

### In this 20 June 2008 issue...

#### YCAR Events

- \* Asian Heritage Month at York

#### YCAR Members

- \* Chowdhury awarded Oak Fellowship in Human Rights
- \* In the News...
- \* Frolic and Chin invited to speak in Ottawa

#### Opportunities

- \* Early Researcher Award programme
- \* Third Global Congress of Women in Politics and Governance
- \* Visiting Scholar opportunities in Japan
- \* Bilingual Operation Coordinator in Japan

#### Upcoming Events

- \* Dialogue with Minister Deb Matthews and members of the Poverty Reduction Cabinet Committee: *Poverty Reduction - South Asian Perspectives*

#### York News

- \* Memorial scholarship fund established in memory of York graduate student

#### Call for Papers

- \* Buddhism across Asia: Networks of Material, Intellectual and Cultural Exchange
- \* Fourth Annual Tamil Studies Conference
- \* Continuity and Change: (Re)conceptualising Power in Southeast Asia

---

### YCAR Events: Asian Heritage Month at York

#### Inaugural Asian Heritage Month Lecture at York University



On June 3 at Osgoode Hall Law School, York Professor Emeritus Stephen Endicott delivered the inaugural Asian Heritage Month Lecture at York University, speaking about his father's epic and often controversial life in an address titled: *When China Stood Up: the experience of Dr. James Gareth Endicott*.

The premiere of *Dragonfly: Scenes from a Screenplay on Dr. James Endicott*, followed the lecture. The screenplay was written by York Professor Emeritus Robert Fothergill and performed by 10 actors, including renowned Canadian actor R.H. Thomson, who played James.

The event also included the awarding of the first Vivienne Poy Asian Research Award to YCAR Graduate Associate Doris Sung. The award was presented by Poy, who also chaired the event. The award supports

students enrolled in YCAR's Graduate Diploma in Asian Studies.

The event was covered by [Sing Pao](#), OMNI TV and CBC Radio International. (*York University Foundation photographs of Senator Vivienne Poy and Professor Stephen Endicott; Award winner Doris Sung and Senator Vivienne Poy*).

#### Asians in Latin America

Canadian director Cheuk Kwan led a panel discussion on "Asians in Latin America" as part of the Reel Asian Spring Showcase on 24 May 2008. Fellow panellists were YCAR Faculty Associates Ted Goossen and Pietro Giordan. The Spring Showcase was held at York University from 23 to 25 May 2008.

*Latin Passions*, Kwan's fourth film from his Chinese restaurant series was shown as a part of the Spring Showcase. The film focuses on Peru, Brazil and Argentina where Kwan interviewed not only Chinese restaurant owners but encountered the Asian diaspora in each country.



The event was a part of the Asian Heritage Month Canadian Foundation for Asian Culture (Central Ontario) Inc.'s Asian Heritage Month Festival at York University. (*Kay Li photograph. Lt-Rt: Cheuk Kwan, Ted Goossen and Pietro Giordan*).

For more about Asian Heritage Month events at York, please visit:

[www.yorku.ca/yfile/archive/index.asp?Article=10466](http://www.yorku.ca/yfile/archive/index.asp?Article=10466), [www.yorku.ca/yfile/archive/index.asp?Article=10542](http://www.yorku.ca/yfile/archive/index.asp?Article=10542) and [www.yorku.ca/yfile/archive/index.asp?Article=10587](http://www.yorku.ca/yfile/archive/index.asp?Article=10587).

### YCAR Members: Chowdhury awarded Oak Fellowship in Human Rights



YCAR Research Associate Afsan Chowdhury is the 2008 Oak Fellow on Human Rights at the Oak Institute for the Study of International Human Rights at Colby College in Maine, United States. The fellowship includes a Visiting Professorship, which would run from mid-August to mid-December 2008.

In addition to Chowdhury's work in the print media, radio and television over the past 20 years, he was the director of advocacy and human rights at BRAC, the world's largest non-governmental organization, which has twin objectives of poverty alleviation and empowerment of the poor. He has worked in the fields of media advocacy, health rights, communication and social mobilization, AIDS management, gender and protection, child rights, and disaster management. His film, 'Who Cares if Bangladesh Drowns?' was premiered internationally at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in November 2007.

The Oak Institute for the Study of International Human Rights was established in 1998. Each year, it hosts an Oak Human Rights Fellow to teach and conduct research while residing at the College. The Institute organizes lectures and other events centered around the fellow's area of expertise.

For more information on the Oak Institute, visit: [www.colby.edu/academics\\_cs/goldfarb/oak/](http://www.colby.edu/academics_cs/goldfarb/oak/). (*Chowdhury during the filming of 'Who Cares if Bangladesh Drowns'. Photograph courtesy of Afsan Chowdhury*).

