



**NZASIA** New Zealand Asian  
Studies Society Inc

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*Newsletter No. 36, May 2017*

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## 1. Report from the NZASIA President

Dear all,

I would like to begin by welcoming our new members in the society's executive and express our appreciation to the contributions of the outgoing members. We are all very grateful to Vanessa Ward for her service as Secretary and Emerald King as Publication Officer. I warmly welcome Lorraine Wong (University of Otago) and Ellen Nakamura (University of Auckland) who have taken up these roles and join Naimah Talib (our wonderful treasurer, in her third-term of service - thank you again, Naimah!) in the new executive. Paul Clark and I are still part of this executive for the remainder of 2017, but we are also on our way "out". James Beattie (University of Waikato) has been elected as our next President and I will officially pass the baton to him during our next Biennial International Conference which will take place in Dunedin, at the University of Otago in November (more on this topic below). Paul is also bringing his term as the NZJAS editor to an end. Many thanks to him both for his work as Editor and for his long-term contribution to the executive of NZASIA. Rick Weiss has kindly agreed to become our next editor and he is working with Paul make sure that the transition is as smooth as possible. He will officially take over as Editor of NZJAS from the Dec. 2017 issue and he will thus also join the new executive. Thank you, Rick!

In thanking both incoming and outgoing executive members for their willingness to support our Society, I also wish to stress that our commitment to NZASIA has become increasingly difficult and yet, in my humble opinion, even more urgent. Our current academic environment is unfortunately dominated by financial pressure and our professional performance is evaluated in ways that discourage, if not altogether prevent us from, generously giving our time to activities that are not directly measurable in terms of output. Volunteering time not only to ensure the continuation but also contribute to the growth of NZASIA is not an easy task among the seemingly endless escalation of demands that come from our respective institutions, divisions, and departments. Yet, it is nonetheless an important and rewarding task. It is especially in its support for the new generation of scholars that I see the role of NZASIA as irreplaceable. Our conference, in particular, provides a unique opportunity to create a real conversation among postgraduate students and more "established" (both local and international) academics in the specific context of Aotearoa New Zealand

I would like to end by asking you (once more) to actively engage in an effort to increase our membership. Membership remains one of our top priorities. I would like to appeal to our members so that they not only make sure that they renew their membership timely, but that they also make an effort to invite new colleagues and - above all - graduate students to join. New people and new ideas are essential for the growth of our society.

In particular, given that 2017 is a conference year, I want to encourage both old and new members to join us in Dunedin, and submit proposals for our upcoming NZASIA 2017 Conference, hosted by the University of Otago from Monday 27 to Wednesday 29 November, 2017. I am happy to report that besides the usual contribution that the Society gives in order to support the Nicholas Tarling Lecture, the conference will also receive support from both NZIRI and the Asia NZ Foundation. Both organizations, as I announced in previous reports, have formalized an on-going commitment to work in partnership with our Society to ensure that our biennial conferences are not only viable events in which scholarship on Asia can be shared, but also opportunities for exploring new collaborations. This year we were also able to gain the support of the International Research Center for Japanese Studies (Nichibunken) - it is my hope that this relationship can be formalized (with an MoU or a letter of intent) similarly to what we now have with NZIRI and Asia New Zealand.

In line with what I have described above as one of NZASIA's most important roles, my personal main focus for this year's conference is on facilitating the participation of young researchers, by offering free accommodation (via a network of open houses voluntarily offered by colleagues working at Otago) and asking our partner organizations to contribute financial support, specifically targeted to postgraduate students. Please keep an eye on the Conference website (<http://www.otago.ac.nz/nzasia-2017/index.html>) as more updates will soon become available.

I look forward to receiving your panel and paper proposals and seeing you all at our conference!

With best wishes,  
Paola Voci  
President, NZASIA

25 April 2017

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## 2. Regional Updates

### 2.1 Massey University

#### Staff movements

In the Japanese programme staffing has doubled with the appointment of two new lecturers to our staff, Dr Jun Nakamura (Japanese linguistics) and Dr Mitsue Tabata-Sandom (applied linguistics). Jun and Mitsue are based on the Albany campus. The School of People, Environment and Planning, Albany campus has welcomed Alice Beban as Lecturer in Sociology. Alice is from the Southeast Asia Program at Cornell University and works on Cambodia.

#### Other news from Massey

The Chinese programme has been awarded a group Prime Minister's Scholarship for Asia for this year. 15 students from the Chinese programme will travel to Peking

University for a six week study tour. Students will learn Chinese as well as doing field trips to gain some business experiences.

