

# 2021-2022 Events in ALC

## Korean Folk Painting Workshop

Professor of Korean, **Young-mee Cho** (left), organized a Korean Minhwa (folk painting) Workshop on February 18, 2022, at the Zimmerli Art Museum led by award-winning artist **Kate Oh** (right), who is a member of the International Committee of The Federation of Korean Artistic & Cultural Organization, as well as its Korea-US Honorary Ambassador, and serves as the Executive Vice President of the Korean New York Artist Association. She is also founder of Kate Oh Gallery in New York, which aims to raise awareness of both Eastern and Western art. In addition, she lectures and conducts a course on “Korean Folk Traditions” at Rutgers University.



## Japan Society of New York Panel



photo credit: © George Hirose

Associate Teaching Professor **Haruko Wakabayashi** (2<sup>nd</sup> from right) spoke on Rutgers’ contributions to the Japanese diplomatic embassy of 1872 at the event,

“Japanese Eyes on America: 150 Years Since the Iwakura Mission to the U.S.”, held at the Japan Society of New York on March 24th. The recording of the panel discussion is available online: [historyofjapaneseinny.org/DigitalArchive/Details/168/All/Eoldest/recording/1](https://historyofjapaneseinny.org/DigitalArchive/Details/168/All/Eoldest/recording/1). Also check out the special online exhibit of the Iwakura Mission presented by the Digital Museum of the History of Japanese in New York: [historyofjapaneseinny.org/SpecialExhibit/Index#section1](https://historyofjapaneseinny.org/SpecialExhibit/Index#section1), which features a section on Rutgers’ role in the embassy (under “New York”), written by Prof. Wakabayashi. Her students **Suchisman Gangopdhyay** (MA ‘23), **Izumi Umeda** (‘21) and **Sora Sato** (‘24) also contributed articles and translations for the website. Prof. Wakabayashi’s research on Rutgers’ relationship with Japan in the late nineteenth-century has been funded by the Toshiba International Foundation: [toshibafoundation.com/index.html](https://toshibafoundation.com/index.html) and a Rutgers Global International Collaborative Research Grant.

# RUTGERS

School of Arts and Sciences

Department of Asian Languages and Cultures  
Rutgers University–New Brunswick  
Scott Hall, Room 330  
43 College Avenue  
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

## 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 Tagalog/Filipino and Vietnamese to our language offerings. Our faculty members conduct cutting-edge research that is transforming their fields of study in North America and internationally.

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# Asian Languages and Cultures

Summer 2022

## ALC Newsletter

Faculty and students in ALC experienced many successes in 2021-2022, not least of which was our long-awaited return to in-person instruction. We hope you enjoy reading about some of the year’s highlights!

continued inside...



Wed., April 13, 2022  
8:30-10pm (EDT)

2022年4月14日 周四  
上午8:30-10 (北京时间)

平原上的摩西：  
双雪涛与新东北文学  
Shuang Xuetao and New Dongbei Literature

中德双语论坛  
a bilingual forum, with

双雪涛 Shuang Xuetao (Writer)  
韩伟杰 Wang (Translator)  
张宇昕 Zhang Yuxin (Editor)  
陶建 Eric Abrahamson (Translator)  
Brian Liu (Metropolitan Books)

Organized by  
王德威 David Daqing Wang (Harvard University)  
宋伟杰 Weijie Song (Rutgers University)

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## Welcome!



Hieu Phung

**Hieu Phung** (Ph.D., University of Hawai'i) joins the Department of Asian Languages & Cultures as the founding faculty member in our Asian Studies Program. Her field is premodern Vietnamese and Southeast Asian History, and she has taught at Vietnam National University-Hanoi and at the University of Michigan. Her research focuses on the relationship between the environment and state-building, with a particular interest in the historical agency of water and climate in stimulating social and political change. In pursuing environmental history, she makes extensive use of traditional maps and texts that reveal the production of geographical knowledge. She is working on a book project entitled "Heavenly Drought: Natural Anomalies and State-Building in Fifteenth-Century Vietnam," using documents written in both classical Chinese and the Vietnamese Nôm script. A warm welcome, Prof. Phung!

2022 Rutgers SAS Convocation  
Tuesday, May 17

In 2022, fifteen students earned their B.A. degree in one of our four majors: Asian Studies, Chinese, Japanese, and Korean. Congratulations to all and best wishes for your future success!



