

THE LOUIS FRIEBERG CENTER

for East Asian Studies



Spring 2014

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Director: Prof. Michal Biran

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Dear Colleagues,

It is with great pleasure that we open this edition of the newsletter of the Louis Frieberg Center for East Asian Studies. The newsletter introduces the various activities of the Center in 2013-14 and highlights some of the main events.

Founded in 2006, the Frieberg Center is an interdisciplinary forum of faculty at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem aiming to promote and broaden teaching, research, and discussion of issues relating to East Asia. The Center has set itself the ambitious goal of establishing the Hebrew University as a national and a world-renowned hub of East Asian Studies by catalyzing high level research; promoting international cooperation, creative teaching experiences, and a wide variety of cultural and scientific activities; and developing scholarly infrastructure.

In this issue we introduce a few of the workshops, seminars, and cultural events undertaken by the Center over the past year on topics such as Japanese food, Korean popular culture, and Chinese calligraphy, among others. We also review our growing East Asian library; the newly-established Manga library, specializing in Japanese and East Asian history; and recent publications of the Center's members.

One of the positive developments of the past year has been the existence of a growing international community of people dealing with East Asian studies at the Hebrew University. This is partly due to the members of the research group on Chinese and Tibetan Buddhism at the Institute for Advanced Studies; and the members of the ERC project Mobility Empire and Cross Cultural Contacts in Mongol Eurasia, but also due to the Frieberg post-doctoral fellows who are introduced in this issue. We hope that our East Asian community continues to grow!

This issue also presents several creative teaching experiences supported by the Frieberg Center, with reports on both

the Chinese summer course in Jilin University, China, and the study tour in Xinjiang, China's northwestern and mostly Muslim province, which took place in summer 2013. We also announce our forthcoming summer courses: The Chinese summer course in Jilin; the archaeological excavations in Mongolia, and an intensive seminar on Sino-Japanese relations to be given by Prof. Joshua Fogel of York University, Canada, who was interviewed for this issue.

We would like to draw attention to two important events that took place this year. First, the Chinese government decided to establish at the Hebrew University a Confucius Institute devoted to Sinological research. The institute is due to open this May. Second, the Center's members have just won a prestigious and generous grant from Yad Hanadiv (the Rothschild Foundation) for a five year graduate teaching program "The Asian Sphere: Trans-Cultural Flows." The program, in collaboration with the University of Haifa, is due to begin in 2015. These two developments were made possible by the groundwork of the Frieberg Center over the last seven years, headed by our predecessors Profs. Gideon Shelach and Yuri Pines.

The above projects and developments assure that in coming years the Frieberg Center will continue to expand its activities and promote domestic and international collaboration. We hope that this newsletter highlights some of our achievements and showcases our continued commitment to high quality research and teaching in the field of East Asian Studies.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Center's academic committee, as well as Ms. Tal Dranitzki, the administrative manager; Ms. Tal Nizan, the newsletter's editor, and Mr. Tomer Nisimov, the computing coordinator.

Prof. Michal Biran

Dr. Nissim Otmazgin



Prof. Michal Biran, Director



Dr. Nissim Otmazgin, Chair of the Academic Committee

CONTACT US

The Louis Frieberg Center for East-Asian Studies, Rm. 6328, Faculty of Humanities, Mt. Scopus, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem 91905, Israel.

Tel/Fax: +972(0)2-5881371

Email: eacenter@mail.huji.ac.il

Web: <http://www.eacenter.huji.ac.il>

Our Summer Courses

Study tour to Xinjiang

by Vered Shurany, M.A. student, Dept. of Asian Studies

Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region lies in Northwest China and was an important part of the Silk Road and an intersection for cross-cultural encounters. The course “Between China and Islam: Xinjiang's Silk Roads” took place in August 2013, and aimed to examine the past and present of this special area: its cultural diversity; the patterns of its policy; the advantages and disadvantages of the regional ethnic autonomy system; and the ecologic challenges faced both then and now.

A group of Hebrew University students and professors took a bus trip across Xinjiang. In this tour, led by Professors Michal Biran, Yuri Pines and Gideon Shelach, we learned about the history of the area and the various religions, from Buddhism to Islam, that are central to the region's history. We also learned about the complex relation between the Chinese and the Uygur minority. We saw the amazing scenery of Xinjiang, from the mountains to the deserts and oases. We also visited museums and important historical sites in order to understand the importance of the area from Chinese and Asian perspectives.



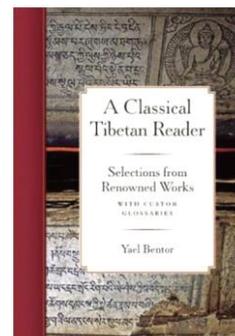
Excavations in Qaraqorum, Capital of the Mongol Empire

This summer the Center is offering another study tour that will take the students to Mongolia where they will participate in a five-week excavation at the ruins of the capital of the Mongol World Empire: Qaraqorum.

