Greetings!
Welcome to our first annual Asian Studies newsletter! It’s been an eventful year and we thought it a good moment to share what’s been going on.

Keep reading for updates about Asian Studies at UHM, including major events of the year and the awards, accolades and accomplishments of students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

We’d love to hear from you—both about what you are up to, and any suggestions you may have for how we can keep our ‘ohana vibrant and connected. Update us at asianst@hawaii.edu.

Best wishes,
Cathy Clayton
Asian Studies Chair

NEW GRADUATE PROGRAM
Starting in Fall 2019, the Asian Studies Program will offer an innovative new graduate degree: the Master’s in Asian International Affairs (MAIA).

FINISH READING ON P. 2

GRAD STUDENT CONFERENCE
In April, 23 grad students from 13 universities presented papers at the annual SPAS Graduate Student Conference. Historian Dr. Thongchai Winichakul gave the keynote address.

FINISH READING ON P. 3

ALOHA & MAHALO, REG!
We bid a fond farewell to Professor Reginald Kwok as he retires after thirty years on the faculty.

FINISH READING ON P. 4

NEWS FROM MOORE HALL
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Asian Studies is proud to announce the launch of a new Master’s degree program: the Master’s in Asian International Affairs (MAIA). Designed for mid-career professionals in education, the military, government service, non-profits, tourism and other sectors whose careers would be enhanced by a deeper understanding of Asia, the MAIA’s core curriculum focuses on contemporary geopolitics, security and international relations. Students may choose from a range of electives taught by Asia specialists across campus. To accommodate the needs of working professionals, classes are scheduled for evenings, weekends or online, and there is no Asian language requirement.

The MAIA program combines the insights of area studies with those of traditional international relations programs. Because Asians’ perceptions of what constitutes “sovereignty,” “cooperation,” “security” or “rights” often differ from those of Americans, the program provides students with a robust understanding of the cultures and societies of Asia. In light of the proliferation of regional cooperative agreements among Asian nations, the rise of China as an international actor in Asia, and the transnational movements of millions of people across national borders, the MAIA also embraces a broad regional approach, rather than focusing on single nation-states.

The highlight of the MAIA program is the capstone experience, in which students either complete an independent project relevant to their career goals, or collaborate with members of the security, diplomacy, or advocacy sectors in Hawai‘i to address a real-world issue. Our initial partner in this initiative is the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies. Both capstone options allow students to apply their knowledge, gain experience and create valuable networks of expertise and support in their career field.

### MAIA DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Total 30 credit hours of Asia-related coursework, of which 15 credits must be Asian Studies (ASAN) courses, including:

a. At least two of the following:
   - ASAN 626 Capitalism in Contemp. Asia
   - ASAN 629 Asian Security Cultures
   - ASAN 687 Conflict & Cooperation in Asia
   - ASAN 689 International Relations of Asia

b. At least two of the following:
   - ASAN 630 Southeast Asia Now
   - ASAN 651 East Asia Now
   - ASAN 654 South Asia Now

c. MAIA Capstone.

The remaining 15 credits of electives must be Asia-related unless they provide important theoretical or methodological training, in which case the student may petition to count up to 6 credits of non-Asia-related courses.

For more information about the MAIA, please contact the Asian Studies Program at asianst@hawaii.edu.
Provincializing Asia: Dismantling Pasts and Futures

2019 Graduate Student Conference

Featuring Professor Thongchai Winichakul

From April 11-12, 2019, twenty-three graduate students from thirteen universities across six countries in Asia, North America and Europe presented papers at the annual SPAS Graduate Student Conference. Their work ranged in substance from Chinese foreign policy to Indonesian anime festivals, from Pakistani border policing to Korean onomatopoeia. What they shared was a commitment to dismantling hegemonic political, cultural, and economic rhetorics and practices associated with the region, and bridging methodological, theoretical, and epistemological divides within and across Asia and Asian Studies.

The Center for Korean Studies and the Center for Southeast Asian Studies both awarded Best Paper Prizes. The Best Korean Studies Paper prize went to Laura Becker from UH-Mānoa, for her paper titled “The Creation of Spy-Cam Porn as a Moral Panic in South Korea.” The best paper in Southeast Asian Studies went to Genta Kunto from Kyoto University, for his paper titled “Connections behind Security Zones: Everyday Politics Surrounding Gates in Jakarta.”

Keynote speaker Professor Thongchai Winichakul (Emeritus Professor of History at University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Senior Researcher at the Institute of Developing Economies (IDE-JETRO) in Japan), set the stage for the conference with a talk entitled “The Stranger and the Virtue of Intellectual Alienation.” Arguing against the nationalization of knowledge production, Thongchai suggested that theories, methodologies and forms of knowledge external to a given national context—including those developed in the West—can help “provincialize” dominant theories that often stifle dissent within particular nations. This, he argued, is every bit as important as the attempts to “provincialize” Europe by developing theories and knowledge forms indigenous to Asia.

This year’s conference was organized by Asian Studies Graduate Assistants Tyler Esch (Asian Studies MA student) and Irmak Yazici (Political Science PhD student). Thongchai’s visit was co-sponsored by Asian Studies, the School of Pacific and Asian Studies, and the Departments of Political Science, History, and Geography and the Environment at UH-Mānoa.
Dr. Reginald Yin-Wang Kwok (郭彥弘)— or “Reg,” as he is affectionately known to most of us — has announced his retirement from the Asian Studies faculty effective July 31, 2019.

Born and raised in Hong Kong, Reg left his hometown in the early 1960s to pursue a Diploma in Architecture at the Polytechnic London’s School of Architecture, Surveying and Town Planning. While in London, he also earned a Diploma in Tropical Studies from the Architectural Association’s School of Architecture. He then moved to New York to attend Columbia University, where he earned two Masters of Science—one in Architecture and another in Urban Planning—and a PhD in Urban Planning in 1973. Upon graduation, he stayed at Columbia to teach in the department of his PhD. In 1980, he accepted the invitation to return to Hong Kong to serve as the founding Director of the Centre of Urban Planning and Urban Studies (now the Centre of Urban Planning and Environmental Management) at the University of Hong Kong. As he tells it, it was a chance conversation over a cup of tea with UHM historian D.W.Y Kwok (no relation) in the Senior Common Room at the University of Hong Kong that first planted in his mind the idea of moving to Hawai‘i. He joined UHM in 1989, with a joint appointment in Asian Studies and the Department of Urban and Regional Planning.

Over the course of his 30-year tenure at UHM, Reg continuously developed new interests in research and teaching. These included the political economy of Chinese development and urbanization; the effects of globalization in East Asia; urban economic and spatial planning in Asia and elsewhere; the cultural influences and historical evolution of urban form in Asia; and China’s international relations.

The Asian Studies website has a long list of his publications, visiting professorships (including Tsinghua and Tongji Universities in China), and consultancies (including the World Bank and the governments of New York, Hong Kong, and Taipei). These affirm his renown as a scholar and professional in his field. We, his colleagues and former students, know him more importantly as a dedicated teacher, conscientious administrator, warm-hearted colleague, and generous mentor.

Aloha and mahalo, Reg! We will miss you!

In May 2019, colleagues from Asian Studies and the Center for Chinese Studies gathered to help Reg celebrate his retirement.

**Jeremiah Bonilla**, Asian Studies undergraduate student, won a UH-Mānoa Undergraduate Research Opportunities (UROP) Grant to support his research project, “Guns, Art and Empathy: How Filipinos Opposed the Japanese Occupation (1942-45). His research presentation also took first place at the UROP Spring Showcase.

**Yen-zhi Peng**, Asian Studies MA student, led the Taiwan Students Association in bringing the exhibit “Beautiful Island: Taiwan’s Journey to Democracy” to the UHM campus, where it showed on the ground floor of Sinclair Library from Oct. 18-Nov. 19, 2018. This was the second stop on the exhibit’s North American tour.

Asian Studies MA students **Dominique Jones** and **Cheyne Tribbey** won Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) grants to support their study of Japanese language this summer at UHM. The following Asian Studies MA students won FLAS grants to support their studies during the 2019-2020 academic year: **Asia Dobbs** (Japanese), **Jeannie Magdua** (Filipino), **Tyler Esch** (Thai), and **Bianca Rajan** (Indonesian).

Congratulations, all! Keep up the good work!
On-Campus Events Sponsored by Asian Studies

Dr. Sungmin Cho, Associate Professor, Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies, gave a talk on “The Resilience of China’s Political System: Lessons from China’s Engagement with the West,” on April 8, 2019. Dr. Cho examined China’s openness to some Western democracy-promotion programs even as it seems to be moving definitively away from “Western-style” democracy.

Dr. Mohd. Mizan bin Mohammad Aslam, Professor of Strategic Studies, Universiti Malaysia Perlis, spoke on “Religious Radicalism and Deradicalization Programs for SOSMA Detainees in Malaysia,” co-sponsored by Asian Studies, the East-West Center, and the UH-Mānoa Center for Southeast Asian Studies, on March 29, 2019. Dr. Mizan outlined Malaysia’s approach to de-radicalization, noting that religious education is key to its success.

To celebrate Mānoa International Education Week, on November 15, 2018, Asian Studies hosted two talks: Dr. Kristi Govella (UHM Asian Studies) spoke on “Trump, Asia, and the Future of the International Order,” and Dr. Christopher McNally (Chaminade University) spoke on “The Rise of Sino-Capitalism.”

Charlize Toratani, film editor, producer, trans advocate and UH-Mānoa graduate, spoke on “Surviving Hollywood through Barriers of Gender and Race,” on April 3, 2019 as part of the “Roads Less Traveled” speaker series.

Rebekah Kim gave a presentation entitled “HI SEOUL, Nice to Meet you! My Journey into K-pop” on March 28, 2019. Ms. Kim is an O’ahuu native and former member of the K-pop group After School. She gave an inspirational talk, fielded questions about life in the Korean music industry, and took selfies with fans.

Off-Campus Events

Dr. Patricio Abinales delivered the keynote address, “What do Mindanawons Read?,” at the Philippine Studies Conference at the School for Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) at the University of London, 5-6 July, 2019. He also delivered the keynote, titled “Japanese Scholarship on the Philippines in a Polycentric Asia-Pacific,” at the 24th Young Scholars’ Conference on Philippines Studies in Japan on June 22-23, 2019, at Nagoya University.

Dr. Barbara Andaya co-directed (with Dr. Peter Hershock of the East West Center) a National Endowment for the Humanities-funded 4-week Institute on Colonialism and its Legacies in Southeast Asia (June 2019). The Institute brought in faculty from small colleges across the US for a course on Southeast Asian history and curriculum development.

Dr. Michael Aung-Thwin delivered the keynote address, “The Western Lineage in Southeast ‘Asianography’,” at the 2019 International Conference of the Institute for Asian Studies, Busan University of Foreign Studies in South Korea, on May 23, 2019.

Dr. Sai Bhatawadekar, Dr. Pia Arboleda and the UH Filipino Glee Club, Dr. Patricio Abinales, and Ms. Patricia Dunn participated in the fifth World Cultures’ Day at St. Andrew’s Priory in Honolulu as part of Asian Studies’ community outreach. They ran lively interactive workshops on Bollywood dance, Filipino songs, Indonesian dance, and Asian spices for audiences of middle- and high-school students.

Dr. Cathryn Clayton participated in a workshop and public symposium in Port Vila, Vanuatu, entitled “The China Alternative: Changing Regional Order in the Pacific Islands,” in February 2019, co-convened by UH-Mānoa’s Center for Pacific Islands Studies and Australia National University’s Department of Pacific Affairs.

Asian Studies ‘Ohana Lunches

This year we instituted a new tradition: the Asian Studies ‘Ohana Lunch. Faculty, students, staff, alumni and others are welcome to gather once a week for an informal bring-your-own lunch get-together at Paradise Palms on the UHM campus. Alumni and friends, if you’re in town, please join us! For details, call the Asian Studies Program at 808-956-6085, or email ASP Chair Cathy Clayton (cclayton@hawaii.edu).
FACULTY achievements

**Dr. Michael Aung-thwin**, Professor in Asian Studies, was appointed to the **George E. Bogaars Foundation Professorship in History** at the National University of Singapore for the 2018-19 academic year.

**Dr. Sai Bhatawadekar**, Director of the Center for South Asian Studies, was awarded the **Kennedy Center’s American College Theater Festival Region VII Meritorious Achievement** award for Choreography and Co-Direction of *A Mid-Summer Night’s Bollywood Dream*, which ran at UH-Mānoa’s Mainstage from Feb. 1-10, 2019.

**Patricia Dunn**, Academic Adviser for the Asian Studies Program, won a University of Hawai‘i **SEED-IDEAS (Student Equity Excellence Diversity – Inclusion, Diversity, Equity Access and Success) grant** for her invited speaker series “Roads Less Taken: Alumni with Careers in the Arts.”

**Dr. Kristi Govella**, Assistant Professor in Asian Studies, was selected as one of twenty fellows with the **National Asia Research Program**; appointed a member of the fifth cohort of the **US-Japan Network for the Future**; invited to join the **East-West Center as an Adjunct Fellow** with the Research Program; and selected by the **Consulate-General of Japan in Honolulu and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs** for their program titled “Strengthening Strategic Communications: Building a Multi-Layered Network of Influential Figures.”

**Dr. Anna Stirr’s** 2017 book, *Singing Across Divides: Music and Intimate Politics in Nepal*, won the **Association for Asian Studies’ Bernard S. Cohn Book Prize** for outstanding scholarship in a first single-authored monograph on South Asia. Dr. Stirr, Associate Professor of Asian Studies, also won a **Fulbright Scholarship** and a **Council of American Overseas Research Centers-National Endowment for the Humanities (CAORC-NEH) Senior Fellowship**, both of which supported fieldwork in Nepal for her next book.

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**2018 Andrews Chair Professor Yoon-kyung Lee**

The Andrews Chair brings a visiting scholar to SPAS for one semester every two years. The 2018 Andrews Chair was held by Dr. Yoon-kyung Lee, Associate Professor in Sociology and Director of the Center for the Study of Korea at the University of Toronto. Dr. Lee is a political sociologist specializing in labor politics, social movements, political representation, and the political economy of neoliberalism with a regional focus on East Asia. Her first book is *Militants or Partisans: Labor Unions and Democratic Politics in Korea and Taiwan* (Stanford University Press 2011).

While at UHM, Dr. Lee taught a course on social movements and democracy in East Asia. She also gave a talk based on the work she is completing for her second book, *Between the Streets and the Assembly: Activists, Protests, and Political Parties in Korea*, which examines the interactions of progressive activists, street protests, and party politicians in the making of Korean democracy.
ALUMNI achievements

Retired Air Force Brigadier General David Stilwell (MA 1989) was confirmed as the Assistant Secretary of State for Asian and Pacific Affairs, the top diplomatic position in the US for the Asia region.

Dr. Shawn Eichman (MA 1992), Curator of the Asian Art Collection at the Honolulu Museum of Art, was awarded the 2018 Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Hawai‘i’s School of Pacific and Asian Studies.

Anna Nagamine (MA 2005), Manager of the Business Development Section, Technology Development and Innovation Center (TDIC) at Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology Graduate University (OIST), was named to the fifth cohort of the US-Japan Network for the Future.

Dr. Anthony Medrano (MA 2007) was hired as an Assistant Professor in the Environmental Studies Program, National University of Singapore/Yale University.

Carl Gabrielson (MA 2010), a PhD candidate in East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies at UC-Santa Barbara, was awarded a Japan Foundation Japanese Studies Dissertation Fellowship for 2018-2019.

Dr. Ryan Buyco (MA 2014) completed his PhD in Asian Literature, Religion and Culture at Cornell University.

Congratulations, 2018-19 Graduates!

Bachelor of Arts in Asian Studies:
Susana Carolina Bermudez
Jeremiah Luab Bonilla
Emi Patricia Ferguson
Alexander James Fischer
Carly Aiko Ishihara
Amelia Sakiko McKenzie
Jasmine Renee Ross
Caitlyn Hanami Sau Hoong Suga
Jonathan Naiochi Wakatsuki
Melanie Bea Wasurick
Ian Anthony Wilks

Graduate Certificate in Asian Studies:
Damhee Hong

Master of Arts in Asian Studies:
William A. Beeson (China)
Jonathan Earp-Pitkins (China)
Nicholas de Gouveia (China)
Edward T Massie Eisner (Japan)
Brian Kim (Korea)
Yen-Zhi Peng (Inter-Asia)
faculty PUBLICATIONS

Dr. Patricio Abinales
“The Arrest of a Journalist in the Philippines.”
Australian Outlook, March 29, 2019.

Dr. Cathryn Clayton

Dr. Kristi Govella

Dr. Eric Harwit

Dr. Barbara Andaya

MEDIA appearances

Dr. Patricio Abinales

Dr. Eric Harwit
2) CNN, “Tesla’s plan to make cars in China won’t be easy to pull off.” Jul 19, 2018, by D. Shane.
4) South China Morning Post, “US may use arrest of Huawei CFO Meng Wanzhou to push China during Donald Trump and Xi Jinping’s trade war truce.” Dec. 6, 2019, by K. Huang.

Dr. Patrick Patterson

Dr. Kristi Govella
The New York Times:
1) “One Image of Japan’s Royals Tells a Story of Demographic Crisis,” May 1, 2019, by M. Rich, H. Ueno & M. Inoue;

The Japan Times:
1) “More in Japan see U.S. as ‘major threat,’ while cyberattacks and climate change top concerns, survey shows,” Feb. 12, 2019, by J. Johnson.


