



Student wins national competition “Chinese bridge” (汉语桥) language contest

Tom Saunders, a third year Chinese Studies student, won first prize in the “Chinese bridge” language proficiency competition in London on 19 June.

Tom impressed the judges with his presentation in Chinese (a discussion of the new phenomenon of white-tiled buildings in China), his 100 per cent score in the question-and-answer session on Chinese culture, and his accomplished performance of a one-person *xiangsheng* (a form of traditional stand-up comedy).

He was awarded a certificate and cloisonné vase, as well as an all-expenses-paid trip to China in August to represent the UK in the international grand final. Seventy-five

students from around the world competed in Beijing, with the top three prizes being won by a Vietnamese, a Tunisian and an American.

“I met so many people who love learning Chinese and who are as interested in Chinese culture as I am. The competition lasted for three days and was filmed by China Central Television. Afterwards we were all taken on an excursion to Hangzhou, Suzhou and Shanghai. The whole experience was surreal – we were treated like celebrities.”

What made Tom’s achievement all the more remarkable was that, at the time of the UK competition, he was in only the third year of his four-year Chinese Studies degree. He has already achieved level 8 (the top level of Intermediate) of the Chinese HSK (*Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi*) examination and plans to take Advanced level before he graduates next year.

Tom first became interested in China at the age of eight when he started learning the martial arts. At Barnsley College, while studying for his A levels, he met a number of students from China and they are still amongst his best friends.

China has also given an impetus to Tom’s interest in photography. Some of his close-ups of Chinese people, taken during a visit last year to a friends in Taiyuan, were featured in issue no. 8 of *EastAsia@Sheffield*.

This is the second year that Sheffield has entered the “Chinese bridge” competition, which is organized by the Chinese Ministry of Education through the Education Section of the Chinese Embassy in London. In 2003 Sally Powell won third place and Steve Tingay was awarded a special performance prize.



Tom on-stage at the competition finals in Beijing.

2004 prize-winners

Contents



From left: Ben Jackson, *Korean Studies with Japanese* (Robert Sloss Prize), Lucy Johnston, *Chinese Studies* (School of East Asian Studies Prize), Professor Tim Wright, *Chair of the School of East Asian Studies*, Suzanne Powick, *Japanese Studies* (Margaret Daniels Prize). In addition, Yuko Takahashi (*Music and East Asian Studies*) was awarded the Certificate of Exceptional Achievement by the Music Department (See article on page 6).

“The graduation of thirty-six students on 22 July marked the culmination of four years of study (three years for the East Asian Studies degree) for a remarkable cohort of students,” according to School Chair, Professor Tim Wright.

For the first time ever, at least one first class honours degree was awarded in each of the School’s four programmes: Chinese Studies, Japanese Studies, Korean Studies and

East Asian Studies. “It occasionally happens that there is an unusually strong cohort, but this graduating group was exceptional. We were also delighted with the outcome of the dual degrees, with first class honours being awarded to students combining Japanese Studies and Business, East Asian Studies and Business, and Music and East Asian Studies. Needless to say, the competition for the three prizes awarded by the School was particularly intense this year.”

ESRC consultancy

The School of East Asian Studies has won a tender from the ESRC (Economic and Social Research Council) to undertake a consultancy on “UK Social Science and the Asia-Pacific Region”. The three-month project (September–November) is being carried out by Dr Son Key-young, a former political editor for the *Korea Times* who recently completed his PhD at Sheffield. The project has involved the compilation of:

- an overview of current UK social science engagement with the Asia-Pacific region, covering research and training funded by all major agencies (including ESRC, Leverhulme, British Academy and AHRB)
- identification of significant funders of social science research and training in the region
- an overview of major social and economic developments in the region
- potential foci for major ESRC research and training initiatives.

Student wins national competition	1
2004 prize-winners	2
South Korea’s cultural renaissance	3
Japan fellowship	4
Looking to Beijing 2008	5
“A first”: Music and East Asian Studies	6
Reproduction in Japan	7
“The stamp of approval”	8-9
Japan and global governance	10
<i>Blind Shaft</i>	11
<i>Sheffield Corpus of Chinese</i>	12
South Korea’s National Security Law	13
JEAS Conference	14
Korean Film Festival	15
Farewell to ...	16

Editor’s note

Following East Asian convention, the family name precedes the given name/s in Chinese, Japanese and Korean names used in this publication, *unless* the particular person uses the Western word order (given name followed by family name) in his/her publications and/or everyday life. Examples of the latter in this issue are Dr Hyangjin Lee and Dr Lili Chen.

Spreading across East Asia

South Korea's cultural renaissance

Since graduating from Sheffield in 2001 with a BA in East Asian Studies, Niels Footman has been working and studying in South Korea. He is currently completing an MA in Korean Studies at Yonsei University and hopes to pursue a career in journalism. Email nielsfootman@hotmail.com



These are heady days for South Korean cinema. The country's film industry is one of the few in the world that not only competes with, but actually outdoes, Hollywood offerings in terms of domestic box-office takings. And while not a few of Korea's big hits are lightweight and often trite romantic comedies, there has also been a succession of inventive and critically acclaimed works, not the least of which was the *noir-ish*, violent *Old Boy*, winner of the Grand Prix award at this year's Cannes Film Festival.

Nor are Korea's achievements confined to the movie industry. Its TV mini-series – usually comprising impossibly attractive young stars locked in tug-of-love scenarios – have been drawing loyal followings across East Asia. Foremost among this breed has been *Winter Sonata*, which catapulted its somewhat precious star Bae Yong-jun to superstardom in Japan, China and Taiwan. Such has been its popularity that travel agencies across East Asia offer package tours to the picturesque locations where it was shot, providing a boon to Korea's tourist industry.

Also reaping the benefits of the wave of popularity for all things Korean – a phenomenon referred to as *Hanryu* – are the country's pop singers. The teenage warbler BoA is a bona-fide megastar in Japan, and any number of Korean acts – Shinhwa, Baby Vox, and Kangta to name but three – enjoy tremendous popularity in China, Singapore and Vietnam.

What has occasioned this glittering success story? A major factor for the film industry was undoubtedly the release in 1999 of *Shiri*, an action film about renegade North Korean agents plotting to start a war between the two Koreas. As slick as it was frenetic, *Shiri* may have broken little new ground artistically, but its enormous popularity demonstrated that South Korea could produce home-grown hits that were able to compete with American fare, greatly boosting self-confidence among film-makers.

