STUDY ABROAD

CET Academic Programs

CET Academic Programs, a private study abroad organization in Washington DC is seeking institutional partners for its new Area Studies program in Beijing. In addition to its current Chinese language and culture programs in Beijing and Harbin, CET is creating a new program that will not only teach Mandarin Chinese, but will also provide a broader base of courses, taught in English, in such areas as anthropology, government, or economics.

CET is also developing a multi-country program in Southeast Asia. Contact CET for further information.

Contact: Janice Levitt or Mark Lenhart; 800/225-4262; <cet@academic-travel.com>

Payap University, Thailand

ASIANetwork member Payap University offers a Thai Studies Certificate Program, a one or two semester academic program designed for those interested in becoming proficient in Thai language and knowledgeable about Thai culture.

Contact: Peggy H. Imai, International programs, Payap University, Chiang Mai, Thailand 50000; Tel.: 66-53-304-805 x250/251; Fax: 66-53-245-353; <intexch@payap.ac.th>

Sophia University, Japan

ASIANetwork member Sophia University conducts an annual summer session which brings about 130 students from all over the world to its Tokyo campus. The university has a Faculty of Comparative Culture, which hosts over 150 students annually from eighty institutions throughout the world. The Faculty of Comparative Culture, includes the Departments of Comparative Culture and Japanese Language and Studies. English is the language of instruction. In addition to a comprehensive Japanese language program, Sophia University offers Mandarin Chinese, Arabic, Indonesian, Korean, and Tagalog.

Contact: Richard A. Gardner, Summer Session, Sophia University, Ichigaya Campus, 4, Yonbancho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-0081; Tel.: 03-3238-4090; Fax: 03-3238-4091; homepage: http://133.12.40.67

EAST ASIA: VISUAL CULTURE, REGIONAL IDENTITIES AND TRANSTATIONAL MODERNITIES
REGIONAL WORLDS 1998-99
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

John A. Crespi

East Asian Languages and Civilizations, The University of Chicago

John A. Crespi, a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations, The University of Chicago, has been a teaching assistant for the core curriculum course, "East Asian Civilizations." He has taught Chinese civilization for The Principal's Global Scholar Program at Kenwood Academy in Chicago, and is currently Program Assistant for Regional Worlds 1998-99. His doctoral research is on the influence of nationalism on Chinese new poetry.

Asian capitalism, and nationalism play in continuing popular and academic conceptions of that regional entity known as “East Asia?” How in the context of the classroom is it possible to rethink “identity” and “culture” not as fixed traits, but as the outcome of “process geographies” working themselves out historically through diasporic, interactive, and large-scale processes and configurations?

Finally, and most specifically, how it is possible to engage contemporary visual culture and mass media across the East Asian and global geography, to identify those points of articulation that help define late
twentieth-century regionalism, Pan-Asianism, and transnational East Asian modernities?

Annual themes
The issues and ideas to be pursued during this year's Regional Worlds programming represent just one part of the program's entire four-year initiative. Regional Worlds shifts from year to year its regional and thematic focus. "Reconceptualizing South Asia" was the theme of the 1996-97 pilot year. In 1997-98, Regional Worlds explored the topic "Latin America: Cultural Environments and Developmental Debates." In its fourth and concluding year, 1999-2000, the program intends to work with the general theme, "Diasporas, Minorities, and Counter-Geographies."

Teaching in post-Cold War era
Regional Worlds seeks to create new linkages between area studies, cultural studies, and the natural and social sciences by conceptualizing world areas and research issues from flexible and potentially integrative perspectives. The program was originally established in response to the call from scholars, funders, and policymakers for new ways of teaching about global histories, cultures, and societies in the post-Cold War era.

A practical initiative, yet one that aims to integrate theory into practice, Regional Worlds employs several innovative features. It is both interregional and interdisciplinary—faculty and students from a range of departments and area affiliations participate. It focuses on teaching—Regional Worlds is working to create new curricular materials and classroom procedures for post-secondary area studies teaching. It serves as a forum for professional educators at the post-secondary level—faculty from colleges in the region are directly involved in the program's year-long activities. It sponsors new research—this year Regional Worlds is providing funding to graduate and postgraduate in-residence scholars whose work relates to the 1998-99 theme.

Three colloquia
Regional Worlds 1998-99 represents a collaborative effort between The University of Chicago's Globalization Project and the Center for East Asian Studies. With the assistance of these two organizations, Regional Worlds 1998-99 has prepared a schedule of research and curricular development events.

Regional Worlds will sponsor three colloquia, one in each quarter of The University of Chicago's academic year, as well as a final conference scheduled for April 1999. The colloquia will consist of two or three-day visits to The University of Chicago by a pair of senior scholars, each of whom will give a lecture and co-chair a seminar. Questions and discussions will follow the lectures, which are open to the public. The seminars will include discussants drawn from The University of Chicago faculty, Regional Worlds graduate and postgraduate research fellows, and whenever possible, from participating Midwest Faculty Fellows. Through formal and informal exchange, visiting speakers will be asked to share curricular ideas and materials with all Regional Worlds participants.

