# East Asian Studies

2019-2020

# newsletter



# Message from the Department Chair

The department is doing well despite the many challenges of this year. Our faculty have been productive, some of us assuming leadership positions in our fields. Three of our graduate students obtained their Ph.D. this year and went on to post-doc and faculty positions. Thanks to the concerted effort of our Academic Coordinators, lecturers and administrative staff, the Lunar New Year Festival in late January drew 500 students despite the looming threat of a then unknown virus.



**ABOUT US** 

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When campus closed down because of the pandemic, classrooms emptied out, events were cancelled, and long planned celebrations did not happen. But faculty and staff rose to the challenge: when we switched to remote instruction with a week's notice in March, colleagues with technical skills stepped in to help everyone; staff worked extra hard to process emergency equipment purchases; at the bi-weekly virtual get-togethers, people shared teaching tips and enjoyed a sense of community. During our virtual graduation party in June, ten undergraduate majors received awards. Amidst live Hansori drumming and songs recorded specially for the event, they spoke about what they had gained in their years at UCI, not just useful language skills, not just deeper knowledge of east Asian cultures, but also new ways of thinking and still more precious, enduring friendship with fellow students and professors.

We are now poised at the beginning of a new academic year. Although our classes will still be online, we are far better equipped to meet the educational needs of our students. Contrary to earlier expectations, our classes are fully enrolled, some with long waitlists. Two new graduate students are joining us this fall, and several colloquia are in the planning. I look forward to the time when we can celebrate the successes of everyone together again.

—Hu Ying

# Faculty Highlights

**PROFESSOR KYUNG HYUN KIM** was an organizer of the Korean Hip-Hop and New Explorations of Afro-Asian Identity Conference accompanied by a concert featuring the artists Tiger JK, Yoonmirae, Kurtis Blow, BIZZY, and Diverseddie on October 7, 2019. Presented by Hyundai Motor America and the Center for Critical Korean Studies (CCKS), the conference







brought together the world's foremost Korean and American cultural studies scholars to discuss Korean and African American identity and Korean hip-hop. The sold-out concert held at the Barclay Theater was attended by over 700 students, members of the UCI community, and other guests.



Professor Kim was also featured in several interviews to discuss the South Korean film *Parasite*, which became the first foreign language film to win the Academy Award for Best Picture, including the Here and Now radio program by WBUR (Boston's NPR news station), Vox.com, and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC). He was also panelist at a CCKS roundtable on February 13, 2020 discussing the *Parasite* film and its Oscar win, and organized two CCKS webinars: the first, "Korea's Response to COVID-19: A Lesson to be

Learned" was held on May 19, 2020 with Helen Cha Roberts, US president of Seegene Technologies; Sumin Lee, professor of epidemiology in the UCI School of Medicine; and Insang Hwang, Deputy Consul General, LA Consulate General of Republic of Korea. The panel, moderated by School of Humanities Dean Tyrus Miller, had over 700 attendees. A follow-up webinar on June 29, 2020 compared privacy laws in the U.S. and South Korea with Michele Goodwin, director of Center for Biotechnology and Global Health Policy; David Kaye, the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression; and professors Kyung Sin Park and Nohyoung Park of the Korea University Law School.

## Faculty Highlights



ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR SERK-BAE SUH was a participant in the "Korean Studies in the Global Humanities: A Roundtable Discussion" held at Columbia University in 2018. This was published as an article in 2019 in the *Journal of Korean Studies*, Vol. 24 No. 2.

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR ELIZABETH TINSLEY presented a paper on the esoteric icon "Aizen Myōō" at the International Conference: Esoteric Buddhism and East Asian Society on March 7-8, 2020. Her paper, "An Alternative History of Shingon at Koyasan: Oracle inscription and esoteric icon worship" was a discussion of some intriguing images of a highly esoteric deity and what can be gleaned about them from a medieval oracle record. This paper will be published early next year, and the deity and icon will be the subject of the chapter "Fire and Fusion: Aizen Myōō at the



Medieval Tantric Buddhist Complex of Kōyasan" for *The Oxford Handbook of Tantric Studies*. Elizabeth will be speaking about this project at the American Academy of Religion annual conference later this year. A related talk will be given at UCLA's "Mapping Territory: Religion, Place, and Space in Asian Humanities" in November. Elizabeth was also included in an article from the LA Times on an eviction case of Buddhist monks

from the Buddhist temple of Khemara Buddhikarama in Long Beach; <a href="https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2019-10-27/eviction-monks-long-beach-cambodian-buddhist-temple">https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2019-10-27/eviction-monks-long-beach-cambodian-buddhist-temple</a> (photo: Assistant Professor Tinsley at the Khemara Buddhikarama temple).

