



# ASIA CENTER

## THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

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### A Message from the Director



Hello, friends, students, alumni and colleagues. As we reach this time of reflection upon the academic year coming to an end – sure to be one of the most challenging and transformational years of our lives, I am struck by the many ways that we have seen Asia's growing significance for Utah, the U.S., and the world. Accompanying Asia's global influence is the relevance of a robust, interdisciplinary Asian Studies program for our university and wider community. As students and scholars of Asian Studies, we may have trained our eyes upon the region from a distance in response to COVID-19 travel restrictions, but we have not taken a break from scholarship, study and engagement in Asia.

[Read the full directors message here](#)

### Recognitions

#### Asian Studies Student of the Year

Congratulations to Sarah Moore for receiving the Asian Studies 2021 Student of the Year award! Sarah is graduating with an Asian Studies major and a minor in Korean.

The Asian Studies Student of the Year award comes with a \$100 award and is given annually to an exceptional senior in the Asian Studies program who is graduating in spring or summer of the academic year.

[Read more about the Student of the Year Award and Sarah's accomplishments](#)



#### Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships: Summer 2020 and Academic Year 2020-2021

We want to recognize and congratulate all the FLAS recipients awarded during Summer 2020 and Academic Year 2020-2021 for being selected for these nationally competitive fellowships.

The Asia Center offers U.S. Department of Education Title VI funded Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships. Academic year FLAS Fellowships provide full tuition support plus a stipend to graduate and undergraduate students in any department across campus who include area studies and either Arabic, Cambodian (Khmer), Chinese, Hindi-Urdu, Japanese, Korean, Persian, Russian, Samoan, or Vietnamese language study in their coursework. Summer FLAS fellowships provide up to \$8500 to support intensive summer language study. Each year the Asia Center awards \$348,000 in FLAS scholarships, which provide a stipend and tuition support to approximately 20 undergraduate and graduate students across campus, and supports about 15 students for intensive summer language study.

[View all Asia Center FLAS awardees here](#)

#### Faculty Recognition

Congratulations to our amazing faculty on their awards, publications, and accomplishments this past year. The teaching and research of Asian Studies faculty



covers all regions Asia and spans diverse academic disciplines. These are just a few examples of the distinctions achieved by our faculty this past year. For more faculty accomplishments, [click here](#).



**Mira (Mimi) Locher, Chair, School of Architecture and Associate Professor, School of Architecture**

Professor Mimi Locher received the 2021 ARCC (Architectural Research Centers Consortium) [Mid-Career Research Impact Award](#). The ARCC Mid-Career Research Impact Award acknowledges the success of established scholars in architectural and environmental design research. The award is intended to recognize faculty with outstanding performance and substantive impact in the field who demonstrate excellence through original contributions, rigorous methods, innovative outcomes, successful dissemination, significance and distinction. Professor Locher has also published her fourth book, [Zen Garden Design](#), in August 2020.



**Akiko Kamimura, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, Adjunct Associate Professor, Health-Kinesiology, and Adjunct Associate Professor, Family and Preventative Medicine**

Akiko Kamimura is the winner of the College of Social and Behavioral Science's Excellence in Mentoring Award for 2021! The award recognizes faculty who have a passion for mentoring individuals in their professional training and life and are effective in assisting individuals toward meeting their goals. Professor Kamimura has been a model in her involvement of undergraduate and graduate students in her research and publications.



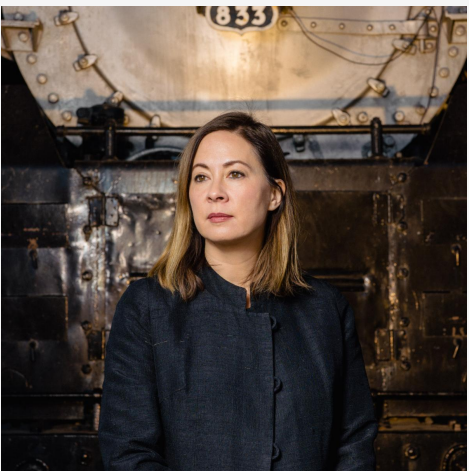
**David Roh, Ph.D., Director, Digital Matters and Associate Professor, Department of English**

Professor David Roh's book, [Minor Transpacific](#), will be released in July. *Minor Transpacific* bridges the fields of Asian studies and Asian American studies to unveil new connections between Zainichi and Korean American literatures. Working in Japanese and English, David S. Roh builds a theoretical framework for articulating those moments of contact between minority literatures in a third national space and proposes a new way of conceptualizing Asian American literature.



