



HARVARD UNIVERSITY  
**ASIA CENTER**  
**EIGHT YEAR REPORT**  
2008 - 2016



HARVARD UNIVERSITY  
**ASIA CENTER**



Arthur Kleinman

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## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

This is my eighth and final year as Director of the Harvard University Asia Center. I have greatly enjoyed this experience and have worked hard to make the Asia Center an exciting and innovative place. This report is meant to look back upon these years in order to briefly summarize what has been achieved, but also to look ahead to what awaits future development.

The programs that I have initiated were meant to complement the Asia Center's long-standing interests in economic, political, and security developments, with greater attention to the important societal issues of our times such as the building of a middle class, the transformation of values, aging, water resources, responses to natural disasters, health, biotechnology, and film and the arts. As in the past, the Asia Center has continued to emphasize support for work by faculty and students that crosses different countries and regions (such as China and Southeast Asia, India and China, and, most recently, China and Africa) and that engages Asia as a whole.

Perhaps the most important legacy of those years may be our efforts to build Southeast Asian studies at Harvard.

Perhaps the most important legacy of these years may be our efforts to build Southeast Asian Studies at Harvard and to make these more critical to the Asia Center's own sense of identity. Thus, we have played a key role in the development of the Jeffrey Cheah Chair in the Political Economy of Malaysia and Southeast Asia, which is now located in the Kennedy School of Government, and in the Cheah Program of research support for faculty and students who work in Southeast Asia, including faculty exchange and student travel programs. We have also helped in the redirection of one of the Prince Alwaleed bin Talal Chairs for the study of Islam (including political Islam) in Southeast Asia. This Chair now sits in the Divinity School. We have also contributed to the initiation of a Chair in Thai Studies (now being searched for in the Anthropology Department) and to the development of a Thai Studies Program overseen by Professor Michael Herzfeld (Faculty of Arts and Sciences) and Professor Jay Rosengard (Kennedy School). An exchange

program with the Philippines, efforts to enhance public health research on responses to natural disasters in the Philippines post-Typhoon Haiyan, and panels on Myanmar, Vietnam, and Indonesia indicate the extent of our efforts to give Southeast Asia greater scope and significance at the Asia Center, as does our support for the teaching of Thai and Indonesian languages. We will continue to fund teaching of Uyghur and Tibetan.

The Asia Center also collaborates with the South Asia Institute on program initiatives, including presentations on the mental health of women and health care in India. In 2015, we supported a program on women's mental health at the Asian University for Women in Chittagong, Bangladesh, led by Professor Anne Becker of Harvard Medical School, and we will do the same in Summer 2016.

We have continued our successful collaboration on Asia Vision 21 meetings with the Fung Global Institute, which has most recently morphed into the Asia Global Institute at the University of Hong Kong. Meanwhile, our Publications Program and the M.A. Program in Regional Studies East Asia (RSEA) have continued to be highly successful. On the agenda for the next Faculty Director is whether these programs can and should be widened in scope to include all of

Asia, not just East Asia, in keeping with the mandate for all other Asia Center activities. For example, our Visiting Fellows program has brought former leaders of Singapore, Korea, and Bangladesh to Harvard.

Two years ago in a meeting with the then-Faculty Directors of the Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies (Mark Elliott) and the Center for African Studies (Caroline Elkins), I committed the Asia Center to a collaborative project on China in Africa and Africa in China. This past year, we were joined by Bill Alford from Harvard Law School. This activity has turned out to be timely and important. We have already held a substantive workshop and supported students and faculty. I have also brought the Asia Center into collaborations with Tony Saich, who heads the Kennedy School's Ash Institute, on Faces of Prosperity (an initiative oriented to helping Chinese and other Asian donors rethink their philanthropic activities with respect to social justice) and with Lincoln Chen and the China Medical Board on a Southeast Asian young leaders network and other initiatives. Other collaborations are with colleagues from Tsinghua University, Peking University, Fudan University, Zhongshan University, Hong Kong University, Thailand's Ministry of Health, Vietnam's Ministry of Health, Sunway University, National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological Institute, Kyoto University, Kyoto Gakuen University, Tokyo International University, Seoul National University, and Asian University for Women, among other academic centers. I have always believed interdisciplinary collaboration is at the very heart of academic work, and the Asia Center has turned out to be an excellent platform for collaborative activities.

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During my time at the helm, the Asia Center has brought on board a new Executive Director, Liz Liao; a new Director of Finance and Administration, Sarah Gordon; a new Assistant to the Director, Mary Dethavong; a new Director of Publications Program, Bob Graham; a new Communications Coordinator, Michelle Blouin; and a new Program Assistant, Tenzin Ngodup. Notable were the retirements of Jon Mills, Michele Albanese, Susan McHone, and Deirdre Chetham—all of whom made large contributions to the Asia Center. Holly Angell continues to be in charge of our programs at Harvard, and Jorge Espada continues to handle our faculty and student grant programs. Professors Michael Szonyi and Karen Thornber have greatly strengthened the RSEA Program; Bob Graham and the Faculty Publications Committee currently under Professor Carter Eckert have steered the Publications Program from strength to strength. Professor Michael Herzfeld has built a vibrant Thai Studies Program.

In Spring 2015, the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS) and the Provost—the two administrative leaders to whom we report—organized a major external review of all of Harvard's Asia-related centers, including the Asia Center. The reviewers concluded that our Asia programs are strong and significant; and they encouraged the Asia Center in particular to play an even larger role in coordinating the activities of the five other Asia-related centers, which is quite in keeping with the Asia Center's original mandate. We already provide financial and administrative assistance to most of the other Asia-related centers, work hard with them to collate events into an integrated calendar, and engage in other activities at the leadership level that should make our centers more responsive to each other.

The Asia Center also coordinates faculty and student research funding activities as well as organizes our own funding to support Asia-wide and cross-national activities. Yet, the question of more systemic and far-reaching functional integration across the Asia-related centers I shall leave on the table for my successor. One such issue is the role of the Council on Asian Studies, whose origin goes back to an earlier organization of East Asian Studies at Harvard.



At present, the Council is responsible for the oversight of RSEA and the selection of the Tsai lecturer. The Asia Center Faculty Director is ex-officio Chair of the Council, and as such I feel that this standing committee of Harvard's Asianists could and should take on greater responsibilities. I have initiated a discussion of the issues with the Council. But this, too, is a long-range goal that will have to be resolved in future after I step down. I have also created, upon the request of its leaders, the first review we have had of RSEA, which, under the direction of a committee chaired by Carter Eckert, will present an interim report to the Asia Center and the Council in Spring 2016, with a final report to the Deans in Fall 2016.

It is not surprising that as a medical anthropologist and physician I have "naturally" sought to build up the Asia Center's portfolio of health programs, especially since health issues figure substantially in Asian development today. Last October, at the Harvard Shanghai office, two of these research programs—Patient-Doctor Distrust in China (funded by Harvard China Fund) and Eldercare in Asia (funded by Wang Wenliang, one of the Asia Center's donors)—were represented by impressive conferences where research findings were presented and discussed and policy recommendations were advanced. In April, the Asia Center will be a co-sponsor with the World Bank and the World Health Organization of a major meeting on global mental health—the first directed at the world's finance ministers. In May 2016, the Asia Center will sponsor, as a farewell event for me, a conference on the special kind of intellectual contribution that social science and humanities studies of health, elders, and care in Asian societies makes to Asian Studies and to global health research as well.

During the last several years, because of my position as Faculty Director of the Asia Center, I have had the privilege to chair the Caucus of International Center Directors at Harvard, which includes the Faculty Directors of 16 international centers. This position has empowered me to do several things, including organize a review of many of Harvard's M.A. Programs in International Studies, and develop a meeting to be held at the American Academy of Arts and Sciences on the relationship between area studies (history, anthropology, literature, language) and global studies (environment, global health, urbanism, governance, security, finance, etc.). This is one of the central tensions in International Studies today and in the university in general, and it is an area in which the Asia Center's experience is highly relevant.

As part of the current capital campaign for Harvard, the Asia Center has worked together with both the University's Development Office and that of the FAS to encourage Asian donors to support Harvard. I have viewed the Asia Center as a conduit for funding opportunities of units throughout Harvard whose work might attract our donors. This has taken up a substantial portion of my time both at Harvard and during my travels throughout Asia. I want to acknowledge with gratitude and satisfaction the financial contribution of members of our Advisory Committee and also the broader group of our donors who have helped us contribute usefully and significantly to the funding of chairs, programs, research, and faculty and student travel.

For example, the Fung Scholars Program funds student research and travel to China, and the Fung Fellows Program brings to FAS and Harvard's professional schools outstanding Chinese students. The Cheah Faculty and Student Exchange Programs send Harvard faculty and students to Southeast Asia, and bring Malaysian faculty to Harvard. Funds from K.C. Lam created the Ezra Vogel program of Harvard faculty lecturing at Southeast Asian universities and will in future support work in and on Myanmar. Senior Asian leaders visit the Asia Center and experience Harvard on

Asia makes up 60 percent of the world's population, and with its great importance for trade, finance, and security, it is of vital interest to the United States.


account of support from Wang Wenliang. And in the future, the Ted and Doris Lee Traveling Fellowship will enable graduating Harvard students to spend a year in Southeast Asia. Jeffrey Smith has endowed the Tambiah lecture in Thai Studies, and seven Thai donors have funded the Chair in Thai Studies and the Thai Studies Program. Donors from the Philippines have funded exchange programs.

A number of activities that we have sponsored are centered in the humanities and the arts. Early in my tenure as Faculty Director, the Asia Center organized a major conference on human suffering in Asia to which President Faust contributed a comparative assessment based on her highly influential research on loss, grief, and national trauma following the American Civil War. We have created events to celebrate books written by Harvard authors and have organized panels of experts to discuss these and other publications. We have also sponsored several discussions with faculty and students on the Asian diaspora in the United States. And we have promoted film festivals of Pakistani and Chinese cinema, including new documentaries. We were also the American venue for the viewing of a major Bollywood film about dementia. Various Asian art projects have been co-sponsored with the Peabody Museum, the Harvard Film Archive, and the other Asia-related centers. We are in discussion with the Museum of Fine Arts (MFA) on long-term planning for a project on the Jews of Asia, with art works to be displayed at the MFA and lectures to be given at the Asia Center. Most recently, we have exhibited a remarkable collection of contemporary paintings from Myanmar.

I personally feel that one of the truly transformative developments in Asia in our times is the building of an enormous Asian middle class with adults and adolescents connected worldwide via social media in an unprecedented way and with major change in values, family and friendship relations, forms of work and recreation, and powerful implications for education, health, and social justice. I have encouraged the Asia Center to engage this subject through the new programs we have developed and via visitors and funding of faculty and student activities.

Asia makes up 60 percent of the world's population, and with its great importance for trade, finance, and security, it is of vital interest to the United States. It also is of vital interest to Harvard for these reasons and because of its cultural, intellectual, religious, aesthetic, and diasporic significance. It is the job of the Asia Center to project these issues at Harvard and also to project Harvard and its interests more effectively in Asia. I have taken that charge seriously and together with our remarkable staff have worked hard to keep open the academic bridge between Harvard and Asian countries and institutions. As you can see from these pages, we have accomplished quite a lot. But for the 21st century—one that has often been called the Asian Century—there is much, much more left to do. For example, the next Asia Center Director will have to work with the new Director of RSEA to respond to new funding challenges and with the Council on Asian Studies to make its members more active in the Center's work. So after eight years at the helm, I can say our ship is doing well, but it has many more voyages to undertake to accomplish its ambitious mission.

In conclusion, let me thank the staff of the Asia Center for putting in the day-to-day work to make these developments successful. Together with the many faculty, students, and visitors with whom we collaborate, they make the Center what it is. I also want to thank our Executive Committee, Senior Faculty Advisory Committee, and the International Advisory Committee made up of donors and friends for their greatly useful support and advice. I specially want to thank Victor Fung, Ben Makihara, and Ezra Vogel, who in 2008 took me under their protective wings and oriented me to what the Asia Center had been created to do. I hope my eight years as Director have not taken the Asia Center too far off the course they originally charted!



