



 **COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY**  
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

## Department of East Asian Language and Cultures

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### DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATION

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Graduate Studies  
Theodore Hughes, Director of  
Undergraduate Studies  
Paul Anderer, MA Co-director  
Wei Shang, MA Co-director

# Message from the Department Chair

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Dear All,

I want to welcome you to the second EALAC newsletter, which follows upon the inaugural issue last academic year. In this issue, our PhD students have worked as correspondents and written short pieces on events in the fields of their specialization.

In our last issue, we featured faculty service and put together our first comprehensive list of EALAC and History-East Asia PhD graduates and their addresses. This issue places special focus on our undergraduate majors whom we would like to nurture and keep track of. Please see the section in which we interview our majors about their plans and hopes for the future. We wish our graduating seniors the best of luck in their endeavors.

This fall began with the launch of a new EALAC website, which provides comprehensive coverage of our faculty publications, our growing number of subfields, our language programs, our new hires, and the requirements for both undergraduate and graduate programs—to mention only the most prominent items.

<http://ealac.columbia.edu/>

We continued with our on-going undergraduate curriculum development, including the institution of a new honors thesis program for our undergraduate majors.

I want to congratulate our faculty prize winners (see special awards and grants), including Theodore DeBary who received the National Humanities Medal from President Obama.

I want to thank all of the faculty who have helped with the administration of this department this past year, particularly the Director of Undergraduate Studies (Theodore Hughes), the Director of Graduate Studies (Gray Tuttle), and the co-directors of the MA program (Paul Anderer and Wei Shang).

A special thanks goes to alumni and supporters of EALAC who gave generously in the form of fellowship aid and program support, which totaled well over a million dollars this past calendar year. Your generosity has made it possible for EALAC to remain at the forefront of East Asian studies in the world.

Haruo Shirane

Shincho Professor of Japanese Literature and Culture



Haruo Shirane is Shincho Professor of Japanese Literature and Culture. His most recent book is *Japan and the Culture of the Four Seasons* (Columbia UP), named as the Choice Outstanding Academic Title of the year.

# Faculty Administration

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## DIRECTOR OF GRADUATE STUDIES

Gray Tuttle, Leila Hadley Luce Associate Professor of Modern Tibetan Studies

Gray Tuttle received his Ph.D. in Inner Asian Studies at Harvard University in 2002. He studies the history of twentieth century Sino-Tibetan relations as well as Tibet's relations with the China-based Manchu Qing Empire. The role of Tibetan Buddhism in these historical relations is central to all his research. Long term writing projects include editing *The Rise of the Modern in Tibet* and co-editing *Sources of Tibetan Tradition* for the series *Introduction to Asian Civilizations*, *The Tibetan History Reader*, and *Wutaishan and Qing Culture*.



## DIRECTOR OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

Theodore Hughes, Korea Foundation Associate Professor  
of Korean studies in the humanities

Theodore Hughes is director of undergraduate studies in EALAC, as well as director of the Center for Korean Research. His first book, *Literature and Film in Cold War South Korea: Freedom's Frontier*, was published in 2012 by Columbia University Press. *Freedom's Frontier* was listed as a *Choice* outstanding academic title for 2012 and was the recipient of the 2014 James B. Palais prize of the Association for Asian Studies. His co-edited volume, *Rat Fire: Korean Stories from the Japanese Empire*, was published by the Cornell East Asia Series in 2013. He is also the co-editor of a forthcoming special issue of the *Journal of Korean Studies* entitled "Korean Culture, New Media, Digital Humanities." He is currently working on an interdisciplinary cultural history of the Korean war tentatively titled *the remembered war; violence, trauma, division in Korea*.



## M.A. PROGRAM CO-DIRECTORS

Paul Anderer, Fred and Fannie Mack Professor of Humanities

Paul Anderer holds degrees from Michigan (BA '71), Chicago (MA '72), and Yale (Ph.D. '79). He joined the Columbia faculty in 1980. From 1989 until 1997, he was the chair of the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures. He has also served the University as Vice Provost for International Relations, as Associate Vice-President for Academic Planning and Global Initiatives in the Arts and Sciences, and as Acting Dean of the Graduate School. He is currently writing a book on the black and white films of Kurosawa Akira, in their relationship to the Japanese post-war and to the era of silent film-making.



Shang Wei, Du Family Professor of Chinese Culture

Wei Shang received his B.A. (1982) and M.A. (1984) from Peking University, and his Ph.D. (1995) from Harvard. Professor Shang specializes in pre-modern Chinese literature and culture, especially fiction and drama of the Ming and Qing dynasties. His research interests also include print culture, book history and intellectual history of the same era. His book *"Rulin Waishi" and Cultural Transformation in Late Imperial China* addresses the role of Confucian ritualism and fiction in shaping the intellectual and cultural changes of the eighteenth-century.



