

Global Studies and Languages

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. The section's interdisciplinary research, teaching, and educational activities draw on diverse perspectives and methodologies from the humanities, arts, and social sciences.

The section remains in a phase of renewal, with the aim of raising its profile within MIT and establishing its 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 ties to other units at MIT. This entails the strategic investment and utilization of many resources.

Major steps in advancing these goals in AY2017 include the following:

- **Establishing African studies:** In recognition of the importance of Africa in today's globalizing world, GSL faculty pursued the expansion of the section's curriculum and research program to include African studies. The growth of the MIT-Africa Initiative provided further impetus. After spending AY2017 with GSL as a postdoctoral associate in Francophone African studies, Melissa Amah Edoh, an anthropologist specializing in the study of Africa and globalization, was appointed as the section's first assistant professor of African studies. This appointment allows the section to strengthen and diversify the existing French/Francophone studies curriculum, while also developing African studies as a new area of our Global Studies offerings. Subjects in this area will be geared toward cultivating a critical appreciation of the African continent's cultural diversity, and of its contributions to global, social, political, and cultural phenomena.
- **Launching a three-year Korean language pilot:** In response to growing student demand, and with the support of the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (SHASS) dean, the section launched a three-year Korean language pilot program. Hee-Jeong Jeong was hired as a lecturer in Korean, and helped to develop a sequence of four subjects in the Korean language. The first year of this pilot was very successful, with high enrollments (over 100), and positive feedback from students. Jeong was recognized for her dedication and excellence as a recipient of the SHASS Levitan Teaching Award.
- **Strengthening Latin American studies:** GSL requested and received approval to conduct a search for a tenured professor of Latin American studies. The search launched in May 2017 and will continue through fall 2017. Spanish and Portuguese continue to be important languages taught in the unit.
- **Contributing to a new five-school interdisciplinary minor:** The section joined efforts across the five Schools to establish a new undergraduate minor in environment and sustainability, listing two GSL subjects (21G.057 Gender in Science, Technology, and Environment and 21G.417 Cultural Geographies of

Germany: Nature, Culture, and Politics) as elective options for the environmental histories and cultures pillar.

- **Advancing diversity and inclusion:** In concert with Institute-wide efforts to build a more diverse, inclusive MIT, the section has worked to increase the number of women and people from underrepresented minority groups on our faculty, as well as among other academic staff, support staff, and students. Professor Bruno Perreau and Senior Lecturer Haohsiang Liao served as the GSL diversity representatives. A new diversity plan was crafted by interim head, Professor Ian Condry to be implemented during current and future searches.

Searches, Promotions, and Personnel Changes

GSL section head Emma J. Teng was on sabbatical this academic year. Jing Wang served as interim head in fall 2016, and Ian Condry in spring 2017. Teng resumed the head position in July 2017.

Changes to GSL academic staff include the following:

Bruno Perreau was promoted from associate professor without tenure to associate professor with tenure.

Catherine Clark was promoted from assistant professor to associate professor without tenure.

Bettina Stoetzer and Paloma Duong were reappointed as assistant professors.

Paul Roquet began his first year as assistant professor of Japanese studies.

Melissa Amah Edoh, postdoctoral associate in GSL, was appointed as assistant professor of African studies, effective July 1, 2017.

Jeffrey Ravel completed his five-year secondary appointment in GSL.

Hee-Jeong Jeong joined the section as lecturer of Korean.

Yoshimni Nagaya retired as director of Japanese studies.

Javier Barroso was appointed lecturer of Spanish, effective July 1, 2017.

Panpan Gao was appointed lecturer of Chinese, effective July 1, 2017.

Wakana Maekawa was appointed lecturer of Japanese, effective July 1, 2017.

Corey Johnson and Bekalu Kifle (co-sponsored with History) spent the year in GSL as SHASS diversity predoctoral fellows.

Michelle Ho and Sonia Gomez (co-sponsored with History) were selected as SHASS diversity predoctoral fellows for AY2018.

Former Mellon postdoctoral fellow Heather Lee started her appointment as assistant professor at New York University (NYU) Shanghai, and continued as a GSL research affiliate.

