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## MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION: Senate

TEL

FROM: Jon Driver, Vice-President, Academic and Provost, and Chair, SCUP

RE: Institute for Transpacific Cultural Research (ITCR) (SCUP 15-43)

DATE: December 9, 2015

TIME

At its December 9, 2015 meeting, SCUP reviewed and approved the establishment of the Institute for Transpacific Cultural Research (ITCR) as an Institute for a five-year term.

**Motion:**

That Senate approve the establishment of the Institute for Transpacific Cultural Research (ITCR) as an Institute for a five-year term.

c: C. Kim  
H. Leung  
K. McAllister

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**MEMORANDUM**

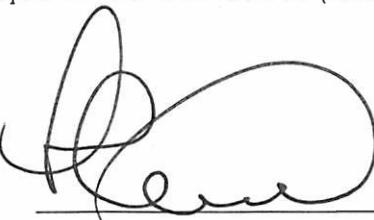
**ATTENTION** Senate Committee on University Planning (SCUP) **DATE** November 9, 2015  
**FROM** Norbert H. Haunerland, Associate Vice-President, Research **PAGES** 1/1  
**RE:** Institute for Transpacific Cultural Research (ITCR)

Attached is a proposal from Dr. Christine Kim, Department of English, Dr. Helen Leung, Department of Gender, Sexuality & Women's Studies and Dr. Kirsten McAllister, School of Communication for the establishment of the Institute for Transpacific Cultural Research (ITCR).

I recommend approval as a research Institute according to Policy 40.01. Once approved by SCUP the proposal should be sent to Senate for approval and the Board of Governors for information.

Motion:

That SCUP approves the Institute for Transpacific Cultural Research (ITCR) as an Institute for a 5-year term.



Dr. Norbert Haunerland  
Associate Vice-President, Research

Attachment

C: Dr. Christine Kim, Department of English  
Dr. Helen Leung, Department of Gender, Sexuality & Women's Studies  
Dr. Kirsten McAllister, School of Communication

INSTITUTE FOR TRANSPACIFIC CULTURAL RESEARCH  
Simon Fraser University

## PREAMBLE

The Institute for Transpacific Cultural Research (ITCR) aims to further SFU's vision "To be the leading engaged university defined by its dynamic integration of innovative education, cutting-edge research, and far-reaching community engagement" by making Simon Fraser University a research leader on Transpacific Studies nationally and internationally. The focus of the Institute will be **cultural research**. Critically understanding culture in a transnational era is essential where different world views and cultural practices are leading to, on the one hand, increasing disputes and conflicts and, on the other hand, new approaches to borders, trade, strategic resources, the environment, human rights, gender norms, and what constitutes liveable cities. Given Simon Fraser University's strategic location on the Pacific Northwest Coast, in a city described as "the Gateway to Asia" with its historical and contemporary relations to regions throughout the Pacific, the Institute is in an excellent position to take advantage of our city's economic, social, and political connections to these regions.

As an Institute dedicated to researching culture and cultural mobility, which shape how populations and their governments understand as well as act in their worlds, it echoes SFU's strategic vision's recognition of the importance of "a strong Arts, Social Sciences and Science foundation" to knowledge production and mobilization. By engaging with transpacific cultural research, the ITCR's focus is consistent with two if not more of the strategic vision's underlying principles, those of diversity and internationalization.

SFU is at an important juncture now with the increasingly transpacific demographics of its student body, the economic and migratory composition of the region, and the research interests of its faculty members and graduate students who seek transnational frameworks to investigate their increasingly international worlds. The Institute will take a leadership role in answering these needs with new research resources and international opportunities.

## CONTEXT

Recent global controversy over the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)—a trade agreement with the potential to have significant economic, political and social impact on the region—makes explicit how transnational movement, mobility, and migration throughout the Pacific between Asia, Australia, the Americas, and the Pacific have long been sources of heated debate with respect to trade relations and political alliances. Long imperial histories have shaped what bodies, capital, and ideologies have circulated throughout the Pacific worlds, from ideas about "racial" hierarchies to revolutionary ideals and creative visions of cosmopolitan societies. Recent developments in communication and transportation technologies have intensified these circulations, along diverse pathways and under unequal and often environmentally destructive conditions. Within this contact zone, new forms of transnational and national identities,

entertainment, art, cultural practices, and forms of political and personal alliances are emerging. One of the guiding concerns of the Institute will be to investigate how emergent identifications and cultural landscapes complicate our notions of citizenship, belonging, and human rights as national paradigms lose their currency.

