

THE ASIAN CONNECTION

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Colleagues, Students, and Sigur Community Members:

Welcome to a new semester and academic year! The 2018-19 academic year promises to be an exciting one at the Center and has already gotten off to a fantastic start.

It is my great pleasure to share with you some outstanding news regarding the Center. I was recently informed that the Sigur Center, in partnership with the Institute of Korean Studies, has been awarded BOTH a National Resource Center (NRC) and Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Title VI award for East Asian Studies by the US Department of Education on behalf of the university. While the Center has applied for this funding in the past, and has won the FLAS, this marks our first success with the NRC. The recognition of our programmatic excellence significantly enhances our reputation and funding resources. It reflects the scholarly excellence and public outreach which has long been a hallmark of the Center's collective intellectual life. Additionally, the Center's success in this Title VI application was due to the outstanding efforts of its staff – namely Associate Director Deepa Ollapally, Program Associate Miriam Grinberg and Program Coordinator Richard Haddock. On behalf of all of us who will benefit from both the NRC and FLAS awards, my thanks to them.

We are nearly halfway through the term; our calendar of events for the autumn semester is very busy and quickly filling up. I encourage you to regularly check out our upcoming events on the Sigur Center homepage. As in years past, our programming runs the geographical breadth as well as temporal depth of Asia, ranging from a speech by Mr. Yuko Edano, the head of Japan's Constitutional Democratic Party - one of the country's main opposition parties - to a talk on the intellectual life of Taraknath Das, the Indian nationalist during his time in the US at the beginning of the 20th century. I look forward to personally welcoming you to our events during the coming year.

Apart from our public programming, the Center will welcome an impressive, revolving roster of visiting scholars during the upcoming year. These individuals include advanced graduate students, recently minted PhDs, senior academics, journalists, government officials, and politicians. I encourage you to keep any eye on our website to see who is currently at the Center and engage with them both at our events and individually.

Please do come along and participate in our events, as well as take advantage of our resources – electronic, physical and intellectual. I wish you a good start to what I hope will be an outstanding year for all of us.

Best regards

Benjamin D. Hopkins, Ph.D. (Cantab)
Director of the Sigur Center for Asian Studies



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Sigur Center & GWIKS Receive Prestigious Title VI Grant

The Sigur Center and Institute of Korean Studies together received the highly regarded designation of National Resource Center (NRC) for East Asian Studies. The designation – the first time these two centers have received NRC status – enhances the institutes' ability to engage the broader public community, including students, K-12 educators, HBCUs, policymakers, military veterans, journalists, and the general public on regional and global issues of importance. With this award, GW joins a handful of other world-leading universities, including Stanford, Columbia, and the University of Chicago, which have likewise been recognized with this honor.



The office of the Sigur Center for Asian Studies

“The recognition of our programmatic excellence significantly enhances our reputation and funding resources. It demonstrates the scholarly excellence and will increase public outreach which have long been hallmarks of the Center’s collective intellectual life,” Sigur Center Director Benjamin Hopkins said.

Additionally, the Sigur Center and GWIKS have been awarded funding for Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships which support undergraduate and graduate students studying modern foreign languages and related area or international studies.

About Title VI

Title VI is a provision of the 1965 Higher Education Act, funding centers for area studies that serve as vital national resources for world regional knowledge and foreign language training. National Resource Centers teach at the undergraduate and graduate levels and conduct research focused on specific world regions, international studies, and the teaching of less commonly taught languages. The FLAS fellowship program complements the NRC program, providing opportunities for outstanding undergraduate and graduate students to engage in area studies and world language training.



U.S. Department of Education

Significance

The National Resource Center Program provides grants to establish, strengthen, and operate language and area or international studies centers that will be national resources for teaching any modern foreign language. Grants support: instruction in fields needed to provide full understanding of areas, regions or countries; research and training in international studies; work in the language aspects of professional and other fields of study; and instruction and research on issues in world affairs.

The full press release can be read [HERE](#)



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: YIMING MA

I am currently a second year MA student in the Asian Studies Program at the Elliott School of International Affairs. This semester I started to intern at the DC division of the Sinovision, a popular media outlet for Chinese Americans based in New York, producing news related to U.S. politics and covering events at the Chinese Embassy. I am also acting as the Chief Finance Officer of the Organization of Asian Studies affiliated with the Sigur Center.

Before being admitted to the Elliott School, I went to Central China Normal University and obtained a BA in sociology and also a BA in journalism from Wuhan University. I enjoyed the theoretical studies in sociology while being drawn to the immediacy in journalism. International affairs requires much knowledge from different divisions at the same time, which really fits my interests. My concentration lies in political economy and international relations in the Asia-Pacific region, especially among the United States, Japan, and China. Despite the fact that I come from East Asia, Asia itself is a region with many aspects capable of influencing the global stage. Within East Asia, I am specifically interested in Japan. I realize Japan is a crucial actor in the region with increasing power and great potential. Meanwhile, the unique culture, history, social controversies, and reforms happening in Japanese society are interesting as well.

At first, having Japan as one of my research topics was difficult for me, since I only had basic knowledge about Japan as a country and couldn't speak Japanese at all. To better immerse myself in Japanese politics and diplomacy, I chose to study abroad at Waseda University in Tokyo during my second semester at the Elliott School. Waseda fully fulfilled my expectations. Not only did I take some courses within my focus, but I also had the chance to gain insights regarding some crucial clashes such as the comfort women issue,

Yasukuni Shrine, and Japan-ASEAN relations. Moreover, I had the delightful experience of making friends not only with Japanese students but with people from across the globe such as Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and Europe.

