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# Yo! AAS Is Coming to the City of Brotherly Love

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## Yo! AAS Is Coming to the City of Brotherly Love

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March 5, 2010 in Uncategorized by [mcunningham](#) | [Permalink](#)

By Maura Elizabeth Cunningham

I'd very much like to be in China this month, as several cities are hosting big literary events that feature many authors I've followed for the past several years, and whose names are probably familiar to regular *China Beat* readers. In Beijing, the [Bookworm International Literary Festival](#) is welcoming Graham Earnshaw (*The Great Walk of China*, March 6), Jonathan Tel (*The Beijing of Possibilities*, March 8; two excerpts are [here](#) and [here](#)), and Jeremy Goldkorn (*Danwei*, March 18). The [Shanghai International Literary Festival](#) is also boasting a program chock-full of talks I'd love to hear, such as Hyejin Kim on "[Writing Contemporary Historical Fiction](#)" (March 6), Paul French on "[The Down and Dirty Secrets of Seedy Shanghai and Perverted Peking](#)" (March 7), and Andrew Field on "[Shanghai's Dancing World: Cabaret Culture and Urban Politics, 1919-1954](#)" (March 13).

Alas, I don't have a book to publicize, and UC Irvine's winter quarter isn't yet finished, so I'll be remaining Stateside for the time being. However, I am excited about a trip that *is* on my calendar: in a little under three weeks, I'll be attending my first [Association for Asian Studies](#) annual meeting, in Philadelphia — which just happens to be my hometown. In addition to seeing friends and relatives, and eating all the delicious junk food that I can't get in Southern California (my list includes Wawa coffee, TastyKakes, cannoli, and, if the weather is warm enough, water ice), I'm looking forward to meeting in person many of the *China Beat* contributors I've worked with over the past several months.

In the meantime, I'll be doing my pre-Philadelphia homework. The conference program arrived in my mailbox the other day (it's also [online](#)), and I'm going to dive into Keynote speaker Wang Hui's new book, *The End of the Revolution*, as soon as I finish grading final exams. Additionally, there will be an innovative *Journal of Asian Studies* roundtable, "[What Makes an Area in Asia?](#)" on Saturday, March 27, and attendees are encouraged to prepare for the discussion by reading [excerpts](#) from Prasenjit Duara's article, "Asia Redux: Conceptualizing a Region for our Times." (You can learn more about this unique roundtable in Jeff Wasserstrom's letter on *JAS* "[Initiatives for 2010 and Beyond.](#)")

I'm also planning, with the help of our [consulting editors](#), *China Beat*'s coverage of the AAS meeting, which will include short reports on panel presentations, updates via our [Twