

2026 NEW YORK CONFERENCE ON ASIAN STUDIES



Asia & Environment

ACROSS TIME *and* SPACE

October 23-24, 2026

VASSAR

Poughkeepsie, New York



VASSAR AT A GLANCE

Founded in 1861, Vassar College is a highly selective, residential, coeducational liberal arts college that is home to a diverse community of passionate and engaged students who embrace the shared value of learning from each other's differences. Consistently ranked among the top liberal arts colleges in the country, Vassar is renowned for pioneering achievements in education, for its long history of curricular innovation, and for the beauty of its campus.

CAMPUS LIFE

- 1,000-acre campus officially recognized as an arboretum.
- 97% of Vassar students live on campus.
- Fields 25 NCAA Division III teams for women and men and 4 varsity club teams while offering a robust set of activities for the entire Vassar community, including intramurals and a state-of-the-art fitness center.

STUDENTS

- Current total enrollment: 2,514, all undergraduates.
- An international community of more than 300 students from 50 countries.
- Vassar actively recruits qualified veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces and always has veterans and/or active-duty military students enrolled.
- Within six months of graduating, 94% of Vassar students are employed, in graduate school, or in a competitive fellowship.
- In 2025–26, Vassar students and graduates received more than 60 Vassar-funded fellowship awards totaling nearly \$800,000, while earning major national honors including five Fulbright grants, a Thomas J. Watson Fellowship, two Projects for Peace awards, an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship, and two NSF honorable mentions.

ACADEMICS

- Founded as a women's college in 1861 by Matthew Vassar, an English-born Brewer who believed women should have academic opportunities equal to those offered by the best men's college of the day, Vassar became coeducational in 1969.
- Vassar has always been dedicated to academic discovery and independent inquiry and, early on, adopted "go to the source" as its academic credo.
- Vassar's curriculum emphasizes a multidisciplinary approach to intellectual inquiry with 51 majors, 65 correlates (minors), four dual-degree programs, and more than 1,000 courses.
- 371 faculty, virtually all with doctorates or equivalent.
- Student/faculty ratio – 7:1.
- 72% of classes have fewer than 20 students.
- The first college to be founded with an art collection and gallery, and today its Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center holds over 22,000 works by such masters as Picasso, Rembrandt, O'Keeffe, and Pollock.
- In 1982, Vassar was the first U.S. college to grant an undergraduate degree in cognitive science.
- Offers a multitude of study-abroad opportunities around the world, including Vassar-sponsored programs in France, Spain, England, Ireland, Italy, and Germany.

The Asian Studies Program at Vassar College

The Program in Asian Studies offers a multidisciplinary and global approach to studying the peoples and cultures of Asia: their art, literature, religion, and thought, as well as their systems of social, economic, and political organization. The program examines both the traditional societies of Asia and their transformations in recent times. **Asian Studies majors and correlates** as well as **Asian American Studies correlates** work closely with advisors to design their program of study to follow their specific interests. Courses in the Program in Asian Studies are taught by Vassar faculty members from across the curriculum who specialize in East Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and West Asia. The program offers a broad range of courses in both the social sciences and the humanities on a wide array of topics, including East-West encounters, diaspora and globalization, social movements, environmental and political histories, technology, economies, and regional security issues. The program also offers courses that explore gender and sexuality, postcolonial and nationalist film genres, music, art history, popular culture, Asian education systems, history, rituals, religion, Asian healing traditions as well as Asian and Asian American literary texts and social contexts.

The History of Asian Studies at Vassar College

*by Martha Kaplan, Professor of Anthropology with research by Kwang Yeon Lee '10 and Adhira Mangalagiri '11
January 2011*

Founded in 1965, but shaping its current direction in the past decade, Vassar's Asian Studies Program offers contemporary, multi-disciplinary study of Asia in a complex interconnected, world. Students focus comparatively on East Asia, South Asia or Southeast Asia, with growing opportunities to study West Asia and the Asian diaspora including Asian America. Attuned to critical scholarship on interpretation, postcolonialism and globalization, the Asian Studies Program opens the Vassar curriculum to the world area that includes three fifths of humanity in a dynamic array of cultural and political histories. Because the field is so large and diverse, the program has always been known for its strong, individualized faculty advising. As one of Vassar's first multidisciplinary programs, the program began in 1965 with six core participating faculty. In the 1990s Vassar made a commitment to developing the Asia curriculum. In the 2000s this commitment and a series of major grants, has increased the participating faculty to twenty-two. The program's twin goals are to provide a rich curriculum for students who wish to focus on Asia and to infuse the study of Asia throughout Vassar's curriculum. The Asian Studies Program's history offers a window into changes in the American and international academy, changes at Vassar, and changes in world relationships.

To learn about Vassar's Asian Studies Program history, please visit: 150.vassar.edu/histories/asian-studies/



New York Conference on Asian Studies

The New York Conference on Asian Studies (NYCAS) is among the oldest of the nine regional conferences of the Association for Asian Studies (AAS), the largest society of its kind in the world. NYCAS has been represented on the Council of Conferences, a division of the governing body of the AAS, since the council was formed in 1977.

The organization was originally called “The Upstate New York Conference on Asian Studies,” with support principally from Cornell University, Syracuse University, and the University of Rochester. In 1975, the Executive Board voted to change the name to “The New York Conference on Asian Studies” to more accurately reflect how the organization had become a state-wide scholarly body with the active involvement of faculty from both large and small public institutions, as well as private universities and colleges. Membership in NYCAS is open to all persons interested in Asian Studies. While the organization draws its membership primarily from New York State, participants in the annual conference come from throughout the United States and indeed the world. Each person registering for the annual meeting pays a membership fee to NYCAS, which is part of the registration fee, and then is considered a NYCAS member eligible to participate in the annual meeting and to vote in all NYCAS elections for that year. The membership is invited to nominate members of the Executive Board, who are elected in rotation at the annual meetings. The annual conference is held on a different campus each year, usually during the last half of September or the first half of October. Besides panels and roundtables, NYCAS conferences usually feature an outreach activity for school teachers in addition to a cultural performance. Annual conferences have been held since 1965.

Future NYCAS Meetings:

NYCAS 2027	October 8-9, 2027	Rochester Institute of Technology
NYCAS 2028	DATE: TBA	The State University of New York, New Paltz

If you are interested in hosting a future NYCAS conference, please email Hiromi Dollase, Executive Secretary of NYCAS (hidollase@vassar.edu)

For more information, please visit: hawksites.newpaltz.edu/nycas

NYCAS: Current Directors of the Executive Board

President

Natalie Sarrazin (2013-2016, 2016-2019, 2019-2023)
NYCAS President (2021-2024, 2024-2027)
College at Brockport, SUNY

Executive Board Members

Patricia Welch (2021-2024, 2024-2027)
Hofstra University
Representative to the AAS Council of Conferences (2024-2026)
NYCAS President (2005-2008, 2008-2011, 2011-2014, 2014-2017, 2017-2021)

Nathen Clerici (2017-2021, 2021-2024, 2024-2027)
Representative to the AAS Council of Conferences (2026-2029)
SUNY New Paltz

Tiantian Zheng (2010-2013, 2013-2016, 2016-2019, 2019-2023, 2023-2026)
Representative to the AAS Council of Conferences (2020-2023)
SUNY Cortland

Gareth Fisher (2022-2025, 2025-2028)
Syracuse University

Michael Laver (2024-2027)
Rochester Institute of Technology

Robin Kietlinski (2025-2028)
LaGuardia Community College

Ex Officio

Lauren Meeker
SUNY New Paltz
NYCAS Treasurer (2011-2014, 2014-2017, 2017-2021, 2021-2024, 2024-2027)

Hiromi Tsuchiya Dollase
Vassar College
NYCAS Executive Secretary (2022-2025, 2025-2028)

Chutikan Chaikittiwatana
SUNY Stonybrook
NYCAS Graduate Student Representative (2026-2028)

Kavita Gawrinauth
New York University
NYCAS Graduate Student Representative (2026-2028)

Acknowledgements

Funded by

The Association for Asian Studies
The Council on Conferences of the Association for Asian Studies
The New York Conference on Asian Studies
The President’s Office, Vassar College
The Office of the Dean of the Faculty, Vassar College
The Office of the Dean of the College, Vassar College
The Asian Studies Program Funds, donated by Paul Chan (Class of 1993) and Jessica Yep-Chan (Class of 1994)
The Music Department, Vassar College
The Andrea Baldeck Endowment
The Jeh Vincent Johnson ALANA Cultural Center, Vassar College
The Chinese Student Community, Vassar College
The Vassar Student Association, Vassar College

Conference Co-Chairs

Hiromi Tsuchiya Dollase Professor of Japanese Vassar College	Seungsook Moon Professor of Sociology Vassar College
--	--

Conference Support Team

Amanda Goodman, Events Manager for the President and Trustees, Vassar College
Michelle Ransom, Assistant Dean of Campus Activities, Vassar College
Kathleen Panebianco, Office Specialist, Asian Studies Program, Chinese and Japanese Department, and Latin American & Latinx Studies Program, Vassar College