I was also lucky enough to receive the Freeman Fellowship for interning abroad while studying in Tokyo. During my time abroad, I first interned at the AP Initiative, a think tank led by the former editor in chief of the Asahi Shimbun focusing on rebuilding Japan's influence in Asia and in the world. At the AP Initiative, I worked on some extremely interesting projects related to U.S.-Japan relations and Japan-China relations, producing policy briefs and research memos. I also had the chance to work with scholars from the Brookings Institute and CSIS on joint projects they have with the organization. Later on, I started another internship during the summer at the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan assisting in event planning and membership management. This internship offered me multiple opportunities to engage with the real policy-advocating work in the business field.



This photo was taken at the 富士スバルライン五合目, which is the 5th station along the way to the top of Mount Fuji. People who would like to climb Mount Fuji would take the bus and gather around here to get prepared for the actual climbing ahead. This is also a place you can try the Mt. Fuji shaped pineapple bun, purchasing related souvenirs and mail a special designed postcard with a Fuji stamp to wherever you want in the world.



ALUMNUS SPOTLIGHT: JORDAN HEIBER

Jordan Heiber currently serves as Deputy Representative of the Washington, D.C. office of MUFG Bank, Ltd., Japan's largest bank. In this capacity, he manages a team of analysts focused on assessing political developments and risk in the United States, and the impact of U.S. foreign policy on the Bank's global strategy, including in Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America.

In 2006, Jordan received his MA in Asian Studies from the Elliott School. Since that time, he has been on a career journey that has previously included: working in the Department of State; spending a year abroad, embedded in various ministries of the Japanese government; and working for the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR).

Jordan joined the State Department's Office of Korean Affairs in 2006 through the prestigious Presidential Management Fellowship Program. He traveled frequently to Korea, participating in negotiations for the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement, and worked for four months out of the U.S. Embassy in Seoul.

From 2009-2011, Jordan was awarded another fellowship, this time through the Mansfield Foundation. After one year of intensive Japanese language study, Jordan spent the second year of his fellowship embedded in the Japanese government, with assignments in the foreign ministry, trade ministry, and legislature.

He returned to State in 2011 and worked for two years in the Office of Japanese Affairs, where he helped coordinate U.S.-Japan cooperation in the aftermath of the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami that struck northern Japan. Jordan recalls that "having lived in Tokyo during this disaster—and witnessing the resilience of the Japanese people in its aftermath—being able to play a small role in the longer term recovery efforts was extremely rewarding." From 2013-2014, Jordan joined USTR, where he served as Director of Japanese Affairs at a pivotal point, as Japan was getting ready to dive into the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade negotiations. Jordan managed key areas of this process, working with senior staff at USTR and across U.S. agencies.

In his current capacity, Jordan is taking skills acquired at the Elliott School and his government postings and applying them to a new environment: working for a Japanese mega-bank. For the last four years, he has overseen a team in Washington that tries to anticipate and predict the direction of U.S. policy toward a range of issues and countries. He frequently briefs bank leadership and clients—giving Jordan the opportunity to continue to travel to what he considers his second home: Japan.

Given his love of international affairs, it was no surprise that Jordan ended up in Washington, D.C. for his graduate studies. With a number of great schools across the District, he chose the Elliott School, he says, "both because of its academic reputation and the dedication of the admissions team." He recalls thinking that "because GW invested so much time and energy in *prospective* students, then its professors, administrators, and staff would certainly show the same commitment to those who chose to enroll." In retrospect, he thinks this "prediction" was correct, and is glad of his decision to commit to GW for the path that it inevitably led him on.



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: ALEXA ALICE JOUBIN

Alexa Alice Joubin is Professor of English, East Asian Languages and Literatures, Theatre, and International Affairs at GW, and an affiliated faculty member of both the Sigur Center and GW Institute for Korean Studies. She also serves as founding co-director of the Digital Humanities Institute. At Middlebury College she holds the John M. Kirk, Jr. Chair in Medieval and Renaissance Literature at Bread Loaf School of English. She has served as director of graduate studies and graduate job placement director in the English Department. Alexa is a fellow of the GW Cross-Disciplinary Collaboration Initiative (Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs).

Alexa's publications cross several disciplines. The following profile focuses only on Alexa's contribution to Asian studies and omits her work in early modern and Shakespeare studies.

A part of Alexa's teaching and research focuses on race and gender, disability studies, Asian-European cultural exchange, Sinophone and Chinese theatre and film, globalization, translation theories, and intercultural theatre. Ethics and diversity are key elements in Alexa's classroom. Some of her courses have an Asian studies component, and she welcomes students from the Elliott School of International Affairs and in broadly-defined Asian studies. For example, her new graduate seminar in spring 2019, "Screening Race and Gender," will examine racialized, disabled and gendered bodies on screen. She engages with sustainable intellectual and cultural diversity in her teaching.

Alexa's latest book is entitled *Race*. It is part of Routledge's New Critical Idiom series. Co-authored with postcolonial theorist Martin Orkin, this is a major new work in the field, because it draws on culturally and historically diverse materials, particularly non-North American and non-Western European case studies at the intersections of gender, disability, and race. If race is a central part of human identity, can one own or disown one's race? To which community would a multiracial person, immigrant, or diasporic subject belong? How do ideas of race intersect with gender? What future is

there for race as a viable analytical concept? The book argues that ideas about race rely on epistemologies of otherness—the location-specific formation and dissemination of knowledge. From Israel, South Africa, Germany, France, South American colonial history, India and British expatriate culture to Asian-American history and Japanese and Chinese mythologies; from Black Lives Matter movements to #MeToo movements, the book close reads a wide array of examples from the Middle Ages, Renaissance, and the twentieth- and twenty-first-centuries.

