

Teaching Asia Across the Curriculum



University System
of Georgia
Asia Council

Free ▪ Virtual
Faculty Development Workshop
Friday, April 1 ▪ 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
REGISTRATION [LINK](#)

This year's workshop explores Asia across regions – *East, South, and Southeast Asia* – from diverse academic perspectives: *Humanities ▪ Social Sciences ▪ STEM*

Why Asia?

Asia is the world's largest and most populated region, and it rivals the West in economic, geopolitical, and socio-cultural influence. It is important for faculty to understand Asia, and to integrate Asian content and issues into their courses when appropriate.

Target Audience

Faculty in public & private, four-year & two-year institutions that teach lower-division courses who are not Asian specialists. Upper-division faculty & Asian specialists are also encouraged to attend, as the wide range of regions & topics covered may be outside their areas of specialty.

How it Works

Register above, and the week of the workshop you will receive Zoom links for the six sessions listed in the following program. Attend any based on your interests or academic areas. The sessions will include an opportunity for Q & A and interaction as part of the session time.

Background: Over a decade ago, the USG Asia Council established the TEACHING ASIA faculty development workshop series hosted at Perimeter College. The first five years targeted India, China, Southeast Asia, South Korea and Japan. The series moved to a trans-regional focus addressing timely interdisciplinary topics like Religion in Asia for 2018 and Women's & Gender Issues in Asia for 2019. In 2020 the Asia Council hosted the Asian Studies Development Program national conference in Atlanta. Join us as we continue the workshop series in a virtual format for 2022.

Planning Team

Eric Kendrick – Chair, GSU Perimeter College
Flor Culpa-Bondal, Georgia College
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Workshop Host



Questions

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Please share the flyer & program with other faculty, grad students, and distribution lists.

PROGRAM

TOPICS

#1 South Korean Cinema

▫ 9:00-9:50 am

#2 Japanese Workers

▫ 10:00-10:50 am

#3 Women's Issues in India

▫ 11:00-11:50 am

#4 STEM and Asia

▫ 12:00-12:50 pm

#5 South China Sea

▫ 1:00-1:50 pm

#6 U.S. - China Relations

▫ 2:00-2:50 pm

- Each session has its own Zoom link, so join any that you choose.
- Links for all sessions arrive by email the week of the conference.
- Look for the email subject line: *Teaching Asia Zoom Links*.
- Do Not Share the links – everyone must register to attend.

DO SHARE workshop flyer and program with other faculty, grad students, and distribution lists.

SESSIONS

#1 - 9:00-9:50 am: South Korean Cinema

Title: Teaching South Korean Cinema from *Madame Freedom* (1956) to *Parasite* (2019)

Speaker: HaeLim Suh, University of North Georgia

Description:

The recent rise of Korean popular media, including K-pop, K-dramas, and internationally awarded films, incites global audiences to imagine Korea as a newly sprung, modern and glamorous space. Korean cinema is unusual among Korean popular culture, with its long history of local production and consumption dating back to 1919. It is now perceived as a quality genre on the global stage. We will explore how Korean cinema strove to define national identity in the world, in response to the forces of modernization and westernization, by interacting with the global/local U.S. presence from 1960s films in the Golden era of Korean film. We will also discuss contemporary films from Korean auteurs, including Lee Chang-dong, Park Chan-wook, and Bong Joon-ho. These works provide students with salient discussion points on globally relevant topics such as family, class, gender, national identity, inequality and discrimination.

Bio:

Suh is Assistant Professor of Communication, Media, and Journalism. She received her PhD in Media and Communication from Temple University in Philadelphia. Her research explores global media culture, cultural identity, and Korean cinema. Using ethnographic methods, her current work focuses on the Korean Wave, or Hallyu, and the dynamics of the cultural identities of global audiences. She teaches a variety of courses, including Intercultural Communication, Korean Cinema, and Film Appreciation.

#2 - 10:00-10:50 am: Japanese Workers in the Pandemic

Title: Youth, Freelance Work, and the Politics of State Support in Japan During the Covid-19 Pandemic:
Leveraging Digital Resources for Research and Teaching

Speaker: Robin O'Day, University of North Georgia

Description:

This presentation will showcase the presenter's research on how the Covid-19 pandemic has disrupted the working lives of Japanese freelance workers. It is based on a paper published as part of a special issue of the *Asia Pacific Journal: Japan Focus* on how vulnerable populations have been impacted. Early on, as businesses adapted to the crisis by instructing employees to work remotely, many freelancers discovered that their existing contracts were cut short. The availability of

work that they took for granted disappeared. New jobs, often with higher personal risk and less specialized skills, emerged in its place. The presentation examines some of the political critiques freelance workers began articulating about their experiences in the labor market in a time of crisis. Moreover, it will show how research published through peer-reviewed online journals provides an immediate and vital commentary on contemporary pressing social issues in East Asia. The open accessibility of online journals provides an important resource for instructors to incorporate new teaching materials into their undergraduate courses to augment and update existing course materials.

Bio:

O'Day is Associate Professor of Anthropology focusing on contemporary Japanese culture and society. He has conducted ethnographic research and published in the areas of Japanese social movements, youth, labor, disasters, oral narratives, and digital archiving.

#3 - 11:00-11:50 am: Women's Issues in India

Title: Are Women in India Levelling the Playing Field with Men Toward Equality in the Work Force?

