

## This Month in Mongolian Studies – December 2011

This is a monthly listing of selected academic activities and resources related to Mongolia. This list is based on information the ACMS has received and is presented as a service to its members. If you would like to submit information to be included in next month's issue please contact the ACMS [atinfo@mongoliacenter.org](mailto:atinfo@mongoliacenter.org) and/or the editor, Marissa Smith, at [msmith@mongoliacenter.org](mailto:msmith@mongoliacenter.org).

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### ACMS Sponsored Programs and Events

**ACMS US-Mongolia Field Research Fellowship Program:** The American Center for Mongolian Studies (ACMS), with funding support from the US State Department Educational and Cultural Affairs Bureau and the Council of American Overseas Research Centers, invites applications for the seventh year of the ACMS US-Mongolia Field Research Fellowship Program to support short-term student, post-doctoral, or faculty field research in Mongolia in the Summer or Fall 2012. The program will provide awards of up to \$4,000 to approximately 4-8 students, post-docs, or faculty. Previous experience in Mongolia is not required to apply to this program. Faculty or post-doctoral applicants are especially encouraged to submit joint applications with student applicants. Research proposals should be conducted in conjunction with a Research Sponsor, such as a faculty member or senior researcher, and involve at least 6 weeks for students or 3 weeks for post-docs or faculty of fieldwork in Mongolia. Preference is given to projects in which the Research Sponsor will work directly with the researcher in the field in Mongolia.

Deadline for receipt of complete applications: February 15, 2012. More information about the program and how to apply is at: [www.mongoliacenter.org/field](http://www.mongoliacenter.org/field).

**ACMS Library Fellowship:** American Center for Mongolian Studies (ACMS) is pleased to announce the second year of the ACMS Library Fellowship. This fellowship supports US advanced graduate students, faculty members, or professionals in library and information sciences from colleges and universities to conduct short-term library development projects and/or research in Mongolia for a period of up to 12 weeks between May and October 2012. The fellowship is supported with funding from the US State Department Education and Cultural Affairs Bureau and the Council of American Overseas Research Centers. The ACMS Library Fellowship program is intended to help support the development of the ACMS research library and build stronger connections among local library partners through specific defined projects designed to enhance collection content, resource accessibility, and training. Fellows are hosted by the ACMS and should propose projects that have measurable positive outcomes for the

scholarly community served by the ACMS. Project proposals with similar outcomes and impacts on local partner libraries are also especially encouraged. Fellows spend a minimum of 4 weeks and a maximum of 12 weeks onsite in Mongolia at the ACMS library. Projects must begin after May 1, 2012 and end no later than September 30, 2012. Prior experience working in Mongolia is not a requirement. One to two Fellowships will be awarded to fund travel and living expenses (\$2,000 for travel and up to \$2,000 for a project stipend unless otherwise agreed upon). Deadline for receipt of complete applications: February 15, 2012. More information about the program and how to apply is at: [www.mongoliacenter.org/librarian](http://www.mongoliacenter.org/librarian).

**ACMS Mongolian Visiting Scholar Program:** The American Center for Mongolian Studies (ACMS) is pleased to announce the second year of the ACMS Mongolian Visiting Scholar Program. The Visiting Scholar Program provides funding support for 3-12 week short-term visits by Mongolian scholars to US universities and academic research centers to work with US based counterparts on collaborative projects and public outreach activities. The Program is supported by the US State Department Educational and Cultural Affairs Bureau (ECA) and the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC), and is intended to build ties between Mongolian and US scholars and to increase understanding about Mongolia in the United States. Project proposals in all academic fields are eligible, and small colleges and universities are especially encouraged to apply. Applications for the program must be submitted by a US host institution representative on behalf of an invited Mongolian scholar. Visits to the US must begin between September 1 and December 31, 2012. This program is intended to fund non-degree, scholarly exchange activities. Deadline for receipt of complete applications: February 15, 2012. More information about the program and how to apply is at: [www.mongoliacenter.org/exchange](http://www.mongoliacenter.org/exchange).

**ACMS Enkhbaatar Demchig Field Research Fellowship Program:** The ACMS is continuing the Enkhbaatar Demchig Field Research Fellowship Program to enable Mongolian students the opportunity to carry out field research, become adept in modern research methods and technologies, and support a new generation of Mongolian scholars. This fellowship supports students who are Mongolian citizens currently enrolled full-time in a university in Mongolia or North America to conduct research in Mongolia for a period of up to 3 months. The program will award one or two fellowships and students will receive a research stipend of \$500 to support their work in the summer or fall of 2012.

