

Northwestern | Asian Languages and Cultures

Faculty News



Laura Brueck, Professor of South Asian and Comparative Literature was named as Director of the

Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities for a three-year term beginning September 1, 2024.



Wen-pin Hsieh, Assistant Professor of Instruction of Chinese Language, was elected as the co-chair of the

CLI Meetings & Orientations Sub-Committee. He helps organize professional development events for all language educators on campus and leads discussions among committee members on decision-making about the theme and agenda of workshops, event promotion, and recruiting and communicating with potential presenters. This year, he contributed to CLI's year-end celebration & award ceremony, fall orientation, end-of-fall workshop, and winter workshop.

Wen-pin was also invited to the 2023 CLI Fall Workshop to present "Language, Culture, and

Continued next page

A Message From the Chair

2023-2024 was another busy and exciting academic year for the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures. One happy bit of news was that Daniel Majchrowicz was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure, thus helping to build the senior ranks of our faculty. Professors Licheng Gu and Noriko Taira Yasohama devoted a lot of time and energy to bring part of the Asian Pop-Up Film Festival to Northwestern. It was standing room only in the Block Cinema as members of the university and Chicagoland communities enjoyed four superlative films from China, Japan, South Korea, and India. There were a lot of continuities in ALC as well. Our devoted language professors continued to host language tables to help our students become more proficient in their language acquisition, and all faculty members hosted an array of speakers and performers. Our departmental activities are made possible by the contributions of our financial supporters, and we are very grateful to them.

Melissa Macauley, Chair

Congratulations Class of 2024!



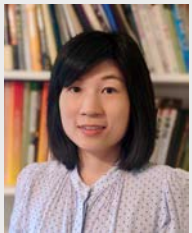
Valentina Doukeris, Hajra Malik, Jason Liu. Senior Seminar class taught by Professor Zamperini,

We are so excited to congratulate all of our students who graduated in 2024! We can't wait to see where your next adventure takes you.

Hsieh continued...

Engineering: Leading a Global Engineering Trek (and What Can the Experience Tell Us)" where he shared the experience of designing and leading a short-term study abroad program that allowed language students to serve as cultural facilitators for engineering students on this kind of trip. He also discussed collaborating with other colleges on developing similar programs.

Appointed by the Vice President for Int'l Relations, **Wen-pin** participated in the "Discover Taiwan/Global Engineering Trek Taiwan 2024" program. He led a group of Northwestern students and faculty/staff to Taiwan that aimed to celebrate NU's new strategic partnership with National Taiwan University and facilitate understanding of the country's history, culture, as well as its technological, economic, and geopolitical role.



Jingjing Ji, Associate Professor of Instruction of Chinese Language, was invited by institutions such

as San Francisco State University, Duke University and MIT. Jingjing delivered talks about heritage language instruction and the development of teaching materials. Recently, she co-authored and published a peer-reviewed article in the *Journal of Technology and Chinese Language Teaching* (Volume 15, pp.82-102). This article explores the use of asynchronous online discussion in an online heritage language course.

Graduate Student News



Ishan Mehandru recently published a review with the journal [South Asian Review](#). It's a review of a new translation of Premchand's play *Karbala*, by Nishat Zaidi. Ishan and fellow grad student Soumya Shailendra organized two Translators' Adda sessions of course, with ALC's help. One was on "Translating Borderlands" featuring Assamese author Aruni Kashyap in conversation with Sneha Khaund, and the second was on "Translating Performance" featuring Sri Vamsi Matta.



On top of passing their qualifying exam in the summer, **Maria Romanova** assisted Prof. Corey Byrnes (CLS/ALC) and Harris Feinsod (English) in organizing the Kaplan Institute Environmental Humanities Workshop on April 5 titled "Reclamation," where they presented some of their own work on the Pleistocene Park in Siberia. Earlier in the year, Maria presided over a panel at the Modern Language Association (MLA)

conference in Philadelphia and participated in the Global Asia 2nd Annual Interdisciplinary Conference at UC Irvine. Currently, they serve on the editorial board of *Lime*, a forthcoming graduate-run online environmental journal they co-founded alongside a team of other graduate students from the Environment, Culture, and Society Cluster (ECS). To gather material for the first issue, Maria helped organize an environmental humanities symposium called [\(At\)tension](#) during the Spring quarter, bringing together academics and art practitioners from the greater Midwest area and beyond. In the upcoming academic year, they are excited to continue working towards their program milestones and working at the NU Press as a Graduate



Soumya Shailendra continued to convene and co-direct, Translators Adda, with workshops specializing in translating indigenous literatures from Assam and contemporary performance cultures from South Asia. She also presented papers at the Modern Languages Association conference in Philadelphia and the Association for Asian Studies in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. She was generously supported by the Buffett

Institute for Global Affairs and the cluster for Comparative Race and Diaspora studies.

Faculty Focus: **Dahye Kim**, Assistant Professor of Korean Literature



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

I received my BA and MA in Korean literature from Yonsei University in South Korea and also completed my first PhD coursework there. To further pursue my interest in bridging literary studies and media studies, I decided to come to McGill University in Montreal. With its vibrant academic community focused on media culture and cultural techniques in East Asia, McGill was an ideal place for this pursuit. After earning my PhD in Korean studies at McGill, I completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Center for Korean Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. I joined Northwestern in 2021 as an assistant professor in the Asian Languages and Cultures department.

What is your favorite course to teach, and why?

My favorite course to teach is Introduction to Korean Culture. What roles do literature, film, and art play in constructing, negotiating, or even challenging national subjectivity and consciousness? How have Korean writers and artists navigated the complex processes of identity construction amid the tumultuous history of colonialism, national division, diasporic displacement, and authoritarian rule? Due to the broad and comprehensive nature of the course, it typically attracts a diverse group of students. Some students join to learn more about their heritage, while others have little prior knowledge of Korean history and culture. It is fascinating to see how such diverse backgrounds lead to fruitful and engaging discussions about nationalism, identity, and culture in modern and contemporary society.

What are the big questions that animate your research?

One of the central questions driving my research is the role of media technology in culture. The concept of “two cultures,” popularized by C. P. Snow, highlights the division between science and the humanities, which I believe limits our understanding of the world. As a scholar of Korean literature and media studies, my research examines the modern history of Korean literature by critically analyzing the principle of autonomy and considering the various forces that shape the institution and conception of literature and art, such as media technology. For instance, how have everyday technologies like personal computers changed Korean literature and literature around the world? What role have scientists and technocrats played in the evolution of writing culture in Korea?

Beyond technology, I am also interested in exploring how historical social institutions, such as copyright law and the Romanticist idea of authorship, impact our understanding of literature, art, and creativity. Additionally, I consider how economic shifts, like the transition to an information society, have altered the role and significance of culture across societies, including Korean society. Ultimately, I am interested in examining forces not typically associated with the realm of art to understand art. Korea is known for not just its remarkable art and culture but also its high-tech media industry, and I am very interested in understanding the relationship between these seemingly different realms.

Faculty Focus continued..



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

I am currently working on a book about the history of the digital revolution in South Korea, focusing on how it transformed the Korean writing system and literature, as well as the new conceptualization of art and technology throughout the 1980s and 1990s. In East Asia, informatization was closely intertwined with challenges related to national writing systems and writing technology. For example, writing Hangeul and Chinese characters proved challenging in the early computer environment, leading to debates and discussions about the future of the Korean writing system and everyday writing practice. This digital revolution had a significant cultural dimension, prompting a growing awareness that cultural matters, such as writing and literary and artistic

production, are inseparable from technological dimensions, raising new questions about the social meaning of art and technology. My book focuses on this recent history, which is also crucial for comprehending today's techno-cultural landscape and discussions.

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

The Asian Languages and Cultures (ALC) department is unique in its focus on both East Asia and South Asia. Our research and classes offer valuable insights into civilizations that have taken unique paths to modernity. For example, countries like Korea, Japan, and China have developed their own industrial models, globally popular cultural industries, unique media platforms, and media cultural practices. Students and faculty interested in the multiplicity of modernity, culture, and aesthetics can gain great insight by engaging with ALC's classes and events. For instance, isn't it fascinating to explore the multiple histories of internet culture in Korea or India, or the distinct aesthetics of Japanese and Chinese animation compared to North America?

Dahye Kim won the Journal of Korean Studies Outstanding article for 2022.

Journal of Korean Studies' Outstanding Article Award for 2022

Dahye Kim's "Who is Afraid of Techno-Fiction? The Emergence of Online Science Fiction in the Age of Information" won the Journal of Korean Studies' Outstanding Article Award for 2022. In her article, Kim examines the emergence of Korean online science fiction against the backdrop of the process of informatization, the global circulation of postmodern discourse, and the blurring boundary between the cultural and technological realms in 1980s and 1990s South Korea.



Asian Pop-Up Cinema

Profs. Licheng Gu and **Noriko Taira Yasohama** worked with the Block Museum and Sophia Wong from Asian Pop-Up Cinema, to bring four Asian films to campus in April: "My Favorite Story" (Lee Won-Hoi, 2023, South Korea), "Drifting Flowers, Flowing Days" (Yutaka Tsunemachi, 2022, Japan) "Shankar's Fairies" (Irfana Majumdar, 2021, India), and "The Coffin Painter" (Da, Fei, 2021, China). Students, faculty and staff and residents of neighboring communities enjoyed the contemporary Asian films. Directors Tsunemachi and Majumdar appeared at their film showing event and enjoyed a Q&A with the audience. Prior to the event, the directors met with our students and discussed their films. Students in Japanese III and Korean III wrote a film review in Japanese/Korean, and demonstrated the depth of their linguistic skill and cultural knowledge. The event brought vibrant Asian culture to Northwestern campus and brought the community together. ALC thanks generous supporters: the Block Museum of Art, Buffett Institute for Global Affairs, Simeon Leland Forum Fund, the Council on Language Instructions, the Weinberg Language Resource Center, and Radio TV and Film of School of Communication. Without their support, this would not have been possible.

You can read more about this collaboration in the [Daily Northwestern](#) and [Block Museum](#) websites.



Noriko Taira Yasohama, Melissa Macauley, Sophia Wong, Licheng Gu



APUC film lecturer Ron Falzone and Shankar's Fairies director Irfan Majumdar



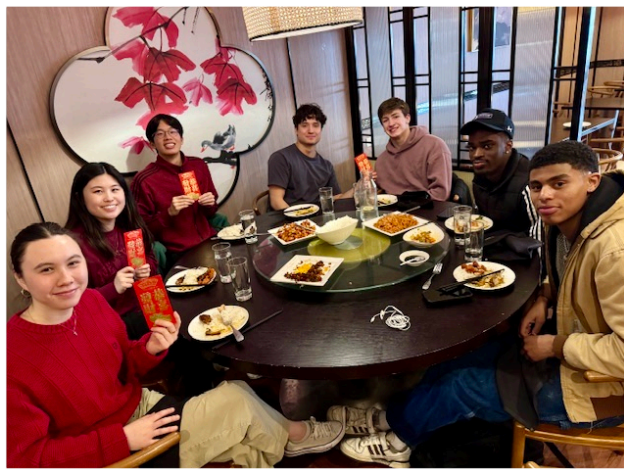
Drifting Flowers, Flowing Days director Yutaka Tsunemachi and Sophia Wong



Weinberg College Course Enhancement Grants

CEGs are intended to assist faculty in enriching the content of their undergraduate courses.

Profs. Jingjing Ji and Yan Zhou organized for their students of Chinese 115 a digital bilingual storybook writing competition. As a culmination of their year-long language learning journey, students paired up and collaborated to create Mandarin-English bilingual digital books that reflect the themes explored in the Chinese 115 curriculum, including topics such as Chinese parenting styles, family immigration story, experiences of living in a new culture, Chinese cuisine and Chinatown. Instructors and community members, including high school students, read and cast their vote for best books in six categories. Among the high-quality submissions, five groups of students won awards such as “The Most Creative Storyline”. The award ceremony took place on the last day of Spring quarter. All students received photo mugs of their hard work, and winners received custom T-shirts printed with the cover image of their books.



Prof. Chin-Hung Chang took her students from Chinese 121-2 on a field trip to Peppercorns Kitchen. They experienced authentic Chinese New Year dishes. It offered students a sensory journey into the rich culinary traditions and special dishes allowing students to appreciate the symbolic importance of whole fish, rice cakes, and dumplings in Chinese culture.

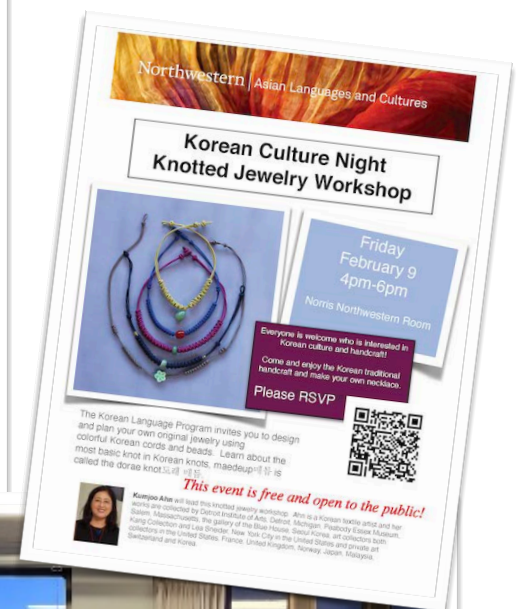


Prof. Paola Zamperini hosted I-Hsien Wu, Associate Professor at The City College of New York, for her ALC 200 course From Page to Screen. Wu’s lecture “Welcome to My Dream! *Honglou Meng* as Grand Opera, Marathon Play, and Durational Installation” examined the afterlives of the Chinese classic in some of the most experimental theatrical projects staged in the United States.

