

Northwestern | Asian Languages and Cultures

Faculty News



David Boyk, Associate Professor of Instruction of Hindi Urdu Language, and Daniel Majchrowicz collaborated on

two book projects. *Zer o Zabar: An Introduction to the Urdu Script* is a freely accessible online textbook, available at zerozabar.com, and they are currently at work on *The Ajeeb Society: Tales of the Supernatural*, a translation of a short story collection by the early twentieth-century Urdu writer Qazi Abdul Ghaffar.

David Boyk's monograph, *Provincial Metropolis: Intellectuals and the Hinterland in Colonial India*, was published by Cambridge University Press.



Laura Brueck, Professor of South Asian and Comparative Literature, completed a busy and exciting first year as

Director of the Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities. This spring, she taught an ALC course (Asian_LC 260: Global Caste) in Northwestern's Prison Education Program, which she'll bring back next year due to popular demand. Laura helped steer the

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A Message From the Chair

The Department of Asian Languages and Cultures reached new heights during the 2024-25 academic year. Three colleagues won prestigious awards for their stellar teaching: **Yumi Shiojima** was awarded the Charles Deering McCormick Distinguished Professor of Instruction chair, the highest honor for teaching across all Northwestern colleges, while the WCAS conferred its Arts and Sciences Alumni Teaching Award on **Chin-Hung Chang** and its Distinguished Teaching Award on **Daniel Majchrowicz**. Reflecting the continued success of our graduate program, **Soumya Shailendra** received the Presidential Fellowship, the most prestigious and competitive award for graduate study at Northwestern. Our DUS, **Jeong Eun Annabel We**, and our dedicated language instructors organized the undergraduate social event of the year, a Karaoke night titled "ALC Can Sing," where students performed their singing skills across four languages and **Thomas Gaubatz** wowed the crowd as he serenaded us in Japanese. Our faculty ranks were enhanced by the hiring of two new colleagues in Tibetan (**Tsering Samdrup**) and Chinese (**Jieyu Zhou**). We sadly bade farewell to **Hong Jiang**, who retired after 31 years of excellent teaching and service at Northwestern. Once again, we are truly grateful to our generous donors, who help to make our ongoing success possible.

Melissa Macauley, Chair

Congratulations Class of 2025!



Felix Kaye, Arianna Reith, Hamnah Malik, Nandini Taparia, Michael Staller, Jason Li

We are excited to congratulate all of our students who graduated in 2025! We can't wait to see where your next adventure takes you.

Faculty News

Global Humanities Translation Prize Committee, which chose *The Book of Mating* by Laksmi Pamuntjak and translated from Indonesian by Annie Tucker as the prize-winning submission for 2025; Northwestern University Press will publish it in the Global Humanities Translation Series in 2026. She's currently working on two edited volumes: *Global Imaginaries of Race and Caste* and *Sex, Text, Translation: Reading Gender* with colleagues both on and off campus.



Chin-Hung Chang, Associate Professor of Instruction of Chinese Language, was the recipient of an Arts and

Sciences Alumni Teaching Award in the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences for the academic year 2024-2025.

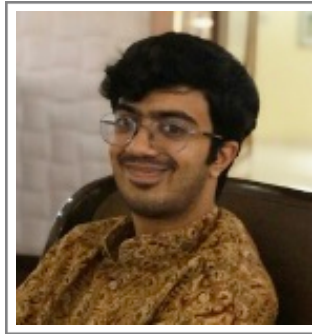


Wen-pin Hsieh, Assistant Professor of Instruction of Chinese Language. As Co-chair of the Meetings & Orientations Committee of CLI,

Wen-pin helped shape professional development programming for language educators across the university. He organized workshops on timely topics such as integrating social media, gamification, and

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Graduate Student News



Ishan Mehandru spent the year working on his dissertation project, *Dispersed Relations: Caste, Communalism, and Women Writers in South Asia*. His research was supported by the Graduate Research Grant (TGS), and he presented parts of his dissertation at the LACK 2025 and ACLA 2025 conferences. He has upcoming publications in two edited volumes on Horizontal

Translations (Bloomsbury) and Mapping Friendship (Routledge India). He also got an opportunity to teach "Translator Translated: A Creative Translation Workshop Series" as a part of the adult education program at the Newberry Library in Chicago. Ishan will be continuing work on his doctoral research as a Franke Fellow at the Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities next year.

Soumya Shailendra assisted the Public Humanities Practicum at the Kaplan Institute through 2024-2025. In this role, she helped connect with other community organizations and helped students execute their own public humanities projects. She also had a chance to present papers at the Global Asias 7 conference in Penn State and the NOVEL studies conference in Durham, NC.



Soumya, (working with advisor Professor **Laura Brueck**) was inducted into the Northwestern Society of Fellows in 2025 when she won the Northwestern University Presidential Fellowship. The Presidential Fellowship is funded by the President of the University and awarded by The Graduate School. This highly competitive award is the most prestigious fellowship awarded by Northwestern.

Soumya's scholarly expertise includes postcolonial theory, modern South Asian literature, and the histories of caste radicalism. Her dissertation examines how law and literature serve as important sites of reform and redress in the global anti-caste movement. Working with a literary and media archive that spans the languages of Hindi, Marathi, and Malayalam, she investigates how Dalit writers—authors from historically marginalized castes—deploy legal idioms to challenge their incorporation into institutions of liberal statehood.

