The East Asia Center (EAC) at the University of California, Santa Barbara promotes interdisciplinary research and cultural events on East Asia. It brings together UCSB faculty, students, and the wider local public with leading scholars and other creative individuals from other institutions in order to create a critical and nurturing community for the study of East Asia. EAC strives to collaborate with a range of departments, individuals and other units in the Humanities, Social Sciences and beyond that are invested in education and public understanding of East Asia. EAC invests in relationships between UCSB and the East Asian region as well as the academy and the public.

Director and Advisory Board

Professor Sabine Frühstück, EALCS (Director)
Professor Jia-Ching Chen, Global Studies
Professor Jin-Sook Lee, Education
Professor Yunte Huang, English
Professor Luke Roberts, History
Professor Katherine Saltzman-Li, EALCS

Hosted:

The Good, the Sad, and the Funny: Morality and Affect in Japanese Picturebooks
Associate Professor Heather Blair (Department of Religious Studies, University of Indiana)
SS&MS 2nd Floor Conference Room 2135
Oct 4@4:00pm–5:30pm
However charming or avant-garde they may be, picturebooks do serious work, teaching the youngest members of society who we are and how we fit into our world. Advocacy of moral behavior plays a key role in this socializing project. In this talk, I focus on Japanese picturebooks published since the 1960s, where ethical instruction is framed in terms of fun and feeling rather than overt didacticism. Having identified a suite of childhood virtues that form an implicit moral canon for the picturebook repertoire, I examine common strategies for conveying and cultivating these ethical dispositions, both on the page and in the classroom. Furthermore, I argue that if anything the stakes for picturebook morality are rising. At the same time that anxiety about the future of Japanese childhood has grown more acute, public intellectuals, self-described picturebook therapists, and other advocates have moved to appropriate picturebooks as
resources for the moral re-education of adults. As a result, picturebooks are becoming increasingly visible as sites for public reflection on what it means to be—and to feel, and to act—human.

Heather Blair is Associate Professor of Religious Studies at Indiana University. A Japan specialist, she focuses primarily on lay religiosity and intersections between visual culture and religion, both in the Heian period and the modern-to-contemporary times. Her publications include Real and Imagined: The Peak of Gold in Heian Japan (2015) and articles in venues such as Monumenta Nipponica, Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies, and Japanese Journal of Religious Studies. She is currently working on a monograph with the provisional title The Gods Make You Giggle: Finding Religion in Japanese Picturebooks.

This EAC event is co-sponsored by the Graduate Center for Literary Research, the International Shinto Foundation Chair in Shinto Studies, the Department of Religious Studies, the Reinventing Japan Research Focus Group, and the Department of East Asian Languages & Cultural Studies.

Workshop: Transnationalizing the History of Childhood in Russia, Korea, Japan, and the United States
HSSB 2212 (Confucius Institute, seminar room), Oct 5 @ 1:00 pm – 3:30 pm
In this workshop, four scholars will discuss pre-circulated work in progress on Japan, Korea, and Russia: Heather Blair (Religious Studies, University of Indiana), Dafna Zur (East Asian Languages and Cultures, Stanford University), Sara Pankenier Weld (Germanic and Slavic Studies, University of California at Santa Barbara/UCSB), Lisa Jacobson (History, UCSB), and Sabine Frühstück (East Asian Languages & Cultural Studies, UCSB).

Figuring Korean Futures: Children’s Literature in Modern Korea @ SS&MS 2nd Floor
Assistant Professor Dafna Zur (East Asian Languages and Cultures, Stanford University): Conference Room 2135
Oct 5 @ 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm
In this book talk, Dafna Zur tells the story of the emergence and development of writing for children in modern Korea. Starting in the 1920s, a narrator-adult voice began to speak directly to a child-reader. This child audience was perceived as unique because of a new concept: the child-heart, the perception that the child’s body and mind were transparent and knowable, and that they rested on the threshold of culture. This privileged location enabled writers and illustrators, educators and psychologists, intellectual elite and laypersons to envision the child as a powerful antidote to the present and as an uplifting metaphor of colonial Korea’s future.
Reading children’s periodicals against the political, educational, and psychological discourses of their time, Dafna Zur argues that the figure of the child was particularly favorable to the project of modernity and nation-building, as well as to the colonial and postcolonial projects of socialization and nationalization. Zur’s analysis reveals the complex ways in which the figure of the child became a driving force of nostalgia that stood in for future aspirations for the individual, family, class, and nation.

