



Regional Studies East Asia

H A R V A R D U N I V E R S I T Y

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Committee on Regional Studies – East Asia Newsletter **Summer 2024**

Letter from the Chair

Dear Alumni of the RSEA Program,

Hopefully you are well and have had a restorative and richly spent summer.

A new cohort of 24 RSEA students has arrived on campus, and as was obvious from our first meeting last week this group is brimming with good energy and eager to jump into classes and research. In the meantime, our 25 returning second-year students are gearing up to start writing their master's theses, their heads full of new ideas harvested from summer research. This is a special time in the academic year when everyone is excitedly looking ahead.

But it also makes sense to glance back. Harvard experienced quite a year in the public eye, even as students (as always) did their best to pursue their classes, research and learning. For RSEA it was a momentous year, in a very different sense: We celebrated our 75th anniversary with a spectacular get-together with five panels that assembled stellar alumni, with dozens and dozens of other stellar alumni in attendance, and a hugely enjoyable dinner at Loeb House. I personally cherished the opportunity to meet so many of our extraordinarily impressive alumni, many of which traveled around the world to attend the festivities.

If you weren't able to join us, you can watch the panel discussions on topics that include the future of journalism, the arts, of foreign policy, of economic policy and business, or higher education, and the central role that East Asia will play for each of these futures. Take a look at

what your fellow alumni discussed by clicking [here](#).

I want to express a special thanks to our illustrious Alumni Advisory Board for the invaluable counsel they have generously provided in many, many conversations over the last two years to prepare for the 75th anniversary. They also have helped usher in a new age for RSEA, in which we hope to continue to deepen our engagement with you, and to grow the vibrancy of the global RSEA community.

But RSEA is not just looking back. We have many new projects and big plans. And we also have our regular Autumn Alumni Panel coming up on October 18! For that too, we welcome you in Cambridge. Those who can't attend in person can participate via a livestream - more information on that soon.

There are many things on the horizon as we strive to make RSEA the most inspiring, inclusive, and intellectually satisfying program it can be. We look forward to being in touch!

Sincerely,

Alex Zahlten
RSEA Committee Chair
Professor of East Asian Languages and Civilization

Congratulations to the 2024 RSEA Graduates

David Anderson *The Ties That Bind: On the Tripartite Relationship That Exists Between China, Japan, and the United States of America*

Junyoung Baik *The In-Between Place of S????l in the Society and Diplomacy of Chos??n Korea*

Gunn Chaiyapatranun *Mingei Modern: Crafting a New Mode of Living In Sh??wa Japan; Fletcher Award Winner*

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- Tianlan Chen** *When Do Embedded Officials Radicalize? Localized Regime Hazards and Land Reform Violence; **Fletcher Honorable Mention***
- Eura Choi** *Antagonism Despite Alignment: Strategic Alignments and the Mnemonic Politics of South Korea and Japan; **Fletcher Honorable Mention***
- Anthony Comeau** *Feuding Families and Comparing Codes: Same-Sex Marriage and the Politics of Subjectivity in Chinese versus Cuban Law circa 2024; **Fletcher Honorable Mention***
- Joshua Fernandez** *The Power of Anchors and Flows: The Historical Impact of PRC Migration Law on its Multiethnic Inner Asian Frontiers*
- Jiayu Gui** *Modern Literary Mentorship in Wartime Women's Magazines: The Cases of Kawabata Yasunari in Shinjoen and Tamura Toshiko in Nüshen*
- Song Han** *Sounding Waves, Playing Waves: Wireless Media in the Early Period of the People's Republic of China, 1950s–1960s; **Fletcher Honorable Mention***
- Feifan Li** *Reconstituting the Social: Ethnographic Fieldwork on the 1930s Chinese and American Frontier*
- Qinlin Li** *Temporal Cocoon: Textiles from Mawangdui Tomb M1; **Fletcher Honorable Mention***
- Didier Natalizi Baldi** *The Brilliance and the Wind - Yu Xin's (531-581) fu poetry between meaning and chaos; **Fletcher Honorable Mention***
- Joshua Park** *Vessel of Nationalism: Memories of the March First Movement in South Korea, 1945–1987*
- Benjamin Porteous** *The Lotus Florilegium KNM BK 77: An Edition, Translation and Study; **Fletcher Award Winner***
- Tabreya Ryan** *Unmasking Eros: Demystifying the Liberative Potential of Female Masochism through Okuhara Hiroshi's Film Adaptation of Ogawa Y??ko's Dark Romance Hotel Iris; **Fletcher Honorable Mention***

Yuyang Shi *Co-optation via Competition: How the Chinese Government Encourages Media Compliance on the Internet; **Fletcher Award Winner***

Pei Qin Teo *Exploring National Identities: Analyzing Southeast Asia's Economic Interactions with China*

Wendy Chuwen Xiao *The Secret Spring: Objects, Bodies, and Queer Intimacies in an Eighteenth-Century Erotic Album*

Kent Bo Wen Zheng *Patterns of Division in the Histories of Early Medieval China*

We extend a debt of gratitude to our **RSEA Alumni Advisory Board** for their unfailing support and guidance!

