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# USC Dornsife *East Asian Studies Center*

May 6, 2024



## Congratulations to the USC Class of 2024!

EASC wants to congratulate the graduating class of 2024! We are so proud of all they have accomplished during their time at USC and we are excited to celebrate with their families and loved ones soon. The EAAS graduates include:

**EAAS MA Students:** Kuper Bergman, Asha Rieussec, Fiona (Yuanjing) Xu, Liane (Xinhui) Yang, Haotian Zhang, Shiyi Zhang, Yixiao Zhang

**EAAS Undergraduates:** Sophia Chung, Charles Ding, Manami Hayashi, Aina Jinguji, Dione Simmons, Yufei Wang

EASC also wants to highlight below some of the amazing accomplishments of our graduating students!

### **Kuper Bergman**

Kuper's research primarily concerns Japanese foreign policy, political history, and US-Japan relations. Kuper advises incoming students to "take advantage of all the resources provided by USC and the department," citing events, talks, and seminars as being some of the best opportunities. Following graduation, Kuper will pursue a career in foreign policy research and international relations. He is specifically aiming for a role that will influence US foreign policy and US-Japanese relations.

**Read Kuper's full feature here ►**

### **Asha Rieussec**

Asha's research centers around Korean literature with a focus on feminist and queer theory and additional interests in horror studies and ecocriticism. After graduation, she will be pursuing a PhD and continuing her research in Korean literature at UC Irvine. Asha's advice to incoming students is to "take any opportunity you can," and

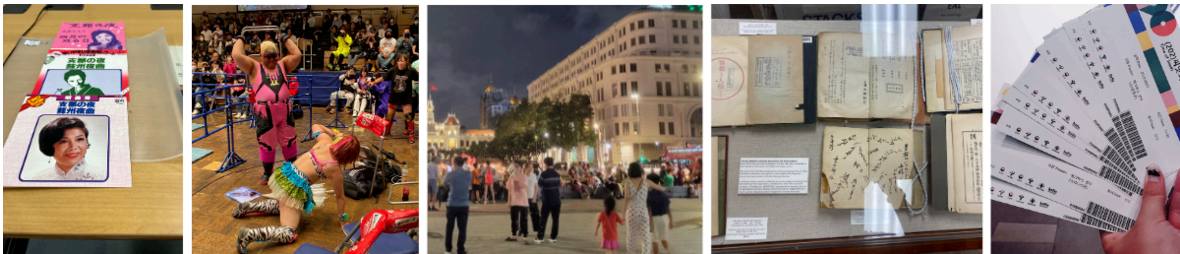
to leverage the freedom and flexibility of graduate school to explore interests and build relationships with professors. [Read Asha's full feature here >](#)

### **Fiona (Yuanjing) Xu**

Fiona's research focuses on modern Korean and Chinese literature, Buddhist studies, and gender and sexuality studies. Her thesis explores the subversion of Buddhist doctrines in Kim Bo-young's science fiction novella, *Prophets of Corruption*. Fiona's advice to incoming students is to "explore [your] academic interests as much as possible," and to reach out to advisors and faculty to help refine your interests and pursuits. After graduation, Fiona will be pursuing her PhD in East Asian Languages and Cultures here at USC! [Read Fiona's full feature here >](#)

### **Dionee Simmons**

Dionee traces her interest back to East Asian popular culture and its various subcultures, mentioning anime, Korean pop music, and Japanese roleplaying games as staples in her youth. One piece of advice she has for incoming students is to "try everything! If you have even an inkling of interest in a club, class, subject, or experience - do it. You can always change your mind, and your future self will thank you." Dionee plans to pursue a career in Business Strategy and Research in the video games industry and eventually return to education to achieve a PhD in Sociology or Comparative Literature. [Read Dionee's full feature here >](#)



## **Congratulations EASC Graduate Fellowship Awardees**

Please join us in congratulating the 23 recipients of the **2024 EASC Graduate Fellowships!** Our EASC Grad Fellows represent diverse fields in East Asian Area Studies, History, American Studies & Ethnicity, East Asian Languages & Cultures, Gerontology, Cinema & Media Studies, Comparative Literature, and Art History. We are proud to be able to help USC graduate students advance their academic careers in Asian Studies and are excited to see what amazing research they produce!

