CGA Newsletter

Center for Global Asia

Issue 2
Spring 2019

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NYU Shanghai

NYU Shanghai was founded in 2012 through a unique partnership between New York University (NYU) 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 NYU’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.
Each year in late August, the Center’s academic calendar starts with its annual conference. The 2018 annual conference focused on Eurasian connections, with eleven panels and a keynote address by Professor Morris Rossabi. The annual conference also offered an opportunity for the faculty from NYU and NYU Abu Dhabi who are involved in the Henry Luce Foundation project on Port Cities’ Environments in Global Asia to come to Shanghai to plan collaborative research and schedule joint events for the fall and spring semesters.

The connections between the three campuses of NYU’s Global Network University have especially blossomed this year. CGA sent faculty to both NYU and NYUAD to give research presentations and to build continuing possibilities for collaboration.

One of the key events planned for the fall 2018 semester was the “Distinguished Henry Luce Foundation Lecture” delivered on 11 October 2018 by Professor Eric Tagliacozzo. Professor Tagliacozzo’s lecture focused on the impact of the spice trade on world history. He explained how the demand for spices from India and Indonesia connected different regions of the world and triggered the beginning of the imperial age through European state-making projects.

Between September and December 2018, the Center organized five lectures and jointly hosted an International Symposium on Water Heritage in Asia. The latter event was co-organized with the International Institute of Asian Studies (Leiden), the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, and Fudan University. Dean Maria Montoya delivered the keynote address, entitled “Controlling Water through Nature,” for the Symposium.

In January 2019, the Center organized the first Workshop on Methods in India China Studies. Emerging from a collaboration with the Harvard Yenching Institute, the India China Institute (New School), Peking University, the Yenching Academy, and the Institute of Chinese Studies (Delhi), the event focused on training graduate students in the field of India China Studies. Subsequent workshops will take place in Delhi and Cambridge (MA).

In the fall semester, the Center also welcomed several new fellows and visiting scholars, including Dr. Elke Papelitzky as the CGA Postdoctoral Fellow, Dr. Pan Weilin as the Fudan–NYUSH Joint Postdoctoral Fellow, and Vidhya Raveendranathan as the Doctoral Fellow. These fellows joined other postdoctoral fellows in the Global Perspectives on Society program to jointly organize and participate in the Second Annual CGA–GPS Young Scholars Symposium in April 2019.

The Center is continuing its work on several database projects and in the coming months will start contributing to the Journal of Indian Ocean World Studies co-edited with faculty from McGill University. During the coming months, the Center plans to develop its publication agenda as part of its objective to become a research and knowledge hub for Asian Studies.

Tansen Sen
Professor of History
NYU Shanghai
2018 Annual Conference of Center for Global Asia

Eurasian Connections

August 20–22, 2018

Co-sponsored by Shanghai Academy of Social Science, Fudan University, Henry Luce Foundation, New York University, and NYU Shanghai Office of External & Academic Events

Duane Corris

NYU Shanghai’s Center for Global Asia hosted its third annual conference from August 20–22, 2018. The theme of the conference – Eurasian Connections – provided an intellectual framework to gather a number of scholars whose research concentrates on the economic, religious, cultural, and political processes linking disparate, distant regions together through complex forms of connectivity and circulation. After a generous and enthusiastic opening to the conference delivered by NYU Shanghai’s Vice Chancellor Jeffrey Lehman, over thirty scholars from Austria, Japan, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the United States, as well as researchers from around China, convened on the fifteenth floor of 1555 Century Avenue to share their individual projects and their collective interests.

