



Asian Studies Notes

NEWSLETTER OF THE ASIAN STUDIES PROGRAM OF THE UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO

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Website: wings.buffalo.edu/asian/asn

亞細亞學研究

Chinese Ministry of Education Donates Books to UB



Chinese Consul General and President Simpson

the Foreign and Education Ministries of the PRC. UB's Office of International Education orchestrated an impressive set of hospitality events for the visiting dignitaries.

The collection, in bound volumes and CD-ROMs, covers a comprehensive range of fields such as literature, society, economy, the arts, and language. It includes an encyclopedia and various dictionaries and works for the scientific study of Chinese language. The materials will be housed in the East Asian Collection of the Lockwood Library. A complete list of the donated works is available at the Asian Studies office.

UB is one of a select set of American universities to receive a donation of books from the Ministry. The Minister of Education since 2003 is Zhou Ji, an alumnus of the UB School of Engineering (Ph.D. 1984, M.S. 1981). In March, Professor Junhao Hong of the School of Informatics and member of the Asian Studies Advisory Council visited Zhou at the Ministry in Beijing and conveyed the greetings of the University. Zhou expressed his desire to assist in deepening UB's ties to education in China.

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- On July 28, a blue-ribbon delegation of officials from the Consulate of the People's Republic of China in New York came to UB to officially present to UB a donation of 500 Chinese language books from the Ministry of Education. In a formal ceremony in Capen Hall, UB President John Simpson accepted the gift from Ambassador Liu Biwei, Consul General. The Ambassador was accompanied by his wife, Consul Fang Chun, and several consular officials representing

NYCAS to Convene at Bard College

The New York Conference on Asian Studies will hold its annual meeting October 29 and 30 at Bard College, in Annandale in the Hudson River Valley. A year ago, the Asian Studies Program at UB hosted the meeting. The conference theme is "Asian Border Crossings." Several UB graduate students are slated to deliver papers.

Program and registration information may be viewed at <http://inside.bard.edu/nycas>. UB attendees are offered free lodging Friday and Saturday

nights at a state park cabin, as long as space is available. For information, contact Professor Burkman at Asian Studies.



Bard College

Locating Law in Buddhist Societies

On June 4 and 5, ten scholars in the fields of law, Buddhist studies, anthropology, and other disciplines gathered at UB with an equal number of informed observers for an unprecedented inquiry into the nature and role of law in regions where Buddhism is the dominant religious and cultural system. The workshop was led by Professors Rebecca R. French and David M. Engel of the UB Law School, and was hosted by the Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy.

The first day was spent brainstorming ideas on how to establish the new sub-discipline of Buddhist legal studies and the second day concerned funding and grant possibilities and ideas for a follow-up conference, which is tentatively slated for June 2005 in Buffalo. The Baldy Center has already confirmed basic funding.

There will be two parts to the 2005 conference: the first day will focus on invited papers on a broad range



of topics in law and Buddhism: "Buddhism and Legal Legitimacy in China," "Modern Korean Buddhism, and the Law," and The History of Sri Lankan Buddhist Monasteries." The second day, papers will concentrate on the subject of theft in Buddhist societies: what is its relationship to the Vinaya sections on theft? How is theft treated in monasteries? What do we know about theft laws in various ancient Buddhist societies? How does theft fit into Buddhist philosophy? The organizers expect a publication to result from the second conference; SUNY Press has expressed interest.

The Law and Buddhism Project website will be up by the second week in September. Check it out at www.buffalo.edu/baldy.center. Rigorous scholarship, enthusiasm, and comradery mark the launching of this new field of research.

Asia at Noon Slate Announced

Asia at Noon is a series of brown-bag lunch gatherings at the University, sponsored by the Asian Studies program. They begin at noon and dismiss promptly at 1:00. The presenter usually takes about 20 minutes, and the rest of the time is devoted to question and answer and discussion. The audience is comprised of undergraduates, graduate students, interested faculty, and folk from the Buffalo community. All sessions this semester will take place on Fridays in Park 280.

The kickoff for the Fall semester will be September 17, when the speaker is **Alma Djumabaeva**, Visiting Scholar in Women's Studies. She is on the Sociology faculty of Kyrgyz State National University in Kyrgystan. Her research deals with women and family in post-communist states, and the impact of market economy on democracy and gender. She will speak on *Gender Equality in Contemporary Kyrgystan*. The convener for this session will be Professor Barbara Wejnert of the Department of Women's Studies.

The Asia at Noon event for September 24 is a feature of Gender Week. Professor **Jeanette Ludwig** of the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures will speak on *Goddesses, Nuns, and Crones: Women and Buddhism*. Ludwig is a Zen practitioner who completed a weeklong meditation intensive *sesshin* at the Zen Mountain Monastery, training for membership in the Mountains and Rivers Order. In addition to her work in French literature, Professor Ludwig teaches World Religions and Asian Religions in her many-faceted professional and intellectual life.

Mark your calendar for subsequent Asia at Noon gatherings on October 8 and 15 and November 5 and 19. See Calendar for more details.



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Indian Novelist Arundhati Roy

Internationally renowned Indian writer Arundhati Roy will speak in Buffalo September 8 and 9.

Born in Kerala and now living in New Delhi, Ms. Roy is recognized worldwide as an essayist and voice in the struggle against political and economic oppression. She will be reading from and discussing her novel, *The God Of Small Things*, for which in 1997 she won England's most prestigious literary award, the Booker Prize. The event will take place on Wednesday, September 8, 8 p.m., at the Unitarian Universalist Church, at Elmwood and West Ferry in Buffalo. Roy will also address international affairs in a talk, "Another World is Possible," at First Presbyterian Church on Symphony Circle at 8 p.m. on September 9. Admission for either event is \$10. Tickets may be purchased by phone at 832-5400.

