

THE ASIAN CONNECTION

Sigur Center for Asian Studies

Fall 2017

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It is my privilege to send greetings for the 2017-18 academic year as Sigur Center Director. This year is shaping up to be an even busier one at the Center than last year, with an outstanding line-up of invited speakers, public events and exciting scholarship.

As in years past, the Center will put on display both GW's rich scholarship on Asia to Washington's academic and policy communities, as well as the general public. We will continue to serve as an intellectual hub for invited scholars, policy experts and activists in the city. Moving forward, I look forward to highlighting our established strengths in policy-relevant scholarship focusing on East Asia and the region generally, while also further enlarging our remit to include a broader disciplinary and geographical diet.

In addition to our program of public events which includes invited speakers, roundtables and conferences, we have once again welcomed an outstanding cohort of visiting scholars from the region. We also continue to support both student and faculty research in and exposure to Asia through numerous grants. Among the upcoming initiatives we will be undertaking this year is an application to become a National Resource Center for East Asia. Fingers crossed for our success!



Sigur Center Director Benjamin Hopkins

I would like to express my thanks to Gregg Brazinsky who took over as Center Director during my absence in the spring 2017 semester. Gregg did double-duty, also assuming the directorship of the newly established Institute for Korean Studies (GWIKS). He successfully coordinated the public launch of GWIKS while ensuring the smooth running of Sigur at full speed.

Finally, it is my sad duty to let you know that our long-time program coordinator, Michael Bouffard, is leaving for proverbial greener pastures in a new position. Though we have known for some time that this day has been coming, that does not lessen our sense of loss. Mike has been the wizard behind the scenes running many of the daily operations of the Sigur Center. Thank you for all your efforts and contributions Mike!

I look forward to seeing you at the upcoming year's many events.

Benjamin D. Hopkins

Director, Sigur Center for Asian Studies

Associate Professor of History and International Affairs

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT - KATELYN DENAP



Katelyn DeNap is a second year graduate student in the Security Policy Studies program at the Elliott School. She is specializing in U.S. National Security Policy and Process and Asian Security: History and Policy. Hailing from southern Illinois, just outside of St. Louis, MO, Katelyn originally hoped to pursue a career in architecture. This changed in 2011 after her participation in a summer program at American University in Washington, DC. Entitled “National Student Leadership Conference: Intelligence and National Security,” the conference gave her the opportunity to participate in a crisis simulation involving Taiwan and China.

Inspired by this experience, Katelyn went on to earn her B.A. in Political Science and East Asian Studies, with a minor in Chinese Language and International Relations from Missouri State University. During her time at MSU, she was selected as a student ambassador in the Taiwan US Sister Relations Alliance (TUSA) Summer Scholarship Program. TUSA is an Ambassador program, which is designed to create closer friendships and understanding between the people of the U.S. and the people of Taiwan. Upon returning to the U.S., student participants are expected to act as ambassadors of good will for both the U.S. and Taiwan whenever the opportunity presents itself. Katelyn credits this experience with cementing her interest in Taiwan’s political and security environment.

After beginning her M.A. at GW, Katelyn became Director of Taiwan Affairs for the Organization of Asian Studies (OAS), an incredibly active student group that organizes programs related to Asia throughout the academic year. This year she became Vice President of OAS.

Since starting her graduate studies at GW, she has been published twice. In the fall of 2015 she published an article, “Remembering the Colonial Taiwanese: Redefining Aggressors and Victims” in *LOGOS: A Journal of Undergraduate Research*. Her second publication in 2017, “China and the Developmental State Model,” published in *China Business Review*, analyzed the consistencies between Chalmers Johnson’s concept of the developmental state and China’s economic development.

Katelyn is the recipient of numerous academic awards, including the Missouri State University Woman of Distinction Nominee (2015 and 2016), J.B. and Maurice C. Shapiro Endowment Fellowship (2016-17) and the Sigur Center Summer Grant for Asian Language Study, which she used to hone her Chinese language skills in Taiwan.



Katelyn making a traditional Taiwanese pastry in Taiwan. Katelyn was awarded funding from the Sigur Center to study Chinese in Taiwan in Summer 2017.

FACULTY FOCUS - GREGG BRAZINSKY



Gregg Brazinsky is an associate professor of history and international affairs at the Elliott School. His expertise lies in U.S.-East Asian relations, Korean history, and East Asian history. He received his Ph.D. in history from Cornell University. During the Spring 2017 semester, he served as both acting director of the Sigur Center and acting director of the newly established GW Institute for Korean Studies (GWIKS). During that same semester, he published his second book, [*Winning the Third World: Sino-American Rivalry during the Cold War*](#).

