

Northwestern | Asian Languages and Cultures

Faculty News



David Boyk was promoted to Associate Professor of Instruction of Hindi Urdu Language.

David gave an invited talk to the Committee on South Asian Libraries and Documentation and published two annotated translations of Urdu travelogues in Siobhan Lambert-Hurley, Daniel Majchrowicz, and Sunil Sharma, eds., *Three Centuries of Travel Writing by Muslim Women*.



Laura Brueck published a co-edited book, *Literary Sentiments in the Vernacular: Gender and Genre in*

Modern South Asia (Routledge 2022). She also co-authored the "South Asian Crime Fiction" chapter of the *Cambridge Companion to World Crime Fiction* (2022) and published an essay titled "The Democratic Aspirations of Dalit Literature" in the book *State of Democracy in India* (Primus 2022). She also co-directed Northwestern's new Race, Caste and Colorism Project, funded by the Buffett Institute of Global Affairs, in its first year.

A Message From the Chair

Believe it or not, Asian Languages and Cultures is turning 10 this year! It's amazing to think of how far we have come in the last decade: we have hired brilliant new faculty, developed a full slate of new undergraduate and graduate courses, strengthened and expanded our language programs, recruited a cohort of global graduate students, and hosted a dizzying array of conferences, lectures, performances, and more. In the pages of this newsletter you'll find news of the endeavors and accomplishments of several of our faculty and students from just the last year. Despite the ongoing logistical difficulties presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, they continued to produce brilliant new scholarship, amplify efforts to improve diversity, equity, and inclusion, and engage in stimulating exchanges with visiting scholars and artists. Now, on the eve of our big birthday, we're looking back to appreciate our collective successes and looking ahead to a fantastic next ten years!

Laura Brueck, Chair

Congratulations Class of 2022!

We are so excited to congratulate all of our graduated students from 2022! We can't wait to see where your next adventures take you.

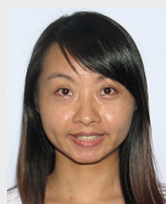


Professor Patrick Noonan with ALC senior majors during their Senior Seminar class.



Corey Byrnes, Associate Professor spent 2021-2022 in residence as a fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Studies at Harvard University, where he continued

work on his current book project, "Cultures of Threat," which examines how discourses of environmental threat and anxiety operate between the United States and China and across the Pacific. He has most recently lectured on threat culture at Harvard, The Ohio State University, and Sydney University, and has published on the topic in *Social Text and Verge: Studies in Global Asias*. In 2022, he published "[A Cheaper Machine for the Work](#)," in *Proletarian China: A Century of Chinese Labour* (Verso, 2022) and completed a draft of "Imagined Islands and the Potential Nation," which has been solicited for inclusion in a special issue of *Positions: Asia Critique* in 2023. In July of 2022, Corey was awarded a Bogliasco Fellowship, which will allow him to spend one month in residence at the Bogliasco Foundation in Bogliasco, Italy in the spring of 2023. Corey returns to Northwestern this fall, when he will resume co-organizing the Kaplan Institute's Environmental Humanities Workshop and take on the new role of Director of Graduate Studies for Comparative Literary Studies.



Chin-Hung Chang, was promoted to Associate Professor of Instruction of Chinese Language. She has been dedicated to expanding the student learning experience to

environments outside the classroom. She organized a class field trip to World Market to experience cultural products from China and Taiwan. Chang also collaborated with an English class from Sanchong Vocational High School in Taiwan for a language exchange program. Chang organized *Learning Chinese Matters: Hear What Alumni Say*, a panel with two alumni of the Chinese language program to speak with students regarding how learning Chinese as a lifelong experience intersects with a career path.

Grad Student News

Kang (Connie) Kang presented a paper this summer titled "Belonging with Difference and Other Fictions: On Ureltu's Evenki Stories" at ACLA and participated in the Summer Institute of Psychoanalysis in Paris.



