

Global Studies and Languages Section

The core mission of [MIT Global Studies and Languages](#) (GSL) is to generate cutting-edge research on international cultures and cultural globalization and to prepare students to be engaged global citizens, ready to live and work in an increasingly interconnected and multicultural world. Home to various important educational and research activities, the section serves as the hub for international cultural studies at MIT, a role that has become increasingly vital as the Institute continues to expand its global commitments.

The occasion of the MIT Cambridge centennial provided an opportunity for the section to reflect on its history, current goals, and future directions. In 1916, the Department of Modern Languages offered instruction in two languages: French and German. In AY2016, under the new name of Global Studies and Languages, the section offered Chinese, English, French, German, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish. Reflecting the evolving needs of the Institute and our student body, Global Studies and Languages today focuses on the cultural and human dimensions of globalization. Our interdisciplinary and inter-area research, teaching, and educational activities draw on diverse perspectives and methodologies from the humanities, arts, and social sciences.

The section has entered a phase of renewal, with the aim of raising our profile within MIT and establishing our position as a leader in the emerging field of global studies. To meet these goals within the next five years, the section must build on existing strengths, seek new areas for development, promote research collaborations, and consolidate our numerous ties to other units at MIT to develop intellectual community and research synergies.

This past year, the section dedicated efforts to the following major initiatives:

1. Consolidating and stabilizing our newer language programs, including Russian and Portuguese. The section received approval to appoint a senior lecturer in Russian in order to stabilize this growing program. Consistent with directions in the field across the country, Spanish and Portuguese were consolidated as a combined program.
2. Identifying new areas for strategic expansion. In response to growing student demand, and with the support of the dean of the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (SHASS), the section decided to launch a Korean language pilot, hiring an instructor slated to begin in September 2016. The section also identified francophone African studies as an area for strategic expansion, hiring a postdoctoral associate beginning July 1, 2016, for a period of two years to cover this area. Additional efforts were made to explore possibilities for expanding Middle Eastern studies at MIT and to advance cross-unit collaborations in Latin American studies. World religions and ethics, global environmentalism, and social inequality were identified as significant areas for future development of the curriculum, research, and associated programming.
3. Promoting intellectual community. The section launched a new Brown Bag Lunch Series and expanded existing seminar series and programming across diverse areas.

4. Advancing diversity and inclusion. The section adopted and implemented a diversity and inclusion strategic plan aimed at advancing diversity across the student, faculty, and staff levels. Measurable outcomes over the past year included changes to search procedures, the appointment of two diversity pre-doctoral fellows, the designation of section diversity representatives, and the diversification of our curriculum and of other academic staff.
5. Promoting initiatives in digital humanities. GSL supported various section-based projects led by faculty, academic staff, and research scientists. Several members of the section were recognized for their innovative work with digital technology for teaching. The section also hosted a workshop on digital humanities approaches in Asian American studies, organized in conjunction with the Pacific New England Consortium.

Searches, Promotions, and Personnel Changes

Professor Ian Condry stepped down as head and was succeeded by Professor Emma Teng, effective July 1, 2015. Professor Jing Wang and Assistant Professor Catherine Clark were both on leave this academic year. Professor Shigeru Miyagawa continued to split his position between MIT and the University of Tokyo, where he is a project professor and director of online education. Marie-Hélène Huet, the M. Taylor Pyne Professor of French and Italian at Princeton University (emeritus), was a faculty affiliate in AY2016. Dr. Heather Lee finished her second year as a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, and a second Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, Dr. Feng Mei Heberer, joined the section.

This year we conducted a successful search for an assistant professor of Japanese studies, hiring Dr. Paul Roquet effective July 1, 2016. Roquet holds a PhD from the University of California, Berkeley, and in AY2016 he was a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Modern Culture and Media at Brown University. Roquet is the author of *Ambient Media: Japanese Atmospheres of Self* (University of Minnesota Press, 2016).

We did not have any faculty promotions in AY2016, but Dr. Maria Khotimsky was promoted to senior lecturer in Russian.

