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Message from the Director

After a stimulating and relaxing sabbatical, I am pleased to return to the Directorship of the Institute for Asian Studies (IAS) for the next two academic years. Many thanks much to Suwako Watanabe for her gracious and outstanding leadership during the 2013-14 academic year and to everyone who supported the Institute for Asian Studies (IAS) with their time and donations.

For the 2014-15 academic year, IAS will once again host an exciting array of Asia related events, including lectures by PSU faculty on China, Korea, Japan, Vietnam, and India; our twice yearly Engaging Asia series, focused this year on Southeast Asian; and outstanding guest speakers who will speak on issues ranging from current Chinese leadership, to changes in Korean education, to Nepali literature.

Additionally, the IAS will continue to co-sponsor events with the Center for Japanese Studies, the Confucius Institute, the Northwest China Council, and the First Saturday PDX East Asia Series.

IAS also has some new goals for this year. First, working with our Advisory Committee we plan to establish a more formal Advisory Board that will focus on extending connections with the greater Portland community and expanding fund raising. Second, the IAS is initiating a new collaborative PSU faculty forum that draws on the intersecting interests and expertise of PSU faculty and others in the Portland community. Our goal is to organize regular roundtables and events on a wide range of topics that cross cut Asian regions and scholarly disciplines. This new project kicked off with our first ever IAS Faculty Retreat on December 12th at the Simon Benson House.

To my colleagues at PSU, I wish you a stimulating and productive year and look forward to working with you on a range of IAS activities. To our growing network of community friends and supporters, I hope that you find our IAS events worthwhile, enjoyable, and provocative. We welcome your attendance, participation, financial support, and feedback.

Sharon Carstens, Ph. D.
Professor of Anthropology
2014-16 Director, Institute for Asian Studies

About the IAS

Founded in 1997, Portland State’s Institute for Asian Studies (IAS) is an interdisciplinary, administrative, service unit, linking some 70+ faculty & staff, across more than 20 disciplines & departments.

The Institute promotes public awareness about all parts of Asia. Through networking, partnerships, and fund-raising, the IAS aims to enhance Asian Studies programming and events that serve PSU students, faculty and staff, and the wider community.

IAS’s public programs and student scholarships are made possible through the generous support of financial and in-kind contributions made by individuals, families, and corporations in our community.

To learn more, visit: www.pdx.edu/Asian-Studies

Check out our website to find out more about Asia focused courses and public events at PSU, scholarship opportunities, Asia related resources, and programs offered by our campus partners the Center for Japanese Studies and the Confucius Institute.

www.pdx.edu/asian-studies
Faculty News

Welcome, Professor Britt Crow-Miller

Britt Crow-Miller joined the PSU Geography Department in Fall 2014 as Assistant Professor. As a human geographer focused broadly on environmental politics and development, Professor Crow-Miller’s research explores the question of how power and politics work to shape and constrain development pathways and their socio-environmental impacts in China and beyond. Her recent work examines the underlying political-economic agendas driving China’s South-North Water Transfer Project, the world’s largest water control project to date, which will lubricate urban and industrial growth in North China when fully operational later this year. She teaches courses on the complex linkages between environment and society, political ecology, environment and development in East Asia, global environmental politics, and modern China. Dr. Crow-Miller received her Ph.D. in Geography from UCLA in 2013, holds an M.A. in Regional Studies—East Asia from Harvard University and a B.A. from Bard College.

Michele Ruth Gamburd, Anthropology

Michele Ruth Gamburd, Professor of Anthropology, recently authored a book entitled The Golden Wave: Culture and Politics after Sri Lanka’s Tsunami Disaster. Published by Indiana University Press, the book examines power relations on Sri Lanka’s southwest coast in the aftermath of the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami. Framed as a contribution to the anthropology of disaster, it uses political anthropology and discourse analysis to explore how the catastrophe changed social identities, economic dynamics, and governance structures. Voice of America recently broadcasted two radio interviews with Dr. Gamburd—one about her tsunami work at and another about her alcohol studies.