Gregg first became interested in the topic for his book while putting together a course on The Cold War in the Third World for undergraduates. "I noticed in assembling primary sources materials that American officials had been far more concerned about Chinese activities in Asia and Africa during the 1950s and 1960s than I had originally realized," he recalls. "I started collecting more material about this. In the meantime, the Chinese Foreign Ministry had begun to declassify a large number of documents relating to PRC foreign policy during the Mao Zedong era. These were a very rich source that shed a great deal of light on Beijing's long history of involvement in Asia and Africa. I decided that putting these source materials together could lead to an interesting book with great relevance to contemporary world affairs."

In addition to his publishing and research, Gregg has accrued a lot of experience in administering research institutes and centers. According to Gregg, they both have their own rewards and challenges. "Serving as Sigur Center director is a good experience because it gives you a broader

view of Asian Studies at the university and in the Washington area. Getting to know what other people are working on really helped me to appreciate the excellent group of scholars that we have at GW and I was especially impressed by our recent hires in the area country."

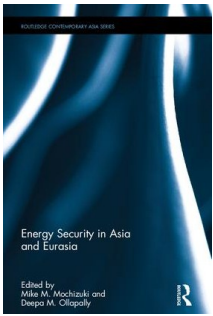
In addition, Gregg views helping to launch the GW Institute for Korean Studies as one of his biggest accomplishments. "Although Professor Jisoo Kim won the grant to start the institute and Professor Young-Key Kim Renaud had spent a long time building Korean Studies at the university, last semester was nonetheless a critical one for GW's Korea programs. I hired Ann Yang whose hard work was also essential to the institute's success. I arranged the institute's first events including lectures, seminars, and conferences and these all drew larger than expected audiences."

"The final event that I organized, a panel on North Korea which included myself, Professor Amitai Etzioni and Professor Robert Gallucci from Georgetown, drew over 100 people and was broadcast live by C-Span. Another highlight of my experiences serving as Sigur Center and GWIKS Director was having Ambassador Kathleen Stephens deliver the annual Gaston Sigur Lecture. A female speaker had not delivered the lecture in ten years and it was great to have someone who could speak about Korea and was personally acquainted with the role that Gaston Sigur played in ending authoritarian rule in the country."



Professor Brazinsky speaking at a nationally televised GWIKS panel on "How to Handle North Korea" at the Elliott School on August 28, 2017.

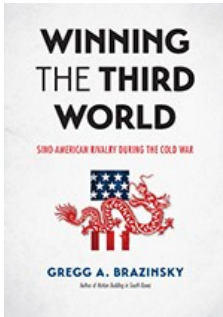
SELECT PUBLICATIONS



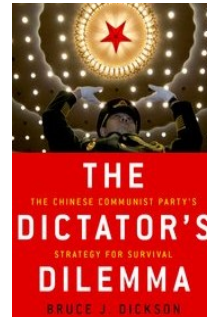
Mike Mochizuki and Deepa Ollapally,
Energy Security in Asia and Eurasia
Routledge, 2017.



David Shambaugh,
China's Future
Polity, 2016.



Gregg Brazinsky,
Winning the Third World: Sino-American Rivalry during the Cold War
The University of North Carolina Press, 2017.



Bruce Dickson,
Dictator's Dilemma: The Chinese Communist Party's Strategy for Survival
Oxford University Press, 2016.

FEATURED ALUMNUS - BRIAN HARDING



Brian Harding participates in a public forum as part of the SEED Plus co-hosted by the Sasakawa Peace Foundation in Tokyo. The program fostered in-depth dialogue on regional and global security issues between U.S. defense experts and Japanese policymakers.

Brian Harding received an M.A. in Asian Studies from the Elliott School in 2006. He currently works at the Center for American Progress (CAP) as director of East and Southeast Asia policy for National Security and International Policy. In this role, he manages a range of projects focused on U.S. policy issues in the Asia-Pacific.

From 2009 to 2013, he served in the Office of the Secretary of Defense (Policy) as country director for Asian and Pacific security affairs. Here he managed defense relations with major U.S. partners in Southeast Asia and Oceania - including Indonesia, Singapore, Australia, and New Zealand - and advised senior DOD leadership on Asia-Pacific regional

strategy. Brian also helped to build the first Southeast Asia policy program in the Washington, D.C. think-tank community while serving as a research associate at the Center for Strategic and International Studies where he focused on Southeast Asia and Japan.

