



## Asian Studies Development Program Conference

EAST-WEST  
CENTER



# Revisiting the Past, Living the Present, Envisioning the Future

### 13–15 March 2014 *PLAN NOW TO JOIN US!*

The ASDP National Conference is an annual event that provides an opportunity for ASDP alumni and other interested college and university faculty members to share research related to Asian cultures and societies, as well as strategies for effectively infusing Asian content into undergraduate humanities, social science, business, and science curricula. Known for its multi-disciplinary approach and convivial dynamics, the ASDP National Conference also offers an opportunity to extend professional networks and explore new possibilities for both personal and institutional collaboration

Hotel reservations for the conference can be made by following the link here:

[http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/H/HOUGWDT-ASD-20140312/index.jhtml?WT.mc\\_id=POG](http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/H/HOUGWDT-ASD-20140312/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG).

The special room rate will be available until February 19, 2014 or until the block of rooms is sold out, whichever comes first.

Registration for the conference is online and can be accessed here:

<https://www.eastwestcommunity.org/page.aspx?pid=331>

*Send us a notice about your recent or upcoming book publication so we can be sure to include you in the book publication panels.*

Proposals are invited for individual papers, panels, poster sessions, or roundtable sessions for the 2014 conference in Houston. While we enthusiastically welcome the usual panel and paper proposals on a topic of your choice, we would also like to invite you to consider participating in the following panels that have already been approved and are listed on the next page. There are one or two spaces available in most panels but we also encourage the formation of additional panels on the same or similar topics, if there is sufficient interest. You may contact the panel leaders or the program chairs if you are interested in joining one of the panels listed below. Please feel free to propose additional panels. We are still looking for panels on Asian theater and those incorporating psychological, sociological, anthropological or scientific perspectives. Please plan to submit a 200-250 word abstract by October 31. Early submissions greatly facilitate putting together meaningful panels.



### Registration & Accommodations

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel,  
6 E. Greenway Plaza,  
Houston, Texas 77046

Room Rate: \$115 per night  
(single or double occupancy)

Registration: \$200



Please direct questions, ideas,  
proposals, and suggestions  
for panel leaders to:

Program Chairs: Sylvia Gray, Portland  
Community College, [sgray@pcc.edu](mailto:sgray@pcc.edu) or  
Rachana Sachdev, Susquehanna  
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#### Conference Organizers:

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Elizabeth "Betty" Buck,  
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## PANEL PROPOSALS

### Art and Politics

Roberta E. Adams, Roger Williams University ([radams@rwu.edu](mailto:radams@rwu.edu))

Papers will explore the ways that artists (writers, painters, photographers, dancers, musicians, playwrights, filmmakers, etc.) have responded to political situations and events through the creativity of their work. Artists may be contemporary or historical and may have made immediate, or later, reflective (recollected in tranquility) responses. Focus may be on reactions to the works (censorship, exile, imitation, commentary, political ferment), social or political changes resulting from the work, and/or the short and long-term impacts, highlighting the role of the artist as witness, champion, commentator, spirit of a people.

New Works in the Field Panel: "Confucian Role Ethics, A Vocabulary" by Roger T. Ames

Stephen Laumakis, University of St. Thomas and Ronnie Littlejohn, Belmont University

([SJLAUMAKIS@stthomas.edu](mailto:SJLAUMAKIS@stthomas.edu) or [ronnie.littlejohn@belmont.edu](mailto:ronnie.littlejohn@belmont.edu))

This panel will offer philosophical reflections and reactions to Roger Ames' most recent book on "Confucian Role Ethics." We plan to offer a close and careful examination and analysis of his conception of Chinese philosophy, in general, and Confucian thought, in particular. We also plan to assess his conception of comparative philosophy and his own efforts in this area as instantiated in his new book. In order to focus our discussion, each panel participant will be responsible for commenting on one chapter of the book. We already have four philosophers and Roger committed to this particular panel, and we would be happy to add a couple more participants--and form a second panel based on interest. For more information, please contact either Steve Laumakis or Ronnie Littlejohn.

Contemporary Japan: How did it get there and where is it going?

Paul Dunscomb, University of Alaska, Anchorage ([pedunscomb@uaa.alaska.edu](mailto:pedunscomb@uaa.alaska.edu))

The rise of the Abe cabinet and the prospect for important reforms suggest that Japan is undergoing an significant transition. But from what, to what? The papers in the panel suggest how Japan reached this critical phase and some of the implications of a truly transformed Japan for the region and for the Japanese themselves. Perhaps the time is long overdue to revise our views of Japan as mired in systemic crisis, economic malaise and personal ennui in favor of recognizing the profound changes that have and are taking

place. That being said, there remains no guarantee that people outside Japan will welcome these changes.

## What Can Zhuangzi Teach Us?

Howard Giskin, Appalachian State University ([giskinha@appstate.edu](mailto:giskinha@appstate.edu))

This panel will examine the relevance of Zhuangzi in today's world. Zhuangzi deals with issues which, with some updating for contemporary understanding, may provide guidelines for living in a complex world with competing ideologies. Of concern to Zhuangzi are happiness and how best to attain and maintain it, the limits of reason, language and its pitfalls, cognitive blindness and questions of right and wrong, dealt with through paradox, humor, and a "lightness of being" characteristic of Zhuangzi's language play. Questions of interest are: Can Zhuangzi be considered a relativist? How would Zhuangzi deal with violence of an ideological or political sort? What are personal and societal implications of Zhuangzi's thought? How do his teachings relate to modern thought systems such as those of Nietzsche, Heidegger, Derrida, Beckett, Pirandello, and others of Modernist, deconstructionist or postmodern persuasion? Finally, does Zhuangzi propose an ethics, and if so what does this involve?

