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Newsletter No. 17, May 2007

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1. Report from the NZASIA President

Later this year we will hold our 17th international conference (at the University of Otago, 22-25 November). The last conference held at Otago was a great success and I know that the conference committee have been working hard to ensure that this year's gathering will be just as memorable. The call for papers and other information about the conference can be found at www.nzasia.org.nz/conference/index.html. While the conference is open and multidisciplinary, papers on either of these following themes are encouraged and will be considered for publication: *Asian Diasporas* or *Regional Pasts and Futures*. Please let your colleagues know and encourage them to attend.

As one of the themes for the conference indicates, an interesting development during the past few years has been the increasing attention given to the presence of Asia in New Zealand. There have been several workshops devoted to exploring the varied nature of the Asian presence in New Zealand, and this has also been the subject of a number of the articles published in the *New Zealand Journal of Asian Studies* (NZJAS). The most recent issue, which included a special feature on Muslims in New Zealand, was so popular we had to print extra copies. The next issue of the journal will include a number of articles about the Chinese garden being constructed in Dunedin to celebrate the Chinese contribution to the city and the Otago region.

The NZJAS continues to play an important role in featuring the work of the Society and its members. A recent five-yearly review has indicated the advantages to the Society that come from the journal, not least amongst these is the way it delivers a range of largely New Zealand-based research to readers in some of the most important academic libraries throughout the world. The contents of this *Newsletter* also indicate the range of Asia-related activity that is underway throughout the country. While the Society is in good health, as always, membership remains an issue. Please encourage new members of staff at your institutions to take up a membership, as the benefits that come from this are considerable. I wish you well for 2007 and look forward to seeing you in Dunedin in November.

Brian Moloughney
May 2007

2. Feature Article: Asia and Research in the Public Space¹

In the 2006 Lowy Lecture on Australia in the World, Professor Robert O'Neill made the following concluding comment:

As I look into the future I can see some very undesirable outcomes, but we are not in their grip yet... The great challenge for leaders and analysts in the decades ahead will be to find ways of building cohesion and co-operation, not division and destruction. We must not let the War on Terror destroy the world order from which we derive so much benefit and protection.²

It might, at first glance, seem strange to be starting a paper on Asia and research in the public space by referring to the ubiquitous War on Terror. But it serves as a useful point of departure for two reasons. First, any analysis on Asia necessarily invokes issues of global importance. We cannot speak of this significant part of the world without identifying and addressing fundamental global issues, from population growth to climate change to poverty and AIDS to terrorism.

Second, any research or analysis that does not, in some way or other, inform broader debates or government policy or state interventions or even a conversation over a barbeque in Bulls,³ is perhaps somewhat limited in its value. That is not to say, before you misunderstand me, that research is *only* about usefulness or that it *only* serves as a function of policy. Research *can* do this, of course, but

¹ This is an edited version of an invited lecture to the Asian Studies Institute at Victoria University of Wellington on 11 May 2007. I am indebted to Nick Lewis for providing me good material and good discussion in the preparation of this paper. Thanks also to Paul Spoonley, Warwick Tie, Leonie Hall and Pamela Barton who have provided worthwhile feedback on earlier drafts of this paper.

² Robert O'Neill, 'Projects and Perspectives on International Security', *The 2006 Lowy Lecture on Australia in the World*, Sydney: Lowy Institute, p.16

³ Deborah Coddington's 'Asian Angst' article in *North and South* (Coddington, 2006a), she revealed in a subsequent *New Zealand Herald* column (Coddington, 2006b), was supported by the residents in Bulls, a provincial town in New Zealand.

research that is more abstract, theoretical and conceptual can also have long-ranging implications about how we see the world and in the way that ideas are shaped. That this more esoteric research is not seen to be an influencer of policy or public discourse reflects in large part the expectation that evidence-based research that is expected to underpin policy work will produce instant results and be immediately measurable.

In this paper, I want to consider Asia and research in the public space. For the first part of this paper, I will consider public research. Within my discipline of sociology, an industry has developed around notions of “public sociology”. I will critique this notion in order to respond to the relationship between academic research and the policy environment. The impact of research funding and public discourse of research then lead onto issues around demands and expectations. Must he who pays the piper always play the tune?

I will draw firstly on my experience as an academic, then as a public servant in the research unit of a large government department and now as the Director of Research and Policy at the Asia New Zealand Foundation, a non-profit apolitical organisation that seeks to promote the awareness of Asia and its peoples amongst New Zealanders.⁴

Public Sociology

In sociological journals, debate has raged about the nature of ‘public sociology’ and whether this is: desirable, achievable or just plain naïve. American Michael Burawoy, the progenitor of ‘public sociology’, distinguishes public sociology from policy sociology. Public sociology involves discussion about values or goals that are not automatically shared by all parties. Policy sociology, by contrast, is sociology in the service of a client’s goal. In arguing ‘for public sociology’, Burawoy says that the success of public sociology will come from taking sociology beyond the academic context forging collaboration with the public through policy.⁵

Others, however, are more cautious. In identifying some of the concerns around the New Zealand government funding the Building Research Capability in the Social Sciences (BRCSS) programme, Lewis and Thorns note that:

[W]e recognise the risk that BRCSS might contribute to collapsing the breadth and rigour of the social sciences into a singular and particular conception of a generic ‘social science research’ as handmaiden to policy.... BRCSS is regarded with some suspicion by those who question its privileging of particular individuals, institutions and prior networks...⁶

The close connection of BRCSS with policy-makers is just one element for this suspicion. Other perceptions are that academics who undertake policy-related work, whether via contracts to government departments or through other means, are producing work that is either theoretically, deficient or is constrained or, at worst, controlled by the client.

These criticisms are not always without justification. Against this, of course, academics who do undertake work for government departments can too easily fall into the trap of thinking that because it is not work within the academy it does not need to follow the same rigour that would be applied in that context.

The relationship between academic research and policy

Whatever academics may make of the sometimes taut relationship between academics and policy-makers, the reality is that most academics cannot avoid it. Whether to receive funding or recognition by both/and the university hierarchy and senior policy makers, academics and policy-makers are strange, but necessary, bedfellows. As Spoonley asserts, a number of significant shifts, from ageing populations to globalisation to living standards, all require innovative and relevant research to inform policy options.⁷ The issue then becomes trying to make one understand the other’s world, where there remains a significant amount of work to be done. Academics would say that policy-makers don’t understand their work-loads or respect their academic freedom, while policy-makers would say that academics don’t understand how complicated the policy process is or how research needs to be accessible in order to be used.

⁴ See www.asianz.org.nz

⁵ Burawoy, ‘For public sociology’, p.289

⁶ Nick Lewis and David Thorns (2005), *BRCSS: Building a network and a knowledge space in critical conditions*, BRCSS Occasional Paper Series, No. 1, p.6

⁷ Spoonley, Mahi Awatea, p.2

Rarely will government-funded research be without any constrictions and often the scope of any project is quite tightly defined and managed. The extent of control by the funder is a more complicated issue than it first appears. Certainly, there will be times where research will be suppressed by government departments because it is unpalatable and where it is not suppressed, it may be discredited. However, if all research were always suppressed or dismissed then we could say that 'government' is very malevolent indeed, but that is almost never the case.

The nature of research funding in respect of Asia

A further tension around publicly funded research is in the nature of the funding itself. Those in the humanities and social sciences would claim that they are disadvantaged through the current funding mechanisms in the tertiary education sector, particularly where their interests are in area studies such as Asia.

Asia:NZ is looking at what can be said about these apparent concerns, particularly where they connect national strategic priorities to academic research. Two particular concerns emerge. First, if there is a political priority toward engaging with Asia, is this being reflected in Asia-related research, both in output and the mechanisms and structures to support that output? And second, is current Asia-related research being used in the policy environment and if so, why; or, more importantly, if not, why not? Are we seeing a disconnection between the policy priorities and arguably relevant research regarding Asia?

Is speaking loudly enough?

