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York Centre for Asian Research

YCAR Update for 13 February 2024

YCAR News

Hong Kong studies and comics scholar visits YCAR this month

YCAR is happy to welcome Kin-Wai Amelia Chu to York as a visiting scholar. Dr Chu is a postdoctoral researcher funded by Research Foundation-Flanders and based at Ghent University. Her research traverses Hong Kong studies and comics, and she has published articles scrutinising comics at the intersections of gender dynamics, nostalgia, culture and politics.



Photograph provided by Richard Charles Lee Canada-Hong Kong Library

With Faculty Associate [Wendy S Wong](#) (Design), Dr Chu is recipient of a YCAR Research Collaboration Fellowship. The duo is co-editing a book project, *A Hong Kong Comics Studies Reader*.

On 1 February, Dr Chu gave a public lecture titled "[Hong Kong Nostalgia: Narrating Childhood and Collective Memories in Graphic Memoirs](#)." The lecture examines the depiction of nostalgia for 1980s and 1990s Hong Kong in three graphic memoirs: *How Blue Was My Valley* (2006) by Hok-tak Yeung, *Sheung Ha Wo Che* (2009) by Rainbow Leung and *Fu Chong Chok Lok* (2011) by Ko Sing. Hong Kong nostalgia encapsulates a poignant longing for bygone eras characterized by the city's distinctive urban landscape, much of which has undergone profound transformation in the continual process of urban development. Drawing from the analysis, Dr Chu illustrates how the personal childhood narratives and depiction of communal spaces evoke the collective memories of shared experiences. Bridging the realms of autobiographical reflection and communal remembrance, graphic memoirs play a pivotal role in shaping our understanding of Hong Kong's cultural memories amidst ongoing transforming urban landscape.

Dr Chu will be at YCAR until 25 February 2024.

Impact of forced cremation policy in Sri Lanka focus of Sivalingam award recipient

Congratulations to [Humairah Saleem](#), recipient of the 2023 N. Sivalingam Award in Tamil Studies!

Nagaratnam Sivalingam was a pioneer and leader of the Tamil community in Canada, who dedicated his life to promoting both Tamil culture and issues of concern to the community. His family created this award to encourage and promote research with a substantive focus on Tamil language, history, culture, society or the Tamil diaspora, but comparative research is also eligible.



Humairah's research focuses on examining the impact of the forced cremation policy, which the Sri Lankan government imposed during the COVID-19 pandemic. Through her study, Humairah wants to shed light on how this policy affected burial practices, healthcare experiences, and social dynamics within three major religious communities in Colombo: Buddhists, Hindus, and Muslims. Notably, the research addresses the historical neglect of the Muslim population in policy discussions within the context of the longstanding conflict between Sinhalese Buddhists and Tamil Hindus.

A first-generation Canadian, Humairah was born to Sri Lankan Muslim immigrants, and the unique experiences of her family have ignited a deep drive within her to understand marginalized Muslim and racialized minority populations with utmost sincerity and compassion.

"This personal commitment has been a guiding force throughout my life," she says.

She completed her BA in Human Rights and Equity Studies and is currently in her first year of the MA program in Development Studies. Humairah wears multiple hats in her professional life. She serves as a Program Director with SMILE Canada, an NGO dedicated to empowering Canadian youth with disabilities, reflecting her dedication to fostering inclusivity and social equity within her community. She is also Lab Coordinator at the Global South Migration Lab, actively contributing to research and initiatives related to migration, particularly in the Global South.

She anticipates that her research will also uncover instances of Islamophobia within the broader context of the COVID-19 pandemic in Colombo and will emphasize the need for a more inclusive policymaking approach that considers the unique needs and beliefs of all religious groups in Sri Lanka.

Emerging scholars' research on Hong Kong and the diaspora focus of 2023–24 lecture series

York alumni and international scholars are sharing their research on Hong Kong and its diaspora as part of a lecture series this year.

