



Australian
National
University

Mongolian Studies Newsletter



I s s u e 3

D e c e m b e r 2 0 1 4

Inside this issue:

Congratulations	1
2014 Mongolia Update	2
VIP Visitors	3
Projects, Publications	4
Farewell and Welcome	4
Visitors, Seminars Members' Activity	5
Intensive Mongolian Language course	5
Cooperation in Agricul- ture	5
Our community	6

Welcome to the third 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 dg700238@gmail.com

Yours sincerely,
The Editors

Best Wishes for 2015



Photo by Natasha Fijn

ing during the life-cycle event of an Altai Uri-anghai wedding in western Mongolia. A link to the article can be found at: www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/14442213.2014.887140#preview

Grant and Scholarship:

Two ANU PhD scholarships have been awarded to students who are going to study Mongolian history and culture. Congratulations to Mr Jonathan Denis Ratcliffe from Melbourne and Mr Spencer Haines from Canada who will be joining us in 2015 to commence their PhD program under the supervision of Prof. Li Narangoa.

Congratulations also to Mr Mark Pennini of the ANU Law School on the award of a New Colombo Plan Fellowship in Mongolia for 2015.

Promotion: One of our advisers, Professor Kent Anderson, took up a new position as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International) and Professor of Law at the University of Western Australia.

Congratulations

Graduation: 2014 was another very fruitful year for Mongolian Studies at the ANU. The PhD graduation of **Undargaa Sandagsuren** and **Rebekah Plueckhahn** as well as one MA graduation of **Itgel Chuluunbaatar** in July was followed by the successful completion of **Gesar Temur's** PhD thesis entitled: "The Resurgence of the Dharma: Transnational Buddhism in Contemporary Mongolia". Also, the following students from Mongolia graduated with MA degrees at the ANU:

Solongo Khurelbaatar, Master of Environmental Management and Development, and Diplomacy;
Urangoo Kh., Master of

Environmental Management and Development;
Bolor-Erdene Damdin, Master of Business Administration; **Munkhjargal Choigaalaa**, Master of Project Management; **Tsogbayer Enkhmaa**, Master of Business: Project Management; **Richy-enmyadag Shagdar**, Master of Legal studies.

Award: Dr Rebekah Plueckhahn's article won the 2014 Article Prize given by the Australian Anthropology Society (AAS). The article entitled 'Fortune, Emotion and Poetics: The Intersubjective Experience of Mongolian Musical Sociality' was published in The Asia Pacific Journal of Anthropology. It explores the social and esoteric imperatives of social sing-



Mongolia Update 2014



The annual Mongolia Update was held at ANU on 10 November. Topics covered included the social and economic impact of mining investment in the Mongolian economy, Mongolia's contemporary art and culture, the potential for agricultural cooperation between Australia and Mongolia and future directions in Mongolian foreign policy. Speakers included the Mongolian Ambassador to Australia, H E Ravdan Bold, the Former Minister of Mining and Industry in the Mongolian Government, Mr Dashdorj Zorigt, and several ANU and Australian Government researchers. Details of the program can be found at chl.anu.edu.au/sites/mongolianstudies/.

The event was hosted by the Mongolia Institute at ANU. The director of the Institute, Professor Li Narangoa, expressed her pleasure at the outcome. "The Update conference is the most important event in the year for the Institute because it is the only public forum in Australia in which

Mongolia and Mongolian-Australian relations are examined", she said. "The Institute is the only centre in Australia for research and teaching in Mongolian language, society and history, so we have a particular obligation to reach out to the Australian community and share the results of our work".

Professor Li felt that the strength of the Update event was the large number of overseas speakers who were able to attend thanks to financial support from the Mongolian Government via the Foundation for Promotion of Mongolian Studies and the Mongolia Embassy in Australia. She paid tribute to the Mongolian Ambassador in Australia and his staff who had offered strong moral and practical support to the Institute and the Update for several years. She also thanked the ANU College of Asia and the Pacific for its longstanding support for Mongolian Studies.





VIP Visits



Earlier in 2014, Mongolian Foreign Minister HE Mr **Luvsanvandan Bold** visited the Australian National University and gave a public talk to launch the special issue of *East Asia Forum: at the Edge of Asia* which included analyses of the Mongolian economy and foreign policies. Mr Bold received huge applause for his excellent talk on current Mongolia. His talk was full of humour and insight and was very well received by the audience. It was followed by a round table discussion on Mongolia's economic and political position in East Asia by Professor (Emeritus) Peter Drysdale, the Editor in Chief of *East Asia Forum*, Professor Hugh White of ANU, a leading Australian analyst on security issues, Professor Choi Hyaewool, Director of the ANU Korea Institute and Professor Li Narangoa, Director of the Mongolia Institute.



At the end of the event, HE Mr **Luvsanvandan Bold** presented an award from the Mongolian Ministry of Education and Sciences to Professor Li Narangoa to recognize her contribution to the development of Mongolian Studies.

