The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Faculty of Humanities
Department of Asian Studies

Recipient of the Hebrew University Rector Award, 2011
Recipient of the Japan Foreign Minister Commemoration Award, 2014
**The Department of Asian Studies**

The Department of Asian Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem is the oldest in Israel and is one of the biggest departments in the Faculty of Humanities, home to over 300 students specializing in Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and Indian and Tibetan Studies. The department is characterized by its excellence in research and teaching, and it maintains an environment of cooperation between students and faculty in a wide array of extracurricular activities. To read more about the department, visit: [http://asia.huji.ac.il/en](http://asia.huji.ac.il/en)

**Three of our professors are members of The Israel Academy of Science and Humanities - Israel's most distinguished academic forum**

Chartered by law in 1961, the Academy consists of approximately 100 of Israel's most distinguished scientists and scholars, who, with the help of the Academy's staff and committees, monitor and promote Israeli intellectual excellence, advise the government on scientific planning, fund and publish research of lasting merit, and maintain active contact with the broader international scientific and scholarly community. In 2014, Prof. Michal Biran joined Prof. David Shulman and Prof. (Emeritus) Ben Ami Shilony and currently three of the members of the Israel Academy of science and Humanities are from our Department! In 2015, Dr. Nissim Otmazgin was chosen to Israeli Young Academy and joined 38 other promising Israeli scientists from all fields of sciences and humanities.

**Prof. Emeritus Zvi Shifrin, the founder of our department, to receive The Israel Prize in the field of The Far Eastern Studies, 2015**

Prof. Shifrin is an historian of modern China and an Emeritus Professor of East Asian Studies and Sociology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He is also the founder of East Asian Studies in Israel. According to the prize's committee, "Prof. Shifrin is one of the leading experts in the field of Chinese History studies and wrote innovative researches about the Republican Revolution in the state and its heads". Professor Shifrin started teaching courses about China at the Hebrew University as far back as the late 1950s and in 1968 founded the Department of East Asian Studies (which was named China and Japan Studies at the time) - the first of its kind in the Middle East. Professor Shifrin's achievement is a great honor for our department and encourages us to continue to excel in research and teaching.
The Louis Frieberg Center for East Asian Studies
The Louis Frieberg Center for East Asian Studies, founded in 2006, is an interdisciplinary forum of faculty at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem aiming to promote and broaden teaching, research, and discussions of East-Asian related subjects. The center aims to create a space, linking the academy and the wider public, where a diverse group of scholars can exchange ideas across disciplinary boundaries. The center supports a wide variety of East-Asian related academic and cultural initiatives, as well as courses taught as part of the Department of Asian Studies. For more information, visit: http://www.eacenter.huji.ac.il/Home

Asian Languages Library
The establishment of the Asian Languages Library at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in 2007 became a major breakthrough in East Asian studies in Israel. The library, the first of its kind in Israel and the wider Middle East, was established by the Frieberg Center of Asian Studies within the Central Library of Mt. Scopus. The library aimed at providing state-of-the-art research facilities for the rapidly growing number of graduate students and scholars of East Asian Studies in Israel. In addition to the expanding book collection of over 10,000 volumes, the Library promptly entered the 21st century with providing access to multiple Chinese and Japanese electronic databases, most of which had been heretofore inaccessible from Israel. For more information, visit: http://asia.huji.ac.il/page/1341

Historical Manga Collection
In 2013, the Department of Asian Studies has established its own historical manga collection, aiming at interesting students in reading about Japan through the highly popular medium of manga. The collection currently includes over 300 manga books focusing in Japanese history, featuring series of famous Japanese mangaka such as Tezuka Osamu, Mizuki Shigeru, and Nakazawa Keiji. In coming years we plan to offer a special course on the depiction of history through manga. For more information on visit http://asia.huji.ac.il/page/1835

Joint BA in East Asian Studies and Business Administration
In 2014, we established a new program that joins Business Administration Studies with classes on Asian Culture, society and language. The program's goal is to provide graduates with the knowledge and the tools to enter the business world and to provide
them with specific advantages for developing business and commercial relations with companies and managers in East Asian countries. For further information: [http://bschool.huji.ac.il/en/Academic_Programs/Undergraduate_Programs/East_Asian_Studies](http://bschool.huji.ac.il/en/Academic_Programs/Undergraduate_Programs/East_Asian_Studies)

**The Japan and China High School Project**

Started in 2008, the high school project is one of our major contributions to the community and is an example of the cooperative spirit between students and faculty in our department. This project aims to interest and teach Israeli High School students about Japanese and Chinese culture, history, language through interactive lectures, workshops, and special activities given by outstanding students from the Department of Asian Studies. Thousands of high school students in Jerusalem have taken part in the project. The project is academically supervised by Dr. Nissim Otmazgin and Dr. Orna Naftali of the Department of Asian Studies. For more information visit [http://asia.huji.ac.il/en/links/1575](http://asia.huji.ac.il/en/links/1575)

