

# York Centre for Asian Research

Update for 29 May 2024

May is Asian Heritage Month!

## YCAR News

### 2024 YCAR Language Award Recipients

Congratulations to Geneviève Minville (Critical Human Geography) and Rachel Thorn (Social Anthropology) who are our 2024 recipients of YCAR Language Awards.

[Rachel Thorn](#) began learning Korean in high school and will use her award funds for language tutoring to prepare her for her fieldwork in terms of a greater understanding of conversational skills as well as more complex Korean phrases.

"Language acquisition is vital for my research. Though I do have a basic understanding of Korean, I will need to have much more skill to be able to speak comfortably with my interlocutors, most of whom will be native Korean speakers," said Thorn.

Rachel is a master's student in Social Anthropology. Her research investigates the significance of the parasocial relationship between K-pop idols and fans, focusing on the implication of Korean social forms of care within and beyond Korea in global spaces related to the fan-idol bond. Her work also focuses on K-pop's shift from a local to global object as a product of globalization. In Summer 2024, she will be conducting two months of ethnographic fieldwork in Seoul to attend musical group BTS' eleventh anniversary as well as relevant pre- and post-events such as pop-up shows, dance parties, or public fan commemorations.

In the summer of 2023, Geneviève travelled to the Philippines to learn basic Tagalog. With the YCAR award, she will continue her studies with the same teacher through weekly online sessions.

"Becoming more comfortable speaking and understanding Tagalog is essential for my doctoral research, especially since I will use a participatory approach. I want to ensure that my research benefits the local communities and comes from their own needs and perspectives. Doing so, however, requires building significant relationships with them. As such, learning the language matters beyond being able to communicate and understand, as it shows respect and commitment and helps create meaningful partnerships," said Minville.

Geneviève Minville is a doctoral student in Critical Human Geography. Her research interests include refugee studies, climate displacement, critical development, feminist political ecology, and sand mining. Her doctoral research will be conducted in the Philippines on the nexus between sand mining for development purposes, disasters and forced displacement.

The YCAR Language Award is open to graduate students enrolled at York University and registered for the Graduate Diploma in Asian Studies (GDAS) who have demonstrated a need to learn a specific Asian language to appreciate and better understand the context and perspectives relating to their area of research study.

[More information on eligibility or to apply is available at](#)



Rachel Thorn



Geneviève Minville

*Photographs provided by  
awardees*

[this link](#).

## Watch YCAR!

Communications and Public Affairs at York has featured a video on YCAR as part of Asian Heritage Month. Interim Director [Qiang Zha](#) (Education) and Faculty Associate [Patrick Alcedo](#) (Dance) speak about YCAR, its role at York and their own research.



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## Associates' News and Publications (alphabetically)

### **[Htet Min Lwin](#) Named 2024 Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Dissertation Fellow in Buddhist Studies**

We are proud to announce that Htet Min Lwin, doctoral candidate at Humanities and YCAR Graduate Associate has been awarded a 2024 Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Dissertation Fellowship in Buddhist Studies.



*Photo provided by Htet Min Lwin*

Htet is one of [11 scholars](#) at universities in Canada, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Thailand, the United Kingdom and the United States who have been awarded \$30,000 each for dissertation fieldwork, archival research and writing. This program is made possible by a grant from The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Global and administered by the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS).

Htet's research explores the State's attempts in 1958, 1962 and final successful attempt in 1980 to institutionalize monastics in Myanmar under a centralized state-backed authority. Arguing against the triumph of the State's political secularism, it demonstrates the monks' own Buddhist logic and the sources of power within the tradition to finally accept this centralized authority. It shows how the nation-state's attempt to regulate religion ended up with not only the monastics being put under State control, but also with the State being equally, if not more, shaped and transformed by religion—creating society and polity more towards orthodoxy, and resulting in the authoritarian, nationalist Buddhist state and communities.

"ACLS applauds these outstanding fellows and grantees, who will expand understanding of Buddhist traditions both inside and outside the academy, through research, writing, translations, a new teaching position, and professional placements at celebrated museums and publications," said Deena Ragavan, ACLS Director of International Programs. "This eleventh cohort of The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Program in Buddhist Studies represents a wide range of nationalities, institutions and Buddhist traditions, echoing our commitment to better reflect and engage scholars and communities of Buddhism worldwide."

The [Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Program in Buddhist Studies](#) promotes the understanding and interpretation of Buddhist thought in scholarship and society, strengthens international networks of Buddhist scholars, and increases the visibility of new knowledge and research on Buddhist traditions.

- Faculty Associate [Russell Belk](#) (Schulich School of Business) was quoted in an article in *The Runner* on why vinyl record collectors do what they do. [Read the article here](#).
- Faculty Associate [Muyang Li](#) (Sociology) | "A cross-platform comparison of China's confrontational diplomatic communication" | *Journal of International Communication*. The research for this article was supported by the [China Insight Fund](#).
- Research Associate [Zhifan Luo](#) (Concordia University), X. Alvin Yang and Faculty Associate [Muyang Li](#) (Sociology), editors and authors | Special issue on [Transculturality of Anti-Asian Racism](#) | *Sociological Inquiry*. Faculty Associate [Lucia Lo](#) is co-author on an article on "[Transculturality, Anti-Asian Racism and Student Mobility: A Case Study of Chinese International Student Experiences during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)."
- The Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change profiled Graduate Associate [Nikki Pagaling's](#) (Geography) research on labour market transitions to Personal Support Worker roles among Filipina women in its latest newsletter. [Read about Nikki's research at this link](#).
- Faculty Emerita [Penny Van Esterik's](#) (Anthropology) was interviewed by the International Institute of Asian Studies about her new book, *Designs on Pots?* [Read the story here](#).
- Faculty Associate [Qiang Zha](#) (Education) and [Elena Caproni](#) (ABMP Program Director) were interviewed by OMNI TV Mandarin program last week about the newly launch China Studies Group at YCAR. [Watch the video here](#).

