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**Subject: This Month in Mongolian Studies - December 2015**Having trouble viewing this email? Click [here](#) to open in your browser.**December 2015****In this Issue:**[ACMS Announcements](#)[ACMS Sponsored Programs and Events](#)[Calls for Papers, Conferences, and Workshops](#)[Research Fellowships, Scholarships and Grants](#)[Other News and Events](#)[Recent Publications](#)

"This Month in Mongolian Studies" is a monthly listing of selected academic activities and resources related to Mongolia. This list is based on information the ACMS has received and is presented as a service to its members. If you would like to submit information to be included in next month's issue please contact the ACMS at [info@mongoliacenter.org](mailto:info@mongoliacenter.org) and/or the editor, Marissa Smith, at [msmith@mongoliacenter.org](mailto:msmith@mongoliacenter.org).

This publication is supported in part by memberships. Please consider becoming a member of the ACMS, or renewing your membership by visiting our website at [mongoliacenter.org/join](http://mongoliacenter.org/join). Thank you!

**ACMS Announcements****ACMS 2016-17 Cultural Heritage Fellowship Call for Applications Now Open**

The ACMS Cultural Heritage Research Fellowship program is now accepting applications for 2016-17. This fellowship supports academic research projects that will contribute to the documentation and preservation of the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of Inner Asia, with a focus on the people and geographic area that is now in the nation of Mongolia. The program is supported by a grant from the Henry Luce Foundation (<http://www.hluce.org/home.aspx>). Application deadline for this coming year will be **February 15th, 2016**.

For more information, please visit the [Cultural Heritage Fellowship page](#) on the ACMS website.

**Please Consider Becoming an ACMS Member or Renewing Your Annual Membership**

Membership is open to individuals, corporations, and institutions that support the ACMS's mission of promoting scholarship in Mongolia, and dues go directly towards supporting the programmatic and administrative expenses of the organization. As a registered 501(c)3 non-profit, academic organization, membership dues and other donations paid to the ACMS are tax deductible in the United States. For more information on member benefits and ways to pay, please see our [membership page](#). If you are unsure if your membership has expired with the ACMS, please contact David Dettmann at [ddettmann@mongoliacenter.org](mailto:ddettmann@mongoliacenter.org).

**ACMS Sponsored Programs and Events****Speaker Series:****Film screening of *On the Move in Mongolia* and Q&A with Producer and Researcher Shebana Coelho**

Tuesday, December 8th, 5:30 PM, American Corner, Ulaanbaatar public library

From the speaker: "There I was, an Indian woman on the move in Mongolia - and it didn't feel strange. So much resonated - especially the voices of other women - like Monjago, a herder, Munkhtsetseg, a horse trainer, Onika, a student, Amgalan, a language teacher and Jainaa, a singer. They made faraway feel like home." Sounds for these segments were collected on a 2007 US Fulbright research fellowship and produced for *Outer Voices* ([outervoices.org](http://outervoices.org)) which weaves unheard stories from remote parts of the world into contemporary media to educate, support and inspire others to action.

Co-Sponsored by the American Cultural and Information Center, Ulaanbaatar

**Shebana Coelho** is a writer, poet and director. Her documentary work has been broadcast on National Public Radio, BBC Radio Four, American Public Television and the Discovery Channel. Her essay, Snow in Mongolia, was published in Vela magazine, selected for Best Women's Travel Writing Vol. 10 and translated into Swedish for the anthology, Limitless.

**First meeting of the Humanities Reading and Discussion Group, sponsored by the Cultural Heritage Program at the ACMS - Monday, December 7th, 6pm**

Lower Level Classroom in the American Corner in the Natsagdorj Library.

