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## ***Newsletter No. 22, May 2011***

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## 1. Report from the NZASIA President

It gives me great pleasure to be able to welcome past and new members of NZASIA to the first Newsletter of 2011. This year marks a change to several ways for the Society. As incoming President, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the outgoing President, Sekhar Bandyopadhyay, for his hard work and thoroughly professional approach undertaking his work for the Society. I would also like to thank Rumi Sakamoto (Publications Officer) and Paola Voci (Secretary) for their dedicated service to NZASIA over the past few years. From this year, Erica Bafelli (University of Otago) takes over as Secretary, and Naimah Talib (University of Canterbury) returns to the Executive as Publications Officer (Naimah was previously Treasurer for the Society several years ago). We, of course, continue to value the work of Michael Radich as Treasurer and Paul Clark as the editor of the *New Zealand Journal of Asian Studies*.

This year is particularly important for NZASIA. At the beginning of July, Massey University will host the Society's 19<sup>th</sup> Biennial International Conference. Massey last hosted the conference in 1997 and the programme includes eminent keynote speakers and a range of papers covering diverse topics in the field of Asian Studies. The Society's conferences are particularly important for not only New Zealand Asianists, but also for the many international speakers who come to our conferences. NZASIA is particularly proud of the international importance of its conferences, which are events that show the special place of Asian Studies in New Zealand scholarship, and also the significance of New Zealand as a country that gives value to the discipline.

The international spotlight has already been on Japan over the past few months following the devastating earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster earlier this year as well as the Christchurch earthquakes. Our 2011 conference is dedicated to those who lost their lives during these tragic events.

This Newsletter is the first for this year, and it offers a range of reports of interest across the breadth of Asian Studies. Of particular importance are the reports offered by our Postgraduate Awardees. These awards have come to be particularly important for nurturing future talent in the field of Asian Studies. Now well into their second decade, we thank the Asia New Zealand Foundation for making funds available to help New Zealand's future Asianists make their mark on the field of Asian Studies in New Zealand.

The many other items of interest in this Newsletter are testimony to the diverse interests of the Society's members. I look forward to seeing you all at this year's conference and hearing about your activities in the field of Asian Studies in future Newsletters.

Henry Johnson  
President  
27 June 2011

## 2. Fieldwork reports by the recipients of the 2010 ASIA:NZ - NZASIA Research Awards.

### 2.1 Alan Edwards, MA candidate, Religious Studies, Victoria University

This MA project looks at an individual religious figure in history. Ramana Maharshi (1879-1950) was a Tamil Hindu sage who attracted pan-Indian and international acclaim during the 1930s and 1940s. Recent scholarship on Ramana Maharshi follows the romanticism of hagiographical literature, presenting him as a purely spiritual and timeless figure, thus ignoring the dramatic political contours of India and Britain's colonial encounter. Scholarly literature, then, has effectively deracinated this internationally acclaimed figure from one of the most fascinating and transformative historical periods of the modern era. Challenging this trend, I argue (1) that Ramana Maharshi passively participated in the liberation movement in important ways, and (2) that he was profoundly shaped by certain social, religious and political discourses that occurred within the colonial context. Broadly speaking, this historical project represents a case study demonstrating the extent to which Orientalist stereotypes and assumptions about a 'mystical East' affected the intersection of politics and religion in colonial India. It further demonstrates the ways in which scholarship can misinterpret and misrepresent religious figures because of the failure to recognise the presence of these very stereotypes and assumptions, and also because of the failure to maintain critical distance when dealing with the rhetoric of devotional literature.

In mid-August 2010, I travelled to Tiruvannamalai, an important pilgrimage centre in Tamil Nadu, India, and home to Ramana Maharshi's ashram (hermitage). Established in 1922, the ashram continues to provide accommodation, food and religious services to a thriving and culturally diverse devotional community.

My primary objective for visiting the ashram was to collect original archival data along with published material on Ramana Maharshi that was only available at the ashram. In the initial stages of my research, prior to my trip to India, I discovered that several newspapers had published articles on Ramana during the 1930s and 1940s, such as *The Sunday Times*, *Madras*, and *Hindusthan*. From my reading of devotional literature on Ramana, these newspaper articles appeared to have generated significant publicity, and therefore I was particularly interested to analyse the ways in which they represented him. Because this timeframe coincided with the height of Indian nationalism, I was curious to see if Ramana's lofty spiritual status was used in a way that sought to serve nationalism, and if the needs of nationalism had shaped these representations. If so, I would have evidence to help support my claim that Ramana was important to, and shaped by the historical context in which he lived, thus contesting ahistorical representations that deracinated Ramana from external influence. After a brief email correspondence with the ashram's president, V. S. Ramanan, I was invited "to peruse the ashram's archives" if I came to Tiruvannamalai.

