

# 2019 April Newsletter



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY  
Weatherhead East Asian Institute



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The Weatherhead East Asian Institute's programming in April showcased events delving into topics ranging from US strategy toward the Indo-Pacific region to Tibetan art, literature, and film.

On April 9, the Institute hosted Lieutenant General H.R. McMaster, a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution and visiting fellow at Stanford University, who spoke on US strategy toward the Indo-Pacific region. The event offered attendees a rare opportunity to interact with a former National Security Advisor who played a direct role in guiding the policies of the current US administration.

As part of programs marking its 20th anniversary, the Institute's Modern Tibetan Studies program organized events highlighting Tibetan art, literature, and film. On April 9, Tsangwang Gendun Tenpa (Director and Chief Curator of the Chengdu Dargye Himalayan Art and Culture Museum) discussed the life and artistry of Garu Lobzang Sherap. On April 25, the program also hosted writer and scholar, Pema Bhum, who took part in a panel discussion with Michael Monhart (alumnus of Modern Tibetan Studies at Columbia University) and Patricia Schiaffini-Vedani (Texas State University), translators of *Enticement: Stories of Tibet*, a collection of translations of Pema Tseden's stories. The program sponsored a special preview of *They are One Hundred Years Old*, a Tibetan documentary film, on April 28. The film was introduced by Riga Shakya (PhD candidate, Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, Columbia University), and after the film, Nelson Walker moderated a discussion with director Dukar Tserang.

As part of an ongoing series on Science and Society in Global Asia, the Institute hosted a workshop which brought together scholars to discuss the relationship between connected histories of Asia and Science and Technology Studies (STS). The workshop featured research that explores the plural, syncretic, and globalizing facets of the history of science and society across Asia.

For more details on these events and a complete list of past and upcoming programming sponsored by the Institute, please visit our website:

[weai.columbia.edu](http://weai.columbia.edu)

Lieutenant General H.R. McMaster addresses Columbia faculty, students, and alumni at an event on "The Future of the US-Japan Alliance: Advancing the Vision of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific"



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## James W. Morley, director of the East Asian Institute (1964-1967, 1970-1973, 1984-1987)



James W.  
Morley

James W. Morley was the fourth director of the East Asian Institute (renamed the Weatherhead East Asian Institute in 2003), and served for three terms (1964-1967; 1970-1973; 1984-1987).

Dr. Morley received his undergraduate degree from Harvard University in 1943, completing his studies in three years before enlisting in the Navy at the height of the Second World War. Upon entering the Navy, Dr. Morley was sent to Boulder, Colorado, to study the Japanese language. From there, he went to Washington to work on Japanese codebreaking. His experience with the US war effort motivated him to study the country whose codes he had worked to crack, to understand Japan and its people, and prevent another war.

After his time with the Navy, Dr. Morley returned to his studies, earning his master's degree from Johns Hopkins University and his PhD from Columbia. While at Columbia, he studied Japanese subjects under Ryusaku Tsunoda and minored in Russian history. He received a grant to complete his dissertation research of Japanese military papers brought from Japan to the US, and in Japan, where he studied documents on the Siberian Expedition at the Japanese foreign ministry.

Dr. Morley joined the Columbia faculty in 1954, first as a visiting assistant professor from Union College in Schenectady, New York, and eventually as Professor of Political Science, a position he held until his retirement in 1991. He also served as an assistant to the American ambassador to Japan at the embassy in Tokyo from 1967-1969, where he worked on building the relationship between the US and Japan. He served as President of the Association for Asian Studies in 1984 and is the recipient of the Japan Foundation Award and the Order of the Sacred Treasure, second class, from the Japanese government.

Some of Dr. Morley's published works include *The Japanese Thrust Into Siberia*, 1918 (1957), *Forecast for Japan: Security in the 1970s* (1972), *Prologue to the Future: the United States and Japan in the Postindustrial Age* (1974), and *Japan's Road to the Pacific War: Selected Translations from Taiheiyo Senso e no michi: Kaisen Gaikoshi* (five volumes) (1976-1984). He also served as editor of such works as *Dilemmas of Growth in Prewar Japan* (1976) and *Security Interdependence in the Asia Pacific Region* (1986), and others.

Dr. Morley was integral in training subsequent generations of Japan political science specialists. Following his retirement, 17 of his prominent former students compiled *Japan's Foreign Policy After the Cold War: Coping with Change* (1993), in a tribute to his mentorship.



