

THE ASIAN CONNECTION

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

It is hard to believe, but we are already halfway through yet another busy academic year at the Sigur Center. Time has flown with an extremely busy schedule of offerings at the Center.

We began the year welcoming the Chinese Vice Minister as well as two US Government Secretaries as part of the on-going US-China dialogue we co-hosted with the Institute of Public Diplomacy and Global Communication. We ended with a book talk from our very own Robert Sutter on his recently re-issued work about US-China relations. In between we had a number of events ranging from a panel discussion on the continuing war in Afghanistan, to the former Foreign Secretary of India talking about the Indo-Chinese standoff over Doklam, to a roundtable on US-Taiwan economic relations. In all, the Center put on over thirty events during the autumn semester alone. We look forward to a similarly active events calendar during the spring semester, including the Gaston Sigur lecture, a programming annual highlight. This year, we welcome Professor Arne Westad, the S.T. Lee Professor of US-Asia Relations at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

In addition to our regular schedule of events, the spring brings new opportunities to support student language-learning, faculty research, and doctoral fieldwork during the upcoming summer. I expect a robust pool of applications for our research and language support funds and am both excited and honored to provide for our students and my colleagues. I strongly encourage you – if you are faculty or students – to consider applying to our grant opportunities.

Finally, in the dynamic and rapidly changing political world we live in, I am proud the Sigur Center continues to provide and showcase not only expertise on the world's largest and most populace region, but also broadly engaged and deeply rooted perspective. We will continue to expand that on offer with our programming, exposing our audiences to the intricacies of Mughal miniatures as well as analyzing the palace intrigues in Pyongyang.

I wish you a successful semester and look forward to seeing you at our many upcoming events this spring.

Benjamin D. Hopkins
Director, Sigur Center for Asian Studies
Associate Professor of History and International Relations



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STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: KYLAN TOOHEY

Kylan Toohey is a first-year MA student in the Elliott School of International Affairs concentrating in Asian Studies. She is the Graduate Research Assistant at the [GW Institute of Korean Studies \(GWIKS\)](#), an institute founded in 2016 and is part of the Elliott School of International Affairs. She studied International Studies and Korean language at the University of Mississippi, and enrolled at the Elliott School immediately after graduation in May 2017. She spent her junior year of undergraduate study abroad at Korea University in Seoul, South Korea, and focuses her current academic research on Korean modern history and development.

Kylan first became interested in studying about Korea in her senior year of high school. She was drawn to the idea of this region having an extensive historical background as separate from the West, including thousands of years of political and cultural development, areas of particular interest to Kylan. Kylan actually had plans originally to study Japanese, but she used phonetic alphabet used in Korean as a jumping off point for her journey into Korean language, culture, and history. Subsequently, she began to narrow her academic focus to Korean Studies. Knowing she wanted to pursue graduate study in Washington D.C., GW was a priority choice, especially because of GWIKS. Founded to consolidate, strengthen, and grow the existing Korean studies program at GW and more generally in the greater D.C. area, GWIKS is attracting many up-and-coming scholars such as Kylan to pursue further study of the Korean Peninsula at GW. Kylan leapt at the opportunity to work at GWIKS as its Graduate Research Assistant and combine her academic interests in Korean Studies with professional development.

Studying Korean language and culture did not come without its challenges, said Kylan. She spent a year in Seoul, South Korea from 2015-2016, and experienced many high and low moments on her academic and cultural journey. According to her, becoming fluent enough to hold extensive conversations with Koreans was hugely rewarding as a student and scholar, and opened up a new set of academic and professional doors. However, South Korea is still a largely homogenous society, and many do not have the opportunity to interact with foreigners. Kylan described being frustrated by the sense that people she would interact with were too distracted by the peculiarity of a foreigner speaking fluent Korean to learn about her identity and aspirations. Nevertheless, she has persevered in her studies and incorporated much of what she learned in Korea into daily life and worldview.

Moving to D.C. from her hometown in Louisiana has been a huge adjustment for Kylan, but having an immediate network of coworkers and professors at the Sigur Center and GWIKS to rely on has been immensely helpful. She decided to attend graduate school with the hopes of getting able to dabble in a variety of opportunities that could help her further develop the “oddly specific set of skills” she has acquired up to now. The events both institutes hold have given her numerous opportunities to gain professional and personal experience as well as to meet new people. Just last week, Kylan had the opportunity to meet and translate for a group of North Korean defector students through an event with GWIKS, an experience Kylan said she will never forget.



