Dear Friends of CAS,

In 1998, a small group of CU faculty met with a vision for an Asian area studies center that would bring together Asian Studies scholars from all corners of campus. With a start-up grant from then-Provost Phil DiStefano, the Center for Asian Studies was born. At that time, I’m sure none of us imagined how successful CAS would turn out to be! Under the leadership of founding director Dennis McGilvray, followed by Laurel Rodd (under whose guidance the Center achieved recognition, and funding, as a Federal Title VI National Resource Center in Asian Studies – the first and only area studies NRC in the State of Colorado), CAS became what one Associate Dean called a “model center” for the university. It has been my privilege to direct CAS since 2012, and to watch Asian Studies continue to grow.

This 20th anniversary year for CAS also brings the annual meetings of the Association for Asian Studies (AAS) to Denver for the first time. In fact, it’s the first time the AAS meetings have been held anywhere between the West Coast and Chicago! To celebrate, we’re hosting a reception at the Denver Art Museum on March 23rd between 6 and 8 p.m. Please join us!

2018 brought yet another wonderful group of new Asianists to our campus. Joining the faculty in Asian Languages & Civilizations are Clarence Lee (Assistant Professor of Japanese), Evelyn Shih (Assistant Professor of Chinese), Riley Soles (Visiting Assistant Professor of Japanese), and Levi Thompson (Assistant Professor of Arabic). Also joining the faculty are Stephanie Su (Assistant Professor of Asian Art) and Alessandro Rippa (Postdoctoral Associate at the Center for Asian Studies). This past year our community was also enriched by visiting scholars from China, South Korea, Germany, and Japan.

Among these new Asianists, Alessandro Rippa joins us as part of the Center’s China Made project, funded by the Henry Luce Foundation. This project explores China’s infrastructure model of development, with a regional focus in Southeast Asia. In October, we hosted a successful inaugural workshop here in Boulder, with scholars joining us from China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Canada, the Netherlands, the UK, and throughout the US. As China becomes an increasingly significant player in economic development and social transformation in Asia, we hope that the China Made project will help shed some light on the inner workings of how Chinese development takes place and what sorts of impacts its infrastructural model creates in local Asian contexts. This past Fall, I traveled twice to Astana, Kazakhstan, to join other colleagues from the US and continues on page 2
Europe in briefing officials there on China’s infrastructural development model. The China Made project is an example of the ways Asian Studies here at CU are engaged in a global conversation on the shifting nature of Asian relations and developments. Please visit the project website to learn more about China Made: [https://chinamadeproject.net](https://chinamadeproject.net).

CAS continues to do whatever we can to make the study of Asia as accessible as possible to our students and to our broader community. We continue to host the Tang Global Seminar in China, and have added a new global seminar in Indonesia. Our Asia Internship program now includes opportunities in Tokyo and Shanghai, and we offer numerous other scholarship opportunities for study in Asia. All of these are made possible through our generous donors. If you would like to help us in our mission, please consider a donation to CAS. It’s an easy click from our homepage, or visit [https://www.colorado.edu/cas/support-cas](https://www.colorado.edu/cas/support-cas).

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**Thoughts from the CAS Advisory Council Chair**

As noted elsewhere in the Newsletter, this year we are celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Center for Asian Studies. Hats off to its first two Directors Dennis McGilvray and Laurel Rodd and to the current CAS Team ably led by Faculty Director Tim Oakes and Executive Director Danielle Rocheleau Salaz!

For the past several years CAS has worked hard to find resources to support opportunities for CU undergraduates to either study or work in Asia during the summer. Geordi Emmett, a mechanical engineering major, participated in the CAS-led, Tang Endowment-supported Urban China Global Seminar (see page 4 for more information) last summer. This is some of what he had to say about that experience:

> This summer has been the most incredible summer of my life to date. I had the privilege of getting to join a group of 12 other students to spend a month in China. This experience was beyond impactful and changed my life in immeasurable ways....The experience of studying abroad in China really challenged me to grow as a thinker, a global citizen, and it further spurred my intense curiosity to learn more about the world.

