

2019 December Newsletter



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
Weatherhead East Asian Institute



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Looking back on Fall 2019

In December, the Weatherhead East Asian Institute (WEAI) concluded a packed year of 70th anniversary programming with events featuring reporting on Tibet, the exploration of Chinese ephemera from the C.V. Starr East Asian Library, and a reexamination of the role of craft today.

On December 5, the Institute held the final event of the Reporting Asia series, a well-attended talk dedicated to reporting on Tibet. The Institute hosted Edward Wong, diplomatic correspondent from The New York Times, in conversation with WEAI Professor Gray Tuttle. Wong discussed his experience as a reporter in China from 2008 to 2017, including his coverage of the 2008 Tibetan protests. Wong spoke about the challenges of reporting on Tibet, including the restrictions on journalists put in place by the Chinese government and ethical concerns surrounding the protection of sources.

He compared the key issues related to Tibet with those of other Chinese frontier regions, including Hong Kong and Xinjiang. Wong also touched on the role of scholars as important sources of expert knowledge for journalists seeking to understand the deeper context behind the stories they cover.

From December 6 to December 7, the Institute hosted an international workshop, "ephemera: science and technology." The first event in a two-part series on Science and Society in Global Asia, the workshop convened scholars working on the history of science and technology, visual culture, and art history, to examine materials from the "Ephemera Collection on Chinese Science, Technology, Law, and Society," housed at Columbia's C. V. Starr East Asian Library. The workshop kicked off with remarks by WEAI Director Eugenia Lean and C.V. Starr East Asian Library Director Jim Cheng. Chengzhi Wang, Chinese studies librarian at the C.V. Starr East Asian Library, introduced the collection, which includes pamphlets, slides, posters and exhibition catalogs. Seven focused reading sessions led by scholars examined materials in the collection and a concluding roundtable discussion rounded out the groundbreaking workshop.

The final program in our 70th anniversary celebration, "Rethinking Craft in Postindustrial Society," took place on December 13. The workshop, the concluding event in the Science and Society in Global Asia series, was organized by Yuan Yi, a doctoral candidate in modern Chinese history in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures. The conference brought together practitioners and scholars from Asia and the United States for an interdisciplinary conversation about craft, technology, and the economy. Participants examined the role of craft in postindustrial societies and discussed craft, labor, and mechanization; international craft connections; and interactions among the state, craft, and intangible cultural heritage.

Thank you for reading about the history and activities of the Institute throughout this landmark year. While this issue of the newsletter marks the final chapter of our monthly series, we hope you will continue to follow Institute announcements through our website and weekly events emails. For more details about past events and the latest news about the Institute please visit: <http://weai.columbia.edu/>.



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MARSEA Fall Outing

On November 17th, a group of students in the Master of Arts in Regional Studies - East Asia (MARSEA) program participated in one of the program's biannual social outings, led by WEAI Student Affairs Officer Lucy March. The students visited the Museum of Chinese in America in downtown Manhattan and were led on a tour of the museum, which featured the Fall 2019 Special Exhibition *Gathering: Collecting and Documenting Chinese American History*, as well as highlights of the museum's permanent collections. The museum tour was followed by a walking tour of several historic points of interest in the Chinatown neighborhood, including Columbus Park, Confucius Plaza and Nom Wah Tea Parlor. The students enjoyed a dim sum lunch near the museum following the tours.

The WEAI organizes and supports social outings for students in the MARSEA program in various locations around New York City in order to give them an opportunity to bond with their cohort and learn more about the city they call home while they are at Columbia.



MARSEA students view the exhibition *Gathering: Collecting and Documenting Chinese American History* at the Museum of Chinese in America.



APAC-WEAI 70th Anniversary Career Panel and Networking Event

On December 5, WEAI collaborated with the Asia Pacific Affairs Council to hold a career panel and networking event for students. The diverse panel, which included several Columbia alumni, shared insights about various industries and professions related to East Asia with current graduate students. The panelists covered a variety of topics, including life in academia, how to start a career at a think tank, and how to manage your own business. Following the panel, the students and panelists enjoyed a networking reception at Elysian Fields Cafe in Morningside Heights.

The panelists were: Nicholas Reinhold (MARSEA '18, SIPA '17), U.S. Government Employee and Air Force Officer; Brian Goldeberg (MARSEA '02), CEO, Mr. Bing Beijing Street Foods; Zongyuan (Zoe) Liu, Edwin Reischauer Fellow, Johns Hopkins University, and Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Columbia-Harvard China and the World Program; Rorry Daniels, Deputy Project Director of the Forum on Asia Pacific Security, National Committee on American Foreign Policy; Ronan Tse-min Fu, Sherman Fellow in Political Science and International Relations, University of Southern California, and Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Columbia-Harvard China and the World Program

Q&A with Jungwon Kim on the Center for Korean Research



Mr. Myoung-Soo Shin and Columbia's President Michael I. Sovern celebrate the establishment of the Center for Korean Research.

