

Notes from the Editors

Having just returned from ASIANetwork's annual conference in Nashville, we find ourselves exhilarated as well as exhausted. In addition to hearing many wonderful research and pedagogical papers, we had the pleasure of conducting our first pre-conference workshop, "Getting Yourself Published: Steps and Strategies." Along with Lucien Ellington (Editor, *Education About Asia*), David Jones (Editor, *EastWest Connections: A Review of Asian Studies and Comparative and Continental Philosophy*), and David Paine (Editor, *Japan Studies Association Journal*), we spent half a day discussing journal publishing with thirteen ASIANetwork faculty. We learned a lot, both from our co-panelists as well as from the workshop participants. Although we will not be able to offer a pre-conference publishing workshop every year, we hope to continue to incorporate opportunities for our members to discuss ideas and present challenges about publishing. In the future, please look for announcements about roundtables on publishing that will take place over meals, as well as individual appointments that can be scheduled with editors during the conference.

This issue includes four outstanding essays and a special guest edited section. Gray Kochhar-Lindgren addresses the momentous reform of higher education in Hong Kong that went into effect in the fall 2012, considering both the trajectory of the reform and what form a truly global university might take in his article "The Cultures of Betweenness in Hong Kong's Universities: Curricular Reform, Team Fulbright, and Global Capital." This piece is particularly well-timed given Dr. William Lee's plenary address, "The Role of Liberal Education in the Technologically-Oriented Business Economy: Education Reform in Lingnan University, Hong Kong" (Associate Vice-President of Lingnan University, Hong Kong) at the annual conference. One implication unexplored by Lee, and perhaps suggested by Kochhar-Lindgren, is the possibility that innovations in liberal arts education in Asia might emerge from the new experiments unfolding in places like Hong Kong. As those in Hong Kong learn from the practice of liberal arts education in the United States, what lessons might we take away for our own liberal arts institutions and the field of Asian Studies?

M. Alyson Prude introduces us to the efficacy of online teaching in her essay, "A Classroom of Bunnies, Blimps, and Werewolves: Teaching Asian Religions Online in Second Life." Rather than dwelling on the promises of new technology alone, Prude evaluates both the benefits and drawbacks of incorporating online worlds into higher education and liberal arts settings. She demonstrates how synchronous communication, virtual field-trips, animations, guest lectures, and international participation, when used wisely, can provide a lively teaching and learning environment.

We are also delighted to have the 2012 winner of Marianne McJimsey Award for the best undergraduate essay in Asian Studies. Brett Evans, a senior at Elon University, devoted much of the last three years to exploring Jainism as practiced both in the United States and in India. His essay, "Ideologies of the Shri Meenakshi Goushala: Hindu and Jain Motivations for a Madurai Cow Home," describes and analyzes the motivations behind the establishment of homes for cows in the south Indian city, Madurai. Drawing both on critical scholarship as well as primary research conducted by the author, Evans uses interviews and informal conversations to understand how the subject of homes for animals is used among

Jains and Hindus to negotiate “traditions” associated with this religious institution.

Finally, we have a provocative and productive review essay by David Jones, “Many Ways to the Way: Teaching the DaoDe Jing.” As the long-time Editor of *East-West Connections and Comparative and Continental Philosophy*, many of our readers will already be familiar with Jones’s work, especially his “Teaching/Learning Through Confucius: Navigating our Way Through the Analects” in *Education About Asia* (5.2, Fall 2000) and *Asian Texts — Asian Contexts: Encountering the Philosophies and Religions of Asia*, (State University of New York Press, 2009). Here, Jones offers a similarly thoughtful approach to another standard text of Chinese religion and philosophy.

SPECIAL SECTION:

NETWORKS AND IDENTITIES AS REVEALED BY JOURNEYS IN SOUTH ASIA AND THE HIMALAYAS

GUEST EDITORS, AARON FINE AND CHAYA CHANDRASEKHAR

The special guest edited section begins with a substantial introductory essay aimed both at summarizing the salient features of each article, as well as providing some pedagogical approaches for teachers who may wish to use the materials, either alone or as a whole, in a course. Aside from the fact that these articles take up a region that many of our members teach peripherally, this collection provides an interdisciplinary model (history, art, art history, religion) to two themes of particular importance to Asian Studies: networks and identity. The special section is comprised of four articles: Ihor Pidhainy’s “Tibet Through the Eyes of a Buryat: Gombojab Tsybikov and his Tibetan Relations,” Chaya Chandrasekhar’s “Along the Grand Trunk Road: The Photography of Raghubir Singh,” Aaron Fine’s “No One Even Has Eyes: The Decline of Hand-Painted Graphics in Mumbai,” and Janice Glowski’s “The Great Stupa of Dharmakaya: Visual Expressions of a Tibetan Teacher’s Path and Lineage in the Diaspora.”

We hope you enjoy the issue as much as we have enjoyed working towards its publication.

Erin McCarthy and Lisa Trivedi, Editors