

 COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
Weatherhead East Asian Institute



The Weatherhead East Asian Institute

75 Years of Northeast, Southeast, and Inner Asia Studies



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“The East Asian Institute is a national treasure with a breadth of initiatives touching almost every aspect of a dynamic region. Attaching our efforts, thought and funding to the Institute has been a long cherished dream, and the naming of the Institute forges another enduring link between the Weatherhead family and Columbia.”

Albert Weatherhead III

Parit

Institute History



Sir George Sansom,
President Shigeru Nambara
of Tokyo University and
Professor Hugh Borton at
Columbia, 1949

Institute Founding

It has been 75 years since the founding of the Weatherhead East Asian Institute. The world looked very different in 1949, still reeling from the Second World War. Despite engagement in the Pacific Theater of the War, few in the United States had a substantive understanding of the countries where they were fighting. For most Americans, East Asia was an “exotic” and inscrutable place. From 1942 to 1945, Columbia faculty and naval officers offered training on East Asian “area studies,” teaching students about the customs, institutions and languages of Asia and the Pacific, with a focus on China and Japan. The War ended, but in light of the new geopolitical landscape, there was need for an integrated body of resources to help truly understand the region through both an academic and practical lens. In 1949, leading scholars Sir George B. Sansom and Hugh Borton worked together at Columbia to build what became the country’s first East Asian institute.

The mission upon which Columbia’s East Asian Institute was founded—to fill these gaps in our knowledge by training students to become regional experts—remains more important than ever. Few would doubt the value of studying Asia now, when the countries of Northeast, Southeast, and Inner Asia exert such a global and significant political, economic, cultural, and environmental influence. Today, the Institute is, first and foremost, a community. WEAI connects the entire Columbia campus and directly engages with people and institutions in the countries of the region. This community works to collectively create and publish new research; organize academic and cultural events; and teach and support students with an interest in the region.

From the earliest days of mentorship and training in the social sciences, to the present interdisciplinary approach to area studies, the Weatherhead East Asian Institute is one of the world’s leading institutions focused on spreading knowledge about the region. The book you hold in your hands offers a glimpse at some of the people, activities, and achievements that have made WEAI the vibrant place it was and continues to be.

Sir George Sansom

1st

1949–1953



First Director of the
East Asian Institute

Sir George Bailey Sansom was the inaugural director of the East Asian Institute. A longtime British diplomat and eminent scholar of Japanese history and culture, Sansom was born in London in 1883. In 1903, he entered the British Diplomatic Service and spent much of the period between 1903 and 1940 attached to the Embassy in Tokyo.

In 1911 he published a translation of the 14th-century literary work *Tsurezuregusa*. His masterwork, *Japan: a Short Cultural History*, appeared in 1931, selling widely and introducing Japan to readers around the world.

Sansom first lectured at Columbia in 1935 and again in 1940. He then served in the British Embassy in Washington, DC, where he was influential in the pre-surrender planning for postwar Japan. He was the British representative of the Far Eastern Advisory Commission from 1945 until 1947, when he was appointed Professor of Japanese Studies at Columbia.

In 1949 he became the founding director of its East Asian Institute, inviting fellow Japan expert Hugh Borton to join him. When Sansom left Columbia in 1953, Borton became the second director of the East Asian Institute. Both men played an important role in shaping Allied policy, bringing a deep knowledge of Japanese

history and society to bear on US policies toward postwar Japan.

His lifelong engagement with Japanese people and culture on the one hand, and his extraordinary research and elegant writing on the other, made Sansom a pioneering presence in modern scholarship about Japan.

Hugh Borton

2nd

| 1953-1958



Second Director of the East Asian Institute

Hugh Borton served as the second director of the East Asian Institute. Born in May 1903 in New Jersey, Borton is known as one of the leading architects of US policy towards postwar Japan. In 1927, he graduated from Haverford College and went on to become a teacher in Tokyo one year later with the American Friends Service Committee. This experience influenced him to pursue further studies on Japan. He specialized in the history of the region and made many key contributions to the field.

In 1937, Borton joined Columbia as Assistant Professor of Japanese Language and History. He helped form the first degree program in Japanese Studies at the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures (previously known as the Department of Chinese and Japanese). In 1942, Borton took leave from Columbia for six years to serve as a specialist on Japan with the US Department of State. During this time, he was involved in crafting important peace agreements between the US and Japan. He focused on constitutional reform and was committed to strengthening the relationship between the two countries. This work led him to receive positive recognition by the postwar Japanese government.

Back at Columbia, Borton was appointed director of the East Asian Institute in 1953, a role he held until 1958.

During this time, he published influential scholarship on Japan, including *Japan's Modern Century* (1956) and a book of essays entitled *Japan* (1951). He served as president of Haverford College for 10 years before returning to Columbia in 1967 as senior research associate at the East Asian Institute.

C. Martin Wilbur

3rd

| 1958-1964



Third Director of the
East Asian Institute

C. Martin Wilbur served as the third director of the East Asian Institute. Born in Ohio, Wilbur spent most of his early life living in China and Japan. He then returned to Ohio for undergraduate study and attended Oberlin College, graduating in 1931. He went on to earn his doctorate from Columbia in 1941 and joined the faculty in 1947 as Associate Professor of Chinese History. He is regarded as a key scholar in the field of Chinese history and helped develop this area of study at Columbia.

Much of Wilbur's scholarship focused on the development of the Nationalist Party in China and the relationship between the Nationalists and Chinese Communists in the 1920s and 1930s. He studied the life and work of Sun Yat-sen, provisional first president of the Republic of China, and wrote an influential book entitled *Sun Yat-sen, Frustrated Patriot* (1976). He remained devoted to expanding the study of Chinese history and was one of the key organizers of the "Chinese Oral History Project" at Columbia, which documented Chinese history up to 1949. He is also credited as one of the founders of Columbia's "Seminar on Modern China," which hosts a scholar on China every month to discuss issues related to modern Chinese history, politics and contemporary affairs.

He was the Institute's director from 1958 to 1964 and served as the George Sansom Professor of Chinese History at Columbia University from 1966 to 1976. Some of his published work includes *Slavery in China During the Former Han Dynasty, 206 B.C.-A.D. 25* (1967), *The Nationalist Revolution in China, 1923-1928* (1983), and *China in My Life: A Historian's Own History* (1996).

After Wilbur retired in 1976, his students presented him with a book of essays entitled, *Perspectives on a Changing China: Essays in Honor of Professor C. Martin Wilbur on the Occasion of His Retirement* (1979). Following his death his students and colleagues established the C. Martin Wilbur fellowship in modern Chinese studies at the Institute, which each year supports PhD candidates as they complete their dissertations and join the cohort of Columbia students who continue to further Wilbur's mission by expanding our understanding of modern China.

James W. Morley

4th

| 1964–1967

| 1970–1973

| 1984–1987



Fourth Director of the
East Asian Institute

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

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, 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, 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.

Morley joined the Columbia faculty in 1954, first as a visiting assistant professor from Union College in Sche-

nectady, 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 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.

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.

John M.H. Lindbeck

5th
1967-1970



Fifth Director of the
East Asian Institute

John M.H. Lindbeck served as the fifth director of the East Asian Institute from 1967–1970. Born in China in 1915, Lindbeck received his Bachelor of Arts from Gustavus Adolphus College in 1937 and his PhD from Yale University in 1948, after serving as a lieutenant in the Navy during World War II. Lindbeck played a key role in promoting Chinese studies and made many important contributions to the development of the field.

Prior to starting his work at Columbia, Lindbeck lectured in the School of Military Government at Princeton University and served as a Rockefeller Foundation fellow in Oriental Languages and History at the Harvard-Yenching Institute. From 1948 to 1952, he served as Assistant Professor of Political Science and Assistant Professor of Far Eastern Studies at Yale University. He was named Deputy Director of the Project on Men and Politics in Modern China at Columbia in 1958, after serving for six years as a public affairs advisor on Chinese affairs to the US Department of State.

In his work with the Foreign Relations Committee, Lindbeck strived to bring China into the mainstream of global affairs and end US isolationist policies towards the country. He helped cultivate a deeper understanding of China and kept in close contact with Chinese studies scholars around the world. Lindbeck was a consultant and board member for multiple government agencies,

national, and international organizations, including the National Academy of Sciences, the National Committee on United States-China Relations, and the Ford Foundation. In 1970, as part of his work with the Ford Foundation, he prepared a report on Chinese studies in the US and abroad after visiting universities in Australia, Southeast Asia, Europe, and the United States. He was an integral figure in organizing conferences on Chinese science and scholarship.

Lindbeck's published books include *Understanding China: An Assessment of American Scholarly Resources* (1971) and *China Management of a Revolutionary Society* (1972). He has additionally published articles for the *Department of State Bulletin* and for *China Today* magazine.

Gerald L. Curtis



Sixth Director of the
East Asian Institute

| 1973–1975

| 1976–1984

| 1987–1991

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

Curtis is Burgess Professor Emeritus of Political Science at Columbia University, head of the WEAI Japan Research Program and Chairman of the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation's Board of Directors.

After receiving his undergraduate degree from the University of New Mexico in 1962, 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 the Toyota Motor Corporation. Curtis continues to direct the program, which was renamed in 2023 as the Japan Research Program.

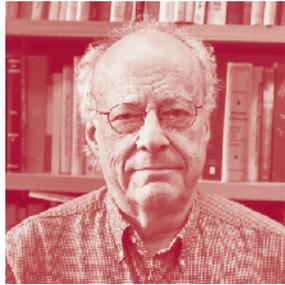
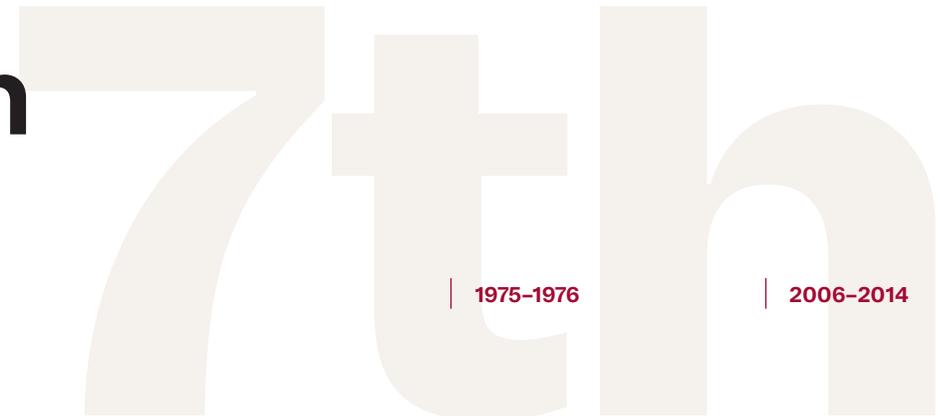
Curtis is the author of *The Logic of Japanese Politics*, *The Japanese Way of Politics*, *Election Campaigning Japanese Style*, *Seiji to Sanma – Nihon to Kurashite 45 nen* (Politics and Saury: 45 Years Living with Japan), and numerous other books and articles written in both English and Japanese and 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.

