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NZASIA New Zealand Asian
Studies Society Inc

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1. Report from the NZASIA President

Dear all,

Thank you for the support you have shown to our colleagues in Australia in difficult times when they were faced with a series of drastic reductions. Some positive outcomes from our joined actions were achieved but, of course, we are all aware that we need to continue to be engaged in a long-term battle to defend (and, in fact, promote) areas of research that may - in different times and different places - be perceived as “unworthy” of support.

I would like to provide an update about some of the work the Executive has recently initiated and share some good news with all of you.

In the past months, on behalf of our Society, I have set as my personal goal to explore ways through which NZASIA can (1) increase its role in supporting our younger generation of scholars and (2) formalise and/or revitalise some important partnerships with other organisations that, although different in nature, are equally dedicated to the promotion of a better understanding of Asia. These collaborations are not only desirable but are, in my opinion, necessary to enhance the stability and visibility of our Society.

At our last conference, we made some first good steps in both those directions. Initiatives such as the Postgraduate Workshop and the Best Conference Paper Prize (rewarding students not only financially but also academically with publication in the NZJAS) were aimed at nurturing our younger scholars' new research and ideas. We were also able to collaborate successfully with NZIRI, which contributed significantly to our conference and - at our conference dinner - we restarted a conversation with the Asia New Zealand Foundation.

I believe that my role, as president of this Society, is to “water” the seeds that were planted at that event and try to put in place long-term commitments and collaborations. I have some good news to share in this regard. Thanks to the positive response of the NZIRI Director, Professor Sekhar Bandyopadhyay (also one of our previous presidents), a formal MoU has been signed in which NZIRI made a commitment to “sponsor, subject to availability of funding, a keynote speech on South Asia as a regular feature of the biennial conferences of the New Zealand Asian Studies Society.”

I have also initiated very encouraging and open conversations with the Asia New Zealand Foundation, and just a couple of weeks ago I had the opportunity to discuss very concrete ideas with the executive director, Simon Draper. The Asia New Zealand Foundation has confirmed its strong desire to work collaboratively with us. I have received a formal (written) commitment that they will be actively involved in supporting our next Biennial conference at Otago. Furthermore, the Asia New Zealand Foundation has responded positively to our request for more support for

postgraduate students (a support which was noticeably reduced with the loss of the postgraduate scholarship programme previously funded by Asia New Zealand Foundation and overseen by NZASIA). They will be soon launching three postgraduate research grants that will at least partly address the need of offering some tangible contribution to our new generation of scholars.

Last, but not least, there is of course the good news about the Government's funding announcement for Centres of Asia Pacific Excellence (CAPEs). This is indeed good news for our Society as well, although the paths through which this funding will become available are going to be the individual universities in which we work rather than our collective group as scholars. I am convinced that as the negotiations around these centres develop, the opportunity for more collaboration across universities will grow and I do believe that our next conference (in 2017) at Otago could be the catalyst for a renewed, stronger, and interconnected NZASIA. As part of strengthening this renewed inter-connectedness, we are also looking at updating (but also simplifying) our directories with the help of our councillors. A big thank you to Naimah Talib and Stephen Epstein, in particular, for their role in pushing forward this process!

Wishing you all the best for the remaining of the semester,

Best,

Paola

August 2016

2. NZASIA's Contribution to NTU's Transnational "China Knowledge" Project

The Society has accepted an invitation to join the transnational "Comparative Intellectual History of China Knowledge" project that is directed by Professor Shih Chih-Yu at National Taiwan University in Taipei. Begun in Japan in the 1990s, the project moved to NTU in 2004.

One of the project's aims is to provide "a humanities-based foundation for understanding international relations." It is rooted, however, in individual life stories - that is, in the biographies of people who, in different parts of the world, have been studying and engaging with China for several decades. Interviews with senior China specialists form the foundational base of the project; the interviews collectively will, in Shih Chih-Yu's words, constitute "an anthropology of knowledge." The completed interviews, accessible at <http://politics.ntu.edu.tw/RAEC/act02.php>, are revealing a wide range of ways in which China experts "know China," and the different ways in which they have developed and disseminated their "China knowledge." The interviews conducted in New Zealand will contribute Australasian voices to

the 318 life stories already collected in more than 20 countries (in Asia, Western and Eastern Europe, and the United States).

