



Asian Studies Notes

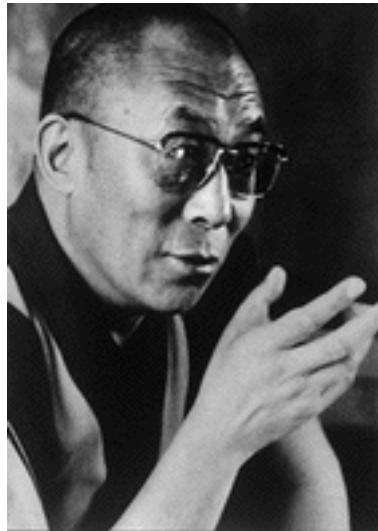
NEWSLETTER OF THE ASIAN STUDIES PROGRAM OF THE UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO

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<http://cas.buffalo.edu/depts/asianstudies/newsletter/index.shtml>

亞細亞學研究

Dalai Lama Will Visit UB!



The 14th Dalai Lama – Tenzin Gyatso

The University at Buffalo will host His Holiness the Dalai Lama a year from now for a two-day visit on Sept. 21 and 22, 2006, that will culminate the university's efforts over a period of nearly 10 years to

bring the Dalai Lama to Buffalo.

While the specifics of the visit have not been worked out, it is anticipated that in addition to a large public address as part of UB's 2006-07 Distinguished Speakers Series, the Dalai Lama -- who is head of state in exile of Tibet and spiritual leader of the Tibetan people -- will hold smaller instructional sessions with faculty and students. An interfaith service with representatives of the local religious

communities also is planned.

An agreement to bring His Holiness to UB was concluded last spring during a trip to the Office of Tibet, the Dalai Lama's official representative in New York City, by Stephen Dunnett, UB vice provost for international education, and William J. Regan, director of conferences and special events. A steering committee composed of university and community representatives is overseeing the complex planning and logistical effort required in advance of the visit.

Among the pre-visit orientation programs in planning are a course, AS 394/HIS 295: Tibet: Myth and Reality, to be offered Wednesday evenings on the North Campus during the Spring '06 semester. A course on Buddhism will follow in Fall '06. A Tibet film series is projected for the Buffalo community. A website will carry a list of suggested readings.

UB President John B. Simpson described the pending visit as "truly a great honor for the university, and a meaningful opportunity for our academic community and the larger communities we serve. We are profoundly honored that His Holiness has graciously agreed to visit our academic community."

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UB Scores Big with 2005 Ryan Prize Winners

UB captured First Prize in the graduate student category of the Marleigh Graver Ryan Student Prize Competition, sponsored by the New York Conference on Asian Studies. Jeongsuk Joo, Ph.D. student in American Studies, took the honor with her paper, "From Periphery to Center: The Rise of the Korean Film Industry Since the Late 1990s and Ironies of Its Success." She will present this paper at the NYCAS Meeting at New Paltz this October. In the undergraduate category, Honorable Mention

was garnered by Theresa McNutt, UB major in Linguistics. Her paper was titled, "The Double-Standard of Cross-Genderization in Japanese Theatre."

2006 Ryan Prize Guidelines will be posted later this fall on the NY-CAS website:

<http://www.newpaltz.edu/asianstudies/nycas/>



International Conference to Explore Significance of Chinese Walls

The "Great Wall" is one of the most common symbols of China and is often invoked to describe other barriers around the world. Yet its historical significance—even its very existence—is a matter of controversy.

On October 20 through 23, 2005, over thirty scholars from China and North America will converge on the University at Buffalo and Albright-Knox Art Galleries to examine the historical and aesthetic significance of the so-called Great Wall and many other Chinese boundaries, both physical and metaphorical, in their global contexts. This multidisciplinary research conference, titled "The Roles and Representations of Walls in the Reshaping of Chinese Modernity," will focus on the changing functions and understandings of walls in China, especially since the inauguration of the policy of "reform" and "opening" in the People's Republic in the 1980s.

Presentations at the conference, which will be followed by question and answer sessions, will be free and open to the public. They will include an opening keynote address by Professor Arthur Waldron, author of the influential *The Great Wall of China: From History to Myth* on October 20 at 4:30 p.m. at the UB Center for the Arts.