An International Conference on 'The Teaching of Chinese: Distance teaching, the spread and globalization of the Chinese language' was held on the Albany campus, 27-28 August 2016.

A Joint Research Centre in Applied Linguistics run by Massey University and Beijing Languages and Culture University, has been established at Massey's Albany campus.

Dr. Jun Nakamura gave a presentation "Alternate construals of Japanese zero expressions into English" at the Japanese Linguistic Symposium 2017, the University of Sydney, 17-18 March. He also made an oral presentation at the International Conference of Japanese Language Education (ICJLE) in Bali and published 'A study of Rubi/Furigana functions: Building a spectrum between translation type and pragmatic type' in the conference proceedings.

Dr Mitsue Tabata-Sandom has been holding monthly free Japanese language and culture classes at Takapuna Library. The next class is Sunday May 28.

Dr Penny Shino presented a paper 'Accommodating motivations of the distance learning of Japanese at tertiary level in New Zealand: Ideals and reality' at the International Conference of Japanese Language Education, September 9-10, Bali.

Dr Penny Shino is organising a two-day workshop to be held on 11-12 August 2017 at the Massey Wellington campus for Japanese language educators in New Zealand. The keynote speaker is Anne de Krester, director of the Melbourne Centre for Japanese Language Education.

Massey graduate Hayley Bartosh will be presented with the Japanese ambassador's prize for Japanese at a luncheon at the Ambassador's residence on June 1.

## **2.2 University of Auckland**

### **Staff Movements in Chinese**

In December 2016, staff in Asian Studies said a fond farewell to Dr Robert Sanders, who retired from the University to enjoy a new stage of life with his wife Atsuko in Vancouver.

In his place, we have been delighted to welcome Dr Danping Wang as lecturer in Chinese. Dr Wang has 10 years teaching experience in universities, her most recent appointment being in Hong Kong. Her research interests are in Chinese as a second/foreign language, teacher education, language policy and bilingual education. Over the years she has designed new Chinese modules for 19 different undergraduate programmes. She has taught a number of courses including 'Chinese Linguistics', 'Second Language Acquisition', 'Chinese Academic Writing', 'Language, Culture and Society', 'China Through Western Eyes', as well as all-level Chinese as a Foreign Language (CFL) courses for international students in universities in Beijing and Hong

Kong. Dani has published *English in the Chinese Foreign Language Classroom*. Peter Lang GmbH, Internationaler Verlag Der Wissenschaften, 2013, as well as a number of journal articles.

### 2017 PhD successes

Jihye Kim in Asian Studies

"Ethnicity and Opportunity: Korean Entrepreneurship in the Argentine Garment Industry".

Supervised by Dr Sunhee Koo and Dr Changzoo Song.

This research investigates the close relationship between the Korean immigrant community in Argentina and the garment industry. Within the theoretical frameworks of immigration and ethnic entrepreneurship, this thesis examines why and how Korean Argentines have been continuously concentrated in the clothing industry from the beginning of Korean immigration in the 1960s to the present. Based on ethnographic research conducted in Argentina between February and June 2014 and on archival and documentary research, this study illustrates that multiple factors at diverse socio-structural layers have significantly influenced Koreans' business entry and growth in the apparel industry, which, in turn, have affected their integration into the host society. This research represents a significant milestone in the fields of both migration and Korean studies.

Yu-Wen Chih in Asian Studies

"The Cultural Representation of Taiwanese-ness and Taiwanese Nationalism in Li Qiao's *Wintry Night Trilogy*."

Supervised by Assoc Prof Mark Amsler and Dr Hilary Chung.

This thesis offers a response to the existing controversy over how Taiwanese national discourse emerged, and the role of the arts in the formation of this consciousness. It does this via a cultural, historical and narrative analysis of Li Qiao's *Wintry Night Trilogy*, systematically revealing, for the first time, the way in which this work is pivotal in the development of Taiwanese national consciousness, and showing that this process began as early as the 1970s, rather than the 1980s period that existing scholarship focuses on.

Xiaowen Yang in Comparative Literature

"Anatomy of Murder and Rape: A Comparative Study of Crime Writing by Chi Zijian, Alice Sebold, A Yi and Ian McEwan"

Supervised by Assoc Prof Mark Amsler and Dr Hilary Chung

Using comparative critical analytical methods and drawing on literary and social history, this unprecedented author-based case study of work dealing with the themes of rape and murder by four authors, A Yi, Chi Zijian, Alice Sebold and Ian McEwan expands, recontextualizes and reframes current scholarship on literary representations of murder and rape. Despite the fact that rape and murder are recurrent literary themes, cross-cultural studies of works which engage with them are scarce. This study fills this gap by bringing together four writers from three cultural contexts (China, UK, USA) to conduct a cross-cultural examination of their work within the framework of crime writing, and more specifically, the problematics of writing about and reading about murder and rape.