#### **VISITING SCHOLAR**



DR. GUO DAOPING, researcher at the Institute of Literature of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing, China, was a visiting scholar with the department in 2019-2020. During her time at UCI, Dr.

Guo gathered material for her research on the Western response to the 1900 Boxer Incident.

#### PROFESSOR MICHAEL FULLER'S article "Digital



Humanities and the Discontents of Meaning," was published in the Journal of Chinese History (2020): 1-17. Professor Fuller also gave two talks: "Overview of Drifting among Rivers and Lakes", presented at The Eleventh International Conference on Song Dynasty Literature, organized by the Chinese Society for the Study of

Song Dynasty Literature, at Fudan University on October 20, 2019. His second talk on "The Role of the Confucian Classics in Creating and Transforming the Literati in Song Dynasty China (960-1279)," PAIXUE Symposium, "Classicising Learning, Performance, and Power: Eurasian Perspectives from Antiquity to the Early Modern Period," was given at the School of History, Classics & Archaeology, The University of Edinburgh on December 12, 2019.



#### **ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR MARGHERITA LONG** published two articles:

2019. "On Being Worthy of the Event: Four Fukushima Stoics." *Postmodern Culture* 30 no. (September): <a href="https://muse.jhu.edu/article/753926">https://muse.jhu.edu/article/753926</a>

2020. "Humanism and the Hikari-Event: Reading Ōe with Stengers in Catastrophic Times." *positions asia critique* 20 no. 2 (May): 421-445.

Associate Professor Long also organized a film screening of *Fukushima Speaks* followed by a reception and dinner with the director held on February 12, 2020.

Photo from left to right: Margherita Long, Director Doi Toshikuni, and Subtitler Tsukuru Fors Lauritzen.

### Lecturer News



(Left) **RYUKO FLORES,** lecturer in the Japanese Language Program, and **HIDEMI RIGGS**, lecturer and academic coordinator of the Japanese Language Program, hosted Japanese Tea Time on February 3, 2020.

(Right) JESSICA CHEN and YING PETERSEN, lecturers in the Chinese Language Program, hosted Chinese Tea Time on February 5, 2020. The tea presentations were part of the UCI campus-wide International Week, events designed to bring students together to celebrate their unique contributions to the campus community.





RUOHMEI HSIEH, lecturer and academic coordinator of the Chinese Language Program, was elected President of Chinese Language Teachers Association of Southern California (CLTA-SC) for 2020-2022. CLTA-SC (southern California chapter of the national CLTA-US) is a professional organization that aims to support professional development of teachers of

Chinese, promote articulation among all levels and all types of institutions, and provide an extensive networking resource for educators in the southern California region. Ruohmei organized workshops on teaching Chinese online in response to the needs of CLTA-SC members during the COVID-19 pandemic.



YING PETERSEN, lecturer in the Chinese Language Program, organized a few virtual Chinese cooking activities in her Zoom classes to engage students in learning by doing. Students not only learned how to speak and read Chinese dish names, such as "hot and sour soup," but also watched how this dish was made step-by-step

visually via demonstration. To introduce language in an authentic cultural setting is an ideal method of language instruction, and the remote teaching at home has made this possible. Both students and the instructor enjoyed this unique experience of cooking Chinese food as a supplement to regular class instruction.

## Undergraduate Program Updates

#### School of Humanities Undergraduate Awards



Tiffany Chin Chinese Studies



Micole Darvin Korean Language & Literature



Robert Lesher **East Asian Cultures** 



Mikayla Rae Tubbiola Japanese Language & Literature

### School of Humanities Scholarship Recipients



Kelly Chen Chinese Language & Literature



Hana Diatalevi East Asian Cultures



Akina Ishimoto Japanese Language & Literature



Litzy Santoyo Korean Language & Literature

2019-20120 National Collegiate Chinese Honor Society & UCI Chinese Honor Society Scholarship Recipients

