



RHODES UNIVERSITY

China Week

Monday 18 to Friday 22 August



All welcome!
Events are free!

A JOINT PROJECT OF THE SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES AND
THE INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

MONDAY 18 AUGUST

1.10pm Zoo Minor 01

Janet Wilhelm: The Chinese in South Africa (Talk with slides)

The Chinese in South Africa come from three distinct waves of migration, each with different stories to tell. South African-born Chinese are descended mainly from independent immigrants who started arriving from the 1870s. A hundred years later, in the 1970s, the apartheid government encouraged Taiwanese immigrants, many of them factory owners. The next wave of immigrants, this time from mainland China, began to arrive in the 1990s. It is now by far the largest Chinese community in South Africa.

Janet Wilhelm is a journalist, freelance writer, and communications advisor, who has written for the Mail & Guardian, the Financial Mail and the Sunday Times. She is co-author of Movers & Shakers: an A-Z of South African Business People. She is the author of the chapter in State of the Nation 2006 on the Chinese communities in South Africa.

7.00pm Drama Department

Acty Tang: inscrutable (Dance performance)

inscrutable is a dance created specially for China Week – a strange and deeply-felt personal encounter with the large and looming idea of “Chinese culture”.

The venue limits the audience to 20 per performance, so booking is essential. To book, email Acty Tang at A.Tang@ru.ac.za.

Acty Tang has won several awards for dance and choreography, including the Standard Bank Young Artist Award for Dance in 2007. He lectures part time at Rhodes University Drama department, and works closely with the First Physical Theatre Company.

TUESDAY 19 AUGUST

1.30pm Zoo Minor 01

Meng Meng: Being a Chinese student at Rhodes (Talk followed by Chinese snacks)

The experience of a student from the People’s Republic of China at Rhodes University and in South Africa.

Meng Meng is a 4th year student at Rhodes, and author of a book just published in China titled “I went to Africa when I was 17”.

5.15pm Humanities Seminar Room

Hayley Herman: Confucius in Africa (Talk)

This talk will focus on the function of Confucius Institutes in Africa, and their role in China’s soft power diplomacy on the continent. How should African countries make use of these Institutes in their engagement with China?

The talk will also be an introduction to the Centre for Chinese Studies at Stellenbosch University, describing its function within the China/Africa dynamic and its research projects on Chinese aid and investment in Africa. Hayley Herman is the Research Manager at the Centre for Chinese Studies, Stellenbosch University

TUESDAY 19 AUGUST

7.00pm Drama Department

Acty Tang: inscrutable (see notes on Monday performance)

8.00pm Eden Grove Red

Chungking Express/Chongqing senlin 1994 (Film)

English subtitles, Running time 107min

Directed by Hong Kong director Wong Kar-Wai, director of In the Mood for Love, starring Brigitte Lin, Tony Leung, Faye Wang, Takeshi Kaneshiri, Valerie Chow. From The Rough Guide to Film 2007: Brigitte Lin, iconic in dark glasses and blonde wig, looks for the courier who stole her cash and stash and bumps into “Cop 233” who’s just self-consciously decided to fall for the next woman he meets. Dazzling in its cool exuberance and colour-saturated gloss, this neon paean to lost love is Wong’s most exquisitely hypnotic work to date.

WEDNESDAY 20 AUGUST

2.30pm Staff Common Room, English Department

Robert Berold: Classical Chinese poetry in modern American translation

The first part (2.30-3.30pm) of this seminar will be a reading and discussion of poems by some of the great Tang dynasty poets in English translation, including Du Fu (Tu Fu), Li Bai (Li Po), Wang Wei, and Bai Juyi (Po Chu-I). After a tea break, the second part (3.45-4.30pm) will look at the influence of classical Chinese poetry on American poetry, through the work of translator-poets such as Ezra Pound, Kenneth Rexroth and Gary Snyder.

Robert Berold is a poet, writing teacher, and freelance editor of technical books. His book Meanwhile don’t push and squeeze: a year of life in China was published in 2007 by Jacana.

5.15pm Zoo Minor 02

Stuart Dwyer: Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine (Talk with slides)

Acupuncture is a part of an ancient system of oriental health care. There are marked differences in the physiological approaches of oriental health care and western medical treatments. This talk introduces some principles of acupuncture and highlights some of the differences in the oriental and western approaches.

Stuart Dwyer is a medical doctor and an practising acupuncturist. Besides being in general practice in Grahamstown, he is director of the Highlands Health Hydro.