Haiying Hou has won a Japan Foundation doctoral fellowship to pursue fieldwork in Tokyo for a period of eight months in 2018. Haiying is pursuing her PhD studies on the writings of Yoshioka Yayoi, a female doctor of the early twentieth century. She is working under the supervision of Ellen Nakamura and Melissa Inouye.

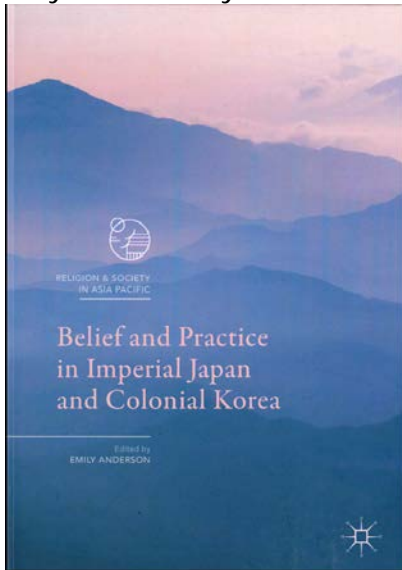
## Japan Studies Centre News:

Ellen Nakamura hosted the **Sixth Japanese History workshop**, which took place at the University of Auckland on 2-4 December, 2016. It was a very successful event, attended by thirteen international scholars, a number of NZ based scholars and students (including both postgraduates and undergraduates) and members of the public. The quality of the papers was high, and everyone enjoyed the opportunity to network, exchange ideas, and build bridges between New Zealand, Japan, and Australia. The workshop began with a moving Powhiri led by Dr Hirini Kaa, a historian at the University of Auckland, and finished with an intensive all-day workshop in Japanese calligraphic script, led by Fujimoto Seijirō, Emeritus Professor at Wakayama University and his wife Makita Rieko. Other highlights were the excellent keynote speeches made by Professor Suzuki Akihito of Keiō University, who spoke on “Care, Custody, and Punishment: The Family and Psychiatric Hospitals in Japan in c.1920-1945”, and Professor Laura Nenzi of the University of Tennessee, who spoke on After Dark: The Night in Nineteenth-Century Japan.” This workshop was co-sponsored by NZJEP (New Zealand Japan Exchange Programme) of International Languages Exchanges and Pathways, The Japanese Studies Association of Australia (JSAA), The Japan Studies Centre of the New Zealand Asia Institute, University of Auckland, and The School of Cultures, Languages and Linguistics, Faculty of Arts, University of Auckland.



Centre Publication: Former post-doctoral researcher, Emily Anderson, completed editorial work on papers from the international conference “Empire of Religions,” co-hosted by the New Zealand Asia Institute’s Japan Studies Center and Korea Studies in

July 2014: Emily Anderson, ed. *Belief and Practice in Imperial Japan and Colonial Korea*, Basingstoke/NY: Palgrave Macmillan Press, 2017.



Professor Mark Mullins (Japanese studies) has been invited to give talks about his ongoing research on the Occupation period and various aspects of neo-nationalism and religion in contemporary Japanese society for workshops and conferences at Leipzig University, Sophia University, Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University, Soka University, Duke University, and Otago University. He also has a number of recent publications:

Mullins, Mark R. “Shinsaigo no Nihon ni okeru neo-nashonarizumu” [〈震災後〉の日本におけるネオナショナリズム], trans. Saitō Kōta, in Tsukada Hotaka, ed. *Tettei Kenshō: Nihon no ukeika* [徹底検証：日本の右傾化].

Tokyo: Chikuma Sensho, 2017, 128-147.

Mullins, Mark R. “Religious Minorities and the Public Sphere: Kagawa Toyohiko and Christian ‘Counter-Publics’ in Modern Japanese Society,” in Jeffrey Newmark and Albert Welter, eds. *Religion, Culture, and the Public Sphere in China and Japan*. Singapore: Palgrave Macmillan Press, 2017, 161-191.

Mullins, Mark R. “Religion in Occupied Japan: The Impact of SCAP’s Policies on Shinto,” in Emily Anderson, ed. *Belief and Practice in Imperial Japan and Colonial Korea*, Singapore: Palgrave Macmillan Press, 2017, 229-248.

