

# 2011 Blakemore Freeman Fellowships

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## CHINESE

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### **Frisch, Nicholas – *Chinese: ICLP-Taiwan***

B.A. 2007: East Asian Studies, Columbia University  
Freelance Writer

Nick Frisch is a freelance music correspondent covering China. A boy soprano at the Metropolitan Opera in New York City from 1994-1998, his singing career also included solo appearances at Carnegie Hall and the Brooklyn Academy of Music. Nick studied music under Maestro Johannes Somary before majoring in modern Chinese history and music at Columbia. He then researched China's developing classical scene as a 2009-2010 Fulbright Fellow based at Beijing's Central Conservatory of Music, and was an alternate for a 2009 Blakemore Freeman Fellowship. Nick has studied Mandarin abroad at Tsinghua University, National Taiwan Normal University and Soochow University.

### **Habberstad, Luke – *Chinese: ICLP-Taiwan***

B.A. 2003: History, Yale University  
M.A. 2007: Asian Studies, University of California at Berkeley  
Ph.D. Candidate 2013: History, University of California at Berkeley

After graduating from Yale, Luke Habberstad taught English to business students at Sun Yat-Sen University in Guangzhou, China, as a Yale-China Association Fellow. His dissertation at Berkeley, a study of courtly culture and politics in the Western and Eastern Han, will use both textual and archeological evidence to examine the institution of Han dynasty ruling courts. Luke helped develop a multimedia research archive documenting ancient Chang'an, capital of the Western Han dynasty, and translates for *China Digital Times*, an online China news clearinghouse. He has studied Chinese abroad at the Mandarin Training Center in Taipei, the ICLP and CET-Beijing summer programs.

### **Harney, Alexandra – *Chinese: IUP-Beijing***

B.A. 1997: East Asian Studies, Princeton  
Freelance writer and commentator

Alexandra Harney is an American journalist who has spent most of her career in China and Japan. A graduate of the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University, she attended Tokyo University on a Monbusho Fellowship, before becoming the *Financial Times'* youngest foreign correspondent, covering Japan and South China. She is the author of *The China Price: The True Cost of Chinese Competitive Advantage* (Penguin Press, 2008), which has been published in six languages and was named the 2008 best business book of the year on globalization by the *Library Journal*. She freelances for *The Atlantic*, *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and other publications, and is a regular commentator on BBC, NPR and Japanese television. Alexandra has studied Mandarin at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

**Pareles, Michael - Chinese: IUP-Beijing**

B.A. 2007: History, University of Chicago

Research Associate, United Food & Commercial Workers International Union

After graduating from the University of Chicago, Michael received a Fulbright Research Grant for a year at Central University of Nationalities Law School in Beijing, where he combined his studies with coaching the *Air Kazak* Ultimate Frisbee Team that won the 2008 All-China Frisbee Championship title. Michael has studied Mandarin abroad at Beijing University, National Taiwan Normal University, Columbia University in Beijing and the Fulbright Critical Language Enhancement Program at CET Harbin. Michael has interned for China Labor Watch in New York, and founded the China research program at the United Food & Commercial Workers International Union in Washington, D.C. He now consults for labor unions and other firms on Chinese labor issues and plans to pursue a law degree, working to improve labor policies and conditions in China.

**Rapplee, Jeremy – Chinese: ICLP-Taiwan**

B.A. 2000: History, Yale University

M.Sc. 2006: Educational Studies, University of Oxford

D.Phil. 2009: Educational Studies, University of Oxford

Research Fellow, Japanese Society for the Promotion of Science, University of Tokyo

Before matriculating at Oxford, Jeremy Rapplee spent two years as a Yale-China Teaching Fellow at Lingnan College, Zhongshan University in Guangzhou, followed by two years with the JET Program at a technical high school in Japan's Gifu Prefecture. He has studied Chinese at Princeton-in-Beijing and at Oxford's Institute for Chinese Studies. Since 2007, Dr. Rapplee has served as a reviewer, translator and editor for the Routledge Publishing/University of Tokyo series of major Japanese academic works, starting with *Education Reform and Social Class in Japan* (Kariya, 2010). From 2009-2011 he conducted research at the University of Tokyo as a special policy fellow under a JSPS Fellowship. His most recent book is *Educational Policy Transfer in an Era of Globalization* (Berlin: Peter Lang, 2011).

