

54th Annual MARAAS Conference
MID ATLANTIC REGION ASSOCIATION FOR ASIAN STUDIES

Asian Pasts, Global Futures: Redefining Multiple Global Asias



Image: Tani Bancho, "Mountain Market in Clearing Mist, from Eight Views of Xiao-Xiang" (1788), courtesy of the Cleveland Museum of Art

Conference hosted by Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA

October 9-11, 2026



**College of Arts
& Sciences**

LEHIGH UNIVERSITY



Table of Contents

Welcome from President	4
2026 Keynote Speaker	5
2026 Distinguished Asianist	6
Welcome to Lehigh University	7
Lehigh University College of Arts & Sciences	8
Campus Map	9
Conference Overview	10-11
Panels In-Depth	12-17
MARAAS Officers, 2026-27	18
MARAAS Institutional Members, 2026-27	19
Thank You Performers & Vendors	20
Graduate Student Paper Prize Nominations	21
Index of Panelists	22-23



Welcome from President

Welcome to the 54th Annual Conference of the Mid-Atlantic Region Association for Asian Studies! We are delighted to return to Lehigh University 26 years after our last gathering here in 2000, following its earlier hosting in 1987. Located in Bethlehem, in Pennsylvania's beautiful Lehigh Valley, the university's historic campus provides a welcoming setting. Lehigh's commitment to inclusive and interdisciplinary learning aligns with MARAAS's mission to advance the study of Asia and beyond and foster scholarly exchange across disciplines.

This year's conference theme, "Asian Pasts, Global Futures: Redefining Multiple Global Asias," examines how Asia's historical trajectories constitute and unsettle prevailing conceptions of the global. Approaching Asia as a relational formation that exceeds conventional territorial boundaries, the conference invites reflection on the conceptual significance of "global Asias" in the plural. Historically situated inquiries not only challenge established frameworks of knowledge but also complicate and reconfigure dominant narratives of globalization.

We are pleased to welcome our keynote speaker, Dr. Elora Shehabuddin, Professor of Gender and Women's Studies at the University of California, Berkeley, where she also directs the Global Studies Program and the Subir and Malini Chowdhury Center for Bangladesh Studies. She serves as president of the Association for Asian Studies (AAS) for the 2026–27 term.

Our Distinguished Asianist Award honors Dr. Constance A. Cook, Professor Emerita at Lehigh University, who retired at the end of 2024 after 35 years of teaching and service, most recently as chair of the Department of Modern Languages and Literature. Her scholarship examines ancient Chinese history, religion, literature, and medicine through unearthed manuscripts and inscriptions. She has authored seven books and edited five. Her most recent book is *Medicine and Healing in Ancient East Asia: A View from Excavated Texts* (Cambridge, 2023). Her lecture is titled "Illness and the Cosmic Body in Fourth Century BCE."

We also welcome Dr. David Kenley, Professor of Cyber Leadership at Dakota State University and editor of the Asia Shorts book series published by the AAS. This year, we recognize him with the MARAAS Exemplary Service Award for his outstanding commitment and invaluable service to our association. A historian of modern China, Dr. Kenley earned his doctorate at the University of Hawai'i and previously taught at Elizabethtown College and Marshall University.

As you attend the panels, please consider nominating outstanding graduate student papers on East, Southeast, and South Asia for the MARAAS graduate student paper prizes. Please use the QR code in your program to access the nomination form. The best of these papers will receive the Marlene Mayo Graduate Paper Prize, which carries a \$500 award. The recipient may also be eligible to participate in a panel at the AAS annual conference and receive financial assistance for travel and accommodations.

On behalf of MARAAS, I extend our sincere gratitude to our colleagues at Lehigh University, especially Dr. Thomas Chen, our site director, and Dr. Shellen Wu, this year's program manager. Their seamless coordination of the program, guest arrangements, and conference logistics has made this gathering possible. We are especially grateful to Amelia Cimerola, Manager of Interdisciplinary Programs, and Grace Young, Academic Coordinator and Event Planner for Interdisciplinary Programs, for their essential contributions.

I also thank the MARAAS executive officers and advisory council members for their dedication and collegiality. Our regular Saturday meetings have benefited immensely from their thoughtful advice, fresh ideas, and laughter. Special thanks go to our former president, Dr. Erik Ropers, for developing our new website. Please also join me in welcoming our incoming president, Dr. Evan Young of Dickinson College, who served as our treasurer for many years.

Thank you all for traveling from near and far to join us in Bethlehem. I look forward to learning from your research and to the conversations that will develop throughout the conference. I hope you find this gathering intellectually rewarding and leave with renewed connections to our scholarly community.

Suzie Kim
2026 MARAAS President

2026 Keynote Speaker



DR. ELORA SHEHABUDDIN

University of California, Berkeley

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

This talk examines the 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.

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.



2026 Distinguished Asianist

CONSTANCE E. COOK

Professor Emerita, Lehigh University

Illness and the Cosmic Body in Fourth Century BCE

Professor Cook retired at the end of 2024 as chair of the Modern Languages and Literature Department and full professor, after 35 years at Lehigh University, where she taught classes in language, literature, and history. During her years at Lehigh, she directed the Asian Studies Program, founded and directed a Lehigh in Shanghai Internship Program, and Co-Directed a Luce Foundation funded China and Lehigh cooperative engineering project.

