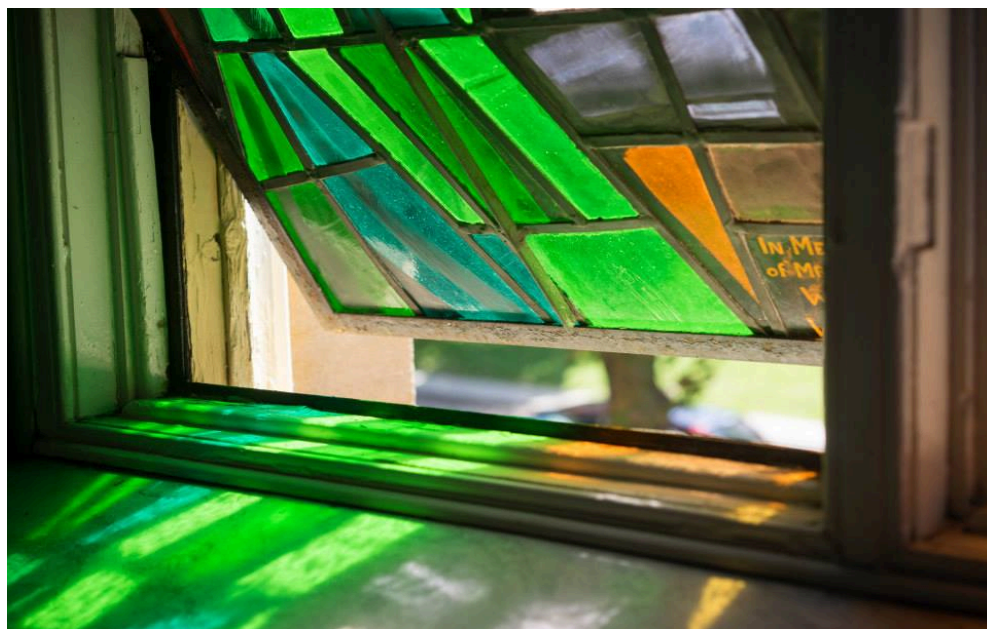


Fall 2015

THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG



Religion & Culture Department East Asian Languages & Cultures Program



Small moments 2

The Chair ruminates on the small moments of grace that fills a year. Also: Rachel had a brush with fame!

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A Word from the Chair

This is my third and final year as Chair of this department, and I am very grateful for the wonderful experiences that I have accrued during this time. Colleagues and students have made this time a time not only of challenging labour, but also a time of grace. As I look back over the past, and forward to what remains of this academic year, there are moments big and small that I think of, but perhaps it is the smaller moments that will remain.

In his extraordinary short story, “Bullet to the Brain,” Tobias Wolff recounts the last moments of a dying man, Anders, shot in the head in a violent bank robbery. He is surprised by what it is that remains with him during the last moments of his life. It is not the high points—wedding days, career success, birth of children. What Anders remembers instead is the infinitesimally singular—the tone, texture and aroma of a summer day playing baseball with his friends, and the diction of a new playmate. During his final seconds,

Anders remembers that sunny childhood day on the field and the gratuitous cadence of a new boy’s accented ruminations on the position of shortstop, “Short’s the best position *they is*.”

While this may seem a morbid introduction to a newsletter, it does speak to the strange and mystical power of memory, and how it roots itself in small and overlooked patches of grace that take root in our minds and lives.

We have had many large moments

this year as a department. We heard world-class guest speakers. Our graduate students were recipients of prestigious awards. We hosted three field schools. We doubled our number of majors. We had over one thousand students take our classes. We taught in four languages. We worked very, very hard.

But I remember the air of confidence and the love of learning of our students displayed in presenting their research at the "Lightning Talks." I remember the beaming faces of students in the photos posted from Kyoto. I remember the tenderness with which Jane Goodall spoke of her first teacher, her mother. And the heartiness with which Cornel West embraced (literally) members of our community. I remember the

stories of students who told us how the Indigenous Healing field school gave them back their teachings.

I wish to thank all the faculty members, staff and students who make these small moments of grace possible. I wish to welcome Dr. William Dickson who already has contributed much by way of grace to our department. I thank Lee and Rachel who made/make coming into the office a pleasure. Welcome back, Rachel, and thank you for making the department run so smoothly. As I look back and remember the countless moments of grace and growth of our department during my (almost) three years as Chair, I can say truthfully that you have afforded me one of the best positions *they is*.

