

Asia at the Center Asia at the Margins



ASIANetwork's 33rd
Annual Conference

March 27-29, 2026
Naperville, Illinois



Welcome to Naperville! Asia at the Center Asia at the Margins

Aswini Pai, 2026 Conference Program Chair
Vice Chair, ASIANetwork Board of Directors

Associate Professor of Biology and
J. Ansil Ramsay Professor in Public Health
St. Lawrence University

The 2026 ASIANetwork interdisciplinary conference, “Asia at the Center, Asia at the Margins”, explores Asia’s shifting position in global history, politics, culture, and economics. Bringing together scholars, instructors, artists, and students, the conference examines how Asia has been imagined as both a dynamic center of innovation and influence, and as a space marginalized within global systems of power and knowledge. From the rise of regional powers such as China and India to the strategic significance of Southeast Asia, Asia occupies a pivotal role in the 21st century. Yet many communities within Asia—ethnic minorities, borderland societies, migrant populations, and global diaspora—continue to navigate political, economic, and cultural marginalization. This conference interrogates these themes: Who defines the “center”? Who remains at the margins? And how do these positions shift across time and space and intersect with various epistemologies? How can an Asianist best leverage these positionalities in their research and in the classroom? With topics ranging from foodways to colonial histories, climate change, environmental and social justice, movies, political movements, and the use of AI in innovative classroom pedagogies - there is something for all participants to learn and hopefully have conversations about at the event.

ASIANetwork Programs

FOR DETAILS AND DEADLINES, SEE

m.asianetwork.org/programs

ASIANetwork – Mellon Foundation AAPI Voices and Stories

Academic-community partnerships for oral history and digital storytelling among diverse Asian American and Pacific Islander communities

Embodied Learning About Asia

Grants for campus residencies facilitating student learning about Asia through immersive involvement and embodied participation

ASIANetwork Institutes

Professional development to enrich content and skills related to Asia across the curriculum and to foster collaborations within and between institutions. Supported by the Luce Foundation

Speakers Bureau

Grants to host a speaker from the bureau. Speakers are peer-nominated faculty from member colleges

Scholarships for Asian Language Learning

Tuition for Asian language coursework not available on the student's home campus. Supported by the Luce Foundation

Marianna McJimsey Student Paper Competition

For undergraduate students and previous year's graduates writing on South Asia, Southeast Asia, East Asia, or Asian diasporas

Student Video Challenge

Facilitates focused and direct interaction between students at ASIANetwork and Asian undergraduate institutions

ASIANetwork Exchange: A Journal for Asian Studies in the Liberal Arts

Peer-reviewed, open-access journal publishing current research and pedagogical essays written by specialists and non-specialists

ASIANetwork Book Series at Lever Press

Publishes high-quality, original monographs embodying a rigorous liberal arts approach

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ASIANetwork

PARTNERS AND SPONSORS

ASIANetwork thanks the following organizations and individuals for their support of our programming:

The Henry Luce Foundation

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

The Freeman Foundation

An anonymous donor in honor of Donald N. Clark, Professor of History, Emeritus, at Trinity University, and former Board Chair of ASIANetwork



Conference at a glance

Asia at the Center, Asia at the Margins

Friday, March 27

THE FOLLOWING EVENTS REQUIRE PRE-REGISTRATION

ASIANETWORK BOARD MEETING

-----8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

AAPI VOICES AND STORIES WORKSHOP

-----8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

ASIANETWORK EXCHANGE AND EDUCATION ABOUT ASIA WORKSHOP

-----2:00 PM - 4:30 PM

TEACHING ASIA THROUGH ROLE-PLAYING GAMES

-----1:00 PM - 4:30 PM

ASIAN AMERICAN FOOD MARKETS FIELD TRIP

-----ARRANGED

THE 33RD ANNUAL ASIANETWORK CONFERENCE AT NORTH CENTRAL COLLEGE

THE CONFERENCE TAKES PLACE IN THE WENTZ SCIENCE CENTER (WSC)

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

-----4:00 PM - 8:00 PM | Stevenson Hall

CONFERENCE WELCOME & AWARDS

-----5:30 PM - 6:30 PM | Stevenson Hall

DINNER BUFFET

-----6:30 PM - 7:30 PM | Stevenson Hall

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

-----7:30 PM - 8:45 PM | Stevenson Hall

Saturday, March 28

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION	-----7:30 AM - 10:30 AM Stevenson Hall
CONCURRENT SESSION ONE	-----8:00 AM - 9:00 AM WSC Classrooms
CONCURRENT SESSION TWO	-----9:15 AM - 10:15 AM WSC Classrooms
CONCURRENT SESSION THREE	-----10:30 AM - 11:30 AM WSC Classrooms
PROGRAM INFORMATION "LUNCH TOPICS"	-----11:30 AM - 12:30 PM See p. 25
MONGOLIAN CULTURAL PRESENTATION	-----12:30 PM- 1:00 PM Stevenson Hall
FILM SCREENING AND DISCUSSION	-----1:00 PM- 2:00 PM WSC 101
TEA DEMONSTRATION	-----1:00 PM - 2:00 PM Stevenson Hall
CONCURRENT SESSION FOUR	-----2:15 PM - 3:15 PM WSC Classrooms
CONCURRENT SESSION FIVE	-----3:30 PM - 4:30 PM WSC Classrooms
POSTER SESSION	-----4:00 PM - 5:30 PM Stevenson Hall
STUDENT NETWORKING PANEL & DINNER	-----5:30 PM ONWARD Stevenson Hall

Sunday, March 29

ASIANETWORK BUSINESS MEETING	-----8:00 AM - 8:30 AM WSC 101
CONCURRENT SESSION SIX	-----8:45 AM - 10:00 AM WSC Classrooms
FILM SCREENING AND DISCUSSION	-----10:15 AM - 11:15 AM WSC 101
CONCURRENT SESSION SEVEN	-----11:30 AM- 12:45 PM WSC Classrooms



ASIANetwork

Promoting Asia in the Liberal Arts



A consortium of North American colleges and universities, ASIANetwork strives to strengthen the role of Asia and Asian diasporas within liberal arts education to help prepare undergraduates for success in an ever more interconnected world.

ASIANetwork Conference Program Committee

Aswini Pai, Chair
St. Lawrence University

Kin Cheung
Moravian University

Irma Hidayana
Hofstra University

Jing Zhang
New College of Florida

With generous assistance from

Brian Hoffert
Luke Franks
Jinai Sun
North Central College



**NORTH CENTRAL
COLLEGE 1861**

ASIANetwork is grateful to North Central College for hosting this conference.



5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

CONFERENCE WELCOME

Wentz Science
Center
Stevenson Hall

Remarks by

Stephen Maynard Caliendo | North Central College

Brian Hoffert | North Central College

Dan Choffnes | ASIANetwork

Aswini Pai | St. Lawrence University

Qin Fang | McDaniel College

RECOGNITION AND AWARDS

Marianna McJimsey Student Essay Award

Taku Suzuki | Denison University

ASIANetwork Student Video Challenge

Hiroaki Kawamura | The University of Findlay

ASIANetwork Speakers Bureau

Gwendolyn Gillson | Illinois College

Van J. Symons Distinguished Service Award

Qin Fang | McDaniel College

6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

BANQUET

Stevenson Hall

Dinner buffet

7:30 pm - 8:45 pm

Stevenson Hall

Gary DeCoker
Distinguished
Speaker

INTRODUCED BY:

Aswini Pai

St. Lawrence Univer-
sity

The Gary DeCoker
Distinguished
Speakership recognizes
Gary DeCoker,
Executive Director of
ASIANetwork from
2014-2023.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

A Taste of India in the American Imagination: Changing Attitudes from Empire to Diasporic Cuisine

From the colonial period through the mid-twentieth century, American understanding of India and its culinary traditions were mediated largely through the legacy of the British Raj, epitomized by the generalized category of "curry." With the growth of the South Asian diaspora beginning in the 1960s, the availability of ingredients expanded, and Indian restaurants began to proliferate. The turn of the new millennium witnessed the diversification and innovation of Indian cuisine in the United States. Today, the spectrum of Indian food in America ranges from popular street foods to Michelin-starred fine-dining establishments, where chefs integrate Indian flavors with regional ingredients and global gastro-nomic techniques.

