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Prof. Wu Hung on “Ruins” in Traditional Chinese Visual Culture



McGill’s Department of East Asian Studies, in conjunction with the Department of Art History and Communication Studies, hosted a lecture by Wu Hung, Harrie A. Vanderstappen Distinguished Service Professor in Art History at the University of Chicago. The lecture, entitled “*Ruins*” in *Traditional Chinese Visual Culture*, was held on the evening of October 20, 2005, as part of McGill University’s “Mini-Beatty Lecture Series” of public presentations supported by the Beatty Memorial Lecture Committee.



Prof. Wu and Prof. Nakatani

After an introduction by close colleague and former student Professor Hajime Nakatani, Professor Wu began his lecture by proposing an alternative title: *Where* are the ruins in traditional Chinese visual culture? He presented the audience with his findings from a nearly exhaustive search for Chinese ruins; unfortunately, after examining thousands of pictures, he was able to find only five “ruin” images. In addition to pictures, Professor Wu examined other sources likely to contain the presence of ruins, including written texts and paintings.

Professor Wu postulated that there has been a general disregard in China for the preservation of historically valuable architecture, particularly when in a condition of decay. Such

an attitude may be traced, for instance, to Song antiquarians who did not collect architectural objects, such as steles, but rather recorded their inscriptions, thus separating physical and textual significance, and diminishing the value of the former. This contrasts with European traditions in which ruins were not only depicted visually but actually installed. Professor Wu suggested that the Chinese tradition has favoured natural objects as a means to depict history: trees, for instance, give a sense of the old and historical without, however, connoting decrepitude. Moreover, the melancholy and nostalgia typically associated with ruins in Europe are generated in China by a site of historical value rather than the ruins themselves.



Prof. Wu discussed dozens of paintings

The lecture, accompanied by a slide show of images ranging from Chinese and European ruins to painted renditions of “ruin culture,” elicited many questions to which Professor Wu generously responded in great depth. The following day, Professor Wu held a seminar for East Asian Studies graduate students entitled “A Case of Being “Contemporary” – Conditions, Spheres, and Narratives of Contemporary Chinese Art.” ж

Prof. Jesook Song: Korean Debt Crisis

On March 17, 2006, the McGill Centre for East Asian Research presented a talk by Jesook Song, Assistant Professor at the University of Toronto, entitled “The Complicity of Intellectuals with Neo-Liberal Governance: The Asian Debt Crisis in South Korea, 1998-2001.”

In her presentation, Professor Song discussed how, along with the increase in unemployment among Korea’s formerly stable middle class, Korean intellectuals’ once cohesive perspectives on homelessness and unemployment have diversified; intellectuals now

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From the Director

This year, McGill celebrated the retirement of Professor Samuel Noumoff after his 39-year career of teaching and research in the Department of Political Science. Sam is fondly remembered by many as a “conscience” of McGill – as a long-standing member of Senate he was a strong advocate for progressive policies concerning women’s issues, and gave his support to junior faculty members and students in many venues. Here, I would like to commemorate Sam’s pioneering role in establishing East Asian Studies at McGill.

Shortly after he arrived in 1967, Sam joined forces with the late Professor Paul Lin (Department of History) to form the Committee on Asian Studies. Together they worked to bring an East Asian program to McGill. In 1969, they co-founded the Centre for East Asian Studies, as it was named then, and initiated an East Asian Studies program offering Chinese and Japanese language and history in addition to politics. A staunch voice for Socialist China, Sam actively sought to alter the Cold War environment and to put a face on China in an empathetic way. In the highly politicized situation at the time, Sam was involved in organizing the international conference on Sino-US dialogue at McGill. The models explored had an influence on Canada’s normalization of relations with the People’s Republic of China in the early 1970s. Sam was Director of the Centre from 1970-71. The Centre had an occasional paper series that included lectures by such luminaries as Dr. Joseph Needham of Cambridge University and founder of the famed Science and Civilisation in China series and the eminent sociologist Fei Xiaotong. Among his radical moves, Sam was one of the early visitors to North Korea and for two years edited the journal, Korean Studies. He also invited the

progressive woman doctor and author Han Suyin to give one of the Beatty Lectures. How fitting that one of our most exciting events this year was a Mini-Beatty Lecture, delivered by the distinguished Art Historian Wu Hung.

The study of East Asia at McGill has grown since those heady days of the 60s and 70s. The Department has a complement of faculty members doing research and teaching in Chinese, Japanese, and Korean Studies, and an increasingly large body of students is taking East Asia-related courses offered in various departments and faculties. I should note that, since the formation of the new EAS graduate program in the mid 1990s, Prof. Sam Noumoff has acted as supervisor and provided his expertise and guidance to a number of successful M.A. and Ph.D. students. Thanks to the generosity of Mr. Arthur Lau and the late Professor Paul Hsiang, we have been able to establish two endowed scholarships for East Asian Studies at the graduate level: the Ping Kwan Lau Award and the Paul Hsiang Graduate Fellowship in Chinese Poetry and Literature.

