



**NZASIA** New Zealand Asian  
Studies Society Inc

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## ***Newsletter No. 26, May 2013***

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## 1. Report from the NZASIA President

Greetings to everyone, and welcome to our first NZASIA Newsletter for 2013. On behalf of the new Executive Committee as incoming President, I'd like to thank the members of the previous Exec for their hard work and keeping the Society in a vibrant state. We're very appreciative of the contributions of my predecessor, Henry Johnson (University of Otago), the former Treasurer, Michael Radich (Victoria University of Wellington) and the former Secretary, Erica Baffeli (University of Otago). Naimah Talib (University of Canterbury) has shifted from her role as Publications Officer to Treasurer and Paul Clark (University of Auckland) continues as the editor of the New Zealand Journal of Asian Studies. Vanessa Ward (University of Otago) has now taken up the position of Secretary and Rosemary Haddon (Massey University) is our Publications Officer.

The primary item I wish to highlight here is that arrangements for the 20th New Zealand Asian Studies Society International Conference, which will be held from 22 to 24 November at the University of Auckland, are now well underway. The conference promises an exciting programme for this special 20th biennial event. We will feature three prominent keynote speakers from overseas and also expect a compelling set of paper presentations from our own members and international colleagues. It looks to be an excellent opportunity to catch up with friends in Asian Studies and to present your own research. The deadline for submission of abstracts has been extended until June 10, so there remains time to send on something if you have not done so already. For more information on conference particulars, see below and <http://www.nzasia2013.org.nz/>. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

While the Society is healthy, we are always eager to add new members and to welcome recent arrivals to New Zealand into our fold. If you are aware of colleagues who work on material related to Asia who may not be members of NZASIA, please urge them to consider joining, and do pass on word about the November conference.

Best wishes, Stephen

Stephen Epstein  
Victoria University of Wellington  
President, NZASIA  
27 May 2013

## 2. Regional Updates

### 2.1 Massey University

#### New Initiatives

Beginning in 2014 the Chinese programme will launch two new Chinese Heritage papers at the Albany campus (Auckland). The papers are designed to capture the 'heritage' speakers who seek language maintenance or enhanced proficiency that will allow them to work in China. With the addition of these papers the programme will cater more effectively for the different cohorts of Chinese language learners.

Massey's Asianists are proposing a Minor in Asian Studies for introduction in 2014. The potential for a minor was raised during the planning of the 19th New Zealand Asian Studies Society International Conference 2011 hosted by this university. The preparations revealed the existence of a significant hub of Asian researchers across the disciplines at Massey with the background, expertise and will to launch such a qualification. An Asian Studies minor will give this cohort greater internal and external visibility as well as a network for team-based research initiatives. The minor will be an interdisciplinary programme comprising papers with Asia content drawn from across the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. Relevant geographic regions include China, Japan, South and Southeast Asia, and West Asia (Middle East). The minor will draw on the disciplines of Chinese, Japanese, history, religious studies, social anthropology, politics, economics and others. The proposal is currently in the early stages of internal approval.

#### Asia Dialogues

The Asia Dialogues Scholarly Seminars takes place annually at the Albany campus. In 2013 the series will host the following talks (Study Centre Staff Room 12:00 to 1:00 pm):

- "Contribution to public life of Asian/ethnic festivals to Auckland city identity" by Bevan Chuang, 14 March
- "Ethnic entrepreneurs" by Paul Spoonley, 11 April
- "Kiwi missionaries in China" by Sylvia Yuan, 9 May
- "1.5 Generation" by Austin Kim, 13 June
- "Migrant entrepreneurs" by Prue Cruickshank, 11 July
- "Asian religious landscapes in Auckland" by Peter Lineham, 8 August
- "Asian presence in the New Zealand Police Force" by Jacquie Campbell, 12 September
- "Anniversary Chinese Revolution 1911 and founding of the Republic of China," Round table dialogue: Revolution, evolution and change (with Chris Howard and Ralph Bathurst), 10 October
- "Asian children in local pre-schools," Angel Chan, 14 November

The following link contains more information about the series:

[http://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/about-massey/news/article.cfm?mnarticle\\_uid=5F5AF040-9E71-60F7-81D2-B06C8F0F4F3D](http://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/about-massey/news/article.cfm?mnarticle_uid=5F5AF040-9E71-60F7-81D2-B06C8F0F4F3D)

#### Asian Film Festival

The 2013 Asian Film Festival was launched with the Travelling Film Southasia (TFSA '12) documentary festival. The festival is being held in Auckland, Palmerston North

and Wellington from 4 May to 6 June via the New Zealand India Research Institute (VUW). The organizer Dr Sita Venkateswar was introduced to the Kathmandu-based festival when she was researching child labour in Nepal in the late 1990s. She adds that the films raise awareness of the diversity of the region and give audiences a unique insight into life in South Asia. The festival features 12 documentaries from different regions and covers topics such as mining, piracy, the plight of migrant labourers, farming crises and farmer suicides, civil war, women and their place in family and society, among others.