Course Enhancement continued...



When students of Chinese 111 were learning the chapter on hobbies and activities, **Prof. Yan Zhou** organized a Tai chi workshop with an experienced instructor and also hosted an event to make dumplings.



The Korean Language Program invited Kumjoo Ahn, a renowned fabric/textile artist whose works are exhibited in several museums worldwide. Around 60 students, both in and outside of Korean language courses, created their own jewelry using colorful Korean cords and beads after learning about the basic doraie knot (도래매듭) at the workshop.



Course Enhancement cont...

Ihnhee Kim, along with grad students **Emily Jackson** and **Laiba Niaz Paracha**, hosted Dr. Jaewon Nielbock-Yoon from Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany. This online culture talk titled "Mixing It Up!: The Art of Code-Switching in K-pop Music" was organized for students in Korean 111-3.



The Korean Language Program (KLP) hosted a Korean movie night in Fall 2023, featuring the hit Korean film *Extreme Job* (2019), directed by Lee, Byeong-heon. Students thoroughly enjoyed the lighthearted, Korean-style humor of the movie while snacking on delicious Korean treats. It was a fun and relaxing event that allowed students to unwind and relieve some of the stress from midterms with plenty of laughter.



The Japanese Language Program (JLP) of ALC inducted two graduating seniors to the Japanese National Honor Society (JNHS) Northwestern University Chapter. 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. Congratulations to **Vincent Cheng Wei** and **Alina Yilin Zhang**.

Japanese Language Program had another successful end-of-the-year "picnic"; fifty grown-ups and two small children attended the event. They celebrated the achievements of graduating students and recognized two Japanese National Honor Society inductees. Also, Prof. Gaubautz gave a heart-warming message to the students in Japanese. Everyone enjoyed delicious sushi and Japanese tea drinks.





Ihnhee Kim,
Associate Professor
of Instruction of
Korean Language,
Co-authored a
Korean textbook
*The Famous People
in Korean History:
Korean through
Historical Figures*

(2024) with Dr. Sang Yee Cheon and Dr. Min Jung Jee. By providing cultures in history, this book is designed to enhance proficiency toward an advanced level, aligned with ACTFL standards. Organized thematically around the historical figures, it integrates the 5Cs (Communication, Comparisons, Cultures, Connections, and Communities) and balances all four language skills.

She participated in the Mellon Curriculum Design Workshop at the University of Chicago and is currently co-developing a second-year Korean curriculum with her colleague, Dr. Jieun Kim at the University of Chicago.



Melissa Macauley,
Professor of History
and Chair of ALC.
Her book, *Distant
Shores* (Princeton,
2021) was translated
into Chinese and
published by the

China Times Publishing Company. Her article on the role the southeastern Chinese hydrosphere played in late imperial legal disputes appeared in the *Journal of Asian Studies*. She presented papers at the annual meetings of the American Historical Association and the Association for Asian Studies and lectured at UC Berkeley and the Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, the latter in their Distinguished Lectures in the Humanities Series. She also joined the Editorial Board overseeing the digitization of the British Foreign Office records on China from 1830 to 1930 held in the British Archives. She spent most of the academic year 2023-2024, however, learning how to be Chair of ALC and is grateful to Jean Deven and her ALC colleagues for helping her make this enjoyable transition.

Students Celebrate International Women's Day



To celebrate International Women's Day, the Council on Language Instruction Outreach Committee invited faculty to encourage their students to participate in a poster exhibit featuring remarkable women from across the globe. Language students from specific classes or levels, created posters either individually or in groups. Asian Languages and Cultures students created posters featuring: Higuchi Natsuko, Begum Rokeya, Gangubai Kothewali, Kajol Devgan, Malala Yousafzai, Laxmi Narayan Tripathi, and Kalpana Chawla.

The exhibit was on display from March 4 - March 31 in Main Library, 1 South and on inauguration day students were on site to talk about the women on their posters.



