Happy Naadam Festivity!

Welcome to the fourth issue of the Mongolian Studies newsletter at the Australian National University. This newsletter also hopes to serve the broader Mongolian Studies community in Australia. If you have any information that you would like to share with us, please feel free to send any news or announcements to li.narangoa@anu.edu.au or Natasha.fijn@anu.edu.au.

Yours sincerely,
The Editors

Congratulations

Graduation: 2015 was another very fruitful year for Mongolian Studies at the Australian National University (ANU). Ariun-Erdene Bayarjargal and Gesar Temur were awarded PhDs at the ANU in the July graduation ceremony. Ariun-Erdene completed her PhD on Institutions and Economic Performance in Transition Countries at the Crawford School; Gesar wrote his PhD on the revival of Buddhism in Mongolia at the School of Culture, History and Language, College of Asia and the Pacific.

In addition, six students from Mongolia graduated with master’s degrees at the ANU in 2015:

**Batkhisig Oyundelger** - MA Public Administration and Master of Diplomacy

**Munkhbayar Tsedevsuren** - Master of Finance

**Tuya Altangerel** - Master of Finance

**Munguntuya Oyuntuya** - Master of Business Administration

**Nomuuntugs Tuvaan** - Master of Environmental and Resource Economics

**Batzorig Enkhbold** - Master of Law.

Promotion:

Dr Michael Hope’s revised PhD thesis has been excepted for publication by Oxford University Press. He has recently been employed as Assistant Professor at Yonsei University, one of the best private universities in Korea.

Naadam in Canberra

The Mongolian community in Canberra observed the occasion of the 809th anniversary of the establishment of the Great Mongol Empire and the 94th anniversary of the People’s Revolution by organizing a Naadam Festivity on 11th July, 2015. The Naadam Festivity which was organized by the Mongolian Student Association in Canberra was enriched with Mongolian cuisine, a traditional musical instrument—the horse-head fiddle (morin huur), long-song and garments.
A two-week intensive course in Mongolian language was successfully held at the ANU from 27 January to 6 February 2015 for the third time since 2013. The course was conducted by Ms. Bayartuul from the National University of Mongolia. Ms. Bayartuul is a linguist and highly experienced in teaching Mongolian to foreigners.

The sixteen students who enrolled the course included ANU postgraduate students, staff and interested members of the public. The course was aimed at developing an ability to communicate using basic sentence patterns and structure to introduce, count, identify, express courtesies and preferences in Mongolian. This language course was supported by Culture, History and Language in the College of Asia and the Pacific, at the ANU and the Mongolian Embassy in Australia.

The students were all very much engaged, enjoyed the teaching and loved the songs they were taught. Please visit the student performance of a Mongolian song here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sdj5rp6lhNo

The ANU is planning to offer the next intensive Mongolian language course in early 2016 and looking into the possibility of offering Mongolian online for continuing students who want to study Mongolian language as a minor subject.

**Farewell**

His excellency, Ambassador Ravdan Bold completed his three years of office term in Canberra and returned to Mongolia at the end of June. His Excellency has been a great supporter of Mongolian Studies in Australia and has been advisor to the ANU Mongolia Institute. The Third Secretary of the Embassy, Mr Hantulga Galazagraa also returned to his home office in Ulaanbaatar.

Dr Michael Hope departed for Seoul to take up his new job as Assistant Professor at Yonsei University. Michael will be teaching courses on Mongol empire and Middle Eastern History.

Ms Itgel Chuluunbaatar moved back to Mongolia. After completing two MA degrees, Itgel had been working as a research assistant at the ANU and assisting the Mongolia Institute.

The Mongolia Institute would like to thank all them for their support in the last three years and wish them all the best.
Welcome

It is a great pleasure to introduce the following four scholars who have recently joined our Mongolian studies community.

Dr Tungdai Ma, Burenjargal is a visiting fellow. He is a researcher at the College of Mongolian Studies at the Inner Mongolia University. Burenjargal graduated from Min Zu University of China and undertook postdoctoral studies on international finance at the Central University of Finance and Economics of China. During his PhD he also studied at Nagoya University in Japan. His main research areas are the internationalisation of national currency and the socio-economic and cultural situation of the Mongol peoples in a changing world; including Mongolian macroeconomics and development.

He has published two books and over thirty papers. Burenjargal has been working on various Chinese government sponsored projects. One of them focuses on the sustainability of the grassland ecosystems of the Mongolian plateau and resource politics. He is particularly interested in issues of industrialisation and urbanisation in Inner Mongolia and its impact on the environment and the future of traditional Mongolian lifestyles.