In accordance with the strategic planning goals noted above, the section made the decision to appoint a postdoctoral associate in francophone African studies. This appointment will help us extend and diversify the section's already-established strengths in French and francophone studies while simultaneously contributing to the emergent area of African studies across SHASS, a need that is growing among our undergraduate students with the establishment of the new MIT-Africa Initiative. Bringing expertise in African material culture and globalization, M. Amah Edoh accepted the position to begin fall 2016. Edoh is a PhD candidate in MIT's Doctoral Program in History, Anthropology, and Science, Technology, and Society.

Corey Johnson and Bekalu Kifle were selected this year as SHASS Diversity Predoctoral Fellows and will join Global Studies and Languages for one-year terms, Johnson in AY2016 and Kifle in AY2017 (co-sponsored with History).

Heather Lee accepted a position as assistant professor at New York University (NYU) Shanghai; Feng Mei Heberer accepted a position as assistant professor at NYU. Lecturer Roberto Rey Agudo accepted a position as language program director of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at Dartmouth College. Lecturer Jin Zhang accepted a position as the academic director of the Chinese flagship program of the American Councils for International Education in Beijing.

Systems administrator Jeffrey Pearlin accepted an external offer and was replaced by Andrew McPherson, who started in August 2016. Undergraduate academic administrator Andrea Wirth accepted a position as the SHASS academic administrator. She was replaced by Joyce Roberge, formerly with MIT Biology, in February 2016. In June 2016, administrative assistant Kevin McLellan accepted a position in the Department of Architecture.

Faculty Honors, Grants, and Awards

Notable awards, grants, recognition, and important professional responsibilities given to faculty during AY2016 include the following, as detailed below.

Shigeru Miyagawa received a grant from the Hong Kong government for his AI (artificial intelligence)-based flipped class with Boris Katz of the Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory (CSAIL). Professor Miyagawa's massive open online course (MOOC) Visualizing Japan (with Harvard and the University of Tokyo) was a finalist for the prestigious Japan Prize.

Jing Wang was awarded a fellowship at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Studies and received a grant from China's Dunhe Foundation to carry out the NGO2.0 project. Professor Wang also won a 2015 Council of Editors of Learned Journals Best Special Issue Award for "Reconsidering the 2006 MIT Visualizing Cultures Controversy," a special volume of the journal *positions: asia critique* she co-edited with Winnie Won Yin Wong.

Professor William Uricchio received a grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation to support his work as principal investigator for the MIT Open Documentary Lab.

Professor Jeffrey S. Ravel received a National Park Service grant to undertake the Visualizing Maritime History Project with the MIT Museum.

Professor Elizabeth A. Wood received a grant from the International Policy Lab at MIT for policy-related aspects of her research on Russia.

Professor Teng was elected to the Board of Directors of Mass Humanities (Massachusetts Foundation for Humanities and Public Policy).

Associate Professor Bruno Perreau was named the first holder of the Cynthia L. Reed Chair in French Studies and Language.

Professor Clark received a fellowship at the Camargo Foundation in France and was named the Class of 1947 Career Development Chair.

Senior lecturer Takako Aikawa was awarded a Japanese Language Education Project grant from the Japan Foundation for “Teacher-sourcing toward the Development of AI Tutor.”

Maria Khotimsky was awarded an MIT Alumni Class Funds grant for “Bringing Russian to MIT: Developing Curriculum and Materials for the New Russian Literature Course.”

Senior lecturer Margarita Ribas Groeger was recognized (for a second time) as “MAP Mentor of the Year” by the Office of Minority Education’s Mentor Advocate Partnership Program.

Lecturers Masami Ikeda-Lamm and Roberto Rey Agudo received Levitan Teaching Awards from SHASS in recognition of their excellence in teaching. Kurt Fendt won a Teaching with Digital Technology Award for 21G.420 Visual Histories: German Cinema 1945 to Present. Shigeru Miyagawa and lecturers Tong Chen, Leanna Rezvani, Peter Weise, and Jin Zhang were also honored at the Teaching with Digital Technology Awards luncheon.

