

THE ASIAN CONNECTION

Sigur Center for Asian Studies

Spring 2017

In This Issue

- 1 Message from the Director
- 2 Event Highlights
- 3 Elliott School Book Launch Series
- 4 Selected Publications
- 5 Student Spotlight
- 6 Faculty Focus
- 7 Summer 2016 Student Fellows
- 8 Gifts and Giving Opportunities

This year marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Sigur Center for Asian Studies. The past two and a half decades have been a period of phenomenal growth for Asian Studies at GW. The university has expanded beyond its traditional strengths in China and Japan to hire faculty focusing on Korea, South Asia, and Southeast Asia.

These new strengths have been highlighted by several developments. Perhaps the most important of these was the launch of the new GW Institute of Korean Studies. The institute was made possible by a grant from the Academy of Korean Studies awarded to **Jisoo Kim**, Korea Foundation Associate Professor of History and International Affairs. Its main purpose will be to promote the Korean humanities in the nation's capital. On January 12, the institute held an official inaugural ceremony and conference which was organized by Professor Emerita **Young-Key Kim Renaud**. Thanks to the excellent program designed by Professor Kim-Renaud, the day-long event easily filled the city view room on the seventh floor of the Elliott School. It featured speeches by **Ahn Ho-Young**, the South Korean Ambassador to the United States, and GW **President Steven Knapp** as well as presentations by highly regarded Korean writers and scholars from the United States and South Korea. The launch of this ambitious institute underscores GW's longstanding ties to Korea as well as the strength of its faculty in the area. GW currently has more tenure-track faculty working on Korea than any other university in the DC Metropolitan area and has plans to fill a new endowed chair in Korean Literature in the near future. While the institute will run its own programs, it will be housed in the Sigur Center and is a very welcome addition to our suite in the Elliott School.



Interim Director Gregg Brazinsky

Reflecting the university's growing strength in South Asia, the center hosted a fascinating event featuring stories about the 1947 Indian partition on November 30. **Benjamin D. Hopkins**, the first specialist on South and Central Asia ever to direct the Sigur Center, will be returning to run the center next fall and will no doubt continue to build the university's profile in this critical new area.

While I am serving as interim director of the center for only one semester, it is an exciting and auspicious time to be serving in this role. I look forward to seeing the Sigur Center for Asian Studies continue to build on its reputation for excellence during the next twenty-five years.

Gregg A. Brazinsky
Interim Director, Sigur Center for Asian Studies
Associate Professor of History and International Affairs

DIWALI CELEBRATION WITH MAYOR MURIEL BOWSER

On November 11, 2016 the Sigur Center partnered with the D.C. Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs to celebrate Diwali. Celebrated by more than one billion Hindus worldwide, Diwali, which is also known as the festival of lights, is India's biggest holiday. As Indian Americans are the largest group of Asian Americans in Washington D.C.,

Mayor Muriel Bowser used the occasion to issue a proclamation declaring November 9 as Diwali Day in the District of Columbia. Remarking on the importance of the holiday, Mayor Bowser said, "Homes are lit up with bright beautiful lamps to remind us that light conquers darkness and hope conquers despair. It is also a time to reflect on the ways we can assist others and shine our own light into the world."

Sigur Center Director Ben Hopkins remarked on the inclusive nature of Diwali, which is also celebrated by Christians, Farsis, Sikhs and Muslims. "[This] is best personified by our own executive director of the Sigur Center, Deepa Ollapally, whose own South Indian Christian parents named her after the clay lamps," he said.

President Steven Knapp was also in attendance and said, "I think it is a very important moment in the life of the Hindu community here, which is an important part of our student body."



OKINAWA GOVERNOR, TAKESHI ONAGA



On **February 2, 2017** the Sigur Center hosted **The Honorable Takeshi Onaga**, Governor of Okinawa for a public dialogue on the state of the US-Japan alliance and Okinawa's growing economic presence in East Asia. Joined by **Dr. Moritake Tomikawa**, Policy Advisor for Okinawa Prefecture, Governor Onaga expressed hope that the Trump Administration would adopt a new policy toward U.S. military bases on the island.

Stating that the situation had reached a low point, the governor predicted that there would be some changes under a Trump presidency. "I hope he will lead us in a different direction," he said. While in Washington the governor also had the opportunity to visit Capitol Hill and express his concerns and hopes to members of Congress. He said that he held talks with both Republicans and Democrats during which he emphasized the extent of local opposition to the Japan-U.S. plan to move Futenma from Ginowan to a less populated Henoko coastal area of Nago.

The public event was co-sponsored by **Okinawa Prefecture** and the **Okinawa Collection and Japan Resource Center at GW**.