A criticism frequently thrown at academics who engage in policy research is that it is not 'real' research, or it is 'dumbed-down' research. Other academics are concerned that connections between academic research and social policy risks subservience to the state and its policy agenda.⁸ At the very least, for many academics, I would suggest, policy-related research is low on a list that includes administrative responsibilities, teaching, postgraduate supervision and academics own research and writing projects. Particularly where promotion and remuneration are tied to publication outputs in prestigious international journals, small-scale policy research would merit little attention at all

Demands and expectations

The reality is that whatever the aspirations of Burawoy and others, engaging publicly as an academic is far from an easy endeavour. But universities always have, in one form or other, acted as a critic and conscience of society at a very grand level, or have shaped ideas that have gone on to be very significant in government policy. Amongst sociologists, Anthony Giddens not only significantly shaped the Third Way politics of the Blair and other governments but also managed to do it in such a way that he now has a seat in the House of Lords! Further back, of course, we can list Keynes and Friedman, even Foucault, Hayek or Habermas as significant public intellectuals that have shaped the way many of us see the world.⁹ Sociology's three founders of Marx, Weber and Durkheim cast a long shadow long past their deaths and still carry strong influence in New Zealand sociology today.¹⁰

However for most of these scholars, their writing is virtually impenetrable; it is often up to secondary sources to explain to us what they were trying to say. The tension of accessibility of research is one ably identified by Calhoun, where he notes an inherent contradiction to universities:

We want specialists to do the best possible work on behalf of the rest of us and we do not typically see accessibility as a significant question.... [However], when it comes to knowledge of electoral politics or social welfare institutions, we are apt to think that esoteric specialisation is a fault and accessibility is a virtue, because the point of such knowledge is to inform citizens....¹¹

When it comes to public research or, more specifically, government-funded research, answers that are required from research need to be both understandable and actionable. That is not to say it should also be shallow and politically palatable. For Asia:NZ at least, research can push boundaries and provoke debate, but it needs to do so based in evidence and not just opinion. Likewise, there are some

⁸ Paul Spoonley, 'Mahi Awatea: A Sociology for the Twenty-First Century in Aotearoa', Presentation to Annual Conference of Sociological Association of Aotearoa New Zealand, Eastern Institute of Technology, 27 November 2005.

⁹ see John Braithwaite, 'For public social science', *British Journal of Sociology*, 2005, 56, 3:346-353 (pp.351-2)

¹⁰ For further discussion around 'public intellectuals' see Bryan S. Turner, 'Public intellectuals, globalization and the sociological calling: a reply to critics', *British Journal of Sociology*, 2006, 57 (3), pp.345-351

¹¹ Craig Calhoun, 'The University and the Public Good', *Thesis Eleven*, 84, February 2006: 7-43, p. 20

academics who understand all too well that important scholarly findings can and should be communicated in ways that are accessible to policy makers and the general public.

Conclusion

I began by quoting Robert O'Neill and I want to begin some concluding comments by quoting from the same speech.

We, the analysts, need experience in practical work...as well as intellectual quality before we have any notion as to what is a good idea... Our colleagues in government will not bother to listen to us if they do respect the relevance and quality of our work. It is up to us to win their attention and hold it.¹²

In a public space that is dominated by those who feel they have something to say, how can academics win and hold the attention of policy-makers? How can academics maintain their intellectual credibility and be taken seriously in an environment that privileges the simple, the accessible and the sound-bite?

The Asian region is so remarkably diverse that all of these questions and more are impacted by what happens in this most populous region of the world. Carbon credits in New Zealand become meaningless if pollution worsens in Beijing. Attaining political stability in the Pacific becomes difficult to achieve if there are ongoing power struggles between Taiwan and China being played out in our back-yard. Promoting awareness of the Treaty of Waitangi becomes more challenging as New Zealand's population diversifies.

Well-grounded research can say something about all these things. The challenge for researchers is to place personal research projects within these broader questions and thereby to move from a functional use of their research to a more systematic use in informing policy debate and public discourse. And then we will all be better equipped to talk about Asia in the public space.

Dr Andrew Butcher
Director, Research and Policy
Asia New Zealand Foundation¹³

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¹² O'Neill, pp.11-12

¹³ Correspondence to abutcher@asianz.org.nz or PO Box 10 144, Wellington 6143

3. Fieldwork reports from the recipients of the 2006 ASIA:NZ–NZASIA Research Awards and the Malay Studies Scholarships

3.1 Shahzad Sammyh Khan

Sammyh Khan is a doctoral candidate in the School of Psychology at Victoria University of Wellington. Sammyh's project investigates the social-psychological implications of the Hindu nationalist movement in India.

Thanks to the ASIA:NZ–NZASIA Research Award, and a grant from Victoria University of Wellington's (VUW) School of Psychology and Faculty of Science, I travelled to India in order to conduct fieldwork during the months of December to February 2006/2007. My PhD research project explores the social psychological implications of the Hindu nationalist movement in India and the main aim of my fieldwork was to quantitatively validate the psychometric properties of a Hindu nationalism scale that I had developed through extensive qualitative analysis of Sangh Parivar publications (the family of Hindu nationalist organisations that promote the ideology of Hindutva). The funding awarded covered the research in New Delhi and Allahabad.



I left New Zealand earlier than I had initially anticipated for the purposes of attending the 16th annual conference of the Indian National Academy of Psychology (NAOP), which was held at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Bombay between the 14th and 16th of December, 2006. The conference provided me with an excellent platform for conducting research in India, giving me the opportunity to meet and network with academics from all over the country. I managed to establish research collaborations additional to those I already had, but also developed some deep friendships with fellow PhD students. Most importantly, I gained an elaborate overview of the current state of Indian psychology.

I reached New Delhi in the first week of January where I had an appointment with Professor Gopa Bhardwaj (Department of Psychology, Delhi University) and Associate Professor Shamsul Islam (Department of Political Science, Delhi University). Unfortunately, the Associate Professor was awaiting a surgical operation three days after my arrival. However, I managed to meet with him and he gave me some very useful guidance about my research project. I had been in contact with Professor Bhardwaj for about two years via e-mail, but had not met her in person, which felt strange as she has always a very important part of my research endeavours in India, always willing to read through drafts, proposals and organise logistical details, making it a real a pleasure to finally meet her. Professor Bhardwaj had already organised accommodation for me at the University of Delhi Guest House as an official guest when I arrived. This meant I could live cheaply, safely and comfortably in the vicinity of the university for the duration of my four week stay in New Delhi. Professor Bhardwaj also arranged for two of her PhD students to help me collect data. I think that Professor Bhardwaj strategically chose these two students as one of the students was a Brahmin Hindu with origins in Varanasi and Hindu nationalist sympathies and the other student an orthodox Muslim from Hyderabad in South-India. They were both really good friends and treated me accordingly while taking me around the campuses and many colleges of the University of Delhi to meet other students and collect data. I met many warm, open and friendly students who volunteered to participate in my research.

I found that the most rewarding aspect was not actually collecting the data, but listening to the students' thoughts and feelings regarding the Hindu nationalist movement. They were willing to express their opinions, which were always very diverse since the surveys were administered to supporters of parties across both ends of the political spectrum and it was fascinating to learn their motivations for voting for the nationalist Bharatiya Janata (BJP) party as opposed to the secularist Indian National Congress (INC) party and vice versa. By the end of four weeks of intense chai (Indian tea) drinking, deep discussions, survey administration (as well as book shopping and sightseeing) I had collected a total of 372 surveys - seventy-two surveys above my target! I was originally going to mail all the surveys to New Zealand, but Professor Bhardwaj kindly offered to store them for me in New Delhi indefinitely. However,

this meant that all the data has to be entered before I left Delhi. The task of entering all of the data into an SPSS file required four 12-hour working days. I have only had the time to conduct some minor analyses, but the patterns in the data are looking very fruitful, both theoretically and empirically.

In between my work in New Delhi, I was invited to Allahabad University's Department of Psychology by Professor Janak Pandey, who is the head of the department. My visit coincided with two events directly relevant to my research. The first event was the Kumbh Mela, which is an enormous Hindu festival/pilgrimage of high religious importance that takes place four times in every 12 years on the river banks of Sangam, the location where the Ganges, Yamuna and Saraswati rivers confluence. It was an amazing experience to watch 60 million (yes, 60 million!) pilgrims come together and take a dip along the banks of Sangam. During the festival/pilgrimage Professor Pandey was working with distinguished academics Professor Steve Reicher, Dr Claire Cassidy and Dr Nick Hopkins from St Andrews and Dundee universities in Scotland on a research project investigating social identity and collective experiences among Hindu pilgrims. In association with this festival/pilgrimage and the research project, Professor Pandey organised a one-day interdisciplinary seminar on social identity with presenters from disciplines ranging from English literature to archaeology. It was very stimulating and again I was provided with an opportunity to network and exchange thoughts with both Indian and international academics.

