



ASU The
Asia Center
Arizona State University

2024 Annual Report



Director's Message

Dear Readers,

This past academic year brought a lot of activities to the Asia Center at ASU and this annual report will introduce you to some of them. We are proud to announce that Chan Lwin has been promoted to Manager at the Asia Center. She also won a 3-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education to compile a new textbook for teaching Burmese. Kudos to Chan!

This past year, the Asia Center signed two MOUs with the Ministry of Education of the National Unity Government of Myanmar and with Spring University Myanmar, a high caliber and dynamic online university of 17,000 students. Together with our colleagues at the ASU University Design Institute, we hosted several digital transformation and higher education governance workshops for Myanmar educators. In June, the Asia Center received a Diversity and Inclusion Scholarship Program grant from USAID to train faculty members at Myanmar's Higher Education institutions in online teaching methods. In addition, our engagement with and support for displaced students in Myanmar is made possible by the generous donations from faculty, students and members of the community. We appreciate all of your contributions to the Asia Center on the ASU Sun Devil Giving Day in support of this project.

On campus, we hosted three conferences in collaboration with faculty and their units, including SILC, SHPRS, SPGS, SFIS, Thunderbird, the Herberger Institute and others across ASU. In collaboration with Luce Foundation and U. Wisconsin-Madison, The Center welcomed teachers of Southeast Asian languages for a 2-day workshop. Professors Daniele Lauro and William Hedberg organized a well-attended and inspiring workshop on Japanese American internment camps in Arizona and their interactions with Native American communities. Professor Itty Abraham invited three prominent scholars of Asia for a week of insightful and transdisciplinary disciplinary seminars on Asian Global Futures: they included Ranabir Samaddar (Migration Studies, Kolkata, India), Hyungmin Pai (architectural historian at Seoul National University) and Aiwa Ong (Anthropology, UC Berkeley).

We had a number of visitors to the Asia Center this year. We were excited to welcome this year's group of Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative Fellows, funded by the U.S. State Department, during their study at Watts College. Professor David Atherton (East Asian Languages, Harvard) presented The Aaron Moore Lecture on Japanese literary forms this spring. Together with the Korean Studies faculty in SILC and SHPRS and the support of the Korea Foundation, we co-hosted numerous events, from squid games to the history of nationalism in Korea.



ASU Professors Douglas Guthrie, Itty Abraham, and Kristy Kang presented lectures in the center's **Global Asia Lecture Series**, now in its 4th year, where we explore the circulation of people, ideas and things through global Asian networks. Doug Guthrie spoke about the business climate in Xi Jinping's China. Kristy Kang gave a presentation on digital placemaking and public history in Singapore. Itty Abraham, together with Richard Eaton (S. Asian History, U of A) and Nandita Punch (Jain Studies post-doctoral Fellow, ASU) explored the work of the eminent Indian historian, Romila Thapar, as expressed in Itty's biographical film about her. Professor Christoph Emmrich (Religious Studies and South Asia, U. Toronto) engaged us in riveting versions of a Nepalese nun's biography, on her way "to Mawlamyine and back." We also heard a fascinating talk from Ashley Thompson, the Hiram W. Woodward Chair of Southeast Asian Art at SOAS, U. of London, on the complexities of repatriating art to Southeast Asia. Scott Gregory (East Asian Studies, U. of A) talked about his book on printed fiction in 16th century China.

Six ASU faculty members received A.T. Steele Faculty Travel awards to Asia and we look forward to their research presentations in the coming year. The Sage Family Summer Fellowship for travel to Southeast Asia was awarded to Jonathan Phan, an ASU undergraduate studying changes in the use of Vietnamese pronouns.

Wishing you a pleasant summer and stay tuned to more to come in Fall 2024,

Juliane Schober
Professor and Director, The Asia Center at ASU

Meet Our Team



Juliane Schober is Director of the Asia Center at ASU 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 the 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 Asia Center at ASU, 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.



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).



Itty Abraham is an Executive Committee member of the Asia Center at ASU, and a Professor in the School for the Future of Innovation in Society, and a senior global futures scholar. His expertise joins international relations and science and technology studies, with a special interest in nuclear studies. He has written two single authored scholarly books and edited and co-edited three volumes and two journal collections.



Han Hsien Liew is an Executive Committee Member of the Asia Center at ASU, and an Assistant Professor of the premodern Islamic world at the School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies. His research interests include the history of Islamic political thought, Islamic scholarly and intellectual culture, and Islamic historical and biographical writings.



Chan Lwin is Program Manager for the Asia Center at ASU, and a Burmese Lecturer at ASU & 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 with a focus on biological nationalism in Asia.

Faculty

New Faculty Affiliates

Please welcome our new faculty affiliates. For a full list of affiliate faculty, please visit our website at <https://asianstudies.asu.edu/>.



