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UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO



GLOBAL CAREERS THROUGH ASIA CONFERENCE

JANUARY 31, 2020 | 10:00AM-4:00PM

Boardroom/Library, 315 Bloor Street West
Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy

PRESENTED BY
Contemporary Asian Studies Student Union
Asian Institute



WELCOME

It is my sincere pleasure as the Director of the Asian Institute to welcome you to the 2020 Global Careers through Asia Conference. The annual conference provides guidance and inspiration to students seeking careers connected to Asia. It builds networks of our current students and faculty with experts in a variety of professions, international dignitaries from government ministries and private foundations, and our own program's alumni. Our aim is to promote students' efforts to plan creatively for their global careers. The influence of Asia's rise on the global stage is evident in every profession across public and private spheres. Whether graduates seek careers in education, urban planning, art, business, or health care, their knowledge of Asia will benefit them and the institutions where they work. At the Asian Institute, our teaching programs train students to develop scholarly expertise of immediate relevance to their future global careers.

We are deeply committed to our student community. Our undergraduate and graduate teaching programs are constantly evolving to bring students the most current pedagogical, methodological, and practical tools available in order to improve their understanding of global issues. We aim to prepare the next generation to serve as leaders in the conversations that weave Canada and the world into Asian contexts, and that thereby prompt thinking about Canada and the world with fresh insights. That's why this conference is focused on global careers through Asia. It aims to highlight the ways that Asia matters for the intellectual and professional trajectories of U of T students wherever their jobs may ultimately be located.

Part of what makes this conference so special is the active role our students play in organizing it. Each year, members of the Contemporary Asian Studies Student Union work closely with the Asian Institute to envision, plan, and execute the conference. This year's team did an excellent job of finding inspirational speakers from diverse fields—many of whom are our own alumni—to share what they have learned in their career journeys. I am confident that you will learn a great deal from the speakers and panelists we have lined up for you today, and from the conversations and ideas that their presentations are sure to initiate. I also encourage you to engage seriously in the conference's networking opportunities. It is often through the unplanned encounter, or the unexpected introduction that students find a door opens towards a future career.

Sincerely,

Professor Rachel Silvey
Richard Charles Lee Director, Asian Institute
Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy



ABOUT US

THE ASIAN INSTITUTE

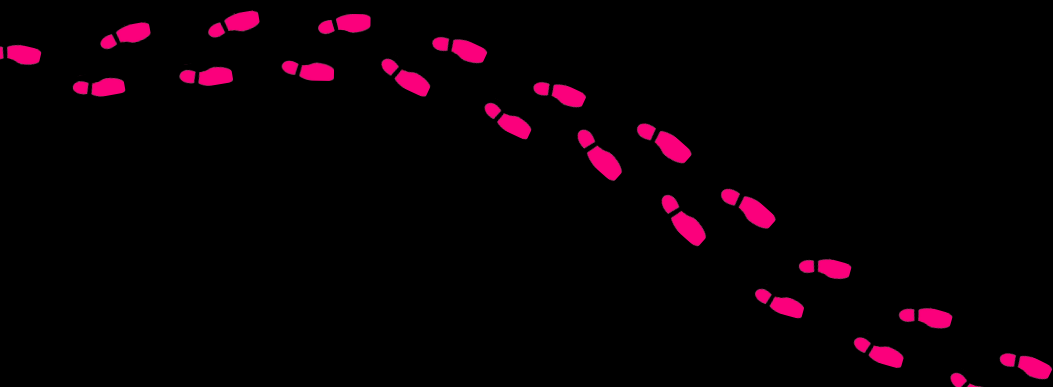
The Asian Institute is one of the world's leading centres of research excellence in Asian Studies. With over one hundred affiliated scholars working across the humanities and social sciences, the Asian Institute convenes and leads cross-regional, interdisciplinary research on Asia. Our faculty and students offer meaningful insights into a wide range of crucial issues at stake in this dynamic region of the globe. Asia's breakneck urbanization processes, social media and communications revolutions, and growing environmental crises all offer new challenges and demand creative interventions. Meanwhile, the creation of local literary, visual, and archeological sites as fields of a contested colonial and postcolonial past provide rich pathways to greater understanding of the region's complexity. The location of the Asian Institute at the University of Toronto, a premier university in a city with deep historical and vibrant contemporary ties to Asia, gives the Institute a rich academic and geographical anchor for research on Asia.

CONTEMPORARY ASIAN STUDIES STUDENT UNION

The Contemporary Asian Studies Student Union (CASSU) is the undergraduate course union for the Dr. David Chu Program in Contemporary Asian Studies at the University of Toronto. CASSU was founded in 2010 and strives to strengthen students' understanding of contemporary Asia from a global perspective in a non-classroom setting. CASSU organizes social, cultural, academic, and professional events related to Asia and represents all undergraduate students affiliated or registered with the Contemporary Asian Studies program.

