

CEAS Newsletter

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The Dr. Thomas Kang Lectures

After postponement caused by the pandemic, the Dr. Thomas Kang lectures on the topic of the Tokyo Summer Olympics were delivered in person on October 14, 2021. Dr. Sayuri Guthrie Shimizu, Dunlevie Family Professor of History at Rice University, gave her talk on “A Tale of Two Tokyo Olympics”. The talk highlighted the 1964 and 2020 Olympics and placed them in the trajectory of post-WWII Japanese history. Mr. Seth Berkman, author of *A Team of Their Own: How an International Sisterhood Made Olympic History* (Hanover Square Press) and regular contributor to the *New York Times*, discussed the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, and their impact on future international sporting events. The lectures attracted an audience of 66 students and faculty members and led to a lively Q&A.

The CEAS Occasional Forum



CEAS inaugurated the CEAS Occasional Forum with Ryan Hass' talk "Partner, Competitor, and Challenger: Thoughts on China-US Relations" on November 10, 2021. Mr. Ryan Hass is a senior fellow and the Michael H. Armacost Chair in the Foreign Policy program at Brookings, where he holds a joint appointment to the John L. Thornton China Center and the Center for East Asia Policy Studies. He is also the Chen-Fu and Cecilia Yen Koo Chair in Taiwan Studies. Mr. Hass explored China's roles as a partner, competitor, and challenger and US responses to each of them. The virtual talk was attended by an audience of 63 students and faculty members who raised critical questions about China-US relations during the Q&A session.

Faculty

1. New Member

Julia Chung was unanimously elected as a member of CEAS at the meeting on November 17. Julia Chuang is an Assistant Professor of Sociology. She is a qualitative researcher with research interests in development, agrarian politics, and migration. Her work has utilized ethnographic and interview-based methods, and recently, she has also begun to work with computational methods as well. Julia completed her postdoctoral training at Brown University's Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs. She received a PhD in sociology from the University of California, Berkeley and a BA in Social Studies from Harvard University.

Faculty

2. Awards and Honors

Julia Chuang (Sociology) received the American Sociological Association (ASA) Labor and Labor Movements Section, Distinguished Scholarly Monograph Award, 2021, ASA Development Section, Best Book Award, Honorable Mention, 2021, and ASA Section on Asia and Asian Americans, Transnational Asia Book Award, Honorable Mention, 2021 for her new book *Beneath the China Boom: Labor, Citizenship, and the Making of a Rural Land Market* (University of California Press, 2020).

Ting Zhang (History) received the Kluge Fellowship of the Library of Congress for 2022. She will be a Kluge Fellow in the John W. Kluge Center of the Library of Congress for a period of six months, beginning in January 2022. The award is to enable her to pursue her research on a new book project "News on the Street: Public Notices and Information Networks in Qing China."



Anna Leon Shulman and Frank Joseph Shulman (Library) received the AAS Distinguished Service Award presented following the announcement of their retirement from their long-term editorial positions with the *Bibliography of Asian Studies*. On that particular occasion in March 2021, AAS President Christine Yano stated: "As they embark upon their well-deserved retirement with plans no less active and contributory to Asian Studies than their working careers, AAS wishes to express profound gratitude for their hard-working dedication. Their lives stand as testament to the power of passion transformed into work from which the field of Asian Studies remains indebted. This award recognizes the Shulmans' momentous contributions of service to the field, especially in their stewardship of the *Bibliography of Asian Studies*".

Andrew Schonebaum (Chinese) was awarded a Geiss Foundation grant in 2020 to complete editing *Approaches to Teaching Plum in the Golden Vase (The Golden Lotus)*, which will be published by the MLA in May 2022.

Alicia Volk (Art History) received an Ishibashi Foundation-The Japan Foundation Fellowship for Research on Japanese Art, for “Japanese Sculpture in the Public Sphere: From Iconoclasm and Idealism to Memory and Monumentality,” the Japan-United States Friendship Commission and the Northeast Area Council of the Association for Asian Studies, Research Travel to Japan Grant, for “Japanese Sculpture in the Public Sphere: From Iconoclasm and Idealism to Memory and Monumentality,” and a UMD College of Arts and Humanities, Advancement Grant, for “Democratizing Japanese Art, 1945-1960: Memory and Monumentality—Japanese Sculpture in the Public Sphere” in 2021.