Jane Barter can be found in the Religion & Culture hallway, office 4M34. She can be reached at j.barter@uwinnipeg.ca or 204-789-1453. Her office hours are Mondays and Wednesdays from 11:25-12:25.



Photo by Naniece Ibrahim

Rachel Berg: Behind the Departmental Desk



the agony of babyhood, Rachel Berg, August, 2015

Our administrative assistant, Rachel Berg, became a mom for the second time on September 12th, 2014, with the birth of her second son, Soren. Big brother, Leif, was initially unsure of the new addition, but has grown to (mostly) love his little brother.

Once again during her maternity leave, Rachel was able to further develop her love of photography. She began contributing to *The Lens Project* on HitRECORD, an online collaborative artistic community founded by actor Joseph Gordon-Levitt. In August of 2015, when given the prompt "take a photo that captures emotion," she contributed the

included photo collage of Soren. Gordon-Levitt himself commented on the contribution, saying, "This is me pretty much every time I have to do a photo shoot, they never use it though, but they should." He then proceeded to share it on all his social media accounts, including Facebook, where the photo garnered over 8,000 likes! At the ripe old age of 11 months, Soren became a brief internet star!

Heather Patrick's illustrious U of W student career

Heather Patrick is a graduate student in the final year of her MA in Religious Studies through the UW/UM Joint Masters Program. Odds are you have probably seen her gracing our halls and classrooms, as she is a passionate supporter of both the department and the university.

Heather completed an Honours degree in Religion & Culture in 2014. She has twice held the department's teaching fellowship and loves working as a teaching assistant. As well, she is the recipient of numerous scholarships and awards including the gold medal (Honours) in Religion & Culture and a coveted SSHRC scholarship for her MA studies.

Much of Heather's past research has been on how we construct identity, especially in a comparative literature context. She currently has a chapter (on constructed identity as a trope in Wei Hui's *Shanghai Baby*) under review for publication with SUNY Press.



Heather's most recent focus is on methodological problems that arise in the academic study and interpretation of religions. With

her master's thesis, she is investigating the construction of the relatively new terms "post-humanism" and "post-secularism" and examining how these constructs have become embedded in our contemporary literature, art, and scholarly discourses.

When asked of what accomplishment she is most proud, Heather said, "Well, you might not know this, but I have four talented and beautiful daughters who also attend the UW. And, they even deign to say 'hi' to me when they see me at school."

If you want to know more about our programs from a student perspective, Heather can always be enticed to go for a coffee or beer.

Mark Graham: Languages of the Ancient Near East Master



In 2010, I completed a Bachelor of Arts in Religion and Culture at the University of Winnipeg. I went on to complete a Master of Arts in the Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations at the University of Toronto, and I am currently in my 4th year of that department's PhD program. I have recently completed four years graduate coursework followed by comprehensive exams focused on the languages of the ancient Near East, including Hebrew, Aramaic, Phoenician, Ugaritic, Akkadian, Sumerian, and Egyptian. My primary interest area has been North West Semitic epigraphy, especially Phoenician inscriptions. My doctoral thesis

(in progress) is an investigation of language contact between Greek, Phoenician and Eteocypriot communities in Cyprus from the beginning of Iron Age to the end of the Hellenistic period.

My study of the Hebrew Bible in the department of Religion and Culture first introduced me to the world of the ancient Near East and taught me how to use the Hebrew Bible critically as a source for reconstructing ancient Near Eastern history. Similar training from the department in religious texts from China, India, and the New Testament taught me how to think critically about ancient texts as historical sources. Furthermore, without the excellent instruction I received in classical Hebrew and Arabic (languages related to Phoenician) from the Religion and Culture department, I would not be prepared for my current research. I am forever grateful to the department and its faculty for all that I learned while I was there.

My experiences in Japan this summer proved to be a memory that is a highlight of my year. I was able to experience what it is like to attend one of the most prestigious universities in Japan and I was also able to fully immerse myself in what it is like living in Japan for a month. I was able to make many new friends during the trip, not just amongst my classmates and professors, but also Doshisha volunteers and even strangers. Everyone was so friendly. I remember getting a lot of help from many different strangers whenever we were lost and everyone was always happy to help. Everything felt like a dream, it felt like I was on an adventure each day because of our field trips to many famous temples, shrines and tourists spots. There was always something new to experience each day. I recall the times where I



would buy a different flavour ice cream and different flavoured rice balls each day for energy and to beat the summer heat in Japan.

