

ASIAN MODE

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The *Asian Mode*, the official publication of the American Sociological Association Section on Asia and Asian America (ASA/AA Newsletter), is edited by Morrison G. Wong, Section Secretary, Department of Sociology, Criminal Justice, and Anthropology, TCU Box 298710, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX 76129 Phone: (817) 257-7472; FAX (817) 257-7737; E-Mail: M.Wong@tcu.edu. Contributions to the newsletter are most welcome.

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It's my pleasure to share a few thoughts with you in this column.

Many members of the Section are interested in immigration, race, and ethnicity issues. These days, immigration is very much in the spotlight in the U.S., as in Canada, where over 18% of the population is foreign-born (compared with about 11% in the U.S.). More than 40% of all immigrants in Canada live in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), which has a population of almost five million people. About half of the GTA's population is foreign-born. Of the top ten origins of immigrants in the GTA, seven are Asian (China, India, Pakistan, Hong Kong, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, and Taiwan). With over ninety different ethnic groups, Toronto proudly claims the title of most diverse city in the world.

FROM THE CHAIR

Sharon Lee

Greetings from Toronto!

The immigrant and Asian presence in Toronto is everywhere. From my visiting faculty apartment (the décor and furnishings of which are reminiscent of graduate school days!) at the University of Toronto, it's a short stroll south to old Chinatown.

Kensington Market with its clutter of Asian produce and food stores, Portuguese fish counters, Polish butchers, and Latin American spice and food purveyors is a short couple of blocks from Chinatown. A longer healthy walk west brings you to the bustling Korean Business District with its many Korean and Japanese eateries and a sprinkling of Latin American travel agencies and stores. And, of course, immigrants and children of immigrants make up a substantial portion of the University of Toronto's student population.

Toronto is therefore an ideal place for students of immigration, race, and ethnicity. It is particularly instructive for U.S. researchers like me to be here. It's an excellent opportunity to learn more about the immigrant (and particularly, Asian) experience in North America through comparative study. The comparative lens is also consistent with the Section's goal of promoting research on Asians and Asian Americans (including Asians in our North American neighbor, Canada).

Before closing, let me just mention some urgent and important section business. First, I would like to remind you to renew your Section membership if you have not done so already. I had let my membership lapse and was reminded by ASA about it! How embarrassing!

Second, if you reside in the San Francisco Bay area, we need your help! We need volunteers to help set up our Section reception at a local restaurant within walking distance of the San Francisco Hilton, the site of the upcoming American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. If you are interested, please contact Wendy Ng at

wendyng@email.sjsu.edu, the chair of the Reception Committee. She may be contacting you.

Lastly, if you are interested in setting up an informal panel, sessions, etc., please let Sharon Lee or David Takeuchi know so that we reserve space and have it announcement in the Program.

I hope you are doing well and that 2004 will be a productive and rewarding year. I look forward to seeing you at the ASA annual meeting in San Francisco in August, so be sure to mark your calendars!

NEW JOURNALS

It has come to my attention that there are two new journals that may be of interest to Section members.

Journal of Chinese Overseas is sponsored and published by The Chinese Heritage Centre, 12 Nanyang Drive (Nanyang Technological University) Singapore 637 721 [In cooperation with the International Society for the Study of Chinese Overseas (ISSCO)]. The Chief Editors are Ng Chin-keong (ngck@ntu.edu.sg) and Tan Chee-Beng (cbtan@cuhk.edu.hk)

Journal of Chinese Overseas (JCO) is published in English twice a year in March and September. It carries academic articles on Chinese overseas worldwide as well as relevant topics on Chinese in mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan, such as emigrant communities in China and Chinese overseas. The journal also accepts articles on people of non-Han origin in diaspora, who can trace their ancestry to

China. In addition to well-researched articles, the journal also publishes research reports and book reviews.

The first issue of this journal will be published in March 2005. The journal seeks your support through submission of articles, subscriptions, and comments.

Submissions and enquiry are to be sent to the chief editors: Prof. Ng Chin-keong (ngck@ntu.edu.sg) or Prof. Tan Chee-Beng (cbtan@cuhk.edu.hk). Books for review as well as submissions by postal mails should be sent to: Journal of Chinese Overseas, The Chinese Heritage Centre, 12 Nanyang Drive (Nanyang Technological University), Singapore 637 721.

