# **Fall 2011**

The Center for Asian Studies' themes for the 2011-2012 academic year were "Visualizing Asia" and "Asia on Edge." Events related to these themes are indicated within the full list of events below.

#### **CAS Events**

#### September 16

Puppets: A Live Wayang Golek

CAS Speaker Series - "Visualizing Asia"

A Wayang Golek Sunda, rod puppet performance of West Java, Indonesia in collaboration with Gamelan Tunas Mekar under the direction of Balinese composer and Artist-in-Residence I Made Lasmawan. Dalang: Kathy Foley Gamelan Director: I Made Lasmawan Regional Notes: Sunda/West Java Sunda is the culturally rich region of West Java which covers the western third of the Indonesian island of Java. The mountainous region of Priangan ("abode of the gods") with its capital of Bandung is currently a major industrial and economic area of Indonesia. It is inhabited by ethnic Sundanese who are culturally and linguistically differentiated from the Javanese who live in other parts of the island. Wayang puppetry and gamelan, as they are currently performed in Sunda are influenced by the older Cirebonese traditions, but all the arts are re-interpreted with the more democratic and down-to-earth worldview of the highlands. Modern times have seen great artistic resurgence and creativity in Sunda, especially around the city of Bandung.

5pm, Outdoors on the Norlin Quad

# September 20

On Translating Japanese Fiction, Old and New

CAS Speaker Series

A lecture by Anthony Chambers, Professor of Japanese at Arizona State University. Professor Chambers teaches literary translation and Japanese literature, pre-modern and modern. Professor Chambers is the author of *The Secret Window: Ideal Worlds in Tanizaki's Fiction* and other critical works. In this lecture, Professor Chambers will discuss several issues in translating a pre-modern classic, a twentieth-century master, and an up-and-coming contemporary novelist.

5:00 pm, Eaton Humanities, 250.

# September 21

English as 'Other': Tanizaki's View

CAS Speaker Series

A lecture by Anthony Chambers, Professor of Japanese, Arizona State University. This lecture will explore Tanizaki Jun'ichirô's views on the essential nature of Japanese and Western languages and of their speakers. The chief text for the discussion will be Tanizaki's "A Style Reader" (Bunshô tokuhon, 1934), which is still used in Japan as a composition primer.

5:00 pm, Humanities 250.

# September 22

Sporting Friendship in Sino-American Relations

CAS Speaker Series

"Hitting a Home Run Across the Pacific: Major League Baseball in East Asia," a lecture by Jim Small of Major League Baseball, Asia. A roundtable discussion entitled "Strategy and Security: Sports in Sino-American Relations" will follow. Panelists include: Tim Oakes (CU-Boulder), Tim Weston (CU-Boulder), Tom Zeiler (CU-Boulder), and Steve Thomas (UCD).

10:00 am, Old Main Chapel.

# September 29

From Heavens to the Markets: State, Development, and the Mediation of Nature in Northwest China CAS Brown Bag

A lecture by Afton Clark-Sather, PhD student, Department of Geography. Twenty years ago, peasants in the semi-arid Zuli river valley in Eastern Gansu were subsistence farmers who spoke of depending on the heavens to eat.

Today, they are commodity producers who speak of depending on the markets to eat. This paper examines how a series of state-backed development programs that are part of China's domestic poverty alleviation program have remade how peasants relate to agricultural water, changing peasants from subsistence producers to commodity producers, and in the process remade both the rural political economy and the natural environment of Eastern Gansu. 12:00 pm, CAS Conference Room.

# September 30

Chai, Why?

**CAS Speaker Series** 

A lecture by Philip Lutgendorf, Professor of Hindi and Modern Indian Studies, University of Iowa. In this visually intriguing presentation, Prof. Lutgendorf will summarize his current study of the promotion and popularization of tea-drinking in 20th century India. His project, involving both archival and field research, focuses on the mass popularization of indigenized "chai" through changes in marketing, manufacturing, and consumption, and in eating habits, urban space, and social networks. His talk will emphasize the role played by advertising images in transmitting the "tea habit" to Indians, both prior to and following Independence in 1947. Hale 230.

