Past Events (Academic Year 2011-2012)

Godzilla & Friends VII: The End of Godzilla!
Friday & Saturday, May 4–5
Washburn University, Henderson Center, Rm 112 (Topeka)
That big, green monster, Godzilla, will be returning to Washburn University for the 7th annual and final Godzilla & Friends Festival. This free event celebrates the cultural history behind the giant creature in all of its bizarre diversity. For a schedule of screenings and events, visit http://www.godzilla-friends.org/

Lecture: Luo Lianggong, “Langston Hughes in China”
Monday, April 30 || 12 noon
Watson Library, Room 503
Luo Lianggong will discuss Langston Hughes’s 1933 trip to China and the scholarship surrounding that visit. Luo Lianggong is Professor of English and Director of the Centre for English Literatures, Vice Dean of the School of Foreign Languages, Central China Normal University. Co-sponsored by the Project on the History of Black Writing, CEAS, the Langston Hughes Center, and the Dept. of English.

“Afghanistan 2014 and Impacts on Global Security Identities”
Third Annual KU-Ft. Leavenworth Security Conference
Wednesday, April 25
8 am-5 pm
Malott Room, Kansas Union
The subject of this year’s conference assumes the reduction of the United States and international military presence in Afghanistan after 2014, and that this will result in significant changes in the global security environment. The United States and its partners consider that Afghanistan will have adequate means of security, albeit with long-term assistance. However, the specific security perspectives and concerns of other regional and global actors have not been as well articulated. Who are the key regional and global players? What do neighboring states think are critical concerns in the post-Afghan-war environment? How do other, more distant countries and global actors view anticipated changes in the global security environment? Keynote speakers include Graeme Herd (Geneva Centre for Security Policy), Roger Kangas (Dean, Near East and South Asia Center), and Marlene Laruelle (Institute for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies (IERES), George Washington University). The conference is free and open to the public, but participants must register by 5pm on Friday, April 20. It is made possible by Title VI Department of Education National Resource Center grants and a KU-Ft. Leavenworth Army Research Labs Grant. For more information and to register: www.crees.ku.edu and follow the conference link in the announcements section.

Thursday, April 12 || 7 pm
Malott Room, Kansas Union
The samurai are one of the most enduring cultural species the world has ever known. For more than a millennium, they and their choreographers have worked hard to trumpet their heroic virtues and legitimize their existence by constructing stories, images, and slogans. “Samurai Blue,” which hopes to play in FIFA World Cup, and my student who showed up in a samurai garb on Halloween illustrate the perennial success of samurai image-production. But who were the samurai? We take a small slice of their long and complex history by focusing on a major and violent fourteenth century war, depicted graphically in the Tale of Grand Peace (Taiheiki). While this famous Tale offers us an unforgettable vision of courage to kill and die, another set of writings tells us a different story. In the 1990s, priests at a temple near Tokyo came upon old letters sunk in the neck crevice of a Boddhisatva statue. The letters, numbering more than fifty, bear the signature of an undistinguished conscript, Yamanouchi, who apparently sent them from his camp to his son and wife back home. Unlike the Tale, which came to be recited throughout the centuries, Yamanouchi’s voice would have vanished into oblivion, had it not been for this extraordinary discovery. These letters recast the meaning of violence and the samurai’s reality, especially viewed against the beloved Tale of Grand Peace (Taiheiki).


Wednesday, March 28 || 7:30 pm
Malott Room, Kansas Union

Critical theory, especially of a Freudian-inflected variety, has produced a rich account of the phallus as a cultural symbol. As this lecture demonstrates, however, a history of the body that takes seriously the actual penis can be no less eye-opening. In modern times, penises have been concealed, cleansed, inspected, manipulated, measured, and subjected to other forms of social regulation and medical normalization, in addition to their physiological functions in sexual arousal, urination, and reproduction. In Japan and other places, modernity has also given rise to what might be called a “penis industry”—a complex of urological knowledge, business interests, and advertising media that, by instilling a fear in young males that their genitalia embody a shameful departure from the physical norm, encourage them to part with their cash in order to receive one or another kind of treatment. This lecture traces the emergence of the penis industry in early twentieth-century Japan, focusing on the advertising strategies that its entrepreneurs developed in print to promote a distinctively modern form of psychological anxiety.