Arthur Kleinman  
Victor and William Fung Director  
2008–2016



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# NEW PROGRAMS





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## NEW PROGRAMS

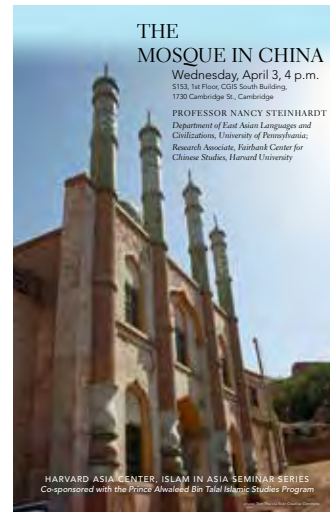
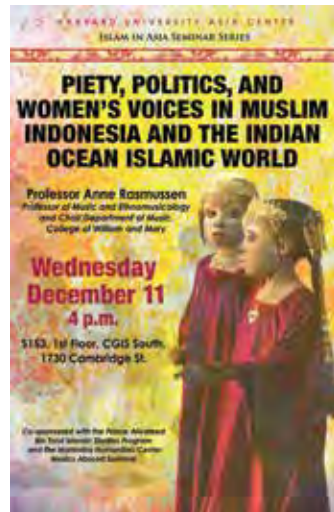
### THE PROGRAM ON VALUES IN BUSINESS AND THE PROFESSIONS IN ASIA

The Program on Values in Business and the Professions in Asia has developed a curriculum and methodology to teach (and research) how value conflicts can be recognized, analyzed, and addressed in culturally appropriate ways in the work setting.

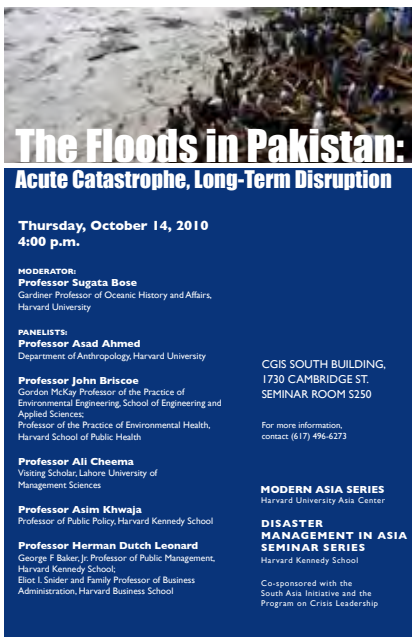
For a variety of reasons, and despite rich traditions of ethical thought existing in both Western and Asian societies, ethics training and practices have lagged behind the extraordinary accomplishments in building modern commercial and professional societies. The traditional teaching of ethics has been abstract, principles-based, and hence divorced from the practical realities of real-world experiences of corruption, conflict of interest, discrimination, and other moral problems. Nor have such approaches drawn upon empirical findings from the social sciences. The Program aims to engage businessmen and women, representatives of the professions, leaders from NGOs, and scholars in reviewing, improving, and defining values in a manner that will be applicable to professional practices in Asia and readily understandable to the public. Moreover, this program tries to balance Western approaches to values with Asian moral concepts and models of practical behavior.

The Program on Values and Morals in Business and the Professions in Asia has hosted a number of meetings, including two in Shenzhen in January 2012 and January 2014, respectively, one in Shanghai in May 2012, one in Kyoto in October 2012, and one in Cambridge in 2013. These have led to the development of case studies for practitioners and institutions engaged in professional activities.

## ISLAM IN ASIA



Initiated in Fall 2009, the Islam in Asia Seminar Series aims to increase the understanding of Islam as it is practiced in Asian societies in Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines, India, Pakistan, China, and Central Asia, as well as examine the influences of other Asian religions on Islam. The series, co-sponsored by the Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Islamic Studies Program, generally features three speakers each term and fosters a new generation of scholars with the inclusion of one Harvard graduate student speaker. Since 2009, the series has sponsored over 30 seminars with both international and national speakers. Topics have included Islam and politics in Malaysia, shrine culture in Chinese Turkestan, Islam in Thailand, Islam in China, lyrical legacies of South Asian Islam, new scholarship on the local history of Islam in late imperial China, and the mosque in China.

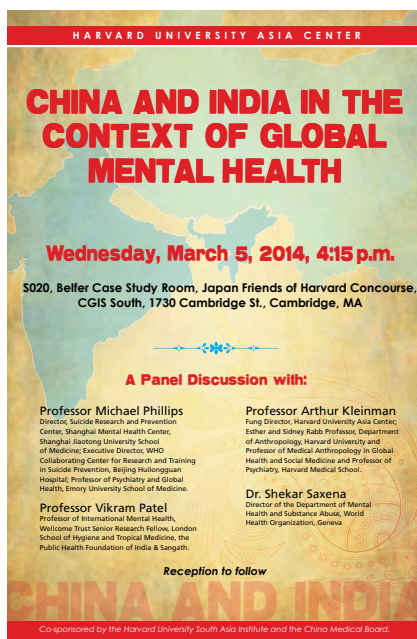


## NATURAL DISASTERS PROGRAM

Understanding the consequences of disasters on the ground, how governments and NGOs respond, and the needs and experiences of those who are directly affected are critical elements to building recovery, resilience, and disaster preparedness. The Asia Center has been deeply committed to and has supported ongoing research and academic activities focused on responses to natural disasters in Asia for many years. From 2009–2014, the Asia Center co-sponsored with the Ash Center at the Harvard Kennedy School twelve seminars with featured speakers on various topics related to disaster management in Asia; an international conference in Singapore that resulted in a book; and research on the aftermath of the earthquake and tsunami in Japan in 2011.

In order to build on past work, to continue to pursue its mission as an interfaculty initiative, and to refocus efforts on Southeast Asia, the Asia Center is currently developing a new project in natural disaster response. This is outlined in the report on p. 16 in the section on Southeast Asia.





## HEALTH

### THE GLOBAL INITIATIVE ON CAREGIVING FOR THE ELDERLY (GICE)

The Global Initiative on Caregiving for the Elderly (GICE) was established in response to the urgent, global demographic challenge of population aging and its associated demands for improving care for elders. Its mission is to advance and promote interdisciplinary research and evidence-based innovations in elder care.

The program's central objective is to serve as a portal and catalyst for the ongoing discussion and investigation of challenges and solutions concerning elder care, especially in Asian and other developing countries. By bringing together resources from academic, government, and business communities, the program aims to improve the understanding of high-priority caregiving needs and effective options for families, communities, and governments that wish to improve quality of care to elders who suffer from disabling chronic conditions such as Alzheimer's disease and stroke.

The ultimate target populations, whom work at the Initiative is expected to eventually benefit, are dementia caregivers, including both informal family caregivers such as spouses and children of elders with dementia, and paid or unpaid formal caregivers of elderly persons at home or in community-based organizations.

At the organization or community level, the target audience will also include service program leaders, innovators, champions of change, and policy makers, as they will play a crucial role in organizing the support needed for ensuring quality care is delivered in homes and institutions.

A third group of people whom the Initiative will serve are the researchers, especially junior researchers, who bring their interests, talents, and perseverance to help advance our understanding of the situation and options for dementia care in Asia. This involves research teams in Kyoto, Seoul, Shanghai, Beijing, Changsha, Guangzhou, Hong Kong, Bangkok, and Hanoi. These research teams are gathering basic data on elder care services in their areas and developing findings on local models of care, with special interest in treating dementia and depression. A Fall 2015 meeting in Shanghai, which followed earlier meetings, emphasized comparisons across cultural settings and different models of care.

### REBUILDING PATIENT-DOCTOR TRUST IN CHINA

With support from the Harvard China Fund, the Asia Center has collaborated with scholars from Harvard Medical School, the University of North Carolina Medical School, Otago Medical School, New Zealand, and Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, on a study of patient-doctor distrust in China and its implications for patient care in China's healthcare system.

## GLOBAL HEALTH

In collaboration with the World Bank and the World Health Organization (WHO), the Asia Center is developing a global health agenda for mental health issues including depression and anxiety disorders. In April 2016, the World Bank and the WHO will convene a meeting, coinciding with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund's spring meetings, to focus on making mental health a global development priority.

In the summer of 2015, the Asia Center co-sponsored a five-week course in Global Mental Health at the Asian University for Women in Chittagong, Bangladesh. The course was attended by students from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Malaysia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam who are working to destigmatize mental illnesses in their home countries.

Education on global health is also going digital, with the launch of a massive open online course on "Global Health: Case Studies from a Biosocial Perspective," based on a General Education course for Harvard undergraduates and hosted on the HarvardX platform, which is translated into Chinese.

The Harvard Asia Center and the China Medical Board hosted two days of meetings and workshops on the *Lancet's* special issue on India-China comparisons in mental health. The 15 participants from India and China presented and discussed draft papers. The meetings were followed by a panel on "China and India in the Context of Global Mental Health" featuring Professor Michael Phillips, Professor Vikram Patel, Professor Arthur Kleinman, and Dr. Shekhar Saxena from the WHO. Further collaboration with the China Medical Board will bring a new generation of health leaders to Harvard in June 2016 for advanced leadership training.

## CRITICAL ISSUES CONFRONTING CHINA



CRITICAL ISSUES  
CONFRONTING CHINA

UPCOMING SPEAKERS

Wednesday, 12:30 p.m., 5020, CGIS South

October 2  
Edward Steinfeld, Brown University  
"China's Rise in the Production of Cutting Edge Technology"

October 9  
Christine Wong, Oxford University  
"Financing Local Government in China: Challenges in the Era after Hu Jintao and Wen Jiabao?"

October 16  
Michael McDavitt, CNA (Center for Naval Analyses)  
"Building a Modern Navy: China and Maritime Power" (CGIS South)

October 23  
Karl W. Eikenberry, Stanford University  
Roundtable on Military Security

Unless otherwise noted, the seminars will be held in 5020, Belfer Case Study Room, Japan Friends of Harvard Concourse, CGIS South, 1730 Cambridge St., Cambridge

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CRITICAL ISSUES  
CONFRONTING CHINA

**IS AMERICA'S VIEW OF  
CHINA FOGGED BY  
LIBERAL IDEAS?**

**Professor Jerome A. Cohen**  
New York University School of Law; Co-Director, U.S.-Asia Law Institute;  
Senior Fellow for Asia, Council on Foreign Relations; and Founding  
Director, East Asian Legal Studies, Harvard Law School

**Wednesday, September 17, 2014 12:30-1:50 pm**  
5020, Belfer Case Study Room, Japan Friends of Harvard Concourse, CGIS South  
1730 Cambridge St., Cambridge

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CRITICAL ISSUES  
CONFRONTING CHINA

**BOOK TALK  
WILL AFRICA  
FEED CHINA?**

**Professor Deborah Brautigam,**  
Author; Bernard L. Schwartz Professor in International Political Econ  
Professor of International Development and Comparative Politics;  
Director of International Development Program and China-Africa  
Research Initiative; SAIS, Johns Hopkins University

**Wednesday, December 9, 2015, 12:30 p.m.**  
5020, Belfer Case Study Room, Japan Friends of Harvard Concourse, CGIS South  
1730 Cambridge St., Cambridge

CRITICAL ISSUES CONFRONTING CHINA SEMINAR  
CO-SPONSORED BY THE HARVARD UNIVERSITY ASIA  
CENTER AND THE FAIRBANK CENTER FOR CHINESE STUDIES  
WITH GENEROUS SUPPORT FROM THE LEE AND  
SOLTY PROGRAM FUND



CRITICAL ISSUES  
CONFRONTING CHINA

**AMERICA AND CHINA**

**Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski**  
Counselor and Trustee, Center for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS);  
Senior Research Professor of International Relations, School of Advanced  
International Studies, Johns Hopkins University; former U.S.  
National Security Advisor under President Jimmy Carter

**Wednesday, March 26, 2014 4:15 pm**  
5010, Tsai Auditorium, Japan Friends of Harvard Concourse  
CGIS South, 1730 Cambridge St., Cambridge

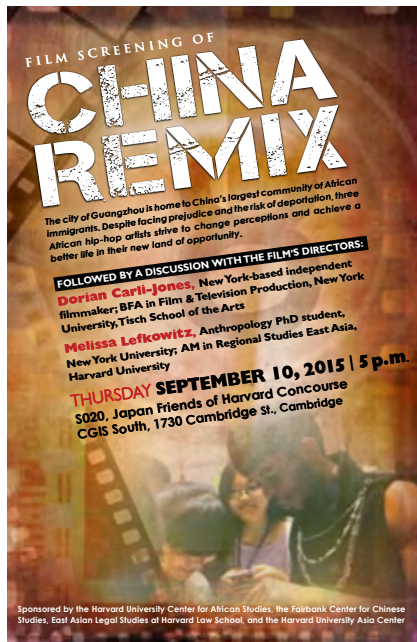
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Critical Issues Confronting China is a weekly seminar series which was inaugurated in the fall of 2013. It is organized by Professor Ezra Vogel, Professor William Hsiao, and Dr. William Overholt and co-sponsored by the Asia Center and the Fairbank Center. The purpose of the series is to consider the complex issues China is presently facing and to view them in a comprehensive manner, including political, economic, and social perspectives. In addition, invited speakers examine the issues in broader cultural and historical settings and look at the range of choices Chinese leaders might make to respond to the challenges and opportunities they confront.