A modest investment aimed at opening the eyes and minds of CU’s undergraduates to the broader world around them can have a transformative impact.

We are deeply grateful to Dean Jim White and his colleagues in the College of Arts & Sciences for their ongoing support of CAS. We are encouraged that the importance of the campus-wide “internationalization” is (finally) getting the increased attention it deserves. The Academic Futures report, prepared with extensive campus-wide input and consultation in 2018, identified “Internationalizing our Campus” as one of its Top 4 priorities. The Academic Futures Committee noted that comprehensive internationalization is “essential to our mission and to other goals and projects set forth in this report.” It went on to note:

> “Internationalization of our curriculum and our research creates a path to the long-term relevance of our public mission in service to society by creating global citizens with the ability to address problems of international significance. Globalization is one of the most powerful forces in our world, bringing great benefits and causing equally great challenges and anxieties. CU Boulder must position itself to prepare our researchers, artists, and students to address those anxieties, to help solve those challenges, and to ensure those benefits serve the common good” (emphasis added).

Proactive support of internationalization would create an environment in which CAS and other programs linking CU to the wider world could truly thrive. Important progress has been building from the bottom up. Deans of the College of Engineering & Applied Science, the Leeds School of Business, and the CU Law School have each recently hired staff dedicated to supporting and expanding international programs and connections. CAS has active links with the College of Engineering and the School of Business and is exploring links with the Law School and with one of CU’s newest Centers: the Center for Native American and Indigenous Studies (CNAIS). A critically important next step is the appointment of a senior administrator to lead and direct the internationalization effort. The Academic Futures report recommended this be assigned to a new Vice Provost and Associate Vice Chancellor for Education. Experience at other Universities in Colorado and across the U.S. support the recommendation of an earlier in-depth review of internationalization at CU Boulder in 2010 that this effort be led by a Vice Provost/Associate Vice Chancellor for International Policy and Programs.

The Center has been told it needs to vacate its current premises in the coming year to make way for the proposed University Conference Center. We trust that CAS will be provided with a new space that both keeps all of the component parts of the Center together and provides easy access for students, staff and community members so that the vital and important work of the Center for Asian Studies will continue to thrive for the next 20 years. Onward!

George Taylor
CAS Advisory Council (CASAC) Chair
Help Support Asian Studies at CU!

CAS benefits from the generosity of our donors and sponsors, and in turn, we are able to create opportunities for financial support for our students and faculty members. If you would like to support the study of Asia on the CU campus and expand access to our programming to ever more diverse and broadly representative students and faculty members, please consider contributing to one of the following initiatives:

- Contributions to the **Asian Studies Advancement Fund** allow us to help faculty pursue interdisciplinary research, attend conferences, and develop Asia-themed courses introducing students to new issues and ideas and support events at which faculty and students from around campus and the Front Range region have opportunities to network and collaborate.

- Contributions to the **Friends of Asian Studies Flatirons Fund** endowment help to further the CAS mission, which includes supporting research, instruction, and outreach about Asia on the CU-Boulder campus. The fund is used at the discretion of the CAS Director, with current priorities including scholarships defraying the cost of student travel to Asia for study abroad and internships and the CAS Annual Symposium (a forum bringing internationally-recognized speakers to Boulder).

- Contributions to the **Asia Internship Program** will provide scholarships to offset costs for our summer internship students and funding to allow us to further develop the program.

Donations can be made online at [www.colorado.edu/cas/cas-initiatives/support-cas](http://www.colorado.edu/cas/cas-initiatives/support-cas). If you would like to discuss other giving options or ideas, please contact Danielle Rocheleau Salaz at salaz@colorado.edu or 303-735-5312.

We thank you for your support!

Don’t Miss this Upcoming Event!