**Lecture: Carl Minzner (Fordham University), “China’s Turn Against Law”**

Tuesday, March 13 || 7 pm
Malott Room, Kansas Union

Chinese authorities are reconsidering legal reforms they enacted in the 1980s and 1990s. These reforms had emphasized law, litigation, and courts as institutions for resolving civil grievances between citizens and administrative grievances against the state. But social stability concerns have led top leaders to question these earlier reforms. Central Party leaders now fault legal reforms for insufficiently responding to (or even generating) surging numbers of petitions and protests.
Wednesday, March 14 || 12:30 pm
Rice Room (5th floor), Green Hall

Celebrating East Asian Studies Scholarship: An Interdisciplinary Showcase
Thursday, February 16 || 5:30 pm / 6:30 pm (see below)
Watson Library, Third Floor West
A reception with food and music celebrating East Asia scholarship on campus will begin at 5:30 pm. A panel discussion will begin at 6:30 pm, when four East Asian faculty will discuss scholarship and the rewards of their research (Megan Greene, CEAS Director, will serve as the moderator).

INSIGHT Artist’s Talk: Hong Chun Zhang
Wednesday, February 8 || 7 pm
Lawrence Arts Center, 940 New Hampshire St.
Zhang will discuss her exhibit, Hay Wire, a site-specific project made for the Lawrence Arts Center. The exhibit is inspired by her life experiences both in urban China and rural Kansas, mixing her Chinese heritage, aesthetics, and identity with her new home in the Midwest.

Tea & Talk: A. Townsend Peterson, “Biodiversity Explorations in the Gobi Desert of Mongolia”
Thursday, February 9 || 4 pm
Centennial Room, Kansas Union
A. Townsend Peterson, Curator of Ornithology at the KU Biodiversity Institute, will discuss his research and collaborations in the landscapes and animals of Mongolia.

Lecture: Yomi Braester, “The Architecture of Utopia: From Rem Koolhaas’s Scale Models to RMB City”
Thursday, February 9 || 7 pm
The Commons, Spooner Hall
Scale models are the architectural equivalent of science fiction: they seem to relocate the viewer immediately into a better future. Their utopian claims are compounded as Plexiglas-and-Styrene models are giving way to computer-generated 3D simulations, and the digital image is fashioned as a vehicle of social transformation. This talk will look at a pivotal moment in the history of architectural simulation, namely the introduction of Rem Koolhaas’s practices and thoughts in the People’s Republic of China.

Murphy Lecture in Art History: Julie Nelson Davis, “Reading The Mirror of Yoshiwara Beauties, Compared”
Monday, February 6 || 5:15 pm
Spencer Museum of Art, Room 211
Julie Nelson Davis is Associate Professor of East Asian Art at the University of Pennsylvania.
**North Korea NOW**  
Thursday, Feb. 2 | 4 pm  
Alderson Auditorium, Kansas Union  
Roundtable discussion of the history and culture leading up to the current events in North Korea today. Participants will be David Lambertson, U.S. Ambassador (Ret.); Marsha Haufler, Associate Dean of International Studies; Jiso Yoon, Assistant Professor of Political Science; and Kyoim Yun, Assistant Professor of East Asian Languages & Cultures.

**Lunar New Year Party 2012: Year of the Dragon**  
Friday, January 27 | 5-7 pm  
ECM, 1204 Oread Avenue  
Come celebrate the Year of the Dragon with East Asia food tastings, games and activities, music and fun.

**All My Sons, directed by Chinese Guest Artist Lei Guo-Hua**  
November 12–20 ($18/$17/$10)  
This tremendously powerful drama by one of America’s greatest playwrights will bring a new perspective to the stage in a unique production directed by Chinese guest artist Lei Guo-Hua. For tickets and showtimes, please visit the [KU Theatre website](#). Lei Guo-Hua's residency is co-sponsored by the KU Dept. of Theater, KU Center for East Asian Studies, and the Undergraduate Asian Studies Initiative, supported by the Freeman Foundation of New York and Stowe, Vermont.