Faculty News

virtual exchange into teaching, as well as addressing Gen Z learner identities through differentiated instruction. In collaboration with the Language Resource Center, Wen-pin led efforts to recruit speakers with expertise in diversity, student well-being, and inclusive pedagogy. He also coordinated the council's year-end celebration recognizing faculty milestones and teaching excellence—promoting a strong sense of community among language instructors at Northwestern.

In Spring 2025, he completed his PhD. His research focused on how Western managers working in Taiwan adjust their leadership styles in response to cultural differences. He also co-authored a journal article currently under review with *Intercultural Education*. The article looks at a virtual language exchange between American and Taiwanese students and how it helped participants build intercultural understanding while improving language proficiency.

Wen-pin collaborated with the Global Learning Office to launch the Global Horizons Initiative, a fully funded study abroad program designed to support first-generation, low-income freshmen. Funded by the Intrax Foundation, Wen-pin will lead the pilot program and bring students to Taiwan for an immersive week of intercultural learning.

New Faculty in AY26

Tsering Samdrup, Assistant Professor of Instruction of Tibetan Language and Culture, was born and grew up in a pastoral Tibetan community in Amdo. He received his PhD in China and Inner Asian Language Research from the SOAS, University of London. He teaches courses in Tibetan language, culture, and literature. His research interests span textual, folkloristic, and sociolinguistic aspects of Tibet and the Himalayan regions.



Prior to joining Northwestern, he taught courses on Tibetan language and culture at SOAS, University of London (UK), and the University of Bonn (Germany). He also held a postdoctoral research position at the University of Leeds (UK), where he focused on the sustainability of Tibetan expressive culture.

His current research explores Tibetan proverbs through textual, pragmatic, and folkloric approaches to examine how their performance functions and endures within Tibetan culture, particularly in the context of the digital era.



Jieyu Zhou, Assistant Professor of Instruction of Chinese Language, received her Ph.D. in Chinese Linguistics from the University of Washington, Seattle in 2025. Prior to joining Northwestern, she taught Chinese language courses—both heritage and non-heritage tracks—at the University of Washington, and in the Princeton in Beijing summer immersion program. In recognition of her exceptional teaching, she received the Distinguished

Teaching Assistant Award from the University of Washington in 2021.

Jieyu's research centers on second language acquisition, with a particular focus on how learners acquire challenging features of Chinese, especially for native English speakers. Her work aims to develop effective pedagogical approaches that enhance learner outcomes. Her current project examines how intermediate and advanced learners acquire formal collocations in Chinese (i.e., word combinations), with direct applications to classroom instruction.

Her research has been published in peer-reviewed journals such as *Frontiers in Psychology* and *Applied Linguistics*.

Faculty Focus: **Jeong Eun Annabel We**, Assistant Professor of Korean Literature



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

I entered Northwestern as a Comparative Literature major. The summer of my sophomore year, I had doubts about my job prospects as a humanities student and took some practical sounding classes that were really not for me. It helped me realize how much I enjoyed my triple humanities track. So, because I am extreme, I decided at the beginning of my junior year that I wanted to become a professor.

I asked the professors I knew what they thought of their jobs—I had very little understanding of what a day in the life of a professor looked like. Do you like being a professor? What do you do in the Summer? I cherished the honest answers. Someone also told me that because of my fluency in Korean, I should be a diplomat and not an academic. As silly as that sounds, Asian Languages and Cultures didn't yet exist at NU, and I think

some faculty didn't understand that one can do research on Korea, and neither did I, really. In my journey to applying to graduate school, I bothered one professor in the English department a lot my junior year—I think he meant it politely when he said come by again, but I took it literally and kept showing up to his office hours. After taking a class on Ulysses, I decided I wanted to write my senior thesis on it, so that's what I did. I wrote my Comp Lit senior paper on the Korean translation of Ulysses, too, and a Korean graduate student in German served as my second reader. It was all very DIY without ALC back then. I applied to different Ph.D. programs at the beginning of my senior year and accepted the offer from Rutgers Comp Lit. The undergrad major I started with ended up being the field of my graduate training, which I did not see coming.

I was lucky to be able to attend graduate school with my partner whom I met at NU, and we lived in NYC. All my undergrad dreams were coming true. Except I took a hard turn out of English and into decolonial thought and Korean studies. My Ph.D. advisor was a hilariously stoic-seeming person with whom I disagreed on everything at first but who was patient enough to argue with me. I must have been so annoying. I managed to finish and defend my dissertation in the middle of the COVID pandemic and moved to Chicago where my partner started working. The Northwestern Korean literature and culture position in the (new) Asian Languages and Cultures was hiring that Fall. Like when I decided I wanted to be a professor my junior year, I had an inexplicable feeling that "this was it," right before hopping onto a Zoom interview with Professors Byrnes and Noonan. My partner and I spent the day before that interview fixing the bookshelf I used as my Zoom backdrop because, of all days, it decided to fall completely that day. After that, I felt I could do anything. People do not believe me when I tell them how I solved my two-body problem.

What is your favorite course to teach, and why?