Following the advice of my supervisor, Dr Rick Weiss, I refrained from requesting to see the ashram's archives immediately upon my arrival in order to first build up a rapport with the ashram management and staff. For the first three days, I spent time familiarising myself with the fascinating ashram culture. For example, I listened to brahman priests reciting the Vedas and performing ceremonial rituals (*puja*) in the ashram's temple. During the evenings I listened to devotional hymns in Tamil and watched the ways in which the devotees worshipped Ramana Maharshi. As a tutor of Asian religions at Victoria University, it was an invaluable experience to witness

Hinduism 'in action', both at the ashram and at the main temple complex in Tiruvannamalai.

I finally raised the topic of seeing the ashram's archives with the ashram's management on the fourth afternoon, mentioning my invitation from the president, V. S. Ramanan. The conversation did not result in a green light to begin researching, but instead marked the beginning of what I felt to be a three day long test designed to determine whether or not I was trustworthy, or even worthy of access to the archives. Some aspects of 'the test' included enjoyable long conversations with high standing devotees, but other aspects included receiving dismissive hand gestures from management before I could even say hello, which was certainly frustrating. Thankfully, I was able to pass the test, and from that moment onwards, the ashram management and staff were extremely kind and enthusiastic about helping me.

For the next two weeks, I spent two hours every morning in the archives going through large folders containing newspaper articles. The articles dated from the 1930s until the present. I was very happy with the quality and quantity of material that I found, as I was able to compile a lot of excellent original archival data. The most useful material came from articles published in the 1930s through to Ramana's passing in 1950. Some examples from the 1930s included front page reports of high profile nationalist figures such as Rajendra Prasad and Jammalal Bajaj visiting Ramana's ashram and discussing *swaraj* and Gandhi.

The articles from the 1940s through to Ramana's passing contained a lot of excellent material in which Hindu intellectuals and political leaders celebrated Ramana's contribution to India. For example, there were articles by Morarji Desai and O. P. Ramaswamy Reddiar, two important nationalist leaders, in which they compared Ramana to Mahatma Gandhi, and in a way that promoted him as a national hero. These newspaper articles provided much of the evidence in chapter two of my thesis, in which I argue that Ramana's lofty spiritual status played important symbolic roles in the context of nationalism. Succinctly put, Hindu intellectuals and political leaders constructed Ramana as a living embodiment of Hindu truth with the aim of vindicating Hinduism and generating ethnic pride.

I also came across two works on Ramana published in the early 1930s by M. S. Kamath, the editor of *The Sunday Times*, Madras, and a nationalist worker. These works contained a lot of useful evidence because they demonstrated that Kamath was drawing a strong connection between Gandhian ideals and Ramana and his ashram. As such, Kamath was shaping his representation of Ramana to benefit the nationalist cause. Again, these works provided me with original data to support my argument in chapter two. Overall, I considered the archival research a great success.

In addition, I was able to source five highly useful books from the ashram which were used as important primary sources. Amongst these was a biographical work on Ganapati Muni, Ramana's foremost disciple. Ganapati Muni is extremely important to my thesis because he was responsible for proclaiming Ramana as a 'Maharshi' - a 'Great Vedic Rishi' - a title that signifies a supreme religious authority in a pan-Hindu and orthodox way. This event signified a dramatic shift in Ramana's spiritual status, one which hagiographies of Ramana celebrate as the recognition of Ramana's 'true greatness'. This biography, however, provided evidence to support my claim in chapter one that Ramana's status as a 'Maharshi' greatly depended upon Ganapati's political ambitions, which sought to help liberate India and restore society to a Vedic based system in which the Rishis served as the highest ideal. This point powerfully demonstrates the extent to which Ramana was shaped by the colonial encounter.

I wish to sincerely thank the Asia New Zealand Foundation and NZASIA for providing me with the opportunity to conduct research in India. I was extremely

pleased with the material that I was able to collect, which I feel has strongly contributed to the originality of my thesis. I am also grateful for the experience of researching in India for the first time, which I believe will greatly benefit me in future research trips.

## 2.2. Kim Rockell, PhD Candidate, Music, University of Canterbury

Thanks to the generous support of the Asia New Zealand Foundation, the researcher, a PhD student at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand, was able to undertake field research on the Philippine *rondalla* in the Asia-Pacific diaspora.

