

# 2009 Conference Keynote Speakers

## Friday, March 13, 8:00 p.m.

**Catherine Asher** is Professor of Islamic and South Asian Art and Architecture at the University of Minnesota. She is a specialist in Islamic and Indian Art from 1200 to the present. She is well known for her work on the architecture of the Mughal dynasty [*Architecture of Mughal India*, Cambridge University Press, 2nd ed., 2001] as well as on the artistic patronage of their successors and predecessors. She has recently co-authored *India before Europe* (Cambridge University Press, 2006). Her recent articles include "A Ray from the Sun: Mughal Ideology and the Visual Construction of the Divine," in *The Presence of Light: Divine Radiance and Religious Experience*, ed. Matthew Kapstein. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2004, "Mughal Regional Centers in Eastern India," in *The Ananda-Vana of Indian Art: Dr. Anand Krishna Felicitation Volume*, eds. Naval Krishna and Manu Krishna. Varanasi: Indica, 2004, and many others.



Professor Asher is a committed teacher as well as a scholar. Her past and current graduate students have written masters' papers and dissertations on a variety of topics ranging from the contemporary architecture of Morocco, Spain and Iran, Ottoman baths, Mughal painting, and Patronage under the Bijapuri Sultans, the photography of Shirin Neshat, the art and architecture

of the Ranas of Udaipur to the impact of Gandhi's thought on low cost housing in India just to give a few examples. Classes she teaches include Art of Islam, Age of Empire: Ottomans, Safavids and Mughals, Art of Islamic Iran, Diversity of Traditions: Indian Art, 1200 to the Present among others including graduate level seminars.

She just completed a term as the College Art Association's Vice President for Publications, as well as a ten-year term of service as the Chair of the Committee on Art and Archaeology of the American Institute of Indian Studies.

## Saturday, March 14, 8:30 a.m.

**Harold D. Roth** is Professor of Religious Studies and East Asian Studies, and Director of Brown's Contemplative Studies Initiative. Roth is a specialist in Early Chinese Religious Thought, Daoism, the History of East Asian Religions, and the Comparative Study of Mysticism. His publications include four books, *The Textual History of the Huai-nan Tzu* (Association for Asian Studies, 1992), *Original Tao: Inward Training and the Foundations of Taoist Mysticism* (Columbia University Press, 1999), *Daoist Identity: Cosmology, Lineage, and Ritual* (w/ Livia Kohn) (University of Hawaii Press, 2002) and *A Companion to Angus C. Graham's Chuang Tzu: the Inner Chapters* (Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy, 2003). He has written more than two dozen articles on the early history and religious thought of the Daoist tradition and on the textual history and textual criticism of classical Chinese works.



The Contemplative Studies Initiative, which Roth heads, is a group of Brown faculty with diverse academic specializations who are united around a common interest in the study of contemplative states of mind, including the underlying philosophy, psychology, and phenomenology of human contemplative experience. As a group, they provide advice on students' academic and personal study in this area and are working towards eventually receiving formal recognition as a Program, Concentration, or a Center to study and teach the underlying philosophy, psychology, and phenomenology of human contemplative experience. The goal of this initiative is to develop a coordinated program in this rapidly emerging

field that focuses on many of the ways that human beings have found, across cultures and across time, to concentrate, broaden and deepen conscious awareness as the gateway to cultivating their full potential and to leading more meaningful and fulfilling lives.

## Sunday, March 15, 8:30 a.m.

**Dali L. Yang** is a professor in the Department of Political Science and Director of The Center for East Asian Studies at The University of Chicago. His research interests are political institutions and political economy, with special reference to China. He is the author of numerous books and scholarly articles on the politics and political economy of China. Among his books are *Remaking the Chinese Leviathan: Market Transition and the Politics of Governance in China* (Stanford University Press, 2004); *Beyond Beijing: Liberalization and the Regions in China* (Routledge, 1997); and *Calamity and Reform in China: State, Rural Society, and Institutional Change since the Great Leap Famine* (Stanford University Press, 1996). He is also editor of *Discontented Miracle: Growth, Conflict, and Institutional Adaptations in China* (World Scientific, 2007) and co-editor and a contributor to *Holding China Together: Diversity and National Integration in Post-Deng China* (Cambridge University Press, 2004). He is a member of various committees and organizations and serves on the editorial boards of *Asian Perspective*, *American Political Science Review*, *Journal of Contemporary China*, and *World Politics*.