The excavation, funded by the Humboldt Foundation, is part of a Mongolian-German-Israeli project, led by Profs. Michal Biran (HU), Jan Bemann (Bonn University) and Enkhur Altangerel (Mongolian Academy of Sciences), which aims to collect and analyze historical and archaeological data on Qaraqorum as a case study for the scope and impact of cross-cultural contacts under Mongol rule. Excavations are to begin in July 2014.

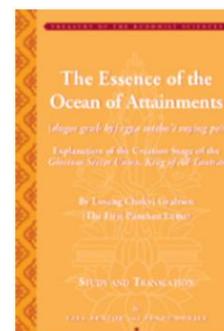
Read More: [Mongolian Academy of Sciences](#); [Jan Bemann](#); [Humboldt Foundation](#).

Publications



Dr. Yael Bentor

Bentor, Yael. *A Classical Tibetan Reader: Selections from Renowned Works with Custom Glossaries*. Essex: Wisdom Books, 2013.



Dr. Yael Bentor

Yael Bentor and Penpa Dorjee (Translation and Introduction), *The Essence of the Ocean of Attainments: Explanation of the Creation Stage of the Glorious Secret Union, King of All Tantras (By the First Panchen Lama)*. Berkeley: American Institute of Buddhist Studies, 2014.



Prof. Ehud Harari

Harari, Ehud. *Japan: A Maturing Democracy*. Raanana: Open University Press, 2012. (Hebrew).

Chinese Summer Course in Jilin 2013

by Noga Feige, B.A. student, Dept. of Asian Studies

It wasn't until our first weekend in Changchun that I realized what we had gone there to find. It was a rainy Saturday and we all decided to follow our teachers Lin Qian and Gadi Eimerl on a hike in the local park. A wrong turn led us on a three hour hike in the pouring rain, each of us in turn slipping in the mud. When we finally reached a dry spot in the park we decided soaked to the skin and freezing cold - to practice some ancient Tai Chi. As we moved, rain drops falling all around us, I finally understood why I was there - I was there to experience the Chinese way of life.



I first learned about the summer course at Jilin University at the beginning of my first year at the Hebrew University. Just knowing about this course has led many students - myself included - to spend first two years at the university living and breathing Chinese characters. As someone who has

listening to a code that makes no sense and doodling some characters slowly starts to come together. Hours of study start to synchronize with your daily life of ordering meals, buying a SIM card, and shopping for presents. It isn't until halfway through the course that you suddenly realize that you have just



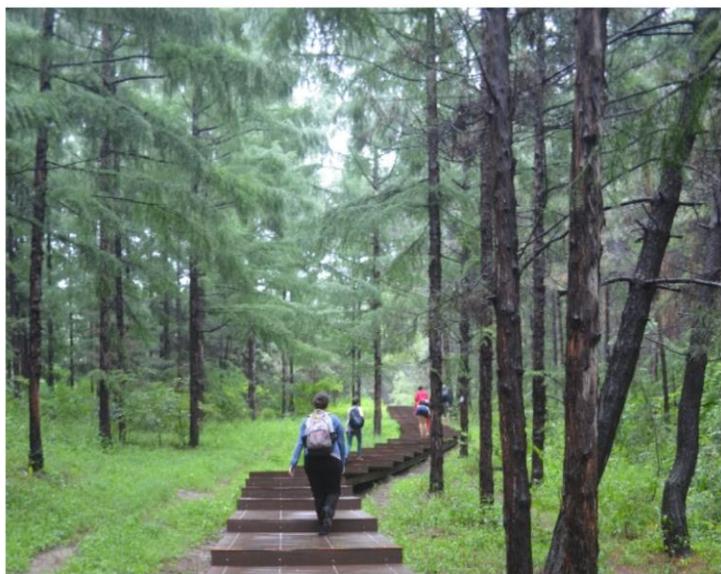
“As we moved, rain drops falling all around us, I finally understood why I was there - I was there to experience the Chinese way of life.”



traveled to China before, I saw this trip as purely A Chinese learning experience - the perfect opportunity to get one step closer to mastering this beautiful yet complicated language. After all, what else would I be doing in remote Northeast China - the famed 'Manchuria' - aside from studying?

And there was certainly a lot of studying. Four to six hours a day of teachers talking at you in Chinese (at least, they say it's Chinese) definitely does the trick. The process you go through during the course is nothing short of spectacular; what starts out as





listened to - and understood - an entire class of Chinese. As the code is slowly deciphered, you realize that the mind is truly an astonishing thing.

But by that point, you also already know that the Jilin summer course is not just about studying Chinese - it's about studying China. As you sit late at night to study for the next day's listening exam or sit with friends trying to

memorize a whole text about Chinese medicine, you soon realize it's not the medicine you are studying but the Chinese method of studying. Just like that rainy day in the park. The language classes seem to be the main part of the course, but in reality, they come second to the experience

of the Chinese way of life. By sitting in class five minutes before the teacher enters, you miss an extra five minute of sleep, but you also learn about the respect Chinese teachers both demand and receive. When you are asked by the dorm staff to avoid leaving towels on the floor of the shower, you might raise an eyebrow or two, but you

understand that cultural differences comes in all shapes and sizes.

