

Newsletter of the University of California's Pacific Rim Research Program (PRRP)  
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**PRRP Investigators Report on Recent Research Findings**

Efforts to retain and reconstruct cultural heritage have become increasingly important in many countries faced with globalization or with the aftermath of wars. UCSC Professor **Kathy Foley** looked at the transitions in support, content,



Cambodian AIDS orphans trained in classical dance,

and presentation of the arts of puppetry and dance in contemporary Cambodia and Thailand, countries in which classical theatre has traditionally been used to depict monarchical rule as divinely

below. Artist Kasim manipulates a Cambodian Ayang folk puppet, above; a Hun-Kabok, a traditional Thai court puppet, right.



Photos courtesy of Kathy Foley

ordained. In post-Pol Pot Cambodia, innovative efforts have come forth to restore traditions destroyed by war and political unrest, whereas a relatively stable kingship and strong economy in Thailand have kept the performing arts firmly embedded in the nation's consciousness. In Cambodia, for example, the Apsarasa



Foundation works to revive traditional dance among youths by providing room, board and education to AIDS orphans. Foley's research has resulted in

several puppetry exhibitions in the U.S. and Canada, as well as lectures, presentations, and journal articles. (See pages 2-3 for more reports of recent research findings.)

**PROGRAM ANNOUNCES 2003-2004 GRANT AWARDS**

The PRRP Executive Committee convened in May to make its 2003-04 grant awards. The Committee recommended funding 35 proposals, including the dissertation research projects of thirteen UC graduate students. Fully one third of the grants were in fields of the humanities, and another third in the social sciences. The balance of awards were in fields of the health sciences and environmental sciences. Awards totaled \$542,000. For the complete list, see pages 4 and 5 of this newsletter.

The diversity of PRRP projects can be glimpsed from the titles of this year's funded research and from the sampling of research

findings featured in this issue of *Currents*. These projects span the disciplines from public health, the environment, education, to the performing arts, urban design and religion. Most projects are interdisciplinary or multi-disciplinary in nature. PRRP researchers not only study the flows and interactions among countries, cultures and peoples in the contemporary context, but are increasingly revealing the complex historical roots of these phenomena. Indeed, this year there are a number of historical projects focusing on such issues as maritime trade, court life, racial identity in colonial times, early film, literature and the Chinese diaspora.

## RECENT PRRP RESEARCH PROJECT FINDINGS

A PRRP planning grant helped Dr. **Jorge Meneses-Loja** of UCSD and colleagues to conduct a school building seismic vulnerability survey in Peru, Costa Rica, and Mexico. Using rapid visual screening methods, the researchers created a database of current school building safety assessment in those countries. Over 100 school buildings in each city were studied for geological and local soil conditions, typical structural systems, construction procedures and structural problems. The method used in the survey proved to be effective in capturing basic features of the buildings for rapid and economical assessments of seismic vulnerability. The researchers hope to recommend the establishment of a standard screening method, and in the long run, to develop practical earthquake hazard reduction programs in Latin-American Pacific Rim countries.

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Dr. **Mary O'Connor** of UC Santa Barbara recently studied the transnational aspects of the evangelical conversion of Mexican immigrants. In the early 1900s, the converted Mexican and Central American immigrants in the U.S. repatriated as missionaries. Over the years, churches in Mexico started sending members to the U.S. to convert fellow immigrants. Thus began the back-and-forth transnational process of evangelical proselytization that exists to this day and that has, since the 1980s, seen tremendous growth. For many immigrants, frequent church services not only provide spiritual guidance but also offer social support and a close-knit community, leading to lifestyle and behavior changes. These changes include increases in the well-being of households—especially those of women. The study explored the history of different denominations and their differences in monetary contribution from the congregation, roles of women, and behavioral rules. Dr. O'Connor believes that economic crises in Latin America since the early 1980s have precipitated the rapid growth in churches, which have replaced government programs in providing much needed social services.

