

2012 Blakemore Freeman Fellowships & Blakemore Refresher Grants

CHINESE

Cohen, Alasdair – Chinese

B.A. 2002: Psychology, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

M.Sc. 2007: Water Science, Policy & Management, University of Oxford

Ph.D. Candidate 2015: Environmental Science, Policy & Management, University of California, Berkeley

Over the last decade, Alasdair Cohen has designed and led research initiatives and projects for United Nations agencies on issues related to rural poverty, development and water resources. He is the author of *The Multidimensional Poverty Assessment Tool*, published by the International Fund for Agricultural Development in 2009, as well as other UN publications, technical reports and working papers. As part of his Ph.D. program at Berkeley, Alasdair will be working with UNICEF-China and Professor Wang Chengwen from Tsinghua University to better understand how a community-based participatory approach could improve rural water safety and promote household water treatment. He has studied Mandarin at Shanghai Normal University and in Beijing.

Field, Jesse – Chinese

B.A. 2002, Earth Science, Harvard University

M.A. 2005: Asian Studies, University of Texas at Austin

Ph.D. 2012: Asian Languages, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

Though majoring in science at Harvard, Jesse Field's career plans changed after taking a Chinese literature course. Jesse received his Ph.D. in spring 2012 with a dissertation on the writer Yang Jiang. Interested in life-writing, his translations of selections from Yang's memoirs have been published in the *Renditions (Vol. 11, August 2011)* special issue in honor of Yang's centenary year, and forthcoming publications include the chapter "All Alone, I Think Back on We Three: Yang Jiang as Widow Writer 2000-Present" in *China's Literary Cosmopolitans* (ed. Christopher Rea). A gifted teacher, he has designed a course on Chinese autobiography for the University of Minnesota, and for two years directed the major project course required of all undergrads in its College of Liberal Arts. He has studied Chinese at the University of Minnesota, Harvard, the University of Texas-Austin, National Taiwan Normal University, and the ICLP at National Taiwan University.

Fitzpatrick, Thomas – Chinese

B.A. 2006: Law, Societies & Justice, University of Washington

B.A. 2006: Film Studies, University of Washington

2009 Fulbright Research Grant, Kunming Medical University

Tom Fitzpatrick is a co-founder of The People's Harm Reduction Alliance in Seattle (PHRA), one of the largest needle exchange programs in the U.S. He has studied Mandarin at CET's language program in Harbin and at the University of Washington, and in 2006 received the Ezra Stotland Prize as the top graduating student from the UW's Law, Societies & Justice department. As a Fulbright Fellow at Kunming Medical University during 2010, he studied public health programs in Yunnan Province. Currently serving as the PHRA board president, he plans to enroll in medical school after completing his Blakemore Freeman year.

Head, Angela – Chinese

B.A. 2007: Sociology & Anthropology, Middlebury College

M.A. 2010: Teaching, Dominican University

Mandarin Chinese teacher in Chicago Public School District

Angela Head began Chinese at Middlebury, and studied abroad at the C.V. Starr-Middlebury programs in Beijing and Hangzhou. After graduation, she worked as a refugee resettlement caseworker in her home state of Arkansas before being accepted into the Chicago Teaching Fellows. This highly selective alternative teacher certification program trains professionals and recent college graduates for work with disadvantaged students in Chicago public schools. Angela now teaches Chinese to kindergarten through third grade students on Chicago's South Side. She has created an after school program that teaches Chinese language and culture through hands-on art projects, and volunteers as an adult ESL instructor for parents.

Huang, Kathy – Chinese

B.A. 2001: History, Harvard University

M.A. 2006: Documentary Film Production, Stanford University

Documentary filmmaker, cinematographer & field producer

Kathy Huang's first film was inspired by her Teach for America assignment at a high school on the U.S.-Mexican border. *Scribble's Creations* documented the coming of age of a young teenage graffiti artist in the Rio Grande Valley and is now used as a training tool in south Texas school districts. Other films have examined the lives of a drag king in San Francisco, an Iraq war veteran and a Chinese-American beauty pageant contestant. Her latest film, *Tales of the Waria*, explores the world of transgender women searching for love in Muslim Indonesia and will be broadcast on PBS in spring 2012. The daughter of immigrants from Taiwan, Kathy began re-learning the language of her childhood after visiting Beijing in 2006.

