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Asian Studies at Colgate

# NEWSLETTER

Fall 2021

## What's happening in Asian Studies at Colgate and Beyond



### What's inside:

- From the director
- Our current students
- Study group experience
- and more!

**Find us at:** <http://www.colgate.edu/asian-studies>

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## From the Director

What is Asian Studies? Is it a discipline defined by the object of analysis, that is, “Asia” as a geographically defined area (though few would agree about exact boundaries!)? Or, can it be better defined as a set of particular perspectives through which we understand the world? Economics is not defined as the study of money, nor is geography (my home discipline) as the study of landscape; rather, each of these disciplines is defined by particular perspectives to understand the messy realities on the ground. How about Asian Studies? Some may say that it is a multidisciplinary field of study, a collection of various disciplines that examine a broadly agreed-upon object, Asia. That may be the conventional understanding, but that is rather unexciting. I wonder if we can rearticulate Asian Studies as a set of unique perspectives or analytical lenses through which we understand not only Asia, but also a broader world. This is not a call for a parochial mindset; rather, it is a call to use Asian Studies as a way to see what was previously invisible, to hear what was unheard, and distinguish what was previously undistinguished.



The Asian Studies Program is currently conducting a self-study, meaning that we are reviewing the curriculum and activities of the program in the past ten years or so. This will be followed by an external review, in which several invited faculty members from similar programs in different institutions will visit and review our program and our self-study. Personally, the self-study has been an opportunity to read past self-study-related documents, reflect on the program’s current status, and imagine the future of the program. My current thought is that there is no question, and I think that all of us who teach something about Asia at Colgate would agree that it is essential for Colgate students to expand and deepen their knowledge about Asia. Therefore, I think the program’s most important mission is to help develop “wise, thoughtful, critical thinkers and perceptive leaders” (to borrow the University’s mission statement) whose knowledge base and experiences are grounded in outstanding education about Asia. Everything that the program does should be grounded in and articulated in relation to that essential goal. What this means to the potential changes in our current curriculum, program activities, and governance is not yet clear, but my hope is that our efforts will culminate in strengthening Asian Studies not only as the “Study of Asia” but also as the “Study through Asia.”

Daisaku Yamamoto



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## Why Study Asia?

By all measures, the global significance of Asia has only grown since the beginning of this century. Though the boundaries of Asia are fluid and vary depending on observers, it covers over one-third of the Earth's land surface, 60% of population, and over 35% of global GDP. Its diversity is equally tremendous with about 2,300 living languages, variegated colonial experiences, and a wide range of political regimes. It is also the site of ongoing and emergent geopolitical conflicts, environmental distress and struggles, persisting socio-economic disparities, and public health challenges that have global implications. Furthermore, knowledge of and from Asia can also help decenter and destabilize the knowledge systems rooted in "the west" and lay ground for innovative ideas and more empathetic engagement with the world. Accordingly, an increasingly globalized world demands deeper place-specific knowledge and wisdom to cope with a variety of challenges that we face.

In the spirit of liberal arts education, Asian Studies provides you with an intellectual space that accommodates and encourages your aspiration to engage with the whole of the place and people, rather than viewing them through a specific disciplinary lense alone. Our premise is that if you want to understand something about the Chinese economy, for example, you cannot do so without knowing the country's historical experiences, geographical settings, political dynamics and its relations with other countries, changing social values and realities, evolving language, and so on. Engaging the many changes taking place in Asian societies today requires a diverse set of intellectual skills, which will prepare you to extend your career in and with one of the most dynamic world regions of our time.

The Asian Studies Program offers Major and Minor in Asian Studies. For more information about the program visit us at: <http://www.colgate.edu/asian-studies>



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## Learning Asia at Colgate

### CORE China goes to Syracuse to eat and learn

**Core 167c China** taught by Professor Carolyn Hsu, among other things, examines the importance of food in Chinese communities, and uses food as a lens through which to look at different aspects of Chinese society.

