



The Asian Connection

The Sigur Center for Asian Studies, The Elliott School of International Affairs

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Message from the Directors

Welcome to the fall semester! We expect to have a full year of exciting events and programs, including a faculty lecture series. Building on our five conferences in New Delhi and Beijing last year, the Rising Powers Initiative (funded by the Carnegie Corporation and the MacArthur Foundation) will hold conferences in Moscow and Washington, DC this coming academic year.

We are pleased to welcome three new Asia faculty members to GW. The new Dean of the Business School, Doug

Guthrie, comes to us from NYU. He is an expert on Chinese economic reforms, corporate governance, and corporate social responsibility. Korea Foundation Assistant Professor of History Jisoo Kim, (PhD, Columbia) spent the last year on a research fellowship at Seoul National University in Korea. She will teach undergraduate and graduate classes on Korean and East Asian history, law, gender, and sexuality. Xiaofei Kang, (PhD, Columbia) comes to us from Carnegie-Mellon University. She will teach in

the Religion Department. Her expertise in Chinese religions and especially Daoism will add even more depth to our strength in the study of Asian religions.

We are sad to bid farewell to Erin Robinson, who has been our Program Coordinator since 2007. We wish her well in her new position at the Nixon Center here in Washington, DC.

Shawn McHale, Director & Deepa Ollapally, Associate Director

Major Events

The Sigur Center hosted 34 events in Spring 2010 on a variety of topics. These events were attended by over 1500 people.

Sigur Memorial Lecture

The 14th Annual Gaston Sigur Memorial Lecture featured Takashi Shiraishi, President of the Institute of Developing Economics at the Japan External Trade Organization. He spoke on "Revisiting Japan's Asia Policy" to a diverse audience of over 70 people.

Cross-Strait Relations

The Sigur Center hosted a international conference on

Taiwan, "Navigating Cross-Strait Relations: Taiwan's Domestic and International Imperatives." This event featured one panel on Taiwan's External Environment, and another on Domestic Sources of Taiwan's Policies. Welcoming remarks were given by Jason Yuan, Representative of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in DC. The Luncheon Keynote was delivered by Douglas Paal, USIP. Speakers on the international issues included Shirley Kan, CRS, Phillip Saunders, National Defense University, and Teng Chung-chian, National Cheng-chi

University. The domestic panel speakers included Sara Friedman, Indiana University; Megan Greene, University of Kansas; and Shelley Rigger, Davidson College.

China's Modernization

The Sigur Center and Asia Society co-sponsored a discussion featuring Jeffrey Wasserstrom, Professor of History, University of California at Irvine, discussing "The Social Costs of China's Modernization: Implications for Chinese Politics and U.S.-China Relations." The event was extremely popular, drawing audience of nearly 200.



Professors Shawn McHale and Deepa Ollapally join Representative Jason Yuan of TECRO at the April 21 Conference on "Navigating Cross-Strait Relations."





Edward Luce discusses “The Strange Rise of India” at a Sigur Center lecture on January 13, 2010.

Order, stability and internal unity are an important focus for both China and India. As a result, these two states also place a heavy emphasis on sovereignty and the non-interference in the domestic politics of other countries. Japan and South Korea in current times do not appear to emphasize order, stability, internal unity and sovereignty as strongly as China and India.

-ASIA REPORT, August 2010



Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam and Professor Deepa Ollapally listen to Professor Karl F. Inderfurth during the “Enlightened Citizen, Righteous Citizen” forum. (Photo from *India Abroad*)

Lecture Series

In Spring 2010, the Sigur Center continued its lecture series on Power and Identity in Asia, Transnational Asia and Subnational Asia.

Power and Identity in Asia

The Strange Rise of India, Edward Luce, Washington Bureau Chief, *Financial Times*

Transnational Asia

International Engagement in Afghanistan, an on-the-ground briefing by Cory Anderson, Executive Director, and Lucas Robinson, Global Program Director, Hila Organization for Partnerships in Education

Japanese Love Statues and Chinese Prisons: Early Cold War Sino-Japanese Relations and WWII War Crimes, Barak Kushner, Lecturer, Modern

India Initiative

The India Initiative co-sponsored three events this semester.

Edward Luce of the *Financial Times* spoke at the first India Initiative co-sponsored event of the semester, called “The Strange Rise of India,” a talk based on his well-received book of the same name.