## UNDERGRADUATE ALUMNA spotlight



Tiffany Hom



Derek Diehl



VICTORIA HYPOLITE, a 2016 undergraduate UCI alumna who majored in East Asian Cultures, will be attending Loyola Law School this fall. While at UCI, she was involved in Kababayan at UCI, Communication Club, Tennis Club, Humanities Peer Mentoring, International Peer Group Mentoring and Tau Theta Pi multicultural sorority. Additionally, she worked for the UC Irvine School of Law as a student assistant. She studied abroad in South Korea at Yonsei University in the beginning of her senior year, and when she returned, she did work as an event coordinator for the Los Angeles Korean Festival and the Los Angeles Lotus Festival. She notes that her further engagement with the Korean community was encouraged

by her time studying abroad as well as her East Asian culture classes, particularly those with Professor Kyung Hyun Kim. In her free time, she has always enjoyed playing video games and continuing to learn Korean. She recently received her certificate in Esports Management from the UCI Division of Continuing Education. Over time, her casual engagement in the professional video game industry, or esports industry, matured into a consideration of how to apply her passion for law and language to her passion in gaming. Following law school, she has plans to become a video game attorney, with specialization in intellectual property and entertainment law, representing content creators and streamers in the global esports and entertainment sphere.

### Graduate Program Updates

### Congratulations to the Ph.D. Graduates



**TIAN LI**, advised by Kyung Hyun Kim, graduated in Fall 2019. **Dissertation:** *Transnational Korean Screen Culture in Postsocialist China.* Tian was a lecturer of Asian Screen Cultures at Stanford University in 2019-2020, and will be a Korea Foundation-Korea Institute Postdoctoral Fellow at Harvard University beginning in Fall 2020.



XU MA, advised by Martin Huang, graduated in Spring 2020.

Dissertation: Re-Imagining Women's Social Spaces in Late Imperial China.

Xu received an appointment as a tenuretrack Assistant Professor at Lafayette College (Easton, Pennsylvania) in the Department of Religious Studies.



SUE HEUN ASOKAN, advised by Kyung Hyun Kim, graduated in Summer 2020. Dissertation: Breaking the Retrospective Curse: Ethical Identity in Korean Film and Literature.

Sue received an appointment as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Korean at the University of Colorado- Boulder in the Department of Asian Languages and Civilizations.



VANESSA BAKER, a fourth year Ph.D. candidate advised by Serk-Bae Suh and Margherita Long, was a research fellow at the Academy of Korean Studies in the fall and winter, and was a TA for Modern Korean Literature in the spring. She taught the course Reading Ecology in the Japanese Empire during Summer Sessions, and also received the UCI Humanities Summer Dissertation Fellowship.



**MONICA CHO,** a third year Ph.D. candidate advised by Serk-Bae Suh, advanced to candidacy in Spring 2020. She was a TA for the Summer Sessions course EAS 40: Gender and Sexuality in South Korea and will TA for Korean language and East Asian Studies 55 next year.



ZACH GOTTESMAN, a third year Ph.D. candidate advised by Kyung Hyun Kim, advanced to candidacy in Spring 2020. Zach received a Summer 2020 Contact Tracing Fellowship from UCI Graduate Division to conduct contact tracing of COVID-19 in Orange County during the summer after completing 70 hours of training. He also received a grant from the Center for Critical Korean Studies to develop a course on Korean animation that will be offered in the summer of 2021. Zach's article "The Japanese Settler Unconscious: Goblin Slayer on the 'Isekai' Frontier" was published in the journal Settler Colonial Studies:: https://doi.org/10.1080/2201473X.2020.1801274



**KRISTINA HORN,** a first year Ph.D. student advised by Kyung Hyun Kim, was accepted to present at UC Merced's Interdisciplinary Humanities Graduate Student Conference and University of Pennsylvania's EALC Graduate Student Conference before the conferences were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Kristina also received a School of Humanities Spring Conference travel grant, and will be a TA for Korean language, EAS 116, and Religious Studies next year.



**AMY LANTRIP** a first year Ph.D. student advised by Hu Ying, is currently working on a project looking at women and women's rights in early twentieth Chinese science/speculative fiction published in periodicals. She is particularly interested in depictions of suffrage and political activism. Amy will serve as a TA for East Asian Studies 55, Religious Studies, and Gender & Sexuality Studies next year.

### Graduate Program Updates



**SARA NEWSOME,** a fourth year Ph.D. candidate advised by Margherita Long, was a Nippon Foundation Fellow in 2019-2020 and spent the year at the Inter-University Center in Yokohama, Japan. In Summer 2020, she received the Division of Teaching Excellence and Innovation (DTEI) Fellowship to work with faculty on developing remote courses for the 2020-2021 academic year. In Fall 2020, Sara will teach the course "Narratives of Japanese Popular Culture" at San Diego State University.



**ADAM REYNOLDS,** a third year Ph.D. student advised by Susan Klein, received a Summer 2020 Contact Tracing Fellowship from UCI Graduate Division to conduct contact tracing of COVID-19 in Orange County during the summer after completing 70 hours of training. Adam will TA for Japanese language and Religious Studies next year.



