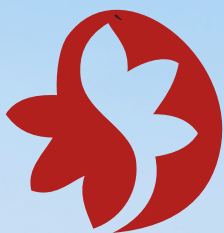


WCAAS 2023

THE WESTERN CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR ASIAN

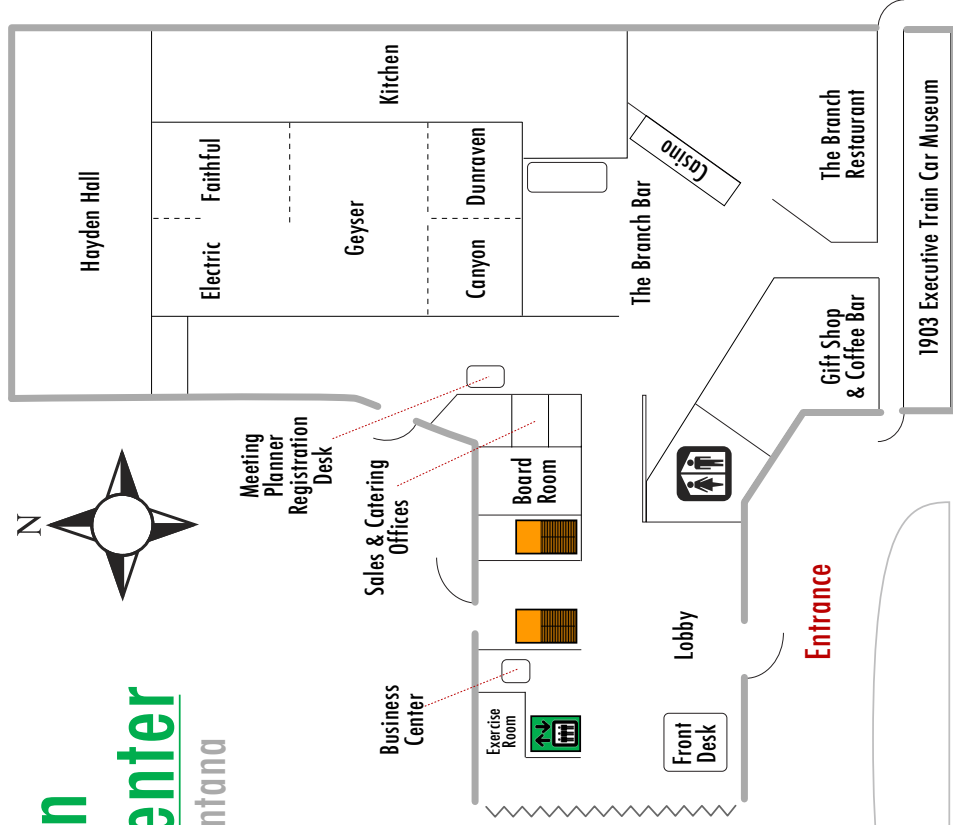
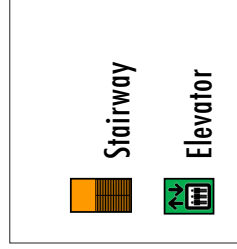
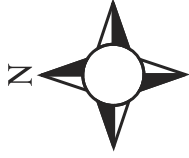


ASIA REOPENED: RECONSIDERING THE PAST AND PRESENT

OCTOBER 5 - 7, 2023
HOLIDAY INN CONFERENCE HOTEL
WEST YELLOWSTONE, MONTANA, USA

Holiday Inn Conference Center

West Yellowstone, Montana



Level 1

Yellowstone Ave.

THE 61ST ANNUAL
WESTERN CONFERENCE OF THE
ASSOCIATION FOR ASIAN STUDIES

Asia Reopened: Reconsidering Past and
Present

University of Montana
Brigham Young University – Idaho

Thursday, October 5 - Saturday, October 7, 2023
Holiday Inn West Yellowstone Conference Hotel
West Yellowstone, Montana, USA

Dear WCAAS 2023 Participants,

On behalf of the Western Conference for the Association for Asian Studies (WCAAS), Brigham Young University-Idaho, and The University of Montana, it is our pleasure to welcome you to the 2023 Annual Meeting of WCAAS in iconic West Yellowstone, MT.

This year's theme is Asia Reopened: Reconsidering the Past and Present. For many this will be our first in-person conference since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic. While the repercussions of the pandemic showed how intricately connected societies of the world are, it separated many of us from our intellectual communities, with the closing of international travel, classrooms, and academic conferences. This year the conference provides us with an opportunity to reopen academic dialog and reopen ourselves to in-person intellectual exchanges.

We are honored to have Professor Jean Oi, President of the Association of Asian Studies and the William Haas Professor of Chinese Politics at Stanford University, as our keynote speaker. There will be approximately 30 panels, with topics spanning the humanities and social sciences. We look forward to getting to know you.

The WCAAS has a strong tradition of fostering community and student participation to prepare the next generation of scholars in the field. Many graduate students and mentored undergraduates will share their work. Please help us welcome them, and, as you attend panels, we would ask you to recommend an outstanding graduate paper for consideration as the WCAAS representative on a graduate panel at the 2025 (2024?) AAS Conference. Contact us or any WCAAS board member with your recommendation.

Thank you for traveling such a great distance to participate in and contribute to this conference.

Best wishes for a great conference,

Michael Paul, 2023 Program Co-Chair
Languages and International Studies
Brigham Young University – Idaho

Brian Dowdle, 2023 Program Co-Chair
World Languages and Cultures
University of Montana

o·pen /'ōp(ə)n/

adjective

1. allowing access, passage, or a view through an empty space; not closed or blocked up.