The festival schedule can be accessed at the following link:

[http://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/about-massey/news/article.cfm?mnarticle\\_uuid=7BD676D2-AF1F-422E-B600-DCBB3B9A13F8](http://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/about-massey/news/article.cfm?mnarticle_uuid=7BD676D2-AF1F-422E-B600-DCBB3B9A13F8)

### **Anglo-Indian Workshops**

Robyn Andrews reported that she convened a workshop with Brent Otto S.J. (Santa Clara University, San Francisco) at St Xavier's College, Kolkata. The workshop took place on 13 January and provided a forum for an international group to present their Anglo-Indian-focussed research. The workshop was timed to allow participants of the World Anglo-Indian Reunion to attend. The projected outputs include two edited collections. The first is online and is scheduled for publication in August; the second is currently being negotiated with publishers.

Robyn carried out two research projects while she was in India. They included an ethnographically focussed project on Anglo-Indians of the West Bengal city of Asansol. For the second, she carried out with her collaborator a survey and interview on the role of religion in Anglo-Indian lives, both in India and the diaspora. Robyn is lecturer in Social Anthropology, School of People, Environment and Planning.

*Rosemary Haddon*

## **2.2 University of Auckland**

### **New Staff at the School of Asian Studies**

The School of Asian Studies warmly welcomes two new members of staff in 2013. Professor Mark Mullins is a specialist in the sociology of religion, and joins us after a distinguished career at Sophia University in Tokyo. Mark is organising a conference on "Japanese Responses to Social Crisis and Disaster, 1995 and 2011," which will be hosted by the NZAI/Japan Studies Centre at the University on 13-14 September 2013. Interested parties are welcome to contact Mark on [m.mullins@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:m.mullins@auckland.ac.nz).

Dr Karen Huang is our new Lecturer in Chinese. She has a PhD from the University of Hawai'i and her research interests are in Chinese phonetics and phonology, historical linguistics, Chinese dialects, and language contact. She is currently working on projects concerning the production and perception of the tonal variations in Taiwan Mandarin, and prehistoric language contact in South China.

### **Conferences**

Auckland staff are in the midst of preparations for the Twentieth Biennial Conference of the Society on 22-24 November. Abstracts have flooded in, but the deadline has

been extended to 10 June to allow all colleagues to consider making a presentation in Auckland. We hope the conference theme, Environment, Dis/location and Cultural Space will produce a set of papers that might be reworked into a coherent volume, but all papers on any aspect of the study of Asia are welcome. The organisers are grateful for the New Zealand India Research Institute's generous support of one of the keynote speakers, Dr Amita Bhaviskar of the Institute of Economic Growth in Delhi. Dr Bhaviskar will visit other centres during her time in New Zealand. The conference website is at [www.nzasia2013.org](http://www.nzasia2013.org). Registration will open in June. We look forward to hosting a lively conference in NZ's most cosmopolitan centre.

The School of Asian Studies Tenth Annual Graduate Conference will be held on Wednesday, 30 October 2013. We are currently calling for papers from interested graduate students from New Zealand universities working on Asia-related research topics. Papers will be organised into theme-related panels, chaired by academic staff members from the University of Auckland, who will also serve as discussants. Further information is available from the following link:

<http://www.arts.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/home/about/departments-and-schools/school-of-asian-studies/newsandevents-7>

### **Prestigious Grant for Korean Studies at the University of Auckland**

The School has recently been successful in winning a substantial grant from the Academy of Korean Studies. The grant will enable development and capacity building in all aspects of the Korean programme from undergraduate teaching, to scholarships for postgraduate study and research support. Led by the School, this is a collaborative project with the Departments of Political Studies and Anthropology and the New Zealand Asia Institute in the University of Auckland and includes participation by Assoc Prof Stephen Epstein (Victoria University of Wellington) who will be teaching a course in Modern Korean Society to a joint cohort of students from Auckland and Wellington in Semester 2, 2013. Calls for applications for postgraduate scholarships and for a postdoctoral position will be posted shortly.

