Greetings!

Greetings! There could be no better time to launch the first issue of our DEAS Newsletter than in the year that sees the University celebrate its 800th anniversary. After a wide-ranging faculty review, we are now a fully constituted department that brings together students and staff in Chinese, Japanese and Korean Studies. Change has come not only in kind (the first floor of the Faculty formerly known as Oriental Studies has been refurbished …), but also in substance: we have a new Tripos, several new teachers and members of academic staff to add to the expertise of old(er) hands, new lecture and seminar series, fresh office staff, a refurbished library, and an increasingly international student population.

If memories and nostalgia are on your menu, we hope that this annual Newsletter together with our revamped website may help you reminisce. But more importantly we hope that, through this medium, we can keep you updated on exciting developments in the Department as well as help you to get in touch with those who shared many hours of Chinese and Japanese drill sessions with you during your time at Cambridge. We are very keen to receive information about you, your whereabouts, fame, fortune, notable or not so notable achievements and hope that you will keep in touch with us through your old teachers and/or the alumni societies that are gradually mushrooming in and around Sidgwick site.

It gives me great pleasure to report on a vibrant department with healthy student numbers and creative academic members of staff at the cutting edge of research in their respective fields. I hope you will enjoy browsing through the pages that follow.

Roel Sterckx
Head of Department
2007/08 was the first year that saw the curriculum in Chinese Studies taught in a newly constituted Department of East Asian Studies, which forms part of a reorganised and renamed Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies. After a lengthy process of consultations, a new Tripos has been created. It preserves our core strengths in modern and classical Chinese language, history, religion and literature, includes new modules on modern and contemporary China and offers more flexibility and choice. Undergraduates in Chinese will now also spend their entire third year at Ocean University in Qingdao or at Beijing University.

Undergraduate numbers in Chinese are healthy. Several new graduate students started Masters and Doctoral degrees. Graduate take-up has been particularly encouraging in Chinese history, modern literature and film, and linguistics. Securing graduate funding however remains a challenge for recruitment and we are working actively to raise more funds for graduate studies.

There has been no shortage of academic activity during the past year. During Michaelmas we organized a series of much appreciated public lectures on “China and Empire” for the wider university community delivered by Cambridge scholars. We hosted the UK Chinese Economic Association’s annual conference, “China’s Three Decades of Economic Reform (1978-2008)” at New Hall. The meeting, organized by Zhang Wei, was addressed by former Chinese foreign minister Li Zhaoxing. The Department was also host to an international conference “Chinese Religions and Globalisation, 1800-Present”, organized by Thomas Jansen. The Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities held a workshop and conference entitled “Translations and Transformation: China, Modernity and Cultural Transmission” and speakers included Haun Saussy (Yale) and Lydia Liu (Columbia).
This year's University Horizon seminars included a session on China where members of staff shared their work with people in business and the wider public. The Chinese text reading seminars on Friday afternoons in the Needham Research Institute began their 15th year and must be near to being able to claim a medal for the longest continuous Chinese reading text seminar in the field. Details of all of the Institute's events can be found on their website at www.nri.org.uk/seminars.html.

An impressive list of speakers passed through our weekly Monday seminar, held in conjunction with the newly established Asian Studies Centre. They included, among others, Dorothy Ko (Barnard-Columbia), Shelly Rigger (Davidson), Edward Shaughnessy (Chicago), Anne Gerritsen (Warwick), Lauren Pfister (Hong Kong Baptist University), Antonello Palumbo (SOAS), Lucas Nickel (SOAS), Stephane Corcuff (Lyon), Natascha Gentz (Edinburgh), Michela Busotti (EFEO), and Andrea Janku (SOAS). The author Yan Lianke gave a very well-attended talk on "Chinese Literature and the Predicament of Living". This year's Chuan Lyu Lectures were delivered by Margaret Hillenbrand from SOAS. Margaret gave two inspiring lectures on the literary field in Taiwan entitled "Narrating the Nation": Localism and Taiwanese Culture" and "World Island": Cosmopolitanism and Taiwanese Culture." Peter Kornicki delivered the Sandars Lectures at the University Library on the role of Chinese and the circulation of Chinese books in Korea, Vietnam and Japan.