I do not know if it is possible for me to describe how immensely my fieldwork has contributed towards my postgraduate programme. The entire trip was an extraordinary journey that I feel very privileged to have travelled. I learnt so much about India above and beyond the discipline of psychology and my research topic. The complete package was academically, socially and spiritually nourishing and I am certain this will show in my PhD thesis. I am forever thankful to have been given this opportunity and experience!

Sammyh Khan

3.2 Karishma Kripalani

Karishma is an MA student in the Department of Sociology at the University of Auckland. She is working on a thesis exploring the production of culture in transnational call centres in India. She conducted her fieldwork in Mumbai, in June-July, 2006.

With support from the ASIA:NZ-NZASIA Research Award, I travelled to India for a 6-week research trip in June - July last year. Identification of lacunae in the existing literature directed the focus of research. As a result, this trip was designed to investigate the relationship between space and identity in the production of transnational call centres in India. To this end, first-person accounts of how call centre workers experience and negotiate their work environments and identities were desirable, as was the opportunity to study firsthand the performances of identifiable roles, accents and behaviours.

There were 15 interviews in total, which ranged in length from 30 minutes to 2 hours, depending upon the time available to participants. I contacted participants through a snowballing method. Interviews were conducted in English, as this was the language we were all proficient in, and were peppered with Hindi, of which I have a working knowledge. They were semi-structured, featuring general questions which became more focused as interviews progressed and themes emerged.

Negotiating a meeting time for interviews was more challenging than anticipated because I had neglected to consider the implications of participants working long hours through the night, with exported time zones. They were therefore sleeping - or at college - during the day. As one person put it: "Twelve hours goes in work and commuting, then I sleep, eat, and it is time to go back to work."

Relatedly, the interview setting varied as every attempt was made to meet at a mutually convenient location. Most interviews occurred in a public place such as a coffee shop, which created its own set of challenges. Having met someone at a noisy McDonald's, purveyors of the McAlloo Tikki burger, I asked an employee there if he could recommend a quiet place in the neighbourhood where I could conduct an interview. He laughed, saying: "this is Bombay; you won't find anywhere quiet here." Thus background noise was a significant issue while conducting interviews and therefore also while transcribing these.

My project was stitched together alongside call centre scandals, train bombs, house arrest because of political riots and then monsoon flooding, and increasingly violent gastro-intestinal drama. However my thesis is grounded in the rich data that I obtained, which expresses participant narratives in their own words. The work that emerged from invaluable qualitative interviews with call centre workers in Mumbai examines the implications of performing scripted roles in the Indian transnational call centre.

My research engages with the dialectical relationship between the social production of space and performances of identity, through the lens of discourse as social practice. It suggests that global and local processes meet with/in the bodies of employees, who negotiate discourses of culture and performance imperatives.

A relational understanding of power allows for a more nuanced reading of imperialism than permitted by structural approaches, and identifies disjunctures against totalising readings of globalisation. Transnational performances are seen to slip outside of the workplace, as lifestyles extend into the wider spatial/material economy. The ongoing negotiations between competing discourses produce hybrid subjects, with divergent agendas and uneven outcomes. A spatial study of transnational performances and associated lifestyle, it contributes original research and brings new perspective to a topical and emergent field of inquiry. This was enabled by the generous postgraduate research award that I received from ASIA:NZ Foundation and NZASIA.

Karishma Kripilani

3.3 Deborah Rhode

Deborah is working on a MA in Anthropology at the University of Canterbury. Her thesis, tentatively titled 'Performing the Nation', is a study of the relationship between the performance of Naadam and the maintenance of Mongolian unity and national identity.

In 2006 I spent four months in Mongolia to observe and research the National Naadam Festival. This was the central event in the nation's many celebrations to commemorate the 800th Anniversary of the Mongolian state: in 1206 Genghis Khan united the warring tribes of the Central Asian steppe, whose descendents went on to create the largest Empire the world has ever known.

The Naadam Festival, or more fully *Eriin Gurvan Naadam*, the 'Three Games of Men', is uniquely Mongolian. It comprises an official ceremony - originally religious but now political - followed by traditional and ritualized archery contests, wrestling matches and long distance horse races. The present-day Naadam Festival is the modern form of the ancient Mongolian summer festival when respects were paid and offerings given to the deities of heaven and earth. According to Mongolian sources, the origin of the Naadam Festival "goes back into times primordial when the horse was domesticated and the first hunters learned how to ride them. As early as 3,000BC Naadam became a regular event when the nomadic tribes came together to show the best of their physical strength, riding and shooting skills, qualities vital for the survival of nomad herders and hunters". The purpose of my research is to explore the relationship between the performance of Naadam and the transference and maintenance of national identity, using an historical perspective of Naadam as a central factor in cultural representation and reproduction.



The Naadam festival is now an annual event held on 11 and 12 July, and celebrates the founding of the modern Mongolian State, when Mongolia declared its independence from Chinese rule in 1921. The National celebration takes place in the capital city of Ulaanbaatar and is the main feature of a three-day national holiday. Smaller festivals also take place in all provincial and town centres throughout the country. My fieldwork comprised attending and videoing the National festival, carrying out formal and informal interviews with competitors, members of the public, the organizing bodies, the media, local and national government officials, and archival research.

For my academic research I received much assistance from Dr. Munkh-Erdene, Anthropology lecturer at the National University of Mongolia, and I was also fortunate to be able to partake in many academic and cultural events in Ulaanbaatar, which broadened my general knowledge of Mongolia. These included the International Conference of Mongolists, the Convention of World Mongols, a Symposium on Mongolian Nomadism and Shamanism and a Conference on 'Early Christianity in Mongolia', as well as several ad hoc lectures held at the University. Many of these conferences and lectures enabled me to make many useful contacts for further research; indeed, as the Naadam festival seems to be a very

‘under researched’ topic, academics and ordinary people alike were extremely willing to assist and were forthcoming with useful information. It is also satisfying to know that, hopefully, my thesis will make a useful contribution to the cultural pool of knowledge on this ancient tradition that has survived throughout the centuries, and is such an icon of ‘Mongolian-ness’.

During my time in Mongolia I endeavoured to learn as much as possible about the Mongolian people and their everyday lives, as I felt this would give insights into their worldview, and would



complement my specific research into Naadam. I lived in a small ‘guesthouse’ (hostel) managed by a young Mongolian woman who had become a friend the previous year; she helped me with my language acquisition and became an invaluable source of information on many aspects of Mongolian culture. Through her I was privileged to spend time with her extended family and other families, who shared their experiences and thoughts on the dramatic changes that Mongolian society has encountered in the past fifteen years.

I made many useful and interesting contacts through informal exchanges in café’s; many young people approached me who were keen to practice their English. The variety of people I met who were able to help in my research never ceased to amaze me: one young woman turned out to be a TV reporter who covered the Naadam ceremony, another had a brother who trained racehorses for Naadam, another had contacts with the City Government, and lived with parents and grandparents who were a wonderful resource for informal interviews. I also volunteered several days a week assisting a small NGO working to fight corruption in politics and business, and gained considerable insight into some of the

challenges facing Mongolia’s rapid entry into free enterprise and capitalism. I wrote a couple of articles for the local English-speaking newspaper, and in return was given unlimited access to their archives. Other extra-curricular activities included attending two shamanic ceremonies, completing the Gobi half-marathon, receiving a ‘Chinggis Khan’ medal for services to Mongolia during the 800th Anniversary and spending the night at a monastery and meeting one of the most important reincarnated Lamas in the country.

Despite being a somewhat mysterious country, I found that New Zealand and Mongolia had many similarities and challenges - a predominantly agricultural country with a small population, beautiful scenery with great potential (and pitfalls) for tourism and adventure sports, and similar ecology vs. economy issues regarding mining and deforestation. I found Mongolia to be a generally safe country, I never felt physically threatened. Pickpocketing is rife, petty bureaucracy is frustrating, but the general good humour and friendliness of most people is a delight.

