

Internationalization in Action: *Transformative Student Research at the Asian Institute*

2017-18

*Richard Charles Lee Insights Through Asia Challenge (ITAC):
Mobilities*

Big Ideas Competition: Exploring Global Taiwan

RESEARCH PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

&

*Global Taiwan Studies Program/Taiwan Alumni Association of
Toronto WELCOME BACK RECEPTION*

Friday, September 21, 2018 | 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Reception to follow

Rm. 108N - North House

1 Devonshire Place, Toronto

MUNK SCHOOL
OF GLOBAL AFFAIRS
& PUBLIC POLICY



ASIAN INSTITUTE

THE ASIAN INSTITUTE (AI) at the University of Toronto's Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy is one of North America's leading centres of Asian research and teaching. AI's approach to Asia balances regional specialization rooted in local knowledge with transnational, global, and interdisciplinary conversations that contextualize and transect local viewpoints on contemporary issues.

The Asian Institute prides itself on offering innovative teaching programs, as well as distinctive hands-on international learning experiences for students. In their future careers, our students will navigate a knowledge economy shaped by globalization that requires fluency across cultural, business, social, and political spheres. In order to develop this fluency, spending time on the ground in Asia is a crucial complement to classroom learning. The AI aims to offer as many of its students as possible the opportunity for an academically rooted, life-changing field research experience in Asia at least once during their studies. To that end, the AI has designed unique extracurricular programs that are on the vanguard of supporting the University's wider goals of internationalization, redesigning undergraduate teaching, and increasing student mobility. Programs such as ITAC and the Big Ideas Competition: Exploring Global Taiwan are unique on campus and are important vehicles in achieving those goals.

Generously supported by:

*The Richard Charles Lee Directorship at the Asian Institute
Global Taiwan Studies Program, Asian Institute
Taiwan Alumni Association of Toronto*

PROGRAM:

INTRODUCTION

12:00-12:10pm

EMILY HERTZMAN

Postdoctoral Fellow, Asian Institute

Manager, Richard Charles Lee Asian Pathways Research Lab, Asian Institute

RACHEL SILVEY

Richard Charles Lee Director, Asian Institute

Professor, Department of Geography and Planning

ITAC PRESENTATIONS

12:15-1:15pm

Mashal Khan (Equity Studies, Sociology, Visual Studies)

Khalood Kibria (Political Science, Sociology, Human Geography)

SEARCHING FOR SPACE: FEMALE (IM)MOBILITY IN URBAN PAKISTAN

Our research project initially intended to investigate the challenges and inequalities, specifically gendered discrimination and violence, that Pakistani women face in relation to their restricted mobility within public space in Pakistani cities—space that is often dominated by men. Our project evolved to also include non-binary and trans folks in Pakistani cities as our research would be incomplete without these crucial voices. Our goal was to highlight the diverse yet interconnected experiences of people whose mobility is restricted by similar social and structural barriers. We found that many of our predictions were accurate. Female, trans, and non-binary mobility is indeed restricted in Pakistani cities. However, mobility is also a very complex and layered topic which is constantly being shaped by internal dynamics in Pakistani cities, namely historical context, class, caste, religion, education level, age, the role of the state and marital status, to name just a few. We were privileged to interview and spend time with numerous individuals, collectives, and organizations who talked to us very honestly about the barriers they face. They also exposed us to the numerous ways in which these barriers are being chipped away as people seek to reclaim their space and ultimately transform the social and spatial fabric of Pakistani cities.

Atif Khan (University of Toronto Graduate Student, Department of Geography and Planning with collaboration in South Asian Studies and Development Policy and Power; University of Toronto Alum: Contemporary Asian Studies)

Kana Shishikura (University of Toronto Alum: Peace, Conflict, Justice Studies and Contemporary Asian Studies)

THE COLONIAL PRESENT: (IN)SECURITIZATION OF NEW DELHI

This project seeks to visualize securitization moving beyond the framework of textual analysis in order to unpack the dialogue of securitization of public spaces. Our project revealed the importance of our positionality as researchers embedded within the very logics of security as well as the need to understand the urban landscape as a living archive that cannot account for the state driven narratives present in the national archives within a specific building. Through our fieldwork in London and Paris, the difficulty of capturing the living urban landscape became evident. Our initial focus on academic sites such as Oxford University, Cambridge University and the University of London (SOAS, LSE) could not account or attest to the present conditions of securitizations of a metropolis. We conclude that securitization is a living and present condition that must be historicized along transnational and critical border studies.

