



**Semiannual Alumni Virtual Meeting
Tuesday, March 17, 2026, 7:00-8:00pm**

Meeting Agenda

Meeting Agenda Summary

7:00-7:10pm Chair's report on EASIA Department/Faculty News, Events and Students

7:10-7:30pm Discussion Topic: "What Does and EASIA Studies degree become over time?"

7:30-8:00pm Workshop: East Asia in a Changing World: What Alumni Need to Understand Now.

For more details, please read below!

1. EASIA DEPARTMENT NEWS

We have two Department of East Asian Studies Faculty who have recently received promotion:

Dr. David Quinter, specializing in East Asian religions was promoted to Full Professor.

Dr. Jeffrey Roberts, PhD, specializing in East Asian music was promoted to Associate Professor.

Congratulations to both!

The Department's **Summer Mandarin Program in Taiwan** was relaunched with great success last summer and we are currently planning for an all-new **Summer In Korea Program** to begin in the summer of 2027. Stay tuned!



2025 Summer Mandarin Program in Taiwan Group Photo

Department Chair, Dr. Daniel Fried has taken a large number of meeting with both consular officials and representatives from community organizations from Japan, Korea, the Philippines, Mainland China and Taiwan, to build up bonds with our external stakeholders.

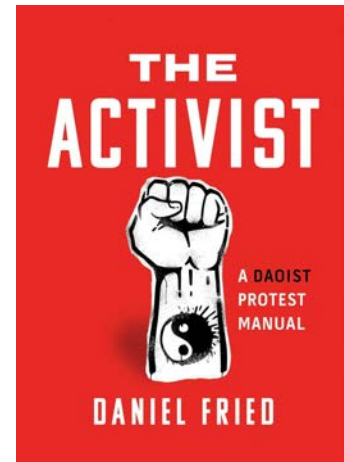
2. EASIA FACULTY NEWS

Dr. Daniel Fried

Dr. Daniel Fried's new monograph [The Activist: A Daoist Protest Manual](#), his first public facing book, will be released March 3, 2026, published by Prometheus Books.

Dr. Fried also Recently Presented a keynote speech "From Readerly World Literature to Writerly World Literature" at the conference "Understanding and Communication: The Relevance of World Literature in Our Time" held in October, 2026 in Changsha, China.

Dr. Fried also recently finished teaching a new and innovative course series focused on community engagement. CHINA401 & 407 where students met weekly with Chinese-speaking campus and community members to practice using Mandarin to talk about work specializations in various fields.



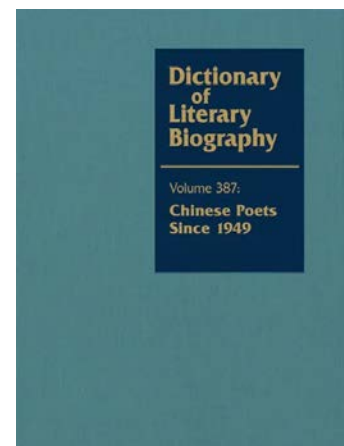
Dr. Jeffrey Roberts

In October, 2025, Dr. Jeffrey Roberts' East Asian improvisation ensemble PAN Project, which he co-founded and co-artistically directs with Korean piri master gamin, received a [First Round Ballot Grammy Nomination](#) for their second album [Borderless Flows](#), released on the Neuma Records label in 2024.



Dr. Christopher Lupke

Christopher Lupke has co-edited the [Dictionary of Literary Biography: Chinese Poets since 1949, Second Series](#) (Gale Cengage / Brucoli Clark Layman) with Thomas Moran, which includes essays on 38 postwar Chinese and Sinophone poets. This is a sequel to their first volume on the subject, published in 2021.



Dr. Xiaoting Li

Dr. Xiaoting Li recently co-published an interesting article with Dr. Shui Li on the linguistic study of comforting behaviour: 安慰行为身体视觉活动的多模态互动研究 [A multimodal study of bodily-visual behaviors of comforting actions in Mandarin interaction] the journal Chinese Linguistics. The paper examines how comforting actions in mandarin interactions are accomplished through coordinated bodily and visual behaviors.

Dr. Li also was invited to give a talk at Shanghai Maritime University titled “A multimodal study of actions in Mandarin Interaction in June 2025.



