

December 2022



Center for East Asian Studies Newsletter

It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop (譬如為山，未成一簣，止，吾止也。譬如平地，雖覆一簣，進，吾往也。孔子/Confucius).

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Celebration of Dr. S. Robert Ramsey's Achievements and Retirement

We are delighted to take this opportunity to recognize the decades-long dedication of our esteemed colleague, Dr. S. Robert Ramsey, on the occasion of his well-deserved retirement. Bob will be remembered as a pivotal figure in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures at the University of Maryland, College Park, wholeheartedly contributing to scholarship, teaching, and service. Bob is a world-renowned scholar of the historical linguistics of East Asia—and served and supported students and faculty alike at the University of Maryland for nearly 40 years, after arriving in 1984. Bob was central to the establishment of the Japanese and Chinese majors and minors, the Korean minor, and the Center for East Asian Studies at Maryland. Even though Bob is perhaps best known for his research and teaching on Korean, at UMD he also taught Japanese, and tirelessly emphasized the historical, linguistic, and cultural connections across the region of East Asia. His course The Languages of East

Asia regularly had long waitlists, which led him to offer it every semester rather than just once a year to meet continuing demand. Bob was frequently invited to speak at national and international conferences, and was also a central figure in the local Korean-American community, regularly giving talks for the organization Arirang USA. Perhaps most memorable in the eyes of his students was his work with Younghi Kim Ramsey to establish and host UMD's annual celebration of a *Han'gŭl Day*, which included impressive calligraphy demonstrations along with Korean food and music. They also hosted an annual Korean Culture Day every spring, which was likewise quite popular with students, and featured guest artists including Yumi Hogan, Governor Hogan's wife.

Bob's robust scholarship in East Asian linguistics has earned him multiple international awards, including the Presidential Award for Contributions to Korean Language and Culture, presented by Kim Dae Jung, President of the Republic of Korea (1998), The Tongsung Academic Award (2010),

The Precious Crown Medal of the Order of Cultural Merit from the President and government of the Republic of Korea (2013), and the 13th ILSUK Award for Academic Achievement (2015). Bob is well-known for pioneering scholarship in the areas of Korean and Japanese linguistics; he is also celebrated for his work in educating both the public and the worldwide scholarly community on the Korean alphabet, *Han'gŭl*, which was originally devised by King Sejong. Bob's early research on the accent and morphology of Korean led to numerous notable publications and recognition internationally, including collaborative efforts with the renowned scholars Iksop Lee and Ki-Moon Lee. Moreover, his groundbreaking development of the eponymous "Ramsey Hypothesis," which traces and reconstructs pitch accent changes in the dialects of Japanese, has served in subsequent decades as the essential key to providing solutions to challenging problems in Japanese historical linguistics and dialectology. His publications continue to spearhead conversations among younger linguists, thereby providing illuminating insights in fields such as ethnomusicology (unlocking a historical puzzle relating to the musical notation used for the Nō drama) and even prehistoric population movements on the Japanese archipelago.

Bob has published two single-authored monographs: *Accent and Morphology in Korean Dialects*, 1978, which was translated and published in Japanese in 1990, and *The Languages of China*, 1987. He has also co-authored two additional books (*The Korean Language*, with Iksop Lee, 2000, and *A History of Korean*, with Ki-Moon Lee, 2011), and edited a special issue of *Japanese Language and Literature* in honor of Samuel E. Martin, his mentor at Yale University, where he completed his

Ph.D.

in 1975. He is the author or co-author of over 40 articles and papers in journals and books, including

the *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies*, the *Journal of Japanese Studies*, the *Journal of Korean Linguistics*, and *Language Research*. Bob is also the recipient of numerous grants and fellowships from the Fulbright-Hays Program, the Japan Foundation, the Korea Foundation, the American Council of Learned Societies, the Social Science Research Council, and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

While we received the news of Bob's decision to retire with a heavy heart, we wish to applaud his unceasing support of East Asian Studies at the University of Maryland, and his superlative scholarly contributions to East Asian Studies across the world.

The CEAS Occasional Forum

This year, CEAS, in collaboration with the Department of Government & Politics, organized two talks on global issues of shared concerns on the campus and beyond. Both talks drew a robust audience that engaged in a lively discussion.