Colleen Sen | Independent Scholar

COLLEEN TAYLOR SEN



Dr. Colleen Taylor Sen is a Chicago-based culinary historian who specializes in writing about the food of the Indian subcontinent. She is the author or coeditor of nine books, including *Feasts and Fasts: A History of Indian Food* which was named one of the best food books of the year by *Vogue* and *The Smithsonian* magazines. She is currently writing the first history of Indian food in America. She has an Hon. B.A. and M.A. degree from the University of Toronto and a Ph.D. from Columbia University, all in Slavic Languages.



March 28

Saturday

8:00 am - 9:00 am

AAPI Voices and Stories: 2025 Project Highlights

WSC 104

Panel

1.1

FACILITATORS:

Sophia Geng

St. Vincent College

Hiroaki Kawamura

**The University of
Findlay**

*Leading Involvement in Film Technique (LIFT):
Participatory Media from Formerly Incarcerated AAPI
Communities in Southern California*

Vivian Wenli Lin | Occidental College

*Making Communities: Asian Refugee Resettlement
Experiences in the American South*

Zhihong Chen | Guilford College

8:00 am - 9:00 am

Curricular Innovation in Asian and Asian American / AAPI Studies

WSC 254

Panel

1.2

**ORGANIZER &
CHAIR:**

Nick Tackes

Xavier University

*Empowering Student-led Discussions about Asian
Philosophy*

**Lauren Mark | The State University of New York -
New Paltz**

*Bridging Campuses, Bridging Asia: Using Collaborative
Video Projects to Deepen Comparative Thinking in
Introductory Politics*

Holly Seonyeong Jo | Moravian University

*CLAC on Campus: Using Cultures and Languages
Across the Curriculum to Enhance Student Learning
Beyond the Language Classroom*

**Danielle Rocheleau Salaz | University of Colorado -
Boulder**

Teaching About the Chinese Diaspora in Latin America
Francisco Chen-López | Spelman College

8:00 am - 9:00 am

WSC 256

Individual Papers

1.3

CHAIR:

Yitan Li

Seattle University

Between Economic Sovereignty and Global Interdependence: Navigating Power, Policy, and Conflict in the 21st Century

Managing Relations across the Taiwan Strait: Lessons from the Russia-Ukraine War

Yitan Li | **Seattle University**

China's Provinces and Trump's Second Trade War

Steve Hess | **Transylvania University**

Strangers in a Foreign Land? Understanding Chinese-Zambian Relationships and Power through Investment, Media, and Migrancy

Christopher M. Annear, Hillel Wasserman, Hudson Chou, and Krissia Hercules | **Hobart and William Smith Colleges**

The Fiscal Demand for Sovereign Currency: Evidence from Cambodia

Brenden J. Mason | **North Central College**

BECOME A REVIEWER FOR ASIANetwork PUBLICATIONS

- The *ASIANetwork Books* series publishes high-quality, original monographs, edited collections, and translations that embody a rigorous liberal arts approach to Asian Studies.
- The *ASIANetwork Exchange* publishes current research as well as pedagogical essays written by specialists and non-specialists alike, including articles, book and media reviews that address the needs of the undergraduate classroom.

Please indicate your interest in serving as a reviewer via this brief online form:



8:00 am - 9:00 am

Visual Production in Transnational Contexts**WSC 354****Panel****1.4****ORGANIZER &
CHAIR:****Jie Zhang****Trinity University**

This panel explores how cultural production negotiates the intersections of identity, diaspora, and transnational circulation. Yinyin Xue examines Lu Xun's cinematic spectatorship in 1930s Shanghai, analyzing his critical stance toward Hollywood representations of "Chineseness" as well as Chinese audiences' performative nationalism. Jinli He turns to the work of Overseas Chinese artists Hung Liu, Chen Zhen, and Wenda Gu, investigating how their "in-between" positionalities inform strategies of cultural translation and internationalism, as well as the broader geopolitical and transcultural contexts shaping contemporary Chinese art. Jie Zhang analyzes Ang Lee's transnational cinema, focusing on the cross-cultural adaptation of Eat Drink Man Woman into Tortilla Soup and the queer legacies of The Wedding Banquet in dialogue with Brokeback Mountain and Andrew Ahn's 2025 remake. Jingjing Cai argues that Like a Rolling Stone exemplifies how contemporary Chinese cinema, influenced by middle-class values and Western feminist ideals, misrepresents working-class women by idealizing their struggles and erasing their socioeconomic realities. Together, these papers highlight the complexities of negotiating Chineseness onscreen and on canvas, revealing the creative possibilities of cultural hybridity in a global frame.

Lu Xun Takes On Hollywood: "National Character," Semicolonial Subjectivity, and Chineseness Onscreen
Yinyin Xue | Rhodes College

Contemporary Chinese Art Between Nations: Identity and Internationalism

Jinli He | Trinity University

Ang Lee Between Chinese-Language Cinema and Hollywood

Jie Zhang | Trinity University

Classed Gazes and Cinematic Compromise: Navigating Middle-Class Tastes and Working-Class Realities in Like a Rolling Stone

Jingjing Cai | Centre College

8:00 am - 9:00 am

ASIANetwork Community College Roundtable

WSC 356

Roundtable

1.5

ORGANIZER &
CHAIR:

Vincent Gaddis

**Elgin Community
College**

The traditional footprint of ASIANetwork has focused on promoting Asian Studies in the liberal arts at the four-year, small liberal arts college or university. This roundtable brings scholars from the community college space where Asian Studies and languages are taught to ask the question: How can ASIANetwork further engage community college faculty and students? In an era where dual credit and community college enrollments are growing, often with state university articulation agreements that guarantee the transferability of Asian language and history courses, ASIANetwork may have an opportunity to foster the growth of Asian Studies at the community college level through membership, and the resources that community college faculty need to deepen engagement with students and grow this critical academic space.

Vincent Gaddis | Elgin Community College

Khursheed Ichhaporia | Oakton College

Nina Ulman | Elgin Community College

9:15 am - 10:15 am

AAPI Voices and Stories: 2025 Project Highlights

WSC 104

Panel

2.1

FACILITATORS:

Gordon Gray

Berea College

Siti Kusujarti

**Warren Wilson
College**

South Carolina Sikh Community

Ronald Green | Coastal Carolina University

Beyond Minidoka

Rachel Miller | The College of Idaho

Marshalllese Oral History Archive of Orange County, CA

Alfred P. Flores | Harvey Mudd College

*Digital Storytelling: Identity Reconstruction of
Diasporic Chinese American Seniors in One Rural Area
of Ohio*

Fang Wang | The University of Findlay

9:15 am - 10:15 am

AI in the Classroom: Continuing Discussions**WSC 254****Panel****2.2**ORGANIZER &
CHAIR:**Sheri Lullo****Union College**

Building on the productive discussions of AI's role in the Asian Studies classroom at the previous ASIANetwork meeting, this panel reconvenes to offer updates, new insights, and evolving pedagogical approaches. Presentations will highlight concrete classroom practices and strategies adaptable across institutional contexts. As a group, we will reflect on successes, challenges, and ongoing questions surrounding the ethical and effective integration of AI into teaching and learning.