My favourite excursion was our class trip to Mount Koya. Truly, the trip up the mountains gave me a full cultural experience of Japan. Other than the magnificent sceneries, I was able to wear a Yukata, eat traditional Japanese meal, experience hot springs and surround myself in nature and peace away from the city-life. All in all, I would repeat this experience and would highly recommend for anyone to take that study-abroad program because it is a great opportunity to learn about Japan and experience its traditional and modern culture.

Jet Santiago's reflections on the Kyoto Field Study

EALC's Japanese Language Program had an eventful 2015-2016. It began with robust enrollments in Introductory and Intermediate Japanese. In the early fall, students and TAs met on a weekly basis for an informal language table to practice conversational Japanese. In January, beginning students took part in a calligraphy contest, reproducing the opening lines of Kamo no Chōmei's famous 1212 essay *Hōjōki* (An Account of my Ten Square-Foot Hut). Mr. Jiapu Wang took first place in the competition. In early March, ten students participated in the Manitoba Japanese Speech Contest. One of our students, Ms. Sam Cahatol, won her division and received airfare and accommodations to compete at the national level in Calgary. Later in March, the Japan Foundation awarded the Program with a Japanese Language Centre Establishment Grant of \$5,000. The resources acquired through the grant are currently available in the University of Winnipeg's library for our students and the general public. Then, a number of Japanese language students enrolled in the Kyoto Field School,

honing their communication skills through language classes and life in Japan. Finally, three students who completed all three years of instruction in Japanese were offered positions through Japan's prestigious JET Programme: Ms. Hyewon Park, who was placed in Niigata Prefecture, is the first University of Winnipeg graduate to serve as a Coordinator for International Relations; Mr. Jonathan Paguia is working as an Assistant Language Teacher in a town situated at the foot of Mt. Fuji; and Ms. Brenna Sorokowski is following Dr. Newmark's footsteps by teaching English in rural Hokkaido.



Japanese Language Program News

Stories from the field: Indigenous Ceremonies and Healing

With the financial assistance of an Experiential Learning Fund (ELF) grant, Dr. Ruml delivered an innovative experiential learning field course (REL-3805-4805 / GIS 7200 *Indigenous Ceremonies and Healing*) that involved integrating Indigenous knowledge and pedagogy into the course delivery. In addition to engaging written sources related to Indigenous methodologies students were tasked with reflecting upon their own positionality, following the framework articulated in Kathleen Absalon's (Minogizhigokwe) book *Kaandossiwin: How We Come to Know*. As part of the field trip component of the course, students went on a tour of the Bannock Point Petroforms in Whiteshell Provincial Park under the tutelage of tour guide and recognized "keeper of the petroforms," Ron Bell.

Reflecting upon the course, Dr. Ruml notes, "In over 20 years of teaching, I would have to say that this course is my favourite. It allows me the opportunity to construct a course in my area of study that I feel is most beneficial to my students' learning process and development. Indigenous pedagogy requires the student to engage all aspects of the self in the learning process; the mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual. Students were required to analyze or reflect upon their own healing and respond to their experiential learning by applying the analytical tools and conceptual frameworks presented in class. Their experience at the Petroforms was enlightening and their experience at sundance was profound. Students were very appreciative of the opportunity given to them in this course and grateful to the sundance families that welcomed them and guided them through the experience."

Reformation Course: Germany 2017



2017 marks the 500-year anniversary of the Reformation. Historians date the beginning of the Reformation with the infamous (and disputed) moment when Martin Luther nailed 95 Theses to the door of All Saints Church in Wittenberg.

