

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.

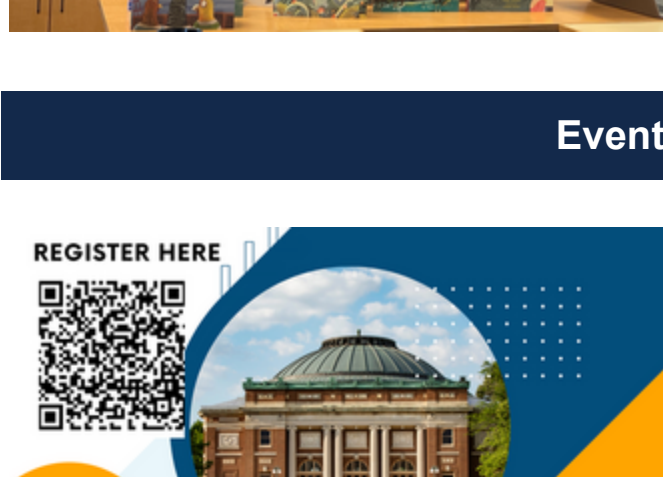
The loss of that funding – already allocated by Congress – comes with real costs:

- \$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 Illinoisians.
- 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 Illinoisians each year.

To learn more about Illinois' world area and global studies, and the ways Illinois supports our students' global competitiveness, visit: <https://igi.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 Dahlen & Michelle Lé

Thank you to Professor Sarah Park Dahlen from I-School and PhD student Michelle Lé for presenting on their paper, "Keeping Aloft: 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"

Tuesday, Sept 30th  
1:30pm - 3pm  
306 Coble & ZOOM

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

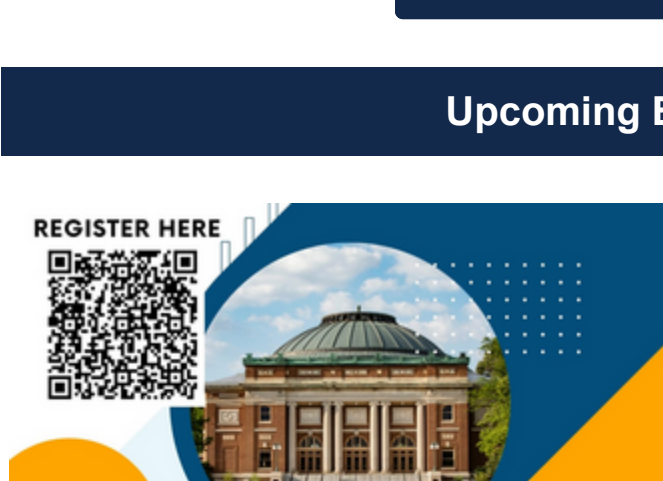
Dr. John Blaxland | "Global Challenges: The View from Down Under"

Thursday, October 2nd  
11am - 12pm  
306 Coble (in person only)

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



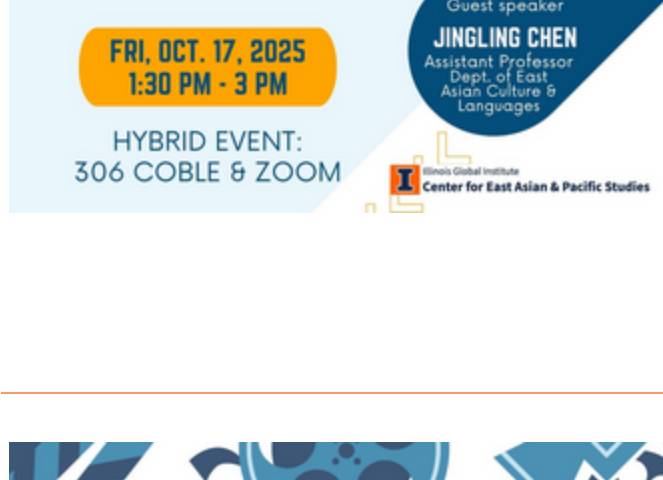
CEAPS Brown Bag

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

Friday, Oct 17th  
1:30pm - 3pm  
306 Coble & ZOOM

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 An Acropolis in China: Modern China and Ancient Greece is forthcoming with Duke University.

More Information & Registration Here



AsiaLENS

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

Monday Oct 20th  
4pm - 6:30pm  
Spurlock Museum, Knight Auditorium

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 released worldwide, 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  
Thursday, Oct 23rd  
7pm  
Spurlock Museum, Knight Auditorium

More Information Here

Yiman Wang, Guest Lecturer | "A Yellow Spot on the Silver Screen"

Friday, Oct 24th  
2pm  
Spurlock Museum, Knight Auditorium

More Information Here



Breakfast & Discussion with Dr. Yiman Wang

Friday, Oct 24th  
10am - 11:30am  
108 Coble

CEAPS would like to invite interested graduate students to a small group sit down with Dr. Yiman Wang. Bagels & coffee will be provided, please register as spots are limited. Dr. Yiman 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



VASP Brown Bag

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

Friday, 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

The Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies (CEAPS) Graduate Student Application Grant provides travel awards for graduate students to present papers at professional conferences or to conduct dissertation research in East Asia, Southeast Asia, and the greater Pacific region. Priority will be given to those proposals that concern East Asian and Pacific issues. The number of awards is determined each year based on funding availability.