An NZASIA panel to oversee the project in New Zealand was formed in April this year, and twelve of our senior China specialists (nine academics and three diplomats) have now agreed to give interviews. We expect the interviewing to begin in October and to continue into the summer. Once the recorded interviews are transcribed, interviewees will be asked to carefully edit and proofread their interview transcripts and then sign them off for e-publication on the NTU website. The submission of the interviews to Professor Shih Chih-Yu in early 2017 will complete NZASIA's first contribution to the project.

Some key people are missing from our 2016 list of interviewees, so we hope to conduct another round of interviews later next year (the project has no end date at present). And we want to begin thinking about how the New Zealand stories might be published as a collection of memoirs that illuminate the development of New Zealanders' engagement with China over the last half-century.

Shih Chih-Yu's 2012 English-language essay that outlines the project's aims and methodology can be downloaded from this page:

<http://politics.ntu.edu.tw/RAEC/intro.php>. Details of books that have already resulted from the project can be found here:

<http://politics.ntu.edu.tw/RAEC/Default.php>. If you would like more information about the project in New Zealand, contact me at pauline.keating@vuw.ac.nz.

Pauline Keating

Victoria University of Wellington

3. Regional Updates

3.1 University of Auckland

Visitors and Events

On 20 July, Professor **Dov Bing** of Waikato University opened the seminar series for the second semester with "The Extraordinary Career of Michael Baer, the Honorary Consul of Imperial Germany in Tokyo from 1870 till 1883 and his Grandson Baron Kumao Harada." Professor Bing reported on his fascinating journey of discovery related to the activities of his family members in Japan in the Meiji period.

On 26 August, Japanese calligraphy artist **Terasaka Masami** will perform a calligraphy demonstration for the public. Based in Maniwa City, Okayama Prefecture in western Japan, Mr Terasaka has been producing award-winning brush-and-ink calligraphy for the past four decades. Working in both

kanji (Chinese characters) and kana (the Japanese syllabary), Mr Terasaka's work, "The Sounds of the Temple Bells" (Kane no ne) received a "Special Prize" (*tokusen*) in the 2015 Nitten exhibition, the most prestigious event in the fine and applied arts held in Japan. Mr Terasaka also performs large-scale calligraphy demonstrations, exhibiting his virtuosity with the art. Mr Terasaka's performance will feature his own commentary on his art, in Japanese with English interpretation.

Commendation for Professor Mark Mullins

Congratulations to Professor of Japanese, **Mark Mullins** from the School of Cultures, Languages & Linguistics, who has been awarded a "Commendation" from Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The award is for Mark's promotion of Japanese research in New Zealand and his contribution to the promotion of friendship between the two countries.

The Commendations were awarded to 142 individuals and 31 groups (25 individuals and seven groups from Japan, and 117 individuals and 24 groups from overseas). Each awardee received a certificate and commemorative gifts presented by Mr Fumio Kishida, the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Staff Activities and Events

Professor **Paul Clark** (Asian Studies) in July was co-facilitator at the inaugural five-day China-Capable Public Sector workshop in Wellington, organised by the New Zealand Contemporary China Research Centre. An MFAT initiative, the workshop involved 20 participants from across the public service discussing case studies related to New Zealand's China engagement. The speakers included experienced business sector leaders, as well as former diplomats. These intensive workshops will be offered several times a year. Professor **Brian Moloughney** (Otago) shared the facilitator role.

Professor **Paul Clark** (Asian Studies) presented a paper on Beijing's first modern park, Zhongshan Park, from 1916 until the 1970s, on a panel on Asia at Play at the European Architectural History Network biennial conference in Dublin, Ireland, in early June. The paper drew on his current, Marsden Fund study of changing leisure spaces in Beijing since 1949.

News from the New Zealand Asia Institute

The new Director of the New Zealand Asia Institute is Professor **Natasha Hamilton-Hart** (Management and International Business), a Southeast Asia specialist in the Business School. She has taken over from Professor James Sun.

