

Global Studies and Languages

The core mission of [Global Studies and Languages \(GSL\)](#) at MIT is to generate cutting-edge research on international cultures and cultural globalization and to prepare students to be engaged global citizens, ready to live and work in an increasingly interconnected, multicultural, and multilingual world. The section's interdisciplinary and inter-area research, teaching, and educational activities draw on diverse perspectives and methodologies from the humanities, arts, and social sciences.

The section continues to undergo a process of renewal, to both raise its profile within MIT and to establish its position as a leader in the emerging field of global studies and in language education. To meet these goals, the section must build on existing strengths, seek new areas for development, promote research collaborations, and consolidate ties to other units at MIT.

Major steps in advancing these goals in AY2018 included:

- 1. The establishment of African studies in the section.** In recognition of the importance of Africa in today's globalizing world, and in MIT's global strategy, in particular, GSL faculty decided to add African studies as a new research and teaching area. With the successful hire of M. Amah Edoh as assistant professor of African studies, effective July 1, 2017, the section officially launched African studies as an integral component of the global studies curriculum. With enthusiastic reception from students and faculty across the Institute, African studies had a successful first year, including the rollout of several new subjects as well as programming organized by Professor Edoh. Faculty view African studies as crucial and have discussed the need for a second faculty appointment in this area.
- 2. Strengthening Latin American Studies.** GSL requested and received approval to conduct a search for faculty in Latin American studies. Spanish continues to be the most popular language taught at MIT and there is strong demand for study-abroad courses taught in Madrid during Independent Activities Period (IAP). GSL is also exploring the possibilities of offering study-abroad programs in Argentina and Brazil.
- 3. Developing a response to the global strategy for MIT.** The report released by Professor and Associate Provost Richard Lester in AY2017 provided an opportunity for strengthened communication between GSL and Professor Lester's office and identification of mutual interests. In particular, section plans to build capacity in African studies, Latin American studies, and China studies correlate closely to the strategic areas identified in the report. In response to the new global strategy, GSL stepped up efforts to provide MIT undergraduate students with international opportunities and began exploring ways to expand study-abroad offerings. Argentina, Brazil, and China have been proposed as potential new sites for IAP programs.
- 4. Building on the success of concentrations.** Between 2010 and 2017, approximately 20% of the students from each graduating class chose a

concentration offered by GSL. Building on this popularity, GSL launched a campaign to increase its visibility and promote its minor and major programs to MIT undergraduates. In tandem with efforts from the SHASS dean's office to clarify the eight-subject HASS GIR requirement and highlight the strong overlap of these requirements with SHASS majors, GSL began disseminating roadmaps to encourage STEM majors to undertake a second major or a minor in GSL.

Personnel

Changes to GSL academic staff included:

- Shigeru Miyagawa, Kochi Prefecture-John Manjiro Professor in Japanese Language and Culture, retired from GSL at the end of the academic year and transitioned to a new position as professor post-tenure. Professor Miyagawa has also assumed an appointment as senior associate dean for open learning.
- Elizabeth A. Wood, professor of history, concluded her joint appointment with GSL and assumed a new position as interim director of Women & Gender Studies (WGS).
- Paul Roquet, assistant professor of Japanese studies, was promoted to associate professor without tenure.
- Amah Edoh began her first year as assistant professor of African studies.
- Catherine E. Clark, associate professor of French studies; Bettina Stoetzer, assistant professor of German studies; and Paloma Duong, assistant professor of Latin American studies were on junior leaves in AY2018. Ian Condry, professor of Japanese cultural studies was on sabbatical fall 2017. Bruno Perreau, Cynthia L. Reed Professor of French Studies and Language, was on sabbatical spring 2018.
- Peter Weise, lecturer in German, resigned at the end of AY2018 to relocate.
- Lissette Soto, lecturer in Spanish, resigned at the end of AY2018 to accept a teaching position at St. Luke's in New Canaan, Connecticut.
- Nilma Dominique, lecturer in Portuguese; Leanna Bridge Rezvani, lecturer in French; and Ana Yáñez Rodríguez, lecturer in Spanish were promoted to lecturer II.
- Dagmar Jaeger, lecturer in German, was reappointed as lecturer II
- Shane Greene was a visiting professor of Latin American studies
- Author Patrick Autreaux was a visiting scholar in French literature.
- Soo-ran Pak was a full-time lecturer of Korean.
- Emiko Rafique took parental leave and was replaced by Masako Atake.
- Graham Chamness, Ron Clark, Liana Ewald, Robert Herr, Ana Paula Hirano, Isadora Kriegel Nicholas, Carrie O'Conner, Adela Penagos, Kate Rennebohm, Svetlana Rukhelman, Kirkley Silverman, Olivia Szabo, and Sandra Ward were part-time lecturers.
- Michelle Ho and Sonia Gomez (Gomez was co-sponsored with History) spent the year as SHASS diversity predoctoral fellows in GSL.