Staff News

There have been a number of new arrivals and departures among our academic staff. Adam Chau joined us from SOAS as University Lecturer in the Anthropology of Modern China. Peiyi Wu returned to Taiwan after two years of dedicated service as Lector and was replaced by Liu Yijun. We congratulate Thomas Jansen on his appointment as Lecturer in Chinese Studies and Director of the Confucius Institute at the University of Wales in Lampeter. He will be greatly missed. Qian Kan, who has been on the Chinese language team for nearly ten years, moves to an exciting new post at the Open University. Luckily, she will remain based in Cambridge. Other welcome developments this year included the appointment of Liu Yu to a lectureship in Chinese politics and Uradyn Bulag to a readership in social anthropology. Emma Wu was promoted to Language Teaching Officer, Susan Daruvala to a senior lectureship. Christopher Cullen, Director of the Needham Research Institute, was elected to an honorary professorship in the Department of East Asian Studies. Sungwu Cho has been awarded a Chiang Ching-kuo postdoctoral fellowship to continue his work on medieval Daoism, and Mark Strange joins us as a research fellow at Pembroke College.

Generous gifts by the Hong Kong East Asian History of Science Foundation and Trinity College have provided for the endowment in perpetuity of the Chair in Chinese. The Professorship, currently held by Roel Sterckx, has been retitled the Joseph Needham Professorship of Chinese History, Science and Civilization. The endowment was celebrated with an inaugural lecture entitled “In the Fields of Shennong” and a dinner at Gonville and Caius College. A podcast of the lecture is available on the University's website at www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/communications/sterckx.html.

Staff travelled widely to deliver lectures and papers at conferences. Boping Yuan completed an AHRC project on behaviours of wh-word in L2 Chinese grammars and presented a paper at the 2008 Asia-Pacific Second Language Research Forum held in Beijing in April 2008. Hans van de Ven gave the Fennell Lecture at the University of Edinburgh. Roel Sterckx gave papers at Harvard and Lund and delivered the 7th Joseph Needham Memorial Lecture in Hong Kong. Zhang Wei spent part of his research leave at the Brookings Institution. Joe McDermott taught a summer session at the Chinese University of Hong Kong and spent the rest of the summer in Shanghai libraries. He also became an Honorary Curator of the Toyo Bunko in Tokyo, a major Japanese centre for Chinese bibliography. Lin Peiyin organized a Taiwan Documentary Film day at St Catharine's College, co-ordinated Yan Lianke's talk "The Predicament of Living and Chinese Literature", and delivered papers at SOAS, Manchester and Lund. James Lin gave several talks in and outside Cambridge on the Chinese collections held at the Fitzwilliam Museum and gave a paper on the museum's Khotan jades at a conference in Hetian, Xinjiang. Both James and Michael...
Loewe contributed to the catalogue for the British Museum’s highly successful exhibition “The First Emperor: China’s Terracotta Army.” Barak Kushner won an Abe fellowship for his project on “Cold War Propaganda in East Asia and Historical Memory” and spent the summer in the archives at Nanjing.

We are delighted to report that several of our fresh PhDs have secured permanent teaching posts. Felix Boecking has been appointed to a lectureship in Chinese history at Edinburgh, Zhang Ling secured a lectureship in Chinese culture at the University of Newcastle and Lucy Zhao has been appointed to a lectureship in Chinese linguistics at Sheffield.

DEAS hosted workshop for early career researchers in Chinese studies

An innovative workshop for up-and-coming scholars of China was organised by DEAS staff in April 2008. The workshop aimed at fostering international scholarly links and addressing some of the newly emerging issues in Chinese studies.

The China Research Workshop brought together more than 40 graduate students from universities across the UK and continental Europe with senior academics from the Department of East Asian Studies for sessions covering the gamut of academic activities.

Anna Boermel, one of the Workshop’s two organisers, said: “We are delighted with the response; we received a lot of high-quality applications from young scholars specialising in different fields of Chinese Studies.” Dr Thomas Jansen, her co-organiser, said: “We hope that the event will help forge lasting links between established scholars and those just embarking on their academic career, as well as provide a useful forum for the development of professional skills.”

Faculty members of the Department of East Asian Studies, together with a colleague from the Department of Politics, ran groups for different areas of study, ranging from the dawn of Chinese history to current developments in Chinese literature, with participants presenting and discussing their work-in-progress.

