

# EAS

EAST ASIAN STUDIES *Alumni Newsletter*



Fall 2018



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# A Letter from the Chair

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As the new chair of East Asian Studies, I welcome you all to the 2018-2019 academic year. I hope that all of you, students and faculty, enjoyed a restful, but productive, summer.

Seven new faculty members and visitors merit a special welcome this academic year. Tamara Chin joins us as Associate Professor of Comparative Literature and East Asian Studies. Professor Chin works on comparative approaches to antiquity, focusing in particular on the Han dynasty and early Chinese texts, the subject of her first book, *Savage Exchange: Han Imperialism, Chinese Literary Style, and the Economic Imagination* (Harvard, 2014). More recently, she is completing a study of the historiography of the Afro-Eurasian “Silk Road.” Kerry Smith, Associate Professor of History and East Asian Studies, is a historian of modern Japan, and the author of *A Time of Crisis: Japan, the Great Depression, and Rural Revitalization* (Harvard, 2001). His current book project is a study of disasters (primarily earthquakes) and science in twentieth-century Japan.

Ellie Yunjung Choi (Harvard University PhD, 2009) joins EAS as Visiting Assistant Professor of Korean Media and Culture. She researches the transnational consumption of Korean media, the city of Seoul, cyberspaces, visual culture, and dislocation; and is currently at work on a book manuscript, “The Laptop Nation and the Global Consumption of Korea.” We welcome Professor Choi both to the department and to Brown.

The Chinese language program expands its faculty by two this year. We welcome Liwei Jiao and Lulei Su, both Lecturers in Chinese. Professor Jiao (Nankai University PhD, 2003) arrives at Brown after extensive experience teaching Beginning, Advanced Modern, and Business Chinese at Renmin University, the University of Durham, and the University of Pennsylvania. His research interests lie in Chinese lexicography, Chinese phonetics, and the relationship between Chinese language and culture. Professor Su (Ohio State University PhD, 2018) also taught widely, at Holy Cross, Ohio State, and Harvard, before joining EAS. His research interests are second-language acquisition, specifically speaking, and curriculum design.

Four faculty join EAS as Visiting Lecturers. We welcome Naoko Collis and Naemi McPherson to the Japanese Program; and Juyin Wang and Hsin-i Tseng to the Chinese Program.

Most recently, we are pleased to report that Dr. Sissi Liu has joined EAS as a Visiting Scholar. Dr. Liu (CUNY PhD, 2018) is a specialist in Asian and Asian American theater and performance; she will devote her time at Brown to the completion of a book manuscript on “Wukongism,” Kungfu/jazz, and Asian American performance.

EAS also welcomes thirteen Affiliates to the department. Affiliated faculty are scholars with appointments outside EAS whose research and teaching focuses on East Asia. Affiliates come from an impressive range of departments: American Studies, Anthropology, Comparative Literature, History, History of Art and Architecture, Literary Arts, Political



Science, and Religious Studies. We look forward to working with these scholars in collaborative research, course development, and teaching.

Finally, we invite you to learn more about our faculty—as well as upcoming programs and events—by visiting the newly revamped EAS website: <https://www.brown.edu/go/eas>. This is the work of EAS's brilliant staff, Leah Lebel (Academic Department Manager) and Jessica Cho (Program Coordinator), who worked hard over the summer to complete extensive revisions so that it was (almost) ready at the opening of the semester. Please consult this site regularly for news of the department.

Over the course of the next several years we hope that EAS can gain in strength to become the core of the East Asian studies, broadly conceived, at Brown. The new faculty in EAS and the long list of Affiliates indicates how significantly East Asian studies has grown at Brown; over just the past five years, twelve new East Asian scholars (three in EAS, nine in other departments) have joined the university.

This year the department, under the leadership of Kerry Smith, the Director of Undergraduate Studies, will begin discussion of curricular and concentration reform that we hope will make the concentration as well as EAS courses appealing to a wide range of students. The Department Undergraduate Group (DUG) has been wonderfully energetic in promoting EAS on campus. With their help and guidance, we anticipate a year of interesting student presentations and intellectual-social activities.

The East Asia Colloquium is now housed in EAS. With funding from the Dean of the Faculty, Tamara Chin, the Director of the Colloquium, with the very able assistance of Quinton Huang (class of 2019), has organized an outstanding series of lectures and paper presentations for the 2018-2019 academic year (see the EAS website for announcement of these events). The Colloquium is just one of several ways in which we hope to build ties to other departments and programs at Brown at the same time that we make the strengths of East Asian studies known to invited speakers from outside the university.

Strengthening and expanding the EAS Department and East Asian studies at Brown will require the hard work and cooperation of both faculty and students. I hope that the department can count on the support of all of you in the East Asian Studies Department and in the larger East Asia studies community at Brown as we move forward.

Finally, I cannot sign off without expressing heartfelt gratitude to Hye-Sook Wang, the outgoing chair. Professor Wang worked selflessly for the department for five years, during a time when EAS was going through a difficult transition. On behalf of the department, I thank her for her exemplary service. On my own behalf, I thank her for all the patient help that she has given me in taking on the chairship. Professor Wang is on research leave this year; we wish her a calm and productive year.

Cynthia Brokaw  
Chair

# Faculty News

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## Kaijun Chen

In the academic year of 2017-18, Professor Kaijun Chen co-organized two intellectual gatherings to engage the local and international scholarly community as well as a public audience. The Cogut Center Humanities Initiatives sponsored a symposium “Gender, Labor and Cultural Representation in Chinese History,” which investigated the interrelationship between gender and culture production throughout Chinese history. Professor Chen also invited Professor Jianxin Jiang, the Director of the Ceramic Archaeology Institute of Jingdezhen in China, to give a lecture on newly excavated evidence of the workings of the Qing-dynasty Imperial Ceramic Manufactory. The lecture and related gatherings attracted undergraduate students, faculty members, and curators and collectors in the greater New England area.