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, 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.

Myron L. Cohen



Seventh Director of the
East Asian Institute

Myron L. Cohen was the seventh director of the East Asian Institute and served for two terms (1975–1976, 2006–2014).

Cohen is Professor Emeritus of Anthropology at Columbia University. He has been a member of the faculty since 1966 and received his PhD in anthropology from Columbia in 1967. He received his undergraduate degree from Columbia College in 1958. Almost 60 years after joining the University faculty, and as an active member of WEAI, Cohen retired with emeritus status in July 2024.

Shortly after joining Columbia, as an assistant professor, Cohen worked with students of Asian descent at the University to formulate a new anthropology course on “The Asian Experience in America.” Cohen’s research centers on Chinese society and the changes it has undergone from the 17th century to the present. He is the author of *Kinship, Contract, Community, and State: Anthropological Perspectives on China* (2005), and *House United, House Divided: The Chinese Family in Taiwan* (1976). In the July 2007 issue of *The China Journal*, Graham E. Johnson described Cohen as “one of the most distinguished practitioners of Chinese anthropology.” Johnson further described *House United, House Divided* as “essential reading for all who are engaged in the process of attempting to understand the complexities of Chinese culture and society.”

Cohen is the editor of *Asia Case Studies in the Social Sciences: A Guide for Teaching* (1992) and has written numerous chapters for edited volumes and journals, including “Ethnicity and the Degree-Holding Elite in Qing-Era Taiwan: The 1803 Restoration of the Prefectural Confucian Temple” in *Family, Ethnicity, and State in Chinese Culture under the Impact of Globalization* (2017) and “High Ancestors among the Hakka Chinese: Past and Present, Rural, Urban, and Global,” for *Global Hakka Studies* (2017).

For his groundbreaking contributions to the study of China with a focus on family and kinship, popular religion, economic culture, and social change, Cohen was awarded the 2016 Chinese Anthropology Lifetime Achievement Award from the Shanghai Society of Anthropology. That same year, Cohen was recognized for his contributions to Hakka academic research, receiving the First Class Professional Medal in Hakka Affairs at the opening ceremony of the Fourth Taiwan International Conference on Hakka Studies.

As Director of WEAI, Cohen led the Institute during a number of major milestones, including the Institute’s 60th anniversary, which included a series of summer events in Beijing, Tokyo, and Seoul.

Andrew J. Nathan

8th

| 1991–1992

| 1993–1995



Eighth Director of the
East Asian Institute

Andrew J. Nathan was the eighth director of the East Asian Institute and served from 1991–1992 and 1993–1995.

Nathan is Class of 1919 Professor of Political Science at Columbia University, where he is also chair of the steering committee of the Institute for the Study of Human Rights and chair of the Morningside Institutional Review Board (IRB). Nathan received his BA in History (1963), MA in East Asian Regional Studies (1965), and PhD in Political Science (1971) from Harvard University. He joined Columbia in 1971 after teaching for a year at the University of Michigan.

Nathan is the author of a vast body of scholarly work, including the books *Peking Politics, 1918–1923* (1976); *Chinese Democracy* (1985); *China's Crisis* (1990); and *China's Transition* (1997). He is the coauthor of *Human Rights in Contemporary China* (1986), with R. Randle Edwards and Louis Henkin; *The Great Wall and the Empty Fortress* (1997), with Robert S. Ross; *China's Search for Security* (2012), with Andrew Scobell; and others. Nathan is known also for his contributions to a number of revelatory books centered around leaked Chinese government documents, including *The Tiananmen Papers* (2001), which he coedited with Perry Link; and *China's New Rulers: The Secret Files* (2002), coauthored with Bruce Gilley.

As a leading expert on Chinese politics and foreign policy, Nathan is frequently interviewed by print and

digital media. He is the regular Asia and Pacific book reviewer for *Foreign Affairs* magazine; and a member of the editorial boards of the *Journal of Democracy*, *The Journal of Contemporary China*, *China Information*, and others. His articles have appeared in *World Politics*, *Daedalus*, *The China Quarterly*, *Journal of Democracy*, *Asian Survey*, *The New Republic*, *The New York Review of Books*, *The London Review of Books*, *The Asian Wall Street Journal*, *the Boston Globe*, and the *International Herald Tribune*, among others.

Twenty years after joining the Columbia faculty and the East Asian Institute, Nathan became director of the Institute. During his leadership, he oversaw the visits of many esteemed speakers, including officials from the United States, Singapore, Japan, China, Malaysia, and Taiwan; human rights activists; journalists; bankers; lawyers; and scholars from across the US and East Asia.

Nathan has served on the boards of the National Endowment for Democracy, Human Rights Watch, and Freedom house, and is currently a member of the board of Human Rights in China and of the Advisory Committee of Human Rights Watch, Asia, which he chaired, 1995–2000. He is also a member of the steering committee of the Asian Barometer Surveys.

Madeleine Zelin



Ninth Director of the
East Asian Institute

Madeleine Zelin was the ninth director of the East Asian Institute and served from 1992–1993 and 1995–2001. She also served as acting director of the Institute in the fall of 2012, 2017, and 2022. As Director of the East Asian Institute, Zelin oversaw the founding of a diverse roster of new programs, fellowship opportunities and the development of transformative donor relationships. In 1998, the EAI launched the Master of Arts in Regional Studies - East Asia (MARSEA). An endowment from the Luce Foundation established the Modern Tibetan Studies program, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2024.

A UC Berkeley PhD and expert on modern Chinese legal and economic history, Zelin joined the Columbia faculty in 1979. She has taught large numbers of undergraduates and graduate students. Over 45 PhD students have completed their PhDs under her supervision, most of whom hold professorial position in the US and abroad, training new generations of Chinese scholars.

Zelin has published award-winning research on the history of late imperial China and the history of Chinese legal and business practice. Her first book, *The Magistrate's Tael, Rationalizing Fiscal Reform in Ch'ing China* pioneered the study of early modern Chinese statebuilding during the last Chinese dynasty and was awarded the first Lilienthal Prize of the University of California Press. *The Merchants of Zigong: Industrial Enterprise in Early Modern China* (2005) received the 2006 Allan Sharlin Memorial Prize of the Social Science His-

tory Association, the 2006 Fairbank Prize of the Association for Asian Studies, and the 2007 Humanities Book Prize of the International Convention on Asian Studies. She is also the translator of Mao Dun's *Rainbow* (1992); and the coeditor of various works including *Merchant Communities in Asia* (2015), with Lin Yu-ju; *Contract and Property Rights in Early Modern China* (2004), with Jonathan K. Ocko and Robert Gardella; *Empire, Nation, and Beyond: Chinese History in Late Imperial and Modern Times* (2006), with Joseph W. Esherick and Wen-hsin Yeh; *New Narratives of Urban Space* (2013) with Billy So, and *Chinese Law: Knowledge, Practice and Transformation, 1530s to 1950s* (2015) with Li Chen. She is currently finishing a book that explores the tension between legal transplantation and local knowledge during China's first encounter with the Western "company," based on her 2019 Schoff Memorial Lectures. Among her activities beyond the university, Zelin served as a trustee of the National Committee on US-China relations, as a trustee of the Business History Conference and a member of the editorial board of the journal *Enterprise & Society*.

As part of her commitment to mentoring younger scholars in the legal and economic history of East Asia, Zelin served as codirector of the first AAS New Directions Workshop: Economic History of Asia and is a founding and longstanding member of the Board of Directors of the International Society for Chinese Law and History. Zelin is also a dedicated amateur flutist.

Xiaobo Lü

10th

| 2001–2003

| 2004–2006

| Spring 2018



Tenth Director of the
East Asian Institute

Xiaobo Lü was the tenth director of the East Asian Institute (renamed the Weatherhead East Asian Institute during his tenure), serving 2001–2003, 2004–2006, and spring 2018. He was also the founding director of the Columbia Global Center in Beijing, 2008–2010.

An expert on modern Chinese politics, Lü teaches on Chinese politics, political economy, and comparative politics. After completing his PhD at the University of California, Berkeley in 1994, he joined the Barnard faculty, where he is currently the Ann Whitney Olin Professor of Political Science. Lü's research concentrates on postsocialist transition, corruption and good governance, government-business relations, and authoritarian resilience. He is widely published in these subjects with three books: *Danwei: Changing Chinese Workplace in Historical and Comparative Perspective* (1997); *Cadres and Corruption* (2000); and *Taxation without Representation in Contemporary Rural China* (2003) as well as many articles in academic journals. Most recently, Lü finished a book manuscript, "From Player to Referee: the Rise of the Regulatory State in China." In addition, he has published opinion pieces in and interviewed by the media, and consults for business firms, civic groups, and government agencies on subjects of his expertise. Lü is a member of the

Council on Foreign Relations and the National Committee of US-China Relations.

As director of the East Asian Institute, Lü oversaw the renaming of the Institute to the Weatherhead East Asian Institute in 2003, a landmark event in the Institute's history. Under Lü's guidance, the Institute collaborated with research units such as Columbia Law School's Center for Korean Legal Studies and the New York-based Korea Society to host a policy forum, as well as workshops, like "The Political and Economic Implications of EU-China Trade," with the Institute for the Study of Europe within the School of International and Public Affairs in 2004. After serving as WEAI Director, he worked on the founding of Columbia University's Global Center in Beijing in 2008 and served as its founding director from 2009 to 2010.

Lü has been Visiting Professor at Tsinghua University, Jiaotong University and Tongji University in China; City University of Hong Kong; Hertie School of Governance in Berlin; Institute of Political Science (Sciences-Po) in Paris and Grenoble, Bocconi University in Milan, and Paris University I-Sorbonne. Lü serves on the editorial boards of several international scholarly journals.

Eugenia Lean

11th

| 2014–2017

| 2018–2022



Eleventh Director of the
East Asian Institute

Eugenia Lean was the 11th director of the Weatherhead East Asian Institute and served 2014–2017 and 2018–2022.

An expert on modern Chinese history, Professor Lean teaches Chinese history courses and courses on the history of science, technology, and industry. Professor Lean joined the Columbia faculty in 2002, after teaching at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. She received her PhD from the University of California, Los Angeles in 2001 and her undergraduate degree from Stanford University.

Professor Lean is the author of *Public Passions: The Trial of Shi Jianqiao and the Rise of Popular Sympathy* (2007), which was awarded the American Historical Association's 2007 John K. Fairbank prize for the best book in modern East Asian history. Her second book, *Vernacular Industrialism in China: Local Innovation and Translated Technologies in the Making of a Cosmetics Empire, 1900–1940* (2020), examines the activities of maverick industrialist Chen Diexian (1879–1940) and technological innovation in China. Her current project, "Making the Chinese Copycat," focuses on China's role in shaping 20th century global regimes of intellectual property rights.

