
Blakemore Freeman Fellowships

Awarded April 2009

CHINESE - BEIJING

Bloch, Gabriel – *Chinese: IUP-Beijing*

B.A. 2000: Asian Studies, University of Oregon
J.D. 2006, UC-Berkeley School of Law
Attorney, O'Melveny & Myers, Los Angeles

Gabriel spent a year in O'Melveny & Myer's Tokyo and Beijing offices before being transferred back to the States, where he is a member of the firm's general corporate practice, working on international and domestic corporate finance transactions. He has a background in both Japanese and Chinese, having studied at Keio University's Center for Japanese Studies, and in Beijing at the Central University for Nationalities. Gabriel comes from a Los Angeles-based family of writers, musicians and film directors, and after completing the IUP would like to work as a lawyer in China specializing in cross-border transactions involving the production and distribution of movies.

Sall, Christopher – *Chinese: IUP-Beijing*

B.A. 2005: History, Whitman College
M.A. Candidate 2011: Law & Diplomacy, Tufts University Fletcher School

Chris spent three years in China following his graduation from Whitman College in 2005. After teaching English in Yunnan Province, he moved to Shanghai and worked as a paralegal for Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe under a Princeton-in-Asia Fellowship. At Orrick, he led the effort to set up their Shanghai office's corporate social responsibility program, which supports a community-run elementary school for children of migrant workers. His master's program focuses on the role of law in transitional societies, and he would like to pursue a public service career focusing on the rule of law or law-related development initiatives in China.

Sniadecki, John Paul - *Chinese: IUP-Beijing*

B.A. 2002: Philosophy, Grand Valley State University
M.A. 2007: Asian Studies, Harvard
Ph.D. Candidate 2011: Anthropology, Harvard University

John Paul ("J.P.") is an award-winning filmmaker pursuing a Ph.D. in anthropology at Harvard University. His ethnographic films are regularly shown at international film festivals, including the Vienna International Film Festival, the Beijing Independent Film Festival and the Shadow Festival in the Netherlands. The feature-length *Chaiqian* is "a portrait of migrant labor, social space and ephemeral relations in the center of Chengdu,"¹ while *Songhua* "depicts how city residents and rural visitors create meaning and identify through leisure and labor in an urban space of Harbin, where the Songhua River meets Stalin Park."² He plans on an academic career.

¹ J.P. Sniadecki, Blakemore Freeman Fellowship Proposal, December 2008

² Ibid

CHINESE - TAIPEI

Farmer, Jessica – *Chinese: ICLP-Taiwan*

B.A., 2002: International Relations & Asian Studies, Bowdoin College

M.A. 2009: Pacific Asia & Int'l Law, Tufts University Fletcher School

Jessica is currently working at the U.S. Department of Labor to fulfill a service requirement related to a NSEP Boren Fellowship she received in 2007-2008. She will start her Blakemore grant in spring 2010 at the ICLP. She is interested in government service, having previously worked as a paralegal for the Dept. of Justice's National Criminal Enforcement Section Antitrust Division. She plans to pursue a Ph.D. in government following her Blakemore year, focusing on "how China's historical narrative informs its current policy-making"³ and hopes to conduct research on the Uyghur minority group in Xinjiang. Jessica plans on a career with the U.S. State Department, focusing on China affairs.

Hwan, Billy – *Chinese: ICLP-Taiwan*

B.S. 2001: Industrial Engineering, Stanford University

M.S. 2005 Accounting, University of Houston

Stock analyst, Dodge & Cox

Billy Hwan wants to improve his Mandarin to "advance my career as an international company analyst, expand my networks in business school, and eventually enable me to start my own money management firm in China."⁴ He has worked as an equities research associate for the Government of Singapore Investment Corporation in London and Singapore, constructing complex valuation models for European specialty chemical conglomerates, and is currently employed at a mutual fund in San Francisco as a stock analyst. He is licensed as a C.P.A. and is a Chartered Financial Analyst. Billy is considering attending either law school or pursuing an M.B.A. after his Blakemore year.

JAPANESE - YOKOHAMA

Bueno, Alex – *Japanese: IUC-Yokohama*

B.A. 2006: Art History, Princeton University

M.A. 2008: Architectural History, Harvard University

Ph.D. Candidate 2013: Architectural History, Harvard University

Alex is pursuing research on the history of modern Japanese architecture and urbanism. His dissertation will examine "the development of Tokyo during the postwar period, referring to representations of the city in visual media ... and attempt to establish an interdisciplinary framework joining art, architectural history, urban studies, social anthropology and media studies, with the aim of bringing Japanese studies into the broader American discourse on cities."⁵ One

³ Jessica Fletcher, Blakemore Freeman Fellowship Proposal, December 2008

⁴ Billy Hwan, Blakemore Freeman Fellowship Proposal, December 2008

⁵ Alex Falcon Bueno, Blakemore Freeman Fellowship Proposal, December 2008

of the few Harvard architecture students to ever seriously pursue Japanese, one of his language instructors reports, “I have been teaching Japanese at Harvard for more than twenty years, but never have I met a student like Alex.”⁶ He is planning on an academic career.