*Kylan Toohey on the top floor of an area called **쌈지길** (Ssamji-gil) in the historic district of **인사동** (Insa-dong) in Seoul. This is a popular area for tourists as it features, through its unique spiraling walk-up design, designer artist products, traditional artwork sales, restaurants, tea houses, craft workshops, and more*



ALUMNUS SPOTLIGHT: DAVID GITTER

David Gitter is the director of the [Party Watch Initiative](#), where he specializes in research and analysis of authoritative open source Chinese language materials. Prior to joining the Institute, he worked in various analytical capacities in the private, public, and non-profit sectors, including the Congressional Research Service (CRS), the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy (OUSDP), Project 2049 Institute, and the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), focusing on Chinese foreign policy and broader Asian security issues. Gitter received his MA in Asian Studies from the Elliott School of International Affairs at George Washington University. He has lived, worked, and studied in Beijing, China and has working proficiency in Mandarin. He participated in the “Asian Studies Alumni Careers Panel” that was held in November 2017 as a guest speaker. The event was hosted by the Organization of Asian Studies, a student-led group that plans academic and cultural events related to the study of Asia, and Elliott School Alumni Programs.

After graduating from the Elliott School, David continued his professional focus of conducting research in order to answer policy-relevant questions regarding Chinese politics and foreign policy as a private research consultant. Lessons learned under professors such as David Shambaugh and Robert Sutter became directly applicable in research toward that end, which helped David connect projects on more granular topics to the larger context, learned at the MA Asian Studies program.

While working as a consultant, David started a volunteer research program focusing on Chinese politics called “Party Watch.” With Elliott School professors and others on the advisory board, Party Watch was able to hone in on important Chinese political topics of concern to the China-watching community, sending out weekly material by email and a blog. In the summer of 2017, Party Watch secured a grant to become a full-time program of the Project 2049 Institute.

David continues to look to his mentors at the Elliott School to guide his professional development, and hopes to grow the Party Watch Initiative into a mainstay for China-related research.



David Gitter (panelist sitting third from the left, next to the podium) speaking to GW students at the “Asian Studies Alumni Careers Panel” co-hosted by OAS and Elliott School’s Alumni Programs



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: JONATHAN CHAVES

Dr. Jonathan Chaves is a Professor of Chinese at GW, focusing on Chinese and Japanese culture and literature, and is an affiliated faculty member of the Sigur Center. He launched his new book, titled *Cave of the Immortals: The Poetry and Prose of Bamboo Painter Wen Tong, (1019-1079)*, during the Fall 2017 semester at an event co-sponsored by the Sigur Center, the Elliott School of International Affairs, and the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures. In October 2017, *Sino-Platonic Papers* (University of Pennsylvania) published a festschrift in honor of the works of Dr. Chaves. In his own words on his academic and professional journey, here is Dr. Jonathan Chaves:

I earned my MA and PhD, both in Chinese Literature, from Columbia University, in 1966 and 1971. Taking this path was a natural development after a youth spent fascinated by literature and the arts, as well as by philosophy and comparative religion. At the age of perhaps fifteen, a neighbor loaned me a copy of Herbert J. Muller (1905-1980), *The Uses of the Past*. This book changed my life. It made me realize that there were other civilizations in history, and therefore, more literature, more art, more ideas and spiritual aspirations! I set forth on an entirely self-guided journey of reading as many examples of literature, especially poetry, from world civilizations as I could get my hands on. In this way, *Translations from the Chinese* by the greatest of translators of Chinese and Japanese literature, Arthur Waley (1889-1966) fell into my hands, and I was hooked. Po Chü-i/Bai Juyi (772-846) especially became my soul-mate for life. I couldn't believe the closeness of this poet's view of the world to my own, especially the combination of love for nature with a self-deprecating humor that was irresistible.

I studied Chinese language at Brooklyn College, solely for the purpose of reading the poetry in the original. And went on to graduate work in this field. My model throughout was Waley, soon joined by one of my mentors at Columbia, Burton Watson (1925-2017). As I worked on my dissertation for the PhD, I realized that translating the poems of the poet I had chosen to study, Mei Yao-ch'en/Yaochen (1002-1060) was an essential first step to proceeding with the scholarly analysis of this Sung/Song-Dynasty master. Translating the poetry, I came to realize,

allowed both my artistic and scholarly tendencies to be fulfilled. When my previous book, *Every Rock a Universe—The Yellow Mountains and Chinese Travel Writing*—researched with the help of funding from the Sigur Center—won the ALTA (American Literary Translators Association) "Lucien Stryk Award" for best Asian translation of the year (from any Asian language), I felt fully validated as a literary translator.

At the same time, my love for Chinese painting and increasingly, the wonderful art of calligraphy, was equally strong. And another of my mentors, William Theodore de Bary (1919-2017), noticing this from a term paper I wrote for him, suggested I take courses in Chinese art history. I became intrigued by the intimate relationship between painting and poetry, "sister arts," in China, and went on to publish a series of articles on this subject, leading to an invitation by The China Institute in America, New York City, to curate an exhibition for their art gallery. This show took place in 2000, "The Chinese Painter as Poet", and received an excellent review in the N.Y. Times by Holland Cotter, the first Asian art specialist to write for that newspaper.