#### October 1

Symposium on Contemporary Korean Art CAS Speaker Series – "Visualizing Asia"

In conjunction with the exhibition "Image Clash: Contemporary Korean Video Art." Reception to follow at 5 pm in the CU Art Museum, light refreshments will be served. As both cultural researchers and translators, artists investigate preconceptions around the notions of community, collectivity, and individuality that are inherent in the political and sociological landscape in which they are situated. The symposium will consist of conversations between each participating artist and a critic, and a round table to discuss issues concerning religion, military culture, gender identity, and other current cultural issues, not only focusing on the art of the videos but also exploring their significance as socio-political discourses.

10:00am, 1125 18th Street, Boulder, Colorado (ATLAS Room 100).



# October 19

Baudelaire in Baghdad? Modernism and the Body in Arabic Poetics CAS Brown Bag

A lecture by Haytham Bahoora, Assistant Professor of Arabic, Asian Languages and Civilizations, CU-Boulder. During a revolutionary period of cultural production and anti-colonial political commitment in 1950s Baghdad, the modernist poet Husayn Mardan was put on trial for his "obscene" collection entitled "Naked Poems" (*Qasa'id Ariya*). Influenced by Baudelaire, Mardan's poetics provide an alternative revolutionary paradigm focused on the gratification of the corporeal. This paper considers how Mardan's poetics, situated amidst discourses of nationalism and communism, anti-colonialism and government sponsored modernization and development, registers resistance to an increasingly rationalized and bureaucratic social order and foreshadows the oppressive state apparatus that would define Iraqi political and cultural life post-independence.

12:00 pm, CAS Conference Room.

#### November 4

Lu Xun: One Classical Poem 30 Years Apart

**CAS Speaker Series** 

A lecture by Professor Eva Shan Chou, City University of New York, Baruch College. In 1903, when he was 21, Lu Xun wrote one of his most famous and patriotic classic poems. Yet this poem survives in his hand only because he wrote it out again in 1931. Why 1931 and what did the poem mean to him thirty years later? In Prof Chou's reading, this 1903 poem, which is usually probed for its predictive powers about the nascent Lu Xun, shows how continuing political turmoil made the poem continually pertinent.

2:00 pm, Humanities 150.



#### November 10

Conservation of the Critically Endangered Tonkin Snub-Nosed Monkey in Ha Giang Province, Vietnam CAS Brown Bag

A talk by Bert Covert, Professor and Chair, Department of Anthropology, CU-Boulder. The Tonkin snub-nosed monkey (Rhinopithecus avunculus) is listed as critically endangered and has been included on each of IUCN/SSC Primate Specialist Group's top 25 most endangered primates of the world list. The most recent population estimate for this species is 122-224 and it is presently known only from five locations. The largest and best protected subpopulation is that of Khau Ca forest in the newly established Tonkin Snub-nosed Monkey Species and Habitat Conservation Area of Ha Giang Province, Vietnam. Our most recent surveys have confirmed 92 individuals here and we estimate that there may be as many as 100 in the Khau Ca forest. Ongoing activities include population monitoring, study of positional behavior and habitat use, community-based conservation awareness raising, and developing and implementing biodiversity conservation education programs for local elementary school pupils. Due in large part to our continuing presence at Khau Ca this is the only subpopulation of Tonkin snub-nosed monkeys that appears to be increasing in size. Further, unlike the other areas where this species is still found illegal activities including hunting and timber removal are extremely rare in the Tonkin Snub-nosed Monkey Species and Habitat Conservation Area.

12:00 pm, CAS Conference Room.

#### November 11

Seeing Spirits: Spirituality and Visuality in Southeast Asian Media

CAS Speaker Series - "Visualizing Asia"

A one-day seminar on contemporary Asian visual culture What is the allure of making the invisible world visible? How does visualizing spiritual or religious worlds intersect with dreams of transparency or authority? How does obscurity intersect with politics? What are the stakes of visuality? This one-day seminar will host three internationally renowned anthropologists of Asia on contemporary visual culture. Together, these guest speakers pose wide-ranging questions about the relationship among the spiritual, the political and the visual. Patricia Spyer (New York University and Leiden University) will present on the rise of large-scale public murals by Christian artists in the aftermath of political and religious violence in Eastern Indonesia. Mary Steedly (Harvard University) will ask why new film freedoms in the aftermath of the Suharto regime resulted in the boom in a particular genre—horror. Karen Strassler (Queens College, CUNY) will present on popular, street art paintings of the Javanese folk goddess, Ratu Kidul, that mimic photographic style. Free and open to the public. All are welcome. Hale Science Building, Anthropology Reading Room, 4th Floor.