The Jilin summer course is indeed a language program and a very good one too; but it is also a Chinese cultural education program - and an excellent one at that.



Summer Course 2014

by Prof. Gideon Shelach, chair of the Dept. of Asian Studies

This is the fourth year that students from the Hebrew University will participate in an intensive Chinese language course in China. This summer, as in the previous two years, the course will take place in Jilin province in Northeast China. The course was designed for students which have completed two years of Chinese studies. It gives them the opportunity to significantly improve their Chinese language skills, especially their reading, listening and speaking abilities. Firsthand experiences outside the classrooms – on the street, at the market or in a restaurant – allow the students to practice what they have learned in everyday life in a province with relatively few English speakers.

The summer course is open to all students who have successfully completed their second year of Chinese language study. Once in China, they will be divided into classes according to their level, studying in small groups which provide greater attention to the individual needs of the students. Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of the Polonsky Foundation, the Asian Studies Department has grants of \$2300 each for twelve outstanding students.

We are confident that this year too, as in previous years, the course will be not only a platform for impressive Chinese learning but also a unique experience for all of the participants. This experience is possible thanks to our teachers Lin Qian and Gadi Eimerl who will accompany the group of students, supervise the level of teaching, provide academic support for the course, initiate extracurricular activities, and help with general issues of acclimatization.



Professor Joshua Fogel is a highly accomplished Sinologist who has devoted a major part of his work to the cultural and political relations between China and Japan. Since 2005 he has held the Canada Research Chair at York University in Toronto, Canada. He has published six single author books and edited many volumes and volumes of translation, as well as numerous articles, article-length translations, and book reviews. He speaks multiple languages including Chinese, Japanese, and even Yiddish; “for a native speaker of English the easiest to learn is Chinese without a doubt,” he says. This summer he will visit Israel as a guest of the Louis Frieberg Center for East Asian Studies to run a unique seminar, “Sino-Japanese Relations: Political and Cultural Aspects,” which will take place at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, July 1-17.

In advance of his arrival I took the opportunity to ask him a few questions.

First and foremost, could you describe the subjects covered in your past research and tell me a little about some of your current and future projects?

“I've worked largely in the area of Sino-Japanese cultural relations, with books such as a biography of Japan's most famous historian of China in the prewar period, Japanese travel writing about China (1862-1945), and

An Interview with Prof. Joshua A. Fogel

by Tal Nizan, B.A. student, Dept. of Asian Studies

the like. I have a book in press right now on the first official mission of the modern era from Japan to China (1862). At present, I am thinking about writing a textbook for teaching Japanese to students of Chinese history and culture.”

Do you remember a moment in your life or could you define the main motive that led you to focus your study on East Asia?

“When I was a college student in 1970, I was really looking for something to be interested in. This was at the height of the Cultural Revolution in China--which from thousands of miles away seemed very exciting; little did I know! But, the more I studied China, the more interested I became.”



“It's been nearly 70 years since China and Japan have been at peace and that should be stressed repeatedly.”



Your course is called “Sino-Japanese Relations: Political and Cultural Aspects.” Can you elaborate a little on the topics you will be referring to?

“We'll be looking at such topics as the influence of Meiji reforms on late Qing reforms, important Japanese involved in Chinese institutions, the textbook

issue of more recent times, and related topics.”

In recent years we have witnessed growing tension between China and Japan. What is your prediction for future relations between the countries? Are there any interesting insights from your research that can shed some new light on the subject's media coverage?

“I try to shy away from such questions, because I'm a historian, not a specialist on contemporary affairs - I read the newspaper and hope for peace like any normal person, but I don't have any nuggets of wisdom. I do think that it's been nearly seventy years since China and Japan have been at peace and that should be stressed (repeatedly); there are more Chinese students in Japan than ever before and more Japanese living and working in China than ever before - all to the good!”

In the last decade Israel and Turkey's relationship has deteriorated, but studies show that trade between the two countries hasn't suffered from this. It is well known that Japan used to be one of China's biggest commerce partners. To your knowledge, does the dispute between the countries have any influence on the economy of either country?

“No, and this is a good point. China and Japan are each other's biggest trading partners (I think, or at least close to biggest). Politics can sometimes trump economics or even common sense, something all Israelis certainly know, but I doubt the leadership in China would do anything so stupid as to disrupt such a lucrative trade. Nonetheless, they've done stupider things in the past. Every

country seems to have politicians capable of insane things.”

Taking into account the effect the United States has on Japan, in your expert opinion is there a connection between the tension mentioned before and the international tensions underlying Sino-American relations?

“I'm not sure about this. The US has only so much clout in Japan, and Japanese leaders seem to be moving more and more to the right. Every few months it seems some Japanese politician says something silly and is forced to resign after a maelstrom of international - especially Asian - criticism. The Japanese leadership shows little or no interest in the suppression of human rights in China, which is an occasional concern of US leaders.”

I've done some research of my own and heard that you're also very interested in the Talmud. I was

wondering whether your knowledge in this subject has influenced your other fields of research.