GLOBAL CAREERS THROUGH ASIA CONFERENCE

The Global Careers through Asia Conference aims to get students thinking about how to plan for a global career in the twenty-first century. Whether students go on to work in Asia, Canada, or anywhere else, Asia plays an important role in the global economy. Thus, the ability to apply the skills and perspectives developed through Contemporary Asian Studies in their future careers will be crucial. The conference features panel presentations with speakers – including some of our own alumni—from a diverse range of industries, and a networking lunch and reception.



AGENDA

9:40 - 10:00

Registration

10:00 - 10:05

Opening Remarks

Rachel Silvey, Richard Charles Lee Director, Asian Institute

10:05 - 11:00

Keynote Panel: In Conversation

Rachel Silvey, Richard Charles Lee Director, Asian Institute

*The Honourable Senator Thanh Hai Ngo, Senator,
Conservative Party of Canada (Ontario)*

*Irene Poetranto, Senior Researcher, Citizen Lab, Munk
School of Global Affairs & Public Policy*

11:00 - 11:55

Industry Panel 1: Public Sector

*Dennis Lee, Senior Business Development Specialist, Ontario
Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade*

*Sarah Alam, EdD Student, Social Justice Education; Ontario
Institute for Studies in Education; Former Senior Cultural
Affairs Specialist, U.S. Department of State, Pakistan*

11:55 - 12:40

Lunch

12:40 - 13:40

Industry Panel 2: Arts & Media

*Sidney Chiu, Producer, SC Productions; Vice-Chair, Board of
Directors, Toronto International Reel Asian Film Festival*

*Anita Li, Media Consultant & Journalism Professor, Centennial
College & The City University of New York; Founder & Editor-
in-Chief, The Other Wave*

*Owen Guo, Former reporter, New York Times, Financial Times
Beijing*

13:40 - 13:50

Break

13:50 - 14:50

Industry Panel 3: Private Sector

Sharon Kour, Partner, Brauti Thorning LLP

*Atul Menon, Senior Manager, Country Risk Intelligence & List
Management, RBC*

Danielle O'Campo, Senior Strategy Consultant, Optimus SBR

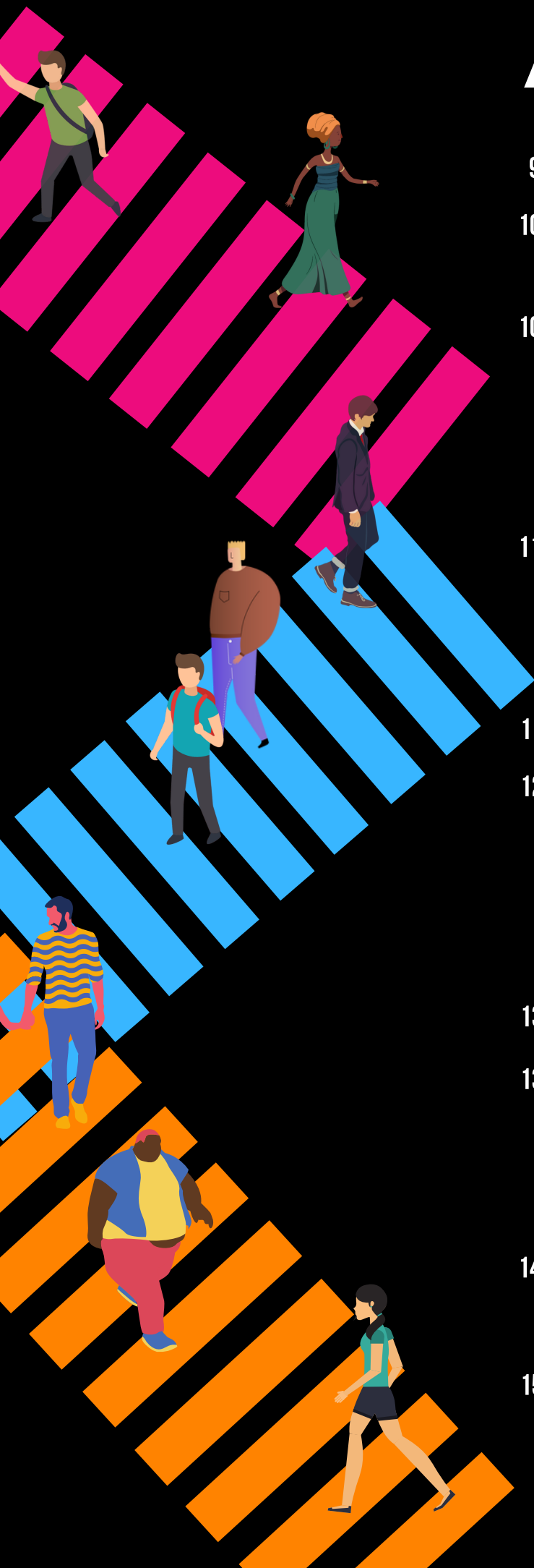
14:50 - 15:00

Closing Remarks

*Mia Nguyen & Angelah Liu, Co-Chairs, Contemporary Asian
Studies Student Union (CASSU)*

