

SCHEDULE

2025 Western Conference of the Association of Asian Studies Annual Conference

“RESILIENCE, COOPERATION, PROGRESS”

November 7-8, 2025
El Colegio de México
Mexico City

Contact us



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November 7, 2025

Welcome to Mexico City and welcome to the 2025 WCAAS conference at El Colegio de México!

We chose the theme **“Resilience, Cooperation, Progress”** for this year’s theme as we were hoping it would reflect a more optimistic outlook given some of the recent global events – the democratic backsliding, war and conflict, seemingly intractable differences pulling people apart instead of bringing them together.

This is the third time we have hosted the WCAAS, including recently (2019) and not-so-recently (1993). As in previous conferences held at El Colegio de México (Colmex), we hope to start (or continue) some conversations between academics in Mexico and Latin America and colleagues in the United States, Asia, Europe and elsewhere – we have people coming from institutions in 13 countries for the conference this year). The current situation in the US makes travel there from Latin America uncertain, and we hoped that Mexico would ease these concerns. We did not foresee, however, that some non-citizen academics based in the US would be unable to come because of the uncertainty on their return. This, we hope, will not last nor deter the kinds of academic exchanges these kinds of conferences provide.

A little bit about us... Colmex was founded in 1940 and was previously known as “La Casa de España” – a refuge for Spanish intellectuals fleeing Franco. We moved to our current location – a brutalist design by Teodoro González de León – in 1976. Colmex has eight centers, analogous to departments: Asian and African Studies; Demographics and Urban and Environmental Studies; Economics; Gender Studies; History; International Studies; Linguistics and Literary Studies; and Sociology. Colmex publishes nine academic journals and our imprint has published over 4200 academic books, mostly in Spanish though we publish in English and publish some Spanish translations of English language work. Asian and African Studies (CEAA) was founded in 1964, and features six areas of study: Africa; China; Japan, the Middle East; South Asia; and Southeast Asia. Most of the centers are MA and PhD level, including CEAA. CEAA has 31 full-time faculty members and 38 MA and 11 PhD students. Each area has at least one full-time language professor, and we teach Swahili, Mandarin, Japanese, Arabic, Hindi, Sanskrit, and Indonesian. All of our students must be proficient in English as well (and French for students of Africa and the Middle East), and some choose to study a second language if it is related to their thesis work (such as Thai or Vietnamese). All of our students receive full scholarships as well as a generous stipend, and most (if not all) of those who want it are funded in the summer between their first and second year to conduct field research.

We hope you enjoy the conference, and your stay here in Mexico City! And we hope to see you at next year’s AAS in Vancouver and the 2026 WCAAS in Oklahoma.

Regards,

Chris Lundry and Matías Chiappe Ippolito
Conference organizers



Friday November 7, 2025

Registration opens: 8:00 AM

Session 1: 9:00 -10:45 AM

1. Crossings and Connections: The Mutual Outreach between Korea and Latin America

Sala Alfonso Reyes (Side A)

Seeds of the Frontier: Global Cold War Development and Korean Emigration to Latin America

June Hee Kwon, California State University, Sacramento

Moving between Global Souths: The Representation of Colonial Korean Immigrants in Mexico

Hyo Kyung Woo, East Texas A&M University

Contradictions of War and Desire in Rafael Moreno Durán's Mamburí

Euisuk Kim, California State University, Sacramento

Stratified Transnational Movements: Korean Immigrants on the U.S.-Mexico Border

Minjeong Kim, San Diego State University

Discussant: **Matthew Galway**, The Australian National University

2. Disability in Contemporary Chinese Fiction and Film: Mobility, Beauty, and the Minjian

Room 2243

When Form Follows Function: Parallel Mobility in the Poetry of Yu Xiuhua and Travis Fan's Documentary *Still Tomorrow*

Steve Riep, Brigham Young University

Contested Visions: Beauty, Disability and Femininity in Contemporary Chinese Cinema

Ying Bao, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

3. Art, Empire, Diaspora Alfonso Reyes (Side B)

The Fulbright Year: Lain Singh Bangdel's Art and Repatriation Advocacy
Yang Wang, University of Colorado, Denver

Re-placing Hong Kong in the World: Negotiating Diaspora in Independent Art Spaces
Cheng Mun Chang, New York University

Colonial Lenses: A Critical Analysis of a 1920s Japanese Family Photo Album Centered Around Travels of Manchukuo and Colonial Korea
Lillith Jackson, University of Colorado, Boulder

The Multifarious Temple-Art of Jayavarman VII and the French Orientalist Interest in Cambodia
Punam Madhok, East Carolina University

Discussant: **Yang Wang**, University of Colorado, Denver

Session 2: 11:00 - 12:45 PM

1. Film: *Ingatan Dari Timor (Memories from Timor)* (Indonesian, with English subtitles) **Rodolfo Stavenhagen**

Director: Ari Trismana
Cast: Azizah Novi Amelia, Elivania Alves Correia
Genre: Documentary
Duration: 70 minutes
Discussant: Chris Lundry

“What would we become if the history we learn has been redacted and curated in the interest of those in power?” An Indonesian student went on a journey to explore the dark history of Timor-Leste that she had not seen before in textbooks. From visits to torture chambers to meeting the young generation of Timor-Leste, this film chronicles the effort to unearth memories. Not for revenge, but to prevent similar tragedies from reoccurring.