At Sigur Center, two grants have enabled her to embark on new projects. The first is entitled *The Complete History of Chinese Thought: Five Tragicomedies* by Stan Lai. As an artist who has made important contributions to the formation of diasporic cultures, Taiwanese-American playwright Stan Lai (Lai Sheng-chuan) was born into a diplomatic family in Washington, D.C. in 1954 and brought up bilingually in D.C. and Taipei. Lai's cross-cultural experience urged him to express the tensions between tradition and modernity. He directed David Henry Hwang's adaptation of *Dream of the Red Chamber* (San Francisco Opera, 2016). This project is the first English-language book-length translation and study of Lai's representative tragicomedies. Lai is known for his witticism and ability to address politically and socially sensitive topics such as the identity crisis of Taiwan—a postcolonial island torn by nativist sentiments and nostalgia toward mainland China and the Japanese colonial legacy. Taking a cue from the title of one of his plays, *The Complete History of Chinese Thought*, the book presents five of Stan's most successful plays. These plays trace the trajectory of Lai's career and overarching goals in theatre, and put the English readers' hand on the pulse of modern-day Taiwanese and Chinese societies.

The second Sigur grant supported Alexa's research on one of the latest and most compelling cases of Sino-Western cultural exchange: *The Politics of Commemorating Tang Xianzu and Shakespeare as National Poets*. 2016 marks the quatercentenary of Tang (1550-1616) and Shakespeare



Alexa's new book, *Race*

(1564-1616). The two national poets have since become the vehicle for British and Chinese cultural diplomacy and soft power. During Chinese President Xi Jinping's 2015 state visit to Britain, he quoted *The Tempest*, "what's past is prologue", to British Prime Minister David Cameron, and urged the two countries to "join hands and move forward" despite the antagonistic history between them including the Opium Wars. This research project examines Sino-British festivities and performances. Using Tang and Shakespeare as contrasting case studies in which each country's soft power is configured differently, this project analyzes the organizing principles and unspoken assumptions about Ming and world literatures as exemplified by the commemorating projects. In analyzing cross-cultural performances that mix and reimagine Tang's and Shakespeare's comedies and tragedies, this project finds that the rediscovery and marketing of national poets is a politically expedient tool for reaffirming nationhood on the world stage.

Alexa was recently interviewed by the *Economist* and *Washington Post* on the commemorative activities to mark the 400th anniversary of the death of Tang Xianzu and Shakespeare and on screen representations of Shakespeare's biographies.

Sigur Center has played a key role in Alexa's community service and outreach effort. On November 19, 2019, she is co-organizing a LGBT-themed film screening and lecture. Two Taiwanese documentary filmmakers will visit GW to discuss their films *Lesbian Factory* and *Rainbow Popcorn*. The directors are migrant worker activists, and they followed a group of Filipina migrant worker organizers and their tumultuous same-sex love relationships. The films bring together migrant labor activism with queer love to unpack the multi-layered texture of our globalized moment.

Among her new areas of research are Japanese and Korean performance cultures. Alexa recently gave a public presentation before the revival of Yukio Ninagawa's "cherry blossom" *Macbeth* during the Mostly Mozart Festival at Lincoln Center New York. She also gave a paper on Ophelia as an assertive victim in Asian films at the Société Française Shakespeare conference in Paris earlier this year. As part of her work to promote Asian studies in the greater Washington, D.C. area, Alexa has given presentations at the Smithsonian's Freer and Sackler Gallery (on Akira Kurosawa's films) and at the Cinema Club in Avalon Theatre on Kore'eda Hirokazu's *After the Storm*. She has worked as an interpreter at the FilmFest DC, the city's annual film festival.

Among other grants, Alexa received an American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) research fellowship and an ACLS Frederick Burkhardt Fellowship for her first and second books on performances and diasporic appropriations of Shakespeare. She has received the Modern Language Association's Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for Comparative Literary Studies and International Convention of Asian Scholars Colleagues' Choice Book Award for her book on two centuries of Sinophone and Chinese adaptations of Shakespeare.

As Alexa's work addresses the global south as well as transpacific cultural flows, she maintains ties with institutions on both sides of the Atlantic and Pacific. For example, she served as distinguished visiting professor at Seoul National University and Yonsei University in Seoul, South Korea. She was also appointed honorary research fellow at Donghua University, Shanghai, ACLS Visiting Scholar at Beijing Normal University, and honorary graduate faculty at the Institute of Literary Theory and Aesthetics, Shandong University, China. She has served as a consultant or external evaluator for Universitetet i Bergen, Norway, Ritsumeikan University, Japan, Shakespeare in Asia Theatre Festival, Aichi, Japan, Freie Universität Berlin Verflechtungen von Theaterkultur, Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung, and other institutions. In her outreach work, Alexa has testified before congress in a congressional briefing on the humanities and globalization.

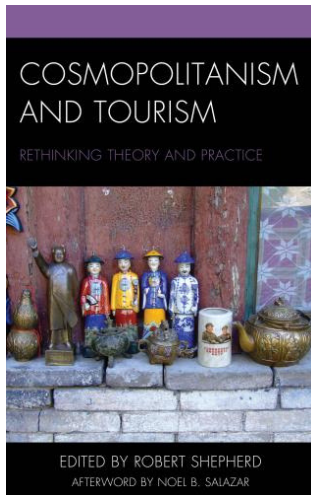
As the book review editor for *Chinese Literature Today*, Alexa is always on the lookout for new books to review and loves to hear from potential reviewers. As part of her service to the scholarly community, Alexa served as vice president of the Association for Asian Performance which is the oldest scholarly organization dedicated to the study of Asian performance, and vice president of the Mid-Atlantic Region Association for Asian Studies (MARAAAS, established in 1971) which is a branch of the national AAS.