Based on empirical data gathered in urban and rural China, participants in the anthropology and sociology group debated the applicability of Western concepts in social science, such as ‘the public sphere’ and ‘civil society’, and the appropriateness of treating ‘the Chinese state’ as a homogenous entity, given struggles between different factions, rapidly changing policies and competition between central and local government.

The ‘Early and Medieval China’ session tackled the opportunities and challenges resulting from huge amounts of recent archaeological data, as well as other new sources, and held a lively debate about the best way to describe the complex religious landscape of early imperial China, which frequently defies such labels as Daoist, Buddhist and Confucian.

Mieke Matthyssen, a student from Belgium, said: “I am delighted to be here and to meet other researchers from my field. It’s been a great opportunity to network with some of the best scholars working on China.”

Zed Books’ Asian Studies editor introduced the young academics to the nuts and bolts of academic publishing while a specialist at the University’s Research Services Division provided an overview of strategies to locate and obtain research funding.

Before leaving Cambridge the participants enjoyed guided tours of some of the colleges, the Fitzwilliam Museum and the Needham Institute.
The Thomas Wade Society

The Thomas Wade Society is an alumni organisation for all those who have studied or been involved with Chinese at the University of Cambridge. This involvement can range from having studied the tripos to research and teaching in China-related areas.

Sir Thomas Francis Wade (1818-1895), the first holder of the Chair of Chinese at Cambridge

The aim of the Society is two fold. Firstly, to promote contact between Cambridge Chinese studies alumni through a combination of events (in the UK and China) and newsletters/updates. Secondly, to encourage contact between alumni and current Chinese studies students, staff and researchers at Cambridge.

Sir Thomas Francis Wade, GCMG, KCB (25 August 1818 - 31 July 1895) was a British diplomat and sinologist. He was the first Professor of Chinese at Cambridge and produced a syllabary in 1859 that was later amended, extended and converted into the Wade-Giles Romanisation for Mandarin Chinese by Herbert Giles in 1892.

We are currently planning to organise a launch event for the Society in London this year. This would coincide with the University’s 800 year anniversary and the 150 year anniversary of Sir Thomas Wade’s romanisation system for Mandarin Chinese. If you would like to get involved in organising this event or other Society-related things, please contact Tom Oldham (tomoldham@cantab.net) or Ben Caldecott (ben.caldecott@cantab.net).

We hope to have a website up and running soon. The Society will also be approaching well known alumni, staff and other Cambridge associated China-hands to become Patrons of the Society, one of which will be our Honorary President.

Alumni spotlight: Alessandro Zaccarini, Wolfson, 2002

I am the General Manager of a joint Dutch/German company based in Tianjin, TEMA Siebtechnik, www.tema-siebtechnik.com, and we manufacture and sell centrifuges for chemical and coal plants. When Madame Jin visited my office last year, I knew that she was a member of the political consultative conference and that she could help us forge better relationships with our most important customer, a large state-owned enterprise in Qinghai province. What I could not imagine was that Madame Jin displayed that desire of giving back to the community that is so refreshing in a government official.

After the first meetings, Madam Jin told me about how she voluntarily took a one year break from her activities and went to teach Chinese history to middle school students in the small village of Wulan, Qinghai province, nestled between mountains and forests at 3000m above sea level. And she told me about her students, how hard they work the fields with their parents, how hard they study and how happy they would be to meet a foreigner who could speak Chinese.

Since my first visit to the school I have been warmly welcomed not only by students and teachers but also by the students’ families, who were happy to share with me their simple but busy daily lives. While the majority of the students and families are of Han nationality, many others are Tibetans, Mongolians and Muslims, giving the small village a nice feeling of peaceful coexistence amongst these different Chinese ethnicities.

The school brings together the children of farmers living in the area. Whilst Tibetans and Mongolians settled in the region because of the opportunity to farm land, or herd sheep or pigs, Muslims are more business savvy and have rented out their piece of land to other farmers and invested the money into opening small shops and trade activities.

While teaching students English or buying them books are small contributions, the focus of my activities and those of Madam Jin is showing them what opportunities lie ahead after graduating from middle and high school, and how their hard work now will pay off later.