This interest in the sister arts has remained consistent, and my new book, *Cave of the Immortals: The Poetry and Prose of Bamboo Painter, Wen Tong (1019-1079)*, is the first in any Western language on the poetry and prose of this famous artist. The same combination of interests has led to my being invited to contribute to the catalogues of a series of major exhibitions of Chinese painting and calligraphy, at LACMA (The Los Angeles County Museum of Art), The Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, The Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Philadelphia Museum of Art, etc.

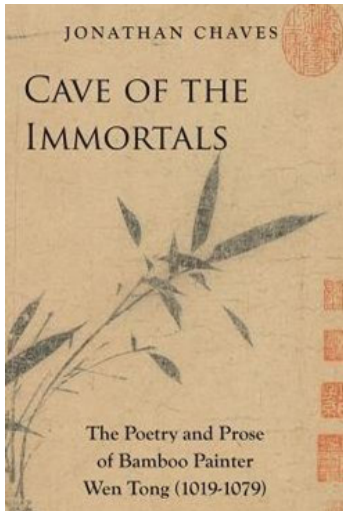
My interest in China has been fully equalled by my interest in the literature and arts of Japan, and I have been able to contribute three books and other writings to the study of kanshi, "Chinese-language poetry," as written by Japanese authors, like medieval Europeans writing in Latin. One of these won the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission Prize for Translation, 1998.

My youthful involvement with ideas—philosophical and religious both—also remained with me, and in 1993, I published *Singing of the Source: Nature and God in the Poetry of the Chinese Painter, Wu Li (1632-1718)*. Wu Li, like Wen Tong famed in art history, was, also like him, a superb poet as well. But what is remarkable about him in particular is his encounter with Jesuit missionaries in China, his conversion to Christianity (Catholicism), and ordination in 1688 as one of China's first three native-born Catholic priests, followed by his writing an extraordinary series of classical Chinese poems based on Catholic theology! This was perfect territory for me, allowing me to dig deeply into theology, comparative religion, and poetry all at once.

The love that was born in me at fifteen is still there, at seventy-four. It is what motivates my teaching and my research and writing still.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

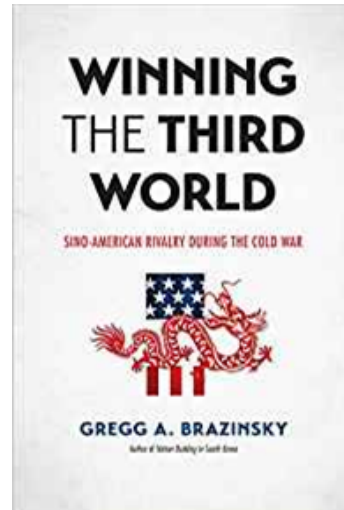
Check out below the books published in the previous semester by some of our excellent affiliated faculty and scholars. All titles should be available on most book seller outlets, but reach out to us at gsigur@gwu.edu if you would like more information on obtaining a copy of a particular book.



Jonathan Chaves

Cave of the Immortals: The Poetry and Prose of Bamboo Painter Wen Tong (1019–1079)

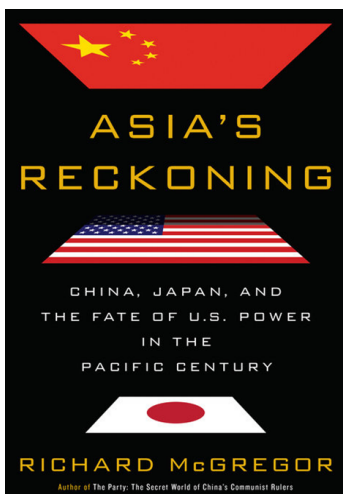
Floating World Editions, 2017.



Gregg Brazinsky

Winning the Third World: Sino-American Rivalry during the Cold War

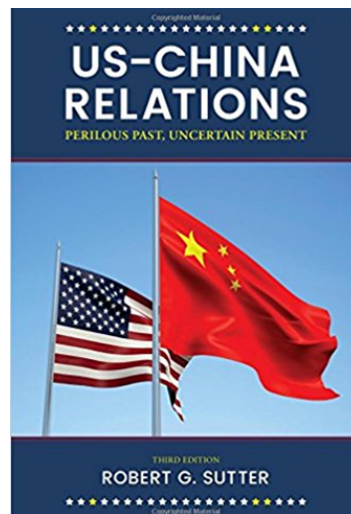
The University of North Carolina Press, 2017.



