

York Centre for Asian Research

The YCAR Update for 30 January 2024

YCAR News

Areej Alshammiry is our 2023 Albert CW Chan Foundation Award recipient!

Congratulations to [Areej Alshammiry](#), the 2023 recipient of the 2023 Albert CW Chan Foundation Award. A doctoral student in Sociology, Areej is a Vanier Scholar whose research explores state violence and statelessness. She is also a community-based researcher at the Centre for Community Based Research and a member of the Interim Core Group (ICG) of the nascent Global Movement Against Statelessness.



This award was established by the Albert C.W. Chan Foundation in order to encourage and assist graduate students to carry out field research in East and/or Southeast Asia. Areej will use the support that the award provides for a pre-field work exploratory project that will inform her dissertation. She will travel in Malaysia in February 2024, where she will be participating in the 2024 World Conference on Statelessness Agenda as a presenter, observer and moderator. She will be documenting the discussions in and reflections about the conference as well as meet with peers with whom she will engage with in her dissertation fieldwork. The experience will also assist her in designing my dissertation framework and scope.

In her research, Areej is looking at how stateless activists and communities around the world organize and mobilize internationally through transnational movement building to address their local experiences of statelessness and state violence. She is specifically addressing the theoretical and methodological tensions within the statelessness field regarding how local and global advocacy which remain tied to legal paradigms, limiting their impact in contexts with complex socio-political dynamics. She is also interested in anti/de-colonial epistemologies and how they inform social movements around the world, and their encounters with state and international regimes, particularly indigenous/nomadic paradigms.

Areej's work is informed by social justice and community-oriented goals and action. She has years of experience working as an interdisciplinary researcher and a grassroots activist, and much of her thinking is informed by the interconnections between scholarship and activism.

Applications for the 2024 Albert C.W. Chan Foundation Award are being accepted until 05 February 2024

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

Winter lecture series focuses on the South Asian Studies classroom

Embedded in the field of South Asian Studies, this YCAR-supported series engages with the methodologies and epistemologies of researchers, educators and artists as they reflect on their pedagogies, commitments, responsibilities and accountabilities in academic teaching. With the arts as thematic focus, the three speakers—from the United States, India as well as our Faculty Associate Soma Chatterjee (School of Social Work)—will share their experiences theorizing dance, theatre, literature and visual arts in the classroom and beyond in light of decolonizing pedagogies and pedagogies of care and kindness.

Sai Bhatawadekar (University of Hawai'i) will launch the series on 08 February with her [presentation on the pedagogy of care, creativity, and community](#). Professor Bhatawadekar is an award winning professor and teacher of South Asian languages and culture; she is also a choreographer, theater director, poet, and philosopher. Koral Dasputa, author and founder of www.tellmestory.biz, will speak on "[Privileges and Social Justice: The COVID 19 Art Project](#)" on 19 March 2023. The series' final event is Professor Chatterjee's talk, [From Migrant Settlement to Mobility Justice: Reflections on Teaching/Learning about Migration in a Settler Colonial Setting](#).

The culminating event will be held in person, while the first two in the series are virtual. [Learn more about the series or register for events at this link.](#)

The [Decolonizing Pedagogies and Pedagogies of Care in the South Asian Studies](#)

Welcome to YCAR's new associates!

A warm welcome to YCAR family for our new associates:

- Kim Lynette Abella, York alumna
- Burcu Boran, Linguistics and Applied Linguistics
- Samantha Boyd, Social Anthropology
- Griffin Cahill, Linguistics and Applied Linguistics
- Yu Chen, Economics
- Daisy Rose Cortez, Development Studies
- Thinh Dao, Economics
- Peter Duker, YCAR alumnus and University of Guelph
- Sobia Kiran, Humanities
- Geneviève Minville, Geography
- Sara Mozafari-Iorestani, Visual Arts
- Laxana Paskaran, Gender, Feminist and Women's Studies
- Maurice Poon, School of Social Work
- Ayesha Shahid, Geography
- Harkiran Singh, Sociology
- Sean Sullivan, Business Administration
- Rachel Thorn, Social Anthropology

Associates' News and Publications

Faculty Associate Yvonne Su (Equity Studies), co-author | ["International students cap falsely blames them for Canada's housing and health-care woes"](#) | *The Conversation*

Faculty Associate Peter Vandergeest (EUC) and Graduate Associate Carli Melo (Geography), co-author | ["Canada lags behind on efforts to address human rights abuses in seafood supply chains"](#) | *The Conversation*

Emeriti Faculty Associate Penny Van Esterik (Anthropology) | *Design on Pots: Ban Chiang and the Politics of Heritage in Thailand* (Amsterdam University Press, 2023) | [This book is open access](#)

