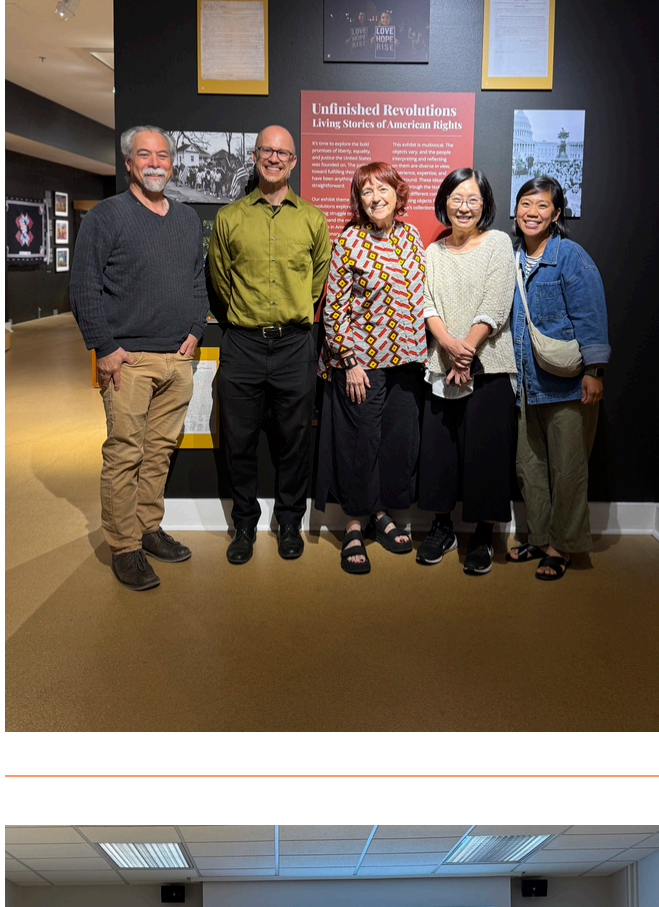


CEAPS E-News September 21st - September 25th, 2026

Events Recap



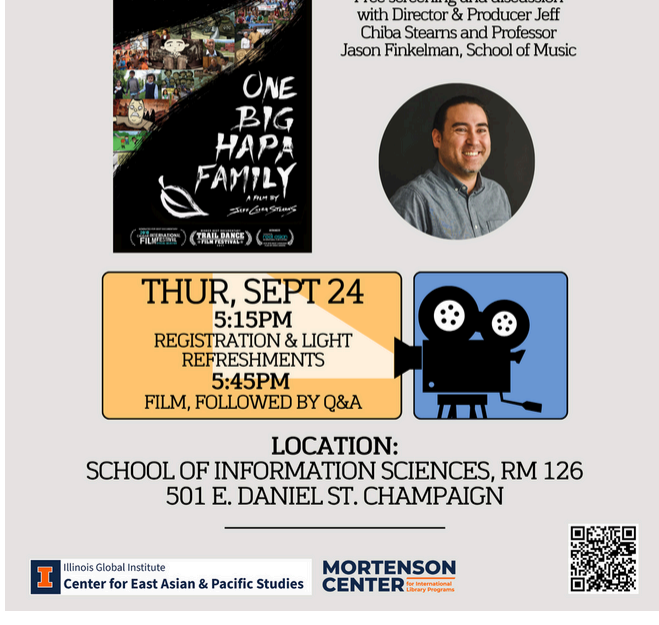
CEAPS was proud to invite filmmaker Beth Harrington to the Knight Auditorium at the Spurlock Museum for a film screening of her newest film: "Our Mr. Matsura". The film is directed and written by Beth Harrington and follows the story of photographer Frank Matsura, a Japanese native who travels to live in rural Washington State in the early 1900s. After the film screening, attendees and Beth engaged in a wondering discussion about the amazing influence of Frank Matsura. Our next AsiaLENS film screening will be this Thursday, September 24th as we welcome Jeff Chiba Stearns to the School of Information Sciences building for a screening of his film "One Big Hapa Family".