McGrath, William – Chinese

B.Sc. 2007: Biochemistry, University of Virginia

M.A. Candidate 2014: Religious Studies, University of Virginia

After studying biochemistry and Tibetan Buddhism as an undergraduate, Bill McGrath worked for two years in Sichuan Province helping digitize Tibetan texts for the University of Virginia's Tibetan and Himalayan Library ("THL"). Living in China, he soon realized that fluency in Mandarin would also be necessary in order to effectively work as a Tibetan scholar. Bill has worked as an assistant editor for the online *Journal for the International Association of Tibetan Studies*, and continues to assist THL as a cataloguer and technologist. His research is now focused on the intersection between historical and contemporary Tibetan and Chinese medical traditions. He has studied Mandarin in Beijing and at the University of Virginia.

Sleboda, Richard – *Chinese*

B.A. 1999: Biology & Asian Studies, Cornell University
2002 Blakemore Freeman Fellow for Japanese
C.P.A. & Senior Manager, KPMG AZSA LLC, Tokyo

After graduating from Cornell, Richard Sleboda spent a year in Taiwan on a Fulbright grant researching coral reefs, and then went to Yokohama as a 2002 Blakemore Freeman Fellow for Japanese. After completing his fellowship, he took a temp job with the Japanese firm member of KPMG, a “Big Four” accounting network. Nine years later, he is now a certified public accountant, auditor and senior manager in its Risk Management Department. In 2009, he was selected to participate in KPMG International’s internal audit program, the Global Compliance Reviews. Richard has since worked on oversight reviews in 14 countries in Asia and Europe, including serving as lead manager for the 2011 review of KPMG China, one of the network’s largest firms. He has studied Mandarin at Cornell, National Taiwan Normal University and in Tokyo.

Stucky-Mack, Nicholas - *Chinese*

B.A. 2009: Mathematics, Harvard University
M.A. Candidate 2012: Asian Studies, University of California at Berkeley

Nicholas Stucky-Mack graduated with a degree in mathematics from Harvard, but it was two classes in Elementary Modern Chinese during his junior year that started him on his career path. After graduation, Nick spent a year on travel and research funded by a Finley Fellowship. Nicholas interviewed Chinese in Asia, Europe and the Americas, comparing the family histories, beliefs and values of individuals who emigrated to those who remained in China. Now a graduate student at Berkeley, he is examining the Qin dynasty’s relationship with the state of Chu as revealed in administrative documents discovered in 2002 in Hunan Province. After his Blakemore Freeman year, he intends on pursuing a Ph.D. in early imperial Chinese history.

JAPANESE

Browne, Jyana – *Japanese*

B.A. 1998: Film Studies, Yale University
Ph.D. Candidate 2014: Theatre, University of Washington

Jyana Browne spent a gap year in Japan with her family after graduating from high school. At Yale, she studied film and began directing plays, and then returned to Japan to study at Princeton-in-Ishikawa and Konan University in Kobe, where she became interested in traditional Japanese performance. In 2000 she co-founded the New York theatre company ACTIVE EYE, which presented highly-physical East-West fusion performances, and worked as a producer, director and assistant director in New York and for Cleveland Public Theatre. Her dissertation, *Love Suicide on the Japanese Stage 1703-1722* will examine the love suicide genre in *bunraku* popularized by the playwrights Chikamatsu and Ki no Kaion.

Textor, Cindi – Japanese

B.A. 2008: Asian Studies, Princeton University

M.A. 2010: East Asian Languages and Cultures, University of Illinois

Ph.D. Candidate 2015: Japanese Literature, University of Washington

Cindi Textor entered college planning to study physics or mechanical engineering. After taking an elementary Japanese class her first quarter she ended up focusing on modern Japanese literature. For her senior thesis at Princeton, she translated Kim Sök-pöm's 1970 novel *Mandogi yūrei kitan*, which has since been published by Columbia University Press as *The Curious Tale of Mandogi's Ghost* (2010). At the University of Illinois, she again focused on modern Japanese literature, studied Korean, and earned a graduate certificate in Translation Studies in addition to her M.A. She is interested in identify issues raised by *zainichi* Korean literature (literature written by ethnic Koreans residing in Japan).