Fieldwork commenced in December, 2010 with a trip to Singapore. Here it was possible to observe the operation of the “quadrant” concept of Singaporean multiculturalism, and the position of migrant workers from regional, developing countries within this model. The researcher was also prompted to reflect on the geographical position of Singapore within the expansive, Malay world. In terms of the arts, it became clear that the Singaporean government is currently committed to developing arts and arts education. This is, in part, in response to the perceived criticism of a lack of creative thinking in Singapore-educated population.

The highlight of time spent in Singapore was meeting ethnomusicologist Dr Joseph Peters. Dr Peters not only developed the first *rondalla* in Singapore, but also the first brass band. His current *rondalla*, which is based at the University of Singapore and predominantly made up of students from mainland China, performed at the 2011 International Rondalla Festival. In addition to his important work on *rondalla*, which he is currently developing into a kind of pan-Asian tremolo orchestra for the performance of Western music, Dr Peters is now mainly concerned with the preservation of Southeast Asian sound systems. These musical systems, which he refers to as “sonic orders”, are under attack from the dominance of Western tonal systems. Peters has developed a system for measuring global, sonic emissions. He estimates that in most parts of the world today more than ninety percent of musical, sonic emissions are based on a Western system. Just as introduced species can cause environmental damage and threaten local wildlife, instruments introduced from Europe such as the piano and guitar, have destroyed much of the fragile, Asia-Pacific, musical landscape. Paradoxically, the piano may also hold the key to aiding preservation. Peters drew the researcher’s attention to the recently developed “fluid-piano” which can be re-tuned, even during performance, to a variety of intervals and scale systems.

Dr Peter’s current work with *rondalla* is centred on improving instrument quality and he has developed several new proto-types. The tremolo orchestra he is developing will also include seats for *pipa*, *sitar* and *gambus* representing the Chinese, Indian and Malay worlds respectively.

During the researcher’s time in Singapore, Dr Peters was extremely generous with his time. The researcher was able to conduct interviews, photograph Dr Peter’s instrument collection and attend a *rondalla* rehearsal at the University of Singapore. At Dr Peter’s invitation, the researcher also attended the 2010 National Chinese Music Competition at the Singapore Conference Hall. Present at this event was Singapore Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts, Lui Tuck Yew.



Kim Rockell questions Dr. Peters about *Rondalla*



Dr. Peters surrounded by *Rondalla* and "Tremolo Orchestra" instruments

After Singapore, the researcher spent the Christmas period in Taiwan, staying in a small town half way between *Xindian* 新店, where it was possible to access the recently developed metro and *Wulai* 烏来 which is home to Taiwanese aboriginal of the *Atayal* tribe.

Taiwan's multi cultural model appeared to be sino-centric and privilege speakers of Taiwanese, Mandarin and Hakka. Hakka language and culture, in particular, is enjoying a renaissance. The researcher was particularly interested in the position of Filipino migrants within Taiwanese society and they way they, and other migrant workers fitted musically in to the multicultural model.

Music from around the world was being performed in Taipei. The researcher encountered Japanese *shakuhachi*, American popular songs with keyboard accompaniment, and, at the invitation of Dr Wang Yingfen of the Graduate Institute of Musicology, a performance of Hispanic music at the Taiwan National University College of Humanities. In each of these cases, however, the performers were Taiwanese. This music making fell in to the category of "cultural sampling" and was not part of multicultural, migrant, musical expression. American, European and South African musicians resident in Taiwan were also active performing American, popular music and jazz. At a public level, however, migrant workers from developing countries appeared to have no significant voice.

In the Filipino community, this problem is being addressed by Mrs Mary Luzviminda Tsai, or "Mummy Luz", a volunteer at Fatima Church in *Dansui* 淡水. Mrs Tsai, a long-term Filipina migrant to Taiwan, and her Taiwanese husband, with the support of the Manila Economic and Cultural Office (MECO), were able to start a *rondalla* for children in Taiwan.



Kim Rockell with the founders of Fatima *Rondalla* in Taiwan, Mary and James Tsai



Fatima Rondalla at Multicultural Day Performance

Mummy Luz believes that the transmission of cultural heritage to second generation migrants and half-Filipino children in Taiwan is important and can be achieved through music, in particular the *rondalla*. The development of a children's *rondalla* was an entirely voluntary project, although there was some initial assistance from MECO towards bringing in *rondalla* instruments from the Philippines to Taiwan. This kind of support falls within MECO's mandate to promote cultural cooperation, in addition to the important areas of trade, investment, tourism, labour and science. Although the researcher was able to meet with Mr and Mrs Tsai, and discuss the development of their *rondalla*, the timing of this visit coincided with school holidays so most of the children were visiting relatives back in the Philippines. The group's trainer, on a tight work schedule, was also unable to meet with the researcher. The area of migrant voices within Taiwanese, multicultural music expression is of great interest and demands further investigation.