Dr. Jane Barter will be teaching "Renaissance and Reformation" (REL-2302) partially on site in Germany in the spring of 2017. The course begins with an orientation to the Renaissance and Reformation on campus in Winnipeg, and continues during a nine-day

excursion from Berlin to Wittenberg from May 20 – 29. Along the way, students visit various sites that were central to the Reformation, including Wartburg Castle (where Luther was hidden by Frederick III, the Elector of Saxony), the Augustinian monastery where he began his religious journey, the graves of Philip Melancthon and Luther, and the City of Worms, where the famous Diet occurred in 1521 when Luther was called before the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V to recant his teachings. However, this course will be no Luther hagiography. It will engage critically with the legacy of Luther, particularly his anti-Jewish writings—most notoriously his 1543 treatise, "On the Jews and their Lies." The tour will also visit sites such as the memorial to the Leipzig Synagogue, which was destroyed during *Kristallnacht* as well Sachsenhausen, a concentration camp just north of Berlin. The course concludes with the examination of subsequent Reformations of the Sixteenth Century and their legacies. There will be ample free time during the tour for students to explore Berlin and the other cities and villages at their leisure.

Several information sessions will take place over the next year for those who would like to learn more about this unique opportunity.



Korea Field Study: Summer 2016

The East Asian Languages and Cultures Program is launching a new Korea field study in summer 2016, in conjunction with Chonnam National University, Kwangju, South Korea. Dr. Youngok Kang-Bohr and a secondary instructor will organize and teach this exciting course. One section of the course will focus on traditional values of family and kinship, traditional lifestyles, arts, religion, and philosophy. Another section will deal with contemporary Korean popular culture with an emphasis on the Korean Wave, *Hallyu*.

The course is a combination of lectures and field trips to various places, such as Buddhist temples, historic sites, and DMZ (Demilitarized zone between North and South Korea). Students will also gain first-hand cultural experiences, such as Kimchi making and trying out the *Hanbok*, Korean traditional garments.

The final information session will take place on March 4th from 12:30-1:20pm in 3C14. Topics during this session will include: travel plan and finalizing registration.

Come join us in this exciting Korea field study!

Please feel free to contact Dr. Youngok Kang-Bohr at y.kang-bohr@uwinnipeg.ca should you have further questions.

Program:

Korea Field Study

Course name:

Introduction to Korean Culture:
Traditional & Contemporary

Instructors:

Dr. Youngok Kang-Bohr & TBD

When:

June & July 2016 (Four (4) weeks)

Where:

Chonnam National University,
Kwangju, South Korea

Course format:

Lectures & field trips

Lightning Talks

On April 17, 2015, students in the Religion & Culture department gathered to share their work with professors, scholars, and fellow students for the spring's rendition of Lightning Talks. Students were invited to present a project from their Religion & Culture studies in a ten minute presentation and facilitate a five minute question and answer period with the audience. The presentations were:

Catherine van Reenen: "Darwinian Evolution and the Public Perception of Religion and Science: (De)Constructing the 'Conflict Model'"

Christopher Kshyk: "Condemnations of Wycliffe's Vernacular Translation of the Bible in Early Lancastrian England: Henry IV's *De Hæretico Comburendo* and Arundel's *Constitutions*" and "Ion Antonescu and the

Paradox of the Persecution of the Jews in Romania"

Shanae Blaquiere: "Orthodox Judaism and Roman Catholicism's Perspectives on Fertility Drugs"

Annie McBay: "Defilement and Theodicy in the Coen Brother's *No Country for Old Men*"

Tapji Garba: "Secularism as Undead Christianity: Towards the Study of Zombie Christendom"

Chelsea Peters: "Adolf Eichmann: Duties of a Law-Abiding Citizen?"

Royce Murray: "The Suicide of Socrates"

Rachelle Garton: "Pauguk: the Teachings of the Flying Skeleton"

Corbin Steinke: "The Medici Mercury: A Scientific Interpretation of Donatello's Bronze David"

The Department of Religion and Culture welcomes Dr. W. Rory Dickson, who will be teaching in the area of Islamic Studies. Our work study student, Shanae Blaquiere, sat down with Rory for an introductory interview.

Calgary-born Dickson didn't always aspire to pursue Islamic Studies. Even while pursuing his masters of religious studies at Wilfrid Laurier University in Ontario, he hadn't dedicated himself to Islamic Studies. "Certainly all my research papers were almost exclusively on Islam or Islam-related topics, but I was also concerned to find a supervisor I really wanted to work with," he says.

Fortunately for him, he found a supervisor who inspired him and approached subjects with the same theoretical framework. With his ideal supervisor in place, Dickson then committed to a joint PhD program between Waterloo University and Wilfrid Laurier University.

