



INDIANA UNIVERSITY
OF PENNSYLVANIA

PITTSBURGH ASIA CONSORTIUM



FIFTH ANNUAL
PITTSBURGH ASIA CONSORTIUM

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

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INDIANA UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
Humanities and Social Sciences Building

8 APRIL 2017

WELCOME to the Fifth annual Undergraduate Asian Studies Research Conference, sponsored by the Pittsburgh Asia Consortium, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, The Liu Foundation, and by Remembering Hiroshima, Imagining Peace.

PITTSBURGH ASIA CONSORTIUM

The Pittsburgh Asia Consortium (PAC) is a collaboration of academic and non-profit organizations in and around the greater Pittsburgh area. PAC aims to foster greater knowledge and understanding about Asia. The goal is to bring together organizations with an interest in educating academics, students, and the community about Asia, but who may individually lack sufficient faculty, resources, or finances to do so on a sustained basis. Members include the University of Pittsburgh, Slippery Rock University, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Saint Vincent College, Duquesne University, Carlow University, Grove City College, Chatham University, California University of Pennsylvania, and Washington & Jefferson College.

Yuko Eguchi is a native of Tokyo, Japan and holds a Ph.D. in ethnomusicology from the University of Pittsburgh. Growing up, she studied classical ballet, piano, and Japanese tea ceremony. For her dissertation research, Yuko studied Japanese geisha's music and dance, called kouta and koutaburi, and received the kouta master title, Kasuga Toyo Yoshiyu, in 2012.



An exhibit by the Japanese photographer **Takashi Morizumi** *Strange Beauty: Autoradiography from Fukushima* is on display in HSS 103. These exhibition panels contain images of contaminated every-day objects and plants from the exclusion zone in Fukushima Prefecture, along with photographs of the people and towns where they were collected

Dr. **Kristin Stapleton** is Professor of History, University at Buffalo and editor of *Twentieth Century China*. In addition to the book she will be discussing with us today, *Fact in Fiction: 1920's China and Ba Jin's Family*, Stanford, 2016 she is also the author of *Civilizing Chengdu: Chinese Urban Reform, 1895-1937*, Harvard, 2000. and Kenneth Hammond and Kristin Stapleton, eds. *The Human Tradition in Modern China* Rowman & Littlefield 2007 along with many other works



NOTES

-SCHEDULE OF EVENTS-

2017 Pittsburgh Asia Consortium Undergraduate Research Conference

April 8, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

8:00-10:00 Registration: Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) Lobby

8:45-9:00 HSS 126 Opening Remarks: President Michael Driscoll
Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Yaw Asamoah
Dean, College of Humanities and Social Sciences IUP

9:00-10:30 Panels

Panel A1 HSS 208 Chair Richard Napotnik IUP
Discussant Nicole Goulet, IUP

Erin Bryk, Columbia University

Painting with Broad Strokes: How Western Scholarship Constructs the
"Hindu Nationalist Woman"

Dai Ru Chew, University at Buffalo

The Korean Wave Beauty Effect: The Change in Beauty Standards in
Asia

Bethany Bookout, Chatham University

Feminine Figures in The Three Kingdoms: Implications for Women
Then and Now

Panel A2 HSS 209 Chair Margret Collings IUP
Discussant Christine Baker IUP

Kainan Guo, University at Buffalo

Chinese Style Korean Variety TV, A Different Approach of Business
Model

Yee Teng Chong, University at Buffalo

K-pop Industry's Secret Formula to Success

Aliya Davis, Tennessee State University

Fashion and Cultural Food in Japan

Junru He, Washington & Jefferson College

Behind the Chinese Harmonious Society

-SCHEDULE OF EVENTS-

NOTES

Panel A3 HSS 210 Chair Alexandra Conces IUP
Discussant Stuart Chandler IUP

Colton Blair, Washington and Jefferson College

The Effects Of China's Cultural Traditions on China's Economic Growth

Rosemary Tropeano, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Political Determinants of Economic Growth in Southeast Asia