Deadline for receipt of complete applications: February 15, 2012. For further details visit: [www.mongoliacenter.org/enkh](http://www.mongoliacenter.org/enkh).

**Online Mongolian Course Spring 2012.** The American Center for Mongolian Studies is pleased to announce the spring semester of Mon 102: Introduction to Mongolian Language and Culture, an online Mongolian course being offered at University of Maine at Augusta (UMA) from January 9 to May 5, 2012. The course is co-organized by UMA, University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF), and ACMS. The course is open to anyone (you do not need to be a student at UMA or UAF to participate), and it is the second semester in a two semester offering of beginner Mongolian. The class is divided into two cohorts. The first cohort, having participated in a previous semester of the course, builds on the previous semester's work with 13 new lessons and two exams aimed at reaching the high-beginner/low-intermediate level. The second cohort, having participated in no previous semester of the course, begins with lesson one of the course

completing 13 lessons and two exams in all to gain an introductory understanding of the Mongolian language in preparation for the second semester.

For further details visit: <http://www.mongoliacenter.org/mon101>

## Call for Papers, Conferences and Workshops

Call for Applications: **2012 Regional Policy Symposium, "Transnational Crime and Corruption in Eastern Europe and Eurasia,"** April 18-20, 2012 in the Washington, DC.

This research symposium, supported by the United States Department of State (Title VIII Program), will bring American junior and senior scholars and members of the policy community together to examine and discuss transnational crime and corruption in Eastern Europe and Eurasia from multi-disciplinary perspectives. Topics may include: organized crime, corruption, human trafficking, drug trafficking, illicit trade, terrorism, cyber crime, financial crime and environmental crime, among others. Deadline: December 9, 2011.

Visit: <http://www.irex.org/project/regional-policy-symposium>.

**Biodiversity Research in Mongolia, International Symposium,** March 25-29 2012. University of Halle, Halle, Germany. Mongolian and German scientists, together with colleagues from other countries, have strongly contributed to a better knowledge of the fauna and flora of Central Asia. Commemorating the 50th anniversary of the joint "Mongolian-German Biological Expeditions" it is now time to look back at the achievements that were made, and simultaneously envisage those new cooperations that are needed to face the new challenges. The symposium is therefore also thought to be a scientific-strategic as well as political strategic event which we would like using to strengthen our communal partnerships, projects and collegial friendships for the next decade, with the aim of understanding the Mongolian ecosystems even better and conserving these unique habitats for future generations. Deadline for submission of abstracts [in English]: 31 December 2011. Visit: <http://birdsmongolia.blogspot.com/2011/11/mongoliahosts-unique-range-of.html#links>

Call for Papers, Conference: **2012 Annual SOYUZ**

**Symposium:** "Affections/Afflictions/Afterlives" at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, March 23-24, 2012. SOYUZ, the Post-Communist Cultural Studies Interest group, invites paper proposals for its 2012 meeting. The symposium has met annually since 1991, and is an intimate forum where scholars (from graduate students to senior faculty) from across the world can exchange ideas. The 2012 symposium will ponder the sentiments, the failures, and the successes around making do with those ongoing, productive connections that are afforded by infrastructures and procedures conceived during (or in response to) socialism. How to speak about what lives "after" without abjecting the 'remains'? Topical foci might draw upon themes current in the humanities and social sciences: biopolitics and biopowers (for instance, bricolage in ways of dealing with affliction, means of training the body, etc.); knowledge-making or sentiment-forming (e.g. recombination of religious, ethnic-folk, scientific, poetic ideologies and resources); material and narrative repurposing; modes of redistribution or (re)portioning of entitlements. Presentations may work in any discipline (anthropology, history, sociology, literary criticism and film studies, etc.) and may focus on any aspect of social life (religion, politics, kinship, sexuality, exchange, performance, etc.). At the same time, papers must strive to combine ethnographic evidence with theory. We hope to make a limited number of travel

subsidies available to graduate students as well as to presenters from outside the United States.  
Deadline: December 15, 2011