From there, he taught for two and a half years at South Dakota State University before getting the position at the University of

Winnipeg (U of W). He's enjoyed his time in Winnipeg so far. "I was pleasantly surprised by the food diversity choices. I've been eating my way through the city," he says.

As for the U of W, Dickson only has good comments. "I like the fact that it's an urban campus, that it's downtown. I think that that gives it a feel you wouldn't have otherwise," he says. "I like the idea that the university seeks to invent itself within the community and make genuine connections with the city and the people of the city."

This semester, Dickson is teaching classical Islam, a seminar on Islamic mysticism called Sufism and a class on fundamentalisms in the global context. Next semester, students can catch him in the classroom teaching gender and sexuality in Islam, contemporary Islam and a seminar on Qur'anic interpretations.



Photo by Naniece Ibrahim

AGE: 35

AREA OF RESEARCH: Islam, with a specialty in Sufism.

NUMBER OF PUBLICATIONS: One book, four journal articles, three chapters in edited volumes.

SUPERPOWER: Finding just the right GIF to use in a Facebook group chat.

WORST TEACHING MOMENT: Wearing prescription sunglasses instead of real glasses and becoming a widespread "when the prof hungover too," meme.

BOOK RECOMMENDATION: "Approaching the Qur'an: The Early Revelations" by Michael Sells. "He has a poetic sensibility which I think is important to understand the Qur'an because it emerges out of the Arabic poetic tradition."



Photo by Dan Harper

Faculty News

The following is a report on faculty activities over the last year. No one can say we haven't been busy.

During the past year, **Jane Barter** worked on a variety of research projects. She was awarded a major grant to help make headway on her monograph, *The Human Animal as Christian Confessant* (under contract with Paternoster Press). This book is an examination of Christian conceptions of the self from apostolic times to the present. Her grant enabled her to hire Adam Smith (UW BTh 2014) to work on contemporary theology and philosophy. Religion major, Chelsea Peters, also worked as Barter's research assistant this summer, as she was awarded an Undergraduate Research Award by The University of Winnipeg. Chelsea assisted in Barter's research on the Reformation.

Barter gave several conference papers during the past year in order to develop her book's argument. The first was the Society for the Study of Theology, which met in Nottingham, England this year. She then gave two more papers at the Congress for the Social Sciences and Humanities in Ottawa.

Barter recently had an article on her all-time favourite show, *Mad Men*, accepted by the *Journal of Religion and Popular Culture*. The article explores Jewish themes of redemption and memory in the show's seven seasons. Barter looks forward to having more time to finish her book, and perhaps write an article on her current favourite television drama, *Rectify*.

Peggy Day spent two months last winter in Kuching, the capital city of the Malaysian province of Sarawak, on the island of Borneo, where she has been researching a WWII Japanese interment and POW camp that was located nearby. Thanks to two of her friends who are native Iban, she ate bat and a particular species of tree snail for the first time. She also celebrated Chinese New Year in the palatial home of a son of one of the signatories to the document that brought Sarawak into the Malaysian Federation and was a guest at the annual banquet and cultural celebration of the Kuching Canadian Graduates' Association. Once back home she researched and wrote a paper entitled "'Until I Come

and Take You Away to a Land Like Your Own:' A Gendered Look at Siege Warfare and Mass Deportation," which examines these topics in the context of the ancient Neo-Assyrian Empire.



Israelite deportees leaving the city of Lachish, 701 BC.



Photo by Mya Kraft

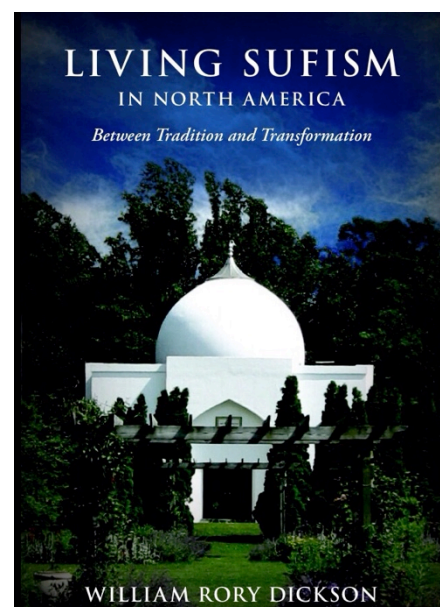
scholar, Dr. Cornel West, as a guest lecturer and as a featured speaker for the Axworthy Distinguished Lecture Series.