Alexa Alice Joubin speaking at "The Power of Arts: Censorship and Free Speech" at the British Ambassador's Residence in Washington, D.C. Left to right: Jonathan Hsy (GW faculty), Michael Witmore (director of the Folger Library), Alexa Alice Joubin, Colin Warner, and Emily Lathrop (GW doctoral student).

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

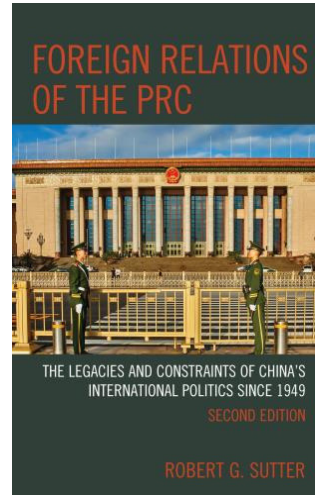
Check out below the books published in the previous semester by some of our excellent affiliated faculty and scholars. All titles should be available on most book seller outlets, but reach out to us at gsigur@gwu.edu if you would like more information on obtaining a copy of a particular book.



Edited by Robert Shepherd

Cosmopolitanism and Tourism: Rethinking Theory and Practice

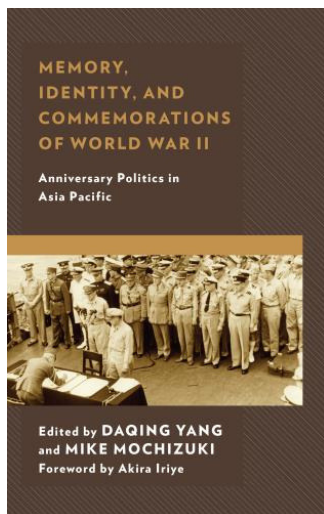
Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2017.



Robert G. Sutter

Foreign Relations of the PRC: The Legacies and Constraints of China's International Politics since 1949, 2nd Edition

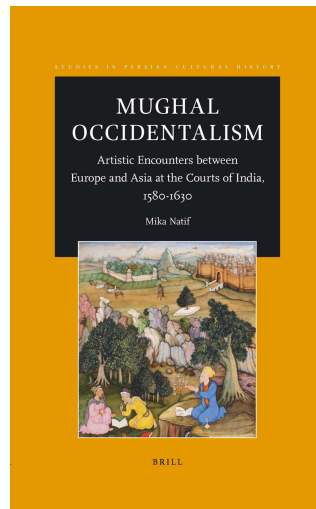
Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2018.



**Edited by:
Daqing Yang & Mike Mochizuki**

Memory, Identity, and Commemorations of World War II: Anniversary Politics in Asia Pacific

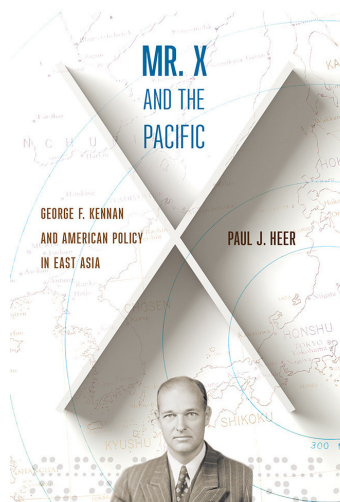
Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2017.



Mika Natif

Mughal Occidentalism: Artistic Encounters between Europe and Asia at the Courts of India, 1580-1630

BRILL, 2018.



Paul J. Heer

Mr. X and the Pacific: George F. Kennan and American Policy in East Asia

Cornell University Press, 2018.

Taiwan Conference: How Does Taiwan's Defense and Security Status Stack Up?

Experts assessed the strengths and weaknesses of Taiwan's defense capacity vis-a-vis China, and how the political and security relationship with the United States factors into Taiwan's security calculus.

The discussion took place on Thursday, April 5, 2018 at the Elliott School of International Affairs, on the 7th floor. The panel began at 3:30pm after some brief welcoming remarks, with a break from 5:00pm to 5:30pm for high tea and refreshments. The event concluded at 7pm.

PANEL I: The US-Taiwan Security Relationship and the US Factor in Taiwan's Defense

Featured: **Bonnie Glaser**, Senior Advisor for Asia; Director, China Power Project, CSIS

Lt. Gen. Wallace "Chip" Gregson, Jr. (Ret.), Senior Director, China and the Pacific, Center for the National Interest; and

Richard Fisher, Senior Fellow, International Assessment and Strategy Center.

Moderated by:

Benjamin Hopkins, Research Professor of International Affairs and Associate Director of the Sigur Center for Asian Studies, GW.

PANEL II: Trade, Investment and Services: Opportunities and Challenges

Featured: **David Gitter**, Director, Party Watch Initiative

David An, Senior Research Fellow, Global Taiwan Institute; and

Ian Easton, Research Fellow, Project 2049 Institute.

Moderated by:

Deepa Ollapally, Research Professor of International Affairs and Associate Director of the Sigur Center for Asian Studies, GW.



Panel I: Starting from left, Benjamin Hopkins, Bonnie Glaser, Wallace Gregson, Jr., and Richard Fisher



Q & A Discussion



Panel II: Starting from left, Deepa Ollapally, David An, David Gitter, and Ian Easton

Full audio recordings of each panel
can be found **HERE**

NBR-Sigur Center Roundtable: Implications of DPRK Diplomacy for Taiwan

Co-sponsored by **The National Bureau of Asian Research**.