ANAT SCHWARTZ-MERON, a sixth year Ph.D. candidate advised by Chungmoo Choi, received the Korea Foundation's Scholarship for Graduate Studies in 2019-2020. She returned from dissertation fieldwork in Korea in November 2019 and presented the paper "Full-Time Feminists and Breaking the Corset: Feminist Divisions of Labor in Contemporary Korean Feminist Communities" at the National Women's Studies Association's annual conference held in San Francisco, CA on November 14-17, 2020, and the paper "#WithYou: Hashtags and the Contemporary #MeToo Movement in South Korea" at the Modern Language Association's annual conference held in Seattle, WA. She designed and taught a course cross-listed with the History Department (EAS 40/HIST 70A) in Summer Sessions I, "Gender & Sexuality in South Korea," and was a DTEI Graduate Fellow for the summer, assisting faculty with online course design and delivery. Anat also received the Korean Foundation's Scholarship for Graduate Studies for 2020-2021.

# -Welcome-

New Graduate Students in Fall 2020



ADAM MILLER—Adam received his B.A. in Russian from Truman State University and his M.A. in Korean Literature from Hankuk University of Foreign Studies. His research interests are gender and sexuality in contemporary Korean literature and film.

Advisor: Kyung Hyun Kim



YEE KWAN (VANESSA) WONG—Vanessa received her B.A. in Linguistics from the Chinese University of Hong Kong and her M.A. in Chinese from Indiana University—Bloomington. Her research interests are the social changes reflected in modern fiction from various Chinese communities and the literary connections and distinctions between Hong Kong and China.

**Advisor: Bert Scruggs** 

### **GRADUATE ALUMNUS**

spotlight



**DR. HENRY LEM**, 2019 graduate advised by Martin Huang, is starting a tenure-track position as Assistant Professor of Chinese in the Asian School I Division at the Defense Language Institute (DLI, U.S. Department of Defense) in California. At the DLI he will be teaching all levels of Chinese, contributing to DLI's academic journals, and collaborating with team members in developing and executing Chinese language immersion programs.

Henry's work has appeared in the journals *Ming Qing Studies* (2019) and *CUNY Forum* (2020). His article, "Branding Literary Genius in Jin Shengtan's 70-chapter Edition of the *Water Margin*," will be published in the journal *Frontiers of Literary Studies in China*. In 2020-2021, Henry plans to continue research on late imperial Chinese fiction and continue training as a martial arts practitioner.

### Department Events

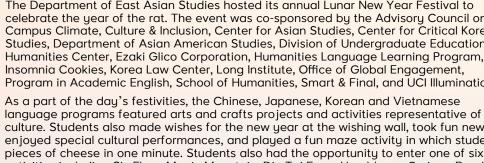
#### **Lunar New Year Festival**

January 27, 2020

The Department of East Asian Studies hosted its annual Lunar New Year Festival to celebrate the year of the rat. The event was co-sponsored by the Advisory Council on Campus Climate, Culture & Inclusion, Center for Asian Studies, Center for Critical Korean Studies, Department of Asian American Studies, Division of Undergraduate Education, Humanities Center, Ezaki Glico Corporation, Humanities Language Learning Program, Insomnia Cookies, Korea Law Center, Long Institute, Office of Global Engagement, Program in Academic English, School of Humanities, Smart & Final, and UCI Illuminations.

As a part of the day's festivities, the Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Vietnamese language programs featured arts and crafts projects and activities representative of each

culture. Students also made wishes for the new year at the wishing wall, took fun new year photos with their friends in the photo booth, enjoyed special cultural performances, and played a fun maze activity in which students competed against their friends to collect as many pieces of cheese in one minute. Students also had the opportunity to enter one of six drawings that included prizes for restaurants and activities including Six Flags Magic Mountain, Din Tai Fung, Hornblower Cruises, Breakfast Republic, In-N-Out Burger, and K1 Speed.



The Chinese language program hosted two workshops. At the first workshop, students learned to make colorful paper cutting of rat figures to create a 3D Chinese New Year hanging decoration (1). The second workshop taught students how to create a bracelet by knotting Chinese silk threads (2). Chinese decorative knotwork, a symbol of longevity and eternity, acts as good luck charms given during Chinese New Year celebrations. Participants also had the opportunity to dress in traditional Chinese clothing "Hanfu."

Lecturers in the Japanese language program and volunteers Toko Okada, Tomoko Adams, and Yukari Fowler showed students how to wear traditional Japanese kimonos (3). Guest volunteers also demonstrated traditional flower arranging techniques, a New Year's tradition in Japan (4).