Funches, Sherry – *Japanese: IUC-Yokohama*

B.A. 2006: History, American University

Ph.D. Candidate 2014: History, University of Michigan

Sherry is researching the history of gender and society in Japan during the pre-modern Heian period, “analyzing how the use and layout of space contributed to the unequal gender relations between aristocratic men and women in the imperial capital.”⁷ She began her interest in Japanese during her senior year in high school, and in addition to language study at American University as an undergraduate, has studied Japanese at International Christian University in Japan and Middlebury College. At the University of Michigan, “Ms. Funches stands out as one of the most intellectually competent students who have come through the Ph.D. program in Japanese history over the past twelve years.”⁸

Tsuda, Taro – *Japanese: IUC-Yokohama*

B.A. 2007: Government, Harvard University

M.Phil. Candidate 2009: Political Thought and Intellectual History, University of Cambridge

Taro has interned at *The Atlantic Monthly*, Senator Edward Kennedy’s offices in Washington, D.C. and Boston, the office of Congressman James P. McGovern, and the 2004 Kerry-Edwards campaign. After graduating from Harvard, Taro spent a year at Kyoto University’s Graduate School of Law with a Mitsubishi UFHJ Trust Scholarship, and decided to combine his separate interests in politics and Japanese history. After attending the IUC, he plans to pursue a Ph.D. in political science to continue his research on the political and social development of modern Japan.

Tunstall, Robert – *Japanese: IUC-Yokohama*

Composer and free-lance translator

B.A. 2006: Music/Japanese Studies, Knox College

Rob entered college intending to pursue a double major in music and physics, but enrolling in *Japanese 101* as a freshman changed his intended path. He spent his junior year abroad at Waseda University, bringing along the cello he has played since the age of nine. Exposed to modern Japanese music that combines western and Japanese instruments, he began to compose his own works influenced by Japanese harmonies. Rob then spent two years in Japan with the JET program in the Tsugaru region of Aomori, where he composed his *Suite Ajigasawa* for cello and piano. After the IUC, he would like to pursue a musicology degree at Tokyo Geidai. His music is available for download at <http://www.last.fm/music/Robert+Tunstall>.

⁶ Satomi Matsumura, Senior Preceptor in Japanese, Harvard University, Letter of Recommendation, December 2008

⁷ Sherry Funches, Blakemore Freeman Fellowship Proposal, December 2008

⁸ Professor Leslie Pincus, University of Michigan, Letter of Recommendation, December 2008

OTHER LANGUAGES

Patton, Thomas – *Burmese: Tutoring in Yangon*

B.A. 2000: Religious Studies, Manhattan College
M.A. 2003: Buddhist Studies, Harvard Divinity School
Ph.D. Candidate 2012: Asian Religions, Cornell University

Tom is conducting research on Buddhism in Burma from the colonial period to the present, focusing on “Buddhist saints and their followers who engage in religious activities aimed at helping them deal with the economic, political and physical hardships they find themselves living in under the current Burmese government,”⁹ and specifically the practices of a popular Burmese *weizza* sorcery-cult. He is an experienced Burma traveler, and has visited the country regularly since his undergraduate years. He is considering either an academic career or public service with the U.S. Department of State.

Tilland, Bonnie – *Korean: Seoul National University*

B.A. 2002: East Asian Languages & Cultures, Lawrence University
M.A. 2006: Korea Studies, University of Washington
Ph.D. Candidate 2012: Anthropology, University of Washington

Bonnie studied Japanese in high school and focused on Chinese during her undergraduate studies at Lawrence University. Her interest in Korea began during a trip to the peninsula during the year she spent in Japan with the JET program, and was bolstered by teaching English to Korean immigrant children in a Chicago public school after her return to the States. Her Ph.D. dissertation will explore how Koreans respond to “the idealized and fantastical images of family”¹⁰ in the ubiquitous family dramas so popular on South Korean television. She intends to pursue an academic career.

Blakemore Refresher Grant Awarded April 2009

Lowe, Celia - *Indonesian: Tutoring in Yogyakarta*

Ph.D. 1999: Anthropology, Yale
Associate Professor of Anthropology, University of Washington

Professor Lowe is the author of *Wild Profusion: Biodiversity Conservation in an Indonesian Archipelago*, and a member of the Southeast Asian Faculty at the University of Washington. She is currently in Yogyakarta studying the social aspects of the H5N1 avian influenza virus as a Fulbright Scholar. After winding up her Fulbright, she will be using her Blakemore Refresher Grant to improve her written and spoken formal Indonesian.

⁹ Thomas Patton, Blakemore Freeman Fellowship Proposal, December 2008

¹⁰ Bonnie Tilland, Blakemore Freeman Fellowship Proposal, December 2008