

THE ASIAN CONNECTION

Sigur Center for Asian Studies

Fall 2015

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This year marks the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II. Although this anniversary was little noticed in the US, it was commemorated with much greater fanfare elsewhere in the world, especially in Asia. The Sigur Center has hosted a series of events related to the end of WWII during the fall 2015 semester.

The first event took place on September 10 and was entitled “Anniversary Politics: Commemorations of WWII in the Asia Pacific in 2015.” This day-long conference focused on how governments across Asia, Europe, and the US commemorated the anniversary. It was co-sponsored by the Memory & Reconciliation in Asia Pacific Program within the Sigur Center and its co-directors Daqing Yang and Mike Mochizuki were among the presenters. They are currently editing the papers for a book that will be published next year.



Sigur Center Director Bruce Dickson

The second event on October 1 was part of our “Taiwan Roundtable” series and examined “The R.O.C. at the End of WWII.” The role of the Nationalist government in China at the time was often overlooked in the other commemorations of the end of WWII. But the end of WWII was something of a pyrrhic victory for the ROC: depleted from fighting Japan and rebuilding China after the end of WWII, it soon lost its civil war against the Chinese Communist Party. The end of WWII was not just a historical moment, it continued to influence Chinese politics and international relations in the decades after.

The lingering influence of WWII was also the theme of our third event, “70 Years after the End of WWII in Asia: Lessons from History and Peace in the Balance,” a two-day conference held on October 2-3 and co-sponsored with the China Energy Fund Committee. This wide-ranging conference brought together scholars from the US, China, Taiwan, and Japan.

Finally, we hosted “The 70th Anniversary of the Korean Liberation: Achievements, Challenges and the Future” on October 30, 2015. This all-day conference featured presentations by numerous scholars from the US and South Korea and was co-sponsored with the Northeast Asian History Foundation.

The Sigur Center hosted this series of events on the end of WWII to continue our mission of highlighting key trends in Asia. In this case, we took advantage of a key anniversary to explore both the historical events and their lingering impact.

Bruce Dickson

Director, Sigur Center for Asian Studies

Professor of Political Science and International Affairs

FEATURED ALUMNUS - DAE-WHAN CHANG



GWAA President-elect Jeremy Gosbee, left, and former Elliott School Dean Michael Brown, right, present Dae-Whan Chang with the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award. (William Atkins/GW Today)

Dr. Dae Whan Chang is one of South Korea's most respected thought leaders. After earning his M.A. in International Affairs from the Elliott School at GW in 1976 and then his Ph.D. from New York University in 1987, he founded the [World Knowledge Forum](#) - the largest annual business forum in Asia - and has served as chair and publisher of Maekyung Media Group since 1988. Dr. Chang also served as Prime Minister of Korea in 2002.

While presenting him with the [Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award](#) in June of 2015, former Elliott School Dean, Dr. Michael Brown commended Dr. Chang for his "truly extraordinary career and record of professional accomplishment

in public service. [He] is, without a doubt, one of GW's most distinguished and accomplished graduates in the private sector, the nonprofit world and in public service." Dr. Chang has worked to raise GW's profile in South Korea, Dr. Brown said. He was a keynote speaker at the GW Global Forum in Seoul in 2012, an event that featured remarks from former Secretary of State Colin Powell, M.B.A. '71, and then-Wired Magazine Editor-in-Chief Chris Anderson.

Reflecting on the goals and progress of the World Knowledge Forum, Dr. Chang said that he hopes it will continue to provide opportunities for Asian people to meet and get to know globally renowned scholars. He also hopes that the Forum will help Korea and other Asian countries to become more knowledge-based societies through "knowledge sharing."

Regarding the state of academic exchanges between the U.S. and Asian countries, Dr. Chang thinks that "while there are many Asian students studying in the U.S., there are too few American students studying in Asia. U.S. students should pay more attention to Korea, China, Japan and the ten countries of ASEAN where a lot of opportunities are available."

Looking back on his education at the Elliott School, Dr. Chang recalls "my study of international politics, economics, science & technology, and public policy were invaluable to my education, and greatly prepared me for my future in both the public and private sectors."