### **Other Events**

In February the School of Asian Studies, Department of History, and the Centre for Pacific Studies jointly hosted a day-long symposium: "Global/Local Migrations: Identity, Community, Nation." The Symposium was built around the visit to the University of Auckland of Professor Mae M. Ngai from Columbia University, New York, one of the foremost historians of immigration in the United States. Joining Prof. Ngai were speakers from a range of departments across the university presenting their latest research. Students, staff and members of the public attended the event.

Speaking on "the Chinese question" in the Pacific Rim, Professor Ngai took a global view of Chinese gold miners in the nineteenth century, comparing patterns of settlement and interaction with other settler communities in California, Victoria and South Africa. The day had begun with a presentation from Professor Manying Ip (Asian Studies) on Chinese migration studies and debates on New Zealand national identity. Professor Ngai remarked at the end of the Symposium that she was keen to incorporate the New Zealand case into her future research. Other speakers appreciated the opportunity to share research in such a focused and convivial way and looked forward to future collaboration.

Head of School Hilary Chung was invited to give a keynote speech by the Canadian Comparative Literature Association as part of Congress 2013 held at the Victoria University at the beginning of June. She spoke on enactments of multiculturalism in Asian New Zealand theatre.

Paul Clark, Professor of Chinese, was invited to give a paper at Chinese University of Hong Kong at the International Symposium on Culture and Music of China's Cultural Revolution held on 12-13 April 2013. He spoke on "Film and Cultural Revolution Musical Culture" and has been asked to join the conference organisers, Pang Laikwan and Tsai Tsan-huang, as a co-editor of the planned conference volume. He will also give a keynote speech titled "*Love on Lushan* over Thirty Years: Glamour, Family and the Nation" at Hong Kong Baptist University at a conference on Chinese-language Cinema Text, Context and History in June 2013.

*Ellen Nakamura*

## 2.3 University of Canterbury

### Confucius Institute

The Confucius Institute at the University of Canterbury (CIUC) launched the Discovery Programme at the EthnicA Conference on 23 March 2013. This programme hopes to improve the relationship between the peoples of New Zealand and China by exploring the history of exchanges between the two countries. The first project of the Discovery Programme is an exhibition of traditional Chinese paintings collected by Harold W Youren, a campaigner for world peace. Youren travelled extensively and was able to collect a number of paintings by well-known Chinese artists, including Wen Zhengming, Qi Baishi and Pu Ru. These paintings had been stored at Hawke's Bay Museum and Art Gallery. They will be exhibited in the main cities of New Zealand.



Hon Judith Collins, Dr Richard Bullen and CIUC staff at the launch of the Discovery Programme



On 6 April 2013, CIUC hosted the South Island Regional Chinese Bridge Competition. There were four categories: junior high school, senior high school, tertiary and international and/or native speakers. Kana Deguchi, of the University of Canterbury, was awarded first prize in the tertiary category. She will travel to China in July to participate in the international round of the Chinese Bridge Competition. Three winners from both the junior and senior secondary schools category will compete in Auckland in May. All tertiary contestants have been given the opportunity to study in China for at least one semester, and all the secondary school contestants have been given the opportunity to spend two weeks in China in July.

In April, a delegation of principals and senior staff from South Island secondary schools and tertiary institutions travelled to China. During their stay in China, the principals visited Beijing University and Huazhong University of Science and Technology as well as several secondary schools and educational organizations in Hubei Province of central China. They also had the opportunity to visit the headquarters of the Confucius Institute. The trip was very successful: the delegates agreed that the trip to China was truly memorable and they returned to New Zealand with a commitment to ensure that Chinese is taught in their schools. A number of delegates have begun the process of forming sister school relationships with some of the schools they visited. The New Zealand principals' delegation to China is an annual programme organized by the CIUC in the South Island. The next principals' trip is scheduled for April 2014.



CIUC Deputy Director, Hong Hu, with the South Island principals' delegation to China

On 24 May, Peter Chin will give a guest lecture on the importance of sister cities in China to New Zealand. Peter Chin is a lawyer and former mayor of Dunedin city. He is also a member of one of New Zealand's oldest Chinese families. He will draw on his experience as mayor to discuss the benefits of sister city relationships and the way that such relationships can be used to give the most advantages to both parties.