### YCAR Members: In the News...

YCAR Faculty Associate **Joan Judge** was interviewed on 'Liquid Lunch' on ThatRadio.com on 26 May 2008. She spoke about her 4 June illustrated talk and book launch at the Bata Shoe Museum. ThatRadio.com is Canada's number one Internet radio station, broadcasting to Toronto and the world since 2004.

YCAR Graduate Associate **Sai Latt** had an article published in the *Irrawady* on 21 May 2008. "Cyclone Nargis has never been 'Natural'" is available at [www.irrawaddy.org/opinion\\_story.php?art\\_id=12166](http://www.irrawaddy.org/opinion_story.php?art_id=12166).

YCAR Faculty Associate **Gregory Chin** was quoted in a BBC story, "Settling the China Question: A Caribbean Challenge. The 5 May 2008 article was written by Sir Ronald Sanders and is available at: [www.bbc.co.uk/caribbean/news/story/2008/05/printable/080502\\_sanders0505.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/caribbean/news/story/2008/05/printable/080502_sanders0505.shtml).

### **YCAR Members: Frolic and Chin invited to speak in Ottawa**

YCAR Senior Research Associate B. Michael Frolic and Faculty Associate Gregory Chin gave remarks before the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development on 27 May 2008. Frolic and Chin spoke on advancing human rights standards in China, and Canada-China human rights dialogue.

---

### **Opportunity: Early Researcher Award programme**

This opportunity is for faculty members who are full-time faculty or principal investigators and are within five years of the start of their independent academic research career (as of 1 July 2008) and no more than 10 years from having completed their first Doctor of Philosophy (as of 1 July 2008). The program is administered by the Ontario Ministry of Research and Innovation (MRI).

The Notice of Intent deadline is **10 October 2008** with an internal York-Office of Research Services deadline of **3 October 2008**.

The Early Researcher Award programme (ERA) aims to help promising, recently-appointed Ontario researchers build their research teams of graduate students, post-doctoral fellows and research associates. The goal of the programme is to improve Ontario's ability to attract and retain the best and brightest research talent. The ERA will cover the following expenses for research associates, post-doctoral fellows, and graduate students carrying out the research: salaries and benefits; essential and reasonable travel and expenses related to conferences, workshops or seminars; and essential and reasonable travel and expenses related directly to offsite research activities. Applicants are required to connect youth with researchers and may use up to one per cent of the ERA award to undertake annual youth science and technology outreach activities.

Applications will be accepted from researchers in all research disciplines and should demonstrate that the anticipated research results are of strategic value to Ontario. Strategic value includes but is not limited to the potential for: economic benefit; social and/or cultural benefit; ability to enhance the province's profile in the global academic community; and anticipated impact on bio-economy and clean technologies, advanced health technologies, pharmaceutical research and manufacturing, and digital media and information and communication technologies.

Each award to a leading researcher is a maximum of \$100,000 and must be matched by an additional \$50,000 from the researcher's institution and/or a private sector partner. In addition, up to \$40,000 will be provided by the Ministry to the institution for indirect costs.

Programme guidelines, application instructions and application forms can be obtained by consulting the MRI website at: [www.mri.gov.on.ca/english/programs/era/program.asp](http://www.mri.gov.on.ca/english/programs/era/program.asp). Potential applicants should contact Steven Mataija (Manager, Government Research Initiatives Programmes) at ORS at x22507 or [smataija@yorku.ca](mailto:smataija@yorku.ca).

### **Opportunity: Third Global Congress of Women in Politics and Governance**

The Center for Asia-Pacific Women in Politics (CAPWIP) and the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (UN/ISDR) have organized the 'Third Global Congress of Women in Politics and Governance,' which will be held from 19 to 22 October 2008 at the Dusit Hotel, Makati City, Metro Manila,

Philippines. The theme of the Congress is "Gender in Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction."

Women and environment experts have raised concern over the absence of women in the discourse and debate on climate change and disaster risk reduction, both of which are global mainstream issues that are currently impacting the entire world. The involvement of women in areas of environmental management and governance should not be perceived as an afterthought. Women's roles are of considerable importance in the promotion of environmental ethics.

Invited to this congress are parliamentarians, decision makers in national governments, environment organizations, youth leaders and media practitioners, funding/donor agencies/organizations. Female and male participants are welcome.

The discussion on gender in climate and disaster risk reduction change will be organized around identifying the challenges to action as well as defining the appropriate responses to effectively address the impacts of climate change and disaster risk reduction. In all of these actions, special attention will be given to defining how women and gender could be mainstreamed. In other words, the Congress should define how women could be given the social space to participate, influence, and benefit from global and local responses to climate change.

