



The East Asia Center Newsletter

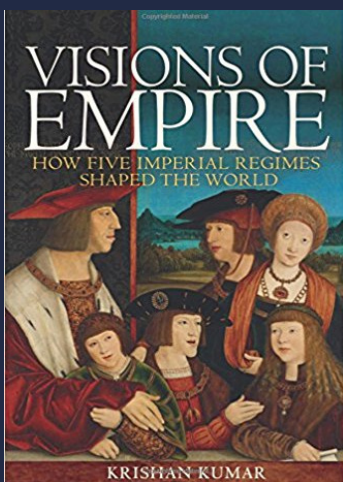
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UVA Community Members Gather for a Presentation by Bao Phi and Thi Bui

Books Published



Krishan Kumar

Visions of Empire: How Five Imperial Regimes Shaped the World (Princeton University Press, 2017).

The empires of the past were far-flung experiments in multinationalism and

A Message from the Director

In fall we welcomed two new faculty: Sylvia Tidey in Anthropology/Global Studies Program and Yingyao Wang in Sociology. Sylvia Tidey received her Ph.D. degree from the University of Amsterdam. She is a cultural anthropologist with an interest in the ethics of care in family intimacies amidst particular socio-political notions of the good life. She carries out her fieldwork primarily in Indonesia. Yingyao Wang received her Ph.D. degree from Yale University. Her research interests include economic and political sociology, comparative and historical sociology, formal and complex organizations, sociology of development, and China.

Several existing faculty have also joined the Center, and we welcome Andrew S. Johnston, Krishan Kumar, and Esther Lorenz. Andrew Johnston is Associate Professor in Architectural History and Director of the UVA Program in Historic Preservation of the School of Architecture. His research interests focus on industrial and infrastructure heritage, cultural landscapes, critical heritage studies, and heritage and preservation in China. In China he joined with UNESCO affiliates as one of a team of experts working on historical gardens, intermediate cities, and urban cultural landscapes and served as Consulting Architect in Heritage Preservation with the China Suzhou Institute of Architectural Design. Krishan Kumar is a University Professor, as well as William R. Kenan, Jr., Professor in the Department of Sociology.

multiculturalism, and have much to teach us about navigating our own increasingly globalized and interconnected world. Until now, most recent scholarship on empires has focused on their subject peoples. *Visions of Empire* looks at their rulers, shedding critical new light on who they were, how they justified their empires, how they viewed themselves, and the styles of rule they adopted toward their subjects.

Krishan Kumar provides panoramic and multifaceted portraits of five major European empires -- Ottoman, Habsburg, Russian/Soviet, British, and French -- showing how each, like ancient Rome, saw itself as the carrier of universal civilization to the rest of the world. Sometimes these aims were couched in religious terms, as with Islam for the Ottomans or Catholicism for the Habsburgs. Later, the imperial missions took more secular forms, as with British political traditions or the world communism of the Soviets.

Visions of Empire offers new insights into the interactions between rulers and ruled, revealing how empire was as much a shared enterprise as a clash of oppositional interests. It explores how these empires differed from nation-states, particularly in how the ruling peoples of empires were forced to downplay or suppress their own national or ethnic identities in the interests of the long-term preservation of their rule. This compelling and in-depth book demonstrates how the rulers of empire, in their quest for a universal world order, left behind a legacy of multiculturalism and diversity that is uniquely relevant for us today.

His most recent publication is *Visions of Empire: How Five Imperial Regimes Shaped the World* (Princeton University Press, 2017). Esther Lorenz is Assistant Professor and Director of the Undergraduate Architecture Program at the School of Architecture. Her work explores the social, cultural, political, and economic preconditions of architecture, as well as the mutual effects between urban form and human life, social relations and space perception. She is also Co-director (with Shiqiao Li) of the School of Architecture's China Program.