Speakers have included Zbigniew Brzezinski, Evan Feigenbaum, Evan Osnos, Douglas Paal, Michael Swaine, François Godement, and Jerome Cohen along with Harvard professors Elizabeth Perry, Roderick MacFarquhar, Martin Whyte, William Hsiao, William Kirby, Ezra Vogel, Meg Rithmire, Arne Wested, and Dwight Perkins.

Summaries are written for each talk and are then compiled into a booklet published at the end of the academic year.



## HARVARD PROGRAM ON AFRICA AND CHINA

The Asia Center, the Fairbank Center, the Center for African Studies, and East Asian Legal Studies at Harvard Law School are collaborating on a three-year program on Africa and China. A workshop, the first endeavor in the program, was held in September 2015 at Harvard, and there are two conferences planned, in Shanghai and Cape Town, in subsequent years.

An impressive aspect of the globalization of our era is the movement from established European and North American influences in Asia and Africa to the cross-connections between Asia and Africa themselves. Within that non-Western sphere of interests, the connection between Africa and China looms large. China for the past decades has built substantial political, economic, security, and cultural ties with Africa organized around policies of extraction of resources, trade, and global influence. China has been accused of being more interested in extraction than it has in development. But in fact, China has also been engaged in social development in Africa, for example, with its long-standing involvement with infrastructure, educational, and health care projects.

The extent and depth of these connections are already quite impressive and growing at a substantial rate. Faced with African criticism of what its real interests are, China has increasingly emphasized such things as humanitarian assistance, global health, educational development, institution building, and other activities indicating a more balanced approach to Africa. Conversely, also of interest is the presence of Africa in China and the projection of African interests in business, trade, and related areas into the Chinese setting.

The all-day workshop in September 2015 focused on four panels on Business and Economics, Law and Politics, Global Medicine and Public Health, and Population and Migration. Professor Robert Rotberg, formerly of the Kennedy School, and Professor Howard French of Columbia University, author of *China's Second Continent*, gave keynote addresses. The workshop closed with a screening of *China Remix*, a film on African immigrants living in Guangzhou, China.

Exploring the relationship between Africa and China will contribute to the building of a new academic field. In this regard, the study of China and Africa can become a model for studying other interactions between non-Western nations that are changing the very meaning of globalization. The activities of the Harvard Program on Africa and China will be aimed at elucidating these themes and helping to formulate an intellectual agenda for academic research and teaching.



## DIASPORA PROGRAM

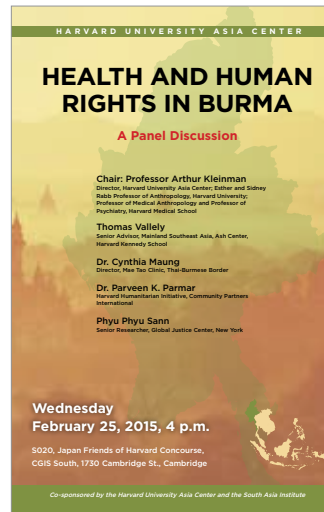
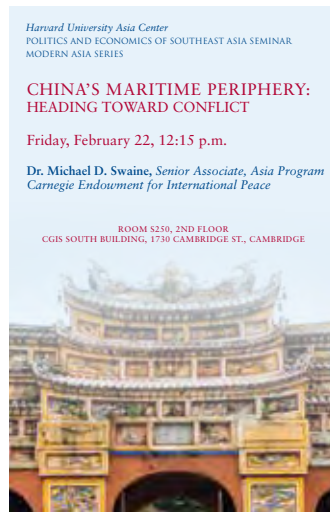
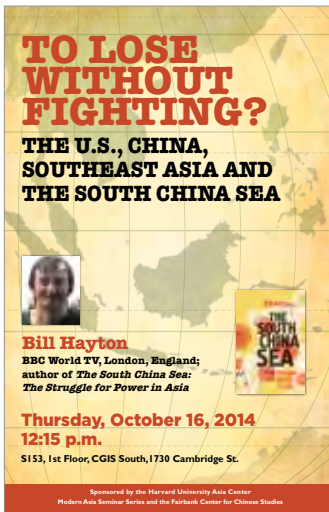
To underscore the increasing importance of the Asian diaspora in America to the relationship between the United States and Asian nations, in April 2013 the Asia Center organized the first workshop in a series on the Asian Diaspora, entitled “The Korean Diaspora: Faculty Conversations.” Chaired by Professor Sun Joo Kim, Director of the Korea Institute, it featured Professor Jeannie Suk, Harvard Law School; Professor David Chung, Kim Koo Visiting Professor, Department of Visual and Environmental Studies, Harvard University; and Professor Ju Yon Kim, Department of English, Harvard University. Future workshops will continue to encourage discussion among faculty and students on the changing relations of the Asian diaspora to both the United States and Asia. A seminar on the Chinese diaspora will be held in Spring 2016.

## VOGEL DISTINGUISHED VISITORS



The Ezra F. Vogel Distinguished Visitors Program, which was inaugurated in the fall of 2010, enables participants from Asia to come to Harvard for a minimum of one week to carry on intellectual exchanges with Harvard faculty and students to keep them in close touch with developments in the region. Participants have included Zhang Yunling, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences; Han Seung-soo, former Prime Minister of South Korea; Akinari Horii, former Director of the Bank of Japan; Qin Yaqing, Executive Vice President and Professor of International Studies at China Foreign Affairs University; George Yeo, former Minister for Foreign Affairs, Singapore; Goh Chok Tong, former Prime Minister, Singapore; and Professor Dorodjatun Kuntjoro-Jakti, former Ambassador to the United States from Indonesia. The visitors give a public talk and participate in meetings with individual faculty and small groups of students.

## SOUTHEAST ASIA



In recent years, Harvard University has expanded its offerings in Southeast Asian Studies with endowed professorships, courses, language study, conferences, workshops, student programs, travel grants and fellowships, and activities such as film and seminar series.

The Asia Center played a key role in raising funds for two professorships across the University that will anchor the study of Southeast Asia at Harvard: the Jeffrey Cheah Professorship in the Political Economy of Southeast Asia at the Kennedy School and the Professorship of Thai Studies in the Department of Anthropology, Faculty of Arts and Sciences. In addition, the Asia Center worked with the Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Islamic Studies Program to focus one of their chairs on Islam in Southeast Asia.

Student and faculty research projects in Southeast Asia receive financial support from Asia Center grants, while activities organized by the Asia Center foster a vibrant intellectual community on Southeast Asia at Harvard.

In October 2015, the Asia Center and the Jeffrey Cheah Institute on Southeast Asia co-organized an international conference entitled "Southeast Asia Explores Sustainable Development: Coping With Socio-Economic Difficulties, Big Power Rivalry, and Climate Change." The conference featured scholars and policy experts from the United States and Southeast Asia, and underscored the Asia Center's commitment to developing Southeast Asian Studies at Harvard.

Southeast Asia faces several critical and complicated challenges to sustainable development, with problems of climate change, loss of biodiversity, and growing interdependence amongst nations all requiring "effective global coordination of national actions," Sunway University Chancellor Jeffrey Cheah said in his opening remarks at the conference. Professor Jeffrey Sachs, Director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University, emphasized the need to pursue the "triple bottom line" of sustainable development with a holistic approach addressing economic development, social inclusion, and environmental stability. Conference panelists discussed these aspects in country-specific contexts, focusing on Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand.

The conference further highlighted the geopolitical importance of Southeast Asia, especially as the United States and China have each sought to integrate Southeast Asian economies into their economic sphere, with the United States pushing for a Trans-Pacific Partnership and China organizing an Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. Although this could result in increased investment in the region's infrastructure, structural economic imbalances between the

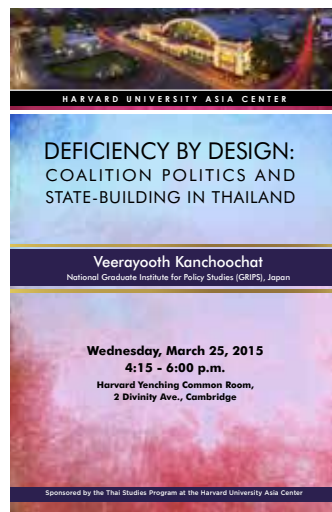
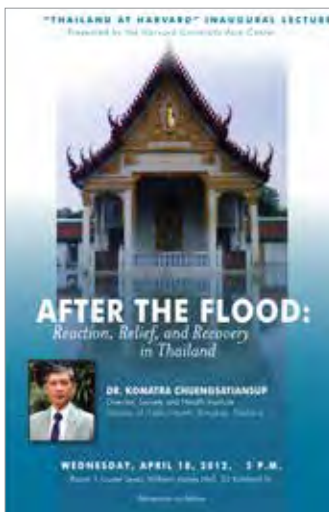


United States and China could adversely affect Southeast Asia's economic stability and growth. Territorial disputes in the South China Sea continue to raise tensions as well. Prospects for cooperation and stability in the future will require the United States, China, and Southeast Asian nations to focus on their shared interests in managing the global commons and solving transnational problems.

The Asia Center has been a catalyst in the organization of other conferences and activities on Southeast Asia. Professor Hue-Tam Ho Tai has organized, with Asia Center support, a series of conferences on Vietnam. The most recent, "The State in Vietnam and the State of Vietnamese Studies," was held in April 2015. Further, the Asia Center has participated in four meetings with ERIA, the economic think tank of ASEAN.

In the summer of 2016, partnering with the China Medical Board in Cambridge, the Asia Center will host a weeklong leadership program on health equity for a group of emerging Southeast Asian leaders in medicine, public health, business, media, and policy.

## THAILAND



The Thai Studies Program is the most rapidly growing program among the Southeast Asia programs; it builds on the work of several faculty members at the Kennedy School and the Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS) and is directed by Professor Michael Herzfeld. The Asia Center created the Thai Studies Program with the endowment of a new Professorship in Thai Studies, language instruction in Thai, an annual lecture series named for the late Professor Stanley Tambiah, and a Thailand@Harvard Lecture Series, among other activities. A Thai Studies fund supports student research projects in the country.

The inaugural Tambiah Lecture took place in October 2014 and was delivered by Professor Katherine A. Bowie of the University of Wisconsin, Madison, who spoke on "The Politics of Rituals: Humor and the Vicissitudes of the Vessantara Jataka in Thailand." Professor Justin McDaniels from the University of Pennsylvania gave the second annual Tambiah lecture in October 2015 with a talk entitled "On the Back Streets of the Galactic Polity: Studying Indian Religions in Modern Thailand."

The Thailand@Harvard Lecture Series began in 2012 with a lecture given by Dr. Komatra Chuengsatienusup (Director, Society and Health Institute, Ministry of Public Health, Bangkok), who spoke on "After the Flood: Reaction, Relief and Recovery in Thailand." In Spring 2013, Professor Apiwat Ratanawaraha (Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok) spoke

on “Shaping the Future of Thai Cities,” followed by Dr. Prasarn Traiwatvorakul (Governor of the Bank of Thailand) in the fall of 2013. He gave a talk entitled “From Here to There: Economic Transition in Emerging Markets.”