**StartUp Asia – Job Fair**

On November 19th 2014, The Department of Asian Studies and the Jerusalem School of Business Administration at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem hosted "StartUp Asia", a Annual Job Fair for students and alumni interested in Asian markets. The event included workshops guided by leading Israeli experts in Asia. In addition, various companies were able to recruit from about 200 participants who arrived to fare. Among the leading companies with business ties to Asia are Mobileye, the world pioneer in developing accident prevention systems based on computerized visual technology; the Ministry of Tourism which trains Israeli tour guides for Chinese tourists and many more in fields such as Hi – Tech, information security, sales accounting, language teaching and media. For further information: [http://bschool.huji.ac.il/bs/StartupAsia/](http://bschool.huji.ac.il/bs/StartupAsia/)

**Summer Camps for School Children: Planting the Seeds**

The "Wonders of the Far East" Summer Camp started in 2014 and was a first cooperation between the Department of Asian Studies and the Joseph Meyerhoff Youth Center for Advanced Studies (YCAS). In the camp, students from our department instructed the children about the culture, language, faith and everyday-life
in China and Japan. The children enjoyed various activities and workshops, such as how to prepare sushi, jiaozi and karate workshops, and enjoyed flying kites as well as other traditional Chinese and Japanese games.

**Traveling Seminars and Courses to Asian Countries**

The Department of Asian Studies offers a variety of "Traveling Courses" – courses that allow the students to get a travel grant for an educational trip in the country they have been learning about. The courses, led by the best researchers in their field, offers the students a unique and enriching way to experience the material they have been learning about throughout the years.

**Traveling Course to China (2013)**

"Between China and the Islamic World", is a traveling seminar in Xinjiang (新疆), China, led by of Prof. Michal Biran, Prof. Yuri Pines and Prof. Gideon Shelach from the Department of Asian Studies. Xinjiang, the autonomous region in western – south of the People's Republic of China, is one of the most fascinating regions in Asia, historically and culturally. For thousands of years, the region has been an intersection between cultures, civilizations and different religions and has a strategic significance to China today. The tour includes historic, ethnographic, political, geographic and economic perspectives. The tour also include meetings with academics from Xinjiang, visiting museums and research institutes, and touring the markets, the mountain and dessert roads. [http://asia.huji.ac.il/page/1409](http://asia.huji.ac.il/page/1409)

**Traveling Course to Mongolia (2010)**

In 2010, a group of twenty students and ten faculty members from The Department of East Asian Studies and the Department of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem went for a two-week study tour of Mongolia, designed to further strengthen the study of the Mongols and Central Asia at the University. The delegation was led by Prof. Michal Biran of our department and Prof. Reuven Amitai – the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities. The trip began with two full days in the capital of Ulaan Baatar, where various historical spots were visited. During the tour, the delegation was officially hosted at the National University of Mongolia (N.U.M.) in Ulaan Baatar, where they signed agreement of cooperation with the Hebrew University, followed by a joint conference with researchers from the
N.U.M. The Hebrew University is one of the foremost centers in the world for the study of the Mongol Empire, the largest land empire in history, founded in the early 13th century by Genghis Khan. http://www.huji.ac.il/cgi-bin/dovrut/dovrut_search.pl?mesge128214557205872560

Traveling course to India (2015)

Temples and Stages, our first traveling class to India, took place in February 2015. Guided by Prof. David Shulman and Prof. Yigal Bronner, a group of 24 students, conducted an in-depth tour of India’s southern peninsula, and experienced its traditional and current aspects. The course was divided to three main parts. The first was in and around Chennai (Madras), the second part was dedicated to the Kaveri delta, the core of South Indian civilization, and the third part was Kochi’s colonial city, the country of spices and coconuts. Throughout the course, the students experienced the metropolis, culture, temples, music and the museums of India. We returned to Jerusalem euphoric and with an appetite for more. https://www.smore.com/jpr5k

Travelling seminar to Japan (2015)

