

ILLINOIS

Center for East Asian & Pacific Studies

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES

CEAPS E-News September 29th - October 3rd, 2025

Call-to-Action! Urge Congress to protect NRC and FLAS programs

Act Now!

Six centers at the University of Illinois have been designated by the Department of Education as National Resource Centers (NRCs) for international studies – the second largest number of any university, reflecting Illinois' leadership in training students to engage with our world.

This year, Congress renewed funding for the NRC's and the Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) program, but it has been withheld by the Office of Management and Budget and the Department of Education. Nationally, \$85.6 million in support for international education and research is on the line. For Illinois, \$3.3 million of that funding would support students, language teaching, and community education.

Through the National Resource Centers, part of eleven global and area studies centers at Illinois, generations of leaders in many fields have learned languages, studied world regions, and developed cultural skills that keep Illinois globally competitive in agriculture and industry and safeguard our national security. The federal government has supported these programs at Illinois every year since Dwight Eisenhower was president.

The loss of that funding – already allocated by Congress – comes with real costs:

- \$3.3 million for scholarships, language teaching, and public educational programs in Illinois.
- Over 50 FLAS scholarships and fellowships that support students studying target languages.
- Teaching languages that support Illinois' agricultural, technological, and industrial competitiveness and our national security.
- Support for teaching heritage languages that are at the heart of many Illinoisans.
- Study abroad experiences through faculty-led programs, as well as summer grants that allow students to participate in intensive language institutes.
- Dozens of research and teaching-assistant positions that make studies affordable for current students.
- Hundreds of public programs such as community current event talks, professional development programs for teachers, local library story hours and cultural crafts, lessons for Head Start students, language competitions for high school students, public film screenings, and cultural performances that impact hundreds of Illinoisans each year.

To learn more about Illinois' world area and global studies, and the ways Illinois supports our students' global competitiveness, visit: <https://gl.illinois.edu/>

Your voice matters. These programs have enduring bipartisan support in Congress. Ask your members of Congress to insist that the 2025 funding already allocated for NRC and FLAS be released. And if you were a recipient of one of the thousands of FLAS awards made by the Illinois centers, share your story about what your FLAS grant helped you achieve!