9:30am, 1300 Pleasant Street, Boulder, CO (Hale Science, Anthropology Reading Room, 4th Floor).



#### November 16

China Town Hall

**CAS Speaker Series** 

The Center for Asian Studies and the National Committee on U.S. – China Relations invite you to participate in the Fifth Annual CHINA Town Hall. CHINA Town Hall is a national day of programming on China involving 50 cities throughout the United States.

National Speaker (via webcast): Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski was National Security Advisor to President Jimmy Carter from 1977 to 1981. In 1981, he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom "for his role in the normalization of U.S.-Chinese relations and for his contributions to the human rights and national security policies of the United States."

Discussion moderated by Stephen A. Orlins, President of the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations

On-site Speaker: Mr. David Gries

Mr. David Gries, a former CIA official, is Executive Director of China Vitae, an online database providing information to the public on over 4,000 Chinese leaders. Designed for scholars and analysts, the database uses sophisticated search tools and analytical capabilities. Mr. Gries followed Asian affairs for more than 30 years as a government official residing in Washington and in five Asian countries. He speaks Chinese. At the CIA he held executive positions in operations, analysis, and in the office of the Director.

Fees for attendance will be collected at the door in cash or check; \$10 for students, \$15 for general public. Parking is free after 5pm in front of the Wolf Law Building and metered parking is available.

4:30 pm, Wittemyer Courtroom, Wolf Law Building.

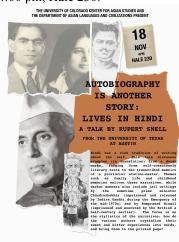


#### November 18

Autobiography is Another Story: 'Lives' in Hindi

**CAS Speaker Series** 

A lecture by Rupert Snell, University of Texas at Austin. Hindi has a rich tradition of writing about the self. This talk discusses examples (in translation) from a dozen works, ranging from self-consciously literary texts to the transcribed memoirs of a provincial station-master. Themes such as family life and childhood memories enliven these narratives, while darker moments also include jail writings by the sometime prime minister Chandrashekhar (imprisoned and released by Indira Gandhi during the Emergency of the mid-1970s) and by Ramprasad Bismil (imprisoned and executed by the British a half-century earlier). The focus is on the stylistics of the narratives: how do the various authors crystalize their sweet and bitter experiences into words, and bring them to the printed page? 4:00 pm, Hale 230.



# November 28

"Anpo: Art X War"

CAS Speaker Series - "Visualizing Asia"

A film screening and a lecture by the film's director, Linda Hoaglund. "ANPO: Art x War" documents artistic and popular response to the renewal of the U.S.-Japan post-war treaty supporting U.S. military bases in Japan. The film focuses on artists and their work - including painting, photography, anime, film, and music - exploring how Japanese artists recorded responses to American military presence in the 1950s. These responses culminated in broad national protests in 1960. This event is free and open to the public.

6:30 – 8:30 pm, Eaton Humanities Room 150, Boulder, CO.

#### December 1

The Basic Principles of Won Buddhism

CAS Brown Bag

A lecture by Dr. Seongjun Lee, Visiting Scholar, Center for Asian Studies. Won Buddhism is a Buddhist revivalist movement founded in 1924 Korea by Sotaesan (1891-1943). It has a strong commitment to the elimination of suffering by seeing all people as one family. They focus on a three-fold practice involving cultivating the spirit through seated meditation and chanting of the Buddha's name, inquiry into human affairs and universal principles through academic study, and making a mindful choice in one's personal conduct. Rev. Lee is a widely-published scholar of Won Buddhism and also an accomplished practitioner. She will introduce the major teachings of Won Buddhism and explain what they have meant in her own life.