## York and Community Events of Interest

**May** | Hot Docs Asian Heritage Month programming | **In person**

[More Info](#)

**May 30** | Policy Chat & Open House, Asian Policy Professionals Networ

[More Info](#)

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## YCAR Opportunities

### YCAR Research Collaboration Fellowship | Deadline: June 3

The YCAR Research Collaboration Fellowship is aimed to promote intensive collaboration between a Faculty Associate of the Centre and a research collaborator at another research institution (university, NGO, etc.). The fellowship provides support for a collaborator, usually from Asia, to visit Toronto for the specific purpose of jointly working on a research proposal, project or publication.

The fellowship provides up to a maximum of C\$15,000 in reimbursement for travel and accommodation expenses incurred by the research collaborator. Visiting researcher will usually spend one to three months in Toronto. YCAR provides the visitor with a desk and library access for the Fellowship's duration. Preference may be given to applicants with existing collaborations at the time of application.

Applications for a proposed visitor in the 2024–25 academic year are accepted until Monday, 03 June 2024 at 16:00 EDT and should be submitted by the YCAR Faculty Associate making the nomination, not the proposed visitor.

A complete application consists of:

- 1) Current CV of both the Applicant and Research Collaborator
- 2) A two-page document (word or PDF) that includes the following:
  - statement outlining the proposed collaborative work
  - details of the planned output that will result from the Fellowship
  - timeline of the proposed visit and output

This opportunity will be adjudicated by YCAR's Awards Committee.

[The application form is available at this link.](#)

[More information at this link.](#)

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## Other Opportunities

### York's Global Research Excellence (GRE) Seed Fund

Rolling Deadline

[More information at this link.](#)

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### Mitacs Globalink Research Internship

Deadline for faculty submissions: 04 June 2024 at 13:00 PT

[More information at this link.](#)

[Submit your project at this link.](#)

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### Funding Bold Ideas for Youth Mental Health in 12 countries

Applications accepted: 01 May to 26 June 2024

[More information at this link.](#)

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### Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships

York University Letter of Intent deadline for the 2024–25 cycle: 09 July 2024

[More information at this link.](#)

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### Virtual Language Institute to study a SEA language not available at your university + Language Tuition Awards

Deadline: 12 July 2024

[More information at this link](#)

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#### Early Researcher Award

Agency Deadline: 25 July 2024

[More information at this link.](#)

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#### Engaged Research Grants Program

Agency deadline: 01 August 2024

[More information at this link.](#)

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#### Catalyst Grant : Community Based Research in Climate Change Priority Areas

Deadline: 14 August 2024

[More information at this link](#)

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#### SSHRC Connection Grant

Deadline: 01 November 2024

[More information at this link](#)

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#### SSHRC Partnership Development Grant

Deadline: 15 November 2024

[More information at this link](#)

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#### SSHRC Partnership Engage Grant

Deadline: 15 December 2024

[More information at this link](#)

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#### Call for Abstracts | Philippine Studies Program Conference | Deadline: July 15

The Office of Cultural Diplomacy (OCD) of the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs has partnered with the Asian Center of the University of the Philippines (Diliman) to organize the very first international Philippine Studies Program Conference to be held in Manila at the Ramon Magsaysay Center on 27 to 29 November 2024.

This inaugural Philippine Studies Program Conference seeks to consolidate the gains achieved by the various Philippine Studies Programs over the years, and to advance the momentum in promoting Philippine Studies abroad.

The main theme of the conference is: "Dialogo: Philippine Studies Goes Global", with the aim to initiate a dialogue among national and international Philippine Studies Programs, scholars, experts, and enthusiasts on the Philippines.

The following are the proposed sub-themes of the conference:

1. Decolonizing Philippine Studies
2. Indigenous Knowledge Systems
3. The Philippines as a Maritime, Archipelagic and Island Nation
4. Mindanao History and Culture
5. Intercultural Encounters, Diaspora and Migration
6. Philippine Arts, Languages and Cultures
7. Philippine Governance, Climate Change and Disaster Management
8. Foreign Policy
9. Energy, Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Management
10. Gender, Health, Education, and Social Development

The conference will also feature keynote presentations, panel discussions, paper presentations, providing ample opportunities for participants to engage and exchange ideas.

The audience will mainly be from the academe - professors, students and researchers specializing in Philippine Studies.

The deadline for submissions is **15 July 2024** and the [submission guidelines are at this link](#). The conference will be conducted entirely in English. [Email the conference secretariat for more information.](#)

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\*For the summer months, the YCAR Update will be published monthly.\*



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