Enduring marginality of Women and Gender Studies scholarship within the field of Chinese Studies in European academia, whether in teaching or in doctoral research; but also the absence of an effective organisation to provide a necessary infrastructure of support, communication and solidarity – these were some of the compelling arguments for setting up an academic network. Since August 2001, when the Women and Gender in Chinese Studies Network (hereafter referred to as WAGNet) was called into existence by a small group of academics, our Network has served a widespread need for information, knowledge and communication. And has done so for an ever-growing list of members.

We have sought to turn our website into a resource to provide information and facilitation for academic conversation and activity. When you look at www.wagnet.ox.ac.uk you will find dedicated sites for members’ publications, for book reviews, for conferences and workshops, for relevant links, for the latest news and announcements, and you will also discover new sites we have created to enable sharing of working papers, reading lists, bibliographies and curricula.

We have attracted a seed grant from the Warwick University research and teaching development fund to set into motion development of the institutional framework and to apply for more funding. We have begun preparations for a graduate thesis workshop in September 2003 which has already benefited from a seed grant awarded by Oxford University East Asian Faculty Committee, underwriting work in progress for a workshop to attract graduates from European universities working in the field of gender and women’s studies in the Chinese field. And in recent meetings of the Network’s steering committee in Oxford and in Warwick, we have started to explore proposals for summer workshops and collaborative research projects.

We are beginning to shape out of these initiatives an identity, one might even say, a solidarity, on which members can draw for their own needs and sustenance. This identity is evolving from intra-European activities – in strengthening mutual knowledge and information as to the work, specialisations and situation of academics and independent scholars, at whatever stage of their career.

Already, within the short life-span of our Network, we have discovered the diversity and richness of gender-related scholarship, and we witnessed testimonies of such research (with contributions from colleagues outside Europe) at the EACS Moscow conference (in August 2002), where WAGNet convened a large number of sessions in the field of Chinese women and gender studies.

Naturally, and not unexpectedly, we are also encountering difficulties in the implementation of a more justly engendered academic practice: for example, in the tension between core activism and delegated responsibility; in the slow response from vested interest when it comes to dialog on, and practical support for, institutional
change; in the ever-present threat of national educational budget cuts and the vulnerability of ‘marginal’ disciplines to accounting priorities. But with this brief reminder to you we are also saying that change is under way. And that the growing list of members testifies to needs, interests, queries and demands that we hope the WAGNetwork is able to meet.

Therefore, Do come with projects, activities and plans relevant to women and gender studies and give yourself publicity through the Network. Post your news on our website; and make use of the email list to which all WAGNet members subscribe.

Maria Jaschok
Director of the International Gender Studies Centre, Queen Elizabeth House and affiliated to the Institute for Chinese Studies, Oxford University
E-mail: maria.jaschok@qeh.ox.ac.uk

CHINESE LANGUAGE CURRICULUM PROJECT SUPPORTED BY THE EU COMMISSION’S ASIA-LINK PROGRAMME

In November 2002, the Department of Asian Studies, University of Copenhagen, the East Asian Department, of Helsinki University, the Sinological Seminar of Tübingen University in co-operation with Peking University commenced a new project focusing on developing a European curriculum for Chinese language teaching. The three year project is supported by the EU Commission’s Asia-link programme under EuroAid.

The idea of developing new Chinese teaching materials was spurred by dissatisfied Chinese language teachers in all the abovementioned European university programmes of Chinese studies. Most teachers expressed dissatisfaction with the use of American or PRC curricula, because the teaching approaches or contents were unsuited to European students at university level. The financial support from the Asia-Link programme is now making it possible to write a new curriculum geared to European students at the beginning level in regard to both the content of texts and the pedagogical approach. Moreover, it is emphasised that the native language of the students (Danish, German or Finnish) is used in the textbooks, rather than English.

The project emphasises oral, reading and written skills in modern Chinese by applying content- and task-based teaching methods using video film clips and photographs both in the classroom as well as on the internet. Video film-clips are made on-site in Beijing and supplemented by audio facilities on the internet. Language exercises relating to grammar and character learning are also primarily accessed by way of the internet. Students will be able to solve language related problems and obtain immediate answers as well as having plenty of possibilities for practicing Chinese character recognition and listening comprehension.

