Happy Lunar New Year from the Sigur Center! We are reaching out to an increasingly diverse set of partners at GW, in Washington, and around the globe.

During the Fall semester, thanks to new resources from the Carnegie Corporation and the MacArthur Foundation, we established the Rising Powers Initiative (see www.gwu.edu/risingpowers). We see this initiative becoming a major international hub for research and policy analysis on key Asian countries.

We are very pleased as well to welcome Ben Hopkins and James Foster to the faculty this semester. Ben, who works on the modern history of the South Asian subcontinent, joins us as Assistant Professor of History and International Affairs. James, whose research includes the study of inequality and poverty in India, is Professor of Economics and International Affairs.

We want to thank our students, faculty and alumni for their strong interest and involvement in our activities. Visit our website, http://www.gwu.edu/~sigur/ for information about our upcoming events.

Shawn McHale, Director & Deepa Ollapally, Associate Director

In Fall 2009, the Sigur Center launched a new lecture series on Power and Identity in Asia, while continuing its Transnational and Subnational Lecture Series.

**Power and Identity in Asia**


**Emerging Powers in Asia: Are These Post-Colonial Informal Empires?**, Dibyesh Anand, Associate Professor of International Relations, University of Westminster

**Obama from a Southeast Asian Perspective**, Amitav Acharya, Professor, International Relations and Chair, ASEAN Study Center, American University

**Rising India’s Great Power Burden**, C. Raja Mohan, Kissinger Chair in Foreign Policy and International Relations, John W. Kluge Center, Library of Congress

**Context Shapes Theory: Distinctive Trajectories of IR Scholarship in Asia**, Muthiah Alagappa, Distinguished Senior Fellow, East-West Center and Visiting Scholar, Sigur Center for Asian Studies

**Transnational and Subnational Asia**

The U.S., East Asia and Mongolia: Regional Dynamics, Ambassador Mark C. Minton, Ambassador of the United States to Mongolia (2006-2009)

A Passage to America: Book Discussion on The Snakehead: An Epic Tale of the Chinatown Underworld and the American Dream, Patrick Radden Keefe, author, Moises Naim, Editor-In-Chief, Foreign Policy

Human Trafficking in South and Southeast Asia, Sina Vann, survivor and Veero, survivor. Discussants: Laura Lederer, Global Centurion and Shawn McHale, Sigur Center for Asian Studies

In Fall 2009, the Sigur Center continued its long-standing focus on Taiwan, hosting both a roundtable and a major conference on contemporary issues.

On October 28, the Sigur Center held a Roundtable on U.S. Policy Directions on Taiwan, which featured Bernard Cole of the National War College, Alan Romberg from the Stimson Center, and Nancy Bernkopf Tucker of Georgetown University. This event was attended by almost 100 people, and generated coverage in the Taiwanese media. Following the event, the Sigur Center produced an Asia Report based on the talks, which can be found on the Center website’s Publications page.

In December, the Sigur Center hosted a Conference on Taiwan, Asia and the Global Economic Crisis. The first panel looked at “The Economic Crisis and Taiwan’s Political Strategies in Asia and Beyond,” with commentary from M. Terry Cooke, GC3 Strategy, Kerry Dumbaugh of the Congressional Research Service, and Vincent Wei-cheng Wang from the University of Richmond. The second panel covered “The Economic Crisis and Taiwan-China Relations.” Panelists included Peter Chow from the City University of New York, Scott Kastner from the University of Maryland, and the GW School of Business’ Jiawen Yang. A transcript of the event is posted on the Sigur Center’s website, and an Asia Report is forthcoming. They may be found on the Publications page of the Sigur Center’s website.

**Taiwan Lecture and Conference Series**

On October 28th roundtable was a definitive ‘yes.'”

-Asia Report, “U.S. Policy Directions on Taiwan,” Issue 6, December 2009
New Rising Powers Initiative

The Sigur Center established a new program during Fall 2009, named the Rising Powers Initiative. This new initiative recognizes that key countries in Asia and Eurasia are poised to critically influence the shape of international relations in the 21st century. A multi-year effort funded by major grants from the Carnegie Corporation of New York and the MacArthur Foundation’s Asia Security Initiative, the initiative consists of two distinct projects: Worldviews of Aspiring Powers (Carnegie) and Power and Identity in Asia (MacArthur).

Sigur Center faculty Deepa Ollapally, Henry R. Nau, and Mike Mochizuki lead the initiative and have tapped experts from around the world for their research team. The initiative focuses on China, Japan, India, South Korea, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Iran and Russia.

A major purpose of this project is to understand the nature of domestic debates in these powers about their international role and global leadership, as well as to assess how international relations in Asia are likely to be affected by identity issues shaping regional cooperation or conflict.