Conference Committee

Poster Presentations

Yu Zhou (Professor of Geography, Vassar College)

Music Concert and Outreach Events

Amanda Culp (Assistant Professor of Drama, Vassar College)
Justin Patch (Associate Professor of Music)

Program Committee and Contributing Members

Alden Sajor Marte-Wood (Vassar College)	Hiromi Dollase (Vassar College)
Amanda Culp (Vassar College)	Jihye Seong (Vassar College)
Ashanti Shih (Vassar College)	Jobial Alex (SUNY Binghamton)
Chutikan Chaikittiwatana (SUNY Stonybrook)	John D. Kelly (University of Chicago)
Dasol Kim (SUNY New Paltz)	Justin Patch (Vassar College)
Derek Kenji Pinillos Matsuda (Meiji University)	Kaoru Tamura (University of Oregon)
Eunchul Jung (Marist University)	Kaushik Ghosh (Vassar College)
Evelyn Obo (De La Salle University-Dasmarinas)	Kavita Gawrinauth (New York University)
Fubing Su (Vassar College)	Kristin Harris (SUNY New Paltz)

Liz Carter (Vassar College)
Martha Kaplan (Vassar College)
Mary C Szto (Syracuse University College of Law)
Nick Tsung-Che Lu (Marist University)
Peipei Qiu (Professor Emerita of Vassar College)
Peter Huston (Independent Scholar)
Pier Carlo Tommasi (Vassar College)
Robin Kietlinski (LaGuardia Community College, CUNY)

Sarah Kim (Columbia University)
Seungsook Moon (Vassar College)
Siyang Dai (Columbia University)
Sophia Harvey (Vassar College)
Xingyan Guo (Columbia University)
Yixuan Wang (New York University)
Yu Zhou (Vassar College)
Yu-chi Chang (Vassar College)

Student Volunteers at Vassar College

Ruoshui Xu Sogna Louie Afia Nasim Jianan Guo Irene Chon Abbie Zhang	Konatsu Iwai Claire Onishi Junyi Sun Yutong Wu Jake Schachter
--	---

Faculty Supervisors:
Yuko Matsubara
Chizu Kenndy

Asian Studies Program Office Specialist:
Kathleen Panebianco

Special Thanks

Elizabeth H. Bradley, President of Vassar College
Demetrius Eudell, Dean of the Faculty, Vassar College
Brian Daly, Interim Dean of the Faculty (2024-2025)
Christopher Bjork, Associate Dean of Faculty, Vassar College
Carlos Alamo-Pastrana, Dean of College, Vassar College
Fubing Su, Director of Asian Studies Program, Vassar College
Eleana Kim, University of California, Irvine
Elora Shehabuddin, President of the Association for Asian Studies, University of California, Berkeley
Hilary V. Finchum-Sung, Executive Director of the Association for Asian Studies
Amanda Goodman, Events Manager for the President and Trustees, Vassar College
Michelle Ransom, Assistant Dean of Campus Activities, Vassar College
Kathleen Panebianco, Office Specialist, the Program of Asian Studies, Vassar College
Melissa Naitza, Coordinator of Academic Administration
Azra Dawood, The Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center
Amanda Potter, The Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center
Francine Brown, The Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center
Monique D'Almeida, The Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center
Computing and Information Services, Vassar College
Baynard Bailey, Assistant Director of Academic Computing and Information Services, Vassar College
Jean Ross, Computing and Information Services, Vassar College
Julián Aguilar, Program Director and Academic Computing Consultant for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Vassar College
Edward Cheetham, Associate Director of Campus Activities, Vassar College

Amy Manso, Art preparator and staff member at Campus Activities Office, Vassar College
Office of Communications, Vassar College
Robert Yasharian, Office of communications, Vassar College
Aidan Gallagher, Lead Graphic Designer, Vassar College
Daniel Silva, Graphic Designer, Vassar College
Accounting Office, Vassar College
Controller’s Office, Vassar College
Mary E. Gugumuck, Accounting Specialist, Vassar College
Melissa Kennedy, Accounting Services, Vassar College
Michael Frohnhoefer, Staff Accountant Associate Controller at Vassar College
Media Resources, Vassar College
Colin Mealia, Media Coordinator, Vassar College
All College Dining Center, Vassar College
Chris Mongeon, Director of Dining Services, Vassar College
Stephen Scardina, Resident District Manager for Bon Appétit
Buildings and Grounds, Vassar College
Salvatore Incorvaia, Safety and Security Supervisor/Transportation Manager, Vassar College
Campus Safety and Security, Vassar College
CARE (Comfort Women Action for Redness & Education)
Yuko Matsubara, Vassar College
Chizu Kennedy, Vassar College
Gaku Aihara, Vassar Class of 2026
Yixuan Wang, Vassar Class of 2026
Sumanth Manjunath
Xi Zhinong, the Wild China Film
Rick Jones, Laboratory Coordinator, Vassar College
Ballantine Communications
Robert Karen, Sales Director Americas, De Gruyter Brill
James Peltz, Editor in Chief, SUNY Press
Dassai USA Inc.
Jocelyn Heyward, Senior Marketing Advisor, Dassai USA Inc.
The Korea Foundation USA

With Appreciation to Our Donors

Donations of Sake for 2026 NYCAS Conference



Donations to the New York Conference on Asian Studies (NYCAS) (As of 9/29/2026)

Hiromi Dollase, Vassar College
Nayuta Gambe, Tohoku University
Saima Iram, Govt College University Lahore
Leaksmey Loch, Royal University of Phnom Penh
Patricia Welch, Hofstra University

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

Friday, October 23 and Saturday, October 24, 2026		
8:30-5:00	Registration	Location: College Center 1F, North Atrium
9:00-5:00	Book Exhibition	Location: College Center 1F, North Atrium
9:00-5:00	VASSAR-CARE Exhibition	Location: Old Laundry Building, Lounge
9:00-6:00	Asian and Asian Diaspora Artist Exhibition	Location: Palmer Gallery, College Center 1F
10:00-5:00	Asian Art Exhibition	Location: Loeb Art Center
	The Wild China Exhibition	Location: College Center 2F

10/23 FRIDAY

10:30	Shuttle pick up at hotel	
12:00-1:30	PANEL SESSION A	Location: Rockefeller Hall & Taylor Hall
1:45-3:15	PANEL SESSION B	Location: Rockefeller Hall
3:30-4:30	Keynote Address by Dr. Eleana Kim	Location: Taylor 102
4:30 -5:15	Loeb Asian Art Exhibition and Reception	Location: Loeb Art Center Lobby
5:30-7:00	Dinner (Registered Attendees Only)	Location: Gordon Commons 2F
7:15-8:15	Environmental Ragas: An Evening of Carnatic Violin Music by Sumanth Manjunath	Location: Skinner Hall of Music
8:20	Shuttle departure from Skinner Hall	
7:00-9:00	Asian and Asian Diaspora Art Exhibition Reception	Location: Palmer Galley, College Center 1F

10/24 SATURDAY

10:00-11:30	Workshop: Environmental Ragas by Sumanth Manjunath	Location: Skinner Hall
10:30-12:00	VASSAR-CARE Project Presentation	Location: College Center 2F
2:30-4:00	Poster Presentations by Mid-Hudson College Students	Location: College Center 2F
7:30	Shuttle pick up at hotel	
7:30-8:30	NYCAS Executive Board meeting	Location: Gordon Commons 2F
8:00-8:45	Continental Breakfast (Registered Attendees Only)	Location: Rockefeller Hall 2F
8:45-10:15	PANEL SESSION C	Location: Rockefeller Hall
10:30-12:00	PANEL SESSION D	Location: Rockefeller Hall
12:00-12:45	Lunch (Registered Attendees Only)	Location: College Center 1F, Retreat
12:45-1:15	NYCAS Business Meeting and Award Ceremony	Location: College Center 2F, Villard Room
1:15-2:15	Keynote Address by Dr. Elora Shehabuddin (AAS President)	Location: College Center 2F, Villard Room
2:30-4:00	PANEL SESSION E	Location: Rockefeller Hall
4:15-5:45	PANEL SESSION F	Location: Rockefeller Hall
6:00	Shuttle departure	

Featured Speakers

❖ FRIDAY KEYNOTE ADDRESS

October 23, 3:30-4:30 PM

Taylor 102, Auditorium

Dr. Eleana Kim

(Professor / Anthropology and Asian American Studies, UC Irvine)



Eleana Kim is a sociocultural anthropologist and Professor of Anthropology and Asian American Studies at University of California, Irvine. She specializes in kinship, human/nonhuman ecologies, migration, and the senses, with a regional focus on contemporary South Korea. She is the author of two award-winning books, *Adopted Territory: Transnational Korean Adoption and the Politics of Belonging* (2010) and *Making Peace with Nature: Ecological Encounters Along the Korean DMZ* (2022), both of which were published by Duke University Press. She is also the co-editor, with environmental historians David Fedman and Albert Park, of *Forces of Nature: New Perspectives on Korean Environments* (Cornell University Press, 2023). She teaches courses on anthropological theory, kinship, migration, transnational Korea, and the senses.