Braden Kenny (Ontario Institute of Studies in Education, University of Toronto; University of Toronto Alum: Global Health and Equity Studies)

Terra Morel (Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, University of Alberta; University of Toronto Alum: Global Health and Immunology)

THE COMBINED RESPONSE TO THE PHYSICAL HEALTH NEEDS OF ROHINGYA REFUGEES IN MALAYSIA

Due to the persecution and economic deprivation of the Rohingya peoples in Myanmar, thousands have been forced to flee to nearby countries including Malaysia—a country that lacks the physical and financial infrastructure to support their physical health needs. In this study, we interviewed various actors including non-governmental organizations and clinical researchers to understand the current response to the physical health needs and recommendations to address these gaps in service delivery. Our findings illuminated the need for international bodies to take a more active role in assisting the Malaysian government with the intake of Rohingya refugees as well as introducing a centralized body to facilitate discussion and collaboration between non-governmental organizations and clinical researchers.

Kassandra Neranjan (International Relations, Peace, Conflict and Justice Studies)

Sakshi Shetty (Health & Disease, Immunology)

WOMEN ON THE MOVE: INTERSECTIONS OF STATELESSNESS, DEHUMANIZATION, AND SEXUAL AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

The 1.5 million Rohingya Muslims of Myanmar remain a nationally unrecognized ethnic group who have been systematically discriminated against, forcing many to flee and many more to be internally displaced within Myanmar. Women in this context are very susceptible to severe violence and trauma due to intersections of their statelessness and a process of dehumanisation in Burmese society. Thousands of survivors of sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) have fled to neighbouring Bangladesh as refugees. This project aims to analyze how gender is mainstreamed in humanitarian aid in the Rohingya context. We conducted semi-structured interviews with key actors in the field to analyze the process of rehumanisation through implemented structures that are catering to the needs of Rohingya women. Ultimately we will produce policy recommendations to help create programs of sustainable empowerment for refugee women. We drew several conclusions including the need to advocate for policy that is inclusive of adolescent girls, addressing legal obligations per international norms, increased security through hygiene and sanitation architecture, and more.

Yujia (Jade) Shi (Political Science; Collaborative Program in East and Southeast Asian Studies)

LOOKING INTO THE INTERGENERATIONAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LGBTQ YOUTH AND THEIR FAMILIES IN POST-ONE-CHILD-POLICY CHINA

This project looks into the intergenerational relationship between LGBTQ youth and their parents in the context of intentional relocation of young LGBTQ as migrant workers in Beijing. I examine two subjects in the research. First, I explore the theme “mobilities” through the case study of two young gay men who are from small towns in China, both of whom have relocated to Beijing. Second, I examine the intergenerational relationship between parents and their same-sex-attracted children through the experience of these two young gay men in their relationships with their family. The outcome of the research is a short documentary, a thesis, and a report. On a large scale, I have observed how the contemporary discourses on (homo) sexuality in China are influenced by both studies of sexuality and activism in Euro-North America as well as multi-faceted changes within China. On a small scale, I observe how the relocation of the young couple is both influenced by unequal urbanization and development in China and their drives for freedom and better financial conditions. In particular, the case study will provide

empirical research material on the tension and intimacy between the child and their parents in post-one-child-policy families.

Ben Sprenger (Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering, Mechanical Engineering)
Jillian Sprenger (Faculty of Arts and Science, Global Health)

ROAD TO COLOMBO: DOCUMENTARY FILM ON CLIMATE MIGRATION IN SRI LANKA

The purpose of this project was to gain insight into the experiences of climate migrants (including the challenges they face pre- and post-migration), in order to better understand how migration may or may not be an effective mechanism for coping with a rapidly changing climate. Following an extensive literature review, we conducted field research through interviews in Sri Lanka with subject matter experts (researchers, NGO leaders, and environmental activists) and with individuals who have migrated or who have had a family member migrate due to climatic events. The interviews, particularly those with the climate migrants and their families, revealed a complex reality with significant challenges associated with migration and with building climate resilience at the community level. Our research may have implications for determining how to prioritize investment to best support populations vulnerable to climate change. Our research findings will be disseminated through a documentary film (currently in post-production stages).