The remarkable range of themes, regions, and time periods covered during the three-day conference highlighted the diverse historical and anthropological approaches to understanding the trans-regional and trans-national networks that crisscross Eurasia. Some central topics that emerged included the role played by commodities and material culture in bridging geographic distances, such as flowers grown in China for global markets in the twenty-first century, Chinese tea consumed in nineteenth-century England and Russia, or Asian spices circulating in the eastern Mediterranean during the late Roman Empire. A related area of inquiry included the merchants and traders responsible for the movement of such commodities across the Eurasian territorial expanse, including Afghan traders living in Yiwu, China or Sikh traders operating in the Indo-Iranian borderlands. But it was not just people and material objects that moved across vast distances: ideas also traveled along the routes connecting various Asia to Europe, including religious beliefs and scientific, technological and medical knowledge. The environmental factors influencing life across Eurasia were also addressed, whether flooding in contemporary Thailand or alternative modes of ecological conservation in nineteenth-century Yunnan. The conference participants demonstrated that the flows of people, objects, and ideas were multi-directional, thus challenging traditional understandings of geopolitical centers and peripheries with a much more complex understanding of Eurasian geography. The keynote address delivered by Professor Morris Rossabi (City University of New York and Columbia University) also made this decisively clear, in its extensive explication of the multiple ways that the Mongol Empire created lasting networks of commercial, religious, cultural, and technological exchange across Eurasia, which not only influenced the immediate political successors in Central and East Asia, including the Ming Dynasty in China, but also helped constitute powerful historical myths about Chinggis Khan that continue to have political meaning in Mongolia, Central Asia, and the rest of the world today.

The three-day conference could not have been such a success without the financial and institutional support of NYU Shanghai’s Center for Global Asia, NYU Shanghai External and Academic Events, New York University, NYU Abu Dhabi, the Henry Luce Foundation, Fudan University, and the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences. The Fourth Annual Conference of the Center for Global Asia will explore the theme of Asian Migration and will take place August 26–28, 2019 at NYU Shanghai.

2018 Annual Conference participants. Photo by Yiyun Chen.
2018 Annual Conference Program
August 20–22

Panel I: Chinese Sciences and Eurasian Connections
Chair: Max Moerman | Columbia University, USA
Bill Mak | Kyoto University, Japan
Yoichi Ishaya | Rikkyo University, Japan
Lisa Rhaps | University of California Riverside, USA
Yunli Shi | University of Science and Technology of China, China

Panel II: Chinese Tea and its Encounter with the Eurasian World
Chair: Mark Swislocki | NYU Abu Dhabi, UAE
Yong Liu | Xi’an Jiaotong University, China
Alan Crawford | Shanghai Jiaotong University, China
Chao Huang | Sun Yat-Sen University, China
Kunping Xiao | NYU Shanghai, China

Panel III: Contemporary Eurasian Circuits and Circulations
Chair: David Ludden | New York University, USA
Ka-Kin Cheuk | NYU Shanghai, China
Magnus Marsden | University of Sussex, UK
Paul Anderson | University of Cambridge, UK
Kyoko Shinozaki | University of Salzburg, Austria

Keynote Address: Mongol Impact on Eurasia: Lasting Influences
Morris Rossabi | City University of New York, USA; Columbia University, USA
Introduction by Joanna Waley-Cohen, Provost and Professor of History, NYU Shanghai; Julius Silver Professor of History, NYU.

Panel IV: Protestant Translations and Transactions across Eurasia
Chair: Heather Lee | NYU Shanghai, China
Duane Corsis | NYU Shanghai, China
Chenxin Jiang | University of Chicago, USA
Ke Zhang | Fudan University, China

Panel V: Writing Eurasia
Chair: Duane Corsis | NYU Shanghai, China
Jia Si | Fudan University, China
Jun Gu | Beijing Foreign Studies University, China
Xi Gao | Fudan University, China

Panel VI: Japan and Eurasian Connections
Chair: Bill Mak | Kyoto University, Japan
Cynthea J. Bogel | Kyushu University, Japan
Max Moerman | Columbia University, USA
Anton Schweizer | Kyoto University, Japan

Panel VII: Territorializing Port Peoples and the Space of Belonging
Chair: Lisa Rhaps | University of California Riverside, USA
David Ludden | New York University, USA
Rochelle Almeida | New York University, USA