The National Bureau of Asian Research and the Sigur Center for Asian Studies hosted a panel discussion with experts examining the implications of recent North Korean diplomatic developments for Taiwan, cross-strait relations, and U.S.-Taiwan relations.

The discussion took place on Tuesday, June 19, 2018 at the Elliott School of International Affairs, on the 7th floor. The event began at 12pm with registration and lunch. The panel commenced at 12:45pm and concluded at 2pm.

Featuring:

Patrick Cronin, Senior Director of the Asia-Pacific Security Program, Center for a New American Security

Robert Sutter, Professor of Practice of International Affairs; Director, B.A. Program in International Affairs, The George Washington University

Tiffany Ma, Senior Director, BowerGroup Asia and Nonresident Fellow, The National Bureau of Asian Research

Moderated by:

Alison Szalwinski, Director for Political and Security Affairs, The National Bureau of Asian Research

A full list of audio recordings of the conference can be found **HERE**

23rd Annual Gaston Sigur Memorial Lecture: Empire and Righteous Nation-600 Years of China-Korea Relations

Co-sponsored by the **GW Institute for Korean Studies**.



Dr. Arne Westad, S.T. Lee Professor of U.S.-Asia Relations at Harvard University

The Sigur Center for Asian Studies was founded in September 1991 at The George Washington University and named in honor of Gaston J. Sigur, Jr., a long-time university professor and noted expert on Asia. Recognizing Sigur's contributions to Asian studies, The George Washington University, and public service, the university administration decided to name the new Center for East Asian Studies, established in September 1991, in his honor. Since he passed away in April 1995, the Sigur Center has held its annual Memorial Lecture to honor the legacy of Dr. Sigur. The Gaston Sigur Memorial Lecture has featured many distinguished and high-level experts from various backgrounds and professions related to Asia.

This year's Annual Gaston Sigur Center Memorial Lecture, co-sponsored by the GW Institute for Korean Studies, invited **Dr. Arne Westad**, S.T. Lee Professor of U.S.-Asia Relations at Harvard University, to discuss China-Korea historical relations. The event took place on Wednesday, May 2, 2018 at the State Room, located on the 7th floor of the Elliott School of International Affairs. The night began at 5:30 pm with a welcoming reception, followed by opening remarks from **Dr. Benjamin Hopkins**, Director of the Sigur Center for Asian Studies. Dr. Westad began his lecture at 6:15 pm, and the event concluded at 7:30 pm.

Full audio recordings of the lecture can be found **HERE**

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AT GW: ORGANIZATION OF ASIAN STUDIES



Alan Smith

"The **Organization of Asian Studies (OAS)** consists of a board of dedicated graduate students from the Elliott School of International Affairs. As the student branch of the Sigur Center for Asian Studies, it is our mission to program meaningful professional, academic and cultural events that connect students to the D.C. community. By organizing these events, OAS aims to facilitate discussion and raise awareness of current issues in the various regions of Asia. Thanks to the wonderful support from the Sigur Center and the Elliott School of International Affairs, our organization has seen great success. It is our sincere hope that our organization continues to pursue exceptional programming that highlights the excellence of the Sigur Center and the Elliott School of International Affairs."

-Alan Smith, President of OAS

SPRING 2018 EVENTS

February 15, 2018: OAS Lunar New Year Celebration

March 20, 2018: Understanding the Belt and Road Initiative, **Nadege Rolland** (NBR), **Joel Wuthnow** (National Defense University)

April 9, 2018: Don't Copy that Floppy! Chinese Theft of U.S. Military Technologies, **Dr. Andrea Little Lambago** (Endgame), **Terry Dunlap** (NSA), **Bill Gertz** (The Washington Times), **Dr. Stephen Bryen** (Defense Technology Security Administration)

April 18, 2018: Providing Healthcare in North Korea: Issues, Ethics, and Politics, **Dr. Kee Park** (Korean American Medical Association and Paul Farmer Global), **Dr. Charlie Sands** (International Affairs Committee of the Division of Medical Sciences)



OAS hosts public events on topics such as international affairs, cultural studies, and professional development.



The OAS team

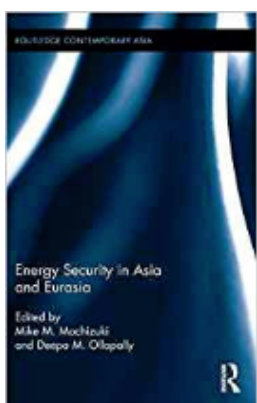


OAS and ESIA Alumni Relations hosted their annual alumni panel event on careers in Asian Studies on 10/10/18!

Affiliated Program: Rising Powers Initiative



The Rising Powers Initiative (RPI) is directed by Sigur Center Associate Director and Research Professor of International Affairs Dr. Deepa M. Ollapally. RPI's objective is to inform policymakers, analysts, media professionals, and educators on the ongoing debates in China, India, Japan, and Russia on current issues and events relevant to US foreign policy making and to offer a broader spectrum of opinions in Asia and Eurasia than is readily available. Learn more about RPI at risingpowersinitiative.org.



With the support of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, RPI-affiliated scholars contributed their expertise to **Energy and Maritime Security in Asia and Eurasia**, an edited volume published late last year. Energy, maritime security, and the Asian regional order are key themes at RPI and support from the MacArthur Foundation and Carnegie Corporation for research on these topics has resulted in eight Policy Briefs, more than a dozen Policy Alerts, and the addition of over 1,700 entries on articles and books in our open-access Research Database. This research has also been featured in *Asia Policy*, a Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy's China-India Brief, and a Presidential Panel at the International Studies Association that was later published in *Ethics and International Affairs*.

