



RUTGERS

School of Arts and Sciences

Department of

Asian Languages and Cultures

Summer 2019

NEWSLETTER 2018-2019 Highlights in ALC

New Major Programs

The past academic year 2018-2019 began with exciting news that the State of New Jersey and Rutgers University Board of Governors had given final approval for our new major programs. Students can now graduate with a **B.A. in Asian Studies**, **B.A. in Chinese**, **B.A. in Japanese**, or **B.A. in Korean** from the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures.

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Kristen Okun graduated in May 2019 with a B.A. in Art History

Henry Rutgers Scholar Award

Kristen Okun received a Henry Rutgers Scholar Award for her interdisciplinary honors thesis "Narrow Road of Ivy: Representing *The Tales of Ise* during the Edo Period," which she completed under the direction of Professor **Haruko Wakabayashi**, Assistant Teaching Professor of Japanese in Asian Languages and Cultures. "Okun's selection of works covered a wide range of media—hanging scroll, fan painting, screen painting, printed book—and allowed her to demonstrate her ability to critically analyze primary works from multiple perspectives, yet her choice of one specific chapter kept her thesis well-focused and in depth," according to Professor Wakabayashi. Okun's research was based on translation of primary sources including *The Tales of Ise* and poems and text inscribed on the paintings, academic secondary sources, and viewing by appointment of selected works in the storage collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

*The Henry Rutgers Scholar Award recognizes graduating seniors who have completed outstanding independent research projects leading to a thesis in their major field of study or an interdisciplinary thesis. The awards are offered across all departments of the School of Arts and Sciences to highlight the remarkable achievements of students.

Welcome!



Asian Languages and Cultures welcomed a new Affiliate Faculty member, Dr. **Nancy Yunhwa Rao**, Professor of Music in Mason Cross School of the Arts. On November 14, 2018, Dr. Rao gave a talk to ALC faculty and graduate students based on her award-winning new book, *Chinatown Opera Theater in North America* (Illinois University Press, 2017), arguing that star actresses in Chinatown theaters in the 1920s shaped Chinese American women's affiliation to their cultural identity in significant ways, despite their limited and transient legal status in the United States.

Welcome!



Jae Won Chung

Assistant Professor in Korean Literature, Professor **Jae Won Chung**, joined the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures on July 1, 2019. Professor Chung earned his Ph.D. in Korean literature from Columbia University in 2017 with departmental distinction for his dissertation "Picturing Everyday Life: Aesthetics and Politics of Saenghwal in Postwar South Korea." He also has a M.Phil. (2014) in the fields of modern Korean literature; modern Korean history; critical and cultural theory; race, colonialism, and nationalism; and an M.F.A. in Creative Writing (2008), also from Columbia. His B.A. is from Swarthmore College, (2002) with a major in Philosophy, minor in English literature.

SAS Convocation, May 2019

An estimated 13,473 students graduated at the 253rd Rutgers University Commencement in HighPoint.com Stadium on Sunday, May 19, 2019. The Department of Asian Languages and Cultures had twenty-five graduating seniors and five graduating M.A. students, twelve of whom marched in the School of Arts and Sciences Convocation.



Congratulations to the graduates on the successful completion of their studies with us!

Spotlight on the ALC graduate program in East Asian Languages and Cultures

M.A. student **Austin Hudgins** presented a research paper, "Daoist Trajectories and Confucian Concentrations: 18th-Century Manchu Assimilation Assessed through *The Aim of Archery*," at the 67th Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs held in St. Paul, MN in October 2018. Under the direction of Dr. **Simon Wickhamsmith**, Assistant Teaching Professor in the Writing Program and Instructor of Manchu in Asian Languages and Cultures, Hudgins analyzed the 1770 Manchu archery treatise *The Aim of Archery* on the topic of developing "virtue" through the practice of archery. Hudgins also had a paper accepted for presentation at the Colorado University-Boulder Asian Studies Graduate Student Conference (CUBASGA) in February 2019.

