

**Alliance to Advance Liberal Arts Colleges  
Faculty Workshop Program 2019  
Workshop Proposal**

**Submitted by Peng Xu  
Aug. 3, 2018**

**The Title of the Workshop:** A Pedagogy Workshop on Teaching East Asian Performing Arts at Liberal Arts Colleges

**Location and Time:** Swarthmore College, May 17-19, 2019

**Participants:**

1) Workshop Organizers

- Peng Xu, Assistant Professor in Premodern Chinese Literature and Cultural History, Swarthmore College (Liaison)
- Wol A Kang, Lecturer in Chinese, Swarthmore College (co-organizer)
- Man He, Assistant Professor of Chinese, Williams College (co-organizer)
- Nan Ma, Assistant Professor of Chinese, Dickinson College (co-organizer)

2) Participants and Leaders

- Hangping Xu, Assistant Professor of Chinese, Middlebury College
- Sujane Wu, Associate Professor of Chinese, Smith College, Director of Five College Korean Program
- Chuen-Fung Wong, Associate Professor of Ethnomusicology and Chair, Macalester College
- Ying Wang, Felicia Gressitt Bock Professor of Asian Studies, Mount Holyoke College
- Craig Quintero, Associate Professor of Theater and Dance, Grinnell College
- Janet Ikeda, Associate Professor of Japanese, Washington and Lee University
- Hong Gao, Senior Lecturer in Chinese Musical Instruments, Carleton College
- Matthew Dubroff, Associate Professor of Theater, Hampden-Sydney College

3) Roundtable Moderators

- Thomas E. Moran, John D. Berninghausen Professor of Chinese, Middlebury College
- Watanabe Takeshi, Assistant Professor of East Asian Studies, Wesleyan University
- Peng Xu, Assistant Professor of Chinese, Swarthmore College

4) Keynote Speaker

- Lisa Parkes, Senior Lecturer in German, Director of German Language Program, Director of Undergraduate Studies in German, Harvard University

**Rationales and Goals:**

A large part of our job as pedagogues is engendering interests and sympathies in our students for the unfamiliar performative elements in East Asian **languages, literatures, musics, theaters and other cultural domains**. In building a strong, diverse, and balanced East Asian-related curriculum, we have encountered many challenges in course designs and classroom teachings. We are bringing together teacher-scholars in liberal arts colleges who share an interest in teaching East Asian performing arts and those who are passionate about incorporating performative elements in their teaching.

How to translate the pedagogical practices we experienced in the indigenous learning environment into an effective teaching method in our own classroom? How does interacting with performing arts help motivate students to participate? How to use the performing arts as a source and stimulus for communicative exchange in language classroom? How, as professors of modernism and performance studies, can we open up a space for students to approach performance by using a variety of methodologies and tools? These are the main questions this workshop intends to address.

In this workshop we seek to share our empirical experiences and theoretical thinking about **new modes of teaching** that integrate broadly construed performing arts, be it tea ceremony, music and opera, poetry chanting, or theater. We are fundamentally interested in a productive discussion of **effective strategies, concrete successful examples of teaching, and construction of syllabi**. As such, this workshop offers the opportunity for a mutual support among instructors who work with constraints on time and who endeavor to balance teaching responsibilities and research.

### **Potential Outcomes:**

After the conclusion of the workshop, there will be three follow-up activities.

1. Workshop website: Our cross-institutional exchange of pedagogical ideas will take the format of pre-circulated papers, syllabi, and lesson and assignment plans among participants. We are creating a website for the posting of papers delivered at the workshop, syllabi and lesson plans. This website will also be used prior to the workshop to post useful information concerning schedules, conference participants, maps, and local accommodations.
2. Publication: A special journal issue on pedagogy can be developed after the workshop, which aims at providing teaching guidance appropriate for liberal arts education. We hope that it will appeal to scholars in East Asian studies interested in finding their way into the performative side of the cultures for the first time, or in expanding their knowledge of traditional performances in teaching.
3. “Drop Box” or Blog: In order to continue discussion about issues raised during the course of the workshop, conference participants would be encouraged to post thoughts and comments on a blog or send files to a “drop box,” for which there would be a link on the workshop website. These interactions would serve as the basis for future workshops on pedagogical issues discussed in the proposed workshop.

**Organization of the Workshop:**

The workshop will take place on 17 May 2019 to 19 May 2019 at Swarthmore College, and the format of the workshop will include one keynote speech, five presentation panels, and one roundtable discussion (3 to 5 moderators). It will be open to the public. We will, however, particularly encourage and invite the AALAC community to take this opportunity to share their professional ideas and experience.

**Preliminary Schedule (May 17-19, 2019)**

May 17	
3:30pm-	Opening Remarks
	Session I chaired by Man He <b>“Teaching Opera in the Setting of Asian Studies”</b>
	Keynote address
	Dinner
May 18	
8:30am-	Session II chaired by Lei Ouyang Bryant <b>“Teaching Modernity, Modernism, and Performance Culture”</b>
	Session III chaired by William Gardner <b>“Integrating Performances in Thematic Courses Taught in English”</b>
	Session IV chaired by Wol A Kang <b>“Incorporating Performing Arts in Language Pedagogy”</b>
May 19	
8:30am	Session V chaired by Benjamin Ridgway <b>“Integrating Music and Theater in Liberal Arts Education”</b>
	Roundtable <b>“Closing Remarks, and Future Collaborative Projects?”</b>