CIUC has opened resource centres in Nelson's Marlborough Institute of Technology and the Southern Institute of Technology. These resource centres will offer cultural and language resources to local residents, small enterprises and schools.

### **Symposium on Human-Elephant Relations in South and Southeast Asia, May 7 & 8 Report by Piers Locke**

This two-day symposium brought together an international array of senior and junior researchers from across the natural sciences, the humanities, and the social sciences for an interdisciplinary exploration of the manifold aspects of the human-elephant relationship. Hosted by the Department of Anthropology and the New Zealand South Asia Centre (NZSAC), anthropologists, ecologists, geographers, historians, political scientists, Sanskritists, zoologists, and zoo elephant experts from Australia, France, Germany, India, New Zealand, Sri Lanka, the UK, and the USA met for an intensive meeting featuring dynamic presentations and vibrant discussion. The event provided a unique opportunity for productive debate across disciplinary boundaries on issues of welfare and conservation, history and coexistence, policy and practice, through which elephants have been variously bound up in human projects as weapons of war, emblems of prestige, symbols of divinity, objects of entertainment, icons of conservation, commodities for exchange, vehicles for labour, and intimate companions.

India's premier elephant ecologist, Professor Raman Sukumar of the Indian Institute of Science, gave the keynote lecture, a magisterial survey of the human-elephant relationship through the ages. His talk ranged from the archaeological evidence of the Indus Valley Civilization through to the post-colonial present and discussed the use of elephants in war, Sanskrit literature encoding expert knowledge about elephants, the emergence of the elephant-headed deity *Ganesha*, the political significance of elephants in the Mughal period, and the use of elephants in logging under British colonialism, concluding with remarks on the future prospects for captive and wild elephants in Asia. This was followed by the first of four sessions, on humans and elephants as mutually entangled species, beginning with a presentation by Piers Locke (Canterbury), in which he proposed an integrated approach to the study of human-elephant relations called ethno-elephantology, in which he recognized elephants as well as humans as ethnographic subjects. Maan Barua (Oxford) then discussed the role of elephant encounters, both real and virtual, as experienced in the lives of rural people and in mobilizing action for conservation, considering elephants not only in terms of use value, but also in terms of charismatic authority. Kieran Mackenzie (Canterbury) concluded the panel with a presentation on the application of ethno-ecological methods in mapping traditional knowledge about environments, elephants, and interactions with humans.

The second panel, *Humans and Elephants Through Time* began with Thomas Trautmann (Michigan) reporting on his work developing a history of the ancient origins of mahoutship and the transmission of elephant knowledge through the Greek, Persian, Roman and Egyptian civilizations. Then Jane Buckingham (Canterbury) explored the significance of the elephant during the reign of the Mughal Emperor Akbar as a symbol of masculinity and power. Patrick Olivelle (Texas) detailed the contents of Kautilya's *Arthasāstra* as it pertains to knowledge of elephant behavior, elephant capture, elephant care, specialist roles, evidence for the trade in elephants and their ivory, and the challenges of interpretation. Finally, Amy Fletcher (Canterbury) discussed the implications of sequencing the woolly mammoth genome, how and why one might resurrect an extinct species, and what such a mooted project reveals about human desire and technology.



The third panel, *Living With Elephants* showcased recent anthropological work on the ethnography of captive elephant management. Nicolas Lainé (Paris West) analyzed songs used by ethnic Khamti mahouts in Assam, exploring their role in the mutual socialization of human and elephant as intimate working companions. Ingrid Suter (Queensland) discussed the results of an extensive survey of mahouts in Laos, exploring the variable conditions, expertise, and self-evaluations of those working in logging and those working in tourism. Nikki Savvides (Sydney) outlined the problems facing captive elephants in Thailand, focusing on the loss of traditional employment opportunities for human and elephant in Surin province. These papers were followed by two presentations dealing with welfare issues. Surendra Varma (Indian Institute of Science) summarized his extensive research in ten Indian states on the relations between elephant and mahout welfare in zoos, circuses, forest camps, temples, private ownership, and street begging. The panel concluded with Erin Ivory (Franklin Zoo), who explored the controversies and internal politics of elephant-keeping institutions in the western world.