Professor Chen continues to research how knowledge of artifacts and craft technologies cross cultural borders, thereby producing new cultural forms. His chapter “Transcultural Lenses: Wrapping the Foreignness for Sale in the History of Lenses,” published in *EurAsian Matters: China, Europe, and the Transcultural Object, 1600–1800*, edited by Anna Grasskamp and Monica Juneja, explains how global technological and cultural contacts were mediated in a commercial pamphlet about lenses. His journal article in *Chinese Literature: Essays, Articles, and Reviews* explores a marginalized literatus’s incorporation of handicraft knowledge in his literary writing. This analysis of Shen Fu’s *Six Records of a Life Adrift* offers a rare view of the relation between literature and technology in pre-modern China.



As the Director of Undergraduate Studies for 2017-18, Professor Chen enjoyed advising students about their curricular choices and thesis writing. This year he also began a term on the Board of the Society for Ming Studies of the Association for Asian Studies.

## Wenhui Chen

Last spring, I offered “Introduction to Classical Chinese” for the second time. This time, the students were very different from the ones in Fall 2016 class in terms of language proficiency and cultural background. As a result, I was motivated to rethink the curriculum as well as my pedagogical approach and teaching goals in order to meet the students’ needs. I really enjoyed the conversations I had with the students in class, particularly those centering on the unraveling of the meanings of difficult ancient texts. Thanks to those challenges, this fall I was able to write a conference proposal about Classical Chinese teaching, which I presented at the New England Chinese Language Teachers Association meeting in November. It provided a wonderful opportunity for me to exchange ideas on this topic with my peers from other institutions.

## Lung-Hua Hu

How time flies! This year marks the twentieth anniversary of my time at Brown. For several years since 1999, I taught primarily Basic and Intermediate Chinese. Seeing my students build up their language skills from zero to fluent was quite rewarding, to say the least. Brown students have a reputation for excellent pronunciation and knowledge of grammar among elite Chinese programs outside of the University; perhaps more importantly, they are deemed to be the most “likeable” students, thanks to their polite demeanor and gregarious personalities. To this day, prestigious study abroad programs such as Princeton in Beijing and the Harvard Beijing Academy still consider Brown applicants to be the most competitive.

At first I was a little reluctant to transition to teaching fourth-year and 900-level courses—I missed my beginning and intermediate-level students. But this sentiment was soon replaced by a new-found joy. I quickly found myself experiencing again the enjoyment I had in teaching adult United States foreign service officers in Taiwan in the 1990s: witty, intellectual, even philosophical, exchanges in the classroom. The fourth-year Chinese curriculum offers topics ranging from Chinese intellectual history to advanced technology, from Lu Xun’s literary works to ethical debates on euthanasia.

Inspired by the opportunities these advanced classes offered, in 2015 I created a new course, “Advanced Chinese Conversation—Two Sides of the Coin,” a course dedicated to examining ethical issues. The rationale for choosing ethical issues is twofold: ethics and morals are two philosophical areas of great interest to me; and I believe that young people need to be encouraged to think about ethical and moral issues central to our daily lives. To sum up the outcome of the course in one sentence, it was extremely satisfying and rewarding course for me and enlightening for the students.

In 2017, I created another course that, while less serious in nature, encompasses many aspects of Chinese culture: “Chinese Language on the Big Screen.” It is not an overstatement to say that this course was the most enjoyable course that I had ever taught. The selection of films, great chemistry in the classroom, and a bunch of motivated and fun students all contributed to the success of the course. For those readers of this newsletter who have not seen the film *Let the Bullets Fly*, I highly recommend it to you. It was the biggest hit! Funny and witty, it invites viewers to learn more about modern Chinese history.

Outside of Brown, I stepped down as President of New England Chinese Language Teachers Association in October. I will continue to serve as board member of the Chinese Language Teachers Association-US. I will be on scholarly leave in spring 2019, and I plan to use that time to research US-China relations and the history of China from 1949 to present. I hope to offer another new course for students who have advanced level of Chinese proficiency and are interested in learning more about China in the framework of International Relations.

## Samuel Perry

Samuel Perry teaches and writes about Japanese and Korean culture. Last spring he hosted the Queer Korea at Brown conference, welcoming ten scholars of Korean literature, history, photography and anthropology as well as the Korean writer Kim Bi to campus. Perry received two internal grants this year—from the Dean of the College and the Brown Arts Initiative—the first to develop a Freshman Seminar about Childhood in Japan, and second to help fund the publication of “A Century of Queer Korean Literature,” the first anthology of its kind to tell the story of modern Korean literature through the lens of sexual minorities. The anthology will be published next year in both English and Korean editions. Perry also continues his roles as coordinator of the Japanese language program at Brown, as the elected head of the Association of Asian Studies New England, and now chairs the Brown Commencement Oration Committee. He looks forward to teaching a new class this fall called “Off the Beaten Path: A Survey of Modern Japanese Literature.”

## Hiroshi Tajima

This past year I presented two papers on my pedagogy. At the International Symposium of Critical Content-Based Instruction in Tokyo, I spoke on how to design Advanced Japanese courses to develop students’ innovative thinking skills as well as their CCBI language proficiency. I also read a paper on the teaching of critical thinking through the use of mock trials on controversial legal issues at Dartmouth College.



Since 2016, I have organized a summer Japanese and English exchange program to help Brown students maintain or improve their Japanese over the summer break and to expand the Japanese language community outside the classroom. Japanese from the Providence community—Norie Shirako, Sumio Shimoda, Wakana Kato, Inui Ayumi, Yamada Kouki, Tadahiro Inoue, and Aoi Fukiha—meet with students to speak Japanese. The program has grown steadily over the years, from two students in 2016, to four in 2017, to eleven this past

summer. Eight of the eleven students meet with their language partners on campus at least once a week; the other three used social networking services such as Google Hangout or LINE for their exchanges. The students are provided with extra opportunities to learn Japanese and about Japanese culture, as well as to form new networks. I am planning a party for all the participants, so that all the exchange partners can meet in person.