3.2 University of Canterbury

New Zealand South Asia Centre (NZSAC)

NZSAC Annual Symposium: University of Canterbury

On Friday 15 July, the New Zealand South Asia Centre (NZSAC) held their annual symposium. We were delighted to have two eminent keynotes from Emory University who were doing a lecturing tour of New Zealand universities sponsored by the New Zealand India Research Institute (NZIRI). The first keynote was given by Gyanendra Pandey, Arts and Sciences Distinguished Professor and Director, Interdisciplinary Workshop in Colonial and Postcolonial Studies at Emory University, and a founding member and leading theorist of the Subaltern Studies project. Prof Pandey spoke about 'A New Caste Society: Segregation and Democracy in Our Time'. The second keynote was Ruby Lal, Professor of South Asian Studies in the Department of Middle Eastern and South Asian Studies at Emory University. Her fields of study include feminist history and theory, and the question of archive as it relates to writing about Islamic societies in the precolonial and colonial world. Her topic was on 'The Small Things of History: Archive for Nur Jahan, the Great Mughal'.

Several other sessions throughout the day gave a platform for the many postgraduate students working on South Asia. These included: Josephine Varghese (PhD student, Anthropology) 'Life in a metro: experiences of young, unmarried migrant women in Chennai'; John Richardson (MA student, History) 'Indian sanitary reforms and the benefit of field research to the historical approach'; Kathleen Harrington-Watt (PhD student, Anthropology) 'Colonial Photographs as Cross Cultural Encounters: The Indentured Labour Photographic Portraits of Mauritius'; Somia Tasneem (PhD student, History and National Centre for Research on Europe) 'Pakistan-European Union Relations: With Special reference to Democracy (2001-2015)'; Frank Wills (Honours student, History) 'Recasting Women: Theory and Experience of Gender in the Gandhian and Ambedkarite Movements'; and from Otago, Dorothy McMenamin (PhD student, Otago University and NZSAC member) 'Anglo-Indians and caste'. Dr Piers Locke (Anthropology, University of Canterbury) also talked about his research on Human Elephant relations in a presentation entitled 'Rethinking Human-Elephant Relations in South Asia'. Overall it was an excellent day to showcase South Asia research at UC as well as being inspired by some world-renowned scholars.

The NZSAC will be holding the following event later this year;

Discovering De Jong Symposium on November 23 to 24, University of Canterbury

A celebration and exploration of the De Jong collection, one of the largest archives of South Asia material in the southern hemisphere.

Featuring a keynote by Prof Paul Harrison (Stanford University) "Jan Willem de Jong: The Reviewer Reviewed"

For details, please contact Dr Clemency Montelle
clemency.montelle@canterbury.ac.nz

The Confucius Institute at the University of Canterbury (CIUC)

In May, Professor Hong Hu, who had been at CIUC since it was set up, was farewelled and has returned to China. Professor Hu made a significant contribution to the teaching of Chinese language in the South Island, with the number of schools offering Chinese increasing from five to 90 during her tenure. Chinese is now offered at polytechs in Nelson, Greymouth, Timaru and Invercargill as well. Professor Hu had also organised many teams of volunteers to participate in cultural festivals around the South Island. Assoc Prof Jing Jiang, from Huazhong University of Science and Technology, recently replaced Prof Hu as the Chinese Director of the Confucius Institute in Christchurch.

In April, Professor Hu took a delegation of South Island principals and assistant principals from eight schools to China. This was a time for mutual learning, and motivated the school leaders to implement Chinese programmes in their schools.

In May, Assoc Prof Dr Paola Voci gave a talk with the title "Recording China: Documentary and Digital Cultures." Dr Paola spoke about Chinese social and political realities portrayed in mainstream and independent media. This was a fascinating insight into film making in China and was well received.

CIUC is presenting a series of Chinese films with subtitles which are open to the general public. The films are a good introduction to Chinese cinema. The films started on 14 July and will continue for ten weeks.