Hamza Iqbal
Asst. Teaching Professor &
Honors Faculty Fellow
Barrett Honors College



Matthew Libassi
Assistant Professor
School of Politics and
Global Studies



Meredith Woo
Professor of Practice
School of Politics and
Global Studies



Sungik Yang
Assistant Professor
School of Historical,
Philosophical, and
Religious Studies

A.T. Steele Faculty Awards

The Asia Center at ASU awarded eight ASU faculty with A.T. Steele Travel Grants to conduct research abroad, supported by the A.T. Steele Endowment. Here are this year's recipients:



Heewon Kim
Associate Professor
Hugh Downs School of
Human Communication



K. Hazel Kwon
Associate Professor
Cronkite School of
Journalism and Mass
Communication



Sangmi Lee
Assistant Professor
School of Social and
Behavioral Sciences



Jianling Liao
Associate Professor
School of International
Letters and Cultures



An Nguyen Sakach
Asst. Teaching Professor
School of International
Letters and Cultures



Sungik Yang
Assistant Professor
School of Historical,
Philosophical, and
Religious Studies

Global Asia Lecture Series

2023-2024

As part of ASU's commitment to global engagement, sustainability, and future-oriented knowledge and research, the Asia Center organized a series of lectures for the 2023-2024 academic year on the theme of "Global Asia in a Multipolar World." This series highlights research by prominent scholars in disciplines in the humanities, social sciences, and beyond on Inter-Asian networks and flows of ideas, peoples, and things across national and linguistic borders.



Doug Guthrie, Professor & Executive Director of China Initiative, ASU

- **Doing Business in Today's China: Unpacking the Xi Jinping Era** SEP 08



Kristy Kang, Assoc. Professor, Urban Media Art & Design, ASU

- **City Stories: Digital Placemaking and Public History in Singapore** OCT 13



Ashley Thompson, Hiram W. Wood Chair Professor of Southeast Asian Art, SOAS University of London

- **Restitution: on/in/to Southeast Asia** NOV 03



Itty Abraham, Professor, School for the Future of Innovation in Society, ASU

- **"In Her Own Words": Prof Romila Thapar: The First American Screening** NOV 17



Scott W. Gregory, Co-Director & Assoc. Professor, East Asian Studies, University of Arizona

- **Lessons from the Bandits: What The Water Margin Can (and Can't) Tell Us about Reading 16th Century Printed Fiction** FEB 02



Christoph Emmrich, Assoc. Professor of Religion, University of Toronto

- **On the way to Mawlamyine and Back: Translation of a Buddhist Girl Child, Young Woman, and Activist Nun into Burmese, Newar, & Nepali** FEB 09



David Atherton, Asst. Professor, East Asian Languages & Civilizations, Harvard University

- **The Problem, Promise, and Politics of Form in Early Modern Japanese Literature** APR 12

Sage Family

Southeast Asian Studies Scholarship

The Asia Center awarded **Jonathan Phan**, an undergraduate student in Anthropology, with the Sage Family Scholarship for 2024.

The scholarship supports travel and study in Laos, Thailand, Indonesia, Cambodia, Vietnam, and/or the Philippines. It is uniquely available to undergraduate students at Arizona State University. The Sage Family Southeast Asian Studies Scholarship is a tribute to William W. Sage's interest in and lifelong work in Laos and Southeast Asia and is provided in honor of his parents, Lloyd G. and Twyla M. Sage.

This year's scholarship applications were competitive. Students in any major were invited to apply. While some prior study of Southeast Asia courses at ASU is preferred, it is not a requirement to be eligible for the fellowship. Applicants must be enrolled as full-time, undergraduate students who completed at least 56 credit hours.

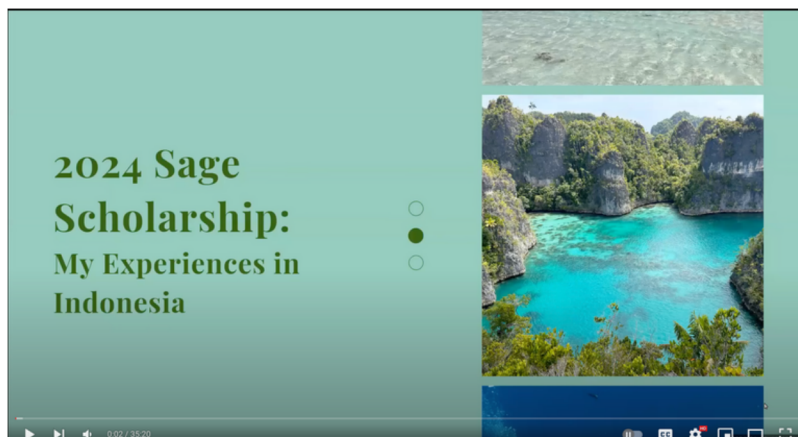
The Sage scholarship provides recipients with opportunities to explore the Southeast Asian region through flexible travel, research and field work in the applicant's area of interest.

This year's scholar, Jonathan Phan, plans to travel to Vietnam. Phan's research project focuses on comparing Vietnamese-American queer youth to Vietnamese youth in Vietnam and their use of language and pronouns.

Phan writes:

"It is my dedication to combine all of my academic goals and work between queer and ethnic studies as well as cultural anthropology to research my own community and find new information of a demographic that has been underrepresented in the field of academic study for a very longtime."

To watch the presentation by Zachary Whaley, the 2022 Sage scholar, please click on the picture or scan the QR code.



Southeast Asian Language Council Listening Assessment Workshop



Southeast Asian Language Council Instructors participating in Listening Assessment Workshop at ASU

During spring break, the Center hosted 35 participants and trainers of the Southeast Asian Language Council (SEALC) Workshop. SEALC is a national organization that promotes and coordinates activities in the field of Southeast Asian language teaching by supporting language-related efforts to improve the quality and accessibility of SEA language instruction, building organizational linkages, and creating the next generation of well-trained teachers with improved curricular resources.

The ASU Asia Center hosted the Listening Assessment Development workshop for participants from 17 U.S. Higher Education Institutions, including Cornell, Harvard, Hawaii, and ASU. Participating language groups included Burmese, Vietnamese, Indonesia, Filipino, and Thai.