2. Entangling Asia and Latin America: People, Ideologies, Commodities in the 20th and 21st Centuries

Alfonso Reyes (Side A)

Ghosts of Rubber Past and Rubber Future, Philippines and Peru in the 1920s

Jorge Bayona, El Colegio de México

Refracting and Multiplying Chinese Alterity in Processes of Sinicization and Migration in Chile

Carol Chan, Universidad Diego Portales

From Baray to Barrio to Beijing: The Intellectual Sojourns of Phouk Chhay and the Rise of Radical Urban Culture in Phnom Penh's Global Sixties

Matthew Galway, The Australian National University

Discussant: June Hee Kwon, California State University, Sacramento

3. From Hell to Hero: Reconfiguring Ethics and Space in Premodern Japanese Imagination

Alfonso Reyes (Side B)

Hell on Earth: Conceptualization and Localization of Hell in *Konjaku monogatari shū*'s "Stories of Japanese Buddhism"

Raisa Stebbins, University of California, Los Angeles

The Obsolescence of Chivalry in Ihara Saikaku's *Budō denraiki* and Cervantes' Don Quixote

David Gundry, University of California, Davis

Uryūjima or Okinohama: The 'Japanese Atlantis' of the *Hōfukikigaki* (1699) and other historical records

Matías Chiappe Ippolito, El Colegio de México

4. Mobility and Marginality: Reimagining Space and Movement in Chinese History

Room 2243

Endemic Migration and Its Consequences in Tenth-Century China

Nicolas Tackett, University of California, Berkeley

Entering and Leaving the Map: Nan'ao Island and the Liminal Line of History

J. Travis Shutz, California State University, Los Angeles

Moderator: Nicolas Tackett, University of California, Berkeley

Lunch: 12:45 – 2:45PM

Session 3: 3:00 - 4:45 PM

1. Critical Korean Studies: The Model of the Three Koreas **Alfonso Reyes (Side A)**

Coreanormativity and Knowledge Production: A Critique of South Korean Hegemony in Korean Studies

Jorge Raúl Suárez Campero, Universidad del Valle de México-Coyoacán

The Media of the Third Korea: Interdisciplinary Research Agenda of a Rhizomatic Phenomenon

Eduardo Luciano Tadeo Hernández, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana-Xochimilco

Middle Powers in International Relations: Views of South Korea from Mexico

Cintli A. Cardenas Barajas, Universidad Autónoma de Querétaro

Overview of (South) Korean Studies in Mexico: Trajectories, Themes, and Emerging Perspectives

Edith Yazmin Montes Incin, Universidad del Salvador

2. Isolation, Death, and the Postwar in Japanese Literature **Room 2246**

Between Alienation/Isolation/Loneliness: Women Writers in Contemporary Japanese Literature

Raj Lakhi Sen, Kanazawa University

Life and Death in Kenzaburo Ōe and the Influence of Toshihiko Izutsu

Kaoru Tamura, University of Oregon

Medoruma Shun's "Grandpa Brazil's Sake" and Okinawa's "Postwar"

Davinder Bhowmik, University of Washington

3. Empire, Resistance and Coexistence **Room 2243**

Regional Colonial Discourse and the British Colonial War on Bhutan from 1840-1867
Michael Givel, University of Oklahoma

Beyond Racial and National Boundaries in the Empire: Chinese and British Coexistence in Nineteenth-Century Colonial Singapore
Mario Isai Cruz Ponce, Northern Illinois University

Bytovoy as Ideological Laboratory: Genre, Identity, and Resistance in Soviet Kazakh Cinema
Juan Manuel Díaz, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana-Xochimilco

Moderator: **Michael Givel**, University of Oklahoma

4. America-Asia Connections **Alfonso Reyes (Side B)**

Notes for a History of Asian Semiconductor Development from a North American Perspective
Gerardo Tanamachi Castro, El Colegio de México

The Silenced Beijing Effect: Contesting Narratives of Artificial Intelligence Governance in Latin America
Beatriz Juarez-Aguilar, INFOTEC, Mexico