As a result of the generous support of donors over the years, we are gradually building up a CJK library collection oriented towards the research fields of faculty and students. The Centre, renamed the Centre for East Asian Research, boasts an associate membership of twenty-some faculty members in disciplines across the humanities and social sciences. We sponsor many exciting events and lectures throughout the year. I invite you all to read about them and the profiles of the Centre’s new associate members in this newsletter.

– Grace S. Fong

Harvard Club of Quebec Hosts U.S. Economist Richard Cooper

On November 3, 2005, the Harvard Club of Quebec presented “Whither China,” a talk given by Richard Cooper, Maurits C. Boas Professor of International Economics at Harvard University. Cooper is a former chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, as well as former chairman of the National Intelligence Council. Key representatives from Montreal’s four universities were present at the event, which took place at McGill’s newly re-named Desautels Faculty of Management.

Cooper, who describes himself as a “generalist who has taken an interest” in East Asian economic development, took the occasion to address the “fantastic claims on the future role of China,” namely those regarding the country’s productivity and prosperity, which many believe will surpass those of the USA in the next few decades. Basing his analysis on “plausible predictions” made by the U.S. Energy Department, Cooper used the year 2025 as a hypothetical point by which many expect China to emerge as the dominant economic power on the world stage. Cooper examined four important variables relevant to the development of China, India, Japan and the USA: GDP, population,

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Prof. Zhenmin Wang: Constitutional Review in China

On March 22, the Asia Pacific Law Association of McGill (APLAM) had the privilege of welcoming Zhenmin Wang, Vice Dean and Professor at Tsinghua University School of Law, Beijing, and a leading scholar in the areas of constitutional and administrative law, rule of law, human rights, Special Administrative Region (SAR) law and legal education. Following is a summary of his presentation.

Constitutionalism and rule of law in China are still in the early developmental stages. When the Chinese Communist Party came to power in 1949, it abolished all existing laws, including the constitution. The People’s Republic of China’s first constitution was adopted in 1954, and its current constitution in 1982.

In 2000, the Act on Legislation formalized the role of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress (NPC) in constitutional review by enabling certain government organizations to make a written “request,” and any other organization or private citizen to make a written “suggestion,” to the Standing Committee of the NPC for constitutional review. In 2004, the Standing Committee responded to the demand by creat-

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2005 Japanese Film Festival in Montreal with Guest Speaker Yomota Inuhiko

The 22nd Japanese Film Festival, organized by the Japanese Consulate in Montreal in collaboration with McGill University's Department of East Asian Studies and the Japan Foundation, took place at McGill University over the weekend of September 10-11, 2005. The festival showcased three original Japanese language films, opening with director Kon Ichikawa's samurai period piece *Dora Heita* (2000), followed by Shohei Imamura's tragic post-World War II tale *Kuroi Ame* (1989) and Shinobu Yaguchi's *Waterboys* (2001), the idiosyncratic story of a high school boys' synchronized swim team. After the opening film, the festival audience was treated to a lecture by Yomota Inuhiko, Professor of Film Studies and Comparative Literature at Meiji Gakuin University, Tokyo. In his lecture "The Aesthetics of *Kawaii*," Yomota took the audience through a thorough analysis of the concept *kawaii*, a term often translated into English as "cute," tracing its etymology, usage and current social impact in Japan, from girls and women who seek to preserve their youthful vitality to a nationalistic Japanese society which idealizes a return to a humble lifestyle. Yomota then took several questions from



Koji Yakusho as Dora Heita

the audience.

In addition to his lecture at the Japanese Film Festival, Yomota also gave a lecture to McGill East Asian Studies students the following Monday, September 12. His lecture, "Voluntary Blindness," examined the role of blindness in Japanese cul-

ture, which, in contrast to the Western literary tradition, may be interpreted as a sign of love and devotion.

Yomota is a prolific scholar, having published over 30 books related to film, literature, East Asian Studies and Cultural Studies. He has also published literary translations, a memoir, *Rabelais' Children* (2005), and has received several prestigious prizes, among them the Suntory Scholar Prize (1998) and the Ito Sei Literary Prize (2000). ж

CEAR LECTURES

Prof. Zheng Zhenman: Collecting Chinese Local Folk Documents

Professor Zheng Zhenman of Xiamen University, a long-time collaborator of Professor Kenneth Dean, presented a lecture on local sources for Chinese popular history on Friday, May 5, 2006. These sources—ranging from genealogies, stone inscriptions, contracts, account books, diaries, and theatre scripts—provide unique access to the diverse local cultures and social organizations present in China. Zheng noted the urgent need for systematic collection and preservation of local materials. He pointed out that in recent years many of these materials have been extracted from their original contexts by private collectors, or lost altogether as a result of decay or conversion into building materials (steles, unfortunately, provide valuable material for local construction projects). Given the happenstance way in which these materials have been stored, their discovery is often fortuitous. Zheng recounted one incident in which he followed some young boys into an abandoned temple in Guizhou only to find an incredible trove of textual sources related to the management of the irrigation system and history of the temple. In the last several years, several initiatives involving universities and graduate students across China have aimed to create an inventory of the sources that still survive. Zheng appeared optimistic that these ongoing projects would provide numerous opportunities for research into local history. ж

Song

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often receive their salaries directly or indirectly from the government, calling into question the entire nature of their work.