I would like to again express my thanks to the Asia:NZ Foundation and NZASIA for the opportunity to further my research in this fascinating country, and would be happy to assist with contacts and practical information to any future research students considering fieldwork in Mongolia.

Deborah Rhode

3.4 Sinith Sittirak

Sinith is a doctoral candidate in the School of Geography at Victoria University of Wellington, where she is writing a thesis on the politics of knowledge production in the Thai women’s movement. In particular, she is exploring the archive related to Pornpet Meunsri, a deceased land-rights activist. Her NZ:Asia-NZASIA scholarship supported four weeks fieldwork in Thailand.

As a Third World feminist academic, I have been inspired by the story of Pornpet, a farmer woman who had fought with the government for her land rights and justice for almost four decades. In 2004, she was brutally killed on the way back home from her farm. What she left behind was a collection of her 400 petitions, diaries, letters, news clippings, court documents and other archival records. Pornpet’s story raises the question of why such invaluable information written by subaltern women’s flesh and blood (in particular that of Pornpet) has been ignored in this process of knowledge production on and about women in Thailand. To help us arrive at an answer, the process of critically biographizing Pornpet’s story is a critical first step.

Realizing that though the archives reveal much of her story, there are missing pieces needed to be filled in by using a feminist oral history approach and conducting interviews with her family members, friends, villagers, government officers, monks and related parties, who played their parts in the long forty years of struggle. Thanks to the grants from Asia: New Zealand-NZASIA, the challenging task of conducting “double-sided field work” becomes much more feasible.

I started off my research by going through her seven groups of archives. They include: 1) personal documents, 2) diaries and notebooks, 3) petitions and grievances, 4) court documentation, 5) maps, 6) news clippings, and 7) miscellaneous. With a special focus on her diaries, I found that they are powerful political witness.

Monday 2 February 1965

...

Since 1963, my family and I have been so frustrated. I desperately worry about so many things. Our freedom has been unjustly violated. ... Our family has been treated unfairly. We lost our energy and our spirit to conduct our work constructively...

...

Tuesday 6 July 1965

I am so worried about our farm. How could I find a way to return in order to earn our living as we did before? I heard that it would be extremely difficult unless we take serious action.... For example, sue them.... How can I take such the action? Since the district officers are mixed; some are evil, some are virtuous. ...

Moreover, the names and addresses of her friends and relatives mentioned in her diaries help me locate the field area in five provinces more accurately. They are Bangkok, Chachoengsao, Kamphaeng Phet, Nakhon Ratchasima and Nakhon Sawan. Especially the latter one, which is Pornpet's hometown, visits will be made to five other districts where her father's relatives have worked and lived for generations. They are Tub Krit, Choomsaeng, Ta Tako, Nong Bua and Maung.

I chose to begin by visiting Pornpet's closest cousin, *Thongkam Pitasree* in Kamphaeng Phet. He is a 75-year-old man, the only son of Pornpet's uncle and lives in the rural village at the border of the province that I couldn't find on the official map. After getting off the main high-way and driving along the local road, we had to stop every now and then to ask the villagers who were walking or driving along the way. The frequent response would be, “Drive along until you hit the mountain. Thai's it.” All of them gave almost the same answer, and this became increasingly frustrating. However, we eventually arrived. Thongkam's house is located at the foot of the mountain which is at the end of the road. The information he shared about Pornpet's mother's family was especially useful because he is the last living relative in her mother's family.



I made many more trips to Nong Bua, Nakhon Sawan to interview *Pra Kru Krai*, a 65-year-old monk who is one of

Pra Kru Krai (Pra = Monk, Krue = teacher, Krai his 1st name) mentor and closest friend to Pornpet for over 30 years.

the committed supporters of Pornpet. I took old pictures of Pornpet's protest. He was very helpful in identifying the people in the photos and providing me with the necessary information for locating them.

In conclusion, completing the first phase of this double-sided fieldwork, I found that what Pornpet left behind is not only a powerful ‘witness’ to social injustice that had taken place in a Thai context in the years from 1963 to 2004. It is also a monument to subaltern knowledge which needs to be critically explored further in depth and breadth. I am looking forward to conducting the next phases of this project and anticipate that the findings would serve as a basis for continuing the *fight* she began and, thereby inspire people young and old, near and far in many different ways.

Sinith Sittirak

3.5 Bryce Wakefield

Bryce is undertaking a PhD project exploring Japanese foreign policy in the Department of Political Studies at the University of Auckland. His research focuses on the views of two prominent politicians, Ishihara Shintaro and Ozawa Ichiro, comparing their views to those of policymakers and analysts active in the area of foreign policy.

In late November 2006 I travelled to Japan to conduct research on nationalist and conservative currents in Japanese foreign policy and collect materials for my doctoral thesis. I returned to New Zealand on January 2, 2007. I spent my first week in Osaka, where I met with Associate Professor Robert D. Eldridge at the Osaka School of International Public Policy (OSIPP). Professor Eldridge suggested a number of publications that will be useful to my studies and also gave me access to his files on Japanese foreign policy, in particular those on the deployment of the Japanese Self Defence Forces abroad. As a graduate of OSIPP, I discussed my research with some of my former colleagues who are now enrolled in doctoral courses at the school.

On November 25 I left Osaka for Tokyo, where I stayed at STEP 21, an apartment complex for overseas researchers on the campus of Waseda University. The facilities were excellent and the staff were extremely helpful. Professor Yamaoka Michio, Waseda's resident New Zealand studies expert met me on my second night at Waseda and explained what facilities on campus I might find useful.



A good part of my research involved interviewing policymakers and analysts on their views of recent developments in Japanese foreign policy. As is sometimes the case with fieldwork, this aspect of my research did not go according to plan. Because my trip to Japan coincided with perhaps the busiest time of the year for academics and bureaucrats, I found that some of the people I had arranged to interview were too busy to see me, despite earlier assurances that they would. Nevertheless, I managed to arrange new interviews with academics as well as policy analysts through contacts I had earlier made in New Zealand.

I also managed to interview some prominent members of both the government and the largest opposition party. I talked with Fukuda Yasuo for twenty minutes about the causes and implications of recent trends in Japanese foreign policy. I also asked Fukuda to expand on recent statements that he had made to the press. Fukuda was well placed to answer my questions. During the 1990s Fukuda served as Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs and was the Director of the Foreign Affairs Division in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's Policy Research Council. He was also Chief Cabinet Secretary in the Koizumi Cabinet from 2000 to 2004. Later I also conducted a very frank half-hour interview with opposition Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) Upper House Member Naito Masamitsu and DPJ foreign affairs spokesperson Asao Keiichiro. Because of the high profile of the subjects, these interviews have provided rich original material that I intend to use in future publications.

While in Tokyo I also made good use of the Diplomatic Records Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, located near Roppongi, and attended seminars at Waseda University and the Graduate Research Institute for Policy Studies. I visited a number of second-hand bookshops to find relevant books that were otherwise difficult or impossible to find or buy in New Zealand and spent a lot of time browsing through recently published material in Japanese, deciding whether or not it would be useful to my studies.

In all, my trip to Japan afforded me many opportunities that will prove extremely useful for my research. I have been able to collect a great deal of published and unpublished material, including interviews, that I did not have access to in New Zealand. However, many aspects of the trip were only made possible by the generous assistance of others. Okabe Takamichi, the Japanese Consul General in Auckland kindly arranged the interviews with Mr Fukuda and Msrs Naito and Asao. Professor Eldridge's advice was, as always, extensive and helpful. I do not know Tokyo well and without Professor Yamaoka's assistance I would have had trouble finding accommodation. My good friends Lewis Pugsley and Matsui Tojiro and Etsuko generously offered to let me stay in their homes when I decided to extend my time in Japan to include a period in the Kansai region. I extend my warm gratitude to all of these people. I

would also like to thank the numerous anonymous Japanese citizens who were willing to share with me their views in general conversation on the country's politics and foreign policy.

Finally, without the Asia:NZ Foundation-NZASIA Award the entire trip would not have been possible and I thank Asia:NZ Foundation and NZASIA for making this most productive opportunity possible.

Bryce Wakefield

3.6 Nik Aloesnita Nik Mohd. Alwi

Ms Mohd. Alwi is undertaking a PhD in Applied Linguistics at Victoria University of Wellington. In her dissertation she is exploring the role of computer-mediated communication in second language teaching and learning. She was awarded a Malay Studies Scholarship in 2006.