Mellon postdoctoral fellow Feng-Mei Heberer concluded her appointment at MIT and was appointed as assistant professor at NYU.

Changes to GSL administrative and support staff include the following:

Joseph Borkowski was hired as a systems administrator in June 2017.

Meredith Marx was hired as a senior administrative assistant in August 2016.

Faculty Accomplishments and Honors

Global Studies and Languages faculty and academic staff published books and scholarly articles, presented research at conferences and other venues, and received awards and grants during AY2017. Below is a selected list of their accomplishments and honors.

Catherine E. Clark was awarded a fellowship at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton University for the 2018 academic year. Clark gave invited talks at New York University, Oxford University, the University of Southern California, and NYU-Shanghai, and presented her research at major national conferences. She published a review of Sylvie Lindeperg's *"Night and Fog": A Film in History in the Journal of Modern History*.

Ian Condry was awarded a Mellon Faculty Grant from the MIT Center for Art, Science and Technology for AY2018 to host the conference, Dissolve Music. Condry published an essay in the Japanese journal *Eureka* and a chapter in the edited volume *Global Perspectives on the United States: Pro-Americanism, Anti-Americanism, and the Discourses Between*. He also published an article on the first 100 days of Trump's presidency in the Japanese journal *Cultural Studies*. Among his numerous research presentations, Condry gave a keynote talk, "Inequality and Change: Lessons from Manga, Anime, and Music," at the conference of the Société Française des Etudes Japonaises at the University of Lyon.

Paloma Duong published two articles: "Homebound: The Art of Public Space in Contemporary Cuba," in *ArtMargins*, a prize-winning academic journal specializing in postsocialist art and culture; and "Cuban Travelogues into the Futures Past," in *Cuban Counterpoints: Public Scholarship about a Changing Cuba*. She was invited by Princeton's Program in Latin American Studies to present her current work on Cuba, and by the Whitney Humanities Center at Yale University to participate in a retreat to discuss the future of critical theory and the development of multidisciplinary and transnational frameworks for cultural research beyond area studies.

Shigeru Miyagawa's book *Agreement Beyond Phi*, was published by MIT Press in March 2017. Miyagawa co-authored an article with Nobuaki Nishioka and Hedde Zeijlstra "Negative Sensitive Items and the Discourse-Configurational Nature of Japanese" published in *Glossa: A Journal of General Linguistics*. *Song of the Human* by British composer Pete M. Wyer, premiered in New York City in October. The piece was inspired by Shigeru Miyagawa's research indicating that human language evolved from birdsong. Miyagawa was awarded funding from MITx to revise the edX massive open online course (MOOC) Visualizing Japan (1850s–1930s): Westernization, Protest, Modernity.

Bruno Perreau was named a Knight in the Order of Academic Palms (Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques) by decree of the French prime minister on July 12, 2016. Perreau's book *Queer Theory: The French Response* was published by Stanford University Press in November 2016. Perreau's *Les Défis de la République: Genre, territoires, citoyenneté (Challenging the Republic: Gender, Multilevel Governance, and Citizenship)*, co-edited with Joan W. Scott, was published by Presses de Sciences Po in January 2017. Perreau authored a book chapter, "Adopter" in *Hommage à Évelyne Pisier*, published by the Centre National du Livre in Paris in 2017. Among other speaking engagements, Perreau gave talks at Harvard University, Rutgers University, Stanford University, the University of Chicago and Université Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne, in France.

Jeffrey Ravel, collaborating with the MIT Museum, continued work on a National Park Service-funded project to digitize 4,400 items in the Museum's Hart Nautical Collection. He also served on the museum's advisory board. Working with Professor Anne McCants in History, Ravel established the Beaver Press print shop in Barker Library. He continued to serve as the faculty lead on the MIT-Nepal initiative. The Boston-Area French History Group, which Professor Ravel organizes, continued its regular meetings to discuss work in progress by local scholars of French history.

Paul Roquet was named to the Mitsui Career Development Professorship for 2017–2020, focused on encouraging "cultural and technological exchange between the United States and Japan." Roquet published "From Animation to Augmentation: Dennō Coil and the Compositing Self" in *Animation* in November 2017. Among his various research presentations, he lectured at the Yale University Center for East Asian Studies and presented at the Media Studies and Popular Culture in Contemporary Japan Conference held at Syracuse University.

