



**CENTER FOR
ASIAN
RESEARCH**

**2021 ANNUAL
REPORT**



Director's Message

Dear Reader,

As we are entering into the post-Covid era in this country, we look back on a challenging and yet busy and rewarding year at the Center for Asian Research. We welcomed a number of new colleagues in Asian Studies to ASU and in January 2021, Professor William Hedberg joined the Center as Associate Director. We hosted a series of events that addressed the impact of Covid-19, constructions of Asian identity in media and art, and various forms of Anti-Asian racism.

The Title VI FLAS Selection Committee awarded 32 FLAS fellowships for the summer and academic year to ASU students. Since the inception of the Title VI award in 2018, more than 90 fellowships have been awarded to ASU Sun Devils. We are proud that nearly 40% of these prestigious fellowships went to ASU heritage speakers and students of color.

In light of the rise of violence directed at people of Asian descent, the Center joins the Association for Asian Studies and ASU President Michael Crow in issuing a condemnation.

The Center for Asian Research condemns the recent wave of violence against Asian, Asian-American, and Pacific Islander communities and stands in solidarity with all groups and individuals affected by prejudice and discrimination. We remain committed to combating these shameful actions through education, and our events and programming reaffirm our dedication to public outreach and engagement.

Thanks to Chan Lwin's untiring efforts, our [website](#) is continually updated. You can also find videos of our FLAS fellows and of lectures presented in the course of the past year. I invite you to stay connected with the Center for Asian Research through our url asianstudies.asu.edu and our Facebook page [@AsiaAtASU](#).

We look forward to welcoming you back in the fall in our new location on the second floor of an impressively renovated Durham Hall. Until then, we wish you a wonderful, healthy and productive summer,

Juliane Schober



Meet our Team



Juliane Schober is Director of the Center for Asian Research and Professor of Religious Studies in the School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies. She is an anthropologist of religions and scholar of Theravada Buddhist formations in Southeast Asia, especially Burma/Myanmar. She is author of *Modern Buddhist Conjunctures in Myanmar* (2011, University of Hawai'i Press) and numerous essays, including three edited volumes.



William C. Hedberg is Associate Director of the Center for Asian Research, and an Associate Professor of Japanese Literature in the School of International Letters and Cultures. His research centers on literary and cultural relations between China and Japan during the 18th-20th centuries, and his monograph, *The Japanese Discovery of Chinese Fiction*, was published by Columbia University Press in 2019. He is currently working on a study of early modern Japanese travel literature, cartography, and representation of the foreign.



Chan Lwin is Program Coordinator for the Center for Asian Research, and a Burmese Lecturer at the Southeast Asian Studies Summer Institute (SEASSI) at UW-Madison. Lwin graduated from the University of Arizona with an MPH in the Health Services Administration. Currently, she is working on a second master's degree in Bioethics, Law and Policy at ASU.



Alexander Henn is Director of ASU's BA program for Asian Studies, and a professor of religious studies in the School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies. He is the author of *Hindu-Catholic Encounters in Goa: Religion, Colonialism, and Modernity* (Indiana, 2014). He has received fellowships and grants from the Cluster of Excellence at Heidelberg University 'Asia and Europe in a Global Context,' and Kaete Hamburger Kolleg Bochum University 'Dynamics in the History of Religions Asia and Europe.'



James Rush is an Executive Committee Member and formally served as interim director of the Center for Asian Research. He is a Professor of History in the School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies. He published *Hamaka's Great Story* (Wisconsin, 2016) which also appeared in Indonesian. His work explores issues of colonialism and religion in 19th and 20th century Indonesia and includes the books "Southeast Asia: A Very Short Introduction," "Opium to Java: Revenue Farming and Chinese Enterprise in Colonial Indonesia."

Arizona and Asia



\$9.5 Billion

Goods & Services Exports to the Indo-Pacific Region



New Faculty Affiliates

A Warm Welcome to New Faculty Affiliates

The Center for Asian Research was delighted to welcome new colleagues in the School of International Letters and Cultures, the School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies, the Thunderbird School of Global Management, and the School for the Future of Innovation in Society. Over the course of the year, several new faculty introduced themselves and their research during the Research-in-Progress Workshop described below.