## Hye-Sook Wang

During the AY 2017-2018, I published two articles: “The Korean Language Diaspora: with a Special Focus on the Eastern United States” in C. You & Y. Ha (eds.), *The Spread of the Korean Language* (University of California Press); and “Teachers’ Perceptions and Practices in Culture Education in KFL,” in the *International Journal of Korean Language Education* (vol. 3.1).

I also translated two books; *Master Korean 4* and *New TOPIK: Beginning*, both published by Darakwon Publishers, Seoul, Korea. In addition, I delivered two conference talks; “The State of Current Affairs: Korean Language Teachers in U.S. Higher Education,” presented at the 23rd annual conference of the American Association of Teachers of Korean in Toronto, Canada; and “Rethinking Culture in Korean Language Teaching in U.S. Classrooms,” presented at “South Korea’s Rise”: Interdisciplinary Approaches Conference at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Lastly, with the support of the East Asian Studies Department, the Department of Music, and the Korea Foundation, I organized the Choonhogarang Gayageum Concert in March. Gayageum is a traditional Korean string instrument with 12 strings. Choonhogarang is the only men’s gayageum ensemble in Korea, founded in 2015. It was wonderful to deliver authentic traditional Korean music, played by a group of talented young men, to the Brown community.

On the teaching side, I taught only one course per semester due to service as department chair: “Media Korean” (a superior level bridge course) in the fall and “Language, Culture, and Society: Korea” (a first-year seminar) in the spring. This past year I also went back to freshmen advising (from which I had taken a break for a few years). I found renewed joy talking with and guiding the first-year students. It was wonderful to feel that excitement again.

As for service, I continued to serve as the department chair. AY 2017-2018 was a particularly challenging year for the department, and especially for the chair, who was charged with overseeing an external review of EAS. Although this review engendered considerable anxiety, it nonetheless provided an invaluable opportunity for the department to reflect upon its vision, mission, current practices, and future directions. We had serious discussions about how to strengthen the department.

**Chunhogarang**  
*New England Tour*

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**Performance I | Brown University**  
**When:** March 19, 2018, 4:00 PM  
**Where:** List Art Building Room 120  
 (64 College Street)

Sponsored by the Korea Foundation, the Department of East Asian Studies, and the Department of Music

For the University, I started serving as an elected member of the Grievance Committee in July 2017. I continue to sit—for the eleventh year—on the Emery-Baker Fellowship Selection Committee; and on the Consortium Grant Review Committee of the Center for Language Studies. In my profession I continued to serve on the editorial board of several journals and as manuscript reviewer for journals and book publishers.

I was sad to see Professor Hieyoon Kim, Visiting Assistant Professor of Korean Studies, leave Brown at the end of AY 2017-2018. She was with us for only one year, but many students benefited from her teaching. We are grateful for her contributions to the Korean Program in East Asian Studies and wish her the best in her new position, as assistant professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

While I will be missing the joy of teaching and engaging with students and colleagues, I am also grateful to have time to focus on research projects that have been “untended” while I was chair and on becoming healthier. I wish everyone another great and rewarding school year.

## Lingzhen Wang

During this past academic year, I continued my research on Chinese women’s cinema, the critical legacy of socialist culture and socialist feminism, and transnational media and gender studies. My article, “关于中国革命与性别平等 / 解放的理论再思考” (A Theoretical Reflection on Chinese Socialist Revolution and Women’s Liberation), was published in the leading journal of women’s studies and feminist theory in China, 《妇女研究论丛》 (Journal of Women Studies) (No. 5, 2017). Another article, “Alternative Women’s Experimental Cinema: Zhang Nuanxin and Socially Committed Film Practice in 1980s China” has been accepted by for publication in *Camera Obscura: Feminism, Culture and Media Studies*.

On July 6, 2018, I was invited to give a keynote speech, “Women’s Liberation and the Mass Avant-Gardism of Socialist Culture: A Re-view of Dong Kena’s *Small Grass Grows on the Kunlun Mountain* (1962),” at the International Conference “Chinese Women’s Liberation: Cultural Imagination and Social Practice,” held at Shanghai Normal University, July 6-7, in the People’s Republic of China. This conference brought together international scholars across disciplines to critically reassess the effect of socialist women’s liberation on cultural and social practices during both the Mao and post-Mao eras. I also served as discussant for the panel “Rural China and Women’s Liberation” at the same conference. On April 18, 2018, I discussed papers for the panel, “Politics, Technology, and Women’s Work in Modern Asia,” at the International Symposium “Gender, Labor and Cultural Representation in Chinese History,” held at Brown University. On December 2, 2017, I was invited to chair a panel at the “Political Concepts Conference: The Trump Edition,” sponsored by the Cogut Institute for the Humanities at Brown University.

On April 18, 2018 Professor Kaijun Chen and I, with the support of the EAS staff, co-organized an International symposium “Gender, Labor and Cultural Representation in Chinese History,” which brought leading international scholars from China, Europe, and the United States to Brown to discuss both history and theory related to female labor in China and India. China scholars at Brown participated in the event, which was co-sponsored



by the Cogut Institute for the Humanities, the Nanjing-Brown Joint Program in Gender Studies and the Humanities, the Department of East Asian Studies, the Pembroke Center and the Department of Modern Culture and Media. I continued collaborating with faculty members at Modern Culture and Media and organized and moderated two public lectures as the director of the Nanjing-Brown Joint Program in Gender Studies and the Humanities: “The Wolf Myth and Chinese Environmental Sentimentalism in Wolf Totem,” given by Chengzhou He, the Dean of School of Arts at Nanjing University on April 19, 2018; and “The Concepts of the Yang Soul (hun) and the Yin Soul (po) in the Han Dynasty’s Theory of Human Nature,” given by Xu Xingwu, the Dean of Chinese Literature and Arts at Nanjing University on November 1, 2017. Both events attracted many Brown students and faculty members. Co-sponsors of the two events included the Cogut Institute for the Humanities, the Department of East Asian Studies, the Department of Modern Culture and Media, and the Malcom S. Forbes Center for Culture and Media Studies.

