

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, multicultural, and multilingual world. Fundamental to this mission are the section's classes on global languages and cultures, which allow students to gain a broader and multicultural perspective on national and global issues as well as their own identities. The section's interdisciplinary and inter-area research, teaching, and educational activities draw on diverse perspectives and methodologies from the humanities, arts, and social sciences.

Highlights and Developments

Humanities Visiting Committee

The section participated in the Humanities Visiting Committee meeting, hosted by the Literature section, in November 2019. Assistant Professor of German Studies Bettina Stoetzer represented the section and presented her research to the committee. Bruno Perreau—Cynthia L. Reed Professor of French Studies and Language—presented his research on behalf of the Program in Women's and Gender Studies.

Consortium for Language Teaching and Learning

After a 10-year hiatus, the section rejoined the Consortium for Language Teaching and Learning (CLTL). Originally established in 1986, CLTL's stated mission is to consolidate and improve language teaching best practices at its member institutions. The section joins member institutions Brown University, the University of Chicago, Columbia University, Cornell University, Princeton University, and Yale University. During its previous period of membership in CLTL, MIT was an active member, contributing cutting-edge advances through a variety of pedagogical projects, computer-assisted language learning, and other projects sponsored in part by CLTL. Haohsiang Liao, senior lecturer, and Emma J. Teng—section head and T.T. and Wei Fong Chao Professor of Asian Civilizations—attended a CLTL executive board meeting and symposium at Columbia University in May. MIT was warmly welcomed back by consortium representatives. Rejoining CLTL enables the section to participate in a broader community of foreign language educators, to share best practices at a time of rapid change in the field, and to collaborate with other peer institutions.

Language Pedagogy Workshop

In June 2019, the section held a two-day workshop on reverse design for language pedagogy led by Catherine Baumann, director of the University of Chicago Language Center. The workshop was attended by more than 20 section members representing all language groups.

Fundraising and Outreach

Professor Teng led a number of fundraising efforts during AY2019 with the aim of supporting study-abroad programs and pedagogical initiatives among the language groups. Expendable funding was used to create the TT and WF Chao IAP-in-China Fund, which will support the development of a Chinese-language study-abroad option during Independent Activities Period (IAP). A gift was also received from a donor for

the Chinese language and culture program. Liaising with Anne Marie Michel—Assistant Dean for Development, and Megan Hinckley—Leadership Giving officer, Professor Teng coordinated proposals to donors and foundations in South America and Spain for support of expanded Spanish-language study-abroad options during IAP.

The section strengthened ties with a number of existing Institute partners and conducted outreach to advance current initiatives and promote awareness of GSL around the campus. The section worked closely with the MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives (MISTI), the Global Education Office, and Todd Holmes, manager of the International Security and Safety program, to establish best practices for its current and planned IAP study-abroad options. The section explored synergies with the Office of Distinguished Fellowships to increase common interest in foreign languages and Fulbright Fellowships. Takako Aikawa, senior lecturer, and Paul Roquet, Associate Professor of Japanese Studies, initiated discussions with the Bridge arm of the Quest for Intelligence to arrange space for virtual reality (VR) projects with language and culture foci. Haohsiang Liao also worked with Bridge engineers on a speech recognition tool to serve as a language learner pronunciation aid.

Professor Teng made site visits to the following institutions to collect information on best practices for global language and culture pedagogy: the University of Chicago Language Center, the Rice University Center for Languages and Intercultural Communication, Texas A&M International Studies, the Harvard University Language Center, and the Ohio State University Center for Language, Literatures and Cultures.

Personnel

In AY2019, GSL's academic makeup consisted of nine faculty (including dual and secondary appointments), 39 other academic instructional staff (including 12 temporary staff), three visiting scholars, and one visiting student. GSL administrative staff included an administrative officer, a systems administrator, an undergraduate academic administrator, and two support staff.