- Heather Lee joined Marie-Hélène Huet as a research affiliate.
- A search was conducted for a tenured professor of Latin American Studies.

Changes to GSL administrative and support staff included:

Elouise Eevee-Jones concluded her position as GSL administrative officer in January 2018. Christine Malnati served as interim administrative officer from January through June 2018. A search for an administrative officer was conducted in spring 2018.

Meredith Marx resigned as senior administrative assistant in August 2017. Olga Opojevici was hired into this position in August 2017.

Faculty Accomplishments and Honors

GSL faculty and academic staff published books and scholarly articles, presented research at conferences and other venues, and received awards and grants during AY2018. Faculty presented research in countries around the world, including Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Peru, Senegal, Spain, Switzerland, Taiwan, the UK, and the US. Below is a list of selected accomplishments and honors. (For details regarding Professor William C. Uricchio, refer to the 2018 annual report from Comparative Media Studies/Writing; for Professor Elizabeth A. Wood, the report from History.)

Catherine Clark was appointed as a Mellon Foundation Fellow at the School of Historical Studies, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ. She published a book chapter, "The Vanishing of Les Halles," in *Paris in the Cinema: Beyond the Flâneur*, edited by Alastair Phillips and Ginette Vincendeau, and an article, "The Commercial Street Photographer: The Right to the Street and the *Droit à l'Image* in Postwar France," in *Journal of Visual Culture* 16.2.

Ian Condry was awarded a Mellon Faculty Grant, Center for Art, Science, and Technology, MIT for Dissolve Music, March 2018. Condry had several publications including two book chapters: "'I Don't Mind Being Poor': Capitalism, Music, and Youth Culture in 21st Century Japan," in *The Lost Two Decades and the Transformation of Japanese Society*, edited by Kazuhiro Takii, and "Cultural Politics in Trumpland: A Report from the First 100 Days" (in Japanese), in *Annual Review of Cultural Studies* (Karuchuraru Sutaadiizu Nenpô), Association for Cultural Typhoon, Tokyo, Japan, Vol. 5, 2017.

Paloma Duong presented her research at the Latin American Studies Association annual conference in Barcelona, Spain, and was invited to speak at numerous venues including Harvard University and the Ludwig Forum for International Art in Aachen, Germany.

Amah Edoh delivered the keynote speech at Boston University's African Studies Center Graduate Student Conference and presented her research at various venues, such as the Afropixel Festival in Dakar, Senegal (May), and the American Ethnological Society/Society for Visual Anthropology's biannual meeting. Edoh was also an invited participant in the workshop for the African Studies Review Pipeline for Emerging Scholars.

Shigeru Miyagawa co-authored “Cross-Modality Information Transfer: A Hypothesis about the Relationship among Prehistoric Cave Paintings, Symbolic Thinking, and the Emergence of Language” in *Frontiers in Psychology* (February). He co-edited *Mouton Handbook of Japanese Linguistics: Syntax*, with Masayoshi Shibatani, and Hisashi Noda de Gruyter (November) and also authored a chapter, “Numeral quantifiers,” in that publication. Miyagawa also co-authored “Syntax of ditransitive verbs,” published in *Oxford Research Encyclopedia in Linguistics* (November). He wrote “Integration hypothesis: A parallel model of language development in evolution,” for *Evolution of the Brain, Cognition, and Emotion in Vertebrates* (October). In June was the premiere of *Twilight Chorus (for Humans)*, a new vocal work composed by Pete M. Wyer, inspired by Miyagawa’s theory that human speech evolved from birdsong.

