

Digital Asia: Documentary Digital Video Workshop

Digital Asia 2008

Digital Asia 2007 (pilot)

Digital Asia Seed Grant Projects

Digital Asia is training program for academic researchers (both faculty and graduate students) in making digital documentary video. Our goal is to help scholars of Asia better communicate the richness and depth of their knowledge and experience to an educational and public audience, through professional-quality production of video and other multimedia. Our role is to encourage these expert teachers and researchers to communicate visually, to tell their stories in a new medium through the latest digital video technology, rather than through words alone.



The core of this program is a multi-day, intensive workshop for a small number of participants selected through a competitive application process, which included detailed project proposals. A team of experienced filmmaker-scholars, media technology experts, and proven documentary filmmakers offer instruction on the entire process of creating a documentary video, from conceptualization through production, funding, and editing, to distribution. Participants then compete for seed grants providing start-up funds for their projects, in return for a short video with curriculum guide which will be available through AEMS.

Following the workshop, we encourage all Digital Asia participants to stay in touch with us and with each other, to offer support and assistance where possible. We wish to see everyone succeed in producing their video and reaching their audience. And we hope to gradually build a community of scholar-filmmakers.

We plan to next offer the Digital Asia Workshop in 2010.

Presented by [Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies \(EAPS\)](#),
[Asian Educational Media Service \(AEMS\)](#),
and [Applied Technologies for Learning in the Arts & Sciences \(ATLAS\)](#)
at [The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign](#)



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AT URBANA - CHAMPAIGN

Asian Educational Media Service

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

105 S. Gregory, 2nd Floor
Urbana, Illinois 61801

Phone: (217) 333-9597
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2008 Digital Asia:
Documentary Digital Video
Workshop

May 15- 17, 2008
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois

Presented by [Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies \(EAPS\)](#),
[Asian Educational Media Service \(AEMS\)](#),
and [Applied Technologies for Learning in the Arts & Sciences \(ATLAS\)](#)
at [The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign](#)



Over one intense weekend in May, ten scholars of Asian Studies gathered at the campus of the University of Illinois in Urbana to learn as much as they could about documentary filmmaking, through structured discussions and workshops during the day and informal conversations and film screenings in the evenings. Forty professors and graduate students applied for Digital Asia 2008, with full proposals for research-based video projects; of these we could accept only ten, hosted free of charge. Those accepted not only proposed engaging, relevant projects, but also demonstrated strong communications skills and the ability to frame their projects narratively for non-expert audiences. This was [Digital Asia's](#) second year.

Contents:

[Participants](#)
[Projects](#)
[Presenters](#)
[AEMS Staff](#)
[2008 Call for Proposals](#)
[Digital Asia Seed Grants](#)
[2008 Digital Asia Schedule \(PDF\)](#)



Participants

(Pictured: Paul Riismandel - Photo by Tanya Lee)

The following individuals completed the Digital Asia Workshop in 2008. Click on their names for descriptions of their projects.

Faculty

Nancy Abelman

Home is where...?

Michael Brose

Islam in Southwest China

Jeffrey Dym

Incorporating Kamishibai (Japanese Paper Play) into the American Classroom

Digital Asia Seed Grant Recipient

Purnima Shah

Garaba dancing

Paul Watt

The Daily Life of a Japanese Buddhist Temple

Graduate Students

Muhammad Chozin

Illegal but Common: Life of Blast Fishermen in South Sulawesi, Indonesia

Sonja Downing

Gamelan Girls

Jennifer Goodlander

The Person Behind the Mask--Topeng Pajegan in Bali

Digital Asia Seed Grant Recipient

Justin Jesty

Wages of the Cold War

Emma Rose

Emerging technology usage: Mobile phones in Central Asia

[back to top](#)

Projects

Nancy Abelman

Professor of Anthropology, Asian American Studies, and East Asian Languages and Cultures and Director of the Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies, University of Illinois

Home is where...?

Twenty years ago, Nancy Abelman was in South Korea documenting the lives of activists. Now, she is going back with a video camera to document where those activists are today and explore how varied and "untraditional" their family structures have become (be it a functional divorce where parties still live together or an international marriage). A variety of individual families will be shown to explore the larger picture of what families can look like in contemporary South Korea. Abelman will contextualize her video for viewers with less knowledge of South Korean history.