The final panel, *Sharing Space with Elephants*, was concerned with conflict and coexistence in South India and Sri Lanka, where solutions are sought to best accommodate the needs of human and elephant. Charles Santiapillai (Rajarata) presented the results of the 2011 Sri Lankan elephant survey, discussing the landscape modifications that facilitate the persistence of elephants on an island with limited habitat and a high human population density, whilst his colleague Shanmugasundaram Wijeyamohan (Rajarata) discussed new initiatives to monitor wild bulls and to alert local villagers to the presence of potentially dangerous wild elephants. Tarsh Thekaekara (Shola Trust) presented research from the Nilgiris of Tamil Nadu investigating the differential tolerance toward elephants of different human communities, the variety of ways in which elephants are perceived and their incursions mitigated, the main drivers of human-elephant conflict, and the significance of media reporting. Ursula Münster (LMU Munich), who could not attend, had been scheduled to present on the contrasting case of human-elephant conflict in and around the Wayanad wildlife sanctuary, Kerala. In her absence Piers Locke presented her paper, which highlighted the social, historical and ecological entanglement of human and elephant, the latter locally recognized as persons in consonance with findings from animal behavioural science.

The points of intersection between the disciplines represented at the symposium made the case for future interdisciplinary approaches to researching human elephant relationships in South and Southeast Asia, yielding the prospect of new research collaborations and talk of new plans to support the needs of elephants, captive and wild. Symposium participants agreed to develop their papers for publication under the editorship of the conveners Piers Locke and Jane Buckingham.

*Naimah Talib*

## 2.4 University of Otago

### Asian Migrations Research Theme

The Asian Migrations Research Theme was launched at the University of Otago in 2012. The Theme works to promote interdisciplinary exchanges and collaborations between scholars working in the field of Asian Migrations, both nationally and internationally:

The Asian Migrations Research Theme focuses on movements of peoples and ideas--past and present--in East, South, and South-East Asia and into the Pacific (encompassing the Pacific Islands, Australia, and New Zealand). It engages with the fields of diaspora, intercultural, global, and transnational studies, which have grown over the last twenty years to become key frameworks for understanding culture beyond the boundaries of one nation.

We see significant shortcomings in the current theories and methodologies of Asian migration and diaspora and especially in their application to the Asia-Pacific region. Our focus on Asian migrations allows us to highlight and address these shortcomings and to develop new approaches. The goal of the Theme is to develop a theoretical and methodological framework for understanding the Asia-Pacific region as comprised by movements of peoples, ideas, and commodities.

To date the Theme has hosted visiting scholars working in the field of Asian Migrations. These visiting scholars have offered public lectures, workshops and master classes for postgraduate students and early career researchers.

These visitors have included Professor Akram-Lodhi, Chair of International Development Studies at Trent University in Canada specialising in agrarian political economy, gender relations and the political ecology of sustainable rural livelihood in poor countries; Professor Chua Beng Huat, Provost Professor, Faculty of Arts and Social Science, Research Leader, Cultural Studies in Asia Research Cluster, Asia Research Institute and Head, Department of Sociology, National University of Singapore whose research interests include housing and urban policies, comparative politics of Southeast Asia, Cultural Studies in Asia and East Asian pop culture; and Dr Michael Radich, Senior Lecturer in the School of Art History, Classics and Religious Studies at Victoria University of Wellington who works on the history of Buddhist ideas and their reception in China.

We have also offered funding for a variety of innovative postgraduate projects, both to enable research in the field of Asian Migrations, and to give students the opportunity to present their research at major international conferences and symposia. A major conference hosted by the Theme is planned for 2014 to continue the broad interdisciplinary dialogues that these initial events have supported.

The wide scope of the Theme is reflected in the interests and disciplines of the Asian Migrations Research Theme conveners based at the University of Otago: Associate Professor Jacqueline Leckie (Department of Anthropology and Archaeology), Associate Professor Jacob Edmond (Department of English and Linguistics), and Professor Henry Johnson (Department of Music). For additional information and to become a part of the Theme, email us at [asian.migrations@otago.ac.nz](mailto:asian.migrations@otago.ac.nz).