**CAS Roundtable on Xinjiang: Perspectives from the Field on China’s Mass Incarceration of Turkic Muslims**

The People’s Republic of China (PRC) is engaged in the mass detention of Uyghurs, Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, and other Muslim minorities in Xinjiang, the “autonomous region” in northwestern China which is home to several Turkic groups. It has been estimated that up to one million people have been detained without trial. In the camps, labelled by Chinese authorities as “re-education” facilities, the detainees are forced to abandon their native languages and religious beliefs – instead learning Mandarin Chinese and studying the Chinese Communist Party doctrine.

On **March 21, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.**, CAS will host a discussion on the Xinjiang police state and mass detention of Turkic Muslims in China. Panelists will include **Darren Byler** (University of Washington), **James Leibold** (La Trobe University), **James Millward** (Georgetown University), **Rian Thum** (University of Nottingham), and **Sarah Tynen** (CU Boulder). The discussion will be moderated by CAS’ own **Tim Oakes** and **Alessandro Rippa**.


**Asian Studies Leadership Circle**

We are pleased to recognize 2018 Leadership Circle members, our donors who gave more than $1000 in the calendar year:

- **France Addington-Lee**, CASAC
- **Koji Fukumura**, CU Alumnus
- **Dennis McGilvray**, CASAC Member and Professor Emeritus, Anthropology
- **Laurel Rasplica Rodd**, CASAC Member and Professor Emerita, Japanese; and **Greg Rodd**
- **Kazunori Takato**, CU Alumnus
- **George and Beth Ann Taylor**, CASAC Member
- **Chris Yager**, CASAC Member

Thank you to each of our Leadership Circle members, and to all our supporters. Your contributions allow us to continue to make a difference on campus and in the broader community.

**CAS Directors & Staff**

- **Tim Oakes**, CAS Director; Professor of Geography
- **Danielle Rocheleau Salaz**, CAS Executive Director
- **Colleen Berry**, CAS Associate Director and Instructor
- **Lynn Parisi**, Director, Program for Teaching East Asia
- **Susan Schmidt**, AATJ Executive Director
- **Kathy Ajisaka**, AATJ Executive Assistant
- **Catherine Ishida**, TEA Senior Staff Associate, Japan and Korea
- **Mark Pleiss**, CLAC Coordinator, CAS
- **Alessandro Rippa**, CAS Postdoctoral Fellow
- **Laura Santos**, CAS and TEA Assistant to the Directors for Grant Administration
- **Laurel Singleton**, TEA Staff Associate
- **Liza Williams**, CAS Event Coordinator
- **Jon Zeljo**, TEA Senior Staff Associate, China and NCTA
- **Lin Zhu**, CAS Graduate Research Assistant
Faculty Updates

Loriliai Biernacki (Associate Professor of Religious Studies) gave several invited talks last year, one in particular for the opening plenary panel of a conference in Sanchi, India (see photo) in December. This talk was titled “Sarvasākṣinī: The Goddess’ Wondrous Feat,” addressing Śākta Tantra. Biernacki published two short articles and a longer one on transcendence in sports using conceptual frameworks from classical Tantric texts as well as from the writings of 20th century scholar writing in Hindi.

Frank Hsiao (Professor Emeritus of Economics) served as a member of the Fulbright National Screening Committee (NSC), and the Screening Committee for Japan and South Korea met in San Francisco in December 2018. This is the fourth time he was invited to serve at NSC since 2007 (he himself was a Fulbright-Hays Research Fellow in Japan, Taiwan, and Korea in 1970s). There were many applicants and competition was very keen. To his surprise, no one from the University of Colorado applied last year. These are excellent scholarship and fellowship programs for both students and faculty members; for more information, please search online to find selection criteria and application procedures for Fulbright Student and Faculty Scholarships. They also have language training fellowship programs in the host countries.

