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30th Annual ASIANetwork Conference
Moving Forward: ASIANetwork's Next Decade
Hyatt Regency Columbus Downtown
Columbus, Ohio
April 14 - 16, 2023

PANELS AND PAPERS WITH ABSTRACTS

1.1. China in Global Context: Finance, Misinformation, and Soft Power

Organizer & Chair: Jie Zhang, Trinity University

This panel focuses on the rise of China through the lens of finance and investment, sports politics and media, and filmmaking and entertainment market. Specifically, we discuss how these developments must be situated in a global context, with dynamic negotiation of agency and boundary constantly in play. Our presentations reflect upon strategies to unpack this complexity to contribute to a forward-thinking liberal arts curriculum that tackles contemporary issues.

- Teaching Finance and Investment in the Context of Post-Pandemic Globalization Trend
Shage Zhang, Trinity University

China's direct and indirect foreign investment continues to accelerate, despite recent global economic recessions and political tensions. Nobody would question the importance of Chinese markets, but few people have a clear understanding of how the financial markets operate under China's state capitalism framework and the unique risks involved when investing in China's financial markets due to unfamiliar political, social, and cultural systems. As countries come out of a pandemic-induced recession in their unique ways and navigate through the new economic reality and the markedly dynamic landscape of global powers, there is increasing demand of learning Chinese economy and financial markets. After all, mutual understanding is the first step towards cooperation or coexistence, whose realization will depend on today's young generation. This present discusses my strategies of teaching finance and investment, especially to students majoring in Chinese Studies, at the crossroads of globalization in the post-pandemic world.

- Misinformation and Misconception: Lessons from the Beijing Winter Olympics
Josie Liu, Trinity University

When the big jump event was shown on TV during the Beijing Winter Olympics, the world saw four giant concrete chimneys. When I asked my students what the chimneys were, they said the chimneys were from a nuclear power plant. They got the idea from misinformation spread on Twitter. In fact, the four chimneys were in the old campus of Capital Steelwork. The factory was relocated prior to the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics, and the giant

campus was largely abandoned. The 2022 Winter Olympics revived this place, which has been renovated to feature high tech and green businesses. This episode provides a lesson on countering misinformation and therefore misconception about China among American college students, who often take in misinformation about China without any verification and scrutiny. As educators, we can use our class time to emphasize the importance of critical thinking in students' information consumption. We won't be able to debunk every single lie and every single piece of misinformation, but we can train students to have a more critical mind.

- "Almost a Love Story:" Chinese Cinema and Hollywood
Jie Zhang, Trinity University

Since Chinese cinema started receiving international attention in the early 1980s, co-production and film festival politics have played an increasingly important role in defining the parameters of the Chinese stories on the big screen, while Hollywood gained increased access to the drastically expanding Chinese market, the second biggest since 2012. In recent years, political tensions has caused some decoupling of the two film industries, but it is questionable whether they have evolved into competitive agents of soft power. This paper weaves discussions of censorship, co-production, and theater expansion to contextualize the development of Chinese cinema, focusing on its cross-cultural fertilization and reception.

1.2. Reconsidering the Indian Diaspora: Work, Life, and Family in the US, UK, Malaysia, Singapore, and Ireland

Organizer & Chair: Surain Subramaniam, University of North Carolina, Asheville

Where are Indians on the move –and why are they there? For those who settled in new sites around the world a generation or two ago, what are the intersectional issues facing them and their descendants? What have been the social, economic, and cultural repercussions and contributions of India's transnational migrants? Bringing together historians and policy/international studies specialists, our panel works to move forward Asian area-studies by focusing on Indians' synergies that form new identities, institutions, and systems of knowledge.

- State level domestic-violence related needs of Asian Indian marriage migrants: Perspectives of service providers across five states

Sonia Kapur, University of North Carolina, Asheville

Domestic violence among immigrant communities, especially, the Asian Indian women, is an interplay of complex issues surrounding immigration, ethnicity, and patriarchal norms. Through interviews with domestic violence service providers working with immigrant communities, I explore the strengths and gaps in domestic violence related policies at the State levels. The key question that this research explores is: Are there differences in how state level policies address the needs and concerns of abused Asian Indian marriage migrants? If yes, how do they differ? A comparison across the 5 states (California, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, and Texas) with a substantial Asian Indian community and with differing political leadership and dominant political ideology is useful in recognizing the ways in which state-wide variations exist. I highlight the policies that service providers find most useful and the ways in which some lacking policies if implemented can strengthen their work.

- **The Indian Experience in Malaysia and Singapore: Marginalization and Empowerment**
Surain Subramaniam, University of North Carolina, Asheville

This paper offers a comparative analysis of the experiences of the racial/ethnic Indian minority in Malaysia and Singapore. Racial/ethnic politics has taken center stage in the political and socio-economic development of Malaysia, resulting in the marginalization of ethnic Indians. By contrast, in Singapore, a meritocratic political culture has ameliorated the effects of racial/ethnic politics on the economic, political, and social status of ethnic Indians. While both societies have been governed by one-party dominant political systems since gaining independence, the different political institutions, governance structures and public policies in each case have caused different outcomes for ethnic Indians living in Malaysia, compared to those living in Singapore. This paper explores these differences by examining the political-cultural factors that have shaped the institutions, structures, and policies in a comparative perspective, and concludes with some policy recommendations for improving the conditions of ethnic Indians in each country.

- **Women Doctors Abroad: Indian women doctors and Transnational Networks in the 20th century**

Archana Venkatesh, Clemson University

Indian women doctors often traveled to the US and the UK to complete their medical education in a specialty field. Even as they acknowledged the superior equipment and facilities in 'the west', it was often their first encounter with anti-Indian racism. At the same time, most Indian women recognized that their professional position ensured that they were respected in their 'home' country, and observed that British and American women were not granted the same respect by their male colleagues. My paper examines how traveling as professional women for educational purposes shaped the way these women doctors envisioned their professional work, their place in the nation, and their understanding of the role and place of educated Indian women in nation-building and public duty.

1.3. Representations of Gender and Sexuality in Post-War Japanese Society, Popular Culture, and Literature

Organizer: Darwin H. Tsen, Syracuse University

Chair: Stephen Udry, Carthage College

According to Sabine Frühstück, "the distinction of sex from gender was largely meaningless before the [Japanese] postwar period." The start of the Feminist Wave in postwar Japan after the influx of Western influence marks the beginning of a dramatic shift in gender and sexuality. In this panel, we approach Japan's cultural milieu of gender and sexuality from fields such as literature, history, and linguistics. Kyoko Sawada analyzes Japanese dubbed Disney movies and their usage of language and vocal style for indexing gender and sexual orientation. Qixuan Du demonstrates the shift of demonized female figures in Japan's post-war family through literature. Darwin Tsen explores the intersectional politics of womanhood between Japanese, Taiwanese, and indigenous women in Tsushima Yuko's *Amarini Yabanna*. Although representations of gender identity have diversified considerably in Japan's process of

modernization, many problems remain undiscussed and unexamined. We hope this panel will lead to deeper conversations regarding these issues.

- Intersecting After Empire: Tsushima Yuko and Gender Collectivity in the Postcolony

Darwin H. Tsen, Syracuse University

When discussing the representations of gender and sexuality in the Japanese post-war era, Taiwan is often overlooked. As a former colony of the Japanese Empire, Taiwan provides a milieu to examine how the intersectional structures of nation, ethnicity, and race articulated the very category of “woman” under the class matrix of colonialism. Tsushima Yuko’s 2008 *Exceedingly Barbaric* (Amarini Yabanna, あまりに野蛮な) depicts the Taiwan-bound journey of a woman descended from Japanese settlers: the protagonist traces her grandmother’s life and ends up engaging with Han Chinese and Indigenous women, who provide a multivalent vista of life in Taiwan before and after 1945. I argue that not only does Tsushima’s novel gesture to the intersectional complications of the Japanese postcolony, *Exceedingly Barbaric* points to the possibility of healing and futurity between colonized/marginalized peoples through imagining a gendered collectivity, regardless of how frail it might stand.

- The Demonic Women in New Era of Japan: the awakening of Japanese female self-consciousness

Qixuan Du, Washington University in St. Louis

The portrayal of women in Japanese literature has always been strongly linked to demonization in the discourse of Japanese gender and sexuality. However, the demonization of women gradually gave way to the emergence of family and identity in postwar Japanese literature. My essay will compare the demonic women representations from Oba Minako and Kirino Natsuo with the Japanese creation story and yamamba (山姥) to illustrate the changes in women's self-consciousness in the postwar period. Oba Minako unfolds the burden of external pressure on women with a new interpretation of traditional yamamba; Kirino Natsuo attacks Japan's millennia gender inequality by developing the Japanese creation story. Thus, I argue that women in postwar Japan literature marks an ongoing "revolution of consciousness" and serves as a roadmap for discussions of gender and sexuality in Japan in the future.

- The Use of Sweet Voice in the Japanese Dubbing of Disney Movies

Kyoko Sawada, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Dubbing is a technology that makes media more accessible to a broader audience. Voice actors utilize different vocal styles and techniques to breathe life into characters while making it understandable to a specific audience. One prominent vocal style in Japanese dubbing is called Sweet Voice. Dr. Rebecca Starr defines Sweet Voice as a vocal style that indexes various ideals, such as femininity, sexual attractiveness, and traditional Japanese views of women through using the lexicon of Japanese Women’s Language (JWL), vocal timbre, and breath qualities. In this paper, I argue that with the Post-WWII shifts in Japanese gender and sexuality, Sweet Voice is now more accurately thought of as an all-inclusive style. I use Disney movies *Frozen*, *Tinker Bell*, *Mulan*, and *Raya and the Last Dragon* to examine the fraught relationship

between Sweet Voice, idealized womanhood, and the ongoing transformation of gender representations in popular Japanese media.