Michael Brose

Associate Professor of History, University of Wyoming
Islam in Southwest China

When people think of religions of China, rarely do they think of Islam. Michael Brose hopes that his video will offer a starting point for understanding Islam as an important part of Chinese culture. He will film in Yunnan province, where he has conducted several years of fieldwork. He wants this video will also help show that China is not the monolithic Han image many people envision, but rather is a complex country with many different people, cultures, and religions.

Muhammad Chozin

M.A. Candidate in Southeast Asian Studies Program, Ohio University
Illegal but Common: Life of Blast Fishermen in South Sulawesi, Indonesia

Illegal blast fishing is a common practice in South Sulawesi, Indonesia, and other regions in Southeast Asia, as most people in the communities know. What they do not know, however, is how blast fishing is done, or its detrimental impacts on the environment. Chozin will return to the area where he has done fieldwork to document blast fishing practices on video and to interview fishermen engaged in blast fishing about how they do business, dealing with society and government and the importance of networking in illegal fishing. Chozin's video will expose the realities of how the illegal blast fishing industry operates and contextualize it within Southeast Asia.



(Pictured: Michael Brose, Jeffery Dym, and Sonja Downing - photo by Tanya Lee)

Sonja Downing

Ph.D. Candidate in Ethnomusicology, University of California-Santa Barbara
Gamelan Girls

Balinese gamelan, a traditional form of percussion ensemble music, was until recently taught only to boys, but girls are now entering the field. Through her documentary video, Sonja Downing aims to illustrate theoretical points of gender construction by showing children's teachers'

emphases on bodily learning and interactions during rehearsals and by illuminating how children learn and negotiate styles of movement in their gamelan playing – a physical and visual experience which must be seen to truly be understood. This project incorporates footage she has already shot on previous fieldtrips.

Jeffery Dym

Associate Professor of History, California State University Sacramento

A History of Kamishibai

Jeffrey Dym's project examines the history of kamishibai, an early twentieth-century form of Japanese storytelling using a series of picture-cards, from its inception to today in all of its manifestations, incorporating archival footage, photographs, people's reminiscences, voice-over analysis and commentary, as well as pictures and performances of actual kamishibai. As a dynamic, visual performance art, kamishibai lends itself perfectly to video.

Jennifer Goodlander

Ph.D. Candidate in the Program for Interdisciplinary Arts, Ohio University

The Expanding Role of Women in Traditional Balinese Performing Arts

Jennifer Goodlander studies women's expanding involvement in these traditional Balinese performing arts, specifically topeng (masked dance-drama) and wayang kulit (shadow puppetry), and how opportunities to perform in them affect women's lives in the context of family and community. Theatrical performance is meant to be seen; it happens in a moment on stage and then is forever lost, living on in memory. The movements/dance of the performers or puppets, the stylized manipulation of the voice, and the complex relationship between musical instrumentation with the movement on stage are all vital to understanding Balinese theatre, lending it to a video project. Goodlander's project will strive to illustrate the complex relationships between tradition and changes in that tradition.

Justin Jesty

Ph.D. Candidate in East Asian Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago

Wages of the Cold War

From 1951 to 1955, the Japan Communist Party (JCP) sought armed revolution, but most of the documentation has been destroyed – leaving oral history as some of the only evidence of this segment of post-WWII Japanese history, even though it impacted on the birth of the new Left and influenced postwar literature, film, and art. Justin Jesty hopes to interview a variety of people – in an attempt to portray them as complex human beings, rather than heroes or villains, enlisting the camera to capture their faces, bodies, voices, and surroundings. While interviews cannot replace the missing documentation, they give a human face to times past.

Emma Rose

Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of Technical Communication, University of Washington-Seattle

Emerging technology usage: Mobile phones in Central Asia

Together with a team from her research group, Emma Rose plans a documentary video that would help translate on-the-ground, contextualized understanding of mobile phone use in Central Asia for technology designers to help spark innovative design ideas inspired by

the needs of the people in the region. Building on her 2006 design ethnography on how mobile phones fit into the rhythm of everyday life in Kyrgyzstan, Rose will collect footage there and in Tajikistan that can underscore these research findings and capture more data about technology adoption and the challenges of daily life.