TRANSNATIONAL GENDER AND MEDIA LECTURE SERIES




**THE WOLF MYTH AND CHINESE ENVIRONMENTAL SENTIMENTALISM IN WOLF TOTEM**

**CHENGZHOU HE**  
*Dean of School of Arts at Nanjing University  
 Professor of English, Drama and Gender Studies  
 Yangtze River Distinguished Scholar*

**THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 2018 | 2:30-3:50 P.M.**  
*Smith-Buonanno Hall, G12*

*Sponsored by the Brown-Nanjing Joint Program, the Malcom S. Forbes Center for Culture and Media Studies, the Department of Modern Culture and Media and the Department of East Asian Studies*

**GENDER, LABOR AND CULTURAL REPRESENTATION IN CHINESE HISTORY**




**April 18, 2018  
 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM  
 Petteruti Lounge  
 75 Waterman Street**

**Presenters**  
 Francesca Bray (University of Edinburgh)  
 Dong Limin (Shanghai Normal University)  
 Wai-Yee Li (Harvard University)  
 Dorothy Ko (Columbia University)  
 Thorn Chen (Brown University)

**Discussants**  
 Lingshen Wang (Brown University)  
 Cynthia Brokaw (Brown University)  
 Chengzhou He (Nanjing University)

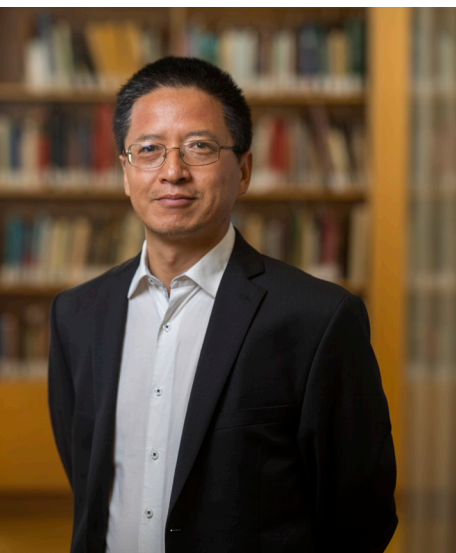
**Moderators**  
 Edward Steinfeld (Brown University)  
 Tamara Chin (Brown University)  
 Lynne Joyrich (Brown University)  
 Kaijun Chen (Brown University)

*Sponsored by the Cogut Institute for the Humanities, the Department of East Asian Studies, the Pembroke Center, the Department of Modern Culture and Media, and the Nanjing-Brown Joint Program in Gender Studies and the Humanities*

 BROWN

## New Faculty

**Ellie Choi** is Visiting Assistant Professor of Korean Media and Culture at the EAS department. Her current research interests include the transnational consumption of Korean media, the history of Seoul, cyberspaces, visual culture, alterity, and dislocation. She is the author of “The City and the Image: Seoul’s Recovery of Its Own Past,” The Metropole Series (The Urban History Association, March, 2018) and “Forgotten northerly memories: Yi Kwangsu and his alterities in *The Heartless*,” The Journal of Asian Studies (August 2018); and is currently working on a book-length project, “The Laptop Nation and the Global Consumption of Korea.” She teaches classes on Korean film and media, urban space, northern Korea, and the discovery of food and identity in contemporary culture.



**Liwei Jiao** earned his PhD in Chinese Linguistics from Nankai University in 2003. He joined EAS as Lecturer of East Asian Studies on July 1, 2018. Before coming to Brown, he taught Chinese at University of Pennsylvania for twelve years, the University of Durham in England for one year, and Renmin University of China for six years. The courses he has taught include regular and heritage tracks of Chinese courses from beginning through advanced levels, intermediate and advanced Business Chinese courses, and Newspaper/Media Chinese, etc. His research interests include Chinese language and culture, lexicography, Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language, and Chinese phonetics. Among his many publications are 500 Common Chinese Idioms, 500 Common Chinese Proverbs and Colloquial Expressions, and Chinese Phonetics in the 20th Century. During the past summer he worked on

three entries for the latest edition of the Encyclopedia of China, and two dictionaries, A Thematic Dictionary of Contemporary Chinese (in press) and A Cultural Dictionary of the Chinese Language (under review).

**Kerry Smith** spent last summer at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin as a research fellow in a joint project on “Accounting for Uncertainty: Prediction and Planning in Asia’s History.” The stay in Berlin was the second and (sadly) final component of a two-year fellowship run jointly by the Max Planck Institute and the International Consortium for Research in the Humanities at the Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nuremberg (IKGF). For those keeping track, he is continuing to work on his current book project, which explores earthquake prediction and disasters in twentieth-century Japan. He was back in Japan in early May to help support a Brown alumni tour of the Inland Sea and its environs, and once that was over relocated to Tokyo to get some research done.



**Lulei Su** is currently a PhD. candidate finalizing his doctoral dissertation on Chinese pedagogy and classroom interactions. His dissertation is titled “Beyond the Script: From Text-centered Pedagogy to Performance-oriented Pedagogy.” In his dissertation project, he borrows the concept of intertextuality from folklore studies and discourse analysis to examine how Chinese language learners skillfully adapt textbook learning in authentic social contexts to fulfill communicative purposes. He uses a metaphor to help the reader to grasp the main theme: a good language learner resembles an expert tailor, and language learning texts are similar to raw clothing textiles. A novice tailor can only put the raw threads and textiles together by collage. But an expert can truly bring the clothing to life and make it a whole piece with a motif. Similarly, a novice language learner heavily relies on the dialogue scripts in language learning materials, as if they are life-saving tools. However, an expert learner knows how to recontextualize the materials by holistically embedding the texts and dialogue lines in real-life communications. In his dissertation, Lulei hopes to shed new light on the field of Chinese second language acquisition, specifically, dialogism in communication.



In the Fall Semester, 2018, in addition to co-teaching CHIN 100, Lulei served as the course head for CHIN 0350. In this course, most students are Chinese heritage language learners, a very special group of learners with various degrees of acquired cultural and linguistic competencies. When teaching this course, Lulei has been trying various ways to engage with the students by maximizing their exposure to the culture and experiences within the culture. He is also comparing the pedagogical models used for non-heritage learners and heritage learners of Chinese. In order to get better input and feedback on this topic, Lulei applied to the 2018-2019 Junior Faculty Program at the Sheridan Teaching Center and was accepted. He hopes to present the results of his research at conferences and publish his formal research in an academic journal in the future.