Call for Papers, Conference: **Deception: The 12th Annual East Asian Studies Graduate Student Conference**, University of Toronto, 10 March 2012. Establishing as our starting point the distinction between truth and falsehood, we are interested in the question of how and to what purposes that distinction might be intentionally blurred. We welcome contributions that discuss the human, and also non-human, faculty to deceive, as well as the human potential to be deceived. Deception can take the form of propaganda or a glance, an image or an utterance, a presence or an absence, a ploy or a pledge, an action or a silence. The question of deception invites a multitude of discussions: political, linguistic, artistic, cultural, historical, anthropological, philosophical, psychological, and many more besides. Thus we welcome papers from any and all disciplines willing and able to engage academically in the issues, intricacies, and illuminations of the topic of deception in an East Asian context, from the ways deception is defined and figured in East Asian societies and cultures, to the very workings of deception in the figuring and definition of East Asia. Submitted papers are also eligible for consideration for the East Asia Forum, a journal edited and published by graduate students in the Department of East Asian Studies at the University of Toronto. Please e-mail submissions and queries to [eas.gsc@utoronto.ca](mailto:eas.gsc@utoronto.ca). Further information as it becomes available will be posted on the conference website at <http://groups.chass.utoronto.ca/easgsc/>. Deadline: December 15, 2011.

Call for Papers, Conference: **The 11th Annual Conference of Asian Studies in Israel, 2012** (East, South and Central Asia) at Tel Aviv University in Tel Aviv, Tue-Wed, May 22-23, 2012. Priority will be given to thematic panels, but individual paper submissions will also be considered for inclusion into an appropriate panel. The proposal should include the title of the panel or the individual paper together with a short abstract (150-200 words). With the exception of round tables, panel proposals should also include the title and abstract for each of the papers. Please indicate in your proposal what technical facilities or equipment will be required for your panel or individual presentation. The conference will be bi-lingual (Hebrew/English). Abstracts can be submitted in English alone or both in Hebrew and English. Conference guests will be able to stay in designated hotels in Tel Aviv offering discounted rates to be announced under separate cover. Priority in booking special rate accommodations will be given to foreign participants. The organizing committee will cover the accommodation costs of a limited number of foreign participants pending on budget limitations (but please bear in mind that the organizing committee will not be able to participate in covering the cost of airfare to/from Israel). Proposals for panels/paper, as well as further enquiries, should be submitted by email to Dr. Asaf Goldschmidt ([gasaf@post.tau.ac.il](mailto:gasaf@post.tau.ac.il)) with a copy to the conference's designated email: ([asi.2012.tau@gmail.com](mailto:asi.2012.tau@gmail.com)). Deadline: December 18, 2011.

Call for Applications: **NEH Summer Institute for Middle and High School Teachers on the theme Central Asia in World History** at Ohio State University, from July 15-27, 2012. Central Asia in World History will engage teachers in a deeper understanding of how Central Asia has historically functioned as a crossroads of intercultural exchange, connecting the great civilizations on the Eurasian periphery, giving rise to world empires of its own in antiquity and the medieval era, and serving as the playing ground for the Anglo-Russian "Great Game" in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. This will be done through expert presentations, analysis of primary material, both narrative and documentary, screenings and discussion of relevant films,

immersion in traditional food and music of the region, and the development of unit plans for classroom use. An advisory panel will select twenty-five teachers from various disciplines to participate in the Institute. Primarily, we will seek out teachers in the fields of world history, the social sciences, geography, and Asian Studies. We will also consider full-time graduate students pursuing a K-12 teaching career for participation. NEH Summer Scholars receive a stipend of \$2,100 to help cover travel expenses and the cost of housing. Additional information, including a list of participating faculty, the Institute schedule and instructions on how to apply, can be found at: <http://hti.osu.edu/centralasia>. Deadline: March 15, 2011.

## Research Fellowships, Scholarships and Grants

<no listings this month>

## Position Openings

**WWF Mongolia, Climate Change and Freshwater Officer**, Ulaanbaatar. Assist WWF Mongolia to integrate climate change adaptation and freshwater footprint mitigation in its projects and programs; provide technical backstopping on climate change and freshwater issues to WWF funded programs and projects; assist in ensuring financing projects within frame work of implementation of WWF Mongolia Conservation Strategy; ensure effective implementation of freshwater & climate change adaptation projects and Conservation strategy in accordance with WWF policies, procedures and standards and responds to queries on matters relating to project administration; ensure that findings of field projects effectively communicated at policy level in order to enable achieving goals/objectives set by Conservation Strategy. Qualifications: PhD or Masters in hydraulic/hydrologic modeling and climate change adaptation, conservation, natural resources management, natural sciences or related field. Relevant work experience in conservation may be substituted for higher academic qualification. Technical proficiency in the field of hydraulic/hydrologic modeling and climate change adaptation with at least 3 years professional experience in project planning and implementation. Deadline: December 5, 2011. Visit: <http://mongolia.panda.org/en/>