It's a tie between "The End of a World: South Korean Webtoons, Fictions, and Films of Disaster" and "Feminist, Queer, Crip: South Korea and Its Discontents." They both drew on aspects of my dissertation that I reorganized so that it would be a little different each time I teach. "End of a World" has a tightly mapped emotional and narrative arc, a course design I am quite proud of. Everything connects, and the last film reflects all the materials, and students created some amazing games as final projects. "FQC" is a bit more spread out, with room for

Faculty Focus continued..



students to bring in their own research interests and make a zine – it's designed so that I get to learn a lot from my students, and it tends to be high-energy, which I enjoy. I take a class group pic at the end of every quarter that go on my office wall, and included are of my first NU class ('22) and my last NU class ('24).



What are the big questions that animate your research?

I think I like to contradict myself, because I tend to pick up something that seems obvious to me and keep turning it around until I come to the opposite conclusion. I have lived a pretty mobile life, and that has made me think about immobility. I grew up in an atheist household, and that makes me interested in spirituality. I grew up thinking we know what decolonization is in Korea, so I wanted to question that.

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

I am wrapping up my first book and am working on my second book project, which looks at how the environment and spirituality are engaged in islands across the Pacific.

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

ALC would have made a huge difference in my own learning trajectory as a bilingual student had it been around. I was able to do my placement test with Professor Eunmi Lee as a freshman, and it was so nice to meet a Korean faculty member those first few weeks of school, but I placed out, and there wasn't more I could do. It makes a difference to have a department dedicated to Asian languages and humanities, because it opens new avenues for our students. Many of my students are also Asian American and Asian international students who want to learn more about their family's lives and cultures. Between ALC and Asian American Studies, I think we can give a fuller and more meaningful picture through which students can understand their lived experience that span multiple geographies. I also have many students who are amazing language learners who are so excited to find community in ALC. Earlier this year, we hosted a Karaoke night in Asian languages open to all, and it was amazing to see so many Asian language singers across NU over some good food. I hope ALC can be a space where NU students feel that they can gather to celebrate.

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

University of Toronto and Washington University in St. Louis to deliver talks on the development of teaching materials and pedagogical approaches for heritage language learners. In addition, she co-authored a peer-reviewed article published in Chinese as a Second Language 58(3), pp.237-261. This article discusses the current status and future prospects of Chinese textbooks for heritage learners in American Universities.



Dahye Kim, Assistant Professor of Korean Literature and Culture. Her article, "[Korean](#)

[Writing in the](#)

[Age of Multilingual Word Processing: A History of the Non-Linear Alphabet](#)," has

been published in the Spring 2025 issue of Grey Room (MIT Press), an interdisciplinary journal that explores media, architecture, and art through the lens of critical theory and historical analysis.

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2025 University Teaching Awards

Each year, the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences and the Office of the Provost recognizes members of the College's tenure-line and teaching-track faculty for excellence in teaching. This year the Distinguished Teaching Award went to **Daniel Majchrowicz**. The Arts and Sciences Alumni Teaching Award went to **Chin-Hung Chang**. Read more about the awards [here](#).



Daniel Majchrowicz



Dean Adrian Randolph, Chin-Hung Chang, Melissa Macauley



Provost Kathleen Hagerty, Yumi Shiojima, Consul-General of Japan in Chicago Masashi Mizobuchi

Nominated by Dean Adrian Randolph for excellence in undergraduate teaching, the Charles Deering McCormick Distinguished Professor of Instruction was awarded this year to **Yumi Shiojima**.

Read more about the award [here](#).

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In this piece, Dahye engages with Derrida's critique of phonocentrism as well as the lingering phonocentric assumptions in his theorization of writing, as noted by German philosopher Sybille Krämer, by examining how the graphic dimension of writing becomes especially prominent in technological environments. Through an analysis of Hangul—the Korean alphabet—as a non-linear script, I draw on media studies and East Asian studies to show how Hangul's dual status as an alphabetic system and a script visually akin to Chinese characters invites alternative conceptualizations of writing—such as writing as a cultural technique—particularly within digital contexts.



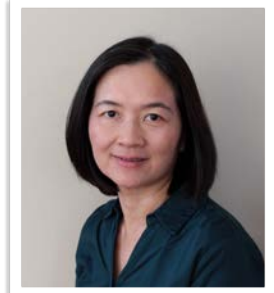
Eun Hee Kim,
Assistant
Professor of
Instruction
of Korean
Language,
was
awarded

Open Educational Resources (OER) Faculty Grants where she plans to develop a reader for 3rd-year Korean students in collaboration with Ihnhee Kim. Their plan is to create an interactive reader that includes authentic texts modified

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Hong Jiang Retires

With bittersweet emotions, the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures congratulates **Hong Jiang** on her retirement and appointment as Professor of Instruction Emerita. Prof. Jiang arrived at Northwestern in 1994 as a Lecturer in the old Program in Asian and African Languages. She taught all levels of Chinese language courses and her CTEC record attests to her effectiveness as a language instructor and her



deep commitment to her students. She guided them through the challenges of studying this difficult language with a competent, gentle hand and real dedication. She offered superlative service to her department and the university. She has always been a steady presence among the faculty, and her calm, fair-minded, "just-the-facts" approach to decision-making has

helped our department succeed over the years. Hong Jiang has been a dedicated, collegial member of the Northwestern faculty for thirty-one years and we will miss her as she moves on to the next phase of her life. Hopefully she will visit us in Kresge Hall!