Furthermore, in discussing the changes in homelessness, Professor Song discussed how its increase has often been blamed on the breakdown of the family as well as women's loose morals. Providing examples of shelters that refuse to help certain marginalized groups, Professor Song contextualized the problematic neo-liberal tendency of placing the onus on the victim and blaming already marginalized individuals for not finding the means by which to succeed in securing positions in the workforce. ж



Prof. Jesook Song

Paul Hsiang Lecture Series on Chinese Poetry

Prof. Judith Zeitlin: Illustrated Verse from the Pleasure Quarter

Professor Judith Zeitlin of the University of Chicago presented her talk, “Illustrated Verse from the Green Bower: The Late Ming Pleasure Quarter as a Site of Cultural Production,” for the Hsiang Lecture series on October 21, 2005.

Zeitlin gave us a lively explanation of this once immensely popular, but long neglected corpus of writings and illustrations. The decidedly conservative and wooden, if beautifully executed, illustrations of Confucian scholars in repose belie the ribaldry and humour of the verse. Similarly, the façade of serious scholarship that overlays many of the collections—in particular the careful exegesis appended to the *Classic of Whoring*—offers an alternative to the vision of the stolid scholar in intercourse only with his books. Zeitlin also touched on the flourishing publishing industry in the late Ming. The writings and illustrations she described were produced in great quantities and varying qualities in the great publishing houses of Suzhou, Hangzhou and Fujian. While few of the works Zeitlin discussed can be considered great literature, they certainly offer a unique perspective on the popular culture and publishing industry of late Ming China. ж



Prof. Zeitlin's talk drew a sizable crowd



CEAR Director Prof. Fong and Prof. Zeitlin

Prof. Tian Xiaofei: Decline of the South in Mid-Sixth Century Chinese Poetry

Harvard University Professor Tian Xiaofei presented her talk, “Parting Ways: Writing the Fall of the South in the Poetry of Mid-Sixth Century China,” for the Hsiang Lecture series on March 31, 2006. In her talk, Tian offered a fascinating glimpse into the lives of two sixth-century Liang dynasty poets, Yan Zhitui and Yu Xin. Beginning with a vivid portrayal of Hou Jing’s destruction of the Liang capital Jiankang in 549 CE and the socio-political chaos that ensued, she described how Yan and Yu were dislocated to the north, and how they



Prof. Tian Xiaofei

and their families were thrust into a tragic historical drama. A sense of loss and powerlessness is palpable in the writings of both poets, but they turned to different consolations. Yu mourned his loss of state in a deeply allusive poetry; his southern poetic style evoked the past even as it captured in poignant detail the bleak northern winter. Yan turned away from the state altogether, compiling pragmatic guidelines for his family, and using Buddhism to bring sense to the absurdities of war. We look forward to a more complete discussion of these poets and their contemporaries in Tian’s upcoming book on Six Dynasties poetry. ж

Wang

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ing a separate interpretive body, enhancing accountability. However, constitutional review is still seen as too “political” and not “judicial” enough.

Until the 2000 Act on Legislation, neither the NPC and its Standing Committee nor the ordinary courts performed much constitutional review because the Constitution was not seen as actionable. The Supreme Court ruled in 1955 and affirmed in 1988 that the courts could not interpret the Constitution because of its abstract nature and insufficient interpretive guidelines. However, since the Act, the courts have been working to reverse these decisions in order to move constitutional review away from the NPC and its Standing Committee and into the courts.

Constitutionalism and rule of law in China have been making progress, but there is still a way to go. One possibility for reform would be to expand the role of the ordinary courts to decide basic human rights cases as well as to establish a separate, independent constitutional court to decide more abstract issues

with broader constitutional implications. Whatever the form, constitutional review in China will continue to play an important role in enhancing government accountability, protecting human rights, and promoting national unification. ж

Cooper

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oil consumption and importation of goods. His highly engaging two-hour treatment of the topic took into consideration other important variables such as “purchasing power parity” (PPP), which is apparently often neglected when calculating China’s real GDP, as well as the nation’s banking system, social security network, land rights and one-party rule; all this brought Cooper to the conclusion that assumptions about China’s growth potential are simply “off the wall and non-numeric.” Although he himself conceded that his estimations were strictly hypothetical, Cooper’s extremely convincing exposition was very well-received by members of the audience, many of whom chose to question Cooper further on his convictions during the question period that followed. ж