Andrew Mendlowitz, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

China and Vietnam: The Rising Powers

Panel A4 HSS 214 Chair Tori Murray IUP
Discussant James Cook University of Pittsburgh

Kathryn Smith, Tennessee State University

Afro-Asian Solidarity

Capri Backus, Washington & Jefferson College

The Development of Chinese Foreign Intervention, Post-Mao

Matthew Albolino, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Economic Dependence and the Defeat of the All Island Struggle in
Okinawa

Louis Affor, Washington and Jefferson College

North Korea, the buffer between China and the United States

10:30-11:00 Coffee and Tea Break
Introduction to Takashi Morizumi
Photography Exhibit, "*Strange Beauty: Autoradiography from
Fukushima*," HSS 103 by Zeba Ahmed

-Abstracts-

Machi Suenaga

University at Buffalo

“Good effects of Japanese pop culture on the relationship between Korea and Japan”

I will argue that pop culture has played a significant role in improving the attitudes of Japanese towards Koreans and vice versa. Historically, attitudes on both sides have been largely negative. Much of the tension stemmed from the Japanese Occupation of Korea. Since the influx in Korean pop culture in the early 2000s in Japan, Japanese people's stereotypes of Koreans shifted from negative to positive. Until 2004, the Korean government set severe restrictions on Japanese media. However, in contemporary Korea, Japanese pop culture is popular, and the previous resentment towards Japan is declining.

Xiuzhen Tan

Washington & Jefferson College

“A Research on Dialects Spoken by Native and Heritage Chinese Speakers”

Numerous Chinese speakers reside in the United States. However, does every Chinese speaker use Mandarin to communicate daily? The present study interviewed 29 native and heritage Chinese speakers, including 17 males and 12 females who are current or former college students in Pennsylvania. The interview questions are related to their cultural background and dialects. Results indicate that many participants are proud of their culture and want to teach their children at least one dialect in the future. It also suggests that numerous ways can be used to promote cultural diversity in education.

Rosemary Tropeano

Indiana University of Pennsylvania

“Political Determinants of Economic Growth in Southeast Asia”

Southeast Asia is a region characterized by incredible political and economic diversity, and has therefore been the subject of a good deal political and econometric research. The present study aims to clarify the results of previous literature on economic factors on GDP growth rates, as well as to determine what influences political factors have on economic growth. Using a series of cross-sectional, time series, and panel data models, it can be seen that political stability may have an influence on economic growth in Southeast Asia. However, mixed results remain for many economic factors.

Tiffany Xu

University at Buffalo

“East Asian Celebrity Suicides: Not Personal But Cultural”

This presentation will address East Asian celebrity suicides on a cultural and societal level rather than on a personal level. Suicide itself is a common yet easily overlooked occurrence, not to mention the suicide occurrences in the entertainment industry. I intend to place my focus of analysis on celebrity suicide occurrence in China and South Korea. I will analyze statistics to see how culture and society play a role on East Asian celebrity suicides. I will also present factors such as the nature of career, job distress, and cyberbullying that contribute to East Asian celebrity suicides usually generalized under depression.

-SCHEDULE OF EVENTS-

11:00-12:30

Panels

Panel B1 HSS 208

Chair Daniel Wethli IUP

Discussant Rachel Sternfeld IUP

Thanathorn In-amkha, Washington & Jefferson College

Undercurrents in Mass Organizations in China

Lakeshia Smith, Tennessee State University

Women in Asia

Tiffany Xu, University at Buffalo

East Asian Celebrity Suicides: Not Personal But Cultural

Justin Cobb, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Buddhism as a Dynamic Social and Political Presence in Asia

Panel B2 HSS 209

Chair Joseph Cacese IUP

Discussant Steven F. Jackson IUP

Edward Foley, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

The Failure of the Economic Development Strategies Using Cultural

Dimensions: China and Vietnam

Sarah McConnell, Thiel College

The Great Leap Forward: China's Great Leap Backward

Kazuto Adachi, Washington & Jefferson College

Is China still a Communist Country?

