

2007 TRIANGLE EAST ASIA COLLOQUIUM

SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 2007

FEDEX GLOBAL EDUCATION CENTER
Corner of McCauley and Pittsboro Streets
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

POLITICS, ECONOMY AND THE CHANGING SHAPES OF FAITH: GLOBALIZATION, RELIGION, AND THE STATE IN EAST ASIA

In recent years, East Asian nations have witnessed a host of religious innovations ranging from new religious movements to ethical reforms to material changes in ritual practices and patterns of popular religiosity. At the same time, “globalization” — a term that has come to index a diverse array of processes and effects associated with the growth and empowerment of a range of transnational political, economic and cultural forces and institutions — has inspired powerful political and economic changes throughout the region and its diasporic communities. The 2007 TEAC invites scholars in the Triangle and surrounding regions to examine the intersection of these transnational trends, state practices and new forms of religious and cultural agency, and to reflect on the questions that these transformations raise. In what ways can we understand the relations between current refigurations of political and economic power and new practices in the social and religious domains? What do these new movements and forms of religiosity reveal about states, their citizens, and their histories in East Asia? What do they reveal about neoliberalism in its global form? How are such political, economic and religious transformations shaping and remaking East Asian states and civil societies today?

FEATURED SPEAKERS

- **Robert Oppenheim** (Assistant Professor of Asian Studies, University of Texas at Austin)
- **Ellen Schattschneider** (Associate Professor of Anthropology, Brandeis University)
- **Robert Weller** (The Institute on Culture, Religion and World Affairs and Professor in the Department of Anthropology, Boston University)

*****We request that all participants RSVP by April 13th, so that we may organize lunch and the reception.*****

To register, contact Peter Landstrom, Center Manager, Carolina Asia Center. Tel: 919-843-0129 or email: plandstr@email.unc.edu

The 2007 Triangle East Asia Colloquium is organized by faculty at UNC-Chapel Hill.

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2007 Triangle East Asia Colloquium
Saturday, April 21, 2007

Program

9:00-9:30 Coffee and Pastries

9:30-10:45 Session I

Robert Oppenheim, University of Texas, Austin
"Tapsa, or, Historical Practices of Citizenship in Contemporary South Korea"

10:45-11:15 Break

11:15-12:30 Session II

Ellen Schattschneider, Brandeis University
"Honoring the Woman on the White Horse: Globalization and War Memory on the Northern Marianas Islands"

12:30-2:00 All Conference Lunch*

2:00-3:15 Session III

Robert Weller, Boston University
"Charisma in Motion: The Compassionate Relief Movement in Taiwan, Japan, Malaysia and the United States"

3:15-3:30 Break

3:30-4:00 General Discussion

Moderators: Lauren Leve and Chris Nelson (UNC-Chapel Hill)

4:00 Reception for all TEAC participants

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Dr. Robert Oppenheim is an Assistant Professor of Asian Studies at The University of Texas at Austin. Dr. Oppenheim studies the politics of culture and knowledge that flow out of various practices of collecting, selecting, encountering, centering, and materially caring for monuments and other objects in a historic landscape. The focal point of his research has been the historic Korean city of Kyôngju, the site of the first millennium kingdom of Silla, and the way its modern officials and inhabitants have negotiated conflicts between historical preservation and development, archaeology and everyday life. He is currently working on a research project on tapsa, a popular contemporary form of "field study" travel or domestic heritage tourism centering on individual or group visitation to historic monuments, often off the beaten track, in the interest of authentic experience.

Dr. Ellen Schattschneider is an Associate Professor in the Department of Anthropology at Brandeis University. A sociocultural anthropologist with strong ethnographic interests in Japan, her work focuses on ritual performance, gender and embodiment, spirit mediumship, sacred landscapes, visibility and the power of images, popular religious experience and comparative capitalist cultures. Her first book, *Immortal Wishes: Labor and Transcendence on a Japanese Sacred Mountain* (Duke University Press, 2003) explores healing, self-fashioning and embodied psychodynamic processes on a sacred landscape associated with a Shinto shrine founded by a rural Japanese woman in the 1920s. Her current book project, *Facing the Dead: Japan and its Dolls in the Mirror of War*, examines the significance of dolls and human figurines in popular Japanese experiences and memories of World War II.

Dr. Robert P. Weller is the Acting Director of Boston University's Institute on Culture, Religion and World Affairs and a Professor in the Department of Anthropology. His past and present research include the role of religious variation in Taiwan's changing economy and society, the development of the environmental movement and nature tourism in China and Taiwan in the context of economic growth, and the role of local voluntary organizations as mediators between state and society in Hong Kong, Taiwan and China. His most recent book is *Discovering Nature: Globalization and Environmental Culture in China and Taiwan* (Cambridge, 2006). Others include *Alternate Civilities: Democracy and Culture in China and Taiwan*; *Unities and Diversities in Chinese Religion* (1999); *Resistance, Chaos and Control in China: Taiping Rebels, Taiwanese Ghosts and Tiananmen* (1994); and *Unities and Diversities in Chinese Religion* (1987). His edited and co-edited volumes include *Civil Life, Globalization and Political Change in Asia* (2005); *Unruly Gods: Divinity and Society in China* (1996); and *Power and Protest in the Countryside: Studies of Rural Unrest in Asia, Europe and Latin America* (1982). He also has consulted on poverty and unemployment relief in western China.