2005-2006 Japan Seminar of Greater Montreal

The Honorable Nobutaka Shinomiya:

Immigration Policy in Japan

The 31st Japan Seminar of Greater Montreal, held on October 25, 2005, presented the Consul General of Japan in Montreal, Nobutaka Shinomiya, who gave a talk entitled “Immigration Policy in Japan.” Shinomiya, the former Deputy Director General of the Immigration Bureau at Japan’s Ministry of Justice, explained the general structure and policy-planning of the Bureau, as well as a host of concerns the Bureau continues to face, including issues regarding the admissibility of foreign workers, the promotion of tourism and business travel, the status of illegal residents and workers, international terrorism, human trafficking, and refugees. With regards to foreign workers, Shinomiya underlined the fact that the number of foreign nationals in Japan has doubled since 1989; however, the basic policy of the government continues to accept foreign workers only in specialized or technical fields, not the “simple job workers,” which, in light of the nation’s declining population, are increasingly needed to maintain Japan’s high level of production. Another sensitive subject is the current status of Koreans who have

lived in Japan since the Second World War and are considered “Special Permanent Residents.” With regards to



Consul General Nobutaka Shinomiya

business travel, the Asian-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) has encompassed 14 countries since 2004, and the implementation of the APEC Business Travel Card has facilitated business exchange. Negative issues touched on by Shinomiya were the increase in crimes committed by foreigners since

1980 (the number peaked in 2003 and has been a growing source of public concern) and the time delays in procedures for refugee recognition. ж

Haruhiko Kono:

International Civil Aviation Organization

On April 5, 2006, the Japan Seminar of Greater Montreal presented a talk by Mr. Haruhiko Kono of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). Mr. Kono explained the challenges which the organization, headquartered in Montreal, has faced in terms of security, safety and environmental consciousness. He highlighted the IOAC’s very successful Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP) and Universal Security Audit Programme (USAP), which are to be implemented in all 189 signatory states in conjunction with the use of Machine Readable Passports (MRPs) by April 2010. Mr. Kono also discussed the importance of minimizing civil aviation’s effect on the environment by reducing green-

house gas emissions and noise pollution.

As Japan’s permanent representative, Mr. Kono was particularly knowledgeable about Japan’s stance and involvement in these matters, including its support of the ICAO’s progress towards international cooperation, its large contribution to the AVESC plan of action, as well as its stance that an ICAO study needs to be carried out in order to develop an effective global solution to address CO₂ emissions. Very relevant to current issues and future concerns, Mr. Kono’s speech demonstrated both Japan’s support for the ICAO’s policies and its importance as a member state. ж

New Associate Members of McGill's Centre for East Asian Research

Prof. Lorenz Lüthi (History)

Trained as a Cold War Historian, History Department Assistant Professor Lorenz Lüthi declares himself to be a self-trained East Asianist. He has spent a great deal of time investigating East Asia's relationship with the so-called socialist camp: Sino-Soviet relations, Sino-Soviet-Vietnamese relations, and Chinese relations with Eastern Europe. He is also interested in Sino-Soviet-American relations, the Vietnam War and the Cold War. Hired by McGill in 2003, just after finishing his dissertation at Yale in 2003, Lüthi – a native of Switzerland – has been busy preparing his manuscript on Sino-Soviet relations, which is set to be published by Princeton University Press in 2007.

Centre for East Asian Research: Your manuscript is based on Chinese sources, archival research in the former Eastern Bloc, is it not?

Lüthi: After finishing my dissertation, I had the opportunity to go to the Jiangsu-Shandong provincial archives; it was amazing how much I found out there about foreign policy issues. So I really looked at as much Chinese language material as I could. Of course, when you talk about the Sino-Soviet split you also have to look at the Soviet documents. The problem is that, like in China, the really important documents are in closed central archives. The presidential archives in Russia are not accessible to anybody. So I had to work around it. On the Chinese side, I found memoirs obviously based on transcripts of Politburo meetings; but basically nothing on the Soviet side. What I realized was that, starting in 1959, the Soviets worked closely with the East Europeans, so I found much better material in formerly



Prof. Lorenz Lüthi

communist East European countries. I found transcripts of talks between Kosygin and Mao in Polish translation, which were not accessible in Moscow. These archives turned out to be extremely helpful. I did this in Poland, the former East Germany, the Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania. So you can work through these secondary archives and get an awful lot of interesting information about decision-making. You just have to be creative!

CEAR: What is your next project?

