

ASIAN STUDIES U OF L NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2020 - VOL. 3



Asian Studies is an interdisciplinary program at the University of Lethbridge

which seeks to understand the human experience in Asia and the Asian diaspora. We create opportunities for students to learn about Asia through courses, presentations, exchange programs, and faculty and student research. Many thanks to our colleagues, students, admin assistant Bev Garnett, Arts & Science Deans, Prentice Institute, and International and President's Offices for your support.

Michael Chan Prize in Asian Studies

Silva Baiton is the winner of the 2020 Michael Chan Prize in Asian Studies for her essay, "Looking for the Bright Life: Consuming Modernity in Late 20th-Century Japan," written for HIST 4040 Modernity in East Asia in Fall 2019. Silva graduated in the Spring as an English major, with a double minor in Japanese & Asian Studies. As a Japan Exchange Teaching (JET) Programme English Teacher, she awaits her assignment in Japan in the spring. Congratulations, Silva! Thank you to adjudicators Prof. Andrea Amerlinckx and Trevor Harrison. Michael Wing-Cheung Chan (1952-2001) was a Chinese Canadian scientist and humanitarian known for his brilliance in mathematics and his passion in promoting Canada-Asia understanding. The award was established by Dr. Bonnie Lee and family and friends of Michael Chan.

Next submissions due Aug 20, 2021.

Learn more at www.uleth.ca/artsci/asian-studies/scholarships

Faculty Publications: Kudos!

Gideon Fujiwara. *From Country to Nation: Ethnographic Studies, Kokugaku, and Spirits in Nineteenth-Century Japan.* Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press, East Asia Series, May 2021. [Product Details - Cornell University Press](#)

Glenda Bonifacio and Caroline Hodes, eds. *Race and the City: Intersectional Racisms in Lethbridge.* Athabasca University Press, forthcoming.

Kamrul M. Islam, Haque M.R, Hema PS (2020).

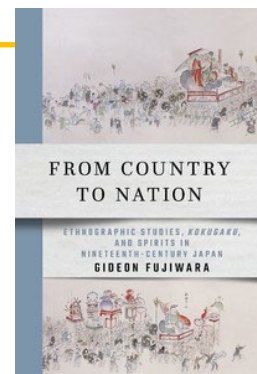
"Regional variations of contraceptive use in Bangladesh: A disaggregate analysis by place of residence." *PLoS ONE* 15(3): e0230143. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0230143>

John von Heyking. "The Figure of Socrates and its Significance for Liberal Education in Asia." In *Eric Voegelin's Asian Political Thought.* Ed. Lee Trepanier. Rowman & Littlefield, 2020.

Shayne A. P. Dahl. 2020. Buddhist Mummy or "Living Buddha"? The Politics of Immortality in Japanese Buddhism. *Anthropological Forum* 30(3): 292–312.

Carly Adams and Darren J Aoki, "Hey, why don't we have a bonspiel?" Narrating postwar Japanese Canadian experiences in southern Alberta through oral histories of curling," *The International Journal of the History of Sport*, 37 no. 14 (2020 - forthcoming).

Darren Aoki, 2020. 'Remembering "The English" in Four "Memory Moment" Portraits: Navigating Anti-Japanese Discrimination and Postcolonial Ambiguity in Mid-Twentieth Century Alberta, Canada', *Rethinking History.* <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/13642529.2019.1703451>



Gideon Fujiwara, Coordinator's Desk: 2020 has been a difficult year. We fought to protect our lives, our livelihoods, and our humanity. As the pandemic began, our children learned to study at home and to wash their hands. Their mother who is immuno-compromised went to work, while I learned to virtually teach my students who showed patience amid their own struggles. I often worried for my father in the care home, and for my younger brother who is a registered nurse on the frontlines.

Then, we witnessed the death of George Floyd. At the Black Lives Matter demonstration downtown, we stood, then knelt—masked and socially distanced—in solidarity with Black and Indigenous people, and people of colour to protest racism. We also heard of Asians being blamed for Covid-19, and Temporary Foreign Workers providing essential services while being unable to access healthcare.