Hong at ALC's
first official
department
meeting in
Sept 2013.

Hong at her
last ALC
department
meeting in
June 2025.



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to meet students' proficiency and learn more cultural practices and products. Eun Hee was an Educational Technology Fellow in the 2024-2025 school year for developing an engaging, educational, and interactive escape room activity for her 2nd-year Korean classes. Eun Hee worked closely with a colleague at Teaching & Learning Technologies to design and implement the activity on Canvas. Through the activity, students could review the vocabulary and do extra speaking/writing activities that can promote their communicative competence.

Eun Hee presented her projects at various conference sites including the 2025 Chicago Language Symposium (CLS), the 2025 conference of the American Association of Teachers of Korean (AATK), and the 8th Foreign Language Education and Technology (FLEAT). The presentations reported how we implemented the AI-assisted chatbot that Chin-Hung and I developed in collaboration with MADS in our 2nd-year Korean and Chinese classrooms, which is supported by the Alumnae Award for Curriculum Innovation at Northwestern.

The 7th Annual Phyllis Lyons Lecture in Japanese Studies



Namiko Kunimoto, Phyllis Lyons, Patrick Noonan, and Thomas Gaubatz

Namiko Kunimoto is the Director of the Center for Ethnic Studies at The Ohio State University and Associate Professor in the Department of History of Art.

Give me a Light: Militarism and Japan's Art Historical Present

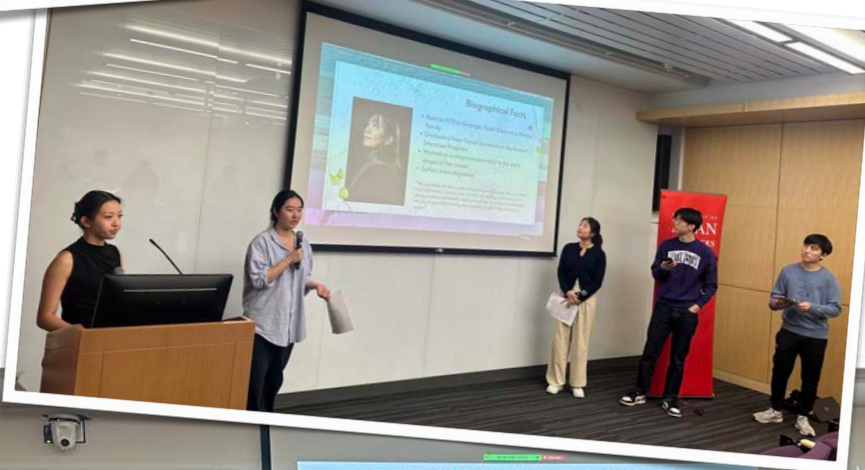


these historical elisions, thereby raising questions about how the current rise in Japanese nationalism is built upon the refusal to accept responsibility for Japanese Imperialism and all its violent consequences. Her works are not concerned with determining the degree of complicity for each artist; on the contrary, her works illustrate the quotidian nature of each artist-soldier's activities, how they shared time together, how they survived, and how they created. At the same time, these small, everyday acts of painting, smoking, and existing on colonized land were still very much a part of the Japan's fascist movement and enabled and abetted the violence and oppression that characterized Japan's Fifteen-year war. Gotō's contemporary portraits invite viewers to learn more about each artist's individual stories, including, rather than erasing, their involvement with fascism. Set within the contemporary gallery space, the framed artworks ask us to be critical about how these artists are situated in the present. This lecture examined Gotō's contemporary portraits as historical portals that encourage viewers to imagine Japanese war painters as they were active in the 1940s, thereby making it difficult to support the notion that the painters were only "being artists." By extension, Kunimoto argued, Gotō's portrayal of these artists asks viewers to reconsider the "passive" role of the population as a whole during the war, and perhaps edges some to consider what a "neutral" political position might be risking in Japan today.

Korean Studies Event for Nobel Literature Winner Han Kang



ALC's Korean language students and faculty along with members of the Korean American Student Association (KASA) and Liberty in North Korea (LiNK) came together to celebrate Han Kang's literary achievements and to explore the legacy of Korean literature in the fight for democracy. Students recited short passages and summaries of several of Han Kang's novels and shared their reflections on her work. KASA members provided a presentation on the history of the student democracy movement of Korea. This was followed by an open-floor discussion, allowing attendees to engage further with the themes and topics presented.



This event was funded in part by the Simeon Leland Fund. The Simeon Leland Forum was established by members of the University community in grateful recognition of Simeon E. Leland's outstanding contribution to the University's cultural life while he was Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences from 1946 to 1966.

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Ihnhee Kim,
Associate
Professor of
instruction of
Korean Language,
published
research articles in

peer-reviewed journals including Korean Linguistics published by John Benjamins Publishing Company and delivered multiple conference presentations including American Association of Teachers of Korean (AATK). These articles explored topics such as the cross-linguistic development of spoken language, the identities and motivation of college Korean language learners, and the development of cultural competence through the study of historical figures. Co-presentations introduced pedagogical practices involving global collaboration and interculturality.