# Incoming Faculty

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## Harrison Huang, Assistant Professor

### Premodern Chinese Literature and Poetry

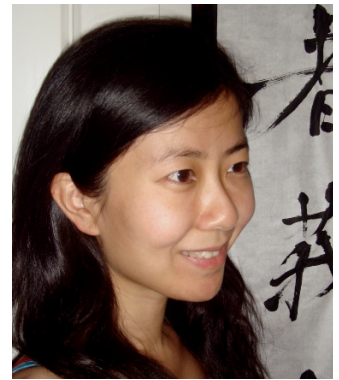
B.A., University of Chicago; Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley. He specializes in medieval Chinese poetry and intellectual history. He previously taught at Bard College where he designed courses in Chinese literature and film, and classical Chinese. His book manuscript, *Excursion, Estates, and Imperial Performance: Xie Lingyun and the Beginnings of Chinese Landscape Poetry*, currently under review, provides a groundbreaking approach to understanding Chinese landscape poetry and its relationship to traditions of kinship. He is the recipient of Townsend Center, Bertwing C. Mah, and Fulbright fellowships.



## Ying Qian, Assistant Professor

### Chinese Film and Visual Culture

Ying Qian received her doctoral degree from the Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations at Harvard University in 2013. She is interested in a wide range of topics in Chinese literature, cinema and media studies, including documentary cinema in comparative perspectives, experience and memory of China's revolutions and socialism, and writing, translation and filmmaking in China's multi-lingual and multi-ethnic border regions and among the Chinese diaspora. She is completing a book manuscript entitled *Visionary Realities: Documentary Cinema in China's Revolutionary Century*, which investigates documentary cinema's capacities to mediate between the visible and the visionary in a society engineering its own radical transformation. She has also begun researching for her second book project, which examines works and lives of writers, translators, and filmmakers working bilingually between Chinese and a non-Han language within China. Besides academic research, she has been a filmmaker, critic and film programmer. She has been programming documentary and Asian cinemas for the last five years. Her film criticism has appeared in Chinese, English and Czech language newspapers and journals, and her own documentary and short films have been exhibited and broadcasted in a number of countries. She joins Columbia after a postdoctoral fellowship at the Australian National University.



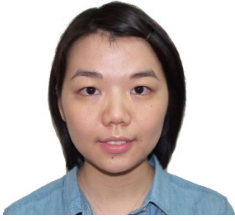
# Visiting Scholars

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Last Name	First Name	Institution	Field of Study	Dates
Chen	Xu	Beifang University	Chinese History	12/25/13 - 12/25/14
Ikeda	Yoshiko	Ritsumeikan University	Japanese Film & Culture	9/1/14 - 3/31/15
Kitamura	Yuika	Kobe University	Japanese Lit. and Manga	8/1/14 - 4/1/15
Shin	Jiyoung	Hitotsubashi University	Korean Literature	3/20/14 - 3/19/15
Wang	Runze	Renmin University	Chinese History	9/30/13 - 9/30/14
Wang	Yuanfei	University of Pennsylvania	Chinese Literature	8/30/13 - 8/30/14
Yoshino	Tomomi	Chuo University	Classical Japanese Lit.	7/1/14 - 1/1/15

# First-Year Doctoral Candidates

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Sau-yi Fong, Chinese History

Sau-yi Fong is a doctoral student in Chinese history. She received her BA from the Chinese University of Hong Kong (2008) and her Mphil from the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (2013). Her research interests lie in the intersection of military history, intellectual history and the history of science and technology, with a focus on late imperial gunpowder technology, the manufacture of armaments and literati conceptions of war and violence in Qing China. She worked as a translator in Hong Kong for more than 5 years before joining Columbia in 2014.



Gavin Healy, Chinese History

Gavin Healy is a doctoral student in late imperial Chinese history. His research interests include Qing legal history, the role of law in the social and cultural life of early modern China, and the adoption and adaptation of Chinese legal codes and procedures in Choson Korea. He received his BA in Asian Studies from Cornell University, a JD from Columbia Law School, and an MA in Chinese Studies from the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Before entering the PhD program, he practiced law in New York and Seoul.



Alexander Kaplan-Reyes, Japanese History

Alexander Kaplan-Reyes is a doctoral history student in early modern Japanese history. Alexander's primary research focuses on male-male sexuality during the 16th and 17th centuries and how fragmented political and cultural authority during the Warring States Period created spaces for experimentation that in turn influenced normative male-male sexual practices and behavior during the Edo Period. He is also interested in modern popular culture interpretations of major historical figures and events of the Warring States Period and how this shapes and reflects so-called "common knowledge" about them. He received his BA in East Asian Studies from Occidental College in 2011 and his MA in East Asian Studies from University of California, Los Angeles in 2014.

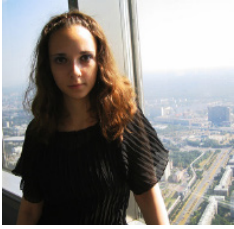


Benjamin Kindler, Chinese Literature

Ben began his studies with a BA in Modern History and Politics. at Oxford University. His studies of Republican Chinese history as an undergraduate led him to complete an MPhil in Modern Chinese Studies, also at Oxford, during which he also completed a term of study at Beijing University. He has since moved in a more literary direction, and is undertaking a PhD in Modern Chinese Literature at Columbia. His specific research interests lie in the relationship between new literary productions emerging in Chinese urban centers during the 1930s, and the development of new concepts of the body and hygiene. He seeks to probe the way in which a new experience of the body in the setting of Republican China and the spread of an urban culture of personal hygiene provided the basis for a re-thinking of gender and class difference, and how modernist writers sought to draw on these new ideological systems in their descriptions of China's cities and class hierarchies. Outside of the specific field of Republican Chinese Literature, Ben is also interested in rethinking modern Chinese literary thought within the global terrain of national liberation struggles, and examining literary manifestations of historical memory in the contemporary PRC.