Panel B3 HSS 213

Chair Matthew Albolino, IUP

Discussant Kristin Stapleton University at Buffalo

Machi Suenaga, University at Buffalo

Good effects of Japanese pop culture on the relationship between Korea and Japan

Paige Guinnane, University at Buffalo

The Creative Use of Violence in Korean Film: In the Shadow of a Tragic History

Hannah Pickering, State University of New York at Oswego

"Traveling Docents, Performers, and Propagators: Etoki, Kumano bikuni, and Kumano kanshin jikkai mandara

Richard M. Napotnik Jr., Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Japanese Nationalism Through Yamato-Korean Relations: An Analysis of the "Horserider Thesis"

-SCHEDULE OF EVENTS-

12:30-12:55	HSS 126	Presentation by Yuko Eguchi “The History and Aesthetics of Japanese Geisha Performing Arts “
12:55-1:30	HSS 126	Lunch
1:30-2:20	HSS 225	Keynote Address by Kristin Stapleton University at Buffalo “ <i>Seeing Chinese History through Fiction</i> ”
2:30-4:00		Panels
Panel C1	HSS 209	Chair/Discussant James Cook University of Pittsburgh Nicholas Sarratori, Thiel College The Evolution of China’s Population Control Efforts: 1949 – Present Amanda Borwegen, Washington & Jefferson College The United States Versus China: Driving Forces Behind Climate Change Policies Alexandra Conces, Indiana University of Pennsylvania Water control and the emergence of the state in Southeast Asia: The case of Funan
Panel C2	HSS 210	Chair/Discussant Francis Allard IUP Roseanne El Khatib, Indiana University of Pennsylvania The Economic Realm of China and Thailand Kelsey Durham, Indiana University of Pennsylvania Staying Healthy: Asian Students in America Xiuzhen Tan, Washington & Jefferson College, A Research on Dialects Spoken by Native and Heritage Chinese Speakers Darius Taylor, Tennessee State University Racial Stereotypes in Southeast Asia

-Abstracts-

Hannah Pickering

State University of New York Oswego

“Traveling Docents, Performers, and Propagators: Etoki, Kumano *bikuni*, and Kumano *kan-shin jikkai mandara*”

The efforts of Japanese itinerant monks helped to propagate Buddhism to the masses and aided in promoting enlightenment for women. These itinerant monks presented intricate paintings paired with captivating sermons, etoki, to proselytize the Buddhist faith to both patrons and nonbelievers alike. Kumano bikuni, the female nuns of Kumano, practiced etoki as a means to spread their Kumano and Pure Land beliefs in the sixteenth century. Combating discrimination against female enlightenment, Kumano etoki bikuni preached the inclusive imagery of the Kumano kanshin jikkai mandara painting, or the Kumano Ten Worlds Mandara, to secure all lay members a place in Amida’s heaven.

Nicholas Sarratori

Thiel College

“The Evolution of China’s Population Control Efforts: 1949 – Present”

This presentation will trace the development of population control policies that were implemented in China in the 1950s. Furthermore, it will analyze the different reactions that the Chinese people had in response to the birth control laws and the pressure that those reactions put on the government to find alternative solutions for limiting the population. Lastly, the presentation will explain how these policies are viewed by the rest of the world, especially the United States. The presentation will end with the present state of the birth limit laws and the potential future of China’s population control efforts.

Jenny Simon

University at Buffalo

“The Legacy of Confucius in Modern Chinese Education”

Abstract: Based on the standards of the PISA Examination, an international test that measures the math, science, and reading proficiency of fifteen-year-old participants from their respective countries, China’s education system ranks near the top among the nearly forty participating countries. Popular depictions of China’s education focus mainly on its notoriously difficult college entrance examination, and bitterly high standards for students. In order to understand and evaluate

Chinese educational philosophy and policy, it is necessary to know Confucius (孔子). Hagiographical accounts suggest that his upbringing in a time of war and disharmony cultivated his philosophy, Confucianism, which focuses on the development of a peaceful society through each of its members. These depictions of Confucius have inspired many generations after him, and many attribute the rise of the imperial examination system for aspirants to government service to the influence of The Analects, a work that is commonly attributed to him. Today, Confucius remains a respected icon of Chinese culture, his high regard of education, belief in meritocracy, and insights into society still ring true for many Chinese people. I argue that this history of institutional competitive examinations, inspired in part by Confucian ideology, explains these high rankings in international measures of student excellence.