• ***Management and Organization Review (MOR)*** is a new international interdisciplinary journal that publishes papers on macro and micro organizational studies and international management, with a particular emphasis on organizations operating in the Chinese context. It is the official journal of the International Association for Chinese Management Research (www.iacmr.org). *MOR* is open to a wide variety of methodologies and seeks both theoretical works as well as empirical papers. The inaugural issue is scheduled for publication in June 2004, and will contain papers from many internationally known scholars, including James March, John Child, Elke Weber, Fred Luthans and Victor Nee, among others. The publisher, Blackwell Publishing, is committed to marketing the journal worldwide, especially in the United States, China and Europe. *MOR*'s Senior Editors include Yangjie Bian, John Child, Joseph Galaskiewicz, Yadong Luo, Marshall Meyer and Michael Morris, all highly regarded and

internationally recognized scholars. The editors for *MOR* to be a leading journal in publishing Chinese management and organization research within ten years.

For more information on the mission, editorial policies and submission guidelines of *MOR*, please go to the *MOR* website at <http://www.iacmr.org/publication.htm>.

Papers can be submitted to iacmr.mor@asu.edu.

FELLOWSHIPS/GRANTS

The University of New Hampshire Family Research Laboratory (FRL) has fellowships for research on family violence available beginning immediately. These positions are open to new and experienced researchers with a Ph.D. in the fields of psychology, sociology, social work, law, nursing, public health and medicine. The fellowships sponsor work in the area of child abuse, marital violence, elder abuse, sexual abuse, child victimization, rape, homicide and other family-violence related topics with special attention to mental health impact. Scholars use the one-year fellowships (with possible one-year extension) to collaborate with FRL faculty on a current project, to work on one of the many data sets archived at the FRL or, in the case of senior candidates, to work on their own projects. Annual stipends run from \$34,200 to \$50,808 depending upon the number of years since receipt of doctorate. For more information visit website: www.unh.edu/frl.

The Urban China Research Network announces the eighth round of competition for its small grant program, with an application deadline of March 1, 2004.

Grants are made for graduate student research by students from any country (up to \$3000) and for research by new faculty members at Chinese institutions (up to \$5000). The Network has supported a wide range of projects related to urbanization and urban life in China, without restriction to scholarly discipline.

Applications are submitted through the Internet. For information about this and future grants, please visit:

<http://www.albany.edu/chinonet>

The website also lists the titles and abstracts of projects that have been supported in the past four years. Questions may be directed by email to chinonet@albany.edu

CONFERENCES

National Conference on Asian Americans in the United States. The first national conference on Asian Americans organized by the Asian American Advisory Committee to the Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce, and supported by several community organizations will be held from May 28-29, 2004 at the Holiday Inn in Oakland, CA. Scholars and researchers are encouraged to explore census data on Asian Americans from 1980, 1990, and 2000 census, particularly using the public use micro data sets provided by the Census Bureau. For more information on registration and the conference, please visit: <http://census.kvrao.org>.

3rd Annual Hawaii International Conference on Social Sciences. is sponsored by the East West Council for

Education and the Center of Asian Pacific Studies of Peking University

The 3rd Annual Hawaii International Conference on Social Sciences will be held from June 16 (Wednesday) to June 19 (Saturday), 2004 at the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel in Honolulu, Hawaii. The conference will provide many opportunities for academicians and professionals from the social sciences fields to interact with members inside and outside their own particular disciplines. Cross-disciplinary submissions with other fields are welcome.

For more information, please contact:
Hawaii International Conference on Social Sciences, P.O. Box 75023, Honolulu, HI 96836 USA, Telephone: (808) 946-9932
Fax: (808) 947-2420, E-mail: social@hicsocial.org
Website: www.hicsocial.org

The Association of Chinese Professors of Social Sciences in the United States (ACPSS) cordially invites you to submit a paper for presentation at the above titled high-profile and multi-disciplinary international conference from October 29-31, 2004 at Towson University, Maryland.