# First-Year Doctoral Candidates

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Ekaterina Komova, Japanese Literature

Ekaterina is a PhD student in premodern Japanese literature. Prior to coming to Columbia, she received her BA in Asian Language and Culture (Hons., 2012) followed by her MA in Asian Studies (2014) from the University of British Columbia. Her primary research areas include the history and development of linguistic thought as well as the interrelation between linguistic processes such as grammatical and semantic broadening and their effect on the evolution and aesthetization of certain poetic and literary concepts. She is also interested in the tradition of poetic commentaries and reception, in addition to the stylistics and reading of kuzushiji (cursive) texts. Outside of her field of specialty, Ekaterina is actively involved in the research of phonetics of Czech and Russian.



Komei Sakai, Japanese Religion

Komei Sakai is a doctoral student of pre-modern Japanese religion. He received his B.A. (2013) in East Asian Studies from New York University. His primary research interest is in the religious iconography of Japanese arms and armor from the Kamakura period, with an emphasis on the engraving on sword blades related to the worship of Fudō Myō-ō. He believes that his research will be able to provide a new perspective in the understanding of the samurais' religious beliefs. He is also interested in the exchange of swords in pre-modern Japan and China.



Chung-Wei Yang, Chinese Literature

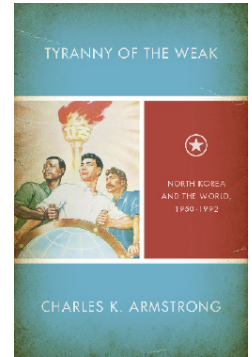
Chung-Wei Yang is a Ph.D. student in pre-modern Chinese literature, with emphasis in fiction and drama in the late imperial period. Chung-Wei received her B.A. in both Chinese and English literature, and M.A. in Chinese Literature from National Taiwan University. Her M.A. thesis deals with the relationship between material/visual culture and historical consciousness in early Qing drama. Building on her past research in the area, Chung-Wei's future project will highlight the interplay among different genres, from Ming-Qing fiction and drama to the films of the Republican period.

# Awards & Events

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## Charles Armstrong Wins John K. Fairbank Book Prize

Charles Armstrong, the Korea Foundation Professor of Korean Studies in the Social Sciences, has received the John K. Fairbank Prize from the American Historical Association for *Tyranny of the Weak: North Korean and the World, 1950-1992*. Professor Armstrong's book reveals for the first time the motivations, processes, and effects of North Korea's foreign relations during the Cold War era.



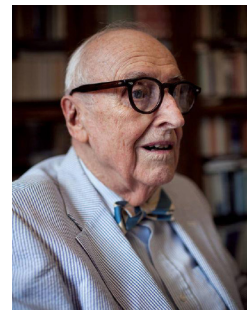
## Li Feng named Changjiang Scholar

Li Feng, world renowned for his research in Chinese archeology, has been named Changjiang Scholar (2014), a high honor in the Chinese academic world. Li Feng, nominated by Jilin University, is the first professor from a foreign university to have been elected a Changjiang Scholar in archaeology. The program is administered by the Ministry of Education of China and funded by the Li Ka Shing Foundation in Hong Kong.



## Wm. Theodore de Bary Receives National Humanities Medal

President Barack Obama (CC'83) presented the noted Columbia scholar, the John Mitchell Mason Professor Emeritus and Provost Emeritus, with a National Humanities Medal celebrating his lifetime's work. The awards, bestowed on 10 recipients this year, honor extraordinary achievement in the humanities.



## Shaoyan Qi & Chen Wu win Provostial Course Redesign Award

Shaoyan Qi, Chinese Lecturer in Discipline, and Chen Wu, MA student and Teaching Associate, were awarded funding by the university for their Hybrid Learning Course Redesign proposal. Their project, titled "Closing the Loop," aims to pilot a pedagogical intervention in order to enhance pronunciation by students of Chinese language through linking their perception of Mandarin tones to their production of tones.



## Junjie Jiang awarded Liang Shih-Chiu Literary Award

Junjie Jiang, EALAC undergraduate major, was awarded the 27th Liang Shih-Chiu Literary Award (the Jury Award in Prose Translation) for rendering into Chinese passages from Nabokov's "The Art of Translation." The Liang Shih-Chiu Literary Award is a prestigious annual contest in prose writing, prose translation, and poetry translation, sponsored by the Minister of Culture in Taiwan and hosted by National Taiwan Normal University.



# Awards & Events

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## Tsechu Dolma receives Brower Youth Award

AMEC alumna Tsechu Dolma was one of six North American students awarded the Brower Youth Award, joining a growing and diverse cadre of green leaders who are publicly recognized for their sustainable projects, innovative ideas, and informed analyses. Tsechu's work focuses on the creation of a model for sustainable food se in Upper Mustang, Nepal.