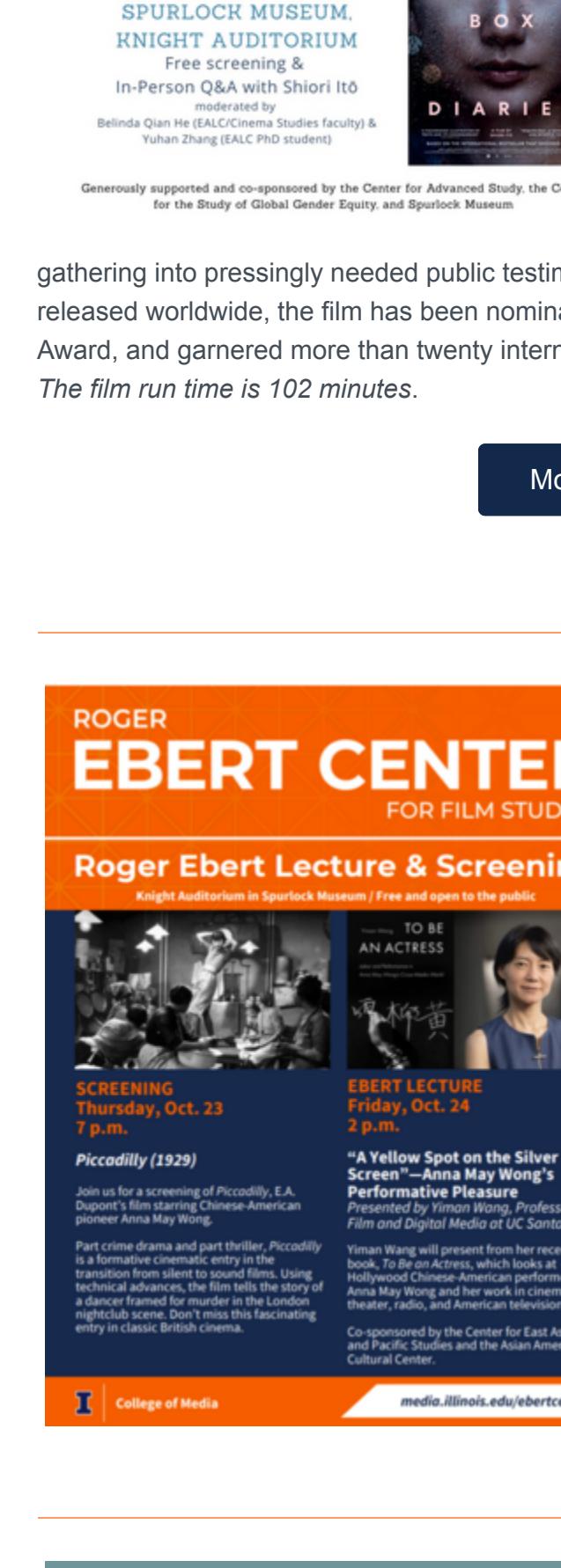
Event Recap



CEAPS Brown Bag | Dr. Sarah Park Dahlén & Michelle Lé

Thank you to Professor Sarah Park Dahlén from I-School and PhD student Michelle Lé for presenting on their paper, "Keeping Afloat: Water, War, and Vietnamese Diaspora in Picture Book". They were both recipients of our Spring '25 travel grants where they presented this paper at the 2025 IBBY Asia Pacific Regional Conference in Suwon, South Korea.

Events this Week

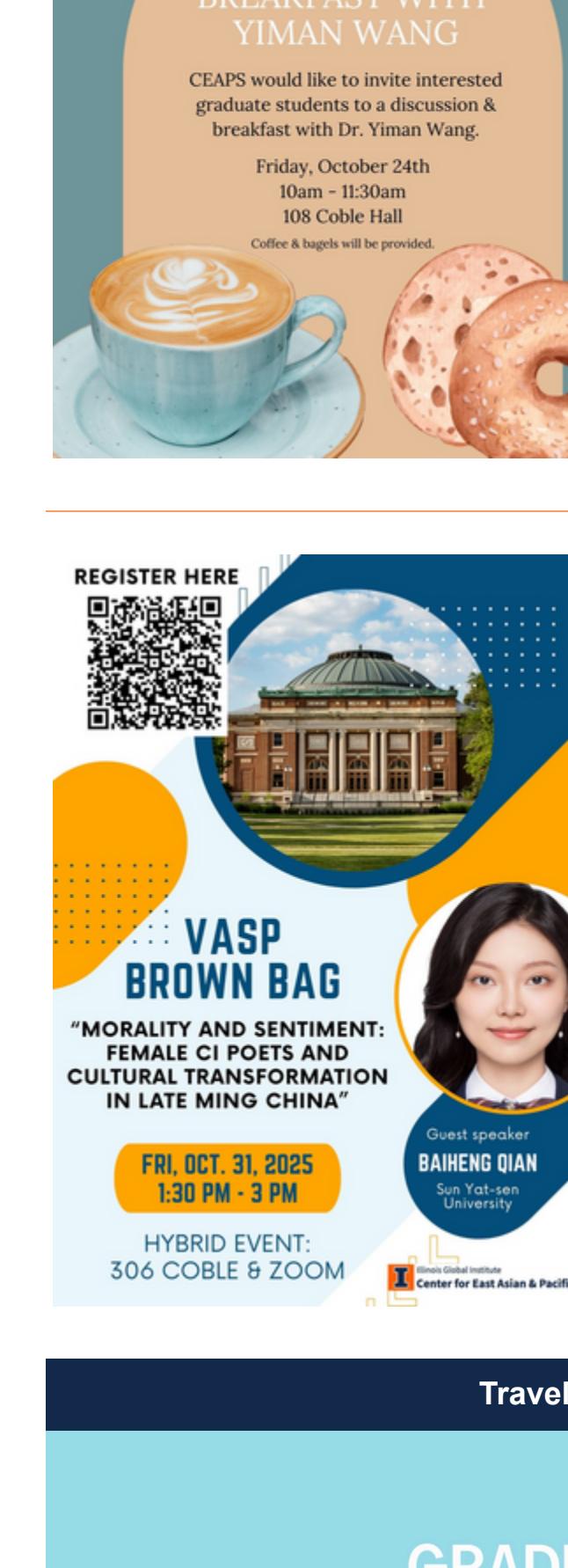


CEAPS Speaker

Dr. Ulug Kuzuoglu | "Cybernetics with Chinese Characteristics: Artificial Intelligence in the Age of Reform"

About the Speaker:
Professor Ulug Kuzuoglu is a historian of modern China and the world, currently teaching at Washington University in St. Louis. His research focuses on the history of non-Western information and communication technologies, spanning from printing devices to artificial intelligence, and their intersections with political ideologies and social imaginaries.