After time in Taiwan, the researcher travelled to the Philippines to attend the Third International Rondalla Festival in Tagum city, Mindanao. This event also included an international conference component with the theme: "Plucked String Music: Tradition, Change and New Directions". The researcher was invited to present a paper and spoke about "*Rondalla* Down Under: A Contemporary Resurgence in Australia".





Kim Rockell Speaking at "Plucked String Music: Tradition, Change and New Directions, Tagum City February 2011

The Third International Rondalla Festival was a fantastic event and the researcher was overwhelmed by the amount and variety of musical activity. In addition to concerts and workshops which featured *rondallas* and plucked-string ensembles from a number of countries including Indonesia, Thailand, Russia, Iran, India, Indonesia and China, indigenous traditions from within the Philippines were also featured. The information and experience gained from this event were invaluable and will be of direct benefit to the completion the researcher's Ph D thesis. In addition, valuable contacts were made with other researchers and scholars attending the conference component.

On returning to Christchurch, New Zealand on February 22, the researcher experienced the recent Christchurch earthquake. This resulted in a delay in appraising fieldwork data. Reflecting on the experience in Singapore, Taiwan and the Philippines, several months later, it is clear that it was a successful study trip which highlighted important areas for future research. The work of the Asia New Zealand Foundation is of vital importance in New Zealand today. The kinds of opportunities such as the one given to this researcher in 2010/2011, while of profound impact on the researcher personally, are part of a step by step process of building regional relationships on the basis of understanding and interaction. With gratitude and humility this researcher acknowledges being a small part of such a process.

### **2.3. Seung Ryeol Kim, MA candidate, Political Science, University of Canterbury**

For my MA thesis, I decided to focus on the relationship between the Republic of Korea and Antarctica. Research on the southern-most continent has long been dominated by

physical scientists; in fact, there is a huge range of scientific research conducted by member countries of the Antarctic Treaty. In comparison, there are very few academics in the social sciences specializing in polar affairs. Sensing that Antarctic politics may emerge as one of the most important subjects in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, I was keen to explore opportunities for research that would consider, from a political science perspective, how the future of Antarctica would be shaped after the Antarctic Treaty System (ATS) expires in 2048.

There have been several official objectives in terms of international politics throughout the history of the South Korean Antarctic activity. One objective is to maintain and negotiate its Antarctic presence and voice on Antarctic affairs. More specifically, Seoul's Antarctic activity is aimed at securing its right to sovereignty and resource exploitation. The other objective is to take on a leadership role and exercise more influence in the international political arena. South Korea seeks to improve its international political status by actively participating in organisations such as the Antarctic Treaty System. Thirdly, its Antarctic research serves as a basis to foster its green technology and green industry, and as a justification for its 'Climate Change Diplomacy'. The last political objective is to promote the image of 'Global Korea' to both internal and external observers. The government has emphasised its important role in helping to bridge the gap between developing and developed nations in dealing with global economic and environmental issues. By inviting developing nations to its Antarctic project and contributing to the prosperity of the world community through its Antarctic research on global environmental issues, South Korea seeks to imprint its new image of 'a globally mature nation' in the minds of people from within and outside Korea.

The motivations of South Korea's Antarctic activity can be divided into its scientific, economic and political interests. These interests are closely connected to one another, reinforcing the importance of South Korea's continual involvement in the region and in shaping its Antarctic policy. Seoul's Antarctic policy to pursue its economic and political interests is determined according to the objectives and results of its scientific research and the increasing period of its Antarctic presence for scientific activity. Obviously, science itself is not the ultimate goal of Seoul's Antarctic enterprises. The ultimate goal is to maximise South Korea's economic and political interests through its scientific research outcomes and maintain its presence in Antarctica for a long period of time as a polar researching nation.

My research aims to provide answers to the following questions: 'what are the scientific and economic interests of Seoul's Antarctic enterprise?' and 'what is the role and meaning of Antarctica in Korea's domestic and international politics?' As South Korea is relatively new to the polar regions, very little research has been done on its polar policy as well as the implication of its presence in the regions. I hope that my research would provide an insight into understanding the significance of Korea's involvement in the polar regions by highlighting various aspects of the nation's polar enterprise and strategic interests. Moreover, I hope that the New Zealand government, as an ATS member, would gain a better understanding of the motivations and current directions of new players' Antarctic enterprises such as South Korea.