## 2014 EALAC Graduation Party



On May 20th, students, faculty, staff, and family members joined together to enjoy a meal for the annual EALAC graduation party in the Kent Hall Lounge. All celebrated the new degree holders and their honors before the summer holiday. Three undergraduates received Phi Beta Kappa, four received Latin honors, and one received departmental honors. Two Ph.D. dissertations, those of Jennifer Guest and Sujung Kim, received a mark of distinction, an honor granted to less than ten percent of all PhD candidates.

## Student Honors

Dana Benami.....Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa, Departmental Honors.

Julia Chen.....Phi Beta Kappa, Departmental Honors.

Jennifer Guest.....Ph.D., With Distinction.

Sujung Kim.....Ph.D., With Distinction.

Jieun Lim.....Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa.

Sarah Parks.....Cum Laude.

Julian Richardson.....Keiko Chevray Award for Japanese Language.

Christina Yi.....Ph.D., With Distinction. t

Mark Zsalkiewicz.....Mary Hue Award for Japanese Language.



# Awards & Events

## Beyond Modernity: Understanding Change in China

On September 19th and 20th, Columbia University's Weatherhead East Asian Institute celebrated the many years of teaching and graduate-student advising by Madeleine Zelin, the Dean Lung Professor of Chinese Studies, by holding a conference with her colleagues and former PhD students. The topic, "Beyond Modernity: Understanding Change in China," fittingly spoke to Madeleine Zelin's groundbreaking contributions in the field by critically assessing the concept of "modernity" as it is often applied



A select few of the conference participants

to Chinese history. The conference, which was organized by Professor Zelin's past pupils Margherita Zanasi, Fabio Lanza, and Rebecca Nedostup, served as much as a testament to Professor Zelin's influence as an intellectual summit, gathering former students now working in positions across the academy.



Professor Zelin and her former student, Kristine Harris

Rebecca Nedostup, Associate Professor of History at Brown University, and a former advisee of Professor Zelin's remarked that, "The conference was marked by both easy camaraderie and lively, exacting debate among the participants, even as they displayed diverse approaches to topics ranging from Ming governance to knowledge production in the late 20th century. To me, this was a testament to Professor Zelin's intellectual generosity as well as to her practical and conceptual rigor as a historian. The energy and good humor in the room made it evident that even those of us who were meeting in person for the first time shared a core sensibility -- this made me grateful all over again for my training."

# News from the Field

## Modern Chinese History

Students in Chinese History were busy in addition to the conference convened in honor of Professor Zelin. The Early China Seminar hosted Ken Brashier (October 3rd), Chen Wei, Yang Hua, and Li Tianhong (October 27th), Jessica Rawson (November 7th), and Guolong Lai (December 5th). The Modern China Seminar hosted Carl Minzer (September 11th), Nicholas Bequelin (October 9th), Rebecca Nedostup (November 13th), and Xiangyu Hu (December 11th).



Finally, the Xingzhuihui (Chinese Graduate Student Studies Group), led by PhD students Chloe Estep, who studies Chinese literature, and Yuan Yi, who studies Chinese history, hosted a panel on grant applications for doctoral students and a workshop to assist master's degree students with PhD applications. Reporting by John Thompson and Tristan Brown.

## Early Chinese History



Since the start of the fall semester, the East Asian Languages and Cultures Department has hosted two Early China events. The first Early China Seminar of the year, held on October 3rd and co-chaired by Professors Jue Guo of Barnard University and Roderick Campbell of New York University's Institute for the Study of the Ancient World (ISAW). The invited speaker was Professor Kenneth Brashier of Reed College in Portland Oregon, and in his talk, "Wen, Wu and me, too: A hypothesis on public memory construction in early China,"

he interrogated the construction of public memory in Early China through the introduction of new heroic figures into popular memory. The attendees of this meeting included over twenty scholars from institutions of higher education in the greater New York area, as well as several students and visiting scholars affiliated with the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures at Columbia.

The second event took place on October 27th, when a group of 12 scholars of Early Chinese history from Wuhan University paid Columbia a visit, with three of them presenting their research in a special gathering of the Early China Seminar. The speakers were Chen Wei and Li Tianhong, the director and vice-director of Wuhan University's Centre for the Study of Bamboo and Silk Manuscripts, and Yang Hua, professor of intellectual history. This visit was part of an ongoing collaboration between Columbia, the University of Chicago and Wuhan University, and we were glad to welcome them to Columbia. Reporting by Glenda Chao and Brian Lander.

# News from the Field

## Chinese Literature



This fall, the EALAC department served as co-sponsor of a Chinese calligraphy exhibition (on display through December 2014, shown above) that showcased the works of Zheng Xiaohua, Professor and Deputy Dean of the School of the Arts, Remin University of China, and Wang Mansheng, a calligrapher based in New York. An opening reception was held on October 17th at the C.V. Starr East Asian Library, which honored both artists and celebrated their generous donation to the library's permanent collection.

