Although the Sigur Center for Asian Studies is officially attached to the Elliott School of International Affairs, the Center has never interpreted its mission exclusively, or even mainly, as just serving the Elliott School’s academic programs, faculty, or students. Rather the Center seeks to support and encourage the study of, and research on, Asia across the University. In service of this goal, the Center provides support for faculty research on Asia and for students studying Asian languages regardless of their home schools. One of the main markers of the Sigur Center’s success in serving as a coordinating nexus for Asian Studies for the entire University is that faculty affiliated with the Center come from nine schools and over two dozen departments. When it comes to Asian Studies, then, the Sigur Center has played a key and successful role in breaking down cross-school and cross-disciplinary boundaries.

Given this broad commitment to the growth of Asian Studies at GW, it seems appropriate to use this space not just to tout the Sigur Center’s own achievements but to recognize contributions made by other units around the University. In this regard, I took particular pleasure in participating in an initiative led by Dean Peg Barratt of the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences to bring a Confucius Institute to GW. In December, Dean Barratt travelled to Beijing, along with Vice President Michael Morsberger, to sign the final agreement to make this Institute a reality. This Confucius Institute will provide important resources to expand Chinese language instruction and to support activities fostering greater understanding of Chinese culture and society to both our own students and the surrounding community. In the end, without the vision and personal commitment of Dean Barratt, this important addition to Asian Studies at GW would not have been possible. I therefore ask the entire Asian Studies community to join me in congratulating Dean Barratt for this success.

The Sigur Center for Asian Studies is pleased to announce the launch of our new and improved website. In addition to the overall look of the website, there are several new features, including sections for Multimedia, Publications and Upcoming Events.

The Sigur Center welcomes your feedback and we hope that you find our new website both useful and enjoyable! View the website at http://www.gwu.edu/~sigur/index.cfm.
In Conversation With Jon Huntsman

Former U.S. Ambassador to China and Singapore, Utah governor, and Republican presidential candidate Jon Huntsman came to GW on September 17, 2012. In an event co-sponsored by the Asia Society, Gov. Huntsman participated in a discussion with David Shambaugh, GW Professor of Political Science and International Affairs. The discussion covered the current domestic political environment in the U.S., U.S. policy towards East Asia, and the state of U.S.-China relations. Regarding U.S.-China relations, Gov. Huntsman acknowledged the often complex and intimidating nature of the relationship. “It’s a marriage where divorce isn’t an option,” he said. “We have to make it work. That’s the bottom line.”

The discussion offered students and members of the general public an up-close and intimate view of the former presidential candidate and policy-maker. The discussion was followed by a brief Q&A session. Gov. Huntsman also took the time to deliver some career advice directed to students in the audience. “There are generalists running around everywhere,” he said. “Nobody needs a generalist in today’s world. We need experts. We need people who are trained in the nuances, the history, the traditions, the culture of those we’re going to be dealing with during the course of your generation.”

Speech by Lung Yingtai - Minister of Culture for R.O.C (Taiwan)

On August 28, 2012 Taiwanese Minister of Culture, Lung Yingtai delivered a speech in the Jack Morton Auditorium at GW. The speech was entitled “Soft Power in A Hard Time: A Cultural Perspective on Cross-Strait Relations.” The event was co-sponsored by the Center for Northeast Asian Policy Studies at the Brookings Institution. Minister Lung, who took up her position in May, 2012 is a celebrated writer, literary critic and public intellectual, having written 30 books to date.

In her speech, Minister Lung spoke at length about Confucianism and its impact on the culture and politics of both Taiwan and China. Confucianism is still very much a part of the Taiwanese education system and the vibrant fabric of cultural life seen in Taiwan has a lot to do with the traditional values of Confucianism. Conversely, China has lacked many of the benefits that Confucianism offers after embarking on a radical path following the 1949 communist takeover where many traditional Chinese values and systems were discarded.