12:00 pm, CAS Conference Room.

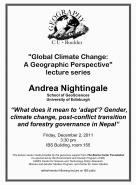
#### December 2

What does it mean to 'adapt'? Gender, climate change, and post-conflict transition, and forestry governance in Nepal

**CAS Speaker Series** 

A lecture by Dr. Andrea Nightingale in the School of GeoSciences, University of Edinburgh. This talk will discuss how climate change and security concerns related to resource scarcity are transforming the Nepalese state. Nepal is undergoing a major political restructuring following the end of the Maoist People's War in 2006, and is also expected to experience significant changes in temperature due to climate change. This talk will theorize how the Nepalese state comes to be constituted through everyday practices of global climate change. Refreshments following lecture on IBS patio.

3:30 pm, IBS Building, Room 155.



## December 7

CAS Career Panel

A panel of professionals discussing how to prepare for the job market and opportunities for continuing further studies. This semester's panel will focus on resume writing for Asian success and maximizing social media and networking in the digital age, plus provide an introduction to the Peace Corps Master's Program. 4:30 pm, CAS Conference Room.

# **Spring 2012**

# **CAS Events**

# January 24

Wetlands in Crisis in the Yellow River Basin

**CAS Speaker Series** 

This talk by Zhao Zhong, the founder and former director of Green Camel Bell, a grassroots environmental NGO in northwest China, will focus on environmental threats to the upper reaches of China's Yellow River, and local responses to mitigate those threats. It will also briefly introduce the work of Green Camel Bell, the first NGO in Gansu Province, as well as China's environmental movement.

3:00 pm, Guggenheim 201E.



### January 26

The Magical World of the all-female Japanese troupe, Takarazuka CAS Brown Bag

Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Theatre & Dance at CU-Boulder Bud Coleman will give a lecture entitled, "The Magical World of the all-female Japanese troupe, Takarazuka." From its founding in 1913, the all-female revue Takarazuka has grown from a modest entertainment in a hot springs outside of Osaka to a entertainment juggernaut which includes the very respected Takarazuka Music School, two large theatres, and selling 2.5 million tickets every year. This presentation will include a brief history of the company, clips from performances, and a look at how the company has changed (and not changed) during tumultuous events and movements of the 20th and 21st centuries. Bring your own lunch to this event, and we will provide dessert. 12:00 – 1:00 pm, 1424 Broadway Street, Boulder, CO (CAS Conference Room).

### February 4

International Symposium: "Keeping It Real!" CAS Speaker Series – "Visualizing Asia"

As part of the exhibition, "Keeping It Real! Korean Artists in the Age of Multi-Media Representation," (opening Feb 2, 2012), this symposium will feature most of the participating artists along with a few leading curators and scholars who specialize Asian Contemporary art. This exhibition comments on the contemporary state of South Korean art by offering a unique and unprecedented opportunity to experience new art forms pioneered by emerging Korean artists working in Seoul, New York, and Europe. The artists in this exhibition lead us into a mysterious, ironic, and hybrid reality, a reality that completely challenges our perceptions of the world as we are conditioned to think about it. The works on view are a series of dialogues that illuminate conjunctures between real life and fantasy which present objects and human behaviors through a creative and conceptual kaleidoscope. The virtual reality in their art- a hyper-reality materialized in scientific, technological, and global idioms- unerringly subverts our intellectual, experienced, and intuitive knowledge about art and society. These artists belong to a new generation, born since the tumultuous social and political phase of modern Korean society subdued; without the Cold War, without riot police, yet possessing access to the larger world via the internet, opportunities to travel abroad, and products promoted locally by global corporations. The exhibition features photography, video, site-specific installation, and sculpture and includes the work of eight artists including: Kyung Woo Han, Yong-ho Ji, Yeondoo Jung, Shun-il Kim, Sun K. Kwak, Hyungkoo Lee, Jave Rhee, and Kiwoun Shin. 11:00 am, ATLAS Building Room 100, CU-Boulder.