## January 2022

- Sanjia Duan (Asian Studies—Honors)
- Bill Huang (Chinese)
- Jing Ong (Korean)
- Ankita Prasad (Chinese)

## May 2022

- John Cheng (Chinese, High Honors)
- Karla Escobar (Korean—Honors)
- Irene Hu (Japanese)
- Elaine Huang (Japanese—Honors)
- Camille Romano (Japanese—High Honors)
- Amber Sautner (Chinese)
- Sonia Singh (Korean—Highest Honors)
- Sonia Tam (Asian Studies—Highest Honors)
- Tiffany Xu (Chinese)

## August 2022 (anticipated)

- Victoria Ng (Chinese)
- Flex Taylor (Asian Studies)



## Year of the Tiger 2022

ALC faculty and students joined with the Asian American Cultural Center to celebrate the Lunar New Year of the Tiger on February 18, 2022.

## Ph.D. student Xingming Wang—Comparative Literature Program

**Xingming Wang** organized a workshop at the 4th Annual Translate-a-Thon on February 25, 2022, "Tracing the Spotted Lanternfly in Chinese Literary Imagination & Local Wisdom." Since its first appearance in Pennsylvania in 2014, the invasive Spotted Lanternfly (*lycorma delicatula*) has posed a serious threat to U.S. vineyards and gardens. In August 2021, New Jersey's Department of Agriculture issued emergency regulations to "prevent the further spread of this exotic insect pest and work to eliminate it from New Jersey." Still, the delicate beauty of the spotted lanternfly may make people feel reluctant to kill it. Indeed, the spotted lanternfly is a native species to East Asia and has been a source of Chinese literary imagination ever since its appearance in *The Classics of Poetry*, *Shijing* 诗经 (11th -7th c. BCE).

Xingming's translation project traced the presence of spotted lanternflies in Chinese classical and modern poetry to illuminate an ancient Chinese cosmology where a species could be aestheticized into a poetic metaphor and anthropomorphized as a human companion. He argued the imagined

interpenetration of human and non-human worlds in ancient China illustrates an important type of interspecies relations.



The slogan—"Stomp It Out!—urges everyone who sees this bug to smash it without hesitation. But as *New York Times* columnist Ginia Bellafante noted, it is much easier to stomp out ugly beetles than "violate something as dazzling in its appearance as the spotted lanternfly."

## M.A. graduate Brandon Park—JET Program Job Placement



After earning his M.A. in 2020, Brandon Park accepted an Assistant Language Teacher position at Naha Kokusai Senior High School in Okinawa, Japan. He wrote recently with an update about his experience there: "Life in Okinawa has felt like such a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, I feel like Okinawa and its culture will stay with me for the rest of my life. Life here really is such a unique combination of Japan, laid-back island life, and bits of American culture. It's so strange to call a place that is usually considered a paradise my home. I have certainly experienced the wonderful highs of living here.

"The Okinawan culture is so refreshingly rich, and the spirit of the islands is so incredibly strong. I could talk for hours about how kind and welcoming the Okinawan people have been to me, and how enthusiastic my teachers and students have been about spreading the essence of Okinawan culture. It really boggles my mind that there have been attempts at homogenization rather than celebration of this rich culture in Japan.

"Naha Kokusai Senior High School is the perfect fit for me and what I want as an educator. The teachers give me total creative freedom when it comes to lesson planning, and they give me total trust as the main teacher of all of my lessons. The students here have also been wonderful, and I cannot begin to describe how rewarding it has been to help them with their English and see them pass EIKEN exams, win English speech contests, and have a genuine desire to learn English.