Minister Lung also offered observations on the future of cross-strait relations. As much as people may want to focus on China as a menace to be feared, it also deserves empathy; the Chinese people have experienced very turbulent times since the communist takeover in 1949 and many people are still trying to reorient themselves. However, Taiwan also requires understanding from China regarding the need for political and artistic freedom.

The minister ended her speech by defining what she thought “soft power” truly meant. “Soft power is not to make power appear softer,” she said, “soft power means that the only way that you can be powerful is by being genuinely and honestly soft to people outside[and inside of] your territory.”
During the Fall semester of 2012, the Rising Powers Initiative (RPI) held a major conference as part of its research project, Worldviews of Aspiring Powers: Exploring Foreign Policy Debates Abroad. With the generous support of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, RPI co-organized a day-long conference with the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars (WWCIS) on November 15, 2012 in Washington, D.C. The conference, entitled China as a Global Power: Contending Views from China, featured three Chinese and four American panelists. Panelists from China included:

- Shen Dingli (Fudan University)
- Zhu Chenghu (PLA National Defense University)
- Zhu Liqun (China Foreign Affairs University)

The morning included two sessions on Chinese Views on National Security and Defense and Chinese Views on Economics, International Institutions, and Transnational Issues. The first panel on security and defense topics, chaired by GW Professor David Shambaugh, included divergent Chinese views on whether public opinion is having a growing effect on foreign policy-making. Zhu Liqun felt that the process is becoming more democratic and influenced by academia while Zhu Chenghu opined that policy decisions are mainly made by top leaders and that not even the People’s Liberation Army has much say in the formulation of foreign policy.

GW Professor Robert Sutter chaired the second panel on Economics, International Institutions, and Transnational Issues. The panel discussed challenges such as energy security and climate change while Zhu Chenghu continued to point out that the foreign policy making process in China, while opening somewhat, is not transparent enough.

For lunch, the attendees were treated to a keynote speech by Jane Harman, Director, President, and CEO of WWCIS. Ms. Harman emphasized that it is essential for leading experts in both countries to have an understanding of the intentions of the other and to foster healthy and informed public opinion. She also lamented what she saw as endless “China bashing” and called for more “China embracing.”

The afternoon included a panel of four American scholars, chaired by GW Professor Henry Nau. The panelists included:

- Dan Blumenthal (American Enterprise Institute)
- Ted Carpenter (CATO Institute)
- Michael Green (Center for Strategic and International Studies)
- Michael Swaine (Carnegie Endowment for International Peace)

The American panelists discussed the U.S.-China security dilemma and reacted to what the Chinese panelists had said in the morning. In particular, there was no unanimity over whether the U.S. needs to or can maintain dominance in the region. The following panel, chaired by Kissinger Institute (WWICS) Director Stapleton Roy, gave the Chinese panelists a chance to react to the views expressed by the Americans and to opine on whether China is a status quo or revisionist power. Zhu Chenghu agreed with Ted Carpenter that China is a “cautious revisionist” power, as opposed to a radical one, in that it seeks to tweak the international system to its benefit, but not overturn it. Zhu Liqun felt that China was mainly a status quo power while Shen Dingli favored the term “reformist power” to describe China, meaning China favors change for the better while conceding that China’s conduct can elicit fear as opposed to being constructive.
Worldviews of Aspiring Powers
Domestic Foreign Policy Debates in China, India, Iran, Japan, and Russia

In October 2012, RPI co-Directors Henry Nau and Deepa Ollapally published their co-edited book, *Worldviews of Aspiring Powers: Domestic Foreign Policy Debates in China, India, Iran, Japan, and Russia*, published by Oxford University Press. The book provides a serious study of the domestic foreign policy debates in five world powers that have gained influence as the US has weakened. Featuring leading regional scholars for each country, the volume identifies the most important domestic schools of thought—Nationalists, Realists, Globalists, Idealists/Exceptionalists—and connects them to the historical and institutional sources that fuel each nation’s foreign policy experience.

“These essays are an innovative effort to identify and explain common themes in the foreign policy thinking and formulation of the world’s most important aspiring powers. An attentive reader will come away with a sharper understanding of both the pace and the direction of global change and the implications of that change for American power abroad.” — Jim Hoagland, The Washington Post


“Nuclear Debates in Asia” project

The Nuclear Debate in Asia: Balancing Risks and Rewards

The Rising Powers Initiative recently launched an exciting new research project. The rise in global demand for nuclear energy is heavily concentrated in emerging and aspiring Asian Powers. Despite this trend, we still lack a clear understanding of how positions on nuclear energy, national security, and nuclear nonproliferation are linked. This new project - funded by a generous grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation - will track the domestic debates and discussions on nuclear power and nonproliferation in eight Asian countries: China, India, Japan, Pakistan, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam. The project will aim to fill a significant gap in existing literature on these issues, produce research material helpful to policymakers, and to educate students, policy communities, and the public on these critical nuclear viewpoints in Asia. The project is being directed by Sigur Center Associate Director Deepa Ollapally and Professor Mike Mochizuki.

As part of this new project, the Sigur Center and Rising Powers Initiative welcomed a new staff member, Timothy Westmyer. As Research and Program Assistant for RPI, Timothy assists in coordinating the “Nuclear Debates in Asia” project. Prior to joining the Sigur Center, he worked as a Foreign Affairs Assistant at the US Department of State in the Office of the Coordinator for Threat Reduction. Timothy has also spent time at the Council on Foreign Relations, the US Senate, the Arms Control Association, and a presidential campaign.
Recent Events

Taiwan Roundtable Series

November 20, 2012: Taiwan Roundtable - Taiwan and the Diaoyutai Islands: Historical and Regional Perspectives, with Dr. Robert Sutter, Professor of Practice of International Affairs, GW; Dr. Steven Phillips, Professor of History, Towson University; Dr. Michael Yahuda, Visiting Scholar, GW.

September 10, 2012: Impressions From North Korea: Insights From Two GW Travelers, with Justin Fisher, Statistics Lecturer, GW; James Person, PhD Candidate in Korean History, GW.

September 18, 2012: Korea-U.S. Relations in an Age of Globalization: Looking Forward after 130 Years of Diplomatic Relations, Co-Hosted by the Korean Association of International Studies (KAIS) and the Presidential Council on Nation Branding, with Dr. Ahn Yin-hay, President, KAIS; Dr. Lee Bae-yong, Chairman, Presidential Council on Nation Branding; Dr. Young C. Kim, Senior Counselor, GW; Dr. Robert Sutter, Professor of Practice of International Affairs, GW; Dr. Celeste Arrington, Korea Foundation Assistant Professor of Political Science and International Affairs, GW; Dr. Gregg Brazinsky, Associate Professor of History and International Affairs, GW; Maj. Siyoung Park, Visiting Scholar, Sigur Center, GW.

Transnational and Subnational Lecture Series

September 21, 2012: Assessing China’s Prospects: An American-Australian Dialogue and Book Launch: The China Story Yearbook 2012: Red Rising, Red Eclipse, Co-sponsored by the Australian Center on China in the World at the Australian National University, with Dr. Geremie Barme, Founding Director, Australian Center on China in the World; Dr. Bruce Dickson, Professor of Political Science and International Affairs, GW; Jeremy Goldkorn, Founder and Editor, Danwei; Dr. David Shambaugh, Professor of Political Science and International Affairs, GW; Dr. Robert Sutter, Professor of the Practice of International Affairs, GW; Dr. Richard Rigby, Executive Director, the Australian National University.

September 25, 2012: Book Launch - China and Africa: A Century of Engagement, with Amb. David Shinn, Co-Author and Adjunct Professor of International Affairs, GW; Mr. Joshua Eisenman, Co-Author and Senior Fellow in China Studies, American Foreign Policy Council.

October 5, 2012: Book Launch - Tangled Titans: The United States and China, with Dr. David Shambaugh, Editor and Professor of Political Science and International Affairs, GW; Dr. Terry Lautz, Visiting Professor, Syracuse University; Mr. Charles Freeman III, Vice President for Asia, Middle East and Africa, PepsiCo.

October 9, 2012: Abducted Children, Japanese Law and International Politics, with Dr. Carl Goodman, Adjunct Professor of Japanese Law, GW.
**October 12, 2012:** G2 at GW: The 5th Annual Conference on U.S.-China Economic Relations and China’s Economic Development, Co-sponsored by the Rising Powers Initiative, the Institute for International Economic Policy and the GW-Center for International Business Education and Research, with Dr. Barry Naughton, University of California, San Diego; Dr. Vikram Nehru, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace; Dr. Xingwang Qian, SUNY Buffalo State; Dr. Marinos Tsigas, U.S. International Trade Commission; Dr. Steve Suranovic, GW; Dr. Hong Ma, Tsinghua University; Dr. Maggie Chen, GW; Dr. Yaohui Zhao; Peking University; Dr. Jing Cai, University of Michigan.

**October 13, 2012:** The 20th Hahn Moo-Sook Colloquium in the Korean Humanities - Generations: A Century of Modern Korean Literature, Co-Sponsored by the Korean Cultural Center of the Korean Embassy, with Hye-kyung Lee, Korean Author; Jung-hee Oh, Korean Author; Sae-young Oh, Korean Author; Kyong-Hee Choi, University of Chicago, Theodore Hughes, Columbia University; Yung-Hee Kim, University of Hawaii; Ji-Eun Lee, Washington University in St. Louis; Youngju Ryu, University of Michigan.

**October 25, 2012:** Thinking Through U.S.-China Relations: A Conversation with Amitai Etzioni, with Dr. Amitai Etzioni, University Professor of International Affairs, GW; Dr. David Shambaugh, Professor of Political Science and International Affairs, GW; Dr. Robert Sutter, Professor of Practice of International Affairs, GW.

**November 8, 2012:** Queer China ‘Comrade’ China: Film Screening and Discussion with Chinese Queer Film Director Cui Zi’en, Co-sponsored by the GW Global China Connection, the GW Women’s Studies Program and GW Allied in Pride, with Cui Zi’en, Director, Queer Activist.

**November 26, 2012:** Leadership Change in China: Its Effects in East Asia and Relations with the U.S., Co-Sponsored by the International Affairs Society, with Christopher Johnson, Senior Advisor and Freeman Chair in China Studies, Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS).


**December 17, 2012:** Dr. Sunil Jayantha Nawaratne, Secretary of the Ministry of Higher Education of Sri Lanka: Higher Education in Sri Lanka - Challenges and Priorities in a Post-War Setting, Co-Sponsored by the GW Graduate School of Education & Human Development.

**Visiting Scholar Roundtable Series**

**November 8, 2012:** Evaluation of China’s Public Diplomacy in the United States, with Ke-Ming Yen, Visiting Scholar (Taiwan), Sigur Center, GW.

**November 19, 2012:** Running Government, Gangnam Style: A Conceptual Discussion on Factors and Benefits of Building Gov 2.0 in Taiwan, with Chingyu Yao, Visiting Scholar (Taiwan), Sigur Center, GW.

**December 5, 2012:** North Korea Military Adventurism and the ROK-US Alliance - 1961 through 1976, with Maj. Siyoung Park, Visiting Scholar (ROK), Sigur Center, GW.

**December 13, 2012:** China’s Rediscovery of Southeast Asia, Co-Sponsored by the Institute for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies (IERES), with Yanan Li, Visiting Scholar (PRC), IERES, GW.

**December 18, 2012:** Studies on the Development of Regional Production Networks in East Asia and China’s Status Therein, with Dr. Xinxuan Cheng, Visiting Scholar (PRC), Sigur Center, GW.
Conversations with Scholars Luncheon Series

September 20, 2012: Dr. Robert Sutter, Professor of Practice of International Affairs, presented his current research on “Measuring China’s Rise in Asia: Impacts and Implications for the US.” Based on a review of available scholarship and interviews with 210 specialists and officials from 10 Asia-Pacific governments over the past eight years, Dr. Sutter has found a number of metrics to use in assessing China's actual influence as it rises in Asia and the world. Based on these metrics, he forecasts that China's rise will continue to be encumbered by a regional order still led by the United States.

November 5, 2012: Dr. Christina Fink, Professor of Practice of International Affairs, and Dr. Matthew Walton, Adjunct Professor of Political Science met with students to share their perspectives on the transition in Burma/Myanmar. Dr. Fink discussed the impact of the reforms on human security. Dr. Walton examined the challenges that Buddhism poses to democratic consolidation in Myanmar.

November 28, 2012: Ms. Linda Yarr, Director, Partnerships for International Strategies in Asia (PISA), gave a presentation titled "Knowledge Mobilization in Asia." She shared personal reflections on a career devoted to expanding intellectual exchange with Asian thought leaders; promoting curricular and pedagogical innovation in international affairs education; and fostering leadership development for policy dialogue on emerging global issues.

Asian Film Series

In September, OAS kicked off the semester with a special four-part Asian film series called “World War II in East Asia” that featured Asian films depicting the events of WWII. The four films screened were: Flowers of War (China), The Human Condition Part I (Japan), My Way (Korea), and Aishite Imasu 1941: Mahal Kita (Philippines).

In addition to the Conversations with Scholars Luncheon and Asian Film Series, OAS partnered with GW’s Global China Connection (GCC) on November 30, 2012 to co-sponsor a social event that brought together members of OAS and GCC chapters from other DC schools to enjoy an evening of Chinese food and games.

The Organization of Asian Studies (OAS) is a graduate and undergraduate student organization that seeks to foster an appreciation of Northeast, Southeast, and South Asian culture. The organization focuses on strengthening ties between students and faculty with an interest in Asia through ambitious programming and events, all made possible by the support of the Sigur Center for Asian Studies.
Partnerships for International Strategies in Asia (PISA) is hosted by the Sigur Center for Asian Studies. Directed by Linda Yarr, PISA prepares leaders for the challenges and opportunities of the 21st Century and mobilizes networks of scholars, policy makers, and advocates on both sides of the Pacific to address urgent national and transnational concerns.

Myanmar Climate Initiative

The unprecedented political and economic changes underway in Myanmar present new opportunities to improve the livelihoods of the people of Myanmar – lifting them out of a half-century of isolation. Nonetheless, as Myanmar opens it will be faced with a host of new challenges. It is critical that all stakeholders be involved in developing policies that balance the exigencies of economic development and environmental sustainability within the context of climate change. PISA’s Myanmar Climate Initiative (MCI) seeks to address these issues. PISA formally kicked off the BCI on October 24th by hosting a one-day, off the record symposium titled: “Burma in Transition: Climate Wise Development and Sustainable Finance.” The symposium brought together experts and practitioners to discuss the current situation on the ground and share their suggestions for the future of Myanmar. The event was made possible by the generous support from the Chino Cienega Foundation, the Heinrich Böll Foundation, The George Washington University Institute for Sustainability and the Sigur Center for Asian Studies.

For the next phase of this multi-year project, PISA in collaboration with its in-country partner, ECODEV, will convene a week-long Myanmar Leadership Institute on Climate Change (MLICC) in Naypyidaw, Myanmar this February. The MLICC will carefully select a group of “high-multiplier” delegates from a number of key Burmese government ministries to take part in the leadership institute. The curriculum will combine both theoretical and practical approaches to addressing climate change within a sustainable development framework.

Recent Events Hosted by PISA

October 15, 2012: Adapting to Global Climate Change: The Role and Potential of Indonesia’s Marine Resources, with Dr. Indroyono Soesilo, Executive Secretary/Deputy Senior Minister to the Coordinating Ministry for People’s Welfare of the Republic of Indonesia.

October 24, 2012: Burma in Transition: Climate Wise Development and Sustainable Finance, with Linda Yarr, Director, Partnerships for International Strategies in Asia (PISA); Dr. Christina Fink, Associate Professor of Practice of International Development, GW; Maureen Aung-Thwin, Director, Southeast Asia Initiative, Open Society Foundations, Win Myo Thu, Director, Economically Progressive Ecosystem Development (ECODEV); Suzanne Kelly-Lyall, Deputy Director, PISA; Jenny Springer, Senior Director, People and Conservation, WWF; Wynn Thane, Senior Regional Program Officer, PACT; Alessandro Pio, Resident Director General, North American Representative Office, Asian Development Bank; Keiichiro Nakazawa, Chief Representative, JICA USA Office; Liane Schalatek, Associate Director, North American Office, Heinrich Boell Foundation; Dr. James Foster, Professor of Economics and International Affairs, GW.


December 10, 2012: Dilemmas of Climate Wise Development in Thailand, with Mr. Suppakorn Chinvanno, Research Advisor, Southeast Asia START Regional Center.
Featured Alumnus - Christopher Wyrod

Christopher Wyrod received his MA in International Development Studies from the Elliott School of International Affairs at GW in 2003. He currently works for USAID/OTI (U.S. Agency for International Development/Office of Transition Initiatives) as Deputy Country Representative for Burma. Chris’ interest in development was strengthened after spending five years teaching in rural Japan and West Africa as a Peace Corps volunteer. After returning to the U.S., Chris searched for a way to put his development experiences and time in Asia to use in a graduate program. “In exploring graduate schools, it was important that I found a program that emphasized critical thinking and was flexible enough to allow me to explore in depth some issues that I was thinking about, having worked in the development field in Africa and Asia.”

While enrolled at GW, Chris applied for and received a Freeman Foundation scholarship through the Sigur Center which allowed him to study Japanese classical music in Kyoto, Japan. Specifically, he studied Nagauta Shamisen performance of the Kabuki repertoire under master musician Hiroki Kineya. “What is really great about the Elliott School is that there was so much access to different institutes and centers, such as the Sigur Center,” he recalled. “The Sigur Center is open to students with interdisciplinary interests, like myself.”

Chris joined USAID/OTI in 2010 as Deputy Country Representative for Sri Lanka, where he oversaw a $23 million post-conflict stabilization and reintegration program. He began his current position in December, 2012. He will be assisting with the transition process that has been taking place in Burma, and helping to make sure that it remains a democratic one. He sees “some incredible opportunities and initial positive signs” following the recent thawing of diplomatic relations between the U.S. and Burma. “There is a lot of energy and optimism about what could happen.”

Student Spotlight - Jackson Woods

Jackson Woods is a PhD candidate in Political Science at GW, with a concentration in Comparative Politics and International Relations. Jackson received a Sigur Center Summer Research Grant to conduct research in China in 2012. His research topic was “Chinese Popular Nationalism and Assertive PRC Diplomacy, 2009-2011.” He conducted research primarily in Beijing and Tianjin, interviewing experts on Chinese foreign policy and government. This proved particularly useful as he has worked for three years as a Senior Research Assistant to Professor Bruce Dickson for a project entitled, “Generating Popular Support in China: Interest, Goods and Values.” As part of this project he has traveled three times to Peking University to assist with the design and analysis of a nation-wide survey of urban residents.

One of the more memorable experiences he had while in China was being asked to give a lecture to Chinese MA students on U.S. views and perceptions of China. He recalls that students were often quick to ask questions about the more sensitive issues in U.S.-China relations, including Taiwan and human rights. “Ultimately, it was a learning experience for me, as well as for them. I was forced to examine my own country’s positions on various issues and to articulate the reasoning behind those policies.”