Research findings are being presented at regional seminars in Delhi, Beijing, and Moscow, and at two international conferences and several special briefings in Washington, D.C.

On January 4-5, three seminars, led by Ollapally, were held in Delhi under the Carnegie project. The events were co-sponsored by leading Indian think tanks—Institute of Peace & Conflict Studies, The Observer Research Foundation, and the Institute for Defense Studies and Analyses. Among the more than 100 attendees were Brajesh Mishra, former National Security Advisor, Manish Tewari, Chief Spokesperson for the ruling Congress Party, and Saeed Naqvi, well-known journalist.

The Initiative will be formally launched on April 13th at an event headlined by acclaimed international relations scholar Peter Katzenstein of Cornell University.

The Rising Powers Initiative will enhance and expand the Center’s India Initiative and Friends of Korea Studies effort. To learn more, see the Rising Powers Initiative’s new website at www.gwu.edu/risingpowers.

Legislative Exchange Program

Legislative Exchange Program (LEP)

The U.S.-Japan Legislative Exchange Program completed its 42nd session and the U.S.-Japan-South Korea LEP held its 10th session in Tokyo, Japan in January. These sessions, originally scheduled for December, were postponed due to the U.S. Congressional schedule.

Both the LEP and TLEP involve high-level leaders of the three legislatures. This year, current chairman of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Income Security and Family Support James McDermott (D-WA), former Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee F. James Sensenbrenner and Madeline Bordallo (D-Guam), a member of the House Committees on Natural Resources and Armed Services, participated on the U.S. side. Former Ministers of Defense (Yoshinori Ohno), Justice (Seiken Sugiuira), Science and Technology, Food Safety and Information Technology (Iwao Matsuda), and fourteen other Diet members from both the Liberal Democratic Party and the newly ruling Democratic Party of Japan participated on the Japanese side. Jin Ha Hwang and Jin Park of the Grand National Party participated on the South Korean side.

The participants of the 42nd U.S.-Japan Legislative Exchange Program in Tokyo, Japan.
Professor Profile

Llewelyn Hughes (Ph.D., MIT) is a new Assistant Professor of Political Science and International Affairs, specializing in the political economy of energy, the international relations in Northeast Asia, and Japanese domestic politics.

Hughes’ research focuses on the comparative political economy of energy and environment. His interest in the area, he says, “was stimulated by the Japanese government’s long-standing efforts to shape energy markets to achieve public policy goals.”

He is currently working on a book that examines how governments and firms respond to changes in the international oil market. Specifically, he states, “I am interested in why some governments, including those of the U.S. and Japan, continue to implement policies designed to enhance control over the petroleum supply chain under the name of energy security.”

Hughes states that the most important finding from his research is that public policy goals in the energy sector are just as easily captured by particular interests as other areas of the economy. This, he argues, implies that when China, Japan, or other Asian states support national oil companies, we should not assume it’s driven only by paranoia about oil supplies, but that there is a more complicated set of interests at stake.

Hughes’ most immediate goal is to prepare his book for publication, but he is also in the early stages of a new project that looks at firm and industry preferences toward climate change policies cross-nationally.

Before entering academia, Hughes lived in Tokyo for nine years, spending time in the private sector, as well as working as an interpreter and aide for Ichiro Ozawa, Secretary General of Japan’s new government.

Hughes’ dissertation won the Lucian Pye award for best Dissertation produced in MIT’s Department of Political Science (2009).

Student Spotlight

Steven Glinert is a senior at the Elliott School of International Affairs, majoring in International Affairs with a focus on East Asia.

He is pursuing an ambitious academic agenda, straddling South Asia as well as East Asia. Steven’s special interest is China and South Asian security and economics, especially the intersection between the rising powers in both regions, as well as the potential conflict therein.

About his academics, he says “I’m interested in the transforming relationships in Central Asia and the Pacific, vis-à-vis China’s growing influence in the region as well as how this might intersect India’s regional interests.” He is currently writing his thesis, comparing the Chinese and Indian armaments industries and acquisitions processes.

Over the summer, Steven traveled to Lucknow, India to study Urdu on a grant from the Sigur Center. In addition to Urdu, he also speaks Chinese fluently and has lived in Beijing. To explain why he continues to study multiple languages, he says “I believe that learning another language is the best way to connect cross-culturally and gain true insight into an international perspective.”

To help him gain his international perspective, Steven has also traveled widely. While he lived in China, he traveled to Xinjiang Province and stayed with a local family. From Lucknow, he also traveled to Srinagar, the capital of Kashmir.

