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## 2013 Blakemore Freeman Fellowships

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### **Campbell, Micaela**

B.A. 2001: Art History, University of Victoria  
M.A. 2005: Pacific & Asian Studies, University of Victoria  
Ph.D. Candidate 2016: History, University of Washington

ILCIC at Sanata Dharma University, Indonesia

Field: Formation of national identity; Southeast Asian cultural public sphere; religious identity;  
Indonesian art and literature

Michaela first visited Indonesia in 1999 after the fall of President Suharto's government, where its vibrant arts scene inspired her to focus on Southeast Asian art for her undergraduate degree at the University of Victoria. After graduation, she received a Darmasiswa Scholarship Award from the Indonesian Ministry of National Education for a year of language and fine arts study at Yogyakarta State University before returning to Canada to complete a master's degree in contemporary Indonesian literature.

Michaela is researching the role of arts communities in forming Indonesian national identity in the modern era.

### **DeSapio, Dominic**

B.A. 2004: International Studies, University of Miami  
M.A. 2006: International Studies, American University  
M.A. 2010: Political Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Ph.D. Candidate 2015: Political Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Inter-University Program for Chinese Language Studies at Tsinghua University, Beijing

Field: Comparative politics; natural disasters and environmental emergencies; China; political institutions;  
autocratic regimes

Dominic's undergraduate and master's studies focused on the Middle East and Arabic language studies, followed by assignments as an Iraq Project Assistant for the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs and the U.S. Institute of Peace. Finding himself with a few months' break, he decided to visit China for the first time in 2006. In Shanghai, Dominic enrolled in a language program, teaching English at night to a group of Chinese chemical engineers to support himself. The semester program turned into three years of language study at Shanghai Jiatong University and the Beijing Language & Culture University.

Dominic received a National Science Foundation IGERT Fellowship from 2009-2011, participating in a study aimed at understanding the interactions of biological, physical, social, economic, and governance conditions in the eastern Himalayas of southwest China. His Ph.D. dissertation will investigate how China's government manages crises such as public health epidemics and natural disasters, while seeking to identify the mechanisms that make "autocracy work" in some regions of the world.

## **Hick, Peter Armen Kassabian**

B.A. 2011: History, Williams College

M.A. 2013: East Asian Studies, Stanford University

Inter-University Program for Chinese Language Studies at Tsinghua University, Beijing

Field : Modern Chinese history; rise of China; nature and emergence of modern Chinese nationalism

As an undergraduate, Peter Hick's academic interest in the history of war and revolution focused on the study of Soviet Communism. His thesis, "Writing for Stalin: Anglo-American Journalists and the Soviet Famine, 1928-1934" grew out of a year abroad at Oxford's Exeter College, and his study of the Soviet Union led to exploring Chinese history and a trip across the Middle Kingdom by train in summer 2010. After graduation from Williams College, Peter enrolled in Middlebury's Chinese Summer Language School to begin his study of Mandarin, before matriculating at Stanford University, where his studies were supported by a Dolores Zohrab Liebmann Fellowship.

Peter plans to pursue a Ph.D. in modern Chinese history after completing his Blakemore Freeman Fellowship year at the IUP.

## **Kingdon, Nathaniel**

B.A. 2006: Art History, University of Wisconsin

M.A. 2012: Korean Art History, UCLA

Ph.D. Candidate 2016: Korean Art History, UCLA

KCLEC at Seoul National University

Field: Interactions between European and East Asian art and visual culture; Asian exposure to Western artistic techniques and scientific/philosophical ideas; 18th century Korean art

After graduating from the University of Wisconsin, Nathaniel spent two years teaching English at a middle school in the countryside upriver from Seoul, where he learned a bit of Korean on the soccer field and hiking with friends in the mountains. Visiting museums and art galleries sparked an interest in Korean art, and with several friends, he co-founded the art magazine *Speakeasy*. He moved to China for a year, serving as assistant curator at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Beijing, and then returned to Korea to study language at Kangwŏn University before enrolling as a graduate student in art history at UCLA.

In 2012, he was selected as a National Museum of Korea Fellow, producing a paper *Anatomy of Fish: Chang Hanjong's Screen of Fish and Sea-Life at the National Museum*, published in the museum's journal. For his Ph.D. dissertation, he is researching artistic exchanges between Chosŏn Korea and Europe in the 18th century, focusing on a set of albums produced by a progressive Korean scholar during an embassy to Beijing in 1784.