Photos thanks to the courtesy of Mongolian Embassy in Canberra

Soon after the Mongolian Foreign Minister's visit five Mongolian Parliamentary members Mr S.Bayartsogt MP, Mr L.Enkh-Amgalan MP, Mr N.Battserreg MP, Ms L.Erdenechimeg MP and Mr J.Erdenebat MP visited the Australian National University as part of a study tour to Australia. The Mongolia Institute and the Association of Mongolian Students in Canberra hosted a welcome reception.





New Projects and Publications

Baiying Borjigin's book *Chengjisihan jiqi xianke jiazou*



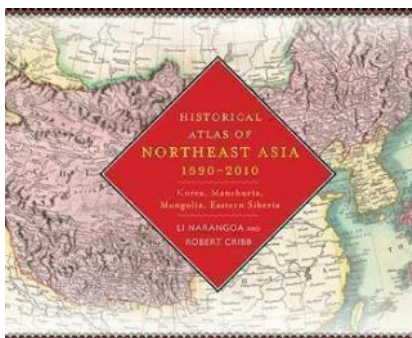
[Chinggis Khan and His Distinguished Descendants] (Beijing 2014) was recently published by the Chinese Social Science Publishing House. The book examines how branch of Chinggisid princely line came to be incorporated into the Imperial banners during the Qing Dynasty in the 17th century.

Baiying Borjigin's memoir entitled *guxiang tongnian wangshi de huiyi* [My Childhood Memory in Beijing] (Canberra: Australian Chinese Culture Exchange and Promotion Association 2014) traces his memories in Beijing between 1947 and 1965.

故鄉童年往事的回憶
(20世紀50年代筆者童年生活紀事與北京胡同園林的變遷)
My Childhood Memory in Beijing
— My Life in Beijing Hutong from 1947 – 1965



Li Narangoa and Robert Cribb's *Historical Atlas of Northeast Asia, 1590-2010: Korea, Manchuria, Mongolia, Eastern Si-*



beria was released by Columbia University Press in August. The book was launched by Professor David Christian on 19 November at the Australian National University. This

atlas tracks the political configuration of Northeast Asia in the last four centuries, delineating the distinct history and importance of the region.

Ariun-Erdene Bayarjargal is currently working on a new project entitled 'Pro-poor growth in Mongolia'. In the last few years, growth performance in Mongolia has been impressive. This study will explore whether this rapid growth has reduced poverty sig-

nificantly and if so, to what extent. The pro-poor growth index will be estimated by using Household Socio-Economic Surveys.

Natasha Fijn has just completed a chapter book entitled "Title: The Journey to find the Griffin" for young readers based on her fieldwork experience in Mongolia and some historical happenings.



Jack Fenner, 'Food fit for a Khan: stable isotope analysis of the elite Mongol Empire cemetery at Tavan Tolgoi, Mongolia' in *Journal of Archaeological Science* (vol. 46, no. 1, 2014).

Michael Hope, 'The Transmission of Charismatic Authority through the Quriltai of the Early Mongol Empire and the Ilkhanate of Iran (1227-1335)', *Mongolian Studies*, Vol. 34, 2012 (printed in 2014):87-116.

Li Narangoa, "Mongolia Searches for Breathing Room", *Current History: A Journal of Contemporary World Affairs* (September 2014): 238-245. Also visit: currenthistory.com.

Farewell Two of our members, Associate Professor Holly Barcus and Dr Rebekah Plueckhahn, have left Canberra. Associate Professor Barcus returned to the United State to resume her duties at Macalester College (Saint Paul, Minnesota, USA). Dr. Barcus joined us at ANU in August 2013 to pursue a one-year Master of Asia-Pacific Studies (MAPS) degree in coordination with the Mongolia Institute. This was part of her New Directions Fellowship from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation that she was awarded in 2013 to acquire additional language and cultural training to more fully extend her work on migration in Mongolia. Dr Rebekah Plueckhahn left for University College London (UCL) to take up a postdoc position. We wish both former members all the best in their new roles.

Welcome We would like to welcome Ms Ariun-Erdene Bayajargal who has just completed her PhD thesis at the Crawford of School of Public Policies and has been working as a research assistant at the school. Her PhD thesis entitled "Essays on International Economic Inequality" mainly focused on the long-run determinants of income inequality based on cross-country data.



Some Members' Activities

Dr Michael Hope was invited to present two papers at international conferences. His paper 'Political Traditions and the Islamization of the Il-Khan Court.' was presented at the symposium 'New Approaches to the Il-Khans,' held at the National University of Mongolia from the 21st to the 23rd of May. The conference was the first to focus solely upon the Il-Khan dynasty (1258-1335). His second paper 'Mahdi or Manjughosa? The non-Islamic Epistemology of Ghasan Khan's (r. 694-703AH/1295-1304CE) Islamic Spiritual Authority' was presented at the conference 'Confessional Ambiguity, 'Alid loyalty, and tashayyu' hasan in the 13th to 16th century Nile to Oxus Region,' held at Pembroke College, Oxford, from the 18th to the 20th of September. The conference focussed upon the fluidity of confessional boundaries between Sunni and Shi'ite Islam after the Mongol invasion (ca. 1258-1600).