During a day-long symposium that followed on October 18th, the two artists introduced their work and outlined the history of Chinese calligraphy to an audience that included Columbia students, faculty and staff, and members of the local community. Wang's talk, entitled "Both Tool and Art: Chinese Calligraphy," emphasized the complementary relationship between Chinese calligraphy and other aspects of China's long cultural and literary history. The talks were followed by a hands-on teaching and practice session with the two artists.



On Friday, November 7, Columbia was proud to welcome back Mo Yan, renowned Chinese author and 2012 Nobel Laureate in Literature. As part of the university's World Leaders Forum lecture series, Mo Yan addressed a large audience in the Low Library rotunda on the subject of his writing process and the historical context of his fiction. The event featured opening remarks from John Coatsworth (Provost of the University; Professor of International and Public Affairs and of History) on the EALAC department's long-standing role at the forefront of Chinese studies in the United States and on the university's prescient recognition of Mo Yan's stature in modern Chinese literature. Following Mo Yan's speech, the audience had the opportunity to put their questions to the author in a Q&A session moderated by Professor Lydia Liu (Wun Tsun Tam Professor in the Humanities, Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, pictured). Reporting by Allison Bernard and Christopher Peacock.

# News from the Field

## Japanese History

The graduate program in Japanese history at Columbia was fortunate to be host to a variety of speakers and events this semester. The series, "East Asian Historical Thought in Comparative Perspective: What History Is, Knows, Does," organized by Professors Carol Gluck and Harry Harootunian, brought three speakers to discuss the issue of history and history-writing across a variety of national, regional, and methodological contexts. The first event featured guest speaker Narita Ryūichi, professor at Japan Women's University, who has written extensively on the historiography of modern Japan and who was



Professor David Lurie at the event.



Professor Kim Brandt in her office.

joined by a group of Japanese scholars from across the disciplines. In conjunction with their visit, the event "Godzilla Returns" was held at NYU, which featured Columbia Professors Hikari Hori and Greg Pflugfelder. The other speakers in the "Historical Thought" series included Viren Murthy and Eelco Runia, who presented on historiography and historical thinking in China and Europe, respectively. Columbia also hosted the Consortium for Asian and African Studies (CAAS) Symposium this fall, bringing graduate students and scholars from the CAAS institutions across the globe together in a two-day conference. The graduate program at

Columbia also benefited from speakers who visited campus through talks organized by the Donald Keene Center and the Modern Japan Seminar, including guests such as Ian Condry, Fabian Drixler, and Timon Screech through the DKC, and Miriam Kingsberg and Christopher Hill through the Modern Japan Seminar. Finally, the student-run Japanese Studies Study Group (Benkyōkai) hosted three meetings this semester, providing an important graduate student-only forum for debating ideas and sharing experiences. They hosted a kick-off welcome meeting, a graduate student TA roundtable on teaching Japan-related courses, and a PhD application workshop for current MA students applying to programs this fall, held in conjunction with the Chinese Studies Xing-zhihui.

Reporting by James Gerien-Chen.



Professor Gregory Pflugfelder

# News from the Field

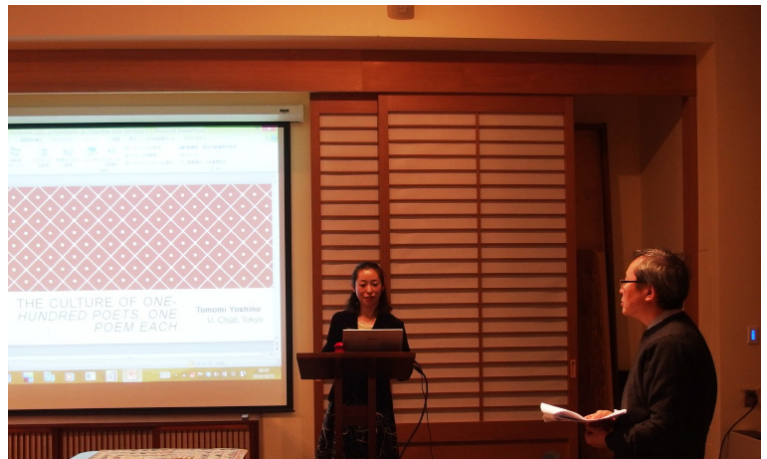
## Japanese Literature



On September 12th, the Awards Ceremony and Reception for the 2013-2014 Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission Prize for Translation of Japanese Literature was held at the C.V. Starr East Asian Library in Kent Hall. The prize was awarded to *Collected Haiku of Yosa Buson* (Port Townsend, Washington: Copper Canyon Press, 2013) translated by W.S. Merwin and Takako Lento. Mr. Merwin was unable to attend the ceremony; Mrs. Lento delivered Mr. Merwin's acceptance speech on his behalf, as well as providing her own insightful commentaries on the collaborative translation effort.

Mrs. Lento expressed her wish for Yosa Buson's poetry to enjoy a prosperous life in its new language. The reception also included a lecture on Buson as poet and painter by Professor Haruo Shirane.

On September 26th, the Workshop on the Cultural History of Writing in Japan took place with the participation of Professors Saitō Mareshi (University of Tokyo) and Kanazawa Hideyuki (Hokkaido University). The workshop concerned Professor Saitō's most recent book, *Kanji sekai no chihei* (Tōkyō: Shinchōsha, 2014), which discusses the impact of Chinese script and textuality on Japanese culture from the Nara period to the 20th century. The workshop and subsequent Q&A session were held in Japanese.