Policy Impact

Since January 2018, RPI has published two Policy Briefs, three Asia Reports, and 19 Policy Alerts. The most widely read Policy Alerts covered trade disputes between the US and China, the US re-imposition of sanctions against Iran, and summits with North Korea. In the past few months, RPI's open-access Research Database has added over 500 citations and has been used over 700 times.



RPI hosted an expert panel to discuss trends in connectivity in the Indo-Pacific. (09/24/18)

Regional Trends in the Indo-Pacific

This fall, RPI organized a three-part series that published two Policy Briefs, *Between the AAGC and BRI: Japan's Emerging Calculus* and *The AAGC: India's Indo-Pacific Fulcrum?*, and convened an expert panel in September 2018. The panel, *The Indo-Pacific and Regional Trends: Toward Connectivity or Conflict?*, featured GWU professors Mike Mochizuki and Robert Sutter with Jagannath Panda from the Institute for Defense Studies and Analyses (New Delhi). The

experts discussed regional development programs such as the Asia-Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC) and Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in the context of the tense maritime and political environment in the region. The Policy Briefs, as well as the Asia Report that summarizes the event and recordings of the full panel, are available at

risingpowersinitiative.org.

RECENT BOOK LAUNCHES

April 30, 2018: China: End of the Reform Era. **Carl Minzner**, Professor of Law at Fordham University and expert in Chinese law and governance.

April 24, 2018: How India Became Democratic: Citizenship and the Making of the Universal Franchise. **Dr. Ornit Shani**, a Scholar of Politics and Modern History of India.

April 11, 2018: Mediating Islam: Cosmopolitan Journalisms in Muslim Southeast Asia. **Dr. Janet Steele** is Associate Professor of Journalism at the George Washington University and Director of the Institute for Public Diplomacy and Global Communication.

March 26, 2018: Mobilizing without the Masses: Control and Contention in China. **Diana Fu** is Assistant Professor of Asian Politics at the University of Toronto.

March 20, 2018: China in the 21st Century: Why History Still Matters.

Speakers include:

Jeffrey Wasserstrom, Chancellor's Professor of History, University of California, Irvine;

Maura Cunningham, Associate at Lieberthal-Rogel Center for Chinese Studies, University of Michigan.

March 14, 2018: Marketcraft: How Governments Make Markets Work in the US and Japan. **Dr. Steven Vogel** is the Il Han Professor of Asian Studies and Professor of Political Science at the University of California, Berkeley.



(Left to Right) Ornit Shani & Benjamin Hopkins (04/24/18)



Janet Steele (04/11/18)



Diana Fu (03/26/18)

Want to read more? Check out Sigur Center's 2018 Events Archives **HERE**



Maura Cunningham, Jeffrey Wasserstrom, and Deepa Ollapally (03/20/18)

RECENT EVENTS

May - July



The three panelists (from left to right:) *Toshi Yoshihara, Bethany Allen-Ebrahimian, and Shanthi Kalathil* engaging with the audience at Taiwan's Role in Countering CCP Political Warfare (07/11/18)

July 26, 2018: Taiwan Art Exhibition Opening Reception. Artist **Ku Chin Yi (Temi Minu)** is Chairman of Taichung Creative Ink Wash Painting Association (MA, Fine Arts). Co-sponsored by the *Global Taiwan Institute (GTI)*, *Department of East Asian Languages & Literatures (EALL)*, and *Elliott School of International Affairs (ESIA)*

July 24, 2018: Taiwan's Energy Future. **Wen-Yu Weng** Carbon Trust | Low-Carbon Energy and Sustainability Consultant

Clara Gillispie

National Bureau of Asian Research (NBR) | Senior Director of Trade, Economic, and Energy Affairs

Lotta Danielsson

U.S.-Taiwan Business Council | Vice President

Co-sponsored by *GTI*.

July 11, 2018: Taiwan's Role in Countering CCP Political Warfare. **Toshi Yoshihara** CSBA | Senior Fellow

Bethany Allen-Ebrahimian

The Daily Beast | Security Reporter

Shanthi Kalathil

International Forum for Democratic Studies | Director

Co-sponsored by *GTI*.

June 21, 2018: North Korea on the Cusp: New Prospects for Science Diplomacy--A Discussion with **Richard A. Stone**, Senior Science Editor at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Tangled Bank Studios. Co-sponsored by the *Partnerships for International Strategies in Asia (PISA)* and *GWIKS*.

June 19, 2018: NBR-Sigur Center Roundtable: Implications of DPRK Diplomacy for Taiwan. **Patrick M. Cronin** CNAS | Senior Advisor and Senior Director

Tiffany Ma

BowerGroupAsia | Senior Director

Robert Sutter

George Washington University | Professor of Practice of International Affairs

Co-sponsored by the *National Bureau of Asian Research*.

May 7, 2018: Locating the Global Politics of Diaspora Engagement: Engaging Tamils in Development in Toronto.

Catherine Craven is a PhD Candidate in the Department of Politics and International Studies at SOAS, University of London and a Visiting Scholar at the Sigur Center for Asian Studies.

May 2, 2018: 23rd Annual Gaston Sigur Memorial Lecture: Empire and Righteous Nation: 600 Years of China-Korea Relations--A Discussion with **Dr. Arne Westad**, S.T. Lee Professor of U.S.-Asia Relations at Harvard University. Co-sponsored by *GWIKS*.

May 1, 2018: Jungle Art: Indonesia at the Smithsonian's Freer|Sackler Galleries--A Discussion with **Emma Natalya Stein**, Curatorial Fellow for Southeast Asian Art at the Freer|Sackler, the Smithsonian's museums of Asian Art.