**Snow Leopard Trust, Assistant Director of Science and Conservation**, Ulaanbaatar. The current position will assist the Science and Conservation Director in planning and managing research and conservation initiatives in six countries. The selected candidate is expected to help address frequently emerging conservation issues and crises in multiple countries. Specifically, the candidate will be responsible for frequent interactions with range country staff, conducting training and fieldwork in snow leopard habitats of the Himalayas and Central Asia, and providing assistance in developing and reviewing work plans and reports. The candidate will assist in preparation of proposals and grant applications, communication with funding agencies, and development and timely submission of reports. The candidate is expected to assist in data collection and analysis, and developing and coauthoring peer reviewed publications based on the work being carried out. Assistance may also be sought for work related to the Snow Leopard Network [www.snowleopardnetwork.org](http://www.snowleopardnetwork.org) that is supported by SLT and other organizations. The candidate should be willing to be available during non-standard work hours to support the

Science and Conservation Director, including participation in virtual meetings with colleagues in different time zones. Qualification: Ph.D. in ecology, conservation biology or any relevant discipline. Practical experience in conservation initiatives, community-based conservation, and engagement with governments for conservation policy and management planning. Track record in publishing scientific papers, and Post-doc or post-Ph.D. experience in leading and managing research programs will be viewed preferentially. Deadline: January 15, 2012, or until position is filled. Contact: [rakhee@snowleopard.org](mailto:rakhee@snowleopard.org).

## Resources

**Mongolia Today:** "This blog is an attempt by three avid Mongoliawatchers to share their observations about current developments in Mongolia." By Julian Dierkes and Dalaibulanii Byambajav, social scientists at the University of British Columbia, this blog mostly follows Mongolian politics and the mining sector. Visit: <http://blogs.ubc.ca/mongolia/>

## News and Events

5th Year Anniversary of the Mongolian School of the National Capital Area Dinner Reception: Saturday, December 3, 2011, 5:00pm, Mongolian Embassy. Jointly hosted by Embassy of Mongolia to the United States of America and The Mongolian School of the National Capital Area, Inc. "This festive occasion will celebrate our organization's accomplishments and growth throughout the years to benefit the education of our students." Anniversary dinner tickets are \$50 each, R.S.V.P. by November 30th, Payment may be made at <http://www.mongolianschool.com> via PayPal, OR checks may be out to MSNCA and mailed to MSNCA, P.O. Box 17853 Arlington, VA 22216.

**Monthly Biobeers Talk:** First Thursday of the month (December 1st), Sweet Cafe (located behind the Information and Technological National Park and next to the Admon Printing Company, west of Internom Bookstore Building). 1. B. Buuveibaatar from Wildlife Conservation Society, will give a talk entitled "Survival and mortality of endangered saiga calves (*Saiga tatarica mongolica*) in Mongolia" 2. G. Battuvshin from National Air Pollution Reduction Committee of Mongolia, will give a talk entitled "Air Quality of Ulaanbaatar". People are requested to arrive after 6pm, in time for the talk to start at 6.30. Biobeers is a monthly gathering of government and NGO staff, biologists, researchers, and other professionals interested in conservation. Each month, Biobeers sponsors a half-hour presentation on a topic relevant to Mongolian conservation, followed by an informal gathering to discuss activities and issues of interest. Biobeers is an opportunity to find out what is happening in the field of conservation in Mongolia, talk informally to other researchers and peers in your field, and share information about issues critical to the environment and people of Mongolia. Biobeers is organised by the Zoological Society of London's Steppe Forward Programme and sponsored by the Wildlife Conservation Society. Join the Yahoo! Group Mongolbioweb for announcements.

American and Mongolian paleontologists have found a nest with no less than 15 juvenile Protoceratops: <http://news.discovery.com/animals/baby-dinosaur-111116.html>. See the current issue of the Journal of Paleontology.



National University of Mongolia professor Chuluun Togtokh is making news with proposed changes to the UN's Human Development Index published in the November 16 issue of *Nature*: <http://www.wired.com/wiredscience/2011/11/global-sustainability-rankings/>

## Recent Publications

**“Living with Herds: human-animal coexistence in Mongolia.”** Domestic animals have lived with humans for thousands of years and remain essential to the everyday lives of people throughout the world. In this book, Natasha Fijn examines the process of animal domestication in a study that blends biological and social anthropology, ethology and ethnography. She examines the social behavior of humans and animals in a contemporary Mongolian herding society. After living with Mongolian herding families, Dr. Fijn has observed through firsthand experience both sides of the human-animal relationship. Examining their reciprocal social behavior and communication with one another, she demonstrates how herd animals influence Mongolian herders' lives and how the animals themselves are active partners in the domestication process.