**Rebull, Anne – Chinese: IUP-Beijing**

B.A. 2004: East Asian Studies & Music, College of William and Mary

M.A. 2009: East Asian Languages & Civilizations, University of Chicago

Ph.D. Candidate 2014: East Asian Languages & Civilizations, University of Chicago

Anne Rebull's dissertation will examine changes in mid 20th century Chinese opera from the Sino-Japanese war to the eve of the Cultural Revolution. After graduating from William and Mary, she taught English in a Shenzhen high school prior to matriculating at the University of Chicago. She has previously studied in Hong Kong under a summer Critical Language Scholarship, and spent a year at the ICLP in Taipei. Anne prepared the subtitles for a symposium screening of the 1959 Shaoxing opera film, *Chasing the Fish Spirit*, and a copy of her translation of the film script resides in the Beijing Film Archive. Her recent publications include translations of two articles on Chinese opera star Mei Lanfang, published in the 2010 spring/summer issue of *Opera Quarterly*.

**Russo, Gina – *Chinese: ICLP-Taiwan***

B.A. 2008: History & Asian Studies, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Ph.D. Candidate 2014: History, Stanford University

Gina Russo's brief encounter with a Cultural Revolution memoir in high school sparked her interest in Chinese history. Since her college only offered Chinese through lower intermediate levels, she worked three jobs to earn enough money to attend Middlebury College's Intensive Summer Chinese Program the following year. Gina was awarded a Phi Kappa Phi scholarship for a junior year aboard at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and after earning her B.A., she received a Fulbright Research Grant to spend a year in Shanghai investigating changes in Chinese elementary textbooks from the late 1930s to the early 1960s. At Stanford, Gina has been exploring the implications of the spread of Mandarin as a national language in China.

**Thai-Parker, Trinie – *Chinese: IUP-Beijing***

B.Sc. 1995: International Relations, London School of Economics & Political Science

LL.M. 2001: Legal Theory, European Academy of Legal Theory

LL.B. 2002: Law & Chinese Studies, University of Leeds

M.S. 2005: Library Science, Univ. of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Reference Librarian, Gallagher Law Library, University of Washington School of Law

Prior to joining the Gallagher Law Library, Trinie Thai-Parker worked as a research assistant in the Government Documents Library at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and at the Harvard Law School Library as a foreign, international, and comparative law librarian. While at Harvard, she was seconded to the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia to set up its law library and provide research training and support to the Court. Ms. Thai-Parker has worked as an editor and translator at the Taiwan Ministry of Economic Affairs with the Board of Foreign Trade and served as a docent at Taiwan's National Palace Museum. She has studied Chinese abroad at the Beijing Languages Institute and at National Taiwan Normal University.

**Zoninsein, Manuela – *Chinese: ICLP-Taiwan & IUP-Beijing***

B.A. 2005: Social Studies, Harvard University

M.Sc. Candidate 2011: Modern Chinese Studies, Oxford University

Manuela Zoninsein has reported for *Newsweek*, *Engineering News-Record* and *Time Out Beijing*, and managed Mandarin content for Dell's "Take Your Own Path" campaign as their Asia Bureau Chief. Fluent in Portuguese and Spanish, she spent a gap year working on the commodities exchange floor of the Chicago Board of Trade and teaching dance in Rio de Janeiro. She was awarded a Princeton-in Asia Fellowship to study Mandarin and teach at China Foreign Affairs University in Beijing before attending the International Chinese Language Program at National Taiwan University under a Taiwan Ministry of Education HuaYu Scholarship. Manuela is interested in the development of sustainable agricultural technology in China and after her Blakemore year will be completing a doctorate at the University of Oxford.

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## JAPANESE

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### **Burton-Rose, Daniel – *Japanese: IUC-Yokohama***

B.A. 1994: History & Religion, Oberlin College

M.A. 2009: Asian Languages, University of Colorado at Boulder

Ph.D. Candidate 2016: East Asian Studies, Princeton University

After graduating from Oberlin College, Daniel Burton-Rose worked as a free-lance journalist for publications such as the *Bay Guardian*, *Dollars and Sense*, *Middle East Report*, *Multinational Monitor*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Vibe*, and *Z Magazine*, and is the author or editor of several books on U.S. protest movements, including *Guerrilla USA: The George Jackson Brigade and the Anticapitalist Underground of the 1970s* (University of California Press 2010). His dissertation will expand his master's research on Daoist inner alchemy and traditional medicine into a broader social history of an influential family from Suzhou in the early to mid-Qing dynasty. He has studied Japanese in summer programs at the University of California at Berkeley and the Hokkaido International Foundation in Hakodate, in addition to courses at Colorado and Princeton.