Dr. William Carroll

Will Carroll (assistant professor, East Asian Studies) recently embarked on a research trip to Japan and conducted numerous interviews with filmmakers, teachers and critics for his research on Japanese cinephile culture. Carroll interviewed several filmmakers including Kiyoshi Kurosawa, Akihiko Shiota and Kunitoshi Manda. Carroll also had the opportunity to meet with Shiguéhiko Hasumi, an influential film critic in Japan who founded the cinephile journal Lumiere in the 1980s and later became the President of the University of Tokyo. Hasumi taught film classes at Rikkyō University and the University of Tokyo, where his students included Kurosawa, Shiota, Manda, as well as other filmmakers such as Ringu director Hideo Nakata and Shall We Dance? director Masayuki Suo. Learn more about Japanese cinema and Carroll's research in future offerings of EASIA 461: Occult Cinephilia.

Photo: Shiguéhiko Hasumi (left) and Will Carroll (right)

Photo credit: Ryosuke Saegusa



3. EASIA Recent & Upcoming Events

UPCOMING

Fall, 2026

The East Asian Studies Department will be co-sponsoring an anti-racism writing workshop led by the Edmonton Chinese Writers Club, and funded by the City of Edmonton through an anti-racism grant. Event date will be scheduled for early Fall 2026

April 11, 2026

Test of Proficiency in Korean (TOPIK) exam will take place at our university on Saturday, April 11, 2026. This internationally recognized exam allows test-takers to officially demonstrate their Korean language proficiency and apply their results toward future academic studies, university admissions, employment, and career development.

RECENT

November 7, 2025

The 2025 Korean Speech Contest and K-POP Singing Contest were held on November 7, bringing together students, faculty, alumni, and members of the local Korean community for a vibrant celebration of language and culture. The events were jointly organized by the Department of East Asian Studies at the University of Alberta and the Korean Consulate in Vancouver. These events were made possible through the enthusiastic participation and support of our Korean language students, dedicated instructors, alumni, and local Korean community organizations in Edmonton. Their collaboration created a welcoming and inspiring atmosphere throughout the day. The Korean Speech Contest offered students a meaningful opportunity to showcase their growing language skills and confidence across a variety of topics. Twenty finalists delivered impressive performances, demonstrating great progress in Korean language learning.



The K-pop Singing Contest energized the audience with performances by 22 students. Together, these events celebrated student achievement, fostered connections beyond the classroom, and strengthened the sense of community within the Department of East Asian Studies. We look forward to continuing to host engaging cultural and academic events that bring our community together in the years to come. (2) Test of Proficiency in Korean (TOPIK) The TOPIK exam will take place at our university on Saturday, April 11, 2026. This internationally recognized exam allows test-takers to demonstrate their Korean language proficiency and apply their results toward future academic studies, employment, and career development.

Monday, October 6, 2025

The Department of East Asian Studies held its annual "Midautumn Celebration of Research on Asia, where the Department faculty presented recent research projects and possible research assistant opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students. After the presentations, faculty and students enjoyed a reception full of mooncakes engaging conversation on all things East Asia!



4. EASIA Student News



The Faculty of Arts recently published a profile interview on Department of East Asian Studies **graduate student Yinxue Tang**, who after having obtained degrees in (BA) and theatre (MFA) decided to pursue a Master degree in modern and contemporary Chinese Literature, Culture and Theatre at the University of Alberta. Click below to read the interview.

[Read More](#)

5. Alumni Discussion Topic

What does an East Asian Studies Degree Become Over Time?

In this topic discussion, we will explore how alumni are using (or not using) their East Asia training in their current careers. What skills turned out to be more durable than that expected (e.g. cultural analysis, language sensitivity, comparative thinking)? What are some non-linear career paths and/or delayed payoffs of an areas studies education?

6. Alumni Workshop

East Asia in a Changing World: What Alumni Need to Understand Now

What is changing and has recently changed over the last few years in East Asia that is important to know today? How have narratives about East Asia changed since you were a student in the department. This workshop will address how to keep your mental models of East Asia updated and refreshed with current information from leaders in cultural research, business, politics and economics involving East Asia.

Guest Speaker: [Dr. Xiaoting Li](#), Director, [Associate Dean International, Faculty of Arts](#), University of Alberta.