This group will meet every other Monday evening at 6 pm to discuss (in English) an article that was assigned and distributed the week before. "Humanities" describes a range of subjects that study human culture including archaeology, anthropology, history, literature, linguistics, religious studies, and others. Articles will be selected by the ACMS Cultural Heritage Program Coordinator. This group is open to all and will be particularly useful for individuals interested in discussing topics in the humanities in Mongolia, those intending to pursue graduate degrees abroad, or those wanting to improve their academic speaking abilities. For more information, please contact Julia Clark, ACMS Cultural Heritage Coordinator [jclark@mongoliacenter.org](mailto:jclark@mongoliacenter.org)

**Calls for Papers, Conferences, and Workshops**

**Call for papers: 10th Annual Mongolian Studies Conference**

May 13-15th, 2016, at the Embassy of Mongolia, Washington, D.C.  
Co-hosted by the Mongolian Cultural Center and the Embassy of Mongolia

The Mongolian Cultural Center is calling for papers for the 10th Annual Mongolian Studies Conference. Research topics must be relevant to all Mongolian Studies subjects such as Mongolian language, history, religion, arts, literature, anthropology and other subjects that contain Mongolian social, economic, and cultural issues. The papers must be the original work of the author(s) and can be written and presented in either Mongolian or English. However, presenters, who are planning on presenting in Mongolian, must submit full English translations of papers at least one month prior to the conference.

Submission deadline for paper abstracts is **February 1, 2016**. Abstracts must not exceed 500 words. Please send your abstracts to [info@mongolcc.org](mailto:info@mongolcc.org). If your paper is accepted you will have 15 minutes for presenting and 5 more minutes for discussion. Postal address for Mongolian Cultural Center is 1948 Hileman Road, Falls Church, VA 22043, Tel: 202-531-3716

**Research Fellowships, Scholarships and Grants**

**ACMS Cultural Heritage Fellowship.** The ACMS Cultural Heritage Research Fellowship program is now accepting applications for 2016-17. This fellowship supports academic research projects that will contribute to the documentation and preservation of the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of Inner Asia, with a focus on the people and geographic area that is now in the nation of Mongolia. The program is supported by a grant from the Henry Luce Foundation (<http://www.hluce.org/home.aspx>). Application deadline for this coming year will be **February 15th, 2016**. For more information, please visit the [Cultural Heritage Fellowship page](#) on the ACMS website.

**The Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard University.** The application period for 2016–2017 fellowships runs from October 1, 2015–January 7, 2016. The Fellows Program Committee is interested in applications from scholars currently working on the 2016–2017 theme, "Ideas, Ideologies, and Power: Eurasia Past and Present," or equally, those working on unrelated themes, but who are interested in exploring the theme. Visit: <http://daviscenter.fas.harvard.edu/research/individual-research/fellows-program/how-apply>

**Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) Multicountry Field Research Fellowship Program** The CAORC Multi-Country Fellowship Program supports advanced regional or trans-regional research in the humanities, social sciences, or allied natural sciences for U.S. doctoral candidates and scholars who have already earned their Ph.D. Preference will be given to candidates examining comparative and/or cross-regional research. Applicants are eligible to apply as individuals or in teams. Scholars must carry out research in two or more countries outside the United States, at least one of which hosts a participating American overseas research center (like the ACMS in Mongolia, for example). Approximately nine awards of up to \$10,500 each will be given. Funding is provided by the State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Deadline for application is **January 30, 2015**. More details can be found at [CAORC's website](#).

**ACMS 2016 Field Research Fellowship Program**

This program provides awards of up to \$4,000 to students and/or faculty from US universities to conduct academic field research in Mongolia between May and October 2016. Student applicants can be at an advanced undergraduate, masters, or doctoral level, and all fields of study are eligible. Students graduating in the spring of 2016 are eligible to apply. Faculty applicants can be faculty members from US colleges and universities with plans to conduct short-term field research in Mongolia between May and October 2016. All applicants must be US citizens currently enrolled in or teaching at a college or university in the United States. The program priority is to support faculty from non-research intensive universities and colleges, especially faculty who are helping guide student research projects or who can show how the experience will enhance their teaching. The fellowship is supported with funding from the US Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs through a grant by the Council of American Overseas Research Centers. Application deadline: **February 15, 2016.**