Brian credits the Elliott School's Asian Studies program for preparing him to succeed in these various professional roles. "Clearly, the Elliott School's Asian Studies program has one of the strongest Asia-focused faculties in the country," he says. "But what really makes the Asian Studies and Elliott School faculty stand out is their proximity to the DC policy community. Likewise, the opportunities I had during my time at the Elliott School - interning for two semesters each at CSIS and the National Defense University - enriched my educational experience in remarkable ways, enabling me to connect what I was learning in an academic setting to the real world"

Brian is proud of the role he has played in elevating discussion of Southeast Asia to a more prominent place in the D.C. policy community. "Following the end of US involvement in the Vietnam War, Washington more or less forgot about Southeast Asia," he explains. "However, over the past ten years Washington has finally gotten the memo that it needs to be more engaged with and better understand this increasingly important region of 600 million people and a \$2.5 trillion economy. I'm proud that the Southeast Asia program I helped start at CSIS in 2007 has become such an important vehicle for shining attention on the region."

2017 FACULTY FELLOWS

In 2017, the Sigur Center for Asian Studies funded six faculty members with a total of **\$18,892** to travel to 12 Asian countries to conduct research. Awardees include:

- **Celeste Arrington** (*Political Science & International Affairs*). "Lawyers and Legal Activism in South Korean and Japanese Policymaking" - **South Korea**
- **Kavita Daiya** (*English*). "Graphic Secularism and Public Culture: Migration, Gender, and Citizenship in India, and Beyond" - **India**
- **Cristin McKnight Sethi** (*Fine Arts & Art History*). "Good Wives, Good Mothers, Good Neighbors: Embroidery Education and the Cultivation of Female Morality in Colonial Punjab" - **Pakistan**
- **David Shambaugh** (*Political Science & International Affairs*). "The Competitive Coexistence: United States and China in Southeast Asia" - **Brunei, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, The Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam**
- **Emmanuel Teitelbaum** (*Political Science & International Affairs*). "Labor Protections and "Jobless Growth in Indian Manufacturing" - **India**
- **Elanah Uretsky** (*Global Health*). "Examining the Role of Trust and Relationships within China's Epidemic of Patient Violence Against Doctors" - **China**

IN DEPTH - RESEARCH TRAVEL WITH PROFESSOR SHAMBAUGH



David Shambaugh is Gaston Sigur Professor of Asian Studies, Political Science, and International Affairs.

Above: On board the USS Carl Vinson aircraft carrier in Singapore

I intentionally chose to spend this sabbatical in Southeast Asia rather than in China. While primarily being a China specialist, I also teach and write about international relations of all of Asia - hence I felt the need to broaden and deepen my knowledge of the region. I could not have asked for a better exposure. I managed to visit nine of the ten countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) - Singapore, Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, Vietnam, Brunei, Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Philippines - missing only Laos. I also had a lengthy visit to India. In many of these countries I was part of the U.S. State Department's International Speakers Program, which afforded interactions with a wide range of students, scholars, journalists, think tankers, and government officials. Altogether I gave 40 lectures in ten countries in six

During the 2017 spring semester I had the great opportunity to spend six months in Southeast Asia. I was based in Singapore, where I was a Distinguished Visiting Professor at the Elliott School's partner, the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies at Nanyang Technological University. RSIS could not have been a better host institution or base for me to get to know Singapore and explore the region. While only a decade old, RSIS has become a leading school of international relations in Asia (second only to the Australian National University Coral Bell School). I strongly encourage our Elliott School MA students to take advantage of the partnership and spend a semester or year at RSIS (I met two such students)!



With faculty and students at al-Azhar University in Jakarta, Indonesia

IN DEPTH - RESEARCH TRAVEL WITH PROFESSOR SHAMBAUGH

months. I also visited the American embassy in all countries and had the real pleasure of meeting our distinguished ambassadors and dedicated Foreign Service Officers.

My own research project was to collect information and learn about the respective roles of the United States and China in Southeast Asia. I learned that this is a rapidly evolving and highly complex subject. I have already written up a lengthy article and am now embarked on a book tentatively entitled *Where Great Powers Meet: America and China in Southeast Asia*. In general, I learned that the American position is tenuous and eroding, while China's influence is increasing rapidly. It came as a surprise to me, but it is evident that every country in the region, except Indonesia, is increasingly gravitating towards China. This trend may not endure - but for the time being it is pronounced. China may well overplay its hand over time - particularly through its ambitious "One Belt, One Road" initiative - but Washington needs to pay increased attention and shore up its role in the region.