Renowned scholar of Chinese religions Kenneth Dean, Raffles Professor in the Humanities and Head of Chinese Studies at the National University of Singapore, has joined the Anthropology Department as Visiting Scholar in spring 2018. In April he delivered a Nelson lecture entitled "The Rise of the Underworld Deities in Singapore: Transformation of Religious Space" to a very engaged audience.

Since the beginnings of the Nelson Lectures on Southeast Asia and the Nelson Scholars Program in 2015–16, the Nelson family has established the Nelson Endowment Fund to support these two programs in perpetuity. We are very grateful to the Nelson family for their commitment to enhancing the understanding of Southeast Asia at UVa. The Center has also received a gift from the estate of Richard J. Coughlin, Professor Emeritus of Sociology and Anthropology at UVa; the gift will fund annual lectures on East and Southeast Asia for a number of years.

In programming, the Center continues to have vibrant lecture series, one on East Asia, and one on Southeast Asia. Notable lecturers included the French philosopher and sinologist François Julien. Into the second year, the Center Faculty Forum continued to strive to bring faculty of different disciplines together for genuine interdisciplinary dialogues. This year, we also began a lunch seminar series for faculty and graduate students, with full-capacity attendance shown at the seminar led by eminent scholar Prasenjit Duara, of Duke University and President-elect of the Association for Asian Studies, on his current project on "Revisiting the Chinese World Order: Soft Power and the Imperialism of Nation States." We plan to continue these innovative formats to augment scholarly exchanges and to supplement our public lectures. The archived videos of lectures on the Center's web-site have been a popular feature!

Three faculty of the Center—Sylvia Chong, Natasha Heller, and Charles Laughlin—have won funding for their proposed "Asian Cosmopolitanisms" Lab from the Institute of the Humanities and Global Cultures at UVa for 2018–2020 (see announcement below).

Emeritus Professor Ronald Dimberg and Justin O'Jack, Chief Representative of UVa's China Office in Shanghai, continue with their research projects on the history of East Asian Studies at UVa, and UVa's relationship with Asia, respectively. When their findings are available, we plan to add these valuable records to the Center website.

Dorothy C. Wong
May 18, 2017



Xiaoyuan Liu

《邊緣地帶的革命：中共民族政策的緣起（1921–1945）》(The Chinese University Press, Hong Kong, 2018).

The volume is the Chinese edition of Liu's *Frontier Passages: Ethnopolitics and the Rise of Chinese Communism, 1921–1945* (Stanford University Press, 2004).

在相當長的時間裏，操著南方口音的中國共產黨人按照蘇俄布爾什維克的教條來對待中國國內的「民族問題，通過煽動少數民族的分離主義以取得國家權力。但長征使中共來到政治環境極為嚴峻的中國西北邊疆，先後同藏、回、蒙族發生了錯綜複雜的關係。在自身求存和全國抗戰交織的過程中，以漢族為主的中共完成了一次民族政治轉型，在國內民族關係的處理上擱置蘇俄列寧主義模式，轉而採取與國民黨政府「五族共和」主張大致相同的政治立場。尤其是在西北地區對中國邊疆民族問題展開的實證調查與思考，為後來的民族政策奠定了重要的經驗和理論的積累。

在這部開創性的著作中，劉曉原教授十分精彩地復原了中共從建黨到抗日戰爭結束的歷史時期對中國邊疆、民族事務的理解與相應政策的轉變過程，並對其作出以上歷史抉擇的具體原因提出了令人信服的闡釋。

Franziska Oertle

The Heart of Tibetan Language (Dharamsala, HP, India: The Library of Tibetan Works and Archives, 2018).

Announcements

Asian Cosmopolitanisms Lab

Sylvia Chong, Natasha Heller, and Charles Laughlin's humanities lab proposal to the Institute of Humanities and Global Cultures entitled "Asian Cosmopolitanisms" has been funded for two years, fall 2018 - spring 2020, and they invite all interested to participate in the various clusters, suggest guest speakers and otherwise get involved in large ways and small.