“That's right. I've been doing *Daf Yomi* (daily page) for over eleven years now, unfortunately without a partner. I published four volumes on four different tractates of the Bavli which are basically *daf-by-daf* (page by page) explanations and elucidations of the text. The only connection I can see is that I love to jump into difficult texts. Of course, with my work on Bavli, I was aided by the bilingual editions now being published in the States.”

Have you ever been to Israel and, if so, what did you like the most about it, and if not, what places do you wish to visit during your visit?

“I've been to Israel five times (1988, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2012), always for short visits, never more than a month. I love just walking around the streets in

Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, but I am also anxious to visit places I haven't yet been to. The first time I was in Israel, January 1988, was just weeks into the first intifada, and on my first afternoon I got lost in Jerusalem's Old City—that was an experience I do not hope to repeat. The food has gotten so much better over these twenty-five years, too. There are many restaurants that my wife, kids and I want to try, especially in Tel Aviv.”

Both the Frieberg Center and I are looking forward to Professor Fogel's visit and his seminar which is sure to be fascinating.

READ MORE ABOUT PROF. FOGEL

<http://chinajapan.org/fogel/>

Establishment of a research library in East Asian languages had long been a dream of staff and students of the Dept. of Asian Studies of the Hebrew University. The absence of such a library has severely hindered the development of the department into an international center for East Asian studies.

The establishment of the Asian languages library at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in 2007 was a major breakthrough for East Asian studies in Israel. The library, the first of its kind in Israel, was established by the Frieberg Center of Asian Studies within the central library of Mt. Scopus. In addition to an extensive book collection of over ten thousand volumes, the library promptly entered the twenty-first century, providing access to multiple Chinese and Japanese electronic databases, most of which had been previously

The Asian Language Library

inaccessible from Israel. Acquisition of database access, thanks to the generous support of the Polonsky Foundation and the Bloom Foundation,



has revolutionized the field of East Asian studies in Israel, primarily in China-related fields.

The library is still a young and ongoing project, yet its impact is already

visible. By radically expanding research facilities on China and Japan related topics, it has made a great contribution toward the research potential of Israeli students and scholars, as well as allowing us to attract an increasing number of doctoral and post-doctoral scholars from Israel and the international community, including China.

The Frieberg Center is continuing to expand the library's collection, mostly by acquiring further database access which will enable the construction of a first class research library in all East-Asia related fields, turning the Hebrew University into one of the major world research centers in the field.

For details, please see the [Dept. of Asian Studies' website](#) or contact Prof. [Yuri Pines](#), coordinator of the East Asian library project.



Meet Our Postdoctoral Fellows

Dr. Peiyong Lin, Frieberg Center Postdoctoral Fellow

These scholarly communities formed a stimulating environment in which to participate in conversations with Sinologists, historians and philosophers. It inspired me to seek ways to communicate across disciplines and to incorporate a modern twist into my medieval study.

I was awarded my PhD from the Department of the Study of Religions at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London in July 2012. My doctorate examined cross-culturally the competition between patriarchal tradition and textual transmission in China, Japan and Korea at the early

Since October 2013, I have been a postdoctoral fellow at the Department of Asian Studies, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. I am teaching a course titled "Intercultural Interaction in Pre-modern East Asia – China, Japan and Korea." Having come to recognize during my PhD work the importance of



"My current project moves on to work on unstudied sources from China, Japan and Korea, and to provide a new perspective on the religious communities and networks in medieval East Asia."

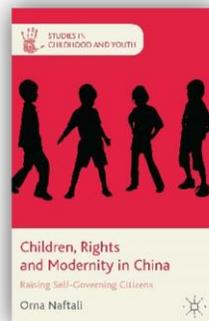


stage of the history of Chan/ Zen/ Seon Buddhism. This research relied heavily on historiography for reconstruction of the religious and intellectual history of East Asia between the fifth and the ninth centuries. During the writing-up stage of my PhD, I spent a year working with Japanese scholars in Otani University, Kyoto which greatly refined my skills in dealing with primary textual resources. This experience, in addition, broadened my perspective on Asian cultures.

In 2012/13, I conducted postdoctoral research at the Institute for Chinese Studies, University of Oxford and was in contact with colleagues at the Nissan Institute for Japanese Studies and the Oxford Centre for Buddhist Studies.

the Buddhist networks between China, Japan and Korea, my current research is on unstudied sources from China, Japan and Korea, and I am looking to provide a new perspective on the religious communities and networks in medieval East Asia. By examining primary sources written by Japanese and Korean monks who travelled to China, I am focusing on the authors' cultural identities and the dynamics of Buddhist interaction in medieval East Asia. This is multi-disciplinary research which combines my interest in political theories and literary studies.

Publications



Dr. Orna Naftali

Naftali, Orna. *Children, Rights and Modernity in China: Raising Self-Governing Citizens*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014.



Dr. Nissim Otmazgin

Otmazgin, Nissim. *Regionalizing Culture: The Political Economy of Japanese Popular Culture in Asia*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2013.



Prof. Yuri Pines

Pines, Yuri. *展望永恒帝国: 战国时代的中国政治思想 (Envisioning Eternal Empire: Chinese Political Thought of the Warring States Era)*, Chinese translation by Sun Yinggang. Shanghai: Shanghai guji chubanshe, 2013.