Reinforcing Learning Objectives Using AI Storytelling
James Godde | **Monmouth College**

AI + My.Field: Helping Students Plan their Futures
Karen Kingsbury | **Chatham University**

AI in Second Language Learning
Binnan Gao | **Elon University**

An Institutional Perspective: AI in Academia
Kyle Smith | **Library of Congress**

WSC 256

Panel

2.3

ORGANIZER &
CHAIR:

Xin Yang

Macalester College

What could poetry do in the era of uncertainty, fear, and anxiety? In what way can poetry connect the classroom with the community? Seemingly marginalized, poetry nevertheless plays an important role in everyday reality. This panel seeks to explore poetry in scholarship, teaching, and community engagement. We will discuss poetry in aesthetic experimentation, literature and language classrooms, digital humanities, and other creative art forms.

Teaching Modern Chinese Literature Through Poetry
Ruihua Shen | **Morehouse College**

Making the Personal Political: Writing Protest Poems
Kara Dorris | **Illinois College**

Poetry: Connecting the Classroom with the Community
Xin Yang | **Macalester College**

Simplicity and Complexity in the Poetry of Yu Xiuhua
Duosi Meng | **University of Illinois, Chicago**

ASIANETWORK DIGITAL RESOURCES

ASIANetwork's Digital Resource Database is seeking new materials! If you have ideas for, or have created, a resource (reading list, syllabus, course module, class exercise, etc.) you feel would benefit faculty, students, or administrators in the areas of Asian and Asian diasporic studies, and/or AAPI/Asian American studies, please contact Kirstin Clouser and Nick Tackes (digitalresources@asianetwork.org) and stop by the Saturday lunch table (see p. 25).

9:15 am - 10:15 am

WSC 354

Panel

2.4

ORGANIZER &
CHAIR:

Jason A. Kirk

Elon University

The Postmodern Right and Languishing Left in India and the United States: Popular Culture and Political Communication in Degenerating Democracies

A gathering consensus considers democracies across the world since the mid-2010s to have come to a protracted crisis of public legitimacy and institutional entropy. India and the United States have seen strongman leaders rise from shifting terrains of right-wing politics, making forceful appeals to nationalism and throwing contempt at liberal elites accused of losing the plot of national greatness. This panel's papers bring together analytical perspectives from scholars and commentators in India and the West seeking to understand the cultural and social milieus behind the rightward offensives and stumbling liberal responses in the world's largest democracies. From social media and the podcast-sphere to professionalized pugilism in political campaigns, the Indian and American settings behind Modi and Trump reflect a postmodern turn from earlier conservatism—and a powerful convergence of new media forms and changing popular attitudes about national identity and purpose.

Spreading the Message: Podcasting as a Vector of Modi-era Foreign Policy Discourse

Deepa Prakash | DePauw University

Postmodern Campaigning: Media Weaponization by Narendra Modi and Donald Trump

Sunil Sahu | DePauw University

The Lotus and the Frog: Understanding the Phenomenon of American White Nationalist Memes in India

Vikash Yadav | Hobart and William Smith Colleges

9:15 am - 10:15 am

Rewriting the Classroom: Decolonial Pedagogies and the Reimagining of Knowledge

WSC 356

Individual Papers

2.5

CHAIR:

Roy Tamashiro

Webster University

Decolonizing Orientalist Mindsets: Legacies of Learned Inferiority and Privileged Knowledge Structures

Roy Tamashiro | Webster University

Pedagogy of (Un)freedom: Teaching Gender and Sexuality in the US as Asian Scholars

Stephanie Yingyi Wang | St. Lawrence University

Gamifying Global Inequality: A Classroom Experiment

Larissa Pitts | Quinnipiac University

Encyclopedism in World Literature: An Approach to Teaching Chinese Literature

Stuart Patterson | North Central College



Members of Asian Pacific Islander Reentry through Inclusion, Support, and Empowerment (API-RISE) and the Occidental College student-faculty team gather to screen films made by community members through the AAPI Voices and Stories program, summer-fall 2025.

10:30 am - 11:30 am

AAPI Voices and Stories: Community Partners

WSC 104

Community
Dialogue

3.1

FACILITATOR:

Zach Smith

University of
Central Arkansas

ASIANetwork's AAPI Voices and Stories program provides grants to academic institutions, in partnership with local AAPI community members, to elevate their voices and knowledge and create digital projects that are of value to the community. ASIANetwork also aims to improve the way colleges partner with community members to teach about Asian American experiences. This sharing and learning session is organized as a forum for members of AAPI community groups to discuss their goals and priorities for current and future community-campus partnerships. In doing so, it offers an opportunity to learn what is needed to represent AAPI experiences more accurately, respectfully, and inclusively.

Shahpeera Aimaq | Montagnard Association of North Carolina

Sachi Dely | Montagnard Association of North Carolina

Emerald Dunn | Chinese Historical Society of Memphis and the MidSouth

Helen Kang | Korean American Church Association (Columbus, Ohio)

Lee Meh | Bamboo Roots: Karenni Community of Winston-Salem

Farah Momen | Bondhu Community Culinary Space (Berkshire County, Massachusetts)

Amalia Suryani | Endangered Language Alliance (New York)

Billy Taing | API-RISE (Los Angeles)

Andrew Young | Montagnard/Asian Community Disparities Research Network (North Carolina)

EARLY-CAREER FACULTY DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

October 9-12, 2025 | Columbus, Ohio



Melvin Barnes | University of Michigan-Flint • Steven Beardsley | Bucknell University • Francisco Chen-López | Spelman College • Ryan D'Souza | Chatham University • Kati Fitzgerald | Otterbein University • Aynal Haque | Montana Technological University • Holly Seonyeong Jo | Moravian University • Yoonjung Kang | Sewanee: The University of the South • Rio Katayama | Colby College • Lin Li | Kenyon College • Lauren Mark | SUNY New Paltz • Niyati Shenoy | Washington & Jefferson College • Rohit Singh | Denison University • Sushmita Sircar | Gettysburg College • Keyu Yan | Savannah College of Art and Design

Directors:

Keunjoo Christine Pae | Denison University • Jie Zhang | Trinity University

ASIANetwork is grateful to the Luce Foundation for its support of the Early-Career Faculty Development Workshop, and to Denison University's Departments of East Asian Studies and Religion for additional sponsorship.

10:30 am - 11:30 am

WSC 254

Panel

3.2

ORGANIZER:

Xuehua Xiang

**University of
Illinois, Chicago**

CHAIR:

Jinai Sun

**North Central
College**

Developing Intercultural Competence Through the Integration of AI and Classic Works in the Chinese Language Classroom

*As higher education enters an AI era, language educators face the challenge and opportunity of redefining pedagogical models. This panel explores how classic works can merge with emerging technologies to transform Chinese language learning into an experiential, critically reflective process. The first paper examines how Zhang Yimou's film *To Live*, paired with idioms and structured thinking frameworks, fosters critical thinking and intercultural awareness, while AI tools enhance assessment and feedback. The second paper presents a model that leverages cinematic narratives and AI-supported oral practice to strengthen speaking and cultural competence through films like *American Dreams in China*. The third paper introduces a photography-based curriculum in which students create and analyze visual texts, engage with cultural aesthetics, and critically examine AI biases in representation. Together, these approaches demonstrate how AI and classic texts can join force to develop language proficiency, intercultural competence, and self-expression in the Chinese classroom.*

A Global Interpretation of *To Live*: Cultivating Critical Thinking through Film, Idioms, and AI in the Chinese Language Classroom

Li Ye | Adlai E. Stevenson High School

Reimagining Chinese Language Pedagogy in Higher Education: Film and AI as Bridges to Intercultural and Oral Proficiency

