

**ASIA @ SMU
Event Archives**

FALL 2017

CONFERENCE, Sept. 16th

Asian Studies and the South Asian Research and Information Institute Present a Day-Long Conference:

WOMEN AND POWER IN INDIAN TRADITION: ROYALTY, RENUNCIATION, AND MATRILINY

Presenters:

The Queen, the Dasi, and Sexual Politics in the Sabhaparvan of the Mahabharata

Uma Chakravarti, Ph.D.

Delhi University (Emerita)

Ruby of the Dynasty: Chola Queen Sembiyam Mahadevi

Vidya Dehejia, Ph.D.

Columbia University

Women and Truth Speech: The Classical Saint Karaikkal Ammaiyar Then and Now

Karen Pechilis, Ph.D.

Drew University

Women, Matriliney, and Literacy in Kerala

Donald R. Davis, Jr., Ph.D.

The University of Texas at Austin

The Power a Woman's Story Creates: Stories, Lives, and Female Renunciation in India

Antoinette DeNapoli, Ph.D.

Texas Christian University

Chair:

Steven E. Lindquist, Ph.D.

Southern Methodist Univeristy

For free registration, send the full name, telephone number, and email address of each attendee to women@sarii.org

FALL 2015

CONFERENCE, OCT. 10th

Asian Studies and the South Asian Research and Information Institute Present a Day-Long Conference:

TRANSFORMATIONS IN THE TEMPLES OF SOUTH INDIA: PEOPLE, RITUAL, DEITIES

Presenters:

Temples and the State in South India in the Colonial and Post-Colonial Periods

Christopher Fuller, Ph.D.

London School of Economics, United Kingdom (Emeritus)

Unveiling Changes of Faith in the Medieval Tamil-Speaking South:

The Case of Tirupparankunram and Tiruccentur

Valérie Gillet, Ph.D.

École française d'Extrême-Orient, Pondicherry, India

Who has the Authority to Make Changes in Śrī Vaiṣṇava Temples?

Vasudha Narayanan, Ph.D.

The University of Florida, Gainesville

From Priestesses to Performers: Changes in Women's Roles in Tamil Temples

S. Palaniappan, Ph.D.

South Asia Research and Information Institute, Dallas

Dramatic Changes in the Chidambaram Temples over Time

Paul Younger, Ph.D.

McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario (Emeritus)

Chair:

Steven E. Lindquist, Ph.D.

Southern Methodist University

Saturday, Oct. 10th

Dallas Hall, McCord Auditorium

9am-5pm

Conference is free and open to the public, but registration is required (please email: temples@sarii.org)
Abstracts and presenter bios will be posted shortly.

FALL 2014

CONFERENCE, NOV. 5-6

Tower Center Presents:

THE UNITED STATES AND CHINA: STRATEGY, COMPETITION, AND INNOVATION

For many years the focus of U.S. grand strategy has been on Europe and the Persian Gulf. Now Washington's attention is turning to the east. What are the implications for strategy, policy, military operations, and the defense industry? Speakers will discuss what the so-called "pivot to Asia" means to the United States, China, and other states in the region. They will also explore questions about military operations in a hypothetical conflict with China. Finally, they will consider the implications for the defense industry if the competition with China comes to

dominate U.S. attention.

The keynote dinner and panel discussions are open to the public, but space is limited. To register for one or both events, please email: tower@smu.edu
For schedule, speakers, and other details, please visit the Tower Center event [webpage](#).

CONFERENCE, SEPTEMBER 6TH

Asian Studies and the South Asian Research and Information Institute Present a Day-Long Conference:

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION POLICIES AND HIGHER EDUCATION IN INDIA

Presenters:

Marc Galanter, JD

The University of Wisconsin - Madison

"The Possible Futures of Reservations"

Ashwini Deshpande, Ph.D.

Delhi School of Economics

"Caste Disparities, Discrimination and Affirmative Action: Two Stories from Tamil Nadu and Gujarat"

Guilhem Cassan, Ph.D.

The University of Namur, Belgium

"Quantifying the Effect of Reservations for Low Castes on Educational Attainment"

Veronica Frisancho, Ph.D.

Inter-American Development Bank

"Affirmative Action in Higher Education in India: Targeting, Catch Up, and Mismatch"

Ajantha Subramanian, Ph.D.

Harvard University

"The Meritocrats: the Indian Institutes of Technology and the Social Life of Caste"

Discussant:

Prathiba Natesan, Ph.D.

University of North Texas

Chair:

Steven E. Lindquist, Ph.D.

