



# Asian Studies Notes

NEWSLETTER OF THE ASIAN STUDIES PROGRAM OF THE UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO

Vol. 11, No. 6/ April 2006

<http://www.asianstudies.buffalo.edu/newsletter>

亞細亞學研究

## How China Has Changed: An Examination Through the Male Body

By Everett Zhang, Assistant Professor of Anthropology



There has been a great increase of impotence patient visits to hospitals in China since the 1980s. All kinds of signs—flyers advertising clinics

specializing in impotence and other sexually related diseases and media commercials on herbal tonics strengthening male potency—have been flourishing at the same time. What do these phenomena tell about the social transformation from several decades of Maoist socialism (1949-1979) to post-Mao consumer society?

In my capacity as an anthropologist, I examined this central question by conducting long term anthropological fieldwork in two cities—Beijing in the north and Chengdu in the southwest. Primarily working in the clinics of men’s medicine, I discovered that, in contrast to the increase of impotence patient visits, there was a decline of *yijing* (spermatorrhea) patient visits to hospitals. A change in what I call “moral symptomatology” concerning a moral evaluation of desire related diseases explains this contrast in the male body. *Yijing* as a symptom of Maoist socialism indicated a moral code of hostility toward individual desire whereas impotence as a symptom of post-Mao China indicated the justification of individual desire. This contrast reveals a shift of subject making from enforcing collective unity in the Maoist period to promoting individual desire today. The establishing of *nanke* (men’s medicine) as a new division of Chinese medicine contributed to the making of desire-centered subjectivity.

(Prof. Zhang will speak on his research at Asia at Noon, April 14, in Park 280)

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## Buddhism Course in Fall 2006



The coming of the Dalai Lama in September has ignited interest in Buddhism in Western New York. The Asian Studies Program is pleased to announce a new course to be offered in the fall semester. The course will be taught MWF, 1-1:50 pm in Clemens 322. The instructor is Professor Jeanette Ludwig, of the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, with expertise in Buddhism and

religious studies. Following is a brief description of the course:

AS 394 Special Topics: Buddhism  
Registration #: 448157

A survey of historical and theological developments, the course takes an “insider” and “outsider” approach to Buddhism. We will examine the story of Siddhartha Gautama, the Buddha, and his key teachings, then investigate the characteristics of the three main branches of the religion. Students will deal with key primary Buddhist texts and will consider the implications of Buddhist practices, particularly meditation.

## Asia at Noon in April

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 selected Fridays at 12 noon, and dismiss promptly at 1:00.

▪ Friday, April 14, 12:00 to 1:00, in Park 280. **Everett Y. Zhang**, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Anthropology: "The Birth of *Nanke* [Men's Medicine]: The Making of the Subject of Desire in China's Transformation" (See lead article, p. 1)

Everett Zhang is in his first year as a faculty member at UB. He received his Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley in 2003, with a dissertation on "Impotence in the Making: An Illness of Chinese Modernity." After getting his doctorate, he was a Postdoctoral Fellow at Harvard Medical School. A native of the PRC, he did his undergraduate work at Sichuan University. He is the author of several articles on Chinese masculinity.

The Asian Studies Program is receiving suggestions for presentations at Asia at Noon in Fall '06 and Spring '07. This interdisciplinary gathering is an excellent opportunity for faculty and graduate students to air their recent research concerning Asia.

## Summer 2006 Japanese Teacher Training at Cornell

The Department of Asian Studies at Cornell University will again be offering a four-week intensive Japanese Teacher Training Workshop in the Summer of 2006. Trainees will meet four hours each day beginning on Monday, July 10 and ending on Friday, August 4. Applications are welcome from those with a serious interest in teaching Japanese. Applicants are required to possess an ability to receive instruction and to communicate in both Japanese and English.

Trainees successfully completing the workshop will receive four Cornell credits and a certificate of completion. Tuition for the Summer 2006 workshop is set at \$2,600. A limited amount of financial support is expected to be available and will be offered on a competitive basis. The workshop is directed by Robert J. Sukle, Director of the Japanese FALCON (Full-Year Asian Language Concentration) Program at Cornell.

Applications are due by April 1, 2006. For application forms and more information, please see our website at: <http://lrc.cornell.edu/asian/courses/jttw>.

## UB Scholars Present at Conferences

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Association for Asian American Studies Conference was held in Atlanta, March 22-26. The theme was "Bodies, Communities, Regions." Among 400 attendees, UB participants included Jeongsub Nam, Ph.D. candidate in English; Zhen Li, Ph.D. student in English; Mijeong Park, Ph.D. candidate in Comparative Literature; and Yasuko Kase, Ph.D. candidate in English. Jeongsub presented his paper "Acclaiming Female Desire: Mei Oi's transcendence from Louis Chu to Wayne Wang." Zhen, Mijeong, and Yasuko formed a panel of "The Politics of Benevolence: Asian American War Narratives," chaired by Susan Moynihan, Assistant Professor in English.