**ACMS 2016 Library Fellowship Program**

This fellowship supports US advanced graduate students or faculty members in library science or related fields from US colleges and universities to conduct short-term projects and/or research in Mongolia between May and October 2016. Applicants must be US citizens. The ACMS Library Fellowship program is to help support the development of the ACMS research library through specific defined projects designed to enhance the collection content and resource availability. The Fellow will also offer training and support for local scholars and the public. Fellows will spend up to 12 weeks onsite in Mongolia at the ACMS library; prior experience working in Mongolia is not a requirement. Fellowships will be awarded to fund travel and living expenses of up to \$4,000. The fellowship is supported with funding from the US Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs through a grant by the Council of American Overseas Research Centers. Application deadline: **February 15, 2016.**

**ACMS 2016 Intensive Mongolian Language Program**

The American Center for Mongolian Studies invites students and scholars to enroll in an eight week Intensive Mongolian Language Program from mid-June to early August (dates TBA), 2016 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. The purpose of this summer language program is to provide Intermediate-level students of the Mongolian language with an opportunity to enhance their communicative competence through systematic improvement of reading, writing, listening and speaking skills, in an authentic environment. The Language Program Fellowship covers the cost of tuition. Application deadline **March 1st, 2016.**

For more information on ACMS Fellowships visit [mongoliacenter.org/fellowships](http://mongoliacenter.org/fellowships)

**Other News and Events****Events in the United States:**

**Genghis Khan: Bring the Legend to Life** is a continuing special exhibit at the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia. See the [Franklin Institute](http://FranklinInstitute.org) website for more information. Exhibit runs from May 9th to January 3rd, 2016.

**Kalmyk Diaspora Archiving Project** A new cultural program has been inaugurated to assist the Kalmyk diaspora community to preserve its heritage. Responding to a request from a Kalmyk scholar in Elista, the New Jersey Folk Festival and its founder Angus K. Gillespie, have gathered a team of scholars and activists to help develop a Kalmyk Diaspora Archiving Project (KDAP). An integral part of KDAP is an exhibit featuring archival materials. The core of the exhibit will consist of 10 banners delineating subject areas such as: Women as Preservers of Kalmyk Culture, Religion, Kalmyk Tea, Literature, the Ger, From Nomadism to Urbanism, among others. Each banner will indicate the different aspects of the theme with use of images from as many examples of materials involved in the Archive Project as possible. The opening ceremonies for the exhibit, entitled From Pastoral Nomadism to Global Urbanism, are scheduled to take place on **Friday, March 25**, between 5:00 and 7:00 at the Douglass Library of Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ. Further details will be made available as the opening date approaches. Inquiries should be sent to the Project Director Nikolai Burlakoff at [kap@aelitapress.org](mailto:kap@aelitapress.org). Follow the KDAP project at its [Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/kalmykdiaspora).

**Indiana University is now accepting applications for its intensive summer language programs** that will run from June 6-July 29, 2016. The 2016 Indiana University Summer Language Workshop is accepting applications for intensive study of Arabic, Azerbaijani, Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian (BCS), Chinese, Estonian, Hungarian, Kurdish, Latvian, Lithuanian, Mongolian, Persian, Portuguese, Russian, Turkish, and Ukrainian. The program features 20 contact hours weekly; twice-weekly language tables; films; food tastings; student-run graduate research groups and other culturally rich extracurricular programming.

All students pay in-state tuition, and competitive funding is available to qualified students:

- Project GO scholarships for undergraduate students in ROTC in Arabic, Chinese, Persian, Russian, or Turkish
- Title VIII fellowships for graduate students and area studies scholars in Azerbaijani, BCS, Estonian, Hungarian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Mongolian, Russian, or Ukrainian
- FLAS funding available for Arabic, Azerbaijani, BCS, Estonian, Hungarian, Kurdish,

Latvian, Lithuanian, Mongolian, Persian, Russian, Turkish, and Ukrainian

4-week option available for Russian (ending on July 1)

Students earn 4-8 credits.

Priority application deadline: **February 1, 2016.**

See <http://www.indiana.edu/~swseel> for more information and to apply.