The 6th Annual Phyllis Lyons Lecture in Japanese Studies



Thomas Gaubatz, Phyllis Lyons, Miryam Sas, Patrick Noonan

Miryam Sas is Professor of Comparative Literature and Film & Media at the University of California, Berkeley.

Disjunct Collectivities

How can we understand photographers' disjunctive roles both within and beside the emergent political and aesthetic collectives of the late 1960s-1970s? Does gender even matter in the trouble that photographers provoked in the collective practices of their time? Sas' presentation took as a starting point the work of Sasaki Michiko (1934-), gripping her camera on the barricades of Nihon University, and of Nishimura Tomiko (1948-), formulating an oblique and alternative photographic view of landscape alongside fūkeiron (landscape theory). Hardly known in their era of active production, both of these photographers have undergone significant positive revaluation in current gallery and publication practice.

Midwest Speech Contests



Three of our Chinese language students participated online in the 23rd Midwest Chinese Speech Contest. **Austin Xu** received a gold medal, while **Alice Zhang**, **Samantha Yip**, **Alec Zhang**, and **Zhaohan Sun** received silver medals. 60 contestants from 9 universities competed in six different groups depending on their level of Chinese and heritage or non-heritage



The 5th Midwest Korean Speech Contest was a resounding success, with participation from over 100 people representing 19 universities. Three contestants from the Korean Language Program at Northwestern University—**Zak Massoud** (Beginning), **Varoon Enjeti** (Intermediate), and **Lauren Zelnak** (Advanced)—competed across three levels. Zak Massoud received an award.



Jili Sun, Associate Professor of Instruction in Chinese Language, presented a paper on upper-level Chinese curricular design and pedagogical practice for CLTA (Chinese

Language Teachers' Association) annual conference (April 4-7, 2024 St. Louis) a paper on transition from Campus life to professional life for third year Chinese curriculum in Chicago Language Symposium (April 27, 2024) and a paper on study of gender role in China through language education was accepted for presentation for 29th Annual Conference of International Association for intercultural Communication in Sep 18-20, 2024.

Jili and her colleague Yan Zhou obtained a OER grant to create an online supplementary reading material for Chinese students, they are at the end of the first draft and presented jointly the result of its first trial use at the symposium TeachX at Northwestern (May 16, 2024)

Jili organized a calligraphy workshop with the intervention of a professional calligrapher and multiple hands-on Chinese cuisine workshops for students.



Noriko Taira Yasohama, Professor of Instruction of Japanese co-presented (with Noriko Okubo, the organizer of Global Talk) at the 30th

Central Association of Teachers of Japanese Conference at DePaul University in April. The presentation was on incorporation of [Global Talk](#) program into her JAPANESE 313, the fourth-year news reading course. Each student paired with a college student in Japan and met via Zoom on a weekly basis. By alternating between Japanese and English, each pair exchanged views on various social issues in Japan and the U.S.

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Discover Taiwan

Appointed by the Vice President for Int'l Relations, **Prof. Wen-pin Hsieh** participated in the "Discover Taiwan/Global Engineering Trek Taiwan 2024" program. He led a group of Northwestern students and faculty/staff to Taiwan that aimed to celebrate NU's new strategic partnership with National Taiwan University and facilitate understanding of the country's history, culture, as well as its technological, economic, and geopolitical role.



Left: A tour on which Mandarin students visited a former military family village and learned about the history of the US-Taiwan collaboration on national defense.

Right: Students in a solar farm + orchard, learning about how Taiwanese farmers work with solar technology providers to reduce cost and carbon footprint.



Left: Mandarin students presenting Northwestern campus life in Chinese and having a cross-cultural exchange on this topic with the students at National Taiwan University.

Yasohama continued...

This new course component created a meaningful connection from the classroom to the real world, expanded students' perspectives and enriched overall learning experience. She is featured in "Voices" in the Global Talk website. The academic year 2023-2024 marked her 30th year at Northwestern. She will continue her contribution to language instruction as ALC faculty and the co-director of the Weinberg Language Resource Center.



Yan Zhou, Assistant Professor of Instruction of Chinese Language, was Awarded the Fletcher Prize for Excellence in Research Mentorship. This prize "honors URAP mentors

who went above and beyond the call of duty in their role as a faculty mentor through the Undergraduate Research Assistant Program, the foundational undergraduate research program on campus." In their nominations, Yan's mentees wrote that she is "a passionate linguistic researcher, but also a selfless mentor who centers her research assistants' learning, curiosity, and success."