She received her PhD from the University of California, Berkley in 1990 and her BA and MA from the University of Washington in Seattle. As a student, she spent several years in Taiwan and Beijing. While at Lehigh, she was honored with NEH Distinguished Scholar funding, a year of research in the School of Historical Studies at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, research fellowships at the International Consortium for Research in the Humanities at Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg in Germany, and funding as a Senior Research Fulbright Scholar at Beijing Normal University. She has also been generously funded by the Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation, the Pacific Cultural Foundation, National Endowment for the humanities, the National Academy of Sciences, as well as Lehigh University. This support gave her the time to research and publish.

She has authored seven books and edited five. Titles of her books—some of which are the fruits of cooperative projects with others—include: *Medicine and Healing in Ancient East Asia: A View from Excavated Texts* (Cambridge 2023), *Dice and Gods on the Silk Road: Chinese Buddhist Dice Divination and Its Transcultural Context* (Brill, 2021), *Birth in Ancient China: A Study of Metaphor and Cultural Identity in Pre-imperial China* (State University of New York, 2017), *Stalk Divination: A Newly Discovered Alternative to the I Ching* (Oxford, 2017), *Ancestors, Kings, and the Dao* (Harvard, 2017), *Ancient China: A History* (Routledge, 2017), and *Death in Ancient China: The Tale of One Man's Journey* (Brill, 2006). Her edited books focus on pre-imperial Chinese history, religion, paleography, and Chu culture studies. Publishing in English and in Chinese, she has also contributed over 18 chapters, 24 refereed articles, and multiple non-refereed articles, encyclopedia entries, translations, reports, and book reviews. Subjects touch on divination, ritual, medical, and Chu culture topics in sources such as the Shang oracle bones, Zhou bronze inscriptions, Chu bamboo manuscripts, Qin and Han medical manuscripts, Zhou and Han divination manuscripts, and other archaeological materials. Since the 1980s, Professor Cook has given numerous talks every year at universities and conferences in China, the US, and in Europe. Since retirement, she has presented her most recent work at Columbia University, L'Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris, Wuhan University, Yale University, and elsewhere.

Areas of Specialty: Ancient Chinese history, religion, literature, and medicine, focus on unearthed manuscripts and inscriptions.

Welcome to Lehigh University



Welcome to Lehigh University! We are extremely honored to host the 54th annual Mid-Atlantic Region Association for Asian Studies Conference, "Asian Pasts, Global Futures: Redefining Multiple Global Asias." Check out our program: whether it's the poster presentations or the workshops, the keynote addresses or two dozen panels and roundtables, from lion dancing to a taekwondo demo, from a tai chi tea break to a guqin performance—we got something—a lot of things—for you!

The most important message I can write on this page is one of thanks. MARAAS board member and former Lehigh colleague Peggy Kong was the first to raise the possibility of holding the conference in the valley.

The smartest thing I did in the prep was asking Shellen Wu to serve as the conference's program manager. Fortunately for me and for everyone, she took on the task, to which she gave her wealth of experience, of ideas, and of good humor. From the earliest planning stages to the present, Amelia Cimerola and Grace Young of Interdisciplinary Programs have been instrumental. I wouldn't have even considered bringing the conference to Lehigh if I didn't know that Amelia and Grace would have my back. They are the envy of all dreamers: supremely competent and dedicated people who make visions into reality. The brochure you hold in your hand, the rooms you will present in, all the food and drinks you will partake of—none of these would be possible without their efforts. I am so grateful to have the two of them and Shellen in my professional life. Lastly, I want to thank the MARAAS Executive Committee for entrusting us with this year's event, and the Dean of Lehigh's College of Arts and Sciences, Robert Flowers, for the critical financial support.

It's been a lot of work organizing a conference of nearly 150 participants coming in from all over the country and indeed the world. Why go through it all? No, it's not to add a line to our CVs. Nor is it to get away from our families for a weekend. What is it for if not to celebrate one another, from our precociously accomplished undergrads to all the faculty working on exciting projects, and finally to the dear friend who is being recognized on Saturday night. The work is done. Time for fun. Here's to a weekend of new connections and inspirations!

Cheers,

Tom Chen

Director, Asian and Asian American Studies Program



Lehigh University College of Arts & Sciences

Explore the “And”

In Lehigh University's College of Arts and Sciences, students explore the connections between disciplines while pursuing flexible and innovative degree programs. Whether you are combining art and science—such as theatre and chemistry or music and physics—or designing your own interdisciplinary path, our programs support your unique interests. With more than 50 majors and degree programs across 18 academic departments and 10 interdisciplinary tracks, students have the freedom to chart their own course. Many students expand their experience through double majors, internships, and undergraduate research opportunities, discovering how ideas from different fields can lead to new insights and creative solutions.

Students will benefit from the close-knit environment of a liberal arts college within a leading research university. Faculty advisors help explore academic interests, select a major, and connect classroom learning with research and real-world experience. With flexible degree requirements and a strong liberal arts foundation, students will graduate with the interdisciplinary skills employers value most: critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and adaptability. A degree from Lehigh's College of Arts and Sciences prepares you not only for your first job, but for graduate study, leadership, and lifelong learning.

College of Arts & Sciences Mission

The College of Arts and Sciences at Lehigh University is a diverse community of faculty, staff and students committed to critical inquiry and to creating and disseminating knowledge through scholarship and creative endeavor. These activities empower students to lead lives of intellectual curiosity, leadership, and service to society.

