



Australian  
National  
University

# Mongolian Studies Newsletter



Issue 1

July 2013

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## Welcome

to the first issue of the Mongolian Studies newsletter at 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, announcements to [li.narangoa@anu.edu.au](mailto:li.narangoa@anu.edu.au) or [dg700238@gmail.com](mailto:dg700238@gmail.com)

Yours sincerely,

The Editors

## Mongolia Institute: About Us



general. It encourages active participation by government, business and the public in the Centre's activities.

*Photo by Gesar Temur*



## Board Members

Li Narangoa  
Natasha Fijn  
Jack Fenner  
Robert Cribb  
John McCarthy

## Advisors

H.E. Ravdan Bold, Ambassador of Mongolia to Australia  
David Guy, Independent consultant

The ANU Mongolia Institute was founded in 2012 to provide a focus for the growing interest in Mongolia at the Australian National University and in Australia more generally. Historical relations between Australia and Mongolia have been sparse, but in recent years links between the two countries have grown in importance. Australia has significant involvement in the Mongolian mining and energy sectors, both countries have been involved in seeking solutions to security problems in Northeast Asia and an increasing number of young Mongolians obtain secondary and university edu-

cation in Australia. Australia and Mongolia have expertise to share in handling climatic extremes, in animal husbandry and in heritage archaeology. The expansion of the Mongol empire under Chinggis Khan in the 13th century remains a pivotal event in world history which continues to catch the imagination of Australians.

The Institute hosts guest researchers working on Mongolia, organises occasional seminars on Mongolian topics, provides a support network for Australian researchers on Mongolia and promotes Mongolian studies in Australia in

We would like to thank the Embassy of Mongolia for its generous financial support for the work of the Institute.



ANU College of  
Asia and the Pacific

<http://chl.anu.edu.au/sites/mongolianstudies/>



## Mongolia Update 2012

On 13 November 2012, the newly established Mongolia Institute of The Australian National University successfully hosted the inaugural Mongolia Update in Canberra. The event, supported by the Embassy of Mongolia, was aimed at informing Australian government, business and academic specialists, as well as the interested general public, of recent developments and trends in Mongolia's politics, economics, society, culture and environment.

The update provided insightful analysis on

Mongolian politics, international relations, economy, environment and mining by top policy makers, scholars and analysts. The update attracted nearly 100 participants who were very much impressed by the high level of analysis and the competence of the speakers.

Mongolia Update is sponsored by the ANU College of Asia and the Pacific, School of Culture, History and Language, Crawford School of Public Policy and the Embassy of Mongolia to Australia.

## Speakers



Ganbold Davaadorj,  
Former Deputy Prime Minister

Undargaa Sandagsuren, PhD Scholar ANU



Batbayar Bat-Erdene, Columnist

Jargalsaikhan Dambadarjaa,  
Economist, Columnist



Munkh-Ochir Dorjjugder  
Director of Defence Policy Institute

Tsogtbaatar Damdin  
Former Minister of Environment





## Intensive Language Course



An intensive course in the Mongolian language held at the Australian National University (ANU) in January 2013 was the first of its kind in Australia. The participants included ANU postgraduate students, staff and interested members of the public, including Ms Kirsten Livermore, Member of the Australian Parliament and the chair of the Australia Mongolia Parliamentary Group.

The three-week course was delivered by Dr Batzaya Gerelt-Od from Ulaanbataar University. Dr Batzaya is a specialist in teaching Mongolian to foreigners. The language course also included presentations on the history and culture of Mongolia.

This language course was supported by Culture, History and Language, College of Asia and the Pacific, ANU and the Mongolian Embassy to Australia.

ANU hopes to hold the intensive course again in 2014. The ANU has also been offering regular Mongolian language course in collaboration with Indiana University.

## Seminars

Three leading members of the Mongolian National Council of Mongolian Studies including Prof. Domii Tumurtogoo, General Secretariat of the International Mongolian Studies Association, Prof. Tsedev Unurbayan, Director of the School of Mongolian Studies of the Mongolian University of Education and Prof. Jantsan Bat-Ireedui, Director of the Institute for Mongolian Studies, the National University of Mongolia visited ANU on 10 December 2012. The delegation gave a talk on Mongolia's national policies to promote Mongolian Studies and discussed possibilities for future collaboration.