The Hong Kong Studies Group Lecture Series aims to review, highlight and acknowledge the new knowledge that emerging scholars are contributing to the field of Hong Kong and Hong Kong Diaspora Studies, thereby shaping its future. The series has included talks by [Amardeep Kaur](#) (University of Toronto) who provided an overview of the Hong Kong-Canadian astronaut family and Kin Wai Chu (University of Ghent) who spoke on graphic memoirs.

There are two upcoming talks, the first on 14 February where [Dr Magdalena Tang speaks about her passion for choral music](#). On 14 March, [Derrick Tu's talk](#) will explore how music can be used for intercultural learning in undergraduate music education by examining the effects of colonialism in Hong Kong.

The series' reach is expanded as events are being held in conjunction with courses in Music, Sociology, Anthropology, Communication and Culture, Geography, History and Humanities. The series is organized by [Wendy S Wong](#) (Design) and the [Hong Kong Studies Group](#).

Associates' News and Publications

- Congratulations to our Graduate Associates [Aarushie Sharma](#) (Social Anthropology) and [Ria Jhoanna Ducusin](#) (Geography) who are 2023 recipients of a [IDRC International Doctoral Research Award!](#) Aarushie's research is an ethnographic study of toilet politics and the infrastructure of sewage in Delhi. Ria is examining how ecological conditions and socio-political relations create and shape flooding in coastal cities, specifically in the Philippines.



- Faculty Associate [Raju Das](#) (EUC) | "[The Good and the Bad in David Harvey's Popular Marxism](#)" | *Critical Sociology*
- Faculty Associate [Jack Hang-tat Leong](#) (York University Libraries) | [Cantonese Opera in Canada](#) research guide | This guide provides annotated bibliography to the primary and historical resources for the teaching and research of Cantonese Opera in Canada, particularly in Toronto, in the context of Chinese Canadian history.
- YCAR alumna [Doris Ha-Lin Sung](#) (University of Alabama) | [Women of Chinese Modern Art: Gender and Reforming Traditions in National and Global Spheres, 1900s–1930s](#) (De Gruyter Oldenbourg 2024)
- Faculty Associate [Qiang Zha](#) (Education), author | "Newly Founded Local Universities: 'Land-grant Colleges' on Chinese Soil?" | Chapter in *Handbook on Local Governance in China: Structures, Variations, and Innovations* (Edward Elgar 2023) | The chapter is significantly cited in 2023 Annual Report to Congress by the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission, specifically the section on [China Educating and Training Its Next Generation Workforce](#).

Recent YCAR Events

YCAR was pleased to host Rappers' [Jodesz Gavilan](#) as part of the Philippine Studies Group's activities. Ms Gavilan is the 2023 Marshall McLuhan Fellow - Philippines. She spoke on the evolving role of journalists in covering human rights stories in the Philippines. When speaking of her experiences, the investigative journalist, researcher and podcast host said:



YCAR photograph

"It is ok to not have all the answers or solutions. When I first started, I thought I could change the world through journalism. Let the story spark conversations, which could include solutions, answers or other conclusions that you might have overlooked or missed."

YCAR's **Asian Business and Management Program** celebrated Lunar New Year last week with its extended family of instructors, interpreters and partners from various sectors whose support make ABMP's activities possible.



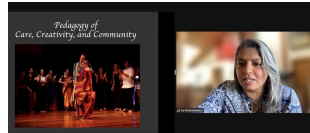
YCAR photograph

Pulitzer-prize winning author **Ian Johnson** spoke on China's counter-history movement and the vibrant movement of underground filmmakers, magazine publishers and authors who challenge the Communist Party on its most important source of legitimacy—its control of history. This talk was the first of two in the **Knowledge Production in East Asia** series, organized by Joan Judge (History). Christine Y. L. Lim (Tsinghua University) will present on **Arthur de Carle Sowerby in Republican-era Shanghai** in the second event in the series on 21 March 2024.



YCAR photograph

Sai Bhatawadeker (University of Hawai'i) was the inaugural speaker for the **Decolonizing Pedagogies and Pedagogies of Care in the South Asian Studies classroom series**. Her inspiring presentation on **pedagogy of care, creativity and community** included student-created videos that only utilized Zoom. The next talk in the series is with **Koral Dasgupta** on 19 March 2024. The series is organized by **Shobna Nijhawan** (DLLL).