Students read Newman's *Food Culture in China* for an introduction on the topic. They learn about the relationship of food insecurity and famine to Chinese nationalism. Food is also considered one of the high arts in China, something which feeds the soul and reinforces the relationships between people. Of course, it is one thing to read about the ways that social relationships get played out through the customs and manners of a banquet, but it's another thing altogether to experience it. That's why Professor Hsu took her students to *Red Chili*, a Chinese restaurant in Syracuse, as part of their unit on food. Learning is indeed a fulfilling experience!



### Lecture on *Ikebana* by Darryl J. King

On October 27, Mr. Darryl King, from Oriskany, NY, gave a guest lecture on *Ikebana* (Japanese flower arrangement) in **Core 167c Japan** (Professor Yumiko Yamamoto). Originally from Utica, graduated from SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry, King went to study in Kyoto in 1982. He learned Japanese flower arrangement from a master of the *Ikenobo*-style *Ikebana*, lived in Japan until 2015 when he returned to Oriskany, and continues his practice to this day. He introduced different styles of *Ikebana*, their principles and rules, tracing their origins and evolutions.

A student writes in reflection, "I found the concept of arranging the flowers in a way to resemble how it grows in nature the most fascinating. The aspect of enhancing natural beauty, yet incorporating the humanistic touch, was very interesting to learn about."



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## Current Asian Studies Concentrators



### Alex Almer

I am thankful to have had the opportunity at Colgate to study Chinese language and culture, as well as take multiple courses on Asia more generally. This has greatly developed my interest in Asia as a whole, and strengthened my interest in China specifically. After graduating this spring, I hope to go to China to teach English and potentially pursue further study there eventually too. I am excited to build new relationships and learn more by living and working in China while striving to positively impact students. Alex double-majors in Geography and Asian Studies. Advisor: Song



### Yinuo Ding

As Chinese, I'm extremely interested in all aspects of traditional Chinese culture and Asian culture in general, such as traditional art, literature, architecture, furniture, and so on. Recent years, every time I have to leave home to study at Colgate, I celebrate one traditional Chinese festival with a Chinese custom with my family. This summer, we made eggplant pie and carved watermelon to celebrate the Double Seventh Festival, which is similar to the western tradition of making pumpkin lanterns at Halloween. If I can visit one place in Asia, I would

like to have a road trip in Shanxi Province of China, to see China's oldest and most magnificent architecture. Yinuo majors in Sociology and Asian Studies. Advisor: Wang



### Sophia Ferrero

One of the Asian Studies courses I've taken so far that I have really enjoyed was *Sustainable Livelihoods in Asia*. Getting to see how what I've learned in my ENST and geography courses could, and could not, be helpful in broadening my understanding of human-nature relationships, in East Asia specifically, was really fascinating. I'm looking forward to the Kyoto Study Group next fall and applying what I've learned at Colgate to a career in the field of geography and

environmental research! Sophia majors in Environmental Geography and Asian Studies. Advisor: Yamamoto



## John Hultenius

For as long as I can remember I've been enamored by Asia. The crossroads of old and new through rich and ancient cultural traditions and cutting-edge technological innovations in China and Japan have made those two countries in particular the focus of my interest in the region. My love of language and culture work together in the study of Japanese, as I get a more intimate look into the people whose country I so admire. In the future, I hope to go to Japan to practice my language skills while directing my study of Asia toward Japanese music. John

double-majors in Music and Asian Studies. Advisor: Hirata



## Adriana Kartanadi

I'm studying about Asia because it's a place where there is so much diversity that I'm unaware of even though my family is rooted there and I myself have lived there for eight years. In terms of Asia-related courses, I most enjoyed Professor Yamamoto's Geographical Political Economy in Asia. I hope that my career ends up being related to architecture and design in Asia or with relations to Asia/Asian culture. One place that I'd like to visit in Asia is Japan! Adriana majors in Asian Studies and double-minors in Architecture and Economics. Advisor: Abbas