Doug Guthrie, Professor and Executive Director of the Thunderbird School of Global Management



Yukari Nakamura-Deacon, Instructor of Japanese



Lucas Klein, Associate Professor of Modern Chinese Poetry and Translation



Faheem Hussain, Clinical Assistant Professor in the School for the Future of Innovation in Society



Judit Kroo, Assistant Professor of Modern Japanese Linguistics and Comparative Cultural Studies



Nicholas Morrow Williams, Professor of Premodern Chinese Literature



Han-Hsien Liew, Assistant Professor of Islamic Studies

Arizona and Asia



27%

of state exports globally go to the Indo-Pacific Region

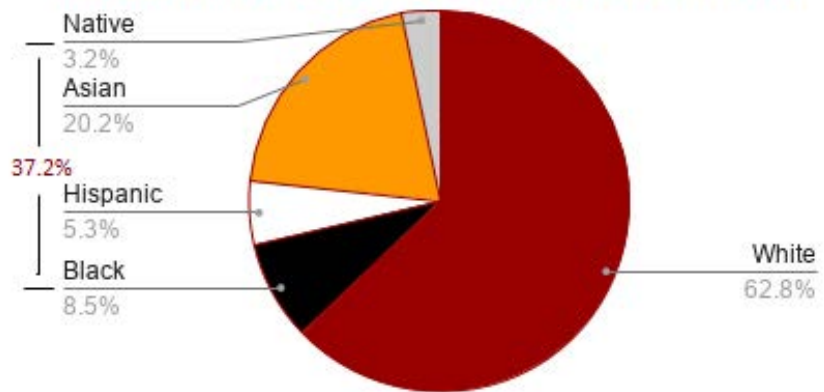


Title VI FLAS Fellowship

2020-2021 was the fifth consecutive year of CAR's Title VI FLAS funding. The U.S. Department of Education awarded the Center a \$1.1 million-dollar grant for fellowships for language training and area studies for undergraduate and graduate students at ASU. FLAS funding enabled ASU students to participate in a variety of prestigious language study centers in the U.S. and Asia, and gain proficiency in Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Indonesian, Nepali and Vietnamese.

Since 2018, the Center has awarded 94 Title VI Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships to ASU students, with 37.2% of these fellowships going to students of color and heritage learners.

FLAS Fellows Demographic Information



This year, a faculty committee [awarded](#) seven summer [Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships](#) to students who will be studying Chinese and Japanese. For the next academic year, six graduate fellows and 18 undergraduate fellows were selected to receive awards that will cover living stipends and tuition.

During their fellowship, students enroll in an Asian language and Asia-focused area studies courses. The [Asia-Related course list](#) at ASU is updated every semester for the students to select from in order to fulfill their FLAS requirement.