While the cream of Korean cinematic output has earned recognition because of its originality and high quality, the same cannot always be said of the country's pop singers and TV mini-series. But this is not necessarily a drawback: *Hanryu* appeals to different peoples for different reasons. East Asia remains a region suffused in Confucian values and to the Chinese, for example, *Hanryu* offers an

acceptable vision of modernity: vibrant and distinctly Asian, but also unthreatening in a way that the often more extreme Japanese pop culture is not. Moreover, Korea lacks the historical baggage of Japan that continues to arouse deep ambivalence.

Somewhat paradoxically, the Japanese themselves profess to be attracted by the “vigour” and “energy” of South Korean popular culture. This perception of Korea apparently derived to a large extent from scenes beamed from Seoul during the South's sterling World Cup campaign. And in the case of Bae Yong-jun himself, many Japanese forty-something women, who constitute much of his fan base, declare that he represents a kind of romantic ideal that is absent in their husbands.

As with any cultural trend, the danger exists of its popularity evaporating, like the once all-conquering Hong Kong film and music industries. Indeed, signs of *Hanryu* fatigue are emerging in Taiwan, with the most recent Korean mini-series flopping on release. However, South Koreans are enjoying the ride while it lasts and, as the recent award for the film *Old Boy* demonstrates, the movie industry has the creativity and dynamism to thrive well into the future.

An image from the TV mini-series *Winter Sonata*, starring Bae Yong-jun and Choi Ji-woo.



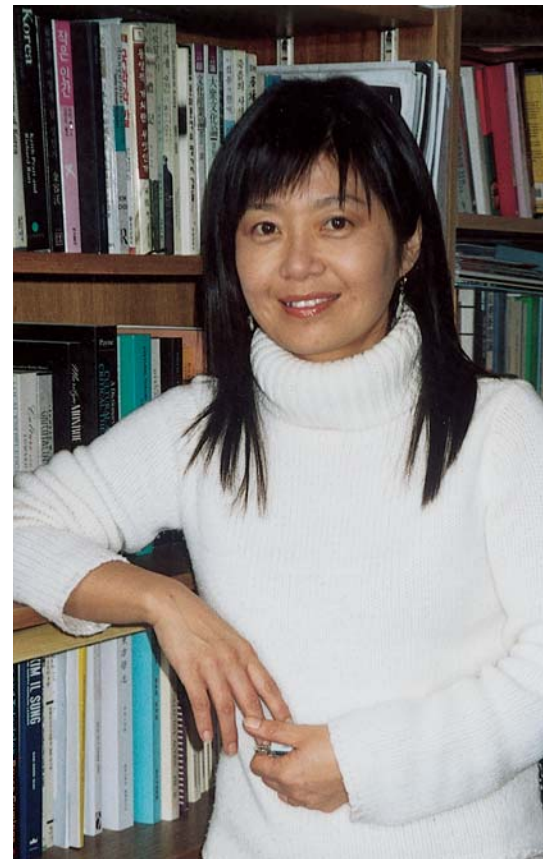
Japan fellowship for Dr Hyangjin Lee

Dr Hyangjin Lee, a lecturer in Korean Studies and specialist on Korean cinema, has been awarded a Postdoctoral Fellowship for Foreign Researchers by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS). She will spend two years in Japan, based in the Department of Media Studies at Doshisha University in Kyoto.

"I'll be researching images of Korea in Japanese mass media and popular culture. If you have recently visited Japan, you will probably have heard about a Korean TV mini-series called *Winter Sonata*. That - and the films *Shiri*, *JSA (Joint Security Area)* and *Taegukgi* - are examples of the *Hanryu* phenomenon that can

roughly be translated as "Korean fever". This "fever" is rapidly spreading throughout East Asia. (See article by Sheffield graduate, Niels Footman, on page 3.) Korean fever has been particularly prominent in Japan and one aspect of my research will be to examine and explain this phenomenon."

This is the second JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship awarded to a SEAS staff member in the past year. In September Dr Peter Matanle arrived at Niigata University to undertake the first stage of a comparative longitudinal study of Japanese and British university students' work values, expectations and careers.



New faces in Japanese Studies



Dr Takeda Hiroko

has taken up a lectureship in Japanese Studies. Dr Takeda has a BA in Law and Politics, as well as an MA in Politics, from Rikkyo University in Tokyo, and a PhD in Japanese Studies from Sheffield. For the past three years she has been lecturing at Cardiff University. Her research interests include gender and Japanese politics/political economy, social

and political theories, risk, biopolitics and reproductive activities, "government" in the private sphere, and political discourse analysis.

She is currently working on a project, funded by the Japan Foundation Endowment Committee, which examines the discourse surrounding economic structural reform and the implications for everyday life in contemporary Japan.

Dr Takeda is the author of *The Political Economy of Reproduction in Japan: Between nation-state and everyday life*, published in the RoutledgeCurzon/Sheffield Centre for Japanese Studies Series in October. (See article on page 7.) At Sheffield, she will be lecturing on gender issues and other aspects of Japanese society.



Andrew Staples

has been appointed to a two-year lectureship in Japanese Studies during Dr Peter Matanle's absence on a postdoctoral fellowship awarded by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science. Mr Staples has a BA degree from Exeter and an MSc in East Asian Business from Sheffield. His PhD dissertation on the political economy of Japanese FDI (Foreign Direct

Investment) in Southeast Asia is in the final stages of completion and has been funded by a Daiwa/JFEC (Japan Foundation Endowment Committee) PhD Scholarship.

He has spent substantial periods in Japan, including three years on the JET programme in Fukuoka and eighteen months on a Japanese Government MEXT (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology) scholarship at Hitotsubashi University in Tokyo.

Mr Staples' research interests include Japanese FDI and corporate strategy, Japan's role in the East Asian political economy, globalization and East Asian regionalism, and privatization in Japan. He will be lecturing on contemporary Japanese business and management, the economic development of Japan, and business and society in East Asia.

The Olympics

Looking to Beijing 2008

The People's Republic of China won 63 medals (32 gold, 17 silver, 14 bronze) at this year's Olympic Games, finishing third on the total medals list behind the United States and Russia. China's gold medal tally, a more frequently cited statistic, was exceeded only by the US.

The PRC was a latecomer to the Olympics, first participating only in 1984. It has increasingly made its presence felt, winning medals this year not just in its well-known areas of sporting expertise like table tennis, diving, weightlifting and shooting, but in nineteen of the thirty-four sports in the Olympic competition.

We asked some of our students and staff members about the nation's growing sporting prowess and especially what Beijing 2008 will mean for China.