## Hailey Kim

An Asia-related course that I enjoyed the most was Core Japan. My personal interests: BIG Foodie, Love traveling, Archery, Golf, Pottery, Polyglot, Korean politics/culture... Way too many :) I'm studying about Asia to understand relationships between different Asian countries and their role in the global economy. My career aspirations include Finance, Economics, IB, PE. If I were to visit one place in Asia, it would be Vietnam. Hailey double-majors in Economics and Asian Studies. Advisor: Wang





## Alyssa Reyes

I'm a Peace and Conflict Studies and Asian Studies w/ China emphasis double major. My advisor is Professor Crespi. I enjoyed *Chinese Ways of Thought* with Professor Sullivan as it gave me a different perspective on how to look at social and political issues, but a new perspective on modern life. I love reading history and politics. I'm studying Asia as it's important to look back to my roots and culture to be able to give back to my community and my home. I hope to work in public policy focusing. I'd love to visit Beijing!



## Yang Yang

My name is Yang Yang and I am double majoring in Asian Studies with a Japan concentration and Educational Studies. My Asian Studies advisor is Professor Hirata. I wanted to major in Asian Studies to learn more about my culture and ethnicity critically. I really enjoyed *Race, White Supremacy, and Education* (Professor Palmer) because it connects both of my majors and introduces me to see the "model minority" myths and other myths about Asian Americans as ways to cause more conflicts among minorities in the United States. As for my future career aspirations, I am hoping to work in higher education administration. Outside of school, I like to knit and crochet! I am currently working on my first cardigan project. I would love to travel to Japan once I graduate from Colgate!



## Jingyue Zhang

Why am I studying Asia: Ronny Chieng said this in his show: "I don't know what it's like to be a minority Asian, (be)cause I come from Asia. We are all Asians over there." Before coming to Colgate, I had little idea about my cultural identity as an Asian, and I had never noticed the fascinating fact that Asian cultures are intertwined with each other, and influence/benefit each other all the time. Sometimes, it takes being put in an exotic environment like Colgate (for me) to finally take a long, hard look at your own culture, and learn to appreciate it. That's why I'm studying Asia! Jingyue double-majors in Mathematical Economics and Asian Studies. Advisor: Yamamoto





## Rachel Ewanyk

I'm a Psychology major and Asian Studies Minor; my advisor is Professor Sullivan. I actually wasn't planning on being an Asian Studies Minor, but realized that my course load had actually led me in this direction, and I'm grateful! I really loved Professor Sullivan's RELG207 class, and that made me really become interested in becoming an Asian Studies minor, as well as my interest in enhancing my knowledge of the Chinese language. I'm not too sure what my career aspirations are, but I would definitely love to live in some part of Asia in the future (also not too sure where).



## JY Khoo

I'm a senior from a country 9,400 miles away (Singapore) and at Colgate, I wanted to learn more about my home region, hence my Asian Studies minor. So far, I've enjoyed my classes with the two "Southeast Asianists" here on campus: Prof. Illan Nam, who has a research interest in Thai politics, and Prof. Megan Abbas, who teaches CORE *Indonesia*. I'd also recommend taking a class with Prof. David Robinson before you graduate, especially if you want to learn more about East Asian history. JY majors in History, and double-minors in PCON and Asian Studies. Advisor: Nam



## Jasmin Lopez

I truly enjoyed the *GEOG315 Sustainable Livelihoods in Asia* course with Professor Yamamoto because it reframed communities', especially rural communities', agency when it comes to tourism, energy, and general livelihood topics. I began to study Asia when I was first introduced to some unique Japanese cultural phenomena such as their relationship with water and waste. I continue wanting to learn more about Asia because their approach to rural communities differs from that of American and Latin America, which I was exposed to as I grew up. Jasmin majors in Geography, and double-minors in Asian Studies and Religion. Advisor: Yamamoto