The participants for this study are 96 second year engineering students doing English for Professional Communication at one of the technical universities in Malaysia. Their age is ranged from 20-22 years and Malay is their first language while their English proficiency on average is at intermediate level. They all have 24-hour free internet access. Most of them are very experienced computer users in that they use computers for various purposes for instance to play games, to work on different types of software, to surf internet for resources, to engage in chatting either socially or for study purposes. Overall, they are very comfortable with computers, and with communication via computers in Malay.

These 96 students are divided into 24 teams with 4 students in each team. They are connected to each other by networked computers and are asked to participate in a 45 minute chat session to solve a problem-based, authentic engineering task. The students are required to use standard English words and grammatical structures. Nevertheless, they are also allowed to use Internet chat jargon. During the chat session, without interfering with the discussion among the learners, I monitor and capture each student's screen from the teacher's terminal using the classroom management systems. Following the chat session, the chat transcripts are saved and analysed.

24 teams are grouped into four groups with 6 teams in each group; Group 1 acts as a control group that receives a basic version of the task while the remaining three groups (Group 2, Group 3, Group 4) are the experimental groups. One of the treatment groups, Group 2 receives a structure to follow in completing the task. This takes the form of a worksheet consisting of a comparison table for them to fill in while discussing the different types of software. The second treatment group, Group 3 receives a language exercise to complete individually before engaging in the task to orient them to the use of form in the task. They are also given information on useful language structures to refer to during the chat sessions. The final treatment group, Group 4 receives a structure as well as a language exercise prior to the task.

In the task, the students in each team are asked to pretend to be engineers at a multinational company selecting new software to be purchased. Each of the student has his/her own technical description of the software to propose. They listen to each other's proposal, compare and contrast the appropriate software, and discuss until they reach a consensus on the best software for electrical design, simulations and analyses as well as for technical diagramming and drafting to be purchased by the company. The selection has to be made based on the criteria of practicality, utilization and cost. By the end of the meeting, each student must also fill in a sheet providing their recommendation of the ranking of the software to be sent to their CEO. In order to retain the students' engagement in completing the task and also to ensure they communicate effectively in promoting their software, they are asked to evaluate and rate their team members using a checklist, consisting of factors that contribute to effective communications. Interviews are also conducted with selected students following the chat session in order to gauge their perceptions.

Overall, I'm glad and extremely grateful that the fieldwork has been successfully completed in Malaysia with the aid from Asia:NZ-NZASIA and Malay Studies Post-Graduate Research Awards.

Nik Aloesnita Nik Mohd. Alwi

4. Reports from Regions

4.1 AUT

AUT University continues to participate in a wide range of Asian-linked activities.

Events

- * AUT hosted The China Business Forum at the end of last year. Around 300 people attended the full day on.
- * This May, AUT is co-sponsoring three business breakfast meetings in Christchurch, Wellington and Auckland on Viet Nam in association with Asia NZ, NZTE, the Viet Nam Embassy and the ASEAN Business Council.
- * Free Chinese and Korean film nights at AUT. These events promote cultural awareness through film. All are in the original language with English subtitles. Entrance fee is free. The films will be shown on Tuesday nights at 7pm on the following dates in WA220 at AUT's Wellesley campus. April 3, May 1, June 5, July 17, August 7, September 4, October 9 and November 6. For further information, contact Marcus Henning on Tel 921 9999 Extension 8531.

Research

AUT's Centre for Asian and Migrant Health Research is leading new research into ethnic women's experiences of traumatic birth - an issue that has little attention until now.

Along with Counties Manukau District Health Board, the researchers are looking for women who would be prepared to tell their stories. AUT senior lecturer in midwifery Nimisha Waller, who is leading the research, says it has been recognised for a long time that some women can develop psychological problems following giving birth.

The centre also recently completed a project to investigate Chinese migrants and their beliefs surrounding cervical screening.

Dr Wanzhen Gao and Ruth DeSouza have surveyed over 250 Mainland Chinese women living in Auckland. Ms DeSouza says invasive cancer is a growing health problem among Chinese women, although little is known about their reluctance to mitigate the disease.

People

PhD Student Baljit Grewal, studying in AUT's School of Social Sciences, is researching the topic "Discourses of knowledge society in Asia Pacific". Baljit is applying critical discourse analysis to knowledge society-related policy texts of seven countries - New Zealand, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, India and Fiji.

Jin Hong has been working at AUT as a multimedia producer since 2000. He recently completed his short film, 'Listen and Repeat' which will be shown at international film festivals next year. He is currently working on another short film, 'Golden Horse' and a feature film, 'White Magnolia'. Jin is also producing a DVD with the Office of Ethnic Affairs, part of the Department of Internal Affairs. The DVD will assist people to understand how prejudice stands as a barrier towards fair and equitable access to services or reduces responsiveness and effectiveness in policy that affects ethnic communities.

Ruth DeSouza

4.2 Massey University

Books

The following books have been published by academic staff at Massey University working in various fields of Asian Studies.

K.C. Roy and Srikanta Chatterjee (eds.) *Readings in World Development: Growth and Development in the Asia-Pacific*. New York: Nova Science Publishers, Inc. 2006. (Prof. Chatterjee is attached to the School of International and Applied Economics.)

Enemy Lines: Warfare, Childhood and Play in Batticaloa by Margaret Trawick (School of People, the Environment and Planning). The book has been published by the University of California Press and will be available for purchase worldwide in April.

A Thousand Miles of Prison Walls: an Interdisciplinary Analysis of the Chinese Communist Labor Camp by Philip F. Williams and Yenna Wu. [Translated by Yenna Wu with Philip F. Williams]. [Taipei: Li Ming Cultural Publishing], 2007. 348 pp. ISBN 978-957-16-0757-3. (Prof. Williams is Head of the School of Language Studies)

Remolding and Resistance among Writers of the Chinese Prison Camp: Disciplined and Published. Ed. Philip F. Williams and Yenna Wu. London: Routledge, 2006. 200 pp. ISBN 0-415-77020-3. L.C. #HV9818.R86 2006.

Conference Activities

Professor Philip Williams presented a conference plenary session address at the American Association of Chinese Studies Annual Meeting, University of California, Riverside, 20-22 October 2006. The title of his talk was "Contrasting Patterns of Recent Rural-to-Urban Migration on Both Sides of the Taiwan Strait."

Srikanta Chatterjee was an invited speaker at the 3rd International Conference on Contemporary Business held at the Peppers Fairmont Resort, Leura, Blue Mountains, Australia in September 2006. His paper was entitled "The Other Asian Giant: A Comparative Perspective on the Economic Performances of China and India".

Exchange Relationships & upcoming conference

Massey University's School of People, Environment and Planning have an ongoing exchange relationship with the Centre for Studies in the Social Sciences, Calcutta (CSSSC) which has been supported in various ways by an NZ:Asia Foundation HEEP award. Dr Sohel Firdos will spend a month at Massey from mid-April until mid-May to work with Massey staff on various projects. One outcome of the exchange is a conference to be held at the end of the year for Anglo-Indian researchers. It will be hosted by the CSSSC and convened by Robyn Andrews with the assistance of Sohel Firdos and Dwaipayan Bhattacharyya from the CSSSC. See conference notices in this publication for further details.

Asianist Staff Departure & Ongoing New Appointment

Dr Rie Karatsu, Lecturer of Japanese in the School of Language Studies, recently left the university to take up a position at Siebold University of Nagasaki, Nov 2006

Mr Toshi Yamauchi, was recently appointed Tutor of Japanese in the School of Language Studies. (To Feb 2007)

Outreach

Staff in the School of Language Studies and the College of Education participated in language class demonstrations and cultural displays held during the August 2006 Languages Week at the Palmerston North City Library.

Rosemary Haddon

4.3 Unitec

It was a reasonably quiet year at Unitec with only one voluntary redundancy taken by Chinese tutor, Jin Lan Yang, at the end of 2006. Among the few success stories were Hong Yu Gong who successfully defended his PhD at the University of Auckland last November. His thesis was entitled "Missionaries, reformers, and the beginnings of Western music in late imperial China (1839-1911)." Currently Hong Yu is working on two papers. One entitled "A Study in Sino-Western Cultural Exchange: Missionaries and the Beginnings of Modern Education in China" and the other "Music, Nationalism and the search for modernity

in China, 1911-1942". Early this year Hong Yu received a Unitec research grant to enable him to visit Chinese archives to collect materials for his research.

