

2019 June Newsletter



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
Weatherhead East Asian Institute



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June 1901

In June, the Weatherhead East Asian Institute launched a series of events in Beijing celebrating the Institute's 70th anniversary. Featuring talks by WEAI faculty members from a variety of disciplines, the series of five events is cosponsored by Columbia Global Centers | Beijing and will run through June into July.

The first event in the series, "Next-Gen AI from Silicon Valley and Beyond," featured Professor Benjamin Liebman, Director of the Center for Chinese Legal Studies at the Columbia Law School, in conversation with Columbia alumna Abigail Hing Wen, Head of Emerging Tech and Senior Counsel, CTO Office, AI Products Group, and Legal Lead, Intel Capital AI Investments and Strategic Transactions (Law '04). Held at the Beijing offices of Haiwen & Partners, one of the leading law firms in the People's Republic of China, Professor Liebman and Ms. Wen discussed the latest advancements, opportunities, and challenges for the AI industry in which China is increasingly playing a leading role.

Weiping Wu, Professor of Urban Planning at the Columbia Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation (GSAPP), gave a public lecture on "China's Cities in Global Context" at the second event in the series, on June 27 at the Beijing Global Center. Professor Wu, who is trained in architecture and urban planning, has focused her research and teaching on understanding urban dynamics in developing countries in general and China in particular. Professor Wu's talk situated China in the global context and focused on the changes in the physical forms of Chinese cities as they undergo market reform and population transition. Professor Wu emphasized that, while urbanizing China is undergoing socioeconomic and spatial transformation resembling patterns seen elsewhere in the world, parts of its trajectory clearly push the limits of contemporary urban and planning theories and experience.

Building on the success of these events, the series continues in July with a panel discussion on "Reporting Asia" featuring *The New York Times* journalists Keith Bradsher and Alexandra Stevenson, and moderated by WEAI Director Eugenia Lean and Professor Xiaobo Lü. The Institute will also hold a reception for Institute alumni and will organize a talk by Jinyu Liu, Assistant Professor in the Columbia School of Social Work, on "Supportive Social Environment for Older Adults in China," which will present the results of her recent studies exploring the effects of friendship, spousal and intergenerational relationships, household context and community resources on mental health among rural and urban older adults in China.

In June, WEAI also hosted Taiwan's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Columbia alumnus Dr. Szu-chien Hsu in New York. Professor Andrew Nathan moderated the event. Dr. Hsu discussed Taiwanese foreign policy and presented Taiwan's response to the US Indo-Pacific Strategy. Hsu explained how Taiwan's New Southbound Policy, first announced in 2016, would synergize with the US' strategy toward the Indo-Pacific, and introduced four discrete pillars to the Taiwanese strategy: democracy, security, economics, and "Warm Power."

Taiwanese Deputy Foreign Minister Szu-chien Hsu discusses Taiwan's foreign policy with WEAI Professor Andrew Nathan at a June 13 event.

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DIRECTOR PROFILE

Gerald L. Curtis, sixth director of the East Asian Institute (1973-1975, 1976-1984, 1987-1991)



Gerald L.
Curtis

Dr. Curtis speaking at an October 2008 special lecture titled "Japan's Politics: Current Realities, Future Possibilities."



Gerald Curtis was the sixth director of the East Asian Institute (renamed the Weatherhead East Asian Institute in 2003) and served for three terms (1973-1975; 1976-1984; 1987-1991).

Dr. Curtis is Burgess Professor Emeritus of Political Science at Columbia University and concurrently Distinguished Research Fellow at the Tokyo Foundation. As of March 2019, he assumed the Chairmanship of the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation's Board of Directors.

After receiving his undergraduate degree from the University of New Mexico in 1962, Dr. Curtis began his time at Columbia, earning his MA and Certificate of the East Asian Institute in 1964 and PhD in 1969 before moving on to become an assistant professor. He became a full professor in 1976. Under his leadership at WEAI, the Center for Korean Research was founded in 1988 and the Toyota Research Program began in 1979 with a generous donation from Dr. Shoichiro Toyoda and the Toyota Motor Corporation. Dr. Curtis continues to support the program, of which he is currently Director.