Juliane Schober, Professor and Center's director, and Mike Tueller, Professor and Director of the School of International Letters and Cultures (SILC) at ASU, provided opening remarks and welcomed the group to ASU.

SEALC has organized many other training workshops for the SEA language teachers in both North America and Asia, providing a rare opportunities to improve language teaching programs for these Less Commonly Taught Languages (LCTL). The activities of SEALC are generously supported by the Henry Luce Foundation under the award for *Professional and Materials Development to Strengthen Southeast Asian Language Instruction*.

The Listening Assessment Development workshop provided the tools to develop proficiency-based assessment for listening comprehension in Intermediate and Advanced levels which instructors can utilize in their classroom assessment.

These tools allow instructors to develop curricula based on proficiency rather than performance. This approach will equip learners to navigate better their language communities and cultures in the real world.

Here at ASU, SILC offers two of the SEA languages, Indonesian and Vietnamese. The Center is honored to contribute to the advancement of LCTLs in the region.

The Myanmar Higher Education Training Program

The Asia Center at ASU (MSI) has received USAID/DISP support to train higher education teachers in Myanmar in digital and inclusive pedagogies. The need to shift HE instruction to hybrid and online content delivery became urgent when events following the military coup in 2021 disenfranchised 250,000 teachers and more than a million students in the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) from access to higher education. Many students and teachers found themselves internally displaced, living in remote, rural, ethnic and border regions without access to traditional universities. These realities make the current moment a critical watershed for transitioning to digital and inclusive pedagogies.

This project is designed with input by our Myanmar partners to rebuild these capacity losses. It will train a diverse group of 100 HE

teachers in practical applications and Training of Trainers (TOT) at their home institutions, leading to the creation of transregional professional networks and to establishing Open Educational Resources (OER) for digital and inclusive teaching in multiple languages.

The Asia Center at ASU and the Ministry of Education (MOE) of the National Unity Government (NUG) and ethnic HE stakeholders are collaborating to stem this loss through training in digital and inclusive teaching methods and shifting to increased online instruction to reach displaced students in Myanmar. MOE and our ethnic partners recognize the foundational role education plays in shaping civil society and preparing the next generation for a productive life as the country moves towards a federal democracy.

The Asia Center's Myanmar Initiative: New Developments

- The Asia Center is pleased to announce that ASU and MOE/NUG signed a Memorandum of Understanding, supporting mutual collaboration and partnerships between our institutions. During his visit to ASU in June 2024, Dr. Sai Khaing Myo Tun, Deputy Minister of Education of NUG met with ASU officials to discuss future collaborations.
- ASU signed a second MOU with Spring University Myanmar (SUM), a rapidly growing online university.
- Approximately 230 MOE and ethnic university educators participated in 8 digital transformation and Higher Education policy workshops organized by ASU's University Design Institute and the Asia Center in recent months.
- Since 2023, nearly 100 Myanmar participants completed ASU online courses with an average grade of 84% (B).
- Thanks to the generous support of our donors, the Asia Center raised more than \$7,000 in tuition scholarships for Myanmar students during its Sun Devil fund raising drive.

Asian-American Events

Phoenix Central High Students' Visit

The Center hosted high school students in the Asian Studies Club at Central High School in Phoenix this spring. The students asked their district board to support Asian American students at their school, and they received funding for a cultural field trip. Their field trip to the Asia Center at ASU was filled with lectures, an interactive Gamelan experience, and a campus tour. They attended lectures on Merit-Making by Professor Beiyin Deng, Japanese Haiku Translation by Professor Hedberg, and Asian American Stereotypes by Professor Yoo. We are proud to host these young Asian American students at Central High School and congratulate them for recognizing the need of diverse representation, and for speaking up on behalf of themselves and other Asian American students.



WWII Incarceration Event

For the Day of Remembrance of Japanese American Incarceration during WWII, the Center, along with the Desert Humanities Initiative, the Public History Program, the School of International Letters and Cultures, and the School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies, hosted a two-day event filled with documentaries, lectures, book talks, and round table discussion. The speakers includes Janice Munemitsu (the author of *The Kindness of Color*), Kathryn Nakagawa (associate professor of Asian Pacific American Studies at ASU), Marlene Shigekawa (a documentary filmmaker, activist and the executive director of the Poston Community Alliance), and Bill Staples, Jr. (public historian and president of the Japanese American Citizens League, Arizona Chapter). We would like to extend our gratitude to our speakers, attendees and the event organizers, Prof. Daniele Lauro & Prof. Will Hedberg.



To watch the talk by Janice Munemitsu on *The Kindness of Color: the Story of Two Families Behind Mendez, et al. v. Westminster, the 1947 Desegregation of California Public Schools*, please click on the image or visit <https://youtu.be/3W5qqPAq5yw>.

YSEALI 2024

This spring semester, Asia Center had the pleasure of hosting the 2024 group of Southeast Asian change-makers visiting the United States as a part of the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) Civic Engagement Institute. The YSEALI initiative seeks to provide young leaders with the opportunity to strengthen international ties to solve regional and global challenges.

The Asia Center at ASU organized a meet & greet event where the students and faculty met with the fellows. Watt College of Public Service and Community Solutions has hosted YSEALI Academic Fellowship on Civic Engagement each year since 2016. This fellowship is a U.S. Department of State international exchange program designed to strengthen leadership development across the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to deepen engagement with young leaders on key regional and global challenges, and to strengthen people-to-people ties between the United States and Southeast Asia. This year's cohort made up of 25 Fellows from Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam.