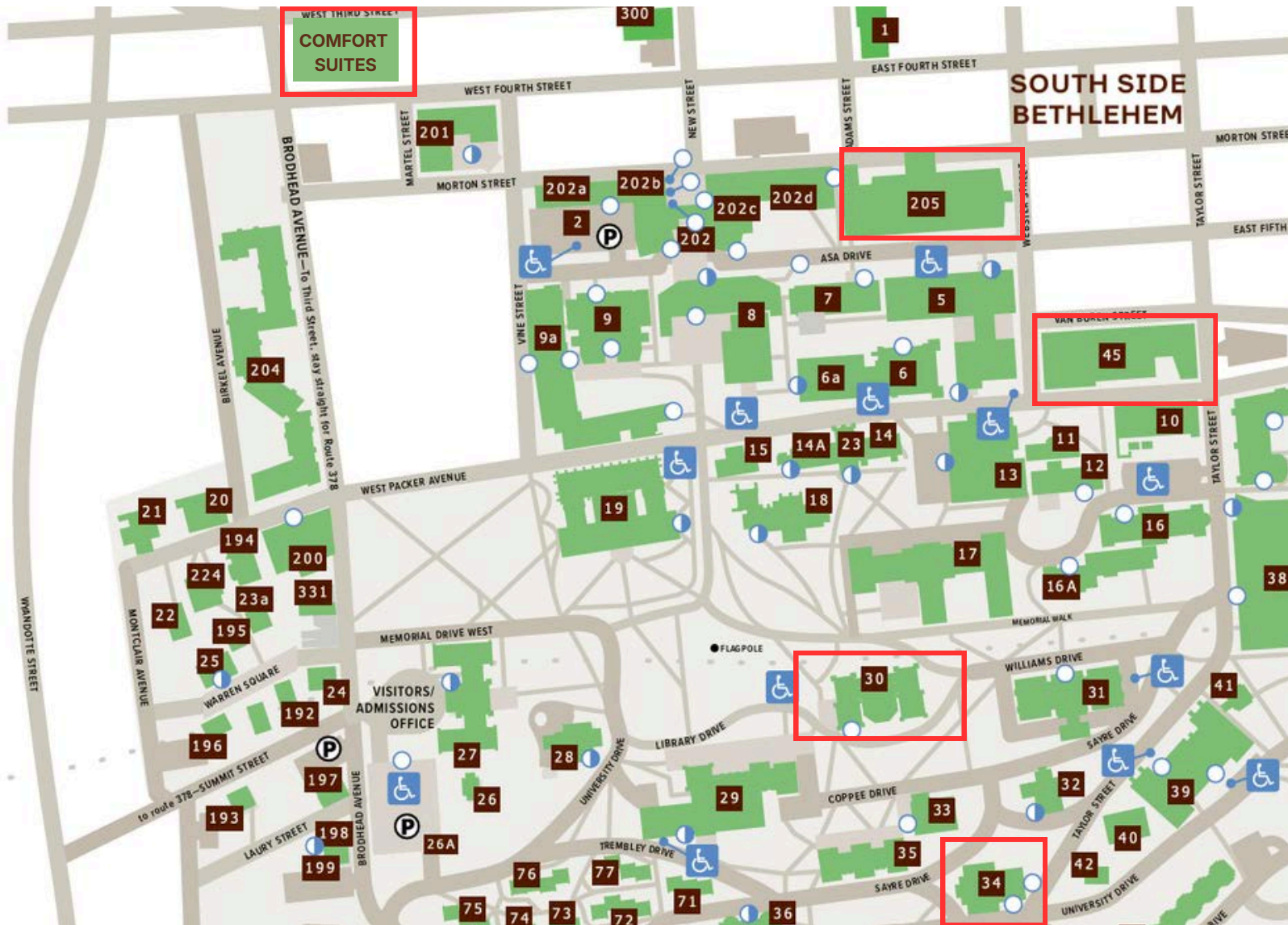


Robert A. Flowers II

Herbert J. & Ann L. Siegel Dean

Robert A. Flowers II is the Herbert J. and Ann L. Siegel Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. He previously served as Lehigh's deputy provost for faculty affairs. He is also a professor and the Danser Distinguished Faculty Chair in the Department of Chemistry.

Campus Map



30: LINDERMAN LIBRARY
PANELS AND POSTERS

34: LAMBERTON HALL
SATURDAY LUNCH + KEYNOTE SPEAKER

45: BUSINESS INNOVATION BUILDING (BIB)
FRIDAY RECEPTION, PANELS

205: HEALTH, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY BUILDING (HST)
SATURDAY DINNER (REGISTRATION REQUIRED) + DISTINGUISHED ASIANIST

Conference Overview

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9

12:00-1:30 PM	China and the Environment: Poster Presentations by Lehigh Students + Lunch	<i>Linderman 200</i>
2:00-3:30 PM	Asian Resources in College Library Special Collections, Presented by Lehigh University and Lafayette College	<i>Linderman 200</i>
3:30-4:00 PM	Coffee Break	<i>Linderman 200</i>
4:00-5:00 PM	AI and the Language Classroom	<i>Linderman 200</i>
5:00-6:30 PM	Welcome Reception	<i>BIB Lobby</i>

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

8:30-9:00 AM	Registration and Breakfast	<i>BIB Lobby</i>
9:00-10:30 AM	Session 1 - Concurrent Panels A1-A4	<i>BIB 107, 111, 220, 224</i>
10:45-12:15 PM	Session 2 - Concurrent Panels B1-B4	<i>BIB 107, 111, 220, 224</i>
12:30-2:30 PM	Lunch and Keynote Address from Dr. Elora Shehabuddin	<i>Lamberton Hall</i>
2:45-4:15 PM	Session 3 - Concurrent Panels C1-C4	<i>BIB 107, 111, 220, 224</i>
4:15-5:00 PM	Tea & Chi Break	<i>BIB Lobby</i>
5:00-6:30 PM	Session 4 - Concurrent Panels D1-D4	<i>BIB 107, 111, 220, 224</i>
6:30-8:30 PM	Dinner with Distinguished Asianist Constance A. Cook	<i>HST 101</i>