Before Lulei joined the big EAS family at Brown University, he taught at various institutions and language programs, including Harvard University, The Ohio State University, College of the Holy Cross, Beloit College, Harvard-Beijing Academy, Princeton-in-Beijing, SYA, and IES. He has taught all levels of Chinese language classes. At Holy Cross, he also taught content courses in English on Chinese film, the environment, and culture. When teaching these content courses, Lulei adapted his expertise in teaching language courses to teaching culture and society by designing various types of learning activities and student-to-student interactions. Both he and the students greatly enjoyed those exploratory processes, which broke the division between the classroom learning and real-world experience. Lulei hopes to contribute to EAS program and courses with his expertise in curriculum design and training in Chinese linguistics, folklore, and history.



# Class of 2018

The East Asian Studies Department's 2018 graduates are listed below with their respective senior project titles.

**Ying Bonny Cai**

*Playful Nostalgia: A Journey across Traditional East Asian  
Clothing through a Personal Contemporary Lens*

**Antonia Chapman**

*Huawei: Chinese Government and the Building  
of a "National Champion"*

**Jin Woo Oh**

**Kathryn Samp**

*The Politics of Science Fiction: Translating Abe Kōbō's  
"No. R62's Invention"*

**Benjamin Sheeran**

*Contested Images, Changing Families: Policing the  
"Queer" in South Korean Media*



Photo Credit: Hugh Jia

# *Summer in* **EAST ASIA**

Thanks to the generosity of Brian Leach, the Arun Stewart '11 Memorial Fund, and an anonymous Korean donor, several language students and East Asian Studies concentrators were able to spend the summer of 2018 in China or Korea.

## **Intensive Language Study - China**

Camila Guillama Capela  
Jee Hoon Lee  
Hugh Jia  
Tiffany Ding  
Mae Fullerton  
Sindura Sriram  
Robert Miller

## **Internships**

Katrina Northrop  
Samuel Parmer

## **Intensive Language Study - Korea**

Elaina Kim





## Elaina Kim

This summer was one of the best opportunities that I've had in my life as well, one that I will definitely remember. In particular, I am so grateful that I was able to attend Yonsei International Summer School (YISS) because of the classes I was able to take: one Korean Studies class, "Contemporary Korean Culture & The Korean Culture Wave," and two East Asian Studies classes, "Modern Asia" and "Nuclear Asia." During the first course, we explored both Korean cinematic history and social history through the media of film and television. For instance, we looked at the changing societal concept of women and family by comparing old films like *Sweet Dreams* with more contemporary ones like *Family Ties: The Birth of a Family and Marriage Is a Crazy Thing*. I really enjoyed looking at how well *The Host* portrayed the complex relations between the Korean government, the people, and the United States. Also, the professor turned out to be close to one of my old professors at Brown, which made me think that the world was rather small. I was honored to be able to take "Modern Asia," as it was half taught by Professor Moon Chung-In, who acts as Special Advisor to President Moon Jae-In for Foreign Affairs and National Security. I had seen him in the news several times, and it was almost unreal how I was able to meet him in person and learn from him. I was amazed at how much he knew; he taught us not only about current affairs like the Belt and Road Initiative and the talks between North and South Korea but also about historical theories like Immanuel Kant's liberal theories on peace and how it compares with the concept of East Asian Peace. The other professor, Ming Wan, taught Asian business and finance, covering topics like the nature of the Asian developmental state and the 1997 Asian Financial Crisis and its possible causes. I also very much enjoyed "Nuclear Asia," as the teacher was very thorough in discussing the history of nuclear energy and the policy implications of the changing beliefs regarding nuclear energy and/or weapons. It was strange that we were having classes about issues that were developing at the same time in the Singapore Summit and the

nuclear weapons talks. At the end, we had a simulation in which we pretended that there was a nuclear weapons crisis and acted out how other nations might respond given their different priorities and concerns. Through these classes, I was able to improve my Korean vocabulary, as some professors insisted in teaching in Korean or included many academic terms in Korean in their lectures.

When I was not busy with my classes at Yonsei University, I luckily was able to travel around a country to many different places with my extended family. First, I visited my paternal grandmother, who lives in Iksan, with my two sisters. My paternal uncle then joined us in driving around the nearby cities to see popular landmarks and sights. For instance, we got to see lotus flowers at the Seodong Park, explore the museum at the Baekje Cultural land, eat freshly caught seafood at the Daecheonhang Seafood Market, look at the animals and plants at the National Institute of Ecology, try out the infamous breads at Lee Sung Dang, and walk around the Gunsan Modern History Museum. We also got to explore our paternal family's history as we visited the burial grounds of our great-grandparents, talked about old memories and pictures, and visited an old railroad stop that my great-grandfather had been influential in creating. It was strange to me in the sense that I had not really known much about my paternal family as they all live in different places (Pohang, Daejeon, Iksan, Seoul, etc.) and we had typically stayed at Seoul in order to attend school when we visited Korea in the past.

My sisters and I then joined our maternal aunt and uncle, who live in Jeonju. After hanging around Jeonju Hanok Village and trying out different foods, we drove around almost the entire nation. They also took us to Gosan Market to eat hanwoo and later go on a hike. We first dropped by Gwangju, which I had requested. From my Korean history class at Brown, I had learned about the May 18th Democratic Uprising and wanted to visit the city when I had the chance. We walked around seeing some of the related landmarks, including the May 18 Democratization Movement Student Memorial, the May 18 Democratization Movement Archives, and the May 18 Memorial Cultural Center. The overall experience was interesting in that, while there were many memorials and museums honoring the people involved in the Movement, the city itself seemed to have "moved on." We then traveled over to Pohang and got to see tides and currents in cloudy and rainy weather. There, we took pictures at Homigot, looked at the National Lighthouse Museum, and ate san-nakji at Jukdo Market.

