

EAST ASIA CENTER

2016-19 Report



“The Window of Peace.” A sculpture in the So-yi Mountain Peace Ridge Park, the decommissioned site of the U.S. “Raider” battalion bunker in Cheolwon County, South Korea, from which one can see the DMZ and into North Korea. Courtesy of Eleana Kim.

SABINE FRÜHSTÜCK, DIRECTOR

GOALS PURSUED

Goal 1: Transnationalize East Asian Studies, particularly Japanese Studies.

- **Rationale:** In addition to EAC, UCSB houses a Center for Taiwan Studies and a Confucius Institute. Given the solid funding streams in both, and their almost exclusive foci on Taiwan and China respectively, it was pertinent to invest in overcoming the traditional institutional reflection of national boundaries, as well as the fault lines of past and present conflicts that divide East Asian nation states.
- **Outcome:** 12 of the 25 talks, workshops, and conferences organized and hosted by EAC were transnational in scope.

Goal 2: Collaborate with the Department of East Asian Languages & Cultural Studies regarding the effort to revive a Korean Studies Program.

- **Rationale:** The longstanding (almost total) neglect of South Korea in the public sphere seems to be giving way, among our undergraduate and graduate students at least, to a new interest in South Korea and Korean Studies. In addition, a prosperous South Korea is looking to invest in academic projects such as university departments abroad.
- **Outcome:** In an effort to institutionally reinforce this turn at UCSB, EAC organized a New Directions in Korean Studies conference, as well as a series of 4 additional talks that brought Korean Studies specialists to campus.

Goal 3: Aggressively apply for extramural funding designed to enhance East Asian Studies—particularly transnational as well as Japanese and Korean Studies—across the UCSB campus.

- **Rationale:** The necessity to deprovincialize UCSB.
- **Outcome:** Grants totaling close to \$1 million awarded.

Goal 4: Align the governance of EAC with the recommendations articulated in the ISBER Advisory Board's response to the EAC 5-year report (2012-17).

- **Rationale:** Complying with the board's recommendation. The steps to streamline the governance structure and procedures also made sense with regards to leadership succession. As per July 1, 2019 Professor Xiaorong Li (EALCS) and Professor Luke Roberts (History) have been appointed to co-direct the EAC.
- **Outcome:** Bylaws, an Advisory Board, and a leadership transition procedure were established.

ACHIEVEMENTS

\$970,183 awarded in grants

- \$99,900 Korea Foundation Visiting Professor Award, 2018-19
- \$99,900 Korea Foundation Visiting Professor Award, 2019-20
- \$767,883 Japan Foundation Institutional Project Support Grant, 2019-2022 (including matching funds from UCSB)
- \$2,500 Letters and Sciences Conference Grant, 2018

\$18,425 gratefully received in co-sponsorship contributions

from the departments of Asian American Studies, East Asian Languages & Cultural Studies, History, Feminist Studies, Art, History of Art and Architecture, Film and Media Studies, Global Studies, and Political Science; from the Cold War Center, the Graduate Center for Literary Research, the Center for the Interdisciplinary Study of Music, the Interdisciplinary Humanities Center, the Orfaela Center for Global and International Studies, and the International Shinto Foundation Chair in Shinto Studies; the divisions of Humanities and Fine Arts and Graduate Division.

23 talks organized

3 conferences and workshops organized

Regional representation of events:

- 13 Transnational
- 6 Japan
- 5 Korea
- 1 China

Disciplinary distribution of events: between 1 and 5 each in

- Religious Studies
- History
- Literature
- Art History
- Music
- Art
- Anthropology
- Media Studies

6 graduate students' conference travel supported

3 visiting fellows hosted

- Silke Werth, PhD (2016-17)
- Professor Ellen van Goethem (Asian Studies, Kyushu University, 2018-19)
- Professor Yan Li (Languages & Literatures, Nanjing Xiaozhuang University, 2018-19)
- Professor Ha Sung Hwang (Media and Communication, Dongguk University, 2019-20/upcoming)