Dafna Zur is Assistant Professor in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures at Stanford, where she teaches courses on Korean literature, cinema, and
popular culture. She has published articles on North Korean science fiction, the Korean War in North and South Korean children’s literature, childhood in cinema, and Korean popular culture. Her fiction translations have been published in wordwithoutborders.org, The Columbia Anthology of Modern Korean Short Stories, and the Asia Literary Review.

This EAC event is co-sponsored by the Graduate Center for Literary Research, the Department of History, the Reinventing Japan Research Focus Group, and the Department of East Asian Languages & Cultural Studies.

Cyborg Able-ism: Critical Insights from the Not so ‘Uncanny Valley’ of Japan
Professor Jennifer Robertson (Departments of Anthropology and the History of Art, University of Michigan)

SS&MS 2nd Floor Conference Room 2135, Oct 12 @ 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm
I explore and interrogate the development and application in Japan—with cross-cultural comparisons—of robotic prosthetic devices that effectively transform disabled persons into cyborgs, a condition of “cyborg-ableism.” Included here is a critical reassessment of the so-called theory of the uncanny valley. In Japan, wearable robotic devices proceed from and depend on a corporeal aesthetics of the gotai (the intact body). I examine the type of human body that is privileged in the discourse of machine-enhanced mobility, and also analyze the modes of sociality that robotic devices and prosthetics are imagined to recuperate. Apropos 2020, Japanese participation in the Paralympics is briefly reviewed.

Jennifer Robertson is Professor of Anthropology and the History of Art at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. She is a former director of the Center for Japanese Studies, where she served for the past four years as Director of Graduate Studies. Robertson is on the faculty of the Robotics Institute, and a faculty associate in the Science, Society and Technology Program. She earned her Ph.D. in Anthropology from Cornell University in 1985, where she also earned a B.A. in the History of Art in 1975. The author of several books and over seventy articles, her new book, Robo sapiens janicus: Robots, Gender, Family, and the Japanese Nation, will be published this fall (2017) by the University of California Press. http://www.jenniferrobertson.info/

This EAC event is co-sponsored by the Reinventing Japan Research Focus Group, the Department of Anthropology, and the Department of East Asian Languages & Cultural Studies.

Passages from the Mohezhiguan – Tiantai Zhiyi’s Magnum Opus
Professor Paul Swanson (Nanzan Institute of Religion and Culture, Nanzan University):
HSSB 2112, Nov 13 @ 11:00 am – 12:30 pm

The Japanese Enthronement Ceremony in 2019
Professor Helen Hardacre (Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies, Harvard University)
HSSB 4080, Mar 14 @ 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm

Enthronement ceremonies present the ultimate opportunity for monarchies to display their cultural capital. The Japanese monarchy is particularly well situated in this regard, because its enthronement ritual, which can be traced to ancient times, can incorporate
elaborate vestments and other elements suggesting primeval origins, even as skilful ritual choreography permits considerable adaptation to current circumstances in politics and society. The coming enthronement ceremonies promise to dramatize the Japanese monarch as “symbol of the unity of the people,” through every kind of media, probably providing younger generations’ first sustained exposure to imperial rites. Behind the scenes, however, Emperor Akihito’s decision to abdicate in favor of Crown Prince Naruhito has touched off a political drama starkly revealing conservatives’ opposition to the emperor’s manner of enacting his role. This presentation attempts to explicate these complicated dynamics of culture and politics.

Trans in Paradise - The curious case of transmen in Okinawa, Japan
Professor Karen Nakamura (Anthropology, UC Berkeley)
Interdisciplinary Humanities Center, 6th fl, HSSB, May 2 @ 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Okinawa is not only Japan’s most southernmost prefecture and island chain and the home of multiple US military bases, but also curiously the area in Japan — if not the world — with the highest proportion of trans men to trans women. This is largely the result of an explosion in the number of transmen coming out in the last two decades, perhaps a direct result of the creation of the medical and legal category of “Gender Identity Disability” (GID) which allowed for the expression of trans as disability. This talk explores the trans phenomenon in Okinawa and in Japan from a Disability Studies, Queer, Studies, and Japan Studies Perspective.

Karen Nakamura is a cultural and visual anthropologist at UC Berkeley. Her first book was titled Deaf in Japan: Signing and the Politics of Identity (2006). Her next project resulted in two ethnographic films and a monograph titled, A Disability of the Soul: An Ethnography of Schizophrenia and Mental Illness in Contemporary Japan (2014). She is currently working on the intersections of transsexuality and disability politics in postwar Japan.