After graduation, Steven plans to work for a few years before returning to school to conduct graduate studies. He plans to concentrate on the growing interactions between the transforming political economies of Asian countries and the influence this has on the security framework.
Featured Alumnus

Christopher J. Fussner (BA, History and Asian Studies, 1975) is owner and founder of TransTechnology Pte Ltd., a company which works throughout Asia from New Delhi to Manila to Shanghai. He received a Masters of International Management from the Thunderbird School of Global Management, studying international industrial marketing, Asia, and Chinese.

Mr. Fussner is recognized as an astute analyst of Southeast Asian Affairs and has taught at the Elliott School as well as at the University of Southern California and Georgia State University’s MBA programs.

Mr. Fussner remembers his time at GW fondly, saying he received a “great education” in Asian politics and the Chinese language. He enjoyed the Sino-Soviet Institute, the Sigur Center’s predecessor’s, own “little library.” “I would go there to study, read the Far Eastern Economic Review and see all my friends.” Mr. Fussner is not the only success story from his graduating class. “Out of our group came two famous China experts, my friend David Shambaugh and Michael Swaine,” he says.

He worked closely with his professors as well: “One morning, Professor Franz Michael called me, he needed help. I had to move a 9 foot by 4 foot map of Vietnam to storage. It was April 30, 1975, the day Saigon fell.”

Fussner also founded and owns Certain Cellars Pte Ltd, based in Singapore, which distributes and imports fine wines. In addition to his businesses, he is a philanthropist. He supports the Singapore Symphony Orchestra and the Vietnam Education Foundation. He also helps to finance a mobile medical clinic in Nepal, which reaches out to about 40,000 people. He visits the clinic at least once a year.

Fussner has worked all over the world, including Seoul, Singapore, Burkino Faso, Kuala Lumpur, and New York City.

Japan and the Memory Question

The Sigur Center’s Project on Memory and Reconciliation in the Asia-Pacific hosted two public events and a two-day, invitation-only workshop this fall.

The first event, on September 11, was on The Tokyo War Crimes Trial and Japan Today, and drew participants from the Tokyo Trial Workshop, which was happening simultaneously. Kazuhiro Togo, former Japanese Ambassador to the Netherlands, spoke on “Unconditional Surrender, The Emperor, and the Tokyo Tribunal: Implications for the Japan-U.S. Alliance.” Hirofumi Hayashi, Kanto Gakuin University, spoke on “The Tokyo Trial and Post-War Japan: Striving to Surmount the Alliance of Irresponsible Nations.” Franziska Seraphim, Associate Professor at Boston College, served as discussant.

In November, the Project on Memory and Reconciliation sponsored another event, Battles of Manila (1945) and Nanjing (1937): Atrocity, Justice and Reconciliation. This event had two panels, the first on the Battle of Manila, which had commentary from Satoshi Nakano of Hitotsubashi University and Sharon Chamberlain of GW. Nakano spoke on “Battle of Manila Studies Project: Rediscovering, Remembering and Reconciliation,” while Chamberlain discussed “Philippine Trials of Japanese War Criminals: Issues of Justice and Reconciliation.”

The second panel, on the Battle of Nanjing, featured commentary from Tokushi Kasahara of Tsuru University and GW’s Daqing Yang. Kasahara spoke on “The Nanking Massacre and Political Structure of its Denial in Japan.” Yang discussed “Revision, Revisionism, and the Nanjing Atrocity.”

“Back then I was a liberal democrat, but all my professors, Harold C. Hinton, Franz Michael and Richard Thornton, were conservative cold war warriors. However, everything is rearranged; I am conservative and all the professors are liberal!”

-Christopher Fussner
Alumni Notes

George Washington University Alumna Jenny Schuch is demonstrating the wide variety of experiences that graduates can have. She is currently in Sumatra working with a local health NGO on issues such as HIV/AIDS. She is hoping to extend her stay and improve her grasp of the language, as well.

Ambassador James Lilley, one of George Washington University’s most distinguished alumni in the field of international relations and Asian studies, died November 12, 2009 at the age of 81. The Sigur Center had the good fortune to host him as a speaker on multiple occasions. Ambassador Lilley had a long and distinguished career in the U.S. government, including acting as Ambassador to Korea and China, as well as serving as the U.S. Representative in Taiwan.

Membership Drives

The Sigur Center is inviting membership in two groups: Friends of the India Initiative and Friends of Korea Studies, providing a new avenue for outreach with special briefings and networking events. Read about these groups at http://www.gwu.edu/~sigur/about/india_initiative.cfm and http://www.gwu.edu/~sigur/about/friends_korea.cfm.

To make a contribution to either program, please go to https://www.gwu.edu/online_giving/ and be sure to select “Other” for the gift designation and type “India Initiative - Sigur Center for Asian Studies” or “Friends of Korea - Sigur Center for Asian Studies.”