### In Mongolia:

**Monthly Biobeers Talk:** Biobeers is a monthly gathering of government and NGO staff, biologists, researchers, and other professionals interested in conservation. Each month, Biobeers sponsors presentations on topics relevant to Mongolian conservation, followed by an informal gathering to discuss activities and issues of interest. Biobeers is an opportunity to find out what is happening in the field of conservation in Mongolia, talk informally to other researchers and peers in your field, and share information about issues critical to the environment and people of Mongolia. Biobeers is organised by the Zoological Society of London's Steppe Forward Programme and the Wildlife Conservation Society. At Biobeers the beer is on us! Join the Yahoo! Group Mongolbioweb for announcements.

### Elsewhere:

**Steppe Road: Mongolia's Connectivity in Inner Eurasia.** 8-9 December 2015, Selwyn College, University of Cambridge. In September 2014, upon Mongolia's initiative, heads of state of Mongolia, China and Russia met during the SCO Summit in Dushanbe, Tajikistan and agreed to work together on transnational infrastructure development. The three parties agreed in principle to build a 'Steppe Road' in Mongolia, reviving a pre-modern transport network that facilitated trade between China and Russia. 'Steppe Road' thus represents a breakthrough in Mongolia's longstanding self-perception of tragic geography, stepping out into the centre of the emergent world traffic. This international symposium will bring together Mongolian and international scholars and policy-makers to assess the development of Steppe Road in relation to the Chinese initiative of Silk Road Economic Belt, and Russia's Eurasian Transport Network. We aim to reconceptualise Mongolia's geopoliticity as a 'transit nation' between China and Russia, and promote Mongolia's *zam sudlal* ('roadology') to make *zam* ('road') into both an object of study and a prism to view Mongolia in terms of Mongolia's 'connectivity' to its neighbours and the world beyond. This is going to be the third (and last) conference of 'Entangled Lines: Railways, Resource Booms, and Transnational Politics in Mongolia' — a British Academy funded international network and mobility project between the Mongolia and Inner Asia Studies Unit (Cambridge University), and Institute of International Affairs (Mongolian Academy of Sciences). For further information please email [eaup2@cam.ac.uk](mailto:eaup2@cam.ac.uk)

### Recent Publications

***Mongolian Film Music: Tradition, Revolution, and Propaganda*** by Lucy M. Rees (November 2015, Ashgate). In 1936 the Mongolian socialist government decreed the establishment of a film industry with the principal aim of disseminating propaganda to the largely nomadic population. The government sent promising young rural Mongolian musicians to Soviet conservatoires to be trained formally as composers. On their return they utilised their traditional Mongolian musical backgrounds and the musical skills learned during their studies to compose scores to the 167 propaganda films produced by the state film studio between 1938 and 1990. Lucy M. Rees provides an overview of the rich mosaic of music genres that appeared in these film soundtracks, including symphonic music influenced by Western art music, modified forms of Mongolian traditional music, and a new genre known as 'professional music' that combined both symphonic and Mongolian traditional characteristics. Case studies of key composers and film scores are presented, demonstrating the influence of cultural policy on film music and showing how film scores complemented the ideological message of the films. There are discussions of films that celebrate the 1921 Revolution that led to Mongolia becoming a socialist nation, those that foreshadowed the 1990 Democratic Revolution that drew the socialist era to a close, and the diverse range of films and scores produced after 1990 in the aftermath of the socialist regime.

***Nomads on Pilgrimage: Mongols on Wutaishan (China), 1800-1940***, by Isabelle Charleux. July 2015, Brill. This work is a social history of the Mongols' pilgrimages to Wutaishan in late imperial and Republican times. In this period of economic crisis and rise of nationalism and anticlericalism in Mongolia and China, this great Buddhist mountain of China became a unique place of intercultural exchanges, mutual borrowings, and competition between different ethnic groups. Based on a variety of written and visual sources, including a rich corpus of more than 340 Mongolian stone inscriptions, it documents why and how Wutaishan became one of the holiest sites for Mongols, who eventually reshaped its physical and spiritual landscape by their rites and strategies of appropriation.

***Mongolian Studies: The Journal of the Mongolia Society*** is now available on JSTOR. [Click here for a link to the entry](#), including volumes 1-33.