Bettina Stoetzer published the essay, "Infrastructure: Peripheral Visions and Bodies that Matter" in *Engagement*, a blog published by the Anthropology and Environment Society section of the American Anthropological Association. Stoetzer presented her research on ruderal ecologies at Columbia University, Harvard, and Humboldt University in Berlin. She gave an invited talk, "Ecologies of Socialism," and was a discussant on the Ecologies of Socialism panel at the Annual Meeting of the German Studies Association.

Emma J. Teng was on sabbatical during AY2017. She was invited to serve as a visiting scholar at the Institute for Modern History, Academia Sinica, Taiwan. She published "The Asian Turn in Mixed Race Studies: Retrospects and Prospects," in *Asia Pacific Perspectives*, and "Wang Tao as a Pioneer of New Literary and Journalistic Forms," in *A New Literary History of Modern China* (Harvard University Press, 2017). To commemorate the 140th anniversary of Chinese students at MIT, Teng curated an exhibit, *China Comes to Tech: 1877–1931*, on display at MIT's Maihaugen Gallery, February 10, 2017 through March 2, 2018, and produced [China Comes to MIT: MIT's First Chinese Students, 1877–1931](#), a companion website. Teng presented work at conferences and symposia in Canada, China, Hong Kong, the United States, Taiwan, and Vietnam.

William Uricchio was the recipient of grants from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Ford Foundation, and the Oculus Story Studio. He was a

conference organizer for Update or Die: Future Proofing Emerging Digital Documentary Forms, hosted by the MIT Open Documentary Lab and Centre Phi in Montreal. Uricchio published numerous articles and was an invited speaker at a host of conferences, documentary festivals, and universities, including the University of Michigan, University of Miami, University of Stockholm, University of Zurich, University of Antwerp, University of Hamburg, University of St. Andrews, and Sorbonne Paris III.

Jing Wang was the recipient of grants from the Shenzhen Futian District government and the Dunhe Foundation. She also received an award from the Ford Foundation Beijing for her project Chinese NGOs in the Web 2.0 Environment. Wang authored a book chapter, "The Makers Are Coming! China's Long Tail Revolution," in *The Handbook of Cultural and Creative Industries in China*, published in 2017. Among Wang's numerous talks, two were in China, "Nonprofit Technology and the Future of Tech4Good Practices," at the Ford Foundation in Beijing; and "Web 2.0 and the Ecology of the Nonprofit Sector," at the Dunhe Foundation in Beijing. In May, she presented "1001 Nights and Media Ecologies in China and the US," a workshop on media objects at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University.

Elizabeth A. Wood received a 2017 SHASS Research Award for her work in progress, *Scenarios of Power: Vladimir Putin and the Spectacle of Russian Leadership*. Wood presented a keynote talk, "Vladimir Putin and the Masking of Politics," at the Swiss Slavists' Association in Zurich, Switzerland. She co-organized a speaker series at MIT, "Architecture at the Ends of the Earth," exploring the Russian North through the photographs of William Craft Brumfield. In spring 2017 she gave talks at conferences on the 100th anniversary of the Russian Revolution at the University of Michigan, the Kennan Institute, and Bowdoin College. Wood presented the talk "Wives, Mistresses, and Women Commissars: Gender and the Deep State in Russia Today" at a roundtable titled "Putin, Gender, and the 2016 US Election" at Harvard University's Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies. She also delivered the opening speech, "US-Russia Relations: Policy Challenges in a New Era," at the Aspen Leadership Conference in Berlin, Germany.

GSL faculty affiliate, Marie-Hélène Huet, the M. Taylor Pyne Professor of French and Italian, emeritus, at Princeton University, participated in the annual meeting of the North American Jules Verne Society in July and presented a paper titled "Engineering Fiction."

