



Asian Studies Notes

NEWSLETTER OF THE ASIAN STUDIES PROGRAM OF THE UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO

Vol. 8, No. 6/ April 2003

Website: www.wings.buffalo.edu/asian/asn

亞細亞學研究

Globalization and Health in China Jennifer Randall

"It's a great huge game of chess that's being played-all over the world-if this is the world at all, you know. Oh, what fun it is! How I wish I was one of them! I wouldn't mind being a Pawn, if only I might join-though of course I should like to be a Queen, best."

Alice, Lewis Carroll's (1872) *Alice, Through the Looking-Glass*

Alice's experience mimics that of many globalizing communities. A game is underway. Most people know about it, on some level. But most people remain outside the playing field. What does it mean to live on the periphery, with the reality of knowing that a big game is being played, and you are not part of it? What about when this game is the new ideal for what life should be? What does sit-

ting in the bleachers do to the health of those populations? Are there ways to understand these questions and search for answers?

It is not my aim to define, critique or analyze China's position within this global community. It is not my concern to examine how China, as a nation, chooses to define its own modernity. I rather take globalization as a fact which has existential consequences for many Chinese, not always negative ones. I spent one and a half years teaching English in China: I cannot be completely dismissive of globalization. I was a conscientious player. There are, however serious negative aspects to this process. These are the issues which I choose to understand.

For the past thirty years, human biologists and an-

thropologists have contributed to the understanding of the connections between globalization and health. Changes in diet and lifestyle patterns have adverse effects, particularly on cardiovascular health.

But the consequences of globalization extend beyond these changes. The more intricate, nuanced connections are now being examined through the concurrent use of biocultural theory and methodology from the newly emerging field of psychoneuroimmunology.

The central thread running through this area of research is stress. Stress is an important biological function. The ability to transfer perceived information (an attacking animal, a car spinning out of control or an angry employer) into reaction and solutions is necessary for our survival.

See CHINA p. 2

Inside this issue:

Asia at Noon in April	2
Addendum	2
Celebration of Book Publication	3
Call for Papers	4
Conferences, Seminars, & Grants	5
Asian Studies Calendar	6

Asian Studies Sends Its Thanks

As the 2002-2003 academic year draws to a close, the Asian Studies program wishes to thank all those who make Asian studies happen at UB. We express appreciation to the College of Arts and Sciences and its constituent departments which house most of UB's Asianist faculty and courses. We jointly sponsored events this year with the Department of Theatre and Dance, the Department of History, the School of Management, the Asian American Studies Graduate Students Group, the Institute for Research and Education

on Women and Gender, and the Baldy Center for Law and Public Policy. We commend the Office of the Vice-Provost for International Education for its contributions in Study Abroad and International Student and Scholar Services. Members of the Asian Studies Advisory Council, chaired by Prof. **Roger Des Forges**, give of their time to confer about programmatic matters.

Special thanks goes to the staff that perform Asian studies functions. Secretary **Pat Kratz**, Graduate Assistant

Ngoc Minh Le, and student assistant **Lila Yu** work hard all week long. Adjunct instructors teach our courses in Asian American studies. Faculty, graduate students, and visiting scholars have shared their research at a dozen sessions of Asia at Noon this year.

Last but not least, we thank the students who fill Asian studies classes and enroll in the Minor in East Asian Studies. It is they who give life to Asian studies.

Thomas Burkman, Director

CHINA (cont. from p. 1)

But chronic stimulation of these physiological reactions can have serious adverse effects on growth, cognitive abilities, reproductive health, energy metabolism and immune function. Researchers are now looking at these physiological processes in order to clarify and quantify the effects of the stress that comes from living within a rapidly changing cultural system without having the power to affect it significantly.

Biological anthropologists are developing theory and methods to examine the issue of health and globalization. While globalization does not directly impair or improve people's health, it does create a stressful environment.

Chinese youth often live on the uncertain frontier between pre-existing values and new expectations introduced by globalization. University students from rural areas of the Peoples Republic of China are particularly stressed by these contrasting ideas and values. Psychosocial stress is experienced as a consequence of living in a globalizing community where daily attempts to integrate pre-existing values with new ones developing around them create a sense of dissonance and anxiety. This negotia-

tion and frequent uncertainty leads to physiological pathways which result in disease, illness or ill-health.