Jinai Sun | North Central College

Developing Intercultural Competence through Photography in the Chinese Language Classroom

Xuehua Xiang | University of Illinois, Chicago

Panel

3.3

ORGANIZER &
CHAIR:

Helen McCabe

Daemen University

Teaching and Researching About Disability and Asia: Perspectives on History, Culture, Language, and Representation

This panel explore the intersection of disability and Asian studies. Frost reflects on challenges and opportunities of teaching disability history through an Asian lens in a seminar. He discusses the academic value and institutional hurdles of centering disability within Asian history curricula, and considers how to broaden student engagement. Li investigates the “beautiful Deaf women” trope in Sinophone popular culture, highlighting the intersection of disability, gender, and sexuality, to offer a non-Western perspective on representation of disabled women, interrogating how these portrayals complicate assumptions about desexualization and agency. McCabe discusses experiences of neurodiverse students learning Chinese. She examines unique challenges and benefits for these students, and strategies to promote more inclusive language learning. Tan explores how digital platforms, particularly the Disability Visibility Project, serve as rich resources for integrating disability topics into Asian/ Asian American studies. He reflects on storytelling and community-building to transform classroom practices and foster inclusive interdisciplinary dialogue.

Teaching Disability History as Asian History

Dennis J. Frost | **Kalamazoo College**

The “Beautiful Deaf Women” Trope: Disability, Gender, and Sexuality in Sinophone Popular Culture

Lin Li | **Kenyon College**

Exploring Chinese Language Learning for Neurodiverse Students: Benefits, Barriers, and Solutions

Helen McCabe | **Daemen University**

The Disability Visibility Project: A Resource for Teaching Disability in Asian Studies and Asian American Studies

Wei Yu Wayne Tan | **Hope College**

10:30 am - 11:30 am

Profane Pedagogies: Teaching Buddhism in the U.S. Academy**WSC 354****Panel****3.4****ORGANIZER &
CHAIR:****Kati Fitzgerald****Otterbein
University**

This panel engages in critical reflection on the opportunities and limits of the Buddhist Studies classroom. Panelists are engaged in presenting global Buddhisms as diverse, complex bodies of philosophy and practice; introducing Buddhist history, scripture and mythology, in tandem with Buddhist responses to war, violence, money, the economy, global capitalism, sex, sexuality, new technologies, etc. We seek to make mundane the everyday practices and ideas of a wide variety of Buddhist communities and traditions. Simultaneously, the panelists teach a diverse, and often underexposed student body. How can we ethically introduce topics like violence, sex, corruption, etc. in ways that do not bolster students' views of Buddhism as a non-Christian other? How do we ground Buddhist practices in social realities while also encouraging students to explore alternative worldviews? This panel will call upon classroom experience to engage in a critical conversation about the powers and limits of the Buddhist Studies classroom.

Far Yet Near: Teaching Buddhism and Reimagining Economic Life in the Midwest

Beiyin Deng | University of Missouri

Teaching the "Weird" Stuff Well: Monsters, Sex, and Buddhism in the Undergraduate Classroom

Gwendolyn Gillson | Illinois College

Buddhists at Play: Playful Pedagogy in Buddhist Studies

Courtney Bruntz | Institute of Buddhist Studies

Robots, Sentience and the Limits of Enlightenment: Teaching Buddhism and AI

Kati Fitzgerald | Otterbein University

WSC 356

Panel

3.5

ORGANIZER &
CHAIR:**Shan Chuah****Arizona State
University**

This panel explores the legacy of Sharon Lowen, an American-born dancer who became one of the foremost exponents of Odissi, Manipuri, and Chhau, and the ways her life and work are preserved, interpreted, and reanimated across borders. Drawing on the Cross-Cultural Dance Resources (CCDR) Collections at Arizona State University, we consider how Lowen's archival materials and lived experiences reveal the transnational circulation of Indian dance between the United States and India. Shan Chuah situates Lowen's archives within CCDR, examining how they preserve embodied knowledge while raising questions of access, authority, and cultural memory. Rinku Das reflects on fieldwork in New Delhi and an in-depth interview with Lowen, highlighting her negotiation of authenticity, belonging, and recognition as a foreign-born artist in India. Praneetha Tangallpalli shares her student experience developing a finding aid for Lowen's archives, framing archival work as a form of living history. Together, the panel rethinks how archives sustain cross-cultural exchange and diasporic knowledge transmission.

The Sharon Lowen Collection at the CCDR Collections at ASU

Shan Chuah | **Arizona State University**

Encountering Sharon Lowen in the Field in India

Rinku Das | **Arizona State University**

Discovering Sharon Lowen in the Archives

Praneetha Tangallpalli | **Arizona State University**

11:30 am - 12:30 pm

LUNCH

Stevenson Hall

Lunch & Conversation

Attendees are encouraged to pick up their lunch and enjoy conversation with colleagues in Stevenson Hall or elsewhere in the Wentz Science Center.

Those wishing to learn more about ASIANetwork programs and initiatives, see the Lunch Topics notice below.

LUNCH TOPICS

Join program directors, initiative leaders, and representatives of affiliate organizations for informal conversation over lunch. Pick up your meal in Stevenson Hall and take it to the designated room:

Embodied Learning About Asia | Chris Herrick | [WSC 104](#)

Student Video Challenge | Hiroaki Kawamura | [WSC 104](#)

Faculty Seminar in India | James Godde & Nick Tackes | [WSC 254](#)

South Asia Initiatives | Aswini Pai | [WSC 254](#)

AAPI Voices and Stories | Sophia Geng, Gordon Gray, Hiroaki Kawamura, & Siti Kusujiarti | [WSC 104](#)

Student Asian Language Scholarships | Steven Day | [WSC 356](#)

Study Abroad, Accessibility, and Disability | Dennis Frost | [WSC 356](#)

ASIANetwork Digital Resources | Nick Tackes | [WSC 254](#)

Education About Asia Journal | Elise Huerta | [WSC 254](#)

ASIANetwork Exchange | Taku Suzuki | [WSC 254](#)

International Student Conferences | Valerie Grau | [WSC 354](#)

Fulbright Programs in Asia | Randall Nadeau | [WSC 354](#)

Meet Author and Filmmaker Curtis Chin | [WSC 104](#)

12:30 pm - 1:00 pm

CULTURAL SPOTLIGHT
Focus on Mongolia

Stevenson Hall

Musical
Performance

INTRODUCTION BY:
Dan Choffnes
ASIANetwork

Khursheed
Ichhaporia
Oakton College

ASIANetwork is pleased to present a duo of musical artists invited by the Mongolian Consulate in Chicago, and gratefully welcomes the Consul

Battsetseg Tuvshintugs | Mongolian Consulate in Chicago

Musical Program

- 1. Performance by Morin Khuur (horse-head fiddle) player **Bat-Ochir Araanz**
- 2. Performance by Morin Khuur player **Bat-Ochir Araanz** and Yochin (hammered dulcimer) player **Bolormaa Badam**

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Bluff City Chinese

WSC 101

Film Screening &
Discussion

DISCUSSANT:
Shaolu Yu
Rhodes College

Thandi Cai | Filmmaker
Emerald Dunn | Community Historian

Bluff City Chinese is an award-winning documentary that follows two Chinese American storytellers from different generations as they rebuild the untold history of Chinese immigrants in Memphis, Tennessee. Directed by Thandi Cai (Anna) and featuring Delta Chinese elder and mentor Emerald Dunn, the film captures the deeply personal and often challenging process of reconstructing a community's past from the ground up.

Set against the backdrop of the American South, with its layered social and racial tensions, the filmmakers move from archives to cemeteries to the living rooms of Memphis families, piecing together a story too long left out of the record. Their journey invites you to reflect on where we come from, what we inherit, and how we imagine a future rooted in dignity and connection.