“the pass is kept open all year by snowplows”

2. exposed to the air or to view; not covered.

“an open fire burned in the grate”

verb

1. move or adjust (a door or window) so as to leave a space allowing access and view.

“she opened the door and went in”

2. unfold or be unfolded; spread out.

“the eagle opened its wings and circled up into the air”

noun

1. outdoors, especially in an exposed or unprotected setting.

“guests were sitting in the open on the terrace”

2. a championship or competition with no restrictions on who may compete.

“his victory in the 2003 Australian Open”

Registration

Thursday, 7:30 am - 2:00 pm

Friday, 7:30 am - 12:00 pm

Schedule Synopsis

Thursday, October 5, 2023

8:15 - 9:45 Panels 1-4
9:45 - 10:00 Berry Delicious Break [HAYDEN]
10:00 -11:30 Panels 5-8
11:30 -12:30 Lunch Break (on your own)
12:30 - 2:00 Panels 9-12
2:15 - 3:45 Panels 13-16
4:30 – 5:30 Film - Padauk: Myanmar Spring [GEYSER]
7:00 – 9:00 Film - Blue Island [GEYSER]
6:00 - 7:00 WCAAS Board Dinner (Board Members Only)
[BRANCH]

Friday, October 6, 2023

7:30 - 8:45 Group Breakfast Buffet (Sponsored by University of Montana Mansfield Center) [HAYDEN]
9:00 - 10:30 Panels 17-21
10:45 - 12:15 Panels 22-26
12:30 - 1:30 Luncheon (Sponsored by College of Language and Letters BYU-Idaho) [HAYDEN]
1:45 - 3:15 Panels 27-30
3:30 - 5:00 Keynote Speaker: Dr. Jean Oi [GEYSER]
5:00 - 5:45 Entertainment - Jayson Lim [GEYSER]
6:15 – 6:45 WCAAS Business Mtg. (all welcome) [GEYSER]
8:00 – 8:20 Film - *While You Were Sleeping* [GEYSER]
8:30 – 10:15 Film - *Don't Think I've Forgotten: Cambodia's Lost Rock and Roll* [GEYSER]

7:00 - 9:00 Conference Committee Dinner (Invitation only)

Saturday, October 7, 2023

7:00 - 8:00 Breakfast (for Tour Participants) [HAYDEN]
8:30 - 5:45 Yellowstone Park Tour (meet in lobby at 8:20 am)

Thursday - October 5, 2023

8:15 am - 9:45 am

Panels 1 - 4

Panel 1 [CANYON]

China Post-COVID 19: A Return to Traditional Thought

Chair: Alex Yuan (Utah Valley University)

Policy Changes Since the Start of Covid-19 (Camilla Pendleton,
Utah Valley University)

Chinese Traditional Philosophy Within Current Policies (Cade Smith,
Utah Valley University)

The Emergence of Traditional Values in Chinese Economic and
Development (Peter Fang and Jessica Wang, Utah Valley University)

Rise of Traditional Thought on Globalization (Chance Simons, Utah
Valley University)

Understanding the Future of Traditional Thought and Policy
Development (Tristin Smith, Utah Valley University)

Panel 2 [DUNRAVEN]

*BYU-Idaho Student Panel: Cambodia's Youth, Chinese Mythology,
Mental Illness, and Immigration*

Chair: Michael Paul (Brigham Young University-Idaho)

Cambodia Voices of Youth (Julianna Henderson, Brigham Young
University-Idaho)

Mastery of Immortality in Chinese Mythology (Kambrie Earl,
Brigham Young University)

Mental Illness in China (Seun Ye Gregory, Brigham Young
University-Idaho)

The Two Eras of Chinese immigration to America: A Look into
Changes Since Sui Sin Far (Jennifer Larson, Brigham Young
University-Idaho)

Panel 3 [ELECTRIC]

Gender, Genre and Politics: Reimagining Hong Kong in Literature and Film

Chair: Yang Xiang (Hong Kong Baptist University)

The Portrayal of Female and Hong Kong: Reconsidering Wang Tao's Chinese Classical Tales (Qian Lan, Hong Kong Baptist University)

Portrayal of Scholars in Ya Si's Postcolonial Affairs of Food and the Heart as "Informal" Academic Narrative (Roman Lashin, Hong Kong Baptist University)

Criticism from Past to Contemporary: Obscene Gay Poetry in Hong Kong (Yang Xiang, Hong Kong Baptist University)

Building, Allegory, and Miracles: A Critique of Hong Kong's past and present in Rigor Mortis (Xinru Ke, Hong Kong Baptist University)

Panel 4 [FAITHFUL]

Corporate Governance, Investment and Financing in China

Chair: Li Li (Nankai University)

A Study of Anchoring Effect in Investment Decisions of Corporate Innovation: Empirical Evidence from Chinese A-share Listed Companies in Strategic Emerging Industries (Shuyu Zhou, Nankai University)

A Comparative Study of Asian Business Networks (Dajin Peng, The University of South Florida)

How do Hidden Champions in Manufacturing Industry Achieve Financing Synergy? —— A Longitudinal Case Study of Teda Filters Co. 2004~2023 (Shuning Liu, Nankai University)

The Explication of implicit Cost in the Context of Organizational Spin-offs: A Single Case Study Based on Incentive Theory (Heyang Liu, Universiti Putra Malaysia)

9:45 am - 10:00 am

Berry Delicious Break [HAYDEN]

Build your own yogurt parfait; Montana Crunch granola, diced fruit and berries, fresh whole fruit and Naked fruit smoothies.