Designated for outstanding students of Japan at The Hebrew University, the seminar includes meetings in Jerusalem and traveling to Japan during the summer vacation guided by Dr. Nissim Otmazgin. During the seminar, we will discuss the history, culture, society and religion in Japan. Throughout the seminar, the students will have intensive reading about Japan and take part in discussions and guest lectures. The students will be given research travel grants to Japan for two weeks. In Japan, we will visit sites relevant to these fields of study: history and historical memory, Shinto, Buddhism, contemporary society and popular culture. We will also visit universities and meet with local students and researchers. http://asia.huji.ac.il/article/2233
"Where China Met its Neighbors: Following the Silk Roads in Northwestern China" - A study-tour proposal for the Asian Sphere program. The 17-days long tour will bring the students to the hidden treasures of Tangut civilization in the steppes of Ningxia and deserts of Inner Mongolia; will introduce them to the gems of the Buddhist culture, including the Mogao cave complex in Dunhuang—the world largest and best preserved collection of Buddhist murals spanning eighteen centuries and a reservoir of multilingual documents that include some of the more dramatic evidence for cross-cultural and cross-religious interactions—and the magnificent and less known site of Maijishan with its impressive sculptures; will pass through the Gansu Corridor, the major artery of the Silk Road; and will include encounter with Muslims, Mongols, Tibetans, and, of course, Chinese. It will end at Xi’an (former Chang’an), the capital of China’s powerful early dynasties, and its major gateway to the West from the second century BCE to the tenth century CE. The tour will be jointly guided by Professors Michal Biran, Yuri Pines, and Gideon Shelach, each of whom will bring a distinctive disciplinary and chronological perspective on the region’s archeology, sociopolitical history, art history, and present.

**Academic Staff at the Department of Asian Studies**

**Dr. Shalmit Bejarano**

Dr. Shalmit Bejarano completed her PhD at the art history department of the University of Pittsburgh. Her dissertation interpreted premodern Japanese Pictures of Rice Agriculture and Silk Production.

She holds a MA degree from Dōshisha University in history of art, and BA and MA in East Asian studies from the Hebrew University. She taught courses on Japanese visual courses in several Israeli institutions. Currently she is interested in artistic transmission in early modern Japan.

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Dr. Sigal Ben-Rafael Galanti

Dr. Sigal Ben-Rafael Galanti obtained her BA (Political Science and History) and MA (Political Science) degrees at Tel-Aviv University and her Ph.D. (in the field of Japanese Politics; 2004) at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. She carried out her Ph.D. research in Japan focusing on this country’s politics under its American occupation. Her fields of interest includes Japan’s postwar democratization and militarization, as well as Japanese and Israeli politics. Dr. Ben-Rafael Galanti was a Research Fellow at the Institute of Social Sciences (SHAKEN) at Tokyo University (2001) supported by the Ganor Foundation and a Visiting Scholar at the Graduate School for Political Science at Waseda University (2005), supported by the Japan Foundation.

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Prof. Yael Bentor

Prof. Yael Bentor received her Ph.D. degree from Indiana University in the USA on “The Indo-Tibetan Buddhist Consecration Ritual for Stūpas, Images, Books and Temples,” with the supervision of Prof. Gregory Schopen in 1991. Her research on this topic was carried out in Nepal and India during two years with the support of Dissertation Fellowships of both Fulbright Program and the Social Science Research Council. Since then she returns to visit Tibetan communities in India and Nepal on a regular basis. Her more recent research centers on historical tensions in the formation of the Tibetan tradition of tantric Buddhism. She investigates the inner logic, coherence and discontinuities of Tibetan tantric traditions during the fourteenth to sixteenth centuries, while focusing in particular on the creation stages in the tantric cycle of the Guhyasamāja Tantra.

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Prof. Michal Biran

Prof. Michal Biran (PhD HUJI 2000) is a historian of Inner Asia and a member of the Israeli Academy of Science and Humanities. She is the Max and Sophie Mydans Foundation Professor in the Humanities, teaches at the departments of Asian Studies and Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies, and is currently (2015) the director of the Louis Frieberg Center for East Asian Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, where she also leads the ERC-funded project “Mobility, Empire and Cross-Cultural Contacts in Mongol Eurasia.” (http://mongol.huji.ac.il/). Together with Hodong Kim she is now editing The Cambridge History of the Mongol Empire (2 volumes) for Cambridge University Press. She has published extensively on Mongol and Pre-Mongol Central Asia (10th-14th centuries); the Mongol Empire; nomadism; and cross-cultural contacts between China and the Islamic world. Her books include Qaidu and the Rise of the Independent Mongol State in Central Asia (Curzon, 1997), The Empire of the Qara Khitai in Eurasian History: Between China and the Islamic World (Cambridge University Press, 2005, 2008) and Chinggis Khan (Oxford: OneWorld Publications, 2007). She has co-edited Mongols, Turks and Others: Eurasian Nomads and the Sedentary World (with Reuven Amitai, Leiden: Brill, 2005) and Nomads As Agents of Cultural Change (with Reuven Amitai, Hawaii University Press, 2015).