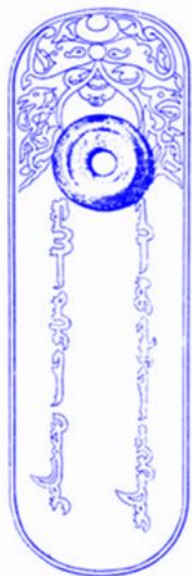


Two seminars were presented jointly with the Australian Centre of China in the World at the Australian National University (ANU):

A panel discussion on "Social Science and Frontier Studies in Early Twentieth-Century Asia" was held on 7 March 2013. Presenters included Professor Gao Mingjie (Arouna) from Aichi University, Dr Thomas DuBois and Dr David Brophy from ANU.

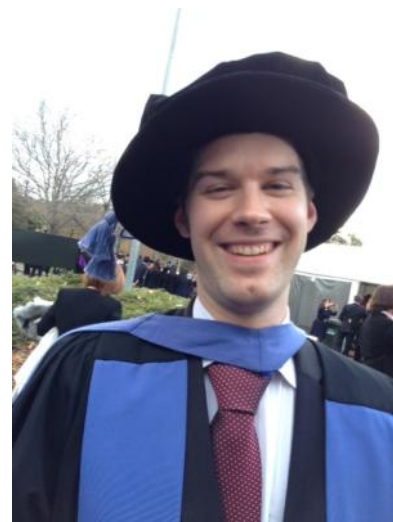
A seminar on "Ethnographic Representation by the Other: Sent-down Youth from Beijing and Mongolian Nomads during the Cultural Revolution" was held on 19 March 2013. The speaker was Professor Gao Mingjie (Arouna), Aichi University, Japan.





## Congratulations to PhD Graduate

Michael Hope has recently graduated from ANU in aspects of Mongolian Studies. He wrote his PhD thesis on "Sultanate or Emirate? The Routinisation of Chinggisid Authority in the Early Mongol Empire and the Ilkhante of Iran" and received excellent examiners' reports.



### *Fieldwork:* PhD student Tenzin

Ringapontsang who is working on "The special relationship between the 13th century Tibetan monk Phags Pa Lama (1235-1280) and the Mongol emperor Khublai Khan" recently went to Mongolia to do his fieldwork in Mongolia.

Prof. Li Narangoa has recently returned from a fieldtrip to Inner Mongolia and the northeast provinces of China.

### *Farewell:* Dr David Brophy who had

been serving as the Deputy Director of Mongolia Institute moved on to take up a lectureship at the University of Sydney in April 2013.

Prof. Gao Mingjie who has been a visiting fellow with the Mongolia Institute since April 2012 returned to her home institute, Aichi University, Japan in March 2013.

### *Welcome:* The following four scholars recently joined us.

Dr. Maria Rost Rublee, College of Arts and Social Sciences, ANU, is investigating how norm entrepreneurs have influenced nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament in Asia, including Mongolia. The Mongolian project examines the process by which the country became the first single-state nuclear weapons free zone.

Ms Narantuya Ganbat, PhD scholar at Centre of Regulation, Justice and Diplomacy, ANU, is working on "Universal regulation and local application: Implementation of the UN convention on the rights of persons with disabilities in Mongolia and Australia".

Dr Wuqiriletu (Ochirilt), College of Asia and the Pacific, ANU, is working on Environment Problems and Grassroots Activities as part of the ARC Laureate Project 'Informal Life Politics' led by Prof. Tessa Morris-Suzuki.

Dr Bai Ying Borjigin, an independent scholar based in Canberra, obtained his PhD from Inner Mongolia University in 2012 and will be working on a book project which deals with the Mongol ruling class in Beijing during the Qing Dynasty.



Dr Holly Barcus from Macalester College, Saint Paul, Minnesota, is a geographer and working on transnational migration among Mongolian Kazakhs in western Mongolia and will be with us until mid 2014.

Photo: Jo Redfearn



## Projects and Publications

### *A Multi-species, Ethnographic Approach to Filmmaking in Mongolia*

Natasha Fijn

Dr Fijn is currently working on publishing material in relation to her use of video as a research tool and how observational filmmaking was important as a means of communicating her human-animal related research based in Mongolia.



### *Northeast Asia and the Korean War: Legacies of Hot and Cold Wars in Contemporary Constructions of the Region*

Li Narangoa with Tessa Morris-Suzuki, Jeanyoung Lee, and Leonid Petrov

This project is funded by the Australian Research Council and analyses the socio-economic, cultural, and ideological impact of the war on Korea's neighbours: China, Japan, the Russian Far East, Taiwan, and Mongolia.