Visiting Scholar *Catherine Craven* sharing her expertise on *Diaspora Engagement Strategies* (05/07/18)

Want to read more? Check out Sigur Center's 2018 Events Archives [HERE](#)

RECENT EVENTS

April



Holly Shaffer beginning the discussion on the Western Indian Art Market (04/26/18)

April 30, 2018: China: End of the Reform Era with author **Carl Minzner**, Professor of Law at Fordham University. *Sponsored by the Research Initiative on Multination States (RIMS) at Sigur Center, in partnership with the International & Comparative Law Program at GW Law School*

April 26, 2018: Plunder and Pilgrimage: The Making of an Art Market in Western India Around 1800 with **Dr. Holly Shaffer**, Assistant Professor of History of Art & Architecture at Brown University.

April 18, 2018: Providing Healthcare in North Korea: Issues, Ethics, and Politics. **Dr. Kee Park** is Director of DPRK Programs for the Korean American Medical Association. **Dr. Charlie Sands** is Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at California Baptist University. *Co-sponsored by the Organization of Asian Studies (OAS).*

April 17, 2018: China's Pursuit of Regional Leadership: Implications for the United States and Asia with **Timothy Heath**, Senior International Defense Researcher at the RAND Corporation.

April 12, 2018: Three Waves of Jewish Migration to Shanghai: 1845-1941. **Dr. Liliane Willens**, Retired Professor of Boston College and MIT.

April 10, 2018: From Deng to Xi: The Transformed Chinese Foreign Policy. **Robert Sutter** George Washington University | Professor of Practice of International Affairs, Director B.A. Program in International Affairs

David Shambaugh

George Washington University | Professor of Political Science and International Affairs, Director of China Policy Program

Xin Qiang

Fudan University | Professor and Deputy Director of the Center for American Studies

April 10, 2018: Framing Global Competition in Higher Education: The Shanghai Ranking and its Impact with **Niilo Kauppi**, Finland Distinguished Professor at the University of Jyväskylä.

April 9, 2018: Don't Copy that Floppy! Chinese Theft of U.S. Military Technologies. **Dr. Andrea Little Lambago** Endgame | Chief Social Scientist

Terry Dunlap

ReFirm Labs | CEO

Bill Gertz

The Washington Times | Senior Editor
The Washington Free Beacon | National Security columnist

Dr. Stephen Bryen

Founder of the Defense Technology Security Administration

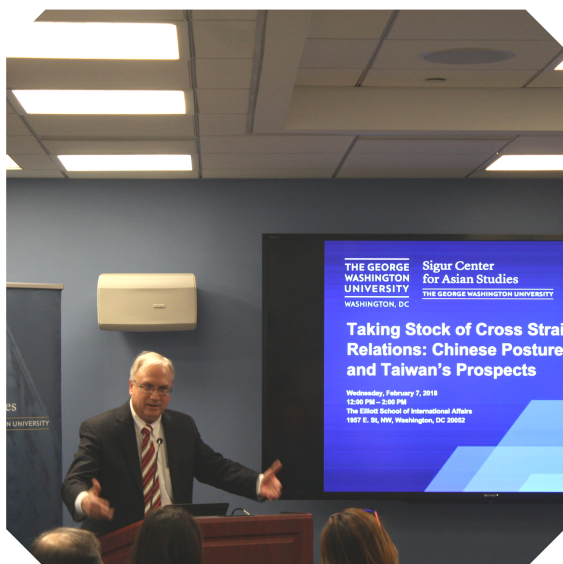
Co-sponsored by OAS.

April 5, 2018: Taiwan Conference: How Does Taiwan's Defense and Security Status Stack Up? Many participants/speakers listed under Taiwan featured page.

Want to read more? Check out Sigur Center's 2018 Events Archives **HERE**

RECENT EVENTS

February - March



Director Mark Stokes speaks at Taking Stock of Cross Strait Relations event (02/07/18)

March 28, 2018: Early Photography of the Silk Road with **Maeve Nolan**, Visiting Scholar with George Washington University's Sigur Center (PhD, Art History and Archaeology).

March 27, 2018: Film Screening and Discussion of *Left for Dead: Myanmar's Muslim Minority* discussed by **Layla Saad, Dr. Christina Fink, Matthew Wells**, and **Robert Marro**.

March 26, 2018: Taiwan Lecture: Archiving Taiwanese Literature in Translation with **Dr. Jonathan Stalling**, Professor of English specializing in East-West Poetics at the University of Oklahoma.

March 23, 2018: Traversing the Warrior Fantasy--Martial Culture and The Meiji Restoration. **Michael Wert** is Associate Professor of East Asian History at Marquette University.

March 22, 2018: The Art of Chieftaincy in the Writings of Pashtun Tribal Rulers with **Dr. Mikhail Pelevin**, Professor of Iranian Philology at St. Petersburg State University (Russian Federation).

February 28, 2018: Exporting Censorship in the Digital Age: Lessons in Chinese Sharp Power with **Dr. Glenn Tiffert**, Visiting Fellow at the Hoover Institution (PhD, History).

February 20, 2018: The Objectives Resolution of Pakistan: Islam, Minorities, and the Making of a Democracy with **Dr. Neeti Nair**, Asia Program Fellow at the Wilson Center, and Associate Professor of History at the University of Virginia.

February 15, 2018: Lunar New Year Celebration with the Organization of Asian Studies.