Faculty Searches, Promotions, and Changes

Bettina Stoetzer was promoted to associate professor without tenure effective July 1, 2019.

Bruno Perreau was promoted to full professor effective July 1, 2019.

M. Amah Edoh was reappointed as assistant professor effective July 1, 2020.

A search for a professor of Latin American studies was launched but suspended prior to campus visits.

Faculty Leaves

Professor Roquet was on professional leave in AY2019 undertaking research on a fellowship granted by the Japan Foundation.

Other Academic Staff Notes

Ellen Crocker, senior lecturer in German, and Margarita Ribas-Groeger, senior lecturer in Spanish, were on sabbatical in spring 2019.

Eric Grunwald, lecturer in English-language studies, was promoted to lecturer II effective January 1, 2019.

Tong Chen, lecturer in Chinese; Cathy Culot-Nicolio, lecturer in French; and A.C. Kemp, lecturer in English-language Studies, were each reappointed as lecturer II effective July 1, 2019.

Javier Barroso, lecturer in Spanish; Panpan Gao, lecturer in Chinese; and Wakana Maekawa, lecturer in Japanese, were each reappointed as lecturer I effective July 1, 2020.

A search was conducted for a lecturer in German. Anh Nguyen was hired for the position, and she will start in September 2019.

A search was also conducted for a lecturer in Spanish. Helena Belio Apaolaza was hired, and she will start in September 2019.

Aalyia Sadruddin, Wen-Hui Anna Tang, and Qian Zhang were visiting scholars in AY2019. Sudan Chen was a visiting student during the spring and summer terms of AY2019.

Maria Andrianova, Jennifer Cullen, Liana Ewald, Robert Herr, Ana Paula Hirano, Bjorn Kuhnicke, Carrie O'Connor, Emiko Rafique, Kirkley Silverman, Ruth Sondermann, Olivia Szabo, and Sandra Ward were temporary lecturers in AY2019.

Administrative Staff

Liam Brenner was hired to the position of administrative officer; he joined the staff in August 2018.

Accomplishments and Honors

GSL faculty and academic staff published books and scholarly articles, presented research at conferences and other venues, and received awards and grants during AY2019. Faculty members presented research in countries around the world, including Canada, China, Denmark, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Taiwan, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Associate Professor of French Studies Catherine Clark published her first book, *Paris and the Cliché of History: The City and Photographs, 1860-1970*, and co-authored a chapter ("Les Revenants, Tignes, and the Return of the Victims of Postwar Modernization") in *France in Flux* (edited by Ari Blatt and Ed Welch). She presented her research at invited talks in France and domestically.

Professor of Japanese Cultural Studies Ian Condry presented his research at invited talks in the Netherlands and Japan. He received a three-year grant for audio equipment from d&b audiotechnik to pursue a spatial sound lab exploring the use of directional sound in learning and learning equality.

Assistant Professor of Latin American Studies Paloma Duong progressed in the research and writing of her book manuscript on culture and media in postsocialist Cuba.

Professor Edoh was awarded a MISTI seed grant of \$20,000 for her proposed collaboration with colleagues in Africa and received a Levitan Teaching Award. She presented her research on Dutch wax cloth at the annual African Studies Association conference.

Professor Perreau was awarded the prestigious Burkhardt Fellowship for Newly Tenured Faculty by the American Council of Learned Societies; he will conduct research in AY2020 at Stanford University. Professor Perreau presented his research on queer theory and adoption policy both internationally (at Sciences Po in France and McGill University in Canada) and domestically (at Brown University and the annual meeting of the Alliance for the Study of Adoption & Culture).

Professor Roquet published an article, “Peripheral Visions,” in the online journal *Real Life*. He presented his research during invited lectures in Hong Kong and Japan and delivered the keynote lecture, “The Ethics of Atmosphere,” at the Atmospheres in the Urban Anthropocene meeting of the Aarhus School of Architecture in Denmark.