At the Taj Mahal in Agra, India

understanding of India (my eighth visit) and South Asia as well. I will never again try to generalize about Southeast Asia, as the first—but most profound—lesson one learns is about the extraordinary diversity across these societies in all respects: geography, political systems, economies, ethnicities, religions, languages, cultures, security challenges, and other features vary from one Southeast Asian state to another. As a China specialist, I have also come to better understand how Beijing is viewed (for better and for worse) and how it pursues its ties with these other countries. As an American, I have been sensitized to the real strategic importance of Southeast and South Asia—this vast stretch of land and sea from east Africa to the western Pacific is where the new "Great Game" of international relations will play out in the coming years.



Visiting the headquarters of the Vietnamese Communist Party in Hanoi

Sabbaticals are supposed to be for faculty to get away from their routines, do research, and build new intellectual capital. I certainly experienced this. I have discovered a newfound - and lasting - fascination with Southeast Asia, and deepened my



At dinner with Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien-long

SUMMER 2017 STUDENT FELLOWS

In 2017, the Sigur Center for Asian Studies awarded **\$38,305** for fellowship support to seven students to travel to three Asian countries. The following students received field research and language study fellowships:

- **Katelyn DeNap** (MA - *Security Policy Studies*). Chinese Language Study - **Taiwan**
- **Samuel Frantz** (PhD - *Political Science*). Field Research on “The Politics and Strategy of Corporate Social Services in India” - **India**
- **Zachary Haver** (BA - *International Affairs*). Chinese Language Study - **Taiwan**
- **Shweta Krishnan** (PhD - *Anthropology*). Field Research on “Eroding Lives: Understanding How Hindu Nationalism and Transnational Interest in Hinduism Shape an Environmental Crisis in Majuli, Assam” - **India**
- **Erin Mulhearn** (MA - *Asian Studies*). Chinese Language Study - **Taiwan**
- **Irene Mutwiri** (BA - *International Affairs*). Estelle Sigur Language Grant - **Japan**
- **Tracie Yang** (MA - *Asian Studies*). Chinese Language Study - **Taiwan**

See below for a few snapshots of their adventures abroad:

TAIWAN - CHINESE LANGUAGE STUDY



Erin Mulhearn sending off a lantern in Shifen, Taiwan on her final day of classes.

TAIWAN- CHINESE LANGUAGE STUDY



Zachary Haver flying kites at the Pier 2 Art Center in Kaohsiung, Taiwan.

APPLY FOR FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS!

The Sigur Center for Asian Studies is an excellent resource for students wishing to conduct language study or field research in Asia. You can also check out videos and blog posts from our student fellows at asiaonestreet.blogspot.com.

TAIWAN CONFERENCE: "TAIWAN'S 'NEW SOUTHBOUND POLICY' AND PROSPECTS FOR INTERNATIONAL SPACE"



A full room listens to a panel at "Taiwan's 'New Southbound Policy' and Prospects for International Space" (5/23/17).

A full audio recording of both panels can be found [HERE](#).

As part of President Tsai Ing-wen's efforts to reinvigorate and diversify Taiwan's economy, the "New Southbound Policy" aims to secure new regional partners in South and Southeast Asia. Building upon the policies of previous administrations, the "New Southbound Policy" will also seek to lessen Taiwan's economic reliance on the mainland by building an extensive network of cultural and interpersonal relationships throughout the region.

This relatively new policy was examined in the context of Taiwan's overall foreign policy objectives at a Taiwan Conference on ["Taiwan's 'New Southbound Policy' and Prospects for International Space"](#) held at the Sigur Center on May 23, 2017. Panelists included:

- **Rafael Frankel**, Vice President, Bower Group Asia
- **Matthew Funaiole**, Fellow, China Power Project, CSIS
- **Russell Hsiao**, Executive Director, Global Taiwan Institute
- **Deepa Ollapally**, Research Professor of International Affairs, GW
- **Bob Sutter**, Professor of Practice of International Affairs, GW
- **Vincent Wei-Cheng Wang**, Ithaca College

TAIWAN ROUNDTABLE: "TAIWAN AND LATIN AMERICAN RELATIONS: ACHIEVEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES"