Dr. Curtis' insight into Japanese politics and policy is internationally respected. His commentaries are published in the US, Japan, and the UK, among other countries, and he is a frequent commentator on Japanese television news programs. He is the author of *The Logic of Japanese Politics, The Japanese Way of Politics, Election Campaigning Japanese Style, Seiji to Sanma – Nihon to Kurashite 45 nen* (Politics and Saury: 45 Years Living with Japan) and numerous other books and articles written in both English and Japanese and translated into Chinese, Korean, Thai, and other languages. In April 2019 Nikkei BP published *Japan Story, A Personal Chronicle of Politics in Showa and the Heisei Era*, an assessment of political developments over the past half century that draws heavily on his interactions with Japan's political leaders over this time.

Dr. Curtis is the recipient of numerous prizes and honors including the Chunichi Shimbun Special Achievement Award, the Masayoshi Ohira Memorial Prize, the Japan Foundation Award presented in a ceremony held in the presence of the Crown Prince and Princess followed by an audience with the Emperor. He is the recipient of the Marshall Green Award of the Japan-America Society of Washington, DC, the Eagle on the World Award of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry in New York, and the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star, by the Emperor of Japan, one of the highest honors bestowed by the Japanese government.

Throughout his prolific career, Dr. Curtis has held appointments at the Royal Institute of International Affairs, Chatham House, London; the College de France, Paris; the Lee Kwan Yew School of Public Policy in Singapore; and in Tokyo at Keio, Waseda, and Tokyo Universities, the Graduate Research Institute for Policy Studies, and the International Institute of Economic Studies. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Japan Society of New York, the Japan Center for International Exchange USA, and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.



Above: Former Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and Dr. Curtis share a meal; below: Dr. Curtis and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.



Seiji to Sanma – Nihon to Kurashite 45 nen, by Gerald Curtis.



Above: Dr. Curtis (right) with fellow Columbia Japanologist Donald Keene; below: Dr. Curtis (center) with Professors Myron Cohen and James Morley.



70 YEARS

The Weatherhead East Asian Institute hosted a variety of events during the first half of its 70th anniversary year, continuing time-honored Institute traditions while paving the way for new directions in East and Southeast Asian studies. With a packed calendar of more than 50 lectures, workshops, and conferences, the 2019 Spring semester at WEAI was a showcase of diverse and ambitious programming. Brown Bag lectures and annual symposia were joined by a slate of new 70th anniversary events, including four special series: “Reporting Asia,” “Modern Tibetan Studies at 20,” “Science and Society in Global Asia,” and the “Summer Event Series in Beijing.”

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



A poster from a Spring semester workshop in the Science and Society in Global Asia series.

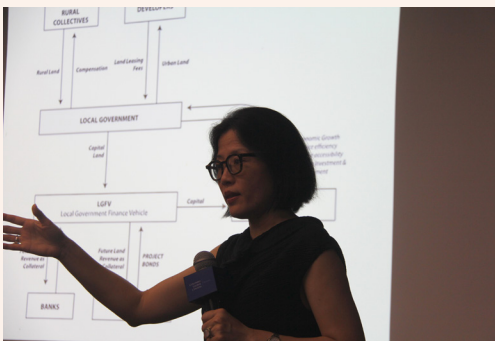
Summer Event Series in Beijing

JUNE 20



WEAI Professor Benjamin Liebman and Abigail Hing Wen (Law '04) discussed “Next-Gen AI from Silicon Valley and Beyond” at the first event in the Beijing summer event series.

JUNE 27



At the second Beijing event, titled “China’s Cities in Global Context,” WEAI Professor Weiping Wu discussed China’s urbanization and the physical changes of cities undergoing market reform and population transitions.