Interested colleagues may contact Mette Thunø, Department of Asian Studies, University of Copenhagen for more information (mette@hum.ku.dk)
“CHINA INSIDE OUT”
A WEB-BASED LEARNING TEXT

The site http://cio.ceu.hu/courses/CIO is edited by Joana Breidenbach and myself and has been released by Central European University (Budapest) and Viadrina Europe University (Frankfurt/Oder, Germany). It has been developed from a summer course at Central European University, Budapest, taught by eight scholars: Frank Dikötter, Prasenjit Duara, Penny Edwards, Dru Gladney, Alexandre Lomanov, Aihwa Ong, Louisa Schein, Zha Daojioung, and Pál Nyíri. The text attempts to respond constructively to the last decade or so of debate on area studies, and to the fact that some of the most interesting research in area studies today is produced by unusual combinations of research approaches and idiosyncratic formulations of problems. It does so by showcasing a multiplicity of research approaches in studying the controversial object of “China” that are critical and self-critical but nonetheless affirm the continued importance of thick local knowledge. Taking advantage of the possibilities of the online medium, these approaches (framed by a commentary by George Marcus) address and comment upon each other and invite readers literally to juxtapose them.

The site is designed as a self-contained learning text, so that it includes a glossary, a list of literature, guiding questions, and texts on theoretical approaches and methods of research. It has cross-references, “secondary texts”, and selected links to outside online resources. Each part is quickly downloadable and printable. Access to the site is free of charge, but if you do decide to use it in the classroom, we would be grateful if you let us know about your experience.

Pál Nyíri
THE CENTRAL EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY
Humanities Center

COMPUTING PROBLEMS:
ABACUS MAILING LIST

Computer hardware, software and digital resources have become increasingly important in the field of Chinese studies. Despite their enormous advantages, however, these electronic facilities also create many challenges. Encoding problems, software compatibility, uncommon characters, OCR-scanning and database search functions are but a few of the problems academics are confronted with.

Given the large number of problems and the limited amount of time, it is necessary to establish networks where valuable information can be exchanged. Broad and informal networks addressing Chinese computing problems are already in place. However, the former often do not discuss the typical problems encountered by academics, while the
latter do not allow information to reach a large group of people.

In order to deal with Chinese computing problems in an academic environment, I recently launched the ABACUS mailing list. This initiative aims to bring together all people working in the field of ancient Chinese studies who are interested in sharing information on how to solve specific computing problems. Because of limited capacity, ABACUS is restricted to scholars working on pre-imperial and Qin/Han China. It does, however, include all different subject fields. If corresponding mailing lists are established for other historical periods as well, an umbrella website discussing academic-related computing problems could be established.

More information is available at http://sinology.arts.kuleuven.ac.be/abacus/ or by writing to the list manager: wim.dereu@arts.kuleuven.ac.be

Wim De Reu
Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium

ON-LINE RESEARCH RESOURCE FOR LATE QING STUDIES

The “Electronic Index to the early Shenbao”, arguably the most important of the early Chinese-language Shanghai newspapers, has been published online recently at the Institute of Chinese Studies in Heidelberg under the auspices of the European Center for Digital Resources in Chinese Studies. Its development has been funded by the Fritz Thyssen Foundation. The core part of the database is an English-language subject index to the daily leading articles of the Shenbao from the years 1872 to 1895. The index also includes all items the Shenbao reprinted from Hong Kong papers, above all from the Xunhuan Ribao which was founded and run for many years by Wang Tao. Other articles, reports, documents, letters to the editor, and poetry are also included, albeit not on a regular basis. The names or pen names of the authors of single articles, as far as they are indicated in the paper, have also been indexed. The index currently consists of more than 10,000 entries. It is a work in progress, which will be improved over time and primarily relies on the co-operation and help of those making use of it and are willing to contribute entries, criticism or information on such things as historical background, studies, or translations. To access the index visit following the links on the following url: http://www.sino.uni-heidelberg.de/database/shenbao/manual.htm.