Faculty

4. Publications



Julia Chuang (Sociology)

Beneath the China Boom: Labor, Citizenship, and the Making of a Rural Land Market (University of California Press, 2020).

Alicia Volk (Art History)

“Art and Women’s Liberation in a Newly Democratic Japan, with a Focus on Migishi Setsuko and Akamatsu Toshiko,” *US-Japan Women’s Journal: A Journal for the International Exchange of Gender Studies* no. 57 (2020): 19-54.

“Ôkura Jirô, The Man and the Work,” in Jane M. Farmer, ed., Jiro Okura: *Staying in the Field* (The Estate of Jiro Okura: 2020)

Lindsay Amthor Yotsukura (Japanese)

“Getting to the Point: Indexical Reference in Japanese and American Business Discourse.” *Bonding through Context: Interactional Alignment in Japanese Situated Discourse*. Risako Ide and Kaori Hata (eds.), pp. 217-238. Amsterdam and Philadelphia: John Benjamins, 2020.

Minglang Zhou (Chinese)

“Multilingualism in China: From Melting Pot to Pressure Cooker,” *East Asian Forum*, June 2021 (<https://www.eastasiaforum.org/author/minglang-zhou>)

“Standardization of minority languages: Nation-state building and globalization,” in Wendy Ayres-Bennett and John Bellamy, eds. *The Cambridge Handbook of Language Standardization*. Cambridge University Press, 2021, 170-197.

Faculty

4. Conferences

Marlene J. Mayo (History), gave a paper at the virtual Conference of Quaker Historians and Archivists, Swarthmore College, June 2021: "Trans-Pacific Friends: Tomiyama Toki, Esther B. Rhoads, and the Friends Girls School, Tokyo, 1920s-1950s." She also participated in a panel at the in-person Mid-Atlantic Region/Association for Asian Studies Conference, Villanova University, October 2021. Her paper was: "Let's Get Going! Oku Mumeo, Kitchen Politics, and the Founding of the Housewives Federation in Occupied Japan." The discussant for the panel was our fellow CEAS member, Eleanor Kerkham.



Alicia Volk (Art History) presented “Women’s Liberation, Democratic Revolution, and Art in Post-World War II Japan: Akamatsu Toshiko and the Atomic Bomb Pictures” at the Feminist Art History Conference, American University, September 2021. She is scheduled to present “Monuments to Peace in Early Cold War Japan: Hongô Shin’s Voices from the Sea (1950),” Shaping Modern Memory in Japanese Sculptural Practices Panel, College Art Association Annual Conference, February 2022.

Minglang Zhou is scheduled to deliver a keynote speech “Linguistic Value Orientations: Learning and Using the Standard in the Chinese-Speaking World” at the conference on “Language, Teaching, and Politics in Arabic and Chinese,” University of Milan, Italy, December 16, 2021.

Faculty

5. In the News

Minglang Zhou (Chinese) was featured in a Wall Street Journal article on American students’ love affair with China in January 2021 (https://www.wsj.com/articles/american-students-love-affair-with-china-cools-as-political-tensions-rise-11610802000?mod=hp_listb_pos4).



Hong Kong Police Make Mass Arrests of Pro-Democracy Figures

Hong Kong police arrested more than 50 pro-democracy figures for allegedly plotting to destabilize the government. WSJ's Andrew Dowell reports on how the biggest crackdown since the national security law was imposed chips away at the city's rule of law and global status. Photo: AP/TVB



Students and Alumni

Allison Coe successfully defended her M.A. thesis "The Women and Taiko Movement: Questioning Gendered Leadership Through Embodied Practice" in summer 2021.