-Abstracts-

Sarah McConnell

Thiel College

“The Great Leap Forward: China’s Great Leap Backward”

My paper: “The Great Leap Forward: China’s Great Leap Backward” highlights the program outlined and implemented by Mao Zedong during 1957. As the initiative is discussed upon enactment, I showcase and explain the changes China faced during each of the subsequent years of which the Great Leap Forward policy was active. A final note of interest is the horrific changes China was forced to deal with after the termination of the Great Leap Forward; specifically, the Great Leap Backward in terms of economic achievements and growth. There are numerous primary sources used, two of which are Wild Swans by Jiang Chang, and Life and Death in Shanghai by Nien Cheng. In addition to these, secondary sources were also consulted and utilized.

Andrew Mendlowitz

Indiana University of Pennsylvania

“China and Vietnam: The Rising Powers”

China and Vietnam are two communist countries that border each other, yet they have to different styles of their markets yet both of them share the same government idea. China is one of the world’s superpowers leading majority of US exports while Vietnam is currently trying to find a way to get into the world market, yet they have had some major set-backs such as a falling population and unemployment with no stable trade partners that would help Vietnam to increase in GDP.

Tori Murray

Indiana University of Pennsylvania

“Manga, Anime, and the Reality of War”

War seems to be one of the few constants in the history of the human race, though World War II proved to be one of the largest conflicts humanity has ever faced. As the only country to have ever had an atomic bomb dropped on their soil, Japanese narratives offer a unique perspective on the war. Regularly seen through either the eyes of the generals, soldiers, or ordinary civilians who lived through it, war affects all parties regardless of involvement in the actual fighting. Retrospect often ignores, however, the viewpoint of children who experience war in a way completely unlike their adult counterparts. Japanese manga and anime provide an outlet for these children, now adults, to express their viewpoint and share the true reality of war.

Richard M. Napotnik Jr

Indiana University of Pennsylvania

“Japanese Nationalism Through Yamato-Korean Relations: An Analysis of the “Horserider Thesis”

Ancient history no matter the region or specific time period is always a difficult and sometimes troublesome area of study. Partly this is because of the obvious lack of sources that we have when studying ancient history. However, there is also another aspect of this that is arguably more important. People tend to view their history in certain lights and that when this view is challenged, the results can be difficult for not only individuals or scholars but for nations as well. Egami Namio, for instance, had argued against the traditional Japanese narrative of an ancient Japanese dominance in Korea with his famous “Horserider Thesis.” The dissenting opinion presented by Egami created a backlash from other Japanese scholars which in turn descended into decades of argument between fellow Japanese historians and also from Korean academics as well. This debate has unexpectedly led to a new narrative being established which argues that both Japan and Korea had interreacted with one another in the ancient past and that they were more intertwined that had been previous thought or accepted.

-SCHEDULE OF EVENTS-

Panel C3 HSS 214 Chair/Discussant Chung-Hwan Joe University at Buffalo

Chun Gee Hong, University at Buffalo

Korean Cinema in the Global Market: From Local Blockbuster to Extreme Cinema

Indigo Baloch, Chatham University

Miyazaki’s Use of Taiwanese and Japanese Culture in Spirited Away, and its Offering of Cultural Reclamation to Taiwan

Jenny Simon, University at Buffalo

The Legacy of Confucius in Modern Chinese Education

Tori Murray, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Manga, Anime, and the Reality of War

4:00

Student Reception (Second floor lobby)

PAC Business meeting (HSS 214)

Kazuto Adachi

Washington & Jefferson College

“Is China still a Communist Country?”