1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Tea Cultures of Asia

Stevenson Hall

Tea
Demonstration

INTRODUCTION BY:

Dan Choffnes

ASIANetwork

Dan Robertson | **The Tea House (Naperville)**

Tea is both a flavorful beverage enjoyed across Asia and the world, and an important part of Asia's economic history, religious and spiritual life, and artistic traditions. The plant's leaves are crafted into a range of types, including black, oolong, green, white, and post-fermented tea. Drawing on decades of experience as a master tea blender and tea educator, in this interactive presentation and tea cupping event, Dan Robertson shares his insights into the past, present, and future of tea as attendees taste diverse teas representing distinctive cultural traditions across Asia.

2:15 pm - 3:15 pm

Asian Voices from Rural American Places

WSC 104

Panel

4.1

ORGANIZER &
CHAIR:

Karen S. Kingsbury

Chatham University

Over the past century, how have Asian identities and experiences been expressed from and in rural American places? These papers showcase the enormous effort often needed when grappling with ignorance, misinformation, and anti-Asian xenophobia in the U.S., and how that effort has played out in rural locations in the Northeast, Midwest, and Southeast.

The China Monthly: Discovering A Distinctive Catholic Voice on China

Sophia Geng | **St. Vincent College**

Eileen Chang Grapples with Small-town America

Karen S. Kingsbury | **Chatham University**

Margins within Margins: Asian-Americans and Rural Belonging

Sam Pack | **Kenyon College**

Rethinking Sikhism in the Classroom: Insights from South Carolina's Sikh Community

Ronald S. Green | **Coastal Carolina University**

WSC 254

Panel

4.2

ORGANIZER &
CHAIR:**Lisa Yoshikawa****Hobart & William
Smith Colleges**

As liberal arts teachers and researchers, we are fortunate to be responsible for a broad specialty—regionally, thematically, disciplinarily, or otherwise—with which frequently comes the opportunity and commitment to teach beyond our research training. The same reason gives us the freedom to shift or expand research focus with less concern for overlap with others, and the challenge to undertake research without colleagues on campus sharing similar interests. This panel seeks to address this situation head-on, with four experienced teacher-scholars trained in Japan-related fields from different disciplines—literature, conservation biology, and history—sharing our experiences, tips, and strategies to enhance our intellectual lives and deepen our pedagogies. Whether you are exploring new lenses to incorporate into your teaching, considering alternate ways to shape your research, or searching for new means to bolster classroom, field, or archival effectiveness, we invite you to exchange your questions and perspectives with us.

Sustaining Scholarship in a Small Liberal Arts College Setting**Susan W. Furukawa | [Beloit College](#)*****What is the Essence of Community Revitalization? Cases of Japan and the U.S.*****Hiroaki Kawamura | [The University of Findlay](#)*****Exploring the Intersection Between Conservation Biology and the Humanities in Japan*****Mizuki Takahashi | [Bucknell University](#)*****More than a Gateway to the South: Finding the Empire and the World in Taiwan*****Lisa Yoshikawa | [Hobart and William Smith Colleges](#)**

2:15 pm - 3:15 pm

Experiencing East Asia: Teaching, Learning, and Seeing Across Borders**WSC 256****Individual Papers****4.3**

CHAIR:

Xinyi Tan**Coastal Carolina
University***Experiential Learning Course in Okinawa: How it Filled in Gaps in My Teaching About East Asia***Charles Andrews | Southern New Hampshire
University***Sustainability and Heritage Across Borders: A Cross-Institutional Interdisciplinary Study Abroad in Eastern China***Xinyi Tan | Coastal Carolina University***Vignettes from Mongolia***Khursheed Ichhaporia | Oakton College***Grinnell-in-China, China in Grinnell: A Century of Educational and Cultural Exchange***Jin Feng | Grinnell College****MARIANNA MCJIMSEY STUDENT ESSAY AWARD****“A Tryst With Destiny”: Anti-Colonial Sentiment and Colonial Frameworks in Post-Independence Indian National Identity**Claire Bishop | **Elon University**

see poster 42

Advisor: Yidi Wu

The Development of an Economically Independent Bank in Korea vs. Taiwan: Conditions of Financial System Growth Under the Developmental State (Runner-up)Kate Donaldson | **Moravian University**

see poster 43

Advisor: Holly Seonyeong Jo

The prize honors the outstanding service of Marianna McJimsey, the first Executive Director of ASIANetwork (1993-1999) and the first editor of ASIANetwork Exchange.

**ASIANetwork - MELLON
AAPI VOICES AND STORIES: COMMUNITY-BASED
DIGITAL STORYTELLING PROGRAM**

2026-27 PROJECTS

The following Site Liaison grantees will carry out projects in summer 2026 with community partners and students, and develop resources through the 2026-27 academic year.

In collaboration with the Idaho-Oregon Buddhist Temple

The Past, Present, and Future of the Idaho-Oregon Buddhist Temple

Rachel Miller | [The College of Idaho](#)

In collaboration with the Indonesian Senior Club in New York and the Endangered Language Alliance

Roots, Health, and Resilience: An Oral History of Indonesian New York in Times of Crisis

Irma Hidayana | [Hofstra University](#)

The following Faculty Fellow grantees will develop relationships with community members and pursue exploratory digital storytelling projects.

Margins within Margins: Asian Americans and Rural Belonging

Sam Pack | [Kenyon College](#)

Bridging Generations in Columbus: Youth-Led Storytelling with First-Generation Korean Restaurant Owners in Columbus, Ohio

Sunny Jeong | [Wittenberg University](#)

Chinatown Family Associations: Past and Future

Michael Ng | [Seattle University](#)

We Are What We Eat (and Serve): Chinese American Restaurants in Small-Town Iowa

Jin Feng | [Grinnell College](#)

Mapping AAPI Food Stories in Northern Berkshire County

Jan Padios | [Williams College](#)

2:15 pm - 3:15 pm

Chinese Learning Through Performative Genres: Language, Culture, and Global Student Voices

WSC 354

Panel

4.4

ORGANIZER:

Duosi Meng**University of
Illinois, Chicago**

CHAIR:

Bridget Wang**University of
Illinois, Chicago**

This panel explores how performative genres can integrate language, culture, and identity in the Chinese classroom, fostering creative expression, critical thinking, and global perspectives. The first paper examines the use of Chinese songs through a genre-based approach, showing how post-listening activities enhance linguistic proficiency while promoting intercultural and cultural awareness. The second paper focuses on classic Chinese literature, reinterpreted through project-based and multimodal strategies, enabling students to engage meaningfully with iconic texts. The third paper addresses complex cultural and social topics, such as family dynamics, through dramatic performance, encouraging students from diverse cultural backgrounds to explore intercultural comparisons and deepen their understanding. Collectively, the panel demonstrates how performative literacy practices—including song, drama, and multimodal literary projects—can transform the Chinese classroom into a space for active learning, authentic cultural engagement, and student ownership, linking language acquisition with culturally grounded, globally informed experiences.

Sweetheart & Ghost Stories: Linking Music, Language, and Culture in Chinese Language Classroom

Duosi Meng | University of Illinois, Chicago

Media, Family, and Identity: A Literacies-Oriented Approach to Advanced Chinese Instruction

Bridget Wang | University of Illinois, Chicago

From Canon to Creativity: Transforming Chinese Classical Literature with New Media and Global Perspectives

Xuehua Xiang | University of Illinois, Chicago

WSC 104

Panel

5.1

ORGANIZER &
CHAIR:

Zhihong Chen
Guilford College

North Carolina is a Southern state that saw rapid demographic change starting in the 1980s with the influx of refugees from Southeast Asia and highly educated immigrants from East and South Asia. The former headed to old textile manufacturing cities such as Greensboro while the latter found lucrative positions at places like the Research Triangle Park near Raleigh. Our collective work examines the lives and experiences of low income Asian American communities of refugee origin (LIAACRO) such as Karenni, Karen, Montagnard, and Hmong to which may be added Bhutanese and Afghan, and ways we have sought to directly engage them in research and other community-empowering activities. Because our work spans years and multiple projects, we propose a roundtable discussion rather than a forum of individual paper presentations in order to talk about what we've done, what has worked, what hasn't, and future challenges and projects.