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT - JACQUELINE LAREAU

Jacqueline Lareau is a first year graduate student in the Asian Studies program at the Elliott School. After completing her B.A. in Asian Studies with a minor in Japanese language, Jacqueline received a **FLAS** (Foreign Language and Area Studies) Fellowship from the Sigur Center. The Center was awarded FLAS fellowships in Fall 2014 which total \$232,500 per year, and include both full academic year and summer only fellowships for students seeking to further their study of Chinese, Japanese or Korean.

"Even though I had never traveled to Asia or knew anyone who did, I remember always being interested in Asian history and culture when I was in grade school and high school," recalls Jacqueline. "It was when I started college at GW and took my first class on Japanese history that I developed a real passion for the subject and decided to major in Asian Studies. Since then, my experience as an Asian Studies student has allowed me to specialize on subjects that I care about in the classroom and connect with other students with the same passions and aspirations as me. It has opened me up to a lot of professional opportunities as well as given me a real academic community."

Regarding the study of Japanese language, Jacqueline is honest about the inherent challenges involved. "It's definitely not one of the easiest languages for English speakers to learn, and it took me two years of dedicated study to begin to feel like I had a good

grasp on it. It was a very steep learning curve, but once I finally got the hang of it, it felt incredibly empowering to be able to express myself in such a complex, subtle, and beautiful language."

In addition to studying in Japan for 12 months while an undergraduate at GW, Jacqueline was an Asia Program Intern at the German Marshall Fund in Washington, DC. As for her future plans, she is committed to pursuing a career that involves "East Asia, Japanese and bringing people from other cultures together."



FACULTY FOCUS - CHRISTINA FINK



Christina Fink is Professor of Practice of International Affairs at GW's Elliott School of International Affairs. Her areas of expertise include Burma/Myanmar in particular and Southeast Asia more broadly. Her work focuses on equitable development, gender and development, and civil society in ethnically diverse states. Professor Fink is a cultural anthropologist and received her B.A. in International Relations from Stanford University and her M.A. and Ph.D. in social/cultural anthropology from the University of California at Berkeley.

Professor Fink traces her interest in Burma to her time spent living with the ethnic minority Karen community in northern Thailand while conducting her Ph.D. research in anthropology. As part of her investigation of Karen understandings of community and identity, she also conducted interviews with Karen who lived on the other side of the border in Burma, or Myanmar as the country is officially known today. "This was around 1992-93 when very few people knew much about what was going on inside Burma. Being exposed to the Karen community made me realize just how disadvantaged the ethnic minorities were compared to the Burmese democracy movement in terms of advocating for minority rights on the international stage." The Karen and others who lived in the armed conflict areas of Burma's mountainous ethnic states had little access to formal education and limited exposure to other ethnic groups in the country.

According to Professor Fink, there are two struggles occurring in Burma. "One is the struggle for democracy and the other is the struggle for ethnic rights. The struggle for ethnic rights actually predates the struggle for democracy, so simply reintroducing democracy will not resolve the country's ethnic conflicts. Democracy is a necessary, but insufficient condition for bringing about peace and stability in the country."

How does development relate to governance reform? Professor Fink says, "My definition of development encompasses not simply poverty alleviation, but also political transformation and conflict resolution. In countries like Burma it is important for peoples of different ethnicities and backgrounds to have more contact with one another and more empathy for each other's needs. For instance, there is a lot of distrust between the majority Burman population and minority ethnic groups. But in addition, you also have mistrust between various non-Burman ethnic groups, which makes the problem of minority rights even more complicated to resolve."

In order for development practitioners to be able to operate effectively, Professor Fink emphasizes that "it is crucial to learn about a country's history, political context, and social structures." She believes that "an anthropological approach to development is therefore very useful as it encourages an understanding of local cultures and values."

Professor Fink is currently writing a book about the ongoing reform process in Myanmar. Since 2011, the country has moved from outright military rule to semi-authoritarian rule. Regarding the upcoming parliamentary elections scheduled to take place on November 8, she said, "People are expecting that Aung San Suu Kyi's party, the National League for Democracy, will do very well. What's still unclear is who will become the next president." The military has a lot of influence over the process, and Aung San Suu Kyi cannot become president based on the current constitution, because her sons are British citizens. Professor Fink said, "There are some encouraging signs. The head of the elections commission has stated that he is committed to free and fair elections, and the Commander in Chief has said he will recognize the results of the elections. So there is potential for the country to build on the progress already made, but we will have to wait and see."