The “History Wars” and the “Comfort Woman” Issue: Revisionism and the Right-wing in Contemporary Japan and the U.S.
Associate Professor Tomomi Yamaguchi (Anthropology and Sociology, Montana State University)
HSSB 4080, May 9 @ 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm
In current-day Japan, “comfort women” continue to be an issue of intense controversy, with many on the Right relentlessly attacking the accepted historical narrative and denying that there was any government involvement in, or corresponding responsibility for, a system of sexual slavery. Right-wing media and intellectuals have begun to use the term “history wars” to refer to this development, and Japanese revisionists now consider the United States and the United Nations to be major “battlefields” of the “comfort woman” issue. They have criticized “comfort woman” monuments and statues, resolutions, museum exhibits, and coverage of “comfort women” in history textbooks and curricula in the U.S. In particular, the statue in Glendale, California, built in 2013, led Japanese right-wingers to pursue multiple lawsuits both in Japan and the U.S., and the statue in San Francisco, built last year, drew not only intense critique from the Japanese
government, but also the cancellation of the sister city relationship between San Francisco and the City of Osaka.

Based on my anthropological fieldwork on Japanese right-wing activities in the U.S. and Japan, as well as the experiences of people involved in the making of the “comfort women” memorials in the U.S., I will demonstrate how this issue functions as an important rallying point to tie together disparate right-wing elements, including the Abe government. I will also highlight how the acts of remembering and commemorating the survivors’ experiences of wartime violence against women become such a contentious, political issue capable of intensely and emotionally mobilizing the Japanese right-wing on both sides of the Pacific.

New Directions in Korean Studies
International conference co-organized by Hyung-Il Pai and Sabine Frühstück (EALCS and EAC)
Friday, 2 March 2018, Social Sciences and Media Studies Building, 2nd Floor, Conference Room 2135
09:00–09:15am Welcome and introduction
09:15–10:00am “Making Science Moral: The Story of Data in Post-Liberation North Korea” by Dafna Zur (Stanford University)
10:00–10:45am “The Gendered Anxieties of Socialist Living in North Korea, 1953-1965” by Andre Schmid (University of Toronto)
10:45–11:00am Coffee break
11:00–11:45am “Eccentric Powers: The Mass Media and Cross-Gender Labor in Cold War South Korea” by Todd Henry (UCSD)
11:30–01:00pm Lunch break
01:00–01:45pm “Between Afro-Orientalism and Afro-Pessimism: Racial Surplus and the Global Consumption of Korean Pop Music” by Suk-Young Kim (UCLA)
01:45–02:30pm “Vicarious Media: Kpop, Mukbang, and Consuming Consumption” by Michelle Cho (McGill University)
02:30–03:15pm Coffee break
03:15–04:00pm Panel Discussion on New Directions in Korean Studies.

Conference participants in conversation with UCSB students and faculty members, including Jin Sook Lee (Education), John Park (Asian American Studies), and Kate McDonald (History); moderated by Sabine Frühstück

This event is co-sponsored by the departments of History, Film & Media Studies, and East Asian Languages & Cultural Studies, the Graduate Center for Literary Research, and the College of Letters & Science.
Co-sponsored:

**The Chinese Typewriter – A History**  
Associate Professor Tom Mullaney (History, Stanford University)  
McCune Conference Room, IHC  
Nov 7 @ 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm  
Chinese writing is character-based, the one major world script that is neither alphabetic nor syllabic. Over the past two centuries, Chinese script has encountered presumed alphabetic universalism at every turn, whether in the form of Morse Code, Braille, stenography, Linotype, punch cards, word processing, or other systems developed with the Latin alphabet in mind. Today, however, after more than a century of resistance against the alphabetic, not only have Chinese characters prevailed, they form the linguistic substrate of the vibrant world of Chinese information technology. In this talk, Stanford historian Tom Mullaney shows how this unlikely transformation happened, by charting out a fascinating series of experiments, prototypes, failures, and successes in the century-long struggle between Chinese characters and the QWERTY keyboard. This Department of History event is co-sponsored by the East Asia Center.