Panel VIII: The Materiality of Eurasian Connections
Chair: Kunping Xiao | NYU Shanghai, China
Weilin Pan | Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, China
Helen Wang | The British Museum, UK
Qing Sun | Fudan University, China

Panel IX: Port Peoples and Port Encounters
Chair: Magnus Marsden | University of Sussex, UK
Mikyai Kayagi | New York University, USA
Heather Lee | NYU Shanghai, China

Panel X: Port Standardization and Its Discontents: Credit, Climate, Culture
Chair: Kyoko Shinozaki | University of Salzburg, Austria
Alex Boodrookas | Chinese University of Hong Kong, China
Jerome Whittington | New York University, USA
Robert Parthesius | NYU Abu Dhabi, UAE

Panel XI: Momentum and Inertia in Long Distance Exchange
Chair: Tansen Sen | NYU Shanghai, China
Norman Underwood | New York University, USA
Christopher Paik | NYU Abu Dhabi, UAE
Mark Swislocki | NYU Abu Dhabi, UAE

Roundtable: Port Cities and the Study of Eurasian Connections
Chair: Duane Corsis | NYU Shanghai, China
Chair: David Ludden | New York University, USA
Chair: Mark Swislocki | NYU Abu Dhabi, UAE

Die Verkehrswege zwischen China, Indien & ROM um 100 nach Chr.Geb. By Albert Herrmann.
How does water figure in the myths, cultures, histories, sciences, and politics of Asia and beyond? From November 29 to December 1, 2018, a diverse group of scholars gathered in Shanghai to share their research about this question at the International Symposium on Water Heritage in Asian Cities. The Center for Global Asia at NYU Shanghai supported the Symposium in collaboration with local and international partners, including the International Institute for Asian Studies at Leiden University, the Department of Cultural Heritage and Museology at Fudan University, and the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences.

Associate Professor Maria Montoya, the Dean of Arts and Science at NYU Shanghai, was the keynote speaker for the Symposium. Her speech, entitled “Water and Community: Controlling Water through Nature,” gave an overview of the global history of water. Through a comparative examination of examples such as the Three Gorges Dam, the Hoover Dam, and the Duijiangyan System, Montoya highlighted the danger of modern engineering approaches to water resource management, but also invited the audience to understand better the durable success of ancient wisdoms. The speech ended with a call for more thoughtfulness as human societies continue to demand an ever-increasing amount of natural resources. The keynote speech provoked heated exchanges among Symposium participants around topics such as engineering optimization, the limits of technology, and environmental justice.

Following the keynote speech, Assistant Professor Yifei Li from NYU Shanghai shared his research on the history of water infrastructure in Shanghai. Li proposed Zaanheh, the romanization of Shanghai’s pronunciation in the local Wu dialect, as a heuristic device to help recover the area’s historical ecology prior to the arrival of British settlers in 1843. Li’s presentation was illustrated with examples of water infrastructure from different historical periods that highlighted the stark contrast between ancient Chinese systems of water management and modern European technologies of water control. Li further discussed the racial and imperialist contexts that had led to the demise of the Chinese systems.

The Symposium drew scholars from Kyoto University, Drexel University, Xi’an Jiaotong Liverpool University, the Smithsonian Institution, Delft University, and Tongji University. A few other NYU Shanghai faculty members were also in attendance, including Assistant Professor Monika Lin, Assistant Professor Wu-Wei Chen, Visiting Associate Professor Francesca Tarocco, and Affiliated Professor Rick Hills.