The linkages between development studies and Southeast Asia at the Elliott School are valuable in Professor Fink's view. She notes that International Development Studies students are often interested in Southeast Asia, because they see it as a really dynamic region of the world. In her classes, she loves having students from Southeast Asia or who have Southeast Asian heritage share their insights with their American counterparts. She also appreciates all the events the Sigur Center hosts on the region.

THE ANNUAL GASTON SIGUR MEMORIAL LECTURE

Thailand's socioeconomic development since the 1980s has changed the political demography of Thailand, leading to the rise of a new class that demands more political participation. Yet, the existing political system is resisting this change. What does this clash between society and political system indicate for potential change in Thailand? Is it a setback or progress for the country's democracy? These questions were addressed at the [19th Annual Gaston Sigur Memorial Lecture on "Democratization in Asia and the Intellectuals: Lessons from Thailand's Crisis,"](#) on March 30 by **Thongchai Winichakul**, Professor of History at University of Wisconsin-Madison. **The full Asia Report can be found [here](#).**

Thailand's ongoing crisis is a painful but inevitable developmental process that a country must undergo in its transformation towards a more democratic society. The 2014 coup in Thailand reflects deep societal and structural divides amidst changes in socioeconomic development and the existing political system that resists these changes. In contrast, prior coups in Thailand have been marked by ethnic or factional conflicts between political elites or military officers. While traumatic, the coup presents a moment of potential societal transformation, from one of social chaos to possible democratization.

Cycles of conflict between Thailand's authoritarian regime and civil society have marked the country's history since 1932. Since the 1973 October movement, the country has moved towards a path to democracy, albeit a "royalist democracy" - a parliamentary system marked by political domination by royal elites who exert informal influence over major policy decision making. While royal elites do not directly dominate politics, they exert influence via decision making of budgetary issues, major policies, or major political appointments. Royal elites, otherwise referred to as monarchists, refers to the entire political block of actors who have a vested interest in keeping the monarchy in power due to the material benefits, power, and influence gained from supporting the system. The rise of royalist democracy has also witnessed the gradual retreat of the Thai military. The backbone of Thailand's political system under royalist democracy lies not in elected officials, but rather, in bureaucrats in the army and various government agencies and departments. Under this structure, the King or royal elites can bypass elected officials and work directly with those controlling the bureaucracy.

Recently, Thailand's political landscape has begun to change with the rise of the middle class, particularly in the north and northeast. With socioeconomic development, literacy rates have improved, and many have access to higher education. This societal change has resulted in increasing demand for greater political participation and the usage of taxpayers' money for the common good. At the same time, Thai citizens have realized that the electoral system and elected officials-however corrupt they may be - remain the only channel through which they have access to public resources. What does this mean for the Thai monarchy?



Professor Bruce Dickson greets Estelle and Paul Sigur during the reception for *The 18th Annual Gaston Sigur Memorial Lecture*

Royalist democracy is built around the charismatic virtues of royal elites, particularly the King. However, because the virtues of a particular leader are not transferable to a successor, leadership succession is a precarious process as royal elites fight to maintain their influence in the political system. The underlying tensions in the 2014 coup reflected the conflict between change in Thailand's political demography (new middle class) and the existing monarchic system struggling to remain relevant. For the monarchy, the issue of succession presents a serious threat to the maintenance of its power; this is the reason why the coup has suppressed dissent so forcefully.

Is this coup a setback or a step forward for Thai democracy? There have been numerous setbacks vis-à-vis the constitutional drafts that are currently being debated and increasing crackdowns on political dissent. New laws render the Thai upper house completely appointed by elites, limit the number of elected officials in the lower house, and strip the power of the lower house. In addition, political dissidents and opponents may be arrested and tried in military courts, even in the absence of the declaration of the state of emergency. Moreover, the targeting of political opponents has become increasingly indiscriminate. These measures are considered a "new normal" in Thai politics - royal elites taking extreme measures to maintain their power and prepare for the throne's succession. Nonetheless, the ongoing crisis has potential to push democratization forward, but necessitates some kind of intervention to avoid the coup becoming a political setback, rather than a growing pain of democratic transformation. The question on the type of intervention needed is left unanswered, but needs to continue to be debated and discussed amongst intellectuals and political observers.