15:00 - 16:00

Reception



SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

KEYNOTE PANEL



Rachel Silvey

Rachel Silvey is Richard Charles Lee Director of the Asian Institute and Professor in the Department of Geography and Planning. She is a Faculty Affiliate in CDTS, WGSI, and the Ethnic, Immigration and Pluralism Studies Program. She received her Ph.D. in Geography from the University of Washington, Seattle, and a dual B.A. from the University of California at Santa Cruz in Environmental Studies and Southeast Asian Studies. Professor Silvey is best known for her research on women's labour and migration in Indonesia. She has published widely in the fields of migration studies, cultural and political geography, gender studies, and critical development. Her major funded research projects have focused on migration, gender, social networks, and economic development in Indonesia; immigration and employment among Southeast Asian-Americans; migration and marginalization in Bangladesh and Indonesia; and religion, rights and Indonesian migrant women workers in Saudi Arabia.



The Honourable Senator Thanh Hai Ngo

The Honourable Senator Thanh Hai Ngo was appointed to the Senate on September 6, 2012, by the Right Honourable Governor General David Johnston on the advice of the Right Honourable Prime Minister Stephen Harper. Senator Ngo immigrated to Canada in 1975 following the fall of Saigon and the rise of communism in Vietnam. He is the first Canadian of Vietnamese origin to sit in the Senate. In Parliament, Senator Ngo continues to advocate for freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law, and he continues to be a champion against oppression in Vietnam and around the world.



Irene Poetranto

Irene Poetranto is a Senior Researcher for the Citizen Lab and a Doctoral Student in Political Science at the University of Toronto. Her primary research interest is on cybersecurity policy development in the Global South, especially in the Asia-Pacific region. She obtained her Master's degree in Political Science and Asia-Pacific Studies from the University of Toronto, and a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of British Columbia.

INDUSTRY PANEL 1: PUBLIC SECTOR



Dennis Lee

Dennis Lee is a Senior Business Development Specialist with the Ontario Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade. He is responsible for increasing the number of foreign and domestic investments attracted to the province, and serves as a sector expert for emerging technologies like flexible & hybrid electronics (FHE) and additive manufacturing. Dennis joined the Ontario Public Service in 2011 after receiving his Master of Public Policy studies at the University of Toronto. Prior to this, he held a number of research-oriented roles, including positions with the City of Toronto and St. Michael's Hospital. His passion for policy issues prompted him and his friends to create "Beyond the Headlines," a current affairs radio show that continues to air on CIUT 89.5 FM. He also holds an Honours Bachelor of Arts degree from UofT, where he completed his training in the Collaborative Master's in Asia-Pacific Studies program.



Sarah Alam

Sarah Alam is an EdD (Doctor of Education) student pursuing a collaborative program in Social Justice Education and South Asian Studies at the University of Toronto. She is also a former Public Diplomacy Specialist at U.S. Mission in Karachi Pakistan for the Sindh and Baluchistan provinces from 2010-2018. She is certified in grants management and has experience in social activism, professional development training, team leadership, and NGO Management. At present, she is working at the Asian Institute at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy. She is the founder Chairperson of the North American Association for South Asian Affairs (NAASAA), a registered not for profit organization based in Canada working to address Social Justice Issues in the South Asian region. She has served for several years on not for profit organizations in Pakistan as their board member and Director, including IEARNS Pakistan, Special Olympics of Pakistan, Young Social Reformers, and Pak-US Alumni Network. She availed 18 International Scholarships and three USG funded exchange programs. She has also taught media studies and business communication to undergraduate students as a visiting lecturer at the University of Karachi and Jinnah University for Women.

INDUSTRY PANEL 2: ARTS & MEDIA



Sidney Chiu

With a focus on films with international appeal, Sidney Chiu's producing credits include LOVE JACKED, a Canada South African romantic comedy co-production starring Amber West and Keith David—winner of the Best Narrative Feature at the Pan African Film Festival (Los Angeles) 2018. COCONUT HERO, a Canada German co-production with Six Island Productions and UFA Fiction directed by Florian Cossen and Lola nominated, winner of the Best Film in Focus at the Zurich Film Festival in 2015, BANG BANG BABY starring Jane Levy, and Peter Stormare for Scythia Films, winner of the Claude Jutra Award at the Toronto International Film Festival in 2015. Sidney was also the Production Manager on the Mandarin romantic comedy FINDING MR RIGHT, which grossed over 80 Million USD. THREE DAYS IN HAVANA starring Gil Bellows directed by Tony Pantages and Gil Bellows, shot in Havana Cuba with E1 distributing in Canada. Sidney's first produced feature entitled A NIGHT FOR DYING TIGERS written / directed by Terry Miles premiered at TIFF in 2012.