As mentioned above, there has been very little scholarly work or other forms of preliminary research on the relationship between South Korea and Antarctica. As a result, I had to analyse data gained from virtually every publicly-available source such as relevant government officials, scientific journals, official reports and websites, and newspaper articles on Korea's polar activities published from the 1970s to the present day as well as conduct interviews with Korean polar scientists.

Prior to flying to Seoul for field research in October last year, I made a list of people that I was going to interview and contacted them by phone. Most of my interviewees were working in or around Seoul. In addition to the interviews, I did research at the Korean Parliament Library and was able to read official publications, and other sources that were not available in New Zealand. During the first part of my stay in Seoul, I made appointments with Korean polar scientists. Before meeting them, I prepared myself for the interviews by studying the nature and range of scientific research conducted by Korean scientists and also familiarized myself with the work done by the Korea Polar Research Institute (KOPRI).

I visited KOPRI several times to have interviews with as many scientists from different polar scientific fields as possible. As KOPRI is under the purview of the Korean government, I also visited and interviewed scientists at other independent research institutes such as the Science and Technology Policy Institute, the Korea Biotechnology Industry Organisation, to gain an unbiased perspective of Korean scientific research interests on Antarctica.

To understand Korea's economic interests in Antarctica, I interviewed government officials from the Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs and the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, the Ministry of Environment and so on. Many of them, unfortunately, refused to be interviewed face to face despite my persistent requests. I managed to interview them on the phone in the end.

In order to gain an insight into Seoul's political interests in Antarctica and its polar policy, I interviewed high-ranking government officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and many other government agencies such as the Green Growth Committee and Presidential Council on National Branding. In addition to them, I was also able to meet with many scholars and business leaders.

Seoul has outlined seven major topics for its Antarctic research projects: Paleoclimatic Change, Ozone Layer and Upper Atmosphere, Marine Ecosystem and Environmental Change, Physical Oceanography and Chemical Flux, Terrestrial Geology and Environment, Biological Sciences, and Marine Geology in Antarctica. The results and duration of the scientific research based on these projects determines the way South Korea pursues its economic and political interests in Antarctica. From an economic perspective, the greatest economic interest of South Korea is in Antarctic resources. Its interest in the resources of the region has been embodied through its 'scientific research' on energy resources such as crude petroleum and methane hydrate, and on marine products such as Antarctic krill in the name of GeoScience and BioScience. Another economic benefit Seoul is seeking from its polar research projects is the accumulation of relevant technology which will be useful in transforming its economy from a traditional manufacturing-based economy into a knowledge economy.

South Korea aims to reduce so-called "Korea Discount" and maximise the value of its small and medium enterprises, and their products and services by improving the image of the national brand. It expects that its presence in Antarctica and the various scientific research projects it is pursuing will promote its contribution to the world community, in terms of finding solutions to global environmental issues, and advances in science and technology, which are key determinants for a nation's brand value. In addition, Seoul is also seeking for more concrete and practical ways to relate its Antarctic enterprise to its industrial development.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Asia New Zealand Foundation for giving me such a great opportunity to travel to South Korea for my MA research and helping me to improve my understanding of South Korea's varied interests in Antarctica.

## 2.4 Christian Yao, PhD candidate, Massey University

My PhD topic deals with the career management of expatriates from Chinese multinational companies (MNCs). Using the career capital model, this study provides an empirical and exploratory insight into the impacts of international assignments on Chinese expatriates and their career capital. My research investigates the effect of international assignments on each of the career capital components: knowing-how, knowing-why and knowing-who. This study provides a systematic analysis of factors that motivate Chinese expatriates to accept international assignments, focusing on cultural and institutional influences and how these impact on Chinese MNCs' international HRM practices and therefore, the expatriates' career development.

My research is based on semi-structured interviews with Chinese expatriates who work or have worked in New Zealand and Australia. The data collection involves two parts: interviews with returned expatriates and HR managers in Chinese, and interviews with Chinese workers who are currently on international assignments in New Zealand or Australia.