Publications from GSL lecturers this year included a book by Haohsiang Liao, *Easy Mandarin Chinese* published by Tuttle in October 2016. Maria Khotimsky published a co-edited volume (with Stephanie Sandler, Margarita Krimmel and Oleg Novikov) *Olga Sedakova: Stikhi, smysly, prochteniiia. Sbornik nauchnykh statei (Olga Sedakova: Poems, Meanings, Interpretations. A Collection of Scholarly Articles)* with NLO Publisher in Moscow. Khotimsky also published a book chapter titled "Marina Cvetaeva in Translation and as a Translator of Poetry," in *A Companion to Marina Cvetaeva: Approaches to a Major Russian Poet*, edited by Sibelan Forrester and published by Brill in 2016.

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.

Catherine Clark reviewed applications for the Bourse Chateaubriand, a research fellowship for PhD students given out by the French embassy in the United States and was invited to join the editorial board of the new history of photography journal, *Transbordeur*. Bruno Perreau served as associate editor for Oxford University Press on LGBT politics. Bettina Stoetzer was a peer reviewer for *American Ethnologist*, *Cultural Anthropology*, *Current Anthropology*, *Anthropological Quarterly*, *Urban Studies*, and *InterDisciplines*. Emma Teng was elected to the board of directors for Mass Humanities—a nonprofit organization in Northampton, MA—and served on the North American Taiwan Studies Association board of advisors, the Harvard-Yenching Institute Faculty Advisory Committee, and the National Taiwan University International Chinese Language Program international advisory board. William Uricchio served on the Eye Film Institute (formerly, Netherlands Filmmuseum) board of directors in Amsterdam. Jing Wang served on the China Development Brief, PRC advisory board, and the Chinese University of Hong Kong master of arts in global communication program advisory panel.

The number of faculty members who serve on editorial boards is too numerous to list. Notable among them are: Jing Wang—*Positions: East Asia Cultures Critique*, *Advertising and Society Review*, *Media Industries*, *Taiwan: A Radical Quarterly in Social Studies*, *The Chinese Journal of Communication and Society*, and *Inter-Asia Cultural Studies Journal*; Shigeru Miyagawa—*Linguistics Inquiry*, *Glossa*, and the *Journal of East Asian Linguistics*; Ian Condry—*Asiascape: Digital Asia*; William Uricchio—*Intermédialités/Intermediality*; Elizabeth Wood—*Problems of Post-Communism* and *Krytyka Feministyczna: East European Journal of Feminist and Queer Studies*; and Bruno Perreau—*GLAD! Revue sur le langage, le genre, les sexualités*.

GSL lecturers took on responsibilities in a multitude of professional organizations and conferences during AY2017. As one example, the Japanese group, led by Masami Ikeda-Lamm and Takako Aikawa, hosted the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT), administered by the American Association of Teachers of Japanese, for the second year. The JLPT attracts some 300 students from around the region.

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 academic staff made in AY2017.

- Shigeru Miyagawa served on the OpenCourseWare Faculty Advisory Committee and on the SHASS Steering Committee for Digital Humanities.
- Elizabeth Wood served as faculty director of the MIT-Russia Program.
- William Uricchio served as faculty director of the MIT-Netherlands Program.
- Paloma Duong served on the Presidential Committee on OpenCourseWare and the Future.

- Bettina Stoetzer served on the SHASS Burchard Fellows Committee, the Women's and Gender Studies Steering Committee, and on the committee for the environment and sustainability minor curriculum.
- Margarita Groeger was co-chair of the Faculty Advisory Committee to the Office of Minority Education.
- Margarita Groeger and 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. Total enrollments for AY2017 numbered 2,003 (an increase from 1,788 last year). Korean language students accounted for approximately half of this increase. The section currently serves over 463 HASS concentrators, 59 minors, and one major.

Excellence in teaching has been a hallmark of the section. Two GSL lecturers received SHASS Levitan Teaching Awards in AY2017, Maria Khotimsky (Russian) and Hee-Jeong Jeong (Korean). GSL offers grants to lecturers to encourage excellence in teaching through the Gilberte Furstenberg and Douglas Morgenstern Fund for Innovation in Language Instruction. This year, the three award recipients were Leanna Bridge Rezvani for her online teaching tool, *Teaching French Literature: From Medieval France to the Contemporary Francophone World*; Tong Chen for his project "Getting Started with Mandarin Chinese"; and Masami Ikeda-Lamm for her project "New Environment to Promote Learner Autonomy for Advanced Students of Japanese."