### **Govella, Kristi – *Japanese: IUC-Yokohama***

B.A. 2005: Political Science & B.A. 2005: Japanese, University of Washington

M.A. 2007: Political Science, University of California at Berkeley

Ph.D. Candidate 2013: Political Science, University of California at Berkeley

After receiving her undergraduate degrees from the University of Washington, Kristi Govella taught English for a year in Niigata, Japan through the JET Program. She has interned at the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of East Asian & Pacific Affairs and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and serves as the East Asia Project Director at Berkeley's APEC Study Center. With Vinod Aggarwal, she is the co-editor of *Responding to a Resurgent Russia* (New York: Springer, 2011) and is a Pacific Forum Young Leader with the Center for Strategic & International Studies. Ms. Govella conducted fieldwork in Tokyo in 2010-2011 as a Japan Foundation Fellow and Visiting Scholar at the University of Tokyo's Institute of Social Science, and was an alternate for a 2010 Blakemore Freeman Fellowship. She began her study of Japanese in high school, and has studied Japanese abroad in the IUC-Yokohama and Kyoto Consortium for Japanese Studies summer programs.

### **Kenmotsu, Jeannie – *Japanese: IUC-Yokohama***

B.A. 2005: English & Art History, Pomona College

M.A. Candidate 2011: Art History, University of Pennsylvania

Ph.D. Candidate 2014: Art History, University of Pennsylvania

Jeannie Kenmotsu began studying Japanese in seventh grade out of a desire to communicate with a branch of her family living in Japan. Her interest in Asian art was then sparked by seminars on Japanese woodblock prints and contemporary Asian art at Pomona College. After graduation she worked as a gallery manager for Goedhuis Contemporary in New York and as a program assistant for The Legacy Project, prior to matriculating at the University of Pennsylvania. She has continued her language studies at UPenn, Waseda University and in the IUC-Yokohama summer program. Jeannie's graduate studies center on early modern Japanese art from the Edo period, with a dissertation focusing on the 18th century artist Suzuki Harunobu.

**Mayer, Brian – Japanese: IUC-Yokohama**

B.A. 2007: Economics, University of Southern California

M.A.I.S. Candidate 2011: Japan Studies, University of Washington

After graduating from USC with a degree in Economics, Brian Mayer taught English in Osaka City and studied Japanese at the Shin Osaka Foreign Language Institute in Japan. At the University of Washington, he has been researching inward and outward foreign direct investment in Japan, and continuing his study of Japanese in its Technical Japanese Program. In the summer of 2010, he interned with a Democratic Party of Japan politician in support of Defense Minister Toshimi Kitazawa's Upper House election campaign, and participated in the 2010 Japan Travel Program for U.S. Future Leaders sponsored by the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership. He plans to apply to Ph.D. programs in political science.

**Nakamura, Jessica – Japanese: IUC-Yokohama**

B.A. 2003: Theater, Swarthmore College/

M.F.A. 2008: Asian Theater, University of Hawaii at Manoa

Ph.D. Candidate 2014: Drama, Stanford University

After graduating from Swarthmore, Jessica Nakamura worked as a stage manager, assistant director and director in the Philadelphia area. Researching Japanese *bunraku* techniques for a theater production led to an M.F.A. in Asian Theatre at the University of Hawaii and studies of traditional Japanese dance and *kyogen* theatre. Jessica has completed four years of college-level Japanese at the University of Hawaii and Stanford University, and has attended a summer program at International Christian University in Tokyo. Her dissertation will investigate how memories of World War II have been narrated in recent Japanese cultural history.

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**OTHER LANGUAGES**

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**Khaing, Geoffrey – Burmese**

B.A. 2008: Anthropology, Columbia University

Our 2011 Blakemore Freeman Fellow for Burmese graduated from Columbia University and has studied under John Okell and Justin Watkins. He has worked as a volunteer English teacher in Southeast Asia and as a researcher for NGOs and foundations in the Greater Mekong Subregion. Geoff will be applying to doctoral programs in the U.S. and would like to conduct an ethnographic study of transnational Burmese migrant communities in Burma, Thailand and Malaysia.