Received an Open Educational Resources (OER) grant in collaboration with Eun Hee Kim to develop literacy and cultural materials for third-year Korean courses. Implemented the Global Collaboration Class with Ruhr University in Bochum, Germany, supported by a grant from the Buffett Institute. Ihnhee also participated in a textbook analysis project with the Gender, Equity, and Language Curricula Team, supported by the Buffett Institute. Organized the Informal Assessment Workshop as part of a subgroup of the Reader Group of the Buffett Institute, led by Yan Zhou.

ALC can sing!

ALC hosted Karaoke night! Originating in Japan, Karaoke is an interactive form of entertainment, where people sing along to pre-recorded music while the lyrics are displayed on a screen. Harris 107 was jam packed with students and faculty singing in Chinese, Hindi Urdu, Japanese and Korean. Special guests were Northwestern's co-ed South Asian and East Asian-interest a cappella groups Brown Sugar and Treblemakers. We had a blast!



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Yangtian Luo,
Assistant
Professor of
Instruction of
Chinese
Language,
continued
teaching in the

Chinese language program and began experimenting with ways to integrate generative AI into the classroom. She gave a presentation on this topic at a conference in Hong Kong. Yangtian was also invited to a community event at the Chicago Xilin Northwestern Chinese School, which was later covered in a [feature article](#) on their official WeChat account.



Melissa Macauley,
Professor of
Modern Chinese
History, is making
steady progress
on her new book,

"A People's History of the South China Sea." As part of this project, she was forced—almost against her will—to conduct a summer's research on Saigon in the French colonial archives in Aix-en-Provence. Her workweeks exploring a new archive were broken by grueling weekend visits to notable landmarks across the south of France. She also participated in a workshop in Singapore on Chinese migration to and settlement in Southeast Asia co-sponsored by the National University of Singapore and the Harvard-Yenching Institute. She published an article in the *American Historical Review* and

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The Subcontinent Project

The Subcontinent Project is a graduate student organization (**Laiba Paracha**, president and **Shamini Kothari**, treasurer) at Northwestern University dedicated to engaging with our communities, working with an interdisciplinary understanding of "*bar-e-saghir*" or "The Indian Subcontinent", and creating spaces for dialogue and learning about South Asian politics and culture. We stand in solidarity with the global South Asian community, aiming to foster meaningful connections and exchanges of ideas, language, art, and history. We remain dedicated to raising awareness about South Asian and desi-diasporic issues, promote the celebration of our rich and multifaceted culture, and provide a platform for discussions on topics such as ethnocentrism, xenophobia, human rights, and social justice.

TSP is an inclusive society, and they have traditionally hosted a mixture of social, cultural and academic events, as they firmly believe that connecting with one's South Asian heritage and community can mean different things to different people.



Among many events, this year, TSP was honored to welcome the Tibetan poet, writer, translator and publisher, Bhuchung D Sonam, for a moving conversation about exile, language, poetry, and loss. His books include *Songs from Dewachen*, *Songs of the Arrow and Yak Horns: Notes on Contemporary Tibetan Writing, Music and Film & Politics*. Bhuchung has edited *Muses in Exile: An Anthology of Tibetan Poetry* and has compiled and translated *Burning the Sun's Braids: New Poetry from Tibet*. In conversation with Professor Antonio Terrone, whose work on China and its borderlands, with a concentration on religious culture, literature, violence, and ethno-religious politics (Tibetans and Uyghurs), allowed for a meaningful conversation highlighting the vastness of South Asia as a network enmeshed in global political struggles.

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a forthcoming piece for an edited volume on *Sinophone Cultures*. Most of her year, however, was devoted to chairing the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, where she has been practicing her memo-writing skills.



Daniel Majchrowicz, Associate Professor of South Asian Literature and Culture, published two

new books in 2025. The first is *A Journey to Mecca and London: The Travels of an Indian Muslim Woman, 1909–1910* (Indiana University Press, 2025). The book is a study of the life and writing of a descendent of Mughal nobility, Akhtar al-Nisa Begum Nawab Sarbuland Jung, who grew up in Hyderabad in southern India at the heart of India's wealthiest kingdom. In 1896, at the age of 20, she married Nawab Muhammad Hamidullah Khan Sarbuland Jung, a prominent lawyer and the scion of a leading Muslim reformist movement. In 1909, the wealthy couple embarked on a four-month journey through the Middle East and Europe, performing the hajj in Mecca and sitting for tea with the future king and queen of England. *A Journey to Mecca and London* provides the first full English translation of Begum Sarbuland's Urdu travel diary from this journey. Originally intended for circulation among friends and family and later published, her informal entries not only reveal the everyday practices of an Indian

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Support from Council on Language Instruction

The CLI supports initiatives for the enhancement of teaching such as trips to ethnic restaurants, course events, the purchase of special instructional material, etc. As we see below, the students enjoy their cultural adventures.



Throughout the academic year, Profs. **Jingjing Ji** and **Yan Zhou** designed a series of engaging project-based learning experiences for Chinese 115 students to explore important themes related to heritage language learners, such as family and identity, Chinese immigration history, and Chinatown community. During the Winter Quarter, students collaborated in pairs to create a bilingual storybook, and their outstanding works were recognized at a celebratory award ceremony. This is the second year for the course project, and our students' storybooks have reached more young readers in local communities and high schools across the county.