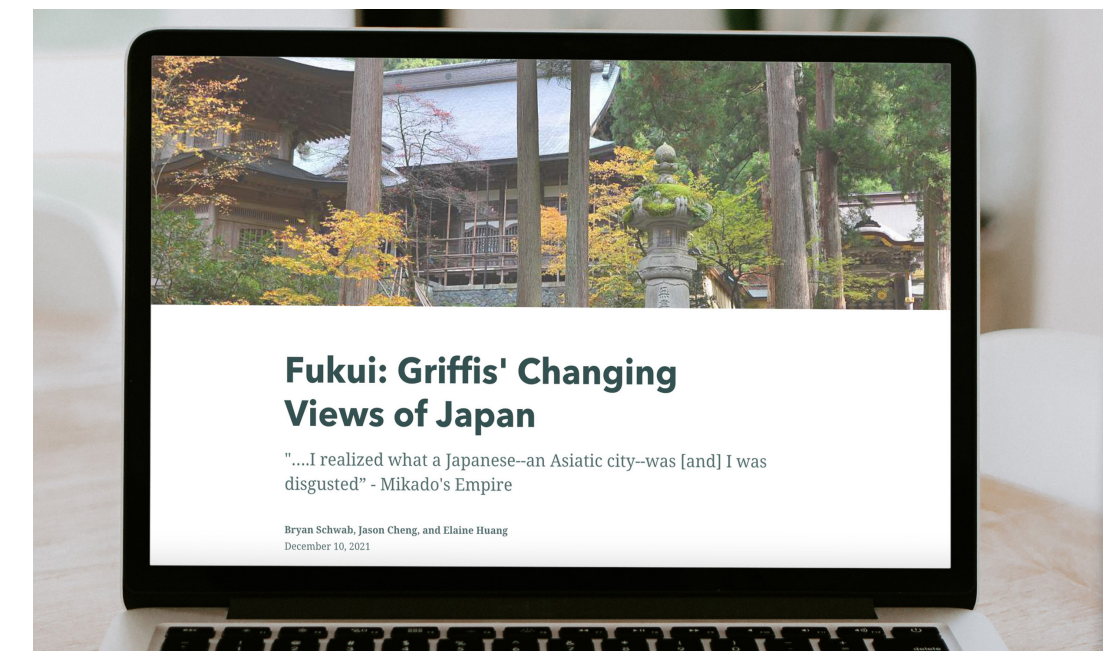
"And of course, the wonderful view of the crystal-clear, blue-green waters and sprawling beaches makes me constantly feel like I am living in a constant state of vacation. Unfortunately, I have not been able to fully experience this paradise because I arrived at a rather inopportune time (weeks of rain, wind, and clouds), but I am looking forward to the next few months as the weather begins to shift to the famous Okinawan climate."



## Rutgers Chinese Dance Troupe

**Julianna Johnson**, Chinese major and president of the Rutgers Chinese Dance Troupe, is shown in costume at the New Jersey waterfront across from Manhattan's Freedom Tower. On Sunday, April 24, 2022, the RCDT presented its spring showcase at the Busch Student Center. Check out Julianna's other amazing accomplishments here: [rutgers.edu/news/foster-care-honors-student-rutgers-junior-earns-boren-scholarship](https://rutgers.edu/news/foster-care-honors-student-rutgers-junior-earns-boren-scholarship)

## 2022 Griffis Prize for Best Undergraduate Media Project (\$250)



**Jason Cheng, Elaine Huang, and Bryan Schwab's** "Fukui: Griffis's Changing Views of Japan" produced a StoryMap project on historical sites in Fukui associated with William E. Griffis. Their work is beautifully executed and informative, with texts in both English and Japanese, including quotes from Griffis' writings offering additional insight to a 19th-century American's experience in Japan.

## Honorable Mention for Best Undergraduate Media Project

**Danaya Rakhimova** produced a sensitive examination of genre interplay and formal symmetry across director Bong Joon-ho's "The Host" (2006) and "Parasite" (2019), showing the critical significance of when Bong's narratives come "full circle."

## 2022 Griffis Prize for Best Undergraduate Term Paper (\$250)

**Bing'en Lin's** "Mulan in the Modern Day: Mapping out the Chinese Gender Binary" analyzes historical records, fictional narratives, and contemporary social phenomena, revealing the entanglements of gender and class struggle in premodern and present-day China. This substantive, provocative, and well-crafted research paper points out the incommensurability between Western transgender theories and social reality in China.

## Honorable Mentions

**Noah Hartwick** presents a captivating analysis of the much beloved yurukyara, Kumamon, and its healing effects for people who had experienced the catastrophes of the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquake.

**Helena Hazel's** ambitious paper combines self-determination theory from psychology with short fiction by Korean writers Yi Sang, Park Wan-suh, and Pyun Hye-young to illustrate how capitalist modernity prevents human subjects from reaching their full potential.