The central work of the Asian Cosmopolitanisms Lab will be to redefine Asia from its Cold War understanding as particular nation-states within a geographical region, to a new conception as multiple networks and flows that touch upon all parts of the world. Cosmopolitanism names the belief that all human beings belong to a world community and maintains that there are deep interrelationships, shared rights, and mutual obligations that exist at multiple and shifting registers, from the profoundly local to the intensely distributed global, and in the many spaces in between.

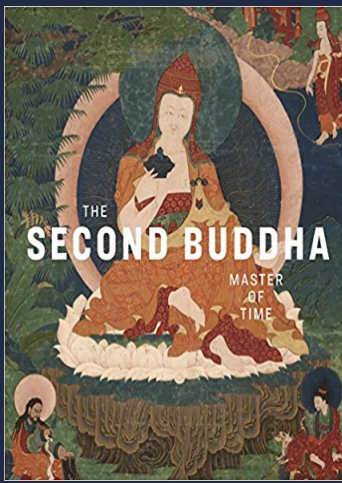
The core work of the lab will take place through three closely interlocking research clusters that will interrogate how Asia is imagined in traditional academic disciplines and engage with existing labs such as the Global South, Dissecting Cultural Pluralisms, and Humanities Informatics.

- **Asia Translating:** One cluster within the Asian Cosmopolitanisms lab (convened by Charles Laughlin) will focus on translation as a key mechanism through which ideas, texts, and practices are circulated and reimaged.
- **Asia Diasporas:** Another cluster convened by Sylvia Chong will focus on Asian diasporas and migrant networks, and how these human flows figure in terms of identity and cultural formation.
- **The Politics of Knowledge:** The third cluster (convened by Natasha Heller) will examine the politics of knowledge, from the disciplinary construction of "philosophy" itself to the broader diffusion of Asian concepts as they travel across multiple contexts.

In more practical terms, the lab will bring together scholars working in different disciplines and departments across the university and from outside programs such as the Critical Asian Humanities group at Duke University. The lab will also connect to curricular development across the university, including a Forum course to be offered next fall.

The Weinstein Collection

The Weinstein Collection, a long-awaited generous gift from Stanley and Lucie Weinstein, has finally arrived at the Alderman Library. The 10,000 volumes are the personal libraries of Professors Stanley (Yale) and Lucie (Southern Connecticut State) Weinstein. The collection is focused on Buddhism, particularly on Japanese studies of all forms of Buddhism in



Elena Pakhoutova (Ph.D. 2009), ed.

The Second Buddha: Master of Time
(New York and London: Prestel, 2018).

This book explores the iconography of Padmasambhava, a famous and timeless figure in Tibetan and Himalayan Buddhist cultures.

Padmasambhava, a legendary Buddhist master believed to be instrumental in bringing Buddhism to Tibet, is often known as “The Second Buddha.” According to popular legend, Padmasambhava miraculously appeared as a boy in a lotus blossom floating on a lake. *The Second Buddha: Master of Time* explores visual expressions of Padmasambhava’s legends in sculptures, textiles, paintings, illuminated manuscripts, and a portable shrine that date from the 13th to the 19th century. Essays present new scholarship on Padmasambhava and show a central and multidimensional character with an enduring place in Tibetan and Himalayan Buddhist cultures.

India, China, Japan, Southeast and Central Asia. The collection includes substantial numbers of woodblock editions of primary sources, mostly from the Tokugawa period; Weinstein was interested in volumes that included the careful annotations of the monks who studied these works.

The processing of this collection will begin over the summer, and it will be housed in the Asian Reading Room on the 2nd floor of the Alderman Library, although the exact timeframe is unclear due to the upcoming Alderman renovation.