Before conducting fieldwork from January to February this year, I discussed possible approaches with my supervisors and consulted our research and ethics committee regarding issues that are associated with cross-cultural interviews. Although I acknowledged that these interviews might involve sensitive personal and company information, I still decided to choose a "top down" approach, that is, to gain access to Chinese MNCs first and then generate one-on-one interview opportunities with their employees. I made a list of possible companies that I planned to approach. I used different techniques to contact these companies. For example, I firstly contacted Chinese embassies in both New Zealand and Australia to explain the purpose of my study and request assistance in contacting these companies. Although they were very helpful in providing relevant information such as managers' names and contact details, they were unable to introduce me to these companies. I then decided to use the "cold call" technique. I rang and emailed all managers from the list that I obtained from the Chinese embassies. Unfortunately, some companies were not willing to be interviewed while others did not reply to my responses. This was not a surprise for me as I have read about similar experiences from other scholars who tried to gain access to (Chinese) MNCs.

After careful consideration and several discussions with colleagues and experts in Chinese studies, I decided to use a different approach; I decided to generate interview opportunities from my personal networks. At the beginning, I was not certain regarding whom and how I should approach but as a Chinese myself I learned the importance and power of personal networks (*guanxi*). I emailed and rang all my friends and family members to explain the objective, process and context of my study and requested them to pass on invitations to anyone they thought might be interested. A week after sending the invitations, I was given three returned expatriates' contact details in China. I reviewed all my interview questions based on the feedback I received from the pilot study and booked a ticket to go to China.

My Chinese research trip began in January 2011. I firstly visited Beijing and Shanghai where these three expatriates were based. I interviewed each of them individually and each interview lasted about an hour. Unlike what I had assumed before the interviews, these Chinese expatriates were very open and willing to share personal experiences with me. As a novel researcher, I was grateful that they were willing to help a "stranger", but more importantly, I once again experienced the power of social networking in Chinese culture; because of the personal introduction, they felt less

threatened and displayed considerable initiative in participating in this study. They also agreed to introduce their colleagues and friends to me. As a result, I successfully and efficiently interviewed 20 returned expatriates from four large-size Chinese companies.

Another example of the importance of personal connection is that during my trip in China, I was able to meet and catch up with some young leaders whom I met from the Young Leaders' Forum in 2010. During our conversations, they learned that I was looking for access to Chinese MNCs and the difficulties that I had faced thus far. Fortunately, one of these young leaders knew someone who worked as an HR manager in a large, state-owned Chinese MNC and agreed to introduce her friend to me. This helped me to gain direct access to their company and obtain permission to interview their senior managers and HR managers.

During my fieldwork trip in China from January to February this year, I visited five major cities and interviewed 20 returned expatriates and four HR and senior managers. I also generated a list of individuals that I will contact for interviews in Australia and New Zealand later this year.

From the interviews conducted so far, I found similarities to my own experience during the fieldwork trip, Chinese workers consider social networks (*guanxi*) as an important and necessary asset for their organisational promotion and career development. They expressed that it was not necessarily "what you know" that played the most important role in one's career path. Instead, "whom you know" often created future opportunities in their professional and personal lives. Chinese workers acknowledged the importance of social capital and place emphasis on developing and maintaining their personal networks.

During my trip in China, I also visited several Chinese scholars who specialise in HRM. From our conversations, I found that unlike the literature in the West, Chinese HRM research focus mainly on practical aspects of HRM and lacks theoretical and empirical support. On the one hand, this is because HRM is still a relatively new phenomenon in the management field and there is a lack of a research tradition in this area. On the other hand, this reflects two parallel focuses between Chinese HRM research and Western HRM research. This highlighted the importance of understanding the current development of Chinese HRM studies and integrating them into the mainstream of management literature.

I am currently transcribing and analysing interview notes. I will commence my second part of data collection in New Zealand and Australia once I generate main themes from these interviews.

In closing, I would like to thank the Asia New Zealand Foundation for providing the financial assistance for my fieldwork. I will endeavour to promote Chinese HRM studies in the academic community and help New Zealand to further understand China and its people.

### **3. Regional Updates**

#### **3.1 Massey University**

Paul Spoonley reports that Massey University is in the process of establishing an Asia Hub at its Auckland campus. However, a number of activities (seminars) have already taken place. At this stage, it involves staff from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (Associate Professor Peter Lineham and Professor Paul Spoonley) and the College of Business (Dr Ralph Bathurst). The intention is to provide a focus for things

Asia/Asian as a joint activity between the two Colleges. One dimension is to both publicise and promote research; the other is to encourage a series of activities such as seminars that highlight matters of interest to Massey University staff and students, and to a broader public.