L-R Maria Romanova, Ishan Mehandru, Prof. Laura Brueck, Jesús Munoz, Soumya Shailendra

Ishan Mehandru had the opportunity this summer to attend the Institute for World Literature, supported by the Comparative Literary Studies program and the South Asia Research Forum. Apart from attending seminars where he met scholars working on issues

concerning borders, translation, and the anthropocene, he also presented his work at a colloquium on postcolonialism and world literature. He collected some enriching feedback from his peers on a paper on the "aunty-figure" in the short fiction of Urdu writer Ismat Chughtai.

Maria Romanova completed her role as a Research/Curatorial Fellow at the Block Cinema this summer, as part of the Chicago Humanities Initiative. Working alongside the Curator of Media Arts and the Associate Film Programmer, Maria independently curated a feature film event that will take place sometime during the winter/spring quarter 2023, as part of the Block Cinema's programming for the Climate Crisis and Media Arts group. In accordance with the environmental orientation of the screenings this academic year, she proposed a screening of a film by a European artist that portrays the impact of permafrost thaw on Siberian indigenous communities in the Sakha Republic in North Siberia. The placement also involved completing a summer course at Northwestern with Professor Kantara Souffrant, where they considered strategies to decenter dominant ways of knowing through museum workers and scholars.

Soumya Shailendra completed advanced language training in Marathi through the American Institute of Indian Studies (AIIS), Pune. She received support from the TGS language grant, ALC summer study grant, and the South Asia Research Forum (SARF).



Wen-pin Hsieh, Assistant Professor of Instruction of Chinese Language, was invited to the 29th Int'l Conference on Chinese Language Instruction at Princeton University to present, with Licheng Gu, "International Classroom

Partnering for Cross-cultural Learning for an Intermediate Chinese Course." They reported the design and outcomes of the language partner program with Taiwan's National Tsing-Hua University (NTHU), sponsored by the Buffett Institute and the Office of Vice President for International Affairs.

Wen-pin, along with Hong Jiang, participated in another language partner program for Chinese 121-3 in partnership with National Taiwan University in spring, which was awarded the International Classroom Partnership Grant from the Buffett Institute.

Appointed by the Vice President for International Relations, he participated in the "Discover Taiwan 2022" program. He serves as the faculty lead and will be bring a group of Northwestern students and faculty/staff members to Taiwan this summer for a variety of cultural exchange events.



Jingjing Ji, Associate Professor of Instruction of Chinese Language, has focused on enhancing diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) in Chinese language teaching this year. She presented at

the annual conference of the Chinese Language Teachers Association (CLTA), USA, to share strategies and showcase examples. In addition, she co-authored an article in this area with Ya-Ching Hsu and Yanting Li, titled *DEI in Chinese heritage language education—Using the AAPI unit as an example*. This article was published in the peer-reviewed journal *Studies in Chinese Learning and Teaching* (2022). Additionally, the relevant project she designed in her heritage language course was awarded the first prize for Innovative Excellence in the Teaching of Chinese as a Foreign Language by the CLTA in 2021-2022.

New Grad Student in 2022-2023



"My name is **Laiba Niaz Paracha** (she/her), and I graduated from LUMS University, Lahore, in 2021, with a BA in English and a minor in Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies. I hope to further research the work of an understudied constellation of women writers across the Indo-Persian, South-East, and Eastern regions of continental Asia. My research interests include the Urdu and Persian ghazal, and how this form of poetic expression

retains the potential for a cosmopolitan imaginary landscape. In considering side-by-side the work of poets who engage in the active task of feminine and transnational world-building, I hope to contextualize the historical and literary contributions of women writers who evade easy categorization, and highlight the ways in which their work necessitates the consistent reevaluation of feminist thought and practice."

Midwest Speech Contests

Seven students from four different levels of Chinese in the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures participated in the 21st Midwest Chinese Speech Contest online on May 14, 2022. **Skylar O'Brien** received a gold medal, **Nancy Zhen** and **Gina Yoo** received silver medals, and four other students received bronze medals in the contests. More than 45 students from the Universities of Chicago, Michigan, Minnesota, and Iowa along with Notre Dame University, Loyola University, and North Central University participated.