\*

Upon returning from a trip to a remote mountain town in China's Qinghai Province in 2001, Professor **Richard Baum** recruited several UCLA scholars and eleven students to teach English at six minority nationality villages in the area. For three weeks, aided by dedicated local teachers, the volunteers helped students

improve their English language skills which, combined with internet usage training, in turn helped villagers submit grant proposals for local infrastructure development and improvement. The English lessons were part of a research project that studied the function of civil society through the Sanchuan Development Association, a local non-governmental organization. The Association was established by volunteers to propose, fund, and implement locally-based poverty alleviation projects that range from schoolroom and toilet construction



English class in Qinghai Province, China, above; and the graduation ceremony, below. Courtesy of the UCLA International Institute

to well-digging and minority culture preservation. The combination of grassroots entrepreneurship and internet use has led to the remarkable success of this



organization, which has so far maintained a great degree of autonomy, free from government control. How to continue this success while maintaining autonomy is a challenge faced by such local development associations. The summer project is featured at: <http://www.international.ucla.edu/article.asp?parentid=2090>

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UCSC graduate student **Sasha Welland** based her dissertation on an ethnographic project that examined contemporary Chinese art world framed by current theories of globalization and the interpretation of art through both cultural and linguistic translation. Ms. Welland studied the role of modern Chinese visual art—its aesthetic, cultural, and market value—in a society that is caught between socialism and transnational capitalism, and in which traditional culture is constantly deemed on the verge of 'vanishing'. This condition in turn heightens, Welland maintains, the sense of modernity in those who are working through the transition. One of the project's foci was the struggle faced by

artists—both in daily life and with regard to the legitimacy of their art under Chinese officialdom. Welland explored the contemporary phenomenon of hiring migrant workers to produce artwork that combine creative painting and traditional artisan drawing. She compared the similarities of the ‘wanderer’ status of artists and migrant workers—both exist under government-controlled flows. Artists try to gain western acceptance and exposure while workers try to earn a living through rural-urban migration. Much of the research was conducted through observation in the field through the lenses of anthropology, history, and ethnography, including autoethnography (personalized research drawn on author’s own experiences).



Above, *Portable Cities*, artist Yin Xiuzhen’s installation of suitcases and old clothing, depicting modern Chinese artists’ lives marked by international travel. Paintings by Wang Yin and migrant artisans, above right and below. Courtesy of Sasha Welland.



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As part of an eleven-year research collaboration between Kyoto University and UC Berkeley, Associate Adjunct Professor **Marcia McNally** brought to Kyoto a method that classifies neighborhood physical characteristics in terms of structure, nature, network, and setting. The vignettes can be used for assessing, planning and designing neighborhoods and communities. The method was used by American and Japanese students in their respective neighborhood studies in Los Angeles and Kyoto. In Kyoto, a consortium is trying to preserve the city’s remarkable physical heritage in the face of urban development pressures. The studies generated a model for research exchanges in urban planning and design and served as a basis for a comparative cross-cultural discussion of neighborhood planning. Besides the two original study sites, this method of measurement will also be further tested in Taiwan.

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A PRRP grant enabled the UCSD Center for Pacific Rim Health Studies to define a research agenda through a planning workshop and several workgroups involving epidemiology, biology, atmospheric and environmental sciences. Dr. **Antonino Catanzaro**, joined by researchers from thirteen institutions in the U.S., the Philippines, and Thailand, focused on the health impacts of global climate change and the environment, as well as vector-borne diseases such as dengue fever, cholera, and tuberculosis. Projects being developed include a state-of-the art air quality observatory in San Diego and collaborative effort with the United Nations to study the long-range health effects of air pollution in the U.S. and Southeast Asia. On the disease front, studies are underway to assess the relevance to the other Pacific Rim regions of dengue transmission models developed in Peru. The researchers are also collaborating through the use of geographic information sciences to study water- and vector-borne diseases, and are using advanced portable monitoring systems to study pollution levels and their resulting physiological manifestations. The project hopes to spur interactions among experts in disparate fields, thereby creating novel insights into important health issues.

\*

HIV cases have steadily risen at an alarming rate during the past decade in African and Asian countries. In war-torn areas where the social fabric has been altered by population displacement and life style changes, HIV prevalence among sex workers and their clients has become a public health concern, especially in view of the high likelihood of those infected clients transmitting the disease to other sexual partners. In an effort to develop effective intervention programs to reduce HIV infections, Dr. **Leng Bun Hor** and Professor **Roger Detels** of UCLA, together with collaborators, interviewed and collected blood samples from brothel clients in three Cambodian provinces. Data analysis of demographic characteristics, sexual behaviors, level of HIV/AIDS knowledge and frequency of condom use indicated that despite increased HIV knowledge and brothel condom use, the percentage of HIV infection among those clients remained high—at close to 10%. Of particular concern is that those men apparently rarely used condom with their other sexual partners. This will lead to increased HIV infection among the sex partners and new-born babies in years to come. Possible effective intervention strategies include better prenatal care, increased availability of higher quality condoms, reduced stigma regarding non-brothel condom usage, and migrant worker education.