19 conferences, workshops, and talks co-sponsored

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Established Advisory Board as per ISBER Advisory Board's response to EAC's 2012-17 report
- Created Bylaws as per ISBER Advisory Board's response to EAC's 2012-2017 report
- Created Associate Director(s) slot to secure transition to new leadership as per ISBER Advisory Board's response to EAC's 2012-17 Report

- Participated in Center Convergence conversation initiated by Dean Charles Hale, 2018-present
- Was member of search committee for Academic Coordinator position that will be serving the EAC, Center for Middle East Studies, and the Latin American and Iberian Studies Program, 2018-19
- Organized workshop on “How to Be Female in Academe” or female graduate students affiliated with EAC, 2018
- Organized Expert Discussion with Professor Tansen Sen (NYU Shanghai) and Jamal Elias (University of Pennsylvania) in connection to the Center Convergence conversation, 2019

EVENTS ORGANIZED AND HOSTED

Conference collaboration with Professor David Novak, main organizer and Director of Center for the Interdisciplinary Study of Music

Angry Spirits and Urban Soundscapes in Ancient Japan.”

TransAsian Experimental Music Symposium (with Adel Jing Wang, James Fei, and Kato Hideki)

17 February 2017

Panel featuring Yumiko Glover

MFA, Department of Art, UCSB

Love, Peace, Dreams, and Bombs Symposium

1 March 2017

Professor Eleana Kim

Department of Anthropology, University of California at Irvine

Pursuing Peace and Life in the Korean Demilitarized Zone

6 April 2017

Professor Takashi Fujitani

Department of History, University of Toronto

Two *Unforgivens*: Clint Eastwood, Lee Sang-II, and Traveling Westerns

31 May 2017

Professor Seth Jacobowitz

Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures, Yale University

A Bitter Brew: Coffee and Labor in Japanese-Brazilian Colonial Literature

3 May 2017

Professor David Ambaras

Department of History, North Carolina State University

Embodying the Borderland: Nakamura Sueko as Runaway Woman and Pirate Queen

7 June 2017

Professor Heather Blair
Department of Religious Studies, University of Indiana
The Good, the Sad, and the Funny: Morality and Affect in Japanese Picturebooks
4 October 2017

Workshop: **Transnationalizing the History of Childhood in Russia, Korea, Japan, and the United States**

Four scholars discussed pre-circulated work in progress on Japan, Korea, and Russia: Heather Blair (Religious Studies, University of Indiana), Dafna Zur (East Asian Languages and Cultures, Stanford University), Sara Pankenier Weld (Germanic and Slavik Studies, University of California at Santa Barbara/UCSB), Lisa Jacobson (History, UCSB), and Sabine Frühstück (East Asian Languages & Cultural Studies, UCSB)
5 October 2017

Professor Dafna Zur
East Asian Languages and Cultures, Stanford University
Figuring Korean Futures: Children's Literature in Modern Korea
5 October 2017

Professor Jennifer Robertson
Departments of Anthropology and the History of Art, University of Michigan
Cyborg Able-ism: Critical Insights from the Not so 'Uncanny Valley' of Japan
12 October 2017

Professor Paul Swanson
Nanzan Institute of Religion and Culture, Nanzan University
Passages from the Mohezhiguan – Tiantai Zhiyi's Magnum Opus
15 November 2017

Professor Helen Hardacre
Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies, Harvard University
The Japanese Enthronement Ceremony in 2019
14 March 2018

Professor Karen Nakamura
Anthropology, UC Berkeley
Trans in Paradise - The curious case of transmen in Okinawa, Japan
2 May 2018

Professor Tomomi Yamaguchi
Anthropology and Sociology, Montana State University
The "History Wars" and the "Comfort Woman" Issue: Revisionism and the Right-wing in Contemporary Japan and the U.S.
9 May 2018