10:00 am - 11:30 am

Panels 5 - 8

Panel 5 [CANYON]

Collective Memory: Constructing “Our” and “Their” Identities

Chair: Diana Duan (Brigham Young University)

Conversion, Relationships, and Identities: Searching the Asian Women in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Madison Buckles, Brigham Young University)

A Corruptible West: How Real Life Politics and Economics Have influenced Western Portrayal in Fictional Chinese Dramas (Natalie Shields, Brigham Young University)

The Many Names of Limahong: Remembering a Chinese Pirate in the Philippines (William Martindale, Brigham Young University)

Panel 6 [DUNRAVEN]

Health and Happiness in Contemporary China and Bhutan

Chair: Michael Given (University of Oklahoma)

Evolution of the Meaning of Happiness in Modern Bhutan from 2008 to 2019 (Michael Given, University of Oklahoma)

Governance Challenges under Zero-COVID China: How the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) Keep Its Rule and Sustain Resilience in the Pandemic Era? (Sheldon Yaodong Xie, The George Washington University)

Chinese Brush Painting as Therapy in the Chinese College Student Population (Ruth Comeau, Brigham Young University – Idaho)

Panel 7 [ELECTRIC]

Chinese Language Pedagogy and Program Building

Chair: Jeff Kyong-McClain (University of Idaho)

Friends from Afar and All the Problems that Come with Them: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives on the Experience of Confucius Institutes (Jeff Kyong-McClain, University of Idaho)

Unleashing the Potential: Harnessing Short Video Production for Cross-Cultural Communication and Chinese Language Education in the Digital Age (Lifang He, Huron University College at Western University)

Panel 8 [FAITHFUL]

Mapping the Dynamics Between the State and Other Historical Actors in 20th-Century

Chair: Maggie Greene (Montana State University)

Claiming the “Black Gold”: The Superiority of Rights in the Tungsten Industry of China, 1906-1936 (Wendy Cui, University of California, Santa Barbara)

Silk for Steel: Trade Institutions and Foreign Exchange Accumulation in Mao’s China (1949- 1976) (Yixue Yang, University of California, San Diego)

“Chairman Mao’s Revolutionary Diplomatic Line” and China’s Early 1970s Diplomatic Turn (Ruohan Zhou, University of Southern California)

The Romantic Union: Trade Union, Matchmaking, and State Power in 1980s China (Zhaorui Lu, University of California, Irvine)

11:30 am - 12:30 pm

Lunch Break (on your own)

12:30 pm - 2:00 pm

Panels 9-12

Panel 9 [CANYON]

The Complexity of Chinese Society: Fact vs. Perception

Chair: Alex Yuan (Utah Valley University)

Differences Between Western and Chinese Traditional Culture and Thought (Emily Gibson, Utah Valley University)

Current Western Viewpoints on Chinese Culture (Jaslyn Reyes, Utah Valley University)

How Chinese Culture has been Taught Through Global and Chinese College Studies (Tristin Smith and Camilla Pendleton, Utah Valley University)

Chinese Culture and Viewpoints from a Native Standpoint (Wang Yi, Utah Valley University)

Challenges and Complexities of Understanding Chinese Culture (Alitha Thompson, Utah Valley University)

Panel 10 [DUNRAVEN]

Ethnic and National Identities in Thailand (Book Panel)

Chair: Shane Barter (Soka University of America)

Styles of Nationalism: The Politics of Ethnicity, Region, and Nationalism in Contemporary Thailand (Joel Sawat Selway, Brigham Young University)

Boundries of Thainess: Language, Religion, Phenotype and the Thai Identity (Jacob Ricks, Singapore Management University)

Panel 11 [ELECTRIC]

Film and Literature in Asia: A Deep Dive

Chair: Yipeng Shen (Trinity College)

Game of Storytelling and Feminized Revolutionary Body: Authorship and Agency in the novel and film of *The Message* (Yipeng Shen, Trinity College)

Must Tibetan Filmmakers Speak about National Identity? Toward A Non-Ethnicized Understanding of Tibetan New Wave (Runjie Wang, University of Washington)

Children's Magazines in Colonial Bengal: Childhood, Child Readers, and Bengali Print Market, c. 1880-1920 (Nilkantha Pal, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Mohali)

Panel 12 [FAITHFUL]

Art and Literature in Classical China

Chair: Jun Fang (University of Western Ontario)

Identification and Repatriation: The Case of a Tang Image of Empress Wu Zetian (Jun Fang, Huron University College at the University of Western Ontario)

Literati novel and Literati Identity Crisis in Early Modern China: A Case Study of Jin Ping Mei and the Commercial Society in Sixteenth Century (Zhenxing Zhao, Fulbright Scholar in Residence, Utah Valley University; Lecturer of Singapore University of Technology and Design)

2:15 pm - 3:45 pm

Panels 13-16

Panel 13 [CANYON]

Causal Relationships in Southeast Asia and Melanesia

Chair: P. Mike Rattanasengchanch (Midwestern State University)

Lao Bombing Lao with US Help: The Lao and US Decision-Making Process to Bomb Laos, 1964-1965 (P. Mike Rattanasengchanch, Midwestern State University)

Financial arrangements and lived conditions of migrant workers in insular ASEAN (Matthew Haigh, Non-Affiliated)

American Strategy in Melanesia (Yan Bennett, Princeton University and George Washington University)

Claude Debussy's Enchanting Encounter with Eastern Javanese Gamelan in his Piano Work (Yuhuan Xu, Non-affiliated)

Panel 14 [DUNRAVEN]

US-China Relations: De-risking, De-coupling, or Détente?

Chair: David Kenley (Dakota State University)

Sino-American Bipolarity: Capabilities and Consensus (Karen Ruth Adams, University of Montana)

Shaping US-China Competition (Olivia Armstrong and David Kenley, Dakota State University)

Great Powers and International Institutions: China, the US, and Human Rights (Dominic Beccari, University of Montana)

Panel 15 [ELECTRIC]

Formation and Protection of Identity

Chair: Steve Riep (Brigham Young University)

Loyal Men and Virtuous Women: Creating the Han Homelands in the Tumultuous Yunnan Borderlands (1860s-1870s) (Diana Duan, Brigham Young University)

Princely States and the Protection of National Minorities: Towards an Interpretive Theory of Federalism (Kushagr Bakshi, University of Michigan)

Panel 16 [FAITHFUL]

Contemporary Themes in India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh

Chair: Haimanti Bhattacharya (University of Utah)

Capability Approach to Public-space Harassment of Women: Evidence from India, Bangladesh, and Pakistan (Haimanti Bhattacharya, University of Utah)

Appraising economic development: Estimating sub-national GDP for Pakistan through nightlights (Wajid Ali, University of Perugia)

Gilgit-Baltistan: Why still a Political Limbo? (Muhammad Basharat, Non-affiliated)

Solution of Jammu Kashmir and Peace in South Asia (Muhammad Sardar Anwar, Non-affiliated)

4:30pm - 5:30pm [GEYSER]

Film Showing - Pakauk: Myanmar Spring (56 minutes)

From <https://www.kiranaproductions.org/padauk-myanmar-spring>:

Padauk: Myanmar Spring takes the viewer to the streets of Myanmar during the heady days following the February 2021 military coup. Through Nant, a young, first-time protester, we meet three human rights activists whose lives have been turned upside down by the coup.

As the protests continue, Nant comes to understand the truth of a brutal regime that has continued to wage war against its own people for

decades. Against a foreboding backdrop, Nant's political awakening regarding the plight of others in her ethnically diverse country gives hope for the future.

Beautifully augmented by poetry and art, Padauk: Myanmar Spring shows the resilience and determination of the people of Myanmar, and the sacrifices they've made.

7:00pm - 9:00pm [GEYSER]

Film Showing - Blue Island (97 minutes)

This cinematic tapestry of contemporary Hong Kong weaves together the memories of older generations' historical experiences with the struggles of the younger generation striving to preserve their freedom today.

This film documents three real-life characters who engaged in rebellions when they were young. Through reconstructing these events, the film dramatizes their scarred memories and experiences by using four young people who participated in the 2019 Anti-extradition Law Amendment Movement in Hong Kong. These real protagonists are separated by time and history, yet their lives parallel and overlap, because they have similarly defiant backgrounds and find themselves in similarly chaotic predicaments.

Images flow between documentary and drama, blending archival materials, interviews and behind-the-scenes footage, weaving an expansive tapestry that encompasses these tumultuous eras...

How do the young people of this city envision their future today? What do they think about this seemingly unwinnable revolution?

"With courage and sensitivity, Blue Island confronts the large-scale protests in Hong Kong. A new wave of young people took back the streets, as one generation after another has done throughout Hong Kong's history. Bullets fly. Fires ignite. White tear gas and blue water cannons encroach on public spaces. The past, the present, and the future converge." Rottentomatoes.com

6:00pm - 7:00pm [THE BRANCH]

WCAAS Board Dinner and Meeting (Board Members Only)

Friday - October 6, 2023

7:30 am - 8:30 am

Group Breakfast (Sponsored by University of Montana Mansfield Center) [HAYDEN]

Montana Breakfast Buffet

Scrambled eggs, breakfast meat, country potatoes, warm pastries, assorted cereal, and diced fresh fruit

9:00 am - 10:30 pm

Panels 17-20

Panel 17 [CANYON]

China and the World: Dynamic Self-Positioning and Sino-Global Relations

Chair: Zhu Zhang (Fairfield University)

China in Africa: The Logic of African Attitudes towards China-Africa Relations (Ebenezer Makinde, Tulane University)

Trade, Aid, and Investment: Latin American citizen's Public Attitude toward China (Yipeng Zhang, Tulane University)

Population Aging and National Security in China (Jiachen Shi, Tulane University)

Panel 18 [DUNRAVEN]

Japanese Potpourri: Cultural Traditions and Historiography

Chair: Brian Dowdle (University of Montana)

Continental Connections: Bronze and Ceramic traditions and their impact on Yayoi Japan (James Coburn, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign)

Grave of the Fireflies and the Politics of WWII Memory (Kennedy Zhang, Columbia University)

Between Prehistory and Postwar: Okamoto Tarō's Search for Jōmon Culture (Tim Strikwerda, University of Oregon)

Seeing Beyond Good and Evil: Kanzen chōaku in Japanese Literary Historiography (Brian Dowdle, University of Montana)

Panel 19 [ELECTRIC]

Problems on the Peninsula

Chair: Youn Soo Goldstein (Weber State University)

Reconsidering the Cold War Binaries of the Past: South Korea's Anticommunist Propaganda and Kwŏn Chŏng-saeng's Korean War Trilogy (Youn Soo Goldstein, Weber State University)

Will Mutual Friends or Foes Foster Cooperation? The Impact of North Korean Threats and the US Alliance on the Development of Japan-South Korea Cooperation 2015-2022 (Franziska Schultz, Bowling Green State University)

The Collapse of the Patriarchal Bargain? Status, Duty and Gender Backlash in South Korea (Soosun You, University of California, Berkeley)

Panel 20 [FAITHFUL]

Topics in 17th Century China

Chair: Man Ning Chan (University of California, Santa Cruz)

Qin-zither music and the reinvented hierarchization of aesthetic taste in the late-17th century Qing China (Man Ning Chan, University of California, Santa Cruz)

Reopening Dialogues: Guo Zizhang's Justification of Sino-European Interactions in Early 17th Century and Its Contemporary Relevance (Man Zheng, Free University of Berlin)

Sinological Studies in Germany During the 17th Century (Eyup Saritas, Istanbul University)

Journey to the East: The Readjustment of Adaptation Policy of Catholicism in China, 1600-1900 (Kexin Qiu, Wuhan Britain-China School)

10:45 am – 12:15 pm

Panels 22-26

Panel 22 [CANYON]

Worker and Farmer As Writer in 20th and 21st China

Chair: Sandy Zhang (Southern Utah University)

Writers from the Factory: Class, Identity, and Literary System in Early Post-socialist China (Sandy Zhang, Southern Utah University)

“Side by Side with African Brothers”: Reading Chinese Worker’s Writings along the TANZAR Railway (Aolan Mi, Indiana University, Bloomington)

Resistance and Redemption: Spirituality in Xuemo’s Fiction (Dian Li, University of Arizona)

Panel 23 [DUNRAVEN]

Japanese Linguistics: Honorifics, Conjugations, and Speech Style

Chair: Paul Warnick (Brigham Young University)

The Pioneering Edo Analysis of the Japanese Conjugation System (Paul Warnick, Brigham Young University)

The Evolution of Imperial Honorifics in Modern Japan: A Historical Corpus Analysis (Noriko Sugimori, Kalamazoo College)

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and His Speech Style (Shoji Azuma, University of Utah)

Panel 24 [ELECTRIC]

Artifacts and Identity: Examinations of Asia

Chair: Hao Chen (Yale University)

From Representing ‘China’ to the ‘Third Force’: The PRC’s Quest for Legitimacy in the Second Asian-African Conference (Hao Chen, Yale University)

Transformation of Identity under the Yellow Spring: A Case Study of Identity and Ethnicity Issues in a Yuan-period Tomb Portrait,

Shaanxi, China (Hao Wu, Harvard University)

Memorializing Mass Murder: Comparing Monuments at My Lai, Nanjing and Hiroshima (Clayton Brown, Utah State University)

The Craft of Memory: How to Recount a Criminal Case in the 18th century China (Tianqi Zhu, Stanford University)

Panel 25 [FAITHFUL]

Issues in Chinese Education and Youth Organizations

Chair: Alex Yuan (Utah Valley University)

A Discussion of the Growth and Quality of China's Doctoral Education in Social Sciences and Humanities (Alex Yuan, Utah Valley University)

Wearing Memory and Putting on School Uniform: The Construction of Nanjing Massacre Memory in Chinese History Education (Yiqing Ran, University of Utah)

The YMCA and YCL in China ----Two Chinese Young People's Life as an Example (Wei Chen, Tianjin University)

A Discussion on the Challenges Confronted by China's Current College Graduates (Gloria Yang, Utah Valley University)

Panel 26 [BOARD ROOM]

Cross-Strait Relations: Taiwanese Issues Then and Now

Chair: Zyaire Shih (University of Michigan)

The Silent Invasion: The Strategy and Technique of China's Information Warfare on Taiwanese National Identity (Zyaire Shih, University of Michigan)

Between Storms and Seas: Environment, Bandits, and States in the Nineteenth-Century Taiwan Strait (Zelin Pei, University of Arizona)

"They got Taiwan; we got Eggrolls?" Unpacking Nixon's 1972 Visit to China (Nat Smith, University of Michigan)

12:30 pm - 1:30 pm

Luncheon (Sponsored by Brigham Young University-Idaho College of

Language and Letters) [HAYDEN]

South of the Border Buffet

Baked cod loin, vegan black beans, flour tortillas, tex-mex slaw, diced tomato, diced red onion, Spanish rice, sour cream, local Casa Pablo's salsa, tortilla chips, cheddar/jack cheese, cilantro

1:45 pm - 3:15 pm

Panels 27-30

Panel 27 [CANYON]

Separatism and Minority Self-Rule in Asia

Chair: Shane Barter (Soka University of America)

Confronting Leviathan: Separatism in Eastern Indonesia (Christipher Lundry, El Colegio de México)

Territorial Autonomy across Asia: Assessing Challenges & Addressing Concerns (Shane Barter, Soka University of America)

Questions of Sovereignty and Separatism in Karakalpakstan (Reuel Hanks, Oklahoma State University)

Panel 28 [DUNRAVEN]

Buddhism in Two Historical Contexts

Chair: Dixuan Chen (Grinnell College)

Religion and Health: The Emergence of a New Buddhist Meditation in Sixth-century China (Dixuan Chen, Grinnell College)

Deify the Mortal: The Role of Buddhism in Magnifying Khotan Kings' Prestige in Tenth-Century Dunhuang (Xiao Liu, Yale University)

Panel 29 [ELECTRIC]

Pop Culture in East Asia: Comics, Ninjas, and Anime

Chair: Robert Tuck (Arizona State University)

The Curious Case of the 'Ninja' Ishikawa Goemon: Fact, Fiction, and 20th Century Pop History (Robert Tuck, Arizona State University)

When China Has its own “Captain America”: The Visuality of Action Body in Wolf Warrior 2 and Captain America 1 (Xinyin Chen, Stanford University)

Division, Duty, and Face: Exploring Three Interpersonal Relationships in Japanese Anime (Andrea Keene, Non-affiliated)

The Transnational Aesthetics of Webtoon: The Production, Consumption, and Distribution of Korean Online Comics (Lien Fan SHEN, University of Utah)

Panel 30 [FAITHFUL]

Hagiography and Orthodoxy in Chinese Historiography, 1972-2023: Personal Observations

Chair: Diana Duan (Brigham Young University)

Hagiography and Selective Memory among Chinese Interviewees, 1972-2022 (Stephen MacKinnon, Arizona State University)

Adventures with Orthodoxy in Chinese Historiography, 1983-2023: Governments, Interviewees, Stories, and Me (Greg Lewis, Weber State University)

Neither Hagiography nor Orthodoxy: The Distinctive Life of Luo Jingyi, 1906-1998 (Laurie Dornbrand, Non-affiliated)

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Keynote Speaker – Jean Oi [GEYSER]

“A Perfect Storm: COVID, Collapse of the Property Sector, and Local Government Debt in China”

President, Association for Asian Studies

5:00 pm – 5:45 pm

Entertainment - Jason Lim [GEYSER]

6:15 pm – 6:45 pm

WCAAS Business Meeting [GEYSER]

(All conference attendees welcome)

8:00pm – 8:20pm [GEYSER]

While You Were Sleeping, (18 minutes)

This short documentary captures Singapore's dramatic transformation over 20 years through the artistic work of photographer Darren Soh. In English.

“When I first started to photograph in dark and unfamiliar places all over Singapore in 2003, I had no idea that those images I made would come to define me as a photographer. Born out of a curiosity of the unknown, as well as a young photographer's restlessness, *While You Were Sleeping* grew to say as much about our country as it did of me. Eighteen years, two books and two exhibitions later, Singapore is now a very different place. Many of the locations I visited in the early 2000s, once alien, are now completely transformed.” - Darren Soh

8:30pm – 10:15pm [GEYSER]

Don't Think I've Forgotten: Cambodia's Lost Rock and Roll (105 minutes)

Adapted from <https://www.dtifcambodia.com/info>: During the 60's and early 70's as the war in Vietnam threatened its borders, a new music scene emerged in Cambodia that took Western rock and roll and stood it on its head – creating a sound like no other.

Cambodian musicians crafted this sound from the various rock music styles adding the unique melodies and hypnotic rhythms of their traditional music. The beautiful singing of their renowned female vocalists became the final touch that made this mix so enticing.

But as Cambodian society - young creative musicians in particular - embraced western culture and flourished under its influence, the rest of the country was rapidly moving to war. In the end, after winning the civil war, the Khmer Rouge turned their deadly focus to the culture of Cambodia. They began wiping out all traces of modernity and Western influence. Intellectuals, artists and musicians were specifically and systematically targeted and eliminated.

This documentary film tracks the twists and turns of Cambodian music as it morphs into rock and roll, blossoms, and is nearly destroyed along with the rest of the country. It provides a new perspective on a country usually associated with only war and genocide.

The film is a celebration of the incredible music that came from Cambodia and explores how important it is to Cambodian society both past and present.

7:00pm – 9:00pm

Conference Committee Dinner (Invitation Only)

Saturday – October 6, 2023

7:00 am – 8:00 am

Breakfast (tour participants only) [HAYDEN]

8:30 am – 5:45 pm

Yellowstone Park Tour (Break at Old Faithful, lunch on own) [Meet in Lobby at 8:20am]

West Yellowstone, Montana, USA

Located at an elevation of 6,666 feet in the southwestern portion of Montana and just four miles from Wyoming and eight miles from Idaho, West Yellowstone, Montana is the West entrance to Yellowstone National Park. Surrounded on the remaining three sides by the Gallatin National Forest, this community enjoys the daily wonders of nature.

To say West Yellowstone is small might be an understatement. On just over 360 acres of land, 1,200 year-around residents reside. Tourism is the economic mainstay of the town that has been hosting visitors since before the turn of the last century.

Incorporated in 1966, West Yellowstone adopted a self-governing charter in November 1980. Currently the community runs under a strong-council form of government with a Town Operations Manager responsible for day-to-day operations.

Yellowstone National Park

Located at the West entrance to Yellowstone National Park, West

Yellowstone has been hosting park visitors since the early 1900s. Over 1.5 million annual visitors enter here to experience the unique beauty of America's First National Park and leave with a lifetime memory.

Yellowstone's 2.2 million acres of majestic mountains, sweeping vistas, sparkling rivers and clear lakes are enhanced by 10,000 thermal features, 300+ geysers and 290 waterfalls. Nowhere else can you see the amount and variety of birds and wildlife, by car or backcountry exploration.

For additional information on Yellowstone National Park, please visit <http://www.nps.gov/yell/index.htm>



Jean C. Oi

President, Association for Asian Studies

William Haas Professor of Chinese Politics, Department of Political Science and Senior Fellow, Freeman Spogli Institute of International Studies, Director of the China Program at Stanford University and Lee Shau Kee Director of the Stanford Center at Peking University

Professor Jean Oi is a political scientist whose research focuses on comparative politics, Chinese political economy, corporate restructuring, and governance in Asia. She has conducted fieldwork in China since the mid-1980s and written on China's rural politics, central-local relations, and how China's political and economic institutions have adapted to the tensions and opportunities wrought by the country's dramatic transformation. Her newest project focuses on China going global with its Belt and Road Initiative. In studying economic issues as a window into politics, Jean has found a persistent theme being the weight of institutions – policies, regulations, organizations, or structures in a polity.

After earning a PhD in political science from the University of Michigan in 1983, Oi first taught at Lehigh University and later in the department of government at Harvard University before joining the Stanford faculty in 1997. With special expertise on China's political economy and institutions in the process of reform, fiscal politics and central-local relations in China are at the center of Oi's research. Recent work delves inside local-level institutions to shed new light on China's authoritarian resilience by exploring how county governments through adaptive governance have been able to cope as the economy has grown exponentially and demands and needs from an increasingly complex society put more strains on resources and the political system. Most recently, she co-edited a volume titled *Fateful Decisions: Choices That*

Will Shape China's Future that highlights the challenges China now faces after reaping record breaking growth the last 40 years by only tweaking the institutions that it inherited from the Mao period. Current leaders continue to kick the can down the road rather than tackle the most politically difficult part of the reform process. Instead, leaders seem to be "going back to the future," relying on a playbook not seen since the Mao period. In addition to her teaching, researching, and publishing endeavors, Jean is also very involved with the AAS.

When speaking of her opportunity to be president of the Association for Asian Studies, Jean said:

I look forward to working with you to find ways to ensure that all scholars—regardless of whether they are trained in the humanities, social sciences, or even scientific and medical fields—will deem our conferences, meetings, and workshops important platforms at which to present their work, exchange ideas, and meet experts in their areas of research. I especially want to attract the younger generation of scholars, who increasingly focus on their disciplines rather than on area expertise. I want your help to make the AAS as relevant to them as the disciplinary associations. As Asia gains in importance, our responsibility to educate scholars who not only possess mastery over their disciplinary knowledge but also area expertise seems increasingly critical. I look forward to working with you and invite your participation in advancing the AAS's mission and its pledge to build diversity, equity, and excellence in Asian studies. I am honored to serve you at the AAS as we chart the Association's future course. We need to open new ways of thinking and doors into the future of academic work, teaching, and research.

Bio adapted from AAS and Stanford Department of Political Science websites.

Jayson Lim Hou Ee

Born with an innate love of music, Jayson Lim Hou Ee has a goal to captivate audiences around the world with his exceptional talent and expressive musicality. Throughout his formative years, Jayson participated in numerous piano competitions, earning gold prizes in the 2017 Malaysia Piano Festival in Sarawak State, 1st prize in Malaysia's Mozart Piano Competition, and 3rd prize in the Liszt Ferenc International Piano Competition 2018 in Budapest. Jayson is currently on a full scholarship at BYU Idaho pursuing a Bachelor of Musical Arts.

The Western Conference of the Association for Asian Studies

The WCAAS is a non-profit organization including member academic institutions, faculty, students, and staff in the U.S. inter-mountain states plus California and Washington. With this year's meeting hosted by Brigham Young University-Idaho and University of Montana, at West Yellowstone, Montana. WCAAS completes 60 years of service to the scholarly community. Since our first meeting in 1963, literally thousands of research papers, covering all major disciplines and every corner of Asia, have been presented and discussed at our annual conference. More than an hundred of these monographs became part of our [*Selected Papers in Asian Studies*], a refereed series providing undergraduate students opportunities to share their research, gain valuable feedback from experts, and mingle in an academic setting with peers from other institutions. For local K-12 teachers, WCAAS meetings similarly provide-through outreach activities and formal panels-the chance to enhance their knowledge base and teaching about Asia in the classroom. Interested attendees from the community help "localize" our meetings, also as do various Asian-related cultural performances and activities that enhance ties between WCAAS, hosting institutions, and the community. As WCAAS and its members surpass sixty years of service and communion, we not only celebrate past achievements but are mindful of our need to improve as scholars, teacher, and citizens.

WCAAS Board members, 2011-2012

Marc Yamada, Brigham Young University (President/2021 Program Chair)

Christopher Lundry, El Colegio de México (Past President/2019 Program Chair)

Shane Barter, Soka University of America (Past President/2018 Program Chair)

Brian Dowdle, University of Montana (Past President/2016 Program Chair)

Steven Riep, Brigham Young University (Past President/2015 Program Chair)

Greg Lewis, Weber State University (Past President/2013 Program Chair)

Michael Paul, Brigham Young University-Idaho (Past President/2012 Program Chair)

Dian Li, The University Arizona (2009 Program Chair)
Alex Yuan, Utah Valley University
Michelle Liu Carriger, University of California, Los Angeles
Rebecca Corbett, University of Southern California
Li Guo, Utah State University
Youn Soo Kim Goldstein, Weber State

