

## This Month in Mongolian Studies – June 2012

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 at [info@mongoliacenter.org](mailto:info@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 Hosts Workshop for Customs Agency.** On May 17th, 2012, the ACMS hosted the first in a series of training workshops for members of the Mongolian Customs Agency. The first workshop was conducted by Professor N. Batsaikhan of the School of Biology and Biotechnology of the National University of Mongolia and ACMS associate Ts. Altangerel. The workshops were coordinated in order to provide additional information and training to Customs Agency personnel in national and international endangered species laws, international wildlife conventions, and species identification.

### New Books in the ACMS Library

Alexander, C., V. Buchli, and C. Humphrey. 2007. *Urban Life in Post-Soviet Asia*. University College of London Publishing.

Fanon, F., and R. Philcox (Translator). 2004. *The Wretched of the Earth*. Grove Press.

Hansen, T., and F. Stepputat (Eds.). 2005. *Sovereign Bodies: Citizens, Migrants, and States in the Postcolonial World*. Princeton University Press.

Omeje, K (Ed.). 2008. *Extractive Economies and Conflicts in the Global South: Multi-regional Perspectives on Rentier Politics*. Ashgate Publishing.

Tickell, A., E. Sheppard, J. Peck, and T. Barnes. 2007. *Politics and practice in economic geography*. Sage Publishing.

Wainwright, J. 2008. *Decolonizing Development: Colonial Power and the Maya*. Blackwell Publishing.

Wimmer, A. 2002. *Nationalist Exclusion and Ethnic Conflict: Shadows of Modernity*. Cambridge University Press.

## Call for Papers, Conferences, Workshops, and other Academic Programs

Call for Papers: **Figurations of Mobility**, November 22-24, 2012, Humboldt Universität zu Berlin, Organised by the Zentralasien-Seminar of the Humboldt Universität zu Berlin <http://www2.hu-berlin.de/zentralasien/> in cooperation with the Competence Network Crossroads Asia. Area Studies and systematic disciplines (whose "area" is mostly the global North) have a lot to gain from intellectual exchange. The Competence Network Crossroads Asia, which is funded by the German Ministry of Higher Education and Research, aims to bridge remaining gaps between these strands of scholarship by systematically organizing encounter and stimulating discussion. One essential goal of our Competence Network is to find ways of rethinking Area Studies by introducing Norbert Elias' Figural Sociology for a better understanding of local processes, structures and dynamics. We take the geographical area stretching from Eastern Iran to Western China and from the Aral Sea to the Arabian Sea as starting point of research and investigate the moves of people as well as the flows of ideas and resources in this geographical region and beyond. At the core of research is the importance of mobility spatial and social in specific issues related to conflict, migration, and development. For further information on Crossroads Asia visit: [www.crossroads-asia.de](http://www.crossroads-asia.de). The conference "Figurations of Mobility" aims to provide a forum to discuss theoretical advantages and shortcomings of Figural Sociology with particular regard to related concepts (networks, translocality etc.) and to relate these debates to empirical case studies from across the world. This call addresses scholars in Area Studies as well as specialists in systematic disciplines (anthropology, sociology, political science, geography etc.). Paper proposals and questions concerning the conference can be directed to Ingeborg Baldauf ([ingeborg.baldauf@rz.hu-berlin.de](mailto:ingeborg.baldauf@rz.hu-berlin.de)). Travel expenses will be covered for speakers. A joint publication of conference papers is envisaged. Proposals should not exceed 250 words and should contain the name, contact details and institutional affiliation of the speaker. Submission deadline is **June 15, 2012**. Selected speakers will be informed before July 31, 2012.