Speaker: Salli Vargis, Georgia State University Perimeter College

Description:

Women in India have been held back due to years of discrimination and patriarchy that prevented them from pursuing higher education and professional opportunities. India's growing presence in the global economy in recent decades, however, has given women new opportunities to make inroads into fields such as finance and technology. They are then able to play pivotal roles in the growth of the economy and rising equality in the workforce for women in India.

Bio:

Vargis is Professor of History and Associate Chair of Business and Cultural & Behavioral Sciences at the GSU Perimeter College Newton Campus. She has a PhD in American History (Women's History with a minor in Asian History) from Mississippi State University, and has published in the *Encyclopedia of the Ancient World* and *Education About Asia*. She has directed two Faculty Development Seminars and three Study Abroad Programs to India, and is currently involved in Virtual Exchange where she negotiated a Memorandum of Cooperation with Stella Maris College, Chennai, India for five years of collaborative international exchange. She is president-elect of the Southwestern Social Science Association and recipient of the Cole Fellow Award, Perimeter College's highest faculty honor. Vargis is one of the founders of the USG Asia Council "Teaching Asia" Faculty Development Workshop Series.

#4 - 12:00-12:50 pm: STEM and Asia

Title: Connecting STEM Initiatives to Asia

Speaker: Hasitha Mahabaduge, Georgia College

Description:

Teaching physics to Tibetan Monks in India, mentoring undergraduate research students from Sri Lanka, and faculty/student pair research experience in China will be discussed as three examples of connecting STEM initiatives to Asia. This session will provide insights into the process of developing these initiatives and the impact of combining high impact practices such as global learning and undergraduate scholarly pursuits in students learning. The challenges, possible remedies, and student perspectives on the educational benefits gained will also be discussed.

Bio:

Mahabaduge is an Associate Professor of Physics who received the 2020 Felton Jenkins, Jr. Hall of Fame Award for Excellence in Teaching by the USG. His research interests include fabrication and characterization of solar cells and semiconductor physics. He worked as a postdoctoral researcher at the National Renewable Laboratory in Golden, Colorado, where he was instrumental in setting the world record for the highest efficient flexible Cadmium Telluride solar cell and won the Director's Award for Outstanding Research in 2015. In 2019 he worked in Beijing as a visiting scientist at the Institute of Electrical Engineering - Chinese Academy of Sciences. Mahabaduge earned his doctorate in physics from the University of Toledo, Ohio, and his bachelor's in computational physics from the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka.

#5 ▪ 1:00-1:50 pm: South China Sea

Title: Stories involving China's Claims to the South China Sea and Their Economic and Political Significance
Speaker: Jonathan Leightner, Augusta University

Description:

Based upon 9 dashes drawn on an ancient map, China claims most of the South China Sea. This claim infringes on the territorial waters of several countries, including Vietnam and the Philippines. China aggressively defends her claim by building artificial islands, attacking the boats of other countries, hacking their communication networks, etc. What happens in the South China Sea will affect world peace, the power balance, and the livelihood of millions. The stories and analysis given in this talk will provide interesting and meaningful material for teachers from many disciplines.

Bio:

Leightner is a Professor in the James. M. Hull College of Business. He earned his Ph.D. in economic development from the University of North Carolina in 1989. He has taught extensively in Asia: for Johns Hopkins University – Nanjing University Center for Chinese and American Studies in Nanjing, China for 2008-2010; for Seikei University in Tokyo, Japan in 2003; and for Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand for the summers of 2004-2019 and 2021. When not teaching in Asia, he teaches at Augusta University in Augusta, Georgia, USA. He has written four books, two of which are on China, and published over 50 peer reviewed articles. He recommends his book, *Ethics, Efficiency, and Macroeconomics in China from Mao to Xi*.

#6 ▪ 2:00-2:50 pm: U.S. – China Relations

Title: Why Is the U.S.-China Relationship Special?
Speaker: Yawei Liu, the Carter Center

Description:

Liu will talk about the consequential relationship between the United States and China across the following historical periods: 1) from the U.S. Revolution in 1776 to the 1919 Paris Peace Conference; 2) from WWII to Nixon's trip in 1972; 3) from the normalization in 1979 to the downturn of the bilateral relationship in 2019. Also discussed is how to prevent a new "October Revolution" from altering the special Sino-American relationship that is so important to peace and prosperity to the world.

Speaker Bio:

Yawei Liu (刘亚伟) is the Senior Advisor for China at The Carter Center and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. He is also the Associate Director of the China Research Center in Atlanta and an adjunct professor of Political Science at Emory University. He is the founding editor of www.chinaelections.org which went online in 2002. In 2014, he launched the US-China Perception Monitor websites www.uscnpm.org (English) and cn3.uscnpm.org (Chinese). He is co-author of the popular Chinese book "Obama: The Man Who Will Change America" (October 2008). Yawei earned his B.A in English literature from Xian Foreign Languages Institute (1982), M.A. in recent Chinese history from the University of Hawaii (1989) and Ph. D. in American History from Emory University (1996).

Asia Council Leadership Team

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|--|----------------|
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| ▪ Eric Spears, Columbus State University | Past Chair |
| ▪ Tsu-Ming Chiang, Georgia College | Vice Chair |
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*denotes former Chairs