Monash Asia Institute Bulletin
September 2013

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From the MAI Director’s Desk

Spring has already come! September will be another hectic month for MAI friends. We will have many exciting seminars such as Chinese modernity and creative industries, a memoir of Lily Chan, the winner of the 2013 Dobbie Literary Award, and the issues in teaching pop culture to enhance Asian literacy. Please check all of them in the bulletin and the MAI webpage. We are also pleased to announce that MAI will organize an international symposium, *Asian literacy in practice*, early next year. The details will be available later. We will keep you informed!

Prof. Koichi Iwabuchi

The next MAI Bulletin is scheduled for Tuesday 1st October 2013. If you have news on any events or other announcements that you would like us to include, please forward this to MAI-Enquiries@monash.edu, by Friday, 27th September 2013.

MAI SEMINAR/FORUM

*Mon@asia*

“*Teaching Asia through Pop Culture: The Experience of Raising Interest and Awareness of Asia to Undergraduates*”

Speaker: Dr. Catherine Gomez (RMIT)

Tuesday 17th September 2013, 3pm–4:45pm
Meeting Room, Building 55, Gallery Building, Monash University Clayton Campus

Abstract
Teaching Asia to students who opt to study Asian Studies and to those who do general courses come with their own set of challenges and rewards. Through my experience teaching both Asian Studies and (very large cohorts of) Communication Studies students at RMIT University, I discuss ways in which pop culture can be used to raise undergraduate awareness and interest in Asia.

*Trans-Asia as Method Seminar*

“*Creative industries in China: Catch-up or alternative Modernity?*”

Speaker: Justin O’Connor (Monash University)
Discussant: Fran Martin (University of Melbourne)

Thursday 19th September (Thurs), 3-5pm
ACJC seminar room, 8th floor H Building, Monash University Caulfield
Abstract
Since 2005 the creative industries have been adopted and promoted by the Chinese government at national, provincial, city and rural levels. This has been re-affirmed in the 2011 five year plan. Here the creative industries are presented as part of a new wave of economic modernisation, firmly within the narrative of development as catching up with the advanced nations. In this paper I raise two problem areas. First, how can an agenda associated with a term - creativity - whose specific meaning has emerged from Western cultural modernity, and within an economic narrative strongly associated with advanced liberal democracies - the proliferation of micro-businesses and the everyday mobilisation of creativity – be 'rolled out' in China? Through what narrative and what kinds of socio-economic and cultural transformations? Second, how might the adoption of the creative industries be understood in terms of the notion of modernity/modernities. Is there a specific Chinese modernity and what might this mean?

Centre for Southeast Asian Studies Seminar

“Textiles of the Outer Islands - An Evolutionary History through a West Kalimantan Prism”

Speaker: Michael Heppell

Thursday 5th September 2013, 1pm-2.30pm

Meeting Room, Building 55, Gallery Building, Monash University Clayton Campus

Abstract
The purpose of the talk is to present a cogent argument to answer the question “how come weaving” or why did women throughout the world weave or decorate textiles? A clue to an answer probably lies in the frequent use of decorated textiles as wedding gifts, particularly in the outer islands of Indonesia. That suggests that textiles might have had something to do with sexual selection. If that is so, textiles indicated something about the genetic material of at least one of the marriage partners. The presentation explores the question through the prism of the Ibanic peoples of West Kalimantan, tracing the development of their textiles over the last 1500 years or so. The presentation consequently focuses on the competitive nature of women and how men encouraged it - at least of the Ibanic.