Visiting Scholars: From mid-February the Centre hosted Professors Mari Miura and Koichi Nakano as visiting scholars for six weeks. Both are political scientists from Sophia University, Tokyo, and active as public intellectuals engaged with contemporary issues. On 15 March, Professor Miura gave a public seminar on “Why So Few Women in Politics? Analyzing the Gender Gaps in Politics and Economy in Japan,” and on 22 March Professor Nakano gave a seminar for Asian Studies/Politics and International Relations on “Whither Japan in the Trump era? Prospects for Constitutional Revision and Civic Activism.”

### Upcoming Conference in Auckland

The New Zealand Asia Institute’s Japan Studies Centre and Korea Studies Centre will be co-hosting an international conference on “Popular Culture, War Memory, and Reconciliation Between South Korea and Japan,” from 11-13 August 2017. The conference will examine how colonial and wartime memories are constructed, fought over, and negotiated at a popular level in Japan and Korea, and in order to identify both the potential opportunities and obstacles for reconciliation. While there appears to be increasing pressure and incentive at the state level to solve war memory issues, this project focuses on what is happening at the popular level. Our aim is to open up a new line of conversation between Japan and Korea specialists by engaging the following questions: What potential for reconciliation exists in popular culture? How does the unique ability of popular culture to stimulate visceral responses contribute to the creation of collective memories? How do popular cultural representations link and interact with official discourse and state strategies? Does the consumption of each other’s popular culture contribute to the possibility of future reconciliation? Is there

evidence for changes in popular consciousness with regard to the history of colonization and war memory? How do nationalistic imageries and “anti-Korean” or “anti-Japanese” discourses constitute a challenge for reconciliation?

Confirmed speakers include Alexander Bukh (Victoria University), Karl Ian Uy Cheng Chua (Ateneo de Manila University), Kukhee Choo (Sophia University), Stephen Epstein (Victoria University), Irene Lee (University of Auckland), Roald Maliangkaji (Australian National University), Chris Perkins (University of Edinburgh), Rumi Sakamoto (University of Auckland), Philip Seaton (Hokkaido University), Ria Shibata (Otago University), Changzoo Song (University of Auckland), and Rebecca Suter (University of Sydney). For additional information, please contact Mark Mullins ([m.mullins@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:m.mullins@auckland.ac.nz)) or Rumi Sakamoto ([r.sakamoto@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:r.sakamoto@auckland.ac.nz)).

*Ellen Nakamura*

### **From The Confucius Institute in Auckland (University of Auckland)**

The chair of the CI board, Prof Jenny Dixon, was awarded an “Individual Performance Excellence Award” by CI Headquarters. It added another international award to CI in Auckland’s award list.

Confucius Institute in Auckland Chinese prizes were awarded to two stage 2 students to pay for their tuition for Chinese stage 3 courses in 2017. They are: Vlad Yuryev and David Robertson.

This year’s Chinese New Year celebration on campus was extended to a wider group of China related staff from The University of Auckland’s city faculties. The attendees sampled a greater variety of food and participated in cultural activities on display. CI also continued to collaborate with Auckland Museum and Auckland City Council to provide a stage for ongoing performances as well as noodle making demonstrations, Chinese tea ceremony, calligraphy, chess and other Chinese culture activities during Chinese Lantern Festival in Auckland Domain and Auckland Museum.

This year, we welcomed 48 Mandarin Language Assistants from our Chinese partner universities to work in over 100 schools and 4 tertiary institutions in the region. After their arrival, they have been provided with a series of training sessions to help them to start their life and work in NZ. Extra training was also provided to their lead teachers in schools. In the April school break, a special professional development course of 3 days was completed by CI in Victoria University for all MLAs in the country.

The annual Auckland regional China Bridge Competition was completed on 13<sup>th</sup> May. The 12 secondary winners will compete with the winners from other regions at the national competition on 10<sup>th</sup> June. The tertiary winner: Vlad Yuryev, a student of Chinese from the University of Auckland will compete in China for the international semi-final and final competitions in July.

17<sup>th</sup> May, we launched our 12<sup>th</sup> Confucius Classroom at NZ College of Chinese Medicine (NZCCM). This is the first post-secondary based Confucius Classroom with special Chinese culture in NZ

*Nora Yao*



## 2.3 University of Canterbury

### UC Japanese Programme

#### Seminars

The Japanese programme organised a special seminar by visiting scholar, Professor Shin Moriyama (Ochanomizu Women's University in Japan) on the 25th of August. Professor Moriyama gave a very interesting and insightful talk entitled "Second Language and Inter-Cultural Education as Citizenship Education." The seminar was open to a wider community of people interested in second language education, and participants included local secondary and tertiary (ARA/UC) Japanese language teachers, UC postgraduate students, and Japanese teachers of English currently undertaking TESOL training at CCEL College of English.