**“Harnessing Fortune: Personhood, Memory and Place in Mongolia (Proceedings of the British Academy)”**. Rebecca M. Empson. June 2011. Based on long-term fieldwork with herding families along the Mongolian-Russian border, this book examines how people tend to past memories in their homes while navigating new ways of accumulating wealth and fortune in the face of political and economic uncertainties. It is at this intersection, where the politics of tending to the past and the morality of new means of accumulating wealth come together to shape intimate social relations that the book reveals an innovative area for the study of kinship in anthropology. Combining personal experience with ethnographic insight, the volume will be essential reading for social anthropologists and those with a general interest in East Asia and post-socialist countries.

**“Vegetation Dynamics of Mongolia (Geobotany).”** P.D. Gunin, Elizabeth A. Vostokova, Nadezhda I. Dorofeyuk, Pavel E. Tarasov, Clanton C. Black (Editors). January, 2011. Mongolia is an expansive land-locked country, tilted by tectonic forces to the North, that experiences extremes of continental climate. Moisture-carrying wind currents are scarce so that the land has extended highs and lows in its environment. Culturally the people are mostly nomadic, having been sustained for centuries by an economy based on domestic livestock grazing. There is a saying that, 'As the noses go, so goes Mongolia', referring to the domesticated grazing noses of sheep, goats, camels, yaks or horses, and wild ungulates such as gazelles. The vast fenceless steppes of Mongolia furnish the vegetation for grazing. With such extremes in climate it is clear that the vegetation must be resilient and dynamic to cope with the dictates of its extremely harsh environments. Pollen profiles from lakes, plant macrofossils and other data over the last 15,000 years show the dynamic nature of Mongolian vegetation. Currently Mongolian society is experiencing much human-driven economic development which increases pressure on its vegetation. The Great Khural Laws of 1995 forcefully addressed such environmental concerns with the expanded establishment of National Reserves and Parks. But continued effort and vigilance must be expended to insure that Mongolian society will continue to be sustained by its vegetation. This book highlights work such as conserving and restoring

plant diversity in various ecosystems and makes recommendations for sustaining the vegetation basis of the nomadic Mongolian society.

**“Tibet, Tartary and Mongolia: Their Social and Political Condition, and the Religion of Boodh, as There Existing (Cambridge Library Collection - History).”** Henry Thoby Prinsep. June 2011. Henry T. Prinsep (1792-1878) was the son of a prominent East India Company servant, and like his father, he spent much of his life in the East. He left Britain for Calcutta in 1809, at the age of seventeen, and stayed in India, working in a variety of roles, until his retirement in 1843. He wrote a number of books about India: in this work, published in 1851, he turns to the north of the subcontinent. Prinsep draws from travel narratives of the few explorers who had been to this territory - which corresponds to today's western China and Mongolia - to illustrate the lives of the people there. Using sources ranging from the thirteenth-century account by Marco Polo to eighteenth-century reports by French missionaries, Prinsep brings information on what was then a little-known world to a wider audience.

**“The Impact of the Financial Crisis on Poverty and Income Distribution in Mongolia,”** March 2011. The global financial crisis of 2008-09 slowed down economic growth and severely affected Mongolian households. GDP contracted by 1.6% in 2009 after growth of 8.9% in 2008. The crisis led to a temporary halt in progress in reducing poverty. The poor were the most strongly affected by this negative shock but benefited the least from the early recovery in 2010-11. While poverty appears to have started to decline again post-crisis, the analysis suggests that it has been accompanied by rising inequality. Download at: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/mongolia>

**“Rural Out-Migration and Family Life in Cities,”** March 2011. How large has internal migration been recently in Mongolia? Is it beneficial? The growing concentration of migrants in Ulaanbaatar has become very visible and inevitable. Its potential social, economic, and environmental impacts are of interest to policy makers and the international development community. This calls for a good understanding of the nature of migration in Mongolia and its impacts on the life of migrants. Using the 2007/08 Household Socio-Economic Survey, this paper documents the characteristics of recent internal migration in Mongolia and assesses the livelihoods of rural-to-urban migrants in comparison to those staying in rural areas as well as to local urban residents. Download at: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/mongolia>