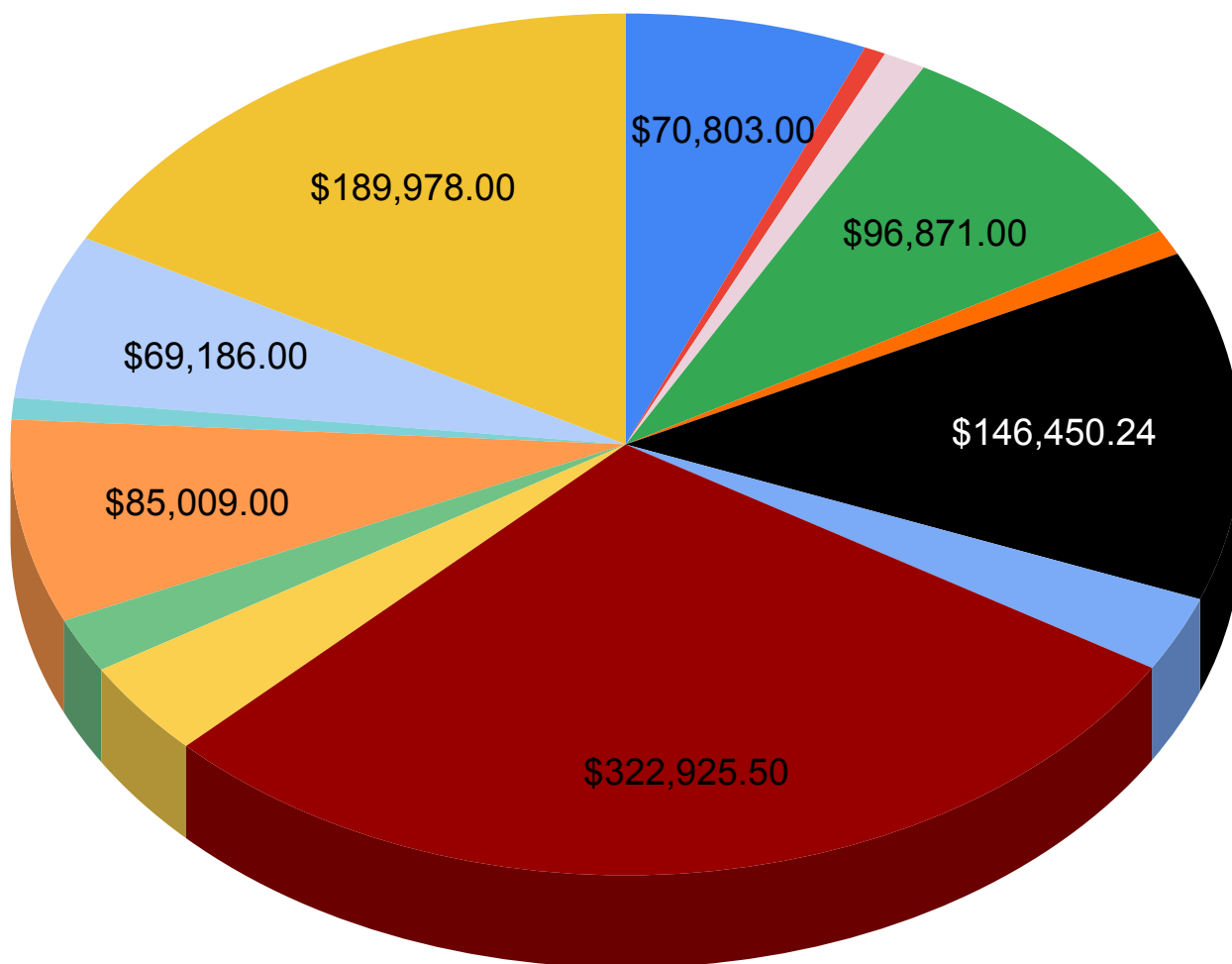
Arizona and Asia



\$2.8 Billion

Invested by Asian greenfield projects since 2003

Total FLAS Funds by Department



- Department of English
- Department of Physics
- Department of Psychology
- Herberger School of Art
- Ira A Fulton School of Engineering
- School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies
- School of Human Evolution and Social Change
- School of International Letters and Cultures
- School of Life Sciences
- School of Molecular Science
- School of Politics and Global Studies
- The Sidney Poitier New American Film School
- Walter Cronkite School of Journalism
- W.P. Carey School of Business

FLAS Fellows

Regular meetings with CAR-affiliated faculty and other FLAS recipients provided a forum for students to share their experiences living in and studying Asia, and created a sense of community among students and faculty engaged in the study of Asian languages and cultures.

Message From Graduating Fellows



Mary Kennedy
(Chinese), MA in
Linguistics

- *"FLAS has been an amazing opportunity to help me re-focus on language & area studies."*



Delaney Shultz
(Chinese), BAs in
Supply Chain
Management, Chinese
Business & Culture,
Spanish Business &
Culture

- *"Because of FLAS, I received very generous scholarships in order to fund my studies, and they were there to support during the duration of my program."*



Ranjani Venkatakrisnan
(Japanese) MA in
Journalism

- *"FLAS Fellowship is what enabled me to succeed in college."*



James Edmonds
(Indonesian) PhD in
Religious Studies

- *"During the FLAS Fellowship, I had the opportunity to edit a book that was translated from Indonesian to English by a famous Islamic figure."*

Arizona and Asia



59,059

Total jobs supported by state exports to the Indo-Pacific Region



Awards, Fellowships & Publications

This year, CAR-affiliated faculty and students published many new works and received numerous national and international awards, including:

- **Stephen R. Bokenkamp**, Regents Professor in SILC, published *A Fourth-Century Daoist Family* (University of California Press) and was invited to join the American Society for the Study of Religion.
- **Judit Kroo**, Assistant Professor in SILC, published *Linguistic Tactics and Strategies of Marginalization in Japanese* and received an IHR seed grant for her next project, "Sustainable Artisanry: Mapping Alternative Lifeways in Contemporary Japan."
- **Will Hedberg**, Associate Professor in SILC, won a CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title Award for his monograph, *The Japanese Discovery of Chinese Fiction*.
- **Ebru Turker**, Associate Professor in SILC, published "Metaphoric and metonymic patterns with the body-part term *nwun* 'eye(s)' in Korean in *The Cambridge Handbook of Korean Language and Linguistics*.
- **Linh Vu**, Assistant Professor of History, is author of *Governing the Dead: Martyrs, Memorials and Necrocitizenship in Modern China* (Cornell U.P., 2021).
- **Natasha Behl**, Associate Professor in the School of Social and Behavioral Sciences, published *Gendered Citizenship: Understanding Gendered Violence in Democratic India*.
- **Han Hsien Liew**, Assistant Professor in SHPRS, published *Ibn al-Jaw zī and the Cursing of Yazīd b. Mu`āwiya: A Debate on Rebellion and Legitimate Rulership* in the *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, 139:3.
- **Yasmin Saikia**, Professor of History, and **Chad Haines**, Associate Professor of Religious Studies, authored *People's Peace: Prospects for a Human Future* (Syracuse U. P., 2019).
- **Xiaoqiao Ling**, Associate Professor in SILC, was a member of the School of Historical Studies at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, NJ.
- **Sookja Cho**, Associate Professor in SILC, received a fellowship at Harvard University's Korea Institute.
- **Young Kyun Oh**, Associate Professor in SILC, received a fellowship at Seoul National University.
- Three doctoral candidates in Religious Studies won external research funding to conduct field research. **Blayne Harcey** won a Fulbright Hays award for Nepal, **Mulung Hsu** won a ACLS/Ho Foundation fellowship for Myanmar, and **Beiyin Deng** won an award from the China and Inner Asia Council of the Association for Asian Studies for her work in China.

ASU and Asia



35%

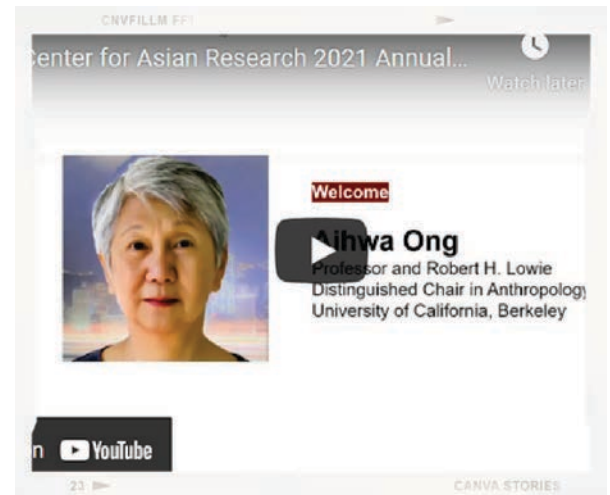
of international students at ASU come from India, the largest contributor to the growth of our university's international student population



Events

In spite of the challenges raised by the pandemic, the Center for Asian Research was able to sponsor a number of well-attended public lectures by internationally renowned experts in a variety of disciplines.

On March 16th, the Center welcomed **Aihwa Ong** of the University of California, Berkeley who delivered the 2021 Annual Lecture on Asia. Professor Ong is the Robert H. Lowie Distinguished Chair of Anthropology at UC Berkeley, and over 150 faculty attended her keynote lecture, "[Not-So-Crazy Rich: Elite Asians & the Re-Worlding of American Racial Hierarchy](#)." Professor Ong also hosted a roundtable entitled "[Biopolitics: The Construction of the Human](#)" attended by faculty and graduate students from across the university.