Major curricular initiatives this year included the establishment of African studies, with new subjects that count toward the SHASS concentration and minor in African and African diaspora studies; support for the establishment of an interdisciplinary undergraduate minor in environment and sustainability, toward which two of our subjects will count; the establishment of Russian language as an approved, stand-alone concentration (effective AY2018); and the launch of a three-year Korean language pilot program. Enrollment for AY2017 in Korean language classes was 104.

The section debuted a number of new subjects in AY2017: 21G.067/597 Digital Media in Japan and Korea; 21G.077/618 Intro to the Classics of Russian Literature; 21G.094/21G.594 Cinema in Japan and Korea; 21G.221 Communicating in American Culture; and 21G.820/21G.821 The Beat of Brazil: Brazilian Society through its Music.

GSL awarded various student prizes in AY2017. The Isabelle de Courtivron Writing Prize went to Mira Partha '19 (first place) and Sefa Adzo Yakpo '18 (second place). The Award for Excellence went to Erika Arias '18. Distinguished Scholar Awards went to Joseph Han '16 and Marie Menshova '16. German Studies Excellence Awards went to Melinda Szabo '19 (first place); Riley Davis '19, Nicolas Amato '19, and Jason Wong, special student (second place); and James Deng '17, Zoya Fan '19, Esther Goldberger '18, Tyndale Hannan '20, Kaleigh Hunt '20, Sophia Reyes-Hadsall '17, Andrew Titus '17, and Cassia Wang '20 (third place).

To promote initiatives in digital humanities and other innovative technology projects, the section supported various endeavors led by faculty, academic staff, and research scientists, including Shigeru Miyagawa's online edX course, Visualizing Japan; Jing Wang's work on the NGO2.0 project, which promotes social media literacy among grassroots organizations in China; Emma Teng's China Comes to MIT website, and [China4kids](#), a K–12 outreach website; Haohsiang Liao's work on an online speech recognition tool for beginner-level students of Chinese; Takako Aikawa's online Japanese artificial intelligence (AI) Teacher Project; and more. Professor Shigeru Miyagawa continued to split his position between MIT and the University of Tokyo, where he is project professor and director of online education.

Intellectual Commons

Global Studies and Languages hosts a robust schedule of programming throughout the academic year. In AY2017 the section launched a new Global Studies Forum as a platform to bring together speakers focused on the four key themes of our collaborative research agendas: social justice and social action; digital humanities and creative pedagogies; migration and diaspora; and critical studies of globalization. Our Brown Bag series offered section members a chance to present their research in an informal setting. AY2017 speakers included Catherine Clark, Roberto Rey Agudo, Marie-Hélène Huet, Corey Johnson, and two pedagogical roundtables, led by Maria Khotimsky with panelists Margarita Ribas Groeger, Mariana San Martin, Leanna Bridge Rezvani, Min-Min Liang, Ellen Crocker, Nilma Dominique, and Kang Zhou.

The Global France Seminar hosted a range of scholarly talks and various other events were organized by the section.

Advancing Diversity and Inclusion

With issues of diversity and inclusion continuing to occupy center stage in our national life, the section dedicated efforts to advancing the goals articulated in our [Statement on Diversity](#), adopted last year. We have made moderate success in this area with the establishment of African studies, and the appointment of two SHASS diversity predoctoral fellows, Corey Johnson and Bekalu Kifle. Faculty-sponsored programming and public events were also reflective of this effort. Ian Condry organized a panel titled "Art / Protest / Value" (co-hosted with the List Visual Arts Center). Bettina Stoetzer hosted the event "Filming the Future from Berlin: Noncitizen Perspectives on 'Refugee Crisis.'" Feng-Mei Heberer organized a symposium titled Racial Regimes, Digital Economies (co-hosted with Comparative Media Studies/Writing). Over 100 people attended a reading by Chinese avant-garde writer Can Xue, organized by lecturer Min-Min Liang (co-sponsored by Women's and Gender Studies and PEN New England). A number of faculty offered workshops during the MIT Day of Engagement, Day of Action on April 18, 2017. These events brought faculty, students, and staff together and reaffirmed our commitment to our core mission at MIT.

Emma J. Teng

Section Head

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