**The Death of Landscape**  
Professor Michio Hayashi (Art History and Visual Culture, Sophia University)  
Social Sciences & Media Studies 2135, Nov 30 @ 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

**Discoveries in Japanese Literature: The Beginnings of a Translation History**  
Michael Emmerich (Asian Studies, UCLA)  
HSSB 4080, November 1, 4pm  
Michael Emmerich is the author of *The Tale of Genji: Translation, Canonization, and World Literature* (Columbia University Press, 2013), as well as more than a dozen book-length translations of works by Japanese writers, including Kawabata Yasunari, Yoshimoto Banana, Takahashi Gen’ichirō, Akasaka Mari, Yamada Taichi, Matsuura Rieko, Kawakami Hiromi, Furukawa Hideo, and Inoue Yasushi.

**Abe Kobo and Experimental TV Dramas in Postwar Japan**  
Toba Koji (Film and Media Studies, Waseda University)  
SSMS 2135, June 6, 2018, 5:30pm  
The acclaimed Japanese writer Abe Kōbō (1924-1993) came to be known internationally through the English translation of his 1962 novel *The Woman in the Dunes* and its film adaptation by the experimental filmmaker Teshigawara Hiroshi, both appearing in 1964. Abe’s collaboration with Teshigawara continued until the production of other two films based on Abe’s novels—*The Face of Another* (1966) and *The Ruined Map* (1968)— and thanks to positive receptions of these “absurd” narrative films, he earned his reputation as the “Japanese Kafka.” However, it is incorrect to say that Abe’s commitment to moving images began with *Pitfall* (1962), the first film he made with Teshigawara, because since 1958 he had already acquired first-hand experience as a scriptwriter for burgeoning Japanese TV dramas. Examining more than a dozen of scenarios he wrote for TV drama, this talk illuminates how he developed his own theory and practice of connecting the
two seemingly incompatible genres—documentary and science fiction—to be the hallmark of his later film works.

**Patterns and Networks in Classical Chinese Literature: Notes from the Digital Frontier**

International Conference organized by Tom Mazanec (EALCS)

Twelve scholars from around the globe will present examples of the groundbreaking research taking place at the intersection of digital humanities and classical Chinese literary studies. Covering poetry, prose, fiction, history, linguistics, and philosophy over the course of two millennia, these studies will show how computing technologies can help researchers uncover previously unseen patterns and networks in their materials, shedding new light on premodern texts.

Keynote Address by Michael Fuller (East Asian Languages and Literatures, UC Irvine), “Digital Humanities and the Discontents of Meaning,” on Friday, February 9 at 4:30 PM.

**When:** February 9-10, 2018; Friday 9am-6pm, Saturday 9am-1pm

**Where:** McCune Conference Room (HSSB 6020)


---

**February 9**

8:30-9:00 Breakfast (open to all attendees)
9:00-9:15 Opening Remarks
9:15-10:15 Panel 1: Bibliography
Jing CHEN (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign), "Rethinking Influences: Calculating and Ranking 'Impact Factors' of Pre-Tang and Ancient-Style Poetry Anthologies in Late Imperial China"
Evan NICOLL-JOHNSON (University of Alberta), "Drawing out the Essentials: Historiographic Annotation as an Intertextual Network"

10:45-11:45 Panel 2: Rhetoric
Yi-long HUANG (National Tsing Hua University), via Bingyu ZHENG (Princeton University), "New Frontiers of Electronic Textual Research in the Humanities: Investigating Classical Allusions in Chinese Poetry through Digital Methods"

12:00-1:30 Lunch (open to all attendees)
1:45-2:45 Panel 3: Language Choices
Chao-lin LIU (National Chengchi University), “Exploring Chinese Poetry with Digital Assistance: Examples from Linguistic, Literary, and Historical Viewpoints”

3:15-4:15 Panel 4: Shared Texts
Timothy CLIFFORD (Bryn Mawr College), “Visualizing Alternative Literary Canons in Ming Dynasty China (1368-1644): A Preliminary Case Study”
Donald STURGEON (Harvard University), “Text Reuse in the Early Chinese Corpus”

4:30-5:45 Keynote Address
Michael FULLER (UC Irvine), “Digital Humanities and the Discontents of Meaning”
5:45-6:30 Reception (open to all attendees)

**February 10**
9:00-9:30 Breakfast
9:30-11:00 Panel 5: Social Networks

Zhaopeng WANG (South Central University for Nationalities), via Thomas MAZANEC (UC Santa Barbara), “Spatial Distribution and Displacement of the Poetic Landscape in the Tang-Song period: A Data Analysis Based on ‘A Chronological Map of Tang-Song Literature’”