Meet Our Postdoctoral Fellows

Dr. Anke Hein, Golda Meir Postdoctoral Fellow at the Friberg Center

I am an anthropological archaeologist focusing on pre-historic and early historic China. My main research interest lies with questions of intercultural contact and human-environment interaction. Geographically, my focus is on the so-called border regions of China which have been zones of interactions since early prehistoric times. I received a broad training in archaeology, Chinese studies, East Asian art history, and geography at various research institutions in Germany, China, and the United States, which provided me with the background necessary for such an interdisciplinary approach.

I received my MA degree from the University of Heidelberg in 2006, studying classical Sinology as my major and prehistoric archaeology and East Asian art history as my minors. My master's thesis was entitled "(Re-) Establishing Texts? – The Question of the 'Authenticity' of the Chinese Textual Heritage as seen from Excavated and Received Material on the Guicang." In 2001/2 I spent a year at Beijing Foreign Studies University studying Chinese language, and after graduating from the University of Heidelberg, I returned to Beijing, this time spending a year at Peking University studying Chinese archaeology, participating in excavations, and choosing a topic for my dissertation research.

In the fall of 2007 I started my studies at the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology at UCLA, studying with Professor Lothar von Falkenhausen. Within the interdepartmental program of archaeology, I continued my interdisciplinary education in archaeology, anthropology, geography, and Chinese studies, spending most summers and some winters doing

fieldwork in China. I was also involved in organizing various graduate student conferences and lecture series at UCLA, both in archaeology and Chinese studies, and established a series of panels on the archaeology of Southwest China and Southeast Asia at the annual meeting of the Society of American Archaeology (SAA). During the course of my studies, in 2010/11, I spent another year in China collecting primary material for my dissertation, "Cultural Geography and Interregional Contacts in Prehistoric Liangshan (Southwest China)."

The main issues I pursued in my dissertation concern the nature of cultural groups and the interactions between them, the reflection of both in the material record as well as their relationship with the natural surroundings. In this endeavor, I combined computer-aided spatial analysis (GIS) with statistics and traditional archaeological methods of typology and classification. I present some of the insights into mechanisms of cultural contacts in an article currently in press with *Quaternary International* and am currently preparing another article which focuses on subsistence practices in prehistoric Liangshan.

After graduating from UCLA in the summer of 2013, I came to the Hebrew University as a Golda Meir Postdoctoral Fellow to work with Professor Gideon Shelach who is likewise interested in questions of inter-group interaction and long-distance contact. Since coming to the Hebrew University, I have been working on a book concerning the variability of the burial record in Southwest China.



PICTURES FROM FIELD WORK



The 20th Congress of the Indo-Pacific Prehistory Association in Siem Reap, Cambodia

The Friedberg Center of East Asian Studies helped funding Anke's participation in this important conference.



In this book entitled *Graves as Composite Objects: The Burial Record of Prehistoric Liangshan*, I suggest a new method of analysis that addresses the connection between mortuary traditions and various forms of identity.

Since coming to the Hebrew University, I have also spent time in the computerized archaeology laboratory working with Professor Leore Grosman and learning about the technique of 3D-scanning. This method uses computer-derived measurements and images to discover subtle variations in forms, sizes, and production techniques that in turn can serve to distinguish individual producers both of ceramics and stone tools. In my next project I want to employ this knowledge and

expertise to investigate patterns of ceramic production and distribution throughout Western China.

While working on material from Southwest China, I have become aware of the considerable influence that contacts with Northwest and even Central Asia have had on the region since early prehistoric times. I am therefore planning to turn my attention to the Gansu Corridor that channels early connections between China and Central Asia. These connections are particularly obvious from late Neolithic and Bronze Age remains. Together with researchers from China and the US, I am currently preparing a multi-year project involving excavation and survey work on the southern edge of

the Gansu Corridor and focusing on early human movements into and through this area and their adaptation to the local environment. Two of my colleagues on this project will work on the paleobotanical data and the geomorphology respectively, while I will focus on settlement patterns, spatial analysis, and questions of cultural contact and social organization, especially as reflected in the early ceramic material.

READ MORE ABOUT ANKE'S RESEARCH

<http://www.ankehein.org/>

The Manga Library



In 2013 we purchased approximately 200 manga books focusing on Japanese history, featuring series by famous Japanese manga artists such as Tezuka Osamu, Mizuki Shigeru, and Nakazawa Keiji. The purpose of this collection is to interest students in reading about Japan via the highly popular medium of manga. In coming years we are planning to offer a special course on the depiction of history through manga.

The library is managed by "Nippon," our student forum, and is located in room 6142 of the Faculty of Humanities. For more details please check our [Facebook](#) page or [contact us](#).



