

## Notes from the Editors

We are delighted with the 2013 fall/winter issue of *ASIANetwork Exchange: a Journal of Asian Studies for the Liberal Arts*.

Leading the issue are two articles focused on contemporary China. We begin with Lisa Safford's "Cultural Heritage Preservation in Modern China: Problems, Perspectives, and Potentials." Safford examines a range of issues relating to historic preservation raised by China's preparations for the 2008 Beijing summer Olympics. How, Safford asks, do the Chinese come to understand the relationship between their cultural heritage and their interest in modernizing China? Huike Wen's "Diversifying masculinity: super girls, happy boys, cross-dressers and real men" examines a range of masculinity that can be observed in the Chinese media today. In doing so, Wen asks us to consider the relationship between contemporary media technologies and the formation of modern identity. Her piece draws our attention to the extent to which contemporary Chinese identity depends upon masculinity in its many formations. Together, these articles speak to current concerns and priorities in China and should be relevant for a wide range of courses across the social sciences and humanities.

Also included in this issue are three articles that continue our theme on environment-society relations in East Asia, guest edited by Darrin Magee. The idea for this theme grew out of the 2012 Half the World Symposium Series at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, where the Henry Luce Foundation generously funded a multi-year Asian Environmental Studies Initiative. Two environmental issues that have garnered much popular attention in recent months have been the recurring air pollution that has intermittently blanketed eastern China with particulate-laden smog, and the soul searching the Japanese people and government have done about whether or not to restart the country's nuclear program, which provided nearly one-third of Japan's electricity but was shut down completely following the Fukushima Daiichi disaster of March 2011. Both issues suggest a need to rethink energy paradigms in East Asia (and elsewhere, of course, but that is well beyond the scope of Exchange!).

Nicole Freiner begins this issue's special section with an examination of the role women's groups have played since the Fukushima disaster, contextualizing it against decades of environmental activism in Japan dating back to the textbook cases of industrial poisoning, Minamata and Itai-Itai diseases. Yuen-Ching Bellette Lee then explores the power of language and the language of hydropower in China, home not only to the iconic and controversial Three Gorges Dam, but also to thousands of other large dams as well as the world's greatest hydropower potential. While she finds that the mutually reinforcing ideology and praxis of hydropower discourse is a powerful tool for legitimizing an unprecedented build out of large-scale hydropower in China, she also provides evidence of contestation, arguing that the discourse is not, in the end, unassailable. Finally, Patricia Glibert maintains the focus on water with her study of the Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) in East Asia, which result from nutrient loading of water bodies due to overuse of fertilizers, increasing reliance on aquaculture, and population pressures. Glibert's study is a sobering reminder of the fundamental challenges that remain in addressing environmental degradation in this important

region of the world.

The issue concludes with two book reviews. James Peterman has contributed a review of *A Reader's Companion to the Confucian Analects* by Henry Rosemont, Jr., and Thomas Williamson has provided one of *Refracted Visions: Popular Photography and National Modernity in Java* by Karen Strassler.

We hope you enjoy this issue as much as we have enjoyed working with all of our contributors. We look forward to the annual ASIANetwork Conference in April, where we are sure to hear more terrific papers by those within the “network.” Please feel free to contact us directly at [editors@asiannetworkexchange.org](mailto:editors@asiannetworkexchange.org) if you are interested in scheduling a time to speak with us about prospective articles you would like to submit or a special issue you are interested in guest editing. We hope you enjoy the issue as much as we have enjoyed working towards its publication.

*Erin McCarthy and Lisa Trivedi, Editors*