[Please see here for the full list of awardees >](#)

## **Congratulations EASC affiliates!**

We want to congratulate our affiliated faculty and students on their many publications, placements, awards and promotions this academic year. We are proud to highlight a few of their many accomplishments!

### **Student Awards and Placements**

**Cooper Brown (BA, EAAS, COMM)** — Teach for America Ignite Fellowship | Santec Undergraduate Summer Internship

**Hayun Cho (PhD, EALC)** — Assistant Professor at the University of Notre Dame

**Nicholas Fernacz (PhD, EALC)** — Summer 2024 Taiwan Ministry of Education  
Huayu Enrichment Scholarship

**Olivia Hwang (BA, EAAS)** — Santec Undergraduate Summer Internship

**Rio Katayama (PhD, EALC)** — Tenure-Track Assistant Professor at Colby College

**Blake Levins (BA, IR)** — Critical Language Scholarship - Busan, South Korea |  
Critical Language Scholarship - Gwangju, South Korea

**Issay Matsumoto (PhD, HIST)** — Summer 2024 CUNY Asian American / Asian  
Research Institute Betty Lee Sung Research Endowment Fund | Summer 2024 USC  
Center for Transpacific Studies Research Fellowship | Immigration and Ethnic History  
Society Digital Seed Grant | UCLA Asian American Studies Center Sugahara Project  
Archival Fellowship | Nippon Foundation Fellowship, Stanford University Inter-  
University Center for Japanese Language Studies 10-Month Program

**Lina Nie (PhD, HIST)** — Tenure-Track Assistant Professor at Texas A&M

**Asha Rieussec (MA, EAAS)** — Fall 2024 recruit for PhD in East Asian Studies at UC  
Irvine

**Kira Sano (BA, SOCI | BS, ENVS)** — Spring 2024 SOAR Award

**Kirsten Seuffert (PhD, EALC)** — Postdoctoral Research Fellowship at The  
University of Michigan Center for Japanese Studies

**Dione Simmons (BA, EAAS, ANTH)** — USC KSI Undergraduate Research Fellow  
| Market Research Intern, Gaming & Technology Insights at Interpret LLC

**Tian Jing Teh (PhD, EALC)** — 2024 Lisa Lu Scholarship

**Maya Thamer-Nall (BA, PSYC)** — 2024 Global Scholar Distinction Prize Award  
Recipient

**Yufei Wang (BA, EAAS)** — MS in Finance at USC Marshall

**Tiara Wilson (PhD, EALC)** — Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award

**Ka Lee Wong (PhD, EALC)** — Tenure-Track Assistant Professor at NYU Shanghai

**Fiona Xu (MA, EAAS)** — Fall 2024 recruit for PhD in East Asian Languages and  
Cultures at USC

**Xinhui Yang (MA, EAAS)** — 2023 USC Libraries Research Award

**Haotian Zhang (MA, EAAS)** — Technical Art Internship, Amazing Season

**Wenxian Zhang (PhD, EALC)** — GSG Professional Development Fund

### [Faculty/Postdoc Awards, Placements, Promotions and Publications](#)

**Brian Bernards (EALC)** — "Ann Hui, Hainan, and the Sino-Vietnamese War: A  
Sinophone Inter-Asian Recasting of Boat People's Transpacific Refugee Critique" in  
*Sinophone Studies Across Disciplines: A Reader*, 108-24 (Columbia University Press,  
2024)

**Jenny Chio (EALC)** — "A Conversation about Futurity, Critique, and Political  
Imagination" co-authored with Joshua Neves (*Made in China Journal*, 2023)

**Mina Chow (ARCH)** — Promoted to Professor (Adjunct) | 2024-2025 Arnold W.  
Brunner National Grant for Individual Research