Lüthi: To uncover how the post-Cold War world arose, the world we live in now. I'm not interested in the end of the Cold War; that's a different question. But when you look at certain very distinct characteristics in Europe, the Middle East and East Asia, you ask yourself, did they really arise in 1989 or did they have antecedents? Europe is obviously the result of the democratization and unification of the continent; in the Middle East there has been the rise of Islamism which suppresses and destroys Arab nationalist movements; in East Asia there has been the rise of prosperity and, to some degree, cooperation between various East Asian nations which have not cooperated before. So I ask the question: how did this arise? It's very clear that it arose in the 60s, 70s and early 80s. My argument is that, as different as these phenomena are, they are actually to a certain degree connected. There are very important factors that propel developments ahead, and I think that certain issues, such as China's reintegration into the world after the Sino-Soviet split, the rise of what I call subversive ideas like human rights, religions – be it Islam or the Catholic Church in Eastern Europe – are very important to our understanding of how the post-Cold War world arose. However, we should move away from this idea that Gorbachev and Reagan ended the Cold War, because the Cold War was actually over in East Asia by 1979, and the Middle East by the early 80s, so they had no influence over this event. My interest is more about looking at long term developments. ✕

Prof. Mark Manger (Political Science)

Assistant Professor Mark Manger was appointed by McGill University to the Department of Political Science in August 2005. A native of Germany, Manger was awarded his Master's degree at the University of Hamburg and later went on to complete a Ph.D. in Political Science at the University of British Columbia. He points out how, despite remaining in a university environment within Canadian borders, the make-up of the student body and local population is very different: "at UBC, where I spent the last five years, a significant part of the student population is Asian and it seems quite natural to study Asian Studies, which is not the case at McGill." However, Manger is impressed with McGill students, of whom he says "very few are not motivated and some are just outstanding." Here he speaks of the impact which Japanese language studies have had on his research on Japan.

Centre for East Asian Research: Your research interests include trade and investment agreements between developed and

developing countries, and regionalism in East Asia, is that correct?

Manger: My area of specialization is International Political Economy. My main focus is still Japan; to a lesser extent Korea. My first publication was on Japanese free trade agreements.

CEAR: Not so long ago you were in Kyoto to deliver a paper on Japanese FTA strategy. How much time have you spent in East Asia and what were your experiences there?

Manger: I spent about a year studying in Japan, but I've been there on and off just about every year. I did Japanese Studies in Germany. In general, this [field of studies] is still very traditional in continental Europe, but at the University of Hamburg, in particular, the focus was specifically on medieval literature; so in my fourth semester of Japanese, we were expected to be able to read anything in modern Japanese, but also decipher classical Japanese. In fact, I took a course on *bungo*, which is classical Japa-

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New Associate Members of CEAR

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nese. So my training was somewhat unusual in that I could read Japanese better than I could speak it. This means I can use a lot more source materials than most people who work in the area of politics in Japan. When I was writing my dissertation I had both good and bad experiences doing research in Japan, which were partly related to language issues. Japanese is a language which has so many levels of politeness, and ideally you should be able to switch from one level of politeness to another with relative ease. I had one situation in which I had to conduct an interview over a lunch meeting with a senior person from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs who had studied under the Japanese professor who was my mentor, but there was a slightly younger female bureaucrat from the Japanese Defense Agency also present...so I decided I would rather have the interview in English to avoid the confusion between levels of politeness and forms of address. I basically speak polite Japanese, which is necessary for research, but then another sort of Japanese which I learned from my soccer buddies! I very much encourage students who are studying Japa-

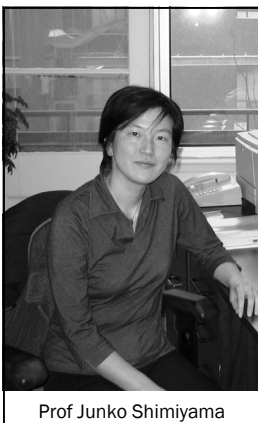
nese to go on exchange to Japan, yet it is important to know that hardly ever will you be able to speak or understand Japanese at the level that's necessary to follow normal lectures. However, the exchange programs we have at McGill are usually targeted so that you can take courses in English and a few courses in Japanese. That makes it accessible for people who have only one or two years of Japanese language training.

CEAR: What sort of future research project do you have in mind?

Manger: How Japanese production in South East Asia is changing and shifting to China. Patterns of investment are changing and have changed over the past ten years. I am also interested in service sector liberalization, which proceeded very quickly in Latin America, but much more slowly in East Asia, partly because public services have functioned so much better in East Asia – at least in Korea, Taiwan and Japan, and to some extent in South East Asia, so there was not that much of a need to privatize. Liberalization is still undertaken quite reluctantly. ж

Prof. Junko Shimoyama (Linguistics)

Junko Shimoyama joined the McGill University Department of Linguistics in August 2005 after having taught at the University of Texas at Austin. Impressed by the level of dedication of McGill Linguistics students, this Japanese linguist describes her new department as “very focused and extremely collegial.” Shimoyama obtained her Bachelor's and Master's degrees at Ochanomizu University, Japan; she went on to complete her Ph.D. at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in 2001.