Last year, one of the fellows, Grant Lu, from the Bangsamoro region of the Philippines kindly gifted his scarf to the Asia Center's textile collection. This year, Jasmin Saricala also gifted the Center with



2024 YSEALI Fellows with the Asia Center Faculty, Students, and Staff at ASU (Tempe Campus)

a unique textile from her region, Mindanao. The textile, known as *t'nalak cloth of the T'boli people*, is handwoven with distinct patterns. It is inspired by women's dreams and regarded as a tribute to a goddess.

It seems that adding textiles from their local communities to the Center's textile showcase is becoming a living tradition of YSEALI fellows.

The textile, known as t'nalak cloth of the T'boli people is regarded as a tribute to the goddess.

The Asia Center appreciates the generosity of the YSEALI fellows. We are proud to add this item to our Asian textile display case. To get a closer look, visit us on the second floor of Durham Hall to view items from China, Burma, Brunei, Philippines, Thailand, India, Korea, Japan, Cambodia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Laos.

Events 2023-2024

Please find below the events that the Asia Center has hosted during the 2023-2024 academic year. Recorded lectures can be accessed via the digital version of this report and by visiting the Asia Center webpage. Click on the posters for additional information.

2023-2024
GLOBAL ASIA LECTURE SERIES

ASU The Asia Center
Arizona State University

**Doing Business in Today's China:
Unpacking the Xi Jinping Era**

DOUG GUTHRIE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CHINA INITIATIVES,
PROFESSOR
GLOBAL LEADERSHIP
THUNDERBIRD

In March of 2021, China's National People's Congress passed the nation's 14th Five-Year Plan covering the years 2021-2025. In that plan, the leadership was very clear in laying out some very bold expectations and predictions about China's development and its role in the Global Political Economy by 2035. Not surprisingly, since the rolling out of the 14th Five-Year Plan, 2023 has become the time frame upon which Chinese leaders and citizens are focused for China's continued rise. By that time, many Chinese economists and many economists from around the world expect China to be firmly positioned as the largest economy in the world. This date is later than China's leading economists and many around the world expected, but it is going to happen. And China's dominant position in the global system will extend far beyond the size of its economy. It will see a continuation of China's dominance as the world's most powerful manufacturing supply chain. It will witness another decade of innovation and growth in science and technology. And it will cap a decade of continued growth in influence over the Global South as China continues, through the Belt and Road Initiative, to deepen its ties in East Asia, Southeast Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. This talk will unpack some of the main themes that frame the new era of China's political and economic rise, and what it means for doing business there today.

**FRIDAY
SEPT 8
2PM - 3PM**

**LOCATION
DURHAM HALL 240
851 S. CADY MALL
2ND FLOOR, SOUTH WING**

Scan or Click to Register



MORE INFO & REGISTRATION VISIT ASIANSTUDIES.ASU.EDU

한국문화원
Korean Cultural Center
Los Angeles

K-Culture
KOREAN HISTORY, CULTURE SEMINAR

KOREA'S MODERN HISTORY AND KOREAN WAVE
CONTEMPORARY KOREAN CINEMA

EXPERIENCE OF KOREA
K-POP
TAEKWONDO
KOREAN TRADITIONAL TEA AND HANBOK

2023.9.16 / 09:00-16:00
230 PIMA AUDITORIUM
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

REGISTER NOW
CLICK HERE

ASU School of International Letters and Cultures
Arizona State University

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2023-2024
GLOBAL ASIA LECTURE SERIES

ASU The Asia Center
Arizona State University

**City Stories: Digital Placemaking
and Public History in Singapore**

KRISTY KANG
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
URBAN MEDIA ART AND
DESIGN,
SCHOOL OF ARTS, MEDIA AND
ENGINEERING

Created under the direction of Dr. Kang and supported by the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Singapore, "City Stories: Mapping the Narratives of Singapore's Landscapes" is a digital placemaking project that explores the multi-cultural identity and urban history of two of Singapore's earliest streets – Telok Ayer and Amoy Streets. Developed in the 1820s, they are part of what is known today as "Chinatown" – the largest conserved historic district in Singapore. In this interactive project, viewers can discover the changing landscapes of these streets, and explore the transformation of this area from Singapore's shoreline to skyline. This talk will discuss the development of this project and show how this enclave, while known as Chinatown, has historically been home to multiple ethnic communities whose everyday activities create a more complex understanding of place and public history in the city.

**FRIDAY
OCT 13
12PM - 1PM**

**LOCATION
DURHAM HALL 240
ZOOM**

Scan or Click to Register



MORE INFO & REGISTRATION VISIT ASIANSTUDIES.ASU.EDU

ASU Arizona State University
School of International Letters & Cultures
The Asia Center

SQUID GAME

2023 Humanities Week


SQUID GAMES

**MONDAY
OCT 16
1PM - 2PM**

**DURHAM
240
TEMPE**

Games Prizes Fun Snacks

Questions?
Email us at asia@asu.edu



Scan to Register

GETSEA ASU The Asia Center
Arizona State University

Presents
Above and Below the Ground
Simulcast Film
Screening & Discussion

16 Oct. 2023
3:00pm
Durham 240

Full List of Screening Locations:
<http://bit.ly/GETSEASimulcast>

Simulcast Event at 15 Universities Across North America

In Myanmar's first and only country-wide environmental movement, Indigenous women activists and punk rock pastors defend a sacred river from a Chinese-built megadam through protest, prayer, and karaoke music videos.