Professor Lean has received numerous honors, including fellowships from the American Council of Learned Societies, the Institute for Advanced Studies,

and the National Endowment of the Humanities. She was featured in "Top Young Historians," *History News Network* (2008) and received the 2013–2014 Faculty Mentoring Award in Columbia's Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. From 2015–2017 she was a Columbia University Provost Leadership Fellow. During her directorship, Professor Lean oversaw the inauguration of the Dorothy Borg Research program, which supports the study of East Asia and US relations and led an ongoing initiative to increase the Institute's support of Southeast Asian studies at Columbia. In 2018, she presided over the 70th anniversary celebration of the Institute. In 2019, she launched the Asia in Action Initiative at the Institute, which builds bridges between the Institute and artists, writers and activists focused on Asia.

Professor Lean is a member of the East Asian Languages and Cultures Department, is affiliated with the department of History, and is currently the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs. She is on the executive board of the Society of Fellows and Heyman Center for the Humanities and was a cofounder of the Global History of Science Cluster at the Center for Science and Society. She supervises numerous doctoral students and maintains a national and international profile in the fields of Asian Studies, history and the history of science and technology.

Lien-Hang Nguyen

2023–Present



Twelfth Director of the
East Asian Institute

Lien-Hang T. Nguyen is the 12th and current director of the Weatherhead East Asian Institute. Born the youngest of nine children in Saigon, Vietnam in 1974, she was a war refugee who resettled in the United States with her family. Nguyen received her BA in History from the University of Pennsylvania and MA, MPhil, and PhD in History from Yale University. She has held pre-doctoral fellowships from the Center for International Security and Cooperation at Stanford and the John M. Olin Institute for Strategic Studies at Harvard, and the John M. Olin Postdoctoral Fellowship in Military History and Strategy as well as the Henry Chauncey, Jr. '57 Postdoctoral Fellowship in Grand Strategy both with International Security Studies at Yale University. Before joining the faculty at Columbia, she taught at the University of Kentucky.

Nguyen holds the Dorothy Borg Chair in the History of the United States and East Asia and is cofounder of Vietnamese Studies at Columbia University. She is the author of *Hanoi's War: An International History of the War for Peace* (2012). Nguyen participated in the 2012 National Book Festival for *Hanoi's War*, which is the recipient of several book awards from the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations, the Society for Military History, and honorable mention from the Berkshire Conference of Women Historians. Nguyen is

general editor of the three-volume *Cambridge History of the Vietnam War*. She is also author of articles and book chapters on the Vietnam War, US-East Asian Relations during the Global Cold War, and modern Southeast Asian history. Nguyen is currently working on comprehensive history of the 1968 Tet Offensive for Random House, for which she earned a National Endowment of the Humanities Public Scholar grant.

Nguyen has appeared in several documentaries for PBS's *History with David Rubenstein*, *Rachel Maddow Special Report*, and CNN, radio programs including NPR, and has written op-eds for *NYT*, *BBC*, and other major news outlets. She also serves as historical consultant for feature-length films on the Vietnam War.

Nguyen serves on the Fulbright University Vietnam's Board of Trustees.



WEAI Timeline

Highlights from the Institute's 75 years of life, from 1949 to 2024.

1949

East Asian Institute Established

Columbia University established the East Asian Institute in 1949 with support from the Rockefeller and Ford Foundations. Building on Columbia's existing Chinese and Japanese language and humanities program, the Institute's initial mission was to train graduate students in the social sciences to become regional experts.



Four of WEAI's first five Directors, James Morley, Hugh Borton, C. Martin Wilbur, and John M. H. Lindbeck (from left to right).

Director Profile: Sir George Sansom

Sir George Bailey Sansom was the inaugural director of the East Asian Institute. A longtime British diplomat and eminent scholar of Japanese history and culture, his lifelong engagement with Japanese people and culture on the one hand, and his extraordinary research and elegant writing on the other, made Sansom a pioneering presence in modern scholarship about Japan.

1954

Director Profile: Hugh Borton

Hugh Borton served as the second director of the Institute. Borton was appointed director of the East Asian Institute in 1954, a role he held until 1957. He then served as the president of Haverford College for 10 years before returning to Columbia in 1967 as senior research associate at the East Asian Institute. Borton is known as one of the leading architects of US policy towards postwar Japan. He specialized in the history of the region and made many key contributions to the field.

1958

Director Profile: C. Martin Wilbur

C. Martin Wilbur served as the third director of the Institute from 1958 to 1964. Born in Ohio, Wilbur spent most of his early life living in China and Japan. He then returned to Ohio for undergraduate study and attended Oberlin College, graduating in 1931. He went on to earn his doctorate from Columbia in 1941 and joined the faculty in 1947 as Associate Professor of Chinese History. He is regarded as a key scholar in the field of Chinese history and helped develop this area of study at Columbia.

1960

Columbia University designated as a DOE East Asian National Resource Center

Recognizing Columbia's importance as a center for the cultivation of American experts, the US Department of Education designated the University as an East Asian National Resource Center (NRC) in 1960. The Weatherhead East Asian Institute serves as the home of Columbia's NRC, contributing to the teaching of East Asian languages and promoting understanding of the economies, politics, societies, and cultures of the region. Today, WEAI continues to develop new programs and materials to expand East Asian studies and Columbia and beyond.



Freeman Book Award Winners 2023. The Freeman Book Awards were established in 2017 by the National Consortium for Teaching on Asia under the direction of Asia for Educators, a program of the Weatherhead East Asian Institute.

1964

Director Profile: James W. Morley

James W. Morley was the fourth director of the East Asian Institute, and served for three terms (1964–1967; 1971–1973; 1984–1987). 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, Morley was sent to Boulder, Colorado, to study the Japanese language. From there, he went to Washington to work on Japanese code breaking. 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.

1967

Director Profile: John M.H. Lindbeck

John M.H. Lindbeck served as the fifth director of the East Asian Institute from 1967 until his passing in 1971. Born in China in 1915, Lindbeck received his Bachelor of Arts from Gustavus Adolphus College in 1937 and his PhD from Yale University in 1948, after serving as a lieutenant in the Navy during World War II. Lindbeck played a key role in promoting Chinese studies and made many important contributions to the development of the field.

1971

A new home for the Institute

The East Asian Institute moved from Kent Hall to the ninth floor of the newly constructed International Affairs Building.



An architectural rendering of the International Affairs Building

1973

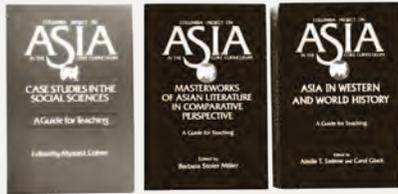
Director Profile: Gerald L. Curtis

Gerald L. Curtis is Director of the WEAI Japan Research Program and Burgess Professor Emeritus of Political Science at Columbia University. 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. The Program was expanded to become the Japan Research Program in 2022, with Curtis serving as Director.

1975

Director Profile: Myron Cohen

Myron Cohen is Myron Cohen is Professor Emeritus of Anthropology at Columbia University. He was a member of the faculty from 1966 to 2024 and received his PhD in anthropology from Columbia in 1967. Cohen's research centers on Chinese society and the changes it has undergone from the 17th century to the present. He has conducted extensive fieldwork in Taiwan and in villages in northern, eastern, and western mainland China. As Director of WEAI, Cohen led the institute during a number of major milestones, including the Institute's 60th anniversary, which included a series of summer events in Beijing, Tokyo, Taipei, and Seoul.



Early publications released for the East Asian Curriculum Project through WEAI

1977

WEAI widens outreach with East Asian Curriculum Project

Asia for Educators (AFE) began as the “East Asian Curriculum Project” with the goal of sharing Columbia’s wealth of expertise on East Asia with the wider public. In its early days, the program targeted several audiences but eventually narrowed its focus to serve teachers and was rebranded as Asia for Educators. Today AFE offers a variety of educational materials, workshops, and courses for teachers.

1988

Center for Korean Research established

The Center for Korean Research (CKR) was established at the Institute as the home for the study of Korea at Columbia. By sponsoring public lectures, conferences, workshops, visiting scholars, and individual research, the CKR has helped to make Korea an increasingly important focus of attention within the East Asian studies programs at Columbia.

1991

Director Profile: Andrew J. Nathan

Andrew Nathan is Class of 1919 Professor of Political Science at Columbia University, where he is also chair of the steering committee of the Institute for the Study of Human Rights and chair of the Morningside Institutional Review Board (IRB). Twenty years after joining the Columbia faculty and the East Asian Institute, Nathan became director of the Institute. During his leadership, he oversaw the visits of many esteemed speakers, including officials from the United States, Singapore, Japan, China, Malaysia, and Taiwan; human rights activists; journalists; bankers; lawyers; and scholars from across the US and East Asia.

1992

Director Profile: Madeleine Zelin

As director of the East Asian Institute, Madeleine Zelin oversaw the founding of a diverse slate of new programs and brokered important and lasting partnerships with the Weatherhead Foundation, the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation, and others. In the 1998 academic year, the East Asia Institute, in collaboration with the School of International and Public Affairs, launched the Master of Arts in Regional Studies – East Asia (MARSEA) program, which continues to cultivate new experts and scholars of East Asian today. Under Zelin’s leadership, the Institute also established the Modern Tibetan Studies program, which celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2019.

1998

WEAI launches Master of Arts in Regional Studies – East Asia program

Administered by WEAI under the aegis of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, the Master of Arts in Regional Studies – East Asia (MARSEA) program began in the 1998–1999 academic year. MARSEA provides students with interdisciplinary training and intensive exposure to the politics, international relations, modern history, culture, and society of modern Northeast and Southeast Asia.



MARSEA students celebrating their graduation

1999

Modern Tibetan Studies Program established

Columbia Modern Tibetan Studies Program (MTSP), established at WEAI in 1999, was the first program in the West dedicated to teaching about the society, history, and culture of modern Tibet. The MTSP provides a range of courses for undergraduate and graduate students focused on modern Tibetan studies; supports and conducts research of modern Tibetan society, history, and culture; runs study programs, educational projects and conferences in close collaboration with other institutions and scholars in the US and abroad; organizes exchange visits with Tibetan and Chinese scholars from Tibet and elsewhere; and maintains an ongoing program of public events in New York.

2001

Director Profile: Xiaobo Lü

As director of the East Asian Institute, Xiaobo Lü oversaw the renaming of the Institute to the Weatherhead East Asian Institute in 2003, a landmark event in the Institutes history. Under Lü's guidance, the Institute collaborated with research units such as Columbia Law School's Center for Korean Legal Studies and the New York based-Korea Society to host a policy forum, as well as workshops, like "The Political and Economic Implications of EU-China Trade," with the Institute for the Study of Europe within the School of International and Public Affairs in 2004. After serving as WEAI Director, he worked on the founding of Columbia's Global Center in Beijing in 2008 and served as its founding director from 2009 to 2010. Lü plays an active role in the Professional Fellows program and leads the MARSEA Program.