## Justin Mueller

My favorite Asian studies course was the course I took while abroad in Kyoto. Even though the program was cut short, being able to study Kyoto while being there / getting live video tours and to be able to apply what I learned directly to what I see there was very fun for me. I definitely see myself working in Japan someday in some capacity in the environmental field; there is a lot of potential there for more policy and societal change revolving around its unique environment. Justin majors in Geography and minors in Asian Studies. Advisor: Yamamoto

## Language Interns at the Department of East Asian Languages and Literature

### Ran Gonoï

I'm a grad student at Tsuda University in Japan. My major is linguistics and I want to be an English teacher in the future. I'm a Japanese language intern and I join JPAN121 classes every day and I host Oshaberi Cafe every Tuesday. My office hours are Mondays 5-6PM, feel free to come to my office :)

### Yuhsuan Yeh

My English name is **Yuna**. I am a Chinese intern from Taiwan. I will have oral practice with students once a week. My future aspiration is to be a bilingual performance arts teacher. Hope to let everyone have a chance to learn English.



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## Residential Fellow



### **Shavell Jones**

I am the residential fellow for Brown Commons for the 21-22 academic year. I am also the editorial assistant for the Asian Studies newsletter this year!

I graduated from Hamilton College this year, majoring in Asian Studies and minoring in education studies. My training comes from many different disciplines, but all emphasize Japan and Asia more broadly. I have also taken many courses in Anthropology and see Anthropology as an essential field to supplement my understanding of Asian Studies.

At the core of my research interest is analyzing race and ethnicity in Japan and East Asia. In particular, I am interested in the depiction of Blackness in Japanese cinema. My senior thesis in Asian Studies: Afro-Japanese Visions: Depictions of Blackness in Japanese Media examines how Black culture and Black characters were depicted in Japanese cinema produced during the 1950s to the 1970s. Another one of my research interests more broadly is Afro-Asian Studies, thinking about the global connections and interactions between the African and Asian diasporas.

I hope to continue to develop these themes and flesh out my scholarly projects as I enter my MA program in Japanese Studies at the University of Michigan next Fall!

Please feel free to reach out to chat about anything!

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## Study Group Experience

### Minlu Li (class of 2022, Japan Study Group S20)

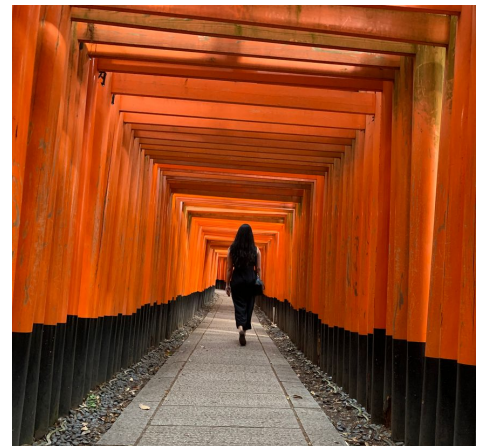
#### *1: What were some of the happiest/exciting moments that took place in your Japan SG?*

Though numerous new and different things elated me in Japan, one constance that never failed to make me happy was definitely the Kamo River (鴨川, kamogawa). The well-protected river runs across Kyoto, therefore the river is more inseparably connected with people in Kyoto than other natural scenery might be. The river is my sanctuary, for I knew that I could always go for a long walk in a safe and beautiful environment at any time. I found it curious how people's lives can be so connected to this river, and eventually I came to realize that the integration meant something more fundamental—the well-maintained long river is always open to the public, so it is an ideal place to hang out for people living in various parts of Kyoto. The river is a way to connect people, and one rarely sees that a public space can be so utilized by almost everyone in a city.