Professor Gerald L. Curtis with his family and Lee Bollinger, Ambassador Reichiro Takahashi, Madame Masako Takahashi, and James W. Morley at a December 2015 event: "Is Japan Really Back?"



Mr. Ito, T. Ohi-Nakamura, Mr. Kawano, T. Bernstein, Mr. Torie (Full TV), J. W. Morley, D. Yasutomo, S. Pessin, M. Kawano, J. Nakamura, D. Fuchala, J. Bhagwati, G. L. Curtis, S. Toyoda, Harvey Picker

Written by Priya Chokshi and Ariana King



*Eveline Washul (left) and Gray Tuttle (right) of  
Modern Tibetan Studies*

## Modern Tibetan Studies looks back on 20 years

Interviewed by Ariana King

Now we're taking  
it to the next  
“level and breaking  
down stereotypes  
and imaginings  
about Tibet through  
our scholarship and  
teaching.”

Being the only higher education institution with a dedicated program in modern Tibetan studies has its advantages. “All the speakers that we have brought in—it's really been amazing,” said Gray Tuttle, Leila Hadley Luce Professor of Modern Tibet Studies in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures. “There's just no place else that they could speak.”

Tibetan studies has long been dominated by a focus on religion, and had historically been grouped with South Asian studies, Tuttle explained. Columbia's program is unique in that it is equipped with a plethora of resources to attract scholars of contemporary Tibet. “Creating the space where that can happen, I think, is really significant,” Tuttle said, noting also Columbia's proximity to important institutions like the Rubin Museum and Latse, and New York's active local Tibetan community.

These benefits have helped to solidify the niche Columbia's Modern Tibetan Studies program has carved out. The result has been a busy program of vibrant events, ranging from a packed conference this month cohosted with the Rubin Museum that brought together Tibetan art from collections around the world, to talks with prominent Tibetan figures in film and literatu-

re, to more traditional archives- and research-based lectures on modern Tibetan history.

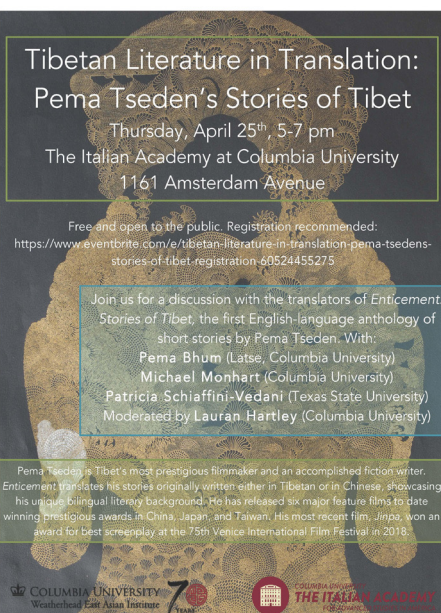
“Just seeing the scholarship that's going on in Tibet—the Tibetan scholars and other individuals who come here—there's so much going on,” said Eveline Washul, a post-doctoral research fellow at WEAI who has been named the new director of Modern Tibetan Studies, to begin this summer. “A lot of people want to come here so it's been amazing just to host them and be able to have this exchange,” she said.

When the Modern Tibetan Studies program was established at the East Asian Institute 20 years ago, the world's knowledge about Tibet was somewhat limited.

“It seems like in the '80s and '90s when Tibet was coming more into the media, a lot of people in the US didn't really know what Tibet was,” said Washul. “Now we're taking it to the next level and breaking down stereotypes and imaginings about Tibet through our scholarship and teaching.”







*Clockwise from left: A poster for the event: "Tibetan Literature in Translation: Pema Tsenden's Stories of Tibet;" speakers at the event discuss Tibetan literature in translation; participants speak at the conference "Tibetan Buddhism and Political Power in the Courts at Asia," at the Rubin Museum in New York, cosponsored by WEAI; (below the quote) participants from the October 2018 event "Myriad Teachings with One Nature: Buddhism in China and Inner Asia," gather in front of Columbia's Low Library.*



"Tibetan autonomous areas—even recognized by the Chinese state—are one-quarter of Chinese territory," Tuttle said. He explained, further, that the study of contemporary Tibet is both timely and important because of the geopolitical significance of China's dealings with Tibet, and environmental concerns about the impact of climate change.

Despite declining media attention, the field of Tibetan studies itself has expanded, and the Modern Tibetan Studies program has attracted an increasingly diverse group of students and faculty. Notably, the number of students from Asia, particularly China, has grown significantly.