Clarence I-Zhuen Lee (Assistant Professor of Japanese, ALC) arrived in the fall; his research is situated in the intersections between literature, intellectual history and sinic medical history in Early Modern Japan. In particular, he focuses on the rise of kokugaku as a field of knowledge within the context of mid-18th century empirical rationalism. By studying kokugaku in relation to other fields of knowledge production (such as pharmacology and medicine), his research hopes to shed light on kokugaku not as a kind of proto-nationalism, but as an attempt to re-understand the world around us.

Dennis McGilvray (Professor Emeritus of Anthropology) was in Colombo, Sri Lanka in July 2018 for a workshop on Dutch Colonial Social History in Sri Lanka, followed by a Sri Lankan Studies Roundtable in Zurich in September. He also presented a conference paper on Muslim Dowry and Inheritance in Sri Lanka at the University of Exeter, UK. His current book project, entitled A House for Every Daughter, is about matrilocal marriage and household structure in Sri Lanka and South India.

Carole McGranahan (Associate Professor of Anthropology) gave a keynote lecture at the annual South Asia Conference at the University of Wisconsin at Madison in October. Her talk was titled “Imperial but not Colonial: Lessons from the Borderlands of British Empire.” Professor McGranahan also traveled to India and Nepal twice in 2018, to Nepal and India in June and October for research trips,

In Summer 2018, Colleen Berry (Instructor of Asian Studies and CAS Associate Director) took 12 students to China on a Global Seminar with scholarship funding supplied by the CAS Tang Endowment. Students from a variety of majors participated in the “Urban China: Tradition, Modernity, and Nostalgia” course in Beijing, Xi’an, Shanghai, and Hangzhou. Two highlights of the program were the walking tours of the Old Summer Palace (Yuanmingyuan) in Beijing, led by historian Jeremiah Jenne, and of Shanghai’s former Jewish Quarter, led by Dvir Bar-Gal, who has been researching the history of the Jews in Shanghai for many years.

The combination of course content and participation in everyday life in Chinese cities gave the students a meaningful, in-depth experience and a higher level of intercultural competence—an asset that can enrich their lives and enhance their careers. Post-trip reports from the students included these comments on what they gained through the experience of living in China for three weeks:

“The program was very strong in pushing people to become more independent and more confident in navigating places that they are completely unfamiliar with.”

“I reaffirmed to myself that I have a good sense of direction and with practice and focus can navigate and explore new places by myself or as a leader to others.”

“This type of experience is one of the things that makes life meaningful and worthwhile, so I’m absolutely glad that I was able to have that experience.”
and to Dharamsala, India in June with CU anthropology PhD student Dawa Lokyitsang, where they gave research talks and hosted community workshops as part of a Wenner-Gren Public Anthropology Grant.

Shawhin Roudbari (Assistant Professor of Environmental Design) published a paper in the journal *Iranian Studies* in December. Free eprints are available at [https://www.tandfonline.com/eprint/HtqBTqWHZE8ZpKF9Biw/full](https://www.tandfonline.com/eprint/HtqBTqWHZE8ZpKF9Biw/full).

Arriving in fall 2018, Stephanie Su (Assistant Professor of Asian Art History) specializes in East Asian art history. Her research interests include the Sino-Japanese relationship, global modernism, historiography, history of collecting and exhibition, the materiality of colors and print culture. She is excited to utilize the collection of CU Art Museum to teach courses on East Asian art and culture. Currently she is working on two projects, “Entangled Modernities: Picturing China’s Past in the Early Twentieth Century Japan and China,” and “Colors of Modernity: Changing Aesthetics in Meiji Japanese Prints.” Her long-term research goal is to reconstruct more interconnected and globalized histories of East Asian art with interdisciplinary approaches.

Levi Thompson (joined Asian Languages and Civilizations as Assistant Professor of Arabic in the fall. He teaches courses on the cultures of the modern Middle East, translates poetry from Arabic and Persian, and researches the development of modernist poetry outside the West.