UPCOMING

On July 13, the Beijing Reporting Asia panel will be held. The discussion will be followed by an alumni reception hosted by WEAI Director Eugenia Lean and Professor Xiaobo Lü. The Beijing event series will conclude on July 14 with a talk on “Supportive Social Environment for Older Adults in China” with Professor Jinyu Liu.

Reporting Asia

FEBRUARY 21



Former BBC reporter Bill Hayton and former *Financial Times* and Reuters correspondent Nguyen Phuong Linh recounted their experiences covering Vietnam as journalists at a WEAI event moderated by Professor Lien-Hang Nguyen.

MARCH 5



Jonathan Corpus Ong, Associate Professor in Global Digital Media at UMASS Amherst, discussed disinformation in Southeast Asian elections at a WEAI/New York Southeast Asian Network event titled “Disinformation Crisis and Southeast Asian Elections: Behind the Scenes of Fake News Production and Fact-Check Interventions,” moderated by the Columbia Journalism School’s Dean of Academic Affairs, Sheila Coronel.

UPCOMING

In July, the Institute will hold the third event in the Reporting Asia lecture series, a panel discussion with *The New York Times* journalists Keith Bradsher and Alexandra Stevenson, moderated by WEAI Professors Eugenia Lean and Xiaobo Lü. The event is also part of the Institute’s Beijing Summer Event Series and will take place at the Columbia Global Center in Beijing, an event cosponsor.

Modern Tibetan Studies at 20

APRIL 5-6



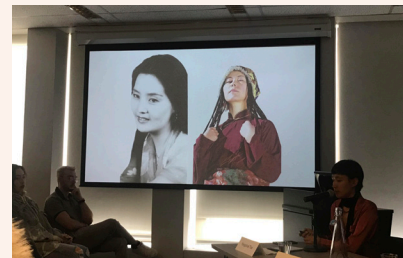
Discussants gathered for a two-day international conference cosponsored by WEAI and held at the Rubin Museum of Art, titled "Tibetan Buddhism and Political Power in the Courts of Asia." The keynote address was delivered by Tsering Shakya of the University of British Columbia. Columbia's Riga Shakya, and WEAI's Eveline Washul and Gray Tuttle presented in the third panel, titled "Systems of Power and Control of Knowledge."

APRIL 25



Michael Monhart and Patricia Schiaffini-Vedani, join WEAI's Pema Bhum and Institute affiliate Laurant Hartley, discussed the substance and translation of *Enticement: Stories of Tibet*, the first English-language anthology of short stories by Pema Tsedan, at a WEAI/Modern Tibetan Studies event cosponsored by the Italian Academy at Columbia University.

MAY 1



Yangchuk Tso, critically acclaimed Tibetan actress and contemporary singer, discussed her experience in film and television in China at a Brown Bag lecture moderated by Riga Shakya and Eveline Washul.

Vietnam and China in the Longue Durée

FEBRUARY 22-23



Kicking off Columbia's new Vietnamese Studies initiative, WEAI Professors Lien-Hang Nguyen and John Phan organized the two-day conference titled "Vietnam and China in the Longue Durée" for a multidimensional discussion on the Sino-Vietnamese relationship from past to present.

100 Years of Korean Popular Music

MARCH 8



At "100 Years of Korean Popular Music," hosted by the Center for Korean Research (CKR), Dal Yong Jin, Suk-Young Kim, and Roald Maliangkay brought together backgrounds in media history, ethnomusicology, and cultural studies for a talk on the development of Korean Popular Music moderated by CKR-AKS Postdoctoral Fellow So-Rim Lee.

Constitutional Reform in Japan

MARCH 13



Professor Takako Hikotani of WEAI, Kenneth McElwain, and Daniel M. Smith discussed the effects of the Japanese political climate on prospects for constitutional reform at a conference held at the Columbia Law School with the Center for Japanese Legal Studies.

Global May Fourth

MAY 3-4



Participants gathered for a two-day conference at Columbia on the centennial of the May Fourth Movement, a seminal event that consolidated major political, social, and cultural changes in a modernizing China. Discussants included WEAI Professors and affiliates Eugenia Lean, Andrew Nathan, Wei Shang, Chengzhi Wang, with opening remarks delivered by WEAI's Lydia H. Liu.