# February 10

A Taste of the Middle East: Perspectives on Culture, Geography, and Identity CAS Speaker Series

Join co-sponsors, CU Center for Asian Studies and the Boulder-Nablus Sister City Project, for a unique workshop, the first of a four-part series, focusing on the history and culture of the Middle East. Participants will gain a deep understanding of Arabic culture and the Muslim religion. Participants will learn how Arabic foods are prepared, get an understanding of the differing historical narratives of the region that perpetuate stereotyping and harmful perceptions. The speaker, Barbara Petzen, has been instructing educators how to teach about the Middle East for many years. Her refreshing, non-advocacy style offers a pedagogical model for teachers.

6pm, Humanities 250.

#### February 16

Tainted Milk, Toxic Rice, and Exploding Watermelons CAS Brown Bag

A talk by Amy Zader, PhD (Geography, CU-Boulder), Research Associate, Program for Teaching East Asia. In recent years, China has experienced a series of food safety problems that have affected both domestic society and the world. In 2008, the melamine-tainted milk scandal that sent shockwaves through the Chinese dairy industry and instigated the passage of a 2009 overarching Food Safety law. However, despite the passage of a national-scale law, these problems continue to exist. By exploring these news stories, this presentation will examine how and why food safety problems exist as well as the shapes emerging consumer activism and politics have taken in China and their implications.

12:00 – 1:00 pm, 1424 Broadway Street, Boulder, CO (CAS Conference Room).

#### February 28

Career Tracks in Asian Studies

**CAS Speaker Series** 

Come learn about exciting career opportunities with our panel of experts in the fields of tourism, diplomacy, and management consulting. Students with an interest in Asia will gain insight into leveraging their knowledge about Asia into promising global careers. A panel discussion with:

Ambassador Martin Cheshes – Ambassador Martin Cheshes worked for the US Foreign Service at the US Department of State for nearly 40 years and was a key player in post 9/11 events in Afghanistan and the Gulf region. He is a recognized expert in African affairs, with considerable European and Caribbean experience. Ambassador Cheshes has managed diplomatic missions on three continents ranging in size from a couple of dozen employees to over 450 and coordinated programs of 11 different federal agencies.

**Sabrina Wisner, Marketing Director of Accenture** – Sabrina Wisner is Director of Marketing & Communications for Accenture, a global management consulting, technology services and outsourcing company, with more than 244,000 people serving clients in more than 120 countries. Ms. Wisner joined Accenture in London in 2007 and currently leads the Resources Global Sales Marketing team and Sustainability Marketing efforts.

Nick Wang, Founder and CEO of China Travel and Tour – Nick Wang has a bi-cultural and bi-lingual background and is well experienced in international business between the US and China. Mr. Wang grew up in China before he came to the US for graduate study at the University of Colorado at Boulder. He has extensive business relationships with Chinese companies and networks in various industries. 4:30 pm, Visual Arts Complex (VAC) 1B90.



# March 2

"Treasure of the Lisu" – a film by Yan Chun Su CAS Speaker Series – "Visualizing Asia"

"Treasure of the Lisu" takes us into the world of Ah-Cheng, a master musician and tradition bearer of the Lisu minority people in southwest China. Originating in eastern Tibet, the Lisu people now live among the mountainous Nu (Salween) River canyon, an area caught between the ancient and the modern world. As a skilled craftsman, Ah-Cheng is the only person in his village who can still make the chiben, an emblematic four-string lute, which is one of the most important objects to the Lisu People. Being one of the last remaining tradition bearers of the Lisu people in his village, Ah-Cheng holds a vital role in the survival of his ethnic culture. Through intimate access to the daily life of three generations of Lisu people in Ah-Cheng's family, this 30-minute documentary shows, with heart-felt compassion and humor, the effect of modernization on ethnic traditions. "Treasure of the Lisu" presents a world rarely seen by Westerners, a world that seems far away yet we will find the unexpected similarities striking. Yan Chun Su is a documentary filmmaker born in China who received her education in both China and the US. In her research Yan has traveled to Patagonia, the Amazon, the Arctic, Mongolia, and remote communities in China and Southeast Asia. Her first film, Sega, African School Dream, was a result of her teaching in a small village in Ghana during 2006. Her documentaries have been shown in film festivals internationally. "Treasure of the Lisu" has been screened at the San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival, the Society for Visual Anthropology Film Festival, the Athens Ethnographic Film Festival, the Royal Anthropological Institute Film Festival and the Banff Mountain Film Festival. Film screening will be followed by a brief talk by the filmmaker Yan Chun Su. This screening is free and open to the public.