Past Events

International Workshop - "Travelling Food and Beverages: In and Out of Japan"

by Dr. Helena Grinshpun, Research Fellow, the Truman Research Institute

On November 3-5, 2013, an international workshop titled "Travelling Food and Beverages: In and Out of Japan" took place at the Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, organized by Dr. Helena Grinshpun, the Harry S. Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace, and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The workshop explored the political, economic, and cultural aspects of the globalization of Japanese cuisine and discussed a variety of issues on how food and beverages have "travelled"—circulated, flowed, interacted, and transformed — both within Japan and globally.

The workshop brought together twenty-five Israeli and international scholars and practitioners to discuss how Japanese food and beverages have been incorporated into world culinary culture and how the Japanese culinary milieu itself has undergone a major transformation due to the development of transnational networks of food production, distribution, and consumption. The papers examined the movement of

food and beverages through several interrelated themes: food as a culinary soft power, food safety and regulation, development of taste and culinary expertise, dynamics of food indigenization, food and nationalism, food and media, the transnational flow of knowledge and material culture, and warfare and food insecurity.

The workshop also hosted a special panel of practitioners working with Japanese food and beverages in Israel and Europe which touched upon the practical implications of the globalization of Japanese cuisine. The practical section included two special sake workshops where participants learned about and tasted various kinds of sake.

The workshop shed light on a number of important issues related to the study of food and globalization in general, and of the making of Japan's national cuisine in particular. These include the interrelationships between food and power; food, body, and embodiment; everyday culinary practice and national branding; eating and the making of social space; food entrepreneurship and cultural dissemination on the national and global levels.

The workshop was supported by the Embassy of Japan in Israel and the Louis Frieberg Center for East Asian Studies. A special thanks to Mr. Joël Fresco and Mr. Simon Hofstra for sponsoring the sake workshops.

The full program of the workshop can be viewed on the website of the [Dept. of Asian Studies of the Hebrew University](#).



Archeological Research Project

by Prof. Gideon Shelach, chair of the Dept. of Asian Studies

In 2012 and 2013, I conducted two archeological research seasons in the area of Fuxin, Liaoning Province, China. This research is part of the Hebrew University and Jilin University's joint project with the Liaoning Provincial Institute of Cultural Archaeology. It has been awarded a National Geographic's Research and Exploration Grant and additional funding from the Israel Science Foundation and focuses on the transition from hunter-gatherer to agricultural societies, a revolutionary process which changed dramatically the nature of society in North China.

Six students from the Department of Asian Studies and the Archeology Department of the Hebrew University participated in each research season. They worked in small groups with students from Jilin University and conducted a regional archeological survey. They learned about China's archeology and experienced firsthand life in a Chinese small town and the villages surrounding it.

After two years of regional surveys we are hoping this year to start excavations in some of the ancient (eight to ten thousand year-old) sites we have discovered. The excavations are awaiting the approval of the Chinese government and if received, another archeological expedition will set out this year including students from the Department of Asian Studies.



Kokuji-Shodo Workshop in Jerusalem

by Shir Shapira, B.A. student, the Dept. of Asian Studies

Usuda Taigen Sensei was first introduced to the Hebrew University of Jerusalem about six years ago, when a student from the Department of East Asian Studies was studying in Japan and participated in one of his workshops. Usuda Sensei was fascinated by stories of Israel and the Hebrew University, and the following year decided to visit the university and conduct a workshop.



Every year since, he has been coming to the university with a few of his students and has volunteered to conduct calligraphy workshops, sponsored by the Frieberg Center for East Asian Studies. The workshop focuses on the Kokuji method, an art that combines writing, wood-carving, and painting. During the workshop, participants are asked to choose an ideograph (kanji) that interests them, and they then draw, carve, and work it into a plank of wood brought especially from Japan. This was the sixth consecutive year that the workshop has taken place, with the participation of approximately forty students from the Hebrew University.

According to Dr. Nissim Otmazgin, who teaches Japanese history and politics in the Department of East Asian Studies: "this is a unique experience, in

which our students can actively encounter some of the most impressive East Asian art forms, and consequently deepen their understanding of this part of the world.

As teachers, we introduce our students to Japanese history and society, but there is no substitute to first-hand experience and to personally engaging Japanese artists and lecturers. Culture, and particularly art, is the best way to spark an interest in students and thus we try to initiate a wide variety of cultural activities."

As a second year student majoring in Japan, I feel that Usuda Sensei's Kokuji workshop is a rare opportunity to engage in an art form that we don't usually get to see in Israel, much less learn from one of its greatest masters. It's not just calligraphy – an impressive art in and of itself – it is also carving into a special kind of wood, and it takes concentration and precision. The process brings great satisfaction and enjoyment and the result is impressive, especially after covering the kanji with gold flakes. Everyone in the workshop made beautiful and graceful engravings, even those who do not practice art on a daily basis. This workshop was a new and exciting experience for me in which I learned and created things I have never tried before. I hope to participate again in the future!