Purnima Shah

Assistant Professor of Asian Performance, Duke University

Garaba dancing

Garaba dances have survived as a form of Goddess worship in Gujarat in western India, but today it is either fading away or changing dramatically under the influences of modernity, industrialization and globalization. In small communities elders make continual efforts to keep traditional garaba alive, but elsewhere it has either been reinvented--remixed with modern styles by pop singers for the dance floor—or simply disappeared. At weddings garaba songs are being replaced by songs from Hindi films. Purnima Shah will document surviving traditional garaba dance and explore the causes for garaba being transformed or lost both in India and in the Gujarati diaspora in the United States.



(Pictured, left to right: Justin Jesty, Purnima Shah, Emma Rose, Michael Brose, Jennifer Goodlander, Paul Riismandel, and Nancy Abelmann - photo by Tanya Lee)

Paul Watt

Professor and Director of Asian Studies, DePauw University

The Daily Life of a Japanese Buddhist Temple

The local temple is an important part of daily life in Japan. It is a center of activity and reflection. Paul Watt's documentary will explore how the temple is integrated into everyday life and serves as a personal center as well as a community gathering place – from a place to walk the dog to a place for private devotions, a place for calligraphy lessons and festivals as much as a place to come alone. Filming over the course of a year in Tokyo, Watt will include interactions between priests and the public as well as historical context and explanations of activities being performed in hopes to give a feel for the place that is such an important part of the community.

[back to top](#)

Workshop Presenters

Invited Presenters

Ellen Bruno

Linda Hoaglund
Risa Morimoto

Digital Asia Planning Committee

David W. Plath
Jacquetta Hill
Paul Riismandel
Colleen Cook

Invited Presenters

Ellen Bruno Both filmmaker and international relief worker, Ellen has spent much of the last 20 years in southeast Asia. She began her relief efforts more than 25 years ago in Mexico, working in remote Mayan villages. Since then she has worked in refugee camps on the Thai-Cambodian border, as field coordinator for the International Rescue Committee, and as director of the Cambodian Women's Project for the American Friends Service Committee. She has been a hospice worker for the Zen Hospice Project in San Francisco, providing bedside assistance for people dying of AIDS and cancer.

Ellen completed a masters degree in documentary film at Stanford University in 1990. Her first film *Samsara*, her Masters thesis at Stanford, documents Cambodian life in the aftermath of Pol Pot's killing fields. *Satya: A Prayer for the Enemy* is based on the experiences of young Tibetan Buddhist nuns who have been imprisoned and tortured for their nonviolent protests of the Chinese occupation of Tibet. *Sacrifice* is the final installment in her Asian trilogy. All three films premiered at the Sundance Film Festival.

Ellen was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1998, a Rockefeller Fellowship in 1997, fellowships from the Western States Media Arts and a Shenkin Fellowship from Yale University School of Art.

Information on her films, including trailers and how to purchase, can be found on her website: www.brunofilms.com

You may also read a review of *Samsara* in the *Journal of Asian Studies* (republished here on the AEMS website). *Satya* is available for loan through the *AEMS local media library*.

Linda Hoaglund Film advisor for the *Japan Society* in New York, Linda was born and raised in Japan, the daughter of American missionary parents, she attended Japanese public schools. A graduate of Yale University, after working as a bilingual news producer for Japanese television, she joined an independent American film production company as a producer. Since 1996, she has subtitled 200 Japanese films. She represents Japanese directors and artists and serves as an international liaison for producers. In 2004, she received a commendation from the Foreign Minister of Japan for her work promoting Japanese film abroad.



(Pictured: Risa Morimoto - Photo by Tanya Lee)

Risa Morimoto Producer of the feature film, *The LaMastas*, Risa produces, writes, and directs for film and television. She produced the award-winning program **Cinema AZN**, a half-hour show on Asian film. President of **Edgewood Pictures Inc.**, a motion picture production company, Risa graduated with a masters degree in film and education from New York University in 1999 where she served as the Associate Director of the Asian/Pacific/American Studies Program and Institute. From 2002-2006, she served as Executive Director of Asian CineVision, a non-profit media arts organization. A second-generation Japanese American, Risa studied at Doshisha University in Kyoto, Japan.

Together, **Linda and Risa** co-produced the film *Wings of Defeat*, a thoughtful and moving look back on the phenomenon of Japanese kamikaze missions at the end of World War II, with rare interviews in which surviving kamikaze pilots tell their own stories. More information is available at the **Wings of Defeat** website. **Wings of Defeat** is available for loan at the AEMS **local media library**.