America in the World: A Tribute to Dorothy Borg

MAY 17



WEAI Professors Carol Gluck and Lien-Hang Nguyen moderated a conference held in tribute to the late Dorothy Borg, as part of New Directions in the Study of US-East Asian Relations under the Dorothy Borg Research Project.

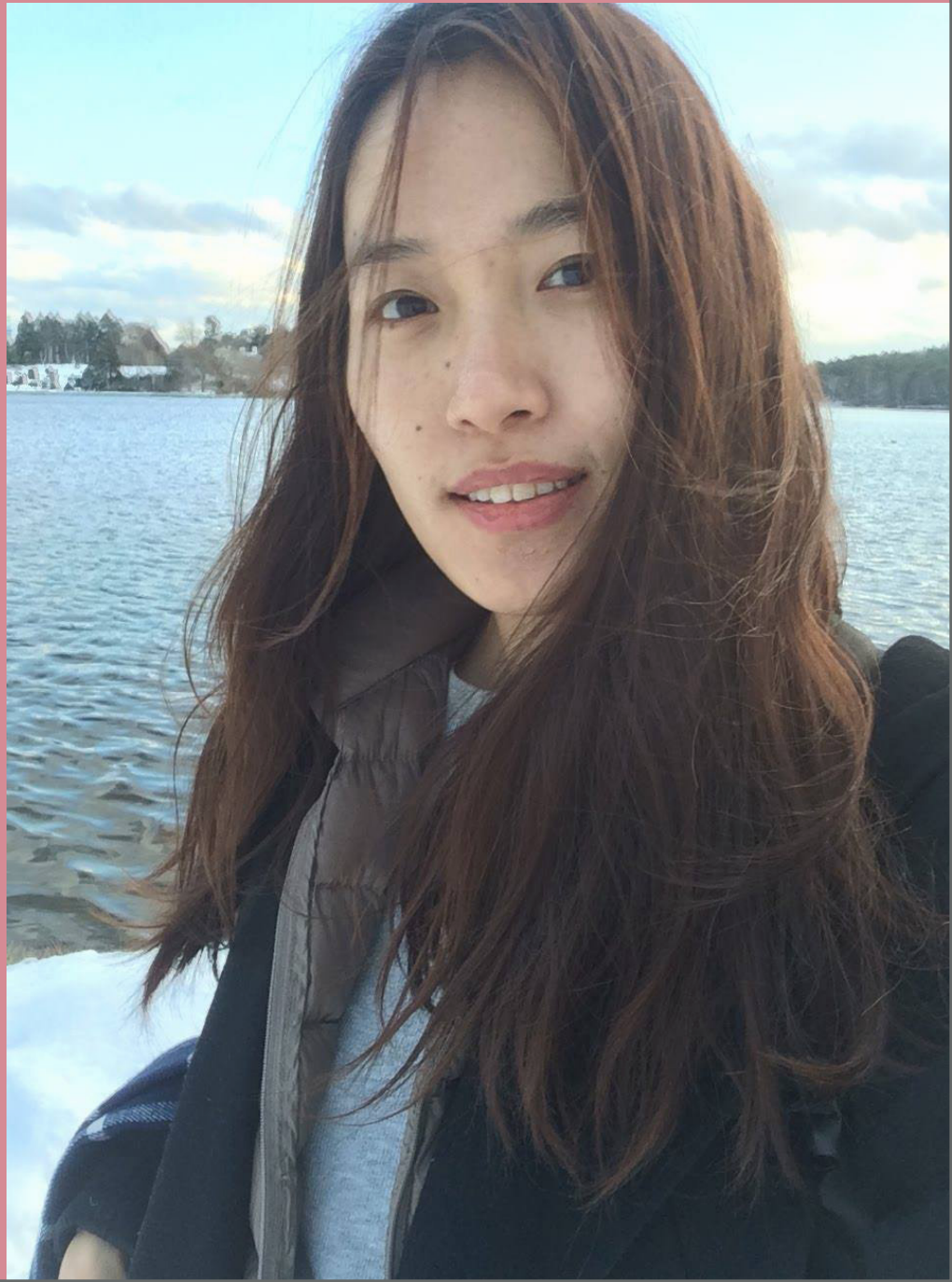
UPCOMING IN FALL 2019

Harnessing the momentum of the Spring term, the Institute has lined up a dynamic calendar of events for the Fall semester. Special anniversary programming will continue, with additional events in the "Reporting Asia," "Science and Society in Global Asia," and "Modern Tibetan Studies at 20" series. The multidisciplinary conferences, lectures, exhibits and cultural opportunities to come will feature guests from around the world, each bringing a unique perspective. All are encouraged to take part in this exciting semester of events as the WEAI pursues new directions in the field of East Asian studies.

Tenzin Dongchung

PhD student in the East Asian
Languages and Cultures
Department

Tenzin Dongchung is a second year PhD student in the East Asian Languages and Cultures Department and a recipient of the Sasakawa Young Leaders Fellowship Foundation (SYLFF) summer grant through the WEAL. Her research explores the Tibetan Buddhist material culture history through the spread of printing houses during the Qing dynasty. During the 2018-2019 academic year, she was president of the Rikpé Khorlo Modern Tibetan Studies graduate student group, known as Khorlo.



My undergraduate background was in Modern Chinese history and language. I was lucky to have met Professor Pat Giersch at Wellesley College, whose own interest in borderlands and Inner Asian history has shaped my understanding of the field. In my senior year, I took an independent study class with him where one of the books we read was Professor Gray Tuttle's *Tibetan Buddhists in The Making of Modern China*. It showed me the possibilities of researching Sino-Tibetan history using both Tibetan and Chinese language sources. I took two years off after graduation, one of which I spent on a traveling fellowship looking at history and language curricula of the Welsh in United Kingdom, Arab Christians in Israel, the Japanese descendants in Peru, and Afrikaans in South Africa. I chose to come to Columbia because it fulfilled my goal of a graduate program where I can continue studying Chinese history while also developing my training in Tibetan history.