Prof Junko Shimiyama

Centre for East Asian Research: You teach a course called “Structure of a Specific Language” in which you analyze Japanese from a linguistic perspective. Is the point to familiarize students with a language other than, say, English or French?

Shimoyama: In the Intro courses students learn theories mainly based on English or related languages like French, or other familiar languages – typically European languages. My aim in this course is to expand the scope a little bit. Japanese is not related to English, so we should ask the question whether the standard theories which are built on familiar languages like English can expand to cover linguistic phenomena in languages like Japanese. Sometimes the answer is “yes,” sometimes “no.” Sometimes the apparent answer is “no” but then we look deeply into the issue and the conclusion might be “yes.”

CEAR: Your area of specialization is syntax, syntax and semantics interface, and Japanese.

Shimoyama: Syntax is the study of forms, i.e., how you construct sentences in a given language. I'm interested in how that part of the language interacts with the meaning of sentences. In the case of a form which corresponds to more than one meaning,

we must ask how exactly this comes about. What is our brain doing that would match this one form to two different meanings?

So the interface or interaction, rather than just the forms or meanings, becomes interesting. Since I'm a native speaker of Japanese, I have native speakers' intuition. So far I have focused on looking at Japanese and also a comparison of Japanese and English. I have to admit that when I first started studying Linguistics in Japan, I did not look at Japanese at all; I was looking at English. Only after I went to the USA for graduate studies did I start looking at my own language, and that was really a lot of fun. It's really exciting because the standard linguistic theories were born in North America or Europe; they did not come from China or Japan, otherwise the theories would have looked different, right? Because of that accident in history, theories work well for English; but, by looking at Japanese, I can ask whether these theories extend to Chinese and Japanese, and what can Chinese and Japanese say about these theories.

CEAR: Has there been a significant evolution in theories about East Asian languages?

Shimoyama: I think so. More and more linguists from East Asia look at their own languages and contribute to general linguistic theory. We are still trying to work on the same ground, but people look at Japanese, Chinese, Korean, or any languages that were traditionally not well-studied. These linguists are bringing forth a lot of interesting insights.

CEAR: To what extent do you think the study of Linguistics in Japan has changed since your own study experiences there?

Shimoyama: I hope it has changed. When I was there my teachers were looking at English, but I think more people study Linguistics outside of Japan and are encouraged to look at their own language. Afterwards they may go back to Japan and become professors, so I think things must have changed a little bit. ж

CEAR-Anthropology Seminar Speakers

Prof. Jeanne Shea: Gender, Aging and Modernity in Post-Mao China:

Women's Experiences and Public Discourse

On March 20, 2006, Jeanne Shea, Associate Professor in the Department of Anthropology, University of Vermont, gave a talk entitled *Gender, Aging, and Modernity in Post-Mao China: Women's Experiences and Public Discourse*, as part of the Winter Seminar Series jointly sponsored by the Department of Anthropology and the Centre for East Asian Research. As a socio-cultural anthropologist specializing in medical and psychological anthropology and Chinese culture, Shea discussed her research on Chinese women's views and experiences of menopause and midlife aging, and of romance, sex, and remarriage in later life in the context of Chinese public discourse on gender, aging, and modernity. Professor Shea examined these aspects in the context of cross-cultural studies of gender and aging, looking specifically at the research of McGill Anthropology Professor Margaret Lock, as well as in the context of public discourse on these topics in China. Presenting her findings from research conducted in the Beijing area between 1992 and 2000, Professor Shea attempted to dispel the "mistranslation" of Lock's work found in secondary



Professor Jeanne Shea

literature, which frequently uses Lock's studies to suggest that Asian women have an "easy menopause." The second part of Professor Shea's presentation examined China's government campaign to encourage romance and remarriage in later life, frequently in contrast with women's realities in China, which may be explained by altered kinship values and economic reforms which necessitate alternatives for care for the aging. ж

Mr. Hiroto Takamiya:

The Prehistory of Okinawa

On February 13, 2006, the Department of Anthropology's Winter 2006 Visiting Speaker Seminar Series, co-sponsored by the Centre for East Asian Research, presented Hiroto Takamiya's talk titled "The Prehistory of Okinawa: Population Dynamics in the Island Environment." Professor Takamiya, who teaches in the Department of Comparative Cultural Studies, Sapporo University, and is Visiting Professor at the University of Toronto for 2005-2006, presented an outline of the prehistory of the islands of Okinawa that form the central part of the Ryukyu Island chain between Taiwan and Kyushu and discussed the generally held view that the islands have been continuously occupied by humans since the Paleolithic Period, some 30,000 years ago. Comparing the adaptive processes of human populations on the islands with selected examples of island colonization processes elsewhere in the world, Takamiya argued that the timing of successful colonization of Okinawa appears to be much later than is often suggested. ж

Latest Research by CEAR Members

Professor Samuel Noumoff (Political Science) is presently working on "The Historical Context of Impediments to Development in North Korea" and "The Beijing vs the Washington Consensus: Is a New Model of Development Emerging?" ж