**Murphy Lecture in Art History: Kuiyi Shen, "Figure & Body in Modern and Contemporary Art"**  
Monday, November 21 | 5:15 pm  
Room 211, Spencer Museum of Art  
Kuiyi Shen is Director of the Chinese Studies Program and Professor of Asian Art History, Theory, & Criticism at the University of California, San Diego.

**Gallery Talk: Professor John Kennedy on Irving Norman’s The Race**  
Wednesday, November 16 | 3 pm  
Spencer Museum of Art, 405 Gallery  
Come view works for the first time, through a new lens, or in a deeper way, in the new gallery talk series Art in a Global Context: The Museum Collection Across the Curriculum. In the program, KU faculty members from the University's international studies centers are invited to discuss a work of art from the Spencer Museum's collection. Speakers relate themes and ideas to various disciplines across campus. For this session, Professor John Kennedy from the Department of Political Science and the Center for East Asian Studies will speak on The Race, a 1962 oil painting by Polish American artist Irving Norman (1906-1989). Co-sponsored by the KU Center for Global and International Studies, Spencer Museum of Art, and KU Center for East Asian Studies.

**CHINA Town Hall**  
Wednesday, November 16 | 6 pm
Jayhawk Room, Kansas Union
Webcast & Discussion: Join a live national webcast discussion and Q&A with the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations featuring Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski, former National Security Advisor to President Jimmy Carter, who will discuss the current issues in Sino-American relations. In the second component, KU will host Mark Frazier (University of Oklahoma), who will speak about nationalism through the lens of economic activity in China. Co-sponsored by the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations and the Dole Institute of Politics.

AnDa Union
Saturday, November 5 | 7:30 pm
Lied Center ($21/$5)
Part Mongolian history lesson, part concert hall recital, AnDa Union's powerful performances are a masterful reimagining of nearly forgotten styles of traditional Mongol music. Harkening back to the days of Genghis Khan, this rich heritage of ancient music is intermingled with the modern influences of the many disparate tribes of both Inner and Outer Mongolia. The musicians expertly play a wide variety of traditional lutes, flutes and mouth harps, singing in traditional and mystical vocal forms. For tickets, click here.

Artists’ Talk: Kwan Wu, Creator of East West—The Same Man
Monday, November 7 | 4 pm
Malott Room, Kansas Union
Join Chinese sculptor Kwan Wu and his colleagues as they discuss the creation of the Chinese-U.S. Sculpture Park at the Overland Park Arboretum.

National Acrobats of the People’s Republic of China
Friday, October 21 | 7:30 pm
Lied Center ($28/$25/$10)
This dramatic 35-member company performs feats of strength, skill, and ability in a balancing act of exhilaration and risk. Taking the audience on an extraordinary journey, the National Acrobats perform high-flying acrobatics, martial arts, gripping illusions, and enchanting traditional Chinese dance and music. For tickets, click here.

Monday, October 24 | 3 pm
Pine Room, Kansas Union
Since 2008, state agencies at the national and subnational level in China have begun to promote "corporate social responsibility" in various forms, primarily among leading companies. Based on recent fieldwork in China, Harper Ho will discuss how emerging concepts of "corporate citizenship" or "corporate social responsibility" are being defined by the state and the potential impact of these initiatives on legal compliance and business practice in China.
Tea & Talk: Margarita Karnysheva, “Rumors, Gossip, and Fortune-telling: the Lamas' Information War Against the Bolsheviks”
Thursday, October 13 | 4 pm
Malott Room, Kansas Union
In the 1920s the Bolshevik Government of the Buriat-Mongol Republic alienated the Buddhist Church. Being stripped of the privileges granted them by the Tsars, the Lamas sided the anti-Soviet insurgency movement and launched large-scale information war against the Soviet State.

Peter Hershock (East-West Center, Honolulu), “Democracy and Difference: A Buddhist Path Past Liberal Freedoms and Illiberal Order”
Wednesday, October 12 | 7 pm
Malott Room, Kansas Union
Co-sponsored by the KU Dept. of Philosophy, KU Dept. of Religious Studies, and the Hall Center for the Humanities.