As a graduate student in the East Asia-History program, we are encouraged to take many courses outside of one's own regional field. While I came to Columbia knowing that I would focus on Sino-Tibetan history with Professor Tuttle, taking classes with Professor Dorothy Ko and Professor Pamela Smith spurred my interest in material culture and artisanal history. My current research interest in the material culture history of Tibetan Buddhism under the Qing dynasty is a culmination of the many classes I have taken thus far. For my dissertation, I am studying the Inner-Asian Buddhist printing network by focusing on the institutional development of monastic printing houses on the Sino-Tibetan borderland in the 18th and 19th century. By focusing on the monasteries and the Qing court, I aim to understand the role of these institutions in gathering material resources, recruiting artisans and circulating the printed texts.

Apart from the wide variety of classes offered here, we also have Dr. Lauran Hartley as one of the university research librarians who specializes in Tibetan studies. The acquisition of materials on Tibetan history and literature in multiple languages at the East Asian Library is one of the other core strengths of the program. It is heartening to go into the library and see how prolific the Tibetan language book publishing industry is. Lastly, the Modern Tibetan Studies Program organizes many guest lectures and workshops from scholars in China, Europe and other parts of the US which alerts to new research topics and sources.

When I first came to Columbia to do my MA, Khorlo already existed as the Tibetan studies graduate student group and I joined the group so that I could get to know other members better and learn more about their research topics. Khorlo organizes both social and academic events, some of which are open to the public and some of which are closed-door workshops. For lectures, we invite a speaker to share their research with the larger student body. For workshops, we would circulate a student's paper and later meet to discuss it in more detail. More generally, if we are looking for a certain source, or just want to share news about articles or books, we actively use our online group to reach out to each other. Over the past year, Khorlo has worked in conjunction with the other area studies groups under EALAC and tried to streamline some of the activities that would be beneficial to everyone in our department. For instance, we jointly ran two workshops; one for new TAs and another one to edit PhD applications of our MA students. All of this has helped to create a lively student body who are supportive of each other.