The Symposium was held at the heart of Shanghai’s famous former French Concession area on the campus of the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences. The Collegiate Gothic-style campus was built in the 1930s for Aurora University, a preeminent Catholic institution founded during Shanghai’s most turbulent times in its modern history.
SSHRC Grant Project

Appraising Risks:

Patterns of Major Socio-Economic Risk and Risk Projection in the Indian Ocean World

Elke Papelitzky

The Indian Ocean world is a macro-region heavily influenced by natural disasters and climate change. Other environmental factors such as the monsoon system have shaped the region's trading patterns and sailing routes. Due to strong commercial and cultural ties with Southeast and East Asia, the Indian Ocean world not only consists of the regions directly bordering the ocean, but also includes the East Asian Mediterranean.

To study the relationship between humans and the environment in the context of risks and climate change, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) has awarded a seven-year partnership grant for the project "Appraising Risks: Patterns of Major Socio-Economic Risk and Risk Projection in the Indian Ocean World" (in short, "Appraising Risks") to the IOWC. The Center for Global Asia is a partner institution in this project. The project is led by Professor Gwyn Campbell of McGill University and involves a multi-disciplinary approach including historians, anthropologists, geographers, social scientists, and archaeologists organized in eight teams. "Appraising risks" continues the previous research project, the Major Collaborative Research Initiative "The Indian Ocean World (IOW): The Making of the First Global Economy in the Context of Human-Environment Interaction."

Fernand Braudel's (1902–1985) suggestion that the natural sciences and social sciences be combined serves as the theoretical framework of the project. By focusing on the project aims to study patterns in dealing with risks and the relationship between environmental crises (e.g. climate change, volcanism, monsoons, cyclones, drought) and human crises (e.g. famine, disease, conflict, migration). The project will determine the major environmental events that occurred in each of the six periods and discuss their socio-economic and political impacts, not only shortly after each event, but also in a longer perspective.

One team led by Professor Angela Schottenhammer of Salzburg University will research the environmental circumstances of the eastern part of the Indian Ocean world, including Southeast and East Asia. Professor Tansen Sen and Dr Elke Papelitzky (NYU Shanghai) will also take part in the team. Other collaborators are Dr Mathieu Torck and Wim De Winter (both Ghent University), Dr Ma Guang (Shandong University), Dr Kimura Jun (Tokai University), Xu Zhenxin (Salzburg University), Dr Li Man (Vasco Da Gama European Institute of Diplomacy and International Relations), and Dr Alexander Jost (European Centre for Chinese Studies, Peking University, and Salzburg University).

Schottenhammer's team focuses on the history of the medieval and early modern periods using a variety of sources, ranging from written sources such as local gazetteers, tomb inscriptions, and maps, to archaeological excavations of shipwrecks. The topics include the influence of environmental disasters on local societies, shipboard diseases, sailing routes, and the dangers of sailing.

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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. Professor Gwyn Campbell is the director of the Indian Ocean World Centre. He also holds a Canada Research Chair in Indian Ocean World History at McGill University.

"The Indian Ocean World (IOW): The Making of the First Global Economy in the Context of Human-Environment Interaction" is an eight-year project (2010–2017) investigating the rise and development of the world's first "global economy" in the context of human-environment interaction from early times to the present day. The region under study is the Indian Ocean world (IOW), an arena of primary geo-political importance that includes East Africa, the Middle East, Southeast Asia and the emerging superpowers China and India. Human-environment interaction is a central theme of the project. Rejecting environmental determinism, the project highlights the impact upon human life not only of natural factors such as the monsoons, the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO), cyclones and volcanic eruptions, but also of human agency in responding to and reshaping the IOW environment and economy.
Faculty Highlight

Eric Hundman
Assistant Professor of Political Science
NYU Shanghai

Eric focuses his work on international relations and comparative politics, but his scholarly interests range broadly through political science, sociology, history, China studies, and security studies. His ongoing research projects center on foreign policy, military decision making, and strategy, with a regional focus on China and Taiwan. Highly proficient in both modern and classical Chinese, he blends archival research, social network analysis, and quantitative methods as he works to incorporate East Asian cases and theories into general theories of international relations and organizational decision-making processes.