We appreciate the co-sponsorship of the Asian American Cultural Center, Native America House, & Spurlock Museum.



On Friday we hosted a workshop for faculty & graduate students titled, "Research Funding for East Asian Studies". We want to thank our panelists: Sowmya Anand, Erika Cornelius Smith, Maria Gillombardo, & Barlow LeVold. Their openness to share and knowledge they brought was extremely valuable. Reach out to CEAPS if you missed the workshop and would like the information they shared.

Events This Week



AsiaLENS/Mortenson Screening | "One Big Hapa Family" (Screening + Discussion) | Jeff Chiba Stearns

Join us for a free film screening of "One Big Hapa Family" with a post-film discussion with film Director and Producer Jeff Chiba Stearns.

September 24th
5:15pm | Registration & Refreshments, 5:45pm | film screening
School of Information Sciences, Rm 126; 501 E Daniel St. Champaign

"One Big Hapa Family" follows half Japanese-Canadian filmmaker, Jeff Chiba Stearns, as he embarks on a journey of self-discovery to find out why everyone in his Japanese-Canadian family married inter-racially after his grandparents' parents generation. **Jeff Chiba Stearns** is a Webby Award winning and Emmy®

nominated director and founder of Meditating Bunny Studio Inc. in Vancouver, BC, Canada.

[More Info & Registration](#)

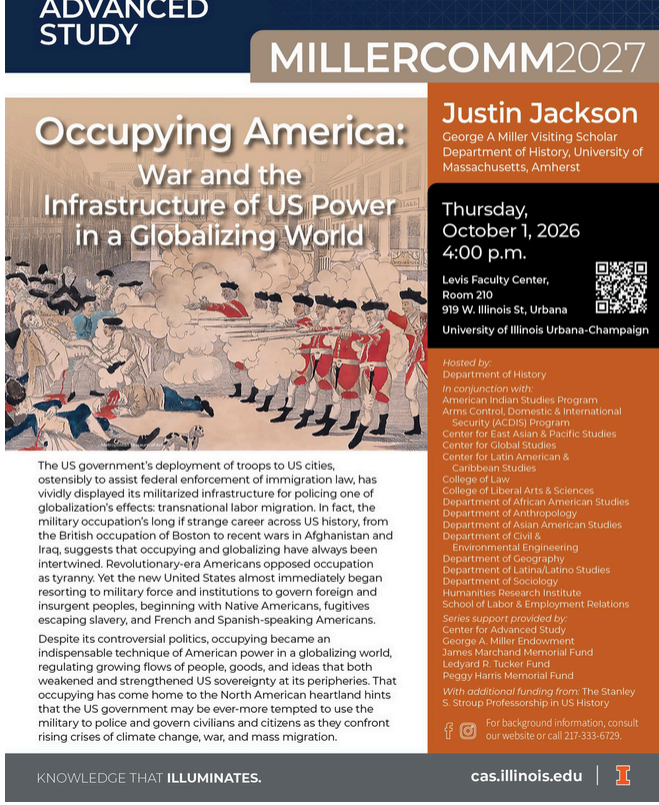
Annual Mortenson Distinguished Lecture

Jeff will also be giving the lecture at the 36th Annual Mortenson Distinguished Lecture. on September 26th at 1pm.

September 26th
1pm
Hotel & online

[More Information](#)

Events Next Week



Co-Sponsored Event: MillerComm Lecture Series "Occupying America: War and the Infrastructure of US Power in a Globalizing World" | Justin Jackson (University of Massachusetts Amherst)