7.00pm Drama Department

Acty Tang: inscrutable (Dance performance - see notes for Monday)

THURSDAY 21 AUGUST

1.30pm Zoo Minor 01

George Zhang: Speaking of Chinese

An introduction to a language spoken by 1.3 billion people and a culture spanning millennia. This talk will tell you everything you wanted to know about Chinese language and culture.

Dr George Zhang is the Director of the Language Institute, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. He is also Director of the London Confucius Institute

7.00pm Drama Department

Acty Tang: inscrutable (Dance performance - see notes for Monday)

FRIDAY 22 AUGUST

1.10pm Zoo Minor 01

Muhammed Haron: Chinese Muslims: Between a Rock and a Hard Place

China’s conflict with its Uyghur Muslim citizens located in the Northwest province (Xinjiang) has been well known for many years, but very little has been heard of the Hui Muslims located mainly in the central provinces (Ningxia & Heban), who have never demanded separation from China. This talk looks at both groups and the difficulties and challenges that they have faced from the last dynastic (Ch’ing) rule until the reign of the Communist Party. This talk will also highlight some interesting cultural developments such as the formation of ‘women’s mosques’ in China, a phenomenon unheard of elsewhere in the Muslim world.

Muhammed Haron is Senior Lecturer in the Department of Theology & Religious Studies, University of Botswana. He is the author of The Dynamics of Christian-Muslim Relations in South Africa (Uppsala: Almqvist 2006) and editor of South Africa- Malaysia Cementing Relations (Kuala Lumpur 2008)

7.00pm Drama Department

Acty Tang: inscrutable (Dance performance - see notes for Monday)

Programme

A Confucius Institute at Rhodes University?

The Hanban (The Office of Chinese Language Council International, People's Republic of China) funds Confucius Institutes, which are centres for teaching Chinese language and culture overseas similar to international bodies like the British Council, the Goethe Institute, and the Alliance Française. Confucius Institutes have been established all over the world as independent entities and as entities closely linked to academic institutions (for instance, London University's School of Oriental and African Studies operates the London Confucius Institute).

A general agreement has been signed between Rhodes University and the Hanban to establish a Confucius Institute at Rhodes, and a supplementary teaching agreement has been signed with Jinan University in Guangzhou, a university with an expertise in the teaching of Chinese as a foreign language. Lecturers will come from Jinan University and be funded by the Hanban to teach courses in Chinese language.

The intention is to begin in 2009 with a one year course. Students who complete this course would be able to understand and speak Mandarin in everyday situations and to recognise the basic components of Chinese characters.

Although the course is still only at the exploratory stage, in time Chinese would be developed into a full major. Courses will then be offered for Grahamstown schools, and short courses for business and diplomatic purposes. As it grows, The Rhodes Confucius Institute will collaborate with Chinese universities and the School of Oriental and African Studies in London, and with interested Rhodes academics and departments, to offer a range of courses in Chinese studies, including politics, economics, history, literature, and philosophy. The aim is that within a few years, interested students from Rhodes University will be able to engage at many different levels with Chinese language and culture – which, given China's involvement with Africa, will be increasingly important and useful.

If you are interested in taking such a course in 2009, please email your contact details to internationaloffice@ru.ac.za

Why study Chinese? A personal answer.

I am very pleased to see that Rhodes University is planning a Chinese studies Institute. I consider this project to be of great importance for a number of reasons and commend you for the initiative.

I have spent 34 years in international business, including two assignments in Asia, and have seen the work ethic and entrepreneurial spirit of the region at first hand. It is also no coincidence that the Chinese value education higher than almost anything else.

We should remember that before the industrial revolution, China was the largest economy in the world - they just happened to lapse into isolated social, political and economic "hibernation" for the intervening centuries!

Partly for that reason, until relatively recently the West seriously underestimated China and its economic and political significance and is now struggling to build relationships and an understanding of its complex ways.

We have recently seen the impact of China's economic growth in the form of a commodities boom, driven by their demand for raw materials such as iron ore and coal for industry and soy beans and corn for food. However up to now that growth has been driven by a centrally planned export-led economy; imagine what will occur when the 1.3 billion Chinese people start to consume at the same levels as the United States or Europe!

We neglect the study of China at our peril - its influence will be felt by all of us in the decades to come.

I wish you success in the new Chinese programmes and hope that you meet with the interest that they deserve.

Zhu ni shunli! (Good luck!)

Ewan Copeland

Ewan Copeland is a Rhodes Trustee in the UK and Group Executive and Industry Head of the Citi Group, responsible for clients in the consumer goods, retail, pharmaceutical and healthcare industries worldwide. His client portfolio represents assets in excess of \$50 billion.

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