**Lien Fan Shen, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Film and Media Arts**

Professor Lien Fan Shen's comic, [I will be your Paradise](#), is digitalized and re-serialized through a Chinese online comic platform Creative Comic Collection. It is serialized on a weekly basis, and it is promoted as "the first yuri manga (girl's love comic) in Taiwan's comic history."



**Paisley Rekdal, Professor and Distinguished Professor, Department of English**

Professor Paisley Rekdal, Utah Poet Laureate, has published a digital poem/website about the transcontinental railroad, Chinese labor and the Chinese Exclusion Act called ["West: A Translation."](#) Professor Rekdal has also published a book, [Appropriate: A Provocation](#), which is a timely, nuanced work discussing the thorny debate around cultural appropriation and the literary imagination. To learn more about Professor Rekdal's work, visit her website [here](#).



## K-12 Outreach Update: Award winning authors “visit” Utah classrooms

This past March 2021 the Asia Center and Center for Latin American Studies hosted virtual visits with two award winning children’s literature authors, Mitali Perkins and Roger Mello. These outreach events were conducted in collaboration with the READ U (Reading with Empathy, Awareness, and Diversity with U) initiative in the College of Education and Utah's Portuguese DLI (Dual Language Immersion) Program.

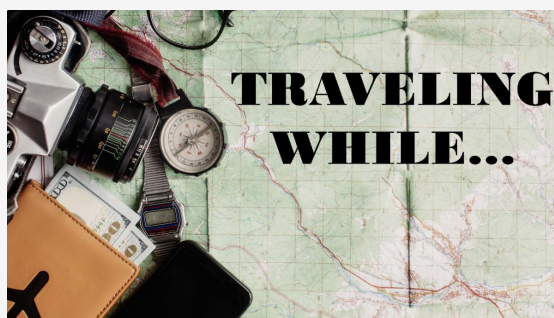


Mitali Perkins, Américas Award and South Asia Book award winner, visited five first grade classes in the Granite school district via zoom. She read from her most recent book *Home is In Between* a title that details the experiences of a young girl moving from India to the United States. Perkins addressed questions in English and Spanish from the students in attendance.



Roger Mello, Han Christen Andersen award winner, visited with Portuguese Dual Language immersion middle school classes throughout the state of Utah via an asynchronous webinar. The entire program was in Brazilian Portuguese. Mello gave a presentation about his experiences as an author, illustrator and the creative process. He also fielded questions from students in Brazilian Portuguese.

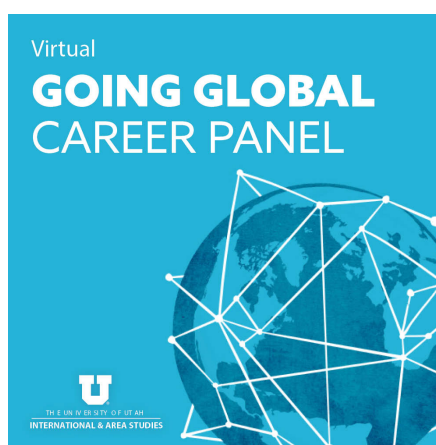
## New Series: Traveling While...



*Traveling While...* is a series whose purpose is to share stories from marginalized individuals (e.g. women, racial and ethnic minorities, LGBTQ+, etc.) about their travel and study abroad experiences, and how those experiences have affected their lives today. In doing so, this series aims to acknowledge the complexities and challenges that marginalized groups experience while abroad. During these one on one sessions, interviewees will answer questions about their time abroad and how their identities affected their overseas experiences, from pre-departure all the way to the return home. IAS hopes that this will serve as a resource for students to reference as they prepare for their own study abroad experiences.