Onigiri Action 2023

ASU Arizona State University

ONIGIRI ACTION

Change the World with
"Onigiri" Rice Balls

Join us to make "Onigiri," the Japanese Rice Balls, and to take photos before enjoying your delicious Onigiri. By posting your photos on your SNS with #OnigiriAction, school meals will be delivered to children in need!

**Tues, Oct 17
1:30 PM
Durham Hall
1st Floor Lobby**

Scan to Register

Sponsors
School of International Letters and Cultures
The Asia Center



ASU Arizona State University **School of International Letters and Cultures** **The Asia Center**

Lights, Camera, Action! : Korean Popular Culture

2023 HUMANITIES WEEK

Speakers

Sue Hyon Bae
PhD Candidate, SILC

Dr. Areum Jeong
Asst. Professor, SILC

On October 17, PhD candidate Sue Hyon Bae will give a talk on modern Korean film and Professor Areum Jeong will discuss K-pop's rising popularity in the U.S. The Korean Program looks forward to meeting with students who are interested in learning more about Korean language and culture!

Date & Time
Tues, Oct 17 2023
3:00 pm - 4:15 pm

Location
Durham Hall
240

ASU The Asia Center
Arizona State University

SILC CAFE
VIETNAMESE
ENJOY VIETNAMESE COFFEE & TROPICAL FRUITS

WED, OCT 18
1:30 - 2:30

DURHAM LOBBY

SCAN TO REGISTER

**A Complicated Friendship:
New Perspectives on the 70 Years
of the Korean-U.S. Alliance**

Tuesday, Oct. 24 | 10 a.m.
Durham Hall 240

The year 2023 is significant in the history of Korea and the relations between South Korea and the United States. It marks the 70th anniversary of the formal alliance between South Korea and the United States, which began when the two countries signed the Mutual Defense Treaty in 1953, the 75th anniversary of the founding of South Korea itself, established in 1948, and the 120th anniversary of the arrival of the first Korean immigrants to the United States in 1903, which launched the long and illustrious history of the Korean American community. In commemoration of these milestones, we invite you to join us for a special lecture series examining this complex history of Korean-American relations.

Although South Korea and the United States have long been allies, as with most friendships, their relationship has undergone many challenges both from within and without. Speakers will review how the alliance has been tested many times not only in terms of diplomatic, economic, and military ties, but also in the Korean public's perception and imagination of America throughout the twentieth century. In addition, speakers will also discuss the Korean-American relationship from the perspective of marginalized populations, whose voices have not often been heard previously in this history. Finally, speakers will also examine the recent influx of K-Pop and the Korean Wave in the United States and what it means not only for Korean-American relations but also for the Korean American community and Korean American identity.

Speakers: Areum Jeong (Arizona State University), Hanmee Na Kim (Whitson College), Sung Eun Kim (George Washington University Institute for Korean Studies), Sungik Yang (Arizona State University)

Register here: specialevents.asu.edu/shprskoreausconference

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2023-2024 GLOBAL ASIA LECTURE SERIES **ASU** The Asia Center Arizona State University

Restitution: on/in/to Southeast Asia

ASHLEY THOMPSON
HIRAM W WOODWARD CHAIR OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN ART SOAS UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

ABSTRACT
To what extent does restitution live up to its name? Can an object be returned to its original place? What does such a return (un)do? What's a place, for that matter, or an object? Is a place the same before and after the destination/restoration? And what about ownership: could you imagine a form of restitution that wrests an artifact away from a culture or an ideology of ownership? To what extent does restitution participate in or confirm the reduction of a complex cultural form to a tangible, material, objective state, or to a marketized commodity? Where does restitution sit in the uneasy divide between decolonization as a concrete political action and a decoloniality that takes on more abstract, arguably less tangible structures? In any case, these 'returns' are anything but simple and seem to function on several different levels, in different, culturally incommensurable frames and even with different apparent temporalities.

In this session I hope to sketch some links between three projects I am currently involved in: one on the circulation of Southeast Asian artifacts in the context of ongoing interventions around restitution, one on decoloniality in Southeast Asian art history and the third on the neovulgar cultural or national narratives that retaining artifacts (reject).

FRIDAY NOV 3 NOON

LOCATION DURHAM HALL 240 ZOOM

SCAN TO REGISTER

MORE INFO & REGISTRATION VISIT [ASIANSTUDIES.ASU.EDU](https://asianstudies.asu.edu)

2023-2024 GLOBAL ASIA LECTURE SERIES **ASU** The Asia Center Arizona State University

"In Her Own Words": Prof Romila Thapar
The First American Screening

We invite you to the screening of a documentary film on the distinguished historian of ancient India, Professor Romila Thapar. It will be followed by a panel discussion with Richard Eaton (UofA), Sanjay Joshi (NAU), Nandita Punj (ASU); chaired by Itty Abraham (ASU and the film-maker).

Speakers: Richard Eaton (University of Arizona), Sanjay Joshi (Northern Arizona U.), Nandita Punj (Arizona State University), Itty Abraham (Arizona State University)

FRIDAY NOV 17 3:00 PM

LOCATION DURHAM HALL 240 IN-PERSON & ZOOM

SCAN TO REGISTER

MORE INFO & REGISTRATION VISIT [ASIANSTUDIES.ASU.EDU](https://asianstudies.asu.edu)

Excursions Old and New: Writing a History of Travel in Early Modern Japan

Tuesday, November 21 | 9 - 10:15 a.m.
Durham Hall, room 240 and online

How does one write a history of travel in early modern Japan? Where does one begin, and where does one end? This talk follows the process that led to the writing and publication of *Excursions in Identity*. It considers the birth of an idea, the hunt for sources, the difficulties encountered, and the a-ha moments of the research and writing process. The author will also reflect back on the roads not taken and on what the book would look like if it were written today, as the discipline keeps evolving.