Stuart Coyle MSc student in Chinese Language, Business and International Relations

The Athens Olympics have been a real phenomenon here in Beijing - every TV set tuned in, articles spilling out of the pages of newspapers, and the government making efforts to prepare society for 2008. It would have been interesting to be here in 2000 (the year before Beijing was chosen for 2008) to see if the hype was quite so strong. I suspect not, yet one cannot discount the eternal spectre of Chinese patriotism.

Come 2008, I'll make sure I'm here in Beijing, in some capacity, to experience what I believe will be one of the most dynamic, anticipated and hyped events of my lifetime. [Written on 29 August, the day after the conclusion of the Athens Olympics.]



13 July 2001. Students in Beijing celebrate the announcement that their city has been awarded the 2008 Olympics.

Dr Lili Chen Lecturer in Chinese

Nobody can have failed to notice the way China performed on the world sporting stage at the Athens Olympics and its aim in 2008 will be to top the rankings. But the Olympics are about more than that. Beijing 2008 will be an opportunity for China to show to the world that it has a history and culture the equal of Greece, and that moreover the "sleeping giant" is now ready to take its place on the world stage.

I do worry, however, that China might not make the best use of this opportunity. The eight-minute Chinese sequence in the closing ceremony at Athens, designed by famous film director Zhang Yimou, featured garishly-coloured Chinese costumes, simpering girls, and the cynical and unashamedly sentimental use of a child that simply reinforced western clichés about China. I hope that in 2008 Beijing will have the vision to go beyond these clichés when it presents itself to the world.

Beverley Hooper Professor of Chinese Studies

The Chinese delegates' faces and the media said it all. The failure of Beijing's much-hyped 2000 bid was portrayed as little less than a national humiliation, while the success of the 2008 bid was hailed euphorically as "a time for huge celebration". With the slogan "New Beijing, Great Olympics", the 2008 Games will be China's greatest ever public relations exercise - to demonstrate that the once "sick man of Asia" has become a global power, and to extend that power and influence.

To quote the *Beijing 2008* website: "Looking ahead to 2008, it is clear that the opportunities are vast. In staging the most memorable Games in history, the Beijing Organizing Committee (BOCOG) will provide its corporate partners with an opportunity to invite the world in and introduce China to the world." (<http://en.beijing-2008.org>)

China's Olympic Medal Tally

Year	Venue	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1984	Los Angeles*	15	8	9	32
1988	Seoul	5	11	12	28
1992	Barcelona	16	22	16	54
1996	Atlanta	16	22	12	50
2000	Sydney	28	16	15	59
2004	Athens	32	17	14	63

The statistics are somewhat surprising, given the media hype about China's emergence at Athens as a great sporting power. The "great leap" in China's performance actually came in 1992 at Barcelona, with a further leap in gold medals in 2000. Its 2004 medal tally represented only a slight increase over Sydney 2000.

* 1984: Soviet-led boycott by 17 countries.

“A First” Music and East Asian Studies

Yuko Takahashi, the first student to complete the dual BA in Music and East Asian Studies, graduated with first class honours in July and was awarded the Certificate of Exceptional Achievement by the Music Department.

The Department's Board of Examiners noted Yuko's first class marks in 100 out of 120 credits at final honours level in Music and commented that she had also “sat in on” – and completed the written work for – a number of extra modules in Music and East Asian Studies. Yuko's essays combined her interests in music and East Asian society, with topics including revolutionary ballet in Mao's China, the ideal versus the real woman as depicted in North and South Korean films, and a comparison of musical traditions among the Ainu in Japan and the Saami in Northern Europe.

In her final academic year, Yuko also found time to appear as soloist with the University Symphony Orchestra for their November 2003 performance of

the Schumann Piano Concerto, which she performed from memory. “That was a real challenge, not only in respect of the music but also because I still had to do all my academic work, like everyone else. But it was thrilling, too, and definitely one of the unforgettable moments of my university life.”

Yuko, who comes from Iwakuni (near Hiroshima) in Japan, arrived in Sheffield after studying for two years at Atlantic College in Wales. One of a number of students combining East Asian Studies with another subject area, she now plans to build on her dual degree with an MMus in Performance at Royal Holloway, University of London.

“My years at Atlantic College, which was an international school, made me interested in world affairs as well as music. I wanted to follow these up at University, and was interested to see East Asia from a European perspective. I'm taking these interests with me to London, where I'll be looking at the

interplay of politics and culture as well as piano performance.”



Yuko pictured with her mother who travelled from Japan for graduation day.

News from recent graduates

Eoghan Sweeney *(BA in Korean Studies, 2003),*



winner of the 2003 Robert Sloss Prize for the best performance in Chinese, Korean or East Asian Studies, returned to South Korea after graduation to pursue a career in journalism. He is now working as a reporter for the Sports Department of the Yonhap News Agency, the Korean equivalent of Reuters.

Milena Popovic *(BA in Chinese Studies and Business Studies, 2001),*

winner of the 2001 Robert Sloss Prize, returned to Belgrade after graduation. She is working at KPMG Belgrade and recently spent three months at the company's UK offices.

Philip Shetler-Jones *(BA in Japanese Studies, 2001)*

has been appointed by the United Nations to serve as a political officer in Sudan. Winner of the 2001 Margaret Daniels Prize for Japanese Studies, Philip was subsequently awarded a Fulbright scholarship to study for a Masters in Law and Diplomacy at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University in Boston.

Lisa Timpe *(BA in Chinese Studies, 2004)*



is studying for an MPhil in Environment and Development at Cambridge as part of her long-term ambition to pursue a career in international development. Lisa's final year dissertation was on the South-North Water Transfer Scheme, which

aims to alleviate the serious water shortage in north China.

Chris Flynn *(MA in Advanced Japanese Studies, 2001)*

is an Associate Professor at the Kyushu Institute of Information Sciences in Fukuoka, Japan, where he lectures on English language and the media. He is also an executive of the Fukuoka General Union, a trade union made up of mostly foreign language school and university teachers.

David Chandler *(MSc East Asian Business, 1999)*

graduated with an MBA at the University of Miami, Florida, in May this year. He is currently working as Associate Director of the Center for Non-Profit Management at the University of Miami and hopes to begin a PhD in corporate strategy in the US in 2005.

The political economy of reproduction in Japan

*Dr Takeda Hiroko recently took up a lectureship in Japanese Studies at Sheffield. Her book *The Political Economy of Reproduction in Japan: Between nation-state and everyday life* was published in the RoutledgeCurzon/Sheffield Centre for Japanese Studies series in October. Email h.takeda@sheffield.ac.uk*

Forming a family and having children are events that belong to the most private realm of our everyday lives. But such events look different if we pay attention to the multitude of policies, programmes and other activities that have been implemented by governments in order to manage these private activities.