New E-Journal Subscriptions

The following subscriptions are now available on Brill:

Asian Medicine: Tradition and Modernity
East Asian Publishing and Society
European Journal of East Asian Studies
Review of Religion and Chinese Society

Faculty & Staff News

MARIA W. CHEE has contributed a chapter entitled “Women’s Agency and Cost in Taiwanese American Transnational Families” to the edited volume, *Asian American Pacific Islander Women’s History Anthology* (working title), to be published by New York University Press in 2018/19.

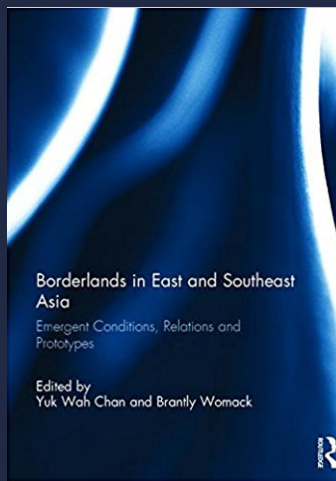
GUS HELDT has published “Longing for home: *The Tosa Diary’s funa uta* and Heian popular song,” *Japan Forum*, vol. 29, no 4 (August 2017): 1–20.

ANDREW JOHNSTON, Director of the UVa Program in Historic Preservation, and Associate Professor Andrew Johnston, has been named “Bando Professori Visitori Didattica, 2017 for the Facolta di Architettura, Dipartimento di Storia Disegno Restauro dell’Architettura,

‘Sapienza’ Università di Roma.” Johnston will take up this honor beginning this May 2018 and continuing through June. He will be teaching design studio concerning works by Gio Ponti, and lecturing on heritage practice in the US and in China at Sapienza in Rome.

AYNNE KOKAS’ *Hollywood Made in China* was a finalist for the Montaigne Medal, Eric Hoffer Awards (awarded to less than 3% of 1800 books submitted). A fellow at the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars in 2017–18, she has been selected as a Mellon/Institute of the Humanities and Global Cultures Fellow for 2018–2019. She has also testified before the US House Foreign Affairs Committee.

KRISHAN KUMAR has published *Visions of Empire: How*



Brantly Womack

Borderlands in East and Southeast Asia: Emergent Conditions, Relations and Prototypes (ed. with Yuk Wah Chan), Oxford: Routledge, 2017).

This book provides a glimpse into the different emergent borderland prototypes in East and Southeast Asia, with illustrative cases and discussions. Asia has contained a number of reactivated border zones since the end of the Cold War, borders which have witnessed ever greater human activity, concerning trade, commerce, tourism, and other forms of money-related activities such as shopping, gambling and job-seeking. Through seven borderland cases, the contributors to this volume analyse how the changing political economy and the regional and international politics of Asia have shaped and reshaped borderland relations and produced a few essential prototypes of borderland in Asia, such as reopened borders and re-activated economic zones; reintegrated but “separated” border cities; porous borderlands; and abstruse borderlands. This book aims to bring about further discussions of borderland development and governance, and how these actually inform and shape state-state and state-city relations across borders and regional politics. This book was originally published as a special issue of *Asian Anthropology*.

Five Imperial Regimes Shaped the World (Princeton University Press, 2017). In March 2018, he was Robert Black College Outstanding Visiting Fellow at the University of Hong Kong. In the past year he has given the following keynote lectures: “Utopia and Modernity,” School of Social Sciences, University of Hong Kong; “Visions of Empire,” Department of Sociology, Zhejiang University, China; and “Empires in World History,” School of Historical Studies, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia.

HSIN-HSIN LIANG has organized the spring 2018 Chinese Language Teachers Association of Virginia workshop, which was also participated by other UVa Chinese language faculty.