ELLIOTT SCHOOL BOOK LAUNCH SERIES

The Sigur Center's faculty made exceptional scholarly contributions over the past year, with a record number of ten books published in 2016, accounting for the lion's share of the [Elliott School Book Launch Series](#). A list of book launch events can be found below:



Professor Bruce Dickson discusses his new book, *The Dictator's Dilemma, The Chinese Communist Party's Strategy for Survival*.

January 14, 2016: *The Emotions of Justice, Gender, Status, and Legal Performance in Choson Korea*, with **Jisoo Kim**, Korea Foundation Assistant Professor of History, International Affairs, and East Asian Languages and Literatures, GW.

March 9, 2016: *Xi Jinping, China's Rise and Leadership in Asia*, with **Robert Sutter**, Professor of Practice of International Affairs, GW.

March 24, 2016: *Occupational Hazards: Sex, Business, and HIV in Post-Mao China*, with Elanah Uretsky, Assistant Professor of Global Health, Anthropology and International Affairs, GW.

April 13, 2016: *Lawyers, Litigation, and Governmental Accountability in South Korea and Japan*, with **Celeste Arrington**, Korea Foundation Assistant Professor of Political Science and International Affairs, GW.

April 20, 2016: *The China Reader: Rising Power and China's Future*, with **David Shambaugh**, Professor of Political Science & International Affairs, GW.

September 8, 2016: *The Dictator's Dilemma: The Chinese Communist Party's Strategy for Survival*, with **Bruce Dickson**, Professor of Political Science and International Affairs, GW.

October 11, 2016: *Nuclear Debates in Asia: The Role of Geopolitics and Domestic Processes*, with:

- **Mike M. Mochizuki**, Associate Professor of Political Science and International Affairs, GW.
- **Deepa M. Ollapally**, Research Professor of International Affairs and Director of the Rising Powers Initiative, GW
- **Scott Snyder**, Senior Fellow for Korea studies and Director of the program on U.S.-Korea policy, Council on Foreign Relations
- **Robert Sutter**, Professor of Practice of International Affairs, GW

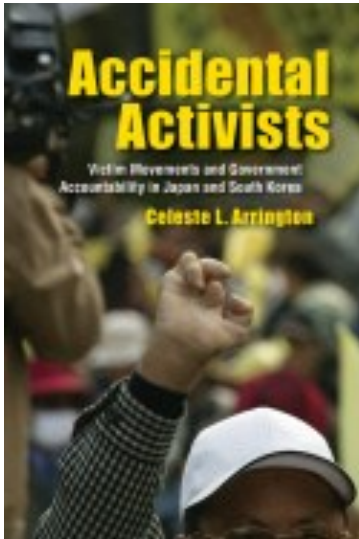
October 19, 2016: *Spillover Effects of China Going Global*, with **Joe Pelzman**, Professor of Economics and International Affairs, GW.

November 7, 2016: *Foreign Policy: Thinking Outside the Box*, with **Amitai Etzioni**, Director, Institute for Communitarian Policy Studies; University Professor and Professor of International Affairs, GW.



Professor Celeste Arrington delivers a talk on her book, *Lawyers, Litigation, and Governmental Accountability in Japan and South Korea*.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

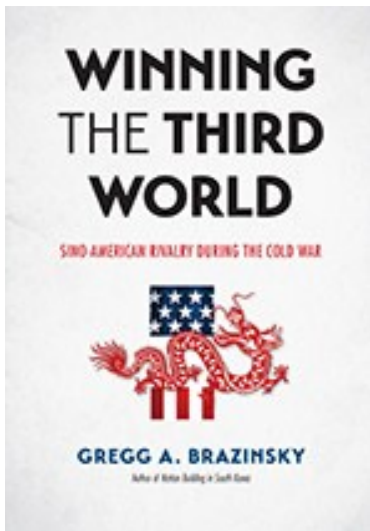


Celeste Arrington,
*Accidental Activists:
Victim Movements
and Government
Accountability in Japan
and South Korea*

Cornell University
Press, 2016.

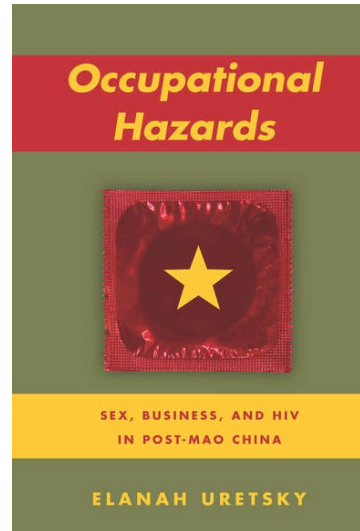


David Shambaugh,
China's Future
Polity, 2016.