6:30 – 7:30 pm, ATLAS 100, CU-Boulder (tentative).



#### March 3

First Annual Symposium of the Center for Asian Studies: Asia on Edge CAS Speaker Series

"Asia on Edge"

The challenges confronting countries throughout the entire region of Asia today are numerous, ranging from immediate crises of terrorism, natural disasters and autocratic government crackdowns to long-term economic, social and cultural changes in the lifestyles and identities of Asian people. ASIA ON THE EDGE, the first annual symposium of The Center For Asian Studies will address such issues in a daylong event on Saturday, March 3rd on the campus of the University of Colorado Boulder. The symposium will feature faculty and graduate students from several academic departments at CU Boulder presenting on various Asian-related topics.

#### Schedule of events:

10:30am - Keynote: "Pakistan After Bin Laden: The Crisis of Governance", author and University of Michigan History Professor Juan Cole

11:30am - Panel of CU faculty respondents (John Willis - History, Najeeb Jan - Geography, Amy Liu - Political Science)

1:30pm - "Sri Lanka after the Tigers", Dennis McGilvray (Anthropology)

1:55pm - "Islamic Piety and Public Culture in Indonesia", Carla Jones (Anthropology)

2:20pm - "Japan on Edge", Faye Kleeman (Asian Languages and Civilizations)

3:00pm - "Social Conflicts in Xinjiang: Historical Perspective", Kwangmin Kim (History)

3:25pm - "Crossing the River by Feeling the Stones: Researching in China and Researching on Chinese National Emergency Management", Wee Kiat Lim (PhD student in Sociology)

3:50pm - "Between Cultures: Korean Chinese Marriage Migrants in 'Multicultural' South Korea", Amy Schubert (PhD student in Geography)

4:15pm – Reception

10:30 am, Fifth floor of the Norlin Library.



#### March 8

The Socioeconomic Dimensions of Epidemic Cholera in Bangladesh CAS Brown Bag

A talk by Elisabeth Root, Assistant Professor at Department of Geography, CU-Boulder. There has been little evidence of a decline in the global burden of cholera in recent years as the number of cholera cases reported to WHO continues to rise. Cholera remains a global threat to public health and a key indicator of lack of socioeconomic development. Overall socioeconomic development is the ultimate solution for control of control of cholera as evidenced in developed countries. However, most research has focused on cross-county comparisons so that the role of individual- or small area-level socioeconomic status (SES) in cholera dynamics has not been carefully studied. Reported cases of cholera in Matlab, Bangladesh have fluctuated greatly over time and epidemic outbreaks of cholera continue, most recently with the introduction of a new serotype into the region. The wealth of longitudinal data on the population of Matlab provides a unique opportunity to explore the impact of socioeconomic status and other demographic characteristics on the long-term temporal dynamics of cholera in the region. In this study we examine which factors impact the initial number of cholera cases in a bari at the beginning of the 0139 epidemic and the factors impacting the number of cases over time. Cholera data were derived from the icddr.b health records and linked to socioeconomic and geographic data collected as part of the Matlab Health and Demographic Surveillance System. Longitudinal zero-inflated Poisson (ZIP) multilevel regression models are used to examine the impact of environmental and socio-demographic factors on cholera counts across baris. Results indicate that baris with a high socioeconomic status had lower initial rates of cholera at the beginning of the 0139 epidemic ( $Y_{0l}$ =-0.151, p=0.038) and a higher probability of reporting no cholera cases ( $\alpha_{0l}$ =0.171, p=0.034). Populations in baris characterized by low SES are more likely to experience higher cholera morbidity at the beginning of an epidemic than populations in high SES baris. 12pm, CAS Conference Room.