It is hoped that this resource will facilitate the perusal of this important and fascinating early Shanghai newspaper as a source for studies not only on the press, but also on social and cultural history, and on the dynamics of cultural exchange during the late Qing period.

We would be very happy to receive any kind of feedback, comments, critique, corrections, questions, etc., but above all additional entries and supplements to existing entries.

Andrea Janku
CONFERENCE and WORKSHOP ANNOUNCEMENTS


The Department of Asian Studies, University of Copenhagen and Nordic Institute of Asian Studies, Copenhagen are pleased to announce the Fifth International Conference of the International Society for the Study of Chinese Overseas. The Organising Committee invites proposals by 1 Oct. 2003 on organised panels, individual papers and poster presentations relating to the main topic or any other topic within social sciences, history, literature, or the arts relating to Chinese overseas migration. More information is available on www.nias.ku.dk/issco5 or by contacting the conference secretariat by E-mail: issco5@nias.ku.dk.


Paper topics to be submitted by April 15, 2003. Paper abstracts (max. 8,000 characters) with name, affiliation and academic degree to be air-mailed to Dr. Olga Pochagina, RAS Institute of Far Eastern Studies – 32, Nakhimovsky Ave., Moscow 117218 RF, or E-mailed to: pochagina@ifes-ras.ru. Abstracts will be published in the Conference volume when submitted by 1 May, 2003.

Working languages of the Conference will be Russian, Chinese and English. Non-Russian participants are expected to cover all related expenses (travel costs, room, board, etc.) as well as the Conference Registration Fee of US$ 90. Registration fee for scholars from PR China, India, South Asia, Southeast Asia, East Europe and Baltics is 60 US$.

More information is available from the Organizing Committee: Ms. Tamara A. Karganova, E-mail: karganova@ifes-ras.ru and at www.ifes-ras.ru.

CHIANG CHING-KUO FOUNDATION LIBRARY TRAVEL GRANT

The Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation has generously provided the EACS with a grant of US$ 30,000 to support one-week visits for specialised research in Sinological libraries in Cambridge, Heidelberg, Leiden, London, Munich, Oxford or Paris in 2002-2003. Visits to other European libraries or archives could also be considered.

Information about these Sinological libraries and librarians is available on the EACS website.

Applicants should be Sinologists based permanently in Europe and
paid-up members of the EACS. Applications from non-members will be considered, however, especially in the case of young scholars, if accompanied by a recommendation from an EACS member.

APPLICATIONS must include:
1) a letter stating the library to be visited and intended dates of travel.
2) a statement of purpose, to include a short description of the research project, including precise indication of the sources and material to be used.
3) a written statement obtained from the Librarian of the institute where the proposed visit is to take place confirming that the research materials that are required are available for consultation.
4) a one-page curriculum vitae with a list of main publications.
5) a statement of the travelling expenses (Apex economy airfare or 2nd class rail fare), including a note of other sources of funding.
6) In the case of Ph.D. students, a letter of recommendation from their supervisor.
7) In the case of non-members, a letter of recommendation from an EACS member.
8) Address for correspondence, including fax and E-mail where possible.

APPLICATIONS should be sent by mail or fax to one of the following:

1) For research on pre-modern China (i.e. before 1840) to Prof. Roderick Whitfield, Department of Art and Archaeology, SOAS, University of London, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG, United Kingdom. Fax: +44-171 436 38 44. E-mail: rw5@soas.ac.uk
2) For research on modern China (i.e. from 1840) to Prof. Marianne Bastid-Bruguière, 92 Boulevard de Port Royal, 75005 Paris, France. Fax: +33 1 43 54 72 02. E-mail: bastid@canoe.ens.fr
3) For research, which straddles the 1840 limit: either to Prof. Whitfield or to Prof. Bastid-Bruguière.

It is advisable to apply at least two months before the visit is planned to take place.