[Watch our first Traveling While... episode here](#)

## Featured Events



### Going Global Career Panels

With COVID-19 creating new event guidelines and protocols, we brought our annual Going Global Career Panels to you virtually. The Going Global Career Panel was a wonderful opportunity for students to hear from professionals and receive some great tips on how to get started in international careers. During the panels, speakers highlighted the possibilities available to students pursuing interdisciplinary degrees in Asian, International, Latin American, and Middle East Studies. Following the panels, we held a virtual networking session where students were able to speak one-on-one with panelists and a host of networkers about their career goals and aspirations.

Our first panel was held in November during International Education Week in conjunction with the Career and Professional Development Center. During our second panel in March, we highlighted the global careers, international experiences, and language skills of BIPOC individuals and how those skills and experiences have benefitted them in the workplace. This was the first of what we plan to be an annual Going Global event that will highlight the experiences and perspectives of BIPOC individuals' international experiences and careers.





With these two panels we are able to host individuals with diverse professional backgrounds working in fields such as student success, international policy, tourism, economic development, banking, linguistics, and many others. Collectively the panelists represented diverse, private and public sector employers, ranging from Goldman Sachs to the State Department.

If you would like to join us as a panelist in the future, please email our Communications Coordinator Meredith Medina.

Email

### 2020-2021 Academic Events Links

Did you miss any of our events this year? Did you want the chance to watch them again or share them with students or colleagues? Below we have the events listings and recordings, with YouTube links, for this past academic year.

[Access the recordings here](#)



## Fall 2021 Featured Classes



### ENGL 3780 Literatures of Global Asias

Instructor: David Roh T/TH 10:45 am-12:05 pm Canva

If the nineteenth century was marked by a cultural and political focus on the United Kingdom, and the twentieth century by the United States, then what does the twenty-first bring? In the fall of 2011, the Obama administration introduced a new direction in foreign policy—the “pivot” toward the Pacific as the United States shifted its gaze to the Asia Pacific. The administration’s declaration was the culmination of a series of maneuvers that long preceded it, but it would mark the beginning of the twenty-first century’s focus on the rise of global Asias. However, there are nuances that can only be captured through a cultural and literary lens; the Asia Pacific is not a monolith, but many different countries with a wide array of cultures and histories. This course focuses on Asian and Asian American literatures that are global in scope, scale, and imagination; it interrogates the transnational flow of Asian and Asian American labor, capital, bodies, and culture.



Click image to enlarge.



### HIST 3540 The Japanese Empire

Instructor: Ryan Moran Day: Monday/Wednesday Time: 11:50 am- 1:10 pm Location: GC 5680

This course focuses on the Japanese empire, which formally began in 1895 and ended in 1945. The Japanese empire has had profound implications for the diplomatic relations amongst nations on both sides of the Pacific Ocean. While this course spends the most amount of time dealing with the Japanese empire, it will also consider how this empire overlapped with and intersected the expansion of the US empire. While historians and scholars have often seen these two powers as diametrically opposed – with the US supporting racial progress and freedom and the Japanese focuses on blood purity and exclusion – we will witness some remarkable similarities in how the two powers dealt with minority populations amidst the buildup to war. This course will also ask you to consider the ways in which minority discourses either shifted and/or remained the same in the postwar period. In other words, how might have the legacies of Japanese imperialism continued into the postwar period. Finally, the course will end by asking us how we as citizens and scholars should attempt to remember war and empire.



Click image to enlarge.

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POLS 3530-090 Peace and Conflict in Asia Instructor: Eunbin Chung Location: Online (asynchronous)



This course seeks to provide an overview of regional cooperation and competition among Asian states. As Asian economies become increasingly integrated, the linkages between these societies are deepening and broadening. However, this region faces considerable challenges as well. Security issues are dominant, examples being North Korean nuclear weapons and territorial disputes in Southern and Western Asia and the seas. Issues concerning nationalism and unresolved historical debates provide other key challenges. How can we understand these challenges and how do we evaluate the responses of Asian countries? This course will combine prominent work from comparative politics and international relations, which will then become the tools we use to analyze the important issues and challenges facing Asian countries and the U.S. We will select from a number of case studies in contemporary Asia. Students are expected to become familiar with historical and current affairs in the Asian region and to exercise their understanding of basic theories of international relations for the analysis of events occurring there.

Click image to enlarge.

### POLS 3530-090 Peace and Conflict in Asia

Instructor: Eunbin Chung Days: Asynchronous Location: Online

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