The deadline is **31 August 2008**. For more details, including fees, please visit [www.capwip.org/3rdglobalcongress.htm](http://www.capwip.org/3rdglobalcongress.htm).

### **Opportunity: Visiting Scholar opportunities in Japan**

The International Research Center for Japanese Studies in Kyoto, Japan, is pleased to announce three visiting research scholar fellowships for foreign scholars for the 2009-2010 academic year.

- 1) The Rule and the Local Society in the Japanese Colonial Empire – intends to give a deeper insight to the Korean and Taiwanese society under Japanese colonial rule. For more information, contact Associate Professor Toshihiko Matsuda at [toshihiko@nichibun.ac.jp](mailto:toshihiko@nichibun.ac.jp).
- 2) Buddhist Perspectives on the Modern and Pre-Modern – to compare and contrast pre-modern and modern Buddhism and attempt to uncover the meaning of the transformation from pre-modern to modern, especially on the Edo period. For more information, contact Visiting Professor Fumihiko Sueki at [sueki@l.u-tokyo.ac.jp](mailto:sueki@l.u-tokyo.ac.jp).
- 3) Questioning Oriental Aesthetics and Thinking: Crisis in Self-Recognition and Task for the Future – to critically question the genesis and process of 'oriental aesthetics and philosophical thinking' in modern Asia and to analyze Western involvement in this process. For more information, contact Professor Shigemi Inaga at [aurora@nichibun.ac.jp](mailto:aurora@nichibun.ac.jp).

More information and applications for all positions are available from: [kyoudou@nichibun.ac.jp](mailto:kyoudou@nichibun.ac.jp)

### **Opportunity: Bilingual Operation Coordinator in Japan**

Muskoka Language International Inc is seeking an Operation Coordinator to start immediately at their Tokyo office. Applicants must have a post-secondary education and be fluent in both English and Japanese. If you are interested, please contact Carolyn Doornekamp at [cdoornekamp@mliessler.com](mailto:cdoornekamp@mliessler.com).

### ***Previously-posted opportunities***

\* **2009-2010 India Studies Fellowship competition (30 June 2008)**

For details on the various fellowships, please visit [www.sici.org/shastri/english/indiastudies.htm](http://www.sici.org/shastri/english/indiastudies.htm) or contact York's Office of Research Services at [research@yorku.ca](mailto:research@yorku.ca).

\* **Best Essay Prize in South Asian Studies (30 June 2008)**

For more information see the SAST website: [www.arts.yorku.ca/sosc/sasia](http://www.arts.yorku.ca/sosc/sasia) or contact the coordinator at [ananya@yorku.ca](mailto:ananya@yorku.ca).

---

### **Upcoming Event: Dialogue with Minister Deb Matthews and members of the Poverty Reduction Cabinet Committee: *Poverty Reduction - South Asian Perspectives***

*Thursday, 3 July 2008 \* 2 to 5pm \* Memorial Hall, North York Civic Centre \* 5110 Yonge Street*

The Council of Agencies Serving South Asians (CASSA) has organized an afternoon of constructive dialogue, which will provide the South Asian community the opportunity and the means to address four key issues affecting the community as a whole: Housing, Employment, Education and Health. Minister Deb Matthews and other members of the Provincial Poverty Reduction Committee will be in attendance.

The purpose of this consultation is to incorporate the needs, goals, and challenges, of the South Asian community regarding the issues of poverty, into tangible policy changes and action.

Please RSVP Andalee at 416-932 1359 ext 16 or [andalee@cassa.on.ca](mailto:andalee@cassa.on.ca) by 1 July 2008. Light refreshments will be served. This project is funded by the George Cedric Metcalf Foundation.

---

### **York News: Memorial scholarship fund established in memory of York graduate student**

A memorial scholarship fund has been created in honour of Usamah Ansari, a student in the Graduate Program in Sociology at York University.

Originally from Vancouver, Ansari has been described as a "brilliant" student and an exceptional human being. He completed his undergraduate degree in sociology and anthropology at Simon Fraser University (SFU) and received the Top Student Award (now re-named the Usamah Ansari Top Student Award in his honour) and the Dean's Convocation Medal from SFU. The 23-year-old died on 13 April 2008 after being struck by a car at College Street and Ossington Avenue in Toronto.

Donations to the memorial scholarship fund can be made at any branch of the Bank of Montreal to The Usamah Ansari Fund, account number: 03982-8171-638.

---

### **Call for Papers: Buddhism across Asia: Networks of Material, Intellectual and Cultural Exchange**

'Buddhism across Asia: Networks of Material, Intellectual and Cultural Exchange' will be held from 16 to 18 February 2009 and hosted by the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore.