The Japanese programme hosted Professor Sukero Ito (Tokyo University of Foreign Studies), who gave a presentation entitled "Japanese Language Education from the Perspective of Developing Global Competency" on 21 February. He is the president of the Society for Teaching Japanese as a Foreign Language, and his talk was inspirational and well received by the audience including secondary school teachers and UC graduates.

#### Events

The Japanese Programme and the UC International Office welcomed 10 Japanese teenagers from the Tohoku region into Japanese language classes on 16 August 2016, and organised a lunch, chat, and a presentation session for them. They were in Christchurch as part of the Support-Our-Kids homestay programme, which was established after the 2011 Tohoku earthquake for Tohoku children who had lost parents or had their lives otherwise disrupted as a result of the earthquake, tsunami, and Fukushima nuclear disaster. It was our great pleasure to host them, along with Mr Ian Kennedy (former NZ ambassador to Japan).

Students enrolled in the Elementary Japanese B had a special lesson by an internationally renowned Japanese teacher, Mr Kohji Oikawa, on 21 October 2016. Mr Oikawa taught at Peking University and Tsinghua University, and he is currently the headmaster of JASLON (Japanese Language Salon) in Beijing. He gives teachers' training courses across Europe, Asia, and North and South America, and his pedagogical activities are widely reported by the mass media. Mr Oikawa was awarded the 2016 Foreign Minister's Commendation by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.

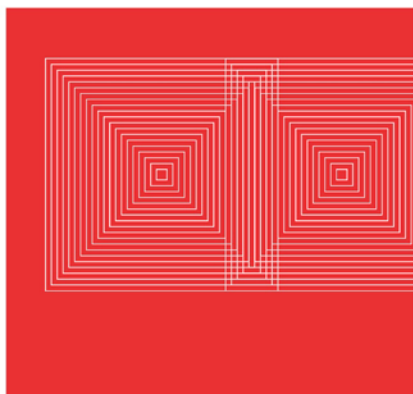
### Masayoshi Ogino

#### Publications

*Creating New Synergies: Approaches of Tertiary Japanese Programmes in New Zealand* (Massey University Press) was published in 2016. This volume, co-edited by Masayoshi Ogino (University of Canterbury), Penny Shino (Massey University) and Dallas Nesbitt (AUT), is a collaborative achievement by members of the Japanese Studies Aotearoa New Zealand (JSANZ). This book provides unprecedented insight into issues and strategies around Japanese language learning in New Zealand at tertiary level, offering a powerful example of what can be achieved through co-operation, collaboration and vision. The authors include Rachel Payne (University of Canterbury), 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).

MASSEY ACADEMIC SERIES



**Creating New Synergies**  
Approaches of Tertiary Japanese  
Programmes in New Zealand  
Edited by Masayoshi Ogino,  
Penelope Shino and Dallas Nesbitt

An article by Masayoshi Ogino and Junji Kawai (AUT) on the current situation of Japanese language education in New Zealand has been published online by the Society for Teaching Japanese as a Foreign Language in March 2017.

#### Invited talks

Masayoshi was invited to speak at the Japan New Zealand Business Council's 43rd Annual Joint Meeting in Wellington on 25 November 2016. His talk, "Japanese Language Education in New Zealand: Current situation, learners' pathways, careers and future," attracted good interest from the audience including HE Mr Stephen Payton (Ambassador for Japan) and HE Mr Toshihisa Takata (Ambassador for New Zealand). It was a great opportunity to share the current situation of

Japanese language education in New Zealand and to discuss partnerships and connectivity with business leaders from both countries. He was invited as a speaker for the 14th Education Forum for the Collaboration between High Schools and Universities, organised by the Consortium of Universities in Kyoto on 10 December, 2016. He talked on the collaboration in the Japanese language programmes between secondary schools and the University of Canterbury. It was a hybrid forum involving participants in Kyoto and online participants from other areas of Japan and overseas.

#### **Rachel Payne**

The project on which Rachel has been working on for five years as assistant editor has finally finished, with the publication of Jonah Salz (ed.) *A History of Japanese Theatre* (Cambridge UP). The book was launched at the International Federation for Theatre Research Conference at Stockholm in June 2016, where Rachel addressed the Asian Theatre Working Group on the trials and tribulations of the international project. Rachel was invited to address the Kongyukai Oxford University Japanese Studies Association in November 2016, where she compared Japanese language teaching approaches at Oxford and UC, and talked about the initiatives launched at UC to boost enrolments and retention through broadening students' engagement with the learning community.

Rachel spent much of her study leave working at the Pitt Rivers Museum at Oxford University, where she was invited by the UK Japan Society to lecture on the museum's historic noh mask collection. These lectures have been released as podcasts as part of the museum's VERVE outreach efforts. As a result, she has now been commissioned by the museum to write a book on the masks.