Call for Papers: **Cambridge Central Asia Reviews "Old Hammer or a New Sickle? Legacy of Soviet Era in Central Asia."** The Cambridge Central Asia Review is an inter-disciplinary peer-reviewed journal in the field of Central Asian studies. The journal is a bi-annual publication. This edition's theme is: "Old Hammer or a New Sickle? Legacy of Soviet Era in Central Asia." 1991 opened up the world order to fifteen newly independent countries which included the region of Central Asia and the Republics of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. The countries of Central Asia found themselves in an integrated and increasingly globalized international environment. In 1991 it was expected that the Central Asian states would automatically follow the western example of governance since the Soviet model had "failed", and disregarded the unique history and legacy of the Soviet Union and more pertinently its constituent entities. It has been twenty years since these countries got independence and their trajectories have shown us how as individual countries they have come a long way. However we cannot forget that they share a common past, especially the experience of being part of the Soviet Union. This issue of Cambridge Central Asia Reviews is dedicated to just such an examination of how the soviet legacy in Central Asia has affected and/or influences the trends, policies,

trajectories and decisions of the independent countries of Central Asia. Thus, we are seeking papers on a wide range of debates and topics concerning the Soviet legacy in post-Soviet Central Asia with a special focus on local theorization and examination by regional theorists, philosophers, writers etc. The papers are limited to 7000 words inclusive of footnotes and bibliography, essays up to 3000 words and reviews and analysis in two pages. Please follow the Harvard Referencing Style. Two copies of manuscripts should be submitted in Word Document format, one without any names and affiliations (blind copy) and one manuscript with all the relevant information. The deadline for submission is **30 June 2012**. Please send your manuscripts and any inquiries to: [ccafreviewsjournal@gmail.com](mailto:ccafreviewsjournal@gmail.com) or [dk406@cam.ac.uk](mailto:dk406@cam.ac.uk).

Call for Papers, Workshop: **Embodying Urban Asia**. National University of Singapore, 29 to 30 November 2012. Asian cities have attracted significant scholarly attention in recent years. Existing academic literature includes examination of the spatial effects of transforming economies, such as infrastructural challenges, projects of gentrification and new forms of social deprivation and segregation. This workshop provides a fresh perspective for discussing urban change in Asia through the specific focus on bodies and their sensorial experiences and indulgences. We hope to move beyond dichotomies of inclusion and exclusion, desired and undesired bodies. Instead, we explore how bodies experience and contribute to transforming urban cultures, practices and spaces. We investigate bodily habits as well as ideas and imaginations of bodies and how these create sensorially experienced realities and physicalities. By engaging with ways of being in the city, we hope to unpack the many distinct, diverse and overlapping materialities, histories and realities that shape contentious urban negotiations. Some of the guiding questions are: How are Asian cities enlivened by bodies? How do the aspirations of Asian cities to become 'world-class' impact on bodily performances and emerging spaces? What are the performative spaces and cultural contexts that shape bodies, and re-create notions of region, religion, class, caste and gender? Deadline for submissions **23 July 2012**. Visit: [http://www.ari.nus.edu.sg/events\\_categorydetails.asp?categoryid=6&eventid=1276](http://www.ari.nus.edu.sg/events_categorydetails.asp?categoryid=6&eventid=1276)

## Research Fellowships, Scholarships and Grants

Postdoctoral Fellowship: **The Department of History, National University of Singapore**, invites applications for two (2) Postdoctoral Fellowships. Postdoctoral Fellowship (Post 1): the successful candidate will be someone who holds a PhD degree (or is awaiting conferment) and has research interests and expertise in Empires in Asia. Preference will be given to a candidate with expertise in empires in Asia of the 18th century. This includes but is not limited to systems, concepts, theories and networks of empire, imperialism and colonization. The Fellow will work closely with faculty members in the Department on a research project in this area. Postdoctoral Fellowship (Post 2): the successful candidate will be someone who holds a PhD degree (or is awaiting conferment) and has research interests and expertise in Empires in Asia. Preference will be given to a candidate with expertise in empires in South Asia before the 20th century, especially the Mughal period. This includes but is not limited to systems, concepts, theories and networks of empire, imperialism and colonization. The Fellow will work closely with faculty members in the Department on a research project in this area. Interested scholars should submit applications to Associate Professor Brian P. Farrell, Research Project Empire in Asia: A New Global History, Email: [hisbpf@nus.edu.sg](mailto:hisbpf@nus.edu.sg) by **July 15, 2012**. The search will continue until an appointment is made. Visit our websites at <http://www.fas.nus.edu.sg/home/index.htm> for

information on the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences, and <http://www.fas.nus.edu.sg/hist/> for information on the Department of History and the research project.