I now look back at my two years as an MPhil student in Modern Chinese and feel that I am not only professionally where I wanted to be before the start of the programme, i.e. managing foreign companies in China, but thanks to my time in Cambridge and at Peking University I am now also better integrated into Chinese society than the majority of western executives working in China.
This year saw the publication of a translation by Dr Carmen Blacker of Santo Kyoden’s novel, *The Straw Sandal, or the Scroll Of The Hundred Crabs*, which was published by Global Oriental of Folkestone. She had begun this translation during the War whilst working at Bletchley Park on Japanese decrypts when Arthur Waley gave her a copy of the original; she returned to it in retirement and gave the translation the characteristic polish of her prose. There was a launch party at the Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation in London, which she was unfortunately too unwell to attend.

Another cause for celebration was the fact that Ellen Andersen, then a third-year student on her year abroad, won first prize in the 23rd Annual Keio International Speech Contest held on the 8th December 2007. There are two categories, beginner and advanced, and she won first prize in the beginners’ category.

Several graduate students are currently finishing off their PhD dissertations, including Clemente Beghi, who is working on Buddhist art with Professor Bowring. Ken Hijnso, working with Dr Svensson-Wright, has been looking at the impact of recent local government reforms on the quality of municipal democracy, focusing on how municipal assemblies have or haven’t changed in their performance as a result of decentralization, territorial amalgamation, and other recent neo-liberal economic reforms. He joined an official delegation from the Japanese Council of Local Governments for International Relations (CLAIR London office) to Sweden and the Aland Islands (Finland), where they met local government officials and politicians to investigate strategies for improving local democracy in Japan. In Japan he has conducted surveys of over 280 local politicians (supported by the national local assembly association) and interviews of two dozen local politicians from 15 cities as his fieldwork, and he gave a seminar in Japanese to some 100 undergraduate students of public administration at Kokushikan University comparing Japanese and Swedish local government systems. He has also translated a book, Sugano Diary by Sasakwa Ryoichi, for the Nippon Zaidan and it is to be published next year. This year Rebekah Clements, who has a BA from the ANU and an MA from Waseda, has joined us. She is working with Professor Kornicki on the history of translation.

The East Asian studies option for the MPhil, now in its fourth year of operation, has five students this year, coming from South Korea, China, Japan, Italy and the USA! Amongst the new options available this year is one on the modern history of Korea, taught by Dr Michael Shin, the newly-arrived specialist in Korean studies.

Among the visitors we were happy to receive this year was Mr Kanou Taketo of Kiku Masamune, whose visit was celebrated with a buffet dinner at the Master’s Lodge in Selwyn on Friday 17th October.

**Staff news**

**Toshimi Boulding**, Lector in Japanese, has launched a Camtools website for undergraduates learning Japanese to make web-based resources for learning Japanese easily accessible to all students.

**Professor Richard Bowring** (Master of Selwyn), notes that the appearance of a paperback edition of his *The Religious Traditions of Japan, 500-1600* (CUP) at last brought it within reach of undergraduates and graduates who need a detailed introduction to the whole field. He is now embarked on the sequel. He returned briefly to the *Tale of Genji* last November for an event held in the Japanese Embassy as part of the celebrations of what has been officially designated the 1000th anniversary of Murasaki Shikibu’s work. Although fundraising for Japanese studies in general has had to take a backseat recently, he has been gathering funds for a major Tokugawa conference to be held in Cambridge in March 2009. His time is now divided between the usual teaching duties and running Selwyn College from the Lodge.

Thanks to the generosity of the Sasakawa Great Britain Foundation, we appointed Dr Aya Homei to a postdoctoral fellowship this year, which she holds in conjunction with the Needham Research Institute, where she is based. Dr Aya Homei studies issues of illness, health and medicine in modern Japan, and in the past has worked on the history of Japanese midwives in the Meiji and Taisho periods. Since she arrived at the Department, she has been working on the history of radiation sickness and medical research after the so-called Bikini (or Lucky Dragon) incident in the 1950s. In 2008, she gave presentations at the annual meeting of the British Association of Japanese Studies at the University of Manchester and the Twelfth International Conference on the History of Science in East Asia at Johns Hopkins University in the USA. She read a text from her research at the Needham Research Institute and started off this year’s Brown-Bag Lunch seminar series organised by the Faculty. Currently, she is organising a workshop on the history of nuclear energy and radiation sickness in the USA, UK and Japan, to be held in summer 2009.