Tea & Talk: Utako Minai (Linguistics), “Japanese and English: Linguistic Similarities and Differences”
Wednesday, October 5 | 3 pm
Pine Room, Kansas Union
Japanese is a language that is quite different from English in many respects, not sharing the same orthography, sound system, or grammar. However, once we compare these two seemingly different languages from a linguistic perspective, we discover surprising similarities. This lecture discusses the similarities and differences between Japanese and English, focusing on some recent comparative research from the fields of linguistics, psycholinguistics, and language acquisition.

INSIGHT Artist’s Talk: Qiao Xiaoguang
Tuesday, September 27 | 7 pm
Lawrence Arts Center (940 New Hampshire St.)
In his Moby-Dick papercuts series, artist Qiao Xiaoguang brings together diverse elements to illuminate Herman Melville’s iconic novel. Qiao, a Beijing-based artist, professor, and director of the Cultural Heritage Research Center at the Chinese Academy of Fine Arts, learned traditional Chinese papercutting techniques from the elderly women who practice it in rural China. Consequently, his very contemporary papercuts reference the plants and animals of China’s countryside and depend on intricate design techniques that were developed in China more than 1500 years ago. The Cutting Edge of Moby Dick is underwritten by the KU Center for East Asian Studies and Dr. Beth Schultz. (Exhibit runs through October 2.)

Film: “Rising Tide”
Thursday, September 22 | 6 pm
Spencer Museum of Art Auditorium
The Rising Tide investigates China’s meteoric march toward the future through the works of some of its most talented emerging artists who capture the social and aesthetic confusion created in a rapidly changing society.
FREE and open to the public. Post-film Panel Discussion: Robert Adanto (director), David Cateforis (KU Art History), and Hong Zhang (artist). Sponsored by the KU Center for Global & International Studies; Kansas Consortium for Teaching about Asia; Center for East Asian Studies; KU Dept. of East Asian Languages & Cultures; and the KU Dept. of Film & Media Studies.

**Tea & Talk: Dongbin Kim (School of Education), “The Road to World-Class Universities: A Case Study of South Korea”**

Wednesday, September 21 | 4 pm  
Pine Room, Kansas Union  
Dongbin Kim will discuss her research investigating how the emphasis on international rankings influences faculty or administrators’ perceptions of world class universities in South Korea, and if the perceptions and strategies of world-class universities are influenced by their U.S. training.

**Brownbag: A Conversation with General Pahol Sanganetra (Thailand)**

Monday, September 12 | 12:30 pm  
Kansas Room, Kansas Union  
General Pahol Sanganetra serves as the Deputy Permanent Secretary for Defense for Thailand. Past appointments have been in the education and policy field of the Royal Thai Army, Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy, the Royal Thai Army Command and General Staff College, and other administrative leadership positions. A native of Bangkok, he holds degrees from Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok; the University of California, Los Angeles; the Royal Thai Army Command and General Staff College; and a PhD in Physics from the University of Kansas. Co-sponsored by the KU Center for East Asian Studies, KU Center for Global & International Studies, and the KU Office of Professional Military Graduate Education.

**Fifth Annual Mid-Autumn Moon Viewing Party**

Monday, September 12 | 7:30 pm  
Dole Institute of Politics front lawn  
Bring your picnic blankets and/or camp chairs and join us for a celebration of the mid-autumn full moon. Enjoy East Asian music, poetry, games, and mooncakes under the stars. Co-sponsored by the KU Chinese Students & Scholars Friendship Association.

**Conference: Identity & Community after the Cold War**

August 25–27 || Alderson Auditorium, Kansas Union  
International conference investigating the great changes in concepts of identity and community after the end of the Cold War. The last two decades have witnessed the confluence of many different kinds of radical change: the demise of communism as a force in politics, the resurgence of radical religious communities, the emergence of global climate change as a major challenge to traditional economies and communities, and the innovative growth of digital technology. The conference is FREE, but prior registration is required. For more information and to register, please [click here](#). Co-sponsored by the KU Center for Russian, East European, and
Careers in the Foreign Service
August 11 || 12 noon || Alcove B, Kansas Union
David Peterson, a U.S. Foreign Service Officer, will explain the importance of the foreign service in international diplomacy, discuss the process of becoming a foreign service officer, and answer questions regarding this exciting career track.