Bruno Perreau was named an associate member, THEMA lab (Social Theory, Critical Analysis, and Collective Action) at the University of Lausanne (Switzerland) and a Non-Resident Faculty at the Center for European Studies, Harvard University. Perreau’s book, *Queer Theory: The French Response*, was translated and expanded for a French edition: *Qui a peur de la théorie queer?*, published by Presses de Sciences Po. He also published two journal articles: “Adoption or the Metaphor of Power,” in a special issue of *Adoption & Culture*, and “Politique de la frustration” [Frustration as Politics] in *Analyse Opinion Critique*.

Paul Roquet received a Japan Foundation Japanese Studies Research Fellowship to support his research on virtual reality and augmented reality in Japan next year. His book, *Ambient Media*, was named by *The Year’s Work in Critical and Cultural Theory* (Oxford) as one of the critically important books of 2016.

Bettina Stoetzer published an article, “Ruderal Ecologies: Rethinking Nature, Migration, and the Urban Landscape in Berlin,” in *Cultural Anthropology* 33(2). She presented her research at a number of venues, including an international conference held at the Universidad Diego Portales, Santiago, Chile.

Emma J. Teng, section head and TT and Wei Fong Chao Professor of Asian Civilizations, published several articles and book chapters including: “Hong Kong’s Eurasian ‘Web’ Viewed through the Lens of Inter-Asian Studies,” *Journal of Asian Studies*, 76.4; “Passing for Chinese: Reading Hybridity in Wang Tao’s ‘The Story of Mary’ (Meili xiaozhuan),” in Haun Saussy ed., *Texts and Transformations*; and “A ‘Class by Themselves’: Battles over Eurasian Schooling in Late-19th-Century Shanghai,” in Zarine Rocha and Farida Fozdar eds. *Mixed Race in Asia: Past, Present and Future*. A Chinese translation of her book, *Taiwan’s Imagined Geography: Chinese Colonial Travel Writing and Pictures, 1683-1895*, was published by National Taiwan University Press.

Jing Wang, SC Fang Professor in Chinese Language and Culture, received a Distinguished Overseas Professorship Award from the Ministry of Education, People’s Republic of China. She co-authored (with Edward Timke et al.) an article, “Roundtable on New Mediascapes and the Futures of Advertising,” *Advertising & Society Quarterly*, 18.3. In April, she was awarded an invention patent and application patent from the People’s Republic of China for a smart piggy bank.

Service to the Profession and the Institute

Faculty in GSL are active in the profession, playing various leadership and service roles, and serving on numerous editorial boards. The following is a selected sample:

Catherine Clark served as a reviewer for Bloomsbury Academic and *Technology and Culture*, and as a screener for Bourse Chateaubriand (French Embassy to the US). She was a member of the editorial advisory board of *Transbordeur: Photographie, histoire, société*.

Bruno Perreau served on the Advisory Board of PRESAGE (Research Program on Gender), Sciences Po, Paris, France. He was also a journal advisory board member for *GLAD! Revue sur le langage, le genre, les sexualités*; *Psychanalyse 21 – Culture, Corps, Politique*; and *Genre, Sexualité et Société*, and an associate editor of the *Oxford Encyclopedia of LGBT Politics* for Oxford University Press.

Bettina Stoetzer served as a reviewer for the Wenner Gren Foundation Fellowship Screening Committee. Emma Teng served on the board of directors of Mass Humanities; the International Chinese Language Program, National Taiwan University; the North American Taiwan Studies Association; and on the faculty advisory committee of the Harvard-Yenching Institute. She also served as a judge for the Early Career Researcher Prize, British Association for Chinese Studies.

Jing Wang served on the China Development Brief, PRC advisory board, and the Chinese University of Hong Kong MA in Global Communication Program Advisory Panel. She also served on the editorial boards of *positions: asia critique*, *Advertising & Society Review*, *Media Industries*, *Taiwan: A Radical Quarterly in Social Studies*, *The Chinese Journal of Communication and Society*, and *Inter-Asia Cultural Studies Journal: Movements*, among others.

GSL lecturers took on responsibilities in a multitude of professional organizations and conferences during the year. In addition, meetings hosted at MIT included the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT), administered by the American Association of Teachers of Japanese, hosted by GSL's Japanese group for the third year. The Portuguese group hosted the 5th Conference on Teaching, Promoting, and Maintaining Portuguese as a Heritage Language.