Thomas, Stefanie - Japanese

B.A. 2011: Japanese & German, Ball State University

M.A. Candidate 2014: Japanese Literature, The Ohio State University

A native speaker of German, Stefanie Thomas graduated summa cum laude from Ball State with a 4.0 GPA and was on the Dean's List seven semesters, while self-funding her education through loans and work study. Matriculating at Ohio State, she was awarded its most prestigious fellowship for incoming graduate students, the University Fellowship. She is interested in the influence of German aesthetic philosophy on Meiji period literature and philology. Her Blakemore Freeman year at the IUC in Yokohama will be her first trip to Japan.

Walsh, Sarah – Japanese

B.A. 2005: Art History, Boston University

M.A. 2007: Japanese Studies, Social of Oriental & African Studies, University of London

Ph.D. Candidate 2011: History, University of California at Los Angeles

Sarah Walsh's interest in the intersection of reformist politics with visual and material culture grew out of her experiences as co-founder of a community art space in her hometown of Brockton, Massachusetts. As an undergraduate in art history, she was inspired by a class on modern Japanese popular film and literature to pursue Japan area studies in grad school. After studying in London, she received a Japanese Mobukagakusho scholarship and spent a year at the Tokyo Institute of Technology researching representations of contemporary domestic spaces in Japanese print media. Her dissertation will focus on the revival of the Metabolism architectural movement in the wake of the Tohoku earthquake and tsunami.

OTHER LANGUAGES

Thieret, Adrian – Korean

B.A. 2008: Asian Languages & Literature, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
Ph.D. Candidate 2015: East Asian Languages & Cultures, Stanford University

Adrian Thieret completed his senior year of high school living with a host family in Beijing, followed by a gap year studying at Zhejiang University. As an undergraduate in Minnesota, he began his study of Japanese, and spent a summer dressing futons at a hot-spring inn in the Japanese mountains. He is interested in questions of environment and identity in contemporary East Asian literature and cinema. Adrian's doctoral dissertation will compare the changing relationships between humans, nature and technology revealed in Chinese, Japanese and Korean science fiction. He has studied Korean at Stanford and Sogang University.

Lenox, Joseph B. – Korean

B.A. 2010: International Studies, Texas A&M University
M.A. Candidate 2013: International Relations, Seoul National University

As an undergraduate, Joseph Lenox was elected to represent Texas A&M as an exchange student at Soonchuhyang University, though he spoke not a word of Korean. Upon arrival he fell in love with the country's culture and ending up spending two years in South Korea. He twice received Soonchuhyang's "Best International Student" award and was elected its International Student Body President in 2008. Following graduation, he received a Critical Languages Scholarship from the U.S. State Department, followed by a multi-year grant from the Korean Government to pursue a master's degree in international relations at Seoul National University. He has interned at the U.S. Department of Defense and is a volunteer at the Seoul office of the International Crisis Group.

2012 Blakemore Refresher Grant

Zwicker, Jonathan – Korean

B.A. 1995: East Asian Studies, Columbia University
Ph.D. 2002: Japanese Literature, Columbia University
Associate Professor, Dept. of Asian Languages & Cultures, University of Michigan

Professor Zwicker teaches Japanese literature at the University of Michigan and is the Director of its Center for Japan Studies. He specializes in nineteenth-century Japan, and is the author of *Practices of the Sentimental Imagination: Melodrama, the Novel and the Social Imagination in Nineteenth-Century Japan* (Harvard 2006). He is currently completing work on his second book, *Stage and Spectacle in an Age of Print: Drama and Cultural Consumption in Nineteenth-Century Edo*. His Blakemore Refresher Grant will be used to update his Korean language skills in preparation for his next project, which will research the influence of Japanese culture from the 1890s through the 1920s on modern Korean literature, theater and cinema.