My recently published book, *The Political Economy of Reproduction in Japan: Between nation-state and everyday life*, examines the intricate relationships formed between individuals and the state. The book is intended as a theoretical and empirical exposé of politics as deployed in the private sphere.

It was the work of Michel Foucault that first brought my attention to the richness of politics in the private world, presenting a contrast to mainstream political studies that have maintained a rigid divide between the private and the public. Foucault, in his later life, was enthused by the idea of a particular form of power that he called “biopower”. Unlike conventional concepts of political power, based on legal/political institutions and military organizations, Foucauldian biopower is not a domineering force but rather manages people by looking after them, taking care of their physical and mental condition. The result is that people internalize biopower, and it is this internalization that controls and disciplines people’s behaviour.

Numerous modern organizations, from schools and welfare organizations to the prison system, have functioned as channels for this kind of power to work in society, encouraging (but not forcing)

people to behave in particular ways autonomously. In so doing, the stability of society is maintained without the need for coercive power, which more often than not is inefficient and expensive to enforce. All in all, biopower creates an economical governing system for modern capitalist states.

develops the nation-state. Since the early Meiji period in the 1870s, Japanese governments have intervened in people’s reproductive activities through official policies, social education programmes and social movements.

The mode of state intervention has varied from time to time. In the Meiji Enlightenment and under the militarist regime, governmental interventions into everyday life were direct. The most notable example was the wartime Japanese population policy, according to which having many “healthy” babies was the supreme duty of the female subjects of the Japanese empire. In the post-war period, the intervention was more subtle. For example, the New Life Movement carried out by housewives in the early 1950s was as much influenced by governments and large corporations as by housewives themselves.

In my book, I trace the history and development of government intervention into people’s “private” reproductive activities. My conclusions are twofold. Firstly, despite belonging to the private sphere, reproduction has been an essential component of Japanese political economy. And secondly, the private/public divide is therefore little more than a fiction. All is not doom and gloom however. The book

also examines some of the strategies individuals have taken to resist government intervention. To use Foucault’s words from his book *Subject and Power*, reproduction resides at the core of “a new economy of power relations”, of which resistance to power is also an integral part.



*Wakakuwa Midori's book *Images of Women (1995)* examines wartime visual propaganda to mobilise Japanese women. The cover portrays a 1941 painting entitled "Glorious encounter" from the women's magazine *Shufu no Tomo* (The Housewife's Companion).*

Importantly, from the perspective of biopower, it is vital that reproduction, firstly childbirth (which from the state’s point of view represents the replenishment of tomorrow’s labour force) and secondly, the socialization of incoming generations of the national population, is carried out in a manner that maintains and

"THE STAMP C

East Asian postage stamps as socio

Hugo Dobson

Dr Hugo Dobson is a lecturer on Japan's international relations. He was joint convener, with Professor James H. Grayson, of the conference "A-political? East Asian postage stamps as socio-political artefacts", held in August this year with the financial support of the Korea Foundation and the Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation. Email h.dobson@sheffield.ac.uk

Most people never give postage stamps a second thought and dismiss them as nothing more than colourful pieces of paper. However, they actually provide an intriguing means of daily communication, officially approved by governments, which promote specific issues to both domestic and international audiences.

Recognizing that postage stamps are an under-researched source, a two-day conference was held at the University of Sheffield on 13-14 August to explore the role of postage stamps by bringing together a number of researchers from Finland, Japan, South Korea, Sweden, the UK and the US. Presented here are some of the issues and topics raised by the participants.

Territorial disputes

Stamps often depict and assert the borders of the nation. At the beginning of 2004, South Korea issued a stamp celebrating the flora and fauna of a cluster of small reefs known as Tokdo in Korean (Figure 1). However, Japan regards these islands, known as Takeshima in Japanese, as an integral part of its own territory. Needless to say, the stamp was not well received in Japan and it was even suggested that the Japanese government should retaliate by issuing its own stamp featuring the islands.



Figure 1

Another example of territorial issues appearing on postage stamps can be seen in Taiwanese stamps. Two examples (right) have featured the South China Sea – a region containing one of the most volatile territorial disputes in the world today (Figure 2).



Figure 2



Although the Chinese Communist Party's depiction of Taiwan on stamps was originally vague and inconsistent (possibly suggesting indifference on the part of the CCP towards Taiwan and the territorial integrity of China), by 1950 its stamps regularly included Taiwan within the territory of mainland China (Figure 3).

Figure 3

Monarchies

UK stamps are the only stamps not to include the name of the country. Rather, they are identified by the use of the Queen's portrait. However, some countries have refused to allow the monarch's portrait to appear on their stamps, believing that it would be disrespectful to frank the monarch's face with a rubber stamp (to say nothing of licking the reverse!). In Japan, the Emperor has never appeared on stamps and instead symbols such as a dragon, phoenix or chrysanthemum have been used, as seen in the 1986 commemorative issue to celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of the accession of the Showa emperor (Figure 4).



Figure 4

OF APPROVAL"

o-political artefacts



Legitimacy

Stamps have also been used to legitimize political systems. A 1948 stamp emphasized the fact that universal suffrage had been introduced into the southern half of the Korean peninsula by featuring both men and women voting in its first election (Figure 5).

Figure 5

The Japanese government has also stressed the importance of its post-war political institutions through stamps. A stamp was issued to commemorate the promulgation of the new constitution in 1947, featuring the peaceful image of a mother and child (Figure 6). In 1996, commemorative stamps were issued to celebrate the signing of the San Francisco Peace Treaty and the promulgation of the constitution, depicting the Emperor's car approaching the Diet building (Figure 7).

Figure 6



Figure 7



Figure 8

In more colourful fashion, North Korean stamps have celebrated the achievements of Kim Il-sung and Kim Jong-il and depicted threats to their regimes, such as the US, as seen in a 1971 stamp carrying the slogan: "Let's dismember US imperialists!" (Figure 8)

Living people

In Europe, living people who are not members of the country's royal family do not feature on stamps. It would run the risk of a government influencing stamp designs for its own ends and nobody knows if the subject of a stamp will disgrace her/himself later in life. Although this convention is respected in Japan, other countries in East Asia have at times ignored it. South Korean President Park Chung-hee controversially issued a stamp during the 1971 presidential campaign (Figure 9). Equally, in Taiwan the president has regularly appeared on its postage stamps, as seen in this example commemorating the inauguration of President Chen Shui-bian and Vice-President Annette Lu in 2000 (Figure 10).