2003

East Asian Institute renamed in honor of Weatherhead Foundation contribution

On January 19, 2003, the Institute was renamed in honor of the Weatherhead Foundation's commitment to East Asian studies at Columbia. "'The new Weatherhead East Asian Institute is a testament to Albert and Celia Weatherhead's remarkable role in educating generations of students about Asia,' stated President Lee C. Bollinger. 'The Weatherheads have long supported Columbia's academic strength in East Asian studies. The Institute now stands as the symbol of their dedication for future generations.'" (Columbia News Archive)



Celia and Albert Weatherhead III



Xiaobo Lü speaks at a 60th anniversary conference, "Taiwan in the Twenty-first Century."

2009–2010

WEAI celebrates 60th anniversary

The Weatherhead East Asian Institute (WEAI) celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2009 which saw specialized programming throughout the year as well as overseas symposia in Beijing, Tokyo, Taipei, and Seoul led by Institute faculty.

2014

Director Profile: Eugenia Lean

During her directorship, Eugenia Lean oversaw the inauguration of the Dorothy Borg Research program at WEAI, which provides postdoctoral positions, collaborative grants, and graduate fellowships in the study of East Asia and US relations. She has led an ongoing initiative to increase the Institute's support of Southeast Asian studies at Columbia, with notable recent gains in both university and Institute commitment to Vietnamese studies. Lean has also worked to develop new ties and collaborations between the WEAI and other entities on campus. Most recently she has presided over the Institute's 70th anniversary celebration.

2019

WEAI celebrates 70th anniversary

The Weatherhead East Asian Institute (WEAI) marked its 70th anniversary in 2019 with initiatives and programs that explored new directions in the study of Northeast and Southeast Asia.



WEAI faculty celebrate the Institute's 70th anniversary.

2023

Director Profile: Lien-Hang Nguyen

Lien-Hang Nguyen has been an active member of WEAI since joining Columbia in 2016 as the Dorothy Borg Associate Professor of the History of American-East Asian Relations. Since then, she has dramatically expanded upon the Institute's commitment to the study of Southeast Asia, like cofounding the University's Vietnamese Studies initiative with Professor John Phan in 2019. Her contributions to the field of US-East Asia relations and Vietnam War studies have made her one of the country's top experts on modern Vietnamese history. As Director of WEAI, Nguyen kicked off the Institute's 75th anniversary in 2024 with a gala dinner that recognized honorees including Secretary John Kerry and other leaders in East Asian studies.

2024

WEAI celebrates 75th anniversary

The Weatherhead East Asian Institute launched its 75th anniversary year of programming with a Gala Dinner on February 1, 2024 in Columbia University's Low Library. The event featured introductions from WEAI Director Lien-Hang T. Nguyen and Columbia University President Minouche Shafik, keynote remarks from US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate and former Secretary of State John Kerry, and honored renowned artist Cai Guo-Qiang; former governor of the Bank of Japan Haruhiko Kuroda; acclaimed author Min Jin Lee; Chairman and Honorary CEO of Kikkoman Yuzaburo Mogi (honored in absentia); Chairman and CEO of East West Bank Dominic Ng; and Nobel laureate and journalist Maria Ressa.

“The new Weatherhead East Asian Institute is a testament to Albert and Celia Weatherhead’s remarkable role in educating generations of students about Asia. The Weatherheads have long supported Columbia’s academic strength in East Asian studies. The Institute now stands as a symbol of their dedication for future generations.”

Columbia University President Lee C. Bollinger

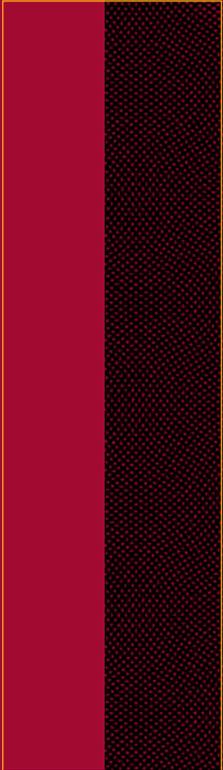
Renaming the East Asian Institute



The Weatherhead Foundation, which has supported the East Asian Institute since 1980, was founded by A. J. Weatherhead, Jr. in 1953 and is currently headed by his son, A. J. Weatherhead, III. The Weatherhead Fund at Columbia is named in honor of another of the founder's sons, the late Richard W. Weatherhead, who earned an MA in history from Columbia, followed by a PhD in 1966.

Columbia President Lee C. Bollinger, WEAI Director Xiaobo Lü, and Albert Weatherhead III unveil the plaque of the newly renamed Weatherhead East Asian Institute (2003).

Part Community and Learning



East Asian Studies at Columbia

The history of East Asian Studies begins well before the founding of the Institute. Columbia was one of the first universities in the United States to teach Asian languages, history, literature, religion and politics. A generous donation to the University of \$12,000 by Dean Lung, the valet of University Trustee General Horace Walpole Carpentier, in 1901 encouraged Carpentier himself to pledge additional donations, totaling \$200,000, leading to an endowment of Chinese Studies that would become the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures (EALAC). In 1902 the University appointed its first professor of Chinese, Friedrich Hirth. That same year, the University received a substantial donation of books from the government of imperial China, planting the seeds for the collection that is now a part of the C.V. Starr East Asian Library.



The reading room of the C.V. Starr East Asian Library

East Asia at Columbia

An East Asia faculty of more than 80 scholars working in history, political science, law, business, economics, journalism, social work, architecture and urban planning, film, and many other disciplines, who play active roles in academic and public life in the United States, Asia, and the world

One of the richest research library collections of East Asian materials outside Asia

Three WEAI publications series that have introduced hundreds of works on Asia to classroom, scholarly, and general audiences

A regional studies MA program; a graduate program in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures; a rigorous major in East Asian Studies and courses on Asia in the core curriculum for undergraduates in Columbia College, Barnard College, and the School of General Studies

Elementary to advanced language courses in Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Tibetan, and Vietnamese

Curriculum development and outreach to enhance the teaching of Asia, from kindergarten through college

Thousands of East Asian diaspora students, international students and scholars from East Asia, and alumni throughout the region

Ten active East Asia-focused graduate student study groups and countless Asian student associations across campus

Exchange programs, including study abroad, professional fellows, and visiting scholars programs linking Asian, American, and other international students, scholars, government officials, and business leaders



Top left: Kenzaburo Ôe, Nobel laureate in Literature, with Professor Carol Gluck

Top right: Past WEAI Directors Myron Cohen, Gerald Curtis, and Andrew Nathan, along with Professor Tim Curran (*from left to right*) at an Institute retreat in upstate New York, 1980s



Bottom right: Donald Keene (1922–2019) was a pioneering scholar of Japanese literature. The Donald Keene Center for Japanese Culture was founded in 1986 and remains active on campus.

John Bresnan and James Morley



Faculty Activities

Faculty honors reflect their broad academic and public involvement. Eight Columbians have been elected president of the Association for Asian Studies: L. Carrington Goodrich, Hugh Borton, Wm. Theodore de Bary, C. Martin Wilbur, James W. Morley, Ainslee Embree, Barbara Stoler Miller, and Carol Gluck. Faculty achievements are myriad and include recognitions from various Asian governments. The Japanese Emperor honored Donald Keene, James W. Morley, Gerald Curtis, and David E. Weinstein among others. The Indonesian government awarded John Bresnan its most distinguished civilian honor in 2003. And in 2016, Myron Cohen became the first foreign recipient of a first-class Hakka Affairs Professional Medal by the Hakka Affairs Council of Taiwan.

The University Seminars, a Columbia tradition since 1945, provide a forum for Columbia faculty, scholars from the New York metropolitan region, and specialists from outside the academy to discuss new research in an informal setting. The nine seminars on Asia are Buddhist Studies, China: International Business, Early China, Modern China, Modern Japan, Neo-Confucian Studies, Southeast Asia in World Affairs, Traditional China, and Korean Studies.



Signing to establish Korean Studies, 1988

History of East Asian Studies on Columbia Campus

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.

Students from Asia have been coming to study at Columbia since the late 1800s. In the early decades of the twentieth century, a number of them, including Chinese intellectual leader Hu Shih, were attracted to Columbia by the philosopher and educator John Dewey. Ryusaku Tsunoda, who first arrived on campus in 1917 as a student of Dewey, stayed on to become the founder of Japanese Studies at the University.

In 1929 the University appointed Tsunoda curator of the new Japanese library collection contributed by the Japanese Imperial Household and Baron Iwasaki of Mitsubishi. In his classes on Japanese literature and cultural history, Tsunoda inspired many of the founding generation of Asia scholars, including Columbia's Wm. Theodore de Bary and Donald Keene.

Well before the Second World War spurred an expanded interest in Asia, Columbia was one of the few American universities teaching Asian languages, history, literature, religion, and politics. In 1938 the Department of Chinese and Japanese was established, and around the same time faculty members

from several departments began to discuss including Asia in Columbia College's well-known Core Curriculum. With the institution of the Oriental Humanities and Oriental Civilizations courses in 1949 and 1950, Columbia became the first college in the United States to develop a program of general education about Asia for undergraduates. By the 1960s the offerings in Asian Humanities and Civilizations included a full complement parallel to Columbia's Core courses in humanities, civilization, art, and music.

To address the lack of English sources for these courses, Wm. Theodore de Bary, together with Burton Watson and Donald Keene, launched an ambitious project to translate Asian texts. The resulting series—beginning with *Sources of Japanese Tradition*, *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, and *Sources of Indian Tradition*—now consists of over 150 titles produced by the University Committee on Asia and the Middle East and Columbia University Press since 1958.

The Second World War and its aftermath intensified interest in East Asia. Building on its existing Asian language and humanities programs, Columbia established the East Asian Institute in 1949 with support from the Rockefeller and Ford Foundations. The Institute's mandate is to foster knowledge of modern and contemporary East Asia through interdisciplinary teaching, research, publication, and public programs.

Korean Studies, which began at Columbia with a book collection and language instruction during the 1930s, was formally included in 1962 in the renamed Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures. Gari Ledyard taught Korean history from 1964 to 2000, overseeing a remarkable expansion in Korean studies.