## **Linzer, Joanna**

B.A. 2011: History, Yale University

M.A. 2013: Regional Studies, East Asia, Harvard University

Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies, Yokohama

Field: early modern Japanese history; Tokugawa period; history of Japanese agriculture and rural Japan; environmental history

Joanna focused on medieval Icelandic history as a Yale undergraduate, but a course on the empires of East Asia introduced her to Tokugawa-era Japan. Intrigued by the wealth of surviving documents available to historians of its pre-modern era, she entered Harvard's Regional Studies program determined to learn Japanese. Her first visit to Asia soon followed, and she spent a summer living with a farm family outside Hakodate while attending the Hokkaido International Foundation Japanese Language and Japanese Culture Program.

Following her Blakemore Freeman year, Joanna will be entering Yale University in fall 2014 to pursue a Ph.D. in History, exploring the reciprocal connections among rural farm villages, castle towns and Edo in Tokugawa society.

## **McGinnis, Scott**

B.A. 2004: International & Area Studies, Washington University

M.A. 2008: East Asian Studies, Washington University

M.A. 2011: History, University of California at Berkeley

Ph.D. Candidate 2016: History, University of California at Berkeley

International Chinese Language Program at National Taiwan University

Field: Early Chinese intellectual history and historiography; Han era; digital humanities

Scott jumped into Asian studies as an undergraduate at Washington University in St. Louis, taking classes on the literature of early and imperial China and the history of Japan his first semester, and began his study of Mandarin the following year. He became involved with digital humanities while pursuing a master's degree at Washington University, working on TEI-based text encoding projects for the university's digital library services unit. He continues to experiment with ways to use computing technology in his research on early China.

Scott's dissertation will explore the relationship between historical inquiry and astronomy, chronology, divination and cosmology in Han-era texts.

## **McGovern, Nathan Michael**

B.A. 2003: Physics & Religious Studies, Franklin and Marshall College  
M.A. 2006: Religious Studies, University of California at Santa Barbara  
Ph.D. 2013: Religious Studies, University of California at Santa Barbara

International Chinese Language Program at National Taiwan University

Field: Early South Asian religion; Southeast Asian religion; comparative Hindu/Buddhist studies

Nathan began his study of Chinese in 2006, as he was finishing an M.A. thesis that focused on the worship of the Hindu god Brahma in Thailand. The results of his language studies and research on early Buddhist texts resulted in Nathan's doctoral dissertation "Buddhists, Brahmins, and Buddhist Brahmins: Negotiating Identities in Indian Antiquity", which focused on a close comparison of sutras preserved in both Pali and Chinese to examine the formation of identity in early Indian Buddhism.

After his Blakemore Freeman year, Nathan intends to expand his research to the Vinaya literature that deals with monastic discipline, comparing the Theravada version in Pali and the Mulasarvastivada version in Tibetan with four complete versions existing in Chinese.

## **McNelly, Kimberly**

B.A. 2008: East Asian Languages and Cultures, Smith College  
M.A. Candidate 2015: Asian Studies, University of British Columbia

Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies, Yokohama

Field: Women's literature of medieval Japan; Japanese medieval poetics; pre-modern Japanese travel diaries; Kamakura era

Kimberly began her study of Japanese as a freshman at Smith College, and spent her junior year abroad in the Associated Kyoto Program at Doshisha University. After graduation, she spent three years with the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program as an assistant language teacher in Tsushima, Japan before matriculating at the University of British Columbia. In her M.A. program, she is researching the female perspective on the Genpei war detailed in *The Poetic Memoirs of Lady Daibu* (ca. 1220).

After her Blakemore Freeman year, Kimberly will return to UBC to complete her master's degree before continuing her research on medieval Japanese women's literature in a Ph.D. program.

## **Schoen, Lucas**

B.A. 2003: Anthropology, Dartmouth College

M.A. 2010: International Relations, Fletcher School, Tufts University

Project Manager, World Resources Institute

Inter-University Program for Chinese Language Studies at Tsinghua University, Beijing

Field : Clean energy; international environment and resource policy; Pacific Asia development economics

After graduating from Dartmouth College, Luke spent three years in Yamagata, Japan as an assistant language teacher with the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program before beginning his graduate studies at Tufts. At its Fletcher School, he served as a summer Fellow with the EPA's National Network for Environmental Management Studies, submitting a master's thesis with a comparative analysis of smart electricity grid development in the U.S. and China.

Luke's interest in China began at Dartmouth, when he started his study of Mandarin his freshman year, followed by a summer language program at Beijing Normal University and an internship at CNN's Beijing bureau. At the World Resources Institute, he served as a manager of its ChinaFAQS.org project and developed issue briefs on U.S.-China renewable energy development involving public-private partnerships.