[back to top](#)

Digital Asia Planning Committee

David W. Plath Emeritus professor of anthropology and Asian Studies in the **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**, David Plath has designed and written all **Media Production Group** programs, and has served in them variously as producer, host, narrator, editor, director and videographer. A founding member of **MPG** in 1989, he took

on its leadership after the death of co-founder Jackson H. Bailey a decade ago. In 2000 the Society for East Asian Anthropology established a **David Plath Media Award**, given every other year for the best new educational media product on Asian culture and society. Plath has published six books and more than 60 articles on topics in anthropology and Japan Studies. In addition to his 35 years on the faculty at Illinois-Urbana he has taught at the



University of California at Berkeley, the University of Iowa, and Konan University in Kobe. He also has been a visiting researcher in Kyoto University, The National University of Singapore, and Japan's National Institute for Media Education.

Currently he has three documentaries in various stages of production, one set in a regional city in northeastern Japan and two among the Lahu people of northern Thailand.

Jacquetta Hill Emeritus professor of Anthropology and Educational Psychology at the **University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign**, Hill has used video in her ethnographic research (beginning with reel to reel, black and white) in Puerto Rican neighborhoods and schools in Chicago, in rural schools with Latino student populations, and in schools and mountain villages in Thailand. Though early these were intended as primary data collection resources, more recently they have been for documentary production. For about three decades she has been studying, working with and publishing on the Tibeto-Berman speaking Lahu peoples of Northern Thailand. She began working in documentary videography with David Plath as consultant anthropologist and narrator in the 1992 production *Candles for New Years*. She has taught visual ethnography courses at the UIUC. She was a founding member of the Council on Anthropology and Education of the American Anthropological Association and recipient of the G. Spindler Award for outstanding contribution to that field. Currently she is studying and publishing on the dance and music of the Lahu Na Shehleh and, with David Plath, producing a documentary on the anthropology of dance and music among the Lahu.

Paul Riismandel Paul is the Director of Curricular Support for the **School of Communication at Northwestern University**, where he oversees the use of digital media technologies for use in the classroom, as a supplement to classroom instruction, for distance education and for research and administrative purposes. His primary focus is Internet audio and video, both in terms of producing content that best takes advantage of this medium, as well as the technical infrastructure that supports it.

Prior to joining Northwestern, Paul was the Manager of Digital Media Production and Support for eight years at **ATLAS**, the technology support department serving the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Illinois. At ATLAS Paul built a digital media service to serve the diverse needs of the College and collaborated with other media producers and users on campus to build a robust live and archive streaming media infrastructure. He has led or participated in numerous workshops and panels on educational media, in addition to designing and teaching an undergraduate course on creating and understanding digital media.

Paul is also a contributing editor to **Streaming Media** magazine where he writes the "Class Act" column on educational online media.

Colleen Cook Colleen is a coordinating producer for **ATLAS** at the University of Illinois

Urbana-Champaign, where she assists educators in developing new media for use in their curriculum. She received her BFA from Florida State University 's School of Motion Picture, Television, and Recording Arts, before coming to UIUC for her master's degree in Educational Policy Studies focusing on educational media distribution. Trained in both film and video production, she is most comfortable behind the camera and has traveled as a videographer in Thailand and Argentina . Her interest in educational media distribution stems from her experience running an independent film theatre which provided the community with annual international film festivals, in addition to its regular fare of foreign, independent, and art films.

[back to top](#)

AEMS Staff

Jason Finkelman, AEMS Events Coordinator

Tanya Lee, AEMS Director

Susan Norris, AEMS Assistant Program Director

Jason Lee, AEMS Student Intern

[back to top](#)

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[SITE SEARCH](#) [SITE MAP](#) [EMAIL](#)



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DIGITAL ASIA: DOCUMENTARY DIGITAL VIDEO WORKSHOP
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

SCHEDULE

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Time	Location	Activity
All Day		Participants picked up at airport, or arrive on wheels . AEMS staff will provide transportation from airport or shuttle drop-off point.
7:00pm	Florida Avenue Residence (FAR), Trelease Lounge	Welcome reception , for those who have arrived by this time. Hors d'oeuvres and desserts will be served.
8:30pm	FAR, Oglesby Main Lounge	Screenings: Asia Video Report/Food: Reflections of Japanese Culture (MPG/AEMS) – 15 min., ex. of short, ed. film Can't Go Native (David Plath) – 15 min., ex. of promo Satya: A Prayer for the Enemy (Ellen Bruno) – 30 min. <i>We will try to make alternate arrangements for those unable to join us for this screening.</i>