Book Project 1. Disobedience in China’s Military

Eric’s first book project, *Disobedience in China’s Military*, draws on data from China to explain both why military commanders sometimes disobey direct orders and also which forms their disobedient acts ultimately take. Military organizations are critical actors in international relations and domestic politics alike, but we still lack a clear understanding of how individual choices are made in military contexts, not to mention how individual choices in the military can cascade outwards and lead to consequences like military coups or rebellions. This book manuscript argues that commanders’ social network positions and identities determine when and how they choose to disobey their orders. To support this argument, the book draws on unusually rich archival data from the Sino-French War (1883-85) – including thousands of pages of memoirs and official documents in classical Chinese – as well as contemporary reporting about Chinese commanders’ decision-making processes. Gathered during more than two years of work in archives in Beijing and Taipei, with support from Taiwan’s Ministry of Education, the U.S. National Security Education Program, and NYU Shanghai, these materials have allowed reconstruction of the decision-making environments of several Chinese commanders in great detail. In so doing, the project demonstrates that disobedience, resistance, and dissent can often be generative, for instance by spurring innovation or adaptation. The book is also able to explicitly link micro-level, individual decisions about discrete orders to meso-level outcomes such as battlefield effectiveness, civil-military relations, treatment of civilians, nationalism, and state power. Eric has also recently published an article paving the way for this project in the *European Journal of International Relations*, titled “Rogues, Degenerates, and Heroes: Disobedience as Politics in Military Organizations.”

Book Project 2. The Ferment of China’s Rise: The Impact of Beijing’s “Influence Activities”

Eric has also begun a second book project, tentatively titled *The Ferment of China’s Rise*, that aims to expand our understanding of China’s expanding global presence. In particular, the manuscript examines both China’s foreign policy activities and the responses to them around the world. In an attempt to move past simplistic narratives, this project draws on fieldwork and interviews in Australia, New Zealand, Taiwan, and the United States in an attempt to answer two questions. First, what, if anything, is new about China’s attempts to influence other countries’ politics? Second, what explains the differences in responses to these activities? Why has New Zealand, for instance, remained relatively sanguine about China while Washington has developed a bipartisan consensus that China is a strategic competitor?
CGA Fellows 2019

Weilin Pan: Postdoctoral Fellow

Weilin Pan is Assistant Professor at the Institute of China Studies of the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences. Since 2014 she has been Adjunct Assistant Professor with the China Studies Postgraduate Program at the Shanghai International Studies University. She earned her doctoral degree in History from Fudan University in 2010. She was a visiting scholar at APSU Duke University (2008–2009) and the Carter Center, Atlanta (2015), and was the 2017 Robinson Scholar at the British Museum. Her academic interests include the material culture of modern China, China in modern English literature, and overseas Chinese Studies.

She is the editor of Jindai Zhongguo de Wuzhi Wenhua (Material Culture in Modern China) published by Shanghai Rare Book Press in 2015. Her new book Lisu Xiaofei’s Difang Bianqian: Jiang–Zhe Xibo de Wuzhi Wenhuashi (Un/Making the Hell Money: A History of Tinfoil in Southeastern China) was published by the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences Press in 2018.

Elke Papelitzky: Postdoctoral Fellow

Elke Papelitzky obtained her PhD in History from the University of Salzburg with a dissertation “Historical Geographical Texts of the Late Ming (1368–1644) and China’s Maritime History.” Before joining NYU Shanghai, she worked as a postdoc at LMU Munich. Her research focuses on knowledge transfer and the perception of the world of Ming and Qing literati as seen in geographical sources, both written and cartographic. Currently she is researching maritime knowledge on Chinese, Japanese, and Korean maps of the fifteenth to eighteenth centuries, aiming to compare the three cartographic traditions and study the relationship between the production of maritime knowledge (by seafarers) and the circulation of knowledge on maps (by cartographers).