YCAR and YCAR-supported Events

Feb 1 | Hong Kong Nostalgia: Narrating Childhood and Collective Memories in Graphic Memoirs with Kin Wai Chu, Ghent University | YCAR Hong Kong Studies Group Lecture Series 2023–24 | **Hybrid**

[More Info](#)

Hong Kong Nostalgia:
Narrating Childhood and Collective Memories
in Graphic Memoirs

Thursday, 1 February 2024 | 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM | 100 York Blvd, York University, 4th Floor, York Centre for Asian Research

Speaker: Kin Wai Chu
@kinwai.chu

In this presentation, Kin Wai Chu will share her journey into the world of graphic memoirs for 1980s and 1990s Hong Kong in three graphic memoirs: *How Blue My Memory* (2014), *The Red and the Blue* (2019) by Kwan Yee, and *The Chung Chek Luk* (2022) by Ho Sing. The graphic memoirs will illustrate her childhood and adolescence in Hong Kong, effectively presenting personal narratives and identity with collective memories.

Kin Wai Chu is a PhD candidate in the Department of Communication Studies at York University. She is also a writer and a graphic memoirist. Her work has been featured in *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, and *The Atlantic*. She is currently working on her second graphic memoir, *The Red and the Blue*, which explores her family's history and identity in Hong Kong.

YCAR Hong Kong
York Centre for Asian Research
Organized by the Hong Kong Studies Group
Registration is required for this event.
Register at: [http://ykar.yorku.ca](#)

Feb 5 | Building Communities: The Evolving Role of Journalists in Covering Human Rights Stories in the Philippines with Jodesz Gavilan, 2023 Marshall McLuhan Fellow – Philippines | **Hybrid**

[More Info](#)

Monday, 05 February 2024 | 10:30 AM to Noon EST
Room 857, Eighth Floor, Kanef Tower, York University & virtually via Zoom

Building Communities: The Evolving Role of Journalists in Covering Human Rights Stories in the Philippines

Jodesz Gavilan
2023 Marshall McLuhan Fellow - Philippines

In her talk, Gavilan will discuss the journalist's expanding role that goes beyond reporting to include working on how to create impactful solutions to social challenges. Her presentation will explain how journalists can be more than truth-telling but also as an advocacy for collaborative action.

Jodesz Gavilan is an investigative journalist, researcher and podcast host. She has been an investigative reporter and researcher for the independent news outlet Rappler since 2013. Aside from being a reporter, she also hosts and produces "Newsbreak: Beyond the Stories," a weekly podcast series on Rappler that dissects and deep dives into the pressing issues in the Philippines.

The Embassy of Canada in the Philippines awarded Jodesz the Marshall McLuhan Fellowship in 2023 for her "unique commitment to investigative journalism, to informing the public about decisions and policies that affect their lives in support of the public interest" and her commitment to inform, "to enable meaningful public engagement on issues in service of the public, and illustrate how investigations, facts, and transparency can ensure meaningful democratic accountability."

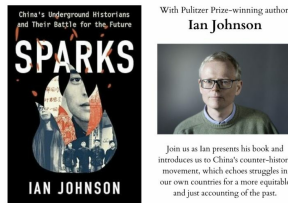
YCAR
York Centre for Asian Research
Register for this event at this link
For more information:
philippines@ycar.yorku.ca

Feb 7 | The Battle for Memory in China
 Room 280N, Second Floor, York Lanes, York University | **In-person**
 with Pulitzer Prize-winning author Ian Johnson | **In person**

- 14:30 to 16:00 EST
- Room 280N, Second Floor, York Lanes, York University

[Registration Link](#)

Wednesday, 07 February 2024 | 14:30 to 16:00 EST
The Battle for Memory in China
 With Pulitzer Prize-winning author Ian Johnson



Join us as Ian presents his book and introduces us to China's counter-history movement, which echoes struggles in our own countries for a more equitable and just accounting of the past.

Ian Johnson is a Pulitzer Prize-winning writer, researcher and senior fellow for China studies at the Council on Foreign Relations. His new book, *Sparks: China's Underground Historians and their Battle for the Future*, shows how—despite the best efforts of Xi Jinping's surveillance state—a nationwide movement has coalesced to challenge the Communist Party on its most hallowed ground: its control of history.