About the speaker:
Michael Heppell has done fieldwork with three Dayak groups living across the borders between West Kalimantan and Sarawak. His principal interest was in the relationship between the upbringing of children and the operation of adat. Later he became interested in the material culture of Borneo, which led to an interest in textiles. He has had published a number of books and papers on Aborigines in the 1970s and on Borneo since that date, including Borneo and Beyond, Masks of Kalimantan and Iban Art. He is an adjunct fellow at Monash. Japanese Studies Centre Seminar
Japanese Studies Centre Seminar

“Approaches to studying language and social interaction: Analyzing longitudinal conversational data in Japanese”

Speaker: Dr. Shimako Iwasaki and Dr. Ikuko Nakane (Monash University, University of Melbourne)

Wednesday 25th September 2013, 12pm-1pm

Japanese Studies Centre Auditorium, Building 54, Monash University Clayton Campus

Abstract

Using interview data collected over 24 years by Dr. Kaori Okano, this presentation considers several approaches to analyzing language and social interaction in Japanese. The data set provides a unique opportunity to examine how language and interaction change over time in conjunction with life transitions from young adulthood to motherhood and with transforming urban and social landscapes. The presentation combines explication of findings from analyses by our multidisciplinary team and reflection on how we can analyze longitudinal changes in spoken language through different approaches including discourse-functional linguistics, sociolinguistics, conversation analysis (CA) and CA-influenced interactional linguistics. The presentation introduces and demonstrates several analytic methods while considering their implications for understanding Japanese discourse.

Postgraduate Research Seminar on Asia-Pacific (PRFAP) Seminar

“Special Seminar on Academic Writing”

Speaker: Dr. Andrew Johnson (Monash University)

Wednesday 18th September 2013, 12pm – 1pm

Monash Asia Institute Seminar room, H.5.95, Caulfield Campus

Andrew Johnson, an academic writing consultant with Monash, will give a seminar related to scholarly discourse including common problems as well as helpful solutions. Lunch will be provided

About Andrew Johnson:

He has a background in literary studies and philosophy and has been teaching in various language and learning roles since 2002. He joined the Faculty of Arts in my current role in 2007. He has a strong teaching and research focus on writing and also interested in cultural learning processes and the way we learn to use language in different social contexts.
“A Memoir by Lily Chan”

Speaker: Lily Chan (the winner of the 2013 Dobbie Literary Award)

Wednesday 25th September 2013, 12pm – 1pm

Monash Asia Institute Seminar room, H.5.95, Caulfield Campus

Lily Chan will talk about the writing of “Toyo”:

“Blending the intimacy of memoir with an artist’s vision, “Toyo” is the story of a remarkable woman, a vivid picture of Japan before and after war, and an unpredictable tale of courage and change in today’s Australia.

Born into the traditional world of pre-war Osaka, Toyo must always protect the secret of her parents’ true relationship. Her father lives in China with his wife; her unmarried mother runs a café. Toyo and her mother are beautiful and polite, keeping themselves in society’s good graces.

Then comes the rain of American bombs. Toyo’s life is uprooted again and again. With each sharp change and painful loss, she becomes more herself and more aware of where she has come from. She finds family and belief, but still clings to her parents’ secret.”
- From Black Inc Publishing

Music Performance

Bollywood and Beyond: Celebrating 100 Years of Indian Cinema,

featuring Tihai3 and musicians from Preston Symphony Orchestra

Saturday 28\textsuperscript{th} September, 8pm, Northcote Town Hall, 189 High St. Northcote

In a unique and ground-breaking project, a first for the Darebin Music Feast, and Australia, Tihai3 presents a Bollywood retrospective at the Darebin Music Feast 2013.

Tihai3 have teamed up with musicians from the Preston Symphony Orchestra to present a concert celebrating the 100\textsuperscript{th} anniversary of Indian Cinema, with a showcase performance of music from that 100 years of film. Tihai3 will begin the evening with live accompaniment to surviving footage from the silent film Raja Harish Chandra (1913) by the pioneer of Indian cinema, Phalke. Rising stars, brother and sister duo Sam and Keshav will captivate the audience with film songs from the 1950s to present, to the accompaniment of a 20 piece ensemble.

Tihai3 is known to Melbourne audiences for their performances of Hindustani classical music. Girish Makwana, tabla player, Sabyasatchi Bhattacharya, sarod, Nicolas Buff, saxophone have immersed themselves in the classical music traditions of Northern India. Sabyasatchi is also trained in Western guitar. Nicolas completed his degree in Western music after taking up a scholarship to study in India. His ragas on saxophone offer the group a particularly unusual element. Girish studied Western music in Sydney before
coming to Melbourne. For the past six years, they have presented elegant and beautiful concerts of Indian music for Darebin Music Feast. They have collaborated with well known artists from different, complementary, genres, including South Indian singer, Shobha Sekhar and cellist, Emma Ayers.