Figure 9



Figure 10

Perhaps the most striking example of the use of a living person, however, was the portrayal of Chinese leader Mao Zedong on dozens of stamp series, paralleling the use of photos and images of Mao on everything from magazines to posters (Figure 11).

Figure 11



The following papers were presented at the conference. Stamps used in this article from individual presentations are marked (*)

Mr Kwon Young-su, President of the Philatelic Federation of Korea, "Socio-Political Uses of Postage Stamps: Examples from Korea" (*)

Professor David Scott, Trinity College, Dublin, "The Politics and Semiotics of Postage Stamp Design"

Dr Robert Jones, retired research scientist and cultural historian, "Stamps, Science and National Culture"

Professor James H. Grayson, University of Sheffield, "Nationalism, History, and the Nation's Culture: How South Korea presented itself to the nation and to the world" (*)

Dr Gabriel Jonsson, University of Stockholm, "The two Koreas Reflected in Stamps" (*)

Dr Phil Deans, School of Oriental and African Studies, "Isolation, Identity and Post Politics: Philatelic nationalism on Taiwan" (*)

Professor Alan Wachman, Tufts University, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, "Carto-philatelic Imagery and China's National Territory" (*)

Mr Naito Yosuke, Deputy President of Japan Philatelic Museum Foundation, "The Unissued Stamps of Inner Mongolia under the Japanese Occupation"

Dr Hugo Dobson, University of Sheffield, "Stamp Design in Japan and the UK: The decision-making process" (*)

Professor Stanley Brunn, University of Kentucky, "Central Asian Stamp Issues: Juxtaposing tradition, globalization and modernization"

Professor Pauliina Raento, University of Minnesota and Academy of Finland, "Where East Meets West: International references on Finnish postage stamps, 1917-2001"



Professor Glenn Hook (University of Sheffield) and Professor Hasegawa Harukiyo (Doshisha Business School).

Japan and global governance

Workshop at Doshisha Business School

What roles do international institutions – and Japan in these institutions – play in global governance? What can we learn about the ways in which globalization processes are governed in the contemporary world?

Japanese and UK social scientists participated in a workshop on 13-14 September to try to provide answers to these questions, aided by a generous grant from the Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation, the superb facilities of the newly established Doshisha Business School (DBS) in Kyoto, and the support of the Business School's staff, especially Professor Hasegawa Harukiyo who was formerly a staff member of SEAS.

The workshop was organized by Professor Glenn Hook of SEAS's Globalization and Regionalization research cluster, together with Professor Anthony Payne of the Politics Department and Professor Takahashi Susumu of the University of Tokyo. Professor Andrew Gamble of the Politics Department and Dr Hugo Dobson of SEAS were among the paper givers, who presented their research findings on the theory and practice of global governance as well as theoretically informed empirical analyses of the key institutions of

global governance and Japan's role therein: the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development, and the Group of Eight.

Complementing the workshop on global governance and with the sponsorship of the Doshisha Business School, Professor Nakata Yoshifumi, leader of the Center of Excellence (COE) programme at Doshisha, kindly arranged a symposium on Models of Capitalism. Sheffield's Glenn Hook and Andrew Gamble, along with DBS's Phillipe Byosier, presented papers.

The workshop, symposium and informal meetings, as well as a welcome dinner sponsored by the President of Doshisha University, Professor Hatta Eiji, served not only to deepen understanding of global governance and the nature of variant forms of capitalism, but also to strengthen the School's research collaboration with other social science departments at Sheffield as well as with leading social scientists in Japan. In this way, the two days helped to contribute to SEAS's ongoing efforts to promote international research and Anglo-Japanese understanding.

Welcome to ...



Sakai Shinichi, who has been appointed as a Visiting Scholar

in the School of East Asian Studies. Mr Sakai is from the Japanese Ministry of Finance and currently holds the position of Principal Supervisor of Banking, Hokkaido Local Finance Bureau, Sapporo. He has come to the UK as a Fellow under the Japanese Government's Official Overseas Study Program and will be researching changes in the UK's public funding system.

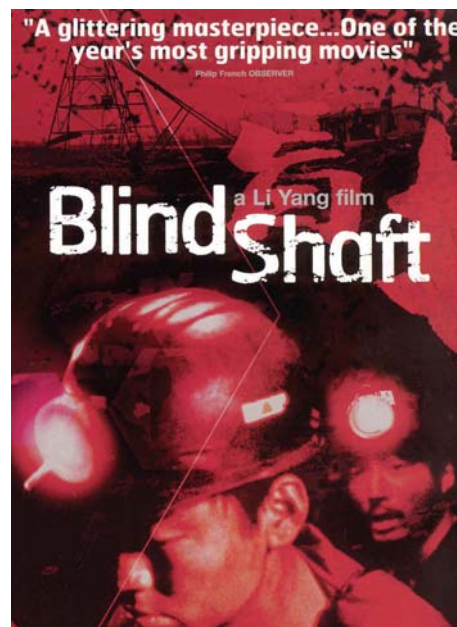
John Speak Trust scholarships

Three SEAS students have been awarded scholarships by the John Speak Trust, administered by the Bradford Chamber of Commerce. The Trust has been in existence since 1924 when the Bradford Chamber received an anonymous donation – later discovered to have been from John Speak, a well-known figure in the local textile industry – to assist students in improving their language skills and to further the UK's export trade.

Thuan Bui, who recently completed the first year of the *BA in Korean Studies and Business*, has received a £4,500 scholarship to support his "language year abroad" in Korea during the 2004-5 academic year. Steve Tingay and Somer Finlay, who graduated with Chinese Studies degrees in July, have been awarded scholarships (covering fares, living expenses and an allowance) to gain work experience in a metals company in Fujian province in southeast China.

Blind Shaft

Life and death in China's coalmines



Professor Tim Wright is a specialist on the history and political economy of China's coal industry. He is spending September-November this year doing field research in coalmining areas in Shanxi and Guizhou provinces, as well as in Beijing. Tim Wright's latest article, entitled "The Political Economy of Coal Mine Disasters in China: Your rice bowl or your life", was published in *The China Quarterly*, 179 (September 2004): 27-54. Email t.wright@sheffield.ac.uk

The film *Blind Shaft*, which won a Silver Bear at the 2003 Berlin Film Festival, as well as awards at Buenos Aires, Deauville and Hong Kong, has once again brought the issue of safety, or the lack of it, in China's coalmines to the fore.