Southern Methodist University

Saturday, September 6th

Dallas Hall, McCord Auditorium

9am-5pm

Conference is free, but registration is required by Sept. 1st (please email: affirmative@sarii.org)

Abstracts and presenter bios are available [here](#)

SPRING 2014

LECTURE, APRIL 9TH

The Clements Dept. of History at SMU presents:

Parents to the People or Demon Commanders: Shrines to Living Bureaucrats in Ming China

Dr. Sarah Schneewind, UC - San Diego

5pm, McCord Auditorium

In China, dead men and women frequently received honor in shrines, moving up the career ladder of the pantheon from ghost or demon to god or demon-master as they answered prayers. But the enshrinement of living men, mostly officials and generals, though less well-recognized by scholars, is also clearly attested in the sources. This talk will present highlights of research being done for the first book in any language on the ubiquitous institution of pre-mortem shrines, focusing on the Ming period (1368-1644), and addressing questions such as: Why exactly did living shrines to Wei Zhongxian, with their bejeweled images of the eunuch dictator, outrage popular opinion? Did living shrines merely let local gentry flatter an official on his way up, or did they permit commoners to pressure those ruling them? Were living men honored, or worshipped? How did pre-mortem shrines—which were legal under certain conditions—undermine the organizational rationale of the bureaucratic state? Did the Mandate of Heaven ideology that legitimated the dynasty trickle down, or up? Who commanded the ghostly troops that saved Cheng'an county from bandits?

Professor Schneewind is the author of A Tale of Two Melons: Emperor and Subject in Ming China (2006); Community Schools and the State in Ming China (2006); editor, Long Live the Emperor! Uses of the Ming Founder across Six Centuries of East Asian History (2008); and editor, posthumous publication of Jaret Weisfogel's A Late Ming Vision for Local Community: Ritual, Law, and Social Ferment in the Proposals of Guan Zhidao (2010).

LECTURE, MARCH 6TH

The "Butt of a Joke": Architecture, Empire, and the Politics of Laughter in Eighteenth-Century London

Dr. Zirwat Chowdhury

5:15pm, Owens Art Center 2020 (SE corner of the building, 2nd fl)

Zirwat Chowdhury (PhD Northwestern, 2012) is currently visiting assistant professor at Reed College. Her research concerns the interconnected histories of art and architecture in Britain, France, and South Asia in the long eighteenth century. In particular, it traces the ways in which political thought, aesthetic discourse, and artistic practices in these regions periodized and configured the "pre-modern" as a site and signifier of cultural and technological difference.

ROUNDTABLE, MARCH 25th

The 2011 Earthquake, Tsunami and Nuclear Accident in Japan: Coordinating the U.S. Government Response

Location: Tower Center Boardroom, 2nd floor Carr Collins

Time: noon to 1:30 PM

Come learn about the unique and complex challenges facing the U.S. government response to international disasters.

[RSVP required](#); lunch included.

U.S., SOUTH & NORTH KOREA: WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS

featuring

Dr. Victor Cha D.S. Song, Chair for Government & International Affairs & Director of Asian Studies, Georgetown University

Dr. David Kang, Professor of International Relations & Business, Director of the Korean Studies Institute, University of Southern California

Dr. Han Park, Professor of International Affairs, Director of the Center for the Study of Global Issues, University of Georgia

moderated by Dr. Joshua Rovner, John G. Tower Chair for International Politics & National Security, Director of Studies for Tower Center for Political Studies, SMU

Monday, February 24th, 2014, Reception at 5:30 p.m.; Program at 6:00 p.m.

McCord Auditorium, Dallas Hall, 3225 University Boulevard, SMU Campus

Please register [here](#).

FALL 2013

VIDEO PRESENTATION AND ROUNDTABLE, SEPT 10TH

The Tower Center and Asian Studies Presents:

"This is MY Rock: Role and Influence of New Media in the South China Sea Territorial Disputes"

5:30-7:30, McCord Auditorium

Details here

This event is supported with a grant from the U.S. Institute of Peace's Public Education for Peacebuilding Support Initiative.