Professor Duncan McCargo of Columbia University and the University of Leeds gave a lecture entitled “Policing Bangkok: Detective Raids in the Thai Capital” in Spring 2014. In the fall of 2015, Dr. Veerathai Santiphob, the incoming Governor of the Bank of Thailand, spoke on “What Can We Expect from Thailand’s Ongoing Reform.”

In order for students at Harvard University to appreciate the great history, culture, traditions, values, and contemporary society of Thailand, their studies must begin with some level of language acquisition, and they must continue toward greater competency if they are to have a deeper and fuller understanding of Thailand. Language instruction is offered to students at several levels of proficiency, and the Asia Center has received seed funding from the Foreign Ministry of Thailand and private donors to support the language instructors.

## MALAYSIA

In 2013, with a gift from the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation, the Asia Center and Sunway and Monash Universities in Malaysia established an exchange program that advances Southeast Asia teaching and research by engaging Harvard faculty and students and by supporting travel to Harvard by scholars from those schools. Since its establishment, the program has enabled over a dozen scholars to develop thesis topics, network with global colleagues, conduct research in their respective fields of study, and communicate their work through public talks.

**Thursday, November 21**  
**12:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.**  
 CGIS South S020  
 1730 Cambridge Street, Cambridge

**Typhoon Haiyan:  
 Response & Recovery in  
 the Philippines**  
 A Panel Discussion

**Moderated by**  
**Arnold M. Howitt**, Executive Director, Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation, Harvard Kennedy School

**Panelists include**  
**Douglas Ahlers**, Adjunct Lecturer in Public Policy, Harvard Kennedy School  
**Michael VanRooyen**, Director, Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, Harvard School of Public Health

**Sponsored by**  
 Program on Crisis Leadership, Ash Center and Taubman Center, Harvard Kennedy School  
 Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, Harvard School of Public Health  
 Harvard Philippine Forum  
 Harvard Kennedy School Crisis Management Student Group  
 Asia Center, Harvard University

## NATURAL DISASTERS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

After Typhoon Haiyan’s devastation in 2013 across the central region of the Philippine islands, the Asia Center convened faculty across several Harvard Schools: Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health (HSPH), the Graduate School of Design (GSD) and the Harvard Kennedy School (HKS) to initiate a multidisciplinary project designed to examine and strengthen immediate response systems, and to work with a range of communities and organizations on the ground to develop ways to strengthen resilience and reconstruction efforts.

This interdisciplinary, multi-year project is focusing initially on the Philippines after Typhoon Haiyan, and has begun with a scoping study conducted by the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative (HHI) in the Eastern Visayas region. HHI’s study documents existing disaster management practices by a range of organizations, identifies networks of community leaders and agencies focused on preparedness activities, and highlights key opportunities for further training for officials responsible for disaster response. Ultimately, the goal is to enhance community-based disaster resiliency and preparedness practices.

To build on HHI’s work, the GSD is developing a graduate studio through their Resilience Concentration within the Department of Urban Planning. Growing out of this effort, there are plans to develop projects that will examine natural disasters in other regions of Asia as well. To begin, the Asia Center is working with the South Asia Institute on response and recovery efforts after the 2015 earthquake in Nepal. Both centers accepted proposals for student grants supported by faculty recommendations, and several proposals were funded. The Asia Center awarded a grant to a group of students from the GSD who proposed an interdisciplinary project integrating design, urban planning, community organizing, science, and government. To prepare, the GSD students also participated in a three-part seminar series that examined humanitarian response and recovery systems in Nepal, addressed social and cultural issues, and reviewed real-time project successes and challenges.



**BURMA/MYANMAR**

The Asia Center has over the years organized seminars on Burma to address major developments and changes in the country. In recent years, it has expanded activities on Burma and has held a number of workshops and panels. For example, a workshop on the future of Burma, held in November 2013 and chaired by Professor Amartya Sen, looked at an array of issues including refugees, public health, the economy, and human rights. More recently, among other Burma-related events, the Asia Center hosted a panel discussion on health and human rights in Burma and an exhibit of paintings (see exhibits p. 35-36). Professor Ian Holliday of the University of Hong Kong, who curated the exhibit, also gave a seminar on “Freedom and Fear in Myanmar.”

At present, the Asia Center is in discussion with the Open Society Foundations, based in New York, and their Burmese colleagues on a project focused on the delivery of community mental health services.



# STRENGTHENING EXISTING PROGRAMS







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## STRENGTHENING EXISTING PROGRAMS

### PUBLICATIONS PROGRAM

#### OVERVIEW

The Asia Center Publications Program oversees three book series: Harvard East Asian Monographs, the Harvard-Yenching Institute Monograph Series, and the Harvard Contemporary China Series. Since 2008, nearly 150 new titles have been published in the three series. The Program currently publishes about 15 to 20 new titles per year and the published books have won nearly 20 recent major awards, as listed below. It has become one of the world's largest and widely-respected publishers of scholarly books in Asian Studies.

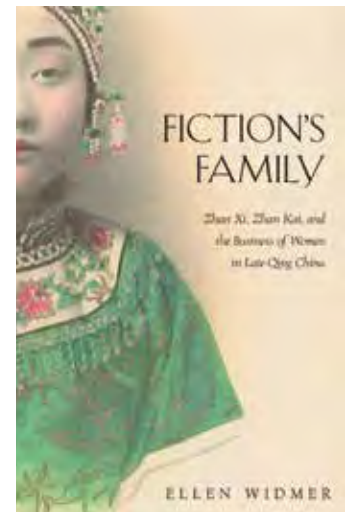
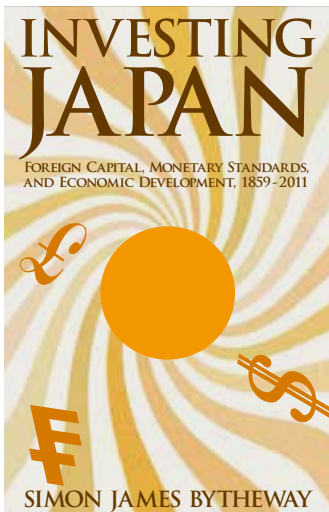
The Program publishes titles in both the humanities and the social sciences, covering both modern and pre-modern periods. The subject matter of these works covers a broad spectrum of topics in Chinese, Korean, and Japanese studies, including anthropology, art history, economics, film studies, literature, social and intellectual history, political science, religion, and sociology. The books are distributed through Harvard University Press and have found a worldwide audience. Many of our titles have attracted the notice of overseas publishers and have been translated into Chinese, Korean, Japanese, and other languages. Thus, over the years the publications program has not only furthered the scholarly dialogue in Asian Studies but carried the Harvard Asia Center name worldwide.

#### AWARDS

Over the past few years, a number of our publications have won major awards from national and international scholarly associations. Some of our recent prize winners are listed below:

**James Henry Breasted Prize for the best book in English in any field of history prior to CE 1000 (American Historical Association)**

2015: Nicolas Tackett, *The Destruction of the Medieval Chinese Aristocracy*



### **John K. Fairbank Prize in East Asian History (American Historical Association)**

- 2013: Barbara Mittler, *A Continuous Revolution: Making Sense of Cultural Revolution Culture*  
 2012: Jun Uchida, *Brokers of Empire: Japanese Settler Colonialism in Korea, 1876-1945*

### **John Whitney Hall Prize for books in Japanese Studies (Association for Asian Studies)**

- 2011: Karen Thornber, *Empire of Texts in Motion: Chinese, Korean, and Taiwanese Transculturations of Japanese Literature*

### **Francis Hsu Book Prize for East Asian Anthropology (American Anthropological Association)**

- 2010: Catherine Clayton, *Sovereignty at the Edge: Macau and the Question of Chineseness*

### **Stanislaus Julian Prize (Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres)**

- 2014: Endymion Wilkinson, *Chinese History: A New Manual*  
 2010: James Robson, *Power of Place: The Religious Landscape of the Southern Sacred Peak (Nanyue) in Medieval China*

### **Joseph Levenson Prize for books in Chinese Studies (Association for Asian Studies)**

- 2016, Pre-1900 Category: Wai-ye Li, *Women and National Trauma in Late Imperial Chinese Literature*  
 2016, Pre-1900 Category, Honorable Mention: Tamara Chin, *Savage Exchange: Han Imperialism, Chinese Literary Style, and the Economic Imagination*  
 2015, Pre-1900 Category: Yuming He, *Home and the World: Editing the "Glorious Ming" in Woodblock-Printed Books of the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries*  
 2013, Pre-1900 Category, Honorable Mention: K.E. Brashier, *Ancestral Memory in Early China*  
 2012, Pre-1900 Category: Christopher M. B. Nugent, *Manifest in Words, Written on Paper: Producing and Circulating Poetry in Tang Dynasty China*  
 2011, Pre-1900 Category: Eugenio Menegon, *Ancestors, Virgins and Friars: Christianity as a Local Religion in Late Imperial China*  
 2011, Post-1900 Category: Jacob Eyferth, *Eating Rice from Bamboo Roots: The Social History of a Community of Artisans in Southwest China, 1920-2000*



2008, Pre-1900 Category: Martin J. Powers, *Pattern and Person: Ornament, Society, and Self in Classical China*

**Harry Levin Prize for the best first book in Comparative Literature (American Comparative Literature Association)**

2016: Tamara Chin, *Savage Exchange: Han Imperialism, Chinese Literary Style, and the Economic Imagination*

**Toshida Numata Book Prize in Buddhism (University of California, Berkeley)**

2010: James Robson, *Power of Place: The Religious Landscape of the Southern Sacred Peak (Nanyue) in Medieval China*

**James B. Palais Prize for books in Korean Studies (Association for Asian Studies)**

2014, Honorable Mention: Hwansoo Kim, *Empire of the Dharma: Korean and Japanese Buddhism, 1877–1912*

2010: Sem Vermeersch, *The Power of the Buddhas: The Politics of Buddhism during the Koryo Dynasty, 918–1392*

## REGIONAL STUDIES EAST ASIA

In conjunction with the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, the Asia Center also maintains oversight of the M.A. Program in Regional Studies East Asia (RSEA). The program reports formally to the Asia Center's Council on Asian Studies. Since it was established in 1946, RSEA has trained Masters of Arts students for illustrious careers in academia, journalism, government, NGOs, the arts, and business. There are an average of 25 students admitted each year into the two-year program. Professor Michael Szonyi currently serves as the Faculty Chair, with Professor Karen Thornber serving as Director of Graduate Studies. RSEA receives funding from the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and the Harvard-Yenching Institute, the Division of Arts and Humanities, among other entities. In the future, FAS's contribution to RSEA will be ending.

With greater continuity in program staffing and leadership, RSEA has introduced new activities and regularized previously ad hoc ones. These include fall semester RSEA thesis workshops; Ph.D. preparation workshops, advising students interested in pursuing the Ph.D.; an alumni panel supported by GSAS Gochman Funds; a RSEA LinkedIn page connecting current students and the larger community of alumni; lunches with the faculty; and RSEA evening study sessions.

Over the years, RSEA alumni have become ambassadors, CEOs of major companies, journalists, foreign government officials, military foreign area officers, educators, Peace Corp volunteers, musicians, missionaries, and internationally renowned professors and researchers.

## ASIA VISION 21



*Victor Fung*



*Henry Rosovsky, Minoru "Ben" Makihara, Roderick MacFarquhar*



*Arthur Kleinman, Jim Yong Kim*

The Harvard Asia Center's Asia Vision 21 annual conference series has been a concerted effort at analyzing long-term issues and developments in Asia while forging a vision of the region for the 21st century. It was conceived in the Beijing Capital Airport in March 1998 as a response to the financial crises of 1997-1998. Ezra Vogel, the then-Director of the Asia Center, guided the initial effort and enlisted the advice and support of some of Harvard's leading alumni in the region to propose the project agenda. Victor Fung, Minoru "Ben" Makihara, Tatsuo Arima, and Jaime Zobel de Ayala were asked to form an Advisory Board to accomplish this.