On October 9th, Professor Ian Condry (Comparative Media Studies, Massachusetts Institute of Technology) delivered a lecture titled "The Future of Media through Japanese Popular Culture: Crowd-sourcing, Exploitation, and the New Economies of Work," drawing on the findings of his recent book *The Soul of Anime* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2013). The lecture attracted the interest not only of Columbia-affiliated parties but also of the general public.

On October 23rd, Professor Yoshino Tomomi (Chūō University) delivered a university lecture titled "The Culture of One-Hundred Poets, One Poem Each," on the *Ogura hyakunin isshu* (a collection of one hundred Japanese classical poems from one hundred poets) and its reception. The lecture was conducted in English and the Q&A session was in Japanese.

On November 14th, Professor Torquil Duthie (UCLA) was the center of a symposium on his latest book *Man'yōshū and the Imperial Imagination in Early Japan* (Leiden: Brill, 2014). Professor Duthie delivered a lecture on the 8th-century poetic anthology *Man'yōshū* as a representation of the imperial state, and Professors Haruo Shirane, David Lurie and Michael Como offered their comments and questions. Reporting by Pau Pitarch Fernandez and Phuong Ngo.

# News from the Field

## Korean Studies



Gari Ledyard (left) and George Kallander (right) discuss the Diaries of Hong T'aeyong

Korean Studies has had an active Fall semester at Columbia University. The Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures hosted several events, in collaboration with the Center of Korean Studies and the Weatherhead East Asian Institute. On Thursday, October 30th, Gari Ledyard, former chair of the department and King Sejong Professor Emeritus of Korean Studies, presented his on-going research and translation project on the diaries and memoirs of an eighteenth-century Korean scholar and traveler, Hong T'aeyong. He was joined by George Kallander (Associate Professor, Syracuse University), a graduate of Columbia's East Asia program and Ledyard's student, to discuss the progress of his work. On Friday, November 14, Columbia's Center for Korean Research hosted a full-day workshop, "Intermedial Aesthetics: Korean Literature, Film, Art," featuring contributors to an upcoming special issue of the *Journal of Korean Studies*. Co-sponsored by EALAC, the Weatherhead East Asian Institute, and Smith College's Department of East Asian Studies, the workshop was organized by the special issue's guest editors, Theodore Hughes (Associate Professor of Korean Studies, EALAC; Director, Center for Korean Research) and Jina Kim (Assistant Professor of East Asian Studies, Smith College). Bringing together an innovative group of scholars whose work highlights the interactions and intersections between different forms of media in modern and contemporary Korean culture, the workshop drew participants from universities across the US and Korea. Presenters included Jinsoo An (UC Berkeley), Woohyung Chon (Konkuk University), Wayne de Fremery (Sogang University), Sohl Lee (Stony Brook University), Haerin Shin (Vanderbilt University), and Ji Young Shin (Yonsei University); discussants included Steve Chung (Princeton University), Olga Fedorenko (NYU), Chris Hanscom (UCLA), Jina Kim (Smith College), Kyu Hyun Kim (UC Davis), and We Jung Yi (NYU). With an audience of faculty and students, the workshop was designed both in order to give contributors an opportunity to receive feedback about their articles prior to publication and also to initiate dialogue between their varied perspectives and fields of study. The special issue will be published by the *Journal of Korean Studies* in spring 2015.

Reporting by Jon Kief and Sixiang Wang.

# News from the Field

## Tibetan Studies



Xiahe Labrang Monastery. Photo by Gray Tuttle.

With an increase of new graduate students studying Tibetan history and culture this year, we have revitalized the Khorlo Tibetan Studies Graduate Students Group. With roughly fifteen members we provide support for research and study with a focus on the unique interdisciplinary nature of Tibetan Studies at Columbia. We have also begun putting together Tibetan culture related events such as the film screening of a Tibetan documentary, and the regular circulation of information regarding Tibetan events throughout New York City.

Our first co-sponsored film screening highlights Khashem Gyal, one of Tibet's best up and coming young film makers from Rebgong (Ch. Tongren) in Qinghai Province, whose film, *Valley of the Heroes*, deals directly with issues of culture and language in an ethnically diverse town on the edge of the Tibetan Plateau.

Apart from Khorlo activities, a number of Tibetan Studies scholars have visited Columbia this semester. They presented on a wide range of topics including *Nicholas Bequelin's Renewed Trouble in China's Peripheries: Xinjiang, Tibet, Hong Kong, Taiwan*, Barbara Gerke's *Process Mercury in a Chinese Labor Camp: Accounts by Tibetan Doctors in the 1970s* and Dan Miller's *Tibetan Nomads: Environmental and Policy Challenges*.