After his Blakemore Freeman year, Luke plans to continue his work strengthening U.S.-China business relations and promoting clean energy and sustainable development in China, either in the private sector or through government service.

## **Spitz, Benjamin**

B.A. 2004: Psychology, Middlebury College

J.D. 2010: Law, Georgetown University Law Center

M.S.F.S. 2010: Foreign Service, International Commerce & Business Certificate

Georgetown University Walsh School of Foreign Service  
Attorney, Wilson Sonsini Goodrich and Rosati

Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies, Yokohama

Field: Business start-ups; venture capital; corporate finance

Ben studied his junior year abroad at the Universidad de Valparaiso in Chile, which led to his senior honors thesis on the role cultural differences play in cognitive processes. After graduation, he spent two years as an assistant language teacher with the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program in rural Akita, where in addition to his teaching duties he learned sword-wielding techniques from a local expert and met his future wife. At Georgetown University he earned a joint J.D./M.S.F.S. degree focusing on international business before joining the Silicon Valley law firm Wilson Sonsini Goodrich and Rosati.

Ben would like to use his Silicon Valley background to help develop and connect aspiring Japanese entrepreneurs with the global business infrastructure of institutional funding, venture capital and angel investment.

## **Thibaut, Aubrey “Kenton”**

B.A. 2011: International Relations, Louisiana State University

B.A. 2011: Political Science, Louisiana State University

2012 Fulbright English Teaching Assistant, Chenggong Elementary School, Yilan County, Taiwan

International Chinese Language Program at National Taiwan University

Field: Political science; public policy, conflict resolution; U.S. Foreign Service

Kenton grew up in a tiny farming community in Louisiana. As a child, adventure meant riding in the back of her dad’s pickup on Saturday nights to go coon spotting in the woods behind her grandmother’s house. Then a grant from Louisiana State University sent her to China for three weeks following her high school graduation, and her view of the world changed.

In college, Kenton majored in International Relations and Political Science and began to study Mandarin. Research in China during her junior year abroad at Sichuan University developed into her paper “Citizenship, Social Protest and Possible Foundations for Institutionalizing Conflict Resolution in China”, which won LSU’s Rudd Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Thesis. She then received a 2012 Fulbright to teach English to first and third graders at an elementary school in rural Taiwan.

After her Blakemore Freeman year, Kenton would like to pursue a joint Ph.D. program in Political Science and Public Policy as preparation for joining the U.S. Foreign Service in its political science track.

## **Tucker, Beth Megan**

B.A. 1999: Liberal Arts, Sarah Lawrence College

M.A. 2006: Liberal Arts, Johns Hopkins University

Ph.D. Candidate 2015: East Asian Languages & Cultures, University of Pennsylvania

Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies, Yokohama

Field: Mourning poetics in classical Japanese literature; literary and cultural theory; East Asian religions; Heian period

Beth became interested in Japan as an undergraduate while taking courses on East Asian religion, but she did not begin formal study of Japanese until entering her Ph.D. program. She is now learning to read *hentaigana* (nonstandard Japanese syllabary) and *kuzushiji* (cursive characters) as a member of the UK early-modern text reading group led by Dr. Laura Moeti at the University of Cambridge.

Her dissertation project will examine the inter-textual relations among *The Tale of Genji* and succeeding works that reference the complex mourning rituals and changing views on spirit pacification that were appearing in Heian court culture, and which have since been employed by both medieval and modern artists in illustrated texts.

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## 2013 Blakemore Refresher Grant

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### **Borchert, Thomas**

B.A. 1992: Religious Studies, Swarthmore College  
M.A. 1997: Religious Studies, University of Chicago  
Ph.D. 2006: History of Religions, University of Chicago  
Associate Professor, Dept. of Religion, University of Vermont

Advanced Study of Thai Program, Chulalongkorn University

Field: Contemporary monasticism in China and Thailand; political and religious identify; Theravada Buddhist traditions of mainland SE Asia

Professor Borchert spent a year in Hokkaido, Japan as an assistant language teacher with the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program after graduating from Swarthmore College. He then taught English at a monastic high school in Chiang Mai before returning to the States. As a graduate student at the University of Chicago, his research focused on a minority Buddhist community in Southwest China, the Dai-lue of Sipsongpanna, examining what it means to be both Chinese and a member of the regional Tai peoples.

He has been a professor in the Department of Religion at the University of Vermont since 2006, and in the spring 2010, was a Visiting Research Fellow at the Nalanda-Sriwijaya Center at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies in Singapore. His current book project will examine citizenship and monastic identity in China and Thailand.