[More Information & Registration Here](#)



CEAPS Speaker

Dr. John Blaxland | "Global Challenges: The View from Down Under"

About the Speaker:
Professor John Blaxland is one of Australia's leading experts on international security, intelligence, and Indo-Pacific strategy. A former military intelligence officer and defense attaché, Professor Blaxland is now Director of the ANU North America Liaison Office and Professor of International Security and Intelligence Studies at the Australian National University. He is the author of many books, monographs, and official histories on security, defense, and Australia's intelligence community, and offers commentary with The New York Times, The Guardian, The Diplomat, ABC, CNN, and BBC.

[More Information & Registration Here](#)

Upcoming Events in October

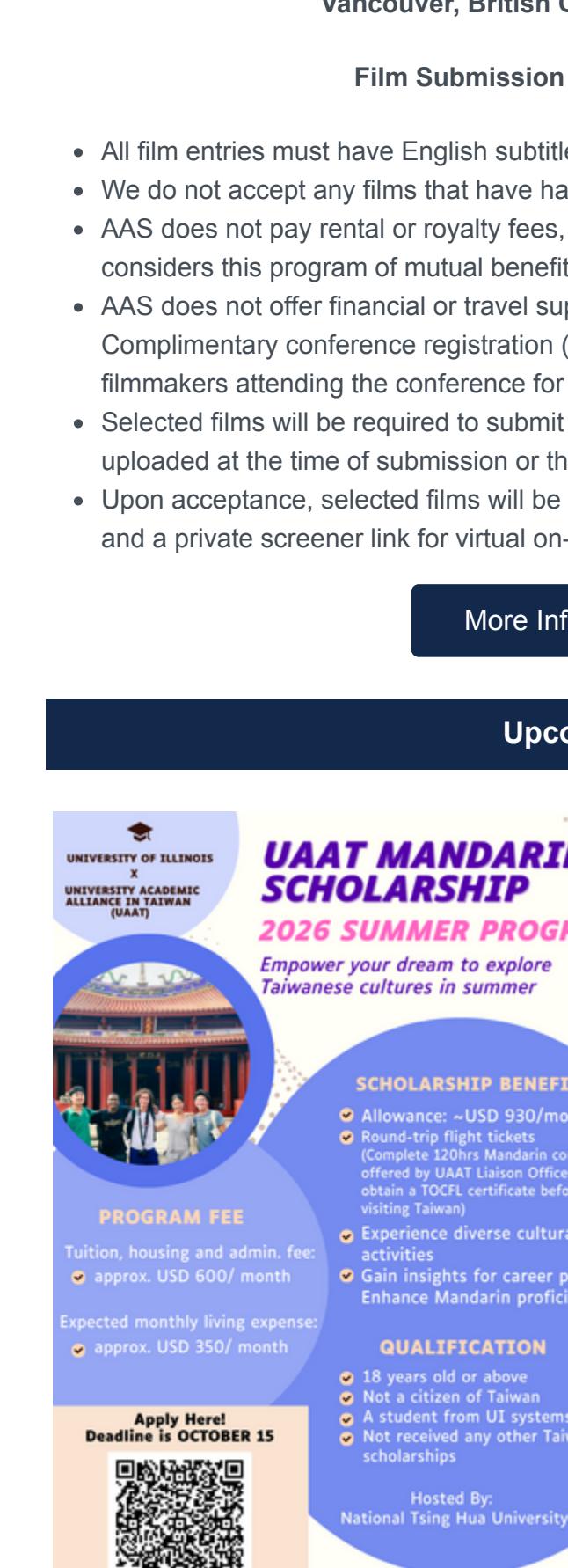


CEAPS Brown Bag

Dr. Jingling Chen | "Zhou Zuoren at Tiger Bridge"

About the Speaker:
Jingling Chen received her Ph.D. at Harvard University and is teaching in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Her interests include Chinese and Greek Comparative literature, modern and contemporary Chinese narrative, and modern Chinese intellectual history. Her book on the Greek Imaginary and Chinese intellectual and cultural modernity *Acropolis in China: Modern China and Ancient Greece* is forthcoming with Duke University Press.