On the forefront of Tibetan language work, Orna Almogi and Dorji Wangchuk (University of Hamburg) presented on a project involving Tibetan studies and the Digital Humanities titled, "Scholars and Scribes: Leveraging Computerized Tools for Navigating an Uncharted Tibetan Buddhist Philosophical Corpus." Later in the semester Dr. Nathan W. Hill (lecturer in Tibetan language and history, SOAS) presented on a research project titled, "Tibetan in Digital Communication: Corpus Linguistics," another project that brings together the field of Tibetan studies and the Digital Humanities. Dr. Hill explained the issues that are particular to the Tibetan language and demonstrated how annotation of Tibetan texts are useful in philological studies.

Reporting by Tracy Howard and Elizabeth Reynolds.

# Undergraduate Profiles

Deanna Nardy



What made you decide to major in EALAC, as opposed to taking one or two classes in the department?

*Ironically, I was at Princeton when I knew for certain that I wanted to major in EALAC at Columbia. It was that hectic time for prospective students where you visit different campuses and finally decide on which one you want to be a part of. To me, all that mattered was learning Japanese and going to Japan. At a tea event, I asked an East Asian Studies professor who had the better Japanese language program, Princeton or Columbia? He answered Columbia.*

What were your initial expectations of the EALAC department? Did these change as you moved through the courses?

*To be honest, I thought I would be bogged down with China-related classes, and that Japan would only be mentioned in so much as it related to China. This was my experience prior to entering Columbia – my high school did not offer any Asian languages, and most people I encountered considered China to be “Asia,” and countries like Japan, Korea, Taiwan, etc. often only occurred as after-thoughts. Thus, I was ecstatic to find out that Columbia offered such a wide range of EALAC courses, particularly the fun and engaging culture classes.*

If you're writing a thesis, what is your topic and who is your advisor? What do you think about the writing process? Do you feel the EALAC classes fully prepared you?

*For my thesis, I chose to explore the representation of black characters in Japanese visual media from the prewar era to the present. First of all, I felt blessed that, as a woman of color, this topic was immediately taken seriously during the first stage of proposal writing. Not all classes at Columbia (read: core) allow a person to bring all of themselves to the table. I am truly lucky that Professor Hikari Hori and my graduate advisor Myra Sun never dismissed my personal feelings and challenged me to look at the issue of racial representation from different perspectives. Besides these wonderful mentors, the best thing EALAC provided for my senior thesis was the opportunity to not only study abroad in Kyoto for a full year, but to take an independent research class. Without that experience, I do not know how much primary material I would have found, and if my Japanese would have been sufficient to make use of it in the writing of my thesis.*

From here, what are your plans? How does an EALAC degree help you with your future goals?

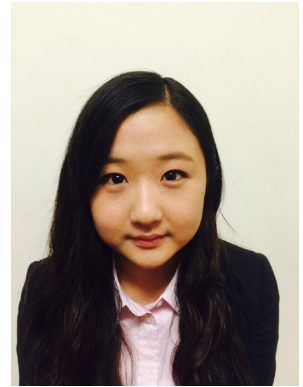
The Japanese and American school years do not quite line up, but I am hoping to enter Kyoto Seika University as a Masters Student in Manga during the 2016 school year. If this works out, I'd like to complete their PhD program as well (where else could I become a Dr. of comics?!). All the while, I plan to focus on an original story, hone my artistic skills, and launch my manga career. What I am most grateful to Columbia's EALAC department for is arming me with the Japanese language skills necessary to pursue my manga dream.





# Undergraduate Profiles

Joohyun Kate Lee



What made you decide to major in EALAC, as opposed to taking one or two classes in the department?

*I've always been active in advocating for North Korean human rights, and when I told my advisor this, he recommended I take an East Asian studies class. I did, and I liked it, but I wasn't completely sure until I took Rachel Chung's course, Colloquium on Major Texts. Professor Chung completely did away with the secret stereotypes I harbored against East Asia studies; she made every text so rich and interesting. I realized that East Asia is so much more complicated than Confucianism and Buddhism, and instead has layers upon layers that I can study and explore. That made the prospect of majoring in EALAC exciting and if I had to choose again, I would make the same choice again.*

What were your initial expectations of the EALAC department? Did these change as you moved through the courses?

*I think many people approach EALAC as a simple 'culture studies' major, and I think I had a bit of that impression as well. But through the years I learned that the studies pertaining to EALAC are much more refreshingly complicated and broader than that. Our department does a great job of making sure that EALAC majors get a well-rounded view of the history, literature, and politics of East Asia. Even though the physical area we deal with is limited to East Asia, there is an endless amount of material to explore.*

If you're writing a thesis, what is your topic and who is your advisor? What do you think about the writing process? Do you feel the EALAC classes fully prepared you?