February 7, 2018: Taking Stock of Cross Strait Relations: Chinese Postures and Taiwan's Prospects Roundtable Discussion. **Mark Stokes** Project 2049 Institute | Executive Director

Dr. Joyce Juo-yu Lin

Tamkang University | Professor of the Department of Diplomacy and International Relations
Director of the ASEAN Studies Center

Dr. Shelley Rigger

Davidson College | Brown Professor and Assistant Dean for Educational Policy, Political Science Department

Moderated by: **Edward McCord**

George Washington University | Professor of History and International Affairs, Director of Taiwan Education and Research Program



Discussants for Myanmar's Muslim Minority film screening (from left to right): Layla Saad, Christina Fink, Matthew Wells, and Robert Marro (03/27/18)

Want to read more? Check out Sigur Center's 2018 Events Archives **HERE**

Current Visiting Scholars

The Sigur Center hosts visiting scholars from all over the world. Visiting scholars continue to be a valuable part of the Sigur Center as they conduct research on a wide variety of issues, present their findings at Visiting Scholar Roundtables and participate in activities such as Sigur Center language tea times. The Sigur Center is proud of the quality and variety of its visiting scholars as they help to distinguish the Center in numerous ways. Here is a list of current visiting scholars.



Woondo CHOI, South Korea

Affiliation: Research Fellow, Northeast Asian History Foundation

Research Topic: "U.S. Role in Historical Reconciliation between Korea and Japan"



Junyong PARK, South Korea

Affiliation: Republic of Korea Army
Research Topic: "Policy Recommendations for Peace Treaty between South & North Korea"



Nobuyuki OKUMURA, Japan

Affiliation: Musashi University

Research Topic: "Seeking Role Models: How Traditional Japanese News Media can Transform into Digital Platforms"



Toshihide TAKAYANAGI (高柳峻秀), Japan

Affiliation: PhD Candidate, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, The University of Tokyo;
Research Fellow of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science
Research Topic: "Japan Hands Groups in Modern China and Their Japanese Studies"

Current Non-Resident Scholars

The Sigur Center hosts visiting scholars from all over the world. Visiting scholars continue to be a valuable part of the Sigur Center as they conduct research on a wide variety of issues, present their findings at Visiting Scholar Roundtables and participate in activities such as Sigur Center language tea times. The Sigur Center is proud of the quality and variety of its visiting scholars as they help to distinguish the Center in numerous ways. Here is a list of current visiting scholars.



Fang-Yu CHEN, Taiwan

Affiliation: PhD candidate in Political Science, Michigan State University

Research Topic: "Ruling Party Institutionalization in East Asian Authoritarian Regimes; Authoritarian Diffusion and Democratic Support Revisited"



Martin WHYTE, United States

Affiliation: John Zwaanstra Professor of International Studies and Sociology, Emeritus, Harvard University; Asia Scholar, University of Melbourne, 2017 - 2019
Research Topic: "Chinese Citizen Responses to the Sharp Rise in Income Inequality of the Reform Era; The Ending of One-Child Policy and China's Demographic Challenges"



Qing Yun LI, China

Affiliation: Associate Professor, Institute of Chinese Marxism Studies, Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, China

Research Topic: "China in the Xi Jinping Era: Implications for International Order"



Michael YAHUDA, United Kingdom

Affiliation: Professor Emeritus of International Relations, The London School of Economics and Political Science

Research Topic: Forthcoming publication (February 2019): *The International Politics of the Asia-Pacific* (4th ed.); China's relations with Asia

Past Visiting Scholars

In Spring of 2018, the Sigur Center hosted visiting scholars from six countries. Visiting scholars continue to be a valuable part of the Sigur Center as they conduct research on a wide variety of issues, present their findings at Visiting Scholar Roundtables and participate in activities such as Sigur Center language tea times. The Sigur Center is proud of the quality and variety of its visiting scholars as they help to distinguish the Center in numerous ways. Here is a list of visiting scholars from the past year.



JoonHyouck CHOI, South Korea

Affiliation: MAJ(P), Republic of Korea Army

Research Topic: "A Study on the Ways to Enhance Effectiveness of Response Strategy against North Korea"



Maeve NOLAN, United Kingdom

Affiliation: PhD Candidate, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London

Research Topic: "Early 'Silk Road' Photography: A Case Study of How and Why Dr. Maynard Owen Williams, Litt D. (1883-1963) Photographed the 'Silk Road' During the Citroen-Haardt Trans-Asiatic Expedition "



Catherine CRAVEN, Germany

Affiliation: PhD Candidate, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London

Research Topic: "Locating Politics in the Global: A Practice-Based Analysis of Tamil Diaspora Engagement"



Stephanie WINKLER, Germany

Affiliation: PhD Candidate, Department of Economic History and International Relations, Stockholm University; Associate Fellow, Swedish Institute for International Affairs

Research Topic: "Managing the Rise of China: The Soft Power of the Soft Power Concept"

Gifts and Giving Opportunities

The Sigur Center for Asian Studies is grateful for support from the individuals, foundations, and corporations for its activities. Gifts to the Sigur Center for Asian Studies support our students, our special events, and our research. Even more importantly, gifts to the Sigur Center help us carry out our mission — to increase the quality and broaden the scope of scholarly research and publications on Asian affairs, promote U.S.-Asian scholarly interaction and serve as the nexus for educating a new generation of students, scholars, analysts, and policymakers.

If you wish to make a donation to the Sigur Center for Asian Studies, please contact Deepa Ollapally at deepao@gwu.edu OR follow our donation link below:

<http://go.gwu.edu/sigursupport>

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Give us a call or send us an email for more information about our various programs and opportunities. Also, we are always delighted to hear from our alumni and we would love to learn about the interesting things you have been up to since leaving the Sigur Center.

Please don't be a stranger!

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