Larry Kominz, Japanese Language & Literature


Ken Ruoff, Japanese & East Asian History

Ken Ruoff. Professor of Modern East Asian History and Director of PSU’s Center for Japanese Studies, will present two major lectures this coming academic year in a series titled “Memory Wars in East Asia” which focuses on the ways that governments and citizenry in the East Asian countries remember the colonial and imperialistic eras. The first, on November 18, will focus on the pluralistic manner in which Japan’s modern history, including that country’s darkest chapters, is represented at heritage sites in and around Seoul, the capital of South Korea, provide a highly nationalistic account of Korean history. Both of these lectures are based on Ruoff’s extensive fieldwork in those two nations. Professor Ruoff has recently published the article “Japanese Tourism to Mukden, Nanjing, and Qufu, 1938-1943” in the summer 2014 issue of Japan Review.
Engaging Asia: Lessons & Perspectives

Nov 4, A New SE Asia: Economic Integration Creates New Opportunities for US Businesses
Mr. Christopher Runckel, President, Runckel & Associates

May 12, ShiauYen Chin-Dennis
Attorney with K & L Gates

Spotlight on . . .

April 13, China: Where Is It Headed and What Could It Mean?
Dr. David M. Lampton, Hyman Professor and Director of China Studies at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies

April 30, Nepali Literature
Manjushree Thapa

May 17, Asian Music: Zithers of China, Japan & Korea

Quarterly Korean Program

Oct 2 - Korean Oral Epics
Dr. KyeungSin Park, University of Ulsan, Korea

Feb 26 - Memory Wars in East Asia II: Master Narratives of Modern Korean History Told in Museums in Korea
Dr. Kenneth Ruoff, PSU Professor of Japanese & East Asian History

May 18-19 - Re-Evaluating Education in Japan and Korea: Demystifying Stereotypes
Dr. Hyunjoon Park, Korea Foundation Associate Professor of Sociology and Education, University of Pennsylvania

All lectures are free and open to the public.
View complete details at www.pdx.edu/asian-studies or call 503-725-8576

1st Saturday Asia Program Series

Sept 13, Distilling the Essence of Chinese Poetic (Literati) Gardens

Oct 4, Chinese Folklore, Asian-American Identity and Cultural Heritage

Nov 1, Paintings, Poetry and Politics in Beijing’s Southern City, 1770-2014

Dec 6, Confucian Sacred Landscapes

Jan 10, Uyghur Culture

Mar 7, Music of the Guqin: Introduction & Musical Rendition

Apr 4, Portland’s Chinatown History

May 2, Negotiating Cultures: Chinese Christian Converts in the Ming-Qing Era

June 13, Famous Site of Wu

A big thank you to our 2013-2014 contributors . . . . . . and volunteers

- American Education Center
- Marilyn Beach
- Betty Bubak
- Sharon Carstens
- Peter & Helen Chun
- Ted & Sue Chung
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- Ursula Stigrus
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- Henry Kim
- Jana Lee
- Rina Nakaji
- Daniel Park
- Keiji Shiota
- Berenike Wachendorff
- Noah Willingham
- Dennis Lee and First Saturday East Asia Program committee members

Your contributions make all the difference. Donations to the Institute for Asian Studies support public lecture series events, travel expenses for guest speakers, video recordings of public lectures, work study students and volunteers, and student scholarships.

To learn more about supporting the Institute for Asian Studies, contact us at asianstudies@pdx.edu or tel. 503-725-8576.
Become a Friend of PSU’s Institute for Asian Studies

Help ensure the continuation of quality, educational public programs on Asia offered by Portland State’s **Institute for Asian Studies**.

**Join** the “Friends of Asian Studies” donor circle or consider a **gift** in support of student scholarships, Korean studies programs, South Asian programming, or the Trena Gillette Memorial Lecture Series.

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Or detach and return with a check payable to the **PSU Foundation**.

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