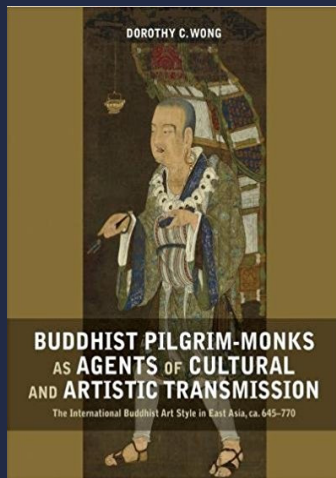
XIAOYUAN LIU has published *边缘地带的革命：中国民族政策的源起(1921-1945)*》 with The Chinese University Press, Hong Kong, 2018, which is the Chinese edition of his *Frontier Passages: Ethnopolitics and the Rise of Chinese Communism, 1921-1945* (Stanford University Press, 2004). Liu’s first Chinese book, also published by The Chinese University Press (2016), 《*边疆中国：二十世纪周边暨民族关系史述*》 [Frontier China: twentieth-century peripheral and interethnic relations] was one of the four short-listed books of the “International Convention of Asian Scholars Book Prize 2017” for books in the Chinese language. He has also published the following articles: 《*北京时间：1950年代中共对西藏改革的等待方针*》 [Beijing Time: The Chinese Communist Orientation of Waiting in respect to Reforms in Tibet in the 1950s], *Ersbiyi Shiji* (Twenty-first century;

Hong Kong), 2017 (10): 73–90; 《*中国共产党疆域观的渊源与发展 1921–1949* [Genesis and development of Chinese Communist territorial ethics, 1921–1949]》, *Ersbiyi Shiji*, 2017 (4): 13–34. Liu also gave talks on subjects pertinent to China’s borderlands in the 20th century at East China Normal University, Goettingen University, Dalian Foreign Studies University, and Sam Houston State University.

MARK METCALF’s review of Christopher Rand’s *Military Thought in Early China* (SUNY Press, 2017) was published in *China Review International* (Vol. 23, No. 1). In June 2017, Mark Metcalf participated in the 14th Annual East Asia Security Symposium at China Foreign Affairs University (CFAU); he discussed his observations about the symposium in the article “China Envisions Growing Role in Regional Security” that was published in the April 2018 US Naval Institute Proceedings. In March 2018, he gave an invited talk entitled “One Translation is Worth 1000 Opinions: The PLA considers the relevance of Sunzi (Sun Tzu) to modern warfare” at the US Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island.

FRANZISKA OERTLE’s first volume of her modern Tibetan language textbook, *The Heart of Tibetan Language* will be published in July (Dharamsala, HP, India: The Library of Tibetan Works and Archives, 2018).

SYLVIA TIDEY took part in a September symposium on the Anthropology of Corruption in Sintra, Portugal, supported by the Wenner-Gren Foundation. All the papers that came out of this



Dorothy Wong

Buddhist Pilgrim-Monks as Agents of Cultural and Artistic Transmission: The International Buddhist Art Style in East Asia, ca. 645–770 (Singapore: National University of Singapore Press, 2018).

In the mid-seventh century, a class of Buddhist pilgrim-monks disseminated an art style in China, Japan, and Korea that was uniform in both iconography and formal properties. Traveling between the courts and religious centers of the region, these pilgrim-monks played a powerful role in this proto-cosmopolitanism, promulgating what came to be known as the International Buddhist Art Style.

In *Buddhist Pilgrim-Monks as Agents of Cultural and Artistic Transmission*, Dorothy C. Wong argues that the visual expression found in this robust new art style arose alongside the ascendant theory of the Buddhist state, and directly influenced it. Aided by lavish illustrations, Wong's book shows that the visual language transmitted and circulated by these pilgrim-monks served as a key agent in shaping the cultural landscape of Northeast Asia.

This is the first major study of the vital role played by Buddhist pilgrim-monks in conveying the notions of Buddhist kingship via artistic communication. Wong's interdisciplinary analysis will attract scholars in Asian art history and religious studies.