Top: WEAI Director Eugenia Lean and Professor Haruo Shirane at a September 2014 conference in honor of Professor and WEAI Director Madeleine Zelin, "Beyond Modernity: Understanding Change in China"

Middle (from left to right): Elizabeth LaCouture, Dorothy Ko, Andrew J. Nathan, Kristine Harris, and Thomas Mullaney

Bottom: Dean Lung

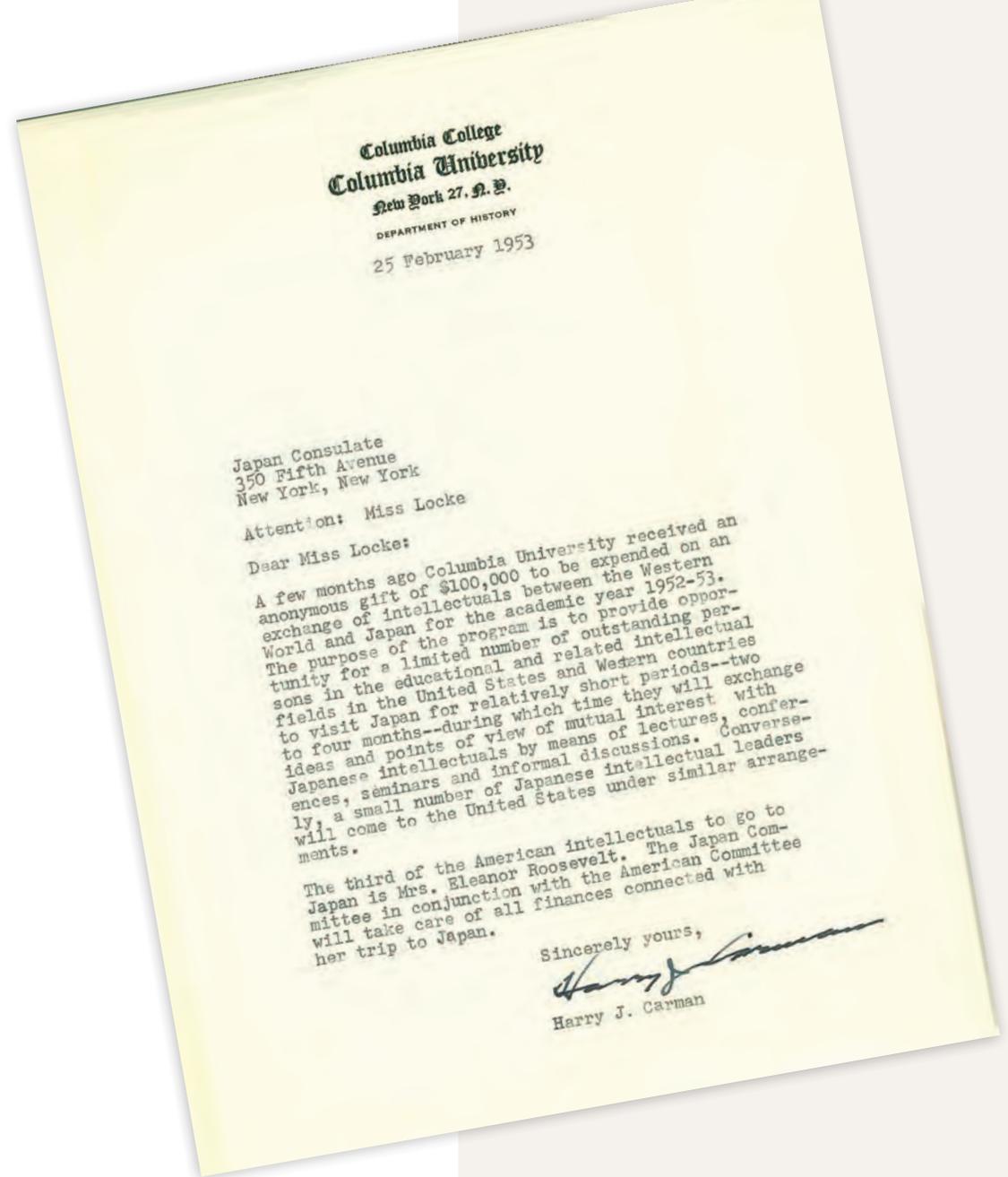
Japan-American Intellectual Interchange Program

In the years 1952–1953, the Japan-America Intellectual Interchange Program represented a unique and pioneering initiative aimed at fostering a deeper mutual understanding between Japan and the United States. Funded by an anonymous grant of \$100,000 to Columbia University—a considerable sum for the time, equivalent to about \$1.1 million today—the program was designed to encourage the exchange of ideas and cultures between leading intellectuals from both countries.

Under the guidance of the East Asian Institute and Columbia University and administered jointly with the Japan Committee for Intellectual Interchange, the program facilitated a series of visits where prominent individuals from the fields of education, politics, science, and the arts could meet their counterparts, engage in discussions, and share insights. The committees that orchestrated these exchanges were chaired by esteemed figures such as Sir George Sansom, a renowned historian of Japan and diplomat, on the Columbia side, and Yasaka Takagi, a professor specializing in American constitutional law from Tokyo University, on the Japanese side.

Participants in the program included a diverse group of intellectuals. From Japan, visitors like Miss Fusae Ichikawa, a symbol of the women’s rights movement, and Prof. Hitoshi Kihara, a leading geneticist, showcased the range of talent and thought leadership within the country. The American delegation included notable figures such as Eleanor Roosevelt and David Lilienthal, underscoring the program’s significance and the level of engagement from the United States.

This program was not just about the exchange of knowledge but also served as a testament to the power of intellectual diplomacy. By enabling these key figures to meet and converse, the Japan-America Intellectual Interchange Program laid the groundwork for a richer, more nuanced understanding between the two cultures, emphasizing the importance of dialogue and collaboration in the international arena.





Opposite page: Letter establishing the Japan-America Intellectual Interchange Program. The Program included a visit to Japan by former First Lady of the US Eleanor Roosevelt.

Top: Hugh Borton, assistant director of the East Asian Institute, greets Yoshishige Abe, president of Peer's College, Tokyo, and Fusae Ichikawa, president of the Japanese League of Women's Voters.

Right: Eleanor Roosevelt's itinerary in Japan

CONFIDENTIAL (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Mrs. Roosevelt's Program Sub-Committee

Tentative Schedule for Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt
(as of May 15, 1953)

May 22, Friday
3:00p.m. Arr. at Haneda PAA No.5
Statement to be prepared by Mrs. Roosevelt, also
by the Committee
5:00-5:30 Press Interview at Imperial Hotel
Hotel in Tokyo: Imperial Hotel
Contact Person: Miss Kiyoko Takeda, Mrs. Roosevelt Program Committee,
Room No. , Imperial Hotel or Kokusai Bunka Kaikan
(International House) Tugin Bldg. Marunouchi Tel: 23-6128

May 23, Saturday
morning 12:00a.m. Free
Welcome Luncheon by the Committee for Intellectual
Interchange and International House of Japan, at
Korin-Kaku
2:45p.m. Leave Tokyo for Hakone
5:30p.m. Arrive Sengoku, Hakone (Mr. E. J. Griffith's Villa)
7:00p.m. Dinner Conference: Discussion on "Patterns of Japanese
Life and Culture I"

May 24, Sunday
afternoon Return to Tokyo

May 25, Monday
morning 12:00a.m. Free
Conference of leaders, at Kyosai-Kai-Kan, sponsored by
Women's and Minors' Bureau, Ministry of Labour, -
Discussion on "Status of Women in Japan" (Leaders: Miss
Taki Fujita)
3:00-4:30p.m. Address to Tokyo Women's Club, followed by Reception,
at Tokyo Kaikan (Mrs. Cooper Blythe, President of the
Club, British Embassy)
4:30-6:30p.m. Rest
7:00-9:30p.m. Dinner meeting-Discussion on "Patterns of Japanese Life
and Culture II"

May 26, Tuesday
9:00-11:00 Visit to Katakura Textile Factory, at Omiya
12:15-2:00p.m. General Clark's Informal Luncheon
2:30-5:30p.m. Visit to Tokyo Women's Christian College - meeting with
the Faculty and Student Representatives of Tsuda College,
Japan Women's University, etc.
Lecture
2:30-3:30p.m. Reception and Conference
3:40-5:00p.m. Dinner Conference; Discussion on "Labor and Agriculture"
7:15-9:30p.m. International Christian University
May 27, Wednesday
9:30-11:30a.m. Public address on "Human Rights" under joint sponsorship of
2:00-4:00 the Committee with Asahi and Mainichi at Kyoritsu-kodo
4:30-5:30p.m. Meeting with members of the Joint Committee for Assistance
to Japanese-American Orphans, at U.S. Consulate-General
(Mr. Gallop)
evening American Ambassador's Dinner at the U.S. Embassy (Provi-
sional suggestion)

Wellington Koo

V. K. Wellington Koo was a prominent Chinese diplomatic figure in the early 20th century who played a crucial role in shaping the diplomatic and foreign-policy landscape of the modern Chinese foreign service. Born in 1888 in Jiading, a suburb of Shanghai, Koo's educational journey led him from Saint John's University in Shanghai to Columbia University, where he achieved a remarkable academic record. At Columbia, he earned a BA in Liberal Arts in 1908, an MA in Political Science in 1909, and a PhD in 1912 with a thesis on "The Status of Aliens in China," marking the beginning of his distinguished career in international law and diplomacy.

Koo's contributions to Columbia and beyond were notable; he served as the Editor-in-Chief of the *Columbia Spectator*, won the Columbia-Cornell Debating Medal, was a member of the track team, and belonged to Delta Epsilon Rho. His diplomatic career was equally impressive, with Koo being a key figure at the Paris Peace Conference of 1919, acting as China's Prime Minister between 1926 and 1927, and serving as ambassador to France, Great Britain, and the United States, where he was recognized as the youngest ranking diplomat.

Significantly, Koo was instrumental in China's involvement in the founding of the United Nations, serving as the signatory for China to the UN Charter. In his later years, he served as a judge on the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

Koo's legacy extended to the academic realm through his contributions to the Chinese Oral History Project in the 1960s, which culminated in a 13-volume Chinese autobiography, although attempts to publish English language manuscripts were unsuccessful due to publishing and cost issues. The project was spearheaded by C. Martin Wilbur, former director of the East Asian Institute, and Franklin Lien Ho, former faculty member of the Institute.

The East Asian Institute at Columbia administers the Wellington Koo Fellowship, further cementing his legacy within the university. Koo's extensive collection of papers, correspondences, diaries, speeches, and other memorabilia is housed in Columbia's Rare Book and Manuscript Library, making it a valuable resource for researchers from China, Taiwan, and around the world. In 2018, his contributions were further commemorated by the opening of the Wellington Koo Museum in his hometown of Jiading, highlighting the lasting impact of his work in diplomacy, law, and education.



Above: Wellington Koo in 1945

Opposite page: Wellington Koo at alumni reunion day 1946





N.T. Wang

Nian Tzu Wang (1917–2004) “made many contributions to his homeland of China, the US, his home since 1939, and to countless countries which he helped through his work at the UN Economic and Social Council. After retiring from a 28 year career at the United Nations, as the Director of the Centre on Transnational Corporations, he returned to Columbia University to teach at the School of Business and the School of International and Public Affairs. He thoroughly enjoyed his time with his students, organizing seminars, creating training programs for Chinese academic and business leaders, and working tirelessly as the Director of the China-International Business Project” (*The New York Times*).