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Prof. Yigal Bronner

Yigal Bronner is an Associate Professor in the Department of Asian Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He teaches and writes about Sanskrit poetry and poetic theory and South Asian intellectual history. He is the author of Extreme Poetry: The South Asian Movement of Simultaneous Narration (Columbia University Press, 2010) and many articles, including ones on poets and thinkers from the southern tip of the Indian subcontinent and the historiographical tradition of Kashmir in the far north. He is also the coauthor or coeditor of several other books, including Innovations and
Turning Points: Toward a History of Kāvya Literature (with David Shulman and Gary Tubb; Oxford University Press, 2014).

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Dr. Helena Grinshpun

Dr. Helena Grinshpun lectures at the Department of Asian Studies and the Asia Unit Coordinator at the Harry S. Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. In 2009 she completed her doctorate in anthropology and Japanese studies at Kyoto University, Japan. Her PhD thesis dealt with the incorporation of global cultural commodities in Japan. Since 2010 Helena has been teaching courses on Japanese contemporary society and culture at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Her research interests include cultural representation and consumer behavior, urban culture and the structuring of public space, family, gender and social change in Japan. Email: helena.grinshpun@mail.huji.ac.il

Prof. Ehud Harari

Professor Ehud Harari is Emeritus in the Departments of East Asian Studies and Political Science, The Hebrew University. A political scientist (Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley), his teaching, research and publications focus on Japanese politics, administration, industrial relations, and foreign relations in comparative perspective. He has been visiting professor and/or visiting researcher at the Universities of Tokyo, Waseda, and Meiji Gakuin in Japan; Universities of California and Wisconsin, and The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in the US; Leiden University and The Netherlands Institute of Advanced Studies in the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIAS) in Holland; The St. Antony’s College and the Nissan Institute of Japanese Studies in Oxford University, UK; University of British Columbia in Canada; And Yonsei University in The Republic of Korea. He is also the recipient of an Imperial Decoration of the Order of the Rising Sun (2002). Email: harari.ehud@gmail.com
Dr. Alon Levkowitz

Dr. Alon Levkowitz's PhD dissertation (2005 Hebrew University of Jerusalem) analyzed the defense policies of the United States' allies in Asia: Japan, South Korea and the Philippines. His research includes security and international relations issues in North East Asia. He published articles on Arms control in Asia, Korea - Middle East relations, United States forces in Asia and others.

Dr. Levkowitz teaches courses on - the foreign and security policies of Asian nation, International Organizations in Asia and the Korean politics and history.

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Prof. Meron Medzini

Prof. Meron Medzini teaches modern Japanese history in the Department of Asian Studies of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He also teaches Israeli foreign policy at the Rothberg International School of the Hebrew University. His Ph.D dissertation (Harvard East Asia Monograph no. 41, 1971) dealt with Franco-Japanese relations during the era of the end of the Tokugawa regime and early Meiji. His book Golda-A Political Biography (Tel Aviv, Yedioth Books) won the Prime Minister's Prize for 2010. He has published a book on Japanese Militarism (Tel Aviv, Ministry of Defense, 2005) and on Japan and the Jews During the Holocaust (Modan, 2008) in addition to fifty articles in scholarly publications in Israel and abroad dealing with Israel's foreign relations, Israeli Information and Communication Policies, Israel and the Asian nations and specifically Israel and China and Japan. His current research deals with Jewish communities in East and South East Asia.

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Dr. Orna Naftali

Dr. Orna Naftali is a lecturer at the Department of Asian Studies and a Research Fellow at the Harry S. Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace. She received a PhD in Anthropology from the University of California at Santa Barbara, followed by post-doctoral fellowships from the Lady Davis Fellowship Trust, the Truman Institute, and the Louis Frieberg Center for East Asian Studies at the Hebrew University. Her research interests include the anthropology of Chinese childhood and education, gender and the family, militarization, nationalism, and the nation-state, as well as the rise of new middle classes in contemporary urban China. Her book, *Children, Rights, and Modernity in China: Raising Self-Governing Citizens* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2014) examines the interplay between a new Chinese discourse on children’s rights, the development of new class formations, and the emergence of novel notions of citizenship and subjectivity in post-socialist urban China. She has also published articles and a book chapter on the globalization of Chinese education; the rise of new notions of privacy and child psychology in China; the discursive militarization of contemporary PRC children and youth culture; and constructions of gender and violence in Chinese children's media of the ‘Cultural Revolution’ period. Her current field project, "Education and the Formation of National Identity in China" (sponsored by an ISF Grant No. 405/12 and a Truman grant), combines analysis of PRC school textbooks and popular media products with surveys and interviews among urban middle-class, urban lower class, and rural high-school students in China.