The 3rd Midwest Korean Speech Contest was held on April 16th, 2022. Altogether 49 finalists (Beginning level: 18, Intermediate level: 16, and advanced level: 15) from 21 colleges and universities in the Midwest region participated in the virtual contest. We are proud of our students for their effort and outstanding performance in each level: **Kiana Staples**, **Laila Simone Robinson**, and **Jordan Hickey**. Jordan Hickey in the beginning level won the "Excellent" Award.

Faculty Focus: **Daniel Majchrowicz** Assistant Professor of South Asian Literature and Culture



Tell us a little about your path to becoming a professor.

Mostly, I fell into it. I was always interested in language and literature, but I certainly did not plan or expect that I would end up becoming a professor of South Asian Literature and Culture. As an undergraduate at the University of Texas-Austin, I studied political science (which felt practical), and Spanish literature (which I loved). When it was time to study abroad, I thought I should take up a new challenge, so I opted to go to Beijing and learn Chinese. Yet, almost immediately after committing myself to this plan, the Beijing program was canceled due to an outbreak of a coronavirus (I'd specify which, but I don't want to date myself). I would have to study abroad somewhere else. The study abroad office gave me a list of locations with slots still open, and, based purely on my budding interest in Bollywood movies, I selected Hyderabad, India. Over the following year, I studied Urdu and Hindi and traveled all over India and Pakistan on trains and busses. At the end of the year, I returned back to Austin excited to continue learning more about Urdu literature and South Asian culture. A

wonderful set of faculty encouraged me to push my studies further, and further, and further, until I eventually ended up a professor here at Northwestern dedicated to the study of South Asian literature and culture. I never did learn Chinese, but since ALC has some of the best Chinese instructors in the nation, maybe now's my chance!

What is your favorite course to teach, and why?

Just one? That's hard, but if you twisted my arm, I'd probably say that my favorite course is **Kings, Courtesans, and Khan Artists: Picturizing Islam and Muslims in Bombay Cinema**. This class considers the complex relationship between Bollywood, Islam, Muslim cultures, and Indian nationalism. Numbering over 200 million, Muslims are a sizeable minority in India, but Indian institutions often struggle to fully incorporate them meaningfully within the fold of Indian identity. Bollywood is one such institution. The film industry has been unofficially tasked with representing national unity and belonging, and with negotiating important issues in Indian society. The industry has also been historically influenced by Islamic culture, and a significant proportion of its actors, producers, and song writers are Muslim. These complexities make Bollywood an insightful and fascinating place to think about religion, culture, and politics in South Asia—all set to a compelling soundtrack. Because this is a lower-level class, it serves as both an introduction to Bollywood and a space for lifelong Bollywood fans to think about their favorite films in a new way. But more than that, the class also offers the opportunity to think comparatively about the ways that Hollywood constructs racial and religious difference in America.

What are the big questions that animate your research?

My biggest research questions are interdisciplinary. I am fascinated by the space where literature and social history come together. Until now, I have explored that nexus within the context of travel and travel writing: as people move around the world, how have they represented what they saw and felt abroad in literature. My research for the last decade has asked this question within the context of Urdu travel writing between the mid-nineteenth and late twentieth centuries. I want to understand not just the internal logic of the travel text, but how that text circulated in South Asian society, among its readers. For this reason, my research is also motivated by

Majchrowicz continued..

the physical spaces in which I find the materials I study: are they in magazines or books? Are they available in libraries, in national archives, or in secondhand bookshops? For the last few years, my focus on travel accounts by Muslim women have pushed me to explore more alternative formats, including speeches, semi-private diaries, and letters. I am fascinated by how social positionality shapes not just the production of this literature, but also how its ability to influence impressions about the world is enabled or limited by these types of materialities.

What projects are you working on now, or want to work on in the future?