We also went with our cousins to Godeok to visit another maternal aunt's home in the countryside. She took us maesil-picking (a maesil is a Chinese plum) and taught us how to store and prepare them to make maesil-cheong (Chinese plum syrup), which we had to leave behind in Korea, as it would take at least six months to mature. We also got to enjoy a very traditional feast with foods like porridge made from various beans, rice mixed with chestnuts and jujubes, japchae, beef and sausages, etc. We also went to a nearby county called Yesan and hiked around Yedangho Sculpture Park. When we were there, we also watched the World Cup game against Mexico while eating fried chicken and making different kinds of shapes out of mugwort rice cakes.

All in all, it was a very fulfilling experience. I gained not only a lot of academic knowledge but also personal experience. Thank you so much for giving me this opportunity.

## Katrina Northrop

This summer, I spent two and a half months working at the Beijing Bureau of the New York Times, thanks to a generous grant from the Arun Stewart '11 Memorial Fund and the East Asian Studies Department.

During my time working at the bureau, I was the research and reporting assistant for Christopher Buckley, a journalist who has covered politics and culture in China for over twenty years. My role consisted of reading news reports, researching government documents, conducting interviews and finding sources, mostly in Chinese. Every day was different—some days I was calling Esperanto enthusiasts in China's far flung provinces, other days I was reading a famous economist's biography, and others I was scanning on-line government contracts for evidence of detention camps. Two of the stories I worked on for Chris Buckley ended up on the front page of the newspaper: one about illegal chemical production in Chinese factories and another about criticism of Xi Jinping's regime from a prominent intellectual.

In addition to the work I did for Chris Buckley, I was given the freedom to do my own reporting. My first article was about a controversial dentist who used the profits from his dental clinics to start the Penghao theater, one of Beijing's few independent venues not controlled by the government theater system. Since he opened the theater ten years

ago, he has been a very influential and divisive figure in the Beijing theater scene. My second story was about a traditional clothing movement that has become immensely popular in China over the past few years. The movement, which has an nationalistic edge, promotes dressing in traditional Han clothing to revel in the greatness of the Chinese nation.

Over the course of the summer, I learned an immense amount about what it means to be a reporter in China, which has inspired me to return there after graduation to pursue a career in journalism. Reporting under restrictive government control is not easy, as it is very difficult find interview subjects for more sensitive articles. Reporting in Chinese is a challenge. But despite these obstacles, I remain passionate about doing journalism in China.



Many Americans see the Chinese people only as a homogenous population dominated by a repressive regime, and therefore it is very important for journalists to increase cross-cultural understanding and expand the lens through which the international audience views China. This summer, I was extremely lucky to learn about the reporting process from some of the best international correspondents in the world and see firsthand how journalists can change the discourse on China.

### Sam Parmer

This past summer, I was fortunate enough to receive an East Asian Studies Department award to help fund my internship in the Executive Office of the United States Embassy in Beijing, China. As an International Relations concentrator, I found the experience very rewarding. I was able to work alongside career diplomats and other representatives of the United States government as they carried out the day-to-day diplomacy that forms the core of the U.S.-China relationship during a pivotal moment in the relations between those two countries. In doing so, I was able to observe in practice things I have learned in my courses at Brown and ground the concepts I have learned in real practices.

A few experiences stand out from the internship experience. Probably the most significant was the work I did to help organize the embassy's July 4th celebration, the largest U.S. embassy July 4th celebration in the world. The event, which was attended by nearly 2,000 guests, facilitated connections between American officials, their Chinese counterparts, diplomats from third party states, and important representatives from the Chinese private sector. Another is the role I was able to play in coordinating a book drive with the Linden Centre in their efforts to improve literacy and provide English classes in rural Yunnan. And, although neither involved as much work on my part, the chances I was given to meet both Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi were some of the most memorable moments of my time in Beijing.

My internship aside, this summer was my first trip to China, and was full of new, interesting, and challenging experiences. I had plenty of opportunities to put the Chinese I learned in my first two years at Brown into practice, and I found interacting with native speakers on a day-to-day basis to be an amazing opportunity to improve my pronunciation and ability to understand spoken Chinese. Seeing the Great Wall, the Summer Palace, and other historical sites around Beijing brought home the meaning of "5000 years of history." Standing in places so significant was truly amazing. And, of course, the food was incredible.

I'm very grateful to the East Asian Studies Department for helping me take advantage of the opportunities afforded to me this summer, and to the Chinese professors I've had at Brown, who made me able and inclined to consider such an academically stimulating and culturally fascinating endeavor. The experiences I had this summer will remain with me, informing the remainder of my time at Brown and the decisions I make as I move forward.





## Sindura Sriram

Perhaps the first thing I realized through my jet-lag driven stupor after landing in China was how much Beijing looked like Rhode Island. I don't know why I thought this, as after spending two months there I know the places to be almost polar opposites, but I remember feeling a little disappointed, and a little duped. I had come all this way to experience something new, something different, and all I was getting was more of the same old Providence. My first impression couldn't have been more wrong.

China was always full of surprises, especially for a waiguoren. The first surprise was when I went to a restaurant and found myself unable to read anything on the menu. And then, immediately following that came the next surprise, when the waitress complimented me on my Chinese after I had resorted to pointing to a picture of my order and using Chinese to say "this one." And not one day was I ever mentally prepared for those 8:00 am classes. Even though I went to sleep every night, I would have to wake up the next morning and immediately run to class and take a quiz; those 7:45 am alarms felt like nothing less than an assault on my ears.

In the beginning, I felt I would never be able to achieve a state of normalcy in this unfamiliar city. In class, we were learning new material every day, and every day, there was an overwhelming number of new words to learn, essays to write, speeches to prepare. Outside of the classroom, I struggled to find the staples of my life in America that might offer me a semblance of routine. I couldn't for the life of me figure out how to use WeChat Pay. Here was one of the most efficient and convenient methods of payment, indicative of China's incredibly fast technological progress, and there I was stuck on the sidelines of this movement, asking every vendor if they happened to accept cash. I thought I would never fit in.

