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Committee on Regional Studies – East Asia Newsletter Summer 2023

Notes from the Chair of RSEA

Dear Alumni of the RSEA Program, dear current students,

Hopefully, you are well and have been enjoying a restorative summer.

Once again, this newsletter provides a panorama that—to me—is beyond remarkable. Just looking at the many activities and achievements of RSEA's alumni, the variety of world-spanning career paths, the sense of purpose, and the sheer joy of exploration that shines through reinforces my sense that this is an extraordinary program with extraordinary alumni.

Planning has been underway for months with the help of our stellar Alumni Advisory Committee. We hope to welcome many alumni to Cambridge for this big bash on April 5, 2024. RSEA's celebrations take place in coordination with the Harvard Griffin Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Alumni Day on April 6. We will send out more detailed information on the events soon, so do stay posted!

As I return to RSEA after a year away conducting research on hidden media histories in Japan, I would like to express gratitude to Prof. Karen Thornber for her thoughtful stewardship of the program. And, as always, RSEA owes gratitude to Program Administrator Rose Cortese and Program Assistant Kerry Tanwar, who are tireless in maintaining this extensive program, helping students to succeed daily, and handling RSEA's many moving parts.

All of us look forward to welcoming 23 new RSEA students to campus in just a few days. And next year in April, we hope that many of these students can celebrate this exceptional program with many former ones, here in Cambridge!

Sincerely,

Alexander Zahlen
Chair, Regional Studies East Asia
Professor of East Asian Languages and Civilizations
Harvard University

SAVE THE DATE!

In celebration of 75 years of educating brilliant young minds, on April 5, 2024, there will be an RSEA Symposium! More information to follow.

And a call for photos and anecdotes from your time in RSEA! Help us celebrate the 75 years of RSEA! Please send them to rsea2@fas.harvard.edu by January 1, 2024.

Kudos!

RSEA and the Reischauer Institute gratefully acknowledge John J. Stephan (AB '63, AM '64) and Barbara B. Stephan for their generosity in establishing the Craig Fellowship in Japanese Studies at Harvard University. The Craig Fellowship honors Professor Albert M. Craig (1927–2021), Harvard–Yenching Professor of History, and Mrs. Teruko Craig, Senior Lecturer Emerita, Tufts University, and Reischauer Institute Associate–in–Research. This is a two-year fellowship for AM degree candidates in the Regional Studies–East Asia Program.

Thank you to the following alumni (and to those who wished to stay anonymous!) for their donations to the Regional Studies East Asia Program this past academic year: Mark G. Henderson (AM '94), Calvin Heng and Friends (AM '23), Richard K. Palmer (AM '88), Thankful Bailey Thornburrow (AM '63), and Yoshinori Watanabe (AM '12).

If you would like to make a difference in the lives of RSEA students, please visit: https://community.alumni.harvard.edu/give/51694660. If donating to Harvard via a different website or method, you may direct your donation to the Regional Studies East Asia program.

RSEA LinkedIn Group

We have revitalized the Harvard RSEA LinkedIn Group! Please join us to reconnect with the RSEA Community: https://www.linkedin.com/groups/4632608/.

Congratulations to the Regional Studies East Asia 2023 Graduates!