UC Japanese Programme

I. Symposiums and Workshops

National Symposium on Tertiary Japanese Education in New Zealand: Synergies and strategies (19-20 March)



The UC Japanese Programme hosted a National Symposium on Tertiary Japanese Education in New Zealand on the 19-20th March. Day One focused on creating new and strengthening pre-existing synergies and strategies to enhance tertiary Japanese teaching, in discussions initiated by the tertiary language strategist Associate Professor Sharon Harvey (AUT). Day Two focused on language teaching methods relevant to both secondary and tertiary level learners, including a most entertaining and inspiring demonstration lesson given by Mr Kohji Oikawa. The symposium participants included representatives of all tertiary institutions offering Japanese courses, local and national secondary school teachers and UC Japanese students. The event was funded through a special grant from the Japan Foundation's Sakura Network of the world's most active Japanese language institutions, to which the UC Japanese Programme was admitted at the end of 2015.

NCEA Japanese workshop (9 June)



270 secondary school students from 17 schools participated in the NCEA Japanese workshop at UC on the 9th of June. This was a joint collaboration organised by the UC Japanese programme and the Canterbury Network of Teachers of Japanese, and it was the largest event of its kind on Japanese language education in New Zealand. The day started with a warm welcome by the Vice-Chancellor Dr Rod Carr and greetings by Mr Mitsuru Murase (Head of Consular Office of Japan). It was followed by a special talk by Ms Ashleigh Stewart, a UC graduate and a reporter at The Press, on her encounters and experiences with Japan and Japanese. Secondary school students had three intensive language sessions with 28 UC students who helped them to learn Japanese as role models and mentors. Overwhelmingly positive feedback indicates that those involved had a valuable day.

II. Research Activities

Masayoshi Ogino (Japanese) has been co-editing a book along with **Penny Shino** (Massey University) and **Dallas Nesbitt** (AUT), which is to be published as *Creating New Synergies: Approaches of Tertiary Japanese Programmes* in New Zealand on 10 August from the Massey University Press. It is a project of the Japanese Studies Aotearoa New Zealand (JSANZ) and the authors include **Harumi Minagawa** and **Wayne Lawrence** (University of Auckland), **Junji Kawai**, **Sonja Gallagher** and **Yuka Waller** (AUT), **Karen Ashton** and **Mitsue Tabata-Sandom** (Massey University), **Fumiko Nishimura** and **Keiko Umeda** (University of Waikato), and **Rachel Payne** (University of

Canterbury). We hope that the publication of the volume will contribute to rebuilding the profile of Japanese studies in New Zealand, where recent years have seen a significant decline.

<http://www.masseypress.ac.nz/books/all/all/creating-new-synergies>

The book that **Rachel Payne** has been working on as assistant editor, *A History of Japanese Theatre*, has just been launched by Cambridge University Press.

III. Student achievements

Kathryn Marr graduated with a Master of Arts (First Class Honours) in February. Her thesis, supervised by Susan Bouterey and Rachel Payne, was titled, "Mirrors of Modernity, Repositories of Tradition: Conceptions of Japanese feminine beauty from the seventeenth to the early twentieth century."

Kana Deguchi graduated with a Master of Arts (Distinction) in June. Her thesis, supervised by Masa Ogino and Rachel Payne, was titled, "Communicative Competency in New Zealand's Secondary Level Japanese Education: An investigation into the present situation and future potential."

James Ineson, India Newport and Paige Newport of the UC Japanese programme have been awarded an Elite Award (Top 0.2% of 330,000 competitors from around the world) in the 2016 Language Perfect World Championships.

The "Consul's Shield for Excellence in Japanese" was awarded to Chloe Song (JAPA 316) by the new Japanese Consul, Mr Murase on 6 May.

Other Departments

Patrick McAllister (Sociology and Anthropology) has been conducting research on Tet, the Vietnamese lunar new year and related activities since 2008. Patrick McAllister and Zhifang Song (Sociology and Anthropology) are currently engaged in a project on Chinese-Vietnamese and their temple associations in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

After a long hiatus, the University of Canterbury's gamelan ensemble, **Banyu Gunung Salju** (Music), performed with the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra in May in the 'Pacific Rhythms' concert. The gamelan ensemble was featured in the New Zealand premiere of **Evan Ziporyn's Ngaben** (for Sari Club). Also featured in the concert was *Melodies for Orchestra* by the late Jack Body, who retired from the New Zealand School of Music (Victoria University of Wellington) in 2009 and was a long-time member of NZASIA. *Melodies for Orchestra* is a fascinating piece that draws inspiration from Greek, Indonesian and Indian folk music.