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Dr. Nissim Otmazgin

Dr. Nissim Otmazgin is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Asian Studies, and a Research Fellow at the Harry S. Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace. His PhD dissertation (Kyoto University, 2007), which examines the export of Japan’s popular culture to Asia, won the Iue Asia Pacific
Research Prize in October 2007 for outstanding dissertation on society and culture in Asia. As a part of this research, he conducted extensive fieldwork in Hong Kong, Singapore, Shanghai, Bangkok, and Seoul. His research interests include Japanese popular culture in Asia, popular culture and regionalization in East and Southeast Asia, Japan-Southeast Asian relations, and cultural industry and cultural policy in Japan and South Korea. He is the author of *Regionalizing Culture: the Political Economy of Japanese Popular Culture in Asia* (University of Hawai'i Press, 2013) and co-editor (together with Eyal Ben-Ari) of *Popular Culture and the State in East and Southeast Asia* (Routledge, 2012) and *Popular Culture Co-production and Collaboration in East and Southeast Asia* (National University of Singapore Press and Kyoto University Press, 2013), and more recently co-edited *Japan's Multilayered Democracy* (Lexington books, 2014).

Dr. Otmazgin has won the Yoram Ben-Porat Presidential Prize for Excelling Young Researcher, HUJI (2012). He currently serves as the Chair of the Israeli Association for Japanese Studies (IAJS), the Chair of the Academic Committee of the Frieberg Center for East Asian Studies, and the Head of the Department of Asian Studies.

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**Prof. Yuri Pines**

Prof. Yuri Pines 尤銳 is Michael W. Lipson Professor of Asian Studies, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Guest Professor at Nankai University, Tianjin, China, and visiting professor at Beijing Normal University, China. His studies focus on early Chinese political thought, traditional Chinese political culture, origins of Chinese historiography, and sociopolitical history of pre-imperial China, particularly the state and empire of Qin. His major publications include *The Everlasting Empire: Traditional Chinese Political Culture and Its Enduring Legacy* (Princeton University Press, 2012); *Envisioning Eternal Empire: Chinese Political Thought of the Warring States Era* (University of Hawaii Press, 2009); *Foundations of Confucian Thought: Intellectual Life in the Chunqiu Period, 722-453 B.C.E.* (University of Hawaii Press, 2002). He co-authored (with Gideon Shelach and Yitzhak Shichor) 3-volumes All-
under-Heaven: Imperial China (in Hebrew, Open University Press, 2011, 2013, forthcoming); co-edited together with Lothar von Falkenhausen, Gideon Shelach and Robin D.S. Yates the Birth of an Empire: The State of Qin revisited (University of California Press, 2014), and co-edited with Paul R. Goldin and Martin Kern the Ideology of Power and Power of Ideology in Early China (Brill, forthcoming 2015). In addition, he has several other edited and co-edited publications, and over 90 articles in scholarly journals and collected volumes.

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Prof. Andrew H. Plaks

Prof. Plaks has been involved in research in the field of Chinese and Japanese classical literature for more than 40 years. His publications on Chinese Literature focus on two major topics: 1. the classic Chinese novel of the Ming and Qing periods, and 2. ancient Chinese thought, particularly canonic Confucian texts and their commentaries, in the light of comparative study with respect to major texts in other traditional cultures, including the Greek, Indian, and Jewish traditions. At present he is occupied with two large-scale projects in connection with these topics: 1. translation of the classic Chinese novel of the 18th century "Dream of the Red Chamber" into Hebrew, in collaboration with Amira Katz-Goehr, and 2. translation of selected discourses from the Babylonian Talmud into Chinese, under the auspices of the Steinzaltz Center in Jerusalem and in collaboration with the Jewish Studies program of Shandong University.

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Dr. Jooyeon Rhee

Dr. Jooyeon Rhee is currently working on her manuscript, which explores the relationship between gender and literature in colonial Korea. Her research interests include gender and ethnic identity in Korean literature and visual culture, literature of the Korean diaspora in Japan and the US, and Korean crime fiction. She has published journal articles and book chapters on Korean literature and film, Japanese literature

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**Prof. Ronit Ricci**

Prof. Ronit Ricci’s research interests include Indonesian history and culture, Javanese and Malay manuscript literatures, Translation Studies, Islamic literary traditions in South and Southeast Asia, and exile and diaspora in colonial Asia. She has published articles and essays on these topics. Her book, Islam Translated: Literature, Conversion, and the Arabic Cosmopolis of South and Southeast Asia, won the 2012 Harry Benda Prize in Southeast Asian Studies and the 2013 American Academy of Religion’s Best First Book in the History of Religions Award. Her current project is a study of the literary history of the Sri Lankan Malays.