The first conference, held in Cambridge in 1999, examined the financial crises and discussed both the causes and some of the proposed solutions to problems in the region. Subsequent conferences explored specific topics such as regional institution building for long-term economic, social, and political development in Asia; the emerging rise of China in the region; managing crises and dealing with the unexpected; values and changes in Asian societies; the integrating effect of communication technology; how to pay for health care and pensions; weapons proliferation and regional disputes; the influence of Islam in Asia; scientific and technologic models for development; governmental and institutional governance; global and regional imbalances; maritime security in Asia; aging and elder care; and the environmental impact of developing new sources of energy. The location of Asia Vision 21 alternated between Cambridge and a major city in Asia. Conferences have been held in Hong Kong, Bangkok, Seoul, Singapore, and Shanghai.



*Ezra Vogel, Tony Saich*



*William Overholt, Ezra Vogel, Richard Cooper*



*William Kirby, Arthur Kleinman*

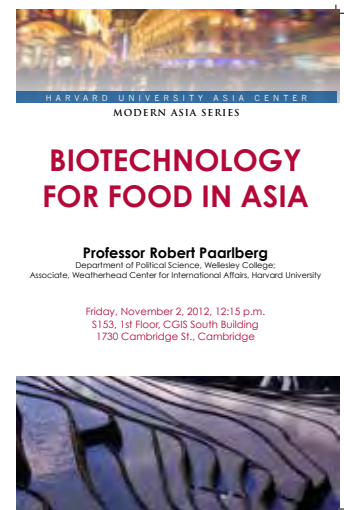
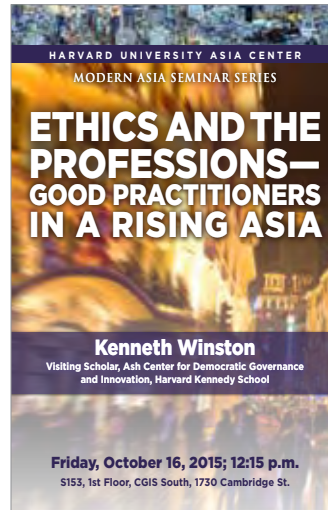
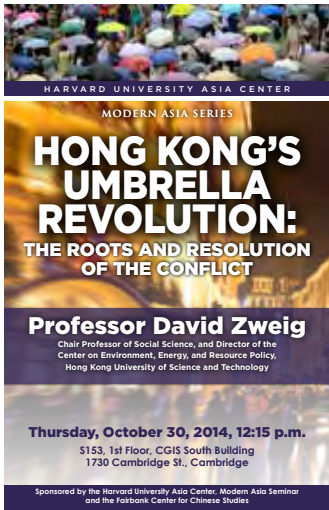
Asia Vision 21 also serves as a neutral meeting ground for individuals concerned with major developments in Asia who traditionally have refrained from discussing sensitive issues together in other Asian contexts. The approximately 75 participants in Asia Vision 21 bring a high degree of knowledge and experience in finance, business, economic policy, governmental actions, and academic work. Emphasis has been placed on those leaders young enough to play a role in implementing the visions that emerge from the conferences.

At the annual conferences, this group of leading thinkers and institutional actors are asked to step back from their daily routines to think about what Asians want for their society, politics, economy, and institutions in the decades ahead, and then discuss what may be done that will help lead to those outcomes. The presence of Harvard faculty has helped focus those discussion as well as address U.S.-Asia relations. The discussions at the conferences have been thoughtful, provocative, and useful. The final conference report is distributed widely, not only to participants, but also to academic institutions, libraries, think tanks, governmental and non-governmental organizations, and individuals in Asia and North America.

The mission of the Asia Center is to sustain and strengthen linkages between Harvard and East, Southeast, and South Asia. The annual Asia Vision 21 conference underscores this mission as it is a focal point of interaction between the Harvard community and corporate, government, institutional, and academic leaders from Asia. A by-product of the Asia Vision 21 conference series has been the building of collegial relationships among Asian and Western participants, which in many cases now extends over a decade and a half.

In July 2015, the Fung Global Institute, which had assumed primary responsibility for Asia Vision 21, became the Asia Global Institute at the University of Hong Kong. That institute requested that the Asia Center continue to participate in future Asia Vision 21 meetings.

## MODERN ASIA SEMINAR SERIES



The longest running of the Asia Center's seminar series and one of the Center's original seminar series, the first Modern Asia seminar was held in the fall of 1997 and featured Professor Ezra Vogel speaking on "The China-Japan-U.S. Triangle." The series was instituted to bring to Harvard senior scholars, government officials, journalists, and other specialists to speak on key issues from a regional perspective.

It has hosted former ambassadors such as Joseph Prueher, the late Stephen Bosworth, Thomas Hubbard, Chan Heng Chee, and Börje Ljunggren; journalists such as Eric Eckholm and Jan Wong and author Ian Buruma; scholars such as Herbert Bix, the late Lucian Pye, and Kenneth Pomeranz; and policy makers including Kishore Mahbubani, Jusuf Wanadi, Alan Romberg, and John Kamm.

It has also been a forum to discuss timely issues such as famine in North Korea, human rights and security in Afghanistan, entrepreneurship in China, and economic development and disaster response in Asia. Up to five Modern Asia seminars are now scheduled each semester.



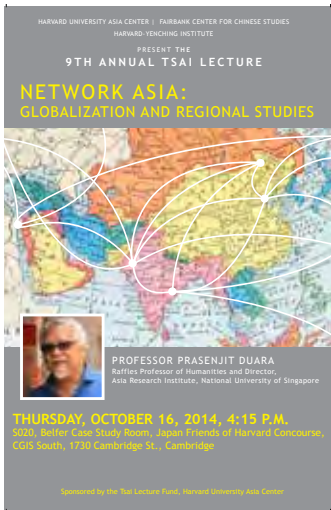
Arthur Kleinman, Goh Chok Tong

## DISTINGUISHED VISITORS AND LECTURERS

In addition to the visitors who come to the Asia Center under the Vogel Distinguished Visitors Program or as Tsai lecturers, the Asia Center has welcomed and hosted other guests and speakers. These have included Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand, Surin Pitsuwan, then-Secretary-General of ASEAN, and Goh Chok Tong, former Prime Minister of Singapore.



## ANNUAL TSAI LECTURE



The Tsai Lecture was established at the Asia Center with a generous gift from Felix Tsai to bring to Harvard notable academics, government officials, business leaders, and other specialists in their fields to give a public lecture. It is one of the Asia Center's flagship lecture series and has featured prominent speakers from throughout Asia. The first Tsai Lecture was given in 2006 by Professor Wang Gungwu of the National University of Singapore, and the 10th annual Tsai lecture was given in March 2015 by Asma Jahangir, a Pakistani human rights lawyer.

Other speakers have included:

- October 2014: Professor Prasenjit Duara, Raffles Professor of Humanities, National University of Singapore;
- May 2013: Dr. Jim Yong Kim, President, The World Bank Group;
- March 2012: George Yeo, former Minister for Foreign Affairs, Singapore;
- November 2011: Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, Government of India;
- April 2010: Dr. Sadako Ogata, President, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and former United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;
- April 2009: Amitav Ghosh, *Author of Sea of Poppies, The Glass Palace, and In An Antique Land*;
- May 2008: The Honorable J. Stapleton Roy, Former Ambassador to Singapore, the People's Republic of China, and Indonesia;
- October 2006: Dr. Hafid Abbas, Former Director General for Human Rights Protection, Indonesia.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

The Asia Center hosts a number of special events throughout the academic year to augment its regularly scheduled programs and to feature speakers who are in the Cambridge area. For example, the Center arranged two panels with the Nieman Foundation's fellows from Asia. The Center also organized a lecture by Xie Ji, Deputy Director General, of China's Department of Resources Conservation and Environmental Protection, National Development and Reform Commission, on China's energy efficiency.

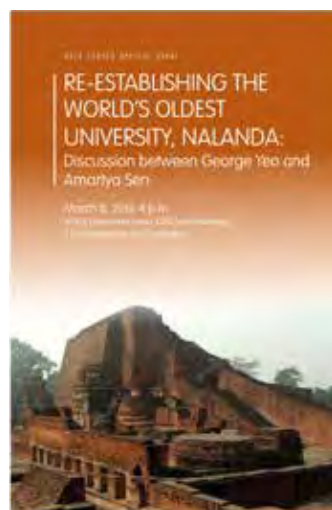
Proposed by economist Amartya Sen, the Asia Center hosted a discussion on the establishment of Nalanda, the world's oldest university, with George Yeo, Former Minister for Foreign Affairs, Singapore. Foreign Minister Yeo was at Harvard for a week as a Vogel Visitor when he also delivered the 2012 Tsai Lecture.

As a community outreach activity, the Asia Center sponsored a martial arts performance by the renowned Shaolin Temple monks at the Cambridge Rindge and Latin School for the greater Boston community.

Since 2002, the Asia Center has been involved in organizing a series of six conferences on the Sino-Japanese War which has resulted in the publication by Stanford University Press of three conference volumes. These include: *China at War; Regions of China, 1937-45* (2007); the award-winning *The Battle for China* (2011) and, most recently, *Negotiating China's Destiny in World War II* (2015). The most recent conference was held in Taipei in December 2015. The conferences are now organized through the University of Cambridge.

The Asia Center joined forces with the Korea Institute, the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, and the Eugene Bell Foundation to sponsor a conference on "Tuberculosis in the Korean Peninsula and Global Health" in November 2008. The conference was kicked off by Dr. Jim Yong Kim, then-Chair of the Department of Social Medicine, Harvard Medical School, and currently the President of the World Bank.

As a university-wide center, the Asia Center frequently collaborates with other schools and entities throughout Harvard. To that end, in October 2009, the Asia Center also convened a forum on "The Harvard School of Public Health and Asia," which was focused on current research, training, and health policy issues in East, South, and Southeast Asia. Chaired by Asia Center Director Arthur Kleinman and then-Public Health Dean Julio Frenk, the forum spotlighted infectious diseases, pandemic threats, health policy and training, and environmental issues and disaster response.



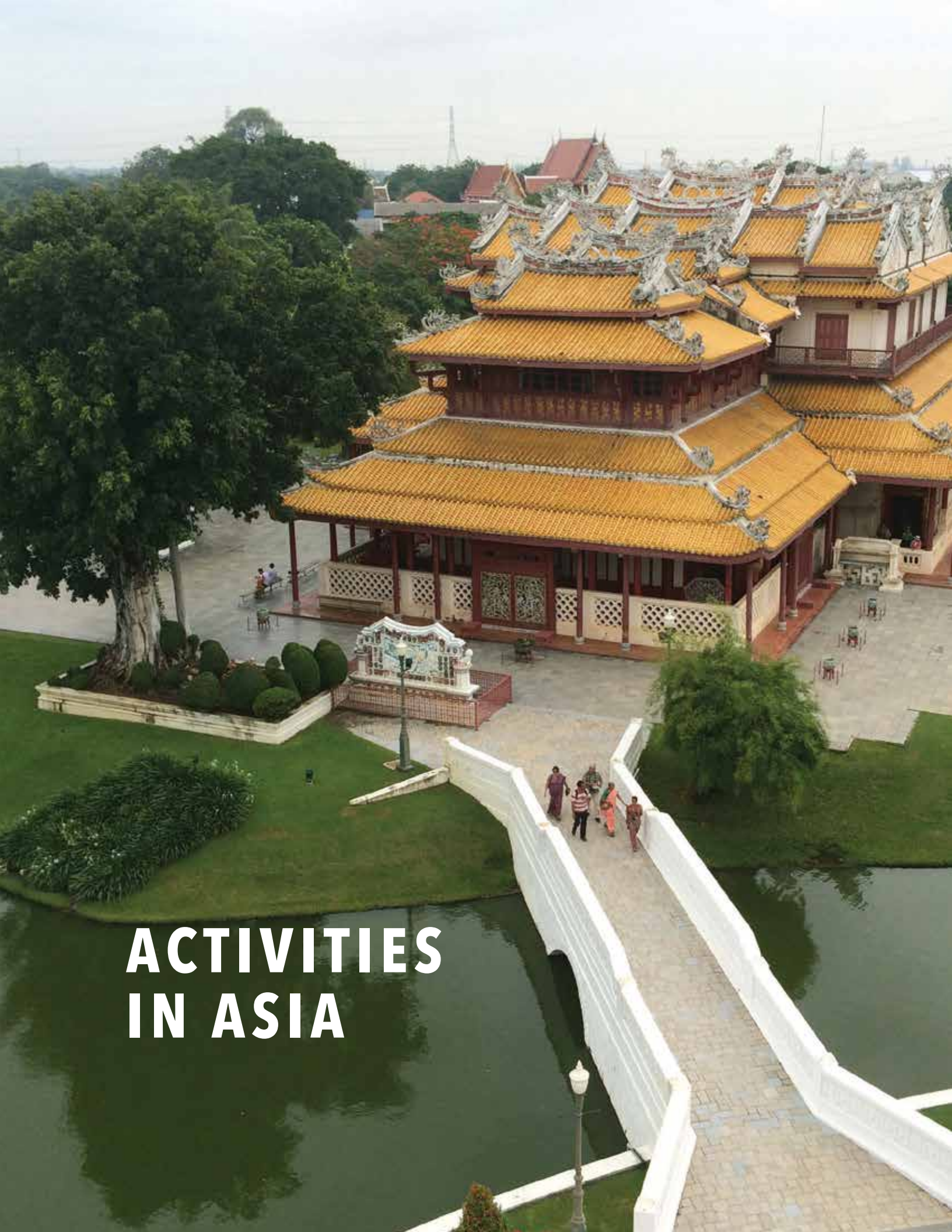
In October 2010, the Asia Center sponsored an international conference on “Sex Work in Asia: Health, Agency, and Sexuality.” Organized by Asia Center affiliate Dr. Joseph Tucker of Harvard Medical School, the interdisciplinary conference brought together specialists across various fields to examine the commercial sex enterprise in Asia. The conference focused on topics of law, medicine, epidemiology, criminology, social and cultural anthropology, political science, history, and social and health policy.