**Professor Peter Kornicki** ran a week-long course in reading Japanese manuscript material of the Edo period at the Wellcome Library in London, which attracted as many as thirteen participants, including one from Paris and two from Venice. In March he gave the Sanders Lectures at the University Library on “Having difficulty with Chinese? The rise of the vernacular book in Japan, Korea and Vietnam”. In May he gave the keynote address at the annual meeting of the Italian Association for Japanese Studies in Florence and later that month gave a talk at a conference on manuscript studies in Europe and East Asia held in Venice. In September he attended the EAJS conference at Lecce in Italy, running a panel on the numismatic history of Japan and giving a paper in another panel on manuscript culture. In October he became Deputy Warden of Robinson College, where he now spends much of his time in a comfortable new room where he can make his own tea! (See also the Korean Studies section).

**Dr Barak Kushner** (Corpus) received a Japan Foundation Endowment Committee Grant (Summer 2007) and an Abe Fellowship supported by The Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership, the Social Science Research Council, and the American Council of Learned Societies (2008-2009). He has given a number of talks in Chinese, at Nanjing University on Japanese war-crimes trials and the National Taiwan University on ‘Noodles and nationalism’, and in English at Western Michigan University (‘Eating Your Way to Democracy: Japan’s Postwar Politics of Food’), the University of Kansas (‘Going for the Gold: Health and Sports in Japan’s Quest for Modernity’), SOAS, Oxford, Waseda, Chaucer College Canterbury and Cambridge University.

The East Asian studies option for the MPhil, now in its fourth year of operation, has five students this year, coming from South Korea, China, Japan, Italy and the USA! Amongst the new options available this year is one on the modern history of Korea, taught by Dr Michael Shin, the newly-arrived specialist in Korean studies.
Haruko Laurie (Selwyn) has been on leave this year and her place has been taken by Professor Okazaki Tomomi of Kyushu University, who taught Japanese here nearly 20 years ago.

Dr Mark Morris (Trinity) participated in a conference on transnational cultures at Seoul University of the Arts in November 2007. He presented seminars on the question of Korean nationalism and the representation of Japan in recent Korean films at Oxford Brookes University and the Australian National University (Canberra, July 2008). He organised panels on film (Korean and Japanese) for the British Association of Korean Studies conference held at Cambridge, September 2008. He also presented a public lecture on Japanese & Korean cinematic monsters at the Cambridge Festival of Ideas in October. (See also the Korean Studies section).

Dr Brigitte Steger (Downing College) joined the Faculty in September 2007 as Lecturer in Modern Japanese Studies and teaches courses on Japanese society. In her research she has been intrigued by questions of the cultural and social embeddedness of seemingly natural bodily matters and daily life. In particular, she has researched midwifery, sleep and the timing of daily (and nightly) life. She has been elected to the council of the European Association for Japanese Studies (EAJS; 2008-2011) and the council of the Japan Anthropology Workshop (JAWS; from 2008). She presented her research on the politics of early rising at the Nissan Institute Seminars, Oxford University, and on gender-specific attitudes towards napping in Japanese public transport at the Multidisciplinary Gender Research Seminars, Cambridge University. She also gave talks for general audiences on various aspects of sleep and time in pre-modern Japan, including at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, at The Royal Observatory Greenwich, at Chaucer College in Canterbury as well as public institutions in Munich, Hannover and Pernegg (Austria). She participated in the EAJS PhD workshop in Lecce, Italy, as academic advisor and at the EAJS conference held there afterwards.

Dr John Swenson-Wright (Darwin) was this year promoted to Senior Lecturer. He has given talks on ‘Japan’s Role in Northeast Asia’ at the Workshop on Japan’s Political Economy, which was held 13-14th June 2008 at the European Institute of Japanese Studies, Stockholm School of Economics, Sweden, and on ‘Japan’s Regional Foreign and Security Policies – An Overview’ at the Contemporary Asia Research Center, Università degli Studi di Milano, 31st March 2008. He commentated at two conferences held at the National Institute of Japanese Studies, University of Sheffield, in March 2008. He gave an advanced Command and Staff course on ‘Japan: Power Under Challenge’ at the Defence Academy of the UK, Shrivenam, on 6th March 2008. He attended and participated in the 24th Meeting of ‘Under Challenge’ at the Defence Academy of the UK, Shrivenam, on 27-30th March 2008 and in September 2008 he attended a workshop on Japan’s political economy at the Stockholm School of Economics and helped establish a new Japanese policy network, to be known as European-Japan Advanced Research Network (EJARN). (See also the Korean Studies section).