Tenzin views texts at UVA's special collections room. She took a rare book summer course in July 2018 with the WEAI summer grant.

From 2015 to 2018, I worked at the C.V. Starr library under Dr. Hartley. Apart from cataloging new books, I had the wonderful opportunity to assist Dr. Hartley in creating finding aids for Tibetan Studies archival materials and recording metadata for rare materials processing, including materials objects and original documents. I saw firsthand the effort that goes into not only acquiring new materials but also presenting catalogs in ways that are most accessible to researchers. This experience showed me the tremendous and sometimes underutilized resources of Columbia's collections and I came away with a new appreciation for all the amazing work that librarians do.

The Weatherhead East Asian Institute has provided critical infrastructure in making our graduate experience more fulfilling and enriching. Every summer, we are eligible to apply for grants that we need for our research purpose. After the first year of my PhD, I used the WEAI grant to take a summer course at the University of Virginia's Rare Book School program. This year, I will be using the WEAI grant to conduct further archival research at the American Museum of Natural History.

During the academic year, the Institute also provides the necessary funding for Khorlo so that we can cover logistical costs to run events. Many of the lectures that foreign scholars give at Columbia or East Asian conferences are coorganized or hosted at WEAI. I see the Institute as an integral part of my graduate school experience at Columbia.



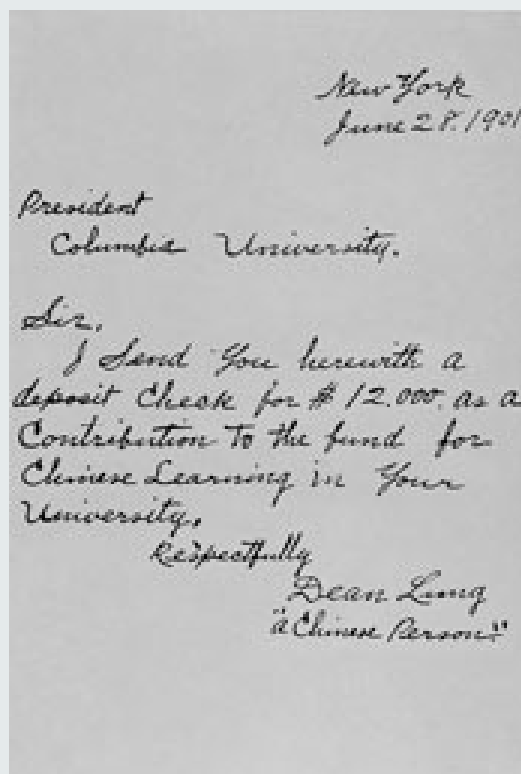
Dechen Pemba speaks at a Khorlo-funded event for the 10th anniversary of the High Peaks Pure Earth blog during the Spring 2019 term.

ON THIS MONTH IN 1901:

DEAN LUNG MAKES A REMARKABLE DONATION



Dean Lung, valet of Columbia Trustee General Horace Walpole Carpentier, made a generous donation to the University with this letter, planting the seeds of what would become the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures (EALAC).



June 28, 1901

A letter addressed to the President of Columbia University

"I send you herewith a deposit check for \$12,000 as a contribution to the fund for Chinese learning in your university." This letter, signed by "Dean Lung," a Chinese person," was written to Columbia President Seth Low by the valet of University Trustee General Horace Walpole Carpentier in 1901. Dean Lung's remarkable generosity prompted Carpentier to give an additional donation in memory of his friend and employee for the endowment of Chinese studies at the University. In 1902 the University appointed its first professor of Chinese and received a substantial donation of books from the government of imperial China, which launched the University's Chinese book collection.

For more about Dean Lung's contribution and the history of East Asian studies at Columbia, visit the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures' website: <http://ealac.columbia.edu/departement/short-history/>.