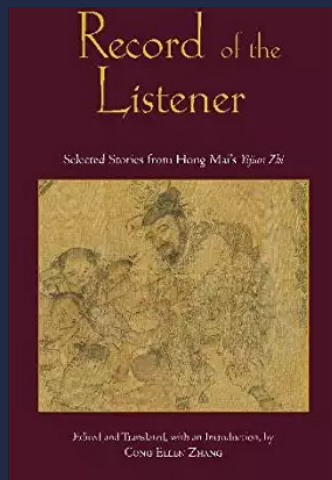
symposium have recently been published in the journal *Current Anthropology*, including Sylvia's article entitled "A Tale of Two Mayors: Configurations of Care and Corruption in Eastern Indonesian Direct District Head Elections."

MIAO-FEN TSENG, Director of the Institute of World Languages and Associate Professor of Chinese, received an award from Jefferson Trust to launch the Language Forward Initiative in fall 2018. The initiative creates real-time immersive online programs that aim to expand opportunities for UVA students to interact with native speakers abroad. STARTALK, into its 11th year, continues to receive federal funding.

BRANTLY WOMACK was a Visiting Scholar in May and June 2017 at China Foreign Affairs University, Beijing. With the talk in Guizhou, Womack has now visited all 31 Chinese provinces. In addition to his edited volume (with Yuk Wah Chan), *Borderlands in East and Southeast Asia: Emergent Conditions, Relations and Prototypes*, Womack has published a number of articles: "中国, 东盟, 和亚洲中心的再定位" [China, ASEAN, and the Re-Centering of Asia], *世界经济与政治* [World Economics and Politics] 2017:7 (2017): 65–76; "Xi Jinping and Continuing Political Reform in China," *Journal of Chinese Political Science* 18:3 (2017): 393–406; "International Crises and China's Rise: Comparing the 2008 Global Financial Crisis and the 2017 Global Political Crisis," *Chinese Journal of International Politics* 10:4 (2017): 383–401. In the past year

Womack has given presentations at the following institutions: University of Copenhagen, Denmark; the LBJ School of Public Policy, University of Texas at Austin; China Foreign Affairs University; Guizhou University; China Foreign Affairs University; China University of Politics and Law; School of International Studies, Jilin University; Nankai University, Tianjin; and also at conferences held in Mexico City; Delhi, India; and Montevideo, Uruguay.

DOROTHY WONG has published *Buddhist Pilgrim-Monks as Agents of Cultural and Artistic Transmission: The International Buddhist Art Style in East Asia, ca. 645–770* (Singapore: National University of Singapore Press, 2018). In fall 2017 she was a Short-term Visiting Scholar at East China Normal University, Shanghai. While in China she gave a lecture tour of her new book at the following institutions: Dunhuang Academy, Lanzhou University, Shaanxi Normal University, East China Normal University, Peking University, and NYU-Shanghai. At the "Third International Conference on Huayan Buddhism" held at Peking University, she presented her recent research on the reliefs of Borobudur, the world's largest Buddhist monument in Indonesia. She has also given presentations at the University of Pittsburgh and the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco. In April 2018 she delivered the Leslie Kawamura Memorial Lecture at the University of Calgary; the title of her talk was "Paradigm of an Ideal Monastery Advocated by Daoxuan: An Investigation into the Connection between Ximingsi



Cong Ellen Zhang

Record of the Listener, Selected Stories from Hong Mai's Yijian zhi (Hackett Publishing, 2018).

The volume includes selected stories from Hong Mai's *Yijian zhi*, edited and translated, with an Introduction, by Cong Ellen Zhang.

in Chang'an and Daianji in Nara." She was also co-organizer of the "Miraculous Images: Buddhist, Muslim, Christian" workshop held at UVa in march 2018.

CONG ELLEN ZHANG has published a translation of *Record of the Listener, Selected Stories from Hong Mai's Yijian zhi* (Hackett Publishing, 2018).

Student News

Undergraduate News

XIANYUE WANG, East Asian Studies major, has been elected to Phi Beta Kappa this spring. The selection criteria is based upon students' academic achievement and the depth/breadth of their studies. Congratulations!