Prof. Borjigin Burensain, Shiga Prefectural University, presented a paper on "Re-Understanding Inner Mongolia from Within the Sino-Japan-Mongolian Relations" at the conference on "The Non-Han Chinese diasporic communities beyond China" which was held at the Australian National University. His session was chaired by Professor Li Narangoa.

Dr. Natasha Fijn was invited to present a paper entitled 'The Domestic and the Wild in the Mongolian Horse and the Takhi' at the anthropology department at the University of Oslo, Norway, in November 2014. This was followed by a workshop presentation on domestication within anthropology. Natasha's paper was called 'Different Relational Ways of Being with Dogs in Aboriginal Australia and Mongolia'.

Dr Jack Fenner gave a lunchtime talk about his project on the archaeology of the Mongol empire on 20 November. It stimulated many questions from the audience.

Dr. Uchralt presented a paper on "Environmental Protests in Inner Mongolia" at an International Conference on Resource Development and Socio Environmental Change in East Asia: Case Studies from Mongolia and Tibet, at the University of Shiga Prefecture December 2014. Over the past two decades, Inner Mongolia has experienced fast economic growth and rapid industrialization. In order to protect the grassland, a range of collective activities have been taken by grassroots groups. He argued that environmental protest in Inner Mongolia is not a "special" or "ethnic" issue which occurs only in ethnic minority areas in China, but a widespread phenomenon in East Asia.

Intensive Mongolian Language Course

Starting from 27 January 2015, a two weeks intensive Mongolian Language Course will be held at the Australian National University. The course will be taught by Ms Bayartuul from the National University of Mongolia. Ms Bayartuul is a linguist and highly experienced in teaching Mongolian to foreigners. For more information please visit <http://chl.anu.edu.au/sites/mongolianstudies/index.php>; For enrolment please contact Ms Harriette Wilson at T +61 2 6125 0006 or E: harriette.wilson@anu.edu.au

Cooperation in Agriculture

In 2014 the Australian Government Department of Agriculture issued a major report on the potential for agricultural cooperation between Australia and Mongolia.

The study was initiated as an activity under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Department and the Mongolian Government Ministry of Industry and Agriculture signed in Feb. 2011. Areas of interest identified under the MOU include agricultural technology transfer and extension activities; training agricultural specialists in both countries; and the exchange of information relating to food, livestock and crop production, fisheries and forestry.

The study included four main components: a desktop review of agriculture in Mongolia; key informant interviews with potential stakeholders in Australia; a visit to Mongolia to interview key stakeholders; and an analysis of opportunities and possible constraints on mutually beneficial cooperation based on the desktop review and interviews.

Key outcomes of the study include: the identification of potential areas of cooperation; a database listing useful agricultural stakeholder contacts for Australia and Mongolia; and further development of the relationships between the Australian and Mongolian governments.

Both governments are hopeful that the study will provide a framework for cooperation in agriculture for many years to come.

The report can be downloaded at http://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/publications/display?url=http://143.188.17.20/anrdl/DAFFService/display.php?fid=pc_pacmad9abh_20140306_11a.xml

Our Community

MEMBERS	RESEARCH INTERESTS
Li Narangoa	Identity, environment, social policies
Robert Cribb	Borders, violence, nationalism
Igor de Rachewiltz	History, Mongol Empire
John Powers	Intellectual history, Buddhism
McComas Taylor	Epic narratives, literature
Jack Fenner	Archaeology
Natasha Fijn	Human-animal studies, observational filmmaking
Maria Rost Rublee	Security, nuclear issues
Michael Hope	Mongol empire
Baiying Borjigin	Family history, Qing history
Holly Barcus	Culture, migration, place identity
Ariun-Erdene Bayarjargal	Economics

PhD, MA SCHOLARS	RESEARCH TOPICS
Gesar Temur	Buddhist revival in contemporary Mongolia: a western form of Buddhism comes to Mongolia
Narantuya Ganbat	Universal regulation and local application: Implementation of the UN convention on the right of persons with disabilities in Mongolia and Australia
Tenzin Ringpapontsang	Advice to the King: A letter from Phags Pa Lama to Khubilai Khan
Wuqiriletu	Environment, Grassroots politics in Mongolia and Inner Mongolia

ADVISORS

H.E. Ravdan Bold,
Ambassador of
Mongolia to Australia

Kent Anderson,
Deputy Vice-
Chancellor
(International) and
Professor of Law at
the University of
Western Australia

David Guy, Independent consultant

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