About the Speaker
Professor Laura Renzi teaches Japanese History at Emory University. A specialist in the social history of early modern Japan (1600-1868), she is the author of *Excursions in Identity: Travel and the Intersection of Place, Gender, and Status in Edo Japan and The Chaos and Cosmos of Kurosawa Tokiko: One Woman's Transit from Tokugawa to Meiji Japan*, as well as several articles and chapters on such topics as comets, prophecy, pilgrimage, women, and print culture.

Register here: specialevents.asu.edu/shprsmenzi2023

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Arizona State University
East Asian Studies Graduate Students Association

II Graduate Students Conference
Genders and Sexualities in East Asian Cultures

January 12-13, 2024

Location:
Durham Hall
ASU Tempe Campus
801 S. Cady Mall, Tempe, AZ 85287
Room L1-08 (Jan 12), 018 (Jan 13)

The conference organizers gratefully acknowledge co-sponsorship support from

GPSA Graduate and Professional Student Association | **ASU** School of International Letters and Cultures | **ASU** The College of Arts and Sciences

ASU The Asia Center | **ASU** Institute for Research | **ASU** School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies

ASU The Asia Center
Arizona State University

EXPLORE Southeast Asia

SAGE FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP TALK & INFORMATION

Join us for an engaging conversation with our Sage Scholar, **Zachary Whaley**, as he shares his experience in Indonesia researching coral reef fisheries and their role in the food security of coastal communities during his trip funded by the Sage scholarship. This will be followed by a short information session on the up-coming scholarship cycle that is due in February.

FRI, JAN 19 11 AM
DURHAM 240 & ZOOM

Light refreshments will be served in-person to those who RSVP

RSVP HERE **ZOOM LINK**

244 Durham Hall, Tempe
480-727-0968
www.AsianStudies.asu.edu

2023-2024 GLOBAL ASIA LECTURE SERIES **ASU** The Asia Center Arizona State University

**Lessons from the Bandits:
What The Water Margin Can (and Can't) Tell Us About
Reading 16th Century Printed Fiction**

Bandits in Print: The Water Margin and the Transformations of the Chinese Novel (Cornell 2023) is an attempt to come to terms with the hybrid nature of the Ming dynasty long-form novel by treating it as a phenomenon of print. It follows the particularly influential work *The Water Margin* as its various printed incarnations traversed the boundaries between the elite and the popular, the official and the commercial. In this talk, I will retrace the oft-overlooked elite culture from which editions of *The Water Margin* first emerged, and how it was later adapted for wider dissemination. I will also discuss lessons from *The Water Margin*, and how they may—or may not—apply to other, similar printed works.

SCOTT W. GREGORY
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR EAST ASIAN STUDIES UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA


FRIDAY FEB 2 NOON

LOCATION DURHAM HALL 240 ZOOM

SCAN TO REGISTER

2023-2024
GLOBAL ASIA LECTURE SERIES

ASU The Asia Center
Arizona State University



On the Way to Mawlamyine. And Back
Translations of a Buddhist Girl Child, Young Woman, and Activist Nun into Burmese, Newar, Nepali, and English

ABSTRACT
Thami Myad, Yabaha mnyay, Sothi chot, and Bhowed Daughter are four versions - one Burmese, one Newar, one Nepali, and one English - of an oral account narrated by Dhammaswari - then a Burmese novice girl child wanderer, now a famous Nepalese nun and activist - to the prominent Burmese monk, writer, and translator Bawa Muu, an account turned by him into a novel describing her escape, in the 1950s, from her home in the Karkandaw Valley to Mawlamyine on the coast of the Andaman Sea, a book that in Burma would become an inspirational bestseller. The Dhammaswari who leaves Nepal as a girl child, arrives in Burma as a young woman, and returns to Nepal as an activist nun, ready to change Nepalese Buddhism forever, is as much a creation of her primary author and of her translators across various languages, as she is a creation of her own, both as multi-pronged and as the who intervenes in and shows the ways in which she has been translated. As a directed close reading across languages and literatures, this talk is a reflection on the creation and re-creation by men of the Buddhist girl child as a trans-generational, trans-modern, trans-Asian literary figure, on women initiating and intervening in this process of transmission and transformation, and on the kind of historical and political imperatives these oral, textual, and performative transactions produce.

CHRISTOPH EMMRICH
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

**FRIDAY
FEB 9
1:30 PM**

**LOCATION
DURHAM 240
&
ZOOM**

SCAN TO REGISTER



**THE INCARCERATION OF
JAPANESE-AMERICANS IN ARIZONA:
PERSPECTIVES, REFLECTIONS,
AFTERLIVES**

DATES: THURSDAY, FEB. 15TH AND FRIDAY, FEB. 16TH

Day 1: Feb. 15th (1:30 - 4:00 pm)

The Lifelong Learning Auditorium at Mirabella at ASU
(65 E. University Drive, Tempe, AZ 85281)

And Then They Came for Us (2017)
Screening of Abby Ginzberg & Ken Schneider's documentary (51 min)

**Baseball Behind Barbed Wire:
Celebrating the Legacy of Japanese American Baseball**
Presentation by Bill Staples, Jr. (followed by Q&A)