The first Regional Worlds 1998-99 colloquium is scheduled for November 12-14, 1998. Visiting speakers are Marcia Yonemoto, History, University of Colorado, Boulder and Karen Wigen, History, Duke University. (Detailed information on lecture topics, times, and locations will be announced and updated on the Regional Worlds website.) Speakers scheduled for the winter and spring quarters include Sebastian Liao Hsien-hao, National Taiwan University and Tessa Morris-Suzuki, Australian National University.

April 1999 Conference
Regional Worlds 1998-99 will culminate in April 1999 with a conference held in conjunction with an art exhibit entitled "Transience," at the Smart Museum at The University of Chicago. For this final conference, which will draw together and expand upon the themes explored throughout the year, we will invite approximately ten speakers. Speakers will be organized into three interrelated panels, with the papers in each panel followed by the comments of formal discussants drawn from University of Chicago faculty, Midwest Faculty Fellows, and Regional Worlds postdoctoral and graduate research fellows.

Sponsored Research with Regional Worlds
Midwest Faculty Fellows
In each of the past several years Regional Worlds has provided an active and ongoing forum for the exchange of ideas on curricular materials and classroom procedures for college and university area studies instruction. A critical component of this practical research has been the participation of Midwest Faculty Fellows. This year Regional Worlds has asked academic deans from forty-two midwestern colleges and universities to nominate scholars whose work relates to the Regional Worlds 1998-99 program. The five applicants selected to be Fellows will participate as much as possible in the year's colloquia and seminars. At the end of the academic year, each Midwest Faculty Fellow will produce a course plan that reflects the ideas and discussions of the year-long program.

14
Regional Worlds Postdoctoral Fellow

Regional Worlds and the Center for East Asian Studies, The University of Chicago, will sponsor one Postdoctoral Fellow to be in residence at the university for a period of three to six months in 1999. While at the university, the fellow will conduct personal research, present one public lecture, interact with University of Chicago faculty, Midwest Faculty Fellows, graduate research fellows, and advanced graduate students through participation in Regional Worlds activities.

Regional Worlds Graduate Writing Fellows

In conjunction with the Center for East Asian Studies, Regional Worlds 1998-99 has awarded dissertation write-up fellowships to two University of Chicago graduate students whose dissertation work relates to the Regional Worlds 1998-99 theme. The Graduate Writing Fellows will participate in all Regional Worlds programming, which includes colloquia, curriculum development discussions, bibliographical research, and the culminating conference. The two Fellows will also present a public lecture based on their dissertation research.

The Graduate Writing Fellows for the 1998-99 academic year are William Schaefer and Melissa Wender, advanced graduate students in The University of Chicago's Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations. Schaefer's research topic is entitled "Shanghai's Margins: Shi Zhecun and Modernist Fictions of the Past." Wender's project is entitled "Tripping the Borders: Literature by Koreans in Japan, 1965-1995."

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ASIAN STUDIES ACROSS THE CURRICULUM
1998 ASIANetwork CONFERENCE PANEL

Penny Campbell
History, Agnes Scott College

Panel Chair Penny Campbell teaches two introductory courses, "Introduction to the Asian World," which comes up to the twentieth century, and "The Asian World in Modern Times," which treats the twentieth century. She supplements Rhoads Murphey's text, A History of Asia, with such works as The Travels of Marco Polo (1254-1323) and Pang-Mei Chang's Bound Feet and Western Dress (1996), depending on the time period. Campbell also teaches "South Asia," "Twentieth-Century Southeast Asia," "The United States and China," "Emergence of Japan as a World Power," "The Chinese Revolution in the Twentieth Century," and a topics course on Asian biography.

Penny Campbell, History, Agnes Scott College
Rosemary Cunningham, Economics, Agnes Scott College

The purpose of the panel was to discuss ways in which small colleges with few, if any, Asian specialists can enhance the study of Asia through the utilization of existing faculty members and other steps. Penny Campbell described the college-sponsored visit of seven Agnes Scott faculty members, led by President Mary Brown Bullock, to Korea and the PRC in the summer of 1997. This was an experiment in jump-starting an increased Asian orientation on a campus of 700 students by exposing individuals in different academic disciplines to a world region largely unfamiliar to them. Since they were all involved in the Women's Studies Program, scholarship on women became the focus of their journey.

Among the subsequent benefits to the college have been changes in faculty outlook regarding Asia, an examination by each participant of her course content with the intention of reformulating it, augmenting it, or approaching the subject matter differently, and proposals for curriculum enhancement. The college is also viewing its public events calendar as a mechanism for increasing awareness of Asia on campus and in the community, and it expects the global outlook which it is promoting to attract a more diverse student body.

Rosemary Cunningham, whose concentration on international finance encompasses Asia and who accompanied President Bullock, elaborated on the