East Asian Seminar Series

The East Asian Seminar series was run by Dr Kushner and Dr Swenson-Wright. With help from the Japanese Embassy they were able to invite speakers from abroad to present their research to the faculty and wider community. Some of the speakers and their subjects in 2008 were:

Wednesday, 23rd January 2008
Dr. Jason Webb, University of Tokyo: “Poetry Untamed: A Postnationalist Approach to Ancient East Asian Literature”

Monday, 28th January 2008
Dr. Tamamoto Masaru, Visiting Scholar, University of Cambridge: “Japan’s Politics of Cultural Shame”

Monday, 25th February 2008
Professor Jin Linbo, China Institute of International Studies, Beijing, China: “China-Japan Relations in the Global Setting”

Wednesday, 5th March 2008
Professor Kitaoka Shinichi, University of Tokyo: “Japan in the 21st Century”

Publications


Korean Studies

Department News

The Department has begun to build Korean Studies with the appointment of Dr. Michael D. Shin as Lecturer in Korean Studies. The position was created with the generous support of the Korea Foundation. He is a historian of the colonial period and is a Fellow of Robinson College. He comes to Cambridge after teaching for seven years at Cornell University. For his first year, he is teaching the sections on Korea in the East Asian History course for first-year students and an MPhil seminar on modern Korean history and the Korean War, as well as Elementary Korean with Prof. Kornicki.

We also welcome Dr. Owen Miller (PhD, SOAS) as Korea Foundation Postdoctoral Research Associate. He wrote a doctoral dissertation on 19th century economic history, and he is affiliated with Darwin College.


Staff Lectures and Talks

In March 2008, Professor Peter Kornicki (Robinson) gave the Sandars Lectures on “Having difficulty with Chinese? The rise of the vernacular book in Japan, Korea and Vietnam.” An annotated text version has been deposited in the British Library and Cambridge University Library.

Seminar Series

The seminar series of the Asian Studies Centre (ASC), organized by Dr. John Swenson-Wright and Dr. Barak Kushner, featured several talks on Korea:

On 6th February, 2008, producer Nicholas Bonner presented his latest documentary on North Korea, “Crossing the Line: The Story of Comrade Joe, the Last American Defector in North Korea” (directed by Daniel Gordon) at Trinity College and participated in a question-and-answer session afterwards.

Visiting scholars from Korea have organized a bi-weekly seminar series held on Thursday evenings at Darwin College. Visiting scholars and graduate students take turns presenting their research in Korean, followed by open discussion. Topics are highly varied, ranging from social sciences to natural sciences and engineering.

External Activities

Dr. John Swenson-Wright coordinated and convened the Korea Discussion Group at Chatham House. In 2008, the speakers included Dr Park Cheol Hee of Seoul National University, Amb. Warwick Morris, former UK FCO; Amb. Wojciech Kaluza, Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Glyn Ford, MEP; Dr Jun Kwang-Woo, Chairman of the ROK Financial Services Commission; Dr Park Jin, Chairman International Committee Grand National Party; Amb. Chun Yung-woo of the Republic of Korea; and Dr. Aidan Foster-Carter, Leeds University.

Library News

Thanks to the efforts of Dr. Mark Morris, the Department of East Asian Studies was successful with a grant application to the Korean Film Council (KOFIC). Cambridge has been selected a member of KOFIC’s Hub-Library Programme. The grant, initially in the form of DVDs and books in Korean and English, makes our Faculty Library and the University Library part of a developing network of research centres linked to KOFIC, a government-sponsored organization. We hope this recognition for DEAS courses, conferences and research involving Korean film will help attract UL researchers and graduate students to the Department.

Researchers

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alison Richard, will visit Korea in October 2009.

Publications

Asian Studies Centre

The Asian Studies Centre was established in May 2008 as a platform to continue promoting the mission of the former East Asia Institute.