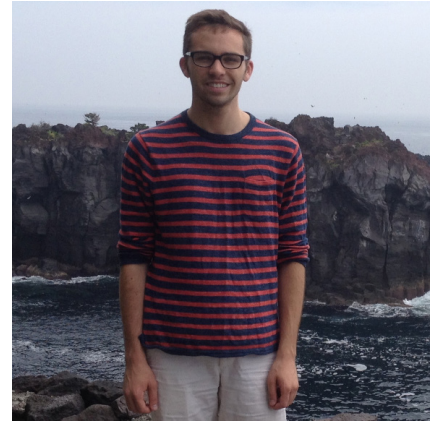
*My thesis is about construction of emotion in Choson women's writings, and my advisor is Professor Jung Won Kim. I've had a lot of fun with the writing process so far, and Professor Kim and her classes have been a great help. Although it does get difficult and frustrating at times, there is definitely a sense of achievement when I look at my draft and think that I am the first person arguing this issue in this way. Even though research is an overwhelming task at first, my past professors have made sure that I knew where to look and showed me how to look for the information I want. Additionally, the department assigns all of us to graduate students who help us with the writing process. Katherine Sargent has been helping my thesis and she has been a great help. It's nice to know that you can email the draft to someone who has more experience writing and researching anytime, and they will read it and send you great feedback.*

From here, what are your plans? How does an EALAC degree help you with your future goals?

*I plan to go to law school, work for a while, and then hopefully work in policy around North Korean human rights. My EALAC degree has given me a solid foundation to work off from, I think for both a career in law and a career in policy. Most obviously, I'm more aware of the history and politics surrounding North Korea from my classes. But in addition to that, EALAC has equipped me with critical thinking skills, writing skills, and reading skills that I think will benefit my work no matter what type of work I choose to do.*

# Undergraduate Profiles

Patrick Woods



What made you decide to major in EALAC, as opposed to taking one or two classes in the department?

*I began taking First Year Japanese my first semester at Columbia after having spent a month in Japan during the previous summer. At that time I was more interested in pursuing the special concentration in Linguistics, with Japanese as the non-European language required for that course of study. However, it was Intro to Japanese Civilization, which I took with Professor David Lurie in the second semester of my freshman year, that really convinced me that EALAC - specifically Japanese history - was something I was really passionate about. Every course I have taken in the department since has been a fantastic and enriching experience.*

What were your initial expectations of the EALAC department? Did these change as you moved through the courses?

*When I first arrived at Columbia, I was entirely unaware of the incredible reputation that the EALAC department has nationwide, so I would say it was really my good fortune to stumble into it. The more courses I have taken, the more strongly I have come to feel that this is a department that more undergraduates should be taking advantage of. I feel that each successive class I have taken has in some way built upon previous ones in a meaningful way, and I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to work with so many fantastic professors.*

If you're writing a thesis, what is your topic and who is your advisor? What do you think about the writing process? Do you feel the EALAC classes fully prepared you?

*I am writing a thesis that examines a crucial work of Fukuzawa Yukichi, a prominent intellectual in Meiji Japan, within the broader context of Japanese nationalism, changes in governmental structure, and Western influence in the period spanning 1868-1889. I am working, fittingly, with Professor Lurie along with my graduate advisor Pau Pitarch Fernández, both of whom have been extremely helpful throughout the writing process. My prior EALAC seminars, especially my historiography methods course with Professor Gray Tuttle, were instrumental in preparing me for the writing process.*

From here, what are your plans? How does an EALAC degree help you with your future goals?

*I am graduating in December and currently in the process of applying to law school. I'll be working at Bloomberg starting in January until (hopefully!) I am accepted to law school in the fall of 2015. My eventual goal is to combine my Japanese language and cultural education with a law degree to work in a firm that either negotiates with or on behalf of Japanese corporations, but at this point I don't want to get too ahead of myself.*

# Recent PhD Job Placement

FULL NAME	FIELD	POSITION
Kaijun Chen	Chinese Literature	Max Planck Institute (GER), Post-doctoral Fellow
Ksenia Chizhova	Korean History / Literature	Princeton University, Assistant Professor
Hwisang Cho	Korean History	Xavier University, Assistant Professor
Arunabh Ghosh (HIST)	Chinese History	Harvard University, Assistant Professor
Nan Hartmann	Japanese Literature	Earlham College, Assistant Professor
Sarah Kile	Chinese Literature	University of Michigan, Post-doctoral Fellow
Cheehyung Kim	Korean History	University of Missouri, Assistant Professor
Yumi Kim (HIST)	Japanese History	Johns Hopkins University, Assistant Professor
Elizabeth Lawrence	Chinese History	Ball State University, Assistant Professor
Daniel Poch	Japanese Literature	University of Hong Kong, Assistant Professor
Kristin Roebuck	Japanese History	Cornell University, Post-doctoral Fellow
Chelsea Schedier	Japanese History	Meiji University, Assistant Professor
Ariel Stilerman	Japanese Literature	Florida State University, Assistant Professor
Shiho Takai	Japanese Literature	University of Florida, Assistant Professor
Brian Tsui	Chinese History	Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Assistant Professor
Stacey Van Vleet	Tibetan Studies	University of California-Berkeley, Post-doctoral Fellow
Sixiang Wang	Korean History	University of Pennsylvania, Post-doctoral Fellow
Benno Weiner	Chinese History	Carnegie Mellon, Assistant Professor
Timothy Yang	Japanese History	Pacific University, Assistant Professor
Christina Yi	Japanese Literature	University of British Columbia, Assistant Professor
Yurou Zhong	Chinese Literature	University of Toronto, Assistant Professor

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## Department of East Asian Language and Cultures

Theodore de Bary receives National Humanities Medal from President Barack Obama

Photograph by Jocelyn Augustino

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