In the post-Mao period, Chinese political leaders changed its economic policy, and now China plays a significant role in the global market. However, the essence of the PRC has not fundamentally changed from one party ruling and strong centralized political power. China is currently acting as a communist country with capitalist economy and local level democracy. Thus, China has a complicated issue of inconsistency between political status as a communist country and its policies which no longer come from communism. In the paper, I would answer the question whether China is still a communist country.

Louis Affor

Washington & Jefferson College

“North Korea, the buffer between China and the U.S.?”

The paper looks at the developing relationship between the nations of North Korea and China post-cold war era. Starting at the Korean War when both communist regimes came into power to the evolution of foreign policy. Analysing the way China has gone from defending North Korea in the United Nations previously to now sanctioning their actions. As the fall of the North Korean regime may lead to a unified pro America country on the boarder to China I will also look at the complications this poses for the Chinese government. Using the Broader Political ideologies I will express a multitude of viewpoints on what has progressively become a less strong and more complicated relationship between these two countries.

Matthew Albolino

Indiana University of Pennsylvania

“Economic Dependence and the Defeat of the All Island Struggle in Okinawa”

This paper explains how economic dependency caused protest movements in Okinawa that go from the economically driven All Island Struggles in the pre-reversion period to much smaller social movements championed by the middle class after reversion. Under the American occupation, Okinawans were universally poor and protested in extraordinary numbers against the Americans, chiefly the land seizures for military bases. After reversion, this changed due to the improvement of Okinawa's economy which raised living standards and formed a middle class. Dependency on the three principle industries in Okinawa kept protest out of the hands of the working class and made it an activity for the middle class who economic security afforded them the comfort of being able to worry about social issues.

Capri Backus

Washington & Jefferson College

“The Development of Chinese Intervention, Post-Mao”

China strives to be seen as a responsible power. Historically, China elicited international condemnation in reaction to a variety of its diverging domestic and international decisions; in the late 20th and early 21st century, however, China's foreign policy is markedly more nuanced and flexible. Seeking balance, China's pragmatism has gradually shifted China's hardline view regarding sovereignty and territorial integrity in relation to foreign interventions. In addition, regional dangers have further prompted China to create a policy that trends closer to international policies as well as seeks multilateral cooperation. On one hand, analysts characterize China's behavior as more engaged and constructive in the international community, citing China's preference for multilateral decision-making processes and its more active role in UN Peacekeeping. On the other, international criticism has followed China throughout its roles in Syria and Libya, citing selfish national interest and disregard of human rights. In China's recent roles, this paper seeks to present the different perspectives regarding China's action and inaction in foreign interventions, including its own.

Chun Gee Hong

University at Buffalo

“Korean Cinema in the Global Market: From Local Blockbuster to Extreme Cinema”

This presentation will address how Korean film industry has underwent throughout the recent decades regarding its marketing strategy in the global market. The success of Korean cinema has occurred primarily in the domestic market. Unlike the recent global success of K-Drama and K-Pop, K-Cinema has faced several obstacles hindering it from enjoying such popularity overseas. Although Korean movies such as Swiri got smash hit as Korean blockbusters in East Asia in early 2000's, their localized targeting and the global dominance of Hollywood blockbusters have hampered additional commercial success of Korean films overseas. However, foreign moviegoers and critics who favor recent Korean films due to its unique use of vivid violence and stunning narrative, have pinned them a label, “Korean Extreme Cinema.” Korean film industry have adopted the label as its new strategy.

Junru He

Washington & Jefferson College

“Behind the Harmonious Society”

Chinese government is in favor of building a “harmonious society,” meaning a conflicts-free society. However, Some laws and policies made by the government are not implemented well or lead to bad consequences. This paper will use the G-20 Summit Conference in Hangzhou, 2016 and the Beijing Olympic Games in 2008 as two major examples to illustrate what is behind the Chinese harmonious society. These examples show the problems of corruption, bureaucracy, waste of resources and the inconvenience that the temporary policies brought to local residents. The Chinese government needs to consider more about how the policies would affect its people's lives and less about China's media image.