Spencer Haines is a PhD student who has been granted an Australian Postgraduate Award to research Mongolian history at the School of Culture, History & Language, in the College of Asia and the Pacific. Spencer has a Masters of International Affairs (2007) from the Australian National University and a Bachelor of Arts with Honours in Political Science and Peace & Conflict Studies (2003) from the University of Waterloo in Canada. Prior to beginning this PhD program, Spencer was employed as a Foreign Service Officer with the Government of Canada and held overseas diplomatic postings in Russia and India. He has also previously lived and worked in Canada, South Korea, Taiwan, Ukraine and Egypt, as well as having travelled extensively throughout Mongolia and Central Asia.

Spencer’s doctoral research will focus on the larger dynamics of ‘state’ power and nomadic relations in Inner Asian history during the 17th and 18th centuries. Specifically, he will provide a fresh examination of the Zunghar Empire’s diplomatic interactions with the Khalkha Mongols and Kazakhs in times of war and peace and then assess its impact. Spencer has a strong passion and interest in the history, politics, and culture of Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and East Turkestan/Xinjiang.

Jonathan Ratcliffe is a doctoral candidate at the ANU whose studies concern the role of oral and written epic in the history and politics of twentieth century Buryat Mongol identity. His PhD thesis, which he has just started, centers upon the history and reception of the cycles surrounding the hero Geser taken down from the Ekhirit-Bulagat Buryat uligershin (epic reciter) Manshut Ilmejgenov in the early twentieth century. Jonathan's academic interests include history, anthropology, mythology, philology, linguistics, epic narrative, folklore and philosophy. He has a bachelor degree with honors from La Trobe University in Philosophy and Religious studies and an MA from Monash University in Classics. In 2006 he studied at the National University of Mongolia for six months as part of its program for foreign students. After many years away from Mongolian studies he is glad to be returning to this field again.

Associate Professor Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt is a Senior Fellow with the Resource, Environment and Development (RE&D) Program. She is one of the leading international experts on mining and gender in both large-scale, industrialised extractive industries and in informal, artisanal and small-scale mining. In recent years she has expanded her work into Artisanal and Small-scale mining in Mongolia. For more details of her research profile, please visit: https://crawford.anu.edu.au/people/academic/kuntala-lahiri-dutt

Enkh-Orshikh Khurlee is a Master of National Security Policy student at the Australian National University where he specialises in Asia-Pacific studies with a focus on strategic studies, cyber security and Northeast Asia. Prior to this Enkh-Orshikh worked at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Parliament Secretariat of Mongolia. He graduated from the Middle East Technical University (METU) in 2002 with a B.Sc. degree in International Relations.
Fieldwork and Conference

Dr. Uchirit came back from his fieldwork in Inner Mongolia a few weeks ago. He found that the well water quality in Inner Mongolia is in a situation of great uncertainty. Local herders do know some of the well water is “unusual” because the water has an unpleasant smell and colour. A herdsman guided Uchirit to a well, and said that the well smells bad. As shown in the picture, the well water has high concentrations of heavy metals. Uchirit said that it is very important to open a scientific way for the herders to cope with the uncertainty of well water quality.

Associate Professor Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt has just returned from Mongolia after a short field trip in June. She was invited by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) which was celebrating its successful completion of the Sustainable Artisanal Mining (SAM) Project. The Sustainable Artisanal Mining (SAM) project has promoted a human rights-based approach building partnerships to raise awareness of both miners and local authorities on their rights and obligations.

During her visit to Mongolia, she also participated in a one-day workshop organised by colleagues at the Centre for Social Responsibility in Mining, University of Queensland at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Mongolia. This meeting released a handbook, Responsible Mining in Mongolia: Enhancing Positive Engagement, which is the outcome of an ADRAS project (funded by DFAT, Australia).

The need to survive and build a livelihood drives many of the poor in Mongolia to take up informal gold mining to supplement cash-based incomes. The rapid spread of larger mines, using poor technology, leaving substantial parts of the gold in the tailings, and the high commodity price of the artisanal gold digging which is reported as attractive to small scale miners. It is reported that in 2003 there were at least 100,000 artisanal miners representing about 20 per cent of Mongolia’s labour force.

She was relieved to see that the relentless efforts of the SDC has had an impact on the way of thinking of the Mongolian state towards informal artisanal gold mining. Although informal mining is still not legally recognised, and the very idea of extending the concept of informality in mining seems strange to many actors involved in mining, the state has at least notionally begun to recognise that such mining cannot be wished away.

