The Weatherhead East Asian Institute is a hub for the study of modern and contemporary East, Southeast, and Inner Asia at Columbia University. The Institute brings together scholars from across disciplines, creating a vibrant community for research and teaching. A center for learning and a platform for expanding knowledge, the Institute offers academic programs, renowned publications series, and a robust calendar of public events.
THE WEATHERHEAD EAST ASIAN INSTITUTE

A Hub for East Asia

The Institute administers research, academic, and outreach programs; supports the publication of scholarly work; and collaborates with partners to create and disseminate academic resources.

Academics

Master of Arts in Regional Studies-East Asia (MARSEA)
WEAI Certificate Program for Graduate Studies
East Asian Regional Specialization Program at the School of International and Public Affairs

WEAI administers a standalone master’s program and graduate certificate programs, and supports undergraduate, master’s, and doctoral degree programs at Columbia University that encompass the study of East Asia.

Research

Center for Korean Research
Dorothy Borg Research Program
Modern Tibetan Studies Program
Japan Research Program
Vietnamese Studies Initiative

WEAI’s research programs provide a platform for concentrated scholarship in key areas. Reaching beyond historical strengths in China and Japan, WEAI fosters research in under-explored areas of East Asian studies, and has done so notably through the founding of the Center for Korean Research in 1988 and the establishment of the Modern Tibetan Studies Program in 1999.

Outreach

Asia For Educators
National Consortium for Teaching about Asia

WEAI collaborates extensively with partner institutions to create, improve, and share resources for teaching and learning about East Asia.

Publications

Asia Perspectives
Studies of the Weatherhead East Asian Institute
Weatherhead Books on Asia

WEAI manages three publications series, working with authors and a variety of academic and trade presses to publish scholarly monographs on East Asia, high-quality translated works, and edited volumes.

Affiliates

APEC Study Center
Asia Pacific Affairs Council (APAC), and other student groups
Center for Japanese Legal Studies
Center on Japanese Economy and Business
China Center for Social Policy
Columbia-Harvard China and the World Program
C.V. Starr East Asian Library
Donald Keene Center of Japanese Culture
Hong Yan Chang Center for Chinese Legal Studies
New York Southeast Asia Network (NYSEAN)

WEAI partners with organizations across Columbia to further research, organize public programs, and provide a critical forum for open debate and information sharing about East Asia.

Since 1960, Columbia University has been designated as an East Asian National Resource Center (NRC) by the US Department of Education. As the home of Columbia’s NRC, the Institute develops new initiatives and educational materials to expand the study of East Asia at Columbia and beyond.
PROFESSIONAL FELLOWS PROGRAM

The Robert M. Immerman Professional Fellows are mid-career professionals who come to Columbia to engage with the latest research on East Asia and develop their expertise. Professional Fellows come from the public and private sector for a one-of-a-kind research and learning experience.

VISITING SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Each year, the Institute hosts a diverse group of visiting scholars with ties to East Asia. Working alongside a faculty sponsor, the scholars enrich their academic careers by engaging in research related to East Asia across the University. Scholars receive access to facilities, libraries, and courses at Columbia University.

A Vibrant Community

Faculty, Associates, Research Scholars, and Postdoctoral Fellows comprise the backbone of the Institute. Leading experts in fields from anthropology to urban planning conduct trailblazing research related to the study of East, Southeast, and Inner Asia. These scholars train the next generation of specialists and experts and share their knowledge on the region with a broad audience through public events.

WEAI has helped support generations of students who have gone on to become leading scholars of East Asia, as well as professionals and policymakers who engage with Asia.

My work has really changed by being at WEAI because I’m constantly challenged at the Institute… it has made me a better scholar, more connected to the region and the region’s place within the world.

GRAY TUTTLE, LEILA HADLEY LUCE PROFESSOR OF MODERN TIBETAN STUDIES

At WEAI we can bring together the resources of a top-tier research university and the energy of the museums and foundations that are all in New York.

EUGENIA LEAN, PROFESSOR OF CHINESE HISTORY

LIEN-HANG NGUYEN, DIRECTOR, WEATHERHEAD EAST ASIAN INSTITUTE; DOROTHY BORG ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR IN THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES AND EAST ASIA

RESEARCH

$1m+
in research funding earned by faculty annually

80+
affiliated faculty and scholars

100+
faculty-led events held each year

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The genuine support of my professors and cohort at MARSEA gave me the courage to switch disciplines and pursue a research topic that I am truly passionate about. I am grateful for the flexible curriculum and rich academic and financial resources that WEAI offered.

Yuqi Zhang, Student in the Master of Arts in Regional Studies—East Asia Program
WEAI shares its research with a broad audience through public programming and multimedia content accessible online. WEAI also works to expand knowledge of East Asia beyond the University through outreach initiatives such as Asia for Educators, and works with scholars to publish significant new research through its publications series.

**Events**

The Institute organizes, hosts, and sponsors myriad public lectures, conferences, and workshops throughout the year. Guest speakers range from scholars presenting new research to public officials commenting on government policy. The Institute also supports student-led events and cultural programming such as film screenings, musical performances, and art exhibitions.

**Outreach**

**ASIA FOR EDUCATORS**

The Asia for Educators (AFE) program, based out of WEAI, develops cutting-edge teaching materials, seminars, and workshops on Asia for teachers across the US at the undergraduate and K-12 levels. A founding member of the National Consortium for Teaching about Asia, AFE connects and equips educators with the resources needed to advance education on Asia.

**Publications**

**STUDIES OF THE WEATHERHEAD EAST ASIAN INSTITUTE**

The Studies of the Weatherhead East Asian Institute supports authors to publish significant new research on modern and contemporary East, Inner, and Southeast Asia, in collaboration with various academic and trade presses.

**WEATHERHEAD BOOKS ON ASIA**

The Weatherhead Books on Asia series is comprised of high quality English translations of Asian-language works, from fiction and poetry to essays.

**ASIA PERSPECTIVES: NEW HORIZONS IN ASIAN HISTORY, SOCIETY, AND CULTURE**

WEAI and Columbia University Press collaborate to publish scholarly monographs for the classroom and educated general reader in the Asia Perspectives: New Horizons in Asian History, Society, and Culture series.