Through the China International Business Seminar at Columbia University, Wang brought together practitioners, policy makers, and scholars to create a new dialogue between government, business, and research communities. The N.T. Wang Distinguished Lecture Series was established in his honor in 2010, and is hosted annually by the Chazen Institute for Global Business and WEAI.



Above: N.T. Wang at WEAI

Left: N. T. Wang Lecture with Nicholas Lardy: Sustaining China’s Growth Second Annual N. T. Wang Distinguished Lecture (Pictured left: Shang-jin Wei, N.T. Wang Professor of Chinese Business and Economy; second from right, Nicholas Lardy; right, WEAI Director Myron Cohen)

Academics at WEA

The MA in Regional Studies – East Asia (MARSEA)

is an interdisciplinary, research-based program that provides students with graduate training in the study of modern and contemporary East Asia. In coursework as well as individual research projects, MARSEA students develop and hone the skills necessary to analyze effectively the single most dynamic region of the world today—and to make sense of its past, present, and future. Since its founding over 20 years ago, the MARSEA program has also trained numerous mid-career professionals—diplomats, military officers, and journalists, among others—seeking to deepen their understanding of the Asia-Pacific region.

The Institute also offers a Certificate for students already enrolled in a masters or doctoral program at Columbia to attest to specialized knowledge of modern China, Japan, Vietnam, or Korea. A specialization is also available for students in the School of International and Public Affairs, offering interdisciplinary training in politics, international relations, modern history, culture, and/or society of the region.



Top left: A MARSEA Graduation

Top right: MARSEA students with Professors Kim Brandt and Xiaobo Lü

Bottom left: An event hosted by the Korea Focus graduate student group

Bottom right: Tibetan language students go on an outing to the Tibetan community in Queens.





“The biggest change is in the students. Students now come into graduate school knowing a lot about the region, at least about one of the countries in the region, and having had experience living in that country. That's a huge change that has changed the way we teach. Interest in the region as a whole has gotten much stronger.”

Gerald L. Curtis, Burgess Professor Emeritus of Political Science



Programs, Initiatives, and Affiliates



Gari Ledyard (1932–2012), founding director of the Center for Korean Research

CENTER FOR KOREAN RESEARCH

The Center for Korean Research (CKR) was established in 1988 and works to advance academic knowledge and a greater public awareness of Korea. At Columbia, and through collaboration with the Weatherhead East Asian Institute, the Center develops new courses on Korea, promotes research concerning Korea in all disciplines, sponsors a regular seminar on contemporary Korean affairs, assists in expanding Columbia's Korean library holdings, and supports a community of scholars.

From 2016 to 2020, CKR housed *The Journal of Korean Studies*, which is the preeminent journal in its field, publishing high-quality articles in all disciplines in the humanities and social sciences on a broad range of Korea-related topics, both historical and contemporary.



Dorothy Borg (1902–1993)

DOROTHY BORG RESEARCH PROGRAM

The Dorothy Borg Research Program of the Weatherhead East Asian Institute was established to prepare scholars for the challenge of studying transnational issues involving the United States and East Asia and to explore new conceptual strategies and themes for understanding the study of US–East Asia. The program is named in honor of Dorothy Borg (1902–1993), a historian of United States–East Asia relations whose influence—on political scientists like Gerald L. Curtis, Andrew J. Nathan, and Robert Jervis; historians like Carol Gluck; and many others—helped bridge the work of history and contemporary analysis.

“Nearly everyone who came within close range of Dorothy Borg felt the attraction: her personal elegance, her penetrating attentiveness, her devotion to the work of history, and something about the way she saw the world (and you) proved all but irresistible.”

Carol Gluck, George Sansom Professor Emerita of History

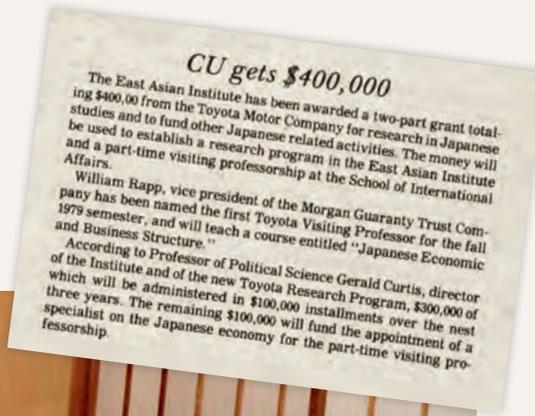


An April 2019 panel discussion on “Tibetan Literature in Translation: Pema Tseden’s *Stories of Tibet*.” From left to right: Lauran Hartley, current Director of the Modern Tibetan Studies Program; Pema Bhum, Director of the Latse Contemporary Tibetan Cultural Library; translators Michael Monhart and Patricia Schiaffini-Vedani

MODERN TIBETAN STUDIES PROGRAM

Columbia’s Modern Tibetan Studies Program, established in 1999, was the first university-based program in the West dedicated to engaging the society, history, and culture of modern Tibet. It supports and carries out teaching and research on modern Tibetan society, history, and culture; runs study programs, educational projects, and conferences in close collaboration with other institutions and scholars in the US and abroad; organizes exchange visits with Tibetan and Chinese scholars from Tibet and elsewhere; and offers a vibrant and diverse range of public programming. In 2003 a generous grant from the Luce Foundation endowed a new chair in Modern Tibetan Studies in the Department and helped to underwrite Tibetan language study.

The Tibetan library collection at Columbia’s C.V. Starr East Asian Library is one of the largest in the United States, and includes some 20,000 books on Tibet in English, Tibetan, and Chinese and a major digital library of classical Tibetan texts, as well as audio-visual materials and archives.



Top: A clipping from the *Columbia Spectator* announcing a gift from the Toyota Foundation, establishing the Toyota Research Program

Bottom: Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and Gerald L. Curtis

JAPAN RESEARCH PROGRAM

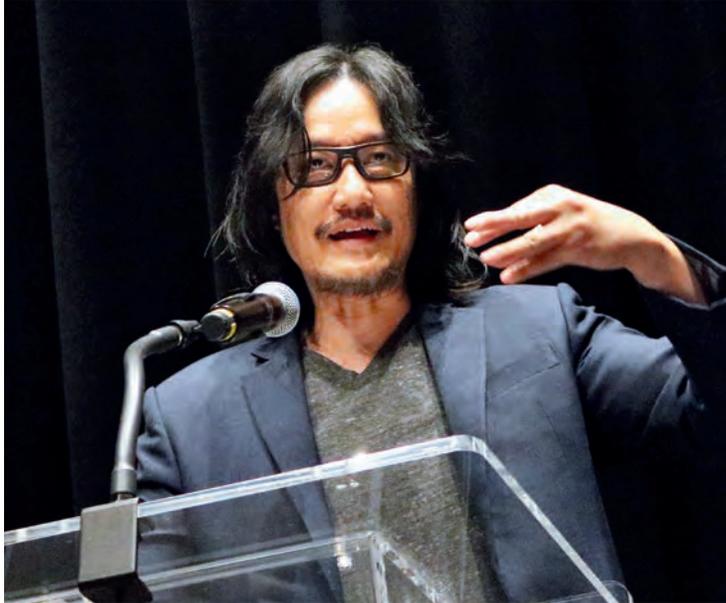
In the fall of 2022, the Weatherhead East Asian Institute inaugurated a program under the auspices of Professor Gerald L. Curtis to focus on Japan’s evolving foreign policy strategy. Named the Japan Research Program, it incorporates and builds on activities that were previously sponsored by the Institute’s Toyota Research Program. The Japan Research Program continues to enjoy the generous support of Toyota for its public policy-related events and activities concerned with Japan’s relations with the United States, with other countries in the Indo-Pacific region and globally.



Phan Thi Kim Phuc, subject of the infamous "The Terror of War" photo, with *Associated Press* photographer Nick Ut, who captured the shot

VIETNAMESE STUDIES INITIATIVE

The Vietnamese Studies initiative at Columbia University offers courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels and focuses on the society, history, politics, and culture of Vietnam from the premodern era to today, as well as language courses at all levels. Founded by Professors Lien-Hang Nguyen and John Phan in 2019, Vietnamese Studies hosts workshops, international conferences, film screenings, book talks, and more.



Asia in Action Artist-in-Residence Tony Bui speaks at a screening of his Sundance Award-winning film *Three Seasons* at Columbia in October 2023.

ASIA IN ACTION

The Asia in Action initiative highlights the work and experiences of groundbreaking professionals outside academi, including writers, designers, artists, and activists working in East and Southeast Asia, and explores topics that are pressing and timely in our rapidly changing world. Through events programming, support for interdisciplinary research, and collaborative projects, the initiative aims to strengthen our ties to the community and shine a spotlight on individuals and groups whose work might have traditionally been overlooked by academia, but whose narratives of action can enrich our understanding of Asia.

EXPANDING EAST ASIAN STUDIES (EXEAS)

Supported by a grant from the Freeman Foundation and based at the Weatherhead East Asian Institute of Columbia University, the Expanding East Asian Studies (ExEAS) website presents innovative courses and teaching materials that incorporate the study of East Asia in broad thematic, trans-national, and interdisciplinary contexts and provides models for incorporating East Asia into general education, disciplinary, and survey courses in undergraduate curricula. The ExEAS program was conducted from March 2002 through July 2007 under the direction of Professor Carol Gluck.

INTERNATIONAL NETWORK TO EXPAND REGIONAL AND COLLABORATIVE TEACHING (INTERACT)

INTERACT was a pioneering program at Columbia University that focused on developing global studies in the undergraduate curriculum through a network of postdoctoral scholars focused on cross-regional, trans-regional and interdisciplinary study. INTERACT's primary goal was to improve global literacy among Columbia students and equip them to be leaders in a globalizing world.