Taiwan Trek



In June, **Wen-pin Hsieh** served as the trip leader for *Taiwan Trek*, an interdisciplinary global learning program commissioned by Northwestern's Office for International Relations. He curated immersive conversations with local tour guides on Taiwanese identity and colonial history, as well as a dialogue with a bubble tea company founder on popular drink culture and market expansion in the U.S. For the engineering track, he coordinated a hands-on session with engineers from MediaTek, connecting student learning in Northwestern's engineering courses with real-world applications in Taiwan's tech sector.

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woman of her time, but also detail her impressions and reactions as she explored the world alongside her husband. As Begum Sarbuland encountered other women and Muslims during her travels, those encounters shaped her reassessment of her own identity as a Muslim woman. Her observations hold continued significance for readers interested in critical questions about gender, Islam, and identity. The second book, written in Urdu, is *Duniyā 'aurat kī naẓar meñ: Mashriq o Mağhrib kā safarnāma—ma' muqaddama, ḥavāshī va zamīme* (Dilli Kitab Ghar, 2025). This book is an edited critical edition of Begum Sarbuland's 1909 travelogue, *The World in a Woman's Eyes*. The book offers full annotations of the original text, as well as a wealth of supplementary material compiled over several years of archival research. The book's appendices include a compilation and study of Begum Sarbuland's letters, poetry, and diary entries, as well as comparative materials taken from her husband's written accounts of the same period. Daniel Majchrowicz was elected Vice-President of the American Institute for Pakistan Studies.



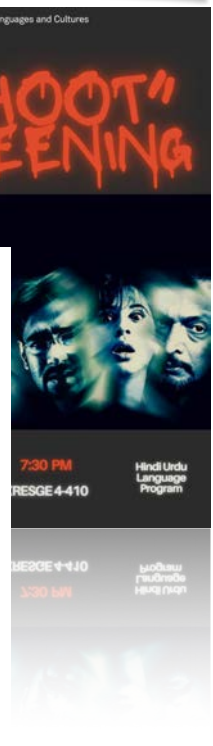
Patrick Noonan, Assistant Professor of Japanese Literature and Culture. His forthcoming book, *Age of Disaffection: The Aesthetic Critique of Politics in 1960s*

Japan (Columbia University Press, 2025), received a Helen Tartar First Book Subvention Award from the

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Scary Movie Nights

ALC's Hindi-Urdu, Japanese, and Korean language programs all hosted a scary movie night. Here, Profs. **Jeong Eun Annabel We** and **Eun Hee Kim** showed the Korean movie (*Exhuma*) so students could learn about the history behind Shaman culture in Korea and Japan.



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American Comparative Literature Association. He also published an article titled "Recessionary Cinema in Post-Bubble Japan" in the *Journal of Japanese and Korean Cinema*, which builds on ideas related to his second book project. In addition to his writing, he co-organized a panel, "Anti-Fascist Worldmaking," at the ACLA's annual conference and began organizing a workshop on "Spectacles of Information," which will take place in October 2025, as part of the Media Aesthetics Project funded by the Buffett Institute for Global Affairs.



Jili Sun, Associate Professor of Instruction of Chinese Language, presented 2 papers on Chinese language pedagogy and its connection

with Chinese studies in various conferences (Chinese Teachers' Association annual conference, *International Association for Intercultural Communication annual conference*). Jili organized multiple culture events (film screening, culinary workshop etc.) for NU students and coordinated a group composed of NU faculty and beyond to help local language schools in their pedagogical issues. She became an advisory board member for the International Association for Intercultural Communication and also continued to serve as board member for Southeast Asia center in Chicago, with the mission to help Asian immigrants to integrate into American society and to maintain their cultural-linguistic heritage.

Co-sponsorships

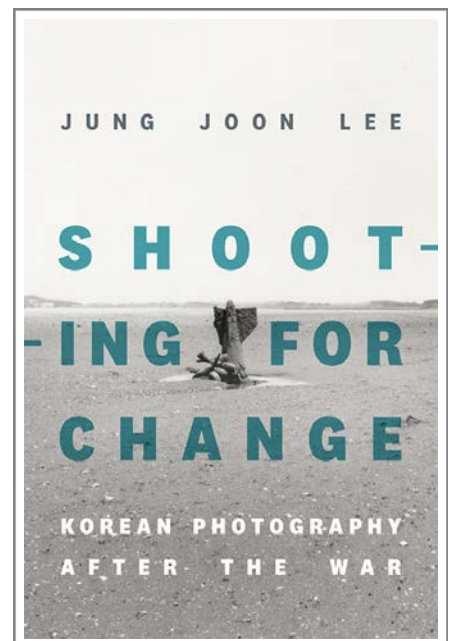
Co-sponsorship enables departments and programs to pool their resources to invite speakers, performers, and artists to Northwestern and it also enhances interdisciplinary programming and creates larger intellectual communities on campus. Here are a few from this past year.



Prof. **Jeong Eun Annabel We** invited **Dr. Park Jeong-Mi**, Associate Professor of Sociology, Chungbuk National University 2024-25 Fulbright Scholar at George Washington University, to give a lecture titled *The State's Sexuality* which investigated the intertwined history of prostitution and the building of South Korea's postcolonial nation-state from 1945 to present. The lecture

was followed by a Q&A with the audience. This event was co-sponsored by ALC, Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities, Nicholas D. Chabreja Center for Historical Studies, East Asia Research Forum, and Department of History.