I eventually gave up trying, and I found an odd calm in that. I embraced my status as a foreigner, and it felt freeing. I don't know that I ever fully understood a sentence



spoken in the Beijing accent, nor did I ever learn how to properly flag down a waitress in a restaurant without feeling rude. But I can with confidence say that I learned a great deal. I learned so much Chinese, for one. By the end of the program, not only did I know how to say “double-edged sword,” but I also felt confident starting conversations with Chinese strangers, asking them about their opinions on Taiwan’s independence, or discussing Chinese-American relations. And I learned how to properly navigate the unpredictability that came with being an international student in China. While at first I felt uncomfortable under the ever-present gaze of curious Beijing locals, I eventually became excited by it, hoping one of them might ask where I was from and we could start a fleeting but insightful friendship. I began to appreciate the opportunities for unexpected encounters, knowing that a spontaneous trip to Shanghai, or even to the nearest convenience store, would always be some sort of adventure. And I am so thankful for that.

With that said, I want to express my deep gratitude towards Sunita and Tony Stewart and the East Asian Studies department for their incredible generosity. Thank you for this opportunity to explore and understand China. I know that I will carry the experiences I have had and the friends I have made at Princeton in Beijing for a very long time.



Photo Credit: Camila Guillama Capella



Photo Credit: Elaina Kim



Photo Credit: Tiffany Ding



Photo Credit: Robert Miller









# Alumni News

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## 1967

**Bill Maurer** writes: Following my graduation from Brown, I spent some thirty years with the U.S. Information Agency (USIA), specializing in East Asian Affairs. Although my major at Brown focused on China, in those days, with no diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China, the opportunities to continue concentrating on China were limited. Luckily, Asia is a big place and there were other places to go. My assignments took me to Korea, Japan and Sri Lanka, and later culminated in an assignment as Director of East Asian and Pacific Affairs for USIA, which afforded me the opportunity to visit and oversee activities in virtually all the countries of the region. Following the absorption of USIA into the State Department, I was the first office director of the Office of Public Diplomacy in the Bureau of East Asia and Pacific Affairs. I retired in 2000, and over the following years I was asked to help out in a series of short-term assignments to Asia, including to Taiwan, Singapore and Korea. After 2016 it was clear that whatever expertise I might have had was no longer needed or valued, so I have been enjoying my grandchildren and doing my best to keep up with international affairs in a purely private capacity.

## 1977

**Linda Jaivin** writes: Since my last update, I've continued to work on several major projects related to China. I'm the co-editor, once again, of the China Story Yearbook, produced by the Centre for China in the World at the Australian National University. I'm also curating a major exhibition for the State Library of New South Wales (in Sydney) about the life and times of George E Morrison, who became the first full-time China cor-

respondent in 1897, working for the Times of London. My eighth novel, “The Education of Proofreader Ding,” which is set in China, is also bubbling along, and is due with my publishers at Fourth Estate, HarperCollins Australia in the middle of next year. I also am working on some shorter-term projects as well, including an essay for Australian Foreign Affairs. Not all my work as a freelancer has to do with China, but China does seem to be the dominant theme at the moment!

## 1986

**Dawn Kopel** writes: After graduating, I briefly taught English in Taiwan and worked on my fluency in Mandarin. Since then, I moved in a different direction and have been in medicine. My practice is outpatient gynecology with a special interest in vulvovaginal disorders.

**Jonathan Walsh** writes: Over the past ten years, while living in Dharamsala, I sup-



ported a Tibetan (38, born in Kham) who taught herself English and much more. Please visit Sonam Dolma on Amazon-Kindle and/or Facebook. In April, a Bengali I met on my first visit to India in 1990, then supported from 1993 to 2006 (starting at Jack Preger’s Calcutta Rescue, she became a nurse) needed “baksheesh” money to get government agencies to produce documents so she could get a secure job in a government hospital. I sent it, and she starts her new job in December. They and a Tibetan refugee who now lives in France

represent the best of my work in the world. Taming and training the mind is what I’ve tried to focus on since I came to Dharamsala to live in 2008. Now, my 10-year India stint may be over, as I head to Thailand to teach English (as I did in Japanese universities from 1993 to 2006). A pal from my time in Japan just retired there, and I like doing Vipassana meditation courses at Wat Doi Suthep in Chiang Mai.

## 1988

**Kim Haglund** writes: I graduated in 1988 with a degree in Chinese language. After teaching English in Taiwan and China for 2 years after graduation, I returned to the United States and never really used my Chinese, until I ended up totally changing careers nine years later and going to medical school. Once I started working as a doctor, I acquired a lot of patients who speak Mandarin and so I use it a lot in my work. I currently work as a hospitalist at a county hospital in the San Francisco Bay area.

## 1998

With her husband and three children, **Brantley Turner** lives in Shanghai, where she continues to serve as the American Principal and Board Member at Shanghai Qibao

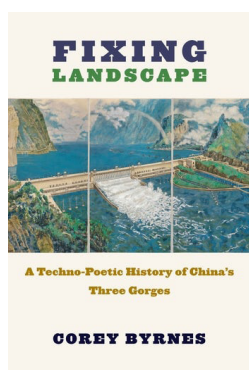
Dwight High School, which she helped found in 2014. She enjoys the opportunity to use the Mandarin she started learning at Brown on a daily basis.

## 2000



**Meredith Shaw** recently completed her Ph.D. in Political Science and International Relations at the University of Southern California. Two days after graduation, she moved to Tokyo, where she now works as the managing editor of Social Science Japan Journal. She is also a research faculty member at Tokyo University's Institute of Social Science (Shaken). Her research examines cultural politics in Japan, Mongolia, and the Koreas. She also manages the blog "North Korean Literature in English" (<http://dprklit.blogspot.com/>).