Professor Li Narangoa visited Tokyo to give a public lecture on “Buddhism and War” at Jyu Daigaku in Tokyo and to give a talk on the effects of the Korean War in Inner Mongolia at a various workshops.

Dr Natasha Fijn was invited to present papers at the following conference and workshops.

- ‘A comparative perspective on multispecies ethnography and filmmaking in the field’, hosted by Arctic Domus and Anthropology Dept., University of Aberdeen, 17 March 2015.
- ‘Medicine and animal in the Anthropocene’, Contemporary Anthropology Series, University of Aarhus, Denmark, 4 March 2015.

Publications


This is one of the several volumes of Baiying’s memoirs that he has been writing. In this volume Baiying vividly describes his experience as an ‘educated youth’ who was sent to rural China to be re-educated for four years from 1968.
News Update

New Mongolian Ambassador
The Mongolian Embassy in Canberra welcomed a new Ambassador. His Excellency Mr Batlai Chuluunhuu arrived in July and will officially assume his duties in August.

Australian Embassy in Mongolia
On 12th May, 2015, Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop announced Australia’s decision to establish its Embassy in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. It will be one of five overseas missions to be opened in near the future. The current post of the Consulate-General in Ulaanbaatar is managed by Austrade. Australia’s Embassy in South Korea is currently responsible for relations with Mongolia.

Conferences and Seminars
The International Symposium on a Parallel Study of Australian Indigenous People and Chinese Mongolian People at Hohhot’s Inner Mongolia University was jointly run by the Australian Studies Centre and the Foreign Languages College of the University. Indigenous language both Australian and Mongolian was a major topic of the conference. Highlights included Jorigt, Professor of Mongolian Language & Literature, School of Mongolian Studies, and Deputy Director of the Centre for Mongolian Studies at IMU, giving his talk in the Mongolian language, and the indigenous Australian speakers, writer Bruce Pascoe and academics Leanne Holt and Joe Perry from the University of Newcastle. Professor Bill Gammage from the Humanities Research Centre represented from the ANU.

At the Farewell Banquet, conference participants were delighted by the concert the staff of the University organised and participated in. The concert program was full of local talent - singers, instrumentalists and dancers - but there was also a proud moment for Australians in the audience when indigenous Australian singer songwriter Marcus Corowa performed. Then, to the audience’s great pleasure, the Mongolian player of the morin huur (horsehead fiddle) and the indigenous Australian guitarist performed together. It was a very special moment for the people who had been together over the two days of the conference, a kind of summation of the spirit of the conference and the ideas behind it. Not to mention, a world first!

A ‘Mongolia Day’ was organized by the Women’s International Club in Canberra on 22 April. Professor Li Narangoa was invited to give a talk on ‘Chinggis Khan and Women’. For more information, please visit: http://www.mongolianembassy.org.au/archives/2476

Upcoming Event
The Third Mongolian Studies Open Conference (MOSOC) in Australia is planned to be held at the Australian National University on 3 November 2015.

The MOSOC is a multi-disciplinary conference which provides a forum for the presentation of new research on Mongolia and the Mongols, especially for scholars based in Australia. The conference provides an opportunity for scholars with interests in Mongolia to meet, to hear each other’s work and to exchange ideas and information. It emphasizes interaction between younger and established scholars and between Mongolists and those with a comparative interest in Mongolian Studies. The focus of this year’s conference is on social and political changes.

The conference is open to all. There is no registration fee. The Mongolia Institute has a very limited amount of funding available to assist participants with travel or accommodation costs.

Call for Papers and Panels
The Mongolia Institute now invites proposals for papers and panels. Papers will be presented in panel sessions of three papers with a discussant. Proposals for papers should include a title and an abstract of 150 words as well as a bio note of 100 words.

Please send proposals to Mr Enkh-Orshikh (enkok@yahoo.com) or Professor Li Narangoa (li.narangoa@anu.edu.au) by 30 September 2015.

Travel and accommodation grants
Five grants to a maximum value of $300 each are available to honours and postgraduate students attending the conference from out of town. Selection will be on the basis of the quality of the paper proposal submitted. If you wish to be considered for a grant, please indicate when you submit your proposal.

MOSOC is generously supported by College of Asia and the Pacific, The Australian National University and the Embassy of Mongolia in Australia.
## Our Community

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- Kent Anderson, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International) and Professor of Law at the University of Western Australia
- Ravdan Bold, Former Ambassador of Mongolia to Australia
- David Guy, Independent consultant