Conference: **New Directions in Korean Studies** (co-organized by Hyung-Il Pai and Sabine Frühstück)
Making Science Moral: The Story of Data in Post-Liberation North Korea
Dafna Zur (Stanford University)
The Gendered Anxieties of Socialist Living in North Korea, 1953–1965

Andre Schmid (University of Toronto)

Eccentric Powers: The Mass Media and Cross-Gender Labor in Cold War South Korea, *Todd Henry* (UCSD)

Between Afro-Orientalism and Afro-Pessimism: Racial Surplus and the Global Consumption of Korean Pop Music, *Suk-Young Kim* (UCLA)

Vicarious Media: Kpop, Mukbang, and Consuming Consumption

Michelle Cho (McGill University)

Panel Discussion on New Directions in Korean Studies with conference participants and UCSB students and faculty members: Jin Sook Lee (Education), John Park (Asian American Studies), and Kate McDonald (History); moderated by Sabine Frühstück
2 March 2018

Professor Robert Company

Asian Studies, Vanderbilt University

Dreaming Religious Identity: Master Zhou's Communications with the Unseen World

9 January 2019

Professor Bert Winther-Tamaki

Art History, UCI

Toxic Mud and Other Contaminated Earthy Substances in Japanese Installation Art During and After the Bubble Economy, 1980s-1990s

24 January 2019

Professor Thomas Lamarre

East Asian Literature, McGill University

The Media Region: Transnational Adaptation as Subjective Technology

25 January 2019

EAC Graduate Student Conference 2019: **Imaging East Asia**

26 January 2019

Professor Ellen van Goethem

History, Kyushu University

Commemoration and Deification: The Creation of Heian Jingu

11 February 2019

Professor Charles Kim

History, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Textures of the Past: Nostalgia and Therapeutic Narratives in Contemporary South Korea

20 February 2019

Professor Seishi Karashima

Religious Studies, Soka University-Tokyo

Buddhism as a Cultural Bridge between India and China

12 April 2019

Professor Tansen Sen

Center for Global Asia, NYU Shanghai

Temple Heritage of a Chinese Migrant Community: Movement, Connectivity, and Identity in the Maritime World

24 April 2019

Professor Jisoo Kim

History, George Washington University

Crime of Violence: Forensic Medicine, Dead Bodies, and Criminal Justice in Chosŏn Korea

8 May 2019

Professor Jamal Elias

Religious Studies, University of Pennsylvania

Constructing Childhood in West Asian Societies: A Visual Journey

29 May 2019

Professor Paola Zamperini

Asian Languages and Cultures, Northwestern University

Specters of Incest in Eileen Chang's *Heart Sutra* (1943)

30 May 2019

EVENTS CO-SPONSORED 2016-19

The EAC co-sponsored talks and conferences that were chiefly organized and hosted by the departments of East Asian Languages & Cultural Studies, History, Feminist Studies, Art, History of Art and Architecture, Film and Media Studies, Global Studies, Political Science, the Center for the Interdisciplinary Study of Music, the International Shinto Foundation Chair in Shinto Studies.

LEADERSHIP

Director

Professor Sabine Frühstück

Department of East Asian Languages & Cultural Studies

Advisory Board

Professor Jia-Ching Chen, Global Studies

Professor Jin-Sook Lee, Education

Professor Yunte Huang, English

Professor Luke Roberts, History

Professor Katherine Saltzman-Li, EALCS

MISSION

The East Asia Center (EAC) at the University of California, Santa Barbara promotes interdisciplinary research and cultural events on East Asia. It brings together UCSB faculty,

students, and the wider local public with leading scholars and other creative individuals from other institutions in order to create a critical and nurturing community for the study of East Asia. EAC strives to collaborate with a range of departments, individuals and other units in the Humanities, Social Sciences and beyond that are invested in education and public understanding of East Asia. EAC invests in relationships between UCSB and the East Asian region as well as the academy and the public.