Yan was an Educational Technology Fellow in the 2023 school year for implementing student self-assessment on Canvas. Yan worked closely with colleagues at Teaching & Learning Technologies to design applicable rubrics on Canvas that allow students to select their grades of participation and certain assignments. CTEC survey results show that this approach effectively improved students' participation and engagement. With this success, Yan gave a workshop entitled "Ungrading in a Foreign Language Class" at the TEACHx 2024 conference and received positive feedback from the audience.

In the Spring of 2024, Yan presented her research papers at the 2024 annual conference of the Chinese Language Teacher Association (CLTA) and the 2024 conference of the American Association of Applied Linguistics (AAAL). The presentations reported her research results of the project, Engaging students in Chinese second language classrooms with multimodal intermodal resource, which is supported by the Provost Grants for Research in Humanities, Social Sciences and the Arts at Northwestern.

Co-sponsorships

Co-sponsorship enables departments and programs to pool their resources to invite speakers, performers, and artists to Northwestern. Co-sponsorship enhances interdisciplinary programming and creates larger intellectual communities on campus. ALC proudly co-sponsors events with such departments as History and Asian American Studies and programs like Science and Human Culture and Comparative Literature.



Nowruz Celebrating New Year in Central Asia

ALC co-sponsored with Adam Willson, 3rd year graduate student in Slavic who co-organized with Adri Kacsor, visiting professor in Art History, a visit from the Kyrgyz Community Center. The event stoked so much excitement among our community. The theme was focused on Central Asian Culture and they erected a model yurt on Northwestern campus, provided traditional Central Asian food, and hosted a performance of traditional music. [Read more here.](#)



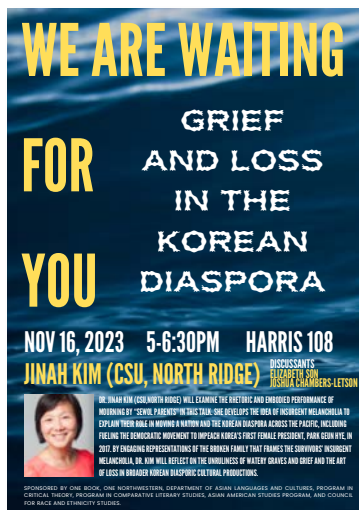
China Decolonized: Shifty Sovereignty and Cinema

ALC co-sponsored with the China and Sinophone Studies Society and the Hong Kong Student Association to screen a series of films by renowned director and critic Evans Chan that explored the shifting sovereignties of Hong Kong and Macau, it was followed by a talkback with Professor Paola Iovene (University of Chicago) and Rita Lin (PhD candidate in Screen Cultures).

Co-sponsorships continued...

Chinese Diaspora in Spain: Introducing Qingtianese Heritage

ALC co-sponsored with the Department of Spanish and Portuguese; the Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities; and the Buffett Institute for Global Affairs to bring artist, graphic novelist, and podcaster, Quan Zhou, to address stereotypes and discuss the diversity and identity within the Chinese diaspora.

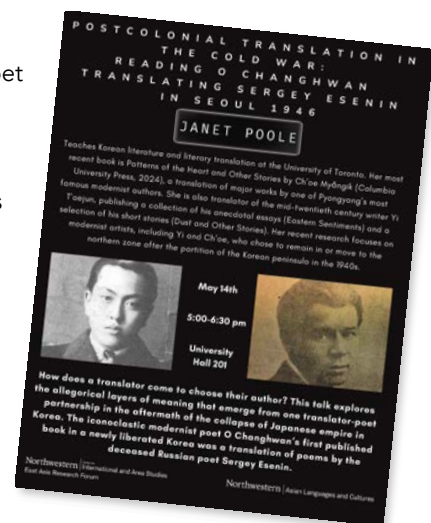


We Are Waiting For You: Grief and Loss in the Korean Diaspora

The event was hosted by Prof. Jeong Eun Annabel We and co-sponsored by ALC; One Book One Northwestern; the Program in Critical Theory; the Program in Comparative Literary Studies; the Asian American Studies Program; and the Council for Race and Ethnicity Studies to bring Dr. Jinah Kim (CSU, Northridge) to campus. Dr Kim's talk examined the rhetoric and embodied performance of mourning by "Sewol Parents." The talk developed the idea of insurgent melancholia to explain their role in moving a nation and the Korean diaspora across the Pacific, including fueling the democratic movement to impeach Korea's first female president, Park Geun Hye, in 2017. By engaging representations of the broken family that frames the survivors' insurgent melancholia, the talk reflects on the unruliness of watery graves. Dr. Kim also discussed grief and the art of loss in broader Korean diasporic cultural productions.