TAIWAN ROUNDTABLE: "PROSPECTS FOR EXPANDING TAIWAN'S INTERNATIONAL ROLE"



From left to center: Dr. Wei-chin Lee, Dr. Bonnie Glaser, Dr. Jacques deLisle and Dr. Deepa Ollapally speaking at GW (7/30/15)

Taiwan faces a host of challenges in its cross strait relations with a rising China. Among these challenges, Taiwan's sovereignty and status affect Taiwan's ability to effectively navigate international institutions and organizations. Nonetheless, Taiwan has made some gains in its participation in international institutions, particularly in the fields of global health and disaster relief. What are the implications of these gains for Taiwan, moving forward? These issues came under scrutiny at a Taiwan Roundtable on "[Prospects for Expanding Taiwan's International Role](#)," held at the Sigur Center for Asian Studies on July 30, 2015. The panel included **Wei-chin Lee**, Professor of Political Science, Wake Forest University, **Bonnie Glaser**, Senior Adviser for Asia and Freeman Chair in China Studies, Center for Strategic & International Studies, and **Jacques deLisle**, Professor of Law and Political Science and Director, Center for East Asian Studies, University of Pennsylvania.

A full Asia Report on the roundtable can be read [HERE](#).

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

TAIWAN ROUNDTABLE: "WINNERS OR LOSERS IN THE TPP? TAIWAN, ITS NEIGHBORS, AND THE UNITED STATES"

The Obama Administration renewed its efforts to get the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) through Congress last Spring. In addition to being the largest trade deal passed by the U.S. in several decades, the TPP may also serve as the economic linchpin of the U.S. "rebalance" to Asia and is of great importance to many of America's Asian allies. In light of the continuing debate over TPP ratification, the Sigur Center for Asian Studies held a Taiwan Roundtable entitled "[Winners or Losers in the TPP? Taiwan, its Neighbors, and the United States](#)." The panel assembled to discuss the different aspects of this proposed trade deal included **Mireya Solís**, Senior Fellow at the Brookings Center for East Asia Policy Studies, **Shihoko Goto**, Senior Northeast Asia Associate at the Woodrow Wilson Center's Asia Program, and **Derek Scissors**, Resident Scholar at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI).



A full audience listens to the panel of experts at GW (3/26/15)

A full Asia Report on the roundtable can be read [HERE](#).

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

RECENT EVENTS

TRANSNATIONAL AND SUBNATIONAL LECTURE SERIES



Professor David Shambaugh speaks to a packed room at *China at the Crossroads? Reform Challenges* (4/02/15)

January 21, 2015: *Chinese Debt: Is it Sustainable?*, with **Victor Shih**, Associate Professor, the School of International Relations and Pacific Studies, UC San Diego.

February 4, 2015: *Is there a Place for Civil Society in Spiritual Civilization Campaigns? Heritage, Development, and Citizenship in the PRC*, with **Robert Shepherd**, Visiting Associate Professor of Anthropology and International Affairs, GW.

February 11, 2015: *Myanmar's Upcoming Elections and the Fate of the Reform Process*, co-sponsored by **SOAS** (the School of Oriental and African Studies), University of London, with **Christina Fink**, Professor of Practice of International Affairs, GW and **Douglass Jackson**, Director of Research, Jefferson Waterman International.

February 12, 2015: *Building Civil Society in Authoritarian China*, with **John W. Tai**, Professorial Lecturer, GW.

February 18, 2015: *China's New Governing Party Paradigm: Political Renewal and the Pursuit of National Rejuvenation*, with **Timothy Heath**, Senior International and Defense Analyst, RAND Corporation.

February 26, 2015: *China's Monetary Ambition: Renminbi Internationalization in Comparative Perspective*, with **Injoo Sohn**, Associate Professor, the University of Hong Kong.

March 6, 2015: *Every Rock A Universe: The Yellow Mountains and Travel Writing in China*, with **Jonathan Chaves**, Professor of Chinese, GW.

March 24, 2015: *The Whole Place Went Totally out of Control: The End of World War II in Malaya and The Netherlands Indies 1945-46*, with **Ronald Spector**, Professor of History and International Affairs, GW.