Towson University, situated in the greater Washington D.C. metropolitan area, is a readily accessible meeting place by scholars from around the world. Its location makes the participation of think-tank social scientists, policy makers, and diplomats especially convenient.

The organizers, ACPSS and Towson University, Maryland, USA (local organizer), encourage proposals for complete

paper sessions in various fields that deal with a particular aspect centering on their conference theme, especially those that analyze provocative topics that can generate considerable new research and policy debate.

Such topics may include (1) Economics and Management; (2) Political Science and International Relations; (3) Sociology, Psychology, and Culture; (4) History and Overseas Chinese; and (5) Education and Communication

Please send a two-page abstract to Yufan Hao: yhao@mail.colgate.edu and Xiansheng Tian: tian@mscd.edu by March 31, 2004. Completed papers are due September 31, 2004.

The 2004 North American Chinese Sociologists Association (NACSA) Mini-Conference will be held on August 13, 2004 in San Francisco, following the great tradition of our Association to hold a one-day mini conference immediately prior to the annual meetings of the American Sociological Association (August 14-17, 2004, Hilton San Francisco & Renaissance Parc 55 Hotel). The aim of this year's conference is broadly defined to be two-fold: to promote scholarship on Chinese society, culture, economy, and diasporic/transnational experiences and to build bridges and *guanxi* among scholars of both Chinese and non-Chinese heritage.

The NACSA Board has decided to send out an open call for papers this year to the current and new members and let the theme(s) emerge from the submissions. The committee also encourages participants, especially graduate students, from the U.S., mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and the greater Chinese Diaspora to submit

papers/panels either in English or in Chinese.

Submission deadline is March 15, 2003 and should be emailed to Angela Sung at anglau@ucla.edu. Visit the website <http://www.nacsaglobal.net/> for a tentative Mini-Conference Program after April 15 of 2004. Contact Dr. Min Zhou, President of NACSA, Department of Sociology, UCLA, 264 Haines Hall, Box 951551, Los Angeles Ca. 90095-1551, U.S.A. Tel. (310) 825-3532; Fax: (310) 206-9838; Email: mzhou@soc.ucla.edu or Miss Angela Sung, coordinator and assistant to Dr. Min Zhou. Email: anglau@ucla.edu for further information.

China Urban Planning Symposium will be held on April 24, 2004 at Cambridge, MA.

In the last eleven years, the number of Chinese cities with one or more million inhabitants has grown to 41. Ever-increasing urbanization rates in the country have both positioned its urban areas as frontiers in the research and development of new urban planning strategies while also leaving Chinese urban policy-makers and planners to grapple with a number of critical questions that will determine the future success of China's urban development. These include managing the country's rapid growth in an effective and equitable manner, striking a balance between preservation and economic development, and addressing the impact of the country's soaring automobile use.

In an effort to ascertain how sufficiently 'equipped' China is in successfully talking the challenges posed by the country's

rapidly growing transitional economy, a symposium will be held in Cambridge, MA by the Department of Urban Studies and Planning at MIT, the Harvard Project for Asian and International Relations (HPAIR) and ChinaPlanning, a network of academics, practitioners, and students based in the Boston Metropolitan Area with a shared interest in Chinese urban planning issues who will form the core audience for the symposium. MIT's International Science and Technology Initiatives China Program will also co-sponsor the event.

The organizers of the event invite individuals who are interested in participating in the symposium to contact them at any of the email addresses below. The program and location for the symposium will be confirmed at the end of February.

Zhang, Yan (zhangyan@mit.edu)
Cole Roskam (roskam@fras.harvard.edu)
Jasper Goldman (jbg@mit.edu)
Wang, Xiaodong (xdwang@mit.edu).

REMEMBERING ASHAKANT NIMBARK (1932-2003)

Proshanta Nandi

(Editor's Note: Ashakant Nimbark was one of the founders of the Asia and Asian American Section and served as its charter president.)

Many of you may have seen the obituary of Ashakant Nimbark Professor of Sociology, Dowling College, Oakdale, New York, written by his friend and colleague, Martin Schoenhals, in the December 2003 issue of

the ASA Footnotes. Eloquent and sensitive, the obituary gives a vivid account of the nature of personality and intellectual orientation of Ashakant who passed away at the age of 70 in his home at Oakdale.