## Resources

**Inner Asian and Uralic National Resource Center:** Indiana University's IAUNRC has updated its website to include not only its regular newsletters but podcasts, lecture videos, teaching resources and more: <http://www.iu.edu/~iaunrc/>

**Mongolia Today:** "This blog is an attempt by three avid Mongolia watchers 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

**Monthly Biobeers Talk:** First Thursday of the month (May 3), Sweet Cafe (located behind the Information and Technological National Park and next to the Admon Printing Company, west of Internom Bookstore Building). 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.

**Cambridge Mongolia and Inner Asia Studies Unit Easter Term Seminars:** Tuesdays, 4.30 pm to 6.00 pm, Seminar room, The Mond Building, Free School Lane. 1 May: Deligeer Borjigin (with Shaihanbaoliga), Inner Mongolia University, Ancient Mongolian Buddhist Scripture; 15 May: Benedikte Lindskog, University of Oslo, Connectedness and Discontinuity: Current Oboo Worship in Central Mongolia; May 29: Henryk Alff, Berlin University, Trading on Change: Connecting Small-Scale Trade & Modernisation Outcomes in the Borderlands of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan & Xinjiang. Visit: <http://www.cambridge-centralasia.org/?p=471>.

**Annual International Mongolian Studies Conference.** "Chinggis Khaan – 850 Year Legacy." Co-hosted by the Mongolian Cultural Center and the Embassy of Mongolia. May 4-6, 2012. The event will take place at the Embassy of Mongolia. Commemorating the 850th anniversary of the birth of this remarkable historical figure, the Mongolian Cultural Center will dedicate its annual Mongolian Studies International Conference to the life and legacy of Chinggis Khaan. Continuing the long-standing tradition of collaborating with the Mongolian Cultural Center, the Embassy of Mongolia to the United States will once again co-host the conference for this year. An addition to the co-organizers will be the Mongolian Institute for Defense Studies, National Defense University of Mongolia. For more information please contact us at (703) 966-4437 or

email us at [mongoliantculturalcenter@yahoo.com](mailto:mongoliantculturalcenter@yahoo.com). The tentative program can be seen at: [http://www.mongoliantcenter.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=blogcategory&id=20&Itemid=115](http://www.mongoliantcenter.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=20&Itemid=115).

**Exhibit Museum of Prehistoric Anthropology, Jardin Exotique, Monaco:** “Early Nomads of Upper Asia”. 21 May to 21 September 2012. The nomads of Upper Asia are an extraordinary people, who still inhabit a geographical area that includes parts of Mongolia, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation and China. Many thousands of years before long-haul flights, their ancestors were doing exactly what they do now: moving in vast numbers across the high Asian steppe, seeking out pastureland for their herds of horses, yaks, sheep, goats and camels. Wherever they settled, they would erect portable wood-framed dwellings called yurts, and mysterious 'deer stones' - megaliths carved with images of flying deer - whose exact purpose has never been established. For the last six years, a Monegasque archeological team have been investigating the extraordinary history of the people of the Mongolian and Siberian steppe. The fascinating results of their research are now on public display, and we are being invited to take part in a nomadic journey of our own, to Monaco's Exotic Garden, to witness the culture of these ancient peoples. For more information see: <http://www.cityoutmonaco.com/monaco-travel/articles/mongolia-comes--to-monaco>