Chen LIU (Kyoto University), "Epistolary Network and the Rise of Letteret as a Literary Genre: A Case Study of the Letters of Su Shi and Huang Tingjian"

Thomas MAZANEC (UC Santa Barbara), “Networks of Exchange Poetry in Late Medieval China: Notes toward a Dynamic Literary History”

11:30-1:00 Lunch and Concluding Discussion (open to all attendees)

**Engaged Buddhism in Japan: New Strategies for Revitalization**
Rev. Ogi Shojun
SSMS 2135, March 5, 4:15-6:15

**The World of Abhiseka: Consecration Rituals in the Buddhist Cultural Sphere**
An International Conference hosted by Professor Fabio Rambelli (EALCS and Religious Studies) and Or Porath (Religious Studies)
McCune conference room, IHC, May 7-8, 2018
http://www.eastasian.ucsb.edu/kanjo/

**Conference on Global Social Movements in the 20th and 21st Centuries**
**Spring Comes Around Again: Social Movements in Postcolonial East Asia**
Organized by Professor Jia-Ching Chen (Global Studies)
Thursday May 31 & Friday June 1, 2018, Wallis Annenberg Conference Room, 4315 Social Sciences & Media Studies Bldg., University of California, Santa Barbara

**Thursday**
9:30am OPENING
Kuo Ch’ing Tu, UCSB
Jia-Ching Chen, UCSB

10:00 RESISTANCE, SPARKS, BEGINNINGS
Ching-Kwan Lee, UCLA
Wang Dan, independent
Youngju Ryu, U. Michigan
Ho Fung Hung, Johns Hopkins U.
Discussant: Eli Friedman, Cornell U.

1:00pm MOVEMENT SHIFTS
Anthony Spires, U. Melbourne
Hwa-Jen Liu, National Taiwan U.
Hae Yeon Choo, U. Toronto
Jin Hee Kim, Kyung Hee Cyber U.
Discussant: Paul Amar, UCSB
3:00 FILM: Raise the Umbrellas
Q/A with the director, Evans Chan

Friday
9:30am REPRESSION & RIGHT TURNS
Mingsho Ho, National Taiwan U.
Namhee Lee, UCLA
Maggie Clinton, Middlebury College
Edmund Cheng, Hong Kong Baptist U.
Discussant: Sherene Seikaly, UCSB
11:30 IDENTITIES & REPRESENTATIONS
Mark Harrison, U. Tasmania
Evans Chan, filmmaker
Mei Wa Lo, poet
Discussant: ann-elise lewallen
2:00pm READINGS
Kuo Ch’ing Tu, UCSB
Mei Wa Lo, independent
Shawna Yang Ryan, U. Hawai’i, Manoa
3:00 WORKSHOPS

Sponsored by The Center for Taiwan Studies, UCSB College of Letters & Science,
Education Division of the Taipei Economic & Cultural Office in Los Angeles, and the East
Asia Center
Full program details: www.eastasian.ucsb.edu/taiwancenter

Documenting Ritual Knowledge: The Ritual Anthologies of Medieval Japan
Dr. Lucia Dolce (SOAS, University of London)
International Shinto Foundation Endowed Chair in Shinto Studies: Japanese Religions
Lectures, HSSB 4020, May 4, 2018, at 4pm

Reshaping the Present by Reconnecting with the Past from an Urban Ainu
Perspective
Uzawa Kanako (The Arctic University of Norway)
SSMS 2135, UCSB, May 21, 2018

Disaggregating the East Asian Developmental State Model: Are South Korea and
Taiwan Siamese Twins or Kissing Cousins?
Professor Tun-jun Cheng (Government, College of William and Mary)
Ellison Hall 3824, Oct 6@12:00 pm–1:30 pm

Book Launch & Reception
Placing Empire: Travel and the Social Imagination in Imperial Japan
By Kate McDonald
(University of California Press, 2017)
McCune Conference Room, IHC, HSSB 6th Fl
October 9, 6-8pm, McCune Conference Room, HSSB 6th Fl
Featuring: Ken Ruoff (Professor of History, Director / Center for Japanese Studies, Portland State University) and Sabine Frühstück (Professor of Modern Japanese Cultural Studies, East Asian Languages & Cultural Studies)

GRANTS AWARDED

Korea Foundation Visiting Professor Fellowship for 1 year at ca. $99,900.

Prepared by Sabine Frühstück, Director (June 2018)