This Institute brings decades of research at SFU about the connections between Asia and Canada into conversation with researchers investigating transnational movements, migrations, and flows. By focusing on how the “Pacific” has been imagined in colonial discourses as well as trade discourses like the TPP, the Institute will foster research that investigates the ways in which the ideologies of the “Pacific” both facilitate and resist economic and political agendas. The Institute will also open up a space for dialogues about the kinds of alliances and exchanges that are made possible by different versions of the Pacific imaginary (e.g. migration and refugee policies; environmental and trade agreements; transindigenous movements; transnational student social movements; mobile media cultures).

Research on “Asia” and “Asian Canadians” in Canada has been conducted primarily through national paradigms, drawing on the work of area specialists, for example on China and Japan or on specific ethnic groups, for example, Chinese Canadians or Korean Canadians. While this research has made valuable contributions to areas like foreign policy, multicultural policy, and management of immigration, the proposed Institute will focus on the transpacific dynamics that have shaped geographic regions and relations of communities and societies in this arena. Rather than focus on an area or an ethnic group, the Institute will foster a distinctive research methodology that focuses on mobility and flows, examining how the idea of the “Pacific” was formed historically and how its ongoing construction as a regional imaginary continues to facilitate as well as constrain pathways of movement for people, goods, capital, and ideas.

Leading research universities in Asia and Australia have established research clusters, streams, centres, and institutes devoted to the study of cultural research within the transpacific including Monash University, the University of Melbourne, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Baptist University, and the National University of Singapore. Given our location on the Pacific Northwest, practice of fostering innovative, socially engaged research, and our long history of diaspora, SFU is ideally posed to create the first institute of transpacific cultural studies research in Canada and become part of these important transnational dialogues.

The Institute will promote interdisciplinary research activities and research collaborations between leading local and international academics, government agencies, industry, community partners, filmmakers, artists, media activists, and writers that further our understanding of how transpacific cultural dynamics impact communities and environments across different jurisdictions, locally, nationally, and internationally. The Institute will complement other SFU Institutes, like the Diaspora Institute which focuses on community-based initiatives that mediate between governmental and non-governmental organizations in order to service diasporic communities and the David Lam Institute that focuses on “businesses and their environments in North America and East

and Southeast Asia" as well as East Asian civilization, philosophical and religious thought, and Chinese heritage in Canada. ITCR will also collaborate with sister units at SFU like the Centre for Cultural Policy Studies on Culture and Communities with their expertise on cities, diasporic media, cultural policy, and border and security as well as with graduate programs like the Simon Fraser University-Communication University of China Masters of Arts Double Degree Program in Global Communication.

## 1. PURPOSE

1.1 The Institute for Transpacific Cultural Research is a multidisciplinary research institute at Simon Fraser University. Its mission is:

- to promote cutting-edge cultural research and develop new modes of critical analysis based on transpacific methodologies;
- to promote SFU as a hub for transpacific research and community engagement by bringing innovative local and international scholars, cultural institutions, government agencies, industry, artists, filmmakers, and writers into dialogue with each other;
- to play a leading role, at local, regional, and international levels, in academic exchanges, conferences, grants, public dialogues, and publications on issues relating to the field of transpacific cultural research;
- to achieve research excellence in Canada and internationally by leading research collaborations with national and international research partners.
- to enhance and expand resources for graduate student training in the field of transpacific cultural research through visits to international partner institutions, and participation in master classes and research training studios with international scholars.
- to investigate issues that concern the Pacific from a transnational framework using the expertise of cultural researchers across different disciplines and fields, from English, Gender and Sexuality Studies, and Communication to History, Anthropology, and Geography.

1.2 The Institute will be affiliated with Simon Fraser University and will conduct its activities in accordance with SFU's regulations and objectives (see below) in such a way as to enhance the reputation and the programs of the University.

1.3 The ITCR will foster dialogues and research that contribute to developing new knowledge paradigms that will provide insights into the factors that shape the transnational characteristics of communities and societies throughout the Pacific Rim. The purview of the ITCR is cultural research, focusing on contemporary as well as relevant historical media and cultural practices and policies. The Institute will be home to research that investigates how the production and circulation of these media and the spread of cultural practices shape the transpacific region, a spatial formation generated through the multi-directional cultural, economic, and political traffic across the Pacific.