Postcolonial Translation in the Cold War: Reading O Changhwan Translating Sergey Esenin in Seoul 1946

Prof. Dahye Kim hosted Janet Poole, University of Toronto. Poole's talk explored the allegorical layers of meaning that emerge from one translator-poet partnership in the aftermath of the collapse of Japanese empire in Korea. The iconoclastic modernist poet O Changhwan's first published book in a newly liberated Korea was a translation of poems by the deceased Russian poet Sergey Esenin. O was translating at a moment when the Korean language was returning to public life after suppression under colonial rule and amid escalating violence and division on the partitioned peninsula. Reading O's translations and lengthy afterword opens a window onto the scene of Seoul in 1946, one year before O was to cross over the 38th parallel into the northern zone. Part of a larger project on writers who moved to northern Korea as the peninsula was divided, this talk explored the many meanings created in and through translation as it aims to rethink the creative legacies of the early Cold War. This event was co-sponsored with the East Asia Research Forum.



Co-sponsorships continued...



Korean Adoption and Its Global Legacies: 70 Years and Beyond

This two-day conference hosted by **Prof. Jeong Eun Annabel We** reflected on the origin and legacies of the world's largest transnational adoption program seventy years after its inception. Bringing together scholars, activists, adopted individuals, first families, journalists and filmmakers, it offered new perspectives that challenged and expanded our understanding of adoption's beginnings in the context of war and militarism, while exploring present-day consequences of South Korea's industrialized adoption practices on adopted Koreans and their first families.

The event was co-sponsored by ALC; One Book, One Northwestern; Council for Race and Ethnicity Studies; N. W. Harris Lecture Fund; Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences; Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities; Buffett Institute for Global Affairs; Gender & Sexuality Studies Program; Program in Critical Theory; Department of Anthropology; Department of Sociology; Department of Political Science; Program in Comparative Literary Studies; and Asian American Studies Program.

As part of the two-day conference, "Korean Adoption and Its Global Legacies: 70 Years and Beyond," there was a special presentation and conversation with filmmaker Jota Mun, director of the forthcoming documentary, **Between Goodbyes**, and film participant and producer Mieke Murkes. Murkes was reunited with her Korean parents years after she was adopted by a Dutch family. The film follows Murkes's journey and the long-term struggles of reunion.

The film was introduced by Emmy Award-winning filmmaker Deann Borshay Liem. The conversation with Jota Mun and Mieke Murkes was moderated by Viola Bao, Northwestern University.

To find out more about the film, [visit their website](http://www.betweengoodbyes.com).



Confessions of a Cockney Temple Dancer

ALC co-sponsored Wirtz Center Visiting Artist Shane Shambhu who conceived, created and performed *Confessions of a Cockney Temple Dancer* at the Wirtz Center for Performing and Media Arts on the Chicago campus.

In this one-person show, Shane Shambhu revealed the secret life he kept from his school friends while growing up in the cultural melting pot of East London while training in the Indian performing art of Bharatanatyam. Combining physical theatre, spoken word, Indian dance, film, and an original score, this coming-of-age story drew on creator Shane Shambhu's lived experience, capturing the multiple identities that the children of migrants develop growing up in the UK, showing one face at home and another to the outside world. This performance was followed with a Q&A with the audience moderated by Profs. Shawn Douglass and **Laura Brueck**.

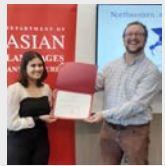


Prof. Shawn Douglass, Shane Shambhu, Prof. Laura Brueck

Student Awards



Anna Westfall was awarded the Outstanding Achievement Award in Chinese Language and Culture.



Hajra Malik was awarded the Outstanding Achievement Award in Hindi_Urdu Language and South Asian Culture.



Alina Jilin Zhang was awarded the Outstanding Achievement Award in Japanese Language and Culture.



Monet Menard was awarded the Outstanding Achievement Award in Korean Language and Culture.

Laila Robinson was awarded the Outstanding Achievement Award in Korean Language and Culture.

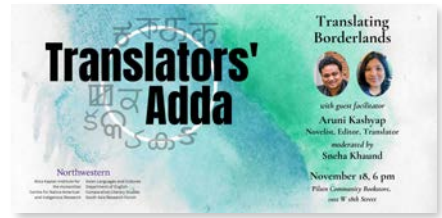
Ruixuan Diana Deng was awarded The Jock McLane prize for Best Paper.

