

## Polygyny and Its Discontents: A Key to Understanding Traditional Chinese Society

**Paul R. Goldin** Professor | *Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations, University of Pennsylvania*



# Past Events **Fall 2017–Spring 2018**



Sep 12  
2017

## Orphaned Landscapes: Figurations and Disfigurations of Place in Precarious Times

**Patricia Spyer** Professor of Anthropology | *The Graduate Institute Geneva*



Oct 16  
2017

## Matsuyama Ballet and White-Haired Girl 1958–Present Times

**Eva Shan Chou** Professor & Chair | *Department of English, Baruch College, The City University of New York*

Oct 25  
2017

## NYUSH-ECNU India-China Roundtable Fifty-Five Years After: Reflections on the Chinese-Indian Border War of 1962

ECNU: Professor Zhihua Shen, Professor Yu Yao, Professor Yuanmei Yao  
NYUSH: Professor Jian Chen, Professor Tansen Sen



Nov 9  
2017

## Imperial Cities as Capitals of Buddhist Empires, ca. 650–770

**Dorothy C. Wong** Associate Professor of East Asian Art & Director of the East Asia Center | *University of Virginia*



Nov 20  
2017

## The Rohingya Crisis: A Window to Understand Post/Colonial Asia

**Chiara Formichi** Assistant Professor | *Department of Asian Studies, Cornell University*

Nov 27  
2017

## Beyond Goldman Sachs

**Elizabeth Chen** Senior Executive in Residence | *NYU Shanghai*; former Managing Director | *Goldman Sachs*, HK, China **Leo Tong Chen** Founder | *dGav Capital*



Dec 4  
2017

## China and Prehistoric Silk Routes: An Archaeological Perspective

**Li Zhang** Associate Professor of Archaeology | *Zhengzhou University*



Dec 8  
2017

## Chinese Tea Indian Dance

**Kunbing Xiao** Postdoctoral Fellow | *NYU Shanghai & Fudan University*  
**Alice Ping-Hsiu Lin** Doctoral Student | *Chinese University of Hong Kong*



Dec 12  
2017

## Culture, Institutions, and the Gender Gap in Competitiveness: Evidence from China's Egalitarian Policies

**Jane Zhang** Assistant Professor | *Hong Kong University of Science and Technology*





Jan 29  
2018

### Islamic Cosmopolitanism Out of Muslim Asia: Hindu-Muslim Business Co-operation between Odessa and Yiwu

**Magnus Marsden** Professor of Social Anthropology & Director of Sussex Asia Centre at the School of Global Studies | *University of Sussex*



Feb 6  
2018

### China's Search for a Common Language: The Past and Future of Putonghua

**David Moser** Associate Dean of the Yenching Academy | Peking University

Mar 8–9  
2018

### CGA & Global Perspective on Society Young Scholars Colloquium on Asia and the World

Keynote: The World in Guangzhou: Africans and Other Foreigners in South China's Global Marketplace, **Gordon Mathews** Professor of Anthropology | *Chinese University of Hong Kong*



Mar 15  
2018

### Symbioses and Antipathies of Charisma and Money: Tibetan Buddhist Social Engagements in Contemporary China

**Dan Smyer Yu** Professor of Anthropology & Founding Director of Center for Trans-Himalayan Studies | *Yunnan Minzu University*

Mar 22–23  
2018

### Virtues of Attentions: Global Philosophical Perspectives

Sponsored by NYU Shanghai, New York University and Fudan University

Apr 2  
2018

### Beyond Goldman Sachs

**Elizabeth Chen** Senior Executive in Residence | *NYU Shanghai*; former Managing Director | *Goldman Sachs*, HK, China **Jian Shuo Wang** Founder & CEO | *Baixing.com*



Apr 12  
2018

### Appropriating the World in the UNESCO World Heritage Arena: East Asia and Beyond

**Christoph Brumann** Head of Research Group | *The Max Planck Institute of Social Anthropology*; Honorary Professor of Anthropology | *Martin Luther University, Halle-Wittenberg*