Graduate Student News



The 9.18 Museum
Dadong District,
Shenyang, China

EMILY MATSON, Ph.D. Student in the Corcoran Department of History, travelled to China last Summer to visit museums commemorating the War of Resistance Against Japan and the puppet state of Manchukuo. Her travels, funded by the Ellen Bayard Weedon Travel Grant, took her to provincial capitals of Shenyang, Changchun, and Harbin.

A report on her experiences can be found at the end of this newsletter.

Alumni News

JOHN KANG (CLAS 1994)'s Asian Fantasy novel series, *The Dragon Songs Saga*, has sold over 12,000 copies and has been an Amazon Bestseller for four weeks.

WILLIAM McGRATH (PhD, Religious Studies, 2017) will be teaching in the Religious Studies Department at Manhattan College (Visiting Assistant Professor) starting in fall 2018. He is currently writing a monograph that is based on his dissertation research, which is about the canonization and institutionalization of the Tibetan medical tradition at Sakya monastery during the Yuan dynasty (ca. 1271–1368).

ELENA PAKHOUTOVA (PhD, Art History, 2009), curator of Himalayan Art at the Rubin museum of Art, New York, has curated an exhibition “The Second Buddha: Master of Time,” on view until January 7, 2019. The exhibition focuses on the legendary Indian master Padmasambhava who is credited with enabling Buddhism to take root and flourish in Tibet. Central themes of the exhibition are the interconnected nature of past and future as the basis for constructing identity and projecting the teachings into the future. It is said that in the past Padmasambhava concealed his teachings, known as treasure teachings, throughout the Tibetan landscape to be discovered by foretold disciples at opportune times in the future.

<http://rubinmuseum.org/events/exhibitions/the-second-buddha>

The exhibition is accompanied by a publication, *The Second Buddha: Master of Time* (Munich, London, New York: Prestel, 2017). The book, conceived and edited by Elena Pakhoutova includes new contributions by Benjamin Bogin, Lewis Doney, Daniel A. Hirshberg, and Elena Pakhoutova.

Events

Morven Tea Ceremony

On October 24th, the East Asia Center organized a visit to the Japanese Garden and Teahouse at Morven. A dozen students, faculty and staff participated in a traditional Japanese tea ceremony and spent the afternoon relaxing and contemplating in the garden.

In the mid 1990's, owner John Kluge and his third wife, Maria Tussi Kluge, supervised the construction of the four-acre Japanese garden and tea house, incorporating over 50 plants indigenous to Japan and the Americas. The structure itself was built in Japan using traditional joinery techniques and does contain a single nail. The carpenters then disassembled the house and traveled with it to the Albemarle County estate,



Wash Basin
at the Teahouse
Entrance

where they then reassembled it on site. Since Kluge's donation of the estate to UVa, the University Foundation has gone to great lengths to preserve the garden. The garden is very rarely open to the public and is available by appointment only.

Chinese Calligraphy Workshop



In collaboration with the Department of East Asian Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, and the Language Commons, the East Asia Center hosted local artist Jing Shui for a series of workshops on traditional Chinese calligraphy on March 30th. Over 20 faculty, students, and community members gathered for an informational presentation on the evolution of calligraphy, followed by an opportunity to try their

workshop, conducted mostly in Chinese, followed for participants looking for more in depth guidance. The feedback from the event was overwhelmingly positive, and the East Asia Center is hoping to provide a similar opportunity next fall.