“Transpacific Ecologies of War”

From nuclear test sites, to atomic bombs, to land mines, to napalm, Asia and the Pacific have a long history of serving as the testing grounds and proving grounds for militarized technologies of war. Multiple ecologically and psychically toxic ecologies link geographies across the Pacific as well as between Asia and the U.S. This talk focuses on the Korean Demilitarized Zone as a transpacific ecology of war to offer an inter-referencing approach (borrowing from Kuan-Hsing Chen’s *Asia as Method*), that can decenter conventional geopolitical relations and planetary imaginaries.

Co-sponsored by the Association for Asian Studies, the New York Conference on Asian Studies, and the Office of the Dean of the Faculty, Vassar College

❖ SATURDAY KEYNOTE ADDRESS

October 24, 1:15-2:15 PM

College Center 2F, Villard Room

Dr. Elora Shehabuddin

President, Association for Asian Studies (AAS)

(Professor / GWS and Global Studies. Director, Global Studies; Director, Chowdhury Center for Bangladesh Studies, UC Berkeley)



Elora Shehabuddin is Professor of Gender & Women's Studies, Director of Global Studies, and Director of the Subir and Malini Chowdhury Center for Bangladesh Studies at UC Berkeley. Her last book, *Sisters in the Mirror: A History of Muslim Women and the Global Politics of Feminism* was selected as a 2022 Choice Outstanding Academic Title by the American Library Association and awarded the 2023 Ananda Kentish Coomaraswamy Book Prize from the Association for Asian Studies. She currently serves as co-editor of the *Journal of Bangladesh Studies* (Brill), on the editorial board of the Cambridge University Press book series, “Muslim South Asia,” and as President of the Association for Asian Studies.

“Red Schoolgirls: Cultivating a Global Radical Imagination in Mid-20th-Century South Asia”

This talk examines the early lives and political projects of young women activists in 1930s–40s Sylhet who were drawn to join the Communist Party. Among them was Hena (Dutt) Das, whose decades of activism would culminate in her helping to found the Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, the largest women’s organization in the country, after Bangladesh’s independence in 1971. I focus on the revolutionary education and motivations that first brought Hena Dutt and her teenage classmates to the Communist Party, how they understood and inhabited communism in their daily lives, and how their personal and political histories complicate ideas about religious and national belonging, about the much-described tug between communism and feminism, and about the relationship between the personal and the political.

Co-sponsored by the Association for Asian Studies and the Office of the Dean of the Faculty, Vassar College

Outreach Events

❖ VIOLIN & MRIDANGAM CONCERT

Friday, October 23, 7:15-8:15 PM

Skinner Hall of Music

“Environmental Ragas: An Evening of Carnatic Violin Music”

by Mr. Sumanth Manjunath

Introduction by Professor Amanda Culp (Assistant Professor of Drama, Vassar College)

The presentation of Carnatic music, a form that dates back to the first millennium and is intricately bound up with South Asian religion, literature, philosophy, art, dance and theater, is a rare opportunity. Because of the training needed to play this music, there are few practitioners and opportunities to hear it played live and interact with the musicians in an open dialogue are limited. The ragas, or melodies, of Carnatic music are intimately connected to the natural world – there are ragas that evoke specific seasons, particular times of day, and various flora and fauna from the natural world. For a conference about Asia and the Environment, we are excited by the opportunity to program a concert that will not only be beautiful and entertaining, but will also connect directly to the weekend’s central theme of inquiry.



Sumanth Manjunath:

Son of acclaimed Violin Maestro Dr. Mysore Manjunath, Sumanth Manjunath has been captivating music lovers and critics with his talent from a very young age. He began performing concerts at the prodigious age of nine years old, and has honed his skills over the years under the guidance of his father, as well as his grandfather, veteran violin master Sri Mahadevappa, and his uncle, Maestro Mysore Nagaraj. Sumanth has performed at festivals and concert venues across India and abroad, including Dubai, Sri Lanka, Singapore,

France, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland, the Netherlands, and Scotland. This is his first American tour. Mridangam will be played by **Nanda Gopal**.

Co-sponsored by the Council on Conferences of the Association for Asian Studies, Music Department, and the Asian Studies Program’s Donation Fund, established through the support of Mr. Paul Chan (Class of 1993) and Ms. Jessica Yep-Chan (Class of 1994)

❖ MUSIC WORKSHOP

Saturday, October 24, 10:00-11:30 AM

Skinner Music Hall

Workshop: Environmental Ragas

by Mr. Sumanth Manjunath

Introduction by Professor Justin Patch (Associate Professor of Music, Vassar College)

Co-sponsored by the Council on Conferences of the Association for Asian Studies, Music Department, and the Asian Studies Program’s Donation Fund, established through the support of Mr. Paul Chan (Class of 1993) and Ms. Jessica Yep-Chan (Class of 1994)

❖ POSTER PRESENTATIONS BY MID-HUDSON COLLEGE STUDENTS

Saturday, October 24, 2:30-4:00 PM
College Center 2F

- RADICAL REFUSAL: The 4B Movement in Contemporary South Korea

Ava Moriarty Bard College
- Can Balinese Language still make it in Today’s Indonesia?

Dylan Carson Cornell University
- From New Order Patronage to Reformasi Networks: Corruption and Environmental Governance in Bali

Taehee Oh Cornell University
- Japanese Toxic Work Culture in Chainsaw Man

Emi Saito Marist University
- Echoed Conscience: A Morality RPG

Matthew DeMelo Marist University
- Death and Nationalism in Japan

Jake Schachter Vassar College
- Drinking Hierarchy: Toasting, Recognition, and Social Order in China

Cici Zhang Vassar College
- Which wards need access to public transport the most in Bangalore?

Vishnu Lakshman Vassar College
- Solar Power Sunrise: Lessons from China’s Growing Photovoltaic Exports

Timberlake Benjamin Vassar College
- Music, Politics, and Nationalism in Imperial Japan, 1868-1945

Hanzhen Teng Vassar College
- How Climate Change has Transformed the Social Mobility in Mongolia’s Traditional Nomadic Pastoralism

Elisa Dzuong Vassar College

Sponsored by the Asian Studies Program at Vassar College

❖ VASSAR-CARE (COMFORT WOMEN ACTION FOR REDRESS & EDUCATION) PROJECTS



Exhibition: Friday, October 23 and Saturday, October 24
Old Laundry Building

Presentations: Saturday, October 24, 2:30-4:00 PM
College Center 2F

- The Eternal Testimony of Chinese “Comfort Women”

Peipei Qiu (Vassar College, Professor Emeritus)
- Incognito: An Experimental Exhibition on the History of the “Comfort Women”

Yuanle Zhu (Vassar College)
Sihan Chen (Vassar College)

In addition to demonstrations of computer-generated CARE projects by Vassar students, Professor Emeritus Qiu will discuss her oral history project, “The Eternal Testimony of Chinese ‘Comfort Women,’” which brings together historical justice, human rights, and emerging technology. Using NLP-powered interactive biography, the project preserves and shares the testimonies of survivors of Imperial Japan’s system of sexual slavery as the last generation of witnesses passes away.

Co-sponsored by the Asian Studies Program and CARE (the Comfort Women Action for Redress & Education)

Exhibitions

❖ ASIAN ART AT VASSAR: ASIAN ART COLLECTION AT LOEB MUSEUM

The Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center
Reception: Friday, October 23, 4:30-5:15 pm

Tuesday–Sunday: 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Thursday Late Night:
5 p.m.–7 p.m. June through August
5 p.m.–9 p.m. September through May

For more information, please visit: vassar.edu/theloeb

❖ PHOTO EXHIBITION



College Center 2F

The Wild China
Selected Photos by Xi Zhinong (奚志农)

Xi Zhinong is a pioneering Chinese wildlife photographer and conservationist renowned for using imagery to protect China’s endangered species. He is the founder of Wild China Film, an organization dedicated to nature conservation. He is among the few Chinese photographers to win numerous prestigious international awards, such as the Gerald Durrell Award for Endangered Wildlife and the BBC’s Wildlife Photographer of the Year. He is the only Chinese national in the International League of Conservation Photographers and was named a National Geographic Wayfinder Award recipient in 2022. The photos on display are among his most well-known works over the past 40 years.