Prof. **Dahye Kim** invited **Jung Joon Lee**, Associate Professor of Theory and History of Art and Design at the Rhode Island School of Design, to give a talk on her book *Shooting for Change: Korean Photography after the War* (Duke University Press, 2024). Jung Joon Lee examines photographic practices under normalized conditions of militarism. The book treats Korea's transnational militarism as a lens to reconsider how images are officially and culturally read over time. In this talk, Lee focuses on the U.S. military camptowns in South Korea—imagined spaces for most Koreans beyond the country's sovereignty in the name of peacekeeping. This event was co-sponsored by ALC and the East Asia Research Forum.



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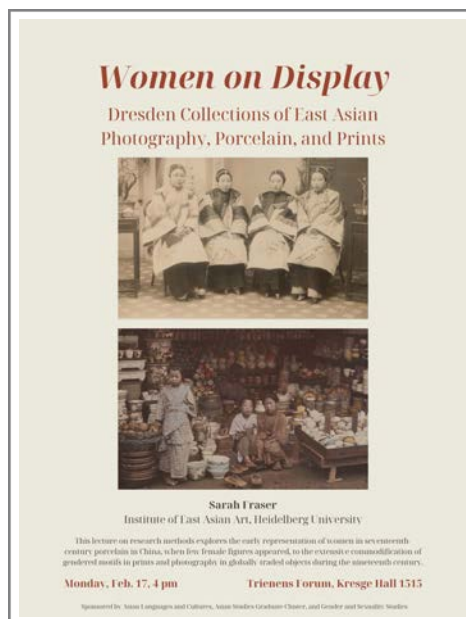


Noriko Taira Yasohama, Professor of Instruction of Japanese Language, presented with

Yoko Sakurai, Lecturer at City College of New York, at the annual convention of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) in November. Their presentation, titled *"Strategies in Action: Navigating Challenges in Intermediate*

Japanese," highlighted innovative approaches to teaching third-year intermediate Japanese courses at their respective institutions, each with distinct characteristics. They addressed common challenges in teaching intermediate-level Japanese and sparked meaningful discussions among participants. This presentation marked the culmination of Noriko's experience teaching the year-long Japanese III sequence, during which she adopted new textbooks over the past three academic years. Looking ahead, she will be in charge of Japanese II for the next three years and is eager to further improve the curriculum by applying insights gained from teaching Japanese III. Noriko also served as the inaugural co-director of [the Weinberg Language Resource Center](#). In this role, she collaborated with language programs across the College to improve communication about language placement for incoming students. She hopes this work will help new students find meaningful pathways to continue their language studies at Northwestern.

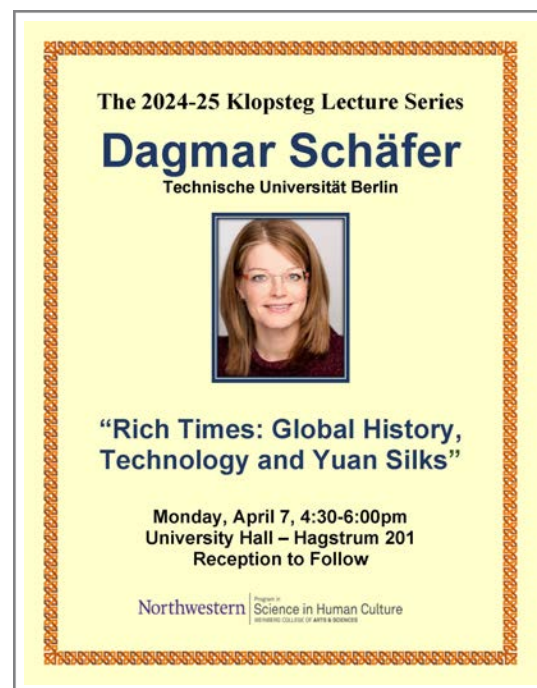
Co-Sponsorships continued...



Prof. **Paola Zamperini** invited Professor **Sarah Fraser**, Institute of East Asian Art, Heidelberg University for the lecture "Women on Display: Dresden Collections of East Asian Photography, Porcelain, and Prints" This lecture on research methods explored the early representation of women in seventeenth-century porcelain in China, when few female figures appeared, to the extensive commodification of gendered motifs in prints and photography in globally-traded objects during the nineteenth century. This event

was co-sponsored by ALC, Asian Studies Graduate Cluster, and Gender and Sexuality Studies.