SYMPOSIUM, SEPT. 18th-19th

Tower Center Presents a Sun and Star Symposium

"Asia's Contested Waters: The East China and South China Sea"

Crum Auditorium

Details here

LECTURE, SEPT. 23rd

Tower Center Presents:

"Japan's Political Institutional Changes and Power Shift"

5PM, Tower Center Board Room

Details here

LECTURE, SEPT. 25th

Clements Department of History Presents a Stanton Sharp Lecture:
"Revolution, Reform, and Rejuvenation: A Century of Intellectual Service in China"

by Dr. Timothy Cheek
6PM, McCord Auditorium

Details [here](#)

CONFERENCE, SEPT. 28th

Asian Studies and SARII Present our Annual South Asia Conference:

"Christianity in South India"

9AM-5PM, McCord Auditorium

Details [here](#)

ROUNDTABLE, OCT. 8

Tower Center Presents:

Asia's Contested Waters Followup Roundtable

4pm, Tower Center Board Room

Details [here](#)

PAST EVENTS

STUDENT EVENT: APRIL 13th, 2013

Asian Council Benefit Concert

8pm, Student Center Ballroom

STUDENT EVENT: APRIL 12th, 2013

Night Market sponsored by East Asian Students Association, SMU

7pm at Flagpole

STUDENT EVENT: APRIL 6th, 2013

Bhangra Blitz Sponsored by Indian Students Association, SMU

6:30pm, McFarlin Auditorium

Free to SMU students and faculty

STUDENT EVENTS: APRIL, 2013

Asian-American Heritage Month

See events and schedule.

LECTURE FEB. 7TH, 2013

The Tower Center, Asian Studies, and Dedman College present a Scott Hawkins Lecture:

China's Dangerous Future: Sources of Instability and the Crisis of Communist Party Rule by Dr. Ralph Thaxton

Ralph Thaxton is a Professor of Politics at the Brandeis University and an expert on Chinese politics, international relations of East Asia, comparative revolutions, and comparative democratic movements. His publications include *Salt of the Earth: The Political Origins of Peasant Protest and Communist Revolution in China* and *China Turned Rightside Up: Revolutionary Legitimacy in the Peasant World*. Professor Thaxton received his PhD in Political Science from University of Wisconsin.

Time: 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Place: McCord Auditorium, Dallas Hall

More information and free registration: [here](#)

LECTURE OCT. 10TH, 2012

The Bush Institute, Asian Studies, and Embrey Human Rights Present:

Escape from North Korea, The Untold Story of Asia's Underground Railroad by Melanie Kirckpatrick

Time: 6:00 PM

Place: McCord Auditorium

Reception to follow; event is invite-only.

CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 22, 2012:

Asian Studies and SARII co-present a one-day conference:

CITIES, COURTS, AND SAINTS: *Muslim Cultures of South Asia*

TIME: 9am-5pm

PLACE: McCord Auditorium, Dallas Hall

Presenters:

DR. RICHARD M. EATON (U. of Arizona)

DR. RAJIV KINRA (Northwestern University)
DR. AZFAR MOIN (Southern Methodist University)
DR. BARBARA D. METCALF (U. of MI, emerita)
DR. THOMAS METCALF (UC Berkeley, emeritus)
DR. KATHERINE SCHOFIELD (King's College)

Chair:
DR. AZFAR MOIN (Southern Methodist University)

Flier downloadable [here](#)
Abstracts downloadable [here](#)
Registration is now closed.

For information on the South Asia Research and Information Institute (SARII), please see www.sarii.org
Special thanks to the Clements Department of History and the Department of Religious Studies

PAST EVENTS

LECTURE APRIL 16, 2012:

The Tower Center Presents:

China—Japan—U.S. Triangular Relationship by Dr. Ezra Vogel

Ezra Vogel is the Henry Ford II Research Professor of the Social Sciences Emeritus at Harvard University. Dr. Vogel has served as Director of the Program on U.S.-Japan Relations at the Center for International Affairs (1980-87), National Intelligence Officer for East Asia at the National Intelligence Council (1993-95), Director of the Fairbank Center (1995-99), and the first Director of the Asia Center (1997-99).

He is the author of a number of books including *Japan as Number One: Lessons for America*, which is the all-time non-fiction best-seller in Japan by a Western author; and most recently, *Deng Xiaoping and the Transformation of China* (2011).

Time: 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Place: Great Hall, Elizabeth Perkins Prothro Hall

Register [here](#)

LECTURE APRIL 11, 2012:

Evolving Role of the Mosque in American Society by **Dr. Ingrid Mattson** Professor of Islamic Studies, Hartford Seminary

A Scott-Hawkins Lecture sponsored by the Department of Religious Studies in Dedman College and the Perkins School of Theology. Dr. Mattson will discuss the complex demographics of American Muslims, the

cultural and ideological differences, the integration or lack of integration of mosques into the American landscape, the role of the imam and the way that the American context shapes the way Muslims organize their community priorities.