AFFILIATES

APEC Study Center

Hong Yen Chang Center for Chinese Legal Studies

Center for Japanese Legal Studies

Center for Korean Legal Studies

Center on Japanese Economy and Business

C.V. Starr East Asian Library

Donald Keene Center of Japanese Culture

China Center for Social Policy

Columbia Global Centers | Beijing

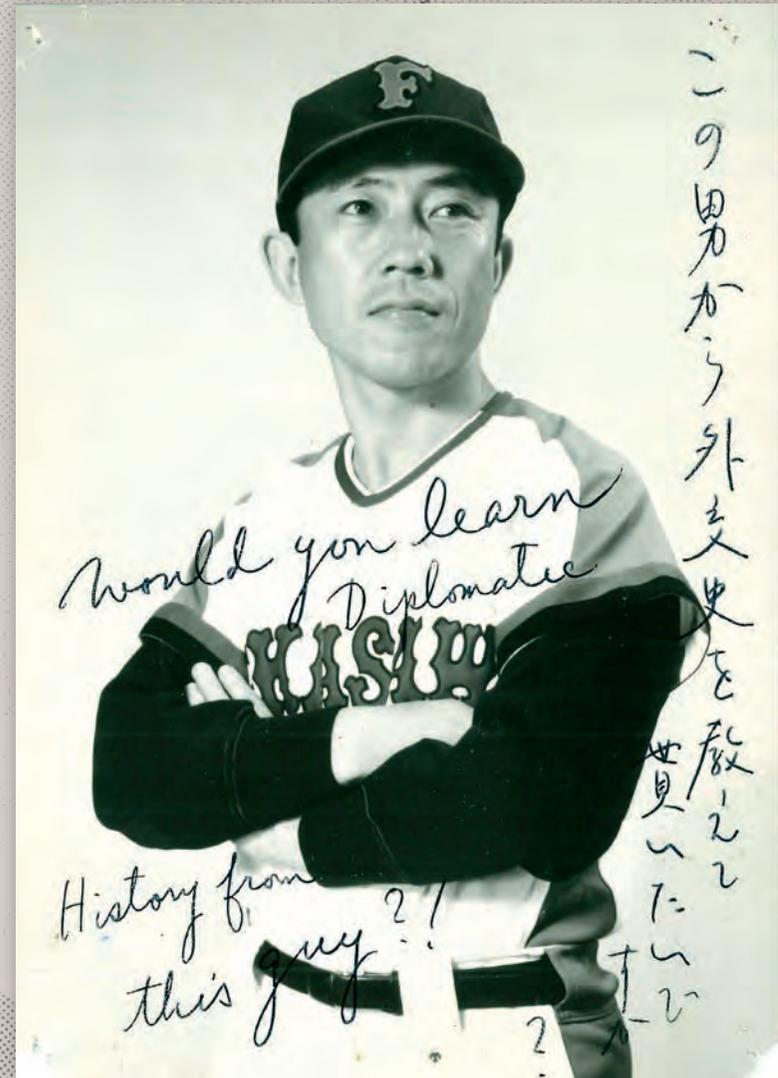
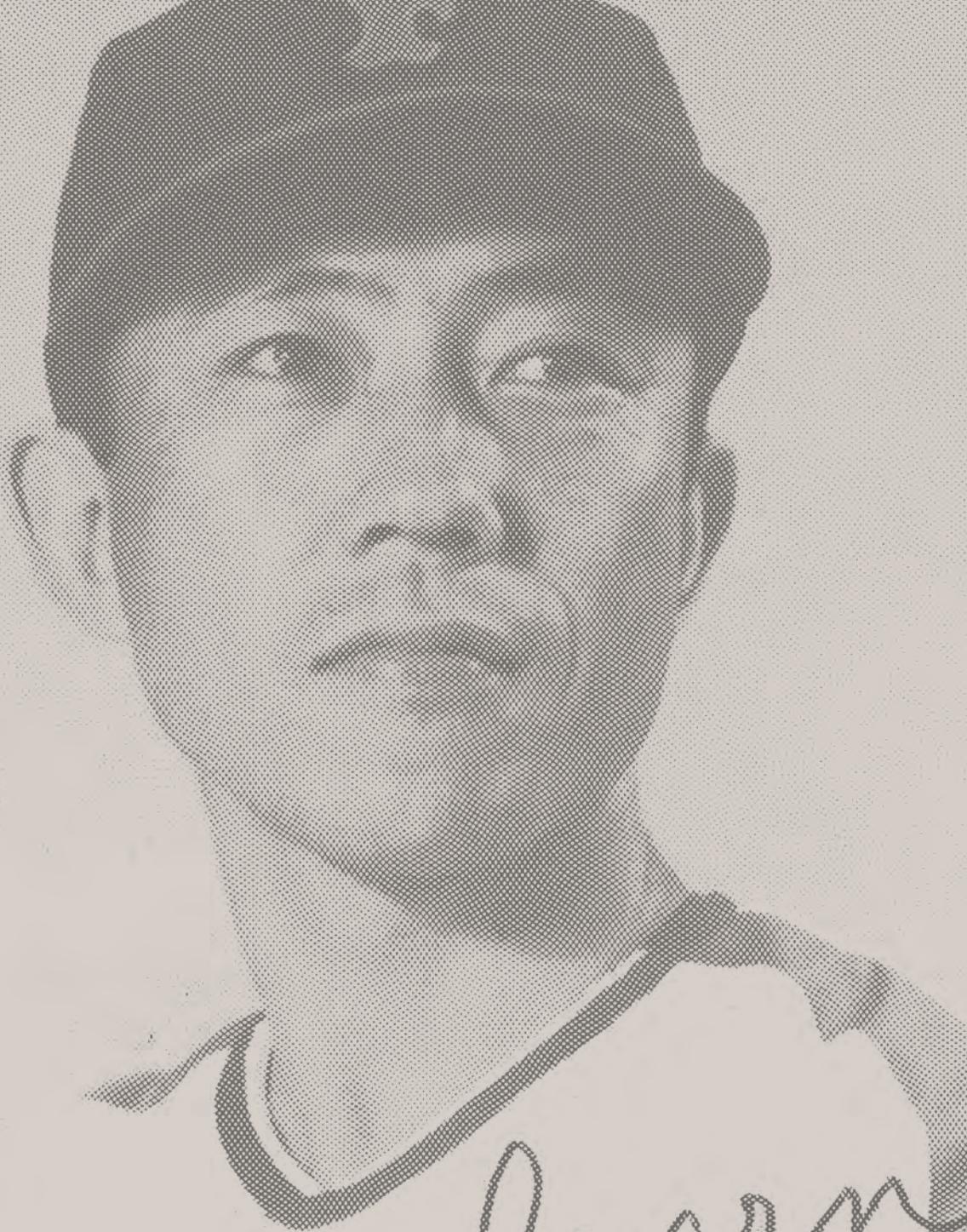
New York Southeast Asia Network

Columbia-Harvard China and the World Program

Visiting Scholars and Professional Fellows

VISITING SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The Visiting Scholars Program of the Weatherhead East Asian Institute is designed to enable faculty and scholars from or with ties to East and Southeast Asia to enrich their academic careers by engaging in research and scholarship related to East and Southeast Asia at Columbia University. Over the years WEAI has invited scholars from Japan, Korea, China, Thailand, Indonesia, Australia, Canada, the United States, Taiwan, Tibet, and parts of Europe. Many take a sabbatical year from their academic institutions to visit Columbia University to focus on independent research in the social sciences, humanities, political science, business, and many other fields. These exchanges create lasting ties with the Institute while also bringing new perspectives and work to the Columbia community. These scholars engage with WEAI programming and events, and present further opportunities for exchange with their home academic institutions.



learn

"Would you learn diplomatic history from this guy?" Visitors to the Institute come from a range of backgrounds.



PROFESSIONAL FELLOWS

The Robert M. Immerman Professional Fellows Program of the Weatherhead East Asian Institute provides East Asia-focused mid-career professionals with a one-of-a-kind research and learning community at one of the world's most prestigious universities and within a dynamic city.

Since its inception in 1988, the program has attracted Professional Fellows from the fields of government, media, nonprofit, and business. While at the Institute, Fellows become informed of the latest research on East Asia and develop their respective research areas and interests with Columbia University scholars and faculty. They can pursue their research not only within the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) but at other schools such as Business, Law, and Journalism, as well. Known as "Immerman Fellows," these individuals play an active role in the Institute-sponsored policy forums, lectures, and other special events. They are also encouraged to pursue other professional interests across the campus.



Above: Robert Immerman and Xiaobo Lü with graduating professional fellows

Opposite page: WEAI Director Madeleine Zelin presents a certificate of completion to a graduating Professional Fellow.

“This program allowed me to spend a stimulating and meaningful year in this academic and intercultural environment, recharging my energy to move forward into the future.”

Yusuke Shoji, WEAI Professional Fellow 2023-2024

Reaching Beyond the University

Public Programming at WEAI

The Institute hosts and sponsors events, large and small, that bring together disciplines and communities to offer insight on the region. In these public lectures, book talks, conferences, workshops, film screenings, and student gatherings, new ideas are welcomed. Scholars present their research, public officials and diplomats discuss policies and their implications, artists reveal their visions, and individuals with an interest in the region may leave with new knowledge and new curiosity.

“Traditionally Weatherhead would bring policy leaders—and we brought fantastic policy leaders to Columbia. We brought Shinzo Abe from Japan. We brought Benigno S. Aquino III from the Philippines and so on. We have long had policy leaders come to campus with Weatherhead involved in sponsoring those visits. But I think now we’re also moving into the arts and the art world. For example, one of the highlights of my early years as Director was supporting the contemporary artist Xu Bing who had a huge installation at the Saint John the Divine that was known as the ‘Phoenix,’ a brilliant artistic installation. We sponsored a huge event—500 people showed up for a panel of five famous Chinese poets who commented on the Phoenix, the installation with the artist Xu Bing. We had a huge turnout. It was something very new that occurred under my tenure because [we were] able to draw in new kinds of scholars interested in the arts and humanities into the Weatherhead community.”

Eugenia Lean, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Associate Professor of Chinese History





1. Amartya Sen, Nobel Laureate and Master of Trinity College, Cambridge, and co-chair of the Commission on Human Security, speaks in March 2002 at an event, "Globalization and Human Security."
2. Korean musician Gamin Kang performs at a Center for Korean Research event in October 2019, "Traversing Chosŏn Society through Music."
3. Carol Gluck, George Takei, David Hajdu, and John Weidman at a May 2017 panel discussion on Steven Sondheim and John Weidman's classic musical "Pacific Overtures"
4. A WEAI panel speaks in Indonesia.
5. Justin Yifu Lin, Chief Economist and Senior Vice President of the World Bank (2008–2012) speaks at the first annual N.T. Wang Distinguished Lecture in September 2010 on the theme "Development and Transition: Lessons from China."
6. George Packard (left) and Kay Shimizu (right) discuss "Edwin O. Reischauer and the American Discovery of Japan" at an October 2010 event.
7. WEAI Director Eugenia Lean speaks at a December 2021 event, "Open Science: Sino-US Collaboration in an Age of Surveillance."
8. A group of participants in a Modern Tibetan Studies Program event, "Myriad Teachings with One Nature: Buddhism in China and Inner Asia," on Low Steps in October 2018. Cosponsored by the Confucian Institute and Renmin University.