Register at this event

This event is part of the Knowledge Expedition in East Asia series at the York Centre for Asian Research.
 For more information: ycar@yorku.ca

Feb 8 | Pedagogy of Care, Creativity, and Community with Sai Bhatawadekar (University of Hawai'i) | Virtual

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

[Registration Link](#)

Thursday, 8 February 2024 | 17:00 to 18:30 EST | Virtually via Zoom



My teaching philosophy and practice is creative, cross-disciplinary and genuinely caring for individuals and community. In my classes my students and I engage with South Asian culture(s) critically, creatively, and joyfully, while at the same time understanding ourselves, our complex cultures and times, and our global journeys and responsibilities. The pedagogical practices that I use have facilitated organically growing and flowing channels between academia and community, between language and the arts, between art and critical thinking, between cultures, and simply between people, which is truly what is at the heart of my work in Public Humanities.

Sai Bhatawadekar (University of Hawai'i) is an award-winning professor and teacher of South Asian languages and culture; she is also a choreographer, theater director, poet and philosopher.

This is the inaugural event in the *Decolonizing Pedagogies and Pedagogies of Care in the South Asian Studies classroom series*, organized by *Shobna Nigam* (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

Feb 9 | Sinophobia on Western Social Media During Early COVID-19 with Yongjun Zhang (Stony Brook University)

[Registration Link](#)

Friday, 09 February 2024
 13:00 to 15:00 EST | Virtually via Zoom

Sinophobia on Western Social Media During Early COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to a global surge in Sinophobia. This talk introduces two unique datasets that we collected to study how different communities reacted to COVID-19 on Twitter during the early pandemic.

Yongjun Zhang is Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology and the Institute for Advanced Computational Science at Stony Brook University.

Attendees can register at this link

York Centre for Asian Research

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

- 11:00 to 14:30 EST
- Room 152, Assembly Hall, Founders College

[More Info](#)

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 To Wing Legend'"
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Du Chang 杜暢, Author of *Wing To Wing Legend and Canton Culture*, Hong Kong Cultural Society

Public Lecture: "Preservation of Chinese Heritage through Cantonese Opera in Canada"
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Jack Wong 黃國權, Senior Lecturer, former Associate Dean of Research and Open Scholarship, York University Libraries

Public Lecture: "Democratizing Race: Cultural Politics in the Remaking of The World of Xue Ping"
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Chris Song 宋子龍, Assistant Professor, University of Toronto

Performances:
 Peking Opera: *Incense Candles* (香蓮)
 Performer: Carrie Ling Wan Leung (梁佩珊)

Cantonese Opera: "Scramble for an Umbrella" (搶傘)
 From: *Prosperity on the Moon* (月宮)

Performers: Alice K. Chang 張碧雲, Director and Instructor of The Nightlife Chinese Opera Performing Arts Centre and Midland Cui 崔曉雲

A reception will follow. This event is open to public.
 This event is organized by Professor James Fung (James Fung), Assistant Professor, The Chinese Program, York University and co-organized by the Department of Language, Literature, and Linguistics, Founders College, Liberal Arts & Professional Studies, and York Centre for Asian Research, York University. Special thanks to Justice Png for giving us a grant to make this event.

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

[Registration Link](#)

Mar 7 | YCAR China Studies Group Meet & Greet

[Registration Link](#)

Mar 19 | Privileges and Social Justice: The COVID 19 Art Project with Koral

Tuesday, 19 March 2024 | 11:30 to 13:30 EST | Virtually via Zoom

Dasgupta (author and founder of
www.tellmeyourstory.biz) | **Virtual**

[More Info](#)



Koral Dasupta

Author and founder of www.tellmeyourstory.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 ecocritical literature. She founded www.tellmeyourstory.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 Nijhawan (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, 1922–1954 with Christine Y. L. Luk (Tsinghua University) | **In person**

[More Info](#)

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 via Evolutionism, 1922–1954

With
Christine Y. L. Luk
Tsinghua University



In this talk, Professor Luk discusses Arthur de Carle Sowerby's (1888–1954) 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

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**

[More Info](#)



Thursday, 21 March 2024 | 11:00 to 12:00 EST
Room 305, Third Floor, York Lanes, 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 (2017–21), 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.