Professor Hajime Nakatani (East Asian Studies and Art History and Communication Studies) is currently working on a manuscript on the graphic regime in early medieval China and the rise of calligraphy as aesthetic discipline. ж

Professor Lorenz Lüthi (History) is currently finishing a manuscript on the Sino-Soviet Split, 1956-1966, based on Chinese sources and archival research in the former Eastern Bloc. The book is set to be published by Princeton University Press in Autumn 2007. ж

Professor Mark Manger (Political Science) is currently working on a project investigating the changing character of trade between Japan and its partners and the resulting interest in free trade agreements. After relying on the multilateral trade system for several decades, Japan has recently begun to pursue free trade agreements (FTAs) throughout the Asia Pacific. A close analysis of Japanese FTAs shows how they support the operations of Japanese multinational firms in the Asia Pacific region. In particular, they reflect the vertical integration of trade: Japanese firms export high value-added goods and components from Japan to Asia, but import cheaper products back into the home market. The analysis combines statistical and case-study research. ж

Korean Culture Night 2006

McGill's 15th annual Korean Culture Night took place on April 7, 2006. The event was organized by McGill's Korean Studies Program in collaboration with the Korean Community of Greater Montreal, the Korean Students Society, as well as numerous local donors and participants. Both traditional and contemporary Korean culture were represented throughout the evening: the event opened with the all-women traditional "Po Go Lak Dance" choreographed by Korean dance instructor Young Ok Cho, followed by a speech from the Korean Consul General Rhee Soo Taek. Next were two extremely popular Korean student bands which performed musical numbers ranging



Korean Pop: "Rooftop Getaway"

from popular Korean pop songs to an electrifyingly rhythmic version of the Korean national anthem; especially well-



Po Go Lak Dance

received was the talented McGill student Isaac Min, whose vocal and violin performances received an enthusiastic re-

sponse from the crowd. The show's finale was the much-anticipated all-men "Drum Dance," also choreographed by Cho, which was accompanied by Cho and McGill Korean language teacher Myung Hee Kim. The evening finished with a scrumptious Korean buffet offered by a number of local Korean eateries. ж



Grand Finale: Drum Dance

East Asian Studies Graduate Students Association:

2005-06 Graduate Student Presentation Series

The 2005-2006 Graduate Student Presentation Series, sponsored by the East Asian Studies Graduate Students Association, offered an opportunity for several graduate students to share their recent research and get some valuable feedback from professors and other attendees. Lin Fan (PhD, EAS and Art History) discussed her reading of the *Shangshu dazhuan*, an ancient commentary appended to one of the *Five Confucian Classics*. Sara Neswald (PhD, EAS), talked about some of her recent research in Daoist female inner alchemy during the late 19th and early 20th century in China, particularly its intersections with Tibetan conceptions.



Grad student Wang Yuan

Brian Lander (MA, EAS) talked about the possibility of writing an environmental history of early China, based on extant texts, archaeological records and analysis of pollen samples. Wang Yuan (MA, EAS) looked at the fictional writings of the well-known modern women writer, Zhang Ailing, in terms of their relation to cinematography. ж

Inscription Workshop

Prof. Kenneth Dean, the holder of the Lee Chair in Chinese Cultural Studies at McGill, organized a two-day workshop to discuss the potential uses of stone inscriptions in the writing of Chinese local history. The workshop, held on October 22nd and 23rd, included papers by Hugh Clark, Vincent Goossaert, Kenneth Dean, Michael Szonyi, and McGill graduate students Lin Fan and Jim Bonk. All dealt specifically with a large collection of inscriptions gathered by Dean and Professor Zheng Zhenman (Xiamen University) in Putian and Xinghua counties, Fujian. Participants noted that these inscriptions provide valuable information on deities, lineages, irrigation systems, temples, and local elites. Richard von Glahn (UCLA) served as discussant. ж

2006 Speech Contests

Chinese Speech Contest

The 2006 Chinese Speech Contest for university students from Quebec and Nova Scotia was held on March 18 at McGill University. The event was co-organized by the McGill Department of East Asian Studies and the Centre d'études de l'Asie de l'Est at the Université de Montréal, and was generously funded by the Education Office of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China. Distinguished guests included Shi Shuyun, Education Counselor of the Chinese Embassy, and Guo Wei, First Secretary of Education of the Chinese Embassy.