How did different communities react to COVID-19 on Twitter during the early pandemic? **Yongjun Zhang** (Stony Brook University) introduced two unique datasets that his team collected to answer this question in his **09 February 2024 event**.



Their research shows that Sinophobia or hate speech targeting Asians, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) in online English communities was ubiquitous, based on mining over 68 million English Tweets that they compiled using relevant keywords. Second, Sinophobia was also popular in Chinese language communities on Twitter by mining over 25 million Chinese tweets mentioning any Chinese characters related to China, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), Chinese, and Asians after the COVID-19 outbreak. YCAR Research Associate **Zhifan Luo** (Concordia University) was discussant and Faculty Associate **Cary Wu** (Sociology) was moderator.

YCAR and YCAR-supported Events

Feb 14 | York University Annual Chinese Culture Day 2024 | In person

[More Info](#)

YORK York University
Annual Chinese Culture Day 2024
約克大學中國文化日

Date: Wednesday February 14, 2024
Time: 11:00am - 2:30pm
Venue: Founders Assembly Hall (FC 152)

Public Lecture: "Lingnan Culture as Method: How to Study 'Wing Fook' Legend"
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Yu Chang 余璋 (Author of *Wing Fook Legend and Lingnan Culture*, Hong Kong Chinese Society)

Public Lecture: "Provision of Chinese Heritage through Custom Open in Canada"
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Jack Leung 梁國權 (Senior Librarian, Former Associate Dean of Research and Open Scholarship, York University Library)

Public Lecture: "Disorienting Space: Cultural Politics in the Remaking of 'The World of Our World'"
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Chris Tang 湯子強 (Assistant Professor, University of Toronto)

Performances:
Peking Opera: *Zhoukou Cassia* (周克柳)
Peking Opera: *Guozi Long* (郭子龍)
Cantonese Opera: "Sensible to an Insider" (靈敏 - 靈敏)
Cantonese Opera: *Shan-Ping in the Mirror* (山平照鏡)
Performers: Yikau C. Chang 張卓偉 (Director and Instructor of The Sunlight Chinese Opera Troupe), Arts Council and Michelle Cai 蔡慧慧

A reception will follow. This event is open to public.
This event is organized by Professor Simon Fung (FC, Associate Professor, YIC Chinese Program, York University) and co-organized by the Department of Language, Literatures, and Linguistics, Founders College, Cultural Arts & Performance Studies, and York Centre for Area Research, York University. Special thanks to Jacky Poo for giving us opening remarks.

Feb 14 | Embodied Chorus: Enacting Musical Meaning with Magdalena Honyan Tang | *In person*

[Registration Link](#)

Embodied Chorus: Enacting Musical Meaning
 Wednesday, 14 February 2024 | Room 113 (01-01) | Room 311, Available Building East, Keele Campus, York University

Speaker: Dr Magdalena Tong
 In this presentation, Dr. Tong explores how European and North American choral groups have shaped their choral voices, the role of history and culture in shaping musical aesthetics, experiences. During COVID-19, she shares how choral groups adapted to the challenges of virtual music-making, particularly regarding the collaboration and support of participants through physical and vocal expressions.

Magdalena Honyan Tang is an Assistant Professor of Music at York University. She is also the Director of the York University Choral Society. She has been the Artistic Director of the York University Choral Society since 2015. She has also been the Artistic Director of the York University Choral Society since 2015. She has also been the Artistic Director of the York University Choral Society since 2015.

York Centre for Asian Research

Feb 29 | The New Global Universities: Reinventing Education in the 21st Century with Noah Pickus, Duke University | *Hybrid*

[Registration Link](#)

(LiberalArts) Lecture Series ED(ucation) Thurs, 29 Feb, 2024 15:30-17:00 EST

"The New Global Universities: Reinventing Education in the 21st Century" with Noah Pickus

This talk chronicles the origins, launch, and impact of eight innovative colleges and universities in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and North America, describing the combination of intellectual courage, entrepreneurial audacity, and adaptive leadership needed to invent educational institutions today. Their experiences offer lessons for future founders of new universities—and for those who want to renew and rejuvenate existing ones.