Vidhya Raveendranathan: Doctoral Fellow

Vidhya Raveendranathan is a doctoral candidate at the Centre for Modern Indian Studies, Georg-August-Goettingen University, Germany. Prior to joining NYU Shanghai she was a doctoral fellow at the German Historical Institute, London, and worked on a European Research Council project entitled “Servants Past” based at the Zentrum Moderner Orient (ZMO) Berlin. She completed her Master’s and MPhil degrees from the History Department in Delhi University. Her dissertation is a historical study of the colonial port city of Madras in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

She has published in journals such as South Asia, Journal of South Asian Studies, Transfers, and Journal of Mobility Studies and has coauthored pieces for an online new portal called the Wire. She has also contributed a book chapter for an edited volume by Sabyasachi Bhattacharya and Rana Behal entitled, The Vernacularisation of Labour Politics, Tulika Books, Delhi, 2016.

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Arunabh Ghosh: Visiting Fellow

Arunabh Ghosh (BA Haverford, PhD Columbia) is Assistant Professor in the History Department at Harvard University. A historian of modern China, his interests include social and economic history, the history of science and statecraft, and transnational history. Ghosh’s first book, Making it Count: Statistics and Statecraft in the Early PRC, 1949–1959, is in press with Princeton University Press. His articles have appeared in the Journal of Asian Studies, Osiris, BJS-Themes, and the PRC History Review. His current projects include a history of Chinese dam-building in the twentieth century, a history of China-india scientific networks, ca. 1900-1980, and a collaborative archival project on China-related materials in the Nehru Papers.

Yuan He: Visiting Fellow

Yuan He was a Postdoctoral Fellow in Residence at NYU Shanghai from November, 2018 to February, 2019. She holds a PhD and an MPhil degree from the Centre of Development Studies, University of Cambridge, funded by the Cambridge China Development Trust and the Malaysian Commonwealth Trust. Yuan’s research interests lie in China and India’s development models, human development, governance, and meritocracy. Specifically, she works to move the political-economic comparison of China and India beyond the “democracy and development” trajectory by emphasizing governance structure and capacity, and to broaden the academic understanding of development by re-examining the economic philosophy of human development.

She has published in top international and Chinese journals, including the Journal of Contemporary China and Technology Economics (Jishu Jingji). Her PhD thesis, entitled “Food and Shelter: Village Lives in India and China,” based on two years of fieldwork in both countries, will be published as a book.

Edyta Roszko: Visiting Fellow

Edyta Roszko is a Senior Researcher at the Chr. Michelsen Institute in Bergen, Norway, where she is developing a new research direction to study oceans. After her PhD at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology and Martin Luther University, Halle (2011), which focused on religion and politics in Vietnam, she completed ethnographic research among Chinese and Vietnamese fishing communities in the common maritime space of the South China Sea. Bridging different historical periods and countries, the question of the mobility, migration and connectivity of fishers compelled her to historicize fishing communities and to work beyond the nation-state and area studies frame. Edyta’s newly awarded European Research Council (ERC) Starting Grant project, TransOcean, at Chr. Michelsen Institute expands her geographic field beyond Vietnam and China to include other global regions in Oceania and West and East Africa.

Edyta’s scholarly articles have appeared in Cross-Currents: East Asian History and Culture Review, Nations and Nationalism and the Journal of Contemporary Ethnography and other journals. Her monograph Fishers, Monks and Cadres: Navigating State and Religious Authorities along Central Vietnam’s South China Sea Coast is in press with NIAS Press, Copenhagen.