Staying Relevant in A Sea of Change

Zhihong Chen | **Guilford College**

Bringing Southeast Asia Home

Becky Butler | **University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill**

Counseling and Mentorship through CBPR for LIAACRO Youth Empowerment

Sharon Morrison | **University of North Carolina - Greensboro**

Without Portfolio, or How I Fell into OG Status

Andrew Young | **Montagnard/Asian Community Disparities Research Network**

3:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Environmental Issues and Climate Change in Asia and Asian-American Communities

WSC 254

Panel

5.2

ORGANIZER &
CHAIR:

Siti Kusujiarti

Warren Wilson
College

This panel examines a range of climate change and environmental issues affecting Asian and Asian-American communities. It is an interdisciplinary panel that presents perspectives from various fields and approaches. The papers include topics such as disaster-related climate change and ecological challenges faced by different Asian societies and Asian-American communities. The panel will also feature pedagogical methods and teaching experiences related to these topics.

Pedagogical Strategies for Engaging Students with Climate Change Resilience in Southeast Asia: Experiences from the Environmental Studies Program at Washington & Jefferson College

Robert M. East | **Washington & Jefferson College**

Disaster and Climate Democracy: The Role of Community-Based Climate and Disaster Response and Recovery in Indonesia.

Siti Kusujiarti | **Warren Wilson College**

Links in the Lab: Forging Connections Between Biochemistry and Japanese Studies for Students and Faculty

Laura Corey | **Illinois College**

ASIANETWORK SPEAKERS BUREAU AWARDS, 2025-26

BEREA COLLEGE

Host: Jianfen Wang

Speaker: Shaolu Yu | **Rhodes College**

RHODES COLLEGE

Host: Shaolu Yu

Speaker: Francisco Chen-López | **Spelman College**

3:30 pm - 4:30 pm

The ASIANetwork Speakers Bureau Program

WSC 256

Panel

5.3

ORGANIZER &
CHAIR:

Gwendolyn Gillson
Illinois College

This panel highlights the ASIANetwork Speakers Bureau program through mini-talks by members of the Speakers List.

Infant Burial and Personhood in Late Imperial China

Jeff Snyder-Reinke | **The College of Idaho**

Cultural Complications of Bhutan's Gross National Happiness

Betsy Bolton | **Swarthmore College**

Visualizing Voices at the Margins with Participatory Media Practices

Vivian Wenli Lin | **Occidental College**

Pop-Culture and Politics in India and South Korea: A Research Agenda

Deepa Prakash | **DePauw University**

3:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Toward Multiple Centers of the Global Community

WSC 354

Panel

5.4

ORGANIZER &
CHAIR:

T. James Kodera
Wellesley College

Religion, Memory, and Accountability: The Korea-Vietnam Peace Foundation and Catholic Peace Activism
Minjung Noh | **Lehigh University**

Religious Diversity and Religious Freedom in Postwar Japan

Kuni Terasawa | **Wartburg College**

Disputing Japan's Historic Ethnocentrism, as Suggested by the 'Origin of the Sun'

T. James Kodera | **Wellesley College**

4:00 pm - 5:30 pm

POSTER SESSION

Stevenson Hall

Posters

*ASIANetwork poster displays (see pp. 46-52)**Student Posters**McImsey Student Essay Award**AAPJ Voices and Stories*

5:30 pm onward

"WHAT'S NEXT?": CAREERS INVOLVING ASIA

Stevenson Hall

Panel and
Student
Networking
Dinner

MODERATOR:

Jennifer Griffin
University of Chi-
cago*This session invites students to meet peers from other colleges and universities, and to learn about professional paths related to Asian studies and Asian languages. Light dinner will be served after the conversation.**Panel discussion and Q&A.***Valerie Grau** | **Indiana University and International Student Conferences****Bill Liu** | **Xilin Association (Naperville)****Randall Nadeau** | **Foundation for Scholarly Exchange (Taiwan) and Fulbright Programs in Asia****Kyle Smith** | **Library of Congress****Sami Visconti** | **Neil International/Illini Line**



March 29
Sunday

8:00 am - 8:30 am

ASIANetwork BUSINESS MEETING

WSC 101

Meeting

PRESIDING:

**Qin Fang, Board
Chair**

McDaniel College

Faculty from ASIANetwork member institutions are eligible to vote. Reports from the Board of Directors and election of new members to the Board.

LUCE - ASIANetwork SUMMER INSTITUTE

Asian Languages Futures and Teaching Global Asia

May 31 - June 5, 2026 | Lisle, Illinois

Gwendolyn Gillson | Illinois College • Kaveh Hemmat | Benedictine University
• Wing Shan Ho | Montclair State University • Katsuya Izumi | Trinity College
• Sooyoung Lee | Hobart & William Smith Colleges • Qiong Liu | Virginia
Military Institute • Weiwei Luo | Grinnell College • Xinyi Tan | Coastal Caro-
lina University • Nina Ulman | Elgin Community College • Laura Xie | Virginia
Military Institute • Shaolu Yu | Rhodes College

Institute Directors: Qin Fang | McDaniel College • Lisa Yoshikawa | Hobart &
William Smith Colleges

Session Leaders: Steven Day | Benedictine University • Mariko Shigeta
Schimmel | Grinnell College

Advisor-Participant: Glenn Shive | Hong Kong - America Center (retired)

*ASIANetwork Institutes support faculty professional development in Asian and
Asian diasporic studies in the undergraduate context with the goal of enriching
content and skills related to Asia across the curriculum and to foster collabora-
tions within and between institutions.*

WSC 104

Panel

6.1

ORGANIZER:

Yingling Liu

North Central College

CHAIR:

Irma Hidayana

Hofstra University

Diaspora, Diversity, and Disease explores how migration, cultural pluralism, and inequality shape public health across Asia and its global diasporas. The panel brings together interdisciplinary perspectives on pandemics, mental health, environmental justice, and access to care, examining how identity, governance, and innovation influence health outcomes and policy responses. It considers how histories of governance, inequality, and adaptation continue to shape the moral and material geographies of health in Asia. Emphasizing community-based, regional, and transnational perspectives, this discussion highlights the dynamic intersections of health, power, and place across diverse Asian contexts.

Health and Aging in China: A Multi-Level Perspective on Structure, Context, and Inequality

Yingling Liu | North Central College

Trust, Risk, and Resilience: Understanding Post-COVID-19 Health Behaviors in Indonesia and Beyond

Irma Hidayana | Hofstra University

The Rise of a Refugee-Migrant Precariat Along the Thai-Myanmar Border

Robert Dayley | The College of Idaho

WSC 254

Panel

6.2

ORGANIZER &
CHAIR:

Yanqiu Zheng

St. Lawrence
University

Stimulating plants have long defined and connected different parts of Asia. Reflecting on their wide-ranging relevance engenders innovative perspectives on Asian Studies that transcend boundaries, both physical and intellectual. This panel features diverse entry points into the natural and social life of plants in Asia and showcases the rich potential of researching, illustrating, and teaching these plants. Macomber discusses incense and its use as an olfactory bridge for medieval Japanese Buddhists to access religious homelands and heavens. Tackes tackles the fungible interface between the commercial and the medicinal in an investigation of the Indian gooseberry jam known as Chyawanprash. Sharma explores illustration as a new visual language in branding Indian spiced tea that pushes beyond glossy yet tiring photographs. Zheng reports on the pedagogical values of a summer course in Hong Kong and Sri Lanka about tea and spices co-taught by an ethnobotanist and a historian.