Elena Kolesova is involved with two research projects both of them involving Japanese students around the themes of crossing borders, renegotiating of identity and the 'internationalisation' of Japanese education. Both projects are subsidised by Unitec research grants. Yuko Oshika conducts research into Japanese popular culture and particularly Japanese anime. Tomoko Dallow's research interests include learner autonomy. Yukiko Wakui's last presentation at the Japanese Association Interpreting Studies Conference in 2006 in Tokyo was on the role of the church interpreter in multicultural society. We all hope that this year will be less stressful for all of us and that we will be able to get on with our teaching and research activities without much interruption.

Finally, the 13th annual Unitec New Zealand and Auckland City Council Japanese speech contest for high schools students will be held on Saturday 11 August, 2007.

Elena Kolesova

4.4 University of Auckland

Staff news

Dr. Edward McDonald took up a position at the University of Auckland in early 2006 after two years working for China Central Television International in Beijing. He holds an MA from Peking University and a Ph.D. from Macquarie, and has taught linguistics, semiotics and Chinese at universities in Australia, China and Singapore. He has long term research interests in the grammar and discourse of modern Chinese; and in linguistic ideologies around Chinese characters; and has recently moved the area of into media/popular culture with a UoA funded research project on the use of the label "metrosexual" in Mainland men's fashion magazines. Recent publications include: "Humanistic Spirit or Scientism?": conflicting ideologies in Chinese language reform' *Histoire, Epistemologie, Langage*, 24/2. *Politiques linguistiques* 1/2, 51-74, 2002; and 'Verb and clause in Chinese discourse: issues of constituency and functionality' *Journal of Chinese Linguistics*, 32.2, 200-248, 2004. His book *Meaningful Arrangement*, exploring the syntactic description of texts is to be published by Equinox this year.

Professor Hugh Whittaker (Management and Employment Relations) has arrived to Auckland late 2006. His research looks at socio-economic change and contexts, especially through the prisms of small firms and entrepreneurship, and management, governance and employment in large firms in the context of Japan and comparative studies. Work in progress includes corporate governance change in Japan (the third of a series of works on a 'reformed' Japanese model), comparative entrepreneurship (UK and Japan), East Asian economic development and globalization. He will also increasingly be looking at similar growth and change issues in New Zealand. Before joining the University of Auckland, he taught at Cambridge University, and subsequently helped to set up a business school and research institute at Doshisha University, Japan.

Associate Professor Matthew Allen (popular culture, history) has returned from his two year leave in Queensland, and has started on a new project on popular culture and nationalism with Dr Sakamoto.

Associate Professor Greg Bankoff is to leave Auckland to take up a Professorship at the University of Hull, UK, in mid 2007, where he will pursue his research on disaster and environment.

Associate Professor Reiko Aoki resigned the University in 2006 to take up a Professorship at Hitotsubashi University, Japan.

Professor Paul Clark served as the Head of the School for the 2006. Dr. Richard Phillips took up the headship in 2007.

Books

Allen M. F. E., Sakamoto, R. (eds) *Popular Culture, Globalization and Japan*, London, Routledge, UK, 2006.

Lee, Y. (ed.) *The First Korea New Zealand Art Exchange Exhibition: The breath of nature*, Seoul Korea, The Korea-International Association for pure formative arts, 2006.

New Zealand Asia Institute: Turning a New page

On 1 July, the NZAI welcomed its first director of Asian origin, Prof Yongjin Zhang. An Oxford graduate, Dr Zhang holds a personal chair at the University of Auckland and was recently the head of its School of Asian Studies. Immediately after Prof Zhang taking office, the NZAI launched a new programme, *Country Update Seminar*. The purpose of the programme is to help build New Zealanders' knowledge and understanding of their Asian neighbours. Three sessions have so far been organised on Japan's economic recovery and 2006 LDP election, the nuclear security crisis on the Korean Peninsula, and Islam and politics in Indonesia. To complement the *Country Update* programme, the NZAI also launched in September 2006 a new publications series, *Regional Analysis*. The first outcome is an edited volume by Prof Yongjin Zhang, *Whither the Six Party Talks? Issues, Stakes and Perspectives*. Ten invited contributors offered their succinct studies on concerns and positions of South Korea, China, Japan, the United States, Russia, Australia and New Zealand. The publication is available both on line and in print. For details, please visit <http://www.auckland.ac.nz/nzai/>.

2007 marks the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). To commemorate this important occasion and to celebrate friendship and prosperous relations between New Zealand and the ASEAN in all areas of governmental, commercial and people-to-people linkages, the New Zealand Asia Institute is organising an international conference on **ASEAN 40 Years on: Reflections and Visions** on 26 May. Invited speakers will come from Southeast Asia, Australia and New Zealand. The forum will be open to the public. The programme may be found on the NZAI website.

The Confucius Institute in Auckland

The Confucius Institute in Auckland was set up in 2006 with the support from the University of Auckland and the Chinese government, with Fudan University as the Chinese partner. In February this year it has been formally launched. So far the Institute offered Chinese language courses for tourists and business people, Chinese brush painting workshop, NZ Olympic Committee Training Course etc. Planned activities in the later part of 2007 include Chinese calligraphy course, Great Auckland Secondary Students Speech Competition, NZ Chinese Essay Competition, along with many language courses. For more information, contact the Director, Ms. Nora Yao (n.yao@auckland.ac.nz)

Rumi Sakamoto

4.5 University of Otago

University of Otago Asia researchers have again had a very active year.

Professor Charles Higham, from the Southeast Asian Studies Centre, delivered a paper on the 2006 excavation of Ban Non Wat, Northeast Thailand at the 11th International Conference, European Association of Southeast Asian Archaeologists, Bougon, France. September 2006. Professor Higham was guest speaker at a seminar arranged by the National Research Council of Thailand, Nakhon Ratchasima, Northeast Thailand and guest speaker at a congress to celebrate the 60th anniversary of H.M. the King of Thailand's accession to the throne, September 2006, Bangkok. In addition to these engagements Professor Higham has carried out further research for the sixth season of excavations at the site of Ban Non Wat, Northeast Thailand.

Associate Professor Nanyan Guo, gave a series papers in NZ, China and Japan: 'Nature and Culture of the Ogasawara Islands' at the 'Research Symposium: Nature and Environment of Asia', University of Otago, 2 September 2006; 'Japan's Post-war Intellectuals': Reflection on Wartime Atrocities', at the 8th World Congress of Bioethics, Beijing, China on 8 August 2006; and 'The Impact of Internationalization on Students at the University of Otago' at 'Symposium: Internationalization and Education for Overseas Students' at Yokohama National University, 15 July 2006.

Associate Professor Guo also edited *Shūenchiiki no jiko ninshiki: Tsugaru to Otago no chishijin wo chūshin ni* (Tsugaru and Otago: Periphery in Intellectuals' Consciousness) and wrote two of the chapters in the book. She published a translation of Witi Ihimarae's *The Whale Ride*, with postscript, under the title *Qijingren* (Shanghai: Shanghai People's Publishing House, 2006). Professor Guo also published a book chapter, 'The Portrayal of Tanizaki's Dog by Shiga Naoya' in Zdenka Svarcova, Cody Poulton, eds. *Dreams and Shadows: Tanizaki and Japanese Poetics in Prague*, Prague: Charles University in Prague, the

Karolinum Press. 2006, pp.81-88 and a journal article; 'Education on Japan at the University of Otago' *The Journal of New Zealand Studies in Japan*, Vol. 13, December 2006, pp. 65-71.

Associate Professor Jae Jung Song published two books: Song, Jae Jung (ed.) *Frontiers of Korean Language Acquisition*. London: Saffron Books, 2006 and Song, Jae Jung *The Korean Language: Structure, Use and Context*. London: Routledge, 2005. Associate Professor Song was also the invited Guest speaker at the Linguistic Society of Korea 50th Anniversary International Conference on Linguistic Typology and Korean, Seoul National University, Seoul, Korea, 23-24 June, 2006.

Associate Professor Robin Gauld of the School of Medicine published a jointly authored article on 'Advanced Asia's Health Systems in Comparison', *Health Policy*, 79(2-3): 325-336, 2006.