#### **Susan Bouterey**

Susan was invited to present a paper at Otago University's international symposium, "Japanese Studies Down Under: History, Politics, Literature and Art" in November, 2016.

Susan's paper, titled "Okinawa's fictional landscapes: A reading of Medoruma Shun's 'Suiteki' (Droplets)", was well received at this very interesting and stimulating interdisciplinary conference.

Susan has been continuing her work on earthquake/disaster-related research with colleagues in New Zealand and Japan as well as completing an annotated translation of the memoirs of Hashizume Bun, poet and survivor of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima.

### **Confucius Institute, University of Canterbury (CIUC)**

The Confucius Institute (CIUC) welcomed one teacher and 31 Mandarin language assistants in January as part of its initiative to enhance the understanding of Chinese culture and language in the South Island. After attending an orientation, the language assistants travelled to various areas in the South Island where they are currently teaching. They have teaching responsibilities for 100 schools. This brings the number of Mandarin language assistants in the South Island to 41. Also in January, CIUC, in conjunction with the New Zealand China Trade Association, held a workshop on New Zealand-China trade relations. Consul-General Jin Zhijian gave a presentation at the workshop on trade relations between China and New Zealand focusing on the Canterbury region.

In April, the Deputy Director of the Institute, Jing Jiang, led a delegation of New Zealand school principals to China. Principals participating in the delegation were enthusiastic about Chinese language teaching in South Island schools and were keen to strengthen ties between New Zealand and Chinese schools. Jing Jiang is currently in China with a group of forty students who are taking part in the 2017 Chinese Cultural Immersion Camp.

Students from around the South Island participated in the tenth annual Chinese Bridge Chinese proficiency competition. The standard of entries was significantly higher than in previous years.

The former Chinese director of CIUC, Prof Hong Hu, was awarded a Civic award by the Christchurch City Council late last year in recognition of her contribution to Chinese language learning and cultural awareness in the Canterbury region. The award was presented by Christchurch Mayor, Hon. Lianne Dalziel.

### **New Staff**

In February 2017, Pascale Hatcher joined the Department of Political Science and International Relations at the University of Canterbury. Prior to coming to New Zealand, she was associate professor at Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto. Her current research agenda focuses on the political economy of mining governance in Asia and the Pacific. Her book *Regimes of Risk: The World Bank and the Transformation of Mining in Asia* (Palgrave, 2014), critically investigates the particular role played by the World Bank Group in both conceptualising and promoting new mining regimes tailored for resource-rich country clients. Building on case studies located in Asia, the book details a particular politics of mining in the Global South characterised by the *transplanting*, *hijacking* and *contesting* of such mining agenda in national and local arenas. She has recently collaborated with UNICEF and UNRISD on the project 'The Political Economy of Mineral Resource Governance and Children's Rights' (2016), with a particular emphasis on the cases of Mongolia and the Philippines.

## Recent PhDs

- Chandan Bose completed his PhD in Anthropology under the supervision of Lyndon Fraser and Piers Locke. Thesis title: "Where is the craft located? Conversations about work, home and history: An ethnography with artisans in Telengana, India."
- Tuhina Ganguly completed her PhD in Anthropology under the supervision of Michael Grimshaw and Piers Locke. Thesis title: "Imagining India as a Spiritual Place: Life-journeys of Western Spiritual Practitioners in Pondicherry."
- Ambika Kohli completed her PhD in Sociology under the supervision of Anne Scott. Thesis title: "Gender, Class and Modernity: Reproductive agency in urban India."

*Naimah Talib*

## 2.4 University of Otago

### Forthcoming events

The NZASIA 2017 Conference is hosted by the University of Otago from Monday, 27 to Wednesday, 29 November, 2017. In line with NZASIA's key objectives, our biennial conference is multidisciplinary and aims at bringing together scholars working in the broader, open, and contested site of Asian studies. We look forward to welcoming you to Otago in 2017.

### REMINDER:

Participants are invited to submit panel or paper proposals presenting original research on any Asian-related topic.

Abstracts for papers and panels are due by 1 June 2017 and should be sent by email to: [nzasia2017@otago.ac.nz](mailto:nzasia2017@otago.ac.nz).

Please see the conference website for information.

<http://www.otago.ac.nz/nzasia-2017/index.html>

### News from around the Otago Campus:

#### Department of Religious Studies:

Ben Schonthal's book, *Buddhism, Politics, and the Limits of Law* was published by Cambridge University Press in November 2016.