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

8:30-9:00 AM	Registration and Breakfast	<i>BIB Lobby</i>
9:00-10:30 AM	Session 1 - Concurrent Panels E1-E4	<i>BIB 107, 111, 220, 224</i>
10:45-12:15 PM	Session 2 - Concurrent Panels F1-F3	<i>BIB 107, 111, 220</i>
2:00 PM	Optional post-conference Field Trip: Guided tour of Pearl S. Buck House and Collections Cost: \$14/pp	

Conference Overview

Friday, October 9, 2026

China and the Environment: Poster Presentations

12:00 - 1:30 PM | Linderman 200

Presented by Lehigh University "Big Questions Seminar" Students

***Lunch Provided!**

Asian Resources in College Library Special Collections

2:00 - 3:30 PM | Linderman 200

Presented by Paul Barclay, Professor of History, General Editor, East Asia Image Collection

Danielle Reay, Collections Digitization Librarian

Ilhan Citak, Archives and Special Collections Librarian Lehigh University

Dong-Ning Wang

AI in the Language Classroom

4:00 - 5:00 PM | Linderman 200

Presented by Limei Shan, Teaching Professor of Chinese, Lehigh University

Zilong Pan, Assistant Professor, College of Education, Lehigh University

Saturday, October 10, 2026

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

12:30 - 2:30 PM | Lamberton Hall

Presented by Dr. Elora Shehabuddin, University of California, Berkeley

***Lunch Provided!**

Illness and the Cosmic Body in Fourth Century BCE

6:30 - 8:30 PM | HST 101

Presented by Constance E. Cook, Professor Emerita, Lehigh University

***Dinner Provided! (Pre-Registration Required)**

Sunday, October 11, 2026

Optional Field Trip - Guided tour of Pearl S. Buck House and Collections

2:00 PM

*The Pearl S. Buck House, a National Historic Landmark museum in Bucks County, PA, was the home of Pearl S. Buck and her family. The beautiful and iconic Bucks County stone farmhouse contains a rich, intact collection from the extraordinary (the typewriter on which she wrote *The Good Earth*) to the ordinary (a closet full of board games her family played).*

***Cost: \$14/pp**

Presentation Panels

Saturday, October 10 - Session 1 (9:00-10:30am)

**A1: Communicating Across Asia:
Intercultural Competence, Language
Contact, and Pedagogy in Higher Education**
BIB 107 | Fuyuko TAKITA, Panel Chair

Fuyuko TAKITA, "Experiential Learning in Asian Studies: Cross-Cultural Negotiation Simulations for Developing Intercultural Competence"

Fei-Ning CHEN, "Intercultural Communication and Language Contact in Asia: Phonological Features of Betel Nut Terminology"

Chih-Hao CHANG, "Metacognitive Regulation and English Language Pedagogy in Global Asia: Sustained Vocabulary Strategy Instruction in Japanese University EFL Classrooms"

**A2: Statecraft under Constraint:
Technology, Cultural Production, and
Belonging in East Asia**
BIB 111 | Suzie Kim, Panel Chair

Guan-Yi Leu, "Navigating the Tech Divide: Constrained Hedging and Techno-Economic Statecraft in Taiwan and South Korea"

Suzie Kim, "Building Between Empires: Architectural Geopolitics of Modern Pyongyang, 1953-1965"

You Li, "The Border of the Speakable: Productive Censorship in An Sugil's Manchukuo Short Stories"

Hannah Kim, "Beyond Blood: North Korean Defectors and the Changing Boundaries of Korean National Identity"

**A3: Japan Across Time: Medicine, Art &
Material/Religious Culture**
BIB 220 | Evan Young, Panel Chair

Evelyn Emery, "Spheres of Influence: Utagawa Kuniyoshi, Water Margin, Ferdinand Verbiest, Discourses of the State, and Astronomy in the Late Edo Popular Imagination"

W. Evan Young, "Familial Formulas: The Logic of Efficacy in Vernacular Medicine in Early Modern Japan"

Courtney Christensen, "Beyond Mottainai: Sustainable Crafting in the Tohoku Region"

Tetsuko Toda, "The Japanese Bride Incident"

**A4: Chinese Media, Memory & Popular
Culture**
BIB 224 | Yu Zhang-Stearns, Panel Chair

Cecilia Chien, "Sacrificing Power for Peace: Governance and Humanitarianism in the Chinese Prestige Blockbuster Swords into Plowshares"

Lendro Hu, "Reimagining Rebellion: From Filial Transgression to Structural Resistance in Ne Zha (2019 & 2025)"

Peishan Huang, "Palimpsest, Selective Remembrance & Agency: A Case Study on Wuhan Tiandi"

Yongli Li, "Programming the Past and the Present: Chinese Cinema Through Film Retrospectives and Film Weeks in Divided Germany in the 1980s"

Presentation Panels (Continued)

Saturday, October 10 - Session 2 (10:45-12:15pm)

B1: Perennial Philosophy and Asian Cultures: Historical Roots and Contemporary Applications

BIB 107 | Jeffery Long, Panel Chair

Avery Koar, "Prisca Theologia: An Early Draft of the Perennial Philosophy?"