In the fall of 2011, the Center hosted a symposium in honor of James and Rubie Watson who were retiring, entitled “Ethnographic Histories/Historical Ethnographies: On Chinese Ground.” Current and former students along with Harvard faculty gathered to pay tribute—through papers, panels, and personal recollections—to the Watsons’ four decades of contributions to the field of anthropology and ethnographic research in south China.

The Asia Center has worked closely with students at the Kennedy School who organized a series of seminars on “Singapore at 50-Stakeholders and Changemakers.” The first seminar in the series was held in Fall 2015; the second and third in Spring 2016.

The Asia Center has, on a regular basis, co-sponsored seminars and other events with the other Asia-related centers at Harvard. For example, it has been one of the co-sponsors of a series of talks on Religious Identities in Asia, along with the Korea Institute and the Center for the Study of World Religions. The Center was one of the co-sponsors of an exhibit by political cartoonist Shreyas Navare, a fellow at the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs. It also co-sponsors at least one talk per semester organized by the Program on U.S.-Japan Relations. The Fairbank Center, the South Asia Institute, and the Reischauer Institute have worked with the Center on a variety of programs, exhibits and events.





# ACTIVITIES IN ASIA





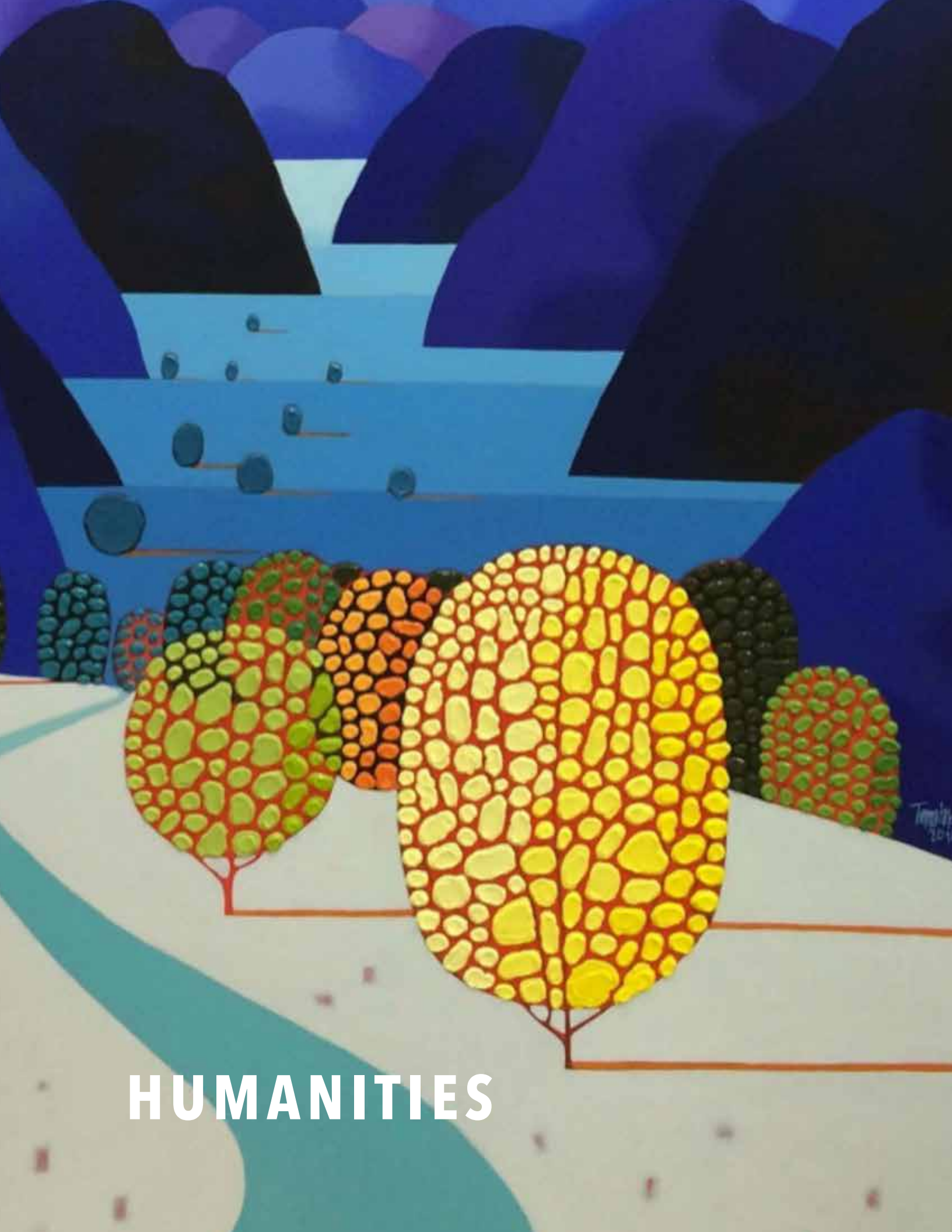
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## ACTIVITIES IN ASIA

A distinguishing feature of the Asia Center is its active presence in Asia, with on-site lectures, conferences, exchanges, and research projects throughout the region. A number of these activities have been detailed in this report.

Through the Ezra F. Vogel Lecture Series, since 2009 Harvard faculty, including Professors Arthur Kleinman, Sugata Bose, and Tu Weiming, have regularly given lectures at Malaysian universities and Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. In Japan, the Asia Center maintains an exchange program with Kyoto Gakuen University and a symposium series with Tokyo International University. The Program on Values in Business and the Professions in Asia has hosted workshops in Shenzhen and Shanghai to explore and compare Asian traditions of thought, culture, and practice in regards to professional ethics through the development and analysis of case studies. Research and teaching projects on elder care and mental health have been conducted in collaboration with academics in China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Thailand, Japan, Korea, Vietnam, and Bangladesh.

Asia Vision 21 is one example of the many conferences and workshops the Asia Center has organized and participated in throughout the region, in Hong Kong, Singapore, Bangalore, Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, Shanghai, Beijing, Changsha, Shenzhen, Guangzhou, Seoul, Kyoto, Tokyo, Hanoi, Bali, and other Asian cities.



# HUMANITIES





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## HUMANITIES

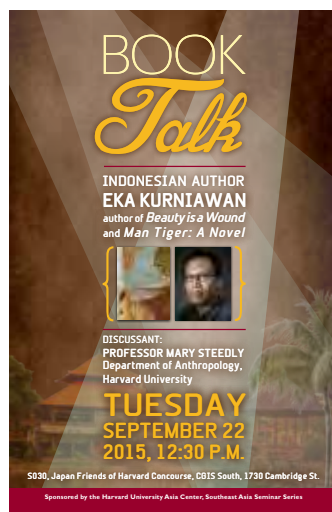
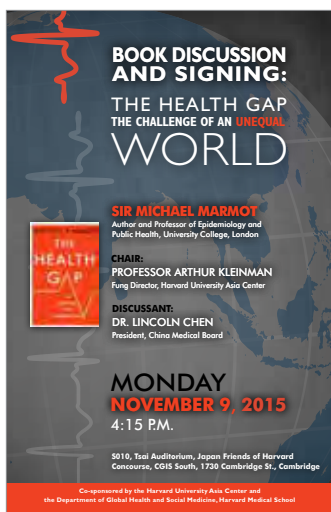
The Asia Center seeks to support the arts and humanities, particularly as they manifest social change. The Center has focused on the the arts and humanities through a variety of media, including film, conferences, seminars, book talks, and exhibits.

## CONFERENCES

In September 2010, the Asia Center and the Fairbank Center co-organized a major conference on comparative literature entitled “New Century, New Literature: A Dialogue between Chinese and American Writers and Critics.” The two-day conference brought in key writers from China and covered such topics as Chinese literature in the 21st century, translation and transculturation, and literature and public culture.

In November 2010, the Asia Center held a groundbreaking and enlightening cross-faculty conference on “Empires and Republics of Suffering in Asia,” in which Asianist faculty discussed Asian perspectives on President Drew Faust’s book *This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War*. Following a presentation by President Faust on her book, faculty members in a variety of fields ranging from history to comparative literature discussed war and suffering in the context of their regions and fields. The rich diversity of ideas and contexts provided a fascinating if somber view of how suffering is perceived and expressed in different societies around the world.

In March 2016, the Asia Center was one of the sponsors of a three-day conference on the Music of South, Central and West Asia, organized by Professor Richard K. Wolf. In addition to academic presentations by scholars from around the country, the conference also featured concerts and performances.



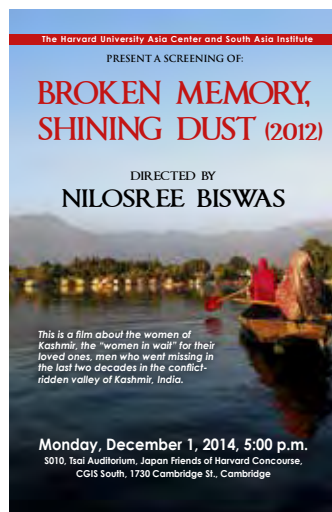
## BOOK TALKS

The Asia Center has also organized well-received book talks on recently published books by members of the Council on Asian Studies as well as visitors and seminar speakers. In the fall of 2015, Indonesian author Eka Kurniawan, author of *Beauty Is a Wound* and *Man Tiger*, spoke at a lunchtime seminar with Anthropology Professor Mary Steedly as a discussant. The Asia Center also hosted Sir Michael Marmot, Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health at University College, London, who spoke on his recently published book *The Health Gap: The Challenge of an Unequal World*. At a February 2016 Critical Issues

Confronting China seminar, William Overholt, Asia Center Senior Fellow, spoke on his recently published book *Renminbi Rising*. Professor Deborah Brautigam of Johns Hopkins University discussed her recently published book *Will Africa Feed China?* at a Critical Issues Confronting China seminar in December 2015. Also making a book presentation at the Critical Issues seminar was Dr. Nicholas Lardy of the Peterson Institute for International Economics, who discussed his recent publication *Markets Over Mao: The Rise of Private Business in China*. Asia Center Fellow Paul Hsu gave a talk on his recently published book *Guardians of the Dream: The Enduring Legacy of America's Immigrants* in the spring of 2014.

In the fall of 2013, Professor Dwight Perkins discussed his book *East Asian Development: Foundations and Strategies* at an Asia Center special event. In the fall of 2009, Professor Peter Bol spoke on his book *Neo-Confucianism in History*, published by the Asia Center, to a packed audience at Loeb House. The following fall, Professor Sugata Bose, along with his co-editor Professor Kris Majapra, gave a fascinating presentation on *Cosmopolitan Thought Zones: South Asia and the Global Circulation of Ideas*.