**Gant, Philip – Korean: Sogang University**

B.A. 2010: History & East Asian Studies, Yale University

Language student 2010-2011: Inter-University Program for Chinese Languages Studies, Beijing

At Yale, Philip Gant was a utility player on the men's water polo team, and the managing editor of the *Korean American Journal*. As an undergraduate, he completed Sogang University's Korean Language Education Center program after studying in Seoul for two full years. He is the recipient of Yale's Richard U. Light Fellowship for Korean Language Study, and its 2010

undergraduate John Addison Porter Prize. After graduating from Yale, he attended the Inter-University Program for Chinese Language Studies at Tsinghua University in Beijing. Philip will return to Sogang as a 2011-2012 Blakemore Freeman Fellow for Korean to work intensively on debate and professional writing, prior to pursuing a Ph.D. in East Asian history.

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## 2011 Blakemore Refresher Grants

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### **Loeb, Ketty – *Chinese: IUP-Beijing (Refresher Grant)***

B.A. 1997: Asian Studies, University of Puget Sound

B.A. 2001: Political Science, Univ. of Washington

M.A. 2004: Political Science, Univ. of Washington

2006 Blakemore Freeman Fellow for Chinese

Ph.D. Candidate 2012: Political Science, Univ. of Washington

After graduating from the University of Puget Sound, Ketty Loeb spent a year in Kyoto, Japan as a language instructor through the JET Program. She is an advisor to the Washington Women's Foundation China Project, and was the founding President of the Seattle chapter of Wokai, a Beijing-based microfinance organization. Ketty was a Blakemore Freeman Fellow for Chinese for 2006-2007, and will be returning to study Mandarin at the Inter-University Program at Tsinghua University in fall 2011 under a Blakemore Refresher Grant. Her dissertation will evaluate the impact of state and non-governmental organization cooperation in China on universal education, water pollution and maternal health.

### **Long, Jeff – *Japanese: IUC-Yokohama (Refresher Grant)***

B.A. 1987 History: Hendrix College

M.A. 1992: Asian Studies: Washington University in St. Louis

Ph.D. 2000: History: University of Hawaii at Manoa

Associate Professor, Dept. of History, Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania

Professor Jeff Long is a popular and acclaimed professor at Bloomsburg University, where he has contributed extensively to its curriculum expansion for East Asian history. Dr. Long will be attending the Inter-University Center in Yokohama during the summer of 2011 under a Blakemore Refresher Grant. He is currently completing a monograph on the literati Hayashi Fusao and his role in Japanese nationalism during the transwar period, and is contributing a translation of Fusao's short story *Apple* to a forthcoming anthology of Japanese proletarian literature from the University of Chicago Press. He has previously studied Japanese at Nanzan University and the Intercultural Institute of Japan.

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## 2011 Alternates for Blakemore Freeman Fellowships

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### **Beaudoin, Bryan – *Alternate for Chinese***

B.A. 2008: College Scholar, Cornell University

Master of Laws Candidate 2011: National Taiwan University.

Bryan Beaudoin plans to pursue a career as a legal anthropologist specializing in East Asian legal cultures. As an undergraduate, he completed Cornell's FALCON program for Japanese, conducted fieldwork in Japan as a Cornell Presidential Research Scholar, and was a delegate to the Japan America Student Conference. Bryan is currently researching family law in Taiwan, and plans to apply to joint J.D./Ph.D. programs after completing his master's degree. He has studied Mandarin at Cornell, Princeton-in-Beijing, and the ICLP at National Taiwan University.

### **Chaney, Wesley Bryon – *Alternate for Tibetan***

B.A. 2004: History, Davidson College

M.A. 2010: East Asian Studies, Stanford University

Ph.D. Candidate 2015: History, Stanford University

Wesley Chaney spent a year teaching English to children in Qingdao, China after receiving his undergraduate degree, and worked as a program assistant at the Chinese Institute in America. His graduate studies at Stanford focus on the legal, spatial, and economic history of China's Qinghai-Gansu frontier region during the Qing dynasty. Wesley has studied Mandarin abroad in summer programs at the IUP, ICLP and Qingdao University, and Tibetan at the Centre for Buddhist Studies at Kathmandu University under a FLAS grant.