Noah Pickus
 An Assistant Professor, Duke University and Dean by Appointment, University of Toronto, Pickus is the author of *The New Global Universities: Reinventing Education in the 21st Century*. He was formerly the executive director of the Center for Global Education at York University and is currently the founding director of the Center for Global Education at York University. He is also the author of *The New Global Universities: Reinventing Education in the 21st Century*.

Joined by: Qiang Zha
 Chair | Interim Director, York Centre for Asian Research

Lisa Philipps
 Director, President & Vice President Academic, York University

4700 Keele St., Rm 519, 5th Floor, Kaneff Tower

York Centre for Asian Research **CIHE** **CIDEC**

Feb 29 | DEI: The Good, the Bad and the Performative | *In person*

[Registration Link](#)

DEI: THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE PERFORMATIVE

The School of Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies invites you to join our Annual Lecture series featuring a roundtable on the possibilities and limitations of institutionalized Diversity, Equity and Inclusion initiatives.

Featured speakers include:

- Ghazal Masud, Broadcast Journalist, Activist, and author of *The Skin We're In*
- Dr. Anjali M. Subramanian, Assistant Professor of Sociology, Trent University
- Shahnaaz Siddiqui, President of Pakistani Students' Collective (PSC)

Thursday, February 29, 2024 | 12:00 to 2:00 PM | Registration required
 Founders Assembly Hall (F2 Founders College), York University, Keele Campus
 This event will be in-person only.

Sponsored by: **ROBERTS** 3114 York Equity Centre for Asian Research

Mar 7 | YCAR China Studies Group Meet & Greet | *In person*

[Registration Link](#)

Mar 14 | Identity, Intercultural Learning, and Undergraduate Music Programs in Hong Kong With Derrick Tu | *Hybrid*

[Registration Link](#)

Mar 19 | Privileges and Social Justice: The COVID 19 Art Project with Koral Dasgupta (author and founder of www.tellmestory.biz) | *Virtual*

Decolonizing Pedagogies and Pedagogies of Care in the South Asian Studies Classroom series

[Registration Link](#)

Tuesday, 19 March 2024 | 11:30 to 12:30 EST | Virtually via Zoom

Privileges and Social Justice: The COVID 19 Art Project

Koral Dasgupta
 Author and founder of www.tellmestory.biz

Koral has published an eclectic range of books from academic nonfiction to relationship dramas. Her books are discussed from the context of gender studies, art, myth and ecological literature. She founded www.tellmestory.biz in order to leverage literature to design and execute extensive learning programmes that inspire social engagement and behavioural change for Inclusion & Diversity. She is recognised in the list of Innovators Asia Pacific 2019 prepared by The Holmes Report, and was listed under the Women of Wonder (WOW) series in Outlook Business in 2019.

This Decolonizing Pedagogies and Pedagogies of Care in the South Asian Studies classroom series event is organized by Shobna Nijawan (Languages Literatures and Linguistics) and presented with support from the York Centre for Asian Research.

[Register at this link](#)
 For more information: ycar@yorku.ca

Mar 21 | Arthur de Carle Sowerby in Republican-era Shanghai: Bridging the global and the local via evolutionism,

Thursday, 21 March 2024 | 14:30 to 16:00 EST
 Room 280N, Second Floor, York Lanes, York University *In-person*
Arthur de Carle Sowerby in Republican-era Shanghai: Bridging the Global and the Local

1922–1954 with Christine Y. L. Luk
(Tsinghua University) | *In person*

[More Info](#)

via Evolutionism, 1922–1954

With
Christine Y. L. Luk
Tsinghua University



In this talk, Professor Luk discusses Arthur de Carle Sowerby's (1885–1954) life and work in wartime Shanghai, in which the local conditions of war and nationalism shaped Sowerby's interpretation of the natural world and the associated forms of evolutionism. She argues that evolutionism served as a missing link that bridged Sowerby's earlier naturalist career in collecting biological specimens and his emerging political awareness of China's place in the world. Connecting the global and the local via evolution, her study aims at globalizing the study of biology as well as the history of Republican-era China.