PAYMENT OF GRANTS

1) If applications are approved, grants will be made to include travelling expenses and a per diem allowance, which will vary from place to place.
2) With the exception of scholars from Eastern Europe, grants will be paid on completion of the visit.
3) For scholars from Eastern Europe, the grant will be available on arrival at the centre where the research is undertaken. To avoid difficulty, applicants should give advance warning of their date and time of arrival to Prof. Bastid-Bruguière, if they are to visit France (address above); to Dr Brunhild Staiger, if they are to visit Germany (address below); to Prof. Maghiel van Crevel, if they are to visit the Netherlands (Sinologisch Instituut, P.O. Box 9515, 2300 RA Leiden, The Netherlands. Fax: +31 (0) 71 527 25 26. E-mail m.van.crevel@let.leiden.univ.nl); and to Prof. Whitfield if they are to visit the United Kingdom (address above).
4) On completion of their visit, all scholars should obtain a letter signed by the Librarian, certifying that the visit has been made and specifying the dates when it began and ended.

5) All scholars should send the Librarian’s letter directly to Dr. Brunhild Staiger, Institut für Asienkunde, Rothenbaumchussee 32, D-20148 Hamburg, Germany. Fax: +49 40 4 10 79 45. E-mail: ifahh.staiger@rrz.uni-hamburg.de.

6) Any publication using material collected under this program should include acknowledgement of help received from the CCK Foundation.

LIBRARIANS

FRANCE: Nicole Resch, Institut des Hautes Études Chinoises, Collège de France, 52 rue du Cardinal Lemoine, 75005 Paris, France. Fax: +33-1-44 27 11 09. E-mail: nicole.resche@college-de-france.fr

GERMANY: Hanno Lecher, Sinologisches Seminar, Universität Heidelberg, Akademiestrasse 4-8, D-69117 Heidelberg, Germany. Fax: +49-6221-54 24 39. E-mail: lecher@gw.sino.uni-heidelberg.de.

NETHERLANDS: Mme Wu, Sinologisch Instituut, Arsenaalstraat 1, 2311CT, Leiden, The Netherlands. Fax: +31-71-27 226 15. E-mail: bibchin@let.leidenuniv.nl.

UNITED KINGDOM: Charles Aylmer, Chinese Section, University Library, West Road, Cambridge CB3 9DR, United Kingdom. Fax: +44-1223-333 160. E-mail: caa@ula.cam.ac.uk

Sue Small, School of Oriental & African Studies, University of London, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG, UK. Fax: +44-171-436 38 44.

Frances Wood, British Library, Chinese Section, Oriental & India Office Collections, 96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB, UK. Fax: +44-171-412 78 58. E-mail: oioc-chinese@bl.uk.

David Helliwell, Bodleian Library, Oxford, OX1 3BG, United Kingdom. Fax: +44 1865 277132. E-mail: djh@bodley.ox.ac.uk.

NEW PUBLICATIONS


### EACS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

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What is your field of study in Chinese studies (if any)?

In what capacity are you engaged in Chinese studies (if any)?

Date:

Signature:

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Membership application form is to be sent or faxed to the EACS Secretary Olga LOMOVÁ, Institute of East Asian Studies, Charles University, Celetná 20, 116 42 PRAHA 1, Czech Republic. Tel. +420 24 49 14 21; fax: +420 24 49 14 23. E-mail: lom@ruk.cuni.cz
EACS MEMBERSHIP PAYMENT FORM

EACS membership fee is presently €20 per annum for individual and corporate members (for members from countries of the former Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and Romania the cost is €10.00), and €10 per annum for student members (remember to send in student-ID). Fee payment for two or three years is recommended to save transfer costs. EACS Newsletter is sent free of charge to all members.

Please send payment to the EACS Treasurer Hans van Ess, Ostasiatisches Seminar, Universität München, Kaulbachstrasse 51a, D-80539 Munich, Germany or transfer money to the EACS Bank account: Dresdner Bank, bank code 700 800 00, account 4606 061 00.

If you prefer to pay your fees by credit card (American Express, MasterCard/Eurocard, VISA) please fill out the Credit Card payment form below.

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