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**Prof. Gideon Shelach**

Prof. Gideon Shelach is the Louis Freiberg Professor of East Asian Studies and the Chair of the Institute of African and Asian Studies, the Hebrew University. He hold a Ph.D. in archaeology from the University of Pittsburgh and since 1995 he is conducting archaeological field works in Northeast China. Currently he is heading the Fuxin Regional Archaeological Project in Liaoning province. Gideon published 8 books and more than 60 papers in leading academic journals (including *Science, Antiquity, Journal of Anthropological Archaeology, Journal of Archaeological Science*, and more, including academic journals in China). Among his recent books are: *The Archaeology of China: From Prehistory to the Han Dynasty* (Cambridge University Press, 2015); *Prehistoric
Societies on the Northern Frontiers of China: Archaeological Perspectives on Identity Formation and Economic Change during the First Millennium BCE (Equinox, 2009); Chifeng International Collaborative Archaeological Project (co-author, Pittsburgh 2011), The Birth of Empire: The State of Qin revisited (co-editor, University of California Press 2013). Mail: Gideon.shelach@mail.huji.ac.il

Prof. Ben-Ami Shillony


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Prof. David Shulman

Prof. David Shulman's research interest are Indian poetics, live Sanskrit theater, the Renascence in South India in the 16-17 centuries and the Islam in south India and the Carnatic classic music. Bilingual in Hebrew and English, he has mastered Sanskrit, Hindi, Tamil and Telugu, and reads Greek, Russian, French, German, Persian, Arabic and Malayalam. He has authored or co-authored more than 20 books on various subjects ranging from temple myths and temple poems to essays that cover the wide spectrum of the cultural history of South India. Prof. Shulman is a member of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities.

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Dr. Lihi Yariv-Laor

Dr. Lihi Yariv-Laor is an Abraham Miller Senior Lecturer in Chinese Studies, Department of Asian Studies, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. She earned her BA and M.A. degrees in East Asian Studies and Indo-European Linguistics from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. She studied at the Departments of Oriental languages and Linguistics at the University of California, Berkeley, and in 1991 was awarded a Ph.D. on Chinese linguistics from the University of Paris 3 (Sorbonne) in Paris. Dr. Yariv-Laor teaches the modern Chinese language and Chinese linguistics. In 2000-2003 she chaired the Department of East Asian Studies and from 2011 she is chairing the Department for the second time. In 2004-2007 she chaired the Faculty of Humanities Committee for Academic Affairs, From 2010 on she acts as chair of the Academic Committee for Promoting Chinese Language Instruction in the Israeli Ministry of Education. She also chairs the Council of Higher Education’s academic committee for the promotion of academic relations between Israel and China and India. Her main research interests concentrate on the subject of Modern Chinese typology and Chinese translations of the Bible.

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International seminars at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

The Department of Asian Studies at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem is pleased to present this year's advanced international seminars. In these seminars, students will have the chance to work in small groups with leading scholars in their field.

First Semester

Prof. John Nathan, University of California, Santa Barbara

Themes and Narrative Strategies in Modern Japanese Literature and Film: Short selections in English translation by major Japanese authors. The texts will be closely examined as artful expressions of personal vision and as windows on the society and culture which animate them and which they reflect. Our critical focus will be on narrative strategy: How does the writer tell the story? In what way/s does each selection manage the revelation of character? In what respects are these stories similar to, and how are they different from what we have learned to expect from Western fiction? Writers to be considered will include Ihara Saikaku, Higuchi Ichiyō, Natsume Sōseki, Akutagawa Ryūnosuke, Tanizaki Jun’ichirō, Kawabata Yasunari, Okamoto Kanoko, Mishima Yukio, Ōe Kenzaburō, and Murakami Haruki. This intensive seminar will take place during January 2015 and will include 14 meetings.

Prof. Gong Wenxiang, Peking University.

- Media and Modern China: A Socio-Political Interpretation This advanced seminar will examine central issues related to the transformation in Chinese society brought by the new media. Will take place throughout semester A.
- Today’s China: Media, Society and People In this introductory course, we will explore the ways in which today's communication and culture are shaping Chinese society. Will take place throughout semester A.
Prof. John Lie, University of California, Berkeley

East Asian Regional Dynamics in the Age of Globalization

In this seminar, we will consider East Asia – here defined as descendants of the Sinocentric, broadly Confucian world of Ming-Qing Chinese dominance – in the age of globalization. After a brief historical and theoretical overview, we will focus on two related dynamics. First, the making of the modern national identity and the simultaneous movement of peoples. That is, we will consider how the modern nation-states formed in East Asia and how concurrent and massive migrations occurred. Secondly, we will consider the flow of culture, and especially popular culture, in East Asia. Against the backdrop of geopolitics and political economy, we will explore how seemingly superficial cultural flows in fact create many of the backdrops against which weighty matters of power politics and economic matters take place. This intensive seminar will take place during December 2014 and will include 14 meetings.