In March, the India Initiative, along with Bridging Nations and CSIS, hosted an event called “Nuclear Energy Poli-

Japanese History, University of Cambridge

Little Men Between Big Empires: Muslim Transnationalism in the 19th Century, Seema Alavi, William Bentinck-Smith Fellow, Radcliffe Institution for Advanced Studies, Harvard University

The East Asian Order: Continuity and Change, Michael Yahuda, Visiting Scholar, Sigur Center for Asian Studies, The George Washington University

Subnational Asia

Treason on Trial: Political Dissidents, the Vietnamese State, and the Blogosphere, Shawn McHale, Associate Professor of History and International Affairs, The George Washington Uni-

versity

Tearing Apart the Land: Islam and Legitimacy in Southern Thailand, Duncan McCargo, Professor of Southeast Asian Politics, University of Leeds

Never a Tiger: Thailand’s Late-Colonial Economy and its Consequences, Michael J. Montesano, Visiting Research Fellow, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies

Visiting Scholar Roundtables

Democratic Peace and Covert War, Jaechun Kim, Sogang University

The U.S.-ROK Alliance: Issues and Challenges, Young Bum Choi, Republic of Korea Army

cies of China, India and the U.S.” This event featured commentary from Professor Bo Kong of Johns Hopkins’ School of Advanced International Studies, Dr. Satish Kulkarni, from Georgetown University, and Paul Genoa from the Nuclear Energy Institute.

In April, the India Initiative was honored to co-host the former President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, who gave a rousing speech on the need for civic action. The event

was co-sponsored by the South Asian Society at GW, the George Washington University’s Students Association, and the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin. The event was called “Enlightened Citizen, Righteous Citizen,” and was the most well-attended Sigur Center event of the semester, with over 250 attendees. The event was covered extensively in *India Abroad* and other Indian news outlets.

New Rising Powers Initiative

The strategic awakening of China and India has already begun to impact the form and substance of current global politics. These countries, together with Russia, Japan, Iran, South Korea and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), form the core group in the Elliott School's new *Rising Powers Initiative*.

Signature Program

This *Initiative* is a signature project of the Elliott School, and has drawn special attention across the University, including from President Knapp, who described it as "an opportunity for George Washington's outstanding Sigur Center to deepen our understanding of some of the most vibrant and turbulent nations."

The impetus for the *Initiative* comes from our assessment that neither the academic nor the policy communities in the US have a sufficient grasp of the *internal* foreign policy dynamics in these countries. The evolving foreign policy discourse offers a window into their national identity and policy preferences.

The *Initiative* was publicly launched in April 2010 with a lecture by Peter Katzenstein, renowned scholar from Cornell University and the most recent president of the American Political Science Association. Katzenstein

spoke to a packed audience of over 200 on "Reflections on Identity, Security and the US Role in Asia."

Later that month, the *Initiative* sponsored "Identity Shifts in Asia: Implications for Regional Cooperation," a Policy Briefing sponsored by the MacArthur Foundation. The event featured papers from Gregg Brazinsky on Korea, Allan Carlson on China, Mike Mochizuki on Japan, and Deepa Ollapally on India.

International Teams

Led by Sigur Center for Asian Studies faculty Deepa Ollapally, Henry Nau and Mike Mochizuki, the *Initiative* is funded by major multi-year grants from the Carnegie Corporation of NY and the MacArthur Foundation's Asia Security Initiative. The Rising Powers Initiative consists of two distinct projects—the MacArthur project focusing on identity and regional cooperation in Asia; and the Carnegie project looking at contending worldviews on global engagement and US leadership.

Research under both is distinguished by its intensely collaborative nature—the project leaders have assembled a core research team of 23 leading experts, drawn equally from the US and the region.

Delhi Seminars

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.

Beijing Conferences

Participants traveled to Beijing in May to take part in two separate conferences co-hosted by the Sigur Center and China Foreign Affairs University (CFAU). We had a record number of Elliott School faculty members in Beijing: Gregg Brazinsky, Charles Glaser, Mike Mochizuki, Henry Nau, Deepa Ollapally and David Shambaugh.

The principal investigators of the Carnegie project are now preparing for the next regional conference to be held in Moscow in November 2010, ahead of a major international conference at the ESIA in spring 2011.

The *Initiative's* publications, briefings, and other materials may be found at the Initiative's website: www.gwu.edu/risingpowers.