Walls in China

Eight panels over the next three days will address urban, cultural, and legal walls and will discuss their artistic, literary, and cinematic depictions. The conference will conclude on October 23 at 3:00 p.m. at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery with a closing keynote address by Professor Minglu Gao, curator of an accompanying exhibition of contemporary Chinese art from the People's Republic of China, titled "The Wall." This major selection of recent painting, rubbings, performances, and installations, will be the largest from the People's Republic ever exhibited outside China.

The conference is co-sponsored by the University at Buffalo Art Galleries, Albright-Knox Art Gallery, WLS Spencer Foundation, Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy, College of Arts and Sciences, Asian Studies Program, Department of History, Department of Art History, Department of Art, Julian Park Chair in Comparative Literature, and Mentholatum Company, Inc.

For further information, link from website <http://cas.buffalo.edu/depts/asianstudies/> or contact members of the organizing committee, including Thomas Burkman (burkman@buffalo.edu), Roger Des Forges (rvd@buffalo.edu), and Sandra Olsen (sholsen@buffalo.edu).

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"His Holiness' teachings, and his efforts in promoting peaceful international relations throughout the world, have enlightened and inspired many in our university and in our region," Simpson said. "For a globally focused university like UB, it is impossible to quantify the significance of the opportunity to learn at first-hand from such an eminent and esteemed world leader. The visit of His Holiness promises to be a milestone event in the history of the university."

Dunnett said UB's large and diverse international community, and its position near the Canadian border were major reasons why the university was selected for a visit by the Dalai Lama. The university enrolls some 3,400 international students, including 2,200 from Asia, and has many faculty, staff and scholars from countries around the world.

He noted that UB also is known for its innovative Asian Studies Program. In preparation for the Dalai Lama's visit, Asian Studies will have a lead role in organizing educational programs to raise awareness on campus about the riches of Tibetan culture and history.

"In an audience I had with His Holiness during his visit to Toronto last year, he expressed a special interest in UB's international character and outreach," Dunnett said. "He sees the purpose of a visit to UB as primarily educational in nature, and is keen to speak to our students and faculty in a direct and personal way as a teacher. In fact, he made a special request that a private audience be arranged with our international students."

For updates about the Dalai Lama's planned visit to UB, or to be placed on the early-bird mailing list for ticketing information, please visit <http://www.specialevents.buffalo.edu>.

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Asia at Noon in September

Asia at Noon is a series of brown-bag lunch gatherings at the University at Buffalo, sponsored by the Asian Studies Program. They are scheduled for 12:00 noon, and dismiss promptly at 1:00. The presenter 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. For the full AAN schedule for the fall, see the Calendar on the back page. Two programs are set for September, on Fridays in Park 280:

- September 9. *Drudges, Dancing-girls, Concubines: Female Slaves in Rajput Polity, 1500-1850*. **Ramya Sreenivasan**, Assistant Professor of History. Convener: John Wood, Associate Vice-Provost for International Education.

The modern state of Rajasthan in northwestern India is one of the most intensively developed regions in the country for tourism, especially foreign tourism. Statistics estimate that every third foreign tourist coming to India finds his or her way to Rajasthan, drawn largely by fortresses and palaces successfully re-packaged as the romance of the ruling Rajput military-aristocratic elite, who have been dominant in the region for at least the last millennium. The number of foreign tourists visiting Rajasthan grew by 55 % over the previous year in 2004, and grew by 36 % in the first four months of this year.

This presentation explores the forms of female slavery and servitude among the Rajput ruling clans of Ra-

jasthan between the sixteenth and early nineteenth centuries. In piecing together this history of female enslavement – the capturing of women in war, continuing negotiations of their status, and the status of female slave labor in elite households – in pre-modern Rajput polity, Professor Sreenivasan argues that such practices of slavery were vital to upholding the institutions of both the Rajput state and Rajput patriarchy.

- September 23. *School Curriculum in India: Possibilities of Feminist Interventions*. **Nandini Manjrekar**, Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Gujarat, India. This Gender Week event is co-sponsored by the Center for Comparative and Global Studies in Education and the Institute for Research and Education on Women and Gender. Convener: Yoshiko Nozaki, CCGSE.

Dr. Manjrekar is on the faculty of the Women's Studies Research Center at Baroda. Her research addresses the sociology of gender and education in India, gender and curriculum, and women's histories. She focuses on the construction of gender through educational processes. She also treats issues of education and gender in other countries.