*Susan Heydon*

## 2.5 Victoria University of Wellington

The New Zealand India Research Institute and the New Zealand Contemporary China Research Centre jointly hosted a one-month visit to Wellington by Professor Prasenjit Duara, Raffles Professor of Humanities at the National University of Singapore. While in Wellington, Professor Duara worked on his current project, “Transcendence in a Secular World: Global Modernity and the non-Abrahamic Traditions of Asia”. He delivered a public lecture on “China, India and Asian Regionalism” on 9<sup>th</sup> May at the Pipitea campus (Government Buildings). On 17<sup>th</sup> May, he led a three-hour workshop (also hosted by the School of Languages and Cultures) on “Global Modernity and Max Weber’s Asia”; workshop discussants were Michael Radich and Rick Weiss, and Sekhar Bandyopadhyay was commentator.

The New Zealand Contemporary China Centre has also hosted the following seminars:

- *Challenges of Building the Social Sector in China* by Professor Andrew Watson, Centre of Asian Studies, University of Adelaide, 13 November 2012
- *Branding “China-made” How can foreign partners help?* by Dr Zhang Jing, Management School of Huazhong University of Science and Technology, 22 April
- *Informal Institutions in Autocracies* by Professor Patrick Koellner, Director of the GIGA Institute of Asian Studies, 2 May

### ASIAN STUDIES GROUP

Formed at Victoria in September last year and convened by Vanessa Frangville (Chinese), the Asian Studies Group aims to foster interactions among scholars in social sciences and humanities with interests in Asia and Asian studies. Since last September, the Group has held regular meetings developed around three major themes emergent from within the participants: identity, soft power and narrative. Meetings are organised around a short presentation of a research project followed by discussions. As a combined academic and social event, the aim of the meetings is to leave space for debate and to build on the interdisciplinary strengths of the group.

The first of the 2012 meetings was led by Stephen Epstein, who offered a reflection on the construction of the term “Asia” in contemporary Korean discourse, and on globalisation and national identity in 21<sup>st</sup> century Korea. At a second gathering hosted by the Centre for Applied Cross Cultural Research, Alexander Bukh presented a paper on revisionist historical manga in Japan.

The first seminar in 2013 was held on Friday 22 March at the New Zealand-India Research Institute; it was led by Sekhar Bandyopadhyay, who talked about his Marsden project on Dalits in the history of partition in East India. The China Research Centre hosted the second meeting on Friday 3 May, and Jason Young introduced his current project on “Investing in Rural China”. Further meetings will be scheduled during the second trimester.

#### VISITING PROFESSORSHIP

**Michael Radich** (Religious Studies) has been appointed to the annual Numata Visiting Professorship in Buddhist Studies at the Zentrum für Buddhismuskunde at Hamburg University for the winter term 2012-2013. He will be in Hamburg from mid-October until the end of January.

#### CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION AND PRESENTATIONS

**Bai Limin** (Chinese Language Programme) participated in the 57<sup>th</sup> *Annual Conference of the Comparative & International Education Society* in New Orleans, from March 10th to 15th. The theme of the conference was "Educational Quality: Global Imperatives and Contested Visions". Limin is one of seven scholars from America, Canada, Hong Kong, New Zealand and China who are working on a project that attempts to conceptualize the mission of Chinese education. The project's outcome will be a special issue of the journal *Frontiers of Education in China* (Brill and Higher Education Press). Two linked panels at the New Orleans Conference form the first phase of the project. The first panel explored cross-culturally how we can benefit from the philosophies of Kant, Confucius, Habermas, Tu Weiming, and the German Didaktik tradition in re-conceptualizing education as person-making in China; the second panel used an historical lens to trace the struggles and lessons we can learn from the modern history of China and Chinese education. Limin's paper is titled "Practicality in Curriculum Building: A Historical Perspective on the Mission of Chinese Education."

**Sekhar Bandyopadhyay** (History Programme) presented a paper titled "Indian unity and the caste question: nationalist readings of history" to the *International Conference on "Cultural Unity of India"*, held at The Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture, Kolkata, 16<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> January 2013.

**Alexander Bukh** (Politics and International Relations) participated in a panel devoted to Japan's identity and security policy at the *International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Conference*, held in San Francisco from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> April. Alexander's presentation was about the territorial dispute between Japan and Korea over the Dokdo/Takeshima islets. Focusing on Japan's Shimane Prefecture's activities in the post-war period, the presentation analyzed the process during which the territorial dispute emerged as one of the key issues in Japan's debates on Korea.

**Stephen Epstein** (Asian Studies) spoke on "Into the New World: Girls' Generation from the Local to the Global" to a conference convened by the *International Association for the Study of Popular Music*, Australia-New Zealand branch, at the University of Tasmania (Hobart) in December 2012. This topic was also the subject of invited lectures at Stanford University in January this year and at the Australian National University in May.