The primary purpose of the Asian Studies Centre of Cambridge (ASC) is the promotion of interdisciplinary research activity related to Asia throughout the University, primarily through cross-faculty collaboration across a wide range of academic disciplines in the arts, humanities, and social sciences. In conjunction with the Department of East Asian Studies, the ASC will work to integrate and enhance Asian Studies within the University while promoting engagement between Cambridge and the wider Asian region.

Those wishing to register an interest in the ASC and/or to be added to its mailing list should contact:

Dr Brigitte Steger (email bs382@cam.ac.uk or tel 01223 335140) or Dr Michael Shin (email mds71@cam.ac.uk or tel 01223 337173).

2008 Conference: How the East Asia media debates the Asian past in the present

Dr Barak Kushner, Lecturer in Modern Japanese History, organised a one day conference entitled ‘How the East Asia media debate the Asian past in the present’, which was held at the Faculty on 31st May 08.

The event focused on the portrayal of World War II in contemporary East Asian media as a key driver behind the creation of political identity, national consciousness and the formation of historical attitudes. It also explored the role that print journalism and television media play in the production of these beliefs about history in East Asia.

The conference was extremely well attended and speakers included Mr Ohno Hirohito of Asahi Shimbun, Ms Deng Hanneng of Shenzen Daily, Dr Kim Seung-young of The Chosun Ilbo, Mr Mori Chiharu of the Yomiuri Shimbun and Dr Chang Bi-yu of the United Daily News. The event was organised with the kind support of The Japan Foundation and the Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation.

Seminar Series, Easter Term 2009

All are welcome to attend. Confirmed events are listed below but the full series of seminars will be finalised shortly. Please check the website for the full programme - www.ames.cam.ac.uk/deas/

All seminars, unless otherwise noted, will be held on Mondays in Lecture Rooms 8-9 at 5pm, Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, Tel: 01223 335106.

Monday 27th April 2009

Dr Aya Homei, University of Cambridge, Needham Research Institute

‘The Contentious Death of Mr Kuboyama: Radiation sickness and medical research in Cold War Japan’

Dr. Homei received her Ph.D on the history of medical midwifery in the Meiji (1868-1912) and Taisho (1912-1926) periods from the Centre for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine at the University of Manchester in 2003. Since then she has been working on the project, ‘Modern medicine as cause and cure: fungal infections and treatment, 1920-1970’, funded by the Wellcome Trust. As part of the project, she has been looking at how Japanese medical researchers became major players in the global network of biomedical research on infectious diseases. She is also starting a new project on the history of medical research on radiation sickness after the ‘Bikini incident’.

Monday 11th May

Dr Roland Domenig, University of Vienna

‘The Shinjuku Bunka and the counter-culture of Shinjuku - Independent cinema, Japanese avant-garde and underground culture in late 1960s Japan.’

Roland Domenig is Assistant Professor of Japanese Studies at the Institute of East Asian Studies, University of Vienna. His research areas include film history, popular culture and leisure.

Monday 18th May

Dr Terry F. Kleeman (University of Colorado at Boulder, Needham Research Institute)

‘How many spirit soldiers can dance on a pin? Taking a stab at Daoist theology.’

Dr Terry F. Kleeman, Associate Professor, (PhD, University of California at Berkeley) teaches East Asian religious traditions. His research focuses on Daoism and Chinese popular religion. He is the author of A God’s Own Tale: The Book of Transformation of Wenchang and Great Perfection: Religion and Ethnicity in a Chinese Millennial Kingdom, as well as articles on Daoist popular god cults, mountain deities, and local religion. He is the President of the Society for the Study of Chinese Religions and managing editor of the journal Studies in Central and East Asian Religions.