### **Dewitt, Lindsey – *Alternate for Japanese***

B.A. 2004: Political Science & Asian Studies, Colorado State University

M.A. 2008: Comparative Religion, University of Washington

Ph.D. Candidate 2013: Buddhist Studies, UCLA

Lindsey Dewitt is researching the lives of women at Buddhist pilgrimage and sacred mountain sites in premodern and modern Japan. She was a 2007 Japan American Student Conference Delegate and has spent five summers in Japan focusing on language and cultural studies. She is a co-creator of the web-based East Asian Religion annotated bibliography for the University of Washington East Asia Library, and has served as an assistant director for the University of Washington Exploration Seminars.

### **Feng, Shing-yao Sandra – *Alternate for Chinese***

B.A. 2006: Art History, University of Texas at Austin

M.A. Candidate 2011: Global Policy Studies, University of Texas at Austin

Sandra Feng grew up speaking Mandarin at home, but did not seriously pursue reading or writing the language until college, where she majored in modern Chinese art history. As a Fulbright Research Scholar investigating the influence of French art on early 20th century Chinese artists, she became interested in U.S. world relations, and is now pursuing a master's in global policy studies. She has served as an Economic & Public Affairs Intern for the U.S. Consulate in Shenyang, and participated in the creation of the Consulate's Virtual Student Service project.

**Kaja, Ashwin – *Finalist for Chinese – Declined Grant***

B.A. 2007: Economics, Harvard College

J.D. Candidate 2011: Law, Harvard Law School

Ashwin Kaja's interest in international development grew out of childhood visits to India. He has interned for the Democratic National Convention Committee, the African Development Bank in Tunisia, the Public Defender Service of Washington, D.C. and the Campaign Committee for Human Rights in Thailand. Ashwin is the founder and president of the micro-finance non-profit Investours, which helps tourists invest in developing countries. An expanded version of his senior thesis, *Corporate Misgovernance at the World Bank and the Dilemma of Global Governance*, was recently co-published in the *World Economic Review* (2010). He has studied Mandarin at Harvard and the Harvard-Beijing Academy summer program in China.

**Keo, Siti Galang – *Alternate for Khmer***

B.A. 2003: Political Science & History, Univ. of California at Berkeley

M.A. 2006: History, Univ. of California at Berkeley

Ph.D. Candidate 2012: History, Univ. of California at Berkeley

Siti Keo is pursuing a Ph.D. in modern Cambodian history, where her dissertation examines the growth of modern urban culture in Phnom Penh during the first two decades of the post-colonial era and its reflection in Khmer literature presaging the rise of the Khmer Rouge. A heritage student, she has studied Khmer at SEASSI, and the Advanced Study of Khmer program in Phnom Penh, and conducted research in Cambodia under a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship.

**McGovern, Nathan – *Alternate for Chinese***

B.A. 2003: Physics & Religious Studies, Franklin & Marshall College

M.A. 2006: Religious Studies, Univ. of California at Santa Barbara

Ph.D. Candidate: Religious Studies, Univ. of California at Santa Barbara

As a double major in physics and religious studies, Nathan McGovern originally planned on a career in the sciences, but in his senior year decided to pursue religious studies. His fieldwork in Thailand on the worship of the Hindu god Brahma for his master's thesis has evolved into his current research on scriptures preserved in Chinese which illuminate the history of early Indian Buddhism. Nathan has studied Mandarin at UC-Santa Barbara, the Mandarin Training Center at National Taiwan Normal University, and the ICLP at National Taiwan University.

**Solomon, Joshua – *Alternate for Japanese***

B.A. 2008: East Asian Studies, Ursinus College

Ph.D. Candidate 2016: East Asian Languages & Civilizations, University of Chicago

Joshua Solomon has previously studied Japanese at International Christian University and the Middlebury College summer program. After graduating from Ursinus College, he conducted an ethnographic study of Tsugaru-jamisen musical productions on a Fulbright Fellowship in Japan. At the University of Chicago, he is continuing his research on Japanese folk music, horror and ghost stories, and is preparing for a dissertation on how Japanese use language to navigate between modernity and an imagined rural past.