In this lecture, Professor **Dagmar Schäfer**, Technische Universität Berlin explored the possibilities of rethinking time—one of the core concerns of historical research—through the study of Yuan dynasty artifacts, both excavated from tombs and preserved in museum collections. Over the past decades, scholarship has increasingly recognized the temporal complexity of historical moments, emphasizing the coexistence of multiple temporalities that shape both past and present. This event was co-



Faculty News



Yan Zhou, Assistant Professor of Instruction, co-edited a special issue, Teacher-Student Engagement

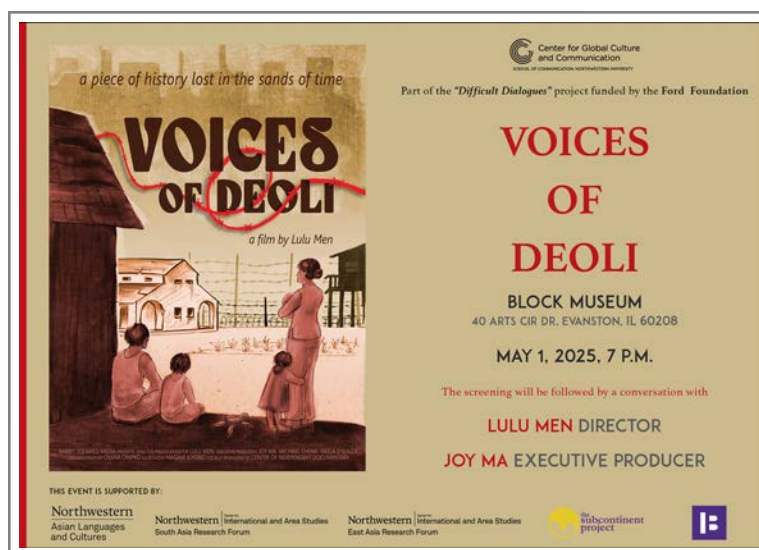
Patterns in CSL Classrooms on the journal of Chinese as a Second Language (vol 59). Her article in the special issue, "What's next after a correct answer: Maximizing engagement by shifting participation frameworks in the Chinese as a second language classroom," was nominated for the ACTFL/NFMLTA/MLJ Paul Pimsleur Award for Research in World Language Education. Yan also presented her research at major domestic and international conferences, including the annual conferences of the Chinese language teachers Association and the International Association of Pragmatics.

Yan received multiple internal grants to support her teaching and research. With the Buffett Global Collaboration Grant, she partnered Chinese 111 students with peers in the MA program in Teaching Chinese as a Second Language at Peking University for biweekly conversation sessions. Students report significant improvement in speaking proficiency and a deeper understanding of Chinese culture. Through the Buffett Faculty Reading Group Grant, Yan organized a series of workshops within ALC. Colleagues shared their experiences in oral assessment and Open Education Resource

Continued next page

Co-Sponsorships continued...

Profs. **Jili Sun** and **Peter Carroll** offered a free screening of *Bittersweet* followed by Q&A with the audience. This documentary featured a series of interviews and workshops with Chinese sex workers in Paris. Many of these women came to France due to economic hardship, hoping for a better life. This event was co-sponsored by ALC and the East Asia Research Forum.



Organized by **Vidura Bahadur**, the screening of *Voices of Deoli* was followed by a conversation with the director **Lulu Men** and the executive producer **Joy Ma**. The history of nearly 3000 Chinese Indians incarcerated in a prison camp in Deoli in 1962 is an unknown story that is buried deep in memories. *Voices of Deoli* is an uplifting story about the survivors, their journey as immigrants to the States and efforts at receiving justice through the years despite their haunted memories of the camp. The event was part of the Difficult Dialogues project funded by the Ford Foundation and was supported by ALC, South Asia Research Forum, East Asia Research Forum, The Subcontinent Project and the Block Museum at Northwestern University.

Faculty News

development. Yan was also selected for the Undergraduate Research Assistant Program for a second time and worked with two undergraduate students on her ongoing research project.

Student Awards



Annalise Peterson was awarded the Outstanding Achievement Award in Chinese Language and Culture.

Hamnah Malik was awarded the Outstanding Achievement Award in Hindi_Urdu



Language and South Asian Culture and the the Francis L.K. Hsu-John Henry Wigmore Senior Thesis Award.



Fariz Firdausi was awarded the Outstanding Achievement Award in Japanese Language and Culture.

Ho Yin Wong was awarded The Jock McLane prize for Best Paper in the field of Asian Studies.



2025 Japanese National Honor Society inductees are **Fariz Firdausi, Brynae Hall, Alexia Kadota-Browner, Kaytlyn Mittag** and not pictured **Grace Wang**.

Senior Theses

ALC awarded Departmental Honors to one graduating senior in 2025. 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.

Hamnah Malik's thesis, "Rethinking Care for Khwaja-Sira Communities: The Politics of Language, Belonging, and HIV in Pakistan," was directed by Professor **Daniel Majchrowicz**. In his evaluation he writes "This impressive thesis weds an exploration of the history and current circumstances of the khwaja-sira community with an analysis of how HIV prevention efforts in Pakistan fail to engage them adequately due to their unique social location. Arguing that "Care...must be understood not solely as a clinical act, but as a relational, spiritual and political practice embedded in South Asian epistemologies," the author makes substantive recommendations for how to improve HIV prevention outcomes among khwaja-siras by developing practices informed by engaging practices of care within the community. This thesis brings together a close attention to cultural history with expertise in public health, representing a scholarly contribution not only to our appreciation and understanding of khwajas-sira identity, but also by recommending improvements to public health practices rooted in their own estimable practices of care. The thesis is compelling, well researched, subtly argued, and strongly grounded in history and culture.

A big thank you to our student workers!

Rongchun Ann Zhao, Ziyuan Anna Zhao, Choi Youngnim, Elisa Duan, Hamnah Malik, Michelle Sheen, Rebecca Rodriguez

And a shout out to our SAB reps!

Tolu Onitilo and Michael Staller

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