Wei Si Nicole Yiu (PhD Student in Gender Studies, University of California Los Angeles; former University of Toronto collaborative PhD student in Geography and Gender Studies)
RETHINKING INTIMACIES BETWEEN FILIPINA MIGRANT DOMESTIC WORKERS

My project is a paper analyzing queer sociality in the space of migrant women's organizing in Hong Kong. During my three-month fieldwork in Hong Kong, I had the pleasure of meeting Cynthia who is a key migrant activist in Hong Kong for migrant domestic workers' rights. Through Cynthia, I was able to establish contact with multiple migrant workers' organizations. I participated in over fifteen gatherings and conducted interviews with five migrant Filipina domestic workers in Hong Kong. All five interviews were over an hour long and provided me with great insights about migrant women's intimate relationships with other migrant women. Using information I have learned during my fieldwork and interviews with migrant women, I aim to engage with Black feminist literature on self-care to theorize the ways in which migrant women are caring for each other as queering 'proper' intimacies.

HEALTH BREAK 1:15-1:30pm

BIG IDEAS PRESENTATIONS 1:30-2:50pm

Introduction: TONG LAM
Director, Global Taiwan Studies Program, Asian Institute
Associate Professor, Department of Historical Studies

Jordan Ali (Department of Geography and Planning)
Fay Lin (Department of English; Diaspora and Transnational Studies)
OP ASIAN GAMER: WORK AND PLAY IN TAIPEI'S ESPORTS INDUSTRY

Taipei inhabits a transnational site of productive friction as a result of decisive investment from the Californian game industry-giant, Blizzard, alongside condemnations of video games in both national and international media. "Gaming" itself has been at the center of debate surrounding anxieties of time-wasting, productivity, and male youth arriving into increasingly competitive labour markets. On the one hand, gaming seems a useless form of virtual leisure, while on the other it rewards skilled players with

lucrative professional contracts. This raises questions about the centrality of Taiwan and Taiwanese gamers in the future of the global eSports industry.

For our research project, we explore the tensions surrounding gaming and eSports by applying a spatial analysis of sites across Taipei that, though seemingly different in function, allow us to reconsider the taken-for-granted spaces through which an eSports landscape forms: Taipei's internet cafes, electronics retail centres, and the Blizzard eSports Arena. Initially these three gamespaces seem connected exclusively to the realm of play. However, in visiting and observing the social exchanges in these spaces, and the spaces themselves, we discovered that gaming presents the unique ability to collapse work and play into an ambiguous set of practices that can commodify, commercialize, or reimagine gamespaces as capable of both productivity and leisure, troubling discourses that designate mutually exclusive spaces for binaries of 'work' and 'play.'

Natalie Bell (MA in East Asian Studies/Collaborative MA in Contemporary East and Southeast Asian Studies)

INDIGENOUS HISTORY IN TAIWAN'S NATIONAL MUSEUMS

Through interviews and field research at museums in Taiwan I examined the role indigenous history plays in what Benedict Anderson refers to as "national biography" and how that role is changing. As recognition of an indigenous past in Taiwan carries the connotation of an alternative to the previously China-focused Guomindang (KMT) supported national narrative, the increasing representation of indigenous histories in national museums reflects a political recognition of non-Chinese ancestry. Museums in Taiwan appear to be moving away from decontextualized presentations of indigenous groups as a remote past, unchanging and separated from wider Taiwanese history, to a presentation of Taiwan itself as diverse, incorporating indigenous histories into presentations of immigrant history, and giving indigenous groups an active voice in historical events. Museums are also increasingly collaborating with indigenous groups to develop exhibitions. At first glance, new exhibits and academic support for these changes seem to draw an important connection between diversity and democracy, reflecting transformations in Taiwanese politics since 1971. This change may not reflect Taiwanese political changes solely but is also the result of academic pressures on worldwide trends in museum presentations of indigenous peoples.