Blind Shaft is a spine-chilling story of how two miners conspire together to kill fellow miners and then blackmail the mine-owners into paying them compensation in order to avoid an official investigation. The film highlights many important aspects of contemporary Chinese society – aspects that provide a counterpoint to stories of the Chinese economic miracle and the startling and impressive development of the cities along China's coast.

While there have been several reports in the Chinese press of precisely the kind of criminal activity portrayed in *Blind Shaft*, more importantly the film reflects the perilous conditions that exist down China's coalmines. Even official statistics cite 6,000 deaths a year, while unofficial figures put the number as high as 10,000. This reflects a situation in which both state and private mines cut costs wherever possible, even in relation to safety, in order to break even or make a profit.

Blind Shaft provides eloquent evidence of the lengths to which China's rural population will go, especially in the poorer interior provinces, to improve their meagre incomes. Despite the dangerous conditions and low pay, coalmining still offers these people a better income than can be gained from agriculture. Nor is it only mining. In one

scene, at a local post office, the young coalminer meets up again with the prostitute whom his friends had tried to set him up with – both are sending home the few dollars they have earned from their respective occupations.

A further way in which the film reflects reality is through the efforts made by mine managers to avoid the entanglement with officialdom that is involved in reporting an accident. They are prepared to buy off the dead miner's relatives (in the case of the film, supposed relatives) in order to keep the news from government officials. The Chinese press has shown almost as much concern over the concealment of even quite major accidents as it has over the safety record of coalmining. Where such concealment is uncovered, the government has responded by

imposing heavy penalties on the guilty parties.

The realism of the film is increased by the fact that much of it was actually filmed down illegal (usually private and unregistered) Chinese coalmines. To avoid repercussions for the mine owners, the film's director, Li Yang, would not identify them. One mine used for filming actually collapsed and the film crew had to move on to another.

Anyone interested in contemporary China is advised to see this film. It's an excellent illustration of the lengths to which Chinese people will go to "pull themselves up by their bootstraps", as well as of the considerable distance that exists between the booming coastal regions and the endless struggle for survival in China's interior.

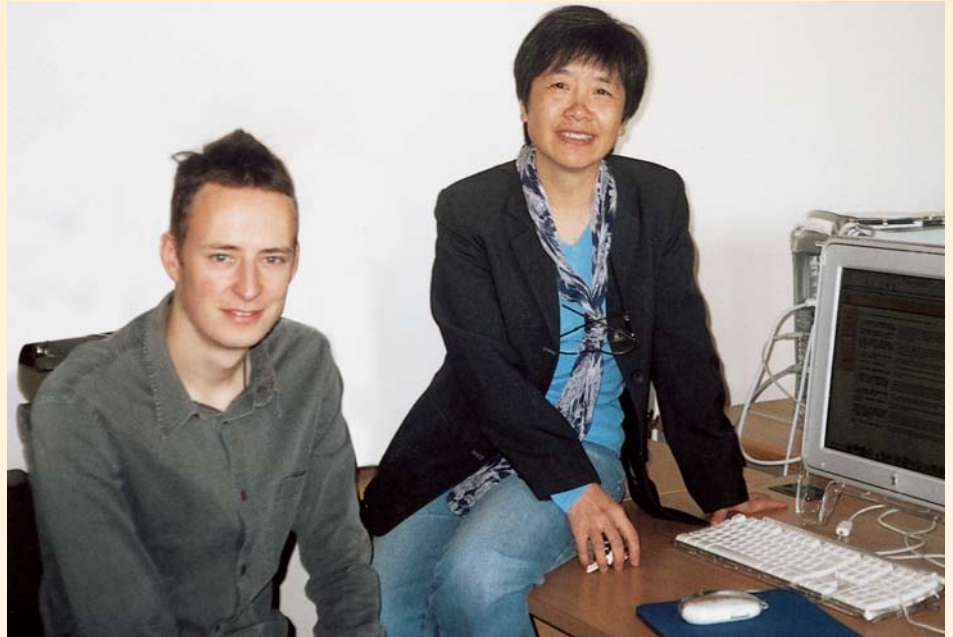
The three major actors in Blind Shaft "on location" in the interior of north China.



Sheffield Corpus of Chinese

British Academy project

Dr Hu Xiaoling, a specialist on Chinese linguistics, has completed a pilot project entitled “Chinese texts in electronic form for linguistic analysis”, funded by the British Academy. The outcome of the project is the establishment of the *Sheffield Corpus of Chinese (SCC)*. Dr Hu and computer specialist Jamie McLaughlin presented details of the project at the Biennial Conference of the European Association for Chinese Studies, held in Heidelberg in August, and at the Digital Resources for the Humanities (DRH) 2004 Conference in Newcastle in September.



Dr Hu Xiaoling and Jamie McLaughlin pictured in Sheffield's Humanities Research Institute.

“The aim of the project has been to create a corpus of Chinese texts that are marked up in such a way as to permit linguistic analysis. The project has used a mark-up scheme in the context of XML (Extensible Markup Language). XML has been used to mark up texts in Indo-European languages like English, but their application to Chinese is still at an early stage. Parallel English translations have been added to broaden the accessibility of the marked-up Chinese texts and to

facilitate contrastive study between English and Chinese. As the number of texts increases, the Corpus will address the general lack of corpora for a wide range of linguistic analysis, especially diachronic studies which trace the different historical patterns affecting the development of grammatical structures.”

The pilot project was conducted in association with Sheffield's Humanities Research Institute, which

uses innovative techniques for handling digital text, images and multi-media to explore issues in humanities research that cannot be readily investigated by other means. Computer specialists Jamie McLaughlin and Nigel Williamson provided the technical expertise for the project.

The Sheffield Corpus of Chinese is available at www.brionline.ac.uk/scc

Chinese KC Wong Fellow Department of Music



Dr Liu Yong, a scholar in the Musicology Department of the China Conservatory of Music in Beijing, held a KC Wong Fellowship in the Department of Music from March to August this year. Dr Liu, a specialist in Chinese musical traditions, used the Fellowship to carry out research on ethnomusicological work on China by British scholars. He spent the five-month visit reading English-language books, dissertations and articles, interviewing researchers (from new MA students to established senior figures), and attending meetings and seminars.

Dr Liu's aim was to better understand the features of ethnomusicological research on China, and to explore how these emerge from particular institutional settings and scholarly trends. In his final report he commented: “Through my visit, I have further understood this discipline, from its basic theory to issues like writing style. I believe that in my future teaching and study, I will benefit a lot from my intensive five-month visit.” One initiative that Dr Liu and his academic host (Dr Jonathan Stock of the Department of Music) are currently working on is the possibility of setting up a Sheffield-validated PhD at the China Conservatory.