Professor Stoetzer received a publication contract with Duke University Press for her manuscript focusing on the ecologies of migration and urban life in Berlin. She was awarded a fellowship by the Rachel Carson Center for the Environment and will undertake her research in spring 2020; she also received a School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (SHASS) Research Fund award for her proposed work on the resilience and variety of non-human life in urbanized areas such as Chicago and Berlin. Professor Stoetzer presented her research at invited talks in Germany and Italy. Domestically, she presented at the annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association.

Professor Teng published “Roast Beef v. Pigs’ Trotters: Knowledge-in-Transit in the Work of a Chinese Food Evangelist,” in *Asia Inside-Out: Itinerant People* (Harvard University Press); “Taiwan and Modern China,” in the *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Asian History* (Oxford University Press); “Frontiers, Borderlands, and Diasporas—Reflections on Working at the Margins” (*Taiwan Historical Studies*; in Chinese); and “At the Intersections of Sinophone Studies and Critical Mixed Race Studies: Re-Examining the Boundaries of Chineseness” (*Modern Chinese Women’s History*; in Chinese). Professor Teng was invited to deliver the Outstanding Humanities Scholar Lecture at the Prospects in Science and Humanities Forum in celebration of the 90th anniversary of Academia Sinica and the Distinguished Wang Shih-lang Taiwan Studies Lecture at National Taiwan University. She was awarded a summer fellowship at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study.

Jing Wang, S.C. Fang Professor in Chinese Language and Culture, was renewed as a distinguished overseas professor by the Chinese Ministry of Education. She published an article (“Xiaomi Is the Best Builder of the ‘Collaborative Ecosystem’ without Borders”) in the *China Securities Journal* and delivered the keynote address (“Open Source Village and the MIT Fab Lab Model”) at the Technology for Public Good meeting in China. Additionally, she delivered invited lectures at the Confucius Institute (University of California, Santa Barbara) and in China.

The section’s other academic instructional staff were also active in presenting pedagogical research at conferences, including the annual meeting of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages. Their excellent teaching was recognized

in student evaluations and, in two cases, with awards: Margarita Ribas-Groeger received a Kappa Alpha Theta Outstanding Faculty Award, and Panpan Gao received a Levitan Teaching Award.

Service to the Profession

Faculty in GSL were active in the profession, playing various leadership and service roles and serving on numerous editorial boards.

Professor Clark served as a screener for Bourse Chateaubriand (French Embassy to the United States) and as a member of the editorial advisory board of *Transbordeur: Photographie, histoire, société*.

Professor Perreau served on the advisory board of the Sciences Po (Paris, France) Research Program on Gender. He was also a journal advisory board member for *GLAD! Revue sur le langage, le genre, les sexualités*; *Psychanalyse 21 – Culture, Corps, Politique*; and *Genre, Sexualité et Société* and an associate editor of the *Oxford Encyclopedia of LGBT Politics* (Oxford University Press). He served as a manuscript referee on a number of journals in the realm of French political science.

Professor Roquet was a reviewer for the *Journal of Japanese Studies*.

Professor Stoetzer served as a reviewer for the journal *Environmental Humanities*.

Professor Teng served on the board of directors of Mass Humanities, the International Chinese Language Program of National Taiwan University, and the North American Taiwan Studies Association and on the faculty advisory committee of the Harvard-Yenching Institute. She also sat on the governing board of the Consortium for Language Teaching and Learning. Professor Teng additionally served as a fellowship reviewer for the American Council of Learned Societies and as a manuscript reviewer for various university presses.

Professor Wang served on the advisory board of the China Development Brief and the advisory panel of the Chinese University of Hong Kong M.A. in Global Communication Program. She also served on the editorial boards of *asia critique*, *Advertising & Society Review*, and *Media Industries* and on the advisory boards of *Taiwan: A Radical Quarterly in Social Studies*; *The Chinese Journal of Communication and Society*; and the *Inter-Asia Cultural Studies Journal: Movements*, among other journals.