October 1st
4pm
210 Levis Faculty Center

About the Talk:
The US government's deployment of troops to Chicago, Minneapolis and other cities, ostensibly to assist federal enforcement of immigration law, has vividly displayed its militarized infrastructure for policing one of globalization's effects: transnational labor migration. In fact, the military occupation's long if strange career across US history, from the British occupation of Boston

to recent wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, suggests that occupying and globalizing have always been intertwined. Revolutionary-era Americans opposed occupation as tyranny. Yet the new United States almost immediately began resorting to military force and institutions to govern foreign and insurgent peoples, beginning with Native Americans, fugitives escaping slavery, and French and Spanish-speaking Americans. Despite its controversial politics, occupying became an indispensable technique of American power in a globalizing world, regulating growing flows of people, goods, and ideas that both weakened and strengthened US sovereignty at its peripheries. That occupying has come home to the North American heartland hints that the US government may be ever-more tempted to use the military to police and govern civilians and citizens as they confront rising crises of climate change, war, and mass migration.

[More Information](#)

CEAPS Fall Open House



CEAPS invites you for an open house at our building, Coble Hall! We would also love to wish everyone a Happy Mid Autumn Festival & Chuseok holiday. This event is open to anyone. Please come and invite colleagues and friends.

Lunch will be provided with short remarks at 1:30pm.

Friday, September 25th
1:00pm - 3:00pm
Coble Hall Room 306

[More Info & RSVP](#)

AAS Film Expo 2027

Submissions are Now Open!

The Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies (CEAPS) at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, in partnership with the [Association for Asian Studies \(AAS\)](#), is pleased to announce an open call for films for the AAS 2027 Film Expo. The Film Expo will be held concurrently with the [AAS 2027 Annual Conference](#) in Boston, MA, March 18-21, 2027.

Our film submission deadline is **October 16, 2026**.

The AAS Film Expo is curated and organized by the Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies (CEAPS) at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, in partnership with the Association for Asian Studies. Questions may be sent to ceaps@illinois.edu with the subject line "AAS 2027 Film Expo/NAME OF FILM."

[More Info & Registration](#)

CEAPS Advisory Board 2026-27

Below is the Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies Advisory Board for the 2026-27 academic year! Congratulations to our newest CEAPS advisory board members: Roderick Wilson and Jeffrey Wilson.



Naoko Gunji

Department: East Asian Languages and Cultures

Contact: ngunji@illinois.edu



Jeffrey Martin

Department: Anthropology

Contact: jmart@illinois.edu



Roderick Wilson

Department: East Asian Languages & Cultures and History

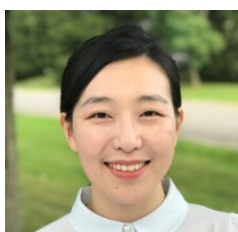
Contact: rwilson@illinois.edu



Bing Wang

Department: University Library

Contact: bingw@illinois.edu



Yujeong Yang

Department: Political Science

Contact: yujeongyang@illinois.edu

Upcoming Opportunities



HOYI Dance Crew

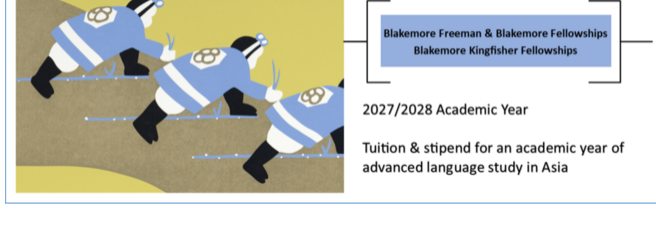
HOYI Dance Crew is a Taiwanese cultural dance organization that brings Taiwan's traditional folk culture into contemporary street dance. Our signature concept, Shen Jiang Street Dance (Taiwan Urban Dance), transforms elements of Taiwanese temple traditions, deity culture, folk beliefs, and traditional ritual characters into performances that are visually engaging and accessible to international audiences.

Our programs can be presented in different formats, including:

- Taiwanese cultural performances
- Lecture-demonstrations
- Cultural workshops
- Performance + audience interaction

In addition to performance, we introduce the cultural background behind Taiwanese folk beliefs and traditional ritual traditions, allowing students to experience Taiwanese culture through both learning and movement.