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: McCord Auditorium, Dallas Hall

LECTURE MARCH 28, 2012:

The Tower Center Presents:

Economic & Political Leadership from the Emerging World?

by Dr. Stephan Haggard

Keynote Dinner Address

Stephan Haggard is a political scientist at the School of International Relations and Pacific Studies at UC San Diego, where he is the Lawrence and Sallye Krause Professor of Korea-Pacific Studies and Director of the Korea-Pacific Program. His research centers on the international relations, politics, and economics of East Asia and Latin America.

He is the author of *The Politics of Growth in the Newly Industrializing Countries*, *The Political Economy of Democratic Transitions*, *The Political Economy of the Asian Financial Crisis*, and *North Korea: Aid, Markets and Reform*.

Time: 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Place: Jones Great Hall, Meadows Museum

Register [here](#)

ROUNDTABLE FEBRUARY 28, 2012:

The Tower Center Student Forum in partnership with the National Unification Advisory Council Presents:

The Past and Future Development of the Korean Peninsula

In the wake of the recent death of Kim Jung-Il, North Korea faces tremendous challenges from economic stagnation and international criticism of its nuclear program. In stark contrast, South Korea has had a history of impressive economic growth and marks more than 60 years of democracy with its upcoming presidential election.

This panel of speakers explores the dramatically different paths followed by the "Two Koreas" and their possible futures.

Panelists:

Professor Hiroki Takeuchi, Political Science, SMU

Mr. Chong Choe, Chair, Korean American Coalition
Mr. Brian Park, National Unification Advisory Council

Time: 5pm

Place: McCord Auditorium, Dallas Hall

LECTURE NOVEMBER 2, 2011:

The Tower Center Presents:

India's Economic Miracle: Will It Endure?

by Dr. Prakash Sarangi

Prakash Sarangi is a Professor of Political Science and the Pro Vice Chancellor and Director of International Affairs at the University of Hyderabad. Dr. Sarangi is spending this year at SMU as a visiting Professor in the Department of Political Science and as a Visiting Senior Fellow in the Tower Center. He specializes in Indian Party Politics, Globalization, and Political Theory.

Time: 5:30-8:00pm

Place: Jones Great Hall, Meadows Museum

LECTURE OCTOBER 11, 2011:

Dedman School of Law Presents:

Annual Symposium on Chinese Intellectual Property Law: China International Property Now!

The symposium features panels of international speakers including academics, judges, and lawyers from the major players in the Chinese intellectual property arena.

Time: 9am-4pm

Place: Hillcrest Classroom, Underwood Law Library

ROUNDTABLE SEPTEMBER 15, 2011:

The Tower Center Presents:

One Hundred Years since the 1911 Republican Revolution: Nation and State Building in Republic of China

The year 1911 was a pivotal moment in history that marked China's transformation from a traditional empire to a modern nation state, thereby ending the two thousand yearlong era of Chinese Imperialism. The events of the year unleashed a host of economic, political, and social changes in China and in other areas of the world which continue to reverberate today. In many important ways, the 1911 Revolution was the culmination of a protracted struggle for national independence, nation and state building, constitutionalism, republicanism, and economic development. All of these issues continue to be central to current political discussions in Republic of China (ROC, Taiwan), People's Republic of China, and indeed in much of the rest of the world.

Panelists:

Anne Chao, Rice University

Joseph Esherick, University of San Diego

Ling Shiao, Southern Methodist University

Harold Tanner, North Texas University

Peter Worthing, Texas Christian University

Moderator: Hiroki Takeuchi, SMU

Time: 4:30-6:00pm

Place: Collins Executive Ed. Center, Rm. 200

CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 24, 2011:

Asian Studies and the South Asia Research and Information Institute (Dallas) present a one-day conference:

Alternative Ramayanas: Variations in an Epic Tradition

Presenters:

Kathy Foley (UC Santa Cruz)

Phyllis Granoff (Yale University)

Philip Lutgendorf (U of Iowa)

S. Palaniappan (SARII)

V. Narayana Rao

Paula Richman (Oberlin College)

Moderator and Chair: Steven Lindquist (SMU)

Paper abstracts [here](#).

Registration required; More info at www.sarii.org

Time: 9am-5pm

Place: McCord Auditorium, Dallas Hall

LECTURE SEPTEMBER 20, 2011:

The Department of History Presents:

Entangled Empires: Thoughts on the Iberians in Three Oceans in the 16th Century

Dr. Sanjay Subrahmanyam, Navin and Pratima Doshi Chair of Indian History, UCLA

Time: 5:30pm (reception), 6:00pm (lecture)

Place: McCord Auditorium, Dallas Hall