At the Korean language program station students made a small pocket out of Korean traditional color paper in which they can keep money or keys (5). Students also had the opportunity to dress in a traditional Korean hanbok (6).

At the Vietnamese language program station, participants played the "Gourd, Crab, Shrimp, Fish" game and won candy prizes (7). For the "New Year's Fortune" wheel activity, participants spun the wheel to receive one of the fortune-telling sheets that were expertly hand-written in the old Vietnamese characters called the Southern Script.







(9) Students entered to win one of six prize packages at the drawing table. Nearly \$3,000 worth of prizes were included in the festival's drawings. This year's drawing winners were Devanga Fonseka, Kit Ma, Chassidy Marquardt, Teresa Moua, Karl White, and Naoki Yamaguchi.

(10) & (11) Students competed against their friends in the maze activity to collect as many pieces of cheese in one minute.





### <u>Department Events</u>

### **Guest Speakers**



Supported by the UCI Humanities Center, the Department hosted a speaker series on "What's Chinese about Chinese Science Fiction." The first talk was given on May 14, 2020 by Xia Jia on "Crossing the Boundaries: A Conversation on Invisible Chinese Science Fiction." Xia is a professor of comparative literature as well as an award-winning SF writer from China, at the time visiting at UC Riverside. The second talk was given on May 28, 2020 by Ken Liu on "The Values of Stories-Stories of Values." Liu is an American author of speculative fiction and winner of the Nebula, Hugo and World Fantasy Awards. He is also a prolific translator, introducing to English readers the best works by today's Chinese SF writers, including Xia Jia's fiction and the "Three Body" series by Liu Cixin. His talk was attended by 120 participants zooming in from UCI and around the world.

#### **Graduation Party**

June 15, 2020

To celebrate the East Asian Studies graduating seniors and scholarship/award winners, the Department held a graduation party over Zoom attended by students, faculty, lecturers, and staff. During the party faculty and lecturers spoke about their students and students had the opportunity to share their experiences in East Asian Studies (three of which are shared below). The event also included a performance by Hansori drummer Mahal Buenafe and students Nicholas Wang, Amanda Clark, and Karen Shamo, along with a Kahoots! game testing the party guests' knowledge of UCI and East Asian Studies trivia.

Congratulations again to our graduating seniors!

#### Chinese Studies

Qimin Liu Yue Shen Jiaqi Wu Shirley Yang Chongqing Zhao

#### Japanese Language & Literature

Deanne Doumas Seung Won Jin Dallas Makena Yamane Julie Tran Samantha Wathen

#### Korean Literature & Culture

Juyoung Kim Andrew Kim, Jr.

#### East Asian Cultures

Nicole Chang Joshua Gonzales Alexandra Guillaume Brittany Landess Yuan Tian

Thank you to the East Asian Studies Department and especially the Japanese program for supporting me. I want to especially thank Dr. Hidemi Riggs for her constant support throughout my time in the program. — Julie Tran

Having the opportunity to learn from so many amazing professors in the department has been the highlight of my time in EAS. I never thought I would pursue a major in Japanese while at UCI, so I am very fortunate to have met so many encouraging professors here! これからもよろしくお願いします! — Akina Ishimoto

I am an East Asian Cultures and Language Science double major. As a second year East Asian Cultures major, I have already learned so many new things about different countries and cultures. I came into the major wanting to expand my knowledge of Japan because I am half Japanese, and I was really interested in learning about Korea. 한국어를 배우는 것은 아주 재미있었습니다. 나를 도와

주신 모든 선생님들께 감사드립니다. Every class I have taken in the EAS department has taught me new things, not only about different cultures but also about new ways of thinking. I genuinely appreciate that this major has allowed me to broaden my view of the world. This past quarter in EAS 110 with Professor Hu Ying, I learned about Chinese Science Fiction, a genre I never would have known if I had not taken this class. I have ended the quarter with a whole new outlook on the world thanks to this class and the stories I read. I am so glad to have chosen this major and I am excited to continue learning about East Asia and everything it has to offer. — Hana Diatalevi

The Department of East Asian Studies at UC Irvine brings both theoretical sophistication and scholarly rigor to the study of the literatures and cultures of East Asia. The department focuses on China, Korea, and Japan but also stresses the larger regional and global dynamics of transformation in which these cultures participate. We hope that you will consider making a tax-deductible donation to the Department of East Asian Studies at UC Irvine. Your donation will be used to help the department enhance its educational and scholarly mission. Please make your check payable to UCI Foundation indicating support for the Department of East Asian Studies (EAS) in the memo section of the check.

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