#### April 2

Recent Archaeological Discoveries and Research on the Ancient Shu Culture of the Chengdu Plain CAS Speaker Series

The discovery in the Chengdu plain of the Sanxingdui culture (1600-1200BCE) in 1986 and the Jinsha culture (1200-650BCE) in 2001 has revealed a previously unknown center of Bronze Age civilization in Southwest China. The dramatic life-size bronze figures with protruding eyes from Sanxingdui caught the world's attention, but much remains to be understod about these sophisticated cultures that later Chinese works came to refer to as the kingdom of Shu. Professor Bai, of Sichuan University, has participated in many excavations on the Chengdu Plain. He will describe recent discoveries and our evolving understanding of this independent center of civilization and its relationship to the culture of the Central Plains. In Chinese with English Translations. This event is free and open to the public.

5pm, Eaton Humanities 250.



on the Ancient Shu Culture of the Chengdu Plain 近年來成都平原古蜀文明的考古發現及研究 A talk by Prof. Bin Bai of Sichuan University, China

# April 5

Disease at the Edges of a Nuclear Test Site: Emerging Health Strategies in Post-Soviet Kazakhstan CAS Brown Bag

A talk by Magdalena Stawkowski, Ph.D Candidate, Department of Anthropology, CU-Boulder.

"My research examines the social consequences of four decades of Soviet nuclear testing and subsequent radioactive contamination in Kazakhstan. I focus on Kazakhstan because in 1991 it inherited the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site when it declared independence from the Soviet Union. My work investigates local understandings of health and livelihood within a landscape marred by atomic testing, a secretive Cold War era, and post-Soviet ambitions to gain an economic foothold into the global 21st century. Declaring independence in 1991 and adopting neoliberal market reforms has forced disenfranchised, rural Kazakh communities living on the edges of nuclear zones to confront and make sense of their ongoing health problems and environmental damage. In order to navigate a post-Soviet social order and cultural marginalization, these populations have <sup>3</sup>embraced<sup>2</sup> nuclear pollution as something natural in their environment and see their survival as proof that they have evolved to fit this ecosystem. My Kazakh informants say "clean air is our death," meaning that moving away from these damaged ecosystems will kill them. Emerging strategies for survival reflect a new social order in Kazakhstan: that order embraces a nuclear future by agreeing to accept funding to become a Global Nuclear Fuel Bank and a dumping ground for much of the West's toxic waste, while at the same time publicly lamenting its Soviet nuclear past (Shimansky 2011). I address how people have learned to engage with the nuclear test site spast and present state practices, scientific expertise and authority, and how health, suffering, and notions of well-being constitute a new kind of post-socialist identity." 12:00 pm, CAS Conference Room.

# April 13

Asian Language Night **CAS Speaker Series** 

The Department of Asian Languages will be hosting their annual Asian Language Night! Come enjoy music, skits, dances and cultural activities. Experience Arabic, Chinese, Farsi, Hindi, Japanese, and Korean languages and cultures followed by delicious food. The event will be taking place Friday, April 13, 2012 at 5 pm in HUMN 1B50, with a buffet following in the HUMN lobby.

5pm, Eaton Humanities 1B50.



# April 13

Aftershock: Japan One Year after the Tohoku Earthquake

CAS Speaker Series - "Asia on Edge"

A panel of CU faculty will offer multiple perspectives on the aftermath of the March 2011 earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear disaster and explore recovery efforts on the ground in Japan.

Panel:

**Bruce Goldstein**, Associate Professor of Planning and Design, University of Colorado Denver; "Collaborative Resilience to Catastrophe"

Levi Jacobs, MA student, Department of Anthropology, CU-Boulder; "Life After Deluge: Witnessing 3-11 and Local Clean-up Efforts"

**Roger Bilham**, Professor of Geological Sciences, CU-Boulder; "The Hazards of Seismic Understatement and the Hazards of Seismic Truth in a Post Fukushima World: Concerns in India"

**Greg Hanes**, Assistant Vice President of International Marketing, US Meat Export Federation; "Tohoku: Return to Normalcy?"

**Laurel Rodd**, CAS Director and Professor of Japanese, CU-Boulder; "'because I have/to go on living'; The Tohoku Earthquake in Poetry"

4:00 pm, Eaton Humanities 150.