In AY2018, GSL faculty served in a variety of roles, for example, Bruno Perreau served as GSL global education and career development representative and MISTI Global Seed Fund faculty board. Emma Teng served on the International Advisory Committee and was a member of the Global Classroom Fund selection committee, as well as a faculty reader for MIT undergraduate admissions. Amah Edoh served on the executive board of the MIT-Africa Working Group.

Educational Initiatives and Student Enrollments

Excellence in teaching has been a hallmark of the section. Two GSL members received SHASS Levitan Teaching Awards this year: Elizabeth Wood and Spanish lecturer Mariana San Martín. English Language Studies lecturer Eric Grunwald was awarded an Alumni Class Funds grant for "Course Development: 'Testing the Bounds of English

Through Creative Writing," aimed at expanding educational opportunities for English as a Second Language students at MIT.

In AY2018, the section offered several new subjects including 21G.026 Global Africa: Creative Cultures; 21G.094 Cinema in Japan and Korea; 21G.344 French Feminist Literature: Yesterday and Today; 21G.348 Global Paris; 21G.821 The Beat of Brazil: Portuguese Language and Brazilian Society Through its Music; and the advanced-level special topics class 21G.346 Contemporary Francophone Africa. Previously offered as a special topics subject, 21G.713 Spanish through Film: Mexico, Chile, Argentina, and Spain, was added to the curriculum as a permanent subject. Three subjects were approved and added to the catalog in AY2018, to be taught in the near future: 21G.072 The New Latin American Novel; 21G.732 The Making of the Latin American City: Culture, Gender, and Citizenship; and 21G.909/138 Romantic Love in Chinese Narrative and Cinematic Traditions.

The Spanish group expanded its study abroad-program by offering two new intensive language subjects, 21G.793 Spanish III in Madrid, and 21G.795 Advanced Communication in Spain, taught over IAP 2018.

Over the past two academic years, the section has witnessed upward movement in enrollments. Since 2016, overall enrollments are up by 19%, with significant gains of 38% in the study of Russian. Likewise, the Korean pilot initiated in AY2017 has been bolstering the section's numbers, with 95 enrollments in AY2018. Demand for Korean currently outpaces capacity. There have also been significant increases in French, Japanese, and Chinese. This year, the figure for overall enrollments (2,136) was up from the previous year, representing an increase of 133 over AY2017. The top languages taught at MIT in AY2018, in terms of enrollment, were Spanish, Chinese, and Japanese. GSL had 431 concentrators, 59 minors, and two majors (one in French and one in German).

GSL awarded various student prizes. The Isabelle de Courtivron Writing Prize went to Rona Wang '20 (first place) and Selam Gano '18 (second place). The Award for Excellence went to Nicholas Morgante '18. Distinguished Scholar Awards went to Piper Sigrest '18 and Selam Gano '18. German Awards went to Jenny Li '20 (first place); Andrea Blankenship '18 and Felipe de Quesada '19 (second place); and David Silverstein '20, Thomas Close G, Sam Winslow G, Anna Martinez '19, Saba Jabri '19, Kaleigh Hunt '20, Janille Maragh G, and Tiffany Nichols G (third place).

In honor of the retirement of Shigeru Miyagawa, the Miyagawa Japanese Prize was established. The prize will be awarded annually to students who demonstrate excellence in GSL Japanese classes.

Digital Humanities and Technology-enhanced Pedagogies

Faculty and other academic staff in GSL have undertaken various initiatives in digital humanities and other innovative technology projects. Jing Wang and Senior Lecturer in Chinese Haohsiang Liao were awarded an MITx Grant from the Office of Digital Learning for "Chinese Language and Culture: Level 1." Senior Lecturer in Japanese Takako Aikawa received a Japan Foundation grant to support further development of a

project using AI for Japanese language pedagogy. Emma Teng continued work on two digital humanities projects: the website “China Comes to MIT: A History of the First Chinese Students: 1877-1931” and China4Kids (a K-12 outreach project). She also initiated a collaborative project with Phillips Academy Andover (co-PI, Paige Roberts, director of archives and special collections, Phillips Academy Andover), the Early Chinese Students of Andover History Project, which seeks to digitize, preserve, and create online access to thousands of primary source materials relating to the early history of Chinese educational migration to the US between 1878 and 1930. Paul Roquet continued work on his VR/AR project Making Sense of Mixed Reality, and received a Japan Foundation Japanese Studies Research Fellowship to support research in Japan next year.

