Asia is home to more than half the world's population. Its cultural and historical complexity is endless, its economic growth unprecedented, and its global influence unmatched. Our job is to understand it better.

ASIAN INSIGHTS ARE GLOBAL INSIGHTS

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.
INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH
From a wide range of disciplines across the University of Toronto, our faculty affiliates participate in making the Asian Institute a vibrant intellectual space. Through our cross-regional research programs, projects, and events, we provide scholars with the inspiration, support, and resources needed to produce leading-edge scholarship. Our pan-Asian approach furthers the deep, specialized knowledge about particular regions that is necessary to understand the complexities of local issues, while fostering transnational and interdisciplinary conversations that transcend and contextualize local viewpoints.

TEACHING PROGRAMS AND EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING
Our undergraduate and graduate programs further our research approach of balancing interdisciplinary regional specialization with pan-Asian and global conversations. Students are taught to challenge existing theoretical frameworks and address pressing real-world issues. The Asian Institute also offers distinctive hands-on learning experiences for students. Our curricular and extracurricular programs are at the vanguard of the University’s internationalization initiatives. We offer students life-changing field research opportunities at home and in Asia, and the firsthand knowledge they gain provides a crucial complement to their classroom learning.

PUBLIC EDUCATION
The Asian Institute is committed to public education about the historical and contemporary issues at the centre of faculty and student research. Individually and collaboratively with our constituent centres and other academic and cross-sectoral partners, the Asian Institute presents over one hundred academic events each year. Featuring the latest research of our own faculty and prominent scholars from around the globe, our events also place scholars and students in conversation with policymakers and industry leaders to address issues related to urbanization, poverty, global health, governance, climate change, and more.

“...The Asian Institute was the centrepiece of my undergraduate experience at the University of Toronto.”
Atif Khan (Alumnus)
“The Asian Institute has informed my global outlook. I am grateful for the unparalleled support and encouragement of staff and faculty, whose mentorship has made my student experience one of academic, professional, and personal growth.”

Angela Hou (Student)

“IT IS NO EXAGGERATION TO SAY THAT I FOUND A HOME AT THE ASIAN INSTITUTE DURING MY TIME AT U OF T. I HAD THE PLEASURE OF GOING ON SEVERAL FUNDED RESEARCH TRIPS TO ASIA, WHICH SHAPED MY ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL CAREER.”

Betty Xie (Alumna)

ASIAN INSTITUTE AT A GLANCE

AREA STUDIES AND INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH CENTRES

Centre for South Asian Studies
Centre for Southeast Asian Studies
Centre for the Study of Korea
Dr. David Chu Program in Asia-Pacific Studies
Global Taiwan Studies Program

RESEARCH AND OUTREACH

Richard Charles Lee Asian Pathways Research Lab
Urban Climate Resilience in Southeast Asia Partnership

TEACHING PROGRAMS

Collaborative Doctoral Specialization in South Asian Studies
Collaborative Master’s Specialization in South Asian Studies
Collaborative Master’s Specialization in Contemporary East & Southeast Asian Studies
Dr. David Chu Program in Contemporary Asian Studies (MAJOR & MINOR)
South Asian Studies (MINOR)

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