Second Semester:

Prof. Sheldon Garon is the Nissan Professor of History and East Asian Studies at Princeton University.

Atomic-bombing and Firebombing Cities in World War II: Morality, Science, and Race

This seminar will consider the transnational-historical developments that led to the massive aerial bombardment of cities in World War II—including the dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We address a troubling question of modern times: How did nations come to accept the bombing of civilian populations as an unproblematic part of war? Seminar discussions will focus on an array of ethical and strategic questions. Was aerial bombardment effective in bringing about the defeat of Japan and Germany? Did the A-bombs by themselves end the war with Japan? Was Japan singled out for atomic bombs because of American racism? Although Americans and others condemn acts of “terrorism” today, how do we judge the Allies’ self-conscious adoption of “terror” to demoralize German and Japanese civilians in World War II? Can the bombing of cities—then or now--be justified if the cause is just? This intensive seminar will take place during June 2015 and will include 14 meetings.
Francesca Fiaschetti, Martin Buber Society
- **Boundless Empires and the Boundaries of History: a Look at Non-Han Dynasties in China**

The course analyses the main theories and methodological issues for the study of periods on non-Han rule in China. Through the comparison of different dynasties and of a variety of sources, the course provides an overview of the main questions related to the formation and establishment of these empires in East Asia, the mutual influences between non-Han rulers and their Chinese subjects, and how to critically deal with the historiographical materials in which these dynasties are portrayed. Will take place throughout semester B.

Dr. Kai Schulze, Louis Frieberg Center for East Asian Studies. **Japan's International and Security Relations**

This course examines the political, diplomatic and security challenges facing Japan. We will focus on Japanese bilateral, regional, and global security policies from a range of theoretical perspectives. Part one of the course discusses theories and the historical background of Japan's international relations, part two delves into specific cases and difficulties related to Japan's foreign policy, and part three focuses on Japan's bilateral relations with the US, China, and the two Koreas.

Dr. Vikas Rathee, University of Arizona
**Reading Mughal India, 1526-1857**

This course will allow students to explore literary and nonliterary representations of Mughal India. The readings, all in English translation, will be taken from a variety of sources and languages, and will allow the students to get a close sense of both the way that the Empire was represented in the writings of its time and the types of sources and genres that were produced in South Asia in this vast imperial formation. Will take place throughout semester B.
Recent Academic and Cultural Activities

October 2013

16-17 - Annual East Asian book fair

30 - Lecture by Dr. Christopher Pokarier, “Japan reacts to China”

November 2013

3-5 - International workshop, “Travelling food and beverages: In and out of Japan”

6 - Lecture by Prof. James Farrer, “The ‘foreigner’ in China’s corporate labor market: A critical race perspective on skilled migration”

26 - Korea Studies Day

27 - Lecture by Francesca Fiaschetti, “Does ethnicity matter? The construction of otherness under Yuan rule”

December 2013

4 - Lecture by Gal Gvili, “Religion, literature and the future of the nation in modern China”

11 - Lecture by Prof. Xu Chenggang, “Private property rights, the Communist Party of China and constitutional amendments.”

11 - Lecture by Dr. Anke Marion Hein, “The cultural other and the nearest neighbor: Han-Yi relations in Zhaojue County, southwest China”

18 - Seminar, “Comics and translation: reading Japanese and Hebrew manga”.

18 - Opening of the manga library.

23 - Film screening, “Back to 1942”

25 - Lecture by Eran Laish, “Theory and practice in the non-duality tradition, the 'Great Perfection' – how to resolve naturalism and intention?”

25 - Chinese calligraphy workshop

January 2014

6 - Kokuji-Shodo workshop
8 - Lecture by Dr. Jooyeon Rhee, “Vision and gender: Photographs and postcards of Kisaeng”


**February 2014**


26 - Lecture by Dr. Oded Abt, “Memories of enforced Sinification: The changing narratives of the descendants of Muslims in south-east China”

**March 2014**

3 - Lecture by Prof. Meir Shahar, “Indian gods in China”

5 - Film screening, “Saving General Yang”

5 - Lecture by Prof. Sheldon Garon, “What Japan learned from the bombing of Britain and Germany in WWII”


10 - Lecture by Prof. Daniel Haber and Prof. Zheng Lunian, “Management of the global corporations”

12 - Lecture by Prof. Raoul David Findeisen, “The invention of Chinese children's literature”

