

Marjorie Burge, Assistant Professor of Japanese, and Matthias Richter, Associate Professor of Chinese, Department of Asian Languages & Civilizations
CHA Small Grant Proposal
“Emerging Book Cultures” Conference, April 6-7, 2024

The conference “Emerging Book Cultures in Asia and the Middle East: Materiality, Paratexts, Practices,” to be held at CU Boulder the weekend of April 6-7, 2024, is being co-organized by Marjorie Burge, Assistant Professor of Japanese, and Matthias Richter, Associate Professor of Chinese. This conference is envisioned as an opportunity for scholars working on similar questions across the geographic regions represented within the Department of Asian Languages & Civilizations (Japan, Korea, China, South Asia, and the Middle East) to come together and explore connections between the cultures of these areas from the perspective of the vibrant research field of book history. In a time characterized by unprecedented changes to the media landscape we live in, book history has managed to gain prominence in all our disciplines, but there is a need to strengthen transregional understanding in this field of research. Therefore, our schedule features twenty speakers working on the history of the book across the Asian continent, including both major figures in their fields and emerging scholars. Through this conference, we hope not only to inspire increased cooperation among scholars trained in different geographical areas, but to foster transregional thinking about questions related to book history.

“Emerging Book Cultures” aims to take a broad, comprehensive approach to the topic of book history, recognizing that the book did not take the same shape in every cultural context, and into some it was imported as a fully-formed entity. Specifically, we solicited papers that could speak to the following conceptual questions:

How do written texts come into being? Who writes them, and for whom? On what materials are they written, and using what kinds of tools? How are they composed, assembled, or bound? How

does materiality of written texts relate to their forms and functions? How does textual practice vary across time and space? How do individual texts become incorporated into a larger whole? How does a text articulate its own identity? When can we call written texts a “book”?

Further, we invited our potential speakers to consider issues related to the materiality of writing: material, forms, formats, layouts; paratextual devices such as titles, commentary, punctuation, prefaces; textual communities; composite texts; collation and/or compilation practices; the relationship between the material context of a text and its interpretation/reception. We believe that each of the paper proposals we have received speaks to these questions in different ways, while highlighting unique aspects of textual cultures in specific regional contexts.

We hope this conference will be an opportunity to highlight the different regions and fields of study represented within our department at CU and allow us to make an effective case for the benefits of transregional and interdisciplinary thinking within the broad category of “Asian Studies.” The strong resonance between the individual paper proposals has led to some discussion among the organizers about the possibility of an edited volume, or a special journal issue, featuring papers from the conference. We intend to discuss this further with our conference participants and pursue possible venues for publication in advance of the conference.

From the perspective of our own research, Marjorie continues to work on her first book project, *Unearthing the Written Cultures of Early Korea and Japan*, and sees this conference as an invaluable opportunity to gain a better understanding of textual cultures across Asia. Marjorie will also present as one of the twenty speakers and looks forward to receiving feedback from scholars who are working in very different regional contexts. In his work, Matthias strives to bridge the divide between Chinese and European manuscript studies and so looks forward to expanding his knowledge of other manuscript cultures in this context. Among the invited

speakers to the conference are included Matthias' PhD advisee and another advanced graduate student for whom he is a committee member.

Our total conference budget is estimated at \$31,394. We are asking for CHA to provide funding in the amount of \$2,600 to help cover the cost of meals for our participants. We have estimated that two dinners on the nights of April 6 and 7 will cost approximately \$2,600 (\$1,300 each). A CHA Small Grant in the amount of \$2,600 will help cover these two dinners and would go a long way toward helping fund the conference. The following is a detailed breakdown of our conference budget, including expected sources of funding.

Expense	Amount	Funding Source
Domestic Flights for 12 participants, x \$550 each	\$6,600	President's Fund for the Humanities (\$5,500) NEAC Japan Grant (\$1,100)
International flights for 1 participant from Hangzhou > Denver estimated at \$2,000 each	\$2,000	CAS Speaker Series (\$1,000) Arts & Sciences Fund for Excellence (\$1,000)
International flights for 2 participants from Berlin > Denver estimated at \$1,500 each	\$3,000	RIO Faculty Conference Award
International flight for 1 participant from Saskatoon > Denver	\$800	NEAC Japan Grant
Ground transportation from DIA > Boulder > DIA for 16 participants estimated at \$122 each =	\$1,952	ALC NEAC Japan Grant (\$330)
Hotel rooms for 16 participants = \$12,129	\$12,192	ALC NEAC Japan Grant (\$1,800)
Room rental (British and Irish Studies Room)	\$500	ALC
Posters/programs = \$250	\$250	ALC
Dinners estimated at \$1,300 each,	\$2,600	CHA Small Grant
Lunch catering	\$600	ALC
Breakfast, coffee/tea breaks catering	\$900	ALC
Total	\$31,394	

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Submission information

Form: [CHA Small Grant Application Form](#)
Submitted by Anonymous (not verified)
Tue, 09/12/2023 - 16:02
73.217.31.170

Applicant Name

Marjorie Burge and Matthias Richter

CU Boulder Affiliation

Assistant Professor

Department

Department of Asian Languages & Civilizations

Marjorie Burge is Assistant Professor of Japanese; Matthias Richter is Associate Professor of Chinese.

Link for Department Faculty Profile, CU Experts Page or Department Personnel roster

<https://www.colorado.edu/alc/marjorie-burge>; <https://www.colorado.edu/alc/matthias-l-richter>

Past GCAH/Small Grants

Unearthing Written Cultures of Early Korea and Japan, \$2000 awarded for research trip. Final report submitted 8/7/23.

Project Title

"Emerging Book Cultures in Asia and the Middle East: Materiality, Paratexts, Practices," Conference to be held April 6-7, 2024

Amount Requested

\$ 2,600.00

Proposal and Budget Description

[cha_small_grant_proposal_mburge_and_mrichter.pdf](#)

Additional Sources of Support

ALC (\$15,000 requested; granted), RIO Faculty Conference Award (\$3000 requested; not yet granted); President's Fund for the Humanities (\$5,500 requested; not yet granted); Arts & Sciences Fund for Excellence (\$1,000 requested; not yet granted); Center for Asian Studies Speaker Series (\$1,000 requested; not yet granted); Northeast Asia Council Japan Grant (\$4,030 requested; not yet granted)

Link for Guest Artist/Scholar Website**Speedtype**

11000993

Name of Department Finance/Business/Program Manager

Jacqueline Coombs

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