Siobhan Bradley (Munk School of Global Affairs, MGA)

Ayesha Bery (Munk School of Global Affairs, MGA)

Pemasal Banigan (Munk School of Global Affairs, MGA)

TAIWAN IN TRANSITION: TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE INNOVATION

In an effort to maintain global competitiveness, Taiwan has begun to transition to a knowledge-based economy. In tandem with this transition, the Taiwanese government has launched an ambitious plan to become the Silicon Valley of Asia, focused on fostering innovation, an entrepreneurship ecosystem, an improved education system, and various national policy initiatives. However, Taiwan's human capital issues—specifically its talent deficit and brain drain—pose questions regarding Taiwan's ability to maintain its status as an innovation powerhouse. Our research project investigates Taiwan's talent deficit and the sustainability of Taiwan's innovation plan. Following qualitative research with industry leaders, government officials, innovation hubs, and entrepreneurs, our research team gained diverse perspectives on the Asia Silicon Valley Development Plan (ASVDP) and Taiwan's innovation landscape more broadly. The main conclusion we drew from interviews and research is that while the ASVDP is an ambitious plan seeking to transition Taiwan's innovation economy from hardware manufacturing to the Internet of Things (IoT) while bolstering the start-up landscape in Taiwan, the direct effects of the plan are misguided and unclear. Based on desk and field research, we concluded Taiwan should focus on a niche innovation area, deregulation, and supporting entrepreneurs. We consolidated our research into an editorial piece that will be shared with the Asia Silicon Valley Development Agency (ASVDA), interview partners, and the Asian Institute at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy.

Hai-Wen Chen (Arts and Science)

Michelle Lee (Arts and Science)

**DESIRE FOR GENDER AND SEXUAL EGALITARIANISM AT WORK: TAIWANESE
LESBIAN WORKPLACE DISCRIMINATION**

LGBTQ communities in Taiwan continue to experience upward mobility, with recent legislative changes in same-sex marriage representing the most significant positive breakthrough for LGBTQ representation in mainstream society. Yet research shows that predominant Confucian-Patriarchal ideologies continue to make LGBTQ integration challenging. Among these issues, workplace discrimination is understudied in existing literature. Using our academic expertise and LGBTQ networks within Taiwan, we researched workplace discrimination experienced by lesbian Taiwanese women and whether recent legislative changes have had any discursive social impact in professional work environments. Overall, it seems that current legislation regulating workplace conduct focuses mostly on addressing gender-based discrimination rather than that of sexual-orientation, and regardless of legislation it seems the enforcement of such workplace protections is still lacking in many aspects. In addition, workplace discrimination is experienced differently depending on gender performativity, especially how effeminate women present themselves in the work environment. In response to this, individual women often attempt to be selective about the workplace environments they apply to, rather than addressing the issue directly through legal action or explicit confrontation with their employers. Our paper explores the ideological and legal issues motivating such outcomes.

Stephanie Chen (Department of Earth Sciences)

ROADSIDE GEOLOGY OF TAIWAN

This project is a close-up field survey of the geology of various regions of Taiwan. I visited select areas of Taiwan and collected rock samples to further analyze in Toronto. I compared these findings to current literature, most of which is decades old. I seek for this project to expose discrepancies between new and old research and to encourage more research in certain areas lacking in the literature. I assembled my findings in a guide book to the geology of Taiwan, titled "Roadside Geology of Taiwan: A Field Guide."

Shasha Liu (East Asian Studies)

**TAIWAN, DUNHUANG AND THE NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR 1964-1965: THE
AFTERLIFE OF JAMES AND LUCY LO'S ARCHIVE**

Focusing on the Dunhuang mural copying activities based on the James and Lucy Lo's archive in Taiwan in the 1950s and the display of the Dunhuang copies in the New York World's Fair 1964-65, I conducted research in Taipei in institutions like the National Museum of History, Academia Sinica (Taipei and Xindian), and National Central Library. I collected valuable primary materials from the Taiwanese Dunhuang copying activity also learning that it is part of a larger project to reconstruct cultural heritage in Taiwan in the aforementioned museum. By studying the archive of the fair, I was also able to piece together the participation process of the Dunhuang mural copies and to better understand the negotiations between Taiwan and the US in terms of selecting Chinese art treasures. The textual materials I collected at the library further helped me to get a more complete picture of the perception of the Dunhuang art in Taiwan around the mid-20th century, compensating for the lack of information in the above archives. The archival research I conducted in Taiwan assists me in analyzing how the Dunhuang mural copies based on the Lo's archive contribute to the reconstruction of cultural heritage in Taiwan and the Taiwanese endeavors to connect to the world with the imagined Dunhuang tradition.