The participants of the Carnegie project, *Worldviews of Rising Powers*, on the campus of China Foreign Affairs University in Beijing for a conference held on May 17, 2010.



Mike Mochizuki speaking at the April 27th "Identity Shifts in Asia," a Policy Briefing under the MacArthur Foundation's Asia Security Initiative.

Professor Profile



Professor Kavita Daiya with her daughter in Cochin, Kerala in India.

“Both in the classroom and in research, the a-ha moment comes when we start questioning the apparently obvious: is there a complicated way of understanding migration that eschews its simplistic celebration of denigration? Or: what acts get named ‘ethnic nationalism’ or ‘patriotism’ in the public sphere, and what is implicitly valued or critiqued in that naming?”

-Kavita Daiya



James Person (PhD, History) in Hadong County, South Gyeongsang Province, South Korea.

Kavita Daiya (PhD, University of Chicago) is Assistant Professor with the Department of English and Affiliated Faculty with the Women’s Studies Department. Her main area of interest is in the causes and effects of displacement, as well as the workings of modern citizenship and the making of ethnic nationalism, especially in South Asia.

Daiya’s current research focuses on the cultural memory of the 1947 Partition of India, and how it shapes ethnic nationalism in South Asia today. She creates digital video recordings of oral testimonies of Partition survivors and refugees living in India. The project ultimately looks at how these experiences of

Student Spotlight

James Person is a PhD candidate in the Department of History, focusing on modern Korean history.

He recently returned from two months in Seoul, Korea, where he practiced his Korean language skills and conducted research for his dissertation on a Sigur Center Summer Grant, which allowed him to make the trip. His dissertation explores the origins and evolution of North Korea’s Juche thought from 1953-1967. According to Person, Juche, often translated as “self-reliance,” originated not as a political tool used by North Korean leader

forced migration from Pakistan to India continues to shape and impact popular ideas in the public sphere.

She is especially interested in South Asia and says, “As a South Asianist, for me the historical migration of South Asians both within and beyond the nation is profound, rich and important to scrutinize. It is bound up with the creative reinvention of memory and identity.”

Daiya’s research, she believes, has implications not only for South Asian culture and history, but also public policy, because it shows the impact of forced migration on the political negotiations of religious identity and ethno-

nationalism by refugees and citizens, as well as implications for other areas that have gone through a similar partition. “Beyond partition, what alternatives can we create to address and resolve conflict within the nation-state?” she asks.

Daiya has published a book entitled *Violent Belongings: Partition, Gender and National Culture in Postcolonial India* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2008) which looks at the immediate cultural response to the Partition, as well as a resurgence in the 1980s. She also founded and continues to develop an online digital video archive, www.1947Partition.org, which collects oral histories.

Kim Il Sung to eliminate his competition, as some contend, but was an almost inevitable outcome of North Korea’s historical experience.

Person is an adjunct professor at the University of North Korean Studies in Seoul, and has taught a course on North Korean history at the George Washington University. “The most exciting thing about teaching this class,” he notes, “is getting students to tackle some basic epistemological questions like ‘how do we know what we think we know about North Korea?’ Or ‘how is knowledge about

North Korea produced?’ Since the majority of discussion on North Korea is informed by opinion columns, it is essential that we ask these questions.”

Person also directs the North Korea International Documentation Project (NKIDP) at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, a project that collects, translates, and publishes newly declassified documents on North Korea from its former allies, continuing his dedication to disseminating more accurate information about North Korea.

Featured Alumnus

Victor C. Shih (BA, East Asian Studies, 1997) is Associate Professor of Political Science at Northwestern University in Illinois. He earned his Ph.D. in Government from Harvard University, focusing on comparative political economy, Chinese politics, and international relations.

Professor Shih has written extensively on the Chinese economy, the Chinese Communist Party, and elite politics, including his 2008 monograph, *Factions and Finance in China: Elite Conflict and Inflation*, (Cambridge University Press). He has published articles in *China Quarterly*, the *Journal of Politics*, the *Journal of Contemporary China* and oth-

ers.

His time at the Elliott School provided him with a strong foundation in Asian Studies and social science, which he says has helped him significantly in his career. "I had the distinct pleasure," Shih says, "of studying with all the 'greats' of China studies during my time there, including Harry Harding, Bruce Dickson, Marty Whyte, Ed McCord, Jonathan Chaves. In retrospect, it was a unique opportunity, which greatly motivated my entrance into the China studies world."