New Post-Doc Position at CAS

CAS was pleased to welcome Alessandro Rippa to CU last fall as our first postdoctoral fellow, working with CAS Director Tim Oakes on the China Made project. His self-introduction:

My research interests coalesce around three major trends in the social sciences today: the social impact of infrastructural development; the flow of commodities across national boundaries; and the role of informal markets in processes of globalization. I have pursued these interests in the ethnographic contexts of Western and South-western China, particularly at China’s borders with Pakistan and Myanmar. My most recent research focuses on the analysis of the social and material consequences of China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and explores new theoretical approaches for the study of large-scale infrastructural projects.

Since October 2018 I have been a postdoctoral fellow at the Center for Asian Studies at CU Boulder, as part of the “China Made” project funded by the Henry Luce Foundation. Prior to joining the Center, I completed my doctorate in Social Anthropology at the University of Aberdeen and I was a postdoctoral fellow at Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich.

Students from the Global Seminar “Cultural Transformations in Indonesia” study indigenous ecologies in the Mentawai Islands. The seminar is led by Christian Hammons (Instructor in Anthropology & Critical Media Practices) every May, and this year’s students received scholarship support from the CAS Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Languages program grant for Southeast Asian Studies from the US Department of Education.

Congratulations to Jill Avery Ingebritsen, Rachel Marie Kline, Isabelle Moroco, Ashley Kathleen Pretorius, Emily Christine Protz, and Isabella Rulon Stephens!
Visiting Scholars Come to Boulder

Over 2018, CAS was home to a number of scholars from Asia and beyond. During their residencies, visiting scholars meet with faculty and students, participate in events, and present their research at our Luncheon Series. They are a valuable addition to the community of Asianists on campus, and we are happy to have them.

Cai Bei arrived in early 2018, and in January 2019 he returned to Qinghai Minzu University, China. Cai worked with faculty host Emily Yeh from Geography on research related to the sacred landscapes and environmental protection on the Tibetan plateau.

Jaeyoung Choi arrived in early 2018 and returned to Hallym University, Republic of Korea in January 2019. His faculty host was Kwangmin Kim from History, and he did research related to the formation of Chinese world order in East Asia from 1500-1900.

Carolin Maertens arrived from LMU Munich, Germany, in late 2018 and will be here until 2020. Her research relates to migration practices in Central Asia.

Bisheng Peng arrived in late 2018 and will stay for a year from the School of Public Administration at Sichuan University in China. He is working with Terry Kleeman from Asian Languages & Civilizations (ALC) on research related to the origins and developments of Chinese Herbal Classics in Taoism.

Yanxia Tang arrived in early 2018 and will stay until early 2019. Yanxia is from Aichi University, Japan. Her faculty host is Faye Kleeman (ALC), and her research is related to diaspora in North American Chinese communities.
News from AATJ (American Association of Teachers of Japanese)

2018 ended with two major projects that showcased Japanese language teachers and learners in the United States.

The Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT), which is taken worldwide by tens of thousands of Japanese learners, was administered to almost 7,000 test-takers at 18 test sites around the US (including right here at CU). The test is administered in the US by AATJ, and the big day was Sunday, December 2. Dozens of volunteers give their time at the sites to make sure that this important test goes smoothly; thanks to all of them for their hard work!

On the more lighthearted side, students around the country were working on their New Year’s Cards (nengajo in Japanese). In Asia each year is represented by one of 12 animals, and 2019 is the Year of the Boar. Please enjoy one of the winners of this year’s contest.

AATJ also organizes two conferences annually for members and other Japanese professionals; manages an online National Japanese Exam taken by several thousand K-12 learners; and publishes four newsletters and two issues of the journal Japanese Language and Literature (which in 2019 becomes an Open Access journal published free online for all to read).

Learn more about AATJ and its many projects supporting 1,500 teachers of Japanese at all levels and (through them) many thousands of students at www.aatj.org.