Tearing down the last edifice of the Cold War

South Korea's National Security Law



Dr Son Key-young was recently awarded a PhD for his dissertation on "South Korean Identities in Strategies of Engagement with North Korea: A case study of President Kim Dae-jung's Sunshine Policy". Dr Son, formerly political editor for the Korea Times in Seoul, came to the UK as a Chevening Scholar (sponsored by the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office) in 2002. Email jap02ks@sheffield.ac.uk

When reformed-minded South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun threw down the gauntlet in September 2004 by declaring he wanted to see the controversial National Security Law abolished once and for all, he faced a starkly different political landscape from his predecessors in a long overdue battle over the fate of the law.

Since it was enacted in 1948, the draconian anti-Communist law, which bans all forms of contact and communication with North Koreans, helped to create an ideologically sanitized society by muzzling the voices of both pro-North Korean activists and the political opponents of the South's authoritarian regimes. When President Kim Dae-jung (1998-2003) attempted to abolish the law as part of his efforts to jumpstart his Sunshine Policy, which was aimed at improving relations with North Korea, he could neither win a consensus in society nor the majority of parliamentarians needed to repeal the law.

By September 2004, however, South Korea was a markedly different nation, inhabited by people with shifting identities vis-à-vis North Korea. In the 299-member National Assembly, President Roh's Uri Party enjoyed majority status, with 151 seats over the main opposition Grand National Party's 121. Already the left-wing Democratic Labour Party, which has 10 seats, and the Millennium Democratic Party, with 9 members, had joined the ruling camp's campaign to repeal the law.

There had already been heated debates in parliament and rallies by political groups holding different identities vis-à-vis North Korea. President Roh managed to woo the support of emerging identity groups, including a formidable army of Internet-based political activists who have sought to abolish the law as part of their efforts to build friendly ties with North Korea. He also secured support from the National Human Rights Commission. Meanwhile, the opposition

forces recruited those people who had been the masterminds of "psychological warfare" during the Cold War, as well as the Old Guard, including former conservative prime ministers and politicians. The Constitutional Court and the Supreme Court also sided with the opposition forces.

Nevertheless, the Old Guard no longer wanted to keep the law intact. Since the inter-Korean summit in 2000, South Korean society had already advanced to the extent that there was a rising consensus that the law should somehow be amended to reflect the newly unfolding realities of inter-Korean rapprochement. Therefore, the question was whether to abolish the law or to revise it.

The fact that a majority of South Koreans are in favour of the revision or repeal of the National Security Law represents a remarkable shift in their identities vis-à-vis North Korea. Any debate on the validity of the law was banned during the Cold War and for a considerable period after its end, symbolized by the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. Even after North Korea revealed its ambition to develop nuclear weapons in 2002, South

Korean efforts to repeal the law, dubbed "unilateral disarmament" by President Roh's political opponents, continued. This demonstrates that South Koreans have increasingly been identifying North Korea as a partner for cooperation, rather than as an enemy.

South Koreans' identities vis-à-vis North Korea have evolved in a number of phases over the past several decades. Even under military rule, dissidents and students waged campaigns calling for the abolition of the National Security Law. The beginning of the end of the Cold War between North and South Korea came with a series of secret trips to the North by South Korean dissidents and students who, risking their lives, desired the repeal of the law. With the emergence of new social forces valuing nationalist zeal over the ideological divide, South Koreans have taken a big step towards building a plural society liberated from the shackles of Cold War structures.

The latest developments regarding the National Security Law can be followed in the Korea Times (www.koreatimes.co.kr) or the Korea Herald (www.koreaherald.co.kr).



Former South Korean President Kim Dae-jung (left) pictured with North Korean National Defence Commission Chairman Kim Jong-il during the former's three-day visit to Pyongyang for a summit meeting in June 2000.

Joint East Asian Studies Conference

This year's venue for the Joint East Asian Studies (JEAS) Conference, held on 6-8 September, was the Bretton Hall Campus of Leeds University, located near Wakefield in the impressive Yorkshire Sculpture Park. Works by leading British sculptors, including Henry Moore and Barbara Hepworth, attracted conference delegates during the breaks between sessions.

The JEAS Conference, normally held every three years, is a combined conference of the British Association for Chinese Studies (BACS), British Association for Japanese Studies (BAJS), and British Association for Korean Studies (BAKS). The theme for this year's conference was "Dynamic East Asia: Past and present".

The conference presented the opportunity for Sheffield academic staff and postgraduate students to share their latest research with East Asia specialists from around the UK, as well as from East Asia, the Middle East, Australasia, Europe and North America. James H. Grayson, Professor of Korean Studies, spoke at the conference plenary session on "Dynamism and Socio-political Change in Korea: Reflections over 40 years". His co-panelists were Professor Jun Jing from Tsinghua (Qinghua) University in Beijing, who presented a paper on the downside of China's recent economic dynamism, and Professor Saito Osamu from Hitotsubashi University in Tokyo who spoke on population and deforestation in East Asia and Europe.

Dr Takeda Hiroko, who recently took up a lectureship in Japanese Studies at Sheffield, was the discussant for a panel entitled "Risk and Risk Regimes",



In front of one of the Henry Moore sculptures in the Yorkshire Sculpture Park. Conference delegates (from left) Dr Alison Hardie (University of Newcastle), Professor James H. Grayson (University of Sheffield), Dr Chloe Starr (University of Durham), Professor Tim Wright (University of Sheffield).

chaired by Professor Glenn Hook. ESRC post-doctoral fellow Dr Yoon Kyong-won presented a paper entitled "Looking East? Intra-Asian cultural flows in Korea and Japan", while Sheffield's Department of Music was represented by Dr Inok Paek who spoke on "Music of the Fatherland: North Korean soundscape in the construction of Ch'ongnyon identity in Japan". Dr Son Key-young, who has been working on an ESRC (Economic and Social Research Council) consultancy on UK social science and the Asia Pacific region, took the opportunity to discuss this issue with conference delegates.

Sheffield's PhD students were also active at the conference. Joanna Elfving-Hwang and Kim Young-mi presented papers: Joanna on

"De-gendering Curiosity in Contemporary Korean Literature" and Young-mi on "Coalition Theories and the Dynamics of Coalition Party Politics in Japan and Korea". Their Sheffield fellow-students Park Chang-gun, Utpal Vyas and Kuniko Ishiguro also participated in the conference sessions and used the opportunity to meet other researchers.