Friday, May 16, 2008

Time	Presenter/ Facilitator	Location	Topic / Activity
8:15am		FAR/hotel	Jason and Tanya will pick you up .
8:30		Lucy Ellis Lounge, Foreign Language Building (FLB)	Continental Breakfast
8:45	Tanya / Dave	“	Welcome. Introduction to Workshop. Everyone introduced. / Media and the Academic Mission
9:30	Risa	“	The Art of a Successful Interview
11:30		“	Box lunch
12:00	Paul	“	Brief introduction to equipment
12:30	Colleen	The Quad	Interview activity , followed by some feedback/discussion.
2:15	Linda	Lucy Ellis Lounge	The Delicate Art of Subtitling
4:15		“	Break

4:30	Jacquie	“	Privacy, Piracy and Copyright – Plus Jeopardy and the IRB (Guest from IRB, 4:45-5:00)
5:30		FAR	Break
6:30		KoFusion, downtown Champaign	Dinner
8:00		Downtown Champaign / FAR, Oglesby Main Lounge	Out to Drinks (optional), downtown Champaign OR viewing station at FAR to watch films of choice.

Saturday, May 17, 2008

Time	Presenter/ Facilitator	Location	Topic / Activity
8:15am		FAR/hotel	Jason and Tanya will pick you up .
8:30am		Lucy Ellis Lounge, FLB	Continental Breakfast
8:45	Ellen	“	Filming in the Field on a Shoestring
9:45	Dave, Jason	“	Working with Media Professionals (w/Jason on music, location sound & audio)
10:45		“	Break
11:00	Paul	“	Project Plans. Discuss template (begun on Moodle), everyone given some individual attention by the group.
12:00		“	Lunch
12:30	Paul	“	Project Plans, cont'd
2:00	Ellen	“	Distribution on a shoestring: Getting your work seen
3:15		“	Break (set up for editing)
3:30	Paul & Colleen	“	Post-production and hands-on editing activity
5:30		FAR	Break
6:30		Radio Maria, downtown Champaign	Dinner
8:00	Tanya	FAR, Oglesby Main Lounge	Screening(s) with discussion: Wings of Defeat (90-minutes) Makiko's New World (if time)

Sunday: All depart

2007 Digital Asia: Documentary Digital Video Workshop

Saturday, March 10, 2007
Urbana, Illinois



Presented by [Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies \(EAPS\)](#), [Asian Educational Media Service \(AEMS\)](#), and [Applied Technologies for Learning in the Arts & Sciences \(ATLAS\)](#) at [The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign](#)

The Digital Asia Workshop was piloted March 10, 2007, with a one-day workshop at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Advertised only to U of I faculty and graduate students on a first-come, first-served basis, we nonetheless attracted twice as many people as we could accommodate. Topics covered included framing a multimedia project, work in the field, local resources, developing a project plan, funding, equipment and post-production, though our treatment was, of necessity, not in-depth. Based on interest and feedback in this workshop, we planned a greatly expanded Digital Asia program for [2008](#).

Contents:

[Participants](#)

[Original Announcement](#)

Participants:

Faculty

Nancy Abelman
Director of Anthropology and East Asian Languages and Cultures

Shefali Chandra
Assistant Professor of History, Gender, and Women's Studies

Anne Burkus-Chasson
Associate Professor of Art History

Dan Shao

Assistant Professor of East Asian Languages and Cultures

Paul Watt

Professor and Director of Asian Studies

Graduate Students

Hanna K. Lee

English/Writing Studies

Yueh-Mei Lin

Educational Policy Study

Yu Hong

Institute of Communication Research

Wanju Huang

Curriculum and Instruction

Sunny Jeong

Recreation, Sports, and Tourism

Jin-kyung Park

Institute of Communication Research

Josie Sohn

East Asian Languages and Cultures

[back to top](#)

Original Announcement:

(Application last updated February 15, 2007)

Digital Asia: Making Your Own Documentary

MARCH 10, 2007, 10 am till 3 pm

Foreign Language Building, Rm G-17

Pre-registration required by March 1

FREE • Lunch provided

Presented by [Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies \(EAPS\)](#),
[Asian Educational Media Service \(AEMS\)](#) / [Media Production Group \(MPG\)](#),
and [Applied Technologies for Learning in the Arts & Sciences \(ATLAS\)](#)

Do you have an idea for a documentary film but have no idea where to begin? This workshop will help get you started.