In collaboration with the School of International Letters and Cultures, the Center sponsored Professor **Michael Emmerich** of UCLA as this year's Staley Lecturer in East Asian Studies. On April 6th, Professor Emmerich delivered his keynote lecture, "[An Art of Listening: Murakami Haruki and the Structure of Literature](#)," and the following week, he hosted a roundtable discussion on the art and practice of literary translation with ASU faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students from a variety of disciplines. In addition to engaging nearly 200 faculty and students at the two events, Professor Emmerich was able to meet with advanced language students in SILC's Japanese program during his residence.

Arizona and Asia



73%

of all international students in the state are from the Indo-Pacific Region

Events



Dr. Chris Lundry Professor-Investigator at the Center for Asian and African Studies at El Colegio Mexico, Mexico City delivered a lecture entitled [Soekarno and Lopez Mateos Mexico-Indonesia Relations and Foreign Policy, 1959-62](#).



Dr. Ken Brown, Professor of Asian Art History at California State University, Long Beach, delivered a lecture entitled [Shin Hanga Landscape as Art and ART: How and Why North Americans Acquired Shin Hanga Landscape Prints](#).



Sarah Gossett, ASU graduate student in Asian Art History, hosted a viewing session entitled [Tales of the Heike \(and others\)](#). The presentation focused on rare Japanese woodblock prints from the 19th Century.



Dr. Chan E. Park, Professor Emeritus at Ohio State University, with support from the Korea Foundation, presented a lecture entitled [Toward Canon-building in Pansori, Korean Traditional Storysinging](#).



In collaboration with Asian Pacific American Studies, the Center co-sponsored a discussion on [Anti-Asian Racism and White Supremacy mental health](#), belonging and racial solidarity.

Arizona and Asia




\$528 Million

Asian Student spending in Arizona

Student-Centered Events

Career Development Opportunities

On February 10th, U.S. Department of State Diplomat in Residence **Laura Gritz** spoke to an audience of more than 35 graduate and undergraduate students about her experiences in international diplomacy and career opportunities in government service. Dr. Gritz emphasized the centrality of language and area studies knowledge to her career, and students were able to hear ASU student and FLAS Fellow Olivia Parker speak about her experiences as a State Department intern in Washington, D.C.



ASU Center for Asian Research
Arizona State University

Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship


GET FUNDED TO STUDY AN ASIAN LANGUAGE!

Learn Asian languages such as Burmese, Chinese, Hindi/Urdu, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, or Vietnamese at ASU during academic year (AY) or enroll in intensive summer programs at approved institution of your choice. If accepted, Fellows will receive:

GRADUATE: \$15,000 living stipend plus tuition and fees up to \$18,000 for AY or \$2,500 stipend plus up to \$5,000 for tuition for summer

UNDERGRADUATE: \$5,000 living stipend plus tuition and fees up to \$10,000 AY or \$2,500 stipend plus up to \$5,000 for tuition for summer

To prepare an application by the **DEADLINE: Feb 28, 2021**, visit car.clas.asu.edu or contact asia@asu.edu.



Title VI Foreign Language and Area Studies Orientation

The Center hosted two information sessions for students interested in applying for Title VI FLAS funding. During their fellowship, students study an Asian language and Asia-related area studies. Each semester, the Center also hosted two information sessions for students applying for FLAS fellowships. For information on our current FLAS fellows and for details on how to apply for the award, please visit our [website](#) or watch this [video](#).

Arizona and Asia




306,954

Asian Americans living in Arizona

Coping with Covid: A Student Forum

In the Fall semester, the Center hosted a student forum for students studying in Asia at the start of the pandemic, as well as students from Asia experiencing lock-down in Arizona. Participants shared their professional and personal experiences of the pandemic, and students and faculty engaged in a roundtable conversation centered on mutual support in the face of the pandemic and the rise of violence directed against Asian, Asian-American, and Pacific Islander communities. Please read about our panelists [here](#).