We will not be able to provide parking. Please contact Parking and Transportation Services at ASU or visit the event webpage for parking suggestions. For more information, visit: <http://tinyurl.com/ypdne67j>

Day 2: Feb. 16th (10:30 am - 12:00 pm & 1:30 - 4:00 pm)

Morning Program	Afternoon Program
ASU Tempe Campus, Hayden Library at Hayden C1, Concourse Level Time: 10:30 - 12:00 noon	The Lifelong Learning Auditorium at Mirabella at ASU Time: 1:30 - 4:00 pm
<i>The Kindness of Color - Japanese American Incarceration & School Desegregation of the 1940s</i> Presentation by Janice Munemitsu (followed by Q&A)	<i>For the Sake of the Children</i> (2017) Screening of Joe Fox & Marlene Shigekawa's documentary (65 mins) Round Table Discussion Prof. Kathryn Nakagawa, Janice Munemitsu, Marlene Shigekawa, & Bill Staples Jr.

OUR SPEAKERS

- Janice Munemitsu is the author of *The Kindness of Color: The Story of Two Families Behind Mendez, et. al. v. Westminster, the 1947 Desegregation of California Public Schools*
- Kathryn Nakagawa is Associate Professor of Asian Pacific American Studies at Arizona State University
- Marlene Shigekawa is a documentary filmmaker, activist, and the Executive Director of the Poston Community Alliance
- Bill Staples, Jr. is a public historian and President of the Japanese American Citizens League, Arizona Chapter

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ASU Arizona State University
Asia@asu.edu
<http://tinyurl.com/ypdne67j>

International Workshop
Sinocentric Involution and Oscillation in Choson Korea
February 23-24, 2024, Arizona State University, Tempe
Understanding China and the East Asian World from Choson, 1392-1910

Keynote Speaker
Sun Joo Kim, Harvard University

John Y. Ahn, University of Michigan
Adam Bohnet, King's University College at the University of Western Ontario
Ilsoo Cho, Seoul National University Kyujanggak Institute
Sookja Cho, Arizona State University
Joonyoung Kim, Korea University
Ross King, University of British Columbia
Hyuk-chan Kwon, University of Alberta
Jaehyuk Lee, Ohio State University
Michael J. Pettit, Binghamton University
Sixiang Wang, University of California, Los Angeles
Dennis Wuerthner, Boston University

Arizona State University
Humanities Institute
The Asia Center
The School of International Letters and Cultures

CEISS HSU FOUNDATION

If you are interested in attending the workshop, please contact Dr. Sookja Cho (sookja.cho@asu.edu).

Anton Hur
Translating Korean Literature

**Friday, April 5, 2024
6 pm- 7pm (Arizona Time) via Zoom**

Anton Hur, a celebrated translator of Korean literature, will give a talk on literary translation from Korean to English. Hur won a PEN Translates grant for his translation of *The Underground Village* by Kang Kyeong-ae and a PEN/Heim grant for Bora Chung's *Cursed Bunny*, the latter of which was shortlisted for the 2022 International Booker Prize. His translation of Sang Young Park's *Love in the Big City* was long-listed for the same prize in the same year. His translation of Kyung-Sook Shin's *Violets* was long-listed for the National Book Critics Circle Awards.

His other translations include Kyung-Sook Shin's *The Court Dancer* and *I Went to See My Father*, Hwang Sok-yong's *The Prisoner*, and Baek Sehe's *I Want to Die but I Want to Eat Teokbokki* and *Many Others*. His co-translation of *Beyond the Story: 10-Year History of BTS* debuted at #1 on the New York Times Bestseller List. He has taught at the British Centre for Literary Translation, the Ewha University Graduate School of Translation and Interpretation, and the Bread Loaf Translators Conference.

School of International Letters and Cultures
ASU Arizona State University
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GETSEA ASU The Asia Center
Arizona State University

A Simulcast Film Screening & Discussion
with **BOPHANA CENTER INDIGENOUS FILM FILMMAKERS**

9 April 2024 - 3:00pm
Durham 240

For More Information & A List of Screening Locations:
<https://hkiy.getseasimulcast>

Simulcast Event at over 20 Universities Across North America

In conjunction with the International Decade of Indigenous Languages, GETSEA and the Bophana Institute present four short films by Indigenous Cambodian filmmakers on the themes of "Healing, Memory & Care."

Dull Trail (2020) - Directed by KHON Raksa, PEOU Mono & CHOEY Rickdavid, Bunong Language
My Wish (2021) - Directed by KASOL Sinoun, Jarai Language
Trung (2022) - Directed by Khammel HEA, Khmer Language
Alive Skin (2022) - Directed by Veasna OEM & Vantha RAT, Khmer Language

ASU Arizona State University The Asia Center
School of International Letters & Cultures

**Narratives of Civic Duty:
How National Stories Shape Democracy in Asia**

Dr. Aram Hur
Asst. Professor of Political Science
Kim Koo Chair of Korean Studies
Tufts University

Dr. Aram Hur is the Kim Koo Chair in Korean Studies and Assistant Professor of Political Science at Tufts University. She is a scholar of nationalism and democracy with a focus on issues of identity change, integration, and democratic support in East Asia. Her talk focuses on her award-winning book, *Narratives of Civic Duty: How National Stories Shape Democracy in Asia* (Cornell University Press, 2022).

