

16th Annual ASIANetwork Conference

March 14-16, 2008
Crowne Plaza Hotel, San Antonio, Texas
Scholar-Teachers of Asia: Past and Present

Invitation from the ASIANetwork Board Vice-Chair Erin McCarthy

The ASIANetwork Board is very pleased to invite you to attend the 16th Annual ASIANetwork Conference, "Scholar-Teachers of Asia: Past and Present," which will be held March 14-16, 2008 at the Crowne Plaza Riverwalk Hotel in San Antonio, Texas and hosted by Trinity University. In addition to the full range of panels by ASIANetwork colleagues, the [program](#) will feature keynote and plenary session speakers who will take up topics related to several regions of Asia and who will address current issues dealing with both the interpretation and teaching of Asian Studies in our institutions.

As a result of the feedback you provided to us in the membership survey of last year, we have added some new elements to the [conference program](#) this year! Many members expressed an interest in finding ways of using our network to discuss issues of concern on their campuses outside of the formal panel structure, and so we are pleased to offer you two such opportunities at this year's conference. On Saturday and Sunday we are setting aside tables for moderated discussion over breakfast for members interested in discussing the teaching of Asian languages in liberal arts colleges (Saturday) and the relationship between Asian Studies and Asian-American Studies at liberal arts colleges (Sunday). We will be sending out an email with more details before the conference and hope that you will keep providing us with new ideas for the breakfast roundtables. Another new addition to the program is what we are calling our 'Hot Topic' lunch on Saturday afternoon. In the survey, many of you expressed a desire for the conference to help keep members up to date on current events in Asia and so we are working on securing a speaker for Saturday over lunch, who will address the current situation in Pakistan.

The conference will begin on Friday with a day tour of San Antonio. The planned itinerary includes the San Antonio Missions, the Alamo, lunch at the Pioneer Flour Mill and a docent-guided tour of the Asian art wing of the San Antonio Museum of Art. Members who are interested in the tour are asked to please register as the tour will depend on the number of participants. Those who plan to go on the tour will want to arrive early at the Crowne Plaza, in time to leave on the bus that departs at 9:00 Friday morning. The bus will return to Crowne Plaza no later than 5:00 p.m. The cost of the tour includes lunch. Space is limited, so sign up early.

The conference begins officially with dinner on Friday evening, followed by a keynote address by **Ai Xiaoming**, Professor in the Department of Chinese Language and Literature at Sun Yat-sen University, Director of the Comparative Literature & World Literatures Section in the Department of Chinese, Program Leader of the Sex/Gender Education Forum, and translator and director of the first performance of the Chinese version of *The Vagina Monologues*. She has published widely including, "Class of Dialogues on Vagina Monologues: A Sum-up on the Pedagogy of Women and Gender Studies," *Gender Studies (Shehuixingbie Yanjiu)* (2004), and *Language and Gender* (Chinese translation, 2004). Both scholar and activist, in addition to her publications, Professor Ai set up an independent digital video studio in 2004, aimed at empowering marginalized groups by providing media training workshops. The documentaries she has made have been distributed to universities and NGOs for supporting the curriculum of women's and gender studies and advocacy for human rights. Some of her recent work includes *White Ribbon* (2004), *The Making of the Vagina Monologues* (2005), *Garden in Heaven* (2005), *Sex, Gender and Rights in Asia* (2006) and *Taishi Village* (2006). She is sure to be a dynamic speaker and you won't want to miss her talk "Women and Gender Studies In and Out of the Classroom" where she will also show clips from her documentaries.

Henry Rosemont, Jr., Distinguished Visiting Professor at Brown University, and someone long involved with ASIANetwork, is our second keynote speaker at Saturday morning's plenary. Professor Rosemont received his Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of Washington, and pursued postdoctoral studies in Linguistics (and politics) with Noam Chomsky at MIT. His areas of research and writing are Chinese philosophy and religion—especially early Confucianism—moral and political theory, philosophy of religion, and philosophy of language. His publications include *A Chinese Mirror* (1991), *Rationality & Religious Experience* (2001), and with Huston Smith, the forthcoming *Is There a Universal 'Grammar' of Religion?* (2007). He has edited and/or translated ten other books, including *Explorations in Early Chinese Cosmology* (1984), *Leibniz: Writings on China* (with D.J. Cook, 1994), *Chinese Texts & Philosophical Contexts*, and with Roger T. Ames, *The Analects of Confucius: A Philosophical Translation* (1998), and *The Classic of Family Reverence* (2008). From 1982-84, and again in 1993-94 he was Fulbright Senior Professor of Philosophy and Linguistics at Fudan University in Shanghai, where he is now Senior Consulting Professor, and

concurrently Visiting Professor of Religious Studies at Brown University. His talk is entitled "Philosophical Reflections from a Chinese Mirror." In addition to his keynote address, we are also excited to be celebrating the publication of the *festschrift* in honor of Professor Rosemont, *Polishing the Chinese Mirror: Essays in Honor of Henry Rosemont, Jr.*, with a panel on Sunday morning.

The Program Committee and the Board of ASIANetwork are grateful to the membership for their fine response to the call for papers and for the excellent papers and panels they have placed on the program. In addition to our excellent keynote speakers, we have an outstanding mix of scholarly panels, roundtables, teaching sessions, and poster presentations. We are looking forward to welcoming you to San Antonio this year and to many enjoyable and productive conversations through the weekend!

Conference Registration and Meals

Registration deadline: February 1, 2008

Registration fee: \$200 for ASIANetwork members; \$210 for non-members. Registration on-site will be \$10 more. Registration fee includes dinner on Friday night, breakfasts on Saturday and Sunday, lunch on Saturday, midmorning and mid-afternoon breaks. No activity is scheduled on Saturday evening after the reception at Trinity University, where hors d'oeuvres will be served, so participants can enjoy the Riverwalk. Dinner on Saturday and lunch on Sunday are on your own.

Pre-conference Tour

The cost of the Friday, March 14 tour of the San Antonio area includes lunch (\$40). Those who want to participate in the tour are encouraged to make their reservations early. Please include the cost of the tour at the time you register for the conference.

Registration Payment:

Please send a check or money order **payable to ASIANetwork** (sorry, the ASIANetwork office is not equipped to handle credit card charges) to:

Dr. Teddy Amoloza, ASIANetwork Executive Director
Illinois Wesleyan University
205 East Beecher Street
Bloomington, IL 61702-2900

Accommodations

Conference site: Crowne Plaza Hotel, Riverwalk, San Antonio, Texas (<http://www.crowneplaza.com/sariverwalk>)

Reservation number: 1-888-623-2800

Reservation deadline: February 1, 2008 for conference rates. To get conference rates, mention that you are with ASIANetwork. Rates are \$159 for single or double, \$169 for triple and \$179 for quad, excluding taxes.

Travel Information

Travel to the Crowne Plaza Riverwalk Hotel from the San Antonio International Airport by taxi takes approximately 20 minutes. Taxis are outside the baggage claim area. There are two taxi companies and both advertise that four people can ride for the price of one: \$20.00 each way. Both accept major credit cards. San Antonio Taxis Inc. - 444-2222; Yellow Cab - 222-2222

If you have questions about the conference, please address them to Don Clark, ASIANetwork Board Chair and on-site conference organizer at dclark@trinity.edu, phone (210) 999-7629, Erin McCarthy, ASIANetwork Board Vice-Chair and conference program organizer at emccarthy@stlawu.edu, phone (315) 229-5224 or Teddy Amoloza, Executive Director, at tamoloz@iwu.edu, phone (309) 556-3405.