For more information, please visit: worldpressphoto.org/person/detail/37258/xi-zhinong

Co-sponsored by the Wild China Film, the Andrea Baldeck Endowment, and the Asian Studies Program at Vassar College

❖ ART EXHIBITION BY ASIAN AND ASIAN DIASPORA ARTISTS

The James W. Palmer III Gallery, College Center 1F
Reception: Friday, October 23, 7:00-9:00 pm

Strata of Relations: Tales Across Asia and Beyond

Curated by **Yixuan Wang** (New York University; Class of 2026, Vassar College)

Participating Artists: **Beihua Guo, Hafsa Nouman, Huiqi He, Xinhao Cheng, Siyang Dai & Zijun Zhao, Christy Phimmasone, Xingyan Guo, Pejvak (Felix Kalmenson & Rouzbeh Akhbari), and Chen Xiaoyi**

This group exhibition approaches Asia not as a fixed geographic entity, but as an evolving constellation of relationships reshaped by colonial histories, infrastructure expansions, local communities, and natural processes. Bringing together artists based across Asia and its diasporas, the exhibition examines how landscapes are traversed, contested and remembered across shifting cultural and geographical boundaries.

Co-sponsored by the Office of Campus Activities, the ALANA Center, the Chinese Student Community, and the Vassar Student Association

PRESENTATION SCHEDULE

Friday, October 23 and Saturday, October 24, 2026

8:30-5:00	Registration	Location: College Center 1F, North Atrium
9:00-5:00	Book Exhibition	Location: College Center 1F, North Atrium

10/23 FRIDAY

10:30 Shuttle pick up (Drop off at Vassar at 11:00)

12:00-1:30 SESSION A

A-1. [ROUNDTABLE] BRANCHING OUT: DOING NEW RESEARCH IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL HUMANITIES THROUGH FACULTY-STUDENT (UG) COLLABORATION

ROCKEFELLER HALL 300

Organizer: Chiara Formichi (Cornell University)

Charlotte Freehan (Cornell University, College of Arts and Science)

Tenley Nelson (Cornell University, College of Arts and Science)

Dylan Carson (Cornell University, College of Arts and Science)

I Gede Morgan Semone (Cornell University, College of Arts and Science)

Taehee Oh (Cornell University, College of Arts and Science)

Allan Chu (Cornell University, College of Agriculture and Life Science, Plant Science (Remote))

Jolene Conti (Cornell University, College of Arts and Science)

A-2. [PANEL] MUNDANE OBJECTS IN SUBLIME TECHNO-ENVIRONMENTAL LANDSCAPES

ROCKEFELLER HALL 104

Organizer: Martha Kaplan

In praise of manhole covers: What they represent in the post-2011 Disaster Era of Japan

Jun Mizukawa (Lake Forest College)

Household kettles and trust in public water in postcolonial Singapore

Martha Kaplan (Vassar College)

From Penglai to Aromatic Rice: Taste, Identity, and Colonial Legacies in Taiwan

Xiaomei Wu (Duke University)

From the Law of the Landscape to the Landscape of Law: Burial Stones and the Possibilities of Living in Adivasi Worlds

Kaushik Ghosh (Vassar College)

Poetics and politics of landscape: Semiotic technologies, and a gravestone in Nagaland

John D. Kelly (University of Chicago)

A-3. AFFECTIVE LABOR in MIGRATION AND SOLIDARITY

ROCKEFELLER HALL 112

Chair: Ashanti Shih (Vassar College)
Sign of Solidarity: An Emotional History of the Chinese Deaf Community during the War of Resistance
Shu Wan (University at Buffalo)
“My Mum Never Said ‘I Love You’ to Me. Could I to My Kids?” L.O.V.E = Learning the Outward Voicing of Emotions within migratory environments.
Hien Fabiansson (the University of Technology, Sydney [UTS])

A-4. CHRISTIANITY & TRANSNATIONAL NETWORKS

ROCKEFELLER HALL 101

Chair: Chutikan Chaikittiwatana (SUNY Stonybrook)
From Paris to Tianjin: Material Culture and Global Catholicism at Tsin Ku University
Yao Tianyu (Rutgers University - New Brunswick)
Excessifying the Institutionalized: Contesting Definitions of Nature between Communism and Catholicism during the First Indochina War (1945 - 1954)
Do Thy Gia Han (Fulbright University Vietnam)
Between Two Margins: Reading Queer Asian Christian Double Marginality through the Book of Ruth
Iga Feng (Columbia University)

A-5. TRANSNATIONAL SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND POPULAR CULTURE

ROCKEFELLER HALL 210

Chair: Xingyan Guo (Columbia University)
The Human Rights Turn: The Formosan Christians for Self-Determination Movement and Transnational Christian Activism in the 1970s
Lai Gemma Ke-Jing (The University of Chicago)
Digital Discourse and Cultural Legitimacy: U.S. Fan Perceptions of Black Cultural Appropriation in K-pop on X
Andrew Kim (Bergen County Technical High School)
Research on East Asian Humanitarian Narratives: the overlap of Politicization and Civil Society in the Comfort Women Discourse
Boyang Zhang (The London School of Economics and Political Science)

A-6. LINGUISTIC ENVIRONMENT NOW & THEN

ROCKEFELLER HALL 212

Chair: Jihye Seong (Vassar College)
The Shi'er Zitou and the Ecological Conditions of Manchu Language Transmission
Hanson Guanhua Meng (Gould Academy)
A Regional Application of the Slang Image in Contemporary Thailand: Nonzee Nimibutr’s Nang Nak
Samuel Vandyck (Vassar College)
Exploring Student Happiness in Asian Education Environments using Natural Language Processing (co-authored with Kylie Anglin and Tyralynn Frazier)
Hima Raveendran (University of Connecticut)

A-7. CULTURAL MEMORY AND IDENTITY

TAYLOR HALL 203

Chair: Yu-chi Chang (Vassar College)
Sounding the Archive: Nhạc Vàng, Historical Memory, and Postwar Silences
Bryan Le (CUNY Hunter)
Tateishi Tetsuomi’s Taiwan Minzoku Zue and Nuanced Attitudes Toward Colonized Culture
Yuan-Hsi Chao (University of Kansas)
Milieu-Making: Tagore’s Santiniketan as a Relational Environment
Hong Huang (Guangzhou University)

A-8. POLITICS OF COLONIALISM AND NATIONALISM

TAYLOR HALL 206

Chair: Robin Kietlinski (LaGuardia Community College, CUNY)
American Influence in Japanese Settler Colonialism
Anthony Deen (New School for Social Research)
Chinese Nationalism as Political Environment
Vita Golod (UNC—Chapel Hill)
Enduring Legacies of Conflict: Reassessing the Causes of China’s Intervention in the Korean War through Sino–American Relations 1945-1951
Yichen Gao (The New York University)

B-1. [PANEL] CHINESE RELIGION UNBOUND: THE PERSONAL AND THE RELIGIOUS ACROSS THE ASIAN ENVIRONMENT

ROCKEFELLER HALL 200

- Chair and Discussant: Gareth Fisher (Syracuse University)
- Ouyi Zhixu's Yogācāra Critique of Catholicism in the Pixieji
- Zhicheng Lei (Divinity School, University of Chicago)
- Remaking Buddhism in Diaspora: Monastic and Lay Agency in Transnational Chinese Buddhism
- Jingqing Liang (Syracuse University)
- Sensing Meat and Sustaining Vegetarian Practices: Interviews with a Sample of Twenty Practitioners of Chinese Religions from Asia
- Taolin Liu (University of Virginia)
- Ambassadors of the State: Navigating Nationalist Narratives in the Dunhuang-Hong Kong Youth Internship Program
- Yifan Jiang (Syracuse University)

B-2. ANIMALS, CULTURES & JAPANESE TRANSNATIONAL HISTORY

ROCKEFELLER HALL 210

- Chair: Jobial Alex (SUNY Binghamton)
- Shoebill Diplomacy: An Ornithological History of Japan-Africa Relations
- Natalia Doan (University of Tennessee, Knoxville)
- From Commercial Pelts to “Kawaii” Idols: Sea Otters across Time and Space in Japan
- CHEN Xi (Hokkaido University)
- Whaling Waters and Open Ports: Maritime Commerce and the American Opening of Japan
- Robin Kietlinski (LaGuardia Community College – CUNY)

B-3. MIGRATION & DIASPORA

ROCKEFELLER HALL 304

- Chair: Ashanti Shih (Vassar College)
- Landscapes of Mobility: Filipino Migration, Diaspora, and Ecological Transformations in Asia
- Jeffrey Lubang (De La Salle University-Dasmariñas)
- Improvising Refuge: Ephemeral Migrant Intimacy amid the U.S.-China-Mexico Geopolitical Nexus
- Xingyan Guo (Columbia University)
- Digital Practices and the Maintenance of Bengali as a Heritage Language among Bangladeshi Diaspora Families in New York
- Abdul Awal (University of Warsaw)

B-4. POLITICS OF GENDER & SEXUALITY

ROCKEFELLER HALL 312

- Chair: Chutikan Chaikittiwatana (SUNY Stonybrook)
- Imagining Queer Futures: Grindr Users, “America”, and Negotiations of Belonging in Global Pakistan
- Ahmed Afzal (California State University, Fullerton)
- Export Orgasm: Chinese Women and the Global Trade in Pleasure
- Qiong Liu (Virginia Military Institute)
- Trouble in the Marriage Bed: Licit Sex, Virginity, and Expectations of Marital Intimacy in Eighteenth-Century China
- Stephanie Painter (SUNY Old Westbury)