Filmmaking veterans David Plath and Jacquetta Hill of MPG will be joined by media experts Paul Riismandel and Colleen Cook of ATLAS to give an overview of the filmmaking process, from framing your project, through funding and planning, to filming in the field, and finally, post-production. Discussion of equipment choices, as well as on- and off-campus resources will be included.

This workshop is intended for faculty and graduate students who do research in Asia. No experience or training in media design or techniques is assumed. Perhaps you have a long-running research project with years of accumulated data and video footage, or perhaps you are preparing to embark on your first field research

trip. What matters is your desire to communicate your research about Asia through today's user-friendly audio-visual media.

We would like to hear about what you have in mind before the workshop. When you register, we will send you a questionnaire to fill out about your project (however realized or imaginary it may be). Please return this questionnaire by March 2.

To register, contact **Tanya Lee** with:

- your name
- department
- title/position
- email address
- telephone number and
- campus address

or call **217-265-0642**.

[back to top](#)

Last Updated: November 26, 2008

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Digital Asia Seed Grants

Production support from AEMS to graduates of the [Digital Asia Workshop](#)

Contents:

[Grants Awarded](#)
[About the Seed Grants](#)
[Asia Video Reports Series](#)
[2008 Call for Proposals](#)

2008 Digital Asia Seed Grants Awarded

Jeffrey A. Dym

*Associate Professor of History,
California State University Sacramento*

**Incorporating Kamishibai
(Japanese Paper Plays) into the
American Classroom**

Awarded \$2500

This video will introduce ways to pedagogically incorporate kamishibai (paper plays) into early childhood classrooms in America as a means of teaching visual literacy. Goals of this short video include showing how educational kamishibai is used today by Japanese teachers and American teachers alike, and to convey how easy kamishibai is to perform, that anyone can perform it, and more importantly, how effective a pedagogical tool kamishibai can be.

Kamishibai emerged in Japan in 1930 as a form of children's street entertainment in which a storyteller recounts a tale accompanied by a series of picture cards housed in a stage that are sequentially pulled out. Shortly after kamishibai emerged in the downtrodden sections of Tokyo, a few perceptive individuals recognized its potential as a pedagogical tool and created what came to be known as "educational kamishibai," as opposed to "street kamishibai." Educational kamishibai was an integral part of Japanese education throughout the 1950s and 1960s at all levels of schooling (K-12), and later, for early childhood education only. Kamishibai have been used on a limited basis in the United States, with English language versions available from [Kamishibai for Kids](#) since the 1990s.



Jennifer Goodlander

Ph.D. Candidate in the Program for Interdisciplinary Arts, Ohio University

The Person Behind The Mask – Topeng Pajegan In Bali

Awarded \$2500

Topeng Pajegan is an ancient masked drama performed for both entertainment and as part of religious rituals in Bali. Performed by a single actor, myth and comedy unite in a dynamic form which links the past and present in Bali. The character of Sidhakarya is the most important in topeng. This character appears at the end of ritual topeng to ensure the success of the entire ceremony. Even though women in Bali have begun to perform topeng, the mask of Sidhakarya and the prestigious ritual associations along with it, remain forbidden.

This video project will focus on the character Sidhakarya to introduce the many connections between religious ritual and performance in Bali and the relationship of women within each. It will provide a much needed introduction to topeng for college and high school students while placing the performance within the greater cultural context of Bali and Indonesia and introduce the tensions between tradition and modernity that is vital to understanding the performance.

This short video will provide an introduction to topeng as ritual and entertainment; examine the role of religion and the arts of daily life in Bali; take a closer look at ritual topeng; and through interviews with men and women topeng artists, highlight women performing topeng.

[back to top](#)

About Digital Asia Seed Grants

Following the 2008 Digital Asia Workshop, we awarded seed grants to two workshop participants. Intended to seed the video projects originally proposed in application to the Digital Asia Workshop, these awards are to be used towards funding a short, self-contained video up to 15 minutes long, suitable for educational use at the elementary, secondary, and/or undergraduate level(s). Curriculum guides will accompany each video, providing contextual information and teaching recommendations.