Fundraising and Major Donations

Global Studies and Languages continued to enjoyed support from donors to the program, enabling the expansion of educational initiatives. A generous donation this year supported the establishment of a three-year lecture series on Buddhism and comparative ethics, the TT & WF Chao Buddhist Lectures.

Faculty Research, Publications, and Presentations

Global Studies and Languages faculty and other academic staff published books and scholarly articles and presented their research at conferences and other venues. Below is a selected list.

Catherine Clark’s article “Capturing the Moment, Picturing History: Photographs of the Liberation of Paris” was published in the *American Historical Review*. Clark also published a catalogue essay, “C’était le Marais en 1970,” for an exhibition at the Musée Carnavalet in Paris. Clark spent the fall as an affiliated researcher at the Centre for the Study of France and the Francophone World at the University of Toronto, and during the spring she was a residential fellow at the Camargo Foundation in France. She gave a series of invited talks in the United States, Canada, Japan, and France.

Ian Condry’s book *Soul of Anime* was published in Chinese translation by National Chiao Tung University Press (Taiwan). Condry’s article “The Social in Media: Race, Media and History in the Visualizing Cultures Controversy at MIT” was published in *positions: asia critique*. Condry spoke at the University of Illinois on “Escape from Zombie Capitalism: Lessons from Manga, Anime and Music” (sponsored by the Center for East Asian Studies). He also gave a talk for the Sociology Department at Sapienza University in Rome.

Assistant Professor Paloma Duong presented a paper and organized a panel for the Latin American Studies Association conference. In addition, she presented “Contemporary Cuban Screen Cultures: Digital Participatory Archives” at the conference of the Modern Languages Association and gave an invited lecture, “Digital Cuba: Contemporary Screen Cultures,” for the Department of Romance Studies at Brandeis University.

Shigeru Miyagawa’s book manuscript *Agreement Beyond Phi* has been accepted by the MIT Press for its prestigious Linguistic Inquiry Monographs series. He also has two other publications in the works: “Negative Sensitive Items in Japanese” (with Nobuaki Nishioka and Hedde Zeijlstra) in *Glossa* and “The Beginning of OpenCourseWare” in *The Bridge*. Among Miyagawa’s numerous speaking engagements this year, he was invited to deliver the keynote address at a workshop held during the 39th GLOW colloquium (Europe’s top theoretical linguistic conference) in Göttingen, Germany.

Bruno Perreau received a book contract from Stanford University Press for *Queer Theory: The French Response*. He was also contracted by Sciences Po University Press (Paris) for a volume co-edited with Professor Joan W. Scott, *Transformer la République*. Perreau published a book chapter, “The Power of Theory: Same-Sex Marriage, Education, and Gender Panic in France,” in *After Marriage Equality: The Future of LGBT Rights* (New York University Press, 2016). He delivered the inaugural lecture (“Transatlantic Echoes: Education and Belonging after Marriage Equality”) at “Gender in Translation,” a conference hosted by the University of California, Berkeley.

Jeff Ravel completed phase 1 of the Comédie-Française Registers Project (CFRP). Ravel attended a CFRP conference in Paris in December, and in May he co-hosted a successful CFRP conference at MIT and Harvard that drew scholars from France and the United States. As principal investigator, Ravel launched the Visualizing Maritime History Project at the MIT Museum.

Assistant Professor Bettina Stotzer organized a three-day workshop at the “Anthropocene Campus: The Technosphere Issue,” sponsored by the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin and the Haus der Kulturen der Welt. She presented the keynote lecture at the “Chronopolis: Time and Urban Space” conference at the University of Michigan’s Department for Germanic Languages and Literatures and an invited talk at the “Vampire Vibes: The Dark Side of Modern Culture” interdisciplinary conference at Harvard’s Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures. Stotzer also presented her work at the annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association.