Interviewed by Ariana King

“The CKR’s presence within WEAI truly marked the beginning of a thriving and extensive academic relationship between Korean Studies scholars at the University and not only Korea, but scholars working on China and Japan.”



Jungwon Kim

Q: Can you introduce the Center for Korean Research? Why was it founded?

A: The Center for Korea Research (hereafter CKR) was launched in 1988, with Professor Gari Ledyard as Director, within the East Asian Institute (WEAI). Reflecting Columbia University’s long-standing commitment to study of East Asia and its desire to expand its coverage of Korea, the establishment of CKR as an individual research program was possible with the support of both the East Asian Institute and the Committee for the Promotion of Korean Studies, which aimed to advance scholarly and public activities related to Korea at Columbia. Even before the CKR’s existence, Columbia had been a destination for students and scholars who came from Korea as early as the 1920s, and the Korean Studies program grew steadily from the 1960s on, especially after the Department of Chinese and Japanese Studies was renamed the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures (EALAC) in 1964, giving Korean Studies official recognition within the University. But it was the formal foundation of the CKR that implemented and promoted various programs, from hosting visiting fellows to organizing high-level research seminars and lectures. Most importantly, the CKR’s presence within WEAI truly marked the beginning of a thriving and extensive academic relationship between Korean Studies scholars at the University and Korea, but with scholars working on China and Japan. Today the CKR connects to the world via international partnerships, sponsorship of international conferences and workshops, publication initiatives, and active scholarly exchanges.

Q: CKR was founded in November 1988. What was the field of Korean Studies at Columbia like back then?

A: Korean Studies became a formal part of Columbia’s curricular offerings starting in 1950, with the first Korean language course; the first Korean Civilization course was offered in 1960. In the 1970s, the Korean language program in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures took its present form, and a range of courses covering linguistics, history, and literature were offered by Professor Gari Ledyard. The establishment of the CKR in 1988 greatly expanded course offerings in the Korean social sciences: visiting scholars, research fellows, adjuncts, and postdoctoral fellows affiliated with the CKR taught courses in Korean culture, society, economy, and politics and foreign policy. Korean Studies at Columbia has grown remarkably since then, and the curricula on Korea-related subjects have become increasingly diverse. The Korean language program, too, has grown enormously, and CKR sponsors the annual Manhae Prize for outstanding undergraduate students of Korean. With the mounting interest in cultural studies and Korean popular culture (the so-called Korean Wave) in particular, new courses on Korean society through multifaceted lenses such as the arts, film, gender, law, and religion have been offered to meet demand across the campus.

Q: What are CKR's strengths? What sets it apart from other Korean research institutions around the United States?

A: As the only Korean Studies center in the Greater New York City area, the CKR serves as a hub bringing together the Korean Studies academic community at nearby universities, and it also partners with key institutions such as the Korea Society, the Korean Cultural Service, the Consulate of the Republic of Korea, and the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations. The CKR therefore occupies a unique and vital position as the primary entity for the promotion of Korean Studies in one of the most important, visible, and globalized regions in the United States, building on this exclusive network to increase scholarly exchanges through collaborative programming and regional workshops. In addition, the CKR's variety of activities has fostered an interdisciplinary, transnational approach to Korean Studies by bringing together a remarkable array of scholarly work on Korea at Columbia and beyond. CKR events have attracted a wide-ranging audience composed not only of specialists in Korean Studies in the New York City area, but also scholars engaged in research on China, Japan, Southeast Asia, Africa, Latin America, and Europe, moving Korean Studies into dialogue with cutting-edge approaches in many other disciplines and regions.

Q: How does being located within the Weatherhead East Asian Institute at Columbia University influence the research of the scholars who come here?

A: The CKR's location within the WEAI is critical for many reasons. WEAI is a leader in East Asian Studies and one of the largest East Asian institutes in the United States. Thanks to the Center's close association with WEAI, CKR is able to incorporate broader perspectives toward its programming and connect with the various disciplinary departments, professional schools, and academic institutions and centers across campus. Especially through the WEAI's Visiting Scholars Program and the Robert M. Immerman Professional Fellows Program, which host scholars and fellows from East Asia, the CKR is able to forge connections between Korean Studies in North America and the most recent work of the Korean academic world. For example, even the earliest CKR newsletter, published in 1989, states that the CKR sponsored 11 visiting scholars and mid-career professionals from Korea to develop their respective research areas and interests with Columbia University scholars and faculty. From its inauguration, the CKR's directors have worked closely with the WEAI on numerous projects from their formulation to implementation, a recent example being the success of the multi-year Core University Program for Korean Studies Grant that the CKR received from the Academy of Korean Studies (AKS). This AKS Grant enabled the CKR to initiate the CKR and Columbia University Press Book Series on Korean Studies, a crucial means to advance Korea-related scholarship in the social sciences and humanities. In sum, CKR's affiliation with the WEAI has definitely made Korea an increasingly important focus of attention both in East Asia and the world. The dynamic, extremely interdisciplinary and transnational WEAI community has enabled the CKR to serve as a locus for Korea-related scholarly activities, and to highlight the significance of Korea at Columbia and beyond.

