2019 International Summer School

Summer School on Modern Asian Literatures and Cultures

Olomouc

July 8 – 12 2019
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Introduction

Dear summer school participant,

We are pleased and honoured that you decided to attend the 2019 International Summer School on Modern Asian Literatures and Cultures, organised by the Department of Asian Studies, Palacký University Olomouc, with the support from the European Association for Chinese studies (EACS).

This year’s summer school is dedicated to the modern Asian cultural record, including literature, film, music and art. Although primarily focussing on China, it also covers topics related to SE Asia and Japan. For that reason, we decided to offer two parallel sessions: one predominantly on China, and the other on Japan and SE Asia.

The 2019 summer school offers theoretical and comparative courses resonating with the school’s central theme: the tension between the local tradition and modernity. The local tradition includes religion, philosophy, local custom and folklore. Modernity is the complex of capitalism, communism, consumerism, a free market economy, and globalisation, jointly shaping the South and East Asian cultures. The 2019 summer school also focuses on the latest developments in Asian fantasy literature, including internet literature, modern historiographic fiction, and science fiction.

We believe that one week in a relaxed and friendly environment of our university town Olomouc, altogether with interesting guest speakers and their thought-provoking lectures, will be a valuable experience for all of us!

Martin Lavička
summer school coordinator
Olomouc

Olomouc is the capital of the region of Central Moravia and belongs to the oldest cities in the Czech Republic. The region is distinguished for its agriculture, industry and beautiful countryside, as well as its historical and cultural traditions. The city dates back to the ninth century, when it was a power centre of the Great Moravian Kingdom, the oldest Slavonic state. Today Olomouc has over 100,000 inhabitants and its long history makes it one of the most beautiful cities in the Czech Republic, mainly due to its well preserved historical inner city (after Prague, second largest in the Czech Republic).

Travelling to Olomouc

The closest international airports are listed below, however the majority of international visitors arrives at the airport in Prague or in Vienna.

- Praha: Václav Havel Airport (280 km)
- Vienna: Vienna International Airport (260 km)
- Brno: Airport Tuřany (70 km)
- Ostrava: Leoš Janáček Airport in Mošnov (80 km)

From Prague to Olomouc

The easiest way to get from the Václav Havel Airport Prague to the main train station (Praha, hlavní nádraží), is to take the Airport Express (AE) bus. AE Bus stops right in front of the arrival hall at the airport and terminates at the main railway station (Praha hlavní nádraží). The ticket costs CZK 60 and it can be purchased from the bus driver (credit card accepted). The timetable can be viewed here. There is also public transportation by bus and metro.
Numerous companies run direct trains between Prague and Olomouc. The state-run České dráhy (Czech Railways), or private-run RegioJet and Leo Express. The journey takes approximately 2 hours.

Timetable and online booking:

- RegioJet: https://www.regiojet.com/
- Leo Express: https://www.leoexpress.com/en

**From Vienna to Olomouc**

From Vienna airport, you can take a direct LeoExpress bus, or Flixbus, or RegioJet bus to Olomouc via Brno. The bus ride is approximately 3,5 hours. From the Vienna main railway station, you can take a train to Přerov and then to Olomouc (the whole journey is around 3 hours).

**Palacký University Olomouc**

Palacký University Olomouc is a university with long-standing tradition. Founded in the 16th century, it is the oldest university in Moravia and the second-oldest university in the Czech Republic. Today it is a modern higher education facility with a wide range of study programmes and copious scientific and research activities. Palacký University Olomouc is one of the very top Czech universities, and ranks among the best universities in the world, according to international rankings. The university consists of 8 faculties: Sts Cyril and Methodius Faculty of Theology, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, Faculty of Arts, Faculty of Science, Faculty of Education, Faculty of Physical Culture, Faculty of Law, and Faculty of Health Sciences. For more details see: https://www.upol.cz/en/
Department of Asian Studies