Just now I'm at the tail end of a few major projects, and starting to lay the groundwork for the next. My most recent publication—it just came out this summer—is called *Three Centuries of Travel Writing by Muslim Women*, which I co-edited with two colleagues in Boston and the UK. This book collects together and studies the history of travel writing by Muslim women. Most of the travel accounts included in the book are only now being translated into English for the first time, and many of them are already forgotten in their original literary contexts. The book includes forty-five chapters, of which I wrote and translated about fifteen. Meanwhile, my primary monograph is called *The World in Words: Travel Writing and the Global Imagination in Muslim South Asia*. This book, which focuses on the Urdu literary tradition, is the first ever full-length study of travel writing in a single Indian vernacular language. It argues that Urdu's travel writers were socially diverse and ecumenical, and that they used the genre not just to describe the world, but to aspire in it, to describe how they wished for it to be, and what place they saw for themselves and their communities within it. As the publication process for this project wraps up, I am already looking forward to breaking ground on my next book, which will be a social history of the global spread of Hindi and Urdu. The book is tentatively titled *Hindavi: A Global History of a Regional Language*. In my last project, I was constantly struck by how many Hindu and Urdu travelers remarked on their ability to use these languages, even when speaking with non-Indians as they moved around the world. While the story of English's global spread is well-known, the history of how Hindi became a second lingua franca in places as diverse as Tanzania, Dubai, and Burma is virtually untold. This project will ask how questions of race, class, and labor shape what languages are marked as regional, and what happens when we view them in a global context.

How do you see the role ALC has to play at Northwestern?

One of the things I love best about teaching in ALC is that nearly everyone who comes to our classes is incredibly enthusiastic about the subjects we teach and the comparative possibilities that our classes evoke. That is, in part, because ALC has the task of offering students a critical space to think about a huge swath of the world—indeed, where most of the globe's population resides. But much of the appeal, I think, comes from our methods and humanities-based approaches to thinking critically and comparatively about these regions. ALC is unique in its commitment to the study of language, and to a sensitive, cultural approach to Asian art and history and in studying the arts in their original language as much as possible. This not only makes our classes appealing and refreshing, but also sets a model within the university for how to teach and learn about other parts of the world. In a STEM-dominant era, our commitment to languages, translation, and literature emphasizes that these methods matter.

Course Enhancement Grants

Weinberg College Course Enhancement Grants are intended to assist faculty in enriching the content of their undergraduate courses. This year ALC faculty used these grants to host several guest speakers via Zoom.

Professor **Jeong Eun Annabel We** invited Dr. **Jinah Kim**, Associate Professor of Communication Studies at California State University, Northridge to her class, *The End of a World: South Korean Fictions, Films, and Webtoons of Disaster*. She also invited **Ji Min Hwang**, Feminist, queer, and disability community activist-independent scholar based in South Korea and the U.S., to visit her class, *Feminist, Queer, Crip: South Korea and its Discontents*. Students in both classes read the scholars' work before meeting and engaging with them in discussion.

Professor **Daniel Majchrowicz**'s class, *Beyond the Canon: A Radical Introduction to Classical Urdu Literature*, introduced students to the conventional world of classical Urdu poetry and also explored how those who lived at the margins of that cultural world worked against those conventions to craft their own space into the socio-literary life of early colonial and pre-colonial India. While there is comparatively ample literature on the "high" tradition—poetry by elite men—there is still very little scholarship available on poetry at the margins. There are, however, increasing numbers of scholars who are working to bring this work to the fore. The lack of published scholarship on these topics makes their visits all the more unique. Prof. Majchrowicz held two virtual workshops with leading professors to explore how Urdu poetry circulated beyond the elite salons. These workshops were also funded by South Asian Research Forum.



Razak Khan, Research Fellow at Georg-August-Universität, Göttingen, offered the workshop, **Space, Speech and Subjectivity in Jan Sahib's Jashn-E-Benazir**, on Rekhti poetry (carnavalesque poetry written by men or by transvestites in a female voice). Khan introduced their research on Rekhti poetry, and then took students through a reading of original sources in Urdu, including from manuscript copies.



Nathan Tabor, Assistant Professor of History Western Michigan University, offered a workshop called **Bad Language and Excellent Poetry in the History of the Mushā'irah** which explored the tradition of poetic duels in 18th century Delhi. It featured original readings from Urdu.