Dr Takashi Shogimen, Senior Lecturer in Medieval History, is currently engaged in a Marsden (Fast Start) research project on 'Medicine and the Body Politic: An Approach to the Global History of Political Thought'. This focuses on medieval and early modern European and Tokugawa Japanese political and medical thought. This project has produced a book in Japanese: *Political Diagnostics: An Introduction [seiji shindangaku eno shotai]* (Tokyo: Kodansha, 2006). Dr Shogimen also organized and hosted the international symposium 'Western Political Thought in Dialogue with Asia' at St Margaret's College in the University of Otago on 13-15 December 2006. The event featured papers on Islamic, Indian, Chinese and Japanese political thought. The papers will be published as a collection of essays from an American academic press.

Associate Professor Henry Johnson and Dr Shogimen co-edited volume about contemporary performance in Japan coming out with Global Oriental later this year called *Performing Japan: Contemporary Expressions of Cultural Identity*. Associate Professor Johnson also co-edited with Professor Brian Moloughney *Asia in the Making of New Zealand*, Auckland: Auckland University Press.

Dr Paolo Voci, Dept. of Languages and Cultures, has published the following papers: "Quasi-Documentary, Cellflick and Web Spoofs: Chinese Movies' Other Visual Pleasures." *Senses of Cinema*, no. 41 (October-December 2006) <http://www.sensesofcinema.com/contents/06/41/other-chinese-movies-pleasures.html> "From Middle Kingdom to Middle Earth and Back: Chinese Media/Mediated Identities in New Zealand" In Brian Moloughney and Henry Johnson, eds. *Asia in the Making of New Zealand*, Auckland: Auckland University Press, 2006, pp. 163-184. "Zhongguo jilupian: yingxiang Zhongguo wenhua (Chinese Documentary: Changing Film Culture in China)" In Ping Jie, ed., *Lingyan xiangkan: haiwai xuezhe ping dangdai Zhongguo jilupian* (REEL CHINA: A New Look at Contemporary Chinese Documentary), Shanghai: Shanghai Wenhui Publishing House, 2006, pp.103-113.

Associate Professor Jing-Bao Nie of the Bioethics Centre is the principal investigator of a Marsden Fund Grant (\$530,000) for the research project "Predicaments of Social Engineering: Ideology and Ethics of China's Planned Reproduction," for 2007-2009. Associate Professor Nie has also published the following book chapters: Nie, JB. 2006. "After *Cheng* (Sincerity): The Professional Ethics of Traditional Chinese Medicine." In Kayhan Parsi and Myles Sheehan, eds., *Healing as Vocation: A Primer on Medical Professionalism*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield. Pp. 61-76. Nie, JB. 2006. "The United States Cover-up of Japanese Wartime Medical Atrocities: Complicity Committed in the National Interest and Two Proposals for Contemporary Action." *American Journal of Bioethics* 6(3): W21-W33.

Associate Professor Nie has had his book *Behind the Silence: Chinese Voices of Abortion*, positively reviewed at *The Lancet* (Vol. 368: 357-358, 2006) by Sheila McLean, *American Journal of Bioethics* (Vol. 6, No. 5: 59-60, 2006) by Grant Gillett, *Canadian Review of Sociology and Anthropology* (June 2006) by Deidre Smythe, *Population and Development Review* (Vol. 32, No. 3: 592-593) by Susan Greenhalgh, *Medical Law International* (Vol. 7, No. 4: 358-359, 2006), *New Zealand Journal of Asian Studies* (Vol. 8, No. 1: 157-160) by Rosemary Roberts, *Choice* (July/August 2006: 2083-2084) by R. Wang, *International Journal of Public Opinion Research* (Vol. 18 No. 2: 261, 2006), *China Quarterly* (No. 188: 1125-1127, 2006) by Harriet Evans, and *China Journal* (No.57: 189-190) by Delia Davin.

Dr Xiaohuan Zhou, Dept. of Languages and Cultures, was awarded the highly competitive Taiwan NTNU International Visiting Scholarship. Dr Zhou has published "From Story to Script: towards a Morphology of *The Peony Pavilion*: A Dream/Ghost Drama from Ming China," *Acta Orientalia Vilnensia*, 02/2006; "Presentation and Representation of Time and Space on the Chinese Stage: With Special Reference to *The Peony Pavilion*," *Double Dialogues*, 06/2007 [forthcoming]; "Lexical Cohesion and Conjunction: A Textual Study of the *Tao Te Ching* from the Hallidayian Perspective" in *Functional Linguistics and*

Translation Studies. Guangzhou: The Sun Yat-sen University Press, 2006; "An investigation into the textual patterns of the *Tao Te Ching*" [in Chinese], in *Chinese Literature: Conversations between Tradition and Modernity*. Nanjing: Nanjing University Press [forthcoming].

Dr J.-R. Hayashishita, Dept. of Languages and Cultures, has published a paper, titled "*Izyoo(ni)- and gurai-comparatives: Comparisons of deviation in Japanese*," in *Gengo Kenkyu*, the refereed journal distributed by Linguistic Society of Japan. A second paper, titled "*Yori-comparative*," and will be published in the *Asian GLOW05* proceedings as the first publication of the Formal Studies in the Syntax and Semantic of Indian Languages (FOSSSIL) Society in 2007

Dr Malcolm Cone (Asia Institute) and Professor Sunil Ashra (Management Development Institute Delhi India) published the 'India Survey', a joint research project with the Management Development Institute Gurgaon India. This was a result of a 2 year project to investigate opportunities for New Zealand Enterprises in India. The study covered Agriculture, Biotechnology, Forestry, Tourism Financial Services, and was published by New Zealand Trade and Enterprise in April 2006.

Dr Cone led a seminar series with Professor Sunil Ashra sponsored by NZTE and the India-New Zealand Business Council: 'Opportunities for NZ enterprises in India', in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch, June 2006. He is also involved in a joint venture film project with Professor Roger Ames Professor of Chinese Philosophy Hawaii University and Metis Films NZ, with support from Natural History NZ. The title of the film is 'Chinese Philosophy, Confucianism and Daoism in 21st Century China' and it is due for release in August 2007.

Malcolm Cone

4.6 Victoria University at Wellington

Asian Studies Institute Seminars/workshops/conferences

2006 Seminars:

Lynette Shum: Gatekeepers of History: Self-censorship in the Transmission of Chinese Community History

Louise Edwards: Women's Suffrage in China: Political Power, Education and Morality

Kam Louie: Thinking About Chinese Culture

Margaret Jiang: Painting: An Examination of Practice, Outcome and Seeing in the Context of Lived Experience

Malcolm McKinnon: An Absence of Occidentals? Exploring Modernity Outside the West

David Taylor: New Zealand and Its Relations with North Asia

Chunshen Zhu: Towards a Free Heart within an Understanding Mind: Voice and Vision in poetry

translation; ClinkNotes: Towards a corpus-based, machine-aided programme of translation teaching

Jodi York: Shifting Narratives of Shifting Cultivation: Framing Natural Resource Conflicts in Northern Thailand

Shamsul A.B.: Islam and Human Rights in a Culturally-Embedded Malaysia

Charles Mabbett, Tze Ming Mok, and Keith Ng: Asia, New Zealand and the Media

Li Tao : Waves: The Diaries of Chinese International Students in New Zealand

Rumi Sakamoto: Contesting the National Past in Japanese Manga

Pauline Keating: Village Self-Governance and Rural Cooperatives in China: An Historical Perspective

The Asian Studies Institute Research Seminar Series for Trimester One 2007 includes:

16 March: Anne Gade, Religious Studies, VUW, Cham Muslims in Cambodia: Religious Revitalization and Recovery (co-hosted with Religious Studies)

23 March: James Beattie, University of Otago, Japanese Gardens and Plants in New Zealand, 1850-1950: Transculturation and Transmission

5 April: Guo Zhenzhi, Qinghua University, Playing the Game by the Rules? Television Regulation around China's Entry into WTO (tbc)

26 April: Maxe Fisher, School of Design, VUW, Now Here Was There: Issues in the Performative in Burmese Culture

11 May: Andrew Butcher, Asia:NZ Foundation, Asia and Research in the Public Space

18 May: David J Keegan, Deputy Chief of Mission, US Embassy, Elections and Olympics -- The Cross-Strait Future?

In February the Asian Studies Institute also hosted a workshop on “New Zealand and India: Migration, Perceptions and Relations” which brought together researchers from throughout the country.