## Recent Publications

**The: Mongols: A Very Short Introduction. (Oxford University Press).** Morris Rosabbi. 2012. In the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, the Mongols carved out the largest land-based empire in world history, stretching from Korea to Russia in the north and from China to Syria in the south, and unleashing an unprecedented level of violence. But as Morris Rossabi reveals in this Very Short Introduction, within two generations of their bloody conquests, the Mongols evolved from conquerors and predators to wise rulers who devised policies to foster the economies of the lands they had subjugated. By adopting political and economic institutions familiar to the local populations and recruiting native officials, they won over many of their non-Mongol subjects. In addition, Mongol nobles were ardent patrons of art and culture, supporting the production of Chinese porcelains and textiles, Iranian tiles and illustrated manuscripts, and Russian metalwork. Perhaps most important, the peace imposed by the Mongols on much of Asia and their promotion of trade resulted in considerable interaction among merchants, scientists, artists, and missionaries of different ethnic groups--including Europeans. Modern Eurasian and perhaps global history starts with the Mongol empire.

**Nomonhan, 1939: The Red Army's Victory that Shaped World War II. (Naval Institute Press).** Stuart Goldman. 2012. Stuart Goldman convincingly argues that a little-known, but intense Soviet-Japanese conflict along the Manchurian- Mongolian frontier at Nomonhan influenced the outbreak of World War II and shaped the course of the war. The author draws on Japanese, Soviet, and western sources to put the seemingly obscure conflict--actually a small undeclared war-- into its proper global geo-strategic perspective.

**Earth Wars: The Battle for Global Resources. (Wiley Press).** Geoff Hiscock. 2012. The global competition for scarce natural resources that pits the West against the super-hot economies of China and India, plus a clutch of other contenders including Russia, Brazil, and Indonesia, has become one of the biggest issues facing the world today. Whether it is the rare metal lithium found in salt pans in the Andes, gas from the Caspian Sea, oil off the coast of Brazil, coal from Africa's Zambezi River, or uranium from Kazakhstan, China and India are desperate to ensure the security of their future energy supplies. The same goes for food and water, as contamination and over-use take their toll, the need to provide continued access for the next generation and beyond has increased exponentially. In *Earth Wars: The Battle for Global Resources*, international business journalist Geoff Hiscock explores the problems, potential solutions, and inevitable tensions in this ongoing scramble for finite natural resources.

**Textbook “Evolution” translated into Mongolian:** The second, 2009 edition of “Evolution” by Dr. Douglas Futuyma, one of the leading evolutionary biologists of our time and the Distinguished Professor of State University of New York at Stony Brook has been translated and published in Mongolian with the official permission of the author and publisher. This university-level textbook has updated contents in traditional evolutionary fields and authoritative chapters on gene and genome evolution and evolutionary developmental biology (evo-devo), relatively new and rapidly advancing fields in evolutionary biology. Mongolian students and readers now have a chance to read the world-class textbook in Mongolian as the unifying concept of all biology. Interested parties should contact Department of Ecology at [ecology@num.edu.mn](mailto:ecology@num.edu.mn) for more information.

**National Security Council of Mongolia- Promoting Civil-Military Relations. (Storming Media).** Khasbazaryn Boldbat. 2012. This is a Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey CA. report produced in 2004, procured by the Pentagon and recently made available for public release. The abstract provided by the Pentagon follows: Since the end of the Cold War Mongolia has enjoyed a new security environment that offers both a genuine opportunity to determine its national security and unavoidable uncertainties that accompany all transitions to democracy. Entering the new environment the nation faced an urgent necessity to form new policies to meet those uncertainties and establish adequate institutions to implement them. Mongolia as most small nations with greater vulnerability sees its security in the greater view of emphasizing its survival in all dimensions with the physical endurance of not being invaded by a military force on the one hand and survival of its ethnical identity from being assimilated by outnumbered neighbors on the other.

**Travels in Tandem. (Holo Books).** Hoe, S. 2012. The book grew out of a habit, early adopted when on her travels ... of writing ... an unpretending narrative of the previous day's proceedings to be sent home to her father.' Thus wrote Thomas Brassey of his wife Annie. As for his own account of their travels, Susanna Hoe describes it as 'full of reports of experts ... and often about exports.' And she explores the question, are women travel companions' accounts more generally 'unpretending narratives', and men's the opposite? The theme expanded when the author was asked, 'Do women write with more immediacy, with more colour, more empathy and more attention to detail?' Using extensive quotations, the author pursues those and other questions through the relations and accounts of couples visiting or living in foreign places, from Liberia to

Siberia, from Vanuatu to Chinese Turkestan, between 1664 and 1973. Among the accounts contained in this volume is a chapter on the travels of Eleanor and Owen Lattimore.