There is also more diversity in terms of discipline, Washul explained. "Now we have more people being trained in different disciplines like anthropology, geography, and environmental studies, education, literature, and more."

"Increasingly now, and more so in the future—in the age of the internet and social media and more global processes—Tibetan studies scholarship is beginning to look at Tibet as interconnected with all of these global communications and trends," Washul noted. As that happens, the Modern Tibetan Studies program will continue to strengthen the foundations it has made, building on the resources it has accumulated through its unique position at the Weatherhead East Asian Institute.

Tibetan autonomous areas—even recognized by the Chinese state—are one-quarter of Chinese territory."





Kan Ni

Current MARSEA student

Kan Ni is a student from Huzhou, China, enrolled in the Master of Arts in Regional Studies—East Asia program. Under the supervision of his thesis adviser, Professor Andrew Nathan, Kan is conducting research on educational materials in use at Chinese universities. After his graduation from MARSEA in May 2019, Kan will begin his first year in the JD program at Columbia Law School.



I was an undergraduate student at Fudan University in China before I came to the Master of Arts in Regional Studies – East Asia (MARSEA) program. My undergraduate major was English, but I developed a great interest in East Asian studies when I went to the University of Tokyo for an exchange program for my junior year. I did some public speaking and served in a couple of student organizations in college as well.

MARSEA really impressed me in many ways even before I came here! First, the admission interview was a great opportunity for both Weatherhead and I to better get to know each other. Not all master's programs offer the chance to have an interview, after all! Then former Student Affairs Officer Jamie Tan and Professor Xiaobo Lü were also extremely helpful with all kinds of questions I had about MARSEA and career planning. Finally, I decided that not only is MARSEA captivating enough on its own as an East Asian regional studies program, but it will also be a great transitional experience for me before going to law school, or studying and living in the US in general, or maybe even taking a PhD program in the future.

My academic interests center on contemporary China. My current thesis project focuses on ideopolitical education in Chinese universities, but apart from that, the wide variety of courses Columbia offers has enabled me to look at different facets of modern and contemporary China from all kinds of disciplinary perspectives: history, political science, anthropology, cultural studies, and so forth.

I was also able to take courses from other schools at Columbia thanks to the freedom and resources provided by Weatherhead.

What has impacted me the most is the kind of mutually supportive community built among the MARSEA cohort and Weatherhead faculty and staff, especially Professor Kim Brandt and Student Affairs Coordinator Lucy March. We really get along with each other! I can't express how grateful I am for all the intellectual and emotional support everyone here has offered me. And of course, all the other resources and opportunities available here also made it an incredibly transformative experience for me.

My short-term plan at the moment is to become a lawyer in New York. After practicing for a few years, I will either stay in the legal profession or maybe go to a PhD program somewhere. My MARSEA experience really makes me want to return to academia at some point in my life.

When I'm not studying, like everyone else, I hang out with friends or just chill at home. There's so much to explore in the city! So far my favorite places are Midtown Manhattan and Chinatown. Midtown can always hype me up with its vibrancy, and Chinatown can often give me a taste of home with all its restaurants and markets.

*Kan (front right) with friends on a trip to Mexico*





ON THIS MONTH IN  
1966:

“SINOLOGISTS FAVOR SCHOLAR EXCHANGE WITH RED CHINESE”

The front page of the *Columbia Spectator* on April 18, 1966, featuring the article “Sinologists Favor Scholar Exchange with Red Chinese”



April 18, 2019

An excerpt from the *Columbia Spectator* article follows:

“Three Columbia China experts endorsed Friday the new State Department ruling permitting Communist Chinese scholars to visit the United States but expressed doubt that the Peking regime would permit such travel in the near future.

The three are Professor William Theodore de Bary, chairman of the Chinese and Japanese department, A. Doak Barnett, acting director of the East Asian Institute, and Assistant Professor of Government Donald S. Zagoria.

While asserting that China might be willing to admit American scholars, Professor de Bary said he doubted Peking would quickly take advantage of the new program. ‘China has always been reluctant to let scholars out because of the fear that they will never come back,’ he declared.”

The full article is available at: <http://spectatorarchive.library.columbia.edu/cgi-bin/imageserver.pl?oid=cs19660418-01&getpdf=true>

A recent *South China Morning Post* article featuring insight from WEAI faculty on US-China scholar visas is available here: <https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3007372/us-and-china-urged-stop-race-bottom-blocking-academic-visas>