B-5. ARTS & ENVIRONMENT

ROCKEFELLER HALL 101

- Chair: Yixuan Wang (New York University)
- The Call of the Wild: Animal Ethics and Rhetoric of Ecological Novels
- Chunping Pang (Ca' Foscari University of Venice)
- More Than Dramaturgies: Contemporary South Asian Shadow Puppetry across India and Indonesia
- Rahul Koonathara (University of Connecticut)
- In Between Worlds: An Ethnography of Dameng and the Rehoming DunDun Project
- Siyang Dai (Columbia University)

B-6. SOCIAL MEDIA & POPULAR CULTURE

ROCKEFELLER HALL 104

- Chair: Justin Patch (Vassar College)
- The Making of a Pandemic Enemy: The Social Construction of Patient 31 in South Korean Social Media
- Haley Brown (Vassar College)
- #ChinaMaxxing: The Feel Good China and All that Came Before It
- Karen Shi (Duke University)
- Get in the Womb, Yetu!: Hydrofeminism and the Search for Identity in *The Deep* and *Neon Genesis Evangelion*
- (Marleigh Grayer Ryan undergraduate runner-up/honorable mention)
- Keira Carpenter (Marist University)

B-7. VISUAL ART AND CINEMA

ROCKEFELLER HALL 112

Chair: Sophia Harvey (Vassar College)
The Multiplicity of Gender and Chinese-ness in Martin Wong’s Chinatown Series (ca. 1982-1994)
Hsin-Yun Cheng (University of Rochester)
Between Two Worlds: Art Expression of Identity, Culture, and Belonging
Hwa Young Caruso (Molloy University)
The Untimely Meditations in Tsai Ming-liang’s *Walker* Series
Ruochen Bo (Bilkent University)

B-8. ENVIROMENT, SUSTAINABILITY & TECHNOLOGY

ROCKEFELLER HALL 203

Chair: Fubing Su (Vassar College)
China’s State-Market Nexus: Rethinking Capitalism through the Solar Industry
Jessie Cai (Vassar College)
Waste Power: Infrastructural Fixes and the Rise of Municipal State Capitalists in Globalizing China
Yimeng Yang (Northeastern University)

B-9. PEDAGOGY AND ENVIRONMENT

ROCKEFELLER HALL 310

Chair: Seungsook Moon (Vassar College)
Reshaping “Nature”: Conceptional evolution of the Natural World in Chinese Elementary Education (1912 - 1949)
Wu Nuoxi (School of History and Culture, South China Normal University)
Navigating Between Policy and Practice: Examining ICT Curriculum Implementation in Bangladesh
Farin Binta Zahir (University of Louisville)
Thomas Tretter (University of Louisville)
Reimagining Environmental Learning in Conflict-Affected Indigenous Schools: A Whole Institution Approach from Central India
Sai Deshmukh (Shiksharth Trust)

3:30-4:30	Keynote Address by Dr. Eleana Kim Greetings by Dr. Christopher Bjork, Associate Dean of Faculty Greetings and Introduction by Dr. Seungsook Moon, 2026 NYCAS co-organizer	Location: Taylor 102, Auditorium
4:30 -5:15	LOEB Asian Art Exhibition and Reception	Location: Loeb Art Center Lobby
5:30-7:00	Dinner (Registered Attendees Only) Greetings by President Elizabeth Bradley Greetings by Dr. Hiromi Dollase, 2026 NYCAS co-organizer Greetings by Dr. Fubing Su, Director of the Asian Studies Program	Location: Gordon Commons 2F
7:15-8:15	Environmental Ragas: An Evening of Carnatic Violin Music by Sumanth Manjunath Introduction by Dr. Amanda Culp, Assistant Professor of Drama	Location: Skinner Hall of Music
7:00-9:00	Asian and Asian Diaspora Art Exhibition Reception	Location: Palmar Gallery, College Center

8:20 Shuttle departure from Skinner Hall

10/24 SATURDAY

7:30 Shuttle pick up (Drop off at Vassar at 8:00)

8:00-8:45	Continental Breakfast (Registered Attendees Only)	Location: Rockefeller Hall 2F
7:30-8:30	NYCAS Executive Board meeting	Location: Gordon Commons 2F

SPECIAL OUTREACH EVENT		
10:00-11:30	Workshop: Environmental Ragas by Sumanth Manjunath Moderator: Dr. Justin Patch, Associate Professor of Music	Location: Skinner Hall

C-1. [ROUNDTABLE] ENVIRONMENTS OF LIFE WRITING: FORMS, PRACTICES, AND REGIMES OF SELF-ARCHIVING IN LATE MEDIEVAL JAPANESE DIARIES

ROCKEFELLER HALL 300

Organizer: Pier Carlo Tommasi (Vassar College)
Hitoshi Matsuzono (Aichi Gakuin University) (Remote)
Morgan Pitelka (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)
Lee Butler (Independent Scholar)
Hodaka Maeda (Vassar College)

C-2. JAPANESE POP CULTURE

ROCKEFELLER HALL 203

Chair: Nick Tsung-Che Lu (Marist University)
Girl Detectives as Historians: Manga and the Politics of Investigation in the Meiji and Taishō Pasts
Mimi Okabe (Baruch College, CUNY)
Lily Language: Examining and Transfiguring Yuri Narratives
Ashleigh Lucina (University at Buffalo)
Redefining Heroism: A Comparative Analysis of Spider-Man and Denji
Reagan Treharne (Marist University)

C-3. LITERATURE & BELONGING

ROCKEFELLER HALL 312

Chair: Alden Marte-Wood (Vassar College)
Filipina Literary Aesthetics and Duterte’s War on Drugs
Alden Marte-Wood (Vassar College)
Spiritual Environments of Belonging in Min Jin Lee’s *Pachinko*
Sara Lee (Hofstra University)
From Island to I-Land: Island Geography and Karma in the Formation of Self-Identity in Li Qiao’s
Representation of Xilai An Incident
Nick Tsung-Che Lu (Marist University)
Nguyen Thanh Long’s “Quiet Sa Pa” and the Shifting Meteorological Imaginaries of Twentieth-Century
Vietnam
Khanh Nguyen (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

C-4. POLITICS OF NATURAL DISASTER

ROCKEFELLER HALL 210

Chair: Evelyn Obo (De La Salle University-Dasmarinas)
Shifting Ground, Picturing Triumph: A Photovoice Exploration of Meaning-Making Among Displaced Victims
of the 2020 Taal Eruption
Evelyn Obo (De La Salle University-Dasmarinas)
Unprecedented in all the World: Tokusei and the Geopolitics of Disaster Response in Medieval Japan
Elijah Bender (Concordia College)
Beyond the Colonial Record: Southern Tibet and the Earthquake of 1897
Palden Gyal (Columbia University)

C-5. MIGRATION & FAMILIES

ROCKEFELLER HALL 112

Chair: Kaushik Ghosh (Vassar College)
The Unfinished Return: An Oral History of a Shanghai Worker Family Sent to China’s Interior
Sun Junyu (The Ohio State University)
Belonging Without Acceptance? Sociocultural Exclusion and Alteration among Bangladeshis in Japan
Dilruba Sharmin (University of Dhaka)

C-6. PRACTICES OF DIGITAL CULTURE

ROCKEFELLER HALL 310

Chair: Liz Carter (Vassar College)
From Ashes to Skyscrapers: Building the World of Final Fantasy VII in Modern Japanese History
ZiFu Xu (Duke University)
Racial and Ethnic Discrimination Faced by South Asian Americans: Analyzing South Asian Americans’
Experiences Through TikTok Posts
Veda Nukala (Bergen County Technical High School)
Visa Games: Temporality, Labor Agency, and the Online Gambling Industry in Asia
Sihlun (Allen) Huang (Syracuse University)
From Speed Cameras to Find Social and Value Difference in Taiwan and the United States
Yu-Chun Chen (Marist University)

C-7. TRANSNATIONAL FLOWS IN EDUCATION

ROCKEFELLER HALL 307

Chair: Kavita Gawrinauth (New York University)
Provincial Education in Eighteenth-Century China’s Borderland
Ziyao Ma (Metropolitan State University of Denver)
Connecting Kenji Miyazawa’s poem "Ame Nimo Makezu (Undeated by the Rain)" to career development education activities for university students in Cambodia
Leaksmey Loch (Royal University of Phnom Penh)
Growing Up Across Time and Space: Transnational Childhood and Educational Pathways among Children of Indonesian Migrant Workers
Adriana R Mintarsih (SUNY Albany)

10:30-12:00 SESSION D

SPECIAL OUTREACH EVENT		
10:30-12:00	VASSAR-CARE Projects	Location: College Center 2F