The Association for Asian Studies 2006 Annual Meeting will be held from April 6-9, in San Francisco. Thomas Burkman, Director of Asian Studies, will be a member of a roundtable: "Crisis in the AAS: What the Regional Conferences Can Tell Us." Rachel L. Fix, a grad student in Social Foundations, will present her poster, "Higher Education Financing in Mongolia: An Investigation of Student Attitudes towards Tuition Fees." Yoshiko Nozaki, Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership and Policy, will present a paper, "The Representation of 'Comfort Women' and Politics of History in Contemporary Japan."

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**Course in Progress:****TIBET: MYTH AND REALITY**

The special class on Tibet takes place every Wednesday night at 7:00 in Knox 20. The course registered 98 students; 30-50 interested townspeople also attend each week. The course is part of the university's orientation for the visit by the Dalai Lama of Tibet on September 18-19, 2006. Financial support from the President's office has enabled the Asian Studies Program to secure some of North America's leading scholars and speakers on a wide variety of Tibet-related topics, including history, art, religion, economy, society, law, and relations with China. Much attention has been devoted to Buddhism and the special expressions of that religion which are found in Tibet. One of the speakers, Thupten Jinpa Langri, who will accompany the Dalai Lama as interpreter when His Holiness visits UB in September, commented that in all his visits to universities he has never encountered a Tibet course so comprehensive.

What attracts many people, including from the UB community, to the subject of Tibet is the way in which spirituality colors so many aspects of the society. Something in us yearns after a system that for much of the twentieth century was intent on producing more bodhisattvas, not more cars. The class inculcates an appreciation for the inherent value of faith. While the imprint of Buddhism is real, the Tibetan expression of it also generates a body of mythology about a Shangri-La, a utopia. The course informs students about ecology, life chains,

competing sects and political views, the non-Buddhist *bon* religion, and variant visions about how Tibet should adjust to modernity.

The public is invited to classes remaining in the semester: April 5, 12, 19, and 26. Topics and speakers, as well as news of the concurrent Tibet-in-Buffalo film series, may be found on [http://www.buffalo.edu/dalai\\_lama/](http://www.buffalo.edu/dalai_lama/)

While the coming of the Dalai Lama to Buffalo is a very visible epoch that will draw attention to Asia, it is one high point in a steady implantation of Asia in the University and in Western New York. The number of faculty whose teaching and research focus is primarily on Asia has more than tripled since the Asian Studies Program was initiated in 1993. Language class enrollments in Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Hindi, and Arabic are growing at UB, and we expect to see Asian languages in the high schools before long. A major, world-class art exhibition of Chinese modern and contemporary art, *The Wall*, attracted sophisticated viewers in large numbers to the Abright-Knox and UB Galleries this past fall. A special course in Buddhism and another in Islamic Institutions will be taught at UB in the coming fall. New wave Asian immigrants are the largest minorities in several area schools. With Toronto and its massive Asian populations so close, Asia indeed is here. The response to the Tibet course and the coming of the Dalai Lama are signs that Asia is no longer foreign at UB.

**Rinchen Dharlo Speaking on April 26**

Rinchen Dharlo will speak in the Tibet class April 26 in place of Lodi Gyari. His topic will be "Status of Tibet: Present and Future." The class meets Wednesdays, 7:00-9:40, in Knox 20. The public is welcome.

Rinchen Dharlo is the president of the Tibet Fund, a non-profit organization supporting exiled Tibetan Communities in India and Nepal. Mr. Dharlo began working for the Tibetan Government-in-exile in 1972. From 1978 to 1987, he was Director of the Office of Tibet and His Holiness the Dalai Lama's Representative in Nepal. During his term, Mr. Dharlo helped establish a number of Tibetan schools in Nepal. He translated into Tibetan a booklet called "Monarchy in Nepal" and a brief biography of His Majesty King Birendra Bir Bikram. He also wrote a guidebook on the Buddhist holy places in Nepal. Mr. Dharlo also serves as president for the Conservancy for Tibetan Art and Culture.



Professor Nozaki, of Educational Curriculum and Policy, is co-editor of *Struggles over Difference: Curriculum, Text, and Pedagogy in the Asia-*

*Pacific* (SUNY Press, 2005). On April 10, at the meeting of the American Educational Research Association, the co-editors will receive an Outstanding Book Award.

**Prof. Nozaki Honored for Edited Book**

*Asia at Noon*

# Everett Y. Zhang

*Assistant Professor, Dept. of Anthropology*

“The Birth of *Nanke* [Men’s  
Medicine]: The Making of the  
Subject of Desire in China’s  
Transformation”

Convener: Prof. Thomas W. Burkman, Director of Asian  
Studies

**Friday, April 14, 12:00-1:00**  
**Park 280**

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Asian Studies Picnic  
*September 10, 2006*  
*at the home of the Burkmans*  
*RSVP by Thursday, September 8, to*  
*Mary Anne Lang*  
*at [mal@buffalo.edu](mailto:mal@buffalo.edu), or 645-3474*

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## Asian Americanist to Join Sociology Faculty



The Department of Sociology announces the appointment of Elaine Howard Ecklund as Assistant Professor, tenure-track, beginning August 2006. Her research interests

are in the areas of culture, race and ethnicity, and religion. She received her Ph.D. in sociology from Cornell University in 2004, and has held a post-doc position at Rice University. Her book, *Korean American Religion: Race, Ethnicity, and Civic Life*, was recently published by Oxford University Press. The study deals with Korean-American churches. She has published articles in *Ethnic and Racial Studies* and the *Journal of Asian American Studies*. We welcome this impressive addition to UB faculty expertise in Asian American studies.