Florence Catherine Nick: General Visiting Student

Florence is a general visiting student at the Center for Global Asia. She is a student in her final year of the Joint Master’s Program “Geography of Environmental Risks and Human Security” at the United Nations University and the University of Bonn. Her research focus is on environmental governance and human vulnerabilities with regard to environmental and climate risks. In 2017, she completed her Master’s degree at the Université Nice Sophia Antipolis in Nice, France, with a specialization in climate, risk, environment, and health. Her Bachelor’s thesis, which she wrote at the Institute for Development Geography of the University of Bonn, focuses on post-politics, opposition to international climate negotiations, and ethnographic observations.
CGA–IIAS Collaborations

Lena Scheen

The Center for Global Asia (CGA) has ongoing collaborations with the International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS). Based at Leiden University in the Netherlands, the IIAS is a globally oriented research institute and knowledge exchange platform that aims to contribute to a better and more integrated understanding of present-day Asia, as well as to rethink “Asian Studies” in a changing global context.

Since 2016, CGA and the Asia Research Center at Fudan University have jointly contribute a three-pages section to every issue of the IIAS academic publication The Newsletter (which has a global readership of approximately 50,000) under the title “China Connections.” The section covers research on and on China and its connections within the Asia-Pacific region. The last three sections were on Digital Buddhism (edited by Di Luo, CGA Postdoctoral Fellow 2017–2018), Chinese Tea and Asian Societies (edited by Kunbing Xiao, CGA Postdoctoral Fellow 2017–2018), and African Studies in China (edited by Cheryl M. Schmitz, Global Perspectives on Society Teaching Fellow at NYU Shanghai).

In 2018, CGA and the IIAS co-organized a symposium on “Water Heritage in Asian Cities” in collaboration with local and international partners, including the Shanghai Academy of Social Science (SASS) and Fudan University. The Symposium explored questions such as: How does water figure in the myths, cultures, histories, sciences, and politics of Asia and beyond?

CGA is also the organizer and sponsor of the Chinese edition of the ICAS Book Prize (IBP). The IBP was established by the International Convention of Asia Scholars (ICAS), whose Secretariat is housed at the offices of the IIAS. The IBP strives to create an international focus for academic publications on Asia, thus increasing their worldwide visibility. In its aims to “decenter” the landscape of knowledge about and in Asia, the IBP honors publications in languages other than English. For 2019, this includes editions in Chinese, Korean, French, and German edition. The IBP 2019 Awards Presentation will take place during the Opening Ceremony of ICAS 11, on 16 July 2019, in Leiden, the Netherlands.

The partnership between CGA and IIAS will continue to strengthen. For example, in November 2019, CGA and IIAS will jointly organize a conference in the city of Dimapur in northeast India on the theme of “ambivalent infrastructures.”

CGA Partner Institutions

Asia Research Center, Fudan University

MARTIN-LUTHER UNIVERSITÄT HALLE-WITTEMBERG

Indian Ocean World Centre, McGill University

McGill University

International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden University
The Newsletter is a free academic publication produced three times a year by the International Institute for Asian Studies. With a worldwide readership of about 50,000, The Newsletter is the premier Asian Studies forum for Asia scholars to share commentary and opinion; research essays; book, journal and website reviews; and announcements of events, projects and conferences, with colleagues in academia and beyond. Since 2016, CGA has been jointly editing the “China Connections” section of The Newsletter with the Asia Research Center at Fudan University.

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The Journal of Indian Ocean World Studies

CGA jointly edited The Journal of Indian Ocean World Studies (JIOWS) with the Indian Ocean World Center, McGill University. JIOWS publishes original peer reviewed articles by established and emerging scholars in the social sciences and related disciplines that contribute to an understanding of the Indian Ocean World (IOW) and its constituent parts, from early times to the present day. The IOW is here defined as a macro-region running from Africa to the Far East, comprising both maritime and terrestrial zones.

The first issue of the JIOWS published in 2017 focuses on various instances of interaction in the IOW. From commercial exchange between otherwise opposing commercial enterprises, to personal interactions between Europeans and peoples indigenous to the IOW, to the experiences and strategies of slaves, the issue explores various instances in which categories of “foreign” and “indigenous” come into alignment or conflict in historiography, colonial narratives, or commercial enterprises.