D-1. [PANEL] MUSIC EDUCATION AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION IN INDIA

ROCKEFELLER HALL 112

Chair: Natalie Sarrazin (SUNY Brockport)
Shiv Nadar School: Music Education, the Arts – Curricular Innovation as Social Change
Natalie Sarrazin (SUNY Brockport)
Ensemble training, transindividuality, and the Oxford Mission, Behala
Rupert Avis (Guildhall School of Music and Dance)

D-2. [ROUNDTABLE] TEACHING ASIAN HORROR: INNOVATIVE PEDAGOGIES AND CRITICAL REFLECTIONS

ROCKEFELLER HALL 101

Chair: Sophia Harvey (Vassar College)
Nathen Clerici (SUNY New Paltz)
Hiromi Dollase (Vassar College)
Gareth Fisher (Syracuse University)
Joshua Rogers (Queens College)
Patricia Welch (Hofstra University)

D-3. COLONIAL HISTORIES REINTERPRETED

ROCKEFELLER HALL 203

Chair: John D. Kelly (University of Chicago)
Redrawing Himalayan Trade Networks: The Younghusband Mission and the Decline of Nepalese Commercial Dominance in Tibet
Jamphel Shonu (Pennsylvania State University)
Port Cities: Comparative Histories of Penang and Manila in Colonial Southeast Asia
Eleanor El Maayergi (Union College)
The Environment/s that Maps Build Between the Neat Lines and Cartouche: Nation building through 18th century British and French colonial maps and cultural illustration of Pratha Sutte (Practice of Sati/widow burning) representations in India.
Luz Evelia Martin del Campo-Hermosillo (Kingsborough Community College-City University of New York)

D-4. TRANSNATIONAL HISTORIES & EXCHANGES

ROCKEFELLER HALL 104

Chair: Mary Szto (Syracuse University College of Law)
From Cold War Aid to Democratization: The Asia Foundation, Women’s Movements, and Transnational Networks in Taiwan
Kai-Che Shao (University of California, Berkeley / National Chengchi University)
Discovering Syracuse’s First Chinese Law Students
Mary Szto (Syracuse University College of Law)
Transnational Solidarity and Public Diplomacy in Poughkeepsie: China and the Second World Youth Congress at Vassar
Ke Ren (College of the Holy Cross)

D-5. HIGHER EDUCATION & MIGRATION

ROCKEFELLER HALL 200

Chair: Derek Kenji Pinillos Matsuda (Meiji University)
Family Influence on College and Career Choice for Asian Refugee Students in Central New York
Kathryn Stam (SUNY Polytechnic Institute)
In Search of a New Life: Educational Migrants in Ho Chi Minh City
Anh-Tho Ngo (Fulbright University Vietnam)
Transnational Youth Pathways across Time and Space: Educational Environments and Identity
Reconstruction among Japanese Peruvian Youth
Derek Kenji Pinillos Matsuda (Meiji University)

D-6. LABOR, CULTURE, LANDSCAPES

ROCKEFELLER HALL 210

Chair: Dasol Kim (State University of New York at New Paltz)
Gendered Labor and the Making of K-Beauty Culture: Taepyeongyang door-to-door saleswomen
Dasol Kim (State University of New York at New Paltz)
Fermenting Identities through Pulse Heritage: Belacan-Making in Batu Marang, Brunei Darussalam
DK Siti Zulaikha Pg Hj Ishak (National University Singapore)
Beyond Visual Archives: Experience-Based Narratives as Documentation of Social and Cultural Change in Varanasi (co-authored with Tejaswini Rai [Canadian Institute of Heritage Professionals])
Neena Zutshi (Columbia University)

D-7. SOCIALIST POLITICS & CULTURE

ROCKEFELLER HALL 212

Chair: Kristine Harris (SUNY New Paltz)
Reproducing the Postsocialist Chinese Utopia: The Three Gorges Dam, Buried Memories of Displacement, and the Mnemonic Aesthetics of Landscape
Rylan Yichun Liu (Vassar College)
(Re)Writing the Southern Rain: A Global Modernist Reading of the Southern Village Landscape in China’s 1980s “Avant-Garde Literature” Movement
Zifeng Zhu (Vassar College)
The Politics of Omission and Presence: Selective Translation and Modern Womanhood in China’s *The Ladies’ Journal* (1915–1931)
Yang Yang (Binghamton University)

D-8. ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY IN ASIA

ROCKEFELLER HALL 307

Chair: Martha Kaplan (Vassar College)
When Nature Resisted Empire: Fish Acclimatization and Non-Human Agency in Modern India
Jobial Alex (SUNY Binghamton)
Faunal Knowledge Networks from South Asia and the Making of Global Connected Histories
Donal Thomas (State University of New York at Stony Brook / Stony Brook University)
Faith, Food, and Development: Religious Narratives in Environmental and Dietary Change under CPEC
Shabbir Ghulam (Yunnan University)

D-9. BUDDHISM & ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY

ROCKEFELLER HALL 310

Chair: Eunchul Jung (Drew University / Marist University)
Emotion Between the Lines: Joy and Sorrow via Vernacular Gloss in 9th-century Japanese Translations of Sinitic Buddhist Texts
John Bundschuh (Swarthmore College)
A Theory of Human Nature Before the Guodian Manuscripts?
Luke Lea (Bilkent University)
Uncarved, Unproductive, Unavailable: Daoist Resistance to Instrumental Reason
Eunchul Jung (Drew University / Marist University)

D-10. PREMODERN HISTORY & PHILOSOPHY

ROCKEFELLER HALL 312

Chair: Pier Carlo Tommasi (Vassar College)
The Ancestors of Yi Sŏnggye and the Origins of the Chosŏn Dynasty
Ilsoo Cho (Brandeis University)
Cultivated Joy: Kaibara Ekiken’s Rakkun and the History of Happiness in Tokugawa Japan
Tim Cooper III (Siena University)

12:00-12:45	Lunch (Registered Attendees Only)	Location: College Center 1F, Retreat
12:45-1:15	NYCAS Business Meeting and Award Ceremony Greetings by Dr. Natalie Sarrazin, NYCAS President	Location: College Center 2F, Villard Rm
1:15-2:15	Keynote Address by Dr. Elora Shehabuddin, AAS President Introduction by Dr. Seungsook Moon, 2026 NYCAS co-organizer	Location: College Center 2F, Villard Rm

2:30-4:00

SESSION E

SPECIAL OUTREACH EVENT		
2:30-4:00	Poster Presentations by Mid-Hudson College Students	Location: College Center 2F

E-1. ENVIRONMENT & CULTURE

ROCKEFELLER HALL 101

- Chair: Siyang Dai (Columbia University)
- Healing an Unsettled World: Shamanic Ritual and Relational Environments in Northeast China
- Kunpeng Xing (University of Virginia)
- The Shaping Power of Nature in Hongyuan Ren’s Poetry and Poetics
- Fang Lu (Boston College)
- Crafting Resistance: Soft Mountains Design Studio, Nuosu Yi Material Knowledge, and Indigenous Economic Futures in Contemporary China
- Wei Lu (University of Alberta)

E-2. NARRATIVES & HUMAN-ENVIROMENT RELATIONS

ROCKEFELLER HALL 203

- Chair: Joshua Rogers (Queens College)
- Disaster Recovery in an Era of Demographic Stagnation -Community Rebuilding and Disappearance in Japan’s Experience-
- Nayuta Gambe (Tohoku University)
- Diasporic Ties Through Disaster: The Catholic Japanese-Latinx Community in the Aftermath of 3.11
- Pow A. Camacho-Lemus (UCLA)
- Self and Environment in *Coin Locker Babies*
- Anri Yasuda (University of Virginia)

E-3. CONFLICTS IN MODERN ASIA

ROCKEFELLER HALL 210

- Chair: Kavita Gawrinauth (New York University)
- Faith in Transit: Caste, conversion and colonial Christianity under indenture in British Guiana
- Kavita Gawrinauth (New York University)
- The Politics of Fragmentation: Explaining Factionalism in the Baloch Ethno-Nationalist Insurgency
- Fahad Nabeel UL Haque (Geopolitical Insights)
- Sacred Margins: Hindu and Sikh Traditions in Postcolonial Pakistan
- Sadia Mahmood (Quaid-e-Azam University)

E-4. PLIGHTS OF MIGRATION

ROCKEFELLER HALL 212

- Chair: Petter Huston (Independent Scholar)
- Foreign Workers and Refugees as “Black Ships” in 1980s Japan
- Erik Esselstrom (University of Vermont)
- Problems and Questionable Beliefs about China, Hong Kong, and the Great California Gold Rush -1849-1860, and the Need for Further Academic Exploration.
- Peter Huston (Independent Scholar)
- Violence Against the Most Vulnerable: The Plight of the Rohingyas
- Bill Topich (Pulaski Academy)