Richard McGregor

Asia's Reckoning: China, Japan, and the Fate of U.S. Power in the Pacific Century

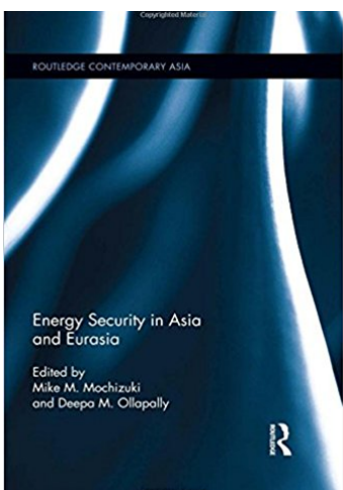
Viking, 2017.



Robert Sutter

US-China Relations: Perilous Past, Uncertain Present (Third Edition)

Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2017.



**Edited By:
Mike M. Mochizuki &
Deepa Ollapally**

Energy Security in Asia and Eurasia

Routledge, 2017.

Taiwan Roundtable: "Refocusing Taiwan-US Relations"



Parris Chang



Elizabeth Freund Larus



Michael Tsai

With recent changes in both Taiwanese and American administrations, there has been discussion in security and diplomatic circles regarding the future of this key relationship between the two countries. This roundtable will specifically discuss efforts to advance the Taiwan-U.S. security and diplomatic relationship in the Asia-Pacific moving forward.

The discussion took place on Wednesday, September 13, 2017 at the Elliott School of International Affairs, on the 7th floor. The event started out with a continental breakfast from 9:30 am to 10:00am. Following breakfast, the panel began and finished at 11:30am.

Featuring:

"Taiwan's Foreign Relations and International Space"
Parris H. Chang, Professor Emeritus of Political Science, Penn State and Former Deputy Secretary-General, Taiwan's National Security Council

"American Perspectives on Taiwan's Security"
Elizabeth Freund Larus, Waple Professor, Department of Political Science and International Affairs, University of Maryland Washington

"Assessing Taiwan's Security and the US Role"
Michael Tsai, Former Defense Minister of Taiwan

Moderated by:

Edward McCord, Vice Dean; Professor of History and International Affairs, Elliott School of International Affairs, GW

A full audio recording of the roundtable can be found **HERE**

US-Taiwan Economic Relations: Domestic and International Drivers

How are domestic factors in the United States and Taiwan driving the economic relationship? Likewise, how are international variables influencing U.S.-Taiwan economic relations? This conference on December 5, 2017, brought together two panels of experts to examine and discuss the domestic and international drivers of U.S.-Taiwan economic relations, and to offer perspectives on opportunities and challenges to the relationship.

PANEL I: Political Environments in the US and Taiwan for Economic Ties

Featured: **Robert Sutter**, Professor of Practice of International Affairs, GW;

Syaru Shirley Lin, Lecturer, UVA; and

Joshua Meltzer, Senior Fellow, Global Economy and Development Program, The Brookings Institution.

Moderator: Edward McCord, Professor of History and International Affairs; Director, Taiwan Education and Research Program, GW

LUNCHEON KEYNOTE: Bryan O'Byrne, Chief of International Affairs and Trade Policy at the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)

PANEL II: Trade, Investment and Services: Opportunities and Challenges

Featured: **Rupert Hammond-Chambers**, President, US-Taiwan Business Council; Managing Director, Taiwan, Bower Group Asia;

Shihoko Goto, Senior Northeast Asia Associate, Asia Program, Woodrow Wilson Center; and

Vincent Wang, Dean, School of Humanities and Sciences and Professor of Politics, Ithaca College.

Moderator: Deepa Ollapally, Associate Director of the Sigur Center; Research Professor of International Affairs, Elliott School of International Affairs, GW



Panel I: Starting from left, Edward McCord, Joshua Meltzer, Syaru Shirley Lin, and Robert Sutter



Luncheon Keynote Speaker
Bryan O'Byrne



Panel II: Starting from left, Vincent Wang, Shihoko Goto, Rupert Hammond-Chambers, and Deepa Ollapally

Full audio recordings of each panel
can be found [HERE](#)

U.S. - CHINA SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DIALOGUE



High ranking Chinese and American officials alongside VIP guests for the NextGen panel at George Washington University (9/28/17)

In Partnership with:

U.S. Department of State
The George Washington University
Sigur Center for Asian Studies
Institute for Public Diplomacy & Global Communication

More info on the US-China Social and Cultural Dialogue can be found [HERE](#).

KEYNOTE REMARKS:

U.S. Secretary of Transportation, Elaine Chao
People's Republic of China Vice Premier Liu Yandong
U.S. Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos

The U.S.-China Social and Cultural Dialogue took place on Thursday, September 28, 2017 at the Jack Morton Auditorium with doors opening at 9:30 am. George Washington University Professor and affiliated with the Sigur Center for Asian Studies, Bruce Dickson co-moderated the discussion between four "next-gen" Americans and four Chinese special guests. The topics that were discussed included education and the environment, health, media, and the arts and culture. The dialogue officially began after brief remarks from senior US and Chinese officials, including the Chinese Vice Premier as well as the Secretary of Transportation Chao and Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos.