## 2. GOVERNANCE

- 2.1 The Institute is constituted as a research institute at Simon Fraser University under the terms of SFU Policy R 40.01, comes under the authority of the Vice President Research, and conducts its affairs in accordance with all other University policies. The term of the Institute is five years as per SFU Policy R 40.01.
- 2.2 An annual report on the Institute's activities and financial status from April 1 to March 31, including the current membership of the Institute and its Steering Committee, will be submitted to the Vice President Research by June 30<sup>th</sup> of each year.
- 2.3 Membership in the Institute is by application to the Director and the Steering Committee, who may also recruit members to apply. There are four categories of membership:
  - Faculty members: SFU CFL actively teaching and conducting transpacific cultural research.
  - Associate members: Contract and Adjunct faculty at SFU and faculty from other Canadian and international postsecondary institutions teaching and conducting transpacific cultural research.
  - Doctoral and postdoctoral members: PhD and early career scholars conducting transpacific cultural research at SFU.
  - Community members: Artists, writers, filmmakers, curators, cultural institutions like museums and galleries, representatives of government agencies, which includes policy makers, industry representatives, and community workers and members of social movements engaged in transpacific cultural practices, policy, and research.

A preliminary list of SFU faculty and associate members of the Institute for Transpacific Cultural Research can be found in Appendix A.

- 2.4 The Institute is governed by a Steering Committee and headed by a Director. There is also an Advisory Board.
- 2.5 The Director of the Institute is an SFU faculty member nominated by the Steering Committee and appointed by the Vice President Research. The Director serves a renewable three-year term.
- 2.6 The Director's tasks include the following responsibilities, which she/he may delegate but not abrogate.
  - Chairing the Steering Committee;
  - Overseeing the Institute's finances;
  - Recruiting members;
  - Coordinating, promoting and publicizing the Institute's activities;

- Hiring and overseeing Institute personnel including support staff and research assistants;
- Preparing the annual report to the Vice-President, Research

**2.7 The Institute shall be governed by a Steering Committee:**

- The Committee will be made up of at least three, and not more than five, SFU faculty members, including the Director, who will serve as Chair;
- Members of the Committee will be drawn from at least three different departments or Schools;
- Committee members will serve three-year renewable terms.
- The mandate of the Steering Committee is to determine the overall direction of the Centre and to oversee the management of its operations. While it normally operates by consensus, when necessary it can make decisions by majority vote, including the appointment of new members of the Steering Committee;
- Meetings of the Steering Committee will normally be held at least twice a year, with an annual meeting for all members of the Institute;
- Initial Steering Committee members are: Christine Kim (English); Helen Leung (Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies); and Kirsten McAllister (Communication).

**2.8 Advisory Board**

- The advisory board consists of 8-10 representatives which can include SFU faculty from diverse units in the university, members from other universities, and members of local communities whose expertise, research interests, and international experience are relevant to the Institute's mission.
- Its main functions are to advise the Steering committee on its initiatives, help to facilitate networks and connections with diverse communities, and provide feedback on projects and events.

**3. FUNDING**

**3.1 The Institute will finance its collaborative research and outreach activities through a combination of internal and external funding; department and institutional conference and visiting speaker funds; member-led project grants; in-kind and cash contributions provided by community partners and private donors.**

## Appendix A

### ITCR Faculty Members (Confirmed)

Lara Campbell (Department Chair and Professor, GSWS)  
 David Chariandy (Associate Professor, English)  
 Paul Crowe (Associate Professor, Asia-Canada/Humanities)  
 Dara Culhane (Professor, Sociology and Anthropology)  
 Chung-hye Han (Professor, Linguistics)  
 Huamei Han (Associate Professor, Education)  
 Michael Hathaway (Associate Professor, Sociology and Anthropology)  
 Adel Iskandar (Assistant Professor, Communication)  
 Christine Kim (Associate Professor, English)  
 Shuyu Kong (Associate Professor, Chair of Asia-Canada/Humanities)  
 Helen Leung (Associate Professor, Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies)  
 Maureen Maloney (Professor, School of Public Policy)  
 Janice Matsumura (Associate Professor, History)  
 Kirsten McAllister (Associate Professor, Communication)  
 Sophie McCall (Associate Professor, English)  
 Eugene McCann (Professor, Geography)  
 Catherine Murray (Co-Director of SFU's CPCC; Professor, Communication)  
 Deanna Reder (Associate Professor, FNST/English)  
 Özlem Sensoy (Associate Professor, Education)  
 Jie Yang (Associate Professor, Sociology and Anthropology)  
 Jin-me Yoon (Professor, School of Contemporary Arts)  
 Yuezhi Zhao (Professor, School of Communication)