Asia Hub recent seminar series:

18 March 2011 - New Zealand String Quartet (playing music by Gao Ping and Chinary Ung) with guest speaker Professor Paul Spoonley

21 March 2011 - 'Share the Growth of China's Financial Markets: Opportunities, Barriers, and Risks' - Dr Mei Qiu, School of Economics and Finance

11 May 2011 - 'There Goes the Neighbourhood': New Zealand's New Future in Asia - Dr Andrew Butcher, Asia New Zealand Foundation

16 May 2011 - 'Muslim Mothers in Auckland Negotiating Music in Transnational Context' - Hanny Savitri Hartono, Massey MA (Social Anthropology) Graduated

27 July 2011 - 'Changing Mediascapes' - Professor Paul Spoonley, College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Rosemary Haddon

### **3.2 University of Auckland**

#### **Auckland University Student Group Raises Relief Funds and International Awareness after Japan's Multiple Disasters**

Lawrence Marceau

In the aftermath of Japan's March 11 tragedies combining the magnitude 9.0 earthquake and massive tsunami that hit Japan's Tohoku region with the worst nuclear power accident in Japan's history, University of Auckland students quickly organised to communicate to the Japanese their concern for the suffering and damage caused by these disasters. Students have to date raised over \$9,500, and are on the verge of reaching their goal of \$10,000, which will go to the Japan Red Cross and provide emergency support.

Soon after the disasters struck, Dr Hilary Chung, Head of the School of Asian Studies, asked Dr Lawrence Marceau, Senior Lecturer in Japanese, to organise the students and oversee their fundraising and good-will efforts for Japan. Six days after the tragedy about fifty students gathered to discuss possible activities, and by 22 March students had developed five projects to initiate over the coming weeks. These included folding and selling some three thousand origami cranes, holding a *Tanabata* style campaign for writing wishes on paper slips and tying them to bamboo branches, doing a sausage sizzle, performing a *haka* and recording it for Internet broadcast with English and Japanese subtitles, and conducting a DVD screening of Miyazaki Hayao's animated feature *Princess Mononoke*. Each of these events raised awareness of the Japan disasters and encouraged the students to continue their activities after lectures resumed following the autumn break.

The students, under the name "Auckland University Students for Japan Relief (AUSJR)," opened an exchange and communications site on Facebook (currently boasting 145 members), and implemented two final events, held on 13 May. These were

a sale of baked goods prepared by the students themselves and a screening of the popular Yaguchi Shinobu film *Waterboys*.

Most of the students involved in the two months of activities are majors in Japanese or other Asian Studies subjects at the University, together with several undergraduate and postgraduate students across the campus. Group leaders and their activities include Matt Pulsford (coordination and Facebook), Francesca Lee (Tanabata and scrapbook), Ivana Drinkovic (origami cranes), Jin Akagi (Japanese subtitled photo montage clip posted on Japan's Niconico Douga site and YouTube), HyengGeun Timothy Lee (sausage sizzle), Betty Davis and Simrin Ahmed (DVD screenings), Rose Emma Murphy (bake sale), Pete O'Brien (*haka* event), Venessa Setiawan (bake sale and poster design), and John Huang, Jimmy Liu, Jackie Yeung, and Sharon Wu (bucket collections and advertising).



Students celebrate the successful completion of the final day of fundraising, 13 May, 2011 by assuming a pose from the film *Waterboys* (photo by Francesca Lee)

Richard Phillips

### 3.3 University of Canterbury

The Political Science Programme at Canterbury held a workshop, Nuclear Challenges in Southeast Asia, from 15-17 February earlier this year. This workshop, held jointly with the Center for Contemporary Conflict, US Naval Postgraduate School, brought together policymakers and academics with expertise on the use of nuclear energy and nuclear non-proliferation issues. Participants from Southeast Asia, Australia, the US and from within New Zealand discussed a range of topics that included the role of regional organisations in managing the challenges posed by the expansion of the use of nuclear energy, nuclear security and nuclear safety and the impact of great power rivalry in shaping security policies of Southeast Asian states.

Naimah Talib

### 3.4 The University of Otago

On 19-20 February 2011 at the Dunedin Public Art Gallery, Dunedin, a symposium on the topic of 'Interrogating Multiculturalism in Aotearoa/New Zealand: An Asian Studies Perspective' was held. Hosted by the Asia-NZ Research Cluster at Otago University and co-sponsored by the Asian Studies Institute at Victoria University Wellington, the symposium brought together NZ-based scholars engaged in Asian studies, community representatives of NZ-Asian communities, and others interested in multiculturalism in NZ, to explore such issues as the roles played by religion, language, education, government, sports, food, fashion, art and architecture in NZ multiculturalism; the salient characteristics of multiculturalism in NZ; the place of Maori and Pakeha representations in multicultural discourse; and the connection between multiculturalism in NZ and discourse around nation, ethnicity, pluralism or cosmopolitanism.