CHINESE CALLIGRAPHY WORKSHOP

by Lee Lowenstein, B.A. student, Dept. of Asian Studies

In May and December 2013, two Chinese calligraphy workshops took place at the Hebrew University with enthusiastic participation from the students. Each of the three hour workshops started with a lecture about the ancient Chinese philosophy which paved the way for all Chinese culture and arts. Demonstrations of brush strokes with ink on rice paper were then followed by practical application by the students themselves. Most of the participants were from the Department of Asian Studies and the Department of Fine Arts at Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, but there were also a few participants from beyond the campus. The students experienced their inner self by writing with the ink brushes; their capacity for focusing and their inner peace and wholeness were instantly revealed in their brush strokes.

The tutor Elsa Puiyin was born in Hong Kong and immigrated to Israel in 1982. She started practicing Chinese calligraphy with her father in her early childhood as part of her home life. Later she studied arts and design and has worked in wedding dress design for twenty years. Her passion for Chinese calligraphy, however, has never left her. Over the last twenty-five years she has given lessons, lectures and workshops all over Israel to make known the beautiful essence of Chinese culture with which she grew up. We were fortunate to have her here to give us a comprehensive understanding of the beauty of Chinese calligraphy and its importance in Chinese culture.

Korean Studies Day at the Hebrew University

by Ira Lyan, Ph.D. student, Dept. of Sociology and Anthropology

In November 2013 the Department of Asian Studies hosted a Korean Studies Day, organized by Dr. Rhee Jouyoon, a new lecturer in Korean and Japanese studies at the Hebrew University. The event celebrated the additional courses on Korean culture and history at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem provided through the generous support of the



Korean Embassy in Israel. Throughout the day, academics of the Department of Asian Studies and other distinguished guests gave brief lectures on Korean-Israeli relations, Korean cinema, Hallyu (the increased popularity of South Korean culture), tourism and more, in the presence of the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Israel H.E. Kim Il-soo. The lectures were followed by a calligraphy workshop, a taekwondo performance, and a demonstration of traditional clothes and games.

As the popularity of Korean television dramas, music, cinema, and video games has become a global phenomenon over the last two decades, there has been an increase in the number of Israeli students who want to learn about Korean language, history, and culture. As a response to this growing academic interest, and in order to promote the intellectual growth of students of Asian Studies, the Dept. of Asian Studies, the first department in Israel to offer courses in Korean language, culture, and history, has significantly increased the number of Korea-related courses as of October 2013.

A New Business Administration and Asian Studies B.A. Program

by Ira Lyan

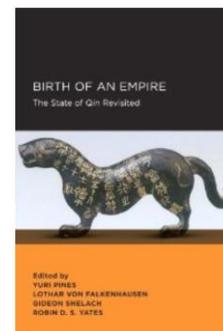
The Combined Program of Business Administration and Asian Studies at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem is designed to address a pressing need of the Israeli higher education system and Israeli society at large: the integration of the study of East Asian culture, history, politics, society and languages with the field of business administration. The resulting synthesis of a thorough education in the humanities - with cultural, historical and sociopolitical knowledge and linguistic skills acquired in East Asian studies - with the disciplinary rigor, knowledge and skills acquired in the field of business administration provides students and scholars with excellent tools to understand and contribute toward economic cooperation between Israel and the economically most dynamic part of the world. The program provides B.A. students with special courses, guest lectures by leading businessmen, academics and diplomats, as well as participation and organization of events relating to the Asian business world.

Publications



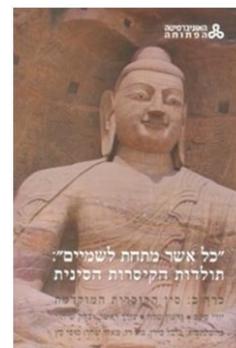
Prof. Yuri Pines

Pines, Yuri. *L'invention de la Chine éternelle: Comment les maîtres-penseurs des Royaumes combattants ont construit l'empire le plus long de l'histoire (Envisioning Eternal Empire: Chinese Political Thought of the Warring States Era)*, French translation by Damien Chaussende. Paris: Belles Lettres, 2013.



Prof. Yuri Pines & Prof. Gideon Shelach

Pines, Yuri, Lothar von Falkenhausen, Gideon Shelach, and Robin D.S. Yates, eds., *Birth of an Empire: The State of Qin Revisited*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2014.



Prof. Yuri Pines & Prof. Gideon Shelach

Pines, Yuri and Gideon Shelach (with Yitzhak Shichor, ed.). *All under Heaven: Imperial China: Part 2*. Raanana: Open University Press, 2013. (Hebrew)

Other Events

The Frieberg Center has been involved in many other events during the recent academic year:

October 2013

16-17 - Annual East Asian book fair

30 - Lecture by Dr. Christopher Pokarier, "Japan reacts to China"

November 2013

3-5 - International workshop, "Travelling food and beverages: In and out of Japan"

6 - Lecture by Prof. James Farrer, "The 'foreigner' in China's corporate labor market: A critical race perspective on skilled migration"

26 - Korea Studies Day

27 - Lecture by Francesca Fiaschetti, "Does ethnicity matter? The construction of otherness under Yuan rule"

December 2013

4 - Lecture by Gal Gvili, "Religion, literature and the future of the nation in modern China"

11 - Lecture by Prof. Xu Chenggang, "Private property rights, the Communist Party of China and constitutional amendments."