E-5. LANGUAGE AND HISTORY

ROCKEFELLER HALL 307

- Chair: Liz Carter (Vassar College)
- Language, Memory and Displacement in 1947 Partition Literature (Manto, Faiz, Asmat Chughtai)
- Saima Iram (Government College University Lahore)
- Permeating Lingual Borders: The Shaping of Filipino Language Under Colonial Spanish-Catholic Language Policy
- Jonathan Privett-Mendoza (University College London)

E-6. STATE, POWER & SOCIAL CONTROL

ROCKEFELLER HALL 310

- Chair: Seungsook Moon (Vassar Collee)
- Engineered Harmony: The National Day Song as Sonic Environment in Singapore
- Edmund Song (University of Iowa, School of Music)
- Hereditary Captains and the Two-Tier System of Social Control: Zuoling Banner Units under the Control of Their Natural Communal Elites in Beijing’s Inner City, Seventeenth–Eighteenth Centuries
- Yamin Xu (Le Moyne College)

E-7. CHINESE PREMODERN HISTORY & CULTURE

ROCKEFELLER HALL 312

- Chair: Hiromi Dollase (Vassar College)
- The Third Soundscape: Marriage, Foraging, and Songs of Regional States in the Chinese Bronze Age
- Hsiang-Lin Shih (St. Olaf College)
- Two Sea Gods of the South China Coast: A Civilizational Succession Story
- Alex Lai (Independent Scholar at Cornell University)

F-1. [PANEL] MEDIATING KOREAN RELIGIONS: PUBLIC VALUE, EMPIRE, AND SENSORY ENVIRONMENTS
ACROSS TIME AND SPACE

ROCKEFELLER HALL 312

Organizer: Jusung Lee (Yale University)
Mediating Korean Christianity in Exclusion-Era America: The Rocky, The Korean Student Bulletin, and the Print Public of an Emerging Asian America
Seokweon Jeon (New York University)
Making Buddhism Public from Abroad: Kūmgangjō and Korean Buddhist Student Print Culture in Japan
Jusung Lee (Yale University)
From Monastery to Mainstream: Media Representation, Government Policy, and the Globalization of Korean Buddhist Temple Food
Minny Lee (Rutgers University)
Discussant: Seokweon Jeon (New York University)

F-2. TECHNOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT & CULTURAL MEMORY IN SOUTH KOREA

ROCKEFELLER HALL 200

Chair: Seungsook Moon (Vassar College)
Forests as Cold War Development: The Korean Reforestation Program, Pine Hybrids, and the Circulation of Experts after the Korean War
James Podgorski (Binghamton University)
Ocean as Container: Space Rocket Launch and Ocean Pollution in South Korea
Hae-Seo Kim (Harvey Mudd College)
Tracing Change Through Architecture: Evolving Perceptions of Japanese Colonial Spaces and National Identity in South Korea (1945–Present)
Doei Kang (Independent Scholar)
Ecologies of Prediction: Animal Data and Speculative Future in Contemporary Korean Art
Kyungmin Noh (National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Korea)

F-3. ENVIRONMENT & DISEASE

ROCKEFELLER HALL 310

Chair: Kaoru Tamura (University of Oregon)
Cholera in 19th Century Japan: Demonic Disease, Government Elixirs, and Modern Subjectivities
Darryl Flaherty (University of Delaware)
Dark Ecology and Tsutsugamushi Disease: Toxic Ground and the Strange Loop of Environmental Intervention in Modern Niigata
Kaoru Tamura (University of Oregon)
Building the Nation through Scientific Aid: The Northwest China Cattle Plague of 1942
Cameron Foltz (Columbia University)

F-4. MEMORY & POLITICS IN ASIAN FILM & LITERATURE

ROCKEFELLER HALL 307

Chair: Kristine Harris (SUNY New Paltz)
Urban Spaces and Geopolitics in 1920s and 1930s Chinese Fiction and Film
Kristine Harris (SUNY New Paltz)
Wave Makers: Chinese Women Directors Fighting Gender Violence on Screen
Yuping Zhang (Lehigh University)
Make it an "American" Film: American Landscape as Both Criticism and Promotion in Park Chan-wook's *No Other Choice* (2025)
James Hojung Kim (University of Rochester)
Imagined Space of Southeast Asia in *Sunset on the Sarvin River*: War, Colonization, and Reconstruction of Memory in 1960s South Korea
Minkyoun Jun (The City University of New York)

F-5. SPACES & IDENTITIES

ROCKEFELLER HALL 212

Chair: Sarah Kim (Columbia University)
Pavilion as Environment: Designing National Identity and Cultural Diplomacy at Expo Osaka 2025
Mehreen Gondal (Ocean Design Studio)
Beyond Shelter: The Role of Korean Apartment Complexes in Middle-Class Identity and Social Stratification in Seoul
Sarah Kim (Columbia University)
Through the Mind's Eye: Li Fanqun, Tianshan Nanbei, and the Making of a New Chinese Borderland
Preston Decker (SUNY Fredonia)
Japanese Working and Residing in Palestine: Shifting Attitudes through Heritage, Architecture, and Tourism Constructions
Millie Creighton (University of British Columbia)

F-6. MIGRATION, FAMILIES, AND SOCIAL MOBILITY

ROCKEFELLER HALL 210

Chair: Derek Kenji Pinillos Matsuda (Meiji University)
Viet Kieu and Its Shaping on Transnational Family Relationships: The Case Study of Vietnamese Marriage Immigrant Women in Taiwan.
Quoc tuan Huynh (Research Center for Humanities and Social Sciences)
Intimate Geopolitics of Mothering: Vietnamese Migrant Women and the Negotiation of Belonging in Taiwan
Huy Huynh (National Dong Hwa University, Taiwan)

F-7. POLITICS OF LANGUAGE AND TRANSLATION

ROCKEFELLER HALL 203

Chair: Chutikan Chaikittiwatana (SUNY Stonybrook)
Authority, Translation, and the Group Unconscious: Examining the role of Cultural Interpreter in China-based Tavistock Conferences
Nick Bartlett (Barnard College)
Enacted Professional Skills in Translators' Situated Work: A Multiple Case Study in the Chinese Context
Tong Wu (The State University of New York at Binghamton)
Recasting Gender Fluidity as Emotional Growth: The Multimodal Recontextualization of Transcultural Picture Books in Contemporary Mainland China
Baiyao Yu (Teachers College, Columbia University)

6:00 Shuttle departure

PRIZES AND AWARDS

The 2026 Marleigh Grayer Ryan College Student Writing Prize

The New York Conference on Asian Studies (NYCAS) encourages the development of the skills of scholarly writing by awarding annual prizes for excellent student papers dealing with Asia. The prizes honor the outstanding service of Dr. Marleigh Grayer Ryan, former Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Professor of Japanese Literature, and Coordinator of Asian Studies at SUNY New Paltz; and longtime Executive Secretary of NYCAS.

Graduate Prize Winner

Jingya Guo, Cornell University

Title: “Palpating the Strange: Monstrous Births, Pulse Diagnosis, and the Limits of Medical Authority in Nineteenth-century China”

Graduate Honorable Mention Winner

Neha Dalvi, Cornell University

Title: “The City as a Quilt: Theorizing South Asian Urban Life Through Everyday Practices”

Undergraduate Prize Winner

Benjamin Cohen, Hofstra University

Title: “Demand, Insist, Enforce, Ban, Burn: The Political Significance of Imported American Quiz Shows in Occupied Japan, 1944-1953”

Undergraduate Honorable Mention Winner

Keira Carpenter, Marist University

Title: “Get in The Womb, Yetu!: Hydrofeminism and the Search for Identity in *The Deep* and *Neon Genesis Evangelion*”

Accessibility Information

Main Building & College Center

There is a ground-level entrance located to the right of the main entrance (automatic door opener). There is also a ramped entrance to the back of Main to enter through the College Center on the south side, and a ramped entrance on the north side across from Ely Hall. There is elevator access in Main to all levels (restricted access only 3rd floor and above). Accessible restrooms are located in the front lobby (men's), in the South wing (gender-neutral), and in the College Center. Accessible parking spaces are located in front of Main Building, on Main Gate Drive, and in the Ely/Aula Visitors' parking lot. **All Gender Bathrooms:** Located in the South Wing.

Located on the third, fourth, and fifth floors, accessible. College Center

There are three accessible entrances into the College Center. There is the front (north) entrance, the back (south) entrance next to the Faculty Commons, and the accessible entrance in the front of Main Building. There is elevator access to the basement and second floor located to the left of the Retreat. Accessible restrooms are located on the first floor next to the Express and on the second floor by the Multi-purpose Room. Accessible parking is located in the Ely parking lot, Pratt Circle, in front of Kautz House, and in front of Main Building.

Taylor Hall & Loeb Art Center

There is ground-level access to the building. Wheelchair lifts or elevator provides access to all levels. The entrance to the elevator is located outside under Main Gate. Accessible restrooms are available on each level. The closest accessible parking spaces are located on Main Gate Drive and in front of Main building. **All Gender Bathrooms:** Located on the second and third floors, accessible.