Spherological Smells: Aromatics and the Construction of Buddhist Worlds in Medieval Japan

Andrew Macomber | **Oberlin College**

The Changing Meanings of an Indian Gooseberry Jam

Nick Tackes | **Xavier University**

The Art of Chai: Illustration as a Bridge Between Indian Cultural Identity and Food

Sanjana Sharma | **Syracuse University**

From Matcha to Masala Chai: Teaching Ethnobotany and History across Asia

Yanqiu Zheng | **St. Lawrence University**

8:45 am - 10:00 am

Legacies of War: Vietnam

WSC 256

Panel

6.3

ORGANIZER &
CHAIR:

Jack Harris

Hobart & William
Smith Colleges

It has been 50 years since the US withdrew its forces from Vietnam and ended the American War. But the memory and the social, economic, and psychological legacies of the war persist. In this panel, we look at these legacies and how they remain vivid in the memory and the lives of Vietnamese, Americans, and Vietnamese Americans.

South Vietnam Lives: The Case of Orange County, California

Jack Harris | Hobart and William Smith Colleges & Linh Khanh Nguyen | Cal. State Univ. - Fullerton

A Legacy of War: Family Remittances to Vietnam

Ann Ericson | Augustana College

Vietnamese Diasporic Cinema: Trinh Minh-ha, Tran Anh Hung, and Tony Bui

Gordon Gray | Berea College

Haunting the Future: The Vietnam War and its Lingering Impact

Vincent Gaddis | Elgin Community College

ASIANETWORK STUDENT VIDEO CHALLENGE AWARD

MULTIMEDIA COLLABORATION BETWEEN ASIAN AND U.S. UNDER-GRADUATES

Our Sister: Asian Santa

Isabelle Wong | Reed College

Lia Ai Smith | Duke Kunshan University

Advisor: Barbie Wu | Reed College

MULTIMEDIA RESEARCH PRESENTATION

Beyond the Screen: TCNJ's Second Biennial Asian American Film Festival

Bryanna Carrie | The College of New Jersey

Advisor: Yifeng Hu | The College of New Jersey

WSC 354

Student Oral Presentations

6.4

CHAIR:

Yifeng Hu

The College of New
Jersey

*Reel Impact: Documenting the Legacy of TCNJ's Asian
American Film Festival*

Bryanna Carrie | **The College of New Jersey**

Stories in Motion: Media for Community and Justice

Emir Correa & Reyan Nguy | **Occidental College**

*Dance, Power, and Preservation: Capturing the
Progress of Women Empowerment in Bharatanatyam
Through a Dance Film*

Clara Ossandón Melo | **Adelphi University**

The History of America's Desi Diaspora

Nazea Chowdhury | **Hope College**

*Gung Ho: Industrial Cooperatives and Resistance in
WWII China*

Jack Bare & Westley Mendoza | **Randolph College**

TEDDY AMOLOZA CONFERENCE TRAVEL AWARD

The Amoloza Conference Travel Award is given to junior faculty members and undergraduate students who are presenting at the annual meeting. Congratulations to:

Jingjing Cai | **Centre College** (Session 1.4)

Holly Seonyeong Jo | **Moravian University** (Session 1.2)

Lin Li | **Kenyon College** (Session 3.3)

Coral Swimm | **Coastal Carolina University** (Poster 39)

Natalie Van | **Webster University** (Poster 3)

*The award honors Teodora (Teddy) Amoloza, Executive Director (2005-2014)
and Finance Officer (2014-2025) of ASIANetwork.*

EMBODIED LEARNING ABOUT ASIA PROGRAM 2025-26 RESIDENCIES

Asian Perspectives on Music, Movement, Language, and the Environment

Host: Mark D. Swift | [Washington & Jefferson College](#)

Residents: Made Mantle Hood and Koming Somawati (Tainan, Taiwan)

Kimchi Across Continents: Embodied Learning about Culture, Cooking, and Sustainable Agriculture

Host: Larissa Pitts | [Quinnipiac University](#)

Residents: Ji Young Kim and Madalyn Warren (Roxbury, New York)

2026-27 RESIDENCIES

Chinese Foodways in Southeast Asia

Host: Shiamin Kwa | [Bryn Mawr College](#)

Resident: Christopher “NerdBaker” Tan (Singapore)

Folk Melodies, Popular Memories, and the Mid-Autumn Festival in Taiwan

Host: Anthony Miller | [Hanover College](#)

Residents: Kuan-Yun Huang and Chen-Lin Ma (Taipei, Taiwan)

Sonic and Somatic Gateways into East Asian Religions

Hosts: Xu Ma | [Lafayette College](#) and Wandi Wang | [Lehigh University](#)

Residents: Meimei Zhang (Los Angeles) and Seng Kan Cheung (New York)

Sound, Spirit, and Community: Embodied Learning in Balinese Performing Arts

Host: Meghan Hynson | [University of San Diego](#)

Resident: Ade Wijaya (Denver, Colorado)

This program is funded by an anonymous grant in recognition of Donald N. Clark, professor of history, emeritus, Trinity University, and former board chair of ASIANetwork, for his contributions to the field of Asian Studies.

8:45 am - 10:00 am

Narrating Asia: Ideas, Identities, and Interpretations

WSC 356

Individual Papers

6.5

CHAIR:

John Park

New College of
Florida

An Ottoman Book of China in the Age of Columbus
Kaveh Hemmat | **Benedictine University**

*Writing Memory in a Second Language: Zhang Ling's
Where Waters Meet*

Yan Lu | **Huron University**

*Book of Job and the Problem of Narrative Closure in
Richard Kim's The Martyred and Hwang Sok-yong's The
Guest*

John Park | **New College of Florida**

*Fox, Woman, and Cyborg: Gendered Transformations
and Colonial Power in Ken Liu's "Good Hunting"*

Jinhui Wu | **Rollins College**

10:15 am - 11:15 am

Warren King: King of Cardboard

WSC 101

Film Screening &
Discussion

DISCUSSANT:

Jie Zhang

Trinity University

Curtis Chin | **Filmmaker**

Curtis Chin, noted author of *Everything I Learned, I Learned
in a Chinese Restaurant*, presents his new short documenta-
ry about Chinese American engineer-artist Warren King. This
film is part of the PBS American Masters series.



Warren King



Curtis Chin

11:30 am - 12:45 pm

Asia Through Film**WSC 104****Panel****7.1**ORGANIZER &
CHAIR:**Gordon Gray****Berea College**

The recent expansion of accessibility to Asian cinemas through channels such as streaming services has opened new audiences both inside and outside of Asia. While certain cinemas, such as Bollywood or Hong Kong martial arts films, have long had audiences outside of India or Hong Kong respectively, what has this new accessibility meant for the industries and audiences of Asian and Asian American cinemas? This panel seeks to explore Asian and Asian American/diasporic Asian film in teaching and scholarship.

Intergenerational Conflict on the Ideals of Family, Love, and Success in Contemporary Chinese Film

Qingjun Li | **Belmont University**

Chinese Nationalism in The Wandering Earth films

Ronnie Littlejohn | **Belmont University**

Malaysian Horror Cinema

Gordon Gray | **Berea College**

C-Drama, Global Consumer Culture, and Pop Feminism: Teaching the Chinese TV Series Nothing But Thirty (三十而已)

Wilson C. Chen | **Benedictine University**

Teaching the Archetype of the Bad Asian – Anna May Wong

Vivian Wenli Lin | **Occidental College**

WSC 254

Panel

7.2

ORGANIZER &
CHAIR:

Jack Harris

Hobart & William
Smith Colleges

This panel focuses on foods and cuisines of Asia from multidisciplinary perspectives. Presentations explore food studies, including “traditional” foods and their modern adaptations.