Dahye Kim,
Assistant
Professor of
South Asian
Literature
conducted a
research trip to
Korea where she

collected over sixty computer or game magazines and periodicals published during the 1980s and 1990s. In February, Dahye gave a talk titled "[The Hangul Machines and the Curious Disappearance of Chinese Characters](#)" at the Workshop in the History of Material Texts hosted by the University of Pennsylvania. She also has an upcoming article in the Fall 2022 edition of the *Journal of Korean Studies* titled "Who Is Afraid of Techno-fiction? The Emergence of Online Science Fiction in the Age of Informatization." In this article, she examines the critical debates surrounding the idea of postmodernity and the increasing presence of technology in the realm of literature and art during the onset of digital network culture.



Daniel Majchrowicz,
Assistant
Professor of
South Asian
Literature
published *Three Centuries of Travel Writing by*

Muslim Women and "Begum Hasrat Mohani's Journey to Iraq," including a full translation of her original 1930s travel account from Urdu.

Course Enhancement Grants cont..

Prof. **Ya-Ching Hsu** and **Licheng Gu**, instructors of Chinese 125, a second-year course largely for students with a Chinese-speaking background, restructured their course to focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion. In order to encourage students to be more mindful regarding DEI, they renovated the curriculum to provide students a safe space to discuss their identity, given that most of them are from a bicultural and bilingual background. They introduced movies as an appropriate medium to discuss these topics into their curriculum. In addition to movie screenings and discussions, they brought guest speaker **Zhuoyi Wang**, Associate Professor of East Asian Languages and Literatures at Hamilton College, who specializes in Chinese cinema and gave an educational talk regarding the movies with the purpose of encouraging students to learn from other professional opinions, helping students better discuss identity and family values with different perspective, and developing their own critical thinking skills.

Prof. **Yanting Li's** Chinese 115-2 class studied Chinese New Year Calligraphy Writing. Chinese New Year is the most important festival in Chinese culture. As a tradition, people will write Spring couplets to decorate their houses. Prof. Li introduced this activity to provide students an opportunity to experience this tradition, practice calligraphy and celebrate the festival as a class. She invited Mr. **Ben Lau**, Executive Director at Chinese American Museum of Chicago who gave a talk on 2022 Chinese New Year – Year of the Tiger.



Professor Yanting Li (left) and students of Chinese 115-2



Patrick Noonan, Assistant Professor of Japanese Literature and Culture published an article titled, "[An Avant-Garde of the Mind: Ōe Masanori and Psychedelic Cinema in the Global Sixties](#)" in the *The*

Sixties: A Journal of History, Politics and Culture. He received a Northeast Asia Council (NEAC) Japan studies grant to conduct research during the summer of 2022 in Japan on cinematic responses to economic crisis in the post-bubble era.



Jili Sun, Associate Professor of Instruction in Chinese Language, worked on the use of authentic material in language pedagogy. She presented her

research at the annual conference of the Chinese Language Teachers Association (CLTA). She also gave multiple public lectures in CLTA on topics of teaching material adaptation for heritage learners, supporting local language school and bilingual communities. She also co-hosted NU students' summer Chinese film club in 2022.

New Faculty Faces in 2022-2023



Eun Hee Kim, Assistant Professor of Instruction received her PhD in Linguistics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where she also earned a certificate of Second Language Acquisition and Teacher Education (SLATE).

Prior to joining Northwestern, she taught different tracks and levels of Korean language courses at different institutions including University of Illinois, Rice University, and Michigan State University. She was recognized as an excellent teacher by her students almost every semester she taught. Her students really enjoyed and appreciated her passion toward teaching.

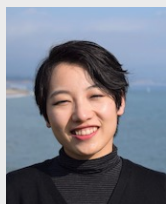
As a language instructor and a researcher, she is interested in the types of linguistic structures that the second/foreign language learners can have difficulty with in learning the target language and the tools to promote their learning.