Proposals are invited for papers based on original research and using primary sources on any of the following themes:

1. Education and centres of learning (such as, but not limited to, Taxila, Nalanda, Vallabhi, Mathura, Bairam-Ali, Srivijaya, Dunhuang, Chang-an, Hangzhou, etc.);
2. The transmission and translation of ideas and texts;
3. Buddhism and local cultures: assimilation, conflict and absorption;
4. Buddhism, statecraft, and material culture;
5. Excavating Buddhism: the role of archeology in understanding the history of Buddhism;
6. Buddhist rituals and ceremonies across cultures;
7. Cross-currents in Buddhist art and architecture;
8. Anthropologies of Buddhism in Asia;
9. Contemporary Buddhism and Buddhist Institutions in Asia.

The deadline for submissions is **1 July 2008**. For more information or to access the proposal submission form, visit [www.iseas.edu.sg/baacproposal.doc](http://www.iseas.edu.sg/baacproposal.doc).

### **Call for Papers: Fourth Annual Tamil Studies Conference**

The fourth annual Tamil Studies Conference, "Home, Space and the Other" organized by the University of Toronto and the University of Windsor, will be held at the University of Toronto from 21 to 23 May 2009.

The objective of the conference is to map the various ways in which the Tamil regions and their spaces - linguistic, cultural, political, economic, religious etc. - have been constituted by, interacted with or responded to influences from within and outside their cultural norms, conventions, or geographical boundaries.

The conference organizers invite submissions of paper abstracts from all disciplines and welcome abstracts with an interdisciplinary focus. Scholars, graduate students, artists, writers, performers and activists are welcome to present scholarly papers in English or Tamil at this conference. The organizers also welcome the participation of non-Tamil Studies specialists whose work addresses the theme of this conference. The organizers encourage the submission of new scholarly work that can be included in the conference publication. Panel proposals are also welcome.

Abstracts with biographical statements, or the full details of a panel are due by **21 August 2008** to [tamils@chass.utoronto.ca](mailto:tamils@chass.utoronto.ca). For full details, contact [tamilstudiesconference@gmail.com](mailto:tamilstudiesconference@gmail.com) or visit: [www.tamilstudiesconference.ca](http://www.tamilstudiesconference.ca).

### **Call for Papers: Continuity and Change: (Re)conceptualising Power in Southeast Asia**

Hosted by the Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities, University of Cambridge, UK, this conference will take place from 26-28 March 2009. Its key aim is to reopen the debate on the issue of 'power' - both in real life and academic scholarship - as it is manifest across the region.

The study of power in contemporary Southeast Asia has never been timelier. Over the last half-century, the region has undergone innumerable far-reaching changes. It has witnessed the rise of postcolonial nation-states, rapid industrialization, economic growth and democratization but also genocide, political upheaval and widespread repression. Power lies at the core of these important developments, whether in the form of brute military force or as a more capillary 'disciplinary' influence on religious and political subjectivities. New religious, economic and political movements - all drawing deeply on local traditions while proposing new forms of personhood, civil and political society - cut across national, cultural, ideological and sectarian boundaries.

Yet for all that power can be detected in Southeast Asia, there seems to be little specifically Southeast Asian about it contemporary scholarly analyses. This is both puzzling and ironic given the central role that earlier ethnographic studies of Southeast Asia once played in identifying distinctively regional modalities of power, prompting us to reconsider how 'power' could be most profitably studied in Southeast Asian contexts.

The organizing committee invites papers from scholars working in the arts, humanities and social sciences whose research illuminates novel, exciting and challenging dimensions of power in Southeast Asian contexts across space and time.

Abstracts, 250 words in length, should be submitted to [sea.continuity.change@googlemail.com](mailto:sea.continuity.change@googlemail.com). The deadline for proposals is **1 October 2008**. For further details, visit: [www.crassh.cam.ac.uk/events/542](http://www.crassh.cam.ac.uk/events/542).

#### ***Previously-posted Call for Papers:***

\* ***Asia on the Move (1 August 2008)***

For more information: <http://canadianasianstudies.concordia.ca/htm/membere.htm>.

\* Nationalism, Culture, and Identity: New Boundaries in Asia (1 July 2008)

For more information, please contact Mugdha Yeolekar ([mugdha.yeolekar@asu.edu](mailto:mugdha.yeolekar@asu.edu)); Seth Clippard ([seth.clippard@asu.edu](mailto:seth.clippard@asu.edu)); William Nitzky ([william.nitzky@asu.edu](mailto:william.nitzky@asu.edu)); Samsul Maarif ([samsul.maarif@asu.edu](mailto:samsul.maarif@asu.edu)).

York Centre for Asian Research (YCAR) To comment or for more information, contact [ycar@yorku.ca](mailto:ycar@yorku.ca)  
Ste. 270 York Lanes, York University, 4700 Keele Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M3J 1P3.