***Asian Highlands Perspectives 36: Mapping the Monguor*** by Gerald Roche and C. K.



Stuart, published 2015). Nearly ten years in the making, this book focuses on the people officially referred to in China as the *Tu* and more commonly known in the West as the Monguor. The Tu live mostly in Qinghai and Gansu provinces, on the northeast Tibetan Plateau. The thirteen contributions in this collection shed new light on diversity among the Monguor, challenging representations that treat them as a homogenous category. This mapping of cultural and linguistic diversity is organized according to the three territories where the Monguor live: the Duluun Lunkuang 'The Seven Valleys', where the Mongghul language is spoken; Sanchuan 'The Three Valleys', where the Mangghuer language is spoken; and Khre tse Bzhi 'The Four Estates', where the Bonan language is spoken. In addition to mapping diversity among the Monguor in terms of these territories, we also map the project of the contemporary Chinese state and Western observers to describe and classify the Monguor. Consisting of translations of valuable source materials as well as original research articles, this book is an essential reference work for Tibetologists, Sinologists, Mongolists, and all those interested in cultural and linguistic diversity in Asia. Includes maps, images, references, article abstracts, and a list of non-English terms with original scripts *Mapping the Monguor* is available as a free download at: [PlateauCulture](#) and can be purchased as a hardback [HERE](#).

***Faces of the Wolf***, by Bernard Charlier (Brill, 2015). In his study of the human, non-human relationships in Mongolia, Bernard Charlier explores the role of the wolf in the ways nomadic herders relate to their natural environment and to themselves. The wolf, as the enemy of the herds and a prestigious prey, is at the core of two technical relationships, herding and hunting, endowed with particular cosmological ideas. The study of these relationships casts a new light on the ways herders perceive and relate to domestic and wild animals. It convincingly undermines any attempt to consider humans and non-humans as entities belonging a priori to autonomous spheres of existence, which would reify the nature-society boundary into a phenomenal order of things and so justify the identity of western epistemology.

***The Hunter, the Stag, and the Mother of Animals: Image, Monument and Landscape in Ancient North Asia*** by Esther Jacobson-Tepfer (Oxford University Press, 2015).

This book explores the archaeology of myth within North Asia from the pre-Bronze Age through the early Iron Age. It is the first study to explore the interweaving of petroglyphic imagery, stone monuments and landscape context to reconstruct the traditions of myth and belief of ancient hunters and herders. The ancient taiga, steppe and mountain steppe of Mongolia and the region to the north gave rise to a mythic narrative of birth, death and transformation. Within that tale reflecting the hardship of life of ancient nomadic hunters and herders, the hunter, the mother of animals and the stag are central protagonists. That is not, however, the order in which they appeared in prehistory. We tend to privilege the hero hunter of the Bronze Age and his re-incarnation as a warrior in the Iron Age. But before him and, in a sense, behind him was a female power, half animal-half human. From her came permission to hunt the animals of the taiga, and by her they were replenished. She was, in other words, the source of the hunter's success. The stag was a latecomer to this tale, a complex symbol of death and transformation embedded in what ultimately became a struggle for priority between animal mother and hero hunter.

From the region in which this narrative is set there are no written texts to illuminate prehistory. Hundreds of burials across the steppe reveal little relating to myth and belief before the late Bronze Age. What they tell us is that uncertain people and cultures came and went, leaving behind huge stone mounds, altars and standing stones as well as thousands of images pecked and painted on stone. This book uses that material as well as ethnographic materials to reconstruct the prehistory of myth and belief in ancient North Asia; it does so by placing stone monuments and imagery within the context of the physical landscape and by considering all three elements as reflections of the archaeology of belief. Within that process, paleoenvironmental forces, economic innovations and changing social order served as pivots of mythic transformation. They underlie the long transition from animal mother to the apotheosis of hero hunter and warrior in North Asia.