When completed in late 2009, these videos and curriculum guides may be distributed as part of the AEMS [Asia Video Report series](#).

[back to top](#)

Call for Proposals: Digital Asia Seed Grants 2008

Only participants of the [2008 Digital Asia Workshop](#) are eligible to apply

The Asian Educational Media Service (AEMS) is pleased to offer two (2) grants of \$2500 each to participants of the 2008 Digital Asia Workshop at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

These grants are intended to "seed" the video projects originally proposed in application to the Digital Asia Workshop by funding a short, self-contained video which can serve as a promo for the larger video project, to help secure further funding.

Though potentially leading to a much larger product, these short videos should be finished products in themselves, no longer than 5 to 15 minutes, and suitable for educational use, at the elementary, secondary, and/or undergraduate level(s). They are to be accompanied by a

curriculum guide providing contextual information and teaching recommendations. AEMS will reserve the option of distributing this video (free online or on DVD at cost) as part of the AEMS Asia Video Report series. This video should be submitted one year from the date of award.

Applications should consist of:

- A narrative proposing the 5- to 15-minute educational video, including a clear description of the short video, explanation of its pedagogical application, and a brief discussion of how it relates to and serves the larger project originally proposed. (No more than 2 pages)
- A work plan (including a specific schedule) for completing this video in one year.
- A simple budget explaining how the grant funds would be used

The entire application should not exceed 4 pages.

If your large video project has changed significantly since your original application in February, please contact Tanya to discuss it prior to applying for this grant.

DEADLINE (PASSED): August 1, 2008. Decisions announced August 15.

The grant will be disbursed in two parts: \$1500 at the time of award, and \$1000 upon completion of the short video and curriculum guide. The method of disbursement may depend on the circumstances of the grantee.

This funding opportunity is open only to participants of the 2008 Digital Asia Workshop at the University of Illinois (May 16-18, 2008).

[back to top](#)

Last Updated: November 26, 2008

[SITE SEARCH](#) [SITE MAP](#) [EMAIL](#)



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MPG: Series Titles



Download Order Form

(Series 1 and 2 Available on DVD!)

Series #1 Japan: Resources for Understanding



As Iwate Goes: Is Culture Local?

An on-the-scene report from two small towns in northeastern Honshu. Tono, "everybody's old home town," is nationally famous for preserving its local legends and making them into a tourist attraction. Towa, a few miles away, strives instead to create new traditions. The 20th century has not been kind to local cultures around the world, and Japan is no exception. Living in the old home town seldom generates the excitement that comes with being plugged in to the global media village. Like their counterparts in other nations, people in regional Japan want to have just as special a role in their country's international future as they did in its parochial past. *As Iwate Goes: Is Culture Local?* captures the home-town story behind Japan's national success. Jackson H. Bailey, an American scholar who studied Iwate for two decades, is host commentator for this program, which was recorded on location in the summer of 1991.



As Iwate Goes: Is Politics Local?

An on-the-scene report from two small towns in northeastern Honshu, "Japan 's Appalachia," showing how residents struggle to reconcile local needs with national policies. Away from the great industrial cities, in regional Japan, people face a set of problems familiar to those who live in the more remote districts of any advanced nation. High wages lure younger people to urban centers, leaving small towns with a rapidly aging population and labor force. New factories will bring in jobs but may spoil the environment. Resorts, industrial zones, and public works projects designed in Tokyo seldom take account of local wishes and lifestyles. *As Iwate Goes: Is Politics Local?* shows the domestic face behind Japan 's economic and financial success story.



Fit Surroundings

On the coast of Japan 's Shima Peninsula, the average age of commercial abalone divers is 50 years, and most are women. Local co-operatives control near-shore waters as commons territories. By balancing the ecology of the shellfish capture and reproduction, the co-ops help to maintain natural environments that regenerate abalone, while providing an arena for economic rivalry that sustains the enthusiasm of aging divers for their craft.

Society for Visual Anthropology Award, 1995



Hollow Harvest

From the 1950s through the 1970s Japan's public television service, NHK, ran a weekly program reporting in rich detail the waves of change sweeping across Japanese agriculture and shifting the life chances of farm families. *Akarui noson*, "Brighter Village," the series title, turned out to be ironic when changes in world markets and abrupt shifts in government policies forced thousands to abandon farming and find other occupations. Historically priceless footage from *Akarui noson* has been shaped into a 30-minute program with English narration and subtitles. Following the program, Jackson H. Bailey, an American historian who witnessed the great transformation in 20th-century Japanese agriculture, comments on the dilemmas that faced policy makers and farmers in turn.