## 2003-2004 Pacific Rim Research Program Awards

The Executive Committee of the Pacific Rim Research Program awarded 35 grants in the 2003-2004 competition. Principal Investigators and project titles are listed below. Faculty advisors of graduate student awardees are in parentheses.

### BERKELEY

#### Chris Berry

*Can Filmmaking Be a Public Sphere? Documentary Film and Video in East Asia as Social Practice*

#### Peng Gong

*Detecting Forest Cover Changes in Laos' Border Forests - a Case Study of the Impact on its Forest Resource from the Timber Trade with China*

#### Daromir Rudnyckyj (Aihwa Ong)

*Islamic Networks and the Politics of Privatization: Spiritual Economy in Post-Suharto Indonesia*

#### Harry Scheiber

*Regional Cooperation Against Illegal Fishing in the Pacific Ocean: Policy Options and Implementation Strategies for Sustainable Use*

### DAVIS

#### Mark Carey (Charles F. Walker)

*Grappling with Glaciers: Climate Change and Society in the Andes, 1941-2003*

#### Mark Francis

*Constructing Communities in the Face of Change: Workshop on Community Design and Social Change in the Pacific Rim*

#### Sheldon Lu

*"Literary Studies in the Age of Globalization": An International Conference*

#### Jeanine Pfeiffer (Daniel Potter)

*Cultures of Grass: The Historical Ecology and Biocultural Diversity of Traditional Cultivars and Their Cultivators Across the Pacific Rim*

#### Li Zhang

*The Social, Cultural, and Political Implications of Privatization in China*

### IRVINE

#### Kenneth Chew

*Documentary Clues About Clandestine Migration: Steamship Passenger Manifests and the Chinese American Diaspora, 1882-1943*

#### Raul Lejano

*Institutions for Regional Governance: Options for Collaborative Management of the SULU-SULAWESI Marine Ecoregion*

#### Anne Walthall

*Palace Women and Court Life Across the World*

#### Feng Wang

*Organizational Change and Income Inequality: Urban China and the United States*

#### Charles Wheeler

*Maritime Southeast Asia: The Sea as Center*

### LOS ANGELES

#### Christina Firpo (Geoffrey Robinson)

*Understanding Race: Civil Rights in Colonial Saigon*

#### John Froines

*Environmental Pollution, Genetic Susceptibility Genes, and Risk of Lung Cancer Among Chinese Female Non-Smokers in Taiyuan China*

#### JoAnna Poblete (Henry Yu)

*Conflicting Interests: Colonial and Expansionist Impact on Migration and Labor in Hawaii from 1900 to 1946*

#### John Swain (Carol Fisher-Sorgenfrei)

*Zainichi-Koreans and Contemporary Japanese Theatre: Nomads Still*

#### Mariko Tamanoi

*How to Envision the Global Ecological Interdependence? Tracing Wastes in the Pacific Rim Region*

### RIVERSIDE

#### Larissa Dobrzhinetskaya

*Diamond Discoveries Among Pacific Rim Neighboring Countries- Evidence of Deep Recycling of Carbon at Active Continental Boundaries and Its Implication for Earth's Geodynamics*



## 2003-2004 Pacific Rim Research Program Awards

**Alison Lee** (Tom C. Patterson)  
*Transnational Migration and Ecological Transformation: The Impact of Rapid Social Change on Natural Resource Management in Rural Sending Communities, Puebla, Mexico*

### SAN DIEGO

**Yu-Fang Cho** (Lisa Lowe)  
*Women's Rights, Racialized Labor, and the Rhetoric of Insurmountable Differences: American Women's Work of Benevolence and the Emergence of Chinese Modernity in Trans-Pacific Relations, 1870s -1910s*

**Wayne Cornelius**  
*The International Migration of "Traditional Women": Migrant Sex Workers, Domestic Workers, and Mail-Order Brides in the Pacific Rim*