Adriana Marroquin Rodriguez (MEd Higher Education, Comparative, International and Development Education, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education)

THE EXPERIENCE OF LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENTS IN TAIWAN

This study explores the experiences of Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) higher education students in Taiwan: what motivates them to go to Taiwan, the challenges they face, and how they cope with these issues. I collected data via semi-structured interviews of eleven students pursuing bachelor's degrees. I identified the following three major challenges: language, academic, and sociocultural issues and identified an open mind, support groups, and resourcefulness as the main coping strategies. I used the findings and participant suggestions to create a list of recommendations for new and current students. The results also highlight future research that should be performed as well as implications for funding organizations, universities, professors and local students to better support international students.

Jonathan Wang (BSc Candidate, Faculty of Arts and Science)

Derrick Lin (Research Trainee, Multi-Organ Transplant, Toronto General Hospital, University of Toronto Alum)

KNOWLEDGE ATTITUDES AND BELIEFS ON ORGAN DONATION AND TRANSPLANTATION IN TAIWANESE CITIES

Through our research we aim to understand the knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs that may prevent people in Taiwanese cities from donating organs for transplantation and promote organ donation awareness in Taiwan. We held discussions with family members of deceased donors and hosted a discussion forum with representatives from Taiwan Organ Registry and Sharing Center (TORSC) to promote organ donation awareness. We used a survey tool to investigate attitudes and beliefs on organ donation and transplantation (ODT). We surveyed adults by random sampling at public venues and by chain-referral sampling from an agribusiness company.

The discussion forum with TORSC sparked a sustained collaboration with the investigators. Approximately half (50.5%) of people surveyed knew how to register to become organ donors, but only 13.3% had registered. Those who had misconceptions about the organ donation process were less likely to support organ donation. These respondents were misinformed about the laws and general concepts of ODT including believing that donors receive worse medical care and the rich are preferentially transplanted. Further research can address these issues with novel hypotheses and evaluate government initiatives to educate the Taiwanese public.

Aaron Wytze Wilson (MGA Candidate, Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy)

DECENTRALIZED IDENTITIES AND CULTURAL PRODUCTION IN TAIWAN

"Taiwanese nationalism" has been out of the press since former president Chen Shui-bian stepped down. However, the movement migrated online, where ideas of nationalism and independence could compete equally on social media news feeds. Over the course of the Ma Ying-jeou presidency, the state tried to reinvigorate the old state symbols of the ROC. This allowed Taiwan's cyber-nationals to create their own state symbols unopposed, and led to the creation of crowdsourced national symbols that reflect concepts of an independent state of Taiwan. What does this new cyber-nationalism mean for Taiwan-China relations, and where will this new movement go next?

Yu Hsuan Amy Yang, (Master of Science, Sustainability Management)
AGRICULTURE 4.0 IN TAIWAN: THE DISCONNECT BETWEEN FARMERS AND SERVICE PROVIDERS

Taiwan's Council of Agriculture is seeking to improve Taiwan's agricultural productivity through precision agriculture technologies. To explore the current state of precision agriculture in Taiwan and to understand some of the barriers and incentives that farmers and technology developers face, I conducted semi-structured interviews with two members from Taiwan's Council of Agriculture, five farmers, one member from academia, and seven technology developers to explore various barriers and incentives in the adoption of precision agriculture in Taiwan. I found that a farmer's age, financial cost, and the inability to see how these new technologies can improve upon existing farming practices are the main barriers for farmers and lack of access to quality, publicly available data is the main barrier for technology developers. Other themes that emerged are that Taiwan needs to develop precision agriculture technologies to suit the needs of its unique agricultural landscape rather than simply improving upon foreign technologies and that farmers see more value in having access to a steady distribution channel than owning precision agriculture technologies. Possible solutions that the government could consider based on these findings are to improve public access to higher quality data, focus its efforts on locally developed technologies and look into linking precision agriculture with improved distribution channels as an incentive for farmers to adopt precision agriculture technologies.

CLOSING REMARKS 2:50-3:00pm

**GLOBAL TAIWAN STUDIES PROGRAM &
TAIWAN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO RECEPTION** 3:00-4:00pm