This event is part of the [Knowledge Production in East Asia](#) series at the York Centre for Asian Research.

For more information: ycar@yorku.ca

Thursday, 21 March 2024 | Noon to 1:00 EST
Room 905, Third Floor, York Lakes, York University



From Migrant Settlement to Mobility Justice:
Reflections on Teaching/Learning about
Migration in a Settler Colonial Setting

Soma Chatterjee
School of Social Work, York University

In this talk, I want to share my experience of teaching migration electives in social work. I will draw from my experience of planning EE activities for graduate and undergraduate classes (2017–23), students' learning reflections, and some of the pedagogical and administrative challenges of moving the work of decolonizing curricula from rhetoric to practice. My goal will be to engage the audience into thinking about the notion of mobility justice, a conceptual space that allows us to think of migrant and Indigenous justice in its relations and contradictions.

This Decolonizing Pedagogies and Pedagogies of Care in the South Asian Studies classroom series event is organized by Shobna Nijhawan (Languages, Literatures and Linguistics) and presented with support from the York Centre for Asian Research.

Mar 21 | From Migrant Settlement to
Mobility Justice: Reflections on
Teaching/Learning about Migration in a
Settler Colonial Setting with Soma
Chatterjee (School of Social Work, York
University) | *In person*

Decolonizing Pedagogies and
Pedagogies of Care in the South Asian
Studies Classroom series

[Registration Link](#)

Apr 25 | YCAR Annual General Meeting |
Hybrid

[More Info](#)

York Centre for
Asian Research

AGM Annual General Meeting 2024

YCAR invites its Associates to its Annual General Meeting 2024! We look forward to seeing you and updating you on our activities over the past year and plans for the coming year!

WEDNESDAY
25 APRIL 2024
10:00 TO NOON EDT
HYBRID EVENT

ROOM 518, FIFTH FLOOR,
KANEFF TOWER OR VIRTUAL
VIA ZOOM

VIRTUAL REGISTRATION

York and Community Events of Interest

Mar 1–2 | Challenging Empire: Women, Art, and the
Global Early Modern World symposium | *Hybrid*

[Registration Link](#)

Mar 6 | *Pitfall: The Race to Mine the World's Most
Vulnerable Places* book release | *Virtual*

[Registration Link](#)

Opportunities

Canada-ASEAN Scholarships and Educational Exchanges for Development (SEED) | Deadline: Mar 21

These scholarships funded by Global Affairs Canada allow Southeast Asian graduate students to spend a semester or two at a Canadian university as part of their masters or doctoral research. The deadline for applications to the SEED program for 2024–2025 scholarships is **21 March 2024**.

If there are faculty who work on Southeast Asia with promising collaborators in the region or if you are aware of Southeast Asian graduate students aiming to come to Canada for a semester or two during 2024–25, this could be a good way of funding them. For graduate students, the SEED funding is intended to cover travel and living expenses in Canada, and no tuition is required since they are not taking courses. The Canada-ASEAN SEED program also allows undergraduates to apply, but it requires an existing agreement between the Canadian university and their home university (to cover tuition arrangements)

[More Info](#)

Upcoming Tri-Council Opportunities

- [SSHRC Partnership Engage Grant](#) | 15 March 2024
- [SSHRC Impact Awards](#) | 01 April 2024
- [SSHRC Connection Grant](#) | 01 May 2024
- [SSHRC Partnership Engage Grant](#) | 15 June 2024
- [CANSSI Ontario Data Access Grants](#) | Rolling deadline

Call

Call for Papers | International Conference on Development, Democracy and Citizenship:
Decolonial Perspectives from the Global South

- Conference Dates: 22–23 March 2024
- Format: Hybrid
- Deadline: 15 February 2024

[More Info](#)



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York Centre for Asian Research

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