Shih has many fond memories of GW faculty saying "I am grateful to Ed McCord for allowing me into his graduate

seminar on Chinese history as a sophomore. The exciting discussions in the seminar convinced me to go into academia." He adds, "I unfortunately had to disappoint Professor McCord by not doing history."

Professor Shih has been teaching at Northwestern since 2003, when he graduated from Harvard with his PhD. At Northwestern, he is head of the Asian Studies Research Cluster, and responsible for organizing Asian studies events and other tasks. Shih has spoken extensively throughout the U.S. and abroad, including here at the Sigur Center in February 2008.



Professor Victor Shih at a conference. Shih graduated in 1997 from GW, with an undergraduate degree in East Asian Studies.

Affiliated Programs

Legislative Exchange Program (LEP)

Professor Henry R. Nau's Legislative Exchange Program hosted the 43rd LEP and the 11th Trilateral LEP on May 4-6th in Washington, DC. The principle topics were the Futenma Base issue and regional security issues with North Korea and China. The meetings featured a special reception for Iwao Matsuda, the Japanese founder of the exchange, who retired over the summer. In 2010, the LEP and TLEP had 13 U.S. Congressional Members participate, along with 8 Japanese Diet Members and two South

Korean National Assembly Members.

Partnerships for International Strategies in Asia (PISA)

This spring PISA partnered with the National Policy Foundation (NPF) of Taiwan to offer a ten-day Global Affairs policy program for 29 senior civil servants from Taiwan. This fall, PISA will host eight members of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Civil Service Bureau for the Global Cities in World Affairs Program. PISA's Regional Leadership Institute on Global Climate Change, a co-sponsored pro-

ject with the Southeast Asia START Regional Centre at Chulalongkorn University will be held in Chiang Mai, Thailand in November. In collaboration with Hong Kong University's Department of Political Science and Public Administration, PISA will sponsor a research project on Climate Change and Security in Northeast Asia. PISA's work has been generously supported by the Ford Foundation and the Chino Cienega Foundation, as well as contributions from ESRI, Inc. and Spot Image, Inc.

"The best part of going into academia is that I still get to see my mentors on a regular basis. It is a great pleasure to share a few meals a year with Bruce [Dickson] because we go to the same political science conferences and spend part of the summer in Beijing doing field work."

-Victor Shih



Amb. Teng Sheng-Sheng speaks to the PISA-NPF Delegation at the Brookings Institute, during a meeting with Center for Northeast Asian Policy Director Richard Bush.



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Faculty & Staff Notes

The Sigur Center for Asian Studies awarded its annual Summer Grants to 12 students this spring.

Summer Grant for Chinese Language Study:

Christina Devi Bengfort (MA, Asian Studies)
Precious Cain (BA, International Affairs)
Brett Heiney (PhD, Political Science)
Lance Noble (PhD, Political Science)

Summer Grant for Korean Language Study in Korea:

Merah Baird (MA, Security Policy Studies)
Marianne Deng (BA/BS, International Affairs & Economics)
James Person (PhD, History)

East Asia Field Research Grant:

Peter Chang (MA, International Affairs)
Justin Collier (MA, International Education)
Heather Vrieland (MA, Asian Studies)
Yaqiu Wang (MA, International Affairs)
Xiaoyu Zhu (MA, International Affairs)

Foreign Language and Area Studies Summer Fellowships:

Aaron Shraberg, Chinese
Erik Walenza-Slabe, Chinese
Morgan Clemens, Chinese
David An, Chinese

Faculty Summer Research Grants:

Elizabeth Chacko (Geography)
Kavita Daiya (English)
Llewelyn Hughes (Political Science)
Jai Kwan Jung (Political Science)
Young-Key Kim-Renaud & Miok Pak (East Asian Languages & Literatures)
Nikola Mirilovic (Sigur Center)
David Shambaugh (Political Science)
Robert Shepherd & Larry Yu (Anthropology & Business)
Robert Sutter (International Affairs)
Emmanuel Teitelbaum (Political Science)
Elanah Uretsky (Public Health)
Jiawen Yang (International Business)

New Social Media

You can now follow the Sigur Center in several new ways! Find us on:

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/gwusigurcenter>

Twitter: [gwusigurcenter](https://twitter.com/gwusigurcenter)

Asia on E Street Blog: <http://asiaonestreet.blogspot.com>

Flickr: [SigurCenter](https://www.flickr.com/photos/sigurcenter/)

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."

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