The Department of Asian Studies at the Faculty of Arts of Palacký University is a workplace focusing on education and scientific and research activities focused on contemporary languages and cultures in the Asian Region with an emphasis on the Asian Pacific area. The Department provides its applicants with a choice of several forward-looking study programmes. From academic year 2019/2020 on, the following study programmes are available:

Three-year Bachelor study programmes:
- Chinese Philology
- Indonesian Studies for Tourism
- Japanese Philology
- Korean for Business and Commerce
- Vietnamese Philology

Two-year Master study programmes:
- Asian Studies
- Asian Studies
  - with specialization in Chinese language and culture
  - with specialization in Indonesian language and culture
  - with specialization in Japanese language and culture
  - with specialization in Korean language and culture
  - with specialization in Vietnamese language and culture

Four-year Doctoral study programmes:
- Languages and Cultures of China and Japan
- Asian Studies
Venue Location

Address: Department of Asian Studies, Křížkovského 14, Olomouc, Czech Republic
Classroom KC 2.05 and 2.07 (second floor)

Department of Asian Studies is located in the yellow building.

How to get here:

Department of Asian studies is located in the city centre, in the walkable distance from the main sights, restaurants, and cafes.

From the main railway station

- Take a tram no. 2, 4, and 6, get off at the tram stop U Dómu (approx. 5 min. tram ride).
  Ticket costs 14 CZK (aprox. 0,5 EUR).* Then walk the Wurmova street for about four minutes.

From the main bus station

- Take a tram no. 4 and get off at the tram stop U Dómu (approx. 7 min. tram ride). Ticket costs 14 CZK (aprox. 0,5 EUR). Then walk the Wurmova street for about four minutes.

*Tickets for the public transportation can be bought at yellow vending machines. These machines accept only coins. If you have a Czech SIM card, you can order SMS ticket by sending DPMO to 902 06.
From the dormitories

- **Suggested option no. 1** (approx. 10 min. walk) – at night the staircase is closed, therefore we suggest to take the second option.

- **Suggested option no. 2** (approx. 15 min. walk)
Lecturers and Courses

Some of the suggested readings for the lectures can be found in the ISS 2019 cloud (check it regularly for updates).

Shelley Wing Chan

Shelley Wing Chan is Professor of Chinese Language and Cultural Studies. She earned her Ph.D. from University of Colorado-Boulder, her MA from University of Wisconsin-Madison, and her BA from Hong Kong Baptist University. She is the author of A Subversive Voice in China: The Fictional World of Mo Yan (New York: Cambria Press, 2011), and the editor of Mo Yan - Year 2000 Series: Close Readings on China (Hong Kong: Ming Po Press, 1999). Her articles, translations and book/film reviews on Chinese literature and culture have appeared in the United States, France, Germany, Australia, Sweden, China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan. Specializing in modern and contemporary Chinese literature, culture, language pedagogy, and gender studies, she taught at Stanford University, the University of Colorado-Boulder, Beloit College, and Kalamazoo College before joining the Wittenberg faculty in 2004

- Suggested readings:
  Mo Yan: "Abandoned Child," "Explosions," Frog, Life and Death are Wearing Me Out, The Republic of Wine
  Lu Xun: "Diary of a Madman"
  Yan Lianke: Lenin's Kisses, Dream of Ding Village, The Day the Sun Died

Howard Y. F. Choy

Howard Y. F. Choy, Associate Professor of Chinese and East Asian Studies, received his Ph.D. in comparative literature and humanities from the University of Colorado. A journalist and theater critic from Hong Kong, he joined the Wittenberg faculty in the Department of Foreign Languages & Literatures and East Asian Studies in 2007. His research interests focus on Chinese culture and literature, with the most recent project being political jokes. Currently editing a volume of Liu Zaifu’s selected essays and a collected critiques of Yan Lianke, he is the editor of Discourses of Disease: Writing Illness, the Mind and Body in Modern China (2016), the author of Remapping the Past: Fictions of History in Deng’s China, 1979-1997 (2008), and the assistant author of The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Confucianism (2005).