#### *2: What were some of the surprising moments that took place in your Japan SG?*

The most surprising moments that took place in the Japan SG has to be the experience when a group of us set off to climb Daimonji mountain. Originally, Dai-sensei was supposed to climb with us, but as one of our classmates got ill, he had to take care of the student. Although we were unsure if we could find the right path by ourselves, we still decided to go on the hike out of the desire of exploring Kyoto. It took us sometime to find the right path, but afterwards finding the trail it was all incredible scenery—that is, until it was time for us to find another path down the hill. I cannot recall all the detail, but I think we had some trouble deciding which was the right way





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to go. Then, mysteriously and out of nowhere, we encountered an elderly Japanese man, who proposed to take us down through a secret path after we asked him about the correct way down the hill. To this day, it still seemed magical that we collectively decided that it was a brilliant idea to follow a total stranger who wanted to show us the hidden path in the maze-like mountain. It turned out that it was indeed a hidden path, so much so that we were walking on mud instead of actual roads for the most part. The elderly man also taught us a technique that we could use if we were to run into a boar while traversing through the forest. It was truly a magnificent experience.

### *3: What were some of the lessons that you took away from your Japan SG experience?*

For me, going to Japan is itself first and foremost a huge source of inspiration. Not surprisingly, I have always wanted to visit Japan, though I had often wondered why I never tried to visit Japan during school breaks. It was only through applying to the SG program that I felt like I truly validated my 'want', as some would say that 'the primitive sign of wanting is trying to get.' This was one of the first experiences where I felt like I did not let an opportunity slide just because of wavering doubts. As much as everything else that happened in Japan was such a blast, the act of choosing to go to Japan to me truly became a sign of being more courageous in demonstrating what I truly 'want' in my limited life.

### *4: What do you miss about your Japan SG?*



Apart from the feeling of being in Japan, there is no doubt that I miss our group the most. It was really regrettable that most of us had to go back to the U.S. when COVID-19 happened, but the short amount of time we spent together was precious still. We did not get to do some crazy and cool things like the previous group that went into Japan for explorations, but we did roam the Kyoto streets late at night and breathed in the air of spring. During our trip, we had our lucky mascot

Pinky (in honor of Jack) with us and we had a mad phase of trying to find a purple jelly drink in every 自販機 (vending machine) that we came across. We went to 奈良 (Nara) and some of us nearly got eaten by deer, which was amazing. And I am greatly indebted to our cool professors, Yumiko-Sensei and Dai-Sensei, for taking great care of every one of us. :)



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## Abroad and Beyond

### Studying Abroad with Asian Studies

The Asian Studies Program strongly encourages majors to participate in Colgate study groups and in approved programs in India or other locations in Asia. Faculty of the program serve as directors of study-abroad programs in China, Japan, and Korea.

**China Study Group** spends approximately four months in Shanghai, Taiwan, and Hong Kong, in intensive language training and first-hand observation of recent cultural, political, and economic changes.

**Japan Study Group**, based in Kyoto, provides lodging with Japanese families; intensive language training; and instruction in Japanese politics, economics, business, religion, art, linguistics, and literature.



#### Approved Programs

- China, Shanghai: **CIEE Shanghai: China in a Global Context**
- China, Shanghai: **IFSA: 21st Century City**
- India, Bodh Gaya: **Antioch Buddhist Studies in India**
- Japan, Hirakata City: **Kansai Gaidai**
- Sri Lanka, Kandy: **IFSA - ISLE Program**

There are many other approved programs and extended studies that take place in Asia. For more information, please visit the Office of Off-Campus Studies website ([Search Programs](#))!!



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## New Course in Spring 2022

### MUSI 321A Explorations in Global Music (Professor Seth Coluzzi)

It is often said that “music is a universal language,” but how true is it? Students explore the “language” of music around the globe from the perspectives of sound, culture, history, and basic principles to shed light on what music means, what it sounds like, and how it functions (theoretically and socially) within different musical-cultural contexts. Through lectures, discussions, practical workshops, and performances, students examine traditional music, popular styles, and modern changes in regions such as Korea, Indonesia, Sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East, and China with the goals of thinking critically and analytically about music while understanding its relevance within specific cultures.