Jeffery D. Long, "The Vedantic Roots of the Perennial Philosophy: Aldous Huxley and the Vedanta Society of Southern California"

Mahua Bhattacharya, "The Waves and the Ocean: Psychotherapy, Asian Traditions, and the Perennial Philosophy"

Anthony Deen, "American Influence in the Westernization of Japan"

B2: Representation and Lived Experience: Gender and Japanese Identity in the Post-War Period

BIB 111 | Sophie Eichelberger, Panel Chair

Yumiko Takahashi, "The Legacy of Ūman Ribū--- Post-War Feminist Activism as Seen in 21st Century Japan"

Sophie Eichelberger, "Fashioning Gender: The Role of Costume as Agency in Ihara Saikaku's 1686 Kōshoku ichidai onna and Mizoguchi Kenji's 1952 Saikaku ichidai onna"

Bailey Irene Midori Hoy, "Cowboy, Cantaloupe, and Citizen Queens" Japanese American and Japanese Canadian Conceptualizations of Nationality in the Post War Era"

Yuki Terazawa, "Remembering the Legacies of Professor Noriyo Hayakawa (1940-2026), A Visionary Japanese Women's Historian"

B3: Buddhism, Religion & Institutions in East Asia

BIB 220 | Yu Zhang-Stearns, Panel Chair

Chris Rowe, "Interpreting the Signs of Heaven: Yinguang's Letters on Natural Disasters"

Ping-I Li, "Alliance under Pressure: Gilbert Reid and the Pursuit of Interreligious Unity in Modern China, 1887-1927"

Shuyu Chen, "The Architecture of Spiritual Anchors: Commerce, Worship, and Maritime Power at Qing'an Huiguan"

Shigeru Osuka, "The Three Major Japanese Buddhist Dictionaries in the Age of Artificial Intelligence: Opportunities and Challenges for the Younger Generation"

B4: Vietnam & Southeast Asia: Gender, Education & War Memory

BIB 224 | Kristy Kelly, Panel Chair

Danai David, "A Reporter's Guide to Vietnam: The First Travel Guide for a Country at War?"

Lan Anh-Hoang, "The Local Educational Programs in the Vietnamese National Curriculum 2018 in the era of globalization, from decolonizing methodologies and sustainable education approach"

Huong Nguyen, "WOMB-CENTRISM & SINGLE MOTHERHOOD: THE SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION OF WOMANHOOD IN VIETNAM"

Shaienne Osterreich, "Women workers in Indonesian global factories: Social reproduction meets industrial policy"

Presentation Panels (Continued)

Saturday, October 10 - Session 3 (2:45 - 4:15pm)

C1: This World and Others: Speculative Fictions, Cross-Cultural Cosmologies, and the Power of Imagination

BIB 107 | James Mark Shields, Panel Chair

Emily FitzGerald, "Strange Worlds, Common Ground: Speculative Buddhist Pedagogy and Cross-Cultural Compassion"

James Mark Shields, "The Left Hand of the Dao: Ursula K. Le Guin's Radical Reception of Daoist and Buddhist Themes"

Annabella Pitkin, "Mind Made Worlds and Moral Power: The Ethical Dreamscapes and Embodied Worlds of Pema Tseden, Ted Chiang, and Ursula LeGuin"

Tsering Wangmo Dhompa, "Masters of the Territory and Protectors of Land"

C2: Making Belonging Across Global Asias

BIB 111 | Kristy Kelly, Panel Chair

Peggy Kong, "Becoming Insiders: Chinese Immigrant Parents, School Readiness, and Belonging in U.S. Schools"

Kristy Kelly, "'Our Clean': Ethnic Minority Women, Tourism Governance, and Belonging in Vietnam's Northern Borderlands"

Rebecca Clothey, "Community Resilience in a Uyghur Women's Bazaar"

Janice Xu, "A View from the Yangtze River: Analyzing English-Speaking Traveler Reviews on TripAdvisor"

C3: Digital Humanities, Archives & Technology in Asian Studies

BIB 220 | Amardeep Singh, Panel Chair

Wu Wei Chen, "Heavenly King, Memory Twin: Virtual Prambanan In the Digital Realm"

Ganapathi Pamula, "BODIS: Bonji Open Dataset with Images of Shūji for Cultural Interpretation of Japanese Buddhist Seed Syllables through Machine Learning"

Young Jung, "Digital Bodies and Reconstructed Memories"

Donghyun Kim, "Archiving as Historical Discovery: Subject Access Points and the George Shannon McCune Collection"

C4: Transnational Circulations

BIB 224 | Minjung Noh, Panel Chair

Katherine Pan, "Fairies in the Mountains: Narrating Matsutake Between Market and Spirit"

Ruiqi Wang, "Masqueraded Affects in Contemporary Asia"

Masako Hamada, "The Liberty Bell: A Symbol of Freedom, Justice, and Friendship Across the Nation and Around the World"

Aiden Wu, "From Prejudice to Policy: Chinese Exclusion in 19th-Century America"

Audrey Ke Zhao, "Tracing the Global Circulation of Ginseng: Commerce, Culture, and the Qing Empire in Transnational Context"

Presentation Panels (Continued)

Saturday, October 10 - Session 4 (5:00-6:30pm)

D1: Asian Philosophy and Its Availability for Modern Life and Philosophy

BIB 107 | [Suk Gabriel Choi, Panel Chair](#)

Joseph Folb, "Understanding Goodness in Confucianism"