- Suna Cha The Blazing Artist–Wife Kim Hyang–an (1916–2004)
Yuan Ting Chan The Allure of a Bygone Era: Peranakan Renaissance in Twenty–First Century Sinophone Cultural Productions
Chuyi Chen Teeth, Bugs, and I: Staging the Self in Xu Xi's Writings of My Heart
Theo Chia Navigating a Rock and a Hard Place: How China Negotiates the Energy Transition–Security Dilemma Crisis, 2013–2022
Shangtong Cui The Road to Authenticity: Liu Zongzhou (1587–1645) on Learning of the Mind and His Criticism of Politics
Yiwei Fang Remember and Remaking the Qinhuai River Landscape
Landon Fortenberry Global Identity Politics of Sino–African Relations: A case study of Equatorial Guinea, Angola, South Africa, and Egypt
Calvin Heng Downstream Knowledge 'Refractions': The Epistemic Agencies of Zou Taofen and the (Dazhong) Shenghuo Readers in Republican Shanghai, 1925–1936
Chihiro Ishikawa Imagining Futurity through Shōjo: Negotiations of gender and time from 1970s shōjo to 2010s shōjo anime
Tienwen Lin Mapping the Northwest: Image–Making and Frontier–Making in Northwest China (1931–1945)
Mayako Liu Puyō and Northern Korea as Spaces of Imperial Integration: Wartime Tourism in Colonial Korea, 1937–1945
Kristen Martucci Beyond an Organismic Cosmos: Scientific Tensions between Observation and Classification in Cloud Divination Manuscripts of Early and Medieval China
Qi Siang Ng The Strange Case of Populist Doves: Populism and Cross–Strait Preferences among Taiwanese Voters
Si (Celine) Qin Guerilla Citizens: Chinese Online Voluntary Organizations in the Covid Pandemic
James Rose Harmonizing Disruption: Placing Venture Capital Law in China's Political Economy
Kejia (Coco) Ruan Illusion of Babies, Babies of Illusion: Writing Pregnancy in Low Fertility East Asia
Patrick Sanguinetti Spanning Sacred and Social: The Tenrikyō Mission Headquarters in America and the Issue of Sacred Space among Religious Diaspora, 1908–1942
Isaiah Schrader Philosopher–King, or Autocrat? Re–evaluating the Thought of Zhang Juzheng
Chuanmeng Capture the Ineffable: The politics of Emotion in Wang Shuo's (Cynthia) Shi and Yu Hua's Fiction of the 1980s and 1990s
Edward Tan China's Climate Diplomacy: Norm Entrepreneurship in UN Specialized Agencies
Yuhao (Finn) Wang Opening Up Without Reform: China's State Sector in the Age of Hyper–Globalization
Cheng–Ting (Tim) WU Technolinguistic Modernity in the Chinese National Language Movement.
Shaoyu (Sharon) Zhang Economic Penetration in the Frontier: Land Distributions, Transactions and Transformations in Qin Empire's Southwestern Borders
Tianrui (Rui) Zhu The Origin of Glassmaking Technology in China, 1st millennium BCE
Zhaoping Zhu Thatched Space as a Cultural Site: Poem and Painting Scrolls from China to Japan

Alumni News

Matt Brazil (AM '87) wrote "Taiwan is Losing its Spy Wars with China" based on his research from a recent visit to Taiwan. To read the article at www.spytalk.co, click here. Brazil discusses China's worldwide espionage and influence offensive in more detail in his upcoming 2024 book.

Dr. Wenjiao Cai (AM '12, PhD '23) received her doctorate from EALC, Harvard University. Her dissertation was entitled "Coping with the Cold: Nature and State on Chosŏn Korea's Northern Frontier." Wenjiao is now a Postdoctoral Researcher at the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Jannis Jizhou Chen (AM '17, PhD '23) received his doctorate from EALC, Harvard University. His dissertation was entitled "The Literature of Things: Ecologies, Disasters, and the Sinophone Worlds."

Taiwan's Harvard Club hosted Professor Karen Thornber in their Harvard Table Series where she met up with RSEA alum Stephanie Chen (AM '15) who is now working in manufacturing in Taiwan.

Edward Cunningham (AM '00) co-authored an article with Yunxin Li. 2023. "China's Most Generous: Examining Trends in Contemporary Chinese Philanthropy (2020 Update)."



RSEA alum, Professor John Dower (AM '61), was awarded the Harvard Griffin CSAS 2023 Centennial Medal. For more information, please visit the Harvard Griffin CSAS website.

Landon Fortenberry (AM '23) will enter the State Department as a Foreign Service Officer. Currently, he is undergoing training at the Foreign Service Institute in Arlington. After completing his training, he will be assigned his first diplomatic assignment. Reflecting on his experience in RSEA, he claimed, "It allowed me to enhance my understanding of Chinese politics and history while also strengthening my foreign language skills. It was truly an honor and delight to be in the program."

Adam K. Frost (AM '15, PhD '22) (nee' Mitchell) co-authored an article Markets under Mao: Measuring Underground Activity in the Early PRC in The China Quarterly.

This fall Mark Henderson (AM '94) will be teaching East Asian Studies and Global Climate Change at Mills College, now part of Northeastern University.

Dingru Huang (AM '14) is now an Assistant Professor in the Department International Literature–Cultural Studies at Tufts University.