A total of thirty-five students from six universities – Saint Mary's University, Dalhousie University, Université du Québec à Montréal, Université de Montréal, Concordia University and McGill University – competed in this year's competition. McGill students won the following prizes:

First Level (19 participants)

1st prize (tie): Brendan Wood and Daniel Shultz

Second Level (7 participants)

1st prize: Cecile Dupin de Saint Cyr

3rd prize: Victoria Stive

Third Level (5 participants)

3rd prize (tie): Heloise Leclerc and Alexandre Iliouchine

Open Category (4 participants)

1st prize: Astha Dalakoti

2nd prize: William Bonaldo-Falls

Preliminary Competition of the Fifth "Chinese Bridge"

World College Students Chinese Competition

to be held in Beijing in July 2006

2nd prize: Astha Dalakoti

Ж

Japanese Speech Contest

The 17th annual Japanese Language Speech Contest was hosted on March 12, 2006, by the Centre d'études de l'Asie de l'Est at the Université de Montréal, with the support of the Consulate General of Japan at Montreal and the Japan Foundation. The event was a tremendous success with a wide variety of entertaining speeches by the contest's 33 participating students from McGill University, the Université de Montréal and UQAM. McGill was well represented and made a clean sweep of the prizes in the intermediate category. McGill students won the following prizes:



Chinese Speech Contest:
Judges, Organizers and Winners

Beginner's Category (3 minute speech)

3rd prize: Ms. Katie O'Leary, "Student Life"

Intermediate Category (4 minute speech)

1st prize: Mr. Martin Lysy, "Honest John"

2nd prize: Ms. Chen Xi, "Anime, Fuelling the Surge in Japanese Culture"

3rd prize: Ms. Lucia Lee, "Love at First Sight"

Open Category (5 minute speech)

2nd prize: Mr. Zachary Dovel, "The Spectacularness of Cows"

Special Prizes:

Ms. Gina Rian "Little Things"

Ms. Nicole P. Anthony, "Failure is the Foundation of Success"

Martin Lysy, along with other 1st prize winners, represented Quebec at the All-Canada Japanese Language Contest in Toronto. Congratulations to all participants for their outstanding effort and captivating speeches. Ж

McGill-Peking University Chinese Summer Program

The Department of East Asian Studies at McGill University is now collaborating with Peking University to offer the McGill-Peking University Summer Chinese Program. This new program offers students 20 hours per week of regular language classes, along with interesting extracurricular activities, such as weekly tours and visits to historical and cultural sites in and around metropolitan Beijing.

The program runs from May 7 to July 23. Language courses are primarily at two levels: First and Second Level Chinese. This year, McGill East Asian Studies faculty member Bill Wang, the Program Coordinator and Resident Director, will be leading the group of participants to Peking University and will coordinate with the faculty and staff at PKU to supervise the program for the entire duration. Ж

News on the East Asian Library Collection

In the 2005-2006 academic year, we added 2970 titles (almost 4000 volumes) to our hard-copy holdings, bringing the total of our Chinese-Japanese-Korean collection to just over 66,000 volumes. We also now possess approximately 800 Chinese and Japanese feature and documentary films in both DVD and VCD format, including a substantial collection of Japanese anime. Among the highlights of our acquisitions this year has been the purchase, thanks to the initiative of the Director of Libraries, Mrs Janine Schmidt, of 2267 electronic titles through APABI in Beijing, in such fields as Arts and Archaeology, Women's Studies,

Yearbooks, History, Medicine, especially AIDS and SARS research, and Contemporary Literature and Government Documents. We also bought 31 microfilm reels of the British Foreign Office archive files for China for 1949. This past winter, the Rare Book Division also mounted a fascinating exhibition of visual and textual materials in their collection entitled, "Western Encounters with China, 1600-1900," prepared by guest curator Mary Mason. We would like to thank our library staff, Macy Zheng and Xiaoyan Sun, for all their help this year, and our donors, listed below, for their generous support. ж

Donations 2005-2006

An expression of gratitude to the following donors

For their generous contributions to the Department of East Asian Studies

Martine Bissonnette

Bridget Maureen Byrne

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Japanese Canadian Culture Centre of Montreal

For their generous contributions to the Chinese/Japanese/Korean Library Collection

The Honourable Senator Vivienne Poy

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur and Crystal Lau

The Arts Undergraduate Society (for Chinese Action Film DVDs)

Professor Robin D. S. Yates

Embassy of the People's Republic of China

CEAR E-Bulletin

The Centre for East Asian Research posts a weekly E-bulletin of local news and upcoming events related to East Asia. To receive and to request posting of announcements of the CEAR weekly E-Bulletin please email eastasia@mcgill.ca

REPORTAGE: JIM BONK, AFRA TUCKER, MAYA ORZECOWSKA, & STEPHANIE JONES

DESIGN: AFRA TUCKER

ASSISTED BY: MELAINE CAMPBELL & SUAN ONG



3434 MCTAVISH STREET,
MCGILL UNIVERSITY,
MONTREAL, QUEBEC H3A 1X9
PHONE: (514) 398-6742 FAX: (514) 398-1882
WWW.MCGILL.CA/EAS/CENTRE
DIRECTOR: DR. GRACE FONG

Centre for East Asian Research
3434 McTavish,
McGill University,
Montreal, Quebec
H3A 1X9
Canada