Roquet and Aikawa are developing a concept for Global XR: Mixed Reality for Global Studies and Languages, which will incorporate both virtual reality and augmented reality as a kind of GSL node for developing pedagogy using these tools.

GSL’s Gilberte Furstenberg & Douglas Morgenstern Fund for Innovation in Language Instruction aims to encourage excellence in teaching in language instruction. This year, awards were made to Lecturer in French Cathy Culot for Teaching Cross-Cultural Communication in the Language Classroom with Tintin and The Blue Lotus: Phase II; and Lecturer in Chinese Panpan Gao for Bridging the Gap Between Language Learning and Real Use: Integrating Video Materials About Case Studies into Business Chinese Class.

Intellectual Commons

GSL hosts a robust schedule of programming throughout the academic year. Major programming included:

- Dissolve Music: Future Concepts in Sound, a conference and music/sound festival co-organized by Ian Condry with Professor Jan St. Werner (Fine Arts Academy, Nuremberg) and CMS grad student Rekha Malhotra, was hosted by MIT in March. Featuring 40 scholars, musicians, and technologists, the event drew more than 300 people and received prominent coverage in the *Boston Globe* and *The New York Times*. Besides GSL, sponsors included MIT Center for Art, Science and Technology; MIT Japan; the Goethe-Institut; d&b audiotechnik; SAVI; and the Fine Arts Academy, Nuremberg.
- The section launched the new TT and WF Chao Distinguished Buddhist Lecture Series, with the inaugural event featuring the Venerable Bhikkhu Bodhi and introductory remarks by James Robson, the James C. Kralik and Yunli Lou Professor of East Asian Languages and Civilizations at Harvard. The public lecture on April 19 was attended by 140 people and was followed the next morning by a guided meditation session for about 40 MIT students, faculty, and staff. The concourse program also hosted Bhikkhu Bodhi, an American Theravada Buddhist monk, for a lively lunchtime discussion with students and faculty.
- The exhibit, *China Comes to Tech: 1877-1931*, curated by Emma Teng with MIT’s Maihaugen Gallery, was on display until March 2018. Highlighting the achievements and experiences of MIT’s earliest Chinese students, the exhibit attracted over 8,600 visitors in one year, including many from China.

- A three-day symposium, *Topographies of Writing/Topographien des Schreibens*, was held at MIT in April, commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Max Kade Writer-in-Residence Program at MIT. The symposium brought together well-known German and Swiss writers who are alumni of the program, and was co-sponsored by the Goethe-Institut, CMS/W, and WGS.
- The French group had a lively series of events including a well-attended lecture by French author Édouard Louis; and talks by Charlie Piot (Duke), Suzanne Desan (University of Wisconsin-Madison), and Nathalie Etoke (Connecticut College).

Advancing Diversity and Inclusion

With issues of diversity and inclusion continuing to occupy center stage in our national life, the section dedicated efforts to advancing the goals articulated in its diversity statement, adopted in AY2016. The successful launch of African studies was a major step toward our stated goals, while our senior search in the field of Latin American studies represented another serious endeavor. Additionally, the section continues to support SHASS diversity predoctoral fellows, who contribute greatly to the intellectual life of the unit. Faculty discussed future potential hires in the areas of African studies, Middle Eastern/Arabic studies, and South Asian or Southeast Asian studies as further diversity and inclusion efforts.

Bruno Perreau and Haohsiang Liao served as section diversity representatives in AY2018. Amah Edoh organized and moderated a panel discussion at MIT about the film *Black Panther* in collaboration with the African Students' Association, the Black Students' Union, and UrbanAfrica in April. Edoh and Elouise Eevee-Jones served as board members for My Sister's Keeper at MIT. Margarita Groeger served with the Mentor Advocate Partnership Program in the Office of Minority Education (OME). Bruno Perreau served as an associate editor for the LGBT Politics series for Oxford University Press, and delivered numerous public lectures on queer theory and minority issues. Emma Teng endeavored to promote diversity and inclusion through her work on the Board of Directors of Mass Humanities, and delivered several public lectures on the history of Chinese Exclusion, both at MIT and in the community.

Administrative Initiatives

In May, GSL launched a new website to promote the section's rebranding and to enhance the visibility of its research profile at MIT and beyond.

An inventory of space was undertaken in order to address critical space needs.

Emma J. Teng

Head

TT and Wei Fong Chao Professor of Asian Civilizations