12 - Seminar: “China and India: Comparative aspects in Asian politics and thought”

19 - Lecture by Prof. Jan Bemmann, “Qaraqorum: The first capital of the Mongol world empire”

19 - Launch of Dr. Nissim Otmazgin’s book, Regionalizing Culture: The Political Economy of Japanese Popular Culture in Asia

26 - Film screening, “The Story of the Weeping Camel”
26 - Lecture by Dr. Ronie Parciack, “Media, nationality, authority: The political Hinduism in the popular areas of Islam”

April 2014

2 – Conference, “Between Israel and Asia: Networks and business opportunities”

28 - Lecture by Kaiqi Hua, "The Urban History of Hangzhou: Before and after the Mongol conquest"

30 - Film screening, “Journey to the west: conquering the demons”

30 - Lecture by Prof. Tian Haihua, “Naming God in China: A case study of the Jesuit’s Interpretation in the late Ming and early Qing”

May 2014

7 - Lecture by Dr. Micha'el Tanchum, "The emergence of the Indo-Pacific: Implications of an India-Japan alliance for a liberal Asian alternative to Chinese hegemony"

12 - The Fifth Japanese Speech Contest 12 - Lecture by Vered Shurany, "The Islamization of the Ningxia under Mongol rule: The life and times of Prince Ananda"

13 - Korea Day


14- Lecture by Prof. Janice Kim, “The war and popular culture and contemporary Korea”

15 – China Day

19 - Inauguration ceremony of Confucius Institute at the Hebrew University

21 – Japan Day. Ended with International Workshop on "Japan’s Anime Industry: Attainments and Prospects".

21 – Lecture by Prof. Li Ling, "The Chinese cult of Hariti"

21-22 - International Workshop,”Japan’s anime industry: Attainments and prospects”
June 2014

2 – Shodo workshop

2 – Lecture by Nimrod Oren, "Let's raise a toast with the khan: A glimpse of the alcohol culture in the Mongol Empire"

2 – Film screening, “The Opium War”

11 - Lecture by Dr. Yona Siderer, “Development of the Japanese language into chemistry in the 19th century”


18 – Lecture by Lin Peiying, "Prince and Patriarch in Buddhist Rebirth Stories: Cross-Cultural Perspectives in Ninth Century East Asia"

July 2014

29/6-4/7 – International conference, Mobility and Transformations: New directions in the study of the Mongol Empire

1-17 - Summer Seminar taught by Prof. Joshua Fogel, “Sino- Japanese relations”

1-14, 20-31 - “Far East Wonders” Summer Camp

August 2014

27/7-25/8 - Qaraqurum joint expedition

October 2014

28-29 – Asian Studies Book Fair

November 2014

3 – Lecture by the artist Zhang Xiaotao, “Digital Media”

10 – Symposium on New Directions in Japanese Studies

19 – Startup Asia Job Fair

25 – Workshop on Cultural Diplomacy and Soft Power
26 – China Day

**January 2015**

20 - Seminar for tour guides in Asia

26 – Lecture by Prof. Gong, Peking University "China's Cultural Revolution: A private View".

**February 2015**

23 – Lecture by Robert Jacobs, Hiroshima City University, "Global Hibakusha: The Social Effects of Nuclear Incidents".

**March 2015**


15-16 – Convention on "Popular Cultures and International Conflicts: Management, Entrenchment, Resolution and Reconciliation".

18 – Lecture by Danny Orbach, Harvard University, "King of Manchuria: the Guangdong army and the assassination of the old Marshal".

**April 2015**

15 – Lecture by Prof. Daniel Aldrich, Purdue University, "Survival and recovery from the 3.11 Tsunami in Japan".

14 – Lecture by Ran Zwigenberg, Pennsylvania State University, "Never Again: Hiroshima, Auschwitz, and the culture of global memory".

27 – Lecture by Sabine Frühstück, University of California at Santa Barbara, "Martial Pornotopias: The Japan Self-Defense Forces since 3/11".

**May 2015**

5 – Lecture by Avital Baikovitch, Tel Aviv University, "International Organizations in Japan at the age of Globalization: Ideology, Identity and Culture".
11 – Lecture by Otsuka Eiji, Nichibunken, Kyoto,
モンタージュとしての「日本」 [Japan as Montage], as part of IAJS Graduate Seminar.

17-19 Transnational Cultural Interactions Conference: between Korea and Japan, from the pre-modern to the colonial period.

20 – Asia Day

**June 2015**

3 – Japan Day

22 – Lecture by Prof. Sheldon Garon, Princeton University – "The Transnational Destruction of Cities: What Japan and the U.S. Learned from the Bombing of Britain and Germany in WWII."