At the U of L we learned about the "Structures of Indifference" that took the life of Brian Sinclair, and how Blackfoot grandmothers pass on their ways of knowing to their granddaughters. We learned of racial segregation in dance halls, the invisible labour of letter writing, and why people use violence as a means to fight colonialism. I have come to believe that the first steps toward decolonization happen in our own hearts and minds.

It is in this spirit that we have invited Dr. Mai Ishihara of Hokkaido University to give a virtual presentation on January 21 on her important work on autoethnography of the "Silent Ainu" about the history of the Ainu, the Indigenous peoples of northern Japan. See details on page 3. Everyone is welcome. We are honoured that Elder Francis First Charger will bless this gathering.

(continued on next page)

(Cont'd) Please see all the wonderful achievements of our students and colleagues. In this the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Okinawa and end of WWII, my first graduate student, Darcy Tamayose, completed an MA thesis that studied the diaspora between Okinawa and Southern Alberta and a child's experience of the war through her mother's oral history. Best wishes to our students who are studying for their exams, and to all of us who are grading or doing service of various kinds. Please take care—you and your loved ones. Happy holidays!
Gideon Fujiwara, Asian Studies Coordinator, Associate Professor, History Department



Interview of Kamrul Islam, PhD

1) Tell us about yourself and your academic background. I am a postdoctoral research fellow at the Prentice Institute for Global Population and Economy. I earned my MA and PhD in Sociology with specialization in Demography from the University of Alberta. I completed my bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of Dhaka in Bangladesh.

2) Please tell us about the research that you do. I am working on examining socioeconomic inequalities in health and well-being among Canadians with a particular focus on older adult immigrants. I am also conducting some research in areas of mortality and population health dynamics in South Asia.

3) You are teaching an Asian Studies course for the 2nd time. Tell us how that experience has been. Teaching the course on *Population Dynamics in South Asia (ASIA 3850)* has been a great experience for me. I am highly motivated by the students' strong desire to learn more about the society, culture, and economy of Asian countries.

4) How has your experience been at the U of L and Lethbridge? I have enjoyed an excellent work environment at the University and have also received generous support for professional development from the Prentice Institute. I love living in Lethbridge. It's a small city and the community is very welcoming.

5) What are your goals for the future? My goal is to get a faculty position in the academia and continue research in areas of population health, healthy ageing, and population dynamics in South Asia.

- Dr. Islam, thank you for sharing your expertise with us and our students. I've enjoyed getting to know you! GF

Dr. Bonnie Lee (Health Sciences) is the recipient of the Internationalization at Home in Science Education award (\$6500) from Government of Alberta, Ministry of Advanced Education. Dr. Lee's project entitled "Universal and Cultural Factors in Canadian and Turkish Family Health and Distress" is a partnership between the University of Lethbridge and Cyprus International University. Her collaborator, Dr. Erkan Isik, is Professor in the Department of Counselling and Guidance. The project will be implemented in the course ADCS 3120 Family Counselling this Spring 2021 with 15 Turkish graduate students and cross-cultural lectures by both professors. **Congratulations!**

New Silk Roads Academy - Mentoring Program

Dr. Glenda Bonifacio currently serves as a mentor with the New Silk Roads Academy. This is an opportunity for young students to discuss with a mentor concepts that may enhance their research and direct them towards potential sources. Students can visit <http://www.newsilkroads.info> for further information or send an e-mail to: r.t.griffiths@hum.leidenuniv.nl.

Dr. Glenda Bonifacio, Chair of Women and Gender Studies, was notified the Letter of Intent to create a **UNESCO Chair on Gender, Migration, and Post-disaster Communities in the Asia-Pacific Island Countries** at the University of Lethbridge was approved by the Canadian Commission for UNESCO. She is now preparing the full application that will involve research, students' training, and other international collaboration with universities in this region. Asia-Pacific is the most vulnerable region for natural disasters and the impact of climate change.