Born and brought up in a rural family in Gujarat in India, Ashakant acquired an earthly orientation that prepared him for the down-to-earth world of sociology. The caste discrimination he confronted early in his life led to what Professor Schoenhals calls Kant's "lifelong commitment to equality, and a determination to challenge oppressive authority figures"—an orientation that was reflected throughout his teaching and research career.

Following early schoolings at Gujarat University and Tata Institute of Social Sciences in India, Ashakant pursued stints of graduate studies in a number of prestigious American schools which ultimately culminated in his earning a doctoral degree from the New School for Social Research in New York in 1969. He had already joined the faculty of Dowling College in 1967 and had started building the Department of Sociology and Anthropology in right earnest. He came to be noted for his energy and enthusiasm and a "quirky sense of humor."

I first came to know Ashakant in 1978 under some trying circumstances. The IX World Congress of Sociology had decided to hold a session on "non-violence and peace" at its Uppsala meeting, and had charged me with organizing it. Despite the short notice, I managed to secure a number of interesting papers to be presented at this session. I had also secured the agreement of an eminent Indian sociologist to serve as the discussant. This discussant, however, failed to show up

at the penultimate time leaving me in a quandary. From almost nowhere, as if by magic, a forceful and earnest voice called me and asked if he could be of some use at the session. Desperate as I was, I immediately invited him. That was Ashakant who conducted a thoughtful discussion of the papers. We remained friends ever since.

Ashakant was a secularist without condition. Although he saw the function of religion in an alienated world, he was not sure it gave the people a real sense of security and community. And he was diehard of an activist. He was always ready to go. When some of us wanted to start an organization of Asian sociologists within the auspices of the ASA some two decades ago, he jumped at the forefront and became its charter president. He received many honors, including the Fulbright-Hays Faculty Research Abroad Award for studying impact of mass media in rural India. Mass media constituted a major segment of his research effort.

Ashakant was one of the earlier generations of scholars from India who came to these shores to live and practice their discipline with boundless energy, determination and fortitude. Although that generation is graying, one may still see some spark. We are thankful for their orientation and insight. Ashakant had many friends and admirers and they surely miss him a lot.

NOTES ON FOLKS

Linda Trinh Vo, Department of Asian American Studies, UC Irvine, Irvine, CA 92697-6900.

"Managing Survival: Economic Realities for Vietnamese American Women" in Asian/Pacific Islander American Women: A Historical Anthology, edited by Shirley Hune and Gail Nomura. New York University Press, 2003, 237-252.

Guest edited special issue, "Vietnamese Americans: Diaspora and Dimensions" of Amerasia Journal, Volume 29, Number 1. July 2003 (280 pages). The issue includes twenty articles by a new generation of scholars and writers examining the Vietnamese who live in the U.S. and their complex connections to Vietnam. The writers take different approaches to looking at the Vietnamese American experience--including education, economics, ethnic studies, history, literature, political science, public health, religion, and sociology. To order a copy of the journal, contact Thao Cha, UCLA Asian American Studies Center Press, at thaocha@ucla.edu or call (310) 825-2968.

Sharon Lee, Department of Sociology, Portland State University. Portland, Oregon, 97207

Visiting Fulbright Scholar with the Department of Sociology at the University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario. Canada.

Chikako Usui, Department of Sociology, University of Missouri-St. Louis, St. Louis, MO 63121 and **Richard Colignon**, Graduate Center for Social and Public Policy, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA 15282

Amakudari: The Hidden Fabric of Japan's Economy. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2003.

Description: The widespread migration of civil servants to top positions in the private, public and political institutions is known in Japan as amakudari or descent from heaven. Amakudari is consciously constructed and reproduced with intricate networks crisscrossing a matrix of institutions. It constitutes a power structure that links business, the bureaucracy and politicians and is also pivotal in explaining resistance to market reform. The inter-institutional fusion created by amakudari provides a bulwark against fundamental changes because it is oriented toward stability and lessens the pressure for change. Although not as strong a force as in the 1960s and 1970s, amakudari shapes the Japanese economy by coordinating the relationship between business and government.

The authors note that it is the first major publication on amakudari. They are receiving responses and just gave a talk on their book at Harvard University.