New Courses for Fall 2019

New SAS Signature Course: "Heroism"

Wendy Swartz, Professor of Chinese Literature
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**SAS Signature Courses define a Rutgers education and establish a common basis for intellectual exchange across the SAS community of students and scholars working together. They are designed and taught by renowned scholars who are not only recognized for their specialized research but are also eloquent and demanding award-winning teachers. Each course is made up of a combination of capacious lectures by faculty and small discussion sections led by graduate students from our nationally ranked graduate programs.*

"Heroism." Since the beginning of written records, heroic acts and gestures have had an enduring appeal. Shrines and monuments, epics and songs, paintings and films have been dedicated to extolling heroic figures—real, idealized, or legendary. What can a culture's heroes or heroines tell us about its values, expectations, and ideals? What motivates someone to go beyond the individual and ordinary to sacrifice for a community, country, or humanity? We will explore cultural conditioning, ethical reasoning, and moral compass behind some of the greatest heroes and heroines in history and literature, from Greek epic heroes to Chinese assassin-retainers, women warriors to Japanese samurai, Shakespearean tragic heroes to contestants in the real-life Game of Thrones in medieval Europe, civil rights leaders to women's rights crusaders, and comic superheroes to modern day heroes.

New Course: "The Sounds of Asia"

Sunmin Yoon, Ph.D. in Music Ethnology
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"The Sounds of Asia: Music of the East in the Global Era." Aiming to understand Asia through sound, this course examines a broad range of musical genres, instruments, musicians, and their performative processes in musical scenes both past and present across the Asian continent. We address questions such as: How does music create political space? How do musicians see the world through their own musical pieces and performances? How do particular musical sounds define Asia, and how do musical genres connect countries within the transnational Asian boundary? Students engage in close-listening, video analysis, discussions, writing assignments, interactions with performers, and other class activities.



Conferences

Sinoglossic Narrative

Fall 2018

Professor **Weijie Song** and Professor **Xiaojuan Wang** in Asian Languages and Cultures organized an international workshop at Rutgers on "Sinoglossic Narrative in Modern Chinese and Comparative Literature" in November, 2018. Six scholars from China, Hong Kong, and Singapore presented papers on "Rescuing History from the Archives," "Chinese Translation of Eastern European Literature," "Su Tong's Literary Geography," "Classical Elements in Contemporary Chinese Avant-Garde Literature," "Diasporic Narratives by Overseas Chinese-language Writers in Taiwan," and "Lu Xun's Female Followers." The symposium was co-sponsored by Asian Languages and Cultures, Confucius Institute of Rutgers University, Rutgers Center for Chinese Studies, Rutgers Global, and the Program in Comparative Literature.

*Speakers Ji Jin (Soochow University), Song Binghui (Shanghai International University), Zhang Xuexin (Liaoning Normal University), Liang Hai (Dalian University of Technology), Lim Chin Chown (Hong Kong Baptist University), Yu Xiayun (Xinan Jiaotong University).



Early Modern Japanese Narrative

Spring 2019



Professor **Paul Schalow** in Asian Languages and Cultures organized a memorial symposium at Rutgers for Howard S. Hibbett, emeritus professor of Japanese literature at Harvard University, on "Saikaku-Bakin: Exploring Early Modern Japanese Narrative." The April 2019, symposium brought together four important scholars of early modern Japanese narrative to explore continuities and discontinuities in the literary genealogies of Ihara Saikaku (1642-1693) and Takizawa Bakin (1767-1848).

*Paul Schalow (Rutgers University), Daniel Struve (University of Paris), Glynne Walley (University of Oregon), David J. Gundry (University of California, Davis), and William Hedberg (Arizona State University)

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The Department of Asian Languages and Cultures at Rutgers



Rutgers University–New Brunswick is a leading national research university and the state of New Jersey's preeminent comprehensive public institution of higher education.

We have created an exceptional learning environment for the study of Chinese, Japanese, and Korean languages and cultures, and recently added Filipino and Vietnamese to our language offerings. Our faculty members conduct cutting-edge research that is transforming the fields of Chinese, Japanese, and Korean Studies in North America and internationally.

Support Us...

Please check out our website regularly for announcements and updates: alc.rutgers.edu. We invite you to make a gift and make a difference to Asian Languages and Cultures' students and faculty by supporting one of the following annual dedicated gift funds: **Chinese Studies Gift Fund**, **Japanese Studies Gift Fund**, and **Korean Studies Gift Fund** by visiting our website here: alc.rutgers.edu/support-us.

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