**Anthropologie des réseaux en Asie Centrale. (CNRS) [Anne Ducloux](#), [Svetlana Gorshenina](#), [Anna Jarry-Omarova](#).** December 2011. Les modes de fonctionnement et les structures internes des sociétés d'Asie centrale – prise au sens large puisque la présente étude traite aussi bien de la Mongolie que de l'Ouzbékistan, en passant par la République de Touva en Sibérie – demeurent largement méconnus en Occident où les analystes décrivent encore exclusivement ces systèmes en des termes à connotation négative tels que « clans », « régionalisme », « népotisme » ou « corruption ». Réunissant les travaux d'anthropologues, de sociologues, de politistes et d'historiens, cet ouvrage présente plusieurs types de réseaux sociétaux qui, selon un long continuum, vont des plus complets, assimilables à des organisations au sens sociologique du terme, à d'autres, strictement personnels et égocentrés, en passant par toute une série de types intermédiaires, typiquement centrasiatiques, dans lesquels se mêlent relations personnelles, relations de parenté et relations d'affaires. Résultant d'enquêtes menées selon le principe de l'observation participante, étalées sur plusieurs années, ces études montrent l'étonnante plasticité de ces réseaux qui, malgré les profonds bouleversements survenus en Asie centrale durant ces deux dernières décennies, ont su s'adapter aux nouvelles exigences nées de l'effondrement de l'Union soviétique. Dépourvus de limites précises, souvent difficiles à circonscrire, ces réseaux sont le reflet des modes de gouvernance, des systèmes de pensée politique, des solidarités traditionnelles et des méthodes d'appropriation du pouvoir et surtout d'acquisition de prestige, ce bien symbolique tant recherché par les populations de cette région.

**Clearing the Air. (World Policy Journal).** Christa Hasenkopf. Spring 2012. Ulaanbaatar's particulate matter air pollution and progress towards mitigation. <http://www.worldpolicy.org/journal/spring2012/clearing-air>

**Restoring Community Connections to the Land: Building Resilience Through Community-Based Rangeland Management in China and Mongolia. (CABI) [Maria E. Fernandez-Gimenez](#) (Editor), [Xiaoyi Wang](#) (Editor), [Batkhisig Baival](#) (Editor), [Julia A. Klein](#) (Editor), [Robin Reid](#) (Editor).** February 2012. The rangelands of China and Mongolia encompass diverse landscapes of global environmental and cultural significance. Pastoralists in these two nations share much common history and tradition, including their nomadic heritage and twin eras of collectivized production under different centrally planned socialist regimes. This unique collection of case studies describes the change, loss, re-emergence and resilience of seven herder communities located in distinct socio-ecological settings ranging from the Gobi desert of Mongolia to the Tibetan Plateau regions of China's Sichuan and Gansu Provinces. Useful for policy makers within international development and conservation policy, this book is also of interest for researchers and students of rural economics and agriculture.

**“Institutional Arrangement for Urban Land Market: The Case of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia” (Lambert).** Munkhnaran Sugar. December 2011. Mongolia shifted from socialism to market economy in the beginning of the 1990s. Up to that date land could not be privately owned and no land and real estate market had not been known and only has been introduced for the first time after the transition. The study aims to understand current operation and development of land market and its institutions in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Aspects such as types of land rights, land

registration, land titling and land valuation etc. are briefly discussed in case study section. In addition, institutional aspects such as the legal frame, procedures, responsibilities, actors are discussed. Then findings of the current land transaction and land market situation in Ulaanbaatar are included. At the end, there are some recommendations for improved land market and its institutional arrangement in Ulaanbaatar.