March 24, 2015: *Taiwan and China: The Non-negotiable Elements of the Possible Political Negotiation*, with **Peter Y.H. Chen**, Fulbright Visiting Scholar, Cornell University.

March 25, 2015: *Indonesia's Democratic Reversal? Governance and the Attack on Direct Elections in the Regions*, with **Alasdair Bowie**, Associate Professor of Political Science and International Affairs, GW.

April 1, 2015: *Fashioned Exposure: Empress Dowager Cixi's (1835-1908) Photographic Portraits*, co-sponsored by the **Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures**, with **Ying-Chen Peng**, Assistant Professor, Department of Art, American University.

April 2, 2015: *China at the Crossroads? Reform Challenges*, with **David Shambaugh**, Professor of Political Science and International Affairs, GW.

Watch the video [HERE](#). Read the Asia Report [HERE](#).

April 9, 2015: *Cosmopolitanism in Practice: Islam and Nation in Indonesia*, with **Joel Kuipers**, GW, **Janet Steele**, GW, **Andrew Weintraub**, University of Pittsburgh, **Karen Strassler**, Queens College, **Joseph Errington**, Yale University, and **Nancy J. Smith-Hefner**, Boston University.



Indonesian rock band *The Dangdut Cowboys* perform during a two-day symposium on *Cosmopolitanism in Practice: Islam and Nation in Indonesia* (4/09/15)

RECENT EVENTS

April 17, 2015: *Low Profile Lutable Resources and Insurgent Violence: Evidence from India*, with **Emmanuel Teitelbaum**, Assistant Professor of Political Science and International Affairs, GW.

April 29, 2015: *Defining Democracy in China*, with **Bruce Dickson**, Professor of Political Science and International Affairs, GW.

May 4, 2015: *Deadlock to Détente: Could India's Strategic Competition with China Mean Peace with Pakistan?*, with **Neil Padukone**, Author, *Beyond South Asia: India's Strategic Evolution and the Reintegration of the Subcontinent*.

May 12, 2015: *The Making of the Korean Honorific System*, Co-sponsored by the **Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures**, with **Young-Key Kim-Renaud**, former Chair and Professor, Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures, GW.

June 30, 2015: *Voices of Former "Comfort Women" and Their Journey for Peace*, Co-sponsored by the **Memory and Reconciliation in the Asia-Pacific Program**, with **Ms. Bok-dong Kim**, survivor of "Comfort Stations" in China and Southeast Asia and **Ms. Mee-hyang Yoon**, Representative of the Korean Council for the Women Drafted for Military Sexual Slavery by Japan (Korean Council).

Read the *GW Today* article [HERE](#).



Bok-dong Kim (second from left), a surviving "comfort woman" at the event, *Voices of Former "Comfort Women" and Their Journey for Peace* (6/30/15)

VISITING SCHOLAR ROUNDTABLE SERIES

January 15, 2015: *A Battle for Legitimacy: What Made the North Korean Military-First System Different from Cuba's Junta System?*, with **Jung-Chul Lee**, Associate Professor, Soongsil University, Korea.

March 18, 2015: *The Challenge of the U.S. Rebalance in Maritime Asia*, with **Satoru Mori**, Professor, Department of Global Politics, Hosei University, Japan.

April 22, 2015: *The Star and His Era - The Prosperity of the Chinese Movie Star System from 1930-1935*, with **Kailei Yan**, Associate Professor, the College of Art and Communication, Tongji University, China.



Sigur Center Director Professor Bruce Dickson delivers a lecture at *Defining Democracy in China* (4/29/15)

RISING POWERS INITIATIVE



Expert panelists at the RPI Roundtable *Energy Security Worldviews in Asia* (3/31/15)

On March 31, the RPI hosted a roundtable entitled [Energy Security Worldviews in Asia](#). Three panelists examined how key actors with an influence on energy decision making in Japan, South Korea, and China view their country's energy vulnerability and security, as well the strategies being promoted. Panelists included:

- ♦ **Mike Mochizuki**, Associate Professor of Political Science and International Affairs, GW
- ♦ **Scott Snyder**, Senior Fellow for Korea Studies; Director, Program on U.S.-Korea Policy, Council on Foreign Relations
- ♦ **Robert Sutter**, Professor of Practice of International Affairs, GW

The roundtable was made possible through the generous support of the **Carnegie Corporation of New York**.