Anita Li

Anita Li is a media consultant and journalism professor who has worked as a multi-platform journalist in Toronto, New York City and Ottawa. Anita started out her career as a reporter and editor at Canadian establishment publications, including The Toronto Star, The Globe and Mail and CBC. After that, she worked in strategic roles at American digital media startups, such as Fusion, Complex Media and Mashable. Anita was the former director of communities at The Discourse, a disruptive new player in Canadian media that fills in gaps in news coverage for underserved communities. She is also a member of the 2020-21 Online News Association board of directors. Given her unique background, Anita has established herself an industry leader and expert in journalism innovation, audience-pay business models, newsroom diversity, and media ethics. She is a frequent media commentator who has spoken on these topics in press interviews and at conferences worldwide.

INDUSTRY PANEL 2: ARTS & MEDIA



Owen Guo

A storyteller and a news junkie, Owen Guo is a second-year Master of Global Affairs candidate at the Munk School. During his seven-year journalism career, he was once chased by thugs on a highway, fought government censorship, and amusingly, wrote about how Western deodorant producers failed to conquer the Chinese armpit. Before moving to Toronto, he was a researcher and writer in the Beijing bureau of the New York Times, covering business and politics in China. Prior to the Times, he was an assistant journalist for the Financial Times in Beijing, focusing on China's energy and environmental issues. He holds a master's degree in intercultural communication from Shanghai International Studies University. Currently, he's contemplating a book about Canadian niceness and its social implications.

INDUSTRY PANEL 3: PRIVATE SECTOR



Sharon Kour

Sharon is a restructuring and insolvency lawyer. She practiced for close to ten years at McCarthy Tetrault LLP before joining her partners at Brauti Thorning LLP to build a boutique insolvency and restructuring group. Sharon's practice focuses on insolvency deals and litigation, enforcement proceedings, distressed asset sales, and complex commercial and international disputes. Sharon is experienced counsel in cross-border matters. She has represented clients from various jurisdictions, including China, Singapore, and the United States. Sharon obtained her undergraduate degree from Trinity College at the University of Toronto where she graduated with Distinction. She obtained her J.D. from Western Law in 2009.



Atul Menon

Atul joins us from RBC, where he recently started as a Senior Manager, Country Risk Intelligence & List Management. At RBC, Atul's new role deals with the detection, evaluation, and mitigation of regulatory, geo-political, reputational, financial, and legal exposure to global anti-money laundering, sanctions, and other financial crimes issues. Prior to this, Atul worked at Scotiabank (Global Risk Management) as a Manager, Country and Industry Risk Analysis. At Scotiabank, Atul's role encompassed multiple projects/deliverables, which ranged from helping enhance the risk insights and analysis produced by GRM, supporting the credit officers in adapting and improving industry risk reports, and other projects. Atul was also a co-founder of the Global Risk Observatory at the Munk School. The Global Risk Observatory monitors traditional and non-traditional qualitative risks to the global public-sector, private-sector, and civil society. Atul holds a Master of Global Affairs from the Munk School and a BA in International Studies from Simon Fraser University.



Danielle O'Campo

Danielle is an experienced strategy and operations management consultant with experience working on strategy, management, design thinking, and behavioral economics projects in leading firms in Southeast Asia and Canada. Over the last 6 years, she has advised clients across various sectors, specifically FMCG, food and beverage, hospitality, telecommunications, and financial services. She has founded a social enterprise for the livelihood of farmers in the Philippines and has been culturally immersed and exposed to around 30 countries.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Mia Nguyen

Co-Chair, CASSU

Angelah Yilin Liu

Co-Chair, CASSU

Kana Minju Bak

Director of Marketing, CASSU

Deep Leekha

Director of Public Relations, CASSU

Cynthia Jutras

Treasurer, CASSU

Jonathan Wang

Executive Associate, CASSU

Yun Carey Hao

Executive Associate, CASSU

Abena Somiah

Secretary, CASSU

Christal Cheng

First Year Representative, CASSU

Amy Huan Chen

Fall Term Photographer, CASSU

Catherine Wang

Winter Term Photographer, CASSU

Yiching Wu

Director, Contemporary Asian Studies

Rachel Silvey

Director, Asian Institute

Nina Boric

Manager, Asian Institute

Shannon Garden-Smith

Research Coordinator, Asian Institute

Dasha Kuznetsova

*Event Coordinator & Administrator,
Asian Institute*

Katherine MacIvor

*Program Advisor &
Communications Officer, Asian Institute*



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