Recent PhDs

Krittaporn Na Pombejra recently completed her PhD in Political Science under the supervision of Jim Ockey. Her thesis title is "Revolution from below: grassroots participation in Thai civil society."

Suthida Pattanasrivichian completed her PhD in Political Science earlier this year under the supervision of Jim Ockey. Her thesis title is "Framing the colours of Thainess: the emergence of yellow and red Thai identities."

Anuj Misra recently completed his PhD in the School of Mathematics and Statistics under the supervision of Dr Clemency Montelle and Dr Kim Plofker. His thesis title is "The Goladhaya of Nityananda's Sarvasiddhantaraja: An examination of 'The Chapter on Spheres' in a seventeenth century text on Mathematical Astronomy."

Rosalie Hosking recently completed her PhD in the School of Mathematics and Statistics under the supervision of Dr Clemency Montelle and Dr John Hannah. Her thesis title is "Sangaku: A Mathematical, Artistic, Religious, and Diagrammatic Examination."

3.3 University of Otago

SungYong Lee (Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies) reports the following: Otago University recently inaugurated South & Southeast Asia Study Group, an informal research cluster where approximately 30 researchers (including PhD students) participate in. After having the first seminar inviting Dr Nick Cheesman (ANU) in June, we are planning to have the second seminar in September. Although it is still at an early stage of its development, we aim to hold one research seminar per semester as a regular activity.

3.4 Victoria University of Wellington

Catherine Churchman (Asian Studies) recently returned from Malaysia where she gave a series of talks on Penang Hokkien as a Diaspora Language and Regional Lingua Franca. Read more about Catherine's work at the *Malaymail Online* (in an article that's been shared over 1900 times and has 12K "likes")

http://www.themalaymailonline.com/malaysia/article/penang-hokkien-will-be-dead-in-40-years-if-people-stop-using-it-says-langua?utm_source=twitterfeed&utm_medium=facebook

Stephen Epstein (Asian Studies) new book, *The Korean Wave: A Sourcebook* was released in May. Co-edited with **Yun Mi Hwang**, this is an Academy of Korean Studies funded research project with brings together translations of a wide range of Korean-language primary sources on the Korean Wave. The volume spans industry white papers, government policy reports, magazines, and personal blogs and reflects on Korean's response and reportage to the surge of interest in Korean pop culture and pop cultural products.

The Korean Wave: A Sourcebook (compiled and co-edited with Yun Mi Hwang), Academy of Korean Studies Press: Seongnam, 2016, 373 pp. ISBN (979-11-5866-049-9).

Student Achievements

Ricky Barrow, a 200 level Japanese student, won the University division of the Wellington Speech Contest held in June this year.

4. Membership

NZASIA members:

- Receive a subscription to the *New Zealand Journal of Asian Studies*, which is published twice yearly;
- Regularly receive the NZASIA Newsletter, which will keep you in touch with what's happening in the Asian Studies field in other parts of New Zealand.
- Belong to the electronic NZASIA members' listserver, on which they can post notices and receive messages relevant to the interest and concerns of people in the Asia field; Are eligible for the discounted registration fee at NZASIA Conferences
- Are members of a community of Asia scholars who are working constructively to advance knowledge of Asia and to expand it among New Zealanders

Membership Fees for 2016

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.

Special Subscription for Retired Members:

NZ\$30 (1 year) or NZ\$90 (3 years) for individuals only.

Associate Membership:

NZ\$10 (NZ\$30 for 3 years); AUS\$10 (AU\$30 for 3 years);
US\$5 (\$US15 for 3 years); students free (students must include a photocopy of a currently valid Student ID with their application).

If you are a new member you can use the form found on the NZASIA website: <http://www.nzasia.org.nz/membership1.html>

Please send a cheque (payable to 'NZASIA') for the subscription amount, along with any changes in your details or address to the Treasurer.

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