Read the Policy Brief on the roundtable [here](#).

The Sigur Center's Rising Powers Initiative examines how domestic foreign policy debates and identity issues affect international relations in Asia.

More information on the Rising Powers Initiative can be found at:

Website: <http://www.risingpowersinitiative.org>
Blog: <http://www.risingpowersinitiative.org/blog>



RPI Director Dr. Deepa Ollapally and Ambassador Neelam Deo at *Remaking India: Modi's Blueprint to Align Foreign Policy with Domestic Agenda* (4/07/15)

On April 7, the RPI hosted **Ambassador Neelam Deo**, Director of Gateway House in Mumbai, at a Sigur Center lecture entitled [Remaking India: Modi's Blueprint to Align Foreign Policy with Domestic Agenda](#). The lecture sought to examine how domestic priorities and international ambitions are intersecting under the Indian government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi after one year in power. Particularly after the presentation of the much awaited 2015-16 Budget for India on February 28, questions remained regarding what the budget signaled about new directions in India's foreign policy and economic strategies.

Ambassador Deo concluded that overall, the main elements of Modi's initial policies and his first budget place emphasis on social security reform, more transparency in the delivery of government services, and continued progress on "Make in India." As Deo remarked, the current administration is acting in a way that suggests it "expects to be here for at least ten years; all of its plans [both domestic and foreign] extend beyond a single term in office." In general, Modi's first year in office has witnessed greater coherence in the domestic programs and an effort to dovetail that in India's external relationships. Whether or not this trend will lead to significant progress for India remains to be seen.

A full Asia Report on the event can be read [here](#).

Listen to an audio recording of the event [here](#).

PISA PARTNERSHIPS FOR INTERNATIONAL STRATEGIES IN ASIA

"Creative responses to global concerns..."

Partnerships for International Strategies in Asia (PISA) of the Sigur Center for Asian Studies, is directed by **Linda Yarr**. PISA prepares leaders for the challenges and opportunities of the 21st Century and mobilizes networks of scholars, policy makers, and advocates on both sides of the Pacific to address urgent national and transnational concerns. Since its establishment in 1984, the program has grown to meet the changing needs of the Asia-Pacific region. [Explore PISA's 31-year history through our interactive timeline.](#)

PISA CLIMATE INITIATIVE

Since 2007, PISA has organized leadership training institutes on climate change in Hanoi, Washington, DC, Bangkok and Naypyitaw. In November 2014, PISA hosted 14 government officials and civil society leaders for the Myanmar Advanced Leadership Institute on Climate Change, a fast-paced program which included experiential learning site visits, expert presentations, active learning exercises and final group presentations. Read more about the Climate Initiative [here](#).



MALICC participants prepare for a press conference simulation exercise.

This November, PISA will join our long-standing partner in Myanmar, ALARM, and the University of Yangon, to conduct a training program focused on environmental issues as well as a seminar on sustainable urban planning for municipal authorities in Yangon. PISA's delegation will meet with leaders of Myanmar's top educational institution to discuss paths for future Climate Initiative cooperation.

PISA-ASEAN CLIMATE-WISE DEVELOPMENT ROUNDTABLE SERIES

In response to Southeast Asia's alarming climate change vulnerability and thanks to generous support from the Chino Cienega Foundation, the **PISA-ASEAN Climate-wise Development Roundtable** was established. The roundtable convenes personnel from the ASEAN member embassies in Washington, DC together with specialists from the NGO, think tank and academic communities, and interested members of the public in sessions to discuss the ways in which Southeast Asian nations are innovating in climate-wise or "green growth" development strategies. Recent speakers and topics include:

Building Urban Resilience in the Context of Climate Change: The Case of Singapore, with Ms. Nitya Menon, First Secretary (Political), Embassy of the Republic of Singapore

Building Inclusive Climate-Smart Resilience from the Ground Up, featuring Mr. Roger-Mark De Souza, Director of Population, Environmental Security and Resilience, Global Sustainability and Resilience Program at the Wilson Center. [Watch the event here.](#)