While Taiwan's role in Latin America and the Caribbean has not been the focus of headlines in recent years, Taiwan has been steadily increasing its influence and presence in the region. On February 23, 2017 the Sigur Center partnered with GW's Latin American & Hemispheric Studies Program to host a Taiwan Roundtable entitled ["Taiwan and Latin American Relations: Achievements and Opportunities."](#) The panel assembled discussed Taiwan's diplomatic relations with countries in the region as well as its significant contributions to natural disaster preparedness. Panelists included:

- **Robert Chyou**, Professor of the Department of Diplomacy, National Chengchi University, Taiwan
- **Liza Mantilla**, Director, Disaster Management, Pan American Development Foundation
- **John Sanbrailo**, Executive Director, Pan American Development Foundation
- **Elisa Wang**, Associate Professor, Institute of Latin American Studies, Tamkang University, Taiwan



From left to right: John Sanbrailo and Liza Mantilla of the Pan American Development Foundation during the Q&A session (2/23/17).

A full audio recording of the roundtable can be found [HERE](#).

SELECT EVENTS



Kathleen Stephens, former ambassador to South Korea, at "The 22nd Annual Gaston Sigur Memorial Lecture: Lessons from Korea: Korea's Democracy After 30 Years" (5/22/17).

February 2, 2017: *Okinawa Dialogue: Okinawa's Future and East Asia*, with **The Honorable Takeshi Onaga**, Governor of Okinawa.

February 3, 2017: *Trump's "America First" Foreign Policy toward East Asia*, with **Guo Xuetao**, Visiting Scholar, Sigur Center for Asian Studies, GW.

February 21, 2017: *Taming the Imperial Imagination: How the British Empire came to know Afghanistan, and Why it Matters*, with **Martin Bayly**, British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow, The London School of Economics and Political Science.

February 28, 2017: *The Dynamics of the "One-China Policy" and the Status Quo: Perspectives from Taiwan*, with **Fang-Yu Chen**, PhD Candidate, Michigan State University and **Jason Kuo**, Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Georgetown University.

March 23, 2017: *Russia-China Relations: Recent Trajectory, Implications, and Outlook*, co-sponsored with **The National Bureau of Asian Research**, with **Henry Hale**, Professor of Political Science and International Affairs, GW, **Paul Heer**, former National Intelligence Officer for East Asia, Office of the Director for National Intelligence, **Yun Sun**, Senior Associate, Stimson Center, **Robert Sutter**, Professor of Practice of International Affairs, GW and **Michael Yahuda**, Professor Emeritus, the London School of Economics.

April 10, 2017: *Lancang-Mekong River Hydro-politics: China's Role and Response*, with **Zhifei Li**, Visiting Scholar, Sigur Center for Asian Studies, GW.

April 17, 2017: *China's New Silk Road Strategy and India's Options: Competitive Cooperation?*, with **Ajay Chhibber**, Visiting Distinguished Professor, National Institute for Public Finance and Policy, GW.

April 20, 2017: *Taiwan's Path to Marriage Equality*, co-sponsored with **Organization of Asian Studies (OAS)**, with **June Lin**, Sunflower Movement Activist and, **Fang-Yu Chen**, PhD Candidate, Michigan State University.

May 5, 2017: *Jimmy Carter, China, and the Failed US-China Comprehensive Test Ban Negotiation: 1976-1981*, with **Shen Peng**, Visiting Scholar, Sigur Center for Asian Studies, GW.

May 26, 2017: *National Security Issues Facing the New President of South Korea*, with **Chanhyun Nam**, Major and Artillery Officer, ROK Army.

June 21, 2017: *Transparency and Accountability in International Development: How ADB Ensures Responsible Development Investment in Asia*, with **WooChong Um**, The Secretary, Office of the Secretary, Asian Development Bank, Manila and **Karen Lane**, Senior External Relations Specialist, Department of External Relations, Asian Development Bank, Manila.

June 22, 2017: *Taiwan's New South Bound Policy: SWOT and Cross-domain Strategy Analysis*, with **Allison Chao**, Visiting Scholar, Sigur Center for Asian Studies, GW.

August 15, 2017: *Sino-Tibetan Buddhist Encounters in the People's Republic of China*, with **Khenpo Tsultrim Lodro**, Abbot of Larung Gar Buddhist Institute, Tibet.



The Honorable Takeshi Onaga, Governor of Okinawa speaks at "Okinawa Dialogue: Okinawa's Future and East Asia" (2/02/17).

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:

https://www.gwu.edu/online_giving/

CONTACT US!

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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