Sheffield representatives at the conference were delighted to catch up with Emeritus Professor Geoffrey Bownas CBE, Foundation Professor of Japanese Studies, and also Dr Philip Charrier, formerly a research fellow/administrator in the School and now an Associate Professor of History at the University of Regina in Saskatchewan.



At the Conference dinner: Emeritus Professor Geoffrey Bownas CBE and conference organiser Lynn Baird of the University of Essex.



Dr Son Key-young of the University of Sheffield and Natalie Siu Lam Wong, a PhD researcher at the University of Westminster.

KOREAN FILM FESTIVAL

The Third UK Korean Film Festival begins on 19 November, commencing simultaneously at the Showroom in Sheffield and the Curzon Soho in London. The Festival will continue until the end of December, touring thirteen centres (including Edinburgh, Oxford, Cambridge, Belfast and Dublin).

Dr Hyangjin Lee, who lectures in Korean Studies at Sheffield, has been director of the Festival since it started in 2000. She is the author of *Contemporary Korean Cinema: Culture, identity and politics* (Manchester University Press, 2001).

“This year, the Festival will show eleven films, including *Untold Scandal*

(Yi Jae-yong, 2003), a Korean adaptation of *Dangerous Liaisons*, Kim Ki-duk’s *Samaria*, which won the Best Director award at Berlin this year, Kim Dong-won’s *The Repatriation*, a documentary about a political prisoner who served the longest sentence in recorded history, and *If You Were Me* (Park Chan-wook and others), a collection of human rights short films. As part of the Festival, the directors Yi Jae-yong and Kim Dong-won have been invited from South Korea to hold question-and-answer sessions.”

The Festival is being held with the support of the Korean Embassy in London, the Showroom Cinema in Sheffield, and the Korean Film Council (KOFIC).



Untold Scandal is based on Choderlos de Laclos’s 1782 novel *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*. The theme will be familiar to those who saw the 1988 English-language film *Dangerous Liaisons*, starring Glenn Close, John Malkovich and Michelle Pfeiffer.

The film is set in aristocratic eighteenth century Korea at the end of the Chosun Dynasty. The irresistible temptress Lady Cho (Lee Mi-suk) asks her cad of a younger cousin, Jo-won (Bae Yong-jun), to seduce the innocent young Soh-ok (Lee So-yeon), who is to become her husband’s concubine. But his attentions soon shift elsewhere: to the graceful and aloof Lady Sook

(Jeon Do-yeon) who lives according to her convictions as a Catholic. Jo-won becomes obsessed with seducing this chaste woman who has remained celibate for nine years since her husband’s death. However, it proves to be more difficult than he expected when Chosun’s notorious playboy sets out to conquer the most virtuous woman in the land.

2004-2005

The new academic year

Introduction week

20-24 September



“Freshers” at an introduction session: some of the new students in Chinese, Japanese, Korean and East Asian Studies.



New Masters students (from left) Natalie Bateman, Katie Whitehead and Jon Morrell at a welcome party for postgraduate students.



New PhD students David Scofield (left) and Shin Seung-hoon (right) chat at the welcome party.

Farewell to...

Dr Yoko Sellek, who has resigned from her lectureship in Japanese Studies for personal reasons. Yoko made a major contribution to the Japanese Studies programme, lecturing on minorities in Japan and also participating in a range of Japanese language modules.

Sue Preston, who taught in the Japanese language programme for fourteen years. She will be sorely missed by her students and colleagues (and also in the University coffee shop where she could be seen at 8 am most mornings preparing materials for her classes).

Best wishes to Yoko and Sue for the future.

East Asian Studies degrees

The School of East Asian Studies offers a wide range of single and dual honours degrees, as well as postgraduate taught and research degrees. For further information, contact SEAS@sheffield.ac.uk or see the School's webpage www.seas.ac.uk

BA degrees

Most degrees involve four years of study. Those marked* take three years.

Single honours

Chinese Studies
Japanese Studies
Korean Studies
East Asian Studies*

Dual honours

Chinese Studies and/Business Studies, History, Music
Chinese Studies with/Japanese, French, German, Spanish, Russian
Japanese Studies and/Business Studies, Politics, Sociology, Linguistics, History
Japanese Studies with/Korean, French, German, Spanish, Russian
French/Germanic/Hispanic/Russian Studies with Japanese
Korean Studies and/Business Studies, Linguistics, Music
Korean Studies with/Japanese
East Asian Studies and/Business Studies, Russian Studies, Music*
International Politics and East Asian Studies*

Postgraduate taught degrees

In-house

MA/Diploma/Certificate in Chinese Studies
MSc/Diploma/Certificate in Chinese Business and International Relations
MSc/Diploma/Certificate in Chinese Language, Business and International Relations
MA/Diploma/Certificate in Japanese Language and Society
MA in Advanced Japanese Studies
MA/Diploma/Certificate in Modern Korean Studies
MSc/Diploma/Certificate in East Asian Political Economy
MSc/Diploma in East Asian Business

Distance learning

MA/Diploma in Japanese Language and Society
MA in Advanced Japanese Studies
MSc/Diploma in Chinese Business and International Relations
MSc/Diploma in Chinese Language, Business and International Relations

Postgraduate research degrees

PhD supervision is available in a wide range of subject areas on China, Japan, Korea and intra-regional studies

From the Independent

"The Lord Mayor [Ken Livingstone] told a meeting of business leaders last week... that if children only learnt one foreign language at school it should be Chinese. 'If you can speak Chinese you will never be out of a job', he said."

Independent News,
13 September 2004.

Forthcoming Korean Studies Conference

The 2005 Biennial Conference of the Association for Korean Studies in Europe (AKSE) will be held at Halifax Hall, the University of Sheffield, on 4-8 July 2005. The conference will be hosted during the 25th anniversary year of Korean Studies at Sheffield, which began with the appointment of the first Korean Studies lecturer in 1980. Information about the conference is available from the Conference Organizer, Professor James H. Grayson (j.h.grayson@sheffield.ac.uk). Requests to attend the conference may be received up to 1 June 2005.

EastAsia@Sheffield

is published by the School of East Asian Studies at the University of Sheffield.

Enquiries to:
Professor Beverley Hooper
Editor

EastAsia@Sheffield

School of East Asian Studies
The University of Sheffield
Western Bank, Sheffield
S10 2TN, United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0) 114 222 8429
Email: b.j.hooper@sheffield.ac.uk