Dr. **Carlos Colorado** has been balancing a number of projects in the past year. Dr. Colorado was active as a founding member of the Centre for Liberal Arts and Secular Society (CLASS) at the University of Winnipeg, which aims to analyze secularism in Canada with an interdisciplinary lens. Through CLASS, he coordinated the launch of the Axworthy Distinguished Lecture Series, which brought esteemed primatologist Dr. Jane Goodall to the university in September. Dr. Colorado also ran CLASS's 2015 Spring Institute, "Public Religion in a Secular World," which focused on manifestations of the religious in public life. This institute featured world renowned critical race

For the 2015-2016 term, Dr. Colorado is on official research leave. He's dedicating much of his time to the finishing touches on his upcoming book, entitled *Recovering Transcendence in a Secular Age*, which focuses on the role of Catholicism in Charles Taylor's political philosophy. It will be the first book-length study of the role of religion in Taylor's works. The book is under contract with the University of Notre Dame Press.

Dr. Colorado is also the primary investigator for a project entitled Public Religion in Canada. The project, which recently was granted funding by the Social Science Humanities and Research Council (SSHRC), will deliver an analysis of historical and contemporary representations of secularism and religious freedom in Canada. Dr. Colorado aims to delve into the non-neutrality of many of these representations in an effort to better protect religious freedom in the future. As part of that project, Dr. Colorado is excited to produce a documentary that seeks to challenge the all-too-common assumption that religion in public life must be negative. In particular, Dr. Colorado's objective is to explore case studies that manifest how public religion and non-secular worldviews can underwrite and animate grassroots democratic action. As part of his documentary, he hopes to take a close look at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Idle No More Movement through this lens.

Dr. **W. Rory Dickson's** first book, *Living Sufism in North America: Between Tradition and Transformation*, will be available this October with the State University of New York Press. This work explores the ways in which Sufi leaders in North America negotiate Sufism's changing relation to Islam, authority, and gender. Patrick Laude, Professor of French and Religious Studies at Georgetown University, describes it as "the first book of its kind to bridge the gap between Sufi studies and the study of North American contemporary religious movements." Dickson is currently preparing an introductory text on Sufism with co-author Meena Sharify-Funk, *Unveiling Sufism: From Manhattan to Mecca* (under contract with Equinox). In contrast to available introductions to the subject, this work begins with Sufism as it is lived today, in North America. Following chapters take the reader back through a variety of historical contexts, moving deeper into the past, and closer to Sufism's origins in the Middle East of late antiquity. Dickson has further been pursuing fieldwork on a Sufi group in Marin County, California, for an invited article on Sufism in America. Dickson will be the plenary speaker at the University of Minnesota's International Day of Non-Violence event this October, delivering a lecture on Islam, pluralism, and non-violence.



Lenore Szekely, in her own words:

The 2013-14 academic year was a great year for Chinese studies at the University of Winnipeg. Of our language and culture course offerings I especially enjoyed teaching a new course: Gender and Sexuality in Pre-modern Chinese Literature. In this course we took an in-depth look at how debates around gender are played out in the Plum in the Golden Vase, a sixteenth-century dystopian novel of excessive indulgence, and one of the Four Masterworks of vernacular Chinese fiction.

Outside of the classroom we held two brown bag lectures to introduce students to topics in East Asian culture. In February, under the organization of Dr. Ying Kong, we celebrated the New Year of the Goat, and hosted the first University of Winnipeg and University of Manitoba joint Chinese Language Speech Contest.

My own research looks at the intersection between fiction and drama in early modern China. In the

Ying Kong, in her own words:

Summer is always busy but fruitful, and so was this summer. I started with gardening. This year, the flower theme of my garden was coleus in many varieties: Brilliancy, Bonny Gold, Bone Fish, Alligator Tears, Defiance and Autumn. Meanwhile I worked on my research paper, "Catholic Church as a Catalyst in Shanghai Modernity." When all the flowers were at their peak, I had to go to Adelaide, Australia to present my paper at the International Conference for Asian Studies. I was glad that my paper received good feedback. After coming back from Australia, I was invited by a Chinese author, Zhang Yawen, to write a book review on her autobiography, Call for Life, published in English by Aurora Publisher in Britain. Now the book review has been sent to the publisher.