The section's other academic instructional staff played roles in a multitude of professional organizations and conferences during the year. Tong Chen initiated a term as president of the New England Chinese Language Teachers Association. In addition, GSL hosted the Japanese Language Proficiency Test, administered by the American Association of Teachers of Japanese, and the Ivy-Plus International Teaching Assistants meeting for the English-as-a-second-language teaching community.

Service to the Institute

In AY2019, GSL faculty served in several MIT roles. For example, Professor Clark served on the MISTI Global Seed Funds selection committee for France and Belgium, Professor

Edoh was a member of the MIT-Africa Executive Working Group, and Professor Teng served on the International Advisory Committee and was a faculty reader for MIT undergraduate admissions.

Intellectual Commons

GSL hosted a robust schedule of programming throughout the academic year. Highlights included the following:

- The section continued the T.T. and W.F. Chao Distinguished Buddhist Lecture Series, with the AY2019 event featuring Sister Dang Nghiem and Sister Bamboo of the Deer Park Monastery in California. The public lecture was held March 7 and attended by over 200 guests. On the following day, the sisters led two meditation sessions attended by about 40 participants.
- The section continued to host the Global France Seminar series of lectures in AY2019, supported by the French Initiatives Endowment Fund. Lectures on French cultural and diaspora topics were delivered by Steven Ungar (University of Iowa), Daniel J. Sherman (University of North Carolina), Laure Murat (University of California, Los Angeles), Benjamin Boudou (Max Planck Institute), Emmanuelle Loyer (Sciences Po), Antoine Idier (École nationale supérieure d'arts de Paris-Cergy), and Jean-Luc Steinmetz.
- Professor Condry hosted Professors Marcella Mariotti and Toshio Miyake, both of the Ca' Foscari University of Venice, in his 21G.063/21G.596 Anime: Transnational Media and Culture class. The guest lecturers presented their projects on Japanese language instruction and cultural studies of manga and discussed their work with students.
- A book manuscript workshop for Professor Edoh was co-hosted by GSL and Anthropology with the participation of four external leading specialists in the field in addition to MIT faculty.

Academics

Digital Humanities and Technology-Enhanced Pedagogies

The announcement of the establishment of the Schwarzman College of Computing led to a renewed focus on the importance of computing technology in all areas of research and teaching across the Institute. The section and its members were encouraged to consider how advances in computing will change research and pedagogy in their fields and were invited to submit a white paper outlining the great potential of computing technologies to enhance language teaching and learning. In addition to addressing the potential of computing technologies, the resulting white paper stressed the irreplaceability of human instruction and interaction in language and culture education.

Professor Teng initiated discussions with Harvard University's Language Center regarding distance course sharing and the establishment of an MIT-Harvard working group for collaboration on VR applications related to language and culture teaching and learning.

Faculty and other academic staff in the section continued work to incorporate digital humanities and other innovative technologies into their teaching and research. The Taiwan Ministry of Education invited Haohsiang Liao to submit a proposal to fund development of massive open online courses for introductory Chinese classes; project funding for two years is anticipated. Takako Aikawa continued with her development of an avatar-based VR system for language learning, a project aided by the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP). Professor Teng continued work on two digital humanities projects: the website for *China Comes to Tech: 1877-1931* and China4Kids (a K–12 outreach project). She also initiated a collaboration with Phillips Academy Andover focusing on the history of Chinese students at Andover; this effort, co-led by Paige Roberts, Phillips Academy Andover director of archives and special collections, seeks to digitize, preserve, and create online access to thousands of primary source materials relating to the early history of Chinese educational migration to the United States between 1878 and 1930.