Course: Present-ing the Past: Historiographic Fiction from China

This course offers a comparative and theoretical approach to the summer school’s central theme on the tension between the complex modernity (including communism, capitalism and consumerism) and the Chinese traditions (folklore, religion, etc.) through readings of post1989 historiographic fiction. Historiographic fiction has become the most prominent literary phenomena since the last two decades of the twentieth century in mainland China. This study investigates how writers of Deng Xiaoping’s reform era undermined the grand narrative of communist history by (re)presenting or, more precisely, “presentizing” the past. The lectures are organized in terms of spatial schemes of fictional historiography—namely, local history,
minority myth, urban nostalgia, and body narrative—which broadly covers stories about language, environment, memory, food, sex, and violence in historical writing.

**Lectures & Reading Materials**

1) **Introduction**

2) **Local History: Han Shaogong’s Linguistic Root-seeking**

3) **Minority Myth: Jiang Rong’s Expansionist Ecology**
   - Chinese: Attached pdf.

4) **Urban Nostalgia: Wang Anyi’s Shanghai Cityscape**

5) **Body Narrative: Su Tong’s Cruel Gastrotext**
   - Chinese: [http://www.millionbook.net/xd/s/shutong/m/index.html](http://www.millionbook.net/xd/s/shutong/m/index.html)

* Filmic version available

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**Vanessa Frangville**

Vanessa Frangville is currently Senior Lecturer and Chair in Chinese Studies at the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB), Belgium. She is also the co-director of East Centre for East Asian Studies at the ULB. She was previously a Lecturer in Chinese Studies at the Victoria Wellington University of Wellington, New Zealand. She holds a PhD in Chinese Studies from the University of Lyon 3, France, and completed two postdoctoral research projects in Taiwan and Japan. Her research deals with discourses on ethnicity and nation building in modern and contemporary China, with a special focus on cinema and “ethnic minority” film.

**Lectures**

1. **Lecture 1 – ‘Ethnic minority cinema’ in China: debates and tensions**

   This lecture will give a short history of ‘ethnic minority film’ (少数民族电影) and explore the debates and tensions around its definition.

2. **Lecture 2 – The short-lived ‘Ethnic Film Project’: genesis, attempts and pitfalls**
This lecture explores the ‘Ethnic Film Project’ launched in the early 2010s.

3. Lecture 3 – An emerging Tibetan cinema in China?
   This lecture surveys films made by young Tibetan filmmakers since the mid-2000s.

4. Lecture 4 – From big screen to small screen: Uyghur short films
   This lecture looks into short films produced and shared online by young Uyghur filmmakers.

Suggested Readings


Kendall Heitzman

Kendall Heitzman is an associate professor of modern Japanese literature and culture at the University of Iowa. His forthcoming book Enduring Postwar: Yasuoka Shōtarō and Literary Memory in Japan (Vanderbilt University Press, 2019) examines the postwar writer Yasuoka Shōtarō (1920-2013) and the individual writer’s relationship to history and collective memory through the lens of memory studies. He is currently researching a project on second-
generation war narratives—the vast body of written and visual texts that continue to be produced in surprising numbers even today by people with no direct memory of World War II or the early postwar period—and another on the history of Japanese writers at the University of Iowa’s International Writing Program. His articles on contemporary Japanese literature have appeared in the US-Japan Women’s Journal, Mechademia, Introducing Japanese Popular Culture (Routledge, 2018), and the Routledge Handbook of Modern Japanese Literature (2016).

Course: War and Memory in Postwar Japanese Literature

The past two or three decades have seen a memory boom in academic studies around the world, with particular attention paid to the experience of trench warfare in World War I and the Holocaust during World War II. This course will discuss postwar Japanese literature in terms of theories of memory. We will look at how individuals remember, how nations and other communities remember, and how writers in particular acquiesce to and resist collective remembering. We will explore how the Tokyo Olympics has served as a site of memory, how the war continues to be remembered in Japan today by people born long after World War II ended, and how memory—so encoded by the nation-state—functions when it travels abroad.