We are grateful to the Embassy of Japan for their support of the Japan focussed events.
Chinese Studies
Teaching and Research Staff

Ms Anna Boermel
Teaching fellow in Contemporary Chinese Society

Dr Adam Yuet Chau
University Lecturer in the Anthropology of Modern China

Dr Susan Daruvala
University Senior Lecturer in Modern Chinese Literature

Dr Pei-Yin Lin
Lecturer in Taiwanese Studies

Miss Yijun Liu
Lector in Chinese

Dr Joe McDermott
University Lecturer in Social and Economic History of China

Prof. David McMullen
Professor Emeritus of Chinese

Prof. Roel Sterckx
Chair of Chinese

Prof. Hans van de Ven
Professor of Modern Chinese History; Chairman of the Faculty Board

Ms Emma Wu
Language Teaching Officer in Chinese

Dr Boping Yuan
University Senior Lecturer in Chinese Language and Linguistics

Dr Wei Zhang
Lecturer in Chinese Economy and Management

Affiliated Staff

Dr Sungwu Cho
Chiang Ching-kuo Postdoctoral Fellow

Prof. Christopher Cullen
Director, Needham Research Institute; Honorary Professor, History of East Asian Science, Technology and Medicine

Dr James Lin
Assistant Keeper of Applied Arts, Fitzwilliam Museum
Chinese Art History

Dr Christopher Rosenmeier
Chiang Ching-kuo Postdoctoral Fellow

Dr Mark Strange
Drapers’ Company Research Fellow, Pembroke College

University Librarians

Mr Charles Aylmer
Head of Chinese Department, Cambridge University Library

Mr John Moffett
Librarian, Needham Research Institute

Japanese Studies
Teaching and Research Staff

Dr Anna Andreeva
Margaret Smith Research Fellow in Japanese Religions

Mrs Toshimi Boulding
Lector in Japanese

Prof. Richard Bowring
Chair of Japanese Studies

Dr Aya Homei
Research and Teaching Associate in Japanese Science and Technology

Prof. Peter Kornicki
Professor of East Asian Studies

Dr Barak Kushner
University Lecturer in Modern Japanese History

Mrs Haruko Laurie
Senior Language Teaching Officer in Japanese

Dr Mark Morris
University Lecturer in Japanese Cultural History

Dr Brigitte Steger
University Lecturer in Modern Japanese Studies

Dr John Swenson-Wright
University Senior Lecturer in Modern Japanese Politics and International Relations

Emeritus Staff

Dr Stephen Large
Emeritus Reader in Modern Japanese History

University Librarian

Mr Noboru Koyama
Head, Japanese Collection, Cambridge University Library

Korean Studies
Teaching and Research Staff

Dr Michael D. Shin
Lecturer in Korean Studies
The Faculty

In March 2007, the former Faculty of Oriental Studies was renamed the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies (FAMES) to better reflect its geographical scope and teaching and research focuses, and two new departments were established. The Department of East Asian Studies encompasses Chinese, Japanese and Korean Studies. Hebrew and Aramaic, Arabic and Persian Studies now constitute the Department of Middle Eastern Studies. Sanskrit and South Asian Studies are currently offered at graduate level only and the study of the Ancient Near East has been reassigned to the Faculty of Archaeology and Anthropology.

The Faculty building has been refurbished and we now have a much more welcoming reception area and state-of-the-art lecture rooms. We organise many events throughout the year and we would be delighted to welcome you back.

All events are publicised on the ‘News and Events’ pages of the website at: http://www.ames.cam.ac.uk/news_events/

Media Links

If you are a journalist seeking an expert on topics related to the teaching and research areas of the Department you may find the Guide to Expertise a useful resource.

Managed by the University’s Office of Communication, the Guide is an online directory of experts willing to be contacted by the media and includes many of the Faculty’s staff. The database can be searched by keyword or context to help find an academic with the necessary expertise. For further details visit www.admin.cam.ac.uk/news/ and click on the ‘Find an expert’ link. Do contact the Department and let us know which projects, programmes or publications you are working on too. Send an email to enquiries@ames.cam.ac.uk.

Join us

Following the enormous success of last year’s Festival of Ideas - the University’s festival of the arts, humanities and social sciences - we are delighted to be participating again in 2009. It will be held from 21st October until 1st November.

Last year’s events were extremely well attended and the programme included lectures on medieval Muslim travellers, Persian miniature painting, China’s role in World War II and East Asian Film. Hands on activities included an Arabic calligraphy workshop, a Magic Lantern show and Chinese paper cutting session for children. Plans for a bigger and better line-up are already underway so we do hope you will join us.

Visit the Festival website for further details: www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/communications/community/ideafestival/

Stay in touch

We hope you have enjoyed reading the first edition of the newsletter. We plan to produce issues regularly to keep our friends and members up-to-date with our activities so if you have any suggestions or contributions for future issues do get in touch.

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