The Yoga Diet: Food, Yoga, and Women’s Wellness Culture in North America

Karline McLain | **Bucknell University**

The Ginger Jar at Home and Abroad: A Container for Spices, Evidence of Migrating People, Art Object, and Art Subject

Carol Brash | **Coll. of St. Benedict & St. John’s Univ.**

Vietnamese Imperial Cuisine: Power and the Palate

Jack Harris | **Hobart and William Smith Colleges & Linh Khanh Nguyen** | **Cal. State Univ. - Fullerton**

Haritaki - Seeking the Fruit of the Medicine Buddha
Aswini Pai | **St. Lawrence University**

Lives on the Edge: Cultural Negotiations and Minority Identities Across Asia and the Diaspora

WSC 256

Individual Papers

7.3

CHAIR:

Weihong Du

Knox College

Becoming “Lee Bing”: Negotiations of Culture, Business, and Politics

Weihong Du | **Knox College**

Who gets to belong? Linking legitimacy with power amongst Tibetans in-exile

Jack McMahon | **Yale University/University of Melbourne**

Witch-hunting in Assam, India : A Colonial Malice?

Daizi Hazarika | **University of Oregon**

From Investigation to Liberation: A Practical Soteriology for Understanding Emptiness in the Yogācārabhūmiśāstra

Zicheng Lei | **University of Chicago**

11:30 am - 12:45 pm

Teaching Taiwan in the Liberal Arts

WSC 354

Panel

7.4

ORGANIZER &
CHAIR:

Yen-Yu Lin

DePauw University

This panel examines how Taiwan can be taught as both subject matter and pedagogical framework in U.S. liberal arts colleges. Taiwan's unique position at the intersections of identity, performance, memory, and visibility within global and transnational power structures underscores its pedagogical value. Examples include a history course on identity formation, a sociology travel course engaging percussion music and transitional justice, a film-based language course analyzing democratization and identities, and a Chinese studies travel course using video essays for documenting on-site learning experience and fostering critical thinking. Across these courses, Taiwan emerges as a living classroom where students grapple with ethics, multicultural exchanges, and global power hierarchies. The panel argues that Taiwan's multilayered histories and cultures serve as a vital site for the liberal arts mission of fostering critical thinking, interdisciplinary inquiry, and cosmopolitan citizenship.

In Search of Identities: Teaching Taiwan's History in a Liberal Arts College

Yu-chi Chang | **Vassar College**

Taiwan as a Living Classroom: Performing Arts, Transitional Justice, and the Liberal Arts

Yen-Yu Lin & Ming-Hui Kuo | **DePauw University**

Taiwan on Screen: Exploring History and Identity through Film in a Liberal Arts Classroom

Zhuoyi Wang | **Hamilton College**

Video Essays Abroad: Designing "Visual Culture of Taiwan" as a Travel Course

Laura Jo-Han Wen | **Randolph-Macon College**

1
Divided and United: Asian-Black Relations in the US through Three Documentary Films

GABRIELLA REES | *The College of New Jersey*

Advisor: Yifeng Hu

2
Race and Racism Across the Pacific: African-Americans' Experiences Studying in Japan

ALEXANDRA JAMES | *Elon University*

Advisor: Yidi Wu

3
Invigorating the Collective Knowledge of AAPI Stories in the Midwest

NATALIE VAN | *Webster University*

Advisor: Elsa Fan

AAPI Voices and Stories Program

4
AAPI Voices and Stories: Hidden Histories from the Arkansas Chinese Heritage Project

KAYLEE GUTHRIE | *University of Central Arkansas*

Advisor: Zach Smith

AAPI Voices and Stories Program

5
The History of America's Desi Diaspora

NAZEA CHOWDHURY | *Hope College*

Advisor: Wei Yu Wayne Tan

6
Found Family: How Kinship Formation Processes Impact Chinese Adoptee Perceptions of American Family Structure

CLARA CHAPUT | *Grinnell College*

Advisors: Eiren Shea and Tess Kuls-tad-Gonzalez

7
Faith, Nation, Family: The Evangelical Origins of International Korean Adoption

TYLER GUGINO | *Hope College*

Advisor: Wei Yu Wayne Tan

8
Reel Impact: Documenting the Legacy of TCNJ's Asian American Film Festival

BRYANNA CARRIE | *The College of New Jersey*

Advisor: Yifeng Hu

9

Not Your Average “Kung Fu Guy”: The Social Commentary of Holly- wood in “Interior Chinatown”

BRYANNA CARRIE | *The College of New
Jersey*

Advisor: Yifeng Hu

10

“For All the Free:” Carlos Bu- losan’s Collective Identity Rooted in U.S. Land and Soil

MAYA WALKER | *Chatham University*

Advisor: Karen S. Kingsbury

11

The Red Outlier: Vietnamese Americans in Asian American Vot- ing Patterns

LINH PHAM | *DePauw University*

Advisor: Hiroko Chiba

12

Disparities in Cancer Screening Utilization Among Asian Ameri- can and Pacific Islander Medicare Beneficiaries

**BISMA AFZAL, JASMINE NYARKO, AND
RIA MISHRA** | *University of Illinois, Chicago*

Advisor: Duosi Meng

13

Invisible Borders: a Hmong Ameri- can’s Encounter with the Modern China Perceptions of an Ethnic Mi- nority

AMBROSE LO | *University of Wisconsin, Eau
Claire*

Advisor: Kaishan Kong

14

Ten Times Better, Still Not Enough: Asian American Representation and Resistance

BRYCE MAHER | *The College of New Jersey*

Advisor: Yifeng Hu

15

Stories in Motion: Media for Com- munity and Justice

EMIR CORREA AND REYAN NGUY |
Occidental College

Advisor: Vivian Wenli Lin

16

Coastal Inundation in Northern Jiangsu, China under Future Sea Level Rise

OMAR SANTIAGO | *Coastal Carolina Uni-
versity*

Advisor: Zhixiong Shen

17

Comparative Study on Public Perception of Climate Change and Disaster Preparedness

NATHAN JACKSON | *Coastal Carolina University*

Advisors: Xinyi Tan and Zhixiong Shen

18

Influence of Breeding Practices on genetic Diversity in domesticated dogs (*Canis lupus familiaris*) and Relevant Disorders – Focus on Breeds from India and Mongolia

LILLY GAECHTER | *Oakton College*

Advisor: Khursheed Ichhaporia

19

Thai Dramas as Tools of Diplomacy

VALERIE GRAU | *Indiana University, Bloomington*

Advisor: Nicole Serena Kousaleos

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Globalizing Danmei: Digital Labor and Platform Circulation in Mo Xiang Tong Xiu Fandoms

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Crossing Currents: Confluences, Conflicts, and Connections

The 2027 ASIANetwork conference theme evokes transpacific oceanic flows and environmental currents as both metaphors and material forces. It recognizes the challenges and opportunities in education about Asia, Asian diasporas, and Asian American / AAPI studies created by the shifting landscapes of geopolitics and our societies. Threats to academic freedom, rapid technological transformation, and ongoing debates about the value and purpose of liberal arts education have placed new pressures—and added significance—on interdisciplinary inquiry and global engagement. This theme invites us to explore how movements of people, ideas, technologies, and ecologies intersect, collide, and resonate across Asia and the Pacific, and it encourages us to renew or forge new collaborative pathways.