ASI Publications:

Working Paper # 19: Modern State Building and the Problem of "Intermediate Institutions": Religion, Family and Military in East Asia (Xiaoming Huang)

Working Paper # 20: Bollywood Cinema: A Critical Genealogy (Vijay Mishra)

Working Paper # 21: The Obsessive Gourmand: Zhang Dai on Food (Duncan Campbell)

Working Paper # 22: Knowledge, Belief and Doubt: Some Contemporary Problems and their Solutions from the Nyāya Perspective (Jay Shaw)

Occasional Lecture # 4: Asia, New Zealand and the Media (Charles Mabbett, Tze Ming Mok, and Keith Ng)

For more information on ordering publications or details for any upcoming event, please contact the ASI administrator Laila Faisal laila.faisal@vuw.ac.nz.

In late 2007, Limin Bai of the Chinese Programme will have a book appear in Chinese. The title of the book is *Zouchu guomen de kunhuo yu shouhuo - Xinxilan Zhongguo liuxuesheng yanjiu baogao* (Chinese Students' Experiences in New Zealand: Meeting the Challenges), and it will be published by Shanghai jiaoyu chubanshe (Shanghai Education Press).

The book is based on major findings from a survey of Chinese students in New Zealand and interviews with 100 students between November 2004 and June 2005. It examines Chinese students' perception of “modernization”, and links their evaluation of New Zealand education to the issues in contemporary Chinese education and society. By looking into the social, cultural and educational background of Chinese students, the motivating factors behind their selecting New Zealand as their educational destination, and how these factors affect their experience in New Zealand, as well as their comparisons between New Zealand and Chinese education, this study finds that Chinese students' experience in New Zealand closely relates to Chinese views of modernization and the value of education, which are influenced by China's drive for economic growth and the rise of materialism. The problems that Chinese students face abroad actually reflect the dilemma and challenges in current Chinese society and education.

Staff news

Professor Dr. Othman Yatim, the new VUW Chair of Malay Studies, is Professor of Islamic Art at the Academy of Malay Studies, University of Malaya (UM) and also Director of the Museum of Asian Art at the UM. Prior to joining the UM, he was with the Malaysia's Department of Museums and Antiquities until 1993, where, among other positions, he served as Director of Research. Professor Othman has written books on Islamic art and subjects related to the preservation of museum artefacts, ceramics and Malay civilization. He replaces Professor Ungku Maimunah, who has completed her tenure and returned to the Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.

Dr Anna Gade, who has recently taken up an appointment in the Religious Studies Programme, is an historian of religions specializing in Islam and religious systems of Southeast Asia. Anna received her Ph.D. from the University of Chicago and has held positions at Cornell University, Princeton University, and Oberlin College. She is the author of *Perfection Makes Practice: Learning, Emotion, and the Recited Qur'an in Indonesia* (University of Hawai'i Press, 2004), and her work overall focuses on trends in contemporary Muslim revitalization. Her current research is a project based on fieldwork with Muslim-minority communities of mainland Southeast Asia.

As many of you will be aware, Brian Moloughney, the current president of NZASIA, has recently moved from the University of Otago to take up a position as Head of the School of Asian and European Cultures at VUW. Li Changying of the Languages and Culture University in Beijing is teaching in the Chinese Programme for two years. Sun Mei, also of the Chinese programme, is away in Taiwan on research leave for a year and will soon have a book appearing in Chinese. Other noteworthy staff news include Gerald Chan's departure from VUW to become Professor in the School of Government and International Relations at the University of Durham in the UK, and Sekhar Bandyopadhyay's promotion to Professor of Asian History. The Asian Language programmes at VUW will be reviewed in July.

Stephen Epstein

5. News and Announcements

5.1 17th NZASIA international conference (University of Otago, 22-25 Nov 2007)

Keynote speakers:

Barbara Watson Andaya: Professor of Asian Studies and member of the Centre for Southeast Asian Studies at the University of Hawai'i

Tessa Morris-Suzuki: Professor of Japanese History in Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies and Australian National University

Call for papers by 1 June 2007

For more information please visit: www.nasia.org.nz/conference

5.2 Call for Papers: "Religious Innovation in East Asia"

The Australian National University, Canberra, Australia
November 28-30, 2007

In the last few decades, the religious scene across East Asia has changed in fundamental ways. Changes in government administration, communications technologies, the degree of urbanisation, levels of education, and increasing wealth have run parallel to a burgeoning of religious life. These years have seen a growth in new religious movements, new varieties of existing religions and new forms of religiosity. They have also seen an increased public presence and awareness of religious groups through involvement in mainstream politics, in opposition to the state, and by violent interventions as well as simply becoming more visible on the streets, in the media and on the web.

This conference seeks to explore these changes in China (including Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau), Japan, South Korea and Vietnam and amongst their diasporic communities, and the background to them. Some of the themes on which papers may be suggested are:

- New religious movements
- New formations of Buddhism, Islam and other established religions
- Cultivation and self-cultivation, especially qigong and related activities
- Religious innovation in the diasporas
- Theoretical and methodological issues related to religious innovation
- Popular religion in contemporary societies

Major speakers will be invited from China, Japan and South Korea.

Suggestions for papers should be submitted to Anthony.Garnaut@anu.edu.au by May 31, 2007. Some travel funding is likely to be available for participants, including graduate students, from Australia and New Zealand.

Organizing Group: John Jorgensen (Griffith University), Benjamin Penny (The Australian National University), Judith Snodgrass (University of Western Sydney), Philip Taylor (The Australian National University). We acknowledge support from the East Asia Forum, ANU

5.3 Representing Asia, Remaking New Zealand in Contemporary New Zealand Culture (University of Otago, 2nd June 2007)

This special one-day symposium on Saturday 2 June 2007 explores the ways in which the concepts *Asia* and *New Zealand*, *Asian* and *New Zealander* are being challenged and modified in contemporary art, music, literature, theatre, television and film. The seminar addresses both the role that Asian New Zealanders are playing in contemporary New Zealand culture and the increasing importance of Asian culture and representations of Asia in New Zealand arts and literature as a whole.

A Special Edition of the *New Zealand Journal of Asian Studies* in June 2008 will be devoted to selected papers from the symposium, as well as those by invited contributors.

For further information, contact:

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5.4 Conference Notice: Researching Anglo-India: Indian and Diasporic Contexts (Kolkata 18-20th December, 2007)

Over the last few years there have been a significant number of publications focussing on the Anglo-Indian community, both in India and in diasporic contexts. In response to that, and as an outcome of an exchange relationship between Massey University and the Centre for Studies in the Social Sciences, Calcutta (CSSSC), Robyn Andrews will convene a conference for researchers from a range of disciplines to come together to discuss their own as well as others' research in this field.

All those involved in Anglo-Indian-related research, currently and in the past, are invited to participate. Please contact Robyn by email at R.Andrews@massey.ac.nz for more information. She would appreciate hearing from everyone who may be interested as early as possible as numbers of places in the conference are limited.

6. New Zealand Journal of Asian Studies: next issue

Vol. 9, No. 1 June 2007 Special Issue: Asian Environments (Guest editor: James Beattie)

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Growing Chinese Influences in New Zealand: Chinese Gardens, Identity and Meaning, James Beattie

The System of Wildlife Management and Conservation in Japan, with particularly reference to the Asiatic Black Bear, Cath Knight

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7. Membership

We remind you that the membership fee includes a subscription to the New Zealand Journal of Asian Studies (published twice yearly). The subscription period runs from 1 January to 31 December. Other benefits of membership include

- the Newsletter
- conference participation with reduced rates, including reciprocity with ASAA conferences
- the potential for networking with other members
- the benefits of keeping abreast of developments in Asian Studies, including scholarship opportunities

Please send a cheque for the subscription amount, along with any changes in your details or address. If you are a new member you can use the form found on the NZASIA website: www.nzasia.org.nz

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Others:	US \$ 40 individual, US \$ 50 institutions
Associate membership	NZ \$10, AUD \$10, US\$5

Subscriptions should be sent to:

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NZASIA Newsletter No. 17 May 2007 © NZASIA
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