Southeast Asian Studies News



Sylvia Chong hosts a discussion with Bao Phi and Thi Bui

On March 23 and 24, the Nelson Lectures on Southeast Asia, with the assistance of the Asian Student Union, sponsored a series of talks and readings by two Vietnamese American artists: the poet Bao Phi, and the graphic artist Thi Bui. Bui read from her acclaimed memoir, *The Best We Could Do* (Abrams, 2017), about her family's history in Vietnam and their refugee passage to the U.S. in the late 1970s, as well as her recent work on "comics journalism" for *The Nib* and *Asian American Advancing Justice*, while Phi read works from his latest book of poetry, *Thousand Star Hotel* (Coffee House Press, 2017) and also performed some unpublished work on the David Dao United Airlines incident. The two also spoke about their collaboration, the children's book *A Different Pond* (Capstone, 2017), which was named a 2018 Caldecott Honor Book, which represents their contribution to the #WeNeedDiverseBooks campaign for children's literature. Their afternoon Q&A with Professor Sylvia Chong (EAC, English, American Studies) and their evening joint reading in the historic UVA Chapel drew in a wide ranging audience of faculty, staff, students, and even community members, and Phi and Bui also participated in separate readings for the Virginia Festival of the Book that drew in even more community members. Overall, this visit raised the profile of Southeast Asian diasporic arts, and represented the collaboration of the Nelson Lectures with multiple new groups on Grounds, including the Vice Provost for the Arts, the Virginia Festival of the Book, the English Department, American Studies Program, the Institute for the Humanities and Global Cultures, and the Center for Poetry and Poetics.

Ken Dean speaks on the Underworld Dieties of Singapore as part of the Nelson Lectures on Southeast Asia



Report on Travel to Dongbei and Shanghai, 2017

With the assistance of a Weedon grant from UVA's East Asia Center, I was able to travel last summer in China's northeast, or Dongbei. I traveled specifically to the provincial capitals of Shenyang, Changchun, and Harbin to visit museums commemorating the War of Resistance Against Japan and the puppet state of Manchukuo. The most architecturally intriguing museum for me was the 9-18 History Museum, which commemorates the Mukden Incident. To commemorate the day the Japanese military initiated its invasion of Manchuria, the museum's iconic face is shaped like a desk calendar open to September 18, 1931. Bullet holes riddle the calendar, and they look similar to a faintly visible group of human skulls.

I am grateful not only for the opportunities to visit such museums, but also to make local friends and catch glimpses of local life and culture. For instance, through a random series of events I befriended a woman in Shenyang who took me to see Beiling Park, which is in the center of the city, by night. Within Beiling Park is the tomb of Huang Taiji, the second Qing emperor. (Shenyang was historically a very important city for the Manchu ethnicity, and even has its own small "forbidden city.") Not only was I able to view the park's gorgeous historical architecture, but I also got a taste of Chinese park life on summer evenings. Power-walking to upbeat music in groups with matching uniforms has become a trendy way to stay fit. For children, group roller-skating lessons serve a similar function.

Russian Style
Architecture in
Harbin



Visiting Harbin was similarly fascinating. I had not expected the level of Russian influence to be so great in the city – in the food, the architecture, the music, and the history. I soon grew used to Chinese passersby calling out to me in broken Russian, as

they assumed that as a Caucasian female that must be where I hailed from. A more startling experience, however, came when I was perusing an exhibit in the Northeast Anti-Japanese United Army Museum. As I was examining the end of the exhibit, which showed the end of World War II in Dongbei with the Soviet Red Army's invasion of Manchukuo, a middle-aged man asked me, "Ni shi Sulianren ma?" Which means, not "Are you from Russia?", but rather, "Are you from the USSR?"

Shanghai's
Pudong Business
District



In the fall, I was fortunate enough to receive a fellowship from Fudan University in Shanghai that enabled me to live near campus in the fall and continue my research abroad. During my time there, I had time to conduct additional research through perusing Fudan's library, visiting local museums, and conducting a range of oral interviews. I formed connections with students from Fudan and Huashida (East China Normal University) and audited a history class that focused on China's evolving position on the world stage. In addition, I was unexpectedly able to participate in UVA's Bicentennial celebration in November! Unsurprisingly, there are many UVA alumni in Shanghai, and we congregated on a cruise boat that sailed up and down the Huangpu River for a stunning view of the Bund and the Pudong Business District by night.

*Emily Matson, Ph.D. Candidate
Corcoran Department of History*