## FILM SCREENINGS



The Asia Center has sponsored a number of film screenings, both feature and documentaries, and film festivals to illuminate contemporary issues and themes.



The Asia Center organized the initial screening series of Chinese documentary films entitled “Emergent Visions,” which was spearheaded by then-Harvard Ph.D. student and award-winning filmmaker J.P. Sniadecki. The series is now hosted by the Fairbank Center.

The Asia Center will be sponsoring the screening of documentary films on urban Islam at the Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston in May 2016. Organized by independent film curator Xin Zhou, the screening will feature films by Harvard graduate students in Anthropology, among other disciplines. Xin Zhou also assisted in organizing a screening of experimental filmmakers from China, Indonesia, South Korea, and the United States at an evening entitled “Miniature City Symphonies” in November 2014.

In addition, the Asia Center organized a Southeast Asia Film Series over a two-day period in October 2012. The following fall, the Center featured, over a three-week period, films from Thailand focusing on spirits and spirituality.

Pakistan figures in the U.S. imagination as a site of war, terror, and religious militancy. Yet it is a diverse country with a population of over 190 million people who have various aspirations and who struggle to improve their material and moral lives. Nonetheless, in the United States little is known about everyday life in Pakistan—its prosaic concerns, dramatic moments, and little pleasures.

The recent re-emergence of cinema in Pakistan offers a window on this complex political and social landscape, with a new generation of filmmakers exploring family, friendship, love, ethics, and the nation whilst cognizant of manifold forms of violence. The **Harvard-Brown Pakistan Film Festival**, entitled “*Love, War and Other Longings*,” was organized to bring filmmakers, academics, activists, and members of the public together so as to critically engage this new cinema, focusing on its topical themes, political economy, and cinematic genres. The first film festival was held at Brown University in 2014.

The 2015 festival, held over a weekend in mid-October in Cambridge, showcased a diverse array of feature films, short films, documentaries, and video-art. Since 9/11, over 30,000 people have been killed from acts of terrorism and armed conflict. Unsurprisingly, questions of war, violence, and the affective bonds that sustain social lives were central themes. *Wounds of Waziristan* was a haunting elegiac meditation on the innocent casualties of drone strikes whereas the feature film *Abdullah* raised questions of ethics in relation to nationalist and political compulsions arising out of the “war on terror.”



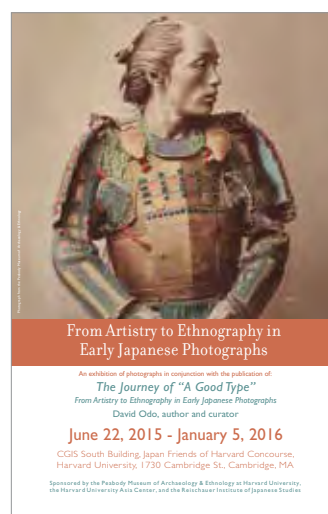
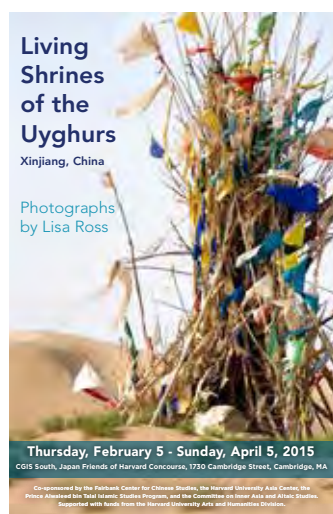
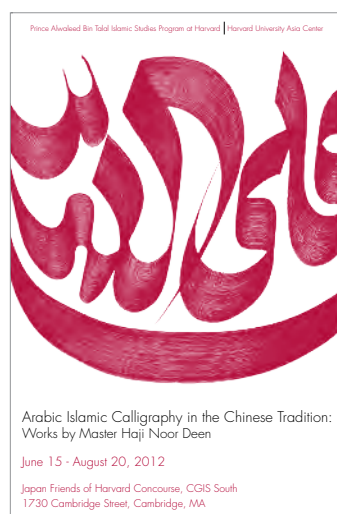
The documentary, *Anjaan Raastay* (Estranged Directions) sensitively explored questions of local attachments and nationalist histories through an examination of naming and re-naming public spaces. This conjuncture of ordinary lives and nationalist imaginaries was dramatically rendered through *Manto*, a fictionalized account of the life and literature of Pakistan's most famous short story writer, Sadaat Hasan Manto. Themes of marginality were vividly depicted in documentaries on diverse topics ranging from the lives of porters who make possible mountaineering expeditions to K2 to the everyday problems and struggles of queer communities.

Two films on navigating life in Karachi, *Na Maloom Afraad* (Unknown Person) and *Baat Cheet* (Tête-à-Tête), captured the excitement, anxiety, and dangers of living in a megalopolis. The films were followed by lively discussions with the directors and academics, and though the feature films drew the largest audience, all the events were well attended. Over the course of the weekend the festival drew close to 600 visitors, composed mainly of members of the expatriate Pakistani community and students from across Massachusetts and even further afield.

Earlier, the Asia Center had shown a number of feature-length Pakistani films including *Ramchand Pakistani*, shown to a capacity crowd at the Brattle Theater in November 2009, *Silent Waters* the following fall, and *Saving Face* in October 2012. Professor Asad Ahmed from the Department of Anthropology helped to introduce and comment upon a number of these films.

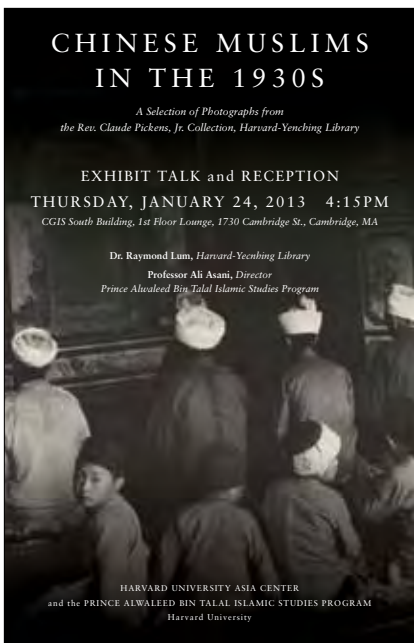
Two Indian films *Broken Waters*, *Shining Dust* and *ASTU: So Be It* were shown in 2014 and 2015 respectively. The screening of *ASTU*—a deeply moving film about the family and personal consequences of dementia—was followed by a panel discussion with the film's lead actor Mohan Agashe, a psychiatrist who is also a well-known Bollywood actor. Other panel members were Professor Arthur Kleinman and Professor Diana Eck.

## EXHIBITS



In recent years, the CGIS Complex has been a focal point for art exhibits in various media, organized by the international centers. The Asia Center has been one of the more active centers in hosting and co-hosting exhibits. After holding a demonstration seminar of Chinese/Arabic calligraphy by Master Haji Noor Deen, the Center sponsored an exhibit of his works, entitled "Arabic Islamic Calligraphy in the Chinese Tradition," during the summer of 2012.





An exhibit on Chinese Muslims in the 1930s, consisting of selected photographs from the Rev. Claude L. Pickens, Jr. Collection at the Harvard-Yenching Library, was organized in the Asian Centers' Lounge to coincide with the Asia Center's Islam in Asia seminar series that, for the 2012–2013 academic year, focused on Islam in China.

The photographs of Kevin Bubrski, documentary photographer and 2010–2011 Robert Gardner Visiting Artist at the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, were shown in an exhibit entitled “Shadows of Shangri La, Nepal in Photographs 1975-2011” from May through September 2014. This exhibit was followed by photographs by Lisa Ross on “Living Shrines of the Uyghurs, Xinjiang, China,” which was installed between blizzards in February 2015. Both photography exhibits also convened panel discussions as part of the exhibit.

In conjunction with the publication of Dr. David Odo's book *The Journey of “A Good Type,” From Artistry to Ethnography in Early Japanese Photographs*, the Asia Center was a co-sponsor of an elegant exhibit of early Japanese photographs.

It was also one of the organizers of a fundraising exhibit of photographs from Nepal by Professor Grzegorz Ekiert entitled “Nepal in Memoriam.” Proceeds from the sale of the photographs went to the South Asia Institute's Nepal Research and Reconstruction Fund.

In February 2016, Harvard was one of a handful of universities to show contemporary art from Myanmar in an exhibit curated by Professor Ian Holliday of the University of Hong Kong and entitled “Altered State: Painting Myanmar in a Time of Transition.”







# GRANT PROGRAMS





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## GRANT PROGRAMS

### FACULTY GRANTS

The Asia Center Faculty Grants Program, begun at the Center’s inception in 1998 and initially funded by a grant from the Provost’s Office, has been central to the Asia Center’s mission and has grown over recent years. The original Provost funding having been exhausted, the Asia Center, recognizing the importance of supporting interfaculty, multidisciplinary projects, has been committed to funding the program from its own endowment. Despite a two-year hiatus during the financial crisis, the Asia Center has funded 63 faculty grant applications, both for research and conferences, totaling just over \$885,000. Faculty from all the schools at Harvard including the Divinity School, Graduate School of Design, Law School, Kennedy School, Medical School, School of Public Health, Business School, and Engineering and Applied Sciences have been recipients of these grants, often working collaboratively across schools. Under recent leadership, the Asia Center has prided itself on supporting junior faculty at the University and in fact, has prioritized junior faculty proposals when funds were limited, as during the financial crisis.

Projects funded by the Asia Center have touched on all Asian regions and a significant number of countries. Recent research projects have included “Rebuilding the Social Compact: Voter Preferences, Service Delivery, and Property Taxes in Pakistan” from the Harvard Kennedy School; “The Role of Community-Based Organizations in Post-Disaster Relief and Recovery in the Philippines” from the Graduate School of Design; “Global Health and World Literatures: East Asia and the Indian Ocean Rim” from the Department of Comparative Literature; and “The Vernacular Literary Topography in North India in the Post-Liberalization Age” from the Department of South Asian Studies.

Conferences supported by the Asia Center include “Mobilized Contention: The State-Protest Movement Nexus in Asia and Beyond” organized by the Department of Government; “Urban Aspirations in Asia: Comparative Ethnographic Research on Religion in Megacities” from the Department of Anthropology; “A History of Penal Regimes in Global Perspectives” organized by the Department of History; and “An International Conference on Classical Chinese Literature” from the Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations.

## STUDENT GRANTS

The Asia Center Student Grants Program is one of the major sources of support for students focusing on Asia at Harvard. The Center offers grants to undergraduate students as well as M.A. and Ph.D. candidates primarily for research but also for language study and internships. With its partners, the Korea Institute, Reischauer Institute, South Asia Institute, the Fairbank Center, and the Harvard China Fund, the funding available to Harvard students is robust and quite comprehensive. In 2015, the Asia Center funded projects by Harvard students totaling \$244,000.

Research topics pursued by undergraduates with Asia Center funding have included the role of the middle class in the 2006 coup in Thailand, perceptual association of homosexuality and cross-dressing in China and Korea, and the effect of the Vietnamese university admissions-game on adult civic engagement. Graduate students have received funding for “Frontier Hopes and Aspirations in the China-Burma Borderlands,” “Educating a Global Workforce: The Rise of Liberal Arts Education in Asia,” “The Study of the Spatiality of Global Migration by Investigating the Host Country, Hong Kong and the Native Country, Philippines,” and “Unravelling the Sinophone Malaysian Experience: The Circulation of Mahua Cultural Products across Malaysia and Taiwan.”

The Asia-related centers at Harvard are pleased to invite you to a panel presentation:

### Undergraduate Internship Panel: NGOs and Economic Development

**Panelists:**

**Natalie Bau '09,**  
Centre for Micro Finance, India  
(sponsored by the South Asia Initiative)

**Will Guzick '11,**  
Samsung Economic Research Institute, Seoul  
(sponsored by the Korea Institute)

**Nara Lee '11,**  
International Red Cross of Japan  
(sponsored by the Reischauer Institute)

**Spencer Livingston '10,**  
Grama Vidyal Microfinance, India  
(sponsored by the South Asia Initiative)

**Wednesday, October 29, 2008,  
3:00 - 5:00 PM  
S153, CGIS South Building,  
1730 Cambridge Street**

Food will be provided.