Apr 18  
2018

### Global Perspectives on Society Film Series: *Sweet Bean*, 2015

Q&As with **Naomi Kawase** Film Director



Apr 23  
2018

### From Nationality to Ethnicity: Performative Politics in China

**Naran Bilik** 纳日碧力戈 Changjiang Scholar; Distinguished Professor of Anthropology & Director of Centre of National Minorities Studies | *Fudan University*

Apr 29  
2018

### Global Perspectives on Society Film Series: *A Touch of Sin*, 2013

Q&A: **Richard Peña** Director Emeritus, NYFF; Professor | *Columbia University*

May 3–4  
2018

### Critical Dialogues on Africa-China Relations

The contemporary and historical connections linking China and Africa



May 8  
2018

### Transformation in the Global Pharmaceutical Industry: Role of India and China

**Falguni Sen** Professor & Director of Global Healthcare Innovation Management Center | *Business School, Fordham University*



# CGA Affiliated Faculty



**Jian Chen**

Global Distinguished  
Professor of History



**Wu-Wei Chen**

Visiting Assistant  
Arts Professor



**Zhihong Chen**

Research Professor



**Duane Corpis**

Associate Professor  
of History



**Anna Greenspan**

Assistant Professor of  
Contemporary Global Media



**Eric Hundman**

Assistant Professor  
of Political Science



**Tzu-Hui Celina Hung**

Assistant Professor  
of Literature



**Heather Ruth Lee**

Assistant Professor  
of History



**Leksa Lee**

Assistant Professor of  
Global China Studies



**Xuan Li**

Assistant Professor  
of Psychology



**Ivan Willis Rasmussen**

Assistant Professor of  
Practice in Political Science



**Lena Scheen**

Assistant Professor of  
Global China Studies



**Francesca Tarocco**

Visiting Associate Professor  
of Buddhist Culture



**Lu Teng**

Assistant Professor  
of Philosophy



**Paolo Visigalli**

Visiting Scholar  
in Residence



**Joanna Waley-Cohen**

Provost and Professor  
of History



**Brad Weslake**

Associate Professor  
of Philosophy



**Xiaogang Wu**

Visiting Professor  
of Sociology



**Shuang Zhang**

Assistant Professor  
of Economics



**Lu Zhao**

Assistant Professor of  
Global China Studies






NYU Shanghai Center for Global Asia Lecture Series

# Appropriating the World in the UNESCO World Heritage Arena



East Asia and Beyond

April 12, 2018  
16:30 - 18:00  
Room 1505  
NYU Shanghai

**Christoph Brumann**  
Head of Research Group  
Max Planck Institute of Social Anthropology,  
Halle, Germany  
Honorary Professor of Anthropology  
University of Halle-Wittenberg



NYU Shanghai Centre for Global Asia Lecture Series  
Co-sponsored by the Global China Studies Program




April 25, 2019  
16:30 - 18:00  
Room 1505  
NYU Shanghai

# From Nationality to Ethnicity

## Performative Politics in China

**Naran Bilik** 纳日碧力克  
Ministry of Education Changjiang Scholar  
Distinguished Professor of Fudan University



Introduction by Lu Teng,  
Assistant Professor Faculty Fellow of Philosophy,  
New York University

NTU Shanghai Center for Global Asia Special Series

# Beyond Goldman Sachs



November 27th  
16:30 - 18:00  
Room 1505  
NTU Shanghai

The Center for Global Asia at NYU Shanghai serves as the hub within the NYU Global Network University system to promote the study of Asian interactions and comparisons, both historical and contemporary. The overall objective of the Center is to provide global societies with information on the contexts for the reemerging connections between the various parts of Asia through research and teaching. This includes exploring how the politics and societies of Asia have interacted over time and are now beginning to interact again on broad fronts. The Center also encourages the examination of Asia's connections with the wider world, focusing specifically on how these connections have in the past and at present impact Asian societies.


NYU Global Network University  
historical and contemporary. The  
the contexts for the reemerging  
g. This includes exploring how  
ning to interact again on broad  
with the wider world, focusing  
Asian societies.