**Gail Heyman**  
*Culture and Honesty: American and Chinese Children's Concept and Moral Judgment of Truth- and Lie-Telling*

**Carla Kirkwood** (James Carmody)  
*Intercultural Negotiation: China Meets America in Uncle Tom's Cabin*

**Miriam Padolsky** (Steven Epstein)  
*Speaking for Science and Nature: The Climate Change Campaigns of Australian and Canadian Environmental Groups*

### SAN FRANCISCO

**Jyu-Lin Chen**  
*Predictors of Changes in BMI Among Taiwanese Children*

**Ricardo Muñoz**  
*Pan American Smoking Cessation Trials via the Internet*

### SANTA BARBARA

**Jessica Chapman** (Fredrik Logevall)  
*Propaganda and the Public Debate Over Nationalism, Unification, and Modernization in South Vietnam, 1954-1960*

**Claire Conceison**  
*Telling Ying Ruocheng's Story: A Collaborative Autobiography of Eminent Chinese Artist, Statesman, and Cultural Ambassador*

**Hillary Haldane** (Alexander F. Robertson)  
*Multicultural Approaches in the Treatment of Domestic Violence: A Comparative Analysis of New Zealand's Asian, Maori, Pacific Islander, and Pakeha Shelters*

**Raymond Wong**  
*A New Breed of Chinese Entrepreneur in the Pacific Rim? Culture, Organizational Imperatives, and Globalization*

### SANTA CRUZ

**Diane Gifford-Gonzalez**  
*International Workshop on Northern Fur Seal Ecology, Biogeography, and Management in Historic Perspective*

**Sudarat Musikawong** (Herman Gray)  
*Mediating Memory of the 1970s in Thai Cinema*

**Yen-ling Tsai** (Anna Tsing)  
*Configuring "Chinese Ethnicity" in Post-Suharto Indonesia*

## 2003-2004 Pacific Rim Executive Committee Members

**Chair**  
Professor Michelle Yeh  
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**Berkeley Campus**  
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Earl Warren Legal Institute  
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**Davis Campus**  
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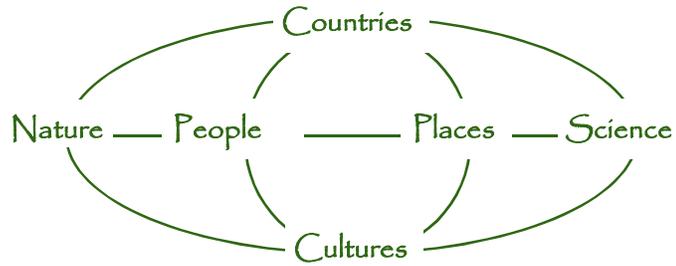
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**Agriculture and Natural Resources**  
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***Pacific Rim Research Program Funding Opportunities***

***The Program offers four types of grants:***

**RESEARCH GRANTS:** The regular grant program provides an average of \$20,000 (up to a maximum of \$45,000) to University of California faculty and graduate students.

**WORKSHOP AND PLANNING GRANTS:** The workshop and planning grant program provides up to \$15,000 to UC faculty and graduate students for conferences, workshops, and other collaborative research endeavors.

**FACULTY DEVELOPMENT GRANTS:** This new grant category supports UC faculty in developing new directions in Pacific Rim research. Awards of up to \$10,000 allow for short-term residency in the region, or the hosting of Pacific Rim scholars at UC campus.

These applications are reviewed first by campus committees, then by the PRRP Executive Committee. Campus deadlines vary from November to early January.

**MINI-GRANTS:** Small grants are awarded to support promising Pacific Rim-related research. Up to \$3,000 can be provided on a quarterly basis, if funds are available and the request meets the PRRP guidelines. To apply, contact your campus PRRP Executive Committee member listed on page 5.

For deadlines and application guidelines, please see the Call for Proposals and Guidelines, available at <http://www.ucop.edu/research/pacrim/>, or from your PRRP campus liaison, listed below.

Berkeley	David Garcia	510/643-3391
Davis	Rebeca Madrigal	530/754-6070
Irvine	Mia Larson	949/824-2998
Los Angeles	Clayton Dube	310/825-0007
Riverside	Mary Ann Beaman	909/787-4806
San Diego	Christopher Ayson	858/822-4620
San Francisco	Patricia Chapman	415/476-5742
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