The Department of Women's Studies at UB has partnered with Just Buffalo Literary Center to co-sponsor the visit by this eminent literary figure.

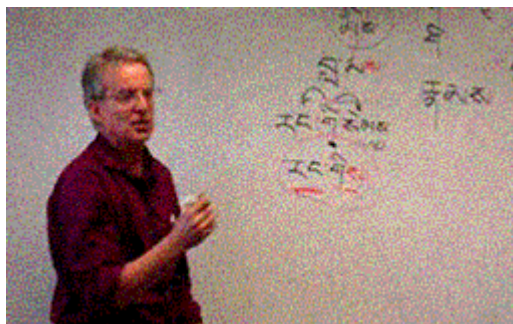


Arundhati Roy



The God of Small Things

Speaker to address the Language of Tibet



David Curtis teaching Tibetan language

David Curtis is the founder and Executive Director of the Tibetan Language Institute, a non-profit educational program located in Hamilton, Montana. A native of Montana, he has been a student of Tibetan Buddhism for twenty years. After studying classical languages and philosophy at the University of Montana, he lived and studied for five years at the College Monastique de Kagyu Ling, in France. He has developed innovative methods and materials for the teaching of Tibetan. He will be hosted in this area by the Amitabha Institute in Rochester.

All are invited to Mr. Curtis' presentation at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, September 22, in Clemens 830. He will address the interface of Tibetan language and Tibetan Buddhism with the topic, "Tibetan Buddhism and the Tibetan Language: How Each Influences the Other." Persons interested in Tibet, Buddhism, and the relationship between language and culture will want to attend.

ICAS Meeting Set in Shanghai

The International Convention of Asia Scholars is a global organization of scholars of Asia, which holds an international meeting every two years. Meetings have taken place since 1998 in Leiden, Berlin, and Singapore. The fourth convention is scheduled for August 20-24, 2005, in Shanghai. The venue will be the Shanghai Exhibition Center.

Papers, panels, posters, and meetings in conjunction may be proposed by November 1. www.icassecretariat.org

Part-time research position available

A UB political science professor is seeking a graduate or professional student to assist in research on the Dalit (former "Untouchable") population of India. Prior knowledge of human rights, India and effective utilization of cen-

sus and other data will be helpful. For full details on the position and application requirements, contact Professor Claude Welch at cwelch@buffalo.edu. Applications, in hard copy only, must be submitted by September 10.

Helping the Asian Studies Program

Some projects of the Asian Studies Program will become a reality only with donor support:

- Asian arts residencies
- Lecture series
- Scholar research
- Expansion of the East Asian Collection of the Lockwood Library
- New faculty positions

Funds may be donated for endowment or specific projects. Contributions are fully tax-deductible. For consultation, contact the Director of Asian Studies, (716)645-3474; asian-studies@buffalo.edu. Contributions for the general support of the Program can be made to the UB Foundation. Designate "Asian Studies Program Resource Fund."

Asian Studies Calendar

September

- Sept. 7, 5:00. Asian-American Student Union first general meeting. 145D Student Union.
- Sept. 8, 8:00 pm. **On The God of Small Things.** Arundhati Roy reads from & discusses her novel. 695 Elmwood Ave.
- Sept. 9, 8:00 pm. **Another World is Possible: A Conversation with Arundhati Roy.** First Presbyterian Church, One Symphony Circle.
- Sept. 17, 12:00-1:00 *Asia at Noon.* "Gender Equality in Contemporary Kyrgystan." **Alma Djumabaeva**, Visiting Research Scholar in Women's Studies. Park 280.
- Sept. 19, 1:00-4:00 **Asian Studies Picnic** at the home of Professor Burkman in Grand Island. For full information, contact Mary Anne Lang at Asian Studies, 645-3474, or mal@buffalo.edu.
- Sept. 22, 4:00 **David Curtis**, Director, Tibetan Language Institute, Montana. "Tibetan Buddhism and the Tibetan Language: How Each Influences the Other." Clemens 830.
- Sept. 24, 12:00-1:00 *Asia at Noon.* "Goddesses, Nuns, and Crones: Women and Buddhism." **Jeanette Ludwig**, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures. Park 280.

October

- Oct. 8, 8:00 pm. **International Monkey King Troupe** from Beijing. "The Adventures of the Monkey King: A Beijing Opera." Mainstage, CFA.
- Oct. 15, 12:00-1:00 *Asia at Noon.* "Major Issues Confronting the Dalit (formerly Untouchable) Community in India." **Henry Thiagaraj**, leader in the Dalit Liberation Education Trust, Madras. Park 280.
- Oct. 18, 4:00 **Annelise Riles**, Professor of Law and Director, Cornell University Law School. "Making White Things White: Translation, Replication and Iteration in Japanese Legal Practice and Its Lessons for the Cultural Study of Law." O'Brian 545.
- Oct. 28-29. Conference of the Society for Indian Philosophy and Religion, at Buffalo State College.
- Oct. 29-30. **New York Conference on Asian Studies Annual Meeting**, at Bard College.

November

- Nov. 5, 12:00-1:00 *Asia at Noon.* "Dance Traditions of India: Kuchipudi, Heritage of the State of Andhra Pradesh." **K. Neelima Raju**, Ph.D. student in cellular molecular biology, Roswell Park. Park 280.
- Nov. 19, 12:00-1:00 *Asia at Noon.* "The Complaint System (shangfang) in China." **Fang Qiang**, Ph.D. candidate in History. Park 280.

December

- Dec. 8, 8:00 pm. **Cho Heung Dong**, Choreographer. "Reimagining Tradition: Korean Traditional Dance by Cho Heung Dong." Drama Theatre, CFA.



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