## Infusing Asian Studies through Asian Cinema

Pamela Stover, University of Texas at El Paso ([pgstover@utep.edu](mailto:pgstover@utep.edu))

Students always welcome a film shown in class but aside from being a respite from lectures, readings and discussions, films about and from Asia can be a means of conveying culture, tradition, and peoples most effectively. Asian films for the most part have a distinctly different pacing and atmosphere than the typical Hollywood fare. Since most films made in China, Japan, Korea, India and Southeast Asia are not necessarily bound to box office success, filmmakers have unique opportunities to capture the very essence of a particular time and place. Film unites all the arts; visual elements combined with music and performance can convey information about the Asian cultures and countries we teach. These presentations give examples and discuss films used successfully in Asian Studies courses at several institutions.

## Appreciating Peter Hershock's *Valuing Diversity: Buddhist Reflection on Realizing a More Equitable Global Future*

Ann Pirruccello, University of San Diego ([annp@sandiego.edu](mailto:annp@sandiego.edu))

This panel will comprise presentations motivated by readings of Peter Hershock's *Valuing Diversity: Buddhist Reflection on Realizing a More Equitable Global Future*. Panelists will use the book as a resource and point of departure for framing discussions

related to its central theme of revisioning and reorienting our shared global karma and framing an ethics of diversity-enhancing interdependence. Presentations might focus, for example, on the ontologies of diversity and equity; predicaments issuing from key commitments of modernity and global markets; Buddhist resources for transforming economies of dissatisfaction and distraction; the role of mass media in realizing unskillful constellations of values, intentions and actions; or ethical and karmic challenges of history writing. The panel is conceived as an opportunity to think along with Herschok and develop implications, amplifications or applications of his work.

### Teaching Modern China via Fiction and Film

Joshua Fan, University of Texas at El Paso ([jfan@utep.edu](mailto:jfan@utep.edu))

How to teach Modern China to students without any prior knowledge? One of the most accessible and effective ways is through Chinese fiction and film. From Lu Xun's short stories to Zhang Yimou's latest film, fiction and film have often been the mediums of choice by Chinese intellectuals to incite change, to criticize cultural and social ills, and to relive and reexamine the turbulent last century. Novels, short fiction, feature films, and documentaries also allow students to experience the diversity and complexity of Modern China from within. Thus, this panel will present and discuss selected literary and cinematic works in proper cultural, historical, and social context as examples of effectively exposing and engaging students with the entity that is Modern China.

### Asian Music Pedagogy in Higher Education

Tina Spencer Dreisbach, Hiram College ([DreisbachTS@hiram.edu](mailto:DreisbachTS@hiram.edu))

My own expertise is as a music historian with broad interests teaching in a small private liberal arts college. To complement this viewpoint, faculty at community colleges and universities—whether Asian specialists or not—are cordially invited to participate. Issues to address could include: sparking student interest, texts and other materials, constructing a syllabus, ideas for student projects, and supplementing with guests and live performances.

### Comparative Philosophy

Dennis Arjo, Johnson County Community College ([darjo@jccc.edu](mailto:darjo@jccc.edu))

Few philosophy programs in the US allow for a concentration in Asian thought, and in fact departments that offer no classes at all in Asian thought remain far from rare. Consequently, a majority of students receiving Ph.D.s have little or no exposure to Asian philosophy whatsoever. Many of these students continue their careers without any sense that this lacuna is to be lamented. Others however, in part due to programs such as the

Asian Studies Development Program, come to appreciate the richness of the Asian traditions. This panel will be a chance for those in this last group to share their stories. A particular focus will be on how those thoroughly trained Anglo-American philosophers find their conceptions of philosophy broadened or challenged by their exposure to Eastern thought as well as how they think the techniques of analytic philosophy can be used in comparative philosophy.

### Intellectual Exchanges: Early Asian Influences on American Culture

Thomas H. Cox, Sam Houston State University ([THC001@SHSU.EDU](mailto:THC001@SHSU.EDU))

Long before the turn of the twentieth century the world's oldest empire had subtly begun to influence the culture of the world's youngest republic. As Thomas H. Cox's paper "Profits and Perspectives: Warren Delano's Role in the Old China Trade" reveals, Chinese business concepts had a significant influence on the business career of Warren Delano, the grandfather of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Likewise, Qingjun Li's paper "Thoreau's Embrace of Daoist Ideology in His Political Writing" explores the influence of Chinese spiritual thought on the burgeoning transcendentalist movement of the 1840s. By revealing the complex ways that Chinese concepts influenced American culture in the 1800s, these presentations shed light on the historical origins of Chinese-American relations.

### Art and Identity in South Asia

Lisa Safford, Hiram College ([SaffordLB@hiram.edu](mailto:SaffordLB@hiram.edu))

Identity is a complex and difficult phenomenon to grasp and understand. It entails the mixture of personal, religious, linguistic, gender, and national values. In South Asia, it is particularly complex due to over five thousand years of transitory cultural history including migration and "invasion," being on the "Silk Road" between East and West, internal religious and social reformist movements, and its emergence from a century of foreign colonial rule. This session will explore that history and the phenomenon of identity in India from the perspectives of art history. Papers are invited that address the historical development of traditions in art and can be interdisciplinary, including related to global religions either created within South Asia (Buddhism, Hinduism, and Sikhism) or imported from neighboring regions (Islam and Christianity).