Eun Hee is also very passionate about research. Her research focuses on possible sources of second language learners' linguistic misunderstanding and the ways to overcome such difficulties. Her works not only contribute to the field of second language acquisition/processing but also have the potential to inform educators, language teaching professionals and developers of language teaching software about the second language learners' target language use. Her research work has been published as conference proceedings and in peer-reviewed journals such as *Japanese/Korean Linguistics Conference*, *Linguistics*, and *Second Language Research*.

Yan Zhou, Assistant Professor of Instruction, received her Ph.D. in Chinese Linguistics from the University of California, Los Angeles. Before joining Northwestern, Yan taught Chinese language courses at Beijing Normal University, Bucknell University, UCLA, and the Princeton in Beijing summer immersion program. At UCLA, she also taught Chinese Language and Culture, Chinese Linguistics, and Asian Language Pedagogy. She was awarded the 2018 Mellon-EPIC Fellowship in Teaching Excellence and has served as the Co-Principal Investigator of a funded project to study inclusive teaching in Chinese language classrooms.



Yan applies research methods informed by conversation analysis, interactional linguistics, and corpus linguistics to analyze linguistic and conversational practices in various types of social interactions such as everyday conversations, classroom interactions, and media discourses. Her current research projects investigate the timing and multimodal design of speech acts in Chinese, which will have direct implications for the teaching and learning of the Chinese language and culture. She is also involved in the international collaborative project Analysis of Multilingual Pandemic Narratives. Her research articles have appeared in peer-reviewed journals such as *Chinese Language and Discourse*, *International Journal of Chinese Language Education*, and *Text and Talk*.



Jeong Eun Annabel We, Assistant Professor of Korean Literature and Culture, gave an invited talk in Fall '21 on Korean-Latinx theories of knowing at the Asia,

Africa, Latin America Literature Forum and the Institute for Global World Literature. In Winter, she completed a book chapter on decolonial thought and speculative fiction, and her translation of the book chapter "The Decolonial Turn" by Nelson Maldonado-Torres was published in the Korean anthology *Orbis Tertius: Listening to Latin American Thinkers* (Greenbee Press, 2021). In Spring, she taught two new courses on disaster narratives and gender, sexuality, and disability in South Korea and presented her work in progress at AAS and ACLA annual meetings.



Noriko Taira Yasohama, Professor of Instruction of Japanese was invited, by the Japan Foundation in Los Angeles (JFLA) and the American

Association of Teachers of Japanese (AATJ), to their Advanced Leadership Training 2021-2022. Participants from various states worked on a project to strengthen their regional Japanese association. During the training, Noriko served as the interim president of the Illinois Association of Teachers of Japanese (IATJ). Working with the officers, she re-organized the IATJ's administrative structure and strengthened communication among members. As a part of the project, Noriko held a virtual Japanese language table with students of Japanese language at Northside College Preparatory High School in Chicago. 50 high school students interacted with our Japanese language students. Noriko is planning to continue collaborating with regional schools and colleges and expand the community of Japanese learners.

4th Annual Phyllis Lyons Lecture in Japanese Studies



L-R Patrick Noonan, Phyllis Lyons, Sarah Frederick, Thomas Gaubatz

Guest speaker **Sarah Frederick** Associate Professor of Japanese and Comparative Literature, Boston University

Yoshiya Nobuko (1895-1973) stands as one of the most popular writers of 20th century Japan, known for her girls' fiction, historical novels, and romantic relationships with other women. Around 1924, her career had really taken off. Already successfully publishing stories of same-sex friendships for girls' magazines, she also won a newspaper serialization prize from the esteemed Osaka Asahi Newspaper (publisher of Natsume Soseki, among others), launching her long career as a novelist for all ages. She had also just met Monma Chiyo, with whom she would live for her whole life. In the midst of her blossoming popularity and personal happiness she launched a low-budget "personal pamphlet" called Black Rose to publish fiction and essays. Using this space, she made an argument the girl or "shōjo" as a valuable intellectual and moral figure and argued against compulsory heterosexuality and reproduction. The talk introduced this fascinating figure in world literature and some of her arguments for a queer feminine identity in 1920s Japan.