Susan Schmidt, Executive Director, AATJ

First Lotsawa Translation Workshop at CU Boulder

In October, the Tibet Himalaya Initiative hosted the first Lotsawa Translation Workshop at CU Boulder. The workshop drew fifty-five scholars and translators from around the globe to join together in dialogue about the translation of Tibetan verse with respect to the dynamics of Buddhist devotion.

Building on Tsadra’s series of Translation and Transmission conferences in 2014 and 2017, the innovation of the Lotsawa Workshop is its model of workshopping translations-in-process, which emerged as an inspiration between co-organizers Holly Gayley (CU Boulder) and Dominique Townsend (Bard College). In small groups of eight, junior translators, graduate students, and early-career faculty were paired with seasoned translators and senior faculty to workshop translations-in-progress of various devotional songs and other similarly inspiring verse.

A participant survey after the event cited an “amazing supportive scholarly atmosphere” and the “joy and laughter with which we all approached this privileged task of rendering great Tibetan literary works into English.” Many cited the workshop groups in the afternoon as the most productive part of the weekend: “a rare and much appreciated opportunity to think through translation with a group of interested colleagues” and “a highlight in what was overall an unforgettably rewarding workshop.”

In addition to the workshops, the long weekend featured panels on “The Dynamics of Devotion” and “Reflections on the Translation Process” as well as daily breakout sessions. Distinguished scholars served as keynotes, including Janet Gyatso (Harvard), Kurtis Schaeffer (Virginia), and Lama Jabb (Oxford). A Translation/Poetry Slam at Innisfree Poetry Bookstore and Cafe encouraged lively performances by a dozen Lotsawa presenters and participants.

The Tibet Himalaya Initiative is honored to have facilitated such a successful and impactful event. Our appreciation extends to the Tsadra Foundation and Chancellor Philip DiStefano for making this event possible through their generous support. Thanks also to the outstanding team at the Center for Asian Studies for their administrative help and to Religious Studies MA student, Joshua Shelton, for his exertion and enthusiasm in managing so many of the logistics and communications for the workshop.
During my time at CU I dreamed of someday moving to Japan to work in marketing or communications. Thanks to luck, good timing (and perhaps grit), I did just that, moving to Tokyo two weeks after graduating. I initially worked in market research, and later shifted gears, working in international public and investor relations at Canon’s global headquarters in Tokyo. (Achieve college dream? Check!) After spending a decade in Tokyo, where I also married a Japanese national and had my daughter, three years ago I moved back to my hometown of Denver. I am currently working to join the Denver U.S.-Japan Council in hopes of plugging into macro-level developments between Japan and the U.S. I am passionate about sharing my experience to inspire others to get engaged and push themselves to see bigger possibilities.

Rachel Hamasaki (MKTG, JPNS 2006)

After graduating from CU, I was accepted into the JET Program. I am now teaching English at Junior High and Elementary schools in Kitaakita City, Akita Prefecture. Though my time here has been short, I have learned a lot about my local culture and the surrounding areas. Between traveling to Lake Tazawa, seeing the famous Akita Inu museum in Odate city, and viewing the beautiful samurai houses in Kakunodate, I have continued to expand the Japan-related experiences and knowledge that I gained as an undergraduate at CU.

Dane LaFon(e) (JPNS, ASIA, ENGL 2017)

Kendra is a Travel Specialist at WildChina, an award-winning travel company based in Beijing. Her five years in China have featured residences in Guangzhou and Chengdu, as well as extensive travel across the country. In 2016 she furthered her studies of Chinese at the National Taiwan University in Taipei, before moving to her current residence in Beijing.

Kendra Tombolato (PSYC/CHIN minor 2012)

CAS Executive Director Danielle Rocheleau Salaz (JPNS MA 2000) visited Tokyo and Shanghai in September to further develop CAS’ Asia Internship Program. She met with lots of CU alumni, many of whom are already involved in AIP as intern hosts or scholarship donors, thus confirming that CU alumni are a generous bunch! To learn more, visit www.colorado.edu/cas/internships/AIP.