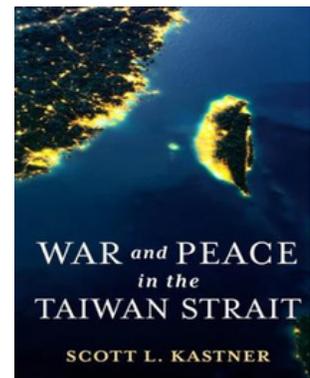


In the Spring semester, in response to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and China’s pro-Russian stance, CEAS hosted a talk titled “China’s Strategic Assessment of Russia”, given by Yun Sun, who is a Senior Fellow and Co-Director of the East Asia Program and Director of the China Program at the Stimson Center. Her expertise is in Chinese foreign policy, U.S.-China relations, and China’s relations with neighboring countries and authoritarian regimes.

In Sun’s view, “Rarely is a bilateral relationship as difficult to define as the one between China and Russia. Many factors innate to the relationship drive them apart, yet the two are currently glued together by their shared threat perception about the “greater evil”- the United States. The alignment and misalignment of their national interests manifest as a paradox, that the Sino-Russia relations are as solid as an alliance and as flimsy as a marriage of convenience. Ironically, between China and Russia, an alliance could be flimsy and a marriage of convenience could also be solid”. In the talk, Sun unpacked China’s assessment of Russian comprehensive national power, and consequently, the evaluation of the alignment and misalignment of their political, strategic, and economic visions. She argued that the close alignment between Beijing and Moscow is driven primarily by the perceived “hostility by the U.S.” Meanwhile, the leadership factor, especially Xi Jinping’s Russia complex also plays a key role in driving an alignment with Russia, arguably beyond China’s national interests.

In the Fall semester, CEAS sponsored a two-part event that examined key contemporary challenges in the U.S.-China relationship. The first part is an in-person talk “Prospects of Conflict in the Taiwan

Strait”, given by Dr. Scott L. Kastner, Professor of Government and Politics at UMD and author of three books on China affairs. As tensions continue to rise between the People’s Republic of China and Taiwan, numerous analysts and officials have warned of a growing risk of military conflict, which could potentially draw in the United States. How worried should we be about a war in the Taiwan Strait? Dr. Kastner answered this question based on his new book “War and Peace in the Taiwan Strait” (Columbia University Press, 2022).





The second part is live-streamed China Town Hall, organized by the National Committee on U.S.-China relations. Featuring Jon M. Huntsman JR., former U.S. Ambassador to Russia, China, and Singapore, China Town Hall connects leading China experts with Americans around the country for a national conversation on the implications of China’s rise on U.S.-China relations and its impact on our towns, states, and nation.

Faculty News

1. *New Members*

CEAS welcomes three new members this year:

Dr. Yu Min (Claire) Chen is Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures. Claire earned her Ph.D. in comparative literature with a focus on Chinese from Indiana University at Bloomington in 2021. She has published scholarly works on Chinese literature and film as well as fictional works. She is fluent in English, French, Mandarin, and Taiwanese. Prior to UMCP, Claire taught at the National Taipei University of Technology, St. Mary's College of Maryland, and Indiana University. As a visiting assistant professor at UMCP, Claire teaches modern Chinese literature and courses on Chinese cinema studies and advises students on those topics

Dr. Hiroyuki (Hiro) Iseki is an Associate Professor of the Urban Studies and Planning and a Research Affiliate with the National Center for Smart Growth. He is currently the Director of Urban and Regional Planning and Design (URPD) Ph.D. program in the School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation. His research focuses on balancing efficiency, effectiveness, and equity in the provision of mobility and accessibility with special attention to transportation, land use, environment, and the diversity of needs among different socioeconomic groups. He is also interested in the institutional and organizational settings that affect how policies at the higher level of government are implemented within policies and planning at the local level. His work, *Japan: The Built Environment, Planning, and the Exploration of Social Justice and Equity*, covers a variety of topics in the built environment fields in two major cities with rich history and culture in Japan - Hiroshima and Kyoto, including economic development, community planning, “revitalization planning,” housing, urban design, disaster planning, historic preservation, and bike & pedestrian planning as well as social equity issues arising in the historical and socio-economic contexts in these two cities.

Ms. Motoko Shimizu Lezec is Coordinator of the Gordon W. Prange Collection. Prior to the University of Maryland, Motoko worked at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Asian Art for over ten years as a curatorial staff. Her research interests range from modern and contemporary Japanese printmaking,

photography, and film to Japanese ceramics and metalwork. Motoko grew up between Japan and the U.S. and has lived in England, Germany, and France. She received her BA in Political Science at the International Christian University in Tokyo, and an ALM in Art History from Harvard University where she wrote her thesis on the painter Foujita Tsuguharu. At the Prange Collection, she hopes to continue to examine Foujita's postwar activities in the context of Japan's Occupation period. As Prange Coordinator Motoko assists the Curator with User Service and Outreach Programs, and a multi-year Digitization Project in partnership with the National Diet Library (NDL) in Japan. On her days off she is an adventurous home cook who likes to eat and think about food, as a portal to places she would like to travel to in the future.