My proposed dissertation project will examine effects of this process within a Chinese university using longitudinal, multidimensional research models, employing qualitative and quantitative data. It will examine changes in stress level, as measured through multiple physiological markers and informed by rich ethnographic analysis. A freshmen student population will participate in two interviews, and two series of health inquiries, requiring a small blood sample and several non-invasive techniques (anthropometric measurements and blood pressure). A smaller sample will be asked to facilitate more exhaustive interviews with families and friends.

Globalization cannot be reversed, but helping people deal with these issues and documenting the mental and physical health implications of these processes is imperative. While Alice may be relegated to the sidelines, understanding her experience of watching the game from afar can help others cope with the same experience and further understand the adaptations possible by the human species.

(NOTE: **Jennifer Randall**, Ph.D. student of Anthropology, will be speaking on her research at the Asia at Noon, April 4, 12:00-1:00 in Park 280.)

Asia at Noon in April

Asia at Noon is one of UB's more noteworthy interdisciplinary gatherings. Meetings take place in Park 280 on alternative Fridays at 12:00 and dismiss promptly at 1:00. Undergraduates, faculty, graduate students, and community folk are welcome at this brown bag event, which features a speaker and question-and-answer. Asia at Noon events in April are:

April 4. **Jennifer Randall**, Ph.D. student in Anthropology. Ms. Randall conducts research on psycho-social stress of females in the face of globalization in China. She will speak on "How does Globalization Affect our Health? A Case Study in China." See the lead article in the issue for an introduction to her work.

April 18. **Seon-Wook Kim**, Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Soongsil University, Seoul, Republic of Korea. Kim received his Ph.D. in Philosophy from UB in 1999. He has published two books in Korean and a Korean translation of **Hannah Arendt's** *Lectures on Kant's Political Philosophy*. Kim will speak on "Korean Democracy after the Presidential Election: A Philosopher's Perspective."

Addendum

Jonathan Stalling

A few oversights in the History of Asian American Studies article in the February issue of *Asian Studies Notes* need to be rectified. As I mentioned in that issue, the lack of institutional memory is one of the most difficult barriers to overcome in any change of the status quo. Therefore, I would like to make sure that the early efforts of **Charles Bland** and two unmentioned undergraduate students, **Elvin Chan** and **Karen Lin**, be recognized. Both Elvin and Karen, who were involved in the Asian

American Student Union (AASU), worked closely with **Eddie Wong** (whom I mentioned in the article), to secure the independent study courses under Professor **Larry Chisolm's** supervision. These same students also approached Charles Bland to teach a formal course. Bland was an academic adviser who had sponsored a number of Asian American films and held informal discussions related to Asian American issues. With the support of Professor Chisolm and the assistance of Elvin and

Karen, Dr. Bland developed AMS 220 which he taught in Fall 1992 through the American Studies Department. Dr. Bland later helped secure funds to bring Asian American speakers and specialists in multicultural studies to UB and continued to teach AMS 220 on and off until 1997, in later years by trading off his lunch hour without extra pay. It is my hope that future generations of scholars can have access to these stories, since they constitute the foundation of Asian American studies at UB.

ASIAN STUDIES DIRECTORY

Thomas W. Burkman, Director (burkman@buffalo.edu)

Pat Kratz, Office Manager (kratzpg@buffalo.edu)

Ngoc Le, Graduate Assistant (ngocle@buffalo.edu)

714 Clemens, University at Buffalo, NY 14260/ Tel: (716) 645-3474 / Fax: (716) 645-3473

Celebration of Publication of New Monograph by Roger DesForges, April 24

Roger DesForges is Professor of Chinese history at the University at Buffalo. His career at UB covers three decades. Professor DesForges serves currently as chair of the Asian Studies Advisory Council. Stanford University Press this year published his new book, *Cultural Centrality and Political Change in Chinese History: Northeast Henan in the Fall of the Ming*. (See book summary below.)