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Q: Can you tell me about your own research? How has being at WEAI influenced your work?

A: As a historian of early modern Korea, I work on gender, family, and legal history of Chosŏn Korea (1392-1910). It has been a most nurturing experience to be part of the WEAI's vibrant intellectual community by participating in its academic and public events both as an organizer and a member of the audience. Communicating with scholars and professionals from across the campus as well as around the globe has been inspiring, providing me with invaluable opportunities not only to revisit my own research questions and frameworks, but also to reposition the place of Korea and Korean Studies in the region, the nation, and the world.



Mr. Son Chu-Whan, president of the Korea Foundation, seated left, with George Rupp, president of Columbia University, seated right, as they sign the Korea Foundation agreement to endow a professorship at Columbia in December, 1993. Standing, from left to right: Two assistants to President Son; Steven Marcus, vice president for Arts and Sciences; Gari Ledyard, professor of Korean history; Jonathan R. Cole, provost, Columbia University.



Musician Gamin Kang plays a concert with the traditional Korean instruments piri, taepyeongso, and saenghwang, at a CKR event on October 16, 2019.

70 YEARS

The 2019 Fall semester was an exciting time to be at Weatherhead East Asian Institute. The Institute hosted more than 50 lectures, workshops, and conferences. In addition to a diverse selection of standalone lectures and cultural events, the Institute also continued its special 70th anniversary programming with new events in the “Reporting Asia,” “Modern Tibetan Studies at 20,” and “Science and Society in Global Asia” series.

Images from a selection of the Institute’s 70th anniversary events follow.

SEPTEMBER 13

The Anti-Extradition Protests in Hong Kong: Voices from a Faceless Movement



Joshua Wong, Hong Kong student activist and Secretary General of pro-democracy movement Demosistō (left); and Kai Ping (Brian) Leung, graduate student at the University of Washington (right), discussed the anti-extradition bill protest movement in Hong Kong.

OCTOBER 1

The Role of United States-educated Students in China’s US Policy during the Republican Period: A Case Study of Wellington Koo



From left to right: Professor Guagyao Jin (Fudan University); Professor Eugenia Lean (Columbia); Wellington Koo’s step-daughter Shirley Young; Koo’s granddaughter Ying-Ying Yuan; Columbia doctoral student Chloe Estep (current recipient of the V.K. Wellington Koo fellowship); and C.V. Starr East Asian Library Director Jim Cheng.

OCTOBER 4

Colloquium on Global Hồ Chí Minh



Professor Lien-Hang Nguyen (Columbia) discussed the legacy of Hồ Chí Minh (1969 – 2019) with Professor and Rector Pham Quang Min (Vietnam National University).

OCTOBER 5

Urbanization and China: Understanding Impacts, Projecting Future



Weiping Wu, Professor and Director of the Urban Planning Program at Columbia University, marked the end of the 6th Urban China Forum with a talk: “Paying for Urban Infrastructure: Land Finance and Impacts.”

OCTOBER 10

Kilomet 109: Women, Modernity, & Sustainable Fashion in Contemporary Vietnam



Vũ Thảo, Vietnamese designer and founder of Kilomet 109, discussed her sustainable fashion label with Professor Dorothy Ko (Barnard); Valerie Steele, Director of the Museum at the Fashion Institute of Technology; and Professor Hazel Clarke (The New School).

OCTOBER 29

US-Japan Relations in a Turbulent World



Kanji Yamanouchi, Japanese Ambassador and Consul General of Japan in New York, discussed modern US-Japan relations.

NOVEMBER 1

New Directions in Japanese Studies



Distinguished scholars from Japan and the US shared their perspectives on new directions in the field of Japanese Studies.

OCTOBER 21

Reporting Asia: Japan



Tomoko Kubota, independent journalist, oral historian, and former announcer and reporter at Tokyo Broadcasting Systems (left); and Bill Emmott, former editor-in-chief of *The Economist* (center) discussed their experience reporting on Japan. Professor Carol Gluck (right) moderated the event.

OCTOBER 31–NOVEMBER 1

Neng 能 (capacity/energy) and China's Long 1980s: A Re-evaluation



Scholars explored the interconnectedness of psychical and material economies during the country's search for a collective orientation after Mao.

DECEMBER 5

Reporting Asia: Tibet



Edward Wong, diplomatic correspondent for *The New York Times*, discussed his experience covering Tibet from China, where he was based for nine years.