



Texas Asia Conference 2015

Beyond the Spectacular and the Mundane

University of Texas at Austin

We invite abstract submissions to the fourth edition of the Texas Asia Conference at the University of Texas at Austin. In what is becoming a biennial tradition, the conference, which is a space to present graduate research work centered on Asia as a regional focus, will be held on 2nd and 3rd of October (Friday and Saturday) 2015. We hope to make this an unhurried and truly useful academic space, where there is time to reflect on the ideas presented and for the visiting scholars to interact with one another and with graduate scholars and faculty at UT, whose researches are concerned with aspects of Asia, approaching them from various disciplinary perspectives. Our theme this year is "Beyond the Spectacular and the Mundane."

Beyond the Spectacular and Mundane:

As researchers engaged with various aspects and regions of Asia, how do we approach questions of scale? How do we draw boundaries around our research subjects: texts, people, languages, histories, etc.? How can we avoid the division of our subject along easy disciplinary lines? How do we measure the scale of what we are looking at—how far out must we extend our knowledge beyond our research focus in order for the boundaries of that focus to be meaningfully drawn? When what is local and specific is in a dynamic and entangled relationship with what is global and transnational, how do we choose to zoom in or out? How do we become attuned to the infra-ordinary? How do we grasp the affects and effects of the everyday that are neither ordinary nor spectacular? These are some of the broad

concerns that we would like the papers at this conference to address in their own ways.

We welcome submissions addressing a broad range of topics, including but not limited to the following :

- Scale --local, global, regional;
 - national, international, transnational
 - ordinary, infra-ordinary, spectacular
- Language, language ideology, linguistics
- Literature -- texts, rhetorics, interpretation, translation
- Culture, technology, society, politics, biopolitics
- Histories, herstories, new readings
- Gender and sexuality -- identity, performativity, activism, politics
- Space, spatiality, affect
- Film, television, social media

This year, we are excited to have two keynote speakers:

Paola Iovene is an Associate Professor in Chinese Literature, East Asian Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago. Her work focuses on twentieth and twenty-first century Chinese literature and film. Her book *Tales of Futures Past: Literature and Anticipation in Contemporary China* (Stanford University Press, 2014), explores the ways in which normative visions and intimate feelings about the future have shaped literary institutions, editorial practices, and diverse genres and texts (science fiction, children's literature, experimental fiction; environmental literature) in socialist and postsocialist China.

Svati P. Shah is an Associate Professor in the department of Women's, Gender and Sexuality studies at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Her book *Street Corner Secrets: Sex Work and Migration in the City of Mumbai* (Duke University Press, 2014), is an ethnography of sexual commerce and migration among women working in Mumbai's informal sectors. Her current research focuses on queer and trans movements and the politics of class in India.

Deadline for abstract submissions: 21 July 2015
Word limit: 250 words

Abstract must include the following: title, author(s), affiliation(s), email address for contact. Please send the abstract to
texasasiaconference@gmail.com