2. Awards, Promotions, and Honors

Alicia Volk was promoted to Full Professor in 2022. Congratulations!

Lindsay Amthor Yotsukura was awarded a 2022-23 [Humane Metrics Humanities and Social Sciences \(HuMetricsHSS\) Community Fellowship](#) from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in support of her efforts as Associate Director for Academic Affairs in the School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures (SLLC) to increase student engagement in UMD programs including Language House, the Language Partner Program, and Education Abroad. Her HuMetrics project also seeks to foster greater cross-program discussions within the SLLC to expand ways in which scholarship and creative production are considered in the appointment, promotion and tenure process, and help to establish more innovative, equitable, and just means of evaluating contributions to the humanities and beyond.

Yotsukura was also selected to participate in the [Foundations & Applications of Humanities Analytics workshop at the Santa Fe Institute](#) in July 2022 with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, in connection with her research into the resumption of automobile production in Japan during post-World War II occupation period.

Minglang Zhou successfully secured a BEST grant (\$210,000 and 36 scholarships for UMD students to study abroad at National Taiwan Normal University during the period of 2022-2025), thanks to strong support from SLLC, ARHU, and the campus administration.

Zhou was awarded two T&L grants (CHIN101 and CHIN301) to explore the integration of experiential learning in traditional language classrooms via language partnerships on campus and online in the Fall semester. This is the Chinese program's innovative approach to second/foreign language teaching in the 21st century.

3. Publications

Scott L. Kastner has published:

War and Peace in the Taiwan Strait (Columbia University Press, 2022,

<http://cup.columbia.edu/book/war-and-peace-in-the-taiwan-strait/9780231198653>)

As tensions continue to rise between the People’s Republic of China and Taiwan, numerous analysts and officials have warned of a growing risk of military conflict, which could potentially draw in the United States. How worried should we be about a war in the Taiwan Strait?

Scott L. Kastner offers a comprehensive analytical account of PRC-Taiwan relations that sheds new light on the prospects for cross-strait military conflict. He examines several key regional trends that have complex implications for stability, including deepening economic integration, the shifting balance of military power, uncertainty about the future of U.S. commitment, and domestic political changes in both the PRC and Taiwan. Kastner argues that the risks of conflict are real but should not be exaggerated. Several distinct pathways could lead to the breakout of hostilities, and the mechanisms that might allay one type of conflict do not necessarily apply to others—yet war is anything but inevitable. Although changes to the balance of power introduce risks, powerful mitigating factors remain in place and there are plausible steps to reduce the likelihood of military conflict.

Drawing on both international relations theory and close empirical analysis of regional trends, this book provides vital perspective on how a war in the Taiwan Strait could occur—and how one could be avoided.

Jason Kuo has just published:

Modern Ink: The Art of Huang Binhong

(co-authored with Britta Erickson and Claire Roberts and published by the Mozhai Foundation in association with the University of Hawaii Press). According to the publishers,



Huang Binhong (1865-1955), a key twentieth-century artist and art historian, produced distinctive floral works and the rare figure painting but focused intently on landscapes. Influenced by early masters, he also studied nature directly. Near the end of his life, despite seriously compromised eyesight, he used rich and dark “burnt” ink to create sublime masterpieces that bridge representation and abstraction. *Modern Ink: The Art of Huang Binhong* will demonstrate how nature, art historical erudition, a finely tuned compositional sense, and an appreciation for rich and even tonality—derived from epigraphic rubbings—come together in this consummate painter’s late, great landscapes. It will also examine his work in other genres as well as the role of his

extraordinary vision as a major force behind the persistence of traditional values in contemporary Chinese ink art.

The book is the fourth volume in the book series *Modern Ink*.

Margert M. Pearson has published the following six articles:

“China’s Party-State Capitalism and International Backlash: From Interdependence to Insecurity,” (with Meg Rithmire and Kellee S. Tsai). *International Security*, Vol. 47, No. 2 (fall 2022).

“FDI, Unmet Expectations, and the Prospects of Political Leaders: Evidence from Chinese Investment in Africa” (with Xiaonan Wang and John F. McCauley). *Journal of Politics* 84 (3), (2022):

“Taiwan and the ‘One China’ Principle in the Age of Coronavirus: Assessing the determinants and Limits of Chinese Influence” (with Scott L. Kastner, Guan Wang, Laura Phillips-Alvarez and Joseph Yinusa). *The China Quarterly*. [Fall 2022], open access.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0305741022001321>*

“Static Electricity: Institutional and Ideational Barriers to China’s Electricity Market Reforms” (with Michael Davidson), *Studies in Comparative International Development* (May 2022). DOI [10.1007/s12116-022-09358-9](https://doi.org/10.1007/s12116-022-09358-9) (open access).