Phoebe Cahill won the Francis L.K. Hsu-John Henry Wigmore Senior Thesis Award.

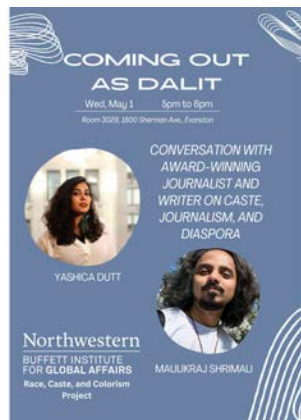
A big thank you to our student workers **Stephanie Xu, Anjani Gusman, Hamnah Malik, Camden Sisler, Elisa Duan, Seoyeon Ahn** and SAB rep **Laura Shi**.

Co-sponsorships continued...

Grad students **Ishan Mehandru** and **Soumya Shailendra** invited the public to Translators' Adda, a masterclass on translating literatures from South Asian languages. The masterclass discussed how borderlands are shaped by histories of migration, displacement, and insurgency. They unpacked the many tensions between notions of citizenship, nationalism, and indigeneity across the bordering regions of South Asia while learning how communities survive and resist in the face of political conflict. They focused on translations of two Assamese short stories: "Surrender" by Anuradha Sharma Pujari and "The Smell of Bamboo Blossoms" by Yeshe Dorje Thongchi. The session will be facilitated by award-winning translator, writer, and poet, Aruni Kashyap, and Sneha Khaund, a scholar and translator of contemporary Assamese literature.



This event was co-sponsored by ALC; Dept of English; Comparative Literary Studies; South Asian Research Forum; Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities.

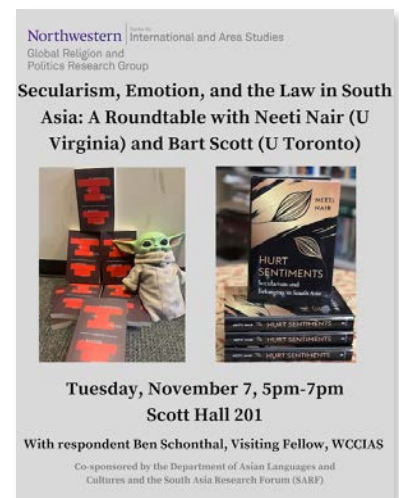


Prof. Laura Brueck hosted Yashica Dutt, an Indian writer and freelance journalist who has written on topics including fashion, gender, identity, culture and caste. Dutt read from her book *Coming Out as Dalit*, followed by a conversation with grad student **Maulikraj Shrimali**.

This event was co-sponsored by ALC; Buffett Institute for Global Affairs; Race, Caste, and Colorism Project.

Hosted by Prof. Brannon Ingram, ALC co-sponsored a colloquium featuring Neeti Nair (University of Virginia) and J. Barton Scott (University of Toronto) on their respective books. Both books are on law, religious affect, emotion, and secularism in India, with Scott focusing on the colonial period and Nair focusing primarily on the postcolonial.

This event as co-sponsored by ALC and the South Asia Research Forum.



Co-sponsorships continued..



Hosted by grad students **Ishan Mehandru** and **Soumya Shailendra**, playwright Vamsi Matta joined Translators' Adda for a staged reading of *Star in the Sky*, followed by a moderated conversation with Prof. Masi Asare at 12:00 pm at the Bramble Arts Loft in Andersonville. Adapted from a Telugu short story, the play relays the life and death of Ambedkarite activist and scholar, Rohith Vemula.

This event was made possible by ALC; Buffett Institute for Global Affairs; Race, Caste, and Colorism Project; South Asia Research Forum; The Subcontinent Project; Dept of Performance Studies.

Prof. David Boyk organized a talk by Dr. Sudev Sheth, University of Pennsylvania. Sheth traced how a family of diamond dealers deployed wealth to play off political leaders and survive the collapse of the Mughal Empire. The story highlights the unique role played by Jain and Hindu bankers in the daily affairs of Islamic, Hindu, and early colonial forms of Indian government. Sheth employs unconventional sources to tap into the thrilling lives of moneyed persons. Excerpts from Persian diaries, Gujarati poems, French trading manuals, Marathi letters, Sanskrit hymns, and Dutch shipping records tell new tales and are presented in English translation for the very first time. Spanning several political dynasties and still thriving today as a billion-dollar family firm in its fourteenth generation, the entrepreneurs featured in this talk help us see state power and social change through fresh eyes. This event was co-sponsored with the South Asia Research Forum.



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