

Notes from the Editors

The annual ASIANetwork conference, held this year in Bloomingdale, Illinois, was as stimulating as it was affirming of our shared goals as educators in liberal arts institutions. The conference opened with a provocative Keynote Address by Peter Hershock (East-West Center) titled “Valuing Diversity: Buddhist Reflections on Equity and Education,” which will be featured in our Fall 2014 issue. Not only did Hershock’s address elicit lively discussion afterwards, it provided food for thought over the course of the entire conference. The next morning attendees were treated by Robert Buswell, a past president of the AAS and UCLA Professor of Buddhist Studies, to a Plenary Address, “Transplanting Buddhism to the Korean Peninsula: Cultural Interchanges across Asia.” After a day of wide-ranging panels, the conference’s formal evening featured a musical performance by Gao Hong and the Carleton College Choral Ensemble, and a reception sponsored by the University of Macau and the United Board. The membership recognized the extraordinary service of two of ASIANetwork’s most dedicated members: Teddy Amoloza, who steps down this year after serving as executive director for three terms, and Van Symons, a founder, Executive Director and, most recently, the point person for our Student-Faculty Fellows program. There were moving tributes to both of our esteemed colleagues, and we returned from the conference not only invigorated by the level of critical engagement, but also renewed by the extraordinary sense of community and common purpose we share.

This is the final issue of our first three-year term as Editors. Having the opportunity to work together at transitioning this publication through great change—from print to electronic form—has been exceptionally rewarding for both of us. Having the support and counsel of past Editors Tom Lutze and Irv Epstein, as well as Teddy Amoloza, enabled us to successfully meet our goals for the publication thus far. The Board of ASIANetwork, particularly its Publicity Committee, has also sustained our efforts to transition the journal to support a blind peer-review process that has transformed the quality and quantity of the work that we feature.

We are grateful to the Board and incoming Executive Director Gary DeCoker for their support as we continue our work for a second term as Editors. Now that the online system is established and running, we have another set of goals for the journal that we would like to share. First, we hope to focus on building a larger pool of outstanding reviewers. Providing constructive criticism to our peers is a key professional responsibility. By agreeing to review submissions for the journal, reviewers directly impact the quality of the pieces that are selected for publication. If you are reading this and you have not registered as a reader and as a reviewer in our system, please do so. With every submission that we receive, we look for readers who have the skills and perspective to improve the work of our colleagues and ready it for publication. Second, we hope to develop a broader active readership among faculty within the ASIANetwork and beyond. Third, we are delighted to have seen such a dramatic and steady increase in our submissions over the last two years. Our colleagues in the China field in particular have embraced the new opportunities that the journal now offers as a blind peer-reviewed publication. We want to call upon colleagues in other fields to join them in this collective project, whether by submitting a research paper, a pedagogi-

cal essay, a book/or media review, or by becoming a Guest Editor of a special section. It is critical that ASIANetwork Exchange remain a journal for faculty engaged in research and teaching in all fields of Asian Studies.

With the publication of this issue, we are also launching two new features of the journal for our readers. First, a “Books for Review” section will be accessible online through the journal website. Here, readers will be able to browse the books we have available for review. If you wish to review a book, please send the editors an email (editors@asianetworkexchange.org) accompanied by a two-page CV.

The second new feature is that members are now able to order bound, full color, print copies of the journal. While it is already possible to print out high quality PDFs of individual articles as well as the full issue directly from the website at no charge, many members expressed a desire for a bound copy of the journal. As we announced at the Business Meeting, we have found a print-on-demand service where members can order individual bound copies. ASIANetwork is offering this service at cost, and so far (depending on the length of the journal and the number of images) the price of each issue is averaging around \$20 (plus shipping). To order a copy, simply go to <http://www.magcloud.com/browse/magazine/751856> and follow the instructions.

This issue begins with the 2014 Marianna McJimsey Award winning essay, “Countless Ramayanas: Language and Cosmopolitan Belonging in a South Asian Epic” by Rafadi Hakim. A 2013 graduate of Carleton College’s Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Hakim closely explores the Kiski Kahani project located in Pune, India. Kiski Kahani compiles fragmentary stories of the Ramayana, perhaps Hinduism’s most popular epic, often told in Hindi or Marathi. Challenging Hindu-nationalist versions of the epic, Kiski Kahani privileges improvised, local retellings, and publishes them in English so that they are available to India’s large English-speaking population. Jinli He’s “Continuity and Evolution: The Idea of ‘Co-creativity’ in Chinese Art” explores the principle of “Co-creativity” in both traditional and contemporary art. Drawing upon the recent work of feminist artists in China, He’s article demonstrates this enduring characteristic of Chinese art. In “Re-examining Extreme Violence: Historical Reconstruction and Ethnic Consciousness in Warriors of the Rainbows: *Seediq Bale*,” Chia-rong Wu considers the cultural and political context of beheading in Seediq culture and how filmmaker Wei Te-sheng depicts this in film. In doing so, Wu explores how violence in the film *Seediq Bale* expresses both contemporary colonial domination of Aboriginal peoples and the conflicts that exist within these communities themselves.

The issue continues with a special section on Teaching Modern Asian History, guest edited by Brian Caton, Luther College. Developed from a pedagogical panel at the annual meeting of the American Historical Association, this section features articles by four historians whose expertise spans Chinese and Japanese history to Eurasia and from South Asia to Southeast Asia. Each author carefully considers how to select appropriate primary sources and develop exercises for students in introductory liberal arts college courses. Tracy Barrett (North Dakota State University) recommends that scholar-teachers utilize a range of sources on Southeast Asia, including films, memoirs, and fiction, so that students gain exposure to Asian voices. Brian Caton suggests the use of longer extracts from primary sources to aid in the understanding of material, social, and cultural life in South Asia that often lay beyond the reach of colonial authority. Amy Kardos (University of Texas, San Antonio) shows us how new scholarship on the silk road allows us to rethink the role, influence, and initiative of Eurasian brokers in trade. And, finally, Danke Li (Fairfield University) attempts to shake up conceptions of Chinese and Japanese women with primary

sources that are both textual and cinematic so that students hear the strong feminist voices of women who have led many movements for social justice. Together, this special section offers all Asianists important tools for approaching the broad content of Asia survey courses that are the foundation of our Asian Studies programs. We are delighted to have had the opportunity to work closely with Caton and his authors on this section.

The issue concludes with Jason M. Wirth's review of Puqun Li's *A Guide to Asian Philosophy Classics* (with Arthur K. Ling), which provides a detailed overview of the many possibilities this important volume has to offer to courses on Asian Philosophy.

Erin McCarthy and Lisa Trivedi, Editors