Dr. Bonifacio will also be a visiting scholar at the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Hiroshima University from Feb 1 to July 2021 during her study leave. **Congratulations!**

The History Colloquium Series hosts

A presentation by Dr. Mai Ishihara, the author of *Autoethnography of 'Silence': The Story of the Pain of Silent Ainu and Their Care*

(Sapporo: Hokkaido University Press, Dec. 2020 [in Japanese]).

This talk, in English, is co-sponsored by Asian Studies, the Centre for Oral History and Tradition (COHT), and Women Scholars' Speakers Series.

Elder Francis First Charger *Ninnaisipistoo* "Owl Chief" will open our event with a blessing.

Date/Time: Thurs, Jan. 21, 2021 7:00 pm via Zoom

Dr. Mai Ishihara is an Assistant Professor in the Center for Ainu and Indigenous Studies at Hokkaido University in Sapporo, Japan. She specializes in Cultural Anthropology and Ainu and Indigenous Research.

[Presentation - Dr. Mai Ishihara \(January 21, 2021\) | Notice Board \(uleth.ca\)](#) More details including registration info TBA

Prof. Steve Ferzacca's illustrious teaching career at the U of L is coming to a close this Fall 2020 term. We thank him for his many contributions to Asian Studies through his courses, independent studies, research, and service. Best wishes to our colleague in his new journeys. We also await the 2nd print of his book *Sonic City!*

Darcy Tamayose passed her MA exam for her thesis, "Southern Alberta Okinawa Diaspora (1907-Present): The *Kika Nisei* Journey of Naoko Shimabukuro." Darcy wrote a highly original and insightful thesis that examines the diaspora experience between Hamahiga, Okinawa, and Southern Alberta through the oral history of her mother Naoko. On Friday, December 4th Darcy presented her thesis virtually, which allowed her parents to view from their seniors' lodge, her daughter to join from Tokyo, and friends, relatives, and colleagues to attend from Okinawa, the United Kingdom, and across North America. Outstanding work, Darcy! Congratulations! (Supervisor: Dr. Gideon Fujiwara Committee: Dr. Carly Adams, Dr. Darren J. Aoki)

Retired geography professor, Ian MacLachlan

continues to write and research in the area of urban and economic geography. He plans to return to Peking University Shenzhen Graduate School, School of Urban Planning and

Design on 3 February 2021 until early July. He continues to have his principal residence in Lethbridge with Diane Clark and very much wants to stay involved as a member of the University of Lethbridge community.

Asian Studies Courses in Spring 2021

New Course Offering

RELS3300 A Religion in Contemporary East Asia

Dr. Shayne Dahl TR 10:30 - 11:45 a.m.

This course offers students a bridge to connect textual studies on the formation and development of East Asian religions to their modern influence in East Asian societies.

RELS 2100 The Hindu Tradition (H Rodrigues)

RELS 2330 Chinese Religions (J Harding)

JPNS 1100 Beginners' Japanese II (A McMeekin)

JPNS 2020 Intermediate Language II (A McMeekin)

HIST 3280 Imperial China (G Fujiwara)

HIST 3290 Japan, 1570-1890 (G Fujiwara)

U of L Students, are you interested in learning about Asia's societies, cultures, and histories? Want to make your degree international? Considering traveling Asia or pursuing work with ties to Asia?

If so, declare your Minor in Asian Studies!

Required courses: ASIA 1000 Introduction to Asia plus 5 courses with at least 1 at the 3000/4000 level.

Consider structuring the Asian Studies Minor into one of the following combinations:

Major/Minor; Major/Double Minor; or within a General Humanities/Social Science degree. Be creative!



Visit the **Winter Light Festival at Nikka Yuko Japanese Garden**, which begins on December 3 and runs until January 30. All tickets must be booked in advanced. See website for details: [Nikka Yuko Japanese Garden in Lethbridge, Alberta](#) Approved by AHS and the City!

See more details on our website:

<http://www.uleth.ca/artsci/asian-studies>

Contact the coordinator at gideon.fujiwara@uleth.ca

Some Anniversaries in Asia

75 years since:

Battle of Okinawa

Atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

End of WWII and Asia-Pacific War

Korean Independence