In Fall '06, Professor Ecklund will offer SOC 321: Race and Ethnic Relations (Reg. # 159964, TR 3:30-4:50, NSC 210). The course, which includes a component on Asian Pacific Americans, can count as an upper level elective for the Asian Studies major and minor.

## New Asian American Studies Courses in Fall 2006

Chung Shih Hoh will be teaching a new Asian American studies course AS 396/ MUS 264 "Asian American Composers" in fall 2006. Through examining the lives and works of two generations of Chinese-American composers from mid-20th century onwards, in the larger context of American art music cultures of Modernism and Postmodernism, the course will explore the dynamics between several pairs of issues such as cultural identity and assimilation, cross-cultural resistance and synthesis, and Postmodernism and "Chinese Modernity." Specific to works by Chou Wen Chung, Chen Yi, Ge Ganru, Tan Dun and Bright Sheng, students will study how their creative processes developed beyond the perceived and inherited Chinese music-making traditions, while attempting to draw implications on the corresponding changes in the role of the composer and the functions of their work. Finally, students will also look at the reception of Chinese-American music within USA and abroad, particularly in Asia. The course will take place on Mondays, 19:00-21:40, in Baird 211. The Registration # is 079105.

Swati Bandi, a grad student in Media Study, will offer a course, AMS 278, entitled "Asian Experience on Film." It will be taught on Mondays and Wednesdays, 11:00-12:20, in Knox 4. The registration # is 434786.

For more course information, go to our website at <http://www.asianstudies.buffalo.edu/courses/aasUgradCourseList.shtml>

## NYCAS 2006 Proposal Deadline Extended

The 2006 meeting of the New York Conference of Asian Studies will focus on identity in Asia. Issues of globalization, westernization, immigration, ethnicity, religion and nationalism, create an exceedingly complex terrain for individuals to negotiate. Far from monolithic, the concept of Asian-ness evades simple categorization.

NYCAS welcomes paper and panel proposals which attempt to unpack and analyze the way in which self operates in an increasingly complex social framework. Papers or panels might explore social, cultural, economic, philosophical and political transitions, or examine contemporary frameworks surrounding identity and their relation to the West. The deadline for proposals has

been extended to **April 15**. For more information, go to <http://stlawu.edu/asian/nycas06>



## Asian Studies Calendar

### April

- Apr. 5, 7:00-9:40 pm. Special lecture in course Tibet: Myth and Reality. **Rebecca French**, UB Law School. "How Law Codes were Written; How Law Works in Tibet." Knox 20.
- Apr. 6, 7:30 pm. Tibet-in-Buffalo Film Festival: **Satya: A Prayer for the Enemy** (Ellen Bruno, 1994). **Escape From Tibet** (Nick Gray, 1997). Market Arcade and Arts Centre, 639 Main Street. \$5 for adults, \$2.50 for students.
- Apr. 12, 7:00-9:40 pm. Special lecture in course Tibet: Myth and Reality. **Richard Lee**, UB Medical School. "Constituents and Concepts of Traditional Medicine." Knox 20.
- Apr. 13, 7:30 pm. Tibet-in-Buffalo Film Festival: **The Cup** (Khyentse Norbu, 2002). **Mirage in New York** (Tashi Wangchuk, 2005). Market Arcade and Arts Centre, 639 Main Street. \$5 for adults, \$2.50 for students.
- Apr. 14, 12:00- 1:00. *Asia at Noon*. **Everett Y. Zhang**, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Anthropology. "The Birth of Nanke [Men's Medicine]: The Making of the Subject of Desire in China's Transformation." Park 280.
- Apr. 20, 7:30 pm. Tibet-in-Buffalo Film Festival: **The Knowledge of Healing** (Franz Reichle, 1996). Market Arcade and Arts Centre, 639 Main Street. \$5 for adults,

\$2.50 for students.

- Apr. 26, 7:00-9:40 pm. Special lectures in course Tibet: Myth and Reality. **Claude Welch**, Professor of Political Science at UB. "Human Rights." **Rinchen Dharlo**, president of the Tibet Fund. "Status of Tibet: Present and Future." Knox 20.

- Apr. 27, 7:30 pm. Tibet-in-Buffalo Film Festival: **Windhorse** (Paul Wagner, 1998). Market Arcade and Arts Centre, 639 Main Street. \$5 for adults, \$2.50 for students.

### September

- Sep. 10, 1:00-4:00 pm. Asian Studies Annual Picnic. The Burkmans'.
- Sep. 18-19, **The Dalai Lama** of Tibet will visit UB.



### *Asian Studies Notes*

#### Asian Studies Program

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

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