In celebration of the publication and in honor of Dr. DesForges, a symposium on the book will take place Thursday, April 24, 4-6 p.m. in 209 O'Brian Hall. This event is co-sponsored by the Department of History and the Asian Studies program. Three distinguished China historians will discuss issues related to the book:

- **William Atwell**, Professor of History at Hobart and William Smith Colleges. Atwell is a specialist on Ming China.
- **Fa-ti Fan**, Assistant Professor of History at Binghamton University. Fan researches 18th century Europ-Chinese intellectual exchanges.
- **David Robinson**, Associate Professor of History at Colgate University. Robinson is a specialist on early modern China.

A reception will follow the symposium.

Former students and friends of Dr. DesForges will want to attend this event. We extend to Roger our hearty congratulations and our appreciation for his countless contributions to Asian studies at UB over the years.

Book Summary

The Ming period of Chinese history has often been depicted as an age of cultural aridity, political despotism, social stasis, and technological stagnation. Recent studies have modified this picture by showing that the arts continued to flourish, government remained effective, people enjoyed high degrees of mobility, and China served as an important center of the global economy. This study goes further to suggest that China's continuing quest for cultural centrality led to periodic political change that permitted the people of Ming times to retain influence over social and economic developments.

This study is based on many original sources and draws on the insights of world systems theory and contemporary cultural studies. It focuses on the experiences of some two and a half million people in three prefectures of northeast Henan province, known as the central province in the heart of the "central plain"- a common synecdoche for China. It suggests that, although limited in number, this population may have been more representative of the people

of China at large than were the residents of more prosperous and better studied regions such as Jiangnan.

Many individuals in northeast Henan-including government officials, members of the scholar-elite, notable women, various occupational groups, a religio-ethnic minority, and leaders of the masses-invoked models from the past to deal with the present and to help shape the future. While differing over the precise lessons they drew, they shared the view that certain past experiences-especially those of the Han dynasty- were particularly relevant to their own day. The author suggests that the Han and Ming polities, in turn, were integral parts of a larger pattern of Chinese historical development that has its origins in early times and retains its force to the present. This spiral pattern, resulting from the interaction of history and historiography, may be of interest to scholars working on other times and places in Chinese and world history.

CALL FOR PAPERS

NYCAS 2003 The New York Conference on Asian Studies
October 17-18, 2003
University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY



The Monkey Knows No Walls

WALLS IN ASIA

<http://wings.buffalo.edu/asian/NYCAS03>

The Program will include

- ≈ A lecture/performance of Monkey King stories from Beijing opera titled, *The Monkey Knows No Walls*
- ≈ A plenary address by **Ayesha Jalal**, Professor of History at Tufts University and leading scholar on India-Pakistan partition, on *Holes in the Wall: India's Partition Revisited*
- ≈ An address by AAS President **James L. Watson** on *The Other Side of the River: Hong Kong's Border Saga, 1898-2003*
- ≈ A roundtable on Asian studies in SUNY, with **Robert Gosende**, SUNY Associate Vice-Chancellor for International Program

Scholars in New York State - as well as in neighboring states, Canada, Asia, and the world - are cordially invited to submit proposals for individual papers, panels, and roundtables. Graduate student participation is welcome.

Papers, panels, and roundtables may focus on the conference theme "Walls in Asia" or other aspects of East Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, or Asian American Studies. Visit the conference website for a description of the possibilities within the conference theme of "Walls in Asia."

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF PAPERS, PANELS, AND ROUNDTABLES

May 1, 2003

[ON-LINE SUBMISSION FORM](#)

<http://wings.buffalo.edu/asian/NYCAS03/SubmitPapers.htm>

PRELIMINARY INQUIRIES AND EARLY SUBMITTAL ARE WELCOME

A preliminary program will be posted by June 15, and the final program will be posted during the summer. Program hard-copies will be distributed only at the conference.

[ASIAN STUDIES PROGRAM, 714 Clemens Hall](#)

[UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO](#)

Buffalo, NY 14260

(716) 645-3474, (716) 645-3473 (Fax)

<http://wings.buffalo.edu/asian>

Thomas Burkman, Director and Conference Program Chair
asian-studies@buffalo.edu

Please forward to others who might be interested. Thank you.