She will also speak on Thursday, September 22, at the noon brown bag gathering of the Center for Comparative and Global Studies in Education. Her topic will be *Gender and Nation in School Textbooks in India*. Baldy 479.

NYCAS 2005 at New Paltz

The 2005 Annual Meeting of the New York Conference on Asian Studies will be held at SUNY New Paltz, September 30 to October 1. For detailed information and registration, go to <http://www.newpaltz.edu/nycas05/>

Presenters from UB include:

- Thomas Burkman, Asian Studies. Member of roundtable: "Facing Asia Through Fiction: Using Novels and Other Nontraditional Texts To Teach About Asia"
- Suck Choi, Philosophy. "Chu Hsi's Theory of Self-Completion"
- MiSung Jang, Philosophy. "Egoism vs. Altruism in Confucius and Aristotle"
- MinGyu Seo, Philosophy. "Bhaskar's Meta-reality and Eastern Thought"

- Qiang Fang, History. "A Hot Potato: The Complaint System in the PRC (1949-the Present)"

- Jonathan Stalling, English. "Emptiness Through Patterned Flux: Re-reading Ernest Fenollosa's Chinese Written Character"

- Jeongsuk Joo, American Studies. "From Periphery to Center: The Rise of the Korean Film Industry Since the Late 1990s"

- Yuen-Kwang Kim, Political Science. "Vision of Border Opening with Visa-Waiver System in East Asia"

- Rima Aranha, Educational Leadership and Policy. "Transmitting the Hindutva Ideology: Strategies of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad in India"

Hearty Congratulations to

- Jessie Poon, Department of Geography, promoted to Full Professor
- Junhao Hong, Department of Communication, accorded research affiliation with the Fairbank Center for East Asian Research of Harvard University
- Sunjoo Ryou, B.A. in Asian Studies, May 2005
- Lisa Lew, Minor in Asian Studies, May 2005
- Tyler Tepfer, Minor in Asian Studies, May 2005

Opportunities, Conferences, and Grants

Faculty Seminars Abroad with CIEE

Study in Asia with CIEE, the Council on International Education Exchange. Programs for summer 2006 include four in Asia.

- Cambodia & Vietnam. Post-War Development and Reconciliation in Cambodia and Vietnam. July 2-14.
- Tokyo, Japan: International Christian University. Contemporary and Popular Japanese Cultures and Societies. June 24-July 2.
- Delhi and New Delhi, India. India's Complexities: The Interplay of Geography, History, and Religion. July 1-15.
- Taiwan: National Chengchi University. Religion and NGOs in Taiwanese Society. June 30-July 9.

For information, go to:

<http://www.ciee.org/IFDS.aspx>

Bridging Scholarships for Japan

The US-Japan Bridging Foundation, through the Association of Teachers of Japanese, offers Bridging Scholarships for students to study abroad in Japan. Awardees receive a stipend of \$2500 for semester-long programs and \$4000 for academic-year programs.

The deadline for students who will be studying in Japan in Spring 2006 is October 5, 2005; for students whose stint in Japan begins in Fall 2006, the deadline is April 5, 2006.

www.colorado.edu/ealc/atj/Bridging/scholarships.html



October 21 Opening:

The Wall Art Exhibition Coming to UB

The most ambitious exhibition of contemporary Chinese art to travel beyond China will be presented this fall by the Albright-Knox Art Gallery and the University at Buffalo Art Galleries after its debut in Beijing this summer at the Millennium Art Museum.

The Wall: Reshaping Contemporary Chinese Art is the first collaboration between U.S. art museums and a significant Chinese art museum to focus on contemporary Chinese art.

Because of its size and scope, *The Wall* will be installed at three venues: the Albright-Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo, the UB Art Gallery in the Center for the Arts on UB's North Campus in Amherst, and the UB Anderson Gallery on Martha Jackson Place in Buffalo. The exhibition will open to the public on Oct. 21 and remain on view through Jan. 29, 2006.

"*The Wall* can be interpreted as a physical or architectural form such as the Great Wall or other various

walls in a living space; as a modernization project that has posed a challenge in China such as the Three Gorges Dam Project; or as a cultural and social boundary experienced by Chinese citizens," said the curator Gao Minglu, Associate Professor of East Asian Modern and Contemporary Art in the History of Art and Architecture Department at the University of Pittsburgh. "These three interpretations provide the intellectual framework for the exhibition."