Celebration!

The Japanese Language Program (JLP) of ALC inducted four graduating seniors to the Japanese National Honor Society (JNHS) Northwestern University Chapter. They are the inaugural group of JNHS at Northwestern. These seniors excelled in the upper-level Japanese language courses and met the criteria set by the American Association of Teachers of Japanese. A certificate and a red-and-white cord for graduation were presented to the inductees at the JLP's annual end-of-year picnic on May 27th. Congratulations to **Cindy Chen, Jae Yong Choi, Yujia Huang, Fionna Te**.

Supporting Student Learning and Promoting Languages

How to Support Students with Dyslexia/Reading Disorder to Learn a Second Language with guest speaker **Natsuki Tanabe-Piazza**, Ed.D., NCSP organized by **Noriko Taira Yasohama** gave language instructors an opportunity to participate in a workshop that aimed at promoting the support for adolescent and adult students with dyslexia or other reading disorders who are learning a new language by assisting language instructors 1) to increase understanding of the general pre-college experience and language learning-related characteristics that students with dyslexia /reading disorders have; 2) to increase knowledge of intervention strategies and accommodations commonly used with the students, which may be applicable to the second language acquisition; and 3) to identify and apply strategies and accommodations in their classes.

Learning Chinese Matters: Hear What Alumni Say organized by **Chin-Hung Chang**

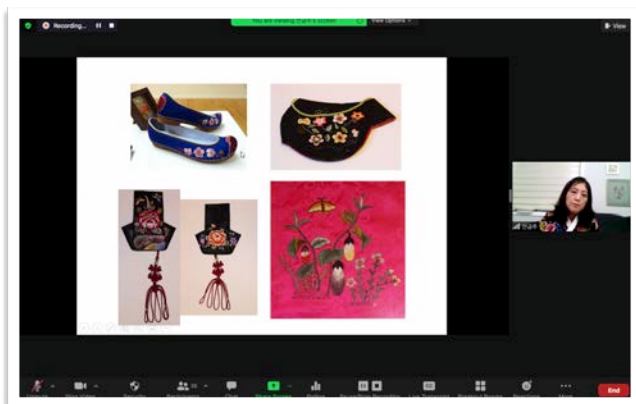


Guest speaker: **Zach Silva** (SOC '14, MSLCE '15)

Zach Silva is currently a concert booking agent at Paladin Artists in New York City. He works directly with artists from Taiwan and China including Elephant Gyn, Carsick Cars, and other from elsewhere in East Asia. This spring, he is continuing his mandarin Chinese studies at National Taiwan Normal University as a way to better understand the music culture and better connect with his artists and industry connections using the Chinese Language.

Guest speaker: **Kayleigh Madjar** (WCAS '14)

Kayleigh Madjar currently serves as Convener of the Taipei Times, where she has worked since 2017 editing, translating, and writing new articles for publication. After graduation from NU, she received the Taiwan Scholarship to study an MA in Documentary Filmmaking at the National Taiwan University of Arts.



Ihnhee Kim hosted Korean textile artist, Ms. **Kumjoo Ahn**, who gave a lecture on Korean women's handicrafts and their cultural roots while introducing her own art pieces that are displayed at several museums.

NU Festival of Languages

Our faculty participated in this festival that celebrated the importance of languages and to complement the university-wide Language Fair. Activities were held in the afternoons and evenings throughout the week of May 16-20, 2022 and included cultural events such as films, readings, discussions, and plays. On the closing night, Friday, May 20, there was a VARIETY SHOW featuring student performances that represent Northwestern University's language departments.



Prof. David Boyk - Hindi Urdu Language Program



Prof. Eunmi Lee - Korean Language Program



DEEVA NU Bollywood Dance Fusion Group



Prof. Wen-pin Hsieh and Yanting Li - Chinese Language Program

Student Awards



Emma Novak, a Civil Engineering major and ALC minor, was awarded the Outstanding Achievement

Award in Chinese Language and Culture.