ASU Center for Asian Research
Arizona State University

Conversation about Asia: Student Forum


The Impact of COVID 19 & the Study of Asia

November 4th, 2020 @ 2:00 pm

<https://asu.zoom.us/j/82295084927>

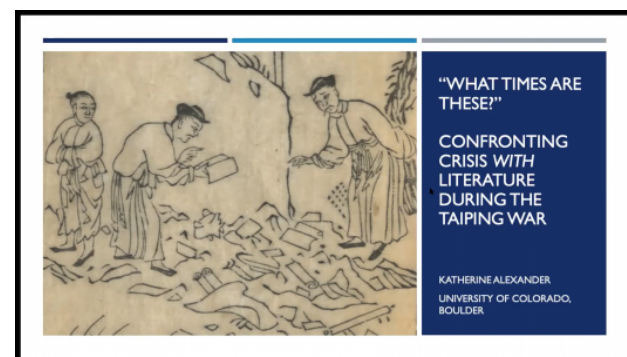
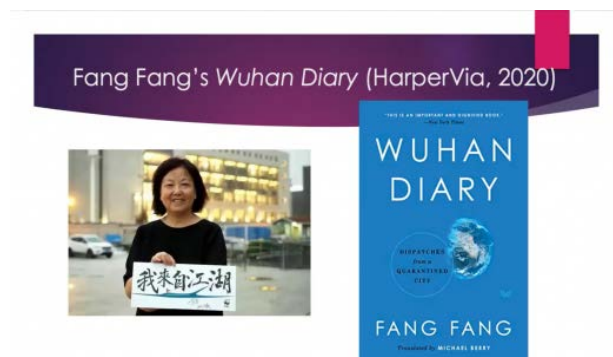
Please join us on November 4th at 2:00 pm to hear from the ASU students panelists how the pandemic has affected their academic and professional experiences (as Asian, Asian Americans and Americans studying Asia). We will also focus on ways in which we can support one another during this critical time. The forum will be held entirely on Zoom. You can also click on or scan the QR code below to listen how our graduate and undergraduates students have handled these challenges.

For more information about our panelists, please visit: car.clas.asu.edu



Graduate Student Conference

In February, the Center co-sponsored with the School of International Letters and Cultures a conference organized by graduate students, entitled [An Inauspicious Year: Confronting Crisis in Chinese Literature, History and Culture](#). This conference featured presentations from graduate students at both ASU and other universities around the world. **Michael Berry**, Professor of Modern Chinese Literature at UCLA, delivered the first keynote address, [Translation and the Virus: COVID-19, Cyber Politics, and Fang Fang's Wuhan Diary](#). In the following day, **Katherine Alexander**, Professor of Premodern Chinese Literature at the University of Colorado, gave the second keynote lecture, [What Times Are These?: Confronting Crisis with Literature During the Taiping War](#).



Please click on the images to watch the talks.

Arizona and Asia



\$2.2 Billion

Asian visitors' spending in Arizona



Research In Progress

This year saw the highly successful launch of the Center's Research-in-Progress Workshop series, which allowed faculty and graduate students researching Asia to present their current projects in an informal, interactive format. The workshop was designed to bring together researchers working in different units of the university, and this year's series featured speakers from SILC, SHPRS, and the Herberger Institute:

- The Limits of Hope: Discourses of the Future Among Contemporary Japanese Younger Adults by **Dr. Judit Kroo** (Assistant Professor, SILC)
- Alexander the Great in Malay Islamic Kingship by **Dr. Han Hsien Liew** (Assistant Professor, School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies)
- Locating Lumbini: Theravada and Modernity of the Frontier of Nepal by **Blayne Harcey** (Ph.D. Candidate, Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies)
- The Entanglement of Light with Dark: Picturing Traditional Japan in the Era of Modernization by **Sarah Gossett** (Ph.D. Candidate, Herberger Institute)

ASU Center for Asian Research
Arizona State University

Faculty Research Workshop

The Limits of Hope: Discourses of the Future Among Contemporary Japanese Younger Adults

by Dr. Judit Kroo (SILC)

Friday, January 22 at 12:00 pm

<https://asu.zoom.us/j/82306354714>

Speaker's Bio

Abstract

This presentation considers how contemporary younger adults discursively articulate the availability of possible futures under conditions of marginalizing neoliberal capitalism (Hosono 2016). Contemporary university students in Japan face difficult circumstances, including a prolonged recession that has left many without viable employment. The "recession" (Hosono 2011) of life is extended precarity. Hosono (2011) has further given rise to narratives of disoriented younger adults who are seen as lacking will or ability compared to "hardworking" older adults. At the same time, university students create a formal space where post-graduation life still constitutes a horizon of multiple potential futures.