“De Acá a la China”: “China” as Imagined as Remote Frontier in Idiomatic Expressions of Spanish
Yong Chen, El Colegio de México

Cooperación China – América Latina: IA, Modernización, Herencia y Diálogo de civilizaciones
Milton Reyes Herrera, Instituto de Altos Estudios Nacionales / Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador

Discussant: **Yong Chen**, El Colegio de México

Keynote: 5:00 – 6:00 PM

Alfonso Reyes



Ana Covarrubias
El Colegio de México
President



Nancy Peluso
AAS President



Chris Lundry
WCAAS Board Member and
2025 conference coorganizer

Reception: 6:00 - 7:30PM

Alfonso Reyes

Saturday November 8, 2025

Registration 8:00 AM

Graduate Student Poster Session, 9:00AM-1:00PM Daniel Cosío Villegas Library (Lobby)

Session 4: 9:00-10:45 AM

1. India-Pakistan Conflict Alfonso Reyes (Side B)

The India-Pakistan Territorial Dispute: Pahalgam, Towards International Mediation
Mario González Castañeda, Escuela Nacional de Estudios Superiores-Juriquilla

The Origin of the Conflict: The Partition and Accession of Princely States
Laura Carballido Coria, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana-Cuajimalpa

Outside the Nation: The Policies of the Government of India and the Condition of the People of Jammu & Kashmir (1947-2025)
Ma. Fernanda Vázquez Vela, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana-Cuajimalpa

Religious Tension of a Multi-sided Conflict between India and Pakistan over Kashmir
Beatriz Martínez Saavedra, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México

2. Science Diplomacy in Asia and the Americas: Postcolonial and Decolonial Approaches Room 2246

Troubling Science Diplomacy: Challenging Dominant Narratives and Decentering Histories
Vivette García Deister, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, and
Alexis Bedolla Velázquez, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México

Filling in the Missing Pieces: Other Aspects of Science Diplomacy in Asia and Beyond
Itty Abraham, Arizona State University

A “Bright Spot” on the agenda?: Science Diplomacy and Environmental Governance on the US-Mexico Border
Analiese Richard, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana-Cuajimalpa

Science Diplomacy in the 1950s: India and China
Stephen MacKinnon, Arizona State University

3. Activism and Human Rights in Southeast Asia **Alfonso Reyes (Side A)**

Academic Activism in the Philippines and Thailand: Solidarity from Within and Beyond the Classroom

Joel Mark Baysa Barredo, Southeast Asian Human Rights and Peace Studies Network

Conducting Human Rights Research in Forbidden Spaces: Timor-Leste Under Occupation

Chris Lundry, El Colegio de México

Between Shipping and Solidarity: Global BL Fandom as Digital Activism in Thai Queer Politics

Sandra Ríos, El Colegio de México

Moderator: **Chris Lundry**

4. Transregional Studies: Connecting Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean

Daniel Cosío Villegas Library (Lobby)

Localizing Chinese Politics in Central America

Monica DeHart, University of Puget Sound

El Saqueo: Searching for Meaning in Lima's Anti-Japanese Riot of 1940

Fredy Gonzalez, University of Illinois

Affective Spaces and the Performance of Chineseness in Latin American Literature and Cinema

Francisco Chen López, Spelman University

Discussant: **Matías Chiappe Ippolito**, Colegio de México

Moderator: **Carol Chan**, Universidad Diego Portales

5. Diplomacy and Political Perception

Room 2243

Bureaucratic Politics and the Evolution of China's Taiwan Affairs Office, 1991-2025
William Martindale, University of California, San Diego

Korea-Japan Relation from Past to Present: Joseon Tongsin as World Heritage and People to People Connection
Pablo Alejandro Sosa Pérez, El Colegio de México

Chinese Diplomacy: Strategic Linkage Between the Political Trajectory of Diplomats and the Contributions of the Chinese School of International Relations
Imanol Rodríguez Múgica, Universidad de Buenos Aires

A National Construction Force or a Self-Defense Force? Security Debates in the Wake of the Ise Bay Typhoon
Aaron Skabelund, Brigham Young University

Session 5: 11:00 AM - 12:45PM

1. Film: *El Amo del Jardín (The Garden's Master)* (Spanish with English subtitles)
Rodolfo Stavenhagen

Director: Fernando Krapp

Starring: Yasuo Inomata

Genre: Documentary

Duration: 85 minutes

Discussants: Fernando Krapp and Matías Chiappe Ippolito

The Master of the Garden portrays the life and work of Yasuo Inomata, the Japanese landscape designer responsible for creating the Japanese Garden in Buenos Aires and the Japanese Garden in Escobar. The film explores his deep dedication to the art of landscaping, his spiritual connection with nature, and the journeys he made between Japan and Argentina. Through his story, a bridge is formed between two cultures, highlighting Inomata's legacy in Argentina's urban and cultural landscape.