Ghost McGuire, "Recontextualizing Human Nature through Hsün Tzu"

Holly Spain, "Confucian Strong Environmentalism and the Problem of Role Hierarchy"

D2: Frontiers and Borderlands

BIB 111 | [Paul Barclay, Panel Chair](#)

Junyu Sun, "Under the Mandate of Tengri's Power: The Formation of the Standard Opening of Edicts in Mongolian Pidgin Chinese"

Weiyu Liu, "Red Sun Over Tibet: The Maoist Cult in Tibet"

Skye Ju, "Wartime Tibet: From Remote Plateau to Strategic Node in Global Asia"

Jamphel Shonu, "Redrawing Himalayan Trade Networks: The Younghusband Mission to Tibet and the Decline of Nepalese Commercial Dominance"

D3: Diaspora, Migration & Transnational Networks

BIB 220 | [David Kenley, Panel Chair](#)

Matthew Douthitt, "Localizing the Revolution: Tongmenghui Newspapers Across the Han Diaspora (1905-1911)"

Hye-jin Juhn & Kimberly Yang, "Re-historicizing Transnational Migration of the Twentieth Century through Jiang Kang-hu (1883-1954) and Izutsu Toshihiko (1914-1993)"

Shelley Zhang, "Global Superstars: Chinese Classical Musicians in the Postsocialist Era"

Difei Gu, "Reconstructing Knowledge from 'Double Margin': Wartime Female Science Students and Gendered Mobility in China (1937-1945)"

D4: Sensing China: Religion, Philosophy, Medicine, and Literature Roundtable

BIB 224 | [Wandi Wang, Panel Chair](#)

Kin Cheung

Xu Ma

Greg Reihman

Meimei Zhang

Wandi Wang

Presentation Panels (Continued)

Sunday, October 11 - Session 5 (9:00-10:30am)

E1: Asian Philosophy through Films

BIB 107 | Suk Gabriel Choi, Panel Chair

Jaylynn Coleman, "The Law of Nature and Transcendence in Departures and Interstellar"

Kevin Le, "What makes up self-identity?"

Dylan Luszczek, "What morals guide our daily lives?"

E2: Many Lives of Distance: Media, Materiality, and Asian Worlds

BIB 111 | Vivian Ji, Panel Chair

Vivian Ji, "Mourning at a Distance: Nirvana Imagery and Local Life in Tibetan-ruled Dunhuang"

Zhiqiu (Michelle) Ye, "Closer Than Ever, Farther Than Before: Dehua Porcelain and the Changing Forms of Distance in Early Globalization"

Xutong Zhao, "From Translationality to Intermediality: Poetry as an Atmosphere"

Wendy (Yunjia) Zhang, "Unfolding the Scroll, Walking the Screen: Chinese Pictorial Media History in Yang Fudong's Fragrant River"

E3: Gender, Self & Poetics in Chinese Literary Culture

BIB 220 | Haihong Yang, Panel Chair

Haihong Yang, "Heart and Craft: Lyric Composition and Women's Self-Knowledge in Late Imperial China"

Li E, "Self-Dialogue, Self-Scrutiny, and Self-Presentation: Writing the Self in Lu You's Shanyin Poems"

Yuqin Wang, "Reading Love, Misreading Love: Literary Language and Female Subjectivity in Dream of the Red Chamber, Eileen Chang, and Fang Siqu's First Love Paradise"

Meg Yan, "Waters of Relation: Glissant's Image of Water in Chinese Shanshui Painting"

E4: Contemporary Geopolitics & Security in East Asia

BIB 224 | Yinan He, Panel Chair

Cheatra Chheang, "Critical Challenges to Peace: A Case Study of the 2025 Cambodia-Thailand Border Dispute"

Samuel Rhodes, "Partisan Filters, Uncertainty, and Political Misperceptions in Taiwan: Evidence from the 2022 Taiwan Communication Survey"

Doei Kang, "Foreign yet Familiar: Humor, Irony, and the Politics of North Korean Dialects in South Korean Media"

Presentation Panels (Continued)

Sunday, October 11 - Session 6 (10:45am - 12:15pm)

F1: Possible Futures: Technology, Society, and Humanity in Japanese Speculative Fiction

BIB 107 | Eleanor J. Hogan, Panel Chair

Davran Tashiev, "Fiction vs. Reality: AI and Robotics in Ghost in the Shell — 1995 and 2025"

Eleanor J. Hogan, "What is the Price of Harmony? Itoh Keikaku's (Failed?) Utopia"

Beckett Reynolds, "'Give War a Chance:' Analysis of Cycles of Violence and Military Escalation in Metal Gear Rising: Revengeance"

Anne Gedacht, "'A Millionaire's Holiday:' Occupation-era Allied Travel in Japan, 1945-1954"

F2: Blue Science, Red Technology: the Making of the Aquatic World in the Chinese Long Twentieth Century

BIB 111 | Lijing Jiang, Panel Chair

Yizhou Sha, "Making the Chinese Ocean Visible: The Development of Oceanography and Knowledge Production at Tsingtao Aquarium in Republican China"

Wanpanxin Liu, "Thrifty Utopia: Wastewater, Rice Paddies, and Fish Farming in the Chinese People's Communes, 1958-1962"

Xinya Yu, "Reshaping the Body of Grass Carp: Broad Beans, Flowing Water, and the Cultivation of Zhongshan Crispy Grass Carp"

Jizhe Du, "Making Wild Shrimp Farmable? The Rise and Fall of Intensive Shrimp Aquaculture in Shanghai, 1979-1994"