The new SCD opens doors for our two countries to continue engaging in positive and open conversation on issues and policies that affect the citizens of both nations, including on topics such as environment and conservation, health security, and science and technology. For decades, exchanges between the United States and China – including on social and cultural issues – have been effective at building understanding, breaking down barriers to a more constructive relationship, and connecting our peoples. The SCD showcases how Chinese and Americans can live together for the next 50 years and build a shared future. Only together, can our two nations build greater connections between our scholars, scientists, students, journalists, and non-governmental leaders for the benefit of the two countries and the world.

10TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON CHINA'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & US CHINA ECONOMIC RELATIONS

The U.S.-China relationship is now second to none in importance for international economic relations and policy and accordingly is a major focus of GW's **Institute for International Economic Policy (IIEP)**. The centerpiece of this initiative is our annual Conference on China's Economic Development and U.S.-China Economic and Political Relations that took place on October 6, 2017, co-sponsored by IIEP and the Sigur Center. The event had two keynote speeches: 1) U.S.-China Trade and U.S. Jobs: A Value-Chain Perspective from Shang-Jin Wei, Columbia University and 2) Keynote Two: Lessons of China's Experience and Experience of the US for China from Ted Chu, IFC Chief Economist. Followed by three policy sessions, lunch, and remarks from Dean Brigety of the Elliott School of International Affairs. To view the agenda and photos, view the links to the side:

Speakers:

Shang-Jin Wei, Columbia University
Ted Chu, Chief Economist, International Finance Corporation
Jiyao Bi, China's National Development and Reform Commission
Shanjun Li, Cornell University
Hongbin Li, Stanford University
Bin Sheng, Nankai University
Junjie Hong, University of International Business and Economics
Gary Jefferson, Brandeis University
Derek Scissors, American Enterprise Institute
Simon Adler, University of North Carolina
Jay Shambaugh, GWU
Maggie Chen, GWU
Andrew Greenland, Elon University
Wendy Cutler, Asia Society Policy Institute
Barbara Stallings, Brown University and GWU
Heiwai Tang, Johns Hopkins University
Bo Chen, Huazhong University of Science and Technology



Session Three's panel takes questions from the crowd on China's development. (10/06/17)

More info on the event, including videos, photos, and presentations, can be found [HERE](#)

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AT GW: ORGANIZATION OF ASIAN STUDIES



Tracie Yang,
President of OAS

The **Organization of Asian Studies (OAS)** consists of a board of dedicated graduate students from the Elliott School of International Affairs. As the student branch of the Sigur Center for Asian Studies, it is our mission to program meaningful professional, academic and cultural events that connect students to the DC community. By organizing these events, OAS aims to facilitate discussion and raise awareness of current issues in the various regions of Asia. Thanks to the wonderful support from the Sigur Center and the Elliott School of International Affairs, our organization has seen great success. It is our sincere hope that our organization continues to pursue exceptional programming that highlights the excellence of the Sigur Center and the Elliott School of International Affairs.

RECENT EVENTS

November 13, 2017: Japanese Domestic Politics and U.S. - Japan Relations, **Tobias Harris** (Sasakawa Peace Foundation), **Kuniko Ashizawa** (American University)

November 10, 2017: Taiwan: 30 Years After the Lifting of Martial Law, **Michael J. Fonte** (Director, Democratic Progressive Party Mission in the U.S.) **Gerrit Van Der Wees** (George Mason University), **Eric Huang** (Johns Hopkins SAIS)

November 3, 2017: The Asian Studies Alumni Careers Panel

October 31, 2017: Book Discussion with Ian Easton of Project 2049: The Chinese Invasion Threat on Taiwan

October 4, 2017: ASEAN and the South China Sea **Bonnie Glaser** (CSIS), **Amitav Acharya** (American University), **Pek Koon Heng** (American University)



Ian Easton speaking to the media
(10/31/17)



The OAS team



Gerrit Van Der Wees presenting on
Taiwan's lifting of martial law (11/10/17)

Affiliated Program: Partnerships for International Strategies in Asia



Partnerships for International Strategies in Asia (PISA) of the Sigur Center for Asian Studies, is directed by Linda Yarr. PISA mobilizes networks of scholars, policy makers, and advocates on both sides of the Pacific to address urgent national and transnational concerns. Learn more about PISA's work and priorities on our new website, pisa.elliott.gwu.edu



Director, Linda Yarr moderating event with
Dr. Tony Namkung (01/18/2018)

2017 heralded a new U.S. administration and consequently renewed tensions with North Korea. As alarm heightened, PISA undertook efforts to shift the paradigm from security threat to cultivating engagement and peace in the Korean peninsula. In early 2018, PISA launched the event series, *Principled Engagement with North Korea*, made possible by generous support from the Henry Luse Foundation.