This year's concert which involves a major collaboration with members of the Preston Symphony Orchestra is the realisation of a plan that has been slowly percolating for the past three years. Tihai3's transcriptions of the Bollywood soundtracks give Western musicians a chance to acquaint themselves with and perform that music. This new collaboration is a very exciting cross cultural art project. In addition it provides a marvellous showcase opportunity for young singers, brother and sister duo Sam and Keshav to perform before a new audience.

For information, interviews etc. therese@boite.com.au 9417 3550; 0427 773 553; bookings: www.northcotetownhall.com.au

This event is supported by the City of Darebin and The Boite

📌 IIAS Annual Lecture

**Modernity in Common: Japan and World History**

**The speaker**
Carol Gluck is George Sansom Professor of History in the Department of History and the Weatherhead East Asian Institute of Columbia University.

Thursday 19 September 2013, 16.00 – 18.30 hrs

Leiden University, Academy Building (small auditorium), Rapenburg 73, Leiden

**The lecture**
Professor Gluck's lecture is based on the dual assumption that just as one cannot tell the modern history of any society in isolation from the world, the history of the modern world can in fact be grasped from the vantage point of any place on the globe. In this instance, the place is Japan. One of a "globeful of modernities," Japan shares commonalities and connections with other modern societies. At the same time it offers the opportunity to develop ideas about the "modern" based on empirical evidence different from the European experiences that underlay earlier theories of modernity.

**Registration**
Registration is free of charge. Please register via our website: www.iias.nl/al2013

**Contact**
For enquiries about the IIAS Annual Lecture, please contact Ms Martina van den Haak: m.c.van.den.haak@iias.nl.
Postdoctoral Fellowship

The Center for the History of Emotions at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development, Berlin, seeks applicants for one Postdoctoral Fellowship.

The position is available from September 1, 2014, but an earlier starting date can be negotiated. The fellowship is initially for one year, with possible extensions up to three years. Projects focus on the history of emotions in South Asia from the 18th to the 20th century. We have a special interest in projects working with Persian/Urdu texts, but are also considering proposals in other languages. Please visit our website (http://www.mpib-berlin.mpg.de/en/research/history-of-emotions) for information on current projects.

The fellowship does not involve teaching, but we expect a strong commitment to the lively discussions at the Center and its Graduate School (http://www.mpib-berlin.mpg.de/en/research/research-schools/imprs-moral-economies).

Requirements

Successful applicants need to have a PhD-degree (the submission process needs to be completed before joining the Max Planck Institute) in history, or adjacent disciplines if coupled with a strong interest in history. As the research group consists both of specialists of European and South Asian history, candidates should be interested in a cross-cultural dialogue and be able to translate their work into a more general framework.

The Max Planck Society is committed to employing more handicapped individuals and especially encourages them to apply. The Max Planck Society seeks to increase the number of women in those areas where they are underrepresented and therefore explicitly encourages women to apply.

Applications (consisting of a cover letter describing your research interests, a curriculum vitae with grades, a two-page summary of your PhD thesis, and a five-page proposal outlining the planned project) should be send as a single PDF file to Professor Dr. Margrit Pernau (pernau@mpib-berlin.mpg.de, Max Planck Institute for Human Development, Lentzeallee 94, 14195 Berlin). Please submit applications by September 15, 2013. However, review of applications will continue until the positions are filled. Interviews will be conducted in October 2013, either in Berlin or at the Madison conference.

About the MAI Bulletin
The Monash Asia Institute Bulletin incorporates news items from the research centres of the Monash Asia Institute, partner organisations and other groups working to promote Asian Studies in Australia.
For further information about the Monash Asia Institute, this Bulletin and our events:
http://artsonline.monash.edu.au/mai/
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