A regional conference of the Japan Anthropology Workshop will be held at the University of Otago on 10-11 July 2011. The workshop theme is 'Beyond Oceans: Rethinking Japan's Place in Pacific Anthropology', although other topics related to Japan and anthropology and Japanese Studies are welcome. The conference committee (Dr. Erica Baffelli (Chair), Dr. Shelley Brunt and Professor Henry Johnson) also encourage cross-disciplinary approaches, and the participation of students and doctoral candidates. The keynote speaker will be Professor Joy Hendry of Oxford Brookes University ([www.brookes.ac.uk/res/experts/profiles/joy\\_hendry](http://www.brookes.ac.uk/res/experts/profiles/joy_hendry)). The organisers gratefully acknowledge funding from the Toshiba International Foundation. Please send all enquiries to [jaws.otago@otago.ac.nz](mailto:jaws.otago@otago.ac.nz).

Vanessa Ward

### 4. The 19<sup>th</sup> New Zealand Asian Studies Society International Conference

The next NZASIA conference will be held at Massey University, Palmerston North, from 2-4 July, 2011. Details on the conference can be found at [www.nzasia.org.nz](http://www.nzasia.org.nz).

Guest speakers - Prof Joseph Yu-shek Cheng, Coordinator, Contemporary China Research Project, City University of Hong Kong; Prof Antonia Finnane, School of Historical Studies, University of Melbourne; and Dr Mee Kam Ng, Urban Planning programme, University of Hong Kong.

### 5. Forthcoming *New Zealand Journal of Asian Studies* issue

Vol.13.no.1 (2011)

#### Articles

Behind the Hyperreality Experience: The 2008 Beijing Olympics Opening Ceremony  
KING TONG HO

A Haunting Voice: A Place for Literary Wives in the History of the  
Civil Examinations in Qing China  
HOI LING LUI



Japanese Aid to the Pahang-Selangor Water Transfer Project in Malaysia: Aid Guidelines and Decision-Making  
FUMITAKA FURUOKA

Bridging the Cultural Gulfs: CHC Teachers in New Zealand Schools  
DEKUN SUN

Globalisation and the Indian Agriculture Sector  
SAJID ANWAR and DESH GUPTA

“Rustic Fiction Indeed!”: Reading Jia Yu-cun in *Dream of the Red Chamber*  
MARK FERRARA

Book reviews edited by Duncan Campbell

Sandra Buckley, ed., *Encyclopedia of Contemporary Japanese Culture*.  
ELLEN NAKAMURA

John DeFrancis and Zhang Yanyin, eds., *ABC English-Chinese Chinese-English Dictionary*.  
WILL SIMA

Arndt Graf, Susanne Schröter and Edwin Wieringa, eds., *Aceh: History, Politics and Culture*.  
ANTHONY L SMITH

Edward McDonald, *Learning Chinese, Turning Chinese: Challenges to becoming sinophone in a globalised world*.  
DUNCAN M CAMPBELL

Stephen McDowall. *Qian Qianyi's Reflections on Yellow Mountain; Traces of a Late-Ming Hatchet and Chisel*.  
TOM GRIFFITHS

Herman Ooms, *Imperial Politics and Symbolics in Ancient Japan: The Tenmu Dynasty, 650-800*.  
LAWRENCE MARCEAU

Claire Roberts, *Friendship in Art: Fou Lei and Huang Binhong*.  
MARIA GALIKOWSKI

N. Harry Rothschild, *Wu Zhao: China's Only Woman Emperor*.  
JAMES BEATTIE

Paolo Santangelo, *Materials for an Anatomy of Personality in Late Imperial China*.  
ORION LETHBRIDGE

Anthony R. Walker, ed., *Pika Pika: The Flashing Firefly. Essays for Pauline Walker by her friends in the Arts and Social Sciences*.  
KATHARINE MCKINNON

Wu Hung, *The Art of the Yellow Springs: Understanding Chinese Tombs*.  
AAT VERVOORN

Cong Ellen Zhang, *Transformative Journeys: Travel and Culture in Song China*.  
DUNCAN M CAMPBELL

Ying Zhu, Michael Webber and John Benson, *The Everyday Impact of Economic Reform in China: Management change, enterprise performance and daily life*.  
JASON YOUNG

## 6. 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 one-year or three-year subscription. 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

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Rest of world:	US \$ 40 individual, US \$ 50 institutions / year

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*The views expressed in the Newsletter are those of the contributors and not the official position of NZASIA.*