Apr 25 | YCAR Annual General Meeting | **Hybrid**

[More Info](#)

York and Community Events of Interest

Jan 31 | Dao 道 Popular Culture and Human Experience with Jay Goulding | **In person**

- 14:30 EST
- 322 Atkinson Building

Jan 31, Feb 8 | Laptop & Learn: "Discover York Academics" Tutorial

[In person](#)

- **In person:** Register for Jan 31 workshop from 10:00 to 11:30 EST
- **Virtual:** Register for Feb 8 workshop from 13:30 to 15:00 EST

[Virtual](#)

Feb 1 | Play, Communication, and Media in Japanese Videogame Arcades

[Registration Link](#)

Opportunities

Graduate awards offered by the York Centre for Asian Research

YCAR is accepting applications for awards for students whose research relates to Asia or Asian diasporas. **Awards to support research, fieldwork travel and language training have a deadline of Monday, 05 February 2024** at 16:00 EST

- Albert C.W. Chan Foundation Award for Research in East or Southeast Asia (One award, value: \$1,000)
- David Wurfel Award for Philippine Studies (One award, value: \$1,500)—open to undergraduates
- Dr Sangdeok Woo and Mrs. Kwisoan Lim Woo Memorial Graduate Award (One award, value: \$12,500)
- N. Sivalingam Award in Tamil Studies (One award, value: \$2,000)
- The Nirvan Bhavan Graduate Fellowship for Research on India and the Indian Diaspora (One award, value: \$6,500)
- Penny and John Van Esterik Award or Graduate Research on Southeast Asia (One award, value: \$2,000)
- Vivienne Poy Asian Research Award (Number of awards and value: Based on applications submitted)
- Vivienne Poy Hakka Graduate Research Award (One award, value: \$5,000)
- YCAR Language Award (Number of awards and value: Based on applications submitted)
- Young-Rahn Woo Memorial Graduate Award (One award, value: \$12,500)

[More Info](#)

Opportunity | Southeast Asian Studies Summer Institute 2024| Deadline: March 15

The Southeast Asian Studies Summer Institute (SEASSI) is an eight-week intensive language training program for undergraduates, graduate students, professionals and non-traditional students. Students learn speaking, reading, listening and writing skills through classroom instruction and a full range of co-curricular activities. Languages offered through SEASSI include: Burmese, Filipino, Hmong, Indonesian, Javanese, Khmer, Lao, Thai and Vietnamese. The program will run between 17 June and 09 August 2024. The priority deadline to apply is 15 March 2024. The overall modality for SEASSI 2024 will be face-to-face. However, special circumstances will be considered for a limited number of distance learning students to join an otherwise in-person class.

For information on the Institute, including financial aid, visit the [SEASSI website](#).

[More Info](#)

Opportunity | Commonwealth Peace and Reconciliation Network Grants | Deadline: Feb. 7

This opportunity is aimed at academic and professional staff to support initiatives advancing peace, reconciliation and indigenous knowledge. The grants aim to support collaborative work focused on either of the two main strategic priorities of [the Commonwealth Peace and Reconciliation Network](#) (PRN): Historical memory and trauma; Institutional reform and indigenous knowledge.

[More Info](#)

Opportunity | DAAD-Research Stays for University Academics | Deadline: May 15

This programme offers you the opportunity to network amongst colleagues and exchange experience in the framework of short-term research stays in Germany. The programme provides funding for research stays at state or state-recognised institutions of higher education or non-university research institutes in Germany. A research stay can also take place at several host institutions.

[More Info](#)

Call

Call for Papers | "Post-Pandemic" Inequalities in an Age of Global Capitalism | Deadline: March 1

In previous crises, states intervened where markets had failed. COVID-19 was an entirely different order of magnitude. Here the goal was to suspend, through state directive, much of the social activity necessary for economic functioning. Unlike the pre-pandemic period, once the threat posed by the virus was evident, governments magically found a way to pay for all kinds of programs and supports previously 'impossible'. The array of state interventions to replace lost income for both workers and employers brought to the fore fundamental questions regarding the prevailing social and economic order. Could not work and production be organized to meet basic human needs for food, shelter, decent employment, and health care?

Four decades later, neoliberalism is still standing. In fact, "post-pandemic" insecurity has strengthened the grip of ruling classes worldwide. Though extreme inequalities, precarity

of job tenure and poverty all predate the pandemic, the public policies facilitating their growth have gained new momentum. The post-COVID-19 era is characterized by crises of unprecedented proportions surrounding production and reproduction, climate change and the coalescence of structural inequalities and cyclical instabilities that are equally characteristic of capitalism.

Alternate Routes and Sapienza Università di Roma invite individual paper and panel submissions for our conference and special issue. The conference will be held from 6–8 June 2024 at University of Rome Sapienza. Topics may include but are not limited to: Imperialism and Colonialism; Race, Gender and Other Disparities; Inequality and (De)Democratization; Austerity and the State; Digital Economy; Platforms and Gig Work; Labour and Social Movements; Populism and Political Regroupment; Transnational Actors and Global Governance; Climate Change and Just Transitions.

A selection of papers will be considered as part of a special issue publication of *Alternate Routes: A Journal of Critical Social Research*. Inquiries can be sent to: editor@alternateroutes.ca

[More Info](#)



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York Centre for Asian Research

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