Cindy Chen, a Computer Science major and an ALC minor, was awarded the Outstanding Achievement

Award in Japanese Language and Culture.

Sydney Smith, a double major in Computer Science and ALC was awarded the Outstanding Achievement Award in Korean Language and Culture.



Kiana Staples, a double major in Gender Studies and Sexuality and ALC, was awarded the

Outstanding Achievement Award in Korean Language and Culture.

Karina Patel, double major in History and Theatre was awarded The Jock McLane prize for Best Paper.

Shawn Liu, double major in History and Cognitive Science won the Francis L.K. Hsu-John Henry Wigmore Senior Thesis Award.

A big thank you to our student workers **Tomo Kanda, Angela Ma, Jinghan Stephanie Xu, Yoojeong Sally So, and Narmeen Noorullah** and SAB rep **Yashwardhan Bairathi**.

Senior Theses

Weinberg awarded Departmental Honors to one graduating senior in 2022. In their senior year, students with a sufficiently high GPA and the support of a faculty member can opt to write a senior thesis in pursuit of departmental honors. Senior honors theses represent the culmination of an outstanding amount of work in language and cultural studies, as well as a rigorous year-long process of researching, writing and revising while working one-on-one with a faculty advisor.

Kiana Staples' thesis "Unashamed: Exploring South Korean Female Tattoo Artists' Negotiations of Identity" was directed by Professor **Jeong Eun Annabel We**. In her evaluation as second reader, Professor **Dahye Kim** writes "Kiana's thesis examines how young female tattoo artists navigate the cultural and social significations of the tattooed female body and the currently "illegal" practice of tattooing through an analysis of oral history. As Kiana notes, it is rare for both North American and Korean scholars to offer a study of contemporary tattoo culture in South Korea from a feminist perspective. I believe her approach can inspire future research. One of the major strengths of her thesis is her careful unpacking and analysis of "the narratives of individual South Korean women" while self-reflectively recognizing and positioning her own culturally bound perspective as a researcher. Kiana keenly establishes the pitfalls of anthropological cultural analysis, while her close reliance on methodological discussion is astute and excellent.

Special Thanks to a growing list of generous donors Aug 2021-July 2022:

Anonymous '19, '20 MS, Kelsey Joanne Allen-Niesen '19, Allison Fleming Bryski '18, Jong L. Chan '87 MBA, James C. Chen '08, Kathy Yan Duan '11, '18 MBA, Grace Hongjing Fan '14 MBA, Yan Fang '19, Clare Croghan Fisher '17, Anonymous '10, Jade Fu '10, '12 MS, Qiumeng Fu '15 MSLCE, Anonymous '20 MS, Fabian Eugene Gomez '19, Chaoyian Jose Gonzalez '19, Elizabeth A. Gordon '02 and Alex Greenberg, Anonymous '20, Philip Scott Hahn '19, Steve K. Han '94, Wilmer Ho '11 and Nicole Marie Ablondi '11, Ye-Eun G. Hong '19, Anonymous '19, Annie F. Kao '99, Charles Edward Kieser '18, Claire Kwon '22, Kevin Lai '22, Willy C. Lai '00, Herrick Lam '22, Stephanie K. Leung '02, Guobiao Li '17, Tianqi Li '22, Kristine A. Lizdas '93, Runjie Ma '21, Hee Moon '22, Nalin Rajaram Natrajan '14, '14 MS, Jasper Ng '21, Narmeen Noorullah '22, Francis R. Padilla '99 MS, Joshua Peng '14 MS, '16 MS, Anonymous ('25 P) and Anonymous ('25 P), Sydney Rae Smith '22, Kiana Alura Staples '22, Anonymous '19 MS, Ling Su '13 MS, Henrikas Tankus '17, Vishal Vaid '01, Mengdi Wang '15 MS and Da Li '16 MS, Samson Xusong Wang '19, '20 MS, Devon Rebecca Weiss '10, Carlton J. Willey '04 and Christina Palmer, Marina Michele Williams '14, Erica Nana Yoshimura '17, Peter Y. Yu '11, Kristina Song Zhang '17.