Emma Teng co-authored an article with Professor Wen-hui Anna Tang, “Looking Again at Taiwan’s Lü Hsiu-lien: A Female Vice President or a Feminist Vice President?” in the *Women’s Studies International Forum* (2016). Teng also published an article, “The Eaton Sisters and the Figure of the Eurasian,” in *The Cambridge History of Asian American Literature* (Cambridge University Press). The short piece “On the Hidden Histories of Chinese-White Mixed Families” (English and Chinese) appeared in the *Chronicle of the Chinese Historical Society of New England*. Teng delivered the keynote address

at the “Negotiating Identities: Multi-Racial Individuals in China, Japan, and Korea” symposium, held at the University of San Francisco’s Center for Asia Pacific Studies.

William Uricchio’s co-edited volume, *Many More Lives of the Batman*, was published by the British Film Institute/Palgrave Macmillan. Also, Uricchio was the principal investigator and lead author of a report for the MacArthur Foundation, “Mapping the Intersection of Two Cultures: Interactive Documentary and Digital Journalism.” Uricchio gave a keynote presentation (“Media, Metropolis, Mind: Wandering Through 150 Years of Urban Documentation”) at the “DOKU.ARTS: Architectures in Motion” symposium at the Deutsches Historisches Museum in Berlin. He also gave a keynote talk at the International Festival of Films on Art in Montreal and an invited lecture, “Digital Journalism: Transmission, Ritual, and the Re-Imagined Civic,” for the Center for Media, Data and Society at Central European University in Budapest.

Jing Wang co-edited (with Rongting Zhou) *Internet Plus Public Good: Playing with New Media*, published by the Electronics Industry Publishing House in Beijing. Wang was invited to give a keynote speech (“Maker as Entrepreneur, Maker as Change-Maker”) at the University of Manchester and a public talk (“The Internet and Philanthropy: New Trends of Tech4Good in the USA and Europe”) at the Internet and Philanthropy Forum of the 2015 Shenzhen Philanthropy Convention.

Elizabeth Wood’s co-authored book *Roots of Russia’s War in Ukraine* was published by the Wilson Center/Columbia University Press in 2016. Also, her article “Hypermasculinity as a Scenario of Power: Vladimir Putin’s Iconic Rule, 1999–2008” was published in the *International Feminist Journal of Politics*. Wood presented a number of book talks (at MIT, Harvard, Columbia University, and the Harvard Club). She spoke as part of a panel discussion on Russian area studies and US foreign policy organized by Russia Direct.

GSL lecturers published several notable books over the past year. For example, Margarita Groeger co-authored *Charlas de sobremesa: Conversación en español* (Roundtable Discussions: Conversation in Spanish), published by Yale University Press, and António Igrejas co-edited two volumes published by Ver Açor Editores, *Rememorando Daniel de Sá* (Remembering Daniel de Sá) and *Trinta e Muitos Anos de Devção: Estudos Sobre Jorge de Sena em Honra de Mécia de Sena* (Thirty and Many More Years of Devotion: Studies on Jorge de Sena in Honor of Mécia de Sena).

Service to the Profession

Faculty in GSL are active in the profession, playing various leadership and service roles. The following is a sample of service to the profession this year.

Jing Wang served on the advisory boards of the *China Development Brief* and the Wikimedia Foundation. Emma Teng served on the China and Inner Asia Council of the Association for Asian Studies and the Faculty Advisory Committee of the Harvard-Yenching Institute. Teng was also invited to serve on an exhibition advisory committee for the Museum of Food and Drink in New York. William Uricchio served as an advisor to the Royal Dutch Academy of Science, the Netherlands Ministry of Education and

Culture, and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. Catherine Clark reviewed applications for the Bourse Chateaubriand.

Many faculty members serve on editorial boards, among them Jing Wang (*positions: asia critique* and *Taiwan: A Radical Quarterly in Social Studies*), Shigeru Miyagawa (*Lingua, Linguistics Inquiry, Glossa, Journal of East Asian Linguistics, and Journal of Japanese Linguistics*), Ian Condry (*TransAsia: Screen Cultures* and *MediaScape: Digital Asia*), William Uricchio (*Journal of Cultural Studies* and *Intermédialités/Intermediality*), and Elizabeth Wood (*Problems of Post-Communism* and *Krytyka Feministyczna: East European Journal of Feminist and Queer Studies*).