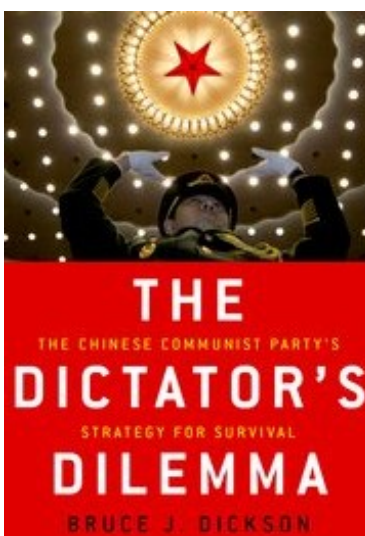


Gregg Brazinsky,
*Winning the Third
World: Sino-American
Rivalry during the Cold
War*

The University of
North Carolina Press,
2017.

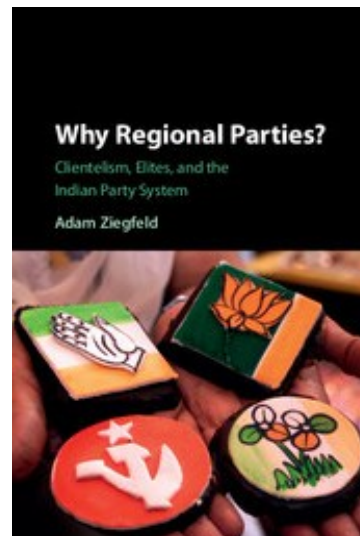


Elanah Uretsky,
*Occupational Hazards:
Sex, Business, and HIV
in Post-Mao China*
Stanford University
Press, 2016.



Bruce Dickson,
*The Dictator's Dilemma:
The Chinese Com-
munist Party's Strategy
for Survival*

Oxford University
Press, 2016.



Adam Ziegfeld,
*Why Regional Parties?
Clientelism, Elites, and
the Indian Party System*
Cambridge University
Press, 2016.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT - VERÓNICA MARIA HOYER



Verónica María Hoyer is a graduating senior at the Elliott School of International Affairs, double-majoring in international affairs and economics. Originally from Venezuela, she moved to the U.S. at the age of nine and lived and went to high school in the suburbs of Portland, Oregon. Verónica has studied Korean language, history and foreign policy throughout her time at GW, most recently completing her thesis entitled, “Beyond the Peninsula: Republic of Korea’s Alliance Contribution to the Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.” She has been an active participant in GW organizations, having served as Vice President of GW Veterans, Event Coordinator for the Korean Cultural Organization, and Treasurer of the Afghan Student Association.

Prior to enrolling as a student at GW, Verónica was a member of the U.S. Air Force (U.S.A.F.) from October 2008 to August 2013. She credits her first assignment with the Air Force as the experience that led to her interest in Korean language and culture. As an airborne cryptologic language analyst, Verónica was assigned the language. While the language assignment was mandatory, she recalls developing a deep interest in Korean the more she studied it. She emphasizes that “what began as a duty is now voluntary.”

Verónica was motivated to join the Air Force primarily out of her admiration of the U.S. military. “I moved to the U.S. from a country where the military and security forces are very corrupt and ineffective. In Venezuela, we would hide our valuables if we were going through a military road block on the street,” she recalls. “But then I came to this country and saw the cultural admiration the American people had for their armed forces and it struck me as both a strange and beautiful thing. I always thought it would be an honor to serve if I had the chance.”

After completing her service, Verónica took advantage of the military’s financial assistance to finance her college education at GW. With further financial assistance from the Sigur Center for Asian Studies she was able to participate in an intensive Korean language program at Seoul National University over the summer of 2016. She stresses the invaluable experience of studying a language in a country where it is spoken, as opposed to only classroom study. “Everything I learned was directly applicable, and I do mean everything. Even the most obscure grammar patterns that we would learn, I would hear in a conversation on the bus or subway.”

As both a veteran and a student completing a liberal arts degree, Verónica acknowledges the challenges inherent in re-entering a civilian environment after time spent in the military. “There will be culture shock when you enter the civilian world, and particularly academia,” she says. In terms of advantages, “we have acquired invaluable intangibles during our military service and we bring unique perspectives and personal experiences to issues in a way most of our peers cannot.” At the same time, Verónica makes clear that these experiences don’t necessarily equate to superior knowledge. “What we bring to the classroom is valuable but we must approach others with humility and by thoroughly assessing our environment.”



Verónica currently works both as a part time Guest Assistant at C-SPAN and as an Economist Student Trainee at the Bureau of Labor Statistics. After graduation, she hopes to work in some aspect of U.S. foreign policy. “I hope to apply my experiences to further the interests of my country with both the practical and theoretical skills and knowledge I have acquired along the way.”



Dr. Kavita Daiya is associate professor of English at GW. Her research focuses on colonial and postcolonial literatures and theory, women's and gender studies, imperialism and migration. She has a particular interest in the history and effects of the 1947 Partition in South Asia. She was a main organizer and speaker at the Sigur Center event, **Partition Stories: Memory, History, and Legacies of the 1947 Partition of India** held in November, 2016.