Conference Travel For AY 2025 - 2026, awards up to \$500 for domestic travel/up to \$750 for international travel will be granted. Paper acceptance at the time of application is required.

Dissertation Research Travel For AY 2025 - 2026, 1 award (up to \$1,500) will be granted per semester to a doctoral student conducting fieldwork research in East Asia, Southeast Asia, and the greater Pacific region for periods up to 12 months.

More Information & Application Here

CEAPS Faculty Travel Grant

The CEAPS Affiliated Faculty Conference Travel Grant is open to any CEAPS affiliated faculty from all departments and colleges. You must be a current faculty affiliate and have a paper with a strong East Asian and Pacific Studies focus accepted in a conference to apply.

The number of awards is determined each year based on funding availability. For AY 2025-26, awards up to \$500 for domestic travel/up to \$1,500 for international travel will be awarded per semester.

More Information & Application Here

AAS26: Now Accepting Film Submissions



Call for Films: AAS 2026 Film Expo

The Association for Asian Studies 2026 Annual Conference  
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, March 12-15, 2026

Film Submission Deadline: Friday, October 17, 2025

- All film entries must have English subtitles to be considered.
- We do not accept any films that have had scheduled screenings at past AAS meetings.
- AAS does not pay rental or royalty fees, nor does it charge you for publicity and exposure. AAS considers this program of mutual benefit to both you and our members.
- AAS does not offer financial or travel support for filmmakers to attend the conference screenings. Complimentary conference registration (one registration per film) will be provided to selected filmmakers attending the conference for in-person Q&As.
- Selected films will be required to submit two (2) high quality promotional images, which may be uploaded at the time of submission or the time of acceptance confirmation.
- Upon acceptance, selected films will be required to provide a digital film file for Film Expo presentation and a private screener link for virtual on-demand screening.

More Info & Submission Link Here

Upcoming Opportunities



UAAT Mandarin Education Scholarship

CEAPS is pleased to announce a new scholarship opportunity for U of I students to study Mandarin in Taiwan. The University Academic Alliance in Taiwan (UAAT) Mandarin Scholarship offers financial support for summer language study hosted by the National Tsing Hua University (NTHU).

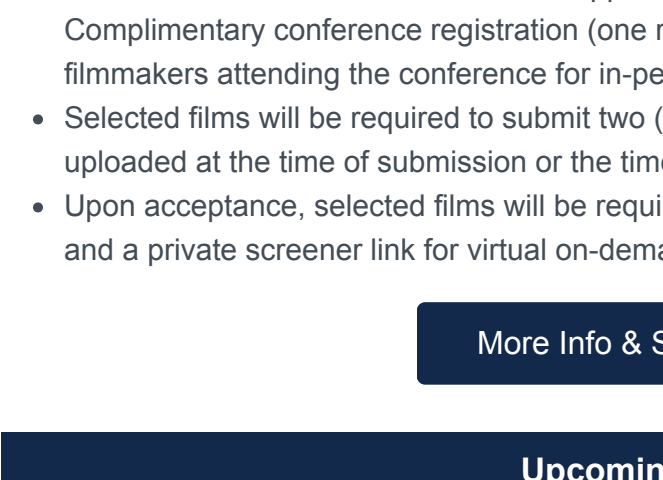
Scholarship Benefits: Awarded students will receive a stipend of NTS\$28,000 per month (approximately USD\$930, subject to the exchange rate) for a total of 3 months during the summer term.

The scholarship can cover the entire cost of tuition for the Chinese language courses offered by NTHU CLC, the dormitory fee, the internet fee in campus, and the administration fee charged by Office of Global Affairs.

• The scholarship will be granted on a monthly basis.

Applications are due by October 15th!

More Information & Application Here



Read & Resist Fest

In partnership with the cultural centers (AAACC, BNAACC, La Casa, NAH, and Salaam MENA Center), GSRC, WRC, Skeuomorph Press, and the University Library, we will be hosting a pop-up library to promote student awareness and action surrounding intellectual freedom.

Wed, Oct 8th  
12pm - 2pm  
Native American House & African American Cultural Center

Students who attend October 8 can participate in our Banned Books Crawl for an opportunity to win a swag pack and gift card to the Illini Union Bookstore!

Contact AAACC Associate Director, Amy Breslin (abreslin@illinois.edu) with any questions.



FA25 Korean Conversation Table

The FA25 Korean Conversation Table will start its in-person meeting this week on Friday, September 5, 2025

- Date and Time: 5-6 pm every Friday (9/5-11/14) during FA25 semester except for Oct. 31
- Location: Everitt Lab 2233 (except Sept. 19 in Everitt Lab 1306) across Illini Union
- Contact Jeeyoung Ahn (jahn3@illinois.edu).
- Contact Jihye Yum (jiy28@illinois.edu). KCT coordinator for any questions!

Everyone who would like to practice speaking Korean and learn about Korean culture is welcome! Please join us.

More Information & Application Here

Center for East Asian & Pacific Studies

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences | University of Illinois | Illinois Global Institute  
324 Coble Hall | 801 S. Wright St. | Champaign, IL 61820  
Phone: 217.333.7273 | Email: ceaps@illinois.edu