Policy Impact

PISA convenes off-the-record discussions between Washington's policymakers, GW experts and delegations from Asia to discuss common issues or advise on capacity building. Recently, PISA assembled a two consultative meetings with two delegations from Vietnam. The first meeting with the Law Committee of the [Vietnam National Assembly](#) and the second meeting with delegates from [Vietnam National University](#).



PISA convenes expert round table on good governance and transparency initiatives in Vietnam, with the [Vietnam National Assembly](#) (12/4/2017)

Spring 2018 Events

Principled Engagement with the DPRK:

January 18th, 12:00-1:45 pm

Seventy Trips to the DPRK with Tony Namkung

February 22nd, 12:00-2:30 pm

*Political Economy of Reform in North Korea
with Kevin Gray
Discussant, Joongho Kim, GW Institute for
Korean Studies*

March 20th, 12:00-2:30 pm

*Prospects and Challenges for Principled Engagement
with the DPRK with Keith Luse*

March 28th, 8:00-5:30 pm

*Conference
Beyond the Nuclear Issue in North Korea*

RECENT BOOK LAUNCHES

December 7, 2017: US-China Relations: Perilous Past, Uncertain Present (Third Edition). With **Robert Sutter**, a Professor of Practice of International Affairs at the Elliott School of George Washington University beginning in 2011. He also serves as the school's Director, Program of Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs.

November 9, 2017: Energy Security in Asia and Eurasia.

Speakers include:

Robert Weiner, Professor of International Business, Public Policy and Public Administration, and International Affairs, GW;

Robert Sutter, Professor of Practice of International Affairs, GW;

Deepa Ollapally, Research Professor of International Affairs and Associate Director of the Sigur Center for Asian Studies, GW;

Mike Mochizuki, Associate Professor of Political Science and International Affairs, GW;

Andrew Kuchins, Senior Associate of the Russia and Eurasia Program, CSIS;

Charles L. Glaser, Professor of Political Science and International Affairs, GW.

October 31, 2017: Winning the Third World: Sino-American Rivalry during the Cold War. Professor **Gregg Brazinsky** is associate professor of history and international affairs at the George Washington University.

October 30, 2017: Asia's Reckoning: China, Japan, and the Fate of U.S. Power in the Pacific Century. **Richard McGregor** is a journalist and an author with extensive experience in reporting from east Asia and Washington.

October 18, 2017: "Cave of the Immortals: The Poetry and Prose of Bamboo Painter Wen Tong (1019–1079)," with Professor **Jonathan Chaves**, professor of Chinese language and literature at The George Washington University, and a published original poet.



Robert Sutter (12/7/17)



Robert Sutter, Deepa Ollapally, Charles L. Glaser, and Mike Mochizuki (11/7/17)



Gregg Brazinsky (10/31/17)



Jonathan Chaves (10/18/17)

Want to read more? Check out Sigur Center's 2017 Events Archives [HERE](#)

RECENT EVENTS

December and November



Moderator **Deepa Ollapally** speaking with three panelists, including Sigur Center Director **Benjamin Hopkins**, at *Afghanistan: America's Forgotten War* (11/28/17)

December 5, 2017: US-Taiwan Economic Relations: Domestic and International Drivers. Many Participants/Speakers Listed on Website

November 30, 2017: Taiwan's Marriage Equality Movement: A Discussion with **Jennifer Lu**. Jennifer Lu serves as coordinator of the Marriage Equality Coalition Taiwan.

November 28, 2017: *Afghanistan: America's Forgotten War*. **Benjamin Hopkins**, Director, Sigur Center for Asian Studies; Associate Professor of History and International Affairs, GW

Marlene Laruelle, Research Professor of International Affairs; Director, Central Asia Program; Associate Director, Institute for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies, GW

Stephen Biddle, Professor of Political Science and International Affairs, GW

Moderator: **Deepa Ollapally**, Research Professor of International Affairs and Associate Director of the Sigur Center for Asian Studies, GW

November 17, 2017: "The Afghan Shi'i Movement: Revolutionary Politics and Global Islam," with **Prof. Robert Crews**. Prof. Robert D. Crews is an historian whose research and teaching interests focus on Afghanistan, Central and South Asia, Russia, Islam

November 13, 2017: Japanese Domestic Politics and U.S.-Japan Relations. **Tobias Harris** is the Fellow for Economy, Trade, and Business at Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA. He is also an analyst of Japanese politics and economics at Teneo Intelligence, a political risk advisory firm. **Dr. Kuniko Ashizawa** The recent author of "Japan, the U.S., and Regional Institution-Building in the New Asia: When Identity Matters,"

November 10, 2017: A Discussion with Minister Counselor **Zhou Jingxing**. Chief of the Political Section of the Chinese Embassy in the U.S.