**Michael Radich** (Religious Studies) participated in a workshop for the project "Negotiating Modernity: Buddhism between Tibet and China" in Chiangmai, Thailand, 28<sup>th</sup> Dec 2012 to 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan 2013.

**Rick Weiss** (Religious Studies) presented a paper titled "An Alternative Order: Ramalinga Adigal's Challenge to Orthodox Shaiva Monasteries" at a workshop on

*Orders and Itineraries: Buddhist, Islamic, and Christian Networks in Southern Asia, c. 900-1900*, convened by the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, Singapore, February 2013. He also spoke about “Print and the Transformation of Religion in Colonial India” to a seminar convened by the New Zealand India Research Institute, April 2013.

Jay Shaw (Philosophy Programme) has presented the following conference papers and lectures:

- “Levels of Meaning”, *Dialogues: Philosophy in Comparative Perspective, International Conference*, McMaster University, Canada, 9 April, 2013
- “Meaning: Some Contemporary Problems and their Solutions from an Indian Perspective”, Graduate Centre, City University of New York, Manhattan, 18 April, 2013
- “Human Beings and Freedom: East and West’”, LaGuardia College, City University of New York, 18 April, 2013
- “Distinctive Features of Indian Philosophy”, Keynote Address, 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual City University of New York Undergraduate Philosophy Conference, 19<sup>th</sup> April, 2013
- “Dharma and Spirituality”, Staten Island Temple, New York, 20 April, 2013

Pauline Keating

### 3. 20<sup>th</sup> NZASIA Biennial International Conference

The University of Auckland staff report that they are busy preparing for the 20th New Zealand Asian Studies Society International Conference 2013. The conference will take place at Auckland University 22-24 November 2013 (half day on Sunday).

The conference theme of Environment, Dis/location and Cultural Space draws attention to the environment in Asia, mediated by a multiplicity of intersections and considerations. The aim is to consider and interpret the concept of environment through multiple perspectives and interpretations. Presenters are invited to consider this theme or the full range of disciplines and research related to the study of Asia.

The conference keynote speakers are:

**David L. Howell**, Professor of Japanese History at Harvard University. Professor Howell is the author of *Capitalism from Within: Economy, Society, and the State in a Japanese Fishery* (1995) and *Geographies of Identity in Nineteenth-Century Japan* (2005) as well as numerous articles. Professor Howell’s research focuses on the social history of Japan in the Tokugawa (1603-1868) and Meiji (1868-1912) periods. He is particularly interested in the ways changing political and economic institutions affected the lives and livelihoods of ordinary people over the course of the nineteenth century.

**Amita Bhaviskar**, Associate Professor of Sociology at the Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi. Her research focuses on the cultural politics of environment and development. Her first book *In the Belly of the River: Tribal Conflicts over Development in the Narmada Valley* (Oxford University Press) discussed the struggle for survival by adivasis in central India against a large dam. More recently, she has



focused on urban environmental politics, especially bourgeois environmentalism and spatial restructuring in the context of economic liberalization in Delhi.

**Geremie R. Barmé**, Director, Australian Centre on China in the World at The Australian National University, Canberra. His research work in Chinese culture and intellectual history has been interspersed with film, web site and writing projects in the United States, China and Hong Kong. Prof. Barmé's research interests are 20th century Chinese intellectual and cultural history; contemporary Chinese cultural and intellectual debates; modern historiography; Ming-Qing literature and aesthetics; Cultural Revolution history (1950s-70s) and Beijing, its history and reconstruction. He has authored many books and is presently completing *The Rings of Beijing: inside China's global aura* (with Sang Ye).

Abstract submission has been extended to 10 June 2013.

For further details, please see <http://www.nzasia2013.org.nz/>

#### 4. 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. There is an option of either a one-year or three-year subscription. Other benefits of membership include:

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

#### Membership Fees for 2013

New Zealand subscribers: NZ\$50 for individuals (1 year) or NZ\$150 (for 3 years); NZ\$75 for institutions.

Australian subscribers: AUS\$55 for individuals (1 year) or AU\$165 (for 3 years); AUS\$75 for institutions.

All other subscribers: US\$50 for individuals (1 year) or US\$150 (3 years); US\$60 for institutions.

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