[HOYI Dance Crew Website](#)



Blakemore Freeman & Blakemore Fellowships

Blakemore Kingfisher Fellowships

The **Blakemore Foundation** is now accepting applications for the 2027 Blakemore Language Fellowships for an academic year of intensive language study at approved language programs in Asia during the 2027/2028 academic year. We would appreciate your sharing this opportunity with your students and other potential applicants.

Blakemore Freeman Fellowships are awarded to graduating seniors, college graduates, graduate students and young/mid-career professionals for advanced study of Chinese (in Taiwan), Japanese, Korean, Indonesian, Khmer, Thai, or Vietnamese in Asia. Study of Chinese in Beijing is available as a **Blakemore Fellowship**. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents of the United States, have completed (at minimum) the third year of study of the Asian language, and are ready to advance to professional fluency.

Blakemore Kingfisher Art History Language Fellowships will be awarded for study of Chinese or Korean in East Asia. These grants are open to citizens and permanent residents of the United States and Canada, and to foreign nationals studying in colleges or universities in the United States or Canada, who have a well-demonstrated intent to study the pre-twentieth century history of Chinese or Korean art at the doctoral level. Applicants must have received a bachelor's degree by the start of a grant and have completed (at minimum) two years of classroom study of the language in rigorous college-level language programs.

[Apply Here](#)

[Blakemore Foundation Website](#)



Japan Foundation Grant and Fellowship Programs 2027-28

The Japan Foundation (JF) is pleased to announce the opening of applications for its Japanese Studies grant and fellowship programs for Fiscal Year 2027-2028. These programs provide support for scholars, researchers, PhD candidates, and institutions engaged in Japanese Studies in the United States.

Japanese Studies Fellowship Programs

Japanese Studies Fellowship Programs support outstanding scholars, researchers, and Ph.D. candidates by providing opportunities to conduct research in Japan.

Application Deadline: December 1, 2026

[More Details](#)

Institutional Project Support Grant Program

The Institutional Project Support (IPS) Grant Program and the IPS-Small Grant Program provide support for projects that advance Japanese Studies at colleges, universities, and other academic institutions.

Concept Paper Deadline: October 31, 2026

Full Proposal Deadline: December 1, 2026

[IPS Grant Program](#)

[IPS Small Grant Program](#)

U.S. Southeast Asia-Japan Collaborative Exchange Initiative

Applications are also being accepted for the **U.S.-Southeast Asia-Japan Collaborative Exchange Initiative**, which brings together Japan scholars from the United States, Southeast Asia, and Japan to foster collaborative research and strengthen Japanese Studies across the region.

[More Details](#)

Online Information Session for Fellowship Applicants

The Japan Foundation will host an online information session via Zoom for prospective applicants to the Japanese Studies Fellowship Programs.

Date: Wednesday, October 7, 2026

Time: 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (Eastern Time)

During the session, JF staff will provide an overview of the fellowship programs and application process, followed by a Q&A session. We warmly encourage anyone considering applying for a fellowship to attend.

[Registration](#)



FA26 Korean Conversation Table: Speak Korean, Make Friends and Explore Korean Culture!

FALL 2026
Korean Conversation Table
2026년 가을학기
한국어 대화 모임
Every Friday 5-6 pm
(Sept. 11 ~ Nov. 13)
Everitt Lab 2233
Except for 9/18 in Everitt
Lab 1306
(Engineering Hall
near Illini Union)

Looking for a fun, low-pressure way to practice spoken Korean? Join the **Korean Conversation Table**, a welcoming weekly gathering where students can build confidence, meet new people, and learn more about Korean culture. All levels are welcome. Just bring your curiosity!

Date and Time: **Fridays, 5-6 pm** (9/11-11/13)
Place: **Everitt Lab 2233** (Sept. 18 only: Everitt Lab 1306)

Contact: Jeeyoung Ahn Ha (jahn3@illinois.edu). Directors of the Korean language program or Jihye Yun (jhye26@illinois.edu), KCT coordinator for questions!

Participation is free and completely voluntary. Drop in and join the conversation!