### April 19

Cold War Studies in China

CAS Brown Bag

A lecture by Dr. Peng Fengling, Visiting Scholar, Center for Asian Studies.

Cold War studies have attracted scholars worldwide, including Chinese scholars. This presentation will review the research topics Chinese scholars are interested in, research methods they apply and resources they have access to, as well as significant findings in recent years.

12:00 pm, CAS Conference Room.

#### April 26

The Buddhification of Japanese Waka in the Heian Period CAS Speaker Series

A lecture by Professor Stephen D. Miller, Assistant Professor, University of Massachusetts and Patrick Donnelly, associate editor of Poetry International. In the Heian period, court waka—that most orthodox of poetic genres—became the vehicle by which Japanese writers brought their literary and spiritual aspirations together in a new way. The shift they made from the practices of their cultural past, and the new mind-set that was formed as a result of this shift, will be the focus of this presentation. Professor Stephen D. Miller, Assistant Professor of Japanese language and literature at the University of Massachusetts and Patrick Donnelly, associate editor of Poetry International, will address the history of the gradual incorporation of Buddhist concepts into Japanese waka poetry and the development among court poets of a belief in the production of that poetry as a Buddhist practice in itself. 4:00 pm, Hellems 267.



# May 11

The Middle East: Myths and Realities CAS Speaker Series – "Asia on Edge"

Has the promise of the Arab Spring turned into an Arab winter? The rise of Islamic fundamentalist parties in recent elections in Tunisia and Egypt seems to suggest as much. To learn more about this and the history of the Middle East more broadly, please join us at the events on Friday and Saturday. The Friday evening presentation will be conducted by Nader Hashemi, Assistant Professor of Middle East and Islamic Politics, University of Denver. Dr. Hashemi will give a talk entitled "Understanding the Crisis of Religion and Politics in the Middle East: What Can We Learn from Early Modern Europe?" A full-day workshop on Saturday will provide an historical overview of the Middle East and an understanding of how it came to be what it is today. Patrick D'Silva, Arabic and Islamic History Instructor at the University of Colorado of Boulder, will lead the sessions on Saturday. The events are jointly supported by the CU Center for Asian Studies and the Boulder-Nablus Sister City Project. 6pm, First Congregational Church, 1128 Pine St., Boulder, CO 80302.

#### **Non-CAS Events**

# January 16

Vietnam Revisited with Quang Ho

For more information, visit http://exhibits.denverartmuseum.org/asianart/asianart.html. 12:00 pm, Denver Art Museum.

### February 20

Contemplating the Wheel of Life with Gen Kelsang Losel

The AAA is a non-profit membership support group of the Denver Art Museum. We promote knowledge and understanding of Asian art and culture. We work closely with the museum's Asian Art department to present programs and activities for the education and enjoyment of the community, while also keeping abreast of important developments in the fascinating world of Asian art. Our lecture series is presented from September to May. To join, simply contact blittle@denverartmuseum.org or call 720-913-0040. Please remember, in order to qualify you must

first be a member of the Denver Art Museum. For more information, visit http://exhibits.denverartmuseum.org/asianart/asianart.html. 12:00 pm, Denver Art Museum.

#### March 16

"Syndromes and A Century"

This film showing is part of the Brakhage Center Symposium, March 16-18.

(Sang sattawat). Dedicated to Apichatpong's doctor parents, and loosely based on their recollections, "Syndromes and a Century" begins in a rural hospital that basks in a light so radiant it finds all doctors in love. Here dentists serenade their crushes with flossing-related karaoke, and even job interviews sound romantic. Later, in an antiseptic urban hospital bathed in fluorescence (the light of the new century), the same actors, playing similar characters, reevoke their scenes, with loves and desires repeated like syndromes. Concerned with how memory (and, by extension, cinema) works to recall and rephrase stories and emotions, "Syndromes and a Century" is blissfully impervious to narrative concerns.—Jason Sanders, PFA Film Notes 7:00 – 8:00 pm, University of Colorado, Boulder Visual Arts Complex.