Professor Daiya's focus on the 1947 Partition emerged from an interest in contemporary Hindu-Muslim conflict. She recalls, "At the time I started working on Partition, there was relatively little work on what actually happened in 1947. Yet, the scale of this Partition was horrific: nearly 2 million people died, and between 12 and 16 million migrated within a span of nine months - an astonishing fact that few even know today." Furthermore, "This was the world's largest mass migration within a span of nine months. Despite this, and unlike other moments of collective trauma and violence like the Holocaust or Hiroshima, I realized, no government or institution had officially memorialized the Partition. What happened to those 12 million refugees? How did they survive, how did they rebuild their lives, how do they tell their story?"

Professor Daiya decided to unravel these questions and attempt to tell the story of what happened during Partition. Inspired by the pioneering work on Partition and gender done by Urvashi Butalia, Ritu Menon and Kamala Bhasin, among others, she poured through official documents and letters from refugees from the Maharashtra State Government Archives, literature, film, and news media, piecing together how a cultural discourse emerged from the Partition

experience that tied religion and belonging, gender, and citizenship together. She says, "This cultural discourse, I have tried to show, has had profound consequences for the lived experience of Indian citizenship even today."

Professor Daiya's first book, *Violent Belongings, Partition, Gender, and National Culture in Postcolonial India* showed how the cultural representation of ethnic violence shaped the discourse of belonging in postcolonial India. Her second book, which she is currently finishing, illuminates the complexity of Partition refugees' experiences, and their status as citizens. Remarking on modern parallels with the events of Partition, she says, "What happened with Syrian and Iraqi refugees today much resembles the 1947 experience - so there are lessons to be learned from how nations have handled refugees in the past, how the refugee experience shapes and has been shaped by the relatively new institution of citizenship, and how refugees survive and narrate the violence trauma of displacement."

Reflecting on the challenges involved in her research on Partition, Professor Daiya says, "One of the most challenging aspects of this research has been the psychological and emotional toll it takes on you, to be spending so many days and years studying a very traumatic, heartbreaking experience for millions of Indians and Pakistanis." On the other hand, there are rewarding and encouraging aspects to her work as well. "The most rewarding aspect of this study is discovering how much it resonates, not only for South Asians, but also for those familiar with the mid-twentieth century history of division and displacement across Asia."

As a recent example of dialogue generated by her teaching and research, she points to a talk she gave at the University of Pennsylvania's Penn Humanities Forum, where she shared work on the cultural representation of Partition refugees' experience. "In the Q&A, our discussion connected the Partition refugees' story of separation and migration with stories about similar migrations and resulting familial separation in other parts of the world, from China and Taiwan to North and South Korea. So, in a way, the mid-twentieth century global history of division and displacement has unfolded across Asia in remarkably similar ways, and recognizing these connections, creating new conversations about displacement, conflict, and citizenship has been generative for me."

SUMMER 2016 STUDENT FELLOWS

In 2016, the Sigur Center for Asian Studies awarded **\$48,669** for fellowship support to nine students to travel to seven Asian countries. The following Students received field research and language study fellowships:

- **Elham Bakharty** (*PhD - History*). Field Research on “The Founding of Afghanistan's Ideological State Apparatus” - India
- **Oliver Crocco** (*Ed.D - Human & Organizational Learning*). Field Research on “The Impact of Organizational Development in Community Based Enterprises in Myanmar” - Myanmar & Thailand
- **Anna Du** (*BA - International Affairs*). Chinese Language Study - Taiwan
- **Hannah Hassani** (*BA - International Affairs*). Chinese Language Study - Taiwan
- **Verónica María Hoyer** (*BA - International Affairs*). Korean Language Study - South Korea
- **Daisuke Minami** (*PhD - Political Science*). Field Research on “Clash of Identities: How Identity Contestation Leads to Security Competition” - Japan
- **Allison Quatrani** (*PhD - Political Science*). Field Research on “Ethnic Minority Nation-Building in China” - China
- **Kelly Vorndran** (*MA - International Affairs*). Chinese Language Study - Taiwan
- **Sebra Yen** (*MA - Global Communication*). Chinese Language Study - Taiwan

JAPAN - FIELD RESEARCH



Daisuke Minami documents a prefectural rally against U.S. military bases in Okinawa, Japan.

CHINA - FIELD RESEARCH



Oliver Crocco at Mae Sot at the Thai-Myanmar border, a border town that continues to hold incredible significance for Burmese refugees.

APPLY FOR FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS!

The Sigur Center for Asian Studies is an excellent resource for students wishing to conduct language study or field research in Asia. You can also check out video and blog posts from our student fellows at asiaonestreet.blogspot.com.

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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