1.4. Roundtable: Including Students with Disabilities in Asian Studies

Organizer & Chair: Susan Westhafer Furukawa, Beloit College

This roundtable will provide an opportunity to discuss questions and strategies that arise around disability in our classrooms and abroad. Panelists will begin the discussion by introducing the question of support for students with disabilities in Asian Studies, with a focus on support for success in language classes and in study abroad. Panelists and participants will share experiences, suggestions and strategies. The goal of the discussion is to gain insight, as well as to raise questions and directions for next steps in seeking out further expertise to tackle the questions and concerns that emerge.

- Dennis Frost, Kalamazoo College
- Hiroaki Kawamura, University of Findlay
- Helen McCabe, Daemen University

1.5 Roundtable. Leveraging the Potential of ASIANetwork to Address Climate Action across Asia Now

Chair: Laura Elder, Independent Scholar

Panelists: James Godde, Monmouth College and Anne Harley, Scripps College

The purpose of this roundtable is to think about possible future projects for ASIANetwork with some emphasis on climate/sustainability issues. Of course, we would like to use the roundtable as a way to connect colleagues from various institutions and disciplines.

2.1. Roundtable. Future Perspectives: Connecting Studies in Asian Art and Visual Culture to Museum Collections and Exhibitions in the Region

Organizer & Chair: Catherine Stuer, Denison University

This panel is designed as a roundtable discussion about new ways to integrate museum collections and exhibitions in higher education about Asian art and visual culture. We bring together the perspectives of curators at major museums in an exchange of ideas with scholars in the region to provide an opportunity for exploring collaborative synergies. We focus on ideas about how to facilitate and deepen the direct study of visual and material objects through regional connections and are interested in emerging approaches to the use of digital and online tools to enhance these experiences. Among others, we explore how digital tools can serve to bridge the gap between remote and in-person study, and to connect objects in museum collections to their original, in-situ contexts. We see this moment, when the pandemic experience has intensified awareness of the importance of, challenges to, and opportunities for the direct encounter with art, as a particularly fruitful one to engage this discussion.

- REACHING OUT and DRAWING IN: Open Access, photogrammetry, and digitizing manuscript initiatives at the Cleveland Museum of Art

Sonya Rhie Mace, George P. Bickford Curator of Indian and Southeast Asian Art
The Cleveland Museum of Art

This paper will introduce three initiatives undertaken by the CMA to better connect with the international and local community, which includes close collaboration with students and staff of Case Western Reserve University. Like many other museums, the CMA has opened their collection digitally to the public via Open Access. The museum further collaborated with the local Case Western Reserve University on scanning works of art to present sculptures in 3D. It now has begun to document the collection using the technology of photogrammetry that allows works of art to be presented in 3D on the database and in exhibitions. Visitor research tends to confirm that the use of 3D models alongside the original draws the attention from the digital image to the original rather than distracting from it. Another challenge for museums with Asian Art collections are the digital presentation of formats such as handscrolls, albums and manuscripts, many of them extremely fragile. The presentation will briefly introduce these initiatives and how they have been implemented thus far.

- Studying Asian Art in Michigan: Perspectives from the Detroit Institute of Arts
Katherine Kasdorf, Associate Curator, Arts of Asia and the Islamic World, Detroit Institute of Arts
The opening of an expanded suite of Asian art galleries at the Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA) in 2018 brought renewed focus to the museum's Asian collections, and new opportunities for engaging audiences with those collections. With both digital and analog interpretive content prioritizing the historical and cultural contexts of the works on view, the galleries also support learning about Asian art beyond the collection. In this presentation, I will discuss some of the ways in which the DIA has engaged with university students and professors—both in the galleries and in other spaces, both onsite and remotely—to support the study of Asian art. I will also share highlights from the DIA's K-12 resources on Asian art, developed at the onset of the pandemic, and ask how they might help us think in new ways about collaborations in higher education.
- A Century of Teaching with Asian Art at Oberlin College
Kevin Greenwood, Joan L. Danforth Curator of Asian Art, Allen Memorial Art Museum, Oberlin College
Since the first recorded gift of a work of Asian art to the college in 1894, exposure to and engagement with the arts of Asia has been a regular part of student experience at Oberlin College. This talk will provide a brief overview of that history, focusing on more recent approaches to object-based education since the creation of an endowed curatorship in Asian art in 2013. In promoting the study of Asian art and cultures the pedagogical toolkit has evolved, from traditional methods such as exhibitions and gallery talks, to specially curated close-looking sessions in our print study room, to more recent engagement with various digital platforms. The talk will highlight our experiences with the advantages, disadvantages, and applicability of these various modes of engagement to higher education, with reference to other museum constituencies, such as K-12 students and faculty and the public.

- **Cincinnati and the Ancient Middle East: Exploring How Museums Can Better Serve the Collections They Steward, and the Community They Serve**
Ainsley M. Cameron, Curator of South Asian Art, Islamic Art & Antiquities, Cincinnati Art Museum

In 2017, the Cincinnati Art Museum embarked on a multi-year project to re-envision their gallery of art from the ancient Middle East. Working with students and constituents at the University of Cincinnati, Hebrew Union College, and the Islamic Center of Greater Cincinnati, the project weaves together collections-based research, curatorial transparency, innovative design, and newly created digital interpretative tools. These include an interactive map placing and tracing the trajectory of 32 objects and a digitally recreated flythrough of an ancient temple. Open since December 2021, the gallery has been acclaimed for its multi-faceted approach to visitor engagement. This talk will explore the ways in which the study of visual and material objects can be enhanced by the strategic use of in-gallery digital tools, especially when created in conversation with other aspects of gallery design.

2.2. Roundtable. ASIANetwork's Blackness in Asian Studies Initiative

Organizer & Chair: Vincent Gaddis, Elgin Community College

Participants: Reginald Jackson, University of Michigan; Keisha Brown, Tennessee State University; Dyron Dabney, Earlham College; K. Christine Pae, Denison University; Henry Kim, Wheaton College; Cole Walker, Duke University

Join the Blackness in Asian Studies advisory group and keynote speaker Reginald Jackson for an open discussion of our theme "Engaging Blackness in Asian Studies." This roundtable will continue to explore and challenge how we understand Asian Studies through the framework of Blackness. Topics will include reflections on Blackness in Asian Studies, teaching Blackness in Asian Studies, as well as an open dialogue on the intersection of academic work and social justice activism linking Black and Asian communities here in the U.S. and in Asia. In addition, this open dialogue needs your contributions to think about areas such as faculty development, research, pedagogy, student study abroad, etc. The goal is to develop ideas for programming, strategies for implementation, and sources for funding. One follow-up from this roundtable will be a special edition of ASIANetwork Exchange. Further details on manuscript submissions and deadlines will be announced at the session. All conference attendees are welcome to attend.

2.3. Disaster in Indonesia: From community-based Response, Gender Ideology, to Health Equity

Organizer: Irma Hidayana, St. Lawrence University

Chair: Siti Kusujarti, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Warren-Wilson College

Indonesia has averaged hundreds of natural disasters with thousands of casualties annually. The current COVID-19 pandemic is another disaster that places Indonesia as one of the countries with the highest number of cases and deaths in Southeast Asia. Both natural disasters and public health emergencies have severely impacted its population's lives. This panel discusses how the entanglement of natural, social, cultural, and ideological factors interact in the context of health-related disaster situations. From gender relations and

community-based response, visualizing the politics of vaccination, to the challenges of vaccine equity from the public health ethics perspective.

- Visualizing the Politics of Vaccination: Images, Power, and Gender Ideology in Indonesia
E. Anwar, Hobart and William Smith Colleges

This paper explores how vaccination is communicated in Indonesia, how men and women are represented visually, and how meanings are produced by looking at images about vaccination. I have selected visual images of the vaccination from around Bandung, West Java. I use Bandung as a site for analyzing the visual images to follow up the available data provided by the Lembaga Survey Indonesia on “The Release of National Survey Outcome: Public Attitudes toward Vaccines and the Governmental Vaccine Program” (20-25 June, 2021). In this report, West Java has provided most samples for their interview (18%). In my paper, I will analyze how the vaccination is communicated using feminist and cultural lens. I will follow up this analysis by looking at the presence or lack thereof of women in visual images and the production of meaning that is associated with such images. I will examine factors that contribute to the production of knowledge about vaccine by women in the last part of the paper. By examining the visual images of vaccination, the paper attempts to discover a better and efficient way in communicating vaccination to the majority of Indonesians.

- Gender Relations and Community-based Disaster Responses: Case Studies from Indonesia
Siti Kusujarti, Warren-Wilson College

In the past thirty years, Indonesia has averaged hundreds of disasters with thousands of casualties annually. The intersections of geographical location and social factors create very important and unique features of the responses to the disasters. The Covid pandemic is another disaster that demonstrates how the entanglement of both natural, social, and cultural factors interact in the context of health related disaster situation. The frequency and intensity of disasters lead to the embedded social and cultural practices in responding to the disasters. Various community-based disaster responses have developed by combining existing values or practices and specific responses to particular disaster. Local knowledge and practices such as mutual aid or assistance, communal work, neighborhood groups, saving and rotating credit association are some examples of these practices that have been used to respond to various disasters in Indonesia.

This paper is based on longitudinal studies of several disaster sites in Indonesia conducted from early 2000 to 2022. Using observations and interviews, this study addresses how local knowledge and practices play important roles in disaster preparedness and recovery processes. Women play significant roles in organizing these responses through their social capital and resources. However, since these responses are embedded in their gender roles and are perceived as socially expected, their agency and voices tend to be taken for granted or presumed to be obligatory. Their resources, time, ideas, and work, especially care work are pivotal for local communities to recover from disasters and to build disaster preparedness yet their significance is largely ignored or minimized. This paper will highlight these issues to amplify women’s voices in disaster recovery and preparedness.

- COVID Vaccine Equity Challenges in Indonesia

Irma Hidayana, St. Lawrence University

Vaccine inequity at the global level has been largely discussed. However, equal vaccine distribution is still a huge challenge at the local level. This paper examines vaccine inequity in Indonesia, a matter of public health ethics. Moreover, unfairly distributing COVID-19 vaccines among groups is a problem of distributive justice. Thus, World Health Organization recommends prioritizing vulnerable populations in receiving the vaccine. The country started to roll out vaccination in January 2021, and as of May 2022, 80% of the targeted vaccine population, or 167 million people, have received two doses of the COVID-19 vaccines. Among the targeted population, however, only 14.4 out of 21.5 million (66%) older people were vaccinated, while only 4.7 million (22%) received the third dose. Ironically, the country issued specific regulations to sell the COVID-19 vaccine to the public despite disproportionate distribution to the vulnerable population. Attempts to sell the COVID-19 vaccine to the public amidst limited availability and unequal distribution will likely widen vaccine inequity across the population. This paper analyses vaccine inequitable distribution to those most exposed and at higher risk of infection. This paper describes Indonesia's vaccine inequity policies and practices from January 2021 to May 2022.

2.4. Building Chinese Language and Culture Competence Through Digital Media

Organizer & Chair: Jinai Sun, North Central College

Our panel will describe an ongoing project to explore the possibilities for teaching Chinese language and culture through digital media including TikTok videos, films, arts, news, and other media. Through a year-long STARTALK program, students will enhance their understanding of Chinese values and society through the curriculum designed by the content experts and language experts. We will share an outline of our project and describe our findings on how our interdisciplinary approach to the project offers insights into student motivations and the kinds of insights into language and culture the digital media offers.

- **Building Chinese Language and Culture Competence Through Film**

Brian Hoffert, North Central College

Anyone who has studied a foreign language has had a “lost in translation” experience, where you understand the literal meaning of what is being said but fail to grasp what is actually being communicated. Sometimes this simply results in a moment of embarrassment, but it can also lead to substantial misunderstandings that can have significant consequences. This paper will focus on the use of film to help Chinese language students develop a deeper understanding of Chinese culture while they enhance their language skills by engaging with contemporary popular media. The point is that intercultural communication requires more than developing basic language skills, such as vocabulary and grammar; rather, language is always embedded in a cultural context, so effective communication ultimately depends on the development of cultural understanding.

- **Media-oriented Approach to Promote Chinese-learning Teenagers’ Intercultural Communication Competence**

Yadong Ji, North Central College

Intercultural communication competence (ICC) is modeled by three factors: willingness, skills, and knowledge. As media plays an increasingly important role in teenagers' social life, their consumption of media content, especially on social media, has a huge yet understudied impact on their ICC regarding their willingness to study foreign languages. This paper examines how customized media content on Chinese social media can promote stronger learning willingness, higher perceived knowledge of Chinese culture, and higher skill efficacy. Through four materials that inform teenagers about popular Chinese social media (WeChat, Taobao, Weibo, and Xiaohongshu), I study how exposure to Chinese media content is associated with teenagers' ICC.

- The Meta-media of Chinese Narrative: Cultural Processes from Classical to Digital
Stuart Patterson, North Central College

The historical development of long-form classical Chinese narrative, typified by the canon of the "four great" xiaoshuo is a story in part of mediated adaptation toward popularization. All four novels can be read as either the direct products of or, alternatively, self-ironizing pastiches on the transmission of oral into written media. Further, in the centuries since their recension into standard editions, and hence from written into film and other media, Chinese audiences are now initially more familiar with these works as products of digital media than as written works. This paper will explore the implications for intercultural communication, and specifically for the reception and interpretation of Chinese classical fiction in the U.S., in light of the longer history of mediation of long form Chinese fiction, culminating in the digital availability of multiple, multi-modal versions of what purports to be a single "classical" narrative.

- Strategies of Building Chinese Language and Culture Competence Through Digital Media
Jinai Sun, North Central College

This presentation will not only highlight strategies for developing intercultural proficiency, but also how students can build proficiency rapidly given engaging and inventive strategies. Through the interdisciplinary approaches to integrating language instruction at intermediate and advanced levels, the presenter will share concrete teaching examples of focus on developing students' intercultural awareness and communicative skills using digital media. Rooted in years of theoretical explorations, classroom teaching, and teacher training, the presenter will provide insight to researchers and frontline classroom teachers meeting new and rapidly changing pedagogical challenges in the areas of integrating language and culture toward building students' global perspectives and skills as a global citizen.

2.5. Snapshots of Asian American Experiences in the U.S.

Organizer & Chair: Ronnie Littlejohn, Belmont University

This panel brings forward a selection of presentations on the Asian American experience in three keys. One reminds us that the brilliant American satirist on the place and treatment of African Americans in the U.S. first wrote and testified to the racism shown toward Chinese Americans. The second turns up the volume of a Japanese-in-America who pulled the curtain back on American duplicity and hypocrisy revealed in the treatment of Asians by a people

professing universal love born from the Christian message. Finally, the third presentation taps into the central challenge of humanity writ large: how and what matters in one's existence by setting forward a tale told of Chinese Americans...who are, after all, fundamentally, invariably, just humans seeking what life narrative to lead.

- Queues, Rats, and Rejected Samurai: A Japanese Sojourn in 1880s America

Christopher Born, Belmont University

Uchimura Kanzō (1861-1930) was a Japanese intellectual, critic, and religious scholar. One of just a few Japanese to study abroad in America, Uchimura experienced anti-Asian racism in a land that prided itself on moral supremacy and preached Christian love. In his 1895 autobiography, *The Diary of a Japanese Convert* (by Jonathan X) Uchimura lambasted America. He expressed his frustration and incredulity over the treatment of Chinese, chronicling his own experiences with mistaken identity and assumed ignorance. Centralizing this presentation on Uchimura's record, I will explore how the Chinese Exclusion Acts and other widespread notions of "Yellow Peril" shaped the experiences of Japanese students and Asian immigrants during the late 19th century.

- Twain's Depiction of Chinese Immigrants in His Writing

Qingjun Li, Belmont University

Mark Twain is acclaimed as a great humorist and the "father of American literature" mostly due to his masterpieces, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (1876) and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1884). What many people do not really know about Twain is his writing about Chinamen and how they were treated in America. When he worked as a reporter for the newspaper *Territorial Enterprise* and a monthly contributor for the magazine *The Galaxy*, Twain wrote short commentaries and a serialized satirical and ironic novel, showing the absurdity of treating Chinamen as an inferior race and degraded beings in America. My presentation utilizes Twain's *Roughing It* and *Goldsmith's Friend Abroad Again* and argues that Twain portrays the stark reality of American racism in the nineteenth century and stands on the frontline to sympathize with Chinese immigrants. Twain is in essence a true warrior for giving voice to the Asian Americans and the Pacific Islanders community.

- "Everything, Everywhere, All at Once": Much More than an Asian-American Immigrant Story

Ronnie Littlejohn, Belmont University

"Everything, Everywhere, All at Once," the 2022 film by Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert, is certainly not merely some absurdist comedy-drama as Wikipedia reductively calls it. It is a deeply philosophical tale that could well have been told by Nietzsche's Zarathustra and the challenge. The challenge represented by the character Jobu Tupaki (aka, Joy Wang, played by Stephanie Hsu) is the fulcrum point of the story. While Evelyn (played by Michelle Yeoh) sees every variation on the course of her life, everything, everywhere, all at once, she is most ultimately enticed and threatened by Jobu who takes this welter of possible life narratives to mean "nothing matters". It is nihilism that is epitomized by "the everything bagel", whose center is empty nothingness, a void. In the end, Evelyn's resistance and heroism is her commitment to the belief that "everything matters". This is what makes her a heroine and

saves her daughter, the aptly named, Joy. Finally, some responses are offered to the question, “Why set this journey in an Asian American context?”

3.1. AAPI Work on Our Campuses and in Our Communities

Organizer & Chair: Karen S. Kingsbury, Chatham University

These papers describe current and emerging practices for work in support of AAPI interests and communities, both within ASIANetwork college classrooms and throughout the campus and wider communities they serve. Topics include development of a new course in Asian American Art, implementation of a community-based service-learning project on AAPI identity and Southern Asian foodways, the value of AAPI community members as co-educators, and activist outreach to build AAPI awareness and campus programming.

- Expanding the College Art History Canon: Asian American Art

Sheri Lullo, Union College

The Visual Arts offer a particularly rich lens through which to understand the histories and lived experiences of individuals and groups. A course on Asian American art would commence in the mid-nineteenth century United States when the first waves of Asian newcomers arrived, and would proceed to consider the range of visual culture that was produced during and in response to the turbulent history that those of Asian descent would face with regard to issues of immigration, personhood and citizenship, and civil rights. This course importantly serves to recover the artistic contributions of Asian Americans, an historically marginalized group in the US. At the same time, it must also aim to recognize and convey to students the incredibly vast range of identities and experiences that encompass the category of “Asian American.”

- Chinese Foodways and the American South: Community-Based Service-Learning in the Southern Asian Studies Classroom

Zachary Smith, University of Central Arkansas

Research has consistently established academic service-learning as a high-impact pedagogical practice, but it is not always clear how best to implement this community-based approach in the Asian Studies classroom, particularly in the American South. In response to Christine Yano’s call to better address “Global Asia(s),” including Asian diaspora communities, this paper explores the possibility of collaboration with local AAPI communities as an essential component of the Asian Studies curriculum. In particular, I propose an academic service-learning project in which undergraduate students work with proprietors of local Asian- and Asian American-owned restaurants to develop an online oral history portfolio in the context of a broader unit on AAPI identity and Southern Asian foodways. This project builds on pioneering work from the Southern Foodways Alliance, and considers the opportunities in making the Asian American studies more visible in the U.S. South and the U.S. South more visible in Asian American studies.

- AAPI Community Members as Co-educators in College Classroom

Zhihong Chen, Guilford College

Community engagement brings multiple benefits to the college classroom. Unlike an outside "invited speaker," a community "co-educator" implies that learning from community members is equally important as learning in the classroom. This paper reports and reflects on my experiments involving AAPI community members as "co-educators" in my Asian American History and Politics class during the past two years. By directly interacting with one to two dozen AAPI community members from various backgrounds, students learned from textbooks and real-life experiences. Innovative course assignments reinforced this multi-dimensional learning. This approach benefited our students, as they reported on the course evaluations that interactions with community members were their most memorable experience in this class. It also empowered the local AAPI community, especially the refugee youths, who felt supported by sharing their stories and struggles and learning about AAPI history.

- **#AAPINotShadows: Advocacy and Awareness Programs on College Campus and Beyond**
Yifeng Hu, The College of New Jersey

AAPIs face collective pain of not being seen or heard in the grand sphere of the society, a lack of or biased representation in history books, media, and daily life, and surging hate incidents. To address the invisibility and to combat stereotypes and hate against the AAPI communities, a communication professor, who had rallied in support of the passing of the AAPI curriculum bill in New Jersey, took her advocacy to her workplace. She shepherded her students to roll out an innovative, multi-stage AAPI advocacy campaign that left a strong and positive impact on college campus and beyond; initiated discussions among interested faculty to form an interdisciplinary A/AAS minor program; and created a new course incorporating AAPI films to raise awareness and bring more representation through the lens of intercultural/racial communication. This talk intends to inspire audiences to mobilize resources, build coalitions, and promote AAPI awareness in their own communities.

3.2. Researching and Teaching about Disability in Asia

Organizer & Chair: Dennis J. Frost, Kalamazoo College

According to official estimates, there are 690 million people with disabilities living in the Asia-Pacific region. As a step towards better incorporating the experiences of these people in Asian Studies scholarship and classes, this panel features four papers that highlight approaches to studying and teaching about disability. McCabe explores the policies and personal experiences of those involved in efforts to promote inclusive education in China, especially for children with autism. Drawing on tools from the booming "Digital Humanities" field, Tan outlines an approach to teaching that centers on Japan's history of engagement with disability policy at home and abroad. Parekh explains how she infuses disability pedagogy and content in literature classes, providing new insights on South Asian and diaspora experiences. To conclude, Frost draws attention to the understudied Asian and Pacific Decades of Persons with Disabilities, offering thoughts on the potential for collaborative work among scholars and students.

- **Inclusive Education in China: Policy, Implementation, and Experiences of Children with Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities**

Helen McCabe, Daemen University

This paper presents and critically examines policies affecting education of children with disabilities in China. Combining policy analysis, examination of existing research in Chinese and English regarding policy and implementation of inclusive education in China, and results of a qualitative research study, the following questions are addressed: In what ways do education and disability policies in China provide for education of children with disabilities in inclusive settings? What does the implementation of inclusive education policies for children with disabilities in China look like, what supports are provided, and what are the gaps? This presentation shares results of policy analysis as well as the perspectives and voices of parents and teachers who are part of the growing efforts to include and educate children with disabilities in China.

- Disability Studies Meets Digital Humanities: Teaching Japanese History

Wei Yu Wayne Tan, Hope College

This presentation introduces Timeline-JS of KnightLab, an open-source digital tool, in the context of teaching Japanese history to map out key moments in the timeline of Japan's post-World War II legal history in the area of disability rights. This tool exemplifies how digital scholarship can place the discussion of disability rights history not only in Japan's national context but also in an international context. We can visualize through this digital format Japan's developments in comparison with related developments around the world, such as the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons (1983–1992) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (1990). By placing digital humanities in conversation with disability-based perspectives, and by using primary and secondary sources in Japanese and English, we can develop an innovative method of exploring Japanese history that scholars and students can use independently or collaboratively.

- Teaching Disability in Asian Literature Focused Courses

Pushpa Naidu Parekh, Spelman College

My teaching of disability spans integration of Disability Studies informed theories and activism as resonant with decolonial South Asian and transborder migration and diaspora experiences (Parekh). I have specifically infused disability pedagogy and content in my English upper-level courses.

I propose the methodology of critical disability studies or “cripping” to navigate the contradictions and differing iterations of “management” of disability. Rather than reduce them to a comprehensible and coherent universal, criping interrogates and dismantles hegemonic structures that constitute compulsory able-bodiedness and able-mindedness as a liberatory discourse.

- The Asian and Pacific Decade(s) of Persons with Disabilities: Opportunities for Collaborative Research and Instruction

Dennis J. Frost, Kalamazoo College

In 1992 the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) launched the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons (1993-2002) seeking to

address the region's diversity, challenges, and high percentages of aging populations and individuals with disabilities. ESCAP's first decade has been followed by two others, with the most recent concluding in 2022. Each decade has generated a rich archive of governmental and non-governmental materials, much of which is available in English. However, the Asian and Pacific Decades have received less scholarly attention than their better known UN predecessors: the UN International Year of Disabled Persons (1981) and subsequent UN Decade of Disabled Persons (1983-1992). This paper offers an overview of the Asian and Pacific Decades and highlights how they present a unique opportunity for—perhaps even a need for—collaborative work that would be ideally suited to faculty and students affiliated with ASIANetwork.

3.3. Looking Forward - Understanding Contemporary Vietnam

Organizer & Chair: Jack Harris, Hobart & William Smith Colleges

Over the last 30 years Vietnam has experienced a radical transformation. Vietnam's development has involved a process of globalized integration into world economics, food systems, and ideas, efforts aimed at firming up its status as a nation and an economic powerhouse. Its low cost and young workforce, ongoing economic reforms, expanding middle class, and political stability make Vietnam an attractive country for multiple sourcing. We explore these themes, and how to teach about contemporary Vietnam, in the classroom and through study abroad.

- **Revamping Global Supply Chains: Vietnam's ROI**

Ann Ericson, Augustana College

Many global supply chains have been designed to prioritize cost and efficiency. The lowest cost manufacturers have been sought out no matter how distant, and inventories in materials, parts, and goods kept to a minimum. The pandemic and geopolitical tensions with accompanying high energy prices and inflation have made this a less attractive supply chain design. Global companies are now prioritizing resilience and diversification in their supply chains, and Vietnam is benefiting from this supply chain redesign. With a relatively low cost and young workforce, ongoing economic reforms, expanding middle class, and political stability make Vietnam an attractive country for multiple sourcing. It has been standard practice to have more than one supplier for material and parts in a supply chain. More recently, companies are producing goods in multiple countries which reduces reliance on China. Challenges in Vietnam remain including its weak infrastructure, complex revamping, and corruption.

- **Back to the Future: Mytho-Historical Films and Vietnamese Nation Building**

Gordon Gray, Berea College

A popular genre of narrative film throughout Southeast Asian film industries is the historical drama. These dramas are, as the name suggests, dramatized to become as much myths of national identity formation as depictions of real events or persons (think the depictions of the opening of the American West in westerns). These films do not only express commentary on the historical nation but are also powerful messages on the filmmakers' conceptualization of the future of the Vietnamese state and nation.

- Teaching by Learning in Vietnam: What Should a Study Abroad Curriculum Look Like Today?

Christopher Annear, Hobart and William Smith Colleges

In this presentation, which I hope leads to a discussion, I reflect upon past study abroad curricula in Vietnam to establish the next generation of programs in the country. I argue that learning through practice is a conducive model to instruct students about Vietnam while making the most of their presence in the country. In my case, I run a cooking and consumption program, but I suggest that other modes of 'learning by doing' can benefit from this framework, including, museology, tourism studies, and environmental policymaking. In the past, Vietnam has frequently been taught as discrete country with notable but finite international engagements. As we move further into the 21st Century, should Vietnam, instead, be taught as a process of globalized integration into world economics, food systems, and ideas?

- Looking Forward: Teaching About Contemporary Vietnam

Jack Harris, Hobart and William Smith Colleges

Vietnam has adopted a strong development profile that has involved increasing modernization, secularization, and modernization. Always a future oriented society, In the last almost 50 years Vietnam has gone from a dispersed small village, agricultural society to a dynamic, urban centered manufacturing society. Its history remains complex, its politics paradoxical, its culture in flux, and its economics dynamic. How might Vietnam be taught in a way that expresses the breadth and depth is this society without easy stereotypes and distortions?

3.4. Strengthening Asian Studies: Meaning Making in Professional Programs and Asian Experiences

Organizer & Chair: Gwendolyn Gillson, Illinois College

This panel explores the future of Asian studies by drawing on the realities of teaching, learning, and being at a midwestern small liberal arts institution with an increasingly professionally-focused student body. Each panelist will address a different aspect of importance in considering the future of Asian studies. From an examination of the place of Asian Studies within the training of future policemen, to the aspirations and failings of historical anti-racist work, to an examination and exploration of the experience of living and working in the United States as a Nepalese graduate student and faculty member, to how to strategize to protect and grow Asian studies programs in the face of decreasing funding and institutional support, each panelist will draw on their research and personal experiences to argue for a lively, intentional, and meaningful engagement with Asian Studies as an essential grounding to the future of higher education.

- Asian Justice: Why does Asian Studies need Criminal Justice?

Angela Gonzales Balfe, Illinois College

On May 28, 2021, President Biden signed an executive order establishing initiatives to address the increase in Asian Hate Crimes in the United States. This paper will shed light on the

importance of equal protection under the law to Asian Studies. Not all crimes that Asians find themselves victims of are classified as hate crimes. Solutions cannot produce significant results until crimes involving Asian victims are known to show how the lack of justice for Asian victims came into existence. Proposed solutions need evaluation with the knowledge of criminal justice in America. This paper will evaluate research, or lack thereof, on the Asian American population and the importance of including Asian Americans in surveys and research. Faulty research often used to address issues facing Asian Americans has brought about ineffective results. Finding practical solutions is a prime example of why Asian studies must engage directly with criminal justice.

- Antiracism in the Archives?: Asian Students at MacMurray College

Jaclyn Tabor, Illinois College

During World War II Jaclyn Tabor World War II was an era of intense anti-Asian sentiment and xenophobia in the United States. While many colleges banned Asian students, a select few colleges actively recruited them. MacMurray College was among these few. To explore the nature of MacMurray's efforts during the WWII era, I examined press releases, news clippings, and yearbooks. Findings reveal that MacMurray's actions following the admission of these students fell short of antiracism, inadvertently supporting ideals of institutional racism, tokenism, and model minority stereotypes. Rather than identifying MacMurray as a prototypical antiracist institution, I found that the college fell short in the same ways that contemporary predominately white institutions (PWIs) do - in working to recruit, highlight, and make visible minority students - but doing little else to support and include them. This presentation will then consider possible futures of antiracist work in higher education and recommend strategies for avoiding repetitions the past.

- From Nepal to the US: Changing Experiences of Educational Expectations

Prasanna Archarya, Illinois College

It has been more than eight years since I came to the United States to earn a doctorate in Kinesiology. I was excited to come and felt prepared for the necessary hard work; however, I was unaware of how the American educational system would differ from Nepal and India. This presentation will trace my journey as a Nepalese student admitted to a land-grant university and how I dealt with my differing educational experiences. In addition, I will analyze the pros and cons of coming to the US as an undergraduate vs. graduate student by comparing my experiences to those of other Nepalese students at US colleges. The knowledge and experience I share could be used among US educators, students, and staff to help them connect to and support Nepalese and South Asian students. Additionally, it can illuminate best practices for helping these students' smoother transition into US education.

- Supporting Asian Studies at Increasingly Professionally Oriented Institutions

Gwendolyn Gillson, Illinois College

Students are entering our classes with ever-more professional goals. This has led to the widely recognized decline in the number of humanities graduates, particularly following the Great Recession and exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic. In this presentation, I will draw on my experiences as the only full-time Asian Studies faculty on my small liberal-arts campus that is increasingly seeing students pursue professional majors such as business and nursing. Housed

firmly within the humanities, I have utilized several methods for bringing students into Asian Studies, both within my classroom and through active engagement with the larger campus community. I will discuss strategies for increasing enrollment and retention of professional students in courses with Asian Studies content, integrating Asian Studies across the curriculum through faculty who have little exposure to the discipline, and how to guide professional students to understand the importance of studying Asia in our ever-changing global environment.

3.5. Wisdom & Compassion: Finding the 'path' in the Virtual Shikoku Pilgrimage

Organizer & Chair: Susan Bergeron, Coastal Carolina University

This panel will focus on aspects of the ongoing development of the Virtual Shikoku Pilgrimage project, with emphasis on the conceptual frameworks guiding the creation of embedded content within the virtual landscape platform. In their papers, Project team members will explore themes related to the design and visualization of elements within the virtual landscape that speak to the experience of traversing the pilgrimage path, and to the more ephemeral spiritual musing and insights that are integral to such a journey.

- **The Chinese Character That Flew Away**

Ronald S. Green, Coastal Carolina University

This paper explores Kūkai's theory of language and how we apply it as a part of the theoretical underpinning of the ongoing Virtual Shikoku Pilgrimage project. As an illustration of this theory, Kūkai's pictorial and other biographies use a representation of an event in his life when he drew the classical Chinese character for dragon on the ground that became alive and flew away. The paper describes how such simulacra, including that found in mandala, are important to Shingon in relation to the nature and historical experience of wisdom and compassion that is essential for progressing towards Buddhist awakening. In addition to these biographies, the paper references Kūkai's descriptions of simulacra and enlightenment in his magnum opus, *The Ten Abodes of Mind* (Jūjūshinron).

- **Considering the experience of landscape to support a virtual heritage reconstruction**

Jesse Rouse, Coastal Carolina University

Landscape as a geographic concept is often used to bound a location, a function, or even an event. However, like any description of a geographic region, a landscape is rarely meant to stand alone but, instead, within a context. In the case of the henro michi on the island of Shikoku in Japan there are multiple landscapes that pilgrims can experience along with many ways in which to experience them. At 1200 km, the Buddhist pilgrimage that circles the island through a series of 88 temples can be broken up into four dojos, into sections of mountains and coasts, into urban and rural, temple and path. Each of these many landscapes work together, are intertwined, and connect with the surrounding areas that sit outside of the 'official' pilgrimage route to be the landscape that henro experience in their time on the pilgrimage path.

The ongoing project to represent the landscape of the pilgrimage is one that begins with the physical terrain, structures, and routes which are all well-known and can be modeled with little trouble and placed within a virtual environment. However, the embodied experience of

the landscape is more ephemeral and adds a level of nuance to the reconstruction. This paper will look at how a combination of Tadahiko Higuchi's visual and spatial indices, an embodied phenomenological perspective, and personal experiences are being used to explore how to present the experience of the virtual landscape and the user's movement through the representations of temples and spaces in-between within the Virtual Shikoku Pilgrimage project.

- Kūkai walks with us: Visualizing the spiritual in the Virtual Shikoku Pilgrimage
Susan Bergeron, Coastal Carolina University

This paper will discuss the content development of Phase II of the Virtual Shikoku Pilgrimage project, which is focused on building the user's pathways and connections between each temple in the virtual platform. A key theme of the design of these pathways is the concept of dōgyōninin, the belief that a henro never walks the pilgrimage path alone but is accompanied by Kūkai. Drawn from Kūkai's own writings, biographies, and historical and modern works written by those who have traveled the routes of the Shikoku pilgrimage, themed multimedia vignettes are embedded within the virtual landscape to guide the user along the possible pathways that connect each temple.

3.6. Student-Faculty Fellows program roundtable

This roundtable provides an opportunity to learn about the Student-Faculty Fellows program. SFF teams that did their projects in Asia in 2022 will share their experiences and perspectives on all things related to the SFF program.

Chair: Zheya Gai, SFF program director, Washington & Jefferson College

- On the Move: Roads and Development in the Borderlands of Nepal
Kabir Mansingh Heimsath, Lewis & Clark College
- Whose woods are these? Human-wildlife conflict and biodiversity conservation in Sulawesi, Indonesia
Erin P. Riley, San Diego State University
- Live Music in Tokyo: Mapping a Parallel Musical Universe
Robert Hodson, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

4.1. Engaging India: Establishing Teaching, Research, and Service Collaborations with Indian Partner Institutions

Organizer & Chair: Steve Hess, Political Science, Transylvania University

The panel will feature speakers as they discuss their institution, Salesian College, located in West Bengal, India at two campuses, Sonada and Siliguri, and its work establishing institutional exchanges and partnerships with other institutions both within India and overseas and developing service learning activities. The panel is designed to introduce ASIANetwork members to a specific institution, Salesian College, which hosted the 2018 ANFEP program, and give them a more focused look at an Indian institution of higher education in hopes that it will

encourage wider collaboration with ASIANetwork's All India Association for Christian Higher Education (AIACHE) partners. [Abstract to be revised by Steve Hess.]

- Courses and Facilities at Salesian College
Ganga Parajuli, Department of Education, Salesian College

Salesian College Siliguri provides quality education to all the communities of North east India and particularly North Bengal. The college has students from more than 21 language groups. It is the only college in North Bengal with an 'A' grade, resulting in growing demands. Keeping in mind the needs of the students and going in line with the Don Bosco system of Education the college offers courses in various disciplines. Courses from Science, Arts and Commerce all have been given importance at Salesian College. Hence, in Sciences we have honours in Mathematics, Physics, Computer Science, BCA , Economics while in Arts we have ten departments with English Education, History, Geography, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, Bachelors in Social Work, Mass Communication and Journalism Honours and B.A Program. In the Commerce stream we have both Honours and Program courses while in management we have BBA Honours .We also started Bachelors in Vocational studies three years ago so that students from families experiencing financial difficulties and wanting to get into a vocation as early as possible could be helped. Besides providing the different courses the college makes an effort to assist and help the youth to have focused way of learning through constantly following up and guidance being provided at all levels. Guidance and counselling is provided and personality and value based education is given for their all-round development. Besides all this, the placement cell gives them knowledge about different career options and first-hand experience with some of the most sought after careers in the country.

- Civil Society Engagement and Cross-Cultural Institutional Interactions
Shilpita Gine, Department of Sociology, Salesian College

The presentation will introduce Salesian College's service learning and community engagement programs, interpreting these activities through Jeffery Alexander's (2006) theory of the civil sphere. In light of the theory of the civil sphere, the presentation will examine the space of Salesian College as having democratic codes in terms of the social motives it has and the democratic relations that is formed thereafter; the social relationship it facilitates in the form of promoting networking, being inclusive and promoting inclusiveness, being impartial, promoting friendship among its beneficiaries and extending its services to others and thirdly, the institutions it establishes connections with, in terms of its extended activities.

- Salesian College: Its History and Positioning in Darjeeling & Siliguri
Patrick Johnson, Department of Management, Salesian College

Based in two campus locations, Sonada and Siliguri, Salesian College has in recent years greatly expanded its outreach and exchange activities. In Sonada, or as we address it as the 'Mother campus' the faculty & students are exposed to outreach activities in 22 villages in the surrounding tea gardens. The tea gardens and the mountain flora and fauna provide for good research opportunities in the Sonada campus. Siliguri, also known as the chicken neck of India, has three international borders, resulting in admissions from Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh.

The geographical location of Siliguri has led to its development as a commercial center which has also provided internship, research and fieldwork opportunities for the various departments in the Siliguri campus. The campuses, in such diverse locations also give rise to inter-campus activities and joint projects. The unique location also attracts other colleges and universities across India with whom Salesian College has drafted MoUs, supporting exchange programs for their faculty and students.

- Virtual Disability Awareness Project in India: Learning Experiences of Speech Pathology Students

Monica Kaniamattam, Moravian University

International service-learning projects provide an excellent opportunity for students in various rehabilitation professions to understand global perspectives on disability, develop cultural sensitivity, and assist with advocacy and prevention initiatives related to disabilities. Such initiatives are further justified by the need to increase awareness of rehabilitation options for people with disabilities, including communication disorders, and increase the number of rehabilitation providers in Developing countries like India.

A group of four Speech-language pathology students participated in a 7-week virtual disability and rehabilitation awareness training project in an Indian high school led by an SLP faculty member. The project aimed to promote the participants' understanding of the need to improve the acceptance and social participation of individuals with disabilities and introduce them to rehabilitation careers. The presentation will describe the design, implementation, and evaluation of the innovative virtual awareness project and highlight SLP students' learning experiences, including the development of cultural humility.

4.2. Religion and Peace Movements: A Comparative Study

Organizer & Chair; T. James Kodera, Wellesley College

As we witness widening gaps along ideological, political and religious divides in the world today, time is certainly ripe for us to discuss positive roles that religion, people of faith, can play in bringing this world to a more wholesome, hopeful and peaceful place. In this panel, we discuss four examples of how people of and in Asia are working, combating war, sexism and racism. The four panelists will share their expertise, based on Japan, Korea and India, involving Buddhism and Christianity. Our collective effort is a beginning, not only for our individual goals as teachers and scholars. We invite the participation of others in envisioning a better world in which to move and have our being. Join us.

- Takashi Paul Nagai, a “Saint of Nagasaki”: an atomic bomb victim, Christian convert and a radiologist
T. James Kodera, Wellesley College
- Korean Christian Women's Transnational Peace Movement: ‘Comfort Women’ and Korean War Crimes in Vietnam
Minjung Noh, Drew and Temple Universities

- Peace, Justice, and the Gandhian Movement: A Critical Study of M.K. Gandhi's Legacy in the Context of Religious Fundamentalism in India
Joshua Samuel, Episcopal Divinity School at Union Theological Seminary, NY
- A Buddhist Monk's Peace Activities in Ukraine and Russia for 30 years
Kunihiko Terasawa, Wartburg College

4.3. Asian and Asian American Activist Art and our Classrooms: Turning the Campus Outwards

Organizer & Chair: Anne Harley, Scripps College

How can faculty and students engage in cultural entrepreneurship in the arts that functions in activist ways beyond the classroom? What are the central issues challenging faculty and students who undertake activist art projects? How can we best serve as useful allies?

- Expanding the Classical Music Lens

Kirsten Hedegaard, Loyola

Classical music performance can easily get stuck in the traditional canon, creating a myopic view of what music is important and how music performance is done. Through thoughtful collaborations and creative interplay, western music curriculums can be enlivened and expanded. The art of improvisation as practiced by Malaysian composer Kah Hoe Yii and Japanese composer Kaoru Watanabe can be a portal through which students not only learn about other musical cultures, but also experience the aesthetic of traditional music in practice, including the value of silence.

- Queer Diasporic Art as Microresistance: At the Intersections of Queer and AAPI, Creating Community

Taine Duncan, University of Central Arkansas

Diasporic art not only connects experience and production of individuals who might share a displaced identity, but further, it allows the creation of art to activate processes of becoming. When members of the diverse ethnic groups that make up the US definition of the AAPI community are expected to fit neatly into static categories of identity, stereotypes and reductionism promote disidentification, isolation, and experiences of racism. When members of the queer diasporic community are even recognized, it is generally in abstraction, removed from the living embodied subjects of the queer community. And the very idea of intersectionality of queer and AAPI identity is erased by such rigid categorization. In this presentation, using the work of Gayatri Gopinath, Amy Sueyoshi, and Nicholas Tee, we will explore how students can create art to serve as resistance, illustrating the queer AAPI values of becoming.

- Artist as Activist

Yii Kah Hoe, SEGI College Malaysia

The goal of public art is to use it as a tool for social change and transformation in addition to increasing art's visibility and accessibility to the general public. I've been attempting to link art with activism for the past 12 years in Malaysia, and I firmly believe that public art has a role to play in creating a strong awareness of social, political, and economic issues.

- The Medium is the Message: Activist Arts Practice in Classrooms
Anne Harley, Scripps College

4.4. Pedagogy and Practice in and Beyond the Classroom (Individual Papers)

Facing Dilemmas in "Decolonizing" Curriculum and Pedagogy: Reflections of an AAPI Academic
Roy Tamashiro, Professor Emeritus, Webster University

This paper chronicles narratives (my own and others') about teaching, curriculum- and program-building in the study of Asia in light of postmodern perspectives and theories of decolonization. The curricular presentation of Asian peoples and cultures as marginalized peoples, as "othered" and as exoticization / orientalizing has been a perennial concern that is amplified in historical memory, in global conflicts and crises, and in the culture of racism. Instead of feeling comfortable with my racial-ethnic-social identity status, I carry ambivalent identities with multiple consciousness: on one hand, an embodied sense of genetic-lineage that spans multiple generations across trans-global geographical spaces, and on the other hand, feeling like a homeless alien vis-a-vis the socially-constructed category of "Asian American". The narratives reveal that efforts to deconstruct and decolonize the aims, rationale, content, and teaching methodologies can raise awareness among professors and students alike about enculturated hegemonic narratives and embedded colonized mentalities in the study of Asia.

- Towards a Cultural Revolution of Compassion; Some Lessons Learned in Teaching the Dalai Lama and Sino-Tibetan Conflict in a University Seminar

Andrew Colvin, Associate Professor, Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania

In his 2017 commencement address at UC San Diego, the Dalai Lama spoke of the need to move beyond "cultural revolution" to a "revolution of compassion." While the Dalai Lama's invitation to UC San Diego was a source of much controversy, his commencement speech reiterated ideas common to his secular writings. In this presentation I will explore the controversy UC San Diego's invitation, outline the main ethical ideas behind the Dalai Lama's call for a revolution of compassion, and consider what such a revolution would entail not only for the Sino-Tibetan conflict, but for global issues affecting the future of humanity and life on our shared planet. I will conclude by considering some of the real challenges of teaching the Dalai Lama and the Sino-Tibet conflict in the undergraduate classroom, and sharing some of the resources that helped me to navigate this important yet complex issue with my students.

- Building a Collaboration Around Asian Studies: Spelman/Ohio State University Partnership
Tinaz Pavri, Spelman College, Mitchell Lerner and Etsuyo Yuasa, Ohio State University

For the last several years, the Asian Studies/East Asian Studies programs of Spelman College and The Ohio State University respectively have forged a collaborative partnership that enables faculty development, guest speaker exchanges and other programming that benefit

both institutions. Utilizing the strengths of both institutions, the collaboration aims to enhance the breadth and reach of Asian Studies on Spelman's campus, while elevating an understanding of Asian Studies through a Black lens for The Ohio State University. This paper will be co-presented by three faculty from Spelman and OSU.

- **The Repatriation of the “Atomic-bombed Cross”**

Tanya Maus, Director Peace Resource Center at Wilmington College

On September 30, 2022, a small six-member delegation from the Nagasaki Dioceses traveled from Nagasaki, Japan to the Peace Resource Center at Wilmington College (PRC) in Wilmington, Ohio. Calling themselves the “Thanksgiving Pilgrimage” [答礼巡礼 tourei junrei], their purpose was to give to the PRC an exact replica of the “atomic bombed cross” [被爆十字架 hibakujujika] from the Urakami Cathedral. What was the Atomic Bombed Cross, why did the elderly members of the delegation travel 7,000 miles amidst a global pandemic and renewed threats of nuclear war to deliver its replica to a small college in southwest Ohio, and what is the larger meaning and impact of the pilgrimage? This paper explores these questions by tracing the history of the Atomic Bombed Cross brought to the United States in 1946, its repatriation by the PRC to Nagasaki, Japan in 2019, the construction and delivery of its replica in 2022, and the new global ecology that has formed as a result of these interchanges.

5.1. Putting the South in Asia

Organizer & Chair: Daniel Jasper, Moravian University

Asian studies, in North America, has been centered on an engagement with East Asia. This session is designed to re-orient our perspectives on Asia by starting with that which is often pushed to the margins of Asian Studies. In this session, we ask what happens to Asia when we start from the vantage point of the ‘South’. How does our understanding of Asia change when we look at Asia from the vantage point of South Asia? How can we incorporate multiple Asias in our curricula and research projects on Asia? This panel helps to recognize and celebrate ASIANetwork’s collaboration with AIACHE.

5.2. Burakumin Health Disparities: Historical, Literary and Contemporary

Organizer & Chair: Michael Tangeman, Denison University

Relegation of Japan’s Burakumin to jobs traditionally considered "unclean" has left Buraku communities isolated, ostracized, and often in poor health. Our panel considers the nexus of wellness and Buraku issues.

- **Wellness as a Human Right?: Lessons from Japan’s Buraku Liberation Movement**

John H. Davis Jr., Denison University

Concerns about well-being have gained momentum in recent years prompting many to strive to be better stewards of their own individual well-being. While this is a positive development, it is important to acknowledge that there is a long history of groups pursuing wellness by advocating for changes in external factors impinging on their well-being such as government policies and social. One prime example is the push for human rights protections by

affiliates of Japan's Buraku Liberation Movement. In this paper I will detail how a fundamental concern about wellness has been at the core of the movement's efforts over time to effectuate change. I argue that there are important lessons to be learned by these earlier campaigns such as the need to remain cognizant social sources of human suffering and how they might be profitably integrated into considerations of wellness.

- A Buraku Issue Study Group in Japan: What Do They See Now and in the Future?
Rie Aoki, University of Findlay

The Special Measures Law for Assimilation Projects (同和対策事業特別措置法 Dōwa taisaku jigyo tokubetsu sochihō) was implemented between 1969 and 2002 to resolve problems of social inequity toward the Buraku people and communities in Japan. Although the law lapsed, there are both national organizations and community groups that continue to make efforts to raise awareness of Buraku issues and other human rights issues. This paper examines a local study group on Buraku issues, how the members perceive their current situation, including the impact of the pandemic, why they participate in the study group, and what they anticipate in the future. This is a part of an ongoing study to explore an actual Buraku community and the benefits of Buraku study."

- Depictions of Segregation in Toson's Broken Commandment (1906)
Michael Tangeman, Denison University

The 1906 novel Hakai (『破戒』 Broken Commandment 1974) by Shimazaki Tōson 島崎藤村 depicts the sufferings of a young school teacher, Ushimatsu, as he deals with the pains of discrimination inflicted on him because of his status as a member of the outcaste Burakumin community, and the internal struggle he experiences laboring to remain true to his father's requirement that he never reveal his heritage.

This paper considers literary depictions of discrimination. Tōson's selection of the Burakumin characters' animalistic names invokes society's view of Burakumin as less than human, while the Japanese title is a homophone for "destruction" (破壊), a foreshadowing of the death of Ushimatsu's father, and of the son's failure to protect the family secret. While the heartwarming ending suggests hope for future generations, its abruptness casts a pall on the reality of that dream.

5.3. Voices of AAPI Community in Asian Studies

Organizer & Chair: Hiroaki Kawamura, University of Findlay

Asian American studies and Asian studies emerged out of distinct political and social backdrops. They have developed different sets of scholarships and pedagogies. This panel aims to problematize the dichotomy and advocate for incorporation of AAPI studies into Asian Studies. Socio-cultural, economic and political issues in the US and Asian countries influence each other, which creates a dynamic field of study and teaching. Kawamura will share the findings from his ongoing oral history project on Asians and Asian Americans in northwest Ohio. Lawrence will discuss the oral histories of Korean adoptees. Geng's paper will address different approaches and methodologies regarding AAPI oral history projects. Together, we hope to

engage ASIANetwork colleagues into discussion about AAPI oral histories for research and pedagogy.

- Asians and Asian Americans in Northwest Ohio

Hiroaki Kawamura, University of Findlay

I will report on the ongoing oral history project about Asians and Asian Americans in Hancock County, Ohio. In Hancock County, the Asian population makes only 2.2% of the population (2020 US Census). However, the presence of Asia is recognized due to the close economic ties between Ohio and Asia through automobile industry. So far, the interviews have revealed the tremendous diversity within Asian and Asian American communities. In this paper, I will examine how Asian and Asian American communities interact with each other in the local community. I will also examine how each Asian community is connected with its home community/country in Asia. This paper will demonstrate the importance of locally situated study of Asian and Asian American studies

- Teaching the Global Cold War With Korean Adoptee Oral Histories

Elizabeth Lawrence, Augustana College

The Korean War devastated a country and orphaned countless children. It also led to the making of a distinctive diaspora: Koreans who migrated to the US and other countries as adoptees. This talk examines Korean adoptee oral histories as intimately relatable sources for teaching the global Cold War, giving special attention to the classroom potential of the web-based oral history documentary project Side by Side: Out of a South Korean Orphanage and Into the World. Korean adoptee oral history supports an understanding of the Cold War that goes beyond the narrative of the United States versus the Soviet Union, or “us” versus “them,” for Cold War global migrations remade the American “us” in lasting ways.

- A Survey of AAPI-Themed Oral History Project

Sophia Geng, College of Saint Benedict | Saint John's University

This paper takes multifaceted approaches to examine ongoing oral history projects that focus on AAPI (Asian American and Pacific Islander) communities. It compares and evaluates the features and characters of a range of AAPI-themed oral history projects in different communities across the States. It pinpoints the highlights and strengths of these oral projects. In addition, it provides guidelines in terms of how to decide the foci and themes of oral history projects, reflecting the diverse and dynamic experiences of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Aiming to provide concrete support for interested faculty and researchers, this paper also surveys digital techniques that are utilized by different organizations to host and distribute textual, audio, and visual materials.

5.4. Current Political and Economic issues in Contemporary Asia (Individual Papers)

- William Ruto and Rise of Anti-China Populism in Kenya

Steve Hess, Transylvania University

In August 2022, William Ruto, Kenya’s self-styled “hustler-in-chief” and deputy president scored a narrow victory over his rival, Raila Odinga, to become the country’s fifth president

since independence. Notably, Ruto's campaign embraced an explicitly anti-China platform, criticizing the country's extensive borrowing from China to build megaprojects such as the \$4.7 billion USD Mombasa-Nairobi Standard Gauge Railroad, demanding an investigation of all government contracts with Chinese companies, and threatening to deport Chinese nationals within Kenya's territory. This paper will examine Ruto's utilization of anti-China rhetoric in his bid for the Kenyan presidency in a country known for its "Sino-optimism," compare the Ruto campaign with previous cases of anti-China political rhetoric, such as Michael Sata's 2006 and 2011 campaigns in Zambia, and consider the extent and impact of anti-China politics for China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in sub-Saharan Africa.

- Ecosystem service value mapping: a case study from Northeast Thailand

Jeff Felardo, Eckerd College

Resilient ecosystems provide many benefits to humans. Maintaining these areas lead to tradeoffs in local communities who automatically give up the benefits of agriculture or other forms of development. Combining satellite remote sensing and on the ground field work, this paper creates a high definition map of the value of ecosystem services in the community of Kam-Cha-i, Thailand. The three maps presented demonstrate the spatial heterogeneity of ecosystem services and their associated values to the local community, the carbon sequestration market, and the total economic value to the global community. Empirical analysis such as this map should help policy makers better understand the value of quality ecosystems and how their local community relies on, and interacts with them.

- Political-economic Effects of Global Climate Change on China and Their Potential Impacts on International Supply Chains

Chris Herrick, Muhlenberg College

Over the past several years, global climate change (GCC) has had an increasing negative impact upon economic activity in various parts of China. These include increased heat and drought, which are already affecting food production, the rationing of electricity for industry, and decreasing productivity due to unhealthy working conditions as a consequence of excess temperatures. These conditions are affecting both North, Central and South China. Other conditions associated with GCC, such as sea level rise and increased frequency of concentrated storm activity are likely to interfere with the capacity of the PRC to maintain exports in a timely and consistent manner given that seven of the nine busiest export ports are likely to be negatively impacted by these conditions. This paper will examine the manner in which these conditions are likely to have an impact upon both China's domestic political economic affairs and exacerbate the interest of major Western industrial countries and their corporations to identify sources of supply for raw materials and semi-manufactured products currently obtained from China.

- Pan-Asian Political Movements in the US and Australia: Understanding the Present through the Past

Su-Mei Ooi / Yeow-Tong Chia, Butler University

Many Asian communities all across the United States, and in Australia to a lesser extent, have risen to protest against the violence, harassment, and discrimination against Asians in

recent years. At the same time, others have advocated successfully for K-12 AAPI history education in the US. Nonetheless, Asian American histories and narratives remain lacking in the school curriculum. The situation is arguably direr in Australia. What explains this difference? Using a historical-comparative approach, this paper discusses and traces AAPI activism to the historical roots and legacies of a pan-Asian political identity that developed in the US, but failed to do so in Australia. The authors posit that a significant factor in building pan-Asian solidarity in the United States was the cross-community coalitions that the Asian American community was able to form with the Black Liberation and Third World solidarity movements, which had a significant constitutive impact on Asian American consciousness. On the other hand, the relative inability and/or unwillingness of Asian Australians to build similar coalitions in turn point to the role of internalized racism in prohibiting similar progress.

6.1. Japanese Language Pedagogy in a Changing World: Cases from Miami University's Japanese Program

Organizer & Chair: Tomoyuki Yabe, Miami University

College education is rapidly shifting as the world changes. The forces of globalization and technology are transforming the world as we know it. In recent years, many colleges are also experiencing reduced enrollment in language education, while different modes of teaching are sought out more than ever. In a post-Covid world to come, online teaching may well remain integral to new models of teaching delivery. In tandem, international and intercultural concepts like Global Citizenship and cross-linguistic language pedagogy are getting more attention.

Foreign languages can play a significant role in a world that continues to reduce the proximity among people. Foreign language pedagogy should ideally shift to accommodate changing circumstances in the world. A language like Japanese has interesting roles to play in the context of subcultures (e.g., anime, video games, etc.) that are quickly expanding. This panel discusses Pedagogy of Japanese Language through Miami University's case studies.

- Developing a translation course and the post-Covid language-program survival
Ayako Reiff, Miami University
- Pedagogy for writing assignments in foreign language course: a case from Miami University's Japanese Program
Tomoyuki Yabe, Miami University

Pedagogy for writing in foreign language (PWFL) shares factors with writing pedagogy in general. However, it holds unique goals: training students on; (i) being aware of their own inventory of acquired grammatical expressions from their foreign language; (ii) being mindful that phrasing and diction in their writing are restrained by how much grammatical knowledge they have acquired; (iii) to avoid direct translation from the instructional language. As students' knowledge of a target foreign language grammar expands, the importance of PWFL also increases especially when the distance between the target and the instruction languages is vast, e.g., learning Japanese in English.

The present study discusses how a writing assignment can be shaped in Japanese language courses for the aforementioned goals (i-iii). It will also discuss how the same method can be adopted to writing assignments of any second language course."