Rockefeller Hall

The accessible entrance to Rockefeller Hall (Rocky) is located on the West side of the building. The elevator gives access to all levels. Accessible restrooms are located on the first floor (Basement). The closest parking spaces are located in the East parking lot behind Chicago Hall.

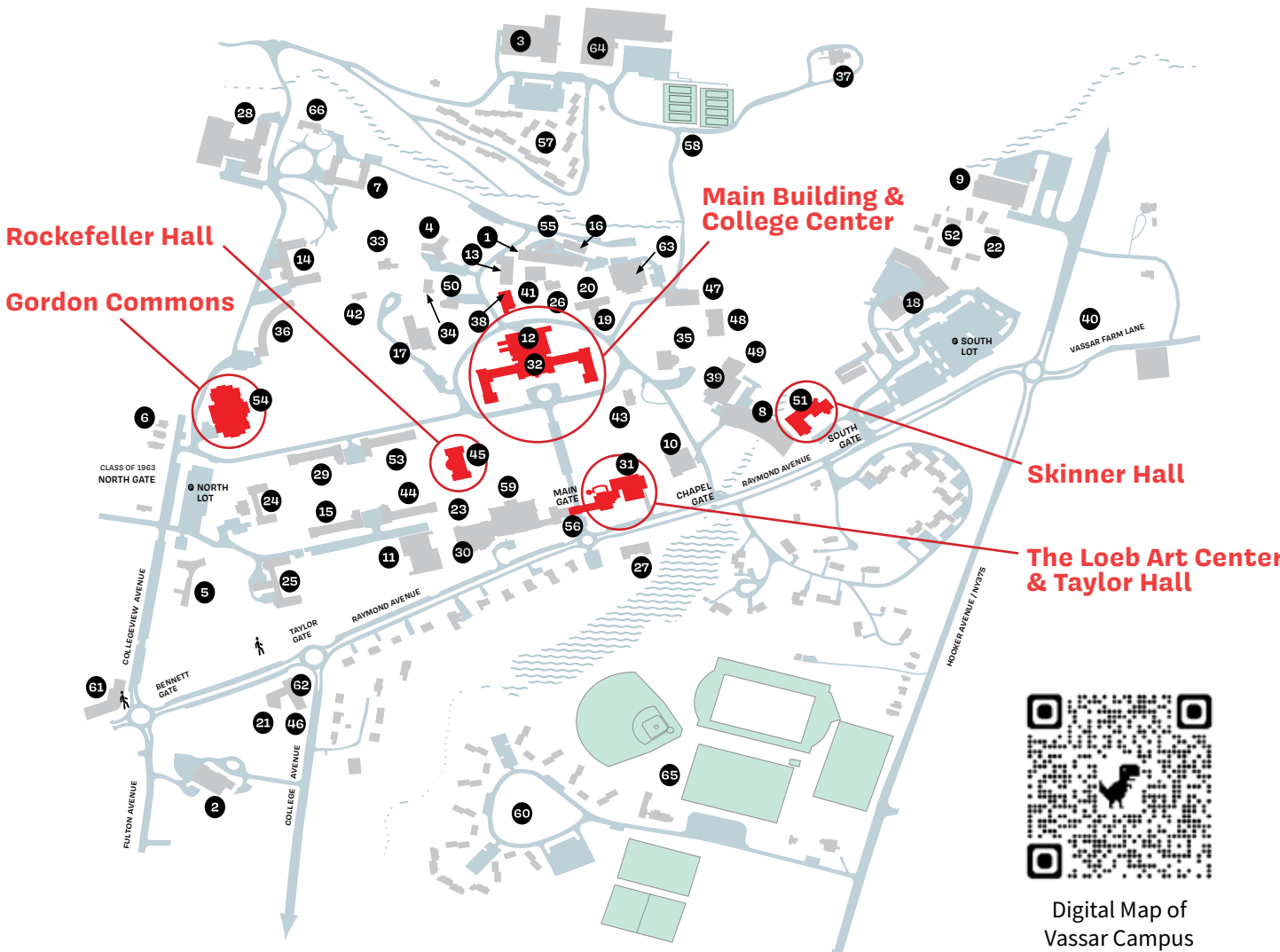
Students' Building / Gordon Commons

The main front entrance and rear entrance to the Students' Building/Gordon Commons are accessible. The elevator in the main entrance provides access to all levels. Accessible restrooms are located in the east and west wings on the first and second floors. Dining staff are available to assist individuals with carrying trays and retrieving food and beverages from stations. Staff can also provide patrons with special dietary needs information about menu ingredients. Accessible parking is located on the east and north sides of the building or in the North parking lot. **All Gender Bathrooms:** Located on the first and third floors, accessible.

Skinner Hall of Music

The Main entrance, located on the Raymond Avenue side of Skinner Hall is accessible, as well as the entrance to the auditorium. There is an accessible restroom located on the first floor and an elevator that gives access to most of the building. There is also an accessible restroom next to the auditorium. The Bridge for Laboratory Sciences building is the best and most accessible path of travel between Skinner and Vassar's main campus. The closest accessible parking spaces are located on the Raymond Avenue side of the building. **All Gender Bathrooms:** Located on the second floor, accessible.

[illegible]



- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1 ALANA Center
Jeh Vincent Johnson ALANA Cultural Center | 23 Ingram Library
Martha Rivers and E. Bronson Ingram Library | 44 Raymond House |
| 2 Alumnae House | 24 Jewett House
Milo Jewett House | 45 Rockefeller Hall |
| 3 Athletics and Fitness Center | 25 Josselyn House
Olivia Josselyn House | 46 The Salt Line at Vassar |
| 4 Baldwin Hall | 26 Kautz House
The Carol and James Kautz House | 47 Sanders Classroom
Eleanor Butler Sanders Classroom Building |
| 5 Bartlett Center
The Dede Thompson Bartlett Center for Admission and Career Education | 27 Kendrick House | 48 Sanders Physics
Sanders Laboratory of Physics |
| 6 Bayit (Jewish Student Center) | 28 Kenyon Hall | 49 Shakespeare Garden |
| 7 Blodgett Hall | 29 Lathrop House | 50 Shiva Theater
Susan Stein Shiva Theater |
| 8 Bridge for Laboratory Sciences
Winton Evans Bridge for Laboratory Sciences | 30 Lockwood Library
Helen D. Lockwood Library | 51 Skinner Hall
Belle Skinner Hall of Music |
| 9 Campus Safety Office | 31 The Loeb
Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center | 52 South Commons |
| 10 Chapel | 32 Main Building | 53 Strong House |
| 11 Chicago Hall | 33 Maria Mitchell Observatory | 54 Students' Building (Gordon Commons) |
| 12 College Center | 34 Metcalf House | 55 Swift Hall |
| 13 Computer Center | 35 New England Building | 56 Taylor Hall |
| 14 Cushing House | 36 Noyes House
Emma Hartman Noyes House | 57 Terrace Apartments |
| 15 Davison House | 37 Observatory
Class of 1951 Observatory | 58 Tennis Center
Richard L. Cretella Tennis Center |
| 16 Doubleday Studio Arts Building
Russell and Janet Doubleday Studio Arts Building | 38 Old Laundry Building | 59 Thompson (Main) Library
The Frederick Ferris Thompson Memorial Library |
| 17 Ely Hall/Aula | 39 Olmsted Hall of Biological Sciences | 60 Town Houses |
| 18 Facilities Operations
and Central Receiving | 40 Preserve at Vassar | 61 Vassar College Store |
| 19 Ferry House
Dexter M. Ferry Cooperative House | 41 Powerhouse Theater | 62 Vassar Institute for the Liberal Arts |
| 20 Frances Daly Fergusson Quadrangle | 42 Pratt House | 63 Vogelstein Center for Drama and Film |
| 21 The Heartwood at Vassar | 43 President's House | 64 Walker Field House |
| 22 Infant Toddler Center | | 65 Weinberg Field Sports Pavilion
J. L. Weinberg Field Sports Pavilion |
| | | 66 Wimpfheimer Nursery School |



Front Cover:

Utagawa Hiroshige III, Japanese, 1843 - 1894

Hayashi Kichizô

Rice Inflation Satire: Picture of Tug of War with a Personified Bale of Rice, 1880

Woodblock print (nishiki-e); ink and color on paper

Composition: 13 15/16 x 28 3/8 in. (35.4 x 72 cm)

Sheet: 14 x 9 1/2 in. (35.5 x 24.1 cm)

Purchase, Betsy Mudge Wilson, class of 1956, Memorial Fund

2025.22.4

Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, Vassar College

Back Cover:

Korean, Korean, NA

Jar, Nd

Ceramic: greyware with greenish grey glaze. Ornaments inlaid with white and black clay.

Sight: 2 1/4 x 3 3/4 x 3 3/4 in. (5.72 x 9.53 x 9.53 cm)

Gift of Charles M. Pratt

1936.5.63

Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, Vassar College