Thanathorn In-Amkha

Washington & Jefferson College

“Undercurrents in Mass Organizations in China”

The primary reason that propels Chinese's endorsement of Chinese Communist Party lies in its ideology (Joseph, 2014). Yet as CCP strengthened its power, their ideology became “less accommodating to the needs of civic engagement in public affairs” (Heng, 1991). Under Mao, Chinese citizens were afraid to speak up, and this terror exemplified in the Cultural Revolution (Joseph 130). Under the second generation of CCP leaders, the rights Chinese citizens enjoy began to clear up and formalized. Deng endorsed the Four Big Rights, namely the power to “[speak out] freely, [air] views fully, [hold] great debates and [write] big-character posters” excluding the rights to organize movements and strikes (Joseph 128). Heng argues that the implication of this policy means a general denial of Chinese citizens' right to “hold the government to account.” Though theoretically, CCP denies citizens these rights, there occur several mass protests in recent years in China. In this research paper, I will embark on a journey of discovering the commonalities among recent mass movements under different generations of CCP leaders. What are the trends among mass movements? I will especially focus on the fifth generation, under the leadership of Chairman Xi. To this end, I will first provide CCP's past ideologies and their historical contexts, then analyze religious mass protests (such as Tibetan incident and FanLunGong incident), environmental protests (such as shark fin protest in Hong Kong), and end with Weiquan incidents (such as Sunzhigang incident, the 2003 BMW incident) that occur on Chinese social media.

Edward Foley
Indiana University of Pennsylvania

“The Failure of the Economic Development Strategies Using Cultural Dimensions: featuring Vietnam and China”

This paper focuses on Development strategies using the factor of cultural dimensions and using the developing countries Vietnam and China as a model. On one hand, China was thought to be more open and willing to make the transition towards the concept of free markets. The viewpoint in regards to increase in prices, income inequalities and as well as government interference are thought to be obstacles to any economy being able to make this specific transition. However, after analyzing the data, the results reveal that despite, Jamaica and China’s similar experiences and backgrounds, the attitudes, feelings, and thoughts of their citizens towards the transition to free markets were similar. Both countries citizen’s attitude revealed their willingness and openness in terms of making transition from socialism/communism to capitalism. Barriers perhaps are thought to be political and institutional in nature. Cultural which was the focus, played a much bigger factor in Vietnam than China.

Paige Guinnane
University at Buffalo

“The Creative Use of Violence in Korean Film: In the Shadow of a Tragic History”

South Korea has experienced many tragic events in the early 20th century; The Japanese occupation, The United States army military government following World War II, and the Korean War. These events have left traumatic marks on the societal and cultural landscape within South Korea. Contemporary Korean Cinema has continuously used film to evoke emotion from Korean audiences. By using violent scenes in metaphorical and extremely creative ways these films express Korea’s turbulent past and appeal to the collective consciousness. In this presentation, I will give an overview of how these events have shaped Korean history and how violence is used in Korean films to signify Korea’s dark history. The films discussed in detail include The Handmaiden, The Host, and Train to Busan.

Kainan Guo
University at Buffalo

“Chinese Style Korean Variety TV, A Different Approach of Business Model”

In the last 3 years, Chinese television industry has made more than 30 remakes of different Korean variety shows. While the original versions are fighting for higher viewing ratio in a restricted market, the remakes are making huge profits with product placement and other marketing strategies. However, the financial success has become an obstacle of improving the industry.

Indigo Baloch
Chatham University

“Offering Cultural Reclamation to Taiwan: Native Taiwanese and Japanese Culture in Miyazaki’s Spirited Away”

This paper highlights connections between Japanese and Taiwanese culture, through the lens of Hayao Miyazaki’s Spirited Away. It discusses historical and cultural context of the film and Miyazaki’s sources of inspiration. It argues that, by blending both cultures in the film, Miyazaki offers Taiwan a sense of reclamation through the film’s journey of identity and self-affirmation. As Chihiro grows and finds herself, so must Taiwan, in the face of adversity.