2. Late 19th and Early 20th Century Cross-cultural Encounters between the West and Japan

Alfonso Reyes (Side A)

“A Reading Journey Through Japan”: An American Woman’s Perspective

Rebecca Corbett, The University of Southern California

“A Work So Intolerably Dry”: Translation and Cultural Context in the Global Reception of *Nihon gaishi*

Robert Tuck, Arizona State University

The Selective Gaze: Controlling Ainu Identity in Meiji Visual Media

Antonella Morgillo, Arizona State University

Localized Modernities: *Osaka Puck* and the Global Circulation of Satirical Print

Ann Marie Davis, The Ohio State University

3. Epistemological Reflections of China Studies in Mexico

Alfonso Reyes (Side B)

“The Evolution of the Mexican Epistemic Community Focused on China Studies”

Eduardo Tzili-Apango, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana-Xochimilco

Limits and Subjectivities: Rethinking China Studies from Mexico

Mariana Escalante, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México

Reflections on Chinese Studies in Mexico: Advances, Challenges, and New Research Agendas

Renato Balderrama, Centor de Investigación y Docencia Económicas

Moderator: Raquel León, Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla

4. Indigeneity in the Philippines: New Conversations

Room 2243

Situating the Philippines in Global Indigeneity

Carolyn Podruchny, York University, and **Jimmy Fong**, University of the Philippines Baguio

The Challenges of Indigenous Peoples towards Sustainable Development in Mindanao, Philippines

Maria Cecilia T. Medina, University of the Philippines

Towards Indigenous Territorial Autonomy in Asia

Shane Barter, Soka University of America

5. Indian Epigraphy, Philosophy and Folklore

Daniel Cosío Villegas Library (Lobby)

Disappearing Texts on Displaced Women: Gender, Religious Authority, and Digital Epigraphy on Medieval South India,

Renato Dávalos, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique and the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales

Tagore's Translations of Kabir: His Choices and Interpretations

David Lorenzen, El Colegio de México

Folk Tantra and Popular Literature

Adrián Muñoz, El Colegio de México

Moderator: David Lorenzen, El Colegio de México

Lunch: 12:45 – 2:45 PM

Session 6: 3:00 - 4:45 PM

1. Disobedient Objects between Qing China and the Americas

Alfonso Reyes (Side B)

“Black Jade” and Qing Material Understandings: An Obsidian Mirror at the Shunzhi Emperor's Collection

Sylvia Tongyan Qiu, University of California, Los Angeles

Hide and Seek: How Transoceanic Objects of Catholic Proselytism Defied Imperial Authority in Eighteenth-Century China

Albert Kozik, University of Warsaw

Pink Tourmaline from Mesa Grande: Cixi's Sovereign Power and Subversive Femininity

Joy Zhu, University of California, Los Angeles

2. Rethinking the Archive: Platforms, Practices, and Asian Diasporic Memory in the Americas

Alfonso Reyes (Side A)

Beyond the Official History: Tusán Community and Working with Digital Archives

Maria Alexandra Arana Blas, University of Pittsburgh

“Archives of Policing Chinese Mexican Communities: El Complot Mongol and the Cold War in Mexico”

Oscar Zapata García, University of Pittsburgh

Hotaru, Point of Connection Between Mexico and Japan

Miguel Ángel Elguea Echavarría, Hotaru Centro Cultural

3. Religion, Spirituality, Philosophy

Daniel Cosío Villegas Library (Lobby)

Resilience of the Asian Catholic Church amid Growing Western Isolationism

Joseph Evans, Villanova University, and **Ngoc Nguyen**, Marquette University

Buddhist and Secular Approaches to Mindfulness Practice

Mario Poceski, University of Florida

Moderator: Mario Poceski, University of Florida

4. Contemporary Asian Politics

Room 2246

Between the Party-State and the Global Order: The Rise and Fall of Civil Society in Vietnam in Historical and Holistic Perspective

Tuong Vu, University of Oregon

Resilience Through Conflict: Economic Security, Domestic Politics, and the Japan–South Korea Trade Dispute

Jemma Kim, Meiji University

Kazakhstan and Belarus: Divergent Trajectories in the International Geostructure

Mónica Ramos, Universidad Autónoma de Guadalajara

Xi Jinping’s Four Initiatives and China’s Aspirations for a Multi-polar World.

Ignacio Villagrán, Universidad de Buenos Aires

Moderator: Tuong Vu, University of Oregon



WCAAS 2025



Centro de
Estudios de
Asia y África

Investigación,
pluralidad,
multiculturalidad



EL COLEGIO
DE MÉXICO

El Colegio es
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