

FWI Funding Statement

Name: Netina Tan

Faculty/Area: Faculty of Social Sciences/Political Science Department

Project title: Asian Research Working Group (ARWG)

1. How has the project fostered collaboration and interdisciplinarity?

[“Asia-Canada Conference”](#) held on 4 Apr 2014 brought together more than 150 scholars and students from across faculties and disciplines to participate in six research panels and one roundtable.

2. Have other projects been initiated as a result of this project?

As a result of the ARWG’s initiative, a bigger interdisciplinary conference entitled “Globalization and Asia” will be organized next year in May. Concurrently, an inaugural summer school, organized under the ambit of Institute of Globalization and Human Condition will be held in May 2015 with two courses offered for credit. Two highly respected scholars--Aihwa Ong from UC Berkeley and Eric Hayot from Penn State will be coming to Mac as instructors.

a. If it was recommended in your award letter that you connect with particular individuals/groups, have you done so and what was the result?

I invited four directors of Asian Institutes from University of British Columbia, University of Toronto, York University and also the Vice President of Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada to the Asia-Canada Conference as listed in my FWI proposal.

b. Have you worked with others who have or have not been funded through the current RFP?

No.

2. How has the project exposed students to new or emerging research?

More than 20 undergraduate students were selected to participate in the Poster Competition during the “Asia-Canada” Conference on 4 April. We presented three awards (total of \$220) to the winning students of the top three posters.

3. How has the project offered students an experience beyond traditional borders?

The participating students who attended the research panels and the poster sessions benefitted from interacting with scholars and learning about Asia, from outside the classroom. Furthermore, the poster sessions, question and answer sessions during the Roundtable/research panels have helped to improve the student’s networking and public speaking skills.

4. How will the outcomes of the project be sustained or expanded?

The ARWG will now be chaired by two Humanities Professors, Donald Goellnitch and Chandrima Chakraborty from English and Cultural Studies from November 2014 onwards. They will be in charge of running the ARWG website, organizing the next conference and summer school in 2015.

5. Please outline any barriers or challenges that may have prevented you from achieving some of your project goals.

Aside from being a resource centre, a key aim of the ARGW was to find out the viability of institutionalizing an Asian Research Institute in McMaster. However, without the guarantees of long term institutional funding, the ARWG, as it stands, is unlikely to invest more efforts in fund-raising or

more important initiatives such as developing interdisciplinary graduate diploma programs on Asian Governance or furthering networks with other academic institutions in Asia. The ARWG had been effective in generating interest on Asia and successful in bringing together Mac faculties, scholars and students from different disciplines to network and collaborate. However, more institutional support from the University is necessary for the ARWG to be sustainable overtime and fulfill the internationalization goal as outlined by the FWI.

The financial and project reports can be submitted to fw@mcmaster.ca.

Budget for ARWG and Asia-Canada Conference (4 Apr 2014)

Asia-Canada Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Transport + Hotel + Airfare for 4 Directors of Asian Research Institutes to attend Conference ▪ Poster Competition Award ▪ Meals (1 breakfast, 1 lunch and 1 dinner), refreshments for all workshop participants and administrative expenses 	<p>\$1,500</p> <p>\$220</p> <p>\$5,000</p>
Logistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ AV and Hall Rental 	\$1,200
ARWG Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Meals + Incidentals 	\$300
Stationery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Printing of promotional posters, banners and stationery 	\$800
ARWG Website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To hire research assistants to collate information, maintain website, promote events for two years (2013-4) 	\$1,960
	Total	\$10,980