Lectures

1. Monday: Individual Memory

We begin with an exploration of what constitutes an individual memory and the forces that conspire to limit it, using as a touchstone excerpts from Ōoka Shōhei’s classic war novel Fires on the Plain.

2. Tuesday: Collective Memory

A discussion of issues relating to literature and collective memory including communicative and collective memory, generational theory, and horizons of possibility.

3. Wednesday: The 1964 Tokyo Olympics as a lieu de mémoire

Using the 1964 Tokyo Olympics as a model, we will explore how communal events function as what Pierre Nora has called “sites of memory” (lieux de mémoire) and how writers respond to them.

4. Thursday: Postmemory and Countermemory

Why do so many writers in Japan continue to write about World War II today, even those who were born long after the war and the early postwar? What does it mean to write a counterfactual/alternative history? How might a theory of “postmemory” operate in a Japanese context?

5. Friday: Translation and Other Mnemotechnics

How does travel outside of Japan—and, by extension, the Japanese language—affect both writers and their texts? Among other things, we will discuss two waves of Japanese writers to travel to the United States: the Rockefeller grantees in the 1950s, and the contemporary
poets who travelled to the International Writing Program at the University of Iowa in the late 1960s and early 1970s, as well as potential memory shifts produced by translation.

Jan Mrázek

Jan Mrázek (Ph.D. Cornell, 1998) is Associate Professor in the Department of Southeast Asian Studies Programme, National University of Singapore, teaching about Southeast Asian visual and performing arts and literature, as well as an experiential learning module, which involves seafaring in Indonesia. Art historian by academic training, half-trained as a Czech violinist and a Javanese puppeteer and a musician, and undisciplined by nature, he is the author of Phenomenology of a Puppet Theatre: Contemplations on the Art of Javanese Wayang Kulit (KITLV Press, 2005) and Wayang and Its Doubles: Javanese Puppet Theatre, Television and the Internet (NUS Press, 2019), and co-editor of What's the Use of Art? Functions, Movements, and Memories of Asian "Art Objects" (University of Hawaii Press, forthcoming). His current research focuses on the writings of Czechs who travelled to Southeast Asia in the colonial period. He also writes about sea, islands, and ships.

Lectures and Readings

1. Localization: Javanese temples and sacred landscape

2. Collecting: palaces and museums

3. Shadow puppet theatre: performance medium and social events

4. Shadow puppet theatre on television and the internet
   - Jan Mrazek, Wayang and its Doubles, Introduction and Ch. 5. Ch.1 optional.

   - No reading.
Katarzyna Sonnenberg

Katarzyna Sonnenberg is Assistant Professor at the Institute of Oriental Studies at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków. She pursued her studies in Japanese language and literature in Kraków (Jagiellonian University), Kanazawa (Kanazawa University) and Tokyo (Ochanomizu University). Her academic interests focus on the narrative strategies in early-modern and modern Japanese literature. She has published a number of articles and monographs including: At the Roots of the Modern Novel. A Comparative Reading of Ihara Saikaku’s The Life of an Amorous Woman and Daniel Defoe’s Moll Flanders (2015, Jagiellonian University Press), Opowiadanie siebie. Autobiografizm Higuchi Ichiyō [Narrating the Self. Autobiography and Fiction in Higuchi Ichiyō’s Works] (2014, Jagiellonian University Press).

Suggested readings:

- Akutagawa Ryūnosuke: Horse Legs, Spinning Gears
- Dazai Osamu: Otogizōshi, No Longer Human
- Kawabata Yasunari: Palm-of-the-Hand Stories
- Abe Kōbō: The Face of Another

Dušan Vávra

Dušan Vávra is the Head of the Center for Chinese Studies at the Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University, Brno. He received his PhD degree at the Department for the Study of Religions, Masaryk University, where he defended his thesis about Xuanxue ("the Learning of the Dark") of the 3rd to 4th Centuries. His research interests include Chinese Religions, Chinese philosophy, Daoism, and textuality in early China, which are covered in his numerous publications. His research is recently shifting to questions of Chinese identity in the modern era and modern Chinese literature.