Teaching and Enrollments

Total Enrollments, AY2018 and AY2019

	AY2018	AY2019
Spanish	424	448
Chinese	406	428
Japanese	341	365
French	285	311
English-language studies (ELS)	196	186
German	167	142
Russian	134	105
Studies in international cultures and literatures (SILC)	40	96
Korean	95	78
Portuguese	45	46

In AY2019, GSL broadened its curriculum with six classes new to 21G that are diverse in their themes and areas of study. Professor Edoh taught 21G.025 Africa and the Politics of Knowledge; Professor Condry taught 21G.069 (21A.505; STS.065) The Anthropology of Sound; Lecturer Kang Zhou taught 21G.111 Chinese Calligraphy; Lecturer Mariana San Martin developed and taught 21G.705 Intensive Beginning Spanish for Medicine and Health; Lecturer II Nilma Dominique developed and taught 21G.800 Accelerated Introductory Portuguese; and Professor Teng developed and led an exploratory subject, 21G.012 Exploring Globalization through Chinese Food.

In collaboration with MIT Global Education and with support from Associate Provost Richard Lester's office, the section continued to offer Spanish language abroad during IAP with 21G.795 Advanced Communication in Spain. The section received an expendable grant to develop a similar program in China and identified the Southern University of Science and Technology in Shenzhen, China, as a partner for a planned launch during IAP 2020. The section continued the January Scholars in France program in support of its major and minor programs; the theme in AY2019 was "Paris Behind the Scenes," and Sabine Levet, senior lecturer in French, led the non-credit-bearing immersion program.

Representing the third consecutive year of growth after a period of decline in enrollments, GSL experienced a broad increase in the number of concentrators (470) and enrolled students (2,207) from the previous two academic years. At the close of AY2019, GSL had 70 declared minors, the highest number of concurrent minors in the section's recent history.

Two 21G majors graduated in AY2019. Sefa Yakpo received her degree in February with a double major in management and French. As part of her degree requirements, Sefa completed a thesis project titled "Cheveux crépus et identité: Démêler les attitudes des femmes d'origine africaine vis-à-vis de leurs cheveux" under the supervision of Professor Edoh. Riley Davis graduated with a double major in German and mechanical engineering.

GSL found that Institute curriculum changes implemented through the "first-year experiment" had a positive effect on enrollments. In a survey of GSL students, one third of first-year respondents reported that the first-year experiment affected their enrollment in a 21G class.

Student Outreach

GSL increased outreach efforts in AY2019. The section hosted a minor/major information session in November 2018 that included a panel of current 21G students and an alumna. The academic administrator coordinated the support of GSL instructors and major/minor advisors in promoting the concentrations, minors, and majors. She also worked with the section head in outreach efforts with STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) faculty and the Sloan School of Management to promote awareness of the minor programs and roadmaps for double majors. In addition, the section inaugurated a student research showcase for students to share the results of research conducted for 21G classes. Daniel Dangond, Riley Davis, Anshula Gandhi, Christina Rossitto, and Luis Becerra Solis were nominated by faculty and lecturers to deliver 15-minute presentations based on research projects completed over the academic year.

The section recognized outstanding student scholarship and writing with several prizes: the Isabelle de Courtivron Writing Prize (Ivy Li, Hanna Kherzai, and Chloe Yang), the German Studies Excellence Award (Riley Davis, David Darrow, Kaleigh Hunt, Valerie Chen, Charles Gertler, Naille Marah, Margarita Misirpashayeva, Chelsea Spencer, Jake Valente, Chase Vogeli, and Xuan Luo), the Miyagawa Japanese Prize (Kevin Tang and Cory Lynch), and the GSL Award for Excellence (Qingmei Wu, Eric Zhou, Christina Rossitto, and Kalyn Bowen).

Administrative Initiatives

In July and August 2018, the section conducted space exchanges with the Literature and Comparative Media Studies/Writing (CMS/W) sections prompted by the need for new space for the Digital Humanities Lab. GSL ceded 14N-216 to Literature and 14N-421 to CMS/W and gained 16-643 from Literature in return.

Emma J. Teng

Section Head

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