Conferences, Seminars, and Grants

Arab Americans: At the Edge of the National Security Debate

The Council on International Studies and Programs and Office of the Vice Provost for International Education will present a special lecture series entitled "Global Perspectives: Seeing the World Differently." This series has been organized to address the need in the University community for access to a variety of perspectives on current international issues. The series will also serve to highlight the increased importance of international education and exchange in the post-September 11 world.

The fifth lecture of the series will be presented by **Jean AbiNader**, Managing Director and Chief Operating Officer of the Arab American Institute in Washington DC. Mr. AbiNader's talk will focus on the civil liberties in the post-9/11 era. Time and place: Thursday, April 3, 7:00 p.m., Screening Room, Center for the Arts, North Campus, University at Buffalo.

Since 9/11, Arab Americans have watched their dreams of being part of the American society subject to the stresses of federal initiatives that create stress, fear and intimidation in the community. No person, citizen, immigrant or visitor to this country is immune from these new laws. The Arab American experience is a warning to everyone about the need to balance civil liberties with our legitimate national security concerns.

Conference at Cornell, April 4-5: Institutional Change in East Asia

On April 4 and 5, Cornell's East Asia Program and Center for the Study of Economy and Society will co-host a two-day conference entitled "Institutional Change in East Asia." The conference will take place on the Cornell campus in G08 Uris Hall. Conference organizers **Victor Nee** (Cornell) and **Mary Brinton** (Harvard) cordially invite you to join some fourteen colleagues from the U.S., China, Italy, and Korea who will offer

their insights on this topic from various perspectives. Website: <http://www.einaudi.cornell.edu/eastasia/news/index.asp?id=402>

Trafficking in Persons in Inner Asia: April 9 Panel

A panel discussion on trafficking in persons, including women and children, will be held Wednesday, April 9, from 4 to 6 p.m. in Clemens 1004. The phenomenon of trafficking in persons is a cause of increasing concern to activists and scholars of human rights. This event is co-sponsored by the Asian Studies program, the Baldy Center for Law and Public Policy, the Center for the Americas, and Buffalo/Niagara WorldConnect.

The panel will feature four women visitors to Buffalo from the former Soviet republics of Kazakhstan and Tajikistan who are working with NGOs to counter trafficking. They are in the US through a State Department program. From Kazakhstan the program will feature **Assiya Kaliyeva**, affiliated with the Meir Center of Social Psychological Support for Youth and a Center for Support of Women; **Aiman Konchakova**, project coordinator of the Meir Center; and **Albina Orlova**, Director of the Center for Support of Women. From Tajikistan comes **Zamira Kholdarova**, a crisis worker at the Ghamkhori Women's Center. The panelists will speak in Russian, with English interpretation.

Light supper/refreshments will conclude the program.

Midwest Japan Seminar, April 26 in Niagara Falls

The Asian Studies program will host a meeting of the Midwest Japan Seminar Saturday afternoon, April 26, at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel in Niagara Falls, New York.

The Midwest Japan Seminar is an interdisciplinary gathering of Japanologists from the Midwest states, ranging from WNY to Oklahoma. Established in 1970, MJS has provided Japan scholars with an opportunity to meet regularly to discuss

and refine their research. The membership includes art historians, anthropologists, historians, literature and language specialists, political scientists, sociologists, and other scholars with research capabilities in the Japanese language.

MJS meets five Saturdays a year at host universities through the Midwest. At each meeting, two scholars present research papers which are circulated in advance. The Seminar is funded by the Japan Foundation, and attendees receive partial reimbursement for their travel expenses.

The April 26 meeting will be the first hosted by UB in recent memory. Faculty and graduate students with research interest in Japan are welcome to attend. Two papers will be presented:

- **Eiji Kawabata** (The University of Oklahoma) "Dual Governance: The Contemporary Politics of Posts and Telecommunications in Japan"
- **Amy Christiansen** (Wittenberg University) "The Female Bildungsroman in Japanese Literature"

Attendees should read the papers beforehand. See Asian Studies for copies. A dinner will be held at 6:30 at the Red Coach Inn. People will order from the menu at their own expense. Call Asian Studies for a dinner reservation.