Calvin Heng (AM '23) is an aspiring Arctic researcher from Singapore. While his training has been in Chinese history, he has been actively involved as a research assistant for Dr. Eyck Freymann (AM '18) at the Arctic Initiative, a project hosted by the Belfer Centre for Science and International Affairs, Harvard Kennedy School. Inspired by the emerging field of Applied History, he hopes to explore ways in which historical analysis could enhance our understanding of the diplomatic present and thereby bridge Arctic cooperation. (hengcalvin@gmail.com)

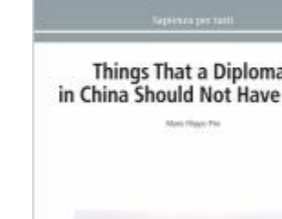
Eric F.F. Huen (AM '71) is the Chair of the Society of Oral History on Modern China. The society specializes in Sino–Japanese relations during the Sino–Japanese War (1931–1945) and aims to promote, sponsor, and encourage the collection, preservation, compilation, and publication of Chinese historical records. Alumni interested in Oral History on Modern China, especially during the Sino–Japanese War period from 1937 to 1945, can contact Mr. Huen at eric_huen@yahoo.com. Visit http://www.chineseorahistory.org/brief-en.html for more information on the society.

Chihiro Ishikawa (AM '23) will begin working as a journalist in Tokyo for the newspaper, Nikkei. Please hit her up if you are ever visiting Japan!

Upon graduating from Harvard, Hyung–joon Kim (AM '16) tried multiple corporate jobs until deciding to become an attorney. Hyung–joon has obtained his JD degree and US attorney license and began practicing in the law firm of Yoon & Yang in Seoul.

Yung Hian Ng (AM '17) will be based in Tokyo for the next three years, working at the Singapore Embassy.

In September, Boya Ouyang (AM '22) will begin a doctoral program at UC Irvine in Sociology.



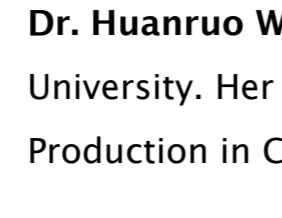
Mario Filippo Pini (AM '69) published "Things That a Diplomat in China Should Not Have Seen" by Sapientza University Press. The book offers snapshots, on many different topics, of what life was like in China during the first four decades of Communist rule.

Patrick Sanguinetti (AM '23) is Co–Executive Director of an exciting, new, Kyoto-based startup, Tachi–Aoi. Still in its early stages, Tachi–Aoi is an incubator for Japanese women entrepreneurs across two broad segments: women who have inherited multi–generational, family/traditional businesses; and those looking to launch their own ventures within tech and related spheres.

Edward Tan (AM '23) will begin his public service career as an Assistant Manager (Hub Strategy and Connectivity, Air Transport Division) at the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore. He will also join the Eighth Cohort of Schwarzman Scholars at Tsinghua University, focusing on leadership in public policy and international organizations. (edwardzhien.tan@sc.tsinghua.edu.cn)

Dr. Huanruo Wang (AM '16, PhD '23), received her doctorate from EALC, Harvard University. Her dissertation was entitled "Pan Documentary and the Ecologies of Reality Production in Contemporary China."

Yuhao Wang (AM '23) has moved to Washington DC for a new position as a Business Analyst at McKinsey. He is looking forward to connecting with alumni in DC! (vwang02138@outlook.com)



Yoshi Watanabe (AM '12) and Karen Wei Sian Lee (AM '12) had a surprise meeting at the Harvard Kennedy School in Tokyo. Karen is working as a diplomat at the Embassy of Singapore in Japan. Yoshi has just taken a position as counselor for the Cabinet Secretariat in charge of civil protection in the national security, building shelters in Okinawa, and managing the emergency evacuation warning system in Japan against the North Korea missiles.

Szuhwa Wu (AM '03) will be performing in Playing On The Edge from October 20 to 22, 2023 (https://www.festivalpote.com/fr/szuhwa-wu).

Dr. Sungik Yang (AM '17, PhD '23) received his doctorate from EALC, Harvard University. His dissertation was entitled "Korea's Fascist Moment: Liberation, War, and the Ideology of South Korean Authoritarianism, 1945–1979." Sungik is now an Assistant Professor of History at Arizona State University.

Tianrui Zhu (AM '23) is starting her PhD program at the NYU Institute for the Study of the Ancient World this fall. She will be focusing on the archaeology of Central Asia and the Silk Roads. During the summer she is excavating in Bukhara, Uzbekistan with her PhD advisor.

Send us your news! We enjoy hearing from alumni and welcome your news – professional and personal – via email to rsea2@fas.harvard.edu. Or, you may update your information by using this form.