- Navigating student advertisement through challenging times: Care for student's emotional well-being
Kazue Harada, Miami University

6.2. Teaching and Research in the Liberal Arts - AN_Luce Post-Doctoral Fellows

Organizer & Chair: Chris Herrick, Muhlenberg College

Presenters will discuss both their research and their strategies and pedagogy in teaching at liberal arts campuses. Three panelists who are current AN-Luce Foundation teaching fellows will discuss how they are able to continue as research scholars and be effective teachers as well and share their challenges and how they addressed them.

- Northeast Asian Noir: Transnational Crime Thrillers in Contemporary Chinese and Korean Cinemas

Dorothee Hou, Moravian University

Film noir, a historically under-appreciated and often overlooked genre in East Asian cinemas, has gained popularity in the past decade. Due to the aesthetic similarities between these films, scholars such as Younghun Cho describe this as a "pan-Asian phenomenon" (2016). This paper looks beyond the aesthetic and zooms into the social, historical, and socioeconomic factors that undergird the narrative structure and gender dynamics of three recent transnational crime thrillers: *The Yellow Sea* (2010) by Na Hong-jin, *The Outlaws* (2017), first of the Kang Yoon-sung's "crime city" series, and Park Chan-wook's new film *Decision to Leave* (2022). Specifically, this paper investigates these films' portrayal of illegal immigration (from China's northeast to Korea), cultural assimilation, and the intertwining of identity and history.

- Commercial Determinants of Maternal and Child Health: Teaching Public Health in SEA at a Liberal Arts College

Irma Hidayana, St Lawrence University

I will share my experience teaching a "Maternal and Child Health in Southeast Asia" course at liberal arts college. It is designed to be offered as a cross-section of Public Health and Asian Studies courses at St. Lawrence University. Although most of our students are from the United States, a regional perspective on the emergence of interrelated public health and Asian studies issues is essential for a global-oriented liberal arts curriculum. This presentation will introduce the problem of unethical marketing of formula milk and its adverse impacts on maternal and child health in Southeast Asia, and teaching techniques, including the students' hands-on public health education intervention. I will also reflect on and draw some lessons learned from teaching in an area that has not been sufficiently explored.

- Intractable Conflicts Explained: A Look into the Traits of Religious Fundamentalism
Chirasree Mukherjee, Knox College

This paper grapples with the dynamics of intractable conflicts, especially those fought on religious grounds. Intractable conflicts are conceptualized as those which are particularly resistant to resolution. Researchers either talk of generic religion or base their analysis on fundamentalist religion as a separate type of religion to explain religion's proneness to violence and conflict. In this paper, I study fundamentalism not strictly as a type of religious style, rather as a set of characteristics applicable to all religious traditions, irrespective of their origins – Abrahamic or non-Abrahamic. I argue that in order to understand the conditions under which religion triggers, intensifies and persists conflict, we need to delve deep into the fundamentalist characteristics manifest in all religious traditions. While not all characteristics of fundamentalism are equally significant for intense and persistent conflicts, some are necessary and sufficient to result in conflict intractability. Hence, it is not religion in general nor fundamentalism as a type of religion, rather a set of fundamentalist characteristics which, when challenged, provoke conflict and result in conflict intractability.

6.3. Gender and Sexuality issues across Asia (Individual Papers)

- Karmic Justice: Dechen Tsering's Karmic Approach to LGBTQ Rights and Activism in the Tibetan Community

Kati Fitzgerald, Wittenberg University

Dechen Tsering is former president of the Tibetan Association of Northern California and is currently a Health Services Program Specialist for the City of Berkeley. In 2019, Dechen Tsering gave a groundbreaking interview on Tibetan-language Voice of America. This interview was one of the first times a Tibetan came out publicly and discussed lesbian activism and discrimination in the Tibetan community. Dechen Tsering proposes a karmic approach to understanding sexual identity, allowing for both biological and environmental influences on identity construction and mimicking the most current models for understanding sexual identity in Feminist research. Teaching this interview in my courses helps students to see the diversity of contemporary Buddhist perspectives, but also leads students to contemplate how societal ethics can be karmically driven, aka constructed to consider the multiplicity of biopsychosocial-spiritual factors that lead to identity formation.

- Queering New Taiwan Cinema: Yee Chih-yen's Blue Gate Crossing (2002) and Chang Tso-chi's The Best of Time (2001)

Fu-Ying Flora Chuang, Hope College

Yee Chih-yen's Blue Gate Crossing is a Taiwanese queer film. Chang Tso-chi's The Best of Time also features the friendship between two high school boys. Both films have lukewarm successes in Taiwan's film market. The positive responses reflected in box office profit demonstrate that the Taiwanese audience accepts the concept of same-sex desire these films sell, but how they approach issues about same-sex desire marks a drastic difference. In this paper, I will use Blue Gate Crossing and The Best of Time to illustrate New Taiwan Cinema's ongoing development and answer the following questions. How does same-sex desire become a selling point in Taiwan's film market? How does a younger generation of New Taiwan Cinema directors continue to engage their audiences in social issues such as same-sex desire and the legalization of same-sex marriage.

- Beyond the Brushstroke: Wesley Tongson's Contemporary Ink Experimentations
Yi Yi Mon (Rosaline) Kyo, Davidson College

The contemporary Hong Kong ink artist, Wesley Tongson (1957-2012), influenced by the ink manipulations of Taiwanese artist Liu Guosong and Hong Kong artist Harold Wong, moved beyond the brush to paint with his fingers. Moreover, throughout his career, Tongson experimented with abstract expressionist splashed ink in the manner of Zhang Daqian, first as an art student in Canada and continuing as a reclusive painter in Hong Kong. Pushing against orthodox ink methods, Tongson instead operated in the liminal spaces of the contemporary ink world. As an artist who lived with schizophrenia since his teenage years and as a genderqueer person, Tongson's ink methods reached beyond the received traditions to reach an expressive level that challenged expectations within the usual Chinese ink art genres, including landscape, figure painting, flowers, and calligraphy. This presentation considers the transcultural influences shaping Tongson's artistic explorations from Canada to Taiwan to Hong Kong.

6.4. China in literature and film across time and space (Individual Papers)

- Eileen Chang from Japanese Occupation of Shanghai through Her Arrival in New York
Karen S. Kingsbury, Chatham University

This talk will draw on work completed or in progress for my Eileen Chang biography project. The likely focal points are either an overview of the author's new writings after the defeat of the Japanese in 1945 and before her 1955 arrival in New York, or an account of that arrival and her first season of life in the U.S.

- The "Chinese Weekend" in Iowa City: Hualing Nieh Engle, the International Writing Program, and the Midwest as the 'Middle Ground' Between Taipei, Washington, and Beijing

Anthony J Miller, Hanover College, History Department

As a well-known author in the People's Republic of China, Taiwan, and the United States, few writers can rival the impact of Hualing Nieh Engle on Sino-American relations. Displaced from mainland China by civil war and blacklisted in Taiwan by the Guomindang regime, Hualing arrived in Iowa City in the mid-1960s as a guest of the University of Iowa's International Writing Program (IWP). Resettled in Iowa for the remainder of the twentieth century, she became the IWP's co-director and used her literary connections to make the small Midwestern town of Iowa City a critical hub for artists, poets, journalists, filmmakers, and dignitaries from across the Chinese diaspora. Together, she and the IWP would leave an indelible impact on the literary world and the triangle of diplomacy connecting Taipei, Washington, and Beijing. In this talk, I explore how Hualing and the IWP positioned the arts and the US Midwest as a "middle ground" to promote cultural diplomacy in service of Sino-American rapprochement and peaceful reunification between Taiwan and the PRC. Conversely, even as the IWP and its director strove to cast "art" and the environs of the Midwestern college campus as transcending geopolitics, I examine the ways in which Hualing and the IWP's agenda

were imperiled by US imperialism in Asia, immigration laws, and the simmering discontent of Chinese intellectuals with oppressive regimes and racism.

- The Southern Song Poet Yang Wanli and His Construction of a Place Identity for Jizhou
Li E, Susquehanna University

The Southern Song poet Yang Wanli (1127-1206) was from Jizhou, a sub-administrative unit of Jiangxi. In his writings, Yang would highlight his attachment to his hometown, Jizhou's uniqueness as an administrative unit, and its connection with Ouyang Xiu (1007-1072), the leading Northern Song politician and literati. This paper argues that it had become Yang's self-conscious effort for a small administrative unit in Jiangxi to acquire a national profile and make a name for itself, when Jiangxi had become known for producing distinguished literary men and officials. These efforts include building and remodeling his personal residence and getting involved in local memorial projects for distinguished historical figures, and corresponding writings actively with local elites and local officials. Yang, together with other participants, stresses the importance of the continuation of clan relations and the inheritance of local culture and legacy for a prefecture like Jizhou, which could otherwise become oblivious or forgotten.

- Screening Mission, Framing China: Missionaries as Cinematic Tropes in Sino-US Imaginations
Joseph W. Ho, Albion College

As movie audiences settled into seats around the 20th century world, films they encountered on the silver screen featured missionary characters in China – equal parts hero(ine) and hapless victim, foreign interloper and anticolonial ally. This essay explores how missionaries as filmmakers or cinematic tropes reflected Sino-US ideals and anxieties about the other, translated by the colliding worlds of missions, Hollywood, and transpacific encounters. Missionaries-as-mediators blurred lines between on-screen and on-the-ground experiences. At times, they served as technical advisors or cinema critics, pointing out distortions of communities and environments in which they worked. In counterpoint, their on-screen portrayals provided lenses through which filmmakers projected ideas about gender and sexual tension, racial difference, and colonial and postcolonial conflicts – from warlord-era clashes to the East Asian Cold War. In doing so, the missionary trope and its filmic evolutions represented mutable visions of US presence in China and global imaginations of modern Chinese identities.