Lectures and Readings

1. Lecture 1: The question of modern Chinese literature

   Obligatory readings:

   - Lu Xun’s preface to Call to Arms.

   Recommended:

   - Lu Xun’s Call to Arms (Nahan 呐喊) – any short story from this book.

2. Lecture 2: Chinese intellectual in modern China

   Obligatory reading:

   - C. T. Hsia’s article Obsession with China

3. Lecture 3: Chinese martial arts fiction

**Obligatory reading:**


4. Lecture 4: Chinese fantasy

Recommended reading only. The following links lead to English translations of two internet fantasy novels. They are both extremely long, this is why it is enough to read just several chapters so that you have a basic impression of this genre.

• [https://bluesilvertranslations.wordpress.com/chapter-list/](https://bluesilvertranslations.wordpress.com/chapter-list/) – the novel *Douluo Dalu* 斗罗大陆
• [https://pumanovels.com/coiling-dragon](https://pumanovels.com/coiling-dragon) – the novel *Panlong* 盘龙

5. Lecture 5: Chinese science fiction

**Obligatory reading:**

• Liu Cixin: *The Village Schoolteacher.*
• Han Song: *The Passengers and the Creator*

**Recommended:**

Notes:

- On Monday (July 8) 7-10 pm, we will have a small informal welcome (social) event with drinks and finger food for all the summer school participants and staff. This event will be held in the gardens next to our building (Křížkovského 14).
- On Wednesday (July 10) at 9:40 am, the president of the European Association for Chinese Studies, Professor Bart Dessein, will give a short welcome speech and offer more information about the association and advantages of the membership.
- On Friday (July 12) at 4:45 pm, you can join the guided city tour (approximately 2,5 hours). We meet in front of the Department of Asian Studies building (Křížkovského 14).
Accommodation – How to get here

Accommodation is provided from Sunday (July 7) to Saturday (July 13).

Address: Generál Svoboda Dormitory (Kolej Generála Svobody) – Šmeralova 12, Olomouc

Check-in: 2-5 pm, and 6-11 pm, (reception Phone No. +420 585 638 175)

**Option 1**
From the Olomouc main railway station (Olomouc hlavní nádraží) tram stop take tram no. 2, 3, or 6, and get off at Žižkovo náměstí (approx. 3 min. ride). Walk for about 7 minutes. You can also walk from the main railway station (approx. 20 minutes).

**Option 2**
From the main railway station (Olomouc hlavní nádraží) tram stop take tram no. 1, 5, or 7, and get off at Envelopa (approx. 3 min. ride). Walk for about 5 minutes.
Practical Information

Cafes and Restaurants
There is a wide variety of options in the city centre, and we will be happy to give you some suggestions when you arrive. Most of the shops and restaurants in Olomouc accept credit/debit cards.

Places nearby the Department of Asian studies:

- **FreshUp** (Křižkovského 10) – coffee, sandwiches, soup of a day – cash only
- **Coffee Library** (Biskupské náměstí 1)
- **Sophie’s Café** (Denisova 292/33)
- **Pekařství Sázava** (Ostružnická 343/42) – large variety of pastry
- **Cooking Bar Café** (Koželužská 945/31)
- **Konvikt** (Umělecké centrum Univerzity Palackého (Konvikt) Univerzitní 3)
- **Špagetárna** (ulice 1. máje 4) – pasta dishes – cash only
- **Bugr Burger** (ulice 1. máje) – burgers (also vegetarian) – cash only

Shopping
There are plenty of shops in the city centre and two malls in a walking distance. The biggest one, where you can find basically anything, is Galerie Šantovka (Address: Polská 1), the smaller one right in the city centre is Galerie Moritz (Address: 8. května 24).