GSL lecturers also took on responsibilities in a multitude of professional organizations and conferences. As one outstanding example, the Japanese group, led by Masami Ikeda-Lamm and Takako Aikawa, hosted the Japanese Language Proficiency Test, administered by the American Association of Teachers of Japanese.

Institute Service

Service to the Institute is a vital aspect of the faculty role at MIT. The following is a sample of the contributions that GSL faculty and other academic staff made to Institute committees and groups in AY2016.

- Shigeru Miyagawa served on the OpenCourseWare Faculty Advisory Committee and helped establish the MIT/University of Tokyo undergraduate engineering exchange program. He also served on the search committee for a SHASS Postdoctoral Fellow in Digital Humanities.
- William Uricchio served as director of MISTI (MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives) Netherlands.
- Elizabeth Wood served as co-director of the MIT-Russia Program and was a member of the d'Arbeloff Fund for Excellence in Education review committee.
- Ian Condry was a member of the Creative Arts Council.
- Emma Teng served on the Harold E. Edgerton Faculty Achievement Award selection committee and provided curriculum support to faculty from the Singapore University of Technology and Design.
- Jeff Ravel was a member of the Faculty Committee on the Library System and served as the faculty lead on the Institute's Nepal recovery efforts.
- Paloma Duong served on the SHASS Burchard Fellows Committee.
- Senior lecturer Jane Dunphy served on the SHASS De Florez Humor Fund Committee.
- Margarita Groeger was co-chair of the Office of Minority Education Faculty Advisory Committee.
- Margarita Groeger and lecturer Ana Yáñez served with the Mentor Advocate Partnership Program.

Educational Initiatives and Student Enrollments

Student interest in global studies and languages continues to be robust. Our total enrollment for AY2016 was 1,788. The section currently serves over 500 HASS (Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences) concentrators and 61 minors but administered no majors in AY2016. Major educational initiatives this year include the following.

In response to long-term student demand, and based on the success of the MISTI Korea program, the section decided to launch a Korean language pilot in AY2017 and conducted a search for an instructor. News of this launch was reported in *The Korea Times*. This initiative provides the section with an opportunity for enhanced collaboration with MISTI Korea. Staying abreast of current trends in the field, the Chinese-language group this year attended a conference at the University of Pennsylvania on the teaching of business Chinese and has hired an instructor to pilot a subject in business Chinese in AY2017. The Chinese group is also working together on curriculum development for a new subject in professional Chinese composed of modules on business Chinese, scientific Chinese, technical Chinese, and medical Chinese. Instructors in Spanish, French, German, and Japanese tested the feasibility of the MITx residential platform for language instruction.

GSL offers grants to lecturers to encourage excellence in teaching through the Gilberte Furstenberg and Douglas Morgenstern Fund for Innovation in Language Instruction awards. This year, the three recipients were Cathy Culot for “Teaching Cross-Cultural Communication in the Language Classroom with Tintin and *The Blue Lotus*,” Nilma Dominique for “The Beat of Brazil: Brazilian Society through Its Music,” and Kang Zhou for “Incorporating Video Materials into the Chinese Curriculum.”

During AY2016, Global Studies and Languages developed several new subjects aimed at increasing our undergraduate and graduate enrollments, including 21G.057/WGS.275 Gender in Science, Technology, and Environment; 21G.417 Cultural Geographies of Germany: Nature, Culture, and Politics; and 21G.045 Global Chinese Food. In addition, the following were newly offered as topics or special subjects: 21G.011 Topics in Indian Popular Culture: Acche Din Aane Wale Hain (Good Days Are Coming): Discontent and Its Civilization in India; 21G.312 Basic Themes in French Literature and Culture: Exploring Difference: Countercultures in Writing and Film; 21G.312 Basic Themes in French Literature and Culture: Religious Minorities and Identities in France; 21G.713 Advanced Communication in Spanish: Current Issues in Medicine and Public Health; and 21G.S05 Special Subject: Introduction to Cantonese.