WEAI's 60th Anniversary

Under the directorship of Myron Cohen, the Institute's 60th anniversary was celebrated and brought to the attention of the larger community of East Asian scholarship and education during the annual meeting, in Chicago, of the Association of Asian Studies through a reception sponsored by the Institute. In late May and early June symposia capped commemorative programs in Beijing, Tokyo, and Seoul. In Beijing several panels dealt with "Columbia and China: Past and Future"; in Tokyo the subject was "Columbia and Japan: A Celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the Weatherhead East Asian Institute"; in Seoul, "Global and Local Korea: Korean Studies in a Changing World." In all three cities Columbia and WEAI alumni were witness to panels composed of Columbia faculty together with local scholars and public figures. In June, 2010 the anniversary celebrations came to a finale with a symposium in Taipei, titled "Taiwan in the Twenty-first Century: Politics, Economy and Society." This symposium continued WEAI's outreach programs in East Asia to local Columbia alumni and to all prior visiting scholars, professional fellows, or participants at WEAI. As with the earlier events, the Taipei symposium involved close cooperation with the Columbia Alumni Association. The local significance of the symposium was underscored by the keynote speaker, Vincent Siew, vice president of the Republic of China (Taiwan), and by the meeting on the following day of symposium panelists and speakers with ROC President Ma Ying-jeou.



Above: Myron Cohen speaks in his capacity as director of the Institute during the 60th anniversary celebration in Taipei.



Left: SIPA Dean Merit E. Janow speaks at the WEAI 60th Anniversary event in Beijing: "Columbia and China, Past and Future."

Xu Bing

On February 24 and 25, 2015, Columbia University was the vibrant backdrop for a remarkable two-day series of events that celebrated the intersection of art and poetry, centering around Xu Bing's Phoenix installation. This installation, composed of two colossal phoenixes assembled from discarded materials from construction sites across China, has captivated audiences with its majestic presence in the Cathedral of St. John the Divine.

The series commenced on February 24 in Butler Library, with an engaging panel discussion titled "Sound and Image: Chinese Poets in Conversation with Artist Xu Bing." This event saw Xu Bing alongside five of China's most esteemed poets—Bei Dao, Zhai Yongming, Zhou Zan, Xi Chuan, and Ouyang Jianghe—and Professors Lydia H. Liu and John Rajchman. Together, they explored the profound influence of poetry on visual art, discussing how their experiences in America and subsequent return to China had reshaped their creative expressions. The dialogue deeply probed the relationship between sound and image, revealing how these dimensions interact across the varied landscapes of contemporary Chinese art.

The following evening, an unprecedented collaborative poetry reading took place at the Cathedral of St John the Divine, titled "Birds of Metal in Flight: An Evening of Poetry with 5+5." The event was distinguished by readings from the five Chinese poets and their American counterparts: Charles Bernstein, Afaa Weaver, Marilyn Nelson, Pierre Joris, and Meimei Berssenbrugge. This bilingual presentation offered attendees the rare opportunity to experience the poems in their original languages, with translations available to bridge the linguistic divide. Ouyang Jianghe concluded the readings with his poem "Phoenix," which dialogues directly with Xu Bing's installation, underlining the thematic cohesion of the night.

The event, attended by around 400 audience members, was a testament to the power of art and poetry to transcend cultural and linguistic barriers. Professor Lydia H. Liu remarked on the uniqueness and significance of this encounter, emphasizing how it mirrored the dignity Xu Bing's Phoenix installation bestows upon migrant labor. The cathedral's sacred space added a layer of profundity to the evening, turning the event into an almost musical experience that celebrated the vital role of poetry and art in contemporary society. Following the reading, a book signing and reception were held under Xu Bing's Phoenixes, providing a fitting closure to the celebration of creative dialogue and cultural exchange.



Top: Professor Lydia Liu and Xu Bing

Left: Participants in "Sound and Image: Chinese Poets in Conversation with Artist Xu Bing" at St. John the Divine in February 2015

WEAI 75th Anniversary Gala

On February 1, 2024, WEAI hosted a gala dinner in commemoration of both the Year of the Dragon and its 75-year history as a pioneer in the study of East, Southeast, and Inner Asia. The event brought together scholars, students, diplomats, business leaders, and artists from on and off campus, connected by a common interest in the region.

US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate and former Secretary of State John Kerry delivered the keynote address, highlighting the importance of US-East Asian relations in tackling the global climate crisis, and, drawing from his experience as a Vietnam War veteran and international negotiator, promoted policies grounded in understanding.

The gala also honored six Asian pathbreakers for their contributions to their respective fields. The honorees in attendance were Chairman and CEO of East West Bank Dominic Ng, Nobel laureate and journalist Maria Ressa, author Min Jin Lee, and artist Cai Guo-Qiang. Former governor of the Bank of Japan, Haruhiko Kuroda, and Chairman and Honorary CEO of Kikkoman, Yuzaburo Mogi, were honored in absentia.

These honorees presented the WEAI 75th Anniversary Student Award for Excellence, granted to the most outstanding students whose work focuses on the region. Their research and studies comprise a diverse array of disciplines, including history, activism, art history, environmental policymaking, and literature.





WEAI honorees, artist Cai Guo-Qiang, Nobel laureate Maria Ressa, writer Min Jin Lee, former US Secretary of State John Kerry, WEAI Director Lien-Hang Nguyen, and East West Bank CEO Dominic Ng, at the Institute's 75th anniversary Gala in February 2024



Asia for Educators

Asia for Educators (AFE) was established in 1977 as the “East Asian Curriculum Project” with the goal of sharing Columbia’s wealth of expertise on East Asia with the wider public. Under the umbrella of the East Asian National Resource Center at Columbia, which is administered by the Weatherhead East Asian Institute and supported by the US Department of Education, AFE draws on the expertise of WEAI faculty and graduate students to promote education about Asia through professional background programs for teachers and the development of quality educational materials for students and teachers at both the undergraduate and K-12 levels. Roberta Martin has led AFE as its director since its establishment.

Schools at the primary and secondary levels became interested in folding Asia into the curriculum following the normalization of US-China relations in 1979 and the Japanese economic bubble in the 1980s, but resources were lacking. With support from the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership, in 1990 AFE conducted a survey of state curriculum requirements and followed this with a national evaluation of Asia content in social studies and history textbooks in 1993.

When colleges began to shift core history course requirements from “Western” to “world” history, the new courses were “often taught in sections in history departments where no faculty member had a background in Asia,” said AFE Director Martin, “and departments began contacting the [East Asian] Institute for help with syllabi and faculty development.” In response, AFE launched the “Project on Asia in the Core Curriculum,” supported by grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Henry Luce Foundation, and the Annenberg Foundation/PBS.

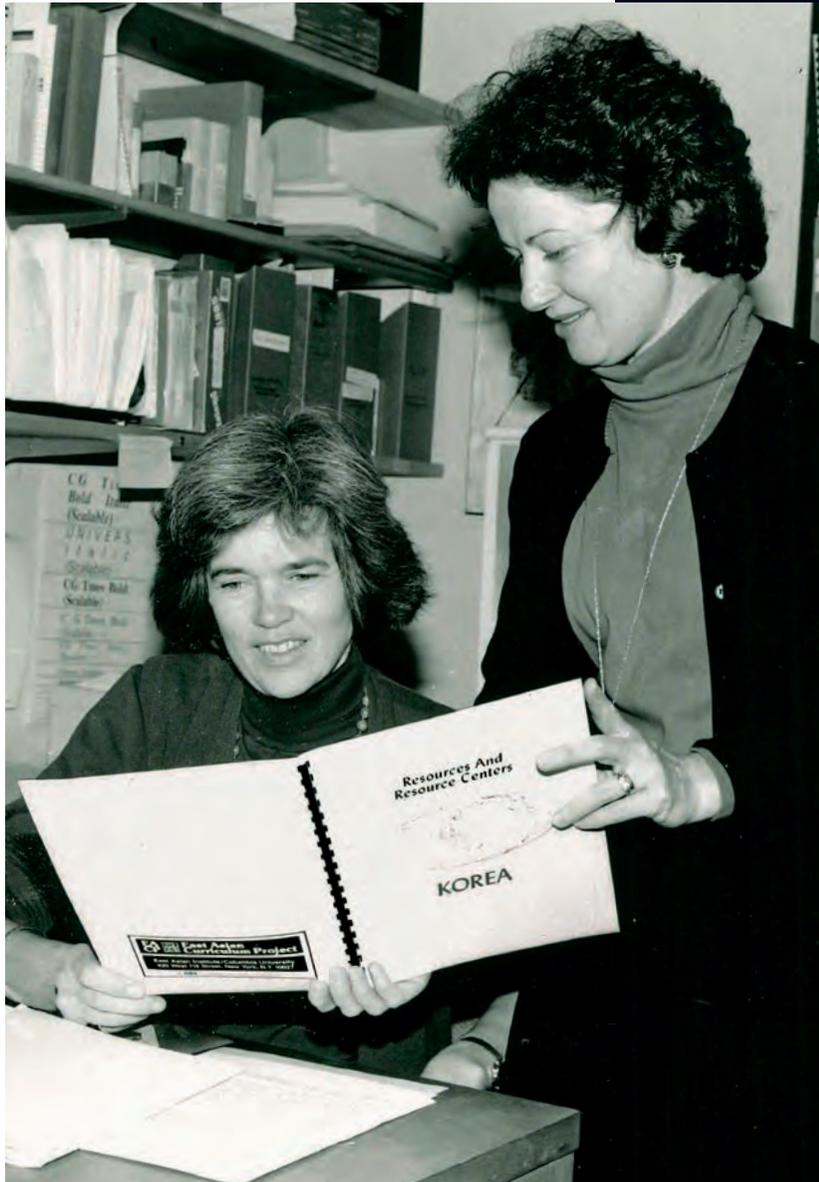
AFE continued to produce essential resources for the study of Asia, including educational videos, syllabi, and online modules. In 2017, AFE led NCTA in launching the Freeman Book Awards for young adult and children’s literature on East and Southeast Asia. The awards, administered by AFE, recognize quality books for children and young adults that contribute meaningfully to an understanding of Northeast and Southeast Asia.

“[Martin] worked with faculty to develop handbooks for teaching world history with Asia in it, literature with Asia in it, and so on. And they are still very important in giving teachers guidance [on such questions as] What are the issues that we ought to be interested in? Where can I go for documents to show students? We want the students to see the original thing and then analyze it, not just consume some kind of pre-formulated analysis in the schools. AFE digitized all of that material, so now that’s all part of the larger corpus that’s available for free to educators.”

Madeleine H. Zelin, Dean Lung Professor of Chinese Studies



Roberta Martin and Columbia President Lee C. Bollinger



Madge Huntington and Roberta Martin in 1990

“One of the great treasures and one of the great contributions of the Weatherhead East Asian Institute to Asian studies in the United States is our program, Asia for Educators, designed for teachers and students in K-12 around the country and undergraduates as well.”

Carol Gluck, George Sansom Professor Emerita of History



“As a historian of East Asia and the United States, I can attest to the role that WEAI has played over the past 75 years in shaping the contours of diplomatic relations and increased understanding between the United States and the countries and peoples of Northeast, Inner and Southeast Asia. To ensure that harmony and peace prevail over discord and war, we must strive for depth of knowledge to ensure the level of vigor that has long defined WEAI.”

**Lien-Hang Nguyen, Director, Weatherhead East Asian Institute;
Dorothy Borg Associate Professor in the History of the United States and East Asia**