Colton Blair
Washington & Jefferson College

“The Effects Of China's Cultural Traditions on China's Economic Growth”

As decades have passed countries have begun to grow and expand knowledge and power. With the expansion of knowledge came a change in culture that in some cases has erased any remembrance of that country’s past. An example of this would be the development of the Americas that has grown without any perception to its origin. However, the same cannot be said for China and its continuous expansion of knowledge. China has been able to grow rapidly with the ability to not only keep its origin but to incorporate the same principles that were once taught centuries ago. The inclusion of Chinese Schools of Thought into politics, business and society has both increased China’s wellbeing as well as slowed progression. As the past has reached the present the world has witnessed both the escalation of China’s growth as well as its late development.

Bethany Bookout
Chatham University

“Feminine Figures in The Three Kingdoms: Implications for Women Then and Now”

Sanguo yanyi, The Three Kingdoms, is a classical Chinese text that has shaped the lives of people in East Asia for centuries, and is a text that reinforces Confucian ideals, even today. Although the story focuses on the interactions and conflicts of masculine figures, this paper delves into the development of women in the few scenes where they are in the forefront. Regarding women, the story lacks personality, relying on traditional Confucian ideals for women, the three obediences and the four virtues, and demonstrates that the role of women in society determines how these traits are exemplified. Moreover, when women portray more ‘masculine’ features, such as political cunning or martial skill, they are unable to convey them publicly. The portrayal and continued cultural reverence toward the idealized women characters in this novel, namely Lady Sun, Diaochan and the mothers of political leaders, has negative implications for women, then and now, by confining women to ‘traditional’ roles and limiting their political power.

Amanda Borwegen
Washington & Jefferson College

“The United States Versus China: Driving Forces Behind Climate Change Policies”

Climate change has been a prevalent force behind policies being developed around the globe. Regions of the world are starting to experience different weather patterns that used to be typical. The difference in climate patterns are causing rise in Earth’s temperature, and the ozone is depleting causing harm to the Earth’s surface. In this paper, China’s and the United States’ climate policies will be evaluated. Elements such as wealth, domestic factors, and political consensus will be investigated to discover motives behind policies being made. The goal is to discover why the United States and China have such vastly different policies.

Erin Bryk

Barnard College, Columbia University

“Painting with Broad Strokes: How Western Scholarship Constructs the “Hindu Nationalist Woman”

In this presentation, I provide a critical analysis of the scholarship to date and further explore women’s involvement in the Hindu nationalist movement in our contemporary context. I begin this study by focusing on the evolution of the scholarship in a hope to move the discourse from critical, qualitative judgments towards more descriptive, ethnographic accounts. I believe that this is important, because there has been very little—if any—reflection on the slow epistemic shift that has taken place since the 1990s. What questions have academics concerned themselves with when studying women of the Hindu right? How has the scholarship evolved? Then, I move on to highlight an enormous gap that still exists in the scholarship—women’s involvement in BJP party politics. Overall, women’s political representation has received “relatively little scholarly attention in discussions of governance, democracy, and civil society.” Amrita Basu puts forth a possible explanation for this: “scholars ‘go where the action is’ and there isn’t much to report on” in this domain. However, this seems to me like a non-sequitur: how can we draw such a conclusion if we don’t pay attention to women’s involvement in party politics? Despite her criticisms regarding the state of the field, Basu barely touches upon women and the BJP in her own work. Furthermore, I find that, beyond Basu’s few contributions, there is very little written about the topic in the literature as it stands today. Therefore, I turn to other sources—government archives, news articles, Mahila Morcha publications, social media, speeches, opinion editorials—to provide an investigative report of the Mahila Morcha in India’s contemporary political context and outline the challenges, issues, and debates surrounding women’s activity in this right-wing political party. It is my hope that this preliminary research will spark other scholars to further study women in Hindu nationalist politics.

Dai Ru Chew

University at Buffalo

“The Korean Wave Beauty Effect: The Change in Beauty Standards in Asia”

There has been a distinctive change that is observed in the beauty standards around Asia, as the “Korean Beauty” has revert from a “follower” to a competitor of the supergiant of beauty standards - America. This phenomenon has been commonly criticized that it lacks originality and only emulates the Western beauty standard, adjusting it to suit its cultures. In this presentation, I will be rebutting the criticism, in my point of view, about the changes made to the beauty standards of Asia.

