

# ASIAN STUDIES at OXFORD

The Asian Studies Centre was founded in 1982, as the successor to the Far East Centre (established in 1954) at St Antony's College. Its activities are supported by an endowment at the College and from external grants. Like its predecessor, the Asian Studies Centre is primarily a co-ordinating organisation which exists to bring together specialists from a wide variety of different disciplines.

Geographically, the Centre predominantly covers South, Southeast and East Asia. The Asian Studies Centre works closely with scholars in the Oriental Institute, the Oxford China Centre, the Contemporary Indian Studies Programme and the Nissan Institute of Japanese Studies (in premises at St Antony's). It is a forum for supporting activities through which scholars from across the University and beyond discuss thematic topics of comparative and of regional interest. The Asian Studies Centre is host to the Taiwan Studies Programme, the South Asian History Seminar Series and the Southeast Asian Studies Seminar Series. It also

supports a variety of other country-specific and/or thematic seminar series, workshops, conferences, lectures and activities, which vary from year to year.

The Asian Studies Centre is keen to support comparative research on Asia, and research on regional themes, to encourage debate and dialogue within the diverse student body of St Antony's College and across the University more generally. To facilitate communications among students, a register of research students working on Asia at both St Antony's, and from across the University, is maintained.

The Asian Studies Centre administers the Wai Seng Senior Research Scholarship which provides two years of support for a DPhil student working in the field of Asia-Pacific studies. The centre hopes in the future to develop more sources for student support. The Centre welcomes opportunities to develop collaborations with academics and institutions working on Asia elsewhere in the UK and in other parts of the world.



The ASC runs regular seminar series that are interdisciplinary and comparative in their approach to the study of East Asia. They cover themes and issues of historical and contemporary relevance and vary from term to term. For example, a recent Asian Studies Centre seminar series convened by Professor Rosemary Foot was on China and the World: History, Politics and Security. The leading international speakers (Timothy Brook, Muthiah Alagappa, Shogo Suzuki, Bates Gill, Allen Carlson, Kathy Morton, James

Reilly, Zhimin Chen, Daniel Large) hailed from Oxford, Manchester, London, Washington, Canberra, Stockholm and Shanghai. Their lively presentations covered historical perspectives on China's globalisation, China's quest for status in the international hierarchy, China and the challenge of global weapons proliferation, China's environmental challenges, the role of multilateralism in China's foreign policy and China's engagement with Sudan.

*If you would like further information on our regular seminars and workshops, please contact us using the email address overleaf to be added onto one, or more, of our mailing lists – we keep mailing lists for those with an interest in South Asia, East Asia and South East Asia*

The Taiwan Studies Programme, launched under the Directorship of Dr Steve Tsang in 2001, is Europe's leading academic programme that studies the politics, society, external relations and economy of Taiwan. It supports research and lectures on Taiwan, including organizing an annual conference and regular high profile lectures or seminars. Recent distinguished speakers have included Ma Ying-jeou (now President of the Republic of China), Jason Hu (Mayor of Taichung), Shih Ming-te (former Chairman of the Democratic Progressive Party), Tom Christensen (Princeton University), and Chu Yun-han (President of the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation). The most recent speaker was Su Chi (Secretary General of Taiwan's National Security Council, 2008-2010), who lectured on the subject of "Cross-Strait Talks – What the Future Holds?"

The Southeast Asian Studies Seminar Series is an interdisciplinary seminar series dedicated to presenting cutting edge research about Southeast Asia. Its focus is wide-ranging and transnational, offering comparative research on political and geographical Southeast Asia. Recent seminar topics include Southeast Asian history, politics, religion, economics, culture, and society. A sample of seminars recently organised by Mr P.J. Thum (DPhil candidate, History) include: Dr Eva-Lotta Hedman talking on Ethnic Separatism in Southeast Asia; Dr Andrew Walter (LSE) talking on governing finance in post-crisis South East Asia; Dr Felicia Hughes-Freeland (Swansea University) talking on women in cinema in Post-Suharto Indonesia and Dr Abdul Razak Baginda (St Antony's College) talking on religion in Malaysian politics.

## South Asia

Held at St. Antony's every Tuesday during term and convened by Dr Faisal Devji, the South Asia History Seminar brings together scholars and students working on the region from across the university, many belonging to disciplines such as history, anthropology, politics, sociology and literature. During the 2009-10 academic year, speakers at the seminar included Professor Sir Christopher Bayly, talking on Indian liberalism, Professor Christopher Shackle on Punjabi literature

in the 19th century, and Professor Rachel Dwyer on love in Hindi cinema. The South Asia History Seminar also co-sponsors events with other bodies at the college and elsewhere in the university. These have included presentations by the authors of 'My Life with the Taliban', organized together with the Middle East Centre, and a seminar by Professor Peter Van der Veer, director of the Max Planck Institute in Gottingen, organized with the China

Centre. Working with the History Faculty, the South Asia History Seminar organized this year's Commonwealth History Workshop, which was held at St. Antony's and dedicated to the theme of migration in and after empire. The keynote speaker at this event was H. E. Talmiz Ahmad, the Indian ambassador to Saudi Arabia.



The Asian Studies Centre, St Antony's College, Woodstock Road, Oxford, OX2 6JF  
Telephone and fax +44 (0) 1865 274559  
E-mail: [asian@sant.ox.ac.uk](mailto:asian@sant.ox.ac.uk)  
Website: [www.sant.ox.ac.uk/asian/](http://www.sant.ox.ac.uk/asian/)