F3: Borders, Frontiers & Divided Nations

BIB 220 | Sourav Ghosh, Panel Chair

Muhammad Hassan Qadeer Butt, "Urban Futurism in Post 9/11 Pakistani Literature"

Yi Hu, "Frontier Pressure and State Reconstruction in the Early Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1162)"

Aiduosi Amantai, "Inviting Empire: Kazakh Politics, Cities, and Imperial Presence in Eighteenth-Century Central Asia"

Steven Nguyen, "Spirits Across Borders: Comparative perspectives on Vietnamese mother goddess religion, and Korean shamanism"

MARAAS Officers, 2026-27

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: Suzie Kim, University of Mary Washington

Vice President: Evan Young, Dickinson College

Secretary: Jeffery Long, Elizabethtown College

Treasurer: Evan Young, Dickinson College

Immediate Past President: Erik Ropers, Towson University

Council on Conferences Representative: Mahua Bhattacharya, Elizabethtown College

At-Large Members: Kristy Kelly, Columbia University; Frank Mondelli, Rutgers University

Nominations: Mahua Bhattacharya, Elizabethtown College; Erik Ropers, Towson University; Haihong Yang, University of Delaware

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Nathan Badenoch, Villanova University

Cecilia Chien, West Chester University

David Dettmann, University of Pennsylvania

Masako Hamada, Villanova University

Peggy Kong, University of Utah

Christopher Peacock, Dickinson College

Dorothy Perkins, Independent Scholar

Tanja Sargent, Rutgers University

Yu Zhang Stearns, Loyola University Maryland

Michael Stone, Seton Hall University

Yuki Terawaza, Hofstra University

Yuping Zhang, Lehigh University

COMMITTEES

Book Exhibit and Advertising: Dorothy Perkins, Independent Scholar

Institutional Membership Services: Masako Hamada, Villanova University

Website and Communications: Yu Zhang Stearns, Loyola University Maryland

Pre-Collegiate Outreach: Yuki Terazawa, Hofstra University

MARAAS Institutional Members, 2026-27

BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY

DICKINSON COLLEGE

HAVERFORD COLLEGE

LEHIGH UNIVERSITY

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY MARYLAND

PENN STATE UNIVERSITY

SAINT JOSEPH'S UNIVERSITY

SETON HALL UNIVERSITY

SWARTHMORE COLLEGE

TOWSON UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

UNIVERSITY OF MARY WASHINGTON

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND COLLEGE PARK

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY

WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY

Thank You Performers & Vendors

HOCAA BUBBLE TEA

220 E 3rd St. Bethlehem, PA 18015

JENNY'S KUALI CATERING

Bethlehem, PA

LEHIGH UNIVERSITY CATERING

LEHIGH LIONS

Founded in spring 2023, the Lehigh Lions club shares knowledge, promotes awareness and aims to spread festivity around Chinese culture. The club meets two or three times each week for dance rehearsal, focusing on immersing members in the basics of lion dance and teaching choreography for upcoming performance

LEELA FUSION DANCE

Leela Fusion Dance is a group that aims to blend Indian and Western culture through dance and music. Leela does a wide range of styles including but not limited to Bollywood, hip hop, contemporary, bhangra, garba, raas, sultry, bharatanatyam, giddha, kathak, and kuthu.

JESSIE WEINBERG

Jessie Weinberg is a third-degree black belt in Tang Soo Do Mu Duk Kwan, a Korean-American martial arts style incorporating traditional Japanese kicking techniques. Jessie has trained in Tang Soo Do for 15 years and has served as an assistant instructor for the past seven years, developing extensive experience in leadership, instruction, and martial arts practice. Today, Jessie continues to train while pursuing a degree in Environmental Science at Lehigh University.

MEIMEI ZHANG

Professor Meimei Zhang is a scholar whose interdisciplinary research explores the intersections of music, literature, and intellectual history in premodern China. Her primary research field grew out of her Ph.D. dissertation on the Chinese seven-string zither (qin), examining its cultural, aesthetic, and philosophical significance in Song dynasty (960–1279) literati life. Over time, her research has expanded beyond elite musical practice to encompass a broader sonic world: writings on natural sound, silence, dialect and regional language, and musical instruments associated with cultural “otherness,” such as the pipa.

Graduate Student Paper Prize Nominations

MARAAS 2026 Graduate Student Paper Prize Nomination Form

The Mid-Atlantic Region/Association for Asian Studies (MARAAS) awards prizes for the best papers on East, Southeast, and South Asia presented by a graduate student at the annual conference. All winners will receive a one-year membership to the Association for Asian Studies. The best of these papers will be selected as winner of the Marlene Mayo Graduate Paper Prize that also awards \$500.00 to the winner. The Mayo Prize winner is also eligible for participation in a panel at the annual AAS conference and will receive financial assistance for travel and accommodations to the national conference. Papers are nominated primarily by audience members at the conference.

Award nominees will be contacted after the conference and will be asked to submit supporting evidence in the form of a written paper or a slide deck.

For best consideration, papers should be approximately 12–13 pages, double-spaced; slide decks should be limited to 10–15 slides. Criteria include quality and depth of scholarship, originality, contribution to the student's field or area of academic study, and clarity of presentation. Nominees should be enrolled in institutions in the mid-Atlantic region (Metropolitan New York, Metropolitan Washington, D.C, New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia). A panel of scholars will read and rate each nominated submission. Announcement of the MARAAS award will be made by May; selection for participation at the national AAS conference will be made by October.