### *'Puppet States' Re-examined: Sovereign Subordination and World Politics*

Robert Cribb and Li Narangoa

This project addresses the difficulty faced by International history in conceptualizing unequal relations between sovereign powers by focussing on puppet states. Puppet states characteristically emerge on the border between an old empire and a new one. They invariably appeal to unfulfilled aspirations for national self-determination and reflect the growing power of the doctrine of national self-determination in international affairs. As part of this project we examine the international politics of the foundation of new states in Mongolia, Manchuria and Siberia.

### *Archaeological Stable Isotopes of Eastern Mongolia Pilot Project*

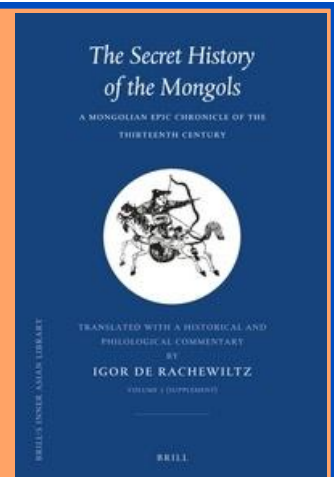
Jack N. Fenner and Tumen

We use analysis of carbon and nitrogen stable isotope ratios to assess dietary differences among elite and non-elite Mongols during the Mongol Empire. We will measure ratios in archaeological human and livestock bone collagen to determine the relative amounts of C3/C4 plants at the base of the diet and the human trophic level in eastern Mongolia. Millet is likely to be the primary source of C4 carbon ratios in the diet (although the amount of native C4 grasses in the region is uncertain) so carbon isotope ratios may be used to trace its influence. Nitrogen isotope ratios increase with trophic level so a comparison between human and livestock ratios can provide information about the relative portions of meat and plants in the human diet.

### *Supplement to the 'Secret History of the Mongols'*

Igor de Rachewiltz

The Vol. 3 of the 'Secret History of the Mongols' by Igor de Rachewiltz has just been released by Brill (July 2013). This third volume is a 'Supplement' volume of the previous two volumes that the author translated in 2004. In this volume the author revises and expands both the translation and the commentary with the inclusion of all the relevant material that has been published since 2003/4, especially in Mongolia, China, Japan and Korea.



## Coming Up

### Distinguished visitor

**and Public lecture:** Prof. Uradyn E. Bulag from Cambridge University will be visiting the ANU College of Asia and Pacific during September and giving a public lecture on “The Nationality Regional Autonomy System and Its Securitization: On the Chinese Regime of ‘Mutual Deprivation’ and also conducting a Master Class for graduate students on “Assembling Neighbours: The Cosmo-economics of Mongolia’s ‘Third Neighbour’ Diplomacy”.

**Time and Venue of the Public Lecture:** 5:30pm, Thursday 19 September, Hedley Bull Theatre I, The Australian National University

### Intensive Language

**course in 2014:** The ANU is planning to offer an Intensive Mongolian language course in early 2014 (from late January to early February). Arrangements have not been finalised, but if you would like to be kept informed, please contact Prof. Li Narangoa at [li.narangoa@anu.edu.au](mailto:li.narangoa@anu.edu.au) or visit the Institute Web page: <http://chl.anu.edu.au/sites/mongolianstudies/>

**Conference:** The Second Open Conference of Mongolian Studies in Australia will be held at The ANU in Canberra on 4 November 2013. A wide range of speakers from Mongolia, Japan, China and Australia will be represented. Details are available from the Institute website.

## Our Community

MEMBERS	RESEARCH INTERESTS	PhD SCHOLARS	RESEARCH TOPICS
Li Narangoa	Identity, environment, social policies	Gesar Temur	Buddhist revival in contemporary Mongolia: a western form of Buddhism comes to Mongolia
Robert Cribb	Borders, Violence, Nationalism		
Igor de Rachewiltz	History	Undargaa Sandagsuren	Changing resource access and its impact on pastoral land management in Mongolia
John Powers	Intellectual history, Buddhism		
McComas Taylor	Epic narratives, literature	Rebekah Plueckhahn	Musical sociality and perceptions of the past, present and future: the roles of music amongst Altai Uriankhai people, Khovd Province, Mongolia
Jack Fenner	Archaeology		
Natasha Fijn	Human-animal studies, observational filmmaking	Tenzin Ringpapontsang	Advice to the King: A letter from Phags Pa Lama to Khubilai Khan
Maria Rost Rublee	Security, Nuclear issues		
VISITING FELLOWS			
Baiying Borjigin	Family history, Qing history	Narantuya Ganbat	Universal regulation and local application: Implementation and the UN convention on the right of persons with disabilities in Mongolia and Australia
Holly Barcus	Culture, migration, place identity		
Michael Hope	Mongol empire		
Wuqiriletu	Environment, Grassroots politics		

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