Full Abstract

QR Code

For more information, please contact Center for Asian Research at ar@asu.edu. The title and content are subject to change.

Faculty Research Seminar

Alexander the Great in Malay Islamic Kingship

by Dr. Han Hsien Liew

Feb 18, 2021 at 4:00 pm

<https://asu.zoom.us/j/81596564346>

Abstract

This presentation explores how the representation of Alexander the Great evolved from the Perso-Arabic Islamic literary tradition to the epic and chronicles of the Malay Islamic world. It focuses particularly on the Sejarah Melayu (Malay Annals), a work composed between the sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries to chronicle the Malay sultanates of Malacca. Although the Sejarah Melayu displays an awareness of the Perso-Arabic image of Alexander as a god and even Muslim ruler, it places more emphasis on his role as a genealogical found of future Malay sultans. Continue reading HERE.

QR Code

For any Questions, please email ar@asu.edu

Graduate Research Seminar

Locating Lumbini: Theravada and Modernity of the Frontier of Nepal

presented by Blayne Harcey
PhD Candidate
Religious Studies, ASU

March 5, 2021 @ 12:00 PM

Join us virtually via <https://asu.zoom.us/j/84872593436>

QR Code

Abstract

The birthplace of the Buddha at Lumbini in the southern Terai region has been a focal point in the resurgence of Buddhism in Nepal since its rediscovery in 1848. During the early decades of the 20th century Lumbini operated as a potent place for localizing the discourse of modernist Buddhism. This presentation draws on archival data and ethnographic fieldwork to investigate the emergence of novel forms of Buddhist practice in the Hindu majority territory of Nepal. Continue HERE.

For any Questions, please email ar@asu.edu

Graduate Research Seminar

The Entanglement of Light with Dark: Picturing Traditional Japan in the Era of Modernization

by Sarah Gossett
PhD Candidate,
Herberger Institute

FRIDAY
5 FEB 2021
at 12:00 pm

Join Via Zoom
<https://asu.zoom.us/j/87480967195>

QR Code

Abstract

During Japan's rapid westernization in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, a sense of longing for a "traditional" Japan emerged in the writings of such authors as Iwano Ryūka, Tanizaki Junichirō, Anagawa Ryūnosuke and Yanagita Kunio. A persistent fascination with light and dark, dawn and night, and rationalism and the uncanny was inextricably intertwined with these writers' visions of traditional Japan. Continue HERE.

For more information, please visit rita.asu.edu

Arizona and Asia



16

Sister city relationships with the Indo-Pacific Region



Program Information

The Center for Asian Research plays a key role in developing, coordinating, and disseminating information about Asia-related courses at ASU. For information about undergraduate and graduate programs at ASU, please click the following links:

[Undergraduate Degree Programs](#) and [Graduate Degree Programs](#)

In addition, CAR administers the Asian Studies Graduate Certificate at ASU. This graduate certificate provides students with transdisciplinary expertise in Asian language and area studies, and is available in two tracks: an East Asia track focused on China, Japan, and Korea; and a Southeast Asia track, centered on Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, the Philippines, Brunei, and Timor Leste.

[Asian Studies Graduate Certificate Program](#)



Arizona and Asia



[ASU](#), [Phoenix Art Museum](#) & the [Musical Instruments Museum](#)

all curate significant collections from Asia



Opportunities

Internship Opportunities

The Center for Asian Research strongly believes that education takes place both inside and outside the classroom, and students in our programs participate in a variety of internships and practicums that provide opportunities to apply skills to real-world situations. For example, the Japanese Friendship Garden (Rohoen) is a collaboration between the City of Phoenix and its Japanese sister city, Himeji, and an important symbol of friendship and cooperation between the United States and Japan. In the Japanese Friendship Garden internship, students earn university credit while assisting in a variety of tasks including garden maintenance and event coordination--all the while, perfecting their Japanese language skills. Dylan Cosgrove (B.A. Japanese, 2021) participated in the internship this year and described his experiences in the following video:

Dylan Cosgrove on Rohoen Experience



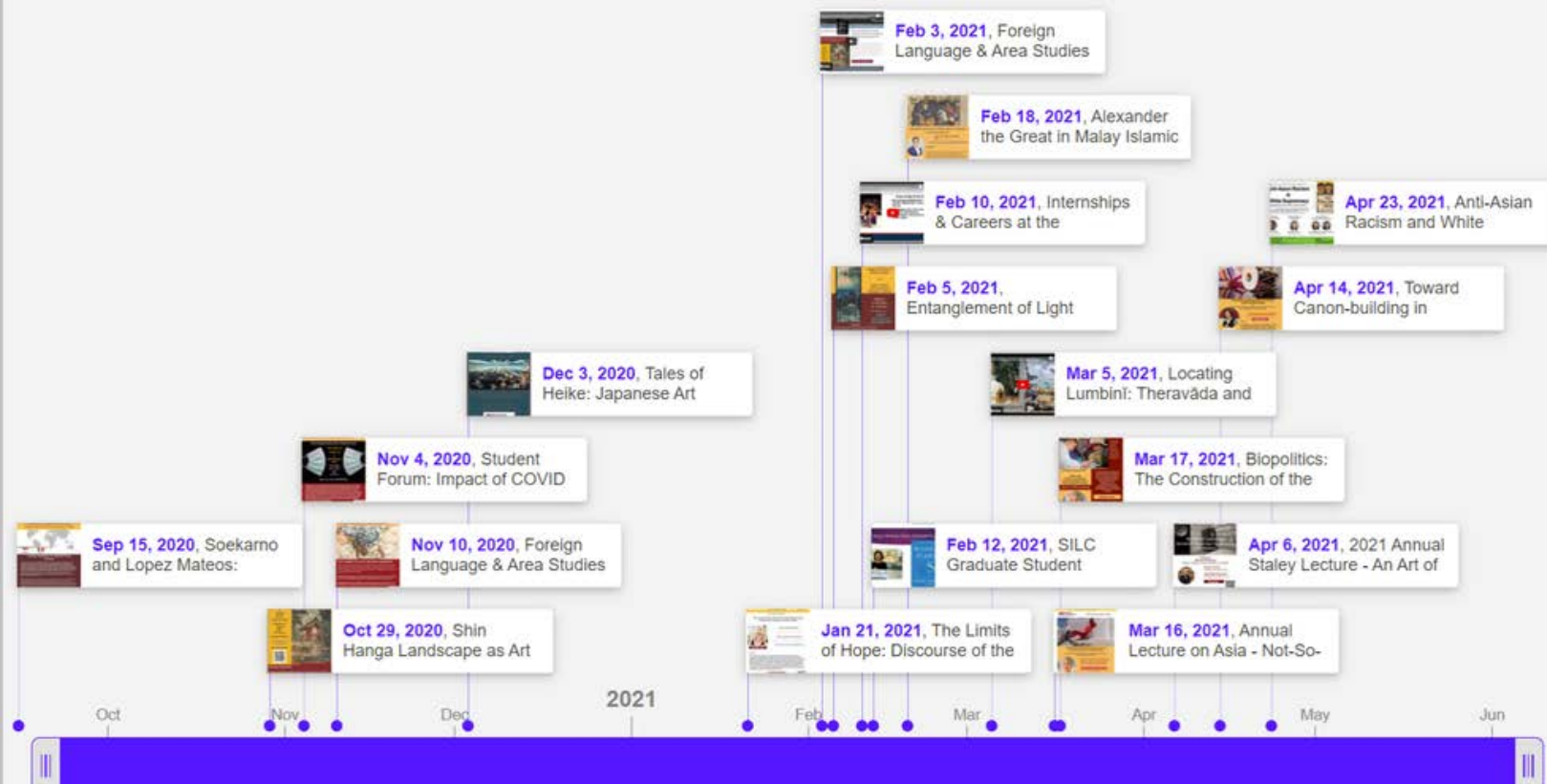
ASIA MATTERS FOR AMERICA MATTERS FOR ASIA

Explore US-Asia National & Local Connections

Project of the East-West Center in Washington, D.C.



Center for Asian Research 20-21 Event Timeline



Contact Information

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 Tempe, Arizona
 Asia@asu.edu

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