Jackson’s academic focus on China began as an undergraduate at the University of Michigan. “I was looking for a challenge,” he recalls. “I was interested in Political Science, but it was also obvious to anyone that Chinese was the way to go. So I started taking Chinese and ultimately ended up with an Asian Studies degree in addition to Political Science.”

Jackson hopes to complete a book on the topic of nationalism in China and aspires to a career in academia where he can work extensively on issues related to China. In 2012 Jackson presented his research on “The Olympic Spirit: Chinese Popular Nationalism and Foreign Policy since 2008” to the Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs at Western Michigan University.
Robert Shepherd is Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Honors and International Affairs at GW and a Sigur Center affiliated faculty member. Bob’s interests lie heavily in anthropology and the cultural and social undertones of economic change. His current research analyzes the construction and development of a UNESCO-supported World Heritage site at Mount Wutai, China. Regarding how he became interested in anthropology and ultimately chose his academic focus, he prefers to give a lot of credit to what he calls “a series of positive accidents.”

Bob received a BA in political science and history from the University of Delaware. He first became intrigued by Asia after taking a class on the modern history of Asia as well as a few introductory Chinese classes during his senior year. After earning an MA in history from Northeastern University, Bob joined the Peace Corps and was sent to Nepal for two and a half years. Bob credits this random assignment with helping to solidify his interest in Asia and anthropology. Bob recalls that “living in a very small village in Nepal really got me interested in the questions of everyday life, more so than large foreign policy or state to state issues. I became interested in how, in a given place at a given time, how do all the regular folks get by given the circumstances in which they live?” Bob’s Peace Corps experience encouraged him to move to Washington, DC where he spent a year working for a refugee program funded by Arlington County, Virginia. The program helped to integrate refugees into society by offering classes on everyday living skills such as banking. With these credentials, Bob then applied for and received a position with the UN Development Program as a volunteer. Bob was then asked to go to China in this capacity. Arriving just a few months after the Tiananmen Square Massacre, he witnessed what he calls “the complexities of oppression.” Bob recalls “seeing the restrictions placed on everyday life while observing so many people who enjoyed positions of privilege.”

Complexity is something that continues to draw Bob to the field of anthropology. “One of the things I like best about anthropology is its willingness to embrace the complexities of issues. One of the key responsibilities of the university is to get undergraduates to recognize the realities of how complicated life is.” For instance, with Bob’s research on World Heritage Sites, he initially accepted the idea that the construction of the site at Mount Wutai, China was all about politics or national identity. “To the question of why the Chinese government would start investing resources in cultural preservation, one could say that it’s about nation building and using history to cultivate a national identity. Well, that’s only part of the answer. There are economic reasons; most heritage projects in China have to be funded locally and are therefore seen as income generating projects. I actually think it’s fascinating that this [Chinese] government that was two generations ago evoking the destruction of the past is now becoming this strong proponent of preserving it. And it’s not necessarily for the sake of preservation but modernization. Like a lot of issues in China, it’s complicated… To me, the fact that these issues have no easy, cut and dry answers is something that needs to be recognized.”

Bob has found the Sigur Center particularly welcoming and useful during his research endeavors. He observes that, despite being located in the Elliott School of International Affairs, which is often thought of as a strictly policy-focused institution, “the Center is remarkably inclusive of both policy and non-policy related interests. It’s truly a venue where a vibrant cross-fertilization of ideas can happen,” says Bob. “This is the one platform at GW for quality interaction on Asian-related issues for faculty of varying disciplines, such as business, political science, anthropology and so forth.” Bob’s most recent publications include Faith in Heritage: Displacement, Development, and Religious Tourism in Contemporary China, (Heritage, Tourism & Community) published by Left Coast Press, and Heritage Management, Tourism, and Governance in China, co-authored with Larry Yu and published by Springer Press.
In 2011-2012 the Sigur Center for Asian Studies awarded $138,530 for fellowship support to 11 students to travel to five Asian countries. This included nine research and language awards for the Summer 2012, and two GRAs. GRAs receive a full living stipend, full tuition for the academic year and a job at the Sigur Center. The two GRAs were Amy Hsieh, a PhD candidate in Political Science and Ithi Sophonpanich, a PhD candidate in History. The following students received field research and language study fellowships:

- Nathaniel Austin (BA - International Affairs) - Chinese Language study - Taiwan
- Xinxuan Cheng, China (P.R.C.) - Email: xinxuancheng@gwu.edu - Affiliation: Professor, Hebei University, P.R.C. - Research topic: "Studies on New Regionalism in East Asia's Regional Economic Cooperation and its Impacts on the U.S."
- Julia Coym, Germany - Email: coymj@gwu.edu - Affiliation: PhD Candidate, Free University of Berlin - Research topic: "Assessing Chinese decision-making on market access for foreign businesses in China"
- Amy Lerner, U.S.A. - Email: ablerner@gwu.edu - Affiliation: PhD Candidate, University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill - Research topic: "Toward Successful Integration: School Personnel's Perspectives on Refugee Youth from Burma"
- Siyoung Park, Republic of Korea - Email: sypark@gwu.edu - Affiliation: Major, ROK Army; PhD Candidate, University of North Korean Studies - South Korea - Research topic: "Calculated North Korea Military Adventurism and the ROK-US Alliance"
- Junya Nishino, Japan - Email: nishino@gwu.edu - Affiliation: Associate Professor, Keio University - Research topic: "The Evolution of Cooperation between Japan and South Korea in the post Cold War Period: Focusing on the Role of the United States"
- Hideko Yoshimoto, Japan - Email: hyoshimoto@gwu.edu - Affiliation: Associate Professor, Yamaguchi Prefectural University, Japan - Research topic: "American Public Diplomacy and News Framing of Okinawa"
- Chingyu Yao, Taiwan (R.O.C.) - Email: cyao@gwu.edu - Affiliation: Taiwan (R.O.C.) Foreign Ministry - Research topic: "Using Social Networking in Foreign Policy Consensus Building: Can the U.S. Model be Applied to Taiwan?"
- Michael Yahuda, United Kingdom - Email: yahuda@gwu.edu - Affiliation: Professor Emeritus, London School of Economics - Research topic: "Sino-Japanese Relations: Bridging the Gap"
- Ke-ming (Calvin) Yen, Taiwan (R.O.C.) - Email: yen@gwu.edu - Affiliation: Taiwan (R.O.C.) Foreign Ministry - Research topic: "Evaluation of China's Public Diplomacy in the U.S."
- Zhenling (Kathy) Wang, China (R.O.C.) - Email: kathywzhl@gwu.edu - Affiliation: PhD Candidate, China Foreign Affairs University, Beijing - Research topic: "The China Factor in U.S.-European Relations after the Cold War"
Selected Publications

Books


Journal Articles and Book Chapters


Robert Sutter, "China-Southeast Asia Relations: China Muscles Opponents on South China Sea," *Comparative Connections* Vol. 14, No.2 (September 2012)

Gifts and Giving Opportunities

The Sigur Center for Asian Studies is grateful for support from the individuals, foundations, and corporations for its activities. Gifts to the Sigur Center for Asian Studies support our students, our special events, and our research. Even more importantly, gifts to the Sigur Center help us carry out our mission — to increase the quality and broaden the scope of scholarly research and publications on Asian affairs, promote U.S.-Asian scholarly interaction and serve as the nexus for educating a new generation of students, scholars, analysts, and policymakers.

If you wish to make a donation to the Sigur Center for Asian Studies, please contact Deepa Ollapally at deepao@gwu.edu OR follow our donation link below:

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