William Donawerth Scally received his Ph.D. in summer 2021 after having successfully defended his dissertation "Sounds of the Compact City: A Musical Urban Ethnography of Toyama City, Japan"

Dr. Ying Diao, one of our alumni, received the Deborah Wong Research and Publication Award, from the Society for Ethnomusicology, for her book manuscript "Hearing Faiths Out Loud: Religiosity and Aurality on the China-Myanmar Border"

The Gordon W. Prange Collection and East Asian Collection

A 20th Century Japan Research Awardee, Alisa Freedman (University of Oregon), whose research in the Gordon W. Prange Collection and East Asia Collection was sponsored by the Nathan and Jeanette Miller Center for Historical Studies and UMD Libraries, presented her research results at the MAR-AAS on October 22, 2021. On the panel "Reframing US-Japan Relations: Gender Politics, Soft Power, and Reconciliation in Occupied Japan, 1945-1952", Dr. Freedman presented "From Cultural Ambassadors to Pioneering Professors: Japanese Female Exchange Students and U.S. Japan Reconciliation.

Obituary



James Gao (1948-2021), Historian of the Chinese Revolution and Member of the Center for East Asian Studies

James Gao, Professor of Modern Chinese History at the University of Maryland, College Park, died on October 26, 2021, at the age of 73. The cause was cancer.

Professor Gao was born and raised in Hangzhou, China, the capital of Zhejiang Province in Southeast China. In 1983, he earned a master's degree in Political Science from Peking University and taught at that university as an Assistant Professor from 1983 to 1986. He did his graduate training at Yale University, where he received his Ph.D. in 1994. He was an Associate Professor of History at Christopher Newport University from 1992 to 1998. He joined the faculty of the History Department of the University of Maryland, College Park as an Associate Professor in 1998. Since 1999, he was a regular summer Visiting Research Fellow at the Institute for Contemporary Chinese Studies at Peking University.

Professor Gao was a founding member and, in 1987-88, the first President of the organization of Chinese Historians in the United States (CHUS). As he explained in his 2008 essay, "From Margin to Cutting Edge: The Search for a Paradigm in Chinese Historical Studies," in *The Chinese Historical Review*, CHUS served to bring together historians who came of age and had done their undergraduate work in China and then decided to do graduate training and work in American universities. The essay was both a call for scholarly innovation as well as a most interesting account of the situation of his generation of Chinese historians at the early phases of their academic careers in the United States. His scholarship was part of a creative and bold result of this challenging cross-fertilization of cultures begun in an era of relative openness in China.

His published works include *Meeting Technology's Advance: Social Change in China and Zimbabwe in the Railway Age* (Greenwood, 1997), and *The Communist Takeover of Hangzhou: The Transformation of City and Cadre, 1949-54* (University of Hawaii Press, 2004). He wrote the 700 entries in the *Historical Dictionary of Modern China, 1800-1849* (Scarecrow, 2009).

His *Shanghai Market: Rice Consumers, Merchants and the State, 1964-1955* was completed and in a publishers' review process at the time of his death. In addition, his fifteen articles in scholarly journals examined multiple issues including food rationing, photography of Chinese disasters, famine in the 1950-s, consumerism, the history of rice in Shanghai, war and nationalism during the Korean War years, and rural revolutionaries in the cities.

Professor Gao was remembered by his former students as a challenging and inspiring teacher. He might give students an assignment to read and categorize 20 years' scholarly journals about modern China or advise them over a cup of tea. Christopher Heselton, who graduated from this university in 2005 with a bachelor's degree in history and Chinese, had Professor Gao as his first professor in Chinese history and got a lot of guidance and direction outside of class in a relaxed setting. Heselton later built his career around China and its history. He's now a global studies professor and the associate director for East Asian partnerships for the global strategies office at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Though his work and memory will endure, Professor Gao's death is a great loss for the Center for East Asian Studies at the University of Maryland, College Park. His introductory courses on East Asian civilizations served as the foundation for East Asian Studies from which our students began their journey in the exploration and understanding of East Asia. His life and work will continue to inspire us in this direction. Professor Gao is survived by his wife, Laura Liu, and his son, Weijing Gao.