The following issue in 2018 of the JIOWS is the first of two special collections of Festschrift essays in honour of Michael Pearson. Michael has established himself as one of the formative figures in Indian Ocean world (IOW) studies. It is our hope that these two special editions will encourage readers who have yet to explore Michael’s works, to do so.

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2019 Workshop

Methods in India–China Studies

The aim of this one-day workshop was to explore the methodological and conceptual frameworks one could use to study India–China connections and comparisons. The workshop was divided into two sessions. The morning session examined the methodological frameworks employed in some of the recent publications on India–China comparisons and inter-Asian connections. The afternoon session focused on discussing recently completed or currently ongoing doctoral research by three workshop participants. This workshop is intended to be the first in a series of capacity-building events associated with the collaborative research project entitled “China and India in the Age of Decolonization: An Analysis of the Nehru Papers, 1947–1964.” Subsequent workshops will take place in Cambridge (Massachusetts) and Delhi.

This event was supported by the Department of South Asian Studies, Peking University, Harvard-Yenching Institute, India China Institute at The New School, Institute of Chinese Studies (Delhi), Renmin University, and the Yenching Academy of Peking University.

PhD Dissertation Presentations

Yuan He | Newnham College, University of Cambridge
“Food and Shelter: Village Lives in India and China Compared”
(completed in June, 2018)

Jasnea Sarma | National University of Singapore
“Moving Bodies, Borders and Ethno-Nationalism between India–Myanmar–China”

Jinchao Zhao | University of Virginia
“Dissemination, Reception, and Transformation: Stūpa Worship from India to China before the Seventh Century AD”
CGA Events Spring 2019

February 18  Talk
The Chinese in North Vietnam: Assimilation, Exodus and Resettlement
Xiaorong Han | Professor & Head of Department of Chinese Culture
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, PRC

March 11  Talk
When the Chinese Revolution Turned Conservative
A Forgotten Episode of the Twentieth Century
Brian Tsui | Assistant Professor, Department of Chinese Culture
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, PRC

March 18  Talk
Mogao Miniatures: Dunhuang Caves and the Aesthetics of Scale
Neil Schmid | Research Professor
Dunhuang Research Academy, PRC

April 9  Talk
Protest and Political Geography in Twentieth-Century Shanghai and Bombay
Mark Frazier | Professor of Politics & Academic Director of the India China Institute
The New School, USA

April 18–19 Symposium
The 2nd Center for Global Asia & Global Perspectives on Society Young Scholars Symposium on “Asia and the World”: Asian Mobility
Keynote Address | Three Eras of Asian Migration: Pleistocene, Holocene, and Anthropocene
Patrick Manning | Professor Emeritus, Department of History
University of Pittsburgh, USA

April 22  Talk
India’s Encounter with Modernity
Rudrangshu Mukherjee | Professor of History & the Chancellor
Ashoka University, India

May 6  Conversation
Asia in a Global Age: A Conversation
Sunil Amrith & Karen L. Thornber | Harvard University, USA
Zachary Lockman | New York University, USA
Joanna Waley-Cohen | NYU Shanghai, PRC
CGA Affiliated Faculty

Jian Chen
Distinguished Global Network Professor of History

Wu-Wei Chen
Assistant Arts Professor

Zhihong Chen
Research Professor

Duane Corpis
Associate Professor of History

Anna Greenspan
Assistant Professor of Contemporary Global Media

Chenghe Guan
Assistant Professor of Urban Design

Eric Hundman
Assistant Professor of Political Science

Tzu-Hui Celina Hung
Assistant Professor of Literature

Heather Ruth Lee
Assistant Professor of History

Leksa Lee
Asst. Professor Faculty Fellow 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 Visigallia
Visiting Scholar in Residence

Joanna Waley-Cohen
Provost and Professor of History

Brad Weslake
Associate Professor of Philosophy

Shuang Zhang
Assistant Professor of Economics

Lu Zhao
Assistant Professor of Global China Studies
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 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 polities 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.