“The Role of Political Networks in Anti-Corruption Investigations” (with Kainan Gao), *China Review* 22 (2) (May 2022): 81-111.*

“Does Chinese FDI in Africa Inspire Support for a China Model of Development?” (with John F. McCauley and Xiaonan Wang). *World Development* 150 (February 2022).

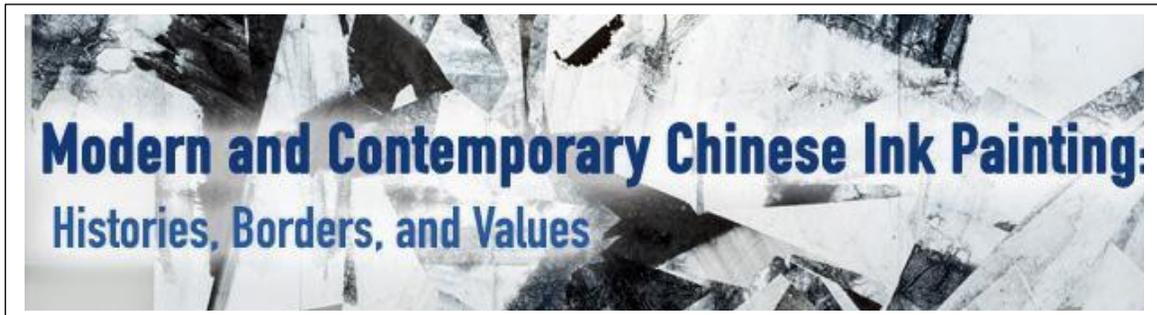
Minglang Zhou has published two articles:

“Linguistic human rights of minorities in China,” chapter in *The Handbook of Linguistic Human Rights*, edited by Tove Skutnabb-Kangas and Robert Phillipson, 319-326. New York: Wiley.

“语言传播的双向性与大华语的特征” [Bidirectionality of language spread and features of Greater Huayu]. 《华文教学与研究》 [TCSOL Studies], 4: 38-43.

4. Conferences & Symposiums

Jason Kuo organized the Symposium on Modern and Contemporary Chinese Ink Painting: Histories, Borders, and Values this past spring, in collaboration with the Mozhai Foundation, Department of Art History and Archaeology, and CEAS.



Here are the links to the symposium videos (Password: TMF2022):

Symposium Part I, April 20, 2022: <https://vimeo.com/720476379>

Symposium Part II, April 27, 2022: <https://vimeo.com/720508435>

Marlene J. Mayo presented the following paper:



"A Transpacific Village: Philadelphia and Japanese Quakers Rebuild the Tokyo Friends Girls School in Early Postwar Japan" at the 50th annual conference of MAR/AAS at the University of Pennsylvania, October 2022

And contributed to a roundtable: "Modernity, Media, and Gender in Japan: Tracing the Impacts of Barbara Sato's Pioneering Scholarship" at the same conference.

Alicia Volk delivered the paper:

"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, 2022.

Minglang Zhou delivered three plenary speeches:

“Bidirectionality of language spread: Linguistic standards in global Chinese teaching,” plenary speech at the 21st International Annual Conference of Teaching Chinese as a Second Language, National Taiwan Normal University, December, 2022.

“Characteristics of Chinese language education in area studies: A community language acquisition perspective,” plenary speech at the Symposium on Chinese Language Education in Africa, Zhejiang Normal University, December, 2022.

“Language spread and linguistic diversity,” plenary speech at the Thirteenth International Conference on Chinese Sociolinguistics, Sichuan International Studies University, December, 2022.

Students and Alumni News

EAS certificate student, **Kayleigh Gallagher**, submitted her paper “The Strange Case of Modernizing in East Asia: A Comparative Analysis of the Modernization Efforts of the 19th Century China and Japan” to *Duke East Asian Nexus*, a student journal, early this year. The DEAN journal has reviewed her submission and accepted it for publication.

Forthcoming Events

In 2023, the Dr. Thomas Kang Lectures are scheduled on **Thursday, March 30** (3:00-5:30 pm). The topic is Sino-Korean relations. The invited speakers are Dr. Jaeun Kim (University of Michigan) and Dr. Yuanchong Wang (University of Delaware), both of whom were recommended by CEAS members. Please mark your calendar and reserve this time slot for the lectures. For more information, contact Minglang Zhou (mlzhou@umd.edu).