November 10, 2017: Taiwan: 30 Years After the Lifting of Martial Law. **Eric Huang** was the former Head of International Affairs at the Kuomintang ("KMT" or Nationalist Party). **Gerrit van der Wees** is a long-time observer of developments in Taiwan.

November 6, 2017: Brazil and China: A Developing Partnership? With **Andre Soares** (Counselor at the Inter-American Development Bank's Board of Directors and Non-Resident Fellow at the Atlantic Council) and **David Shambaugh** (Professor of Political Science and International Affairs, and Director of the China Policy Program at the Elliott School).



Jennifer Lu, the coordinator of the Marriage Equality Coalition Taiwan, starting the discussion on Taiwan's Marriage Equality Movement (11/30/17)

Want to read more? Check out Sigur Center's 2017 Events Archives [HERE](#)

RECENT EVENTS

October



*Director Wang Tung gives introductory remarks over his film *Banana Paradise* (香蕉天堂), (10/27/17)*

October 30, 2017: Exploring Religious Conflict in Myanmar

October 27, 2017: Film screening of *Banana Paradise* (香蕉天堂) and lecture by **Dr. Guo-Juin Hong**. Associate Professor at Duke University.

October 26, 2017: "From Offensive Dominance to Deterrence: China's Learning from the U.S. on Cyberwarfare," with **Tianjiao Jiang**. research fellow at the Center for Global Cyberspace Governance Studies, Fudan University, cooperating with the Tencent Holdings Ltd.

October 20-21, 2017: The 25th Hahn Moo-Sook Colloquium in the Korean Humanities

October 19, 2017: "May God Bless Manchukuo: Manchuria and the transformation of Vatican-China relations," with **Prof. Thomas DuBois**

October 17, 2017: "China's Rising Role in Central Asia and the Middle East," with **Prof. Pan Guang**. Professor at the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, Director of the SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization) and BR (Belt and Road) Studies Center in Shanghai, Dean of the Center of Jewish Studies Shanghai (CJSS), and Vice President of the Chinese Association of Middle East Studies.

October 17, 2017: Critical Perspectives on the Vietnam War

October 11, 2017: Practice of Tibetan Medicine in Global Context: A Seminar. **Dr. Tenzing Choying** has been affiliated with the Tibetan Medical and Astro. College of Men-Tsee-Khang since 2003. **Tsering Choezom** has been a lecturer and instructor at the Tibetan Medical and Astrological College since 1983.

October 6, 2017: Sigur Center 2017 Summer Language Fellows Roundtable **Katelyn DeNap** (MA - Security Policy Studies), Chinese Language Study – Taiwan **Zachary Haver** (BA - International Affairs), Chinese Language Study – Taiwan **Erin Mulhearn** (MA - Asian Studies), Chinese Language Study - Taiwan **Irene Mutwiri** (BA - International Affairs), Estelle Sigur Language Grant – Japan **Tracie Yang** (MA - Asian Studies), Chinese Language Study - Taiwan

October 6, 2017: 10th Annual Conference on China's Economic Development & U.S.-China Economic Relations



Director Jisoo Kim and Senior Advisor Young-Key Kim-Renaud with speakers for the 25th Hahn Moo-Sook Colloquium (10/21/17)

Want to read more? Check out Sigur Center's 2017 Events Archives [HERE](#)

RECENT EVENTS

October and September



Ambassador Nirupama Rao speaking at "The Face-Off in Doklam" event sponsored by the Rising Powers Initiative (09/13/2017)

October 4, 2017: ASEAN and the South China Sea. **Bonnie Glaser** CSIS | Senior Adviser for Asia; Director, China Power Project

Amitav Acharya

American University | Distinguished Professor of International Relations
UNESCO Chair in Transnational Challenges and Governance

Pek Koon Heng

American University | Assistant Professor
International Relations and International Political Economy in Southeast and East Asia

Moderated by: **Deepa Ollapally**

George Washington University | Research Professor of International Affairs Associate Director, Sigur Center for Asian Studies

October 4, 2017: 2017 Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration

September 28, 2017: U.S.-China Social and Cultural Dialogue. **Chinese Vice Premier** as well as Secretary of Transportation **Chao** and Secretary of Education **Betsy DeVos**. Co-moderator George Washington University Professor **Bruce Dickson**

September 25, 2017: Sigur Center Summer 2017 Student Research Fellows Roundtable Discussion. Including: **Sam Frantz** (PhD, Political Science) **Shweta Krishnan** (PhD, Anthropology)

September 22, 2017: "Power Shift? Shifting US-China Dynamics in Southeast Asia," with Prof. David Shambaugh. Prof. **David Shambaugh** is Gaston Sigur Professor of Asian Studies, Political Science & International Affairs and Director of the China Policy Program at The George Washington University.