Linda Zampol D'Ortia was awarded her PhD ('The Cape of the Devil: Salvation in the Japanese Jesuit Mission under Francisco Cabral (1570--1579)') in February 2017.

Keziah Wallis has been appointed as a full-time Teaching Fellow for two years. She will teach papers dealing with a range of Asian religions.

Henry Johnson (Department of Music, Theatre, & Performing Arts | Te Kāhui Tau) has joined colleagues at Seikei University, Japan, as a member of the research project looking at the interactive/reciprocal relationships between western music/culture and Japanese music/culture in the 20th (and 21st) century. The project is housed in the Centre for Asia Pacific Studies.

Some of Henry's recent publications with a focus on Asia include:

Chapman, I. and Johnson, H. (eds) *Global Glam and Popular Music: Style and Spectacle from the 1970s to the 2000s*. New York: Routledge. (2016).  
Johnson, H. and A. Kawamoto. "Visual-kei": Glamour in Japanese Pop Music. In Chapman, I. and Johnson, H. (eds) *Global Glam and Popular Music: Style and Spectacle from the 1970s to the 2000s*. (2016) New York: Routledge, 199-213.  
Johnson, H. and O. Wilson. Music Video and Online Social Media: A Case Study of the Discourse Around Japanese Imagery in the New Zealand Indie Scene. *Sites: A Journal of Social Anthropology & Cultural Studies* 13 (2) (2016): 163-186.

#### **School of Pharmacy:**

Bhuvan KC was awarded his PhD ('Medicines, society and the health system: a case study of access to and use of medicines in the Annapurna region of Western Nepal') in December 2016.

Sumera Saeed Akhtar, PhD student, is working on a project 'Role of women as caregiver in older person's and children's medicine taking in Pakistan and New Zealand'.

#### **Department of History and Art History:**

Angela McCarthy (Scottish and Irish history) has a book on Tea and Empire with a focus on Ceylon coming out in August:

<http://www.manchesteruniversitypress.co.uk/9781526119056/>

Brian Moloughney is now teaching again in a range of papers, including two specifically about China. At the end of April, Vanessa Ward (Lecturer in East Asian History, Department of History and Art History) will be leaving the University of Otago after almost 10 years. She has also recently handed over the NZASIA Secretary baton to Lorraine Wong (Chinese Programme, Department of Languages and Cultures), and wishes her the best-of-luck in the position.

\*\* I would like to thank Vanessa for her valuable contribution to the work of NZASIA and would like to wish her well. Susan Heydon (School of Pharmacy)

*Susan Heydon*

## **2.5 Victoria University of Wellington**

Victoria University of Wellington's Asia-related curriculum and staffing is currently undergoing a period of rapid transition. Many changes are positive, and we are delighted to welcome several new staff members whose research focuses on Asia (see below). The university is also demonstrating a commitment to the region more broadly in making one of its ongoing strategic themes "Enabling an Asia-Pacific Trading Nation," and, as many colleagues will be aware, VUW is part of a consortium with Auckland, Otago and Waikato to develop three government-funded Centres for Asia-Pacific Excellence focusing on North Asia, Southeast Asia, and Latin America. The latter two will be headquartered at Victoria.

Other changes we are experiencing are more ambiguous: the School of Languages and Cultures has recently been restructured, and the Chinese, Japanese and Asian Studies Programmes have now coalesced into a single Asian Languages & Cultures Programme. A broader review of the BA is forcing all majors to restrict their teaching at 100-level to two courses; the rationale is that this restriction will encourage (indeed, compel) students to experiment with more subject areas in their first year, but this change presents significant challenges to language programmes across the board. Typically VUW's language majors offer a full year of language at 100-level, and a content course that focuses on civilisation and society; we are working through how to most effectively deal with the new constraints. Whether the changes will bring in more students to Asia-related courses remains to be seen.

Among scholars with Asia-related interests who have recently or are about to join Victoria are several in Anthropology, including Eli Elinoff (Thailand); Caroline Bennett (Cambodia); Grant Otsuki (Japan); Nayantara Sheoran Appleton (India), Janepicha Cheva-Isarakul (Thailand/Myanmar); Dennitza Gabrakova in Japanese, and Van Jackson in International Relations (Northeast Asia).

*Stephen Epstein, Director of Asian Languages and Studies  
School of Languages and Cultures*

#### **New Zealand India Research Institute**

In November, the NZIRI celebrated the publication of two books in 2016: *Globalization and the Challenges of Development in Contemporary India*, ed. by **Sita Venkateswar** and **Sekhar Bandyopadhyay** (Springer); and *Religion and Modernity in India*, ed. by Sekhar Bandyopadhyay and Aloka Parasher Sen (Oxford University Press). A small gathering was held at Victoria University to mark this achievement.

