

THE CENTENNIAL SERIES: BEYOND THE AMERICAN POINT OF VIEW

Wednesdays, October 29, November 5, 12, and 19, 2008
Kane Hall 120 - 7:00pm – 9:00pm

A century ago, the young University of Washington was growing and reaching out to the world, not only with the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition—held on campus in 1909—but also with two new academic departments: **Scandinavian Languages**, and **Department of Oriental History, Literature, and Institutions**. The former was founded in response to a petition from students and local citizens who wanted to study and preserve their language and heritage. The latter recognized the importance of ancient cultures in—and the future potential of trade relations with—China, Japan, and other Asian nations.

Those two departments, each with a single faculty member in 1909, have since expanded and transformed to become four College of Arts and Sciences departments: Scandinavian Studies, Asian Languages and Literature, Near Eastern Languages and Civilization, and the Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies. All four are celebrating their centennial anniversary in 2009.

October 29, 2008 – Lead lecture by Anand Yang, Director, Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies, Golub Chair of International Studies

The Rise of Asia: A New World Order?

Transformations occurring in Asia have increased the region's influence in global issues in the 21st century. Will Asia's rise continue in the coming decades? And what implications does the region's growing economic and strategic power have for the rest of the world, especially the United States? In this lecture and discussion, learn about the global impact of Asia's transformations.

November 5, 2008 – Lead lecture by Jonathan Brown, Assistant Professor, Arabic and Islamic Studies, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization

Islam and Sexuality: Beyond the Headlines

What is the place of sexuality and gender in Islam and the Muslim world? We often associate Islam with the exotic sensuality of harems, belly-dancing and multiple wives. Or is Islam an austere faith that shrouds women in burqas and strictly controls sexuality? Delve into the history of sexuality in Islam and the Muslim world and learn to distinguish fantasy from fact.

November 12, 2008 – Lead lecture by Christine Ingebritsen, Professor, Department of Scandinavian Studies, Adjunct Professor, Department of Political Science

The Power of Scandinavia

Although Scandinavia may not be highly visible in world politics, the region has a quiet influence on global society. This lecture will highlight some of Scandinavia's noteworthy contributions, such as institutionalizing "sustainable development" as a global practice; defining the possibilities for poverty elimination through generous and consistent aid to the poor; and awarding a prestigious prize for peace, a legacy of Swedish industrialist Alfred Nobel.

November 19, 2008 – Lead lecture by Michael Shapiro, Professor and Chair, Department of Asian Languages and Literature and Zev Handel, Associate Professor, Department of Asian Languages and Literature

A Fire Pot of Tongues: Asian Languages in a New Global Environment

Japanese and Chinese have now taken their place alongside European languages in the curricula of many American schools. Other Asian languages are not far behind. Will Chinese soon replace English as the global lingua franca? This lecture will explore the new global status of Asian languages and their historical interactions with European languages. There is more to this relationship than you might have imagined.