Yee Teng Chong

University at Buffalo

“K-pop Industry's Secret Formula to Success”

"In order to achieve the extended reach of K-pop contents across the music industry, K-pop music producers emulate and tweak past successful prototype western groups in terms of group composition. The well-strategized production of K-pop music groups together with the help of the government has enabled their music to infectiously spread throughout the world. Lastly, K-pop fans are more engaged in fandom culture and being closer with their idols compared to western music groups."

Justin Cobb

Indiana University of Pennsylvania

“Buddhism as a Dynamic Social and Political Presence in Asia”

With Asia’s economic and social power growing everywhere it’s critical for people to understand the customs and traditions that influence many of the policies which inspire people within Asian nations. Religion is among the many sources of these policies and is arguably a product of culture. The media also creates different perceptions towards culture and religion. Religion—like Buddhism for example-- has been portrayed as submissive and passive than reality as reinforced through the West’s history of orientalism or “exotifying the East” in an attempt to promote Western ethnocentrism, while in reality, this religion has a dynamic social and political presence in Asia. This study attempts to address the political and social roles that Buddhism has played in four different countries: Tibet, China, Japan and Myanmar/Burma. Based on literature review and media reports this paper then looks at how Buddhism has influenced the conversation about the sovereignty of Tibet and its strained political relations with China. It also looks at how Buddhism has played a major role in how the Japanese have responded to the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the discussion of the human rights of the survivors; in addition to how Buddhism has played a role in the discourse of rising suicide rates among the Japanese. Finally, this study also looks at how Buddhism has played a critical role in justifying the persecution, violence and genocide of the Rohingya Muslim minority in the Buddhist-majority country of Myanmar/Burma.

Kelsey Durham

Indiana University of Pennsylvania

“Staying Healthy: Asian Students in America”

The purpose of this study is to examine how international students from China at Indiana University of Pennsylvania ensure their physical and mental wellbeing while studying abroad in America. It has been operant through past conducted research that international travel has an effect on the health of the traveler (Hartjes, Baumann & Henriques, 2009; Aveni, 2005; Hagmann, 2014; Anderson, Lawton, Rexeisen & Hubbard, 2006; Brunette, 2014). This research will explore the amounts of physical and dietary change that international students endure when studying abroad, specifically Chinese students studying abroad in America, and how the food they eat can affect their bodies due to its chemical and nutritional differences. The survey method will be implemented to collect data with anonymous information detailing their BMI, a selection of possible foods they may have eaten pre-and-post traveling abroad, their current health conditions, if they have gotten sick, and so on to determine the amount of change their body has experienced since theyve been living in America. The goal behind this research is to raise awareness of the challenges international students face concerning their health when studying abroad. Furthermore, the research aims to make the transition from China to America as smooth as possible by educating prospective international students on the differences in foods that they will consume and understand different nutritional facts.

Roseanne ElKhatib

Indiana University of Pennsylvania

“The Economic Realm of China and Thailand”

China is a developing country and the gross domestic product was worth 10866.44 billion US dollars in 2015. The GDP value represents about 17 percent of the world economy. The Chinese economy progressed an annual 6.7 percent in the second quarter of 2016. GDP annual growth rate in china estimated 9.82 percent from 1989 until 2016. Thailand is also a developing country and the gross domestic product was worth 395.28 billion US dollars in 2015. The GDP value represents about 0.64 percent of the world economy. The GDP in Thailand estimated to 111.46 USD Billion from 1960 until 2015. The Thailand economy grew in the second quarter in 2016. The GDP growth rate in Thailand averaged 0.93 percent from 1993 until 2016. The economic growth grew in the last few decades due to the country’s increasing integration into the global economy and the government’s bold support for economic support. The successful economic model has lifted hundreds of millions out of poverty and stimulated the country’s economic and social development. Thailand’s economy has made a sustained recovery after two years of low growth.