**Eric Heikkila (PPD)** — Vice-Chancellor's Distinguished Visiting Professor, Chinese  
University of Hong Kong

**Yoonah Hwang (AHIS)** — The Metropolitan Center for Eastern Art Studies Individual Grant | Tenure-Track Assistant Professor at Pepperdine University | Review of *Spatial Dunhuang: Experiencing the Mogao Caves*, by Wu Hung, H-Buddhism Reviews (January 2024)

**David Kang (POIR)** — *Beyond Power Transitions: the Lessons of East Asian History and the Future of US-China Relations* (Co-Authored with Xinru Ma) (Columbia University Press, 2024) | "Asia in the History of IR," *Oxford Handbook on History and International Relations* (Oxford University Press 2023)

**Sonya Lee (AHIS)** — 2023 Independent Publisher Book Award in the Nonfiction/Religion | USC Dornsife Albert S. Raubenheimer Outstanding Senior Faculty Award

**Nancy Lutkehaus (ANTH)** — "René d'Harnoncourt, Twentieth-Century Cultural Broker: Bridging Art History and Anthropology through the Display of Indigenous Art" in *Art History and Anthropology: Modern Encounters, 1870-1970*, 207-229 (Getty Research Institute, 2023)

**Sunyoung Park (EALC)** — The Uplifter Award, the BIPOC Caucus, the International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts, 2024

**Stephanie Shih (LING)** — Oak Spring Garden Foundation Interdisciplinary Resident, 2024

## Event Reminders



### 2024 EASC Commencement Reception

**Fri, May 10 | 11:30AM | CAS 100 | Invitation Only**

Please join us to celebrate our East Asian Area Studies graduating seniors and M.A. students at the EAAS Reception before the Dornsife Group 2 Satellite Ceremony!

## Opportunities

### 2025 MEXT Research Students Scholarship

**Deadline: June 3, 3:30PM**

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) of Japan offers scholarships to international students who wish to take graduate courses at Japanese universities or pursue a Masters Degree in Japan. The first screening is conducted between May and July by the Japanese Embassies or Consulates. As the application process and specific schedule differ according to the country of your nationality, please see the

**Consulate General for more information ►**



MEXT

### Call for Papers - Bridging Horizons: Local, Regional, and Global Developments in Asia

**Deadline: July 1**

The Western Conference for the Association of Asian Studies (WCAAS) and Weber



**State University**, are pleased to issue a Call for Papers for the 2024 in-person conference held from October 11-12, 2024 in Ogden, Utah. WCAAS invites proposals for **Individual Papers, Organized Panels, Organized Roundtables, and Organized Workshops**, from college and university faculty, K-12 schoolteachers, graduate students, independent scholars, and undergraduate students (when part of an organized panel that is chaired by a faculty mentor). **Please submit your**

**proposal here** ►

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## Events Around USC, CA & Beyond

**Industrial Polyphony: Voices and Sounds in the Poetry of Contemporary China's Worker**

Thurs, May 9 | 4:00PM-5:30PM | UCLA Center for Chinese Studies

**Music Alive In The Archive: Celebrating The Music And Legacy Of Rev. Tom KuraI**

Fri, May 10 | 1:00PM-4:00PM | UCLA Terasaki Center | **RSVP**

**Chips War?: Global Production Networks and Geopolitics in the Post-Pandemic U.S. and East Asia**

Tues, May 14 | 4:00PM-5:30PM | UCLA Center for Chinese Studies

**Welcome to China? Foreign Donations and Chinese Foundations**

Tues, May 14 | 5:00PM-6:00PM | UCLA Asia Pacific Center | **RSVP**

**How Japanese Buddhists Tried To Make Bad Kids Good**

Wed, May 15 | 4:00PM-5:30PM | UCLA Terasaki Center | **RSVP**

**Screening: *Minari* in 4K**

Fri, May 17 | 7:30PM | The Academy Museum | **RSVP**

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Support EASC




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Comments? Questions? Promotion requests?  
[easc@dornsife.usc.edu](mailto:easc@dornsife.usc.edu)

For more news and information about the USC East Asian Studies Center visit [usc.edu/easc](https://usc.edu/easc)

**USC**Dornsife

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