## Explore Asian Studies

### Spring 2022 Courses for Asian Studies

CHIN 122 A,B	Elementary Chinese II	JAPN 122 A,B	Elementary Japanese II
CHIN 202 A	Intermediate Chinese II	JAPN 202 A	Intermediate Japanese II
CHIN 304 A	Readings in Social Issues	JAPN 222 A	Japan thru Literature & Film
CHIN 406 A	Readings in Modern Literature	JAPN 233 A	Japanese Pop Culture and Media
CORE 154C A	Indonesia	JAPN 255 A	Hidden Japan: Tea Ceremony
CORE 167C A,B	Japan	JAPN 302 A	Advanced Japanese II
CORE 179C A	Central Asia	JAPN 402 A	Readings in Japanese II
ENGL 202 A,B	Justice/Power-Postcolonial Lit	MUSI 321 A	Explorations in Global Music
HIST 237 A	Empires & Global Hist:1400-1700	POSC 305 A	Coconut-iPhone:Pol of Econ Dev
HIST 255 A	The Ottoman Empire, 1300-1924	POSC 307 A	China's Foreign Relations
HIST 269 A	History of Modern South Asia	POSC 434 A	Sem: Immigrnt, Refugee & Borders
HIST 399 B	Reading Sem: War 1400-1700	RELG 204 A	Hindu Mythology
		RELG 207 A	Chinese Ways of Thought
		RELG 295 A	Tibetan Buddhism

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## Recent Work by Asian Studies Faculty

Abbas, Megan. 2021. *Whose Islam?: The Western University and Modern Islamic Thought in Indonesia*. Palo Alto, California: Stanford University Press.

Crespi, John. 2020. *Manhua Modernity: Chinese Culture and the Pictorial Turn*. Berkeley, California: University of California Press.

Ha, Wei, Le Kang, and Yang Song. 2020. "College Matching Mechanisms and Matching Stability: Evidence from a Natural Experiment in China." *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization* 175: 206-226.

Hsu, Carolyn. 2020. "How the Ideology of 'Quality' Protects Civil Society in Xi Jinping's China." *China Information* 35 no.1(March):25-45. doi: 10.1177/0920203X19897167.

Kaimal, Padma. 2021. *Opening Kailasanatha: The Temple in Kanchipuram Revealed in Time and Space*. Seattle, Washington: University of Washington Press.

Liu, Xintong\*, and Yang Song. 2020. "Comparing the Ethnicity Proxy and Residual Method: Applications to the State-level DREAM Acts and DACA." *Eastern Economic Journal* 46: 82-101.

Mehl, Scott. 2022. *The Ends of Meter in Modern Japanese Poetry: Translation and Form*. Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press.

Mehl, Scott. 2021."The Sanbunshi (Prose Poem) in Japan." Invited book chapter. Forthcoming in *Edinburgh Companion to the Prose Poem*, edited by Michel Delville and Mary Ann Caws. 262-280. Edinburgh, United Kingdom: Edinburgh University Press.

Robinson, David. 2020. *Ming China and Its Allies: Imperial Rulership in Eurasia*. Cambridge, United Kingdom: Cambridge University Press.

Robinson, David. 2020.《神武軍容耀天威》(Chinese translation of Martial Spectacles of the Ming Court). Beijing, China: Social Sciences Academic Press.

Sullivan, Brenton. 2020. "The Qing Regulation of the Sangha in Amdo." *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society* 30 (4): 737-770. doi:10.1017/S1356186320000255.

Xu, Dongfeng. 2021. *Friendship and Hospitality: The Jesuit-Confucian Encounter in Late Ming China*. Albany, New York: SUNY Press.

Yamamoto, Daisaku. 2020. 生活論と「多様な経済」論の狭間で. 松村和則ほか編『白いスタジオと「生活の論理」—スポーツ化する社会への警鐘—』東北大学出版会 25-56.

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