Returning students will talk about their experiences at various internships in Asia this summer. This is the second in a series of five panels to take place in the Fall semester.

For additional information, please contact Jorge Espada at [jespada@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:jespada@fas.harvard.edu).

Sponsored by the Asia Center, the Fairbank Center, the Harvard China Fund, the Korea Institute, the Reischauer Institute and the South Asia Initiative.

Funding for Southeast Asia student projects has increased substantially during the last few years. In 2008, the funding available for Southeast Asia projects was \$3,770; in 2015, the amount was \$79,000. Key to the increase has been the establishment of three major funds at the Asia Center: the Philippines Fund, the Thai Studies Program, and the Jeffrey Cheah Fellows Exchange Program. These initiatives are instrumental in ensuring that the Asia Center will fulfill its more recent mission of developing Southeast Asian Studies at Harvard.

The Jeffrey Cheah Travel Grants for Southeast Asia support an exchange program between Harvard and Sunway University and Monash University in Malaysia. The program, now in its second year of implementation, advances Southeast Asia-focused teaching and research by engaging Harvard faculty and students with these Malaysian schools, and by supporting Southeast Asian scholars' travel to Harvard. Scholars develop thesis topics, network with global colleagues, conduct research in their respective fields of study, and communicate their work through public talks.

In the past eight years, the Asia Center has funded over 600 students in excess of \$1,500,000. In addition, the Asia Center has awarded over 180 Fung Scholarships totaling over \$680,000. The Fung Scholarships have been at the core of Asia Center funding for undergraduate travel to China since 2004. Beginning in 2016, the scholarships will be available to graduate students as well, significantly increasing the reach and impact of the program.

For the past decade, Harvard undergraduates interested in learning about greater China have benefitted tremendously from the Victor and William Fung Scholars Program, which supports travel to conduct in-depth independent research, participate in internships, and enroll in intensive language study.







**FELLOWS  
PROGRAM**





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## FELLOWS PROGRAM

The Asia Center enriches the Asian Studies community at Harvard through its Fellows Program, which includes a number of different categories of visitors. In-residence Visiting Scholars and Fellows are academics and practitioners conducting independent research on a topic of particular interest to the Center, often related to one of the center's ongoing research programs or those of faculty. Visiting Scholars and Fellows hold year-long appointments and often present their work in public talks.

William Overholt, Senior Fellow and Scholar-in-Residence, has published *Renminbi Rising*, on the internationalization of the Chinese currency (Wiley, December 2015), is finishing a book on alternative Chinese futures for publication in 2016, and beginning research on amelioration of worker abuses in the poorest countries. As the former President of the Fung Global Institute, he organized the annual Asia Vision 21 conferences in 2014 and 2015 and has organized a series of annual Asia Center-China Energy Fund conferences in Shanghai on Sino-American relations (2013–2015).



William Overholt

Over the past eight years, the Asia Center has hosted the following Associates: Sudhir Anand, Professor of Economics, University of Oxford; Chen Hongtu, Assistant Professor of Psychology, Harvard Medical School; Chen Jinxia, Chairwoman and Vice President, Yongjin Group, Shanghai; Lincoln Chen, President, China Medical Board; Nie Jing Bao, Associate Professor, Bioethics Centre, University of Otago, New Zealand; Jutathorn Pravattiyagul, Erasmus Mundus Doctoral Fellow, Utrecht University and Hamburg University; Börje Ljunggren, former Swedish Ambassador to China and Vietnam; Ajmal Qureshi, former Resident Representative, United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization; Karl Ruping, Senior Managing Partner, incTANK Ventures; Soumodip Sarkar, Dean of the Institute for Advanced Studies and Research, University of Évora, Portugal; Jaswant Singh, former Minister of External Affairs, India; and Chikao Tanabe, Chairman of the Board, Kyoto Gakuen University.

Asia Center Fellows have included Bridget Hanna, Northeastern University; Li Honghai, Founder/Producer, Time Documentary Production Company, Shenzhen, China; Donny Liang, Producer, Arclight Film, Inc.; Yang Peng, former Secretary General, One Foundation and Senior Researcher, Governance Institute; Yang Ziyun, Journalist; Yi Dan, Professor, College of Literature and Journalism, Sichuan University; and Wang Shi, Vanke Corporation.

The Asia Center has also hosted a number of visiting scholars including Chen Hong Jin, Professor, Shanghai Institute of Technology; Hao Haijing, Assistant Professor, Management Science and Information Systems Department, College of Management, University of Massachusetts, Boston; Kuo Hsiu Ling, Associate Professor, Department and Institute of History, National Chung Cheng University, Taiwan; Li Tingjiang, Professor of Law and Politics, Chuo University, Tokyo; Yu Cheng, Professor, School of Sociology and Anthropology at Sun Yat-sun University and Professor and Director, Division of Medical Humanities of Zhongshan School of Medicine; and Yu Xiang, Director of the Division of American Economy Studies, China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations.



Yoji Koda

The Asia Center has an ongoing visitor program consisting of recently retired, senior officers of the Japan Self-Defense Forces. The members of the program conduct research on U.S.-Japan security relations. Recent Fellows have been General Yoshikazu Watanabe of the Ground Self-Defense Force, General Osamu Onoda of the Air Self-Defense Force, Lt. General Mikio Shibata of the Ground Self-Defense Force, and Admiral Yoji Koda of the Maritime Self-Defense Force.

The Fung Fellows Program funds graduate students from China and Hong Kong enrolled in two-year master's degree programs at Harvard, specifically in Public Health, Public Policy, Public Administration, Business, Architecture, Education, Law, Engineering, and East Asian Studies. Across the professional schools at Harvard, support from Fung Fellowships has enabled scholars, policymakers, lawyers, teachers, business leaders, and public health practitioners from China and Hong Kong to pursue intellectual and professional advancement at Harvard.

The Fung Scholars and Fellows Programs are important in contributing to the Harvard-China relationship and are key to creating a global network of individuals invested in the future of greater China. The impact and success of these programs over the last ten years have been significant, benefitting more than 180 Scholars and 60 Fellows.



2014 Fung Fellows at dinner with  
Arthur Kleinman

The Vogel Fellows program sponsors individuals from Asia to spend up to a month at Harvard conducting research, attending classes, meeting with faculty and students, and giving at least one public talk. Vogel fellows have included William Chan, formerly of Abax Global Capital; Weipeng Gao, Executive Director of CXC China Sustainable Growth Fund; and Liu Hao of the China Development Bank.

The Asia Center also appoints a number of Associates who are not in-residence, but whose research and interests are aligned with the work of the center. Collectively, the Asia Center Fellows are a dynamic component of the Asia Center and often contribute more broadly to the University.







**COORDINATING ROLE OF  
THE ASIA CENTER**



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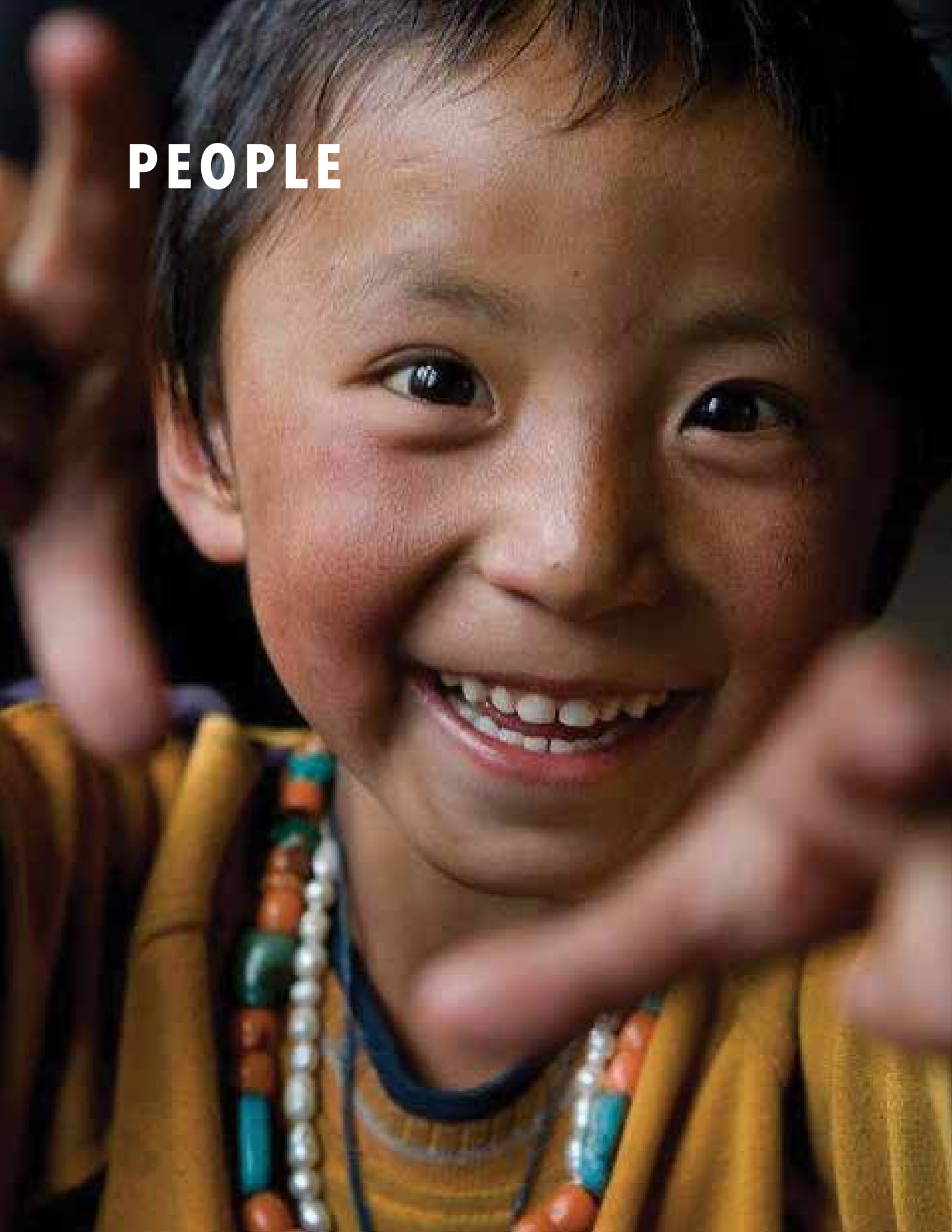
## COORDINATING ROLE OF THE ASIA CENTER

The Asia Center has revitalized its efforts to bring the Asia-related centers together and to facilitate closer collaboration among them. This focus has affected the planning of key academic activities, leading to the expansion of co-sponsored and co-developed scholarly events. With respect to administrative activities, in addition to providing financial and budgetary support, the Center has realigned to dedicate a great deal of attention and effort to working more productively with the other Asia-related centers, and to improving the shared services that are provided for the other groups. The centers' Executive Directors meet regularly to work on common issues, to prevent conflicting efforts, and to act as advisors for one another. Administrative tools, such as a shared schedule-management database and activities that involve all of the centers' administrative staff, are designed to foster greater collegiality and collaborative learning. Lunch-time trainings, such as PowerPoint and language instruction, have been organized by the different centers for all of the staff. Individuals from across the centers participate in the hiring and orientation of new team members.

The Asia Center publishes the weekly *Asia Bulletin*, which lists events and activities from all the Asia-related centers at Harvard and in the greater Boston area. The Asia Center is currently developing a shared calendar to be used by the centers. The Asia Center has benefitted tremendously from engaging in collaborative activities with the other Asia-related centers, and will continue to seek ways to work more closely with them on all levels.

On the Faculty level, coordination among the centers extends not only to the Asia-related centers but to the other international centers as well. The effort to bring together the centers around significant shared issues is reflected in the Caucus of International Center Directors, chaired currently by Asia Center Faculty Director Arthur Kleinman. The Caucus discusses a range of core issues common to all, such as budgetary questions, relations to the administration, and programs. This year's agenda included the development of a proposal for the FAS Strategic Vision for International/Global Advancement.

**PEOPLE**







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## PEOPLE

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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