2003 China Times Scholarship for Dissertation in Chinese Studies

Applicant must be doctoral candidate in humanities or social sciences, with an approved dissertation prospectus. Enrollment in a university in the U.S. or Canada is required. Scholarships are in the amount of \$5000. They are on the basis of scholarly merit, without discrimination by academic discipline, race or citizenship. Applicants must send a completed application form, CV, official transcript of graduate course work, reprints of publications (if any), and a project description in English and Chinese. Deadline for applications is June 30, 2003. Awards will be announced in October 2003. Application forms may be obtained from: China Times Cultural Foundation, 136-39 41 Ave. #1A, Flushing, NY 11355, tel. & fax: 718-460-4900, email: ctcfmail@yahoo.com

Asian Studies Calendar

March

- Mar. 31, Mon. 12:00-1:30 pm. *GSE Brown Bag Series*. **Hiro Inokuchi**, Associate Professor, University of East Asia, Shimonoseki, Japan. "Different than Us': U.S. Middle School Students' Discourses on Japan." Baldy 479.

April

- Apr. 3, Thu. 7:00 pm. *Lecture*. **Jean AbiNader**, Managing Director and Chief Operating Officer of the Arab American Institute, Washington DC. "Arab Americans: At the Edge of the National Security Debate." Sponsored by the Council on International Studies and Programs and Office of the Vice Provost for International Education. Screening Room, Center for the Arts.
- Apr. 4, Fri. 12:00. *Asia at Noon*. **Jennifer Randall**, Ph.D. student in Anthropology. "How Does Globalization Affect Our Health? A Case Study in China." Park 280.
- Apr. 8, Tue. 10:00-11:00 am. *Informal Gathering*. **Virida Somswasdi**, Associate Professor of Law and Director of Women's Studies Center at Chiangmai University, Thailand; President of the Foundation for Women, Law and Rural Development (FORWARD); Thailand's Woman of the Year 2002. Kennedy Lounge-Clemens 712A.
- Apr. 9, Wed. 4:00-6:00 pm. *Panel*. **Assiya Kaliyeva**,

Aliman Konchakova, Albina Orlova, Zamira Kholdarova, NGOs in Kazakhstan and Tajikistan. "Trafficking in Persons in Inner Asia." Clemens 1004.

- Apr. 10, Thu. 11:00 am-3:00 pm. *Food Bazaar*. **Indonesia Student Association (PERMIAS)**. "Batavia Market 2003." Social Hall, Student Union 215.
- Apr. 13, Sun. 2:30 pm. **Japanese Student Association**. "Japan Nite." Student Union Theater.
- Apr. 18, Fri. 12:00. *Asia at Noon*. **Seon-Wook Kim**, Professor of Philosophy, Soongsil University, Seoul, Republic of Korea. "Korean Democracy after the Presidential Election: A Philosopher's Viewpoint." Park 280.
- Apr. 24, Thu. 4:00-6:00 pm. *Celebration of Book Publication*. **Roger DesForges**, Professor of History. "Cultural Centrality and Political Change in Chinese History: Northeast Henan in the Fall of the Ming." O'Brian 209.
- Apr. 26, Sat. **Midwest Japan Seminar**. Four Points Sheraton Hotel, Niagara Falls, NY.

May

- May 1, NYCAS 2003 Proposal Submission Deadline, www.wings.buffalo.edu/asian/NYCAS03
- May 7-13, Annual Meeting. **Association for Asian American Studies**, San Francisco, www.aaastudies.org.

June

- Jun. 1, NYCAS 2003 The Marleigh Grayer Ryan Student Prize Proposal Submission Deadline. www.wings.buffalo.edu/asian/NYCAS03



Asian Studies Notes

Asian Studies Program

714 Clemens Hall
Buffalo, NY 14260-4610
Tel.: (716)645-3474 Fax:(716)645-3473
Email: asian-studies@buffalo.edu
Homepage: <http://wings.buffalo.edu/asian>

Asian Studies Notes is published
6 times yearly by the Asian Studies
Program, SUNY at Buffalo.

Ngoc Le, *Editor*

CAMPUS