In addition to subjects offered through the section, GSL provides essential training to students who participate in MIT’s flagship MISTI program, which annually sends large numbers of students abroad for internships and other hands-on international experiences. We also collaborate with Global Education and Career Development (GECD) to provide study-abroad opportunities for Spanish-language students in Madrid during Independent Activities Period (IAP) and host the January Scholars in France IAP program, which offers students an immersive experience in French culture. In consultation with the GSL head, the French group leadership made the difficult decision to cancel the French IAP program this year owing to the instability in Paris following the

events of November 2015. The German group conducted outreach to local high school students with an “immersion day” hosted at GSL.

GSL awarded a number of student prizes. The Isabelle de Courtivron Writing Prize went to Pratyusha (Priya) Kalluri '16 (first place) and Aneesh Anand '17 (second place). Camille Henrot '16 won the GSL Award for Excellence. Distinguished Scholar Awards were presented to Derron Browne '16 and Eve de la Serna '16. German Awards went to Suma Anand '17 (first place), Dina Levy-Lambert '17 and Lucine Gabriel '17 (second place), and Christina Curlette '16, Marianna Agudelo '16, Ola Kalinowska '16, Akshat Bubna '18, Robert Knighton '17, Anna Martinez '19, and Nina Petelina '17 (third place).

GSL students also received a number of external honors. Chinese concentrator Austin Freel '16 and Chinese student Eric Koch '18 won second-place prizes in the sixth annual Chinese Speech Contest for University Students in New England. Freel also received a scholarship to study at National Taiwan Normal University's Mandarin Training Center. Christianna Bonin G (architecture) won a Fulbright Award to travel to Russia.

Intellectual Commons

The dynamism and energy in Global Studies and Languages are evident in the robust schedule of programming hosted by the section throughout the academic year. In AY2016, we instituted various research-related activities, including the Global Studies and Languages Brown Bag Lunch Series, in order to provide forums for faculty and other academic staff to share work in progress and create a sense of intellectual community. The section also launched the Global Studies Forum as a platform to bring together diverse speaker series within the section focused on the four key themes of our collaborative research agendas: the flow of people (migration, travel and diaspora), the flow of ideas and knowledge (transnational cultural streams, creative industries and media, world religions, global cuisines), interconnected action (social, political, and artistic movements, global social and environmental justice), and multilingualism.

Our faculty hosted several major conferences. In partnership with HUBweek and the MIT Solve conference, Ian Condry organized the Dissolve Inequality “un-conference,” which examined various aspects of inequality through lightning talks and open discussions. Condry also celebrated the 10th anniversary of the MIT/Harvard Cool Japan research project with a series of events culminating in the international Dissolve Inequality: Music Summit. Heather Lee and Emma Teng hosted the Pacific New England Consortium Workshop on Digital Research and Pedagogy in Asian American Studies. Jeff Ravel co-organized an international conference, Early Modern Theatre Practices and the Digital Archive: The Comédie-Française Registers Project (1680–1793), held at Harvard and MIT.

The Global France Seminar continued to be active, hosting a range of events from scholarly talks to film screenings and a faculty-led public discussion of the November 20, 2015, Paris attacks.

The Global Borders Research Collaborative gained a new member in Bettina Stoetzer and, with participation from our Mellon Postdoctoral Fellows, hosted a variety of

talks on subjects ranging from migration and environment in Tibet to Chinese-Arab exchanges, educational migration, Africa and globalization, the current refugee crisis in Europe, and climate change. Global environmentalism was selected as a topic of focus for upcoming programming.

Digital Humanities, Online Education, and Technological Innovation

Continuing our long-standing commitment to pedagogical innovation, especially in the realm of educational technology, the section this year devoted renewed attention and resources toward digital humanities and innovative technology projects, many of which have been mentioned in the preceding sections. We highlight below a few notable initiatives.