[More Information & Registration Here](#)



AsiaLENS Series:

Black Box Diaries

Presented by The Department of East Asian Languages & Cultures and the Center for East Asian & Pacific Studies

MON. OCTOBER 20TH 4:00 PM SPURLOCK MUSEUM RNCIETHEATRUM

Free Screening & In-Person Q&A with Shiori Ito

Berndt Hall | Room 305

[More Information & Registration Here](#)

AsiaLENS Series:

Black Box Diaries Screening and Q&A with filmmaker Shiori Ito

About the film:
Black Box Diaries traces Ito's courageous investigation of her own sexual assault, an improbable attempt to prosecute a high-profile offender that became a landmark case in Japan. Structured with the urgency of a thriller, the film weaves together audio recordings, vérité observation, first-person video clips, and an assembled case file—an "archive of her own"—to reveal the black boxes and blind spots in Japan's judicial and social systems. Her practice bridges investigative reporting with the craft of cinema—mobilizing archival research, counter-forensic methods, and sustained fieldwork to turn personal evidence.

Premiering at the 2024 Sundance Film Festival and now

gathering into pressingly needed public testimony, the film has been nominated for an Academy Award and a BAFTA, received a Peabody Award, and garnered more than twenty international prizes, with screenings in over fifty countries.

The film run time is 102 minutes.

[More Information Here](#)

Roger Ebert Screening & Lecture [co-sponsored event]

Free Screening of *Piccadilly*

Thu, October 26th

7pm

Spurlock Museum, Knight Auditorium

[More Information Here](#)

About the film:
Yimin Wang, Guest Lecturer | "A Yellow Spot on the Silver Screen"

Fri, October 27th

2pm

Spurlock Museum, Knight Auditorium

[More Information Here](#)

Breakfast & Discussion with Dr. Yimin Wang

CEAPS would like to invite interested graduate students to a small group sit down with Dr. Yimin Wang. Bagels & coffee will be provided, please register as spots are limited. Dr. Yimin Wang is Professor of East Asian Studies at the University of California Santa Cruz. She studies Chinese cinema and its transnational connections and early Asian American cinema and theatre.

[Register Here](#)

[More Information & Registration Here](#)

VASP Brown Bag

Baiheng Qian | "Morality and Sentiment: Female Ci Poets and Cultural Transformation in Late Ming China"

Thu, Oct 31st

1:30pm - 3pm

306 Coble & ZOOM

About the Speaker:

Baiheng Qian is a visiting scholar and PhD candidate in Classical Chinese Literature at Sun Yat-sen University (Guangzhou), China. Her research interests include Ming-Qing literature and gender studies in late imperial China, with a particular focus on ci poetry of the Ming dynasty.

More Information & Registration Here

Travel Grants - Now Open!

FALL 2025 GRADUATE STUDENT & FACULTY TRAVEL GRANTS

CEAPS Graduate Travel Grant Application

Awards for graduate students and pre-studies (CEAPS) graduate conference travel to conduct dissertation research in East Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific. The number of awards is determined each year based on funding availability.

For CEAPS 2025-26, awards up to \$500 domestic travel and up to \$750 for international travel will be granted.

Paper acceptance at the time of application is required.

For AY 2025-26, 1 award (up to \$750) will be granted per Pacer/region to a doctoral student to conductings.

[More Information & Application Here](#)

CEAPS Faculty Travel Grant

The CEAPS affiliated faculty conference travel grant provides funding for faculty from all East Asian and Pacific Studies focus accepted in a conference to attend.

The number of awards is determined each year based on funding availability. For AY 2025-26, awards up to \$500 for domestic travel and up to \$750 for international travel will be awarded.

[More Information & Application Here](#)

AAS26: Now Accepting Film Submissions

AAS 2026 FILM EXPO

Call for Films: AAS 2026 Film Conference

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, March 12-15, 2026

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[More Information & Application Here](#)

UATAN Mandarin Scholarship

CEAPS is pleased to announce a new scholarship for UATAN (University of Asia and the Pacific) students to study Mandarin (Taishan).

UATAN (University of Asia and the Pacific) offers Taishan (Taishan) language study.

Scholarship Benefits:

awarded students will receive a stipend of USD 930/month.

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