Neighborhood Tokyo

Theodore Bestor, an anthropologist who tracked events in the locale for more than a decade, takes us into the streets of a community of Mom-and-Pop stores and small enterprises near the center of Tokyo . In a series of unrehearsed scenes, we follow the people of the neighborhood as they move through their everyday lives.

Society for Urban Anthropology Award, 1994

Series #2 Voices of Experience

Ella's Journal

In 1935-36, Ella Wiswell lived in a remote village in Japan while helping her husband, anthropologist John Embree, collect data for his dissertation. *The Women of Suye Mura* , a book based on her field journal, was published in 1982, with Robert J. Smith as co-author. In 1985, the village invited her back to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Embree field study. In this program, she and Smith discuss the original research, how they came to write the book, and her long relationship with the community. Visual materials include photos the Embrees took in the 1930s, as well as footage of the 1985 celebration.

Jackson Bailey

Historian Jackson Bailey speaks on rice-roots responses to four decades of social change, as depicted in his book on regional development in a community in Northeastern Japan, *Ordinary People, Extraordinary Lives*.

Keith Brown

Anthropologist Keith Brown talks about the adaptive vigor of local-level social institutions and cultural practices in the area of southern Iwate where he has done field research for many years.

The Language of My Teachers

At the age of 17, Robert J. Smith was sent to join the U.S. Army's Japanese language program. From this initial exposure to the "enemy's language," Smith went on to become a leading interpreter of Japanese society and religion, and professor of anthropology at Cornell University. In this program, Smith talks about his many periods of research in Japan and his approach to understanding social issues and cultural continuities in that country.

Margaret Lock

Margaret Lock talks about cultural differences in perceptions of middle age and menopause among women in Japan and North America, as examined in her book *Encounters with Aging*.

No New Ginzas

Historically the Ginza was "downtown," the Broadway and Fifth Avenue of Tokyo, the center for fashion and shopping. And just as regional cities in the U.S. often have a Broadway downtown, so regional cities in Japan often have a Little Ginza. But there have been no new Ginzas since the 1970s; Japanese cities now borrow from across the seas to name new shopping areas for upscale districts outside of Japan. Jackson H. Bailey and David W. Plath talk about how people in regional Japan are bypassing Tokyo and are reaching out directly for a role on the global scene.

Takie Sugiyama Lebra

Takie Sugiyama Lebra talks about her book *Above the Clouds*, the first report in English on the lives of Japan's former nobility who lost their status after World War II.

Theodore Bestor

Theodore Bestor talks about his field research in a Tokyo community of Mom and Pop stores and small businesses, which lead him to write his prize-winning book, *Neighborhood Tokyo*.

Times of Witness: Fieldwork in Japan

Anthropologists Ella Wiswell, who conducted the first live-in study of a Japanese village in 1935, and Robert Smith discuss how Japan has changed over the past century and their role as witnesses and recorders of the past.

What's an Anthropologist Doing in Japan?

Anthropological techniques of study have often been thought best suited to "primitive" societies. What happens when they are deployed in a complicated modern civilization? Anthropologist David W. Plath puts that question to a panel of colleagues who have done field research in Japan, including Margaret Lock, Takie Sugiyama Lebra, Keith Brown, William Kelly, and Theodore Bestor.

William Kelly

William Kelly talks about his efforts to track 200 years of agrarian reform and struggles for regional independence on the Shonai Plain in northwestern Honshu.

Series #3 Heritage of the Koto

Japanese Koto Music: Old and New

A teaching tape hosted by Leonard Holvik, Earlham Professor of Music, with demonstrations by Kazuo, Yuki and Yumi Kurosawa performing with voice, piano, koto, and shamisen."

Koto: Japanese Music on the World Stage

The 1990 PBS world premier concert broadcast featuring Kazuo and Chikako Kurosawa, performing an original concerto for a symphony orchestra and two kotos.

Kurosawa Koto Ensemble

This unusual concert was taped 11/6/83 at Wilkinson Theatre at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana. It features uniquely Japanese music presented by the Kurosawa Koto Ensemble, including koto musicians and craftsmen, Kazuo and Chikako Kurosawa, and shakuhachi player, Hiroshi Yonezawa.

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