Mable Chan

Daniel Hauck

Karl Eikenberry

Glen S. Fukushima

William C. Kirby

Margaret Lindsey

Bob Murowchick

Richard Palmer

Julie Sheetz

Marc Szepan

Harriet Wong

The RSEA 75th Anniversary Symposium Event

The RSEA 75th Anniversary Symposium was a successful gathering of over a hundred alumni and over 40 current students to discuss the future of five areas of study in East Asian Studies. The goal of bringing together alumni and students to delve into topics of mutual interest, and to strengthen program cohesion by bringing both alumni and students, as well as alumni and other alumni, into closer contact was achieved and exceeded.

The Symposium's five panels included journalism, government/politics, business, arts, and of course—education. The webinar videos can be accessed at this [link](#).

Upcoming Event!

This year's **Regional Studies East Asia Alumni Panel 2024** will be held on **Friday, October 18th, 2024**, in 1730 Cambridge Street, CGIS-S020.

We are excited to announce this year's alumni panelists will be:

Jonathan Kaufman (AM '82), Director of the School of Journalism at Northeastern University and a Professor of Journalism

Abraham Kim (AM '95), Executive Director at the Council of Korean Americans

Susan Lawrence (AM '89), Specialist in Asian Affairs at the Congressional Research Service

Please visit the [RSEA homepage](#) to register. Hope to see you!

Alumni News

Wenjiao Cai (AM '12) began a Postdoctoral Fellowship at Georgetown University.

Jannis Jizhou Chen (AM '17) is now an Assistant Professor, Chinese Language and Literature at The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK).

Landon Fortenberry (AM '23) now started a position in the consulate in Lusaka (Zambia), his first diplomatic post.

Adam K. Frost (nee Mitchell) (AM '15) won the IBP 2023 English Language Edition: Best Dissertation in the Humanities for the work titled '[Speculation and Profiteering: The Entrepreneurial Transformation of Socialist China.](#)'

Ming Tak 'Ted' Hui (AM '14) is an Associate Professor of Classical Chinese and Medieval China, Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Oxford.

Peter Banseok Kwon (AM '08) has been promoted to Associate Professor at UAlbany. For the

upcoming academic year, he will be a Fulbright Scholar and Visiting Professor at Korea National Defense University.

In February 2023, **Heidi Lam (AM '12)** joined ReD Associates, a strategy consulting firm that uses social science methods such as ethnographic immersion and qualitative interviews to investigate clients' business questions. Heidi used her knowledge of Japanese language skills and culture, refined during her time with RSEA, to help her team with communication and advise on client management for a project involving a major Japanese publishing company last year.



Anka Lee (AM '07)

Anka Lee (AM '07) serves as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for East Asia in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs within the Office of the Secretary of Defense. He is responsible for advising senior department leadership on all policy matters pertaining to the development and implementation of defense strategies, plans, policies, and bilateral security relations for the East Asia region (Japan, the Republic of Korea, Australia, New Zealand, the Pacific Islands, and North Korea)

Rachel Leng (AM '15), COO and Co-Founder of SeiRogai, Inc., was honored to be among the panel speakers at the 30th Annual Harvard Asia Business Conference, held on March 31st, 2024, at the Harvard Business School in Boston, Massachusetts.

Shiqi Ma (AM '18) joined the Department of Political Science at Colorado College as an Assistant Professor.

Jonas Rüegg (AM '16), Author of *The Kuroshio Frontier: Business, State and Environment in the Making of Japan's Pacific* (Harvard University, History and East Asian Languages, 2022) is the 2024 MJHA Dissertation Winner.

Chuanmeng Shi (AM '23) will join Deloitte's Consulting Department in the summer of 2024 after completing an internship opportunity from the United Nations (New York Office).

Dan Silver (AM '93) was elected Chairperson of the American Chamber of Commerce in Taiwan for the 2024 term.

Liza Tarbell (AM '21) received her law degree from Stanford Law School in June 2024.

Pei Qin Teo (AM '24) is currently a policy officer in the field of defence diplomacy with Singapore's Ministry of Defence.

Huanruo Wang (AM '16) has started a new job as assistant professor at Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University in Suzhou.



Liza Tarbell (AM '21) and Brian Park (AM '21)

Jason Jia-Xi Wu (AM '20) started a new position as a Judicial Law Clerk in the US District Court.

Yue Wu (AM '23) will be joining the PhD program in East Asian Studies at Stanford University and is the recipient of the Knight-Hennessy Scholarship.

Masaki Yusuke (AM '18) was recently promoted to Project Associate Professor at the University of Tokyo.

RSEA Donor List: We are thankful for the financial support of these donors!

Alexis Agliano Sanborn (AM '13)
Jin Chen Cooper (AM '02)
James Hall (AM '69)
Mark Henderson (AM '94)
Jeff Kao and Pooshian Hu, Friends of RSEA
Jeremy Reifsnyder (AM '75)
BaoMei Sheeks, widow of Major Robert Bruce Sheeks (AM '48)
Roxane Sismanidis (AM '79)



In addition, we are pleased to announce that every Alumni Advisory Board member donated this year!

Send us your news and updates! We enjoy hearing from alumni and welcome your news—professional and personal—via email to rsea2@fas.harvard.edu.



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