The Wall will be a significant interdisciplinary cultural event that will also include the publication of a 450-page bilingual catalogue, film screenings, educational programming for children and adults, and art performances.

Admission is free at both UB venues and \$12 at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery. Additional information is available at www.thewallexhibiton.org.

Our Minor Has a New Name!

In recognition of the growing faculty strength and course offerings outside of East Asia, the Asian Studies Advisory Council voted to change the former Minor in East Asian Studies to the Minor in Asian Studies. This means that students can design their Minor to focus on South Asia or the Middle East and related languages. Two students, Tyler Tepfer and Lisa Lew, received the newly titled "degree" at the Spring '05 UB graduation.

Sanjbatir Rupkatha on Screen

A rare opportunity to see an English-subtitled film from the vast and thriving Bengali film industry! *Sanjbatir Rupkatha* is a sensitive story of a father-daughter relationship, where the father—an artist/teacher—serves as a role model for the daughter. Sarbani Chaudhury, Professor in the Department of English, University of Kalyani, West Bengal, India, will lead the discussion after the film. It will be shown on Tuesday, September 20, 2005, 9-10:50 am, in 120 Clemens.

Asian Studies Calendar

September

- Sept. 9, 12:00-1:00. *Asia at Noon*. "Drudges, Dancing-girls, Concubines: Female Slaves in Rajput Polity, 1500-1850." **Ramya Sreenivasan**, Assistant Professor of History. Park 280.
- Sept. 20, 9:00-10:50 am. **Film: *Sanjhatir Rupkatha***. **Sarbani Chaudhury**, University of Kalyani, West Bengal, India. Clemens 120.
- Sept. 22, 12:00 pm. "Gender and Nation in School Textbooks in India." **Nandini Manjrekar**, Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, India. Center for Comparative & Global Studies in Education brown bag. Baldy 479.
- Sept. 23, 12:00-1:00. *Asia at Noon*. "School Curriculum in India: Possibilities of Feminist Interventions." **Nandini Manjrekar**, Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, India. Park 280. (Gender Week. Co-sponsored by CCGSE and IREWG)
- Sept. 30, **New York Conference on Asian Studies Annual Meeting**, at SUNY New Paltz.

October

- Oct. 7, 12:00-1:00. *Asia at Noon*. "The Korean Wave: Korean Popular Culture in Asia and Beyond." **Jeongsuk Joo**, Ph.D. student in American Studies. Park 280.

- Oct. 14, 12:00-1:00 *Asia at Noon*. "Invisible Walls in Japanese Cities." **Hiroaki Hata**, Associate Professor of Architecture. Clemens 120.
- Oct. 20-23, International research conference, "The Roles and Representations of Walls in the Reshaping of Chinese Modernity."
- Oct. 21, "**The Wall: Reshaping Contemporary Chinese Art**." Opens at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, the UB Art Gallery in the Center for the Arts, and the UB Anderson Gallery.
- Oct. 24, 5:00 pm. "Understanding between Korea and Japan through Popular Culture." **Kiyoko Shimizu**, Ohtemon Gakuin University, Japan. Park 280. Co-sponsored by the Department of Women's Studies.
- Oct. 25, 12:00-1:00. *Asia at Noon*. "Women and the Japanese Textbook Controversy." **Kiyoko Shimizu**, Ohtemon Gakuin University, Japan. Park 280.
- Oct. 28, 10:00 am. "'Human' in the Age of Disposable People." **Rey Chow**, author. CFA Screening Room.

November

- Nov. 16, 12:00-1:00. *Asia at Noon*. "Walking Tour of The Wall Exhibition of Modern and Contemporary Chinese Art." **Bingyi Huang**, Assistant Professor of Art History. Art Gallery CFA. (International Education Week. Co-sponsored by UB Art Galleries)



Asian Studies Notes

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Asia at Noon



“Drudges, Dancing-girls, Concubines: Female Slaves in Rajput Polity, 1500-1850”

Ramya Sreenivasan

Assistant Professor of History

Convener: John Wood

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Park 280

Asia at Noon
Coming Next

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