As a literary person, I always look for opportunities to teach literature to quench my thirst for the subject. I am

seventeenth-century, the most popular theatrical genre in China was chuanqi opera, and theater was the most popular form of entertainment, with venues that ranged from outdoor public stages to the most exclusive salons of wealthy aficionados. The problem chuanqi faced was that whole plays were far too long to be performed in one sitting, and had fallen out of the performance tradition in favor of the staging of extracted scenes from multiple plays in a troupe's repertoire.

I am currently exploring how one playwright, Li Yu (1611-1680), borrows from the performance tradition in order to revitalize the genre. In his play, What Can You Do About Fate?, he parodies the chuanqi by placing a clown in the role traditionally reserved for the dignified romantic hero. I argue that the playwright intended not only to innovate the genre, but also challenged its restrictive prescription of masculinity.

teaching Indigenous Women and Literature, and Critical Theory through video conference for the University College of the North (UCN). It is a challenge because of the teaching style: instead of facing the students in one classroom, I have students in The Pas, Thompson, Norway House and Swan River. But I like it. It is amazing that technology has changed the teaching mode and made education accessible to students anywhere. Most of my students are Aboriginal and I have to learn to pronounce their names, especially their last names.

Teaching literature is my passion. I am looking forward to teaching Modern Chinese Literature in English Translation this winter for East Asian Languages and Cultures. Producing literature is also part of my academic life. My short story, "Lao Yang", has been selected to the anthology of Alliter Asian: Twenty Years of Ricepaper Magazine, which has been just published by Arsenal Press. I am working on another two pieces, which will make a trilogy.



Dr. **Jeffrey Newmark** had a busy and productive year with his research and teaching. He published an article entitled “Yamadaya Daisuke’s 1837 Nose Movement” in the *Early Japan Journal* (Nose is pronounced as Noseh, not as in the protuberance on our faces). He submitted his co-edited volume *The Outside Looking In: East Asian Perspectives on the Public Sphere* to Palgrave-Macmillan, where it is currently under review. Finally, he revised and submitted a manuscript “Kokuso and Tokugawa Civil Society” for forthcoming publication in *East Asian Thought and Culture*.



In teaching, he introduced and instructed a translation seminar on Ihara Saikaku’s 1685 *Shokoku banashi* or Tales from Various Provinces. His course on Traditional Japanese Culture led to a number of heated discussions pertaining to East Asia in the political sphere, a debate that continues amongst some of his students this term. His most intensive teaching duties revolved around the second Summer Field School in Kyoto, Japan. At Doshisha University, he taught a course on Japanese Civilization for 27 University of Winnipeg students. Weekday morning lectures were followed by afternoon excursions to some of Japan’s most famous historical and cultural sites. Thanks to the University of Winnipeg’s Experiential Learning Network Grant and its tuition waiver for the field school, the program could include day visits to Nara, Osaka, and Horyuji as well as an overnight trip to Mt. Koya. The field school also benefitted from two guest lectures given by Albert Welter and practical Japanese lessons from Akiko-sensei. Students additionally gave presentations for Japanese students on Canada Day and Canadian Culture while in Japan. Doshisha University was so impressed with the size (the largest of their summer exchange programs) and quality of the Program that they would like the program to be part of their fixed schedule. While Dr. Newmark was intrigued with the proposal, he believes a year between visits would allow him and his program staff to recuperate.

After the Program concluded, Dr. Newmark spent a couple of weeks conducting fieldwork in the Kansai area. He acquired an illustrated *Gesaku* (basically an early modern Manga comic) from 1804 written by a little-known Osaka artist named Nichōsai. Since returning to Winnipeg, Dr. Newmark has spent time deciphering the handwritten script and researching the artist’s life and career. He hopes use the piece for his larger project on Mysterious Early Modern Osaka.

This year, Dr. Newmark looks forward to seeing two more research projects appear in print and to teaching a seminar on Tokugawa biographies and Japanese cinema in the Winter. Time permitting, maybe he’ll fit in a trip back to his hometown of Las Vegas before his tenure application is due in the summer.



Quick Faculty Guide

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Formatting, Layout & Design: Rachel Berg

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