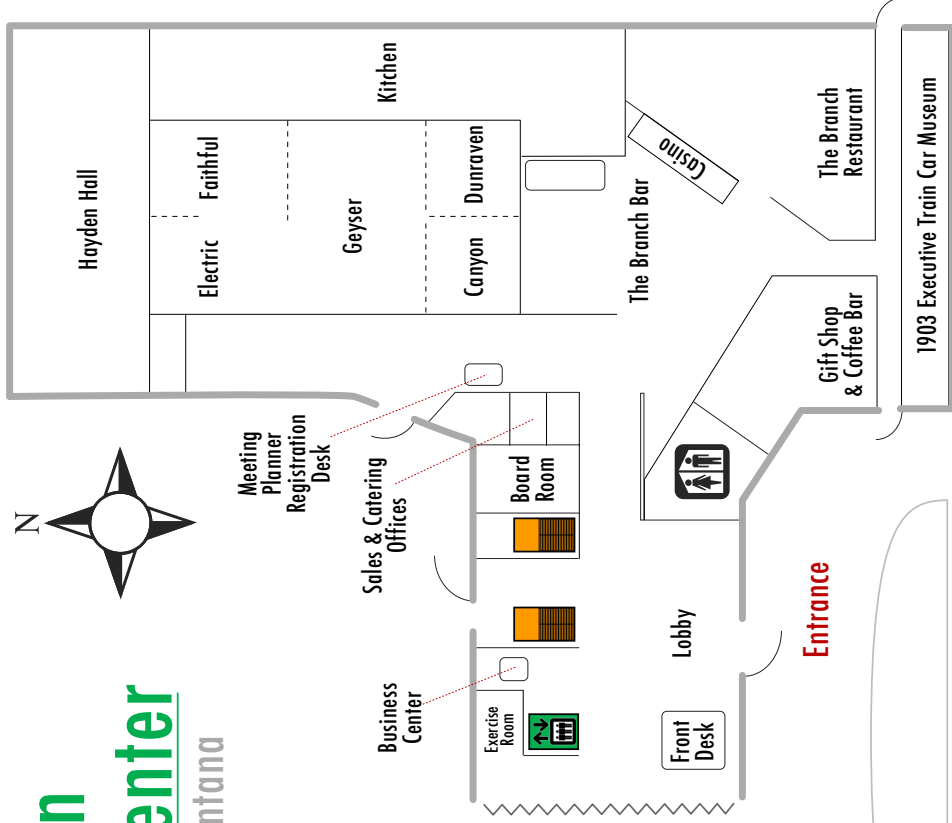
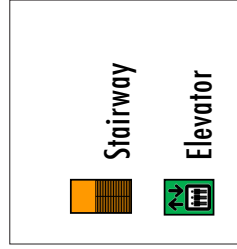
Past WCAAS Meetings

2022: Brigham Young University, Provo UT; Marc Yamada Program Chair
 (online)
 2021: Brigham Young University, Provo UT; Marc Yamada Program Chair
 (online)
 2019: El Colegio de México, Mexico City; Chris Lundry Program Chair
 2018: Soka University, Aliso Viejo, CA; Shane Barter Program Chair
 2017: Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX
 2016: University of Montana, Missoula, MT; Brian Dowdle Program Chair
 2015: Brigham Young University, Salt Lake City, UT; Steve Riep Program Chair
 2014: Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ; James Rush Program Chair
 2013: Weber State University, Ogden, UT; Greg Lewis Program Chair
 2012 BYU-Idaho West Yellowstone, MT; Michael Paul & Jeremy Lamoreaux,
 Program Chairs
 2010 California State University, Northridge, Northridge, CA; Aki Hirota,
 Program Chair
 2009 University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ; Phil Gabriel/Dian Li, Program Chairs
 2008 University of Colorado, Boulder, CO; Laurel Rodd, Program Chair
 2007 University Of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT; Janet Theiss, Program Chair
 2006 Weber State University, Ogden, UT; Greg Lewis, Program Chair
 2005 University if Denver, Denver, CO; Suisheng Zhao, Program Chair
 2004 University of Washington, Seattle, WA; Anand Yang, Program Chair
 2003 Arizona State University, Temole, Az; Claudia Brown and Hyaeweol Choi,
 Program Chair
 2002 Brigham Young University, Provo, UT; Eric Hyer, Program Chair
 2001 University of Montana, Missoula, MT; Louis Hayers, Program Chair
 2000 California State University-Long Beach, Long Beach, CA; Arnold
 Kaminski.
 1999 Boise State University, Boise, ID; Shelton Brown, Program Chair
 1998 University of Texas-El Paso, El Paso, TX; Ken Hammond, Program Chair.
 1997 University of Colorado, Boulder, CO; Program Chair
 1996 Webster State University, Ogden, UT; Dean Collingwood/Gorden
 Harrington, Program Chairs
 1995 Lewis and Clark State College, Lewiston, ID; Marilyn Levine, Program
 Chair
 1994 Claremont University, Claremont, CA; Arthur Rosenthal, Program Chair
 1993 Colegio de Mexico, Mexico City, Mexico; Flora, Program Chair

1992 University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ; Chia-lin Pao, Program Chair
1991 University of Montana, Missoula, MT; Louis Hayes, Program Chair.
1990 University of Texas, Austin, TX; Stephen Mackinnon, Program Chair
1989 California State University, Long Beach, CA; Arnold Kaminsky, Program
Chair
1988 California State University, Northridge, CA; Ram Loy, Program Chair
1984 University of New Mexico/St. John's College/International Museum of
Folk Art, Santa Fe, NM; Jonathan Porter and Frank Ikle, Program Chair
1983 Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ; Timothy Wong, Program Chair
1982 University of Colorado, Boulder, CO; Alice Renouf, Program Chair
1981 University of California, Berkeley, CA; George Dalas, Program Chair
1980 University of Utah, Salt lake City, UT; Anand Yang, Program Chair
1979 Boise State University, Boise, ID; Warren Tozer, Program Chair
1977 US Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, CO; Captian Thomas Menza,
Program Chair
1976 Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ; Denis Atkin, Program Chair
1975 University of Colorado, Boulder, CO; Noel Minor, Program Chair
1974 Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ; Donald McTaggart Program Chair
1973 University of New Mexico. Albuquerque, NM; Jothan Porter, Program
Chair

Holiday Inn Conference Center

West Yellowstone, Montana



Level 1

Yellowstone Ave.