### ITCR Associate Members (Canadian and International) (Confirmed)

Francisco Benitez (President, Philippine Women's University)  
 Davina Bhandar (Co-Director of SFU's CPCC; Adjunct Professor, Communication, Simon Fraser University)  
 Melani Budianta (Professor, Literature, University of Indonesia)  
 Manneke Budiman (Vice-Dean, Faculty of Humanities; Professor, Literature, University of Indonesia)  
 Beng Huat Chua (Provost Chair Professor and Head of Sociology Department, National University of Singapore)  
 Robert Diaz (Assistant Professor, Faculty of Liberal Arts and Sciences and Graduate Studies, OCAD University)  
 John Erni (Chair Professor in Humanities; Department Head for Humanities and Creative Writing, Hong Kong Baptist University)  
 Koichi Iwabuchi (Director, Monash Asia Institute, Monash University)  
 Alice Ming Wai Jim (Co-editor of *Asian Diasporic Visual Cultures and the Americas Journal*; Associate Professor, Art History, Concordia University)

Gaik Cheng Khoo (Deputy Director, Institute of Asia Pacific Studies; Associate Professor, School of Modern Languages and Cultures, University of Nottingham, Malaysia campus)

Abidin Kusno (Professor, Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University)

Larissa Lai (CRC Tier II in Creative Writing, University of Calgary)

Christopher Lee (Associate Professor, English and Chair of Asian Canadian and Asian Migration Program, UBC)

Jo-Anne Lee (Associate Professor, Women's Studies, University of Victoria)

Song Hwee Lim (Director, Centre for Cultural Studies; Associate Professor, Department of Cultural and Religious Studies, The Chinese University of Hong Kong)

Audrey Kobayashi (Professor, Geography, Queen's University)

Geraldine Pratt (Associate Dean of Arts; Professor, Geography, UBC)

John Price (Professor, History, University of Victoria)

Chih-Ming Wang (Associate Research Fellow, Institute of European and American Studies, Academica Sinica)

Jini Kim Watson (Associate Professor, English, NYU)

Rita Wong (Associate Professor, Critical and Cultural Studies, ECUAD)

Lisa Yoneyama (Professor, East Asian Studies/Women and Gender Studies Institute, University of Toronto)

Henry Yu (Principal, St. John's College; Associate Professor, History, UBC)

Audrey Yue (Director, Research Unit in Public Culture; Associate Professor, School of Culture and Communication, University of Melbourne)

From: **Megan Crouch** [mcrouch@sfu.ca](mailto:mcrouch@sfu.ca)  
Subject: Library Report: Institute for Transpacific Cultural Research  
Date: November 9, 2015 at 10:08 PM  
To: **Valerie Murdoch** [murdoch@sfu.ca](mailto:murdoch@sfu.ca)  
Cc: **Christine Manzer** [cmccanne@sfu.ca](mailto:cmccanne@sfu.ca), **Patty Gallilee** [plq@sfu.ca](mailto:plq@sfu.ca)

Dear Val,

I've reviewed the proposal for The Institute for Transpacific Cultural Research.  
No additional library resources will be required to support it.

This email will serve as proof that a Library review has been completed as the Institute moves through the approval process.  
Once the Institute has been approved by Senate, it will appear on this list:

<http://www.lib.sfu.ca/about/overview/collections/course-assessments/other>

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,  
Megan

Megan Crouch  
Health Sciences Librarian  
Collections Librarian  
Simon Fraser University Library  
Tel: 778.782.4962  
\*\*I am on campus Tuesday through Friday until 2pm, and work from home on Mondays\*\*

On 11-09-2015, at 11:35 AM, Valerie Murdoch <[valerie.murdoch@sfu.ca](mailto:valerie.murdoch@sfu.ca)> wrote:

Hi Megan,

Would you please review the attached proposal to determine if additional resources will be required from the Library. The material deadline for SCUP is November 13, 2015.

I understand you will be sending me an email with your findings rather than posting the approval on the web.

Look forward to hearing from you,

Val

Manager, Finance and Administration  
Office of the Vice-President, Research  
Simon Fraser University  
Bus: 778.782.4370

<ITCR Submission for SCUP.docx>