11 - Lecture by Dr. Anke Marion Hein, "The cultural other and the nearest neighbor: Han-Yi relations in Zhaojue County, southwest China"

18 - Seminar, "Comics and translation: reading Japanese and Hebrew manga".

18 - Opening of the manga library

23 - Film screening, "Back to 1942"

25 - Lecture by Eran Laish, "Theory and practice in the non-duality tradition, the 'Great Perfection' - how to resolve naturalism and intention?"

25 - Chinese calligraphy workshop

January 2014

6 - Kokuji-Shodo workshop

8 - Lecture by Dr. Jooyeon Rhee, "Vision and gender: Photographs and postcards of Kisaeng"

13 - Lecture by Prof. Alexander Dolin, "The samurai legend - in search of a new identity"

February 2014

26 - Lecture by Prof. Francois Gipouloux, "A Mediterranean model for East Asia: Autonomous cities, trading networks and rivalries in the East Asian maritime corridor - 1500-2000"

26 - Lecture by Dr. Oded Abt, "Memories of enforced Sinification: The changing narratives of the descendants of Muslims in south-east China"

March 2014

3 - Lecture by Prof. Meir Shahar, "Indian gods in China"

5 - Film screening, "Saving General Yang"

5 - Lecture by Prof. Sheldon Garon, "What Japan learned from the bombing of Britain and Germany in WWII"

9 - Lecture by Dr. Kazuko Kameda-Madar, "Literati irony: Copying and theory in Tokugawa Japan (1615-1868)"

10 - Lecture by Prof. Daniel Haber and Prof. Zheng Lunian, "Management of the global corporations"

12 - Lecture by Prof. Raoul David Findeisen, "The invention of Chinese children's literature"

12 - Seminar: "China and India: Comparative aspects in Asian politics and thought"

19 - Lecture by Prof. Jan Bemmann, "Qaraqorum: The first capital of the Mongol world empire"

19 - Launch of Dr. Nissim Otmazgin's book, *Regionalizing Culture: The Political Economy of Japanese Popular Culture in Asia*

26 - Film screening, "The Story of the Weeping Camel"

26 - Lecture by Dr. Ronie Parciack, "Media, nationality, authority: The political Hinduism in the popular areas of Islam"

Forthcoming Events

Japanese Speech Contest – 12.5

The Fifth Japanese Speech Contest in Israel will take place at the Hebrew University. The contest is sponsored by the Department of Asian Studies, the Frieberg Center, and the Japanese Embassy. Participants will come from various universities and colleges (Hebrew University, Haifa University, Tel Aviv University, Bar Ilan University and Tel Hai Academic College) and will give speeches on topics of their choosing. The panel of judges is comprised of Japanese teachers from the various institutions and a representative of the Japanese Embassy.

Korea Conference – 13.5

The conference "Cultural Geography of the Hallyu: Mapping the World through Korean Popular Culture" will be held at the Truman Institute, organized by the Department of East Asian Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the World Association of Hallyu Studies (WAHS). In addition, on May 13, the annual Korean Studies Day will be celebrated by Israeli and Korean Students. For details: <http://www.korean-studies.org.il/>

Anime Conference – 21.5

The Dept. of Asian Studies and the Frieberg Center will hold an international workshop entitled, "Japan's Anime Industry: Attainments and Prospects," bringing together scholars and professionals from the anime industry in Japan, Israel, and elsewhere. The keynote speaker will be the famous anime producer, Mr. Wada George, president of Wit Studios. Panelists will address topics related to media distribution and convergence, and the changing structure and globalization of the anime industry. For more details see: <http://asia.huji.ac.il/en/event/1937>

"Mobility and Transformations: New Directions in the Study of the Mongol Empire": Joint Research Conference of the Israel Institute for Advanced Studies and the Israel Science Foundation – 29.6- 5.7

This workshop aims to analyze the Mongol Empire from a holistic perspective and to highlight the impact of the unprecedented mobility that characterized the establishment, expansion, and consolidation of the Empire of Mongol Eurasia. Exceptional in its scope, it comprises of two complementary events: an international conference titled "Mobility and Transformation: Economic and Cultural Exchanges in Mongol Eurasia" followed by an international summer school, "New Directions in the Study of the Mongol Empire."

Both events bring together leading scholars in the study of the Mongols from Asia, North America, and Europe, as well as a selective group of international graduate and post-graduate students who represent the new generation of researchers of the Mongol Empire. The workshop has been organized and funded mainly by the ERC project Mobility, Empire and Cross Cultural Contacts in Mongol Eurasia. For more details see: <http://mongol.huji.ac.il/> and <http://www.as.huji.ac.il/content/mobility-and-transformations-new-directions-study-mongol-empire>

Publications



Prof. Ben-Ami Shillony

Shilony, Ben-Ami. *日本の強さの秘密* (The Secret of Japan's Strength), Japanese translation by Tadashi Ueno. Tokyo: Nisshinhodo, 2013.



MOBILITY and TRANSFORMATIONS
Economic and Cultural Exchange
in Mongol Eurasia
29|6-1|7| 2014 Jerusalem