***The Mongol Century: Visual Cultures of Yuan China, 1271–1368*** by Shane McCausland (Univ. of Hawaii Press, 2014). The Mongol Century explores the visual world of China's Yuan dynasty (1271–1368), the spectacular but relatively short-lived regime founded by Khubilai Khan, regarded as the pre-eminent khanate of the Mongol empire. This book illuminates the Yuan era—full of conflicts and complex interactions between Mongol power and Chinese heritage—by delving into the visual history of its culture, considering how Mongol governance and values imposed a new order on China's culture and how a sedentary, agrarian China posed specific challenges to the Mongols' militarist and nomadic lifestyle. Shane McCausland explores how an unusual range of expectations and pressures were placed on Yuan culture: the idea that visual culture could create cohesion across a diverse yet hierarchical society, while balancing Mongol desires for novelty and display with Chinese concerns about posterity. Fresh and invigorating, *The Mongol Century* explores, in fascinating detail, the visual culture of this brief but captivating era of East Asian history.

***Chinese Architecture in an Age of Turmoil, 200-600***, by Nancy Shatzman Steinhardt

(Univ. of Hawaii Press, 2014). Between the fall of the Han dynasty in 220 CE and the year 600, more than thirty dynasties, kingdoms, and states rose and fell on the eastern side of the Asian continent. The founders and rulers of those polities represented the spectrum of peoples in North, East, and Central Asia. Nearly all of them built palaces, altars, temples, tombs, and cities, and almost without exception, the architecture was grounded in the building tradition of China. Illustrated with more than 475 color and black-and-white photographs, maps, and drawings, *Chinese Architecture in an Age of Turmoil* uses all available evidence—Chinese texts, secondary literature in six languages, excavation reports, and most important, physical remains—to present the architectural history of this tumultuous period in China's history. Its author, Nancy Shatzman Steinhardt, arguably North America's leading scholar of premodern Chinese architecture, has done field research at nearly every site mentioned, many of which were unknown twenty years ago and have never been described in a Western language.

***Recent Outer Mongolian International Relations: a Time Capsule*** (e-book), by Dr. Jon D. Holstine. This is a "revised version of a master's thesis describing Mongolian foreign affairs through 1962, based on open sources. Originally copyrighted 1965 through University Microfilms," and with a foreword by Dr. Alicia Campi. This historical introduction traces Central Asian political developments involving the Mongols after the fall of the Yuan Dynasty in 1368 until the rise of Communist China. Subsequent chapters chronicle relations of the Mongolian People's Republic with the Soviet Union, the People's Republic of China, other nations, and the United Nations. Written from translations of the Soviet and mainland Chinese press, news accounts, and UN documents, the book provides a record of the MPR's publicly reported diplomatic dealings. It emphasizes the significance of Mongolia's place in the complex of Chinese inner Asian politics, with attention to the role of Lamaist Buddhism (the Tibetan connection). This is a newly edited work.

***Chanter, s'attacher et transmettre chez les Darhad de Mongolie [Singing, attachment and transmission among the Darhad of Mongolia]***, by Laurent Legrain (Centre d'Études Mongoles et Sibériennes (EPHE), 2014). For more information about this publication in French, please visit the editor's website: <http://emscat.revues.org/2476>

***Buddhism in Mongolian History, Culture, and Society***, by Vesna A. Wallace (Oxford University Press, January 2015) explores the unique elements of Mongolian Buddhism while challenging its stereotyped image as a mere replica of Tibetan Buddhism. Vesna A. Wallace brings together an interdisciplinary group of leading scholars to explore the interaction between the Mongolian indigenous culture and Buddhism, the features that Buddhism acquired through its adaptation to the Mongolian cultural sphere, and the ways Mongols have constructed their Buddhist identity. The contributors explore the ways that Buddhism retained unique Mongolian features through Qing and Mongol support, and bring to light the ways in which Mongolian Buddhists saw Buddhism as inseparable from "Mongolness." They show that by being greatly supported by Mongol and Qing empires, suppressed by the communist governments, and experiencing revitalization facilitated by democratization and the challenges posed by modernity, Buddhism underwent a series of transformations while retaining unique Mongolian features. The book covers historical events, social and political conditions, and influential personages in Mongolian Buddhism from the sixteenth century to the present, and addresses the artistic and literary expressions of Mongolian Buddhism and various Mongolian Buddhist practices and beliefs.