**Jane Zhang**  
Assistant Professor  
Hong Kong University of  
Science and Technology

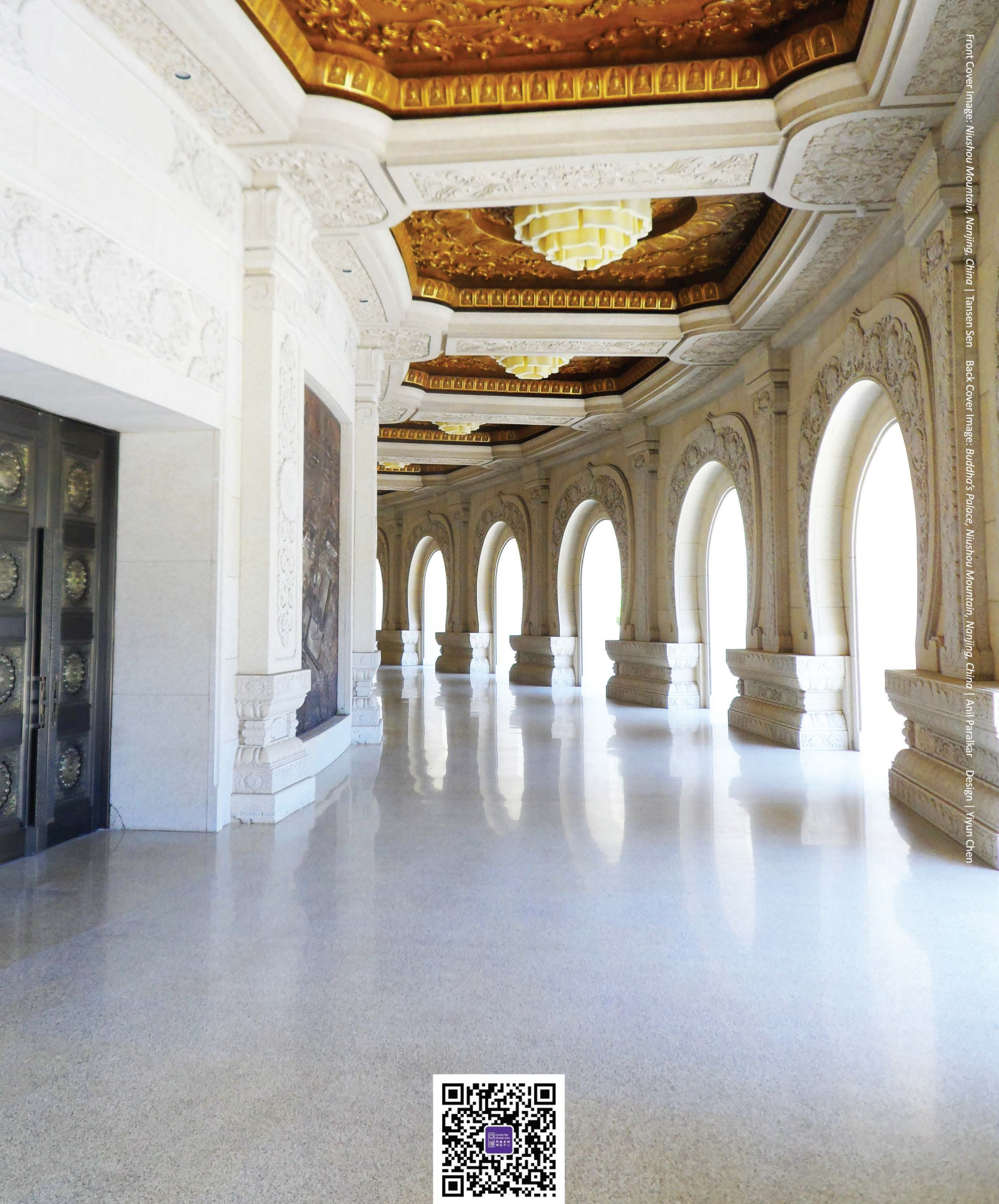
**Christina Jeng**  
Assistant Professor  
Practice in Economics

**DECEMBER 12TH**  
16:30 TO 18:00  
ROOM 1505, NYU SHANGHAI

2020/12/12







Front Cover Image: Niushou Mountain, Nanjing, China | Tansen Sen Back Cover Image: Buddha's Palace, Niushou Mountain, Nanjing, China | Anil Paralkar Design | Yiyun Chen



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