September 13, 2017: "The Face-Off in Doklam: Interpreting India-China Relations," with **Ambassador Nirupama Rao**. One of India's most accomplished diplomats. She served as India's Foreign Secretary from 2009 to 2011, as well as being India's Ambassador to the United States, China and Sri Lanka (High Commissioner) during her career.

September 13, 2017: Taiwan Roundtable: Refocusing Taiwan-US Relations. Featuring: **Dr. Parris H. Chang**, Professor Emeritus of Political Science, Penn State and Former Deputy Secretary-General, Taiwan's National Security Council; **Dr. Elizabeth Freund Larus**, Waple Professor, Department of Political Science and International Affairs, University of Mary Washington; **Dr. Michael Tsai**, Former Defense Minister of Taiwan Moderated by: **Edward McCord**, Vice Dean; Professor of History and International Affairs, Elliott School of International Affairs, GW.

September 12, 2017: A Film Screening on Labor Organizing in China, and Discussion with the Director, Huang Wenhai, and China Labour Bulletin's Han Dongfang

September 7, 2017: ASEAN in America's Asia-Pacific Policy: Going Beyond Instrumentalism? with **Dr. Chyungly Lee**, Distinguished Research Fellow at the Institute of International Relations, National Chengchi University in Taiwan.

Want to read more? Check out Sigur Center's 2017 Events Archives [HERE](#)

Current Visiting Scholars

The Sigur Center hosts visiting scholars from all over the world. Visiting scholars continue to be a valuable part of the Sigur Center as they conduct research on a wide variety of issues, present their findings at Visiting Scholar Roundtables and participate in activities such as Sigur Center language tea times. The Sigur Center is proud of the quality and variety of its visiting scholars as they help to distinguish the Center in numerous ways. Here is a list of current visiting scholars.



JoonHyouck CHOI, South Korea

Affiliation: MAJ (P), Republic of Korea Army
Research Topic: "A Study on the Ways to Enhance Effectiveness of Response Strategy against North Korea"



Woondo CHOI, South Korea

Affiliation: Research Fellow, Northeast Asian History Foundation
Research Topic: "U.S. Role in Historical Reconciliation between Korea and Japan"



Maeve NOLAN, United Kingdom

Affiliation: PhD Candidate, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London
Research Topic: "Early 'Silk Road' Photography: A Case Study of How and Why Dr. Maynard Owen Williams, Litt D. (1888-1963) Photographed the 'Silk Road' During the Citroen- Haardt Trans-Asiatic Expedition "



Shengsong YUE, China

Affiliation: PhD Candidate in International Politics, China Foreign Affairs University
Research Topic: "Understanding the China-US 'Strategic Distrust' : A Discourse-Identity Approach"

Past Visiting Scholars

In Fall of 2017, the Sigur Center hosted visiting scholars from six countries. Visiting scholars continue to be a valuable part of the Sigur Center as they conduct research on a wide variety of issues, present their findings at Visiting Scholar Roundtables and participate in activities such as Sigur Center language tea times. The Sigur Center is proud of the quality and variety of its visiting scholars as they help to distinguish the Center in numerous ways. Here is a list of visiting scholars from the past year.



Tianjiao JIANG, China

Affiliation: Fudan University

Research Topic: "From Nuclear Hedging to Korea-Japan Nuclear Weapons Free Zone: Japan's Nuclear Option"



Jong-Gu LEE, South Korea

Affiliation: R.O.K. Army

Research Topic: "North Korean Nuclear Weapons Development and South Korean Diplomatic Strategies"



Jai Kwan JUNG, South Korea

Affiliation: Korea University

Research Topic: "A Comparative Study of the North Korean Regime's Durability"



Chanhyun NAM, South Korea

Affiliation: R.O.K. Army

Research Topic: "Security of Northeast Asia and Offshore Balancing Strategy"

Gifts and Giving Opportunities

The Sigur Center for Asian Studies is grateful for support from the individuals, foundations, and corporations for its activities. Gifts to the Sigur Center for Asian Studies support our students, our special events, and our research. Even more importantly, gifts to the Sigur Center help us carry out our mission — to increase the quality and broaden the scope of scholarly research and publications on Asian affairs, promote U.S.-Asian scholarly interaction and serve as the nexus for educating a new generation of students, scholars, analysts, and policymakers.

If you wish to make a donation to the Sigur Center for Asian Studies, please contact Deepa Ollapally at deepao@gwu.edu OR follow our donation link below:

<http://go.gwu.edu/sigursupport>

Contact Us!

Give us a call or send us an email for more information about our various programs and opportunities. Also, we are always delighted to hear from our alumni and we would love to learn about the interesting things you have been up to since leaving the Sigur Center.

Please don't be a stranger!

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