**Stacy Smith** writes: In celebrating a decade of working as a freelance Japanese interpreter, I officially incorporated at the beginning of the year. An exciting opportunity that presented itself this summer was the chance to interpret at the New York Asian Film Festival at Lincoln Center and the Japan Cuts film festival at the Japan Society. It was fun to work with directors, actors and producers, as well as both festivals' stellar staff. Another recent event that I enjoyed interpreting at was a three-day Indian-style wedding between a Japanese bride and an Indian-American groom. I'm usually in courtrooms or conference rooms, so it was nice to have a job that took place on a dance floor!



## 2002

**Corey Byrnes** writes: I'm currently an Assistant Professor of Modern Chinese Culture at Northwestern University, where I've been since 2014. My first book, *Fixing Landscape: A Techno-Poetic History of China's Three Gorges* (Columbia University Press) will be released this December and has already been awarded the Columbia University Weatherhead Institute First Book Prize.

**Johanna Cox** writes: I've recently gone back to work after taking almost five years off to raise my three young children (ages 2, 4, and 6) in London. Now living in Washington, DC, I've returned to my East Asian Studies roots and taken a China Analyst position with the Special Programs Divisions at SOS International, a defense contractor in Virginia.

## 2007

**Benjamin Boas** continues to live in Kamakura, Japan, where he writes in a variety of genres, including books and anime metadata, in both Japanese and English. Recently he interpreted a talk by the head of a Zen Temple for the Aspen Institute's International Committee, which was pretty neat. As a board member of the Brown Club of Japan, he encourages all members of the Brown community heading (or going back) to Japan to e-mail him at [benkun@gmail.com](mailto:benkun@gmail.com) so they can be appropriately welcomed. Recent graduates taking advantage of this offer will receive a free dinner and more.

## 2009

**Matt Reichel** writes: Last November I founded a community-based adventure travel company in Vancouver called Inertia Network. We currently run operations in about twenty countries, emphasizing travel to remote and off-the-beaten-path access in these countries. Our focus locations include China, Vietnam, Indonesia, Peru, Bolivia, Chile, Pakistan, Egypt, Jordan, North Korea, Tajikistan, and Tonga. I'm also finishing up a feature documentary film on North Korean ice hockey players called "Closing the Gap." After three years of documenting their practice in Pyongyang, North Korea, and travels to such places as Auckland, New Zealand, we're just a couple months away from our release date. We're currently applying to show the film at festivals.



## 2012

**Tyler Kasindorf-Mantaring** writes: Since December 2017, I've been working as one of the program coordinators for the Study in Kyoto Program, the primary short-term study abroad program at Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto, Japan. I was a student abroad at KCJS during my junior year, and now I work to help a diverse body of international students have a great and successful year abroad in Kyoto. In addition, I assist with developing partnerships and student exchange agreements with other institutions. In spring, I also get to have lunch on the beautiful campus during cherry blossom season.

## 2013

**Megan Turley** writes: After four impactful years coordinating Dreams for terminally ill adults at the Dream Foundation, in April of this year I accepted a position as a Development Analyst at the Kavli Institute for Theoretical Physics (KITP) at the University of California at Santa Barbara. I'm enjoying the new role fundraising for science and am happy to have the opportunity to be back in an academic setting.

In November I returned to Japan for the first time since I studied abroad in 2012 for a three-week trip to Hokkaido and across Honshu with my partner and good friend from Brown (and Japanese Literature classmate), Sarah Sneed.

## 2015

**Bailey Hu** writes: I moved to the fascinating metropolis of Shenzhen, China, two weeks after graduation and, three years later, haven't left. After dabbling in educational consulting, I decided to switch over to editorial work and wrote for a local lifestyle magazine for a year and a half. Last month I made the jump to more "serious" journalism with a role at a tech site, where I'm learning new phrases like "Series A funding" and "ICO" in both English and Chinese (I was a Comparative Literature concentrator). Although it sounds clichéd, I've found living abroad both challenging and rewarding; whether or not I end up staying, it's certainly pushed me to grow.

## 2016

**Livia Whitemore** writes: After a year working in New York with Chinese- and French-speaking refugees, I am heading to the London School of Economics. The LSE Master's Award allows me to continue my studies of displacement and diaspora in an international environment. I am excited to return to school, to make new friends, and to build my fledgling nonprofit!

We want to hear from you! Email [eas@brown.edu](mailto:eas@brown.edu)  
and keep us in the know.

Please also contact us if you're interested in speaking to concentrators about what you did with a degree from East Asian Studies.  
Campus visits or emails are more than welcome!



# GERARD HOUSE



# Faculty Directory 2018-2019

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Cynthia Brokaw .....	Chair of EAS
Kaijun Chen .....	Assistant Professor of EAS
Wenhui Chen .....	Lecturer of Chinese
Tamara Chin .....	Associate Professor of EAS and Comparative Literature
Ellie Choi .....	Visiting Assistant Professor of EAS
Nahoko Collis .....	Visiting Lecturer of Japanese
Hyunju Ha .....	Visiting Lecturer of Korean
Sachiko Hiramatsu .....	Visiting Lecturer of Japanese
Jia-Lin Huang Hsieh .....	Visiting Lecturer of Chinese
Lung-Hua Hu .....	Senior Lecturer of Chinese
Yuko Jackson .....	Senior Lecturer of Japanese
Liwei Jiao .....	Lecturer of Chinese
Zhuqing Li .....	Adjunct Associate Professor of EAS
Naemi McPherson .....	Visiting Lecturer of Japanese
Cheol Rin Park .....	Visiting Lecturer of Korean
Samuel Perry .....	Associate Professor of EAS
Kerry Smith .....	Associate Professor of EAS and History
Lulei Su .....	Lecturer of Chinese
Hiroshi Tajima .....	Lecturer of Japanese
Hsin-I Tseng .....	Visiting Lecturer of Chinese
Hye-Sook Wang .....	Associate Professor of EAS
Juyin Wang .....	Visiting Lecturer of Chinese
Lingzhen Wang .....	Associate Professor of EAS
Yang Wang .....	Senior Lecturer of Chinese
Kiko Yamashita .....	Associate Professor of EAS



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Providence, Rhode Island