Led by Heather Lee, the section hosted a workshop on digital humanities approaches in Asian American studies for the Pacific New England Consortium.

Shigeru Miyagawa's pioneering efforts with online education through EdX (the Visualizing Japan MOOC) were recognized with several prize nominations, including one for the prestigious international Japan Prize.

Jing Wang's work on the NGO2.0 project, which promotes social media literacy among grassroots organizations in China, was awarded a grant from China's Dunhe Foundation.

Jeff Ravel received a major grant to launch an extensive digitization project with the MIT Museum: the Visualizing Maritime History Project. He completed phase 1 of the Comédie-Française Registers Project, with results disseminated in two international conferences, one at MIT/Harvard. Ravel also participated in a digital humanities workshop at Dartmouth.

Emma Teng launched the beta version of the "Early Chinese MIT" website, documenting the history of Chinese students at MIT between 1877 and 1931. She is working with Archives and Special Collections to digitize related materials in preparation for an exhibit (material and virtual). With Heather Lee, Teng began work on a website for introductory Asian American studies. Teng and Lee presented at a roundtable on digital humanities approaches at the annual meeting of the Association for Asian American Studies. Teng also began work on an online K-12 outreach project on Chinese culture tailored to meet Massachusetts curriculum standards for fourth-grade social studies.

Takako Aikawa was awarded a Japan Foundation grant to employ "teacher sourcing" in the development of AI Japanese Tutor, an innovative online language learning tool. In addition, Aikawa continued work on JaJan!, a virtual reality technology for language learning.

Haohsiang Liao continued work on an online speech recognition tool for beginning-level students of Chinese and initiated discussions regarding a Chinese 101 MOOC.

Sabine Levet continued training educators to use Cultura, an MIT-developed intercultural project that connects groups of students transnationally online.

Six instructors from the section were honored at the first annual Teaching with Digital Technology Awards luncheon.

Administrative Initiatives

Diversity

National events over the past year, as well as MIT-wide initiatives led by the Institute Community and Equity Office (ICEO), have galvanized the section to redouble efforts to promote diversity and inclusion in personnel, curricula, and activities. In response to the Black Students' Union recommendations issued this year, the faculty adopted a diversity statement that is now posted on our website. The faculty furthermore developed a diversity strategic plan and appointed two diversity representatives—one to represent faculty members (Bruno Perreau) and the other to represent lecturers (Haohsiang Liao)—to spearhead internal diversity initiatives and serve as liaisons between the section and ICEO. Search procedures were updated based on best practices. Several lecturers continued their involvement with the Office of Minority Education and received recognition for their mentoring efforts. The section once again ran a speaker series on current trends in Latin American studies. Support was provided to diverse student groups on campus, as well as to the Latin American Studies Association and the Association for Asian American Studies. GSL administrative officer Elouise Evee-Jones attended the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators Student Affairs Professionals in Higher Education Multicultural Institute in order to collect information on best practices.

Infrastructure and Communications

GSL renovated six classrooms this year to bring the audiovisual systems up to latest standards with touch screens and digital projectors. Physical space issues continued to present ongoing challenges for the section, with insufficient office space for personnel, meetings, and other activities and asbestos abatement required in several offices, resulting in work disruption. In order to address ongoing technical issues and enhance communication of the section's mission, we undertook a renovation and redesign of the GSL website in tandem with efforts to develop a new Facebook and Twitter strategy.

GSL hosted a successful open house for the MIT Cambridge centennial celebrations, attracting hundreds of visitors for demonstrations of technology-enabled teaching tools, global-themed and multilingual games, and other activities.

Although we still have much work to do to complete GSL's transformation along the lines suggested in the faculty's collective vision of global studies, the section made great strides over the past year and has pulled together around common goals. The section has been energized by the growing number of junior faculty who have brought new perspectives, energy, and dynamism to the unit. With growing attention to the importance of global issues at the Institute, the section has a bright future.

Emma J. Teng

Section Head

T.T. and Wei Fong Chao Professor of Asian Civilizations