"Climate Refugees" Screening, with expert commentary by Dinah L. Shelton, Manatt/Ahn Professor of International Law

Practicing Development: Reflections on a Multi-decade Career in Southeast Asia, with Ms. Jacqueline Chagnon, Southeast Asia Peace, Post-War Reconstruction and Conflict Specialist

Impact of Climate Change in Gujarat: The Role of Government and Voluntary Organizations, a presentation by Mr. Mahesh Pandya, Director of Paryavaran Mitra

Reform, Resource Governance and Civil Society in Myanmar, featuring Mr. Win Myo Thu, Director of ALARM (formerly ECO-DEV). [View his recorded presentation here.](#)

ACADEMIC DIALOGUE ON THE ASIA PACIFIC FUTURE

Thanks to generous funding from the Henry Luce Foundation, PISA will collaborate with Liaoning University to organize an Academic Dialogue on the Asia Pacific Future (ADAP). The dialogue will convene social science scholars from China, Europe, the United States, and the Korean Peninsula to explore emerging challenges in the Asia Pacific region through multidisciplinary approaches.

POLICY IMPACT

PISA convenes off-the-record discussions between Washington's policymakers and delegations from Asia to discuss common issues. In July, PISA assembled a meeting between climate change experts and members of the Committee on Science, Technology and Environment of Vietnam's National Assembly.



PISA Director Linda Yarr (Left) and Program Assistant Mary Howard (Right), meet with Sally Benson, a member of the Chino Cienega Foundation's Board of Directors, which has provided generous financial support for PISA's Climate Initiative.

SUMMER 2015 STUDENT FELLOWS

In 2015, the Sigur Center for Asian Studies awarded **\$50,962** for fellowship support to ten students to travel to five Asian countries. The following Students received field research and language study fellowships:

- **See-Won Byun** (*PhD - Political Science*). Field Research on "Domestic-International Linkages on China's Periphery: The Foreign Economic Liberalization of China's Border Provinces since 2000" - China
- **Max Grossman** (*BA - International Affairs & Geography*). Chinese Language Study - Taiwan
- **Mallory Hernandez** (*BA - International Affairs*). Chinese Language Study - Taiwan
- **Elizabeth Janus** (*MA - Asian Studies*). Chinese Language Study - Taiwan
- **Amjad Khan** (*PhD - Economics*). Field Research on "Discrimination Based On Religion in the Formal Urban-Sector Market of Pakistan" - Pakistan
- **Lucas Kuo** (*BA - International Affairs*). 2015 Taiwan-America Student Conference - Taiwan
- **Ronald Leonhardt** (*PhD - History*). Estelle Sigur Language Grant - Cambodia
- **Brian Liu** (*BA - International Affairs*). 2015 Taiwan-America Student Conference - Taiwan
- **Seung Joon Paik** (*PhD - Political Science*). Field Research on "Korean War: Under What Conditions do the Participants of Conventional Civil Wars Target Civilians, and What Determines the Magnitude of Violence They Employ?" - South Korea
- **Jackson Woods** (*PhD - Political Science*). Field Research on "What Determines Whether Online Publics in Authoritarian States Break from the Official View on Foreign Policy Events or Toe the Government Line?" - China

CHINA - FIELD RESEARCH



Jackson Woods at Peking University with Sigur Center Director Bruce Dickson and fellow GW PhD candidate Chunhua Chen.

CHINA - FIELD RESEARCH



See-Won Byun presenting flowers to singers at a North Korean restaurant in Shenyang, China.

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 video and blog posts from our student fellows at asiaonestreet.blogspot.com.

2015 FACULTY FELLOWS

In 2015, the Sigur Center for Asian Studies funded eight faculty members with a total of **\$45,141** to travel to six Asian countries and to conduct research. Awardees include:

- **Celeste Arrington** (*Political Science & International Affairs*). "Lawyers and Legal Mobilization in South Korea and Japan" - South Korea
- **Janet Steele** (*Journalism*). "Cosmopolitan Islam in Practice: Journalism in Indonesia and Malaysia" - Indonesia & Malaysia
- **Liana Chen** (*East Asian Languages & Literatures*). "Staging the Empire: A History of Qing Court Theatre, 1662-1924" - Taiwan
- **Emmanuel Teitelbaum** (*Political Science & International Affairs*). "Economic Roots of Political Violence in South Asia" - India
- **Alexa Huang** (*East Asian Languages & Literatures*). "Shakespeare and East Asia" - Taiwan
- **Liang (Larry) Yu** (*Business*). "Cultural Preservation as Economic Development: The Emergence of a Tourism Industry at Mount Wutai, China" - China
- **Jisoo Kim** (*History & International Affairs*). "Crime of Violence: Forensic Medicine, Dead Bodies and Legal Emotions in Eighteenth-Century Korea" - South Korea
- **Adam Ziegfeld** (*Political Science & International Affairs*). "Why Parties Cooperate: The Causes and Consequences of Pre-Election Alliances in India" - India

INDIA – EMMANUEL TEITELBAUM



Emmanuel Teitelbaum with his survey research team in the state of Jharkhand, India.

CHINA – LIANG YU



Liang Yu interviewing Ms. Qing Shen, Vice President of Changshu Municipal Tourism Administration on the planning and development of Yushan Shanghu Tourism Vacation Zone.

TAIWAN – LIANA CHEN



Liana Chen finds her book, *Literati and Actors at Work: The Transformation of Peony Pavilion on Page and on Stage in the Ming and Qing Dynasties* in the Eslite Book Store (Chengpin Shudian) in Taipei, Taiwan

SOUTH KOREA – CELESTE ARRINGTON



Celeste Arrington interviewing an attorney at APIL (Advocates for Public Interest Law) in South Korea.

SPRING - SUMMER 2015 VISITING SCHOLARS

In Spring and Summer of 2015, the Sigur Center hosted ten visiting scholars from seven 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 January 2015 to August 2015:



Mely CABALLERO-ANTHONY, Singapore
Affiliation: Associate Professor, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
Research topic: **"Governance and Human Security at 21: Implications for ASEAN"**



Hongzhong LIU, China
Affiliation: Profesor, Liaoning University, China
Research topic: **"The Changing Trade and Investment Relations and FTA among China, Japan and Korea"**



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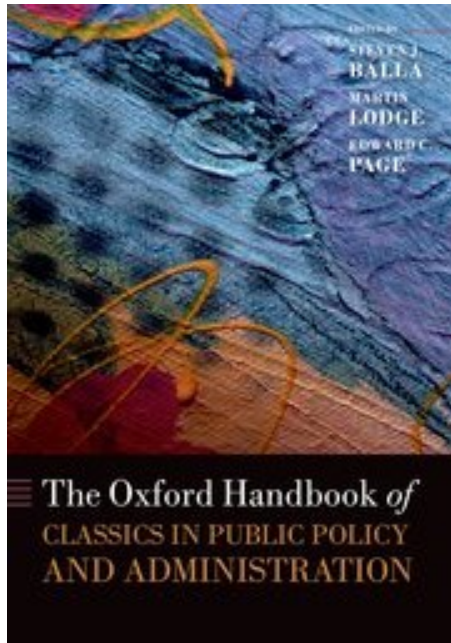
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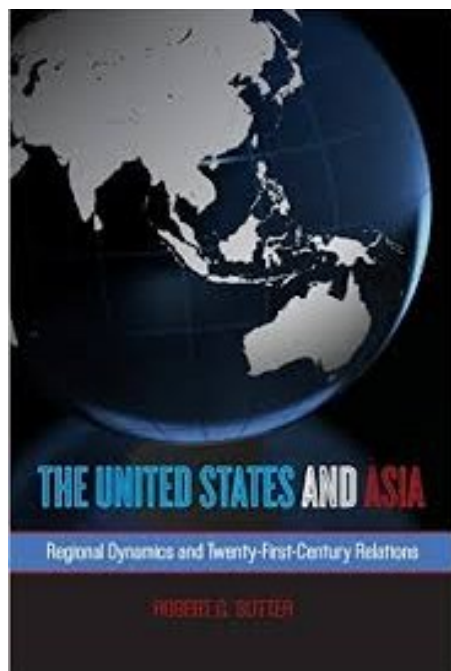
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Steven Balla. *The Oxford Handbook of Classics in Public Policy and Administration.* With Martin Lodge and Edward C. Page, eds. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 2015.



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