**Thursday,
April 4, 2024
3-4 pm
on Zoom**

INFO
[HTTP://TINYURL.COM/AY9RHK3M](http://tinyurl.com/AY9RHK3M)

Scan or Click to Register

2023-2024
GLOBAL ASIA LECTURE SERIES
SUPPORTED BY AARON STEPHEN MOORE ENDOWMENT ASU The Asia Center
Arizona State University

**WRITING VIOLENCE
THE POLITICS OF FORM IN EARLY
MODERN JAPANESE LITERATURE**
DAVID C. ATHERTON

"The Problem, Promise, and Politics of Form in Early Modern Japanese Literature"

ABSTRACT
Edo-period Japan was a golden age for commercial literature. A host of new narrative genres cast their gaze across the social landscape, probing the realms of history and the fantastic, and breathed new life into literary tradition. But how to understand the politics of this body of literature remains contested, in part because the defining characteristics of much early modern fiction - formalizedness, reuse of narratives, stock characters, linguistic and intertextual play, and heavy allusion to literary canon - seem to hold social and political realities at arm's length. *Writing Violence: The Politics of Form in Early Modern Japanese Literature* offers a new approach to understanding the relationship between the challenging formal features of early modern popular literature and the world beyond its pages. Focusing on depictions of violence, Atherton connects concepts of form and formalization across the aesthetic and social spheres. He shows how the formal features of early modern literature had the potential to alter the perception of time and space, make social and economic forces visible, reformulate conceptions, give voice to the socially peripheral, and reshape the contours of community. *Writing Violence* reveals the essential role of literary form in constructing the world - and in seeing it anew.

**FRIDAY
APRIL 12, 2024
1:00 PM AZT**

DAVID C. ATHERTON
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
EAST ASIAN LANGUAGES &
CIVILIZATIONS
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

**LOCATION
DURHAM 240
&
ZOOM**

SCAN TO REGISTER

MORE INFO & REGISTRATION VISIT ASIANSTUDIES.ASU.EDU

ASU The Asia Center
Arizona State University

**MEET THE FELLOWS
YOUNG SOUTHEAST ASIAN
LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE**

**9 MAY 2024
3:00 PM
DURHAM 240**

Scan or Click to Register

Asian Studies

Majors, minors, or certificates in Asian Studies

Here are some reasons to consider adding a major, minor, or certificate in Asian Studies:

- Asia is home to the world largest population, the world's fastest growing economy, and the world's oldest civilizations.
- Asia is extremely important to the U.S. economy, politics, environment, tech industry, health industry, tourism, popular culture and more.
- Knowing Asia will be an essential asset to your career and will help you to become a literate citizen of the world.

You don't have to sign up for an Asian major or minor to be informed about this region. You can just take one of many courses that introduces you to the Asian cultures, languages and histories. For inspiration, please see below for some suggested courses for Fall 2024.



Gamelan
MUP 489/589



Art of Asia
ARS 201



**Issues in the Art of
South Asia & the Himalayas**
ARS 394



Empires in Asia
HST 303



Intro to Asia
REL 111



Religion and Pop Culture
REL 111



Korean Film Directors
KOR 394

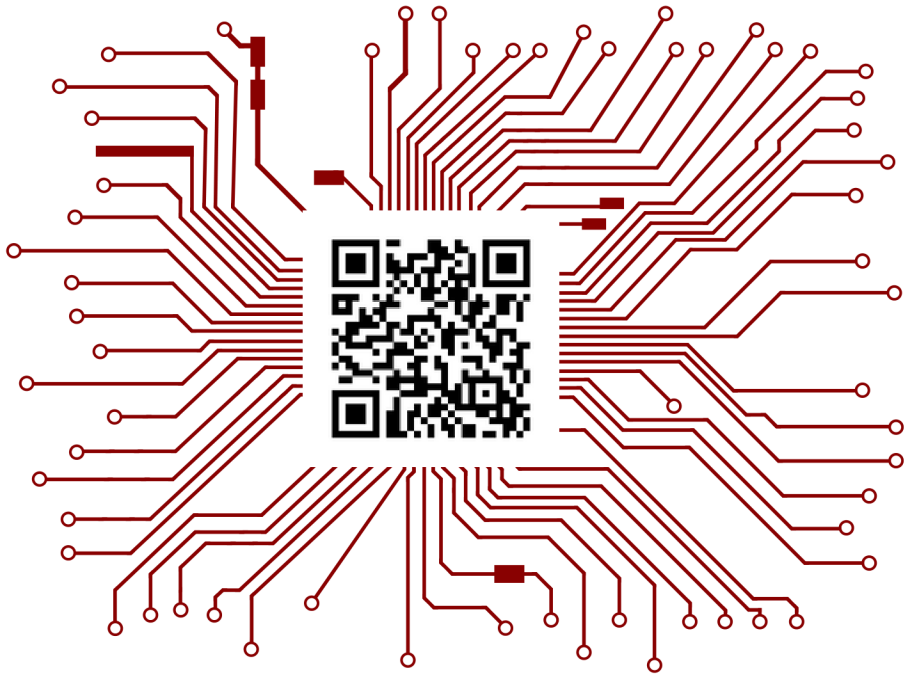


**Japanese through Anime,
Gaming, & Technology**
JPN 194

To explore additional courses, please visit our website at
<https://asianstudies.asu.edu/>.



The Asia Center will continue our efforts to highlight upcoming scholarly research topics in the field of Asian Studies. In addition to lectures and events, the Center provides many opportunities for the students and ASU community to connect, explore, and participate in this fascinating field of study. If you would like to be added to our **mailing list**, please email us at Asia@asu.edu, click on the link below, or scan the QR code.



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