Index of Panelists

Last Name	First Name	Panel	Institution
Amantai	Aiduosi.....	F3	Binghamton University
Bhattacharya	Mahua.....	B1	Elizabethtown College
Butt	Muhammad Hassan Qadeer....	F3	Abo Akademi University
CHANG	Chih-Hao.....	A1	Hiroshima University
CHEN	Fei-Ning.....	A1	Hiroshima University
Chen	Shuyu.....	B3	Washington University of St. Louis
Chen	Wu Wei.....	C3	Xi'an Jiaotong University
Cheung	Kin.....	D4	Moravian University
Chheang	Cheatra.....	E4	Bucknell University
Chien	Cecilia	A4	West Chester University of Pennsylvania
Choi	Suk Gabriel.....	E1	Towson University
Christensen	Courtney.....	A3	Independent Scholar
Clothey	Rebecca.....	C2	Drexel University
Coleman	Jaylynn.....	E1	Towson University
David	Danai.....	B4	National & Kapodistrian University of Athens
Deen	Anthony.....	B1	New School for Social Research
Dhompaa	Tsering Wangmo.....	C1	Villanova University
Douthitt	Matthew.....	D3	Penn State University
Du	Jizhe.....	F2	Tsinghua University
E	Li.....	E3	Susquehanna University
Eichelberger	Sophie.....	B2	University of Pennsylvania
Emery	Evelyn.....	A3	Princeton University
FitzGerald	Emily.....	C1	Utah Tech University
Folb	Joseph.....	D1	Towson University
Gedacht	Anne.....	F1	Seton Hall University
Gu	Difei.....	D3	New York University
Hamada	Masako.....	C4	Villanova University
Hoang	Lan Anh.....	B4	University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Hogan	Eleanor J.	F1	Gettysburg College
Hoy	Bailey Irene Midori.....	B2	University of Pennsylvania
Hu	Yi	F3	University of Pennsylvania
Hu	Lendro.....	A4	University of Pennsylvania
Huang	Peishan.....	A4	Amherst College
Ji	Vivian.....	E2	University of Pennsylvania
Juhn	Hye-Jin.....	D3	McGill University
Jung	Young.....	C3	George Mason University
Ju	Skye.....	D2	University of Pittsburgh
Kang	Doei.....	E4	Independent Scholar
Kelly	Kristy.....	C2	Columbia University
Kim	Hannah.....	A2	Radnor High School and the University of Pennsylvania
Kim	Suzie.....	A2	University of Mary Washington
Kim	Donghyun.....	C3	University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
Koar	Avery.....	B1	Elizabethtown College
Kong	Peggy.....	C2	University of Utah
Le	Kevin.....	E1	Towson University
Leu	Guan-Yi.....	A2	University of Mary Washington

Index of Panelists

Last Name	First Name	Panel	Institution
Li	You.....	A2	University of Chicago
Li	Yongli.....	A4	College of the Holy Cross
Li	Ping-I.....	B3	University of Pennsylvania
Liu	Weiyu.....	D2	University of Pennsylvania
Liu	Wanpanxin.....	F2	Lehigh University
Long	Jeffery D.	B1	Elizabethtown College
Luszczek	Dylan.....	E1	Towson University
Ma	Xu	D4	Lafayette College
McGuire	Ghost.....	D1	Towson University
Nguyen	Huong.....	B4	Dickinson College
Nguyen	Steven.....	F3	George Mason University
Osterreich	Shaianne.....	B4	Ithaca College
Osuka	Shigeru.....	B3	Seton Hall University
Pamula	Ganapathi.....	C3	Durham Academy
Pan	Katherine.....	C4	Independent Scholar
Pitkin	Annabella.....	C1	Lehigh University
Reihman	Greg.....	D4	Lehigh University
Reynolds	Beckett.....	F1	Gettysburg College
Rhodes	Samuel.....	E4	Moravian University
Rowe	Chris.....	B3	University of Virginia
Sha	Yizhou.....	F2	Columbia University
Shields	James Mark.....	C1	Bucknell University
Shonu	Jamphel.....	D2	Penn State University
Spain	Holly.....	D1	Towson University
Sun	Junyu.....	D2	The Ohio State University
Takahashi	Yumiko.....	B2	University of Pennsylvania
TAKITA	Fuyuko.....	A1	Hiroshima University
Tashiev	Davran.....	F1	Gettysburg College
Terazawa	Yuki	B2	Hofstra University
Toda	Tetsuko.....	A3	Tsuda University
Wang	Wandi.....	D4	Lehigh University
Wang	Ruiqi	C4	University of British Columbia
Wang	Yuqin.....	E3	Duke University
Wu	Aiden.....	C4	Independent Scholar
Xu	Janice.....	C2	Northampton Community College
Yan	Meg.....	E3	Independent Scholar
Yang	Kimberly.....	D3	McGill University
Yang	Haihong.....	E3	University of Delaware
Ye	Zhiqiu (Michelle).....	E2	University of Pennsylvania
Young	W. Evan.....	A3	Dickinson College
Yu	Xinya.....	F2	Tsinghua University
Zhang	Shelley.....	D3	Rutgers University
Zhang	Meimei.....	D4	Occidental College
Zhang	Wendy (Yunjia).....	E2	University of Pennsylvania
Zhao	Audrey Ke.....	C4	University of California, Santa Cruz
Zhao	Xutong.....	E2	University of Pennsylvania



LEHIGH
U N I V E R S I T Y

27 Memorial Drive West
Bethlehem, PA 18015

www.lehigh.edu