So far in 2017, the NZIRI has held two workshops, one in Kolkata, India in January: "Nexus: Anglo-Indian Literature and Anglo-Indian life", and one at AUT in February: "Global Networks-Indianness Abroad: The New Zealand Story". Both were well attended, and the New Zealand workshop was in collaboration with AUT, Asia New Zealand Foundation, Human Rights Commission, Ministry of Education. The NZIRI collaborated with the Asia New Zealand Foundation to welcome a delegation from the Indian Council for World Affairs, New Delhi. A very successful India-NZ Track II Dialogue was held in Wellington on 27 February.

**Keith McEwing** (assistant curator, music, at the Alexander Turnbull Library) is presenting at the 30th biennial conference of ICKL, the international council of kinetography laban/labani notation, to take place in Beijing in July 2017. Keith's paper is titled 'White crane spreads its wings and snow rabbit digs the earth: kinetograms of contrasting styles within Chinese martial and meditative arts of Taiji Quan and Qi Gong.' In the paper Keith explores ways of illustrating different styles of Taiji Quan through notation.

**Stephen Epstein** (Languages and Cultures), as the newly appointed Director of Asian Languages and Studies, hosted the first 'Asianist/Asian scholar' gathering of the year at Victoria University of Wellington. This gathering included staff and scholars specialising in Asian Studies, Chinese, Japanese, History, Religion, Philosophy, Political Sciences, and Anthropology. The event welcomed two new staff members, **Eli Elinoff** and

Nyantara Sheoran Appleton, both of whom are in the School of Social and Cultural Studies. It was also a chance for staff members to meet Dennitza Gabrakova (Languages and Cultures) who will join Japanese studies in trimester two of this year.

Emerald King (Languages and Cultures) was crowned the Madman National Cosplay Champion at the end of last year. Emerald competed as part of duo in her ongoing research into cosplay (costume play) construction. Her article on Cosplay as an act of fan translation was published in *Signata 7 (2016) / Translating: Signs, Texts, Practices*.

*Emerald King*

## 2.6 Waikato University

Professor James Beattie, University of Waikato, and Dr. Richard Bullen, University of Canterbury, are in the third year of their Royal Society Marsden project, **Selling New China to New Zealand: Rewi Alley and the Art of Museum Diplomacy**. Showing at MTG Hawke's Bay, Napier until 5 June 2017, they have co-curated the exhibition, [Bringing China Home: Chinese stories and objects in Hawke's Bay](#). This includes significant sections on cultural diplomacy and Rewi Alley, and images from Canterbury Museum's Rewi Alley Collection. They have also written a catalogue of the exhibition, [Bringing China Home: Chinese Stories and Objects in Hawke's Bay](#) (MTG Gallery). Late in 2017, their book, *New China Eyewitness: Museum Diplomacy and Cultural Exchange in Cold War China* (Canterbury University Press) will be published. With Professor Paul Millar and Dr. John Chrisstoffells (both University of Canterbury), they have co-written and co-produced a documentary film *Visions of Peace*, currently undergoing post-production editing in preparation for wider release.

*James Beattie*

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## 3. News from the Japanese Studies community in NZ

JSANZ (Japanese Studies Aotearoa New Zealand) has become a member of the Global Network for Japanese Language Education.

The annual JSANZ (Japanese Studies Aotearoa New Zealand) Tertiary National Japanese Language Speech Contest is now underway, with campus finals being held across the country. The major sponsor, Air New Zealand, has donated a return airline ticket to Japan for the national winner.

Delegates from the universities of Auckland, Canterbury, AUT, Massey Universities and Ara Institute of Canterbury presented papers at the International Conference on Japanese Language Education, September 9-10, Bali, including a panel presentation on 'Motivational background for learning Japanese'.

Many members of the Japanese Studies community gathered in Dunedin in unseasonably wintry weather to enjoy the 23<sup>rd</sup> Nichibunken International Symposium, co-hosted by Nichibunken and the Humanities Division of the University of Otago. Keynote speeches were made by Professor Mark Mullins (University of Auckland) and Professor Kazuhiko Komatsu (Nichibunken). It was an extremely valuable opportunity

to network and enjoy a wide variety of thoughtful papers. A published conference proceedings is due to appear this year. Thanks to Nichibunken and Professor Takashi Shogimen for organising such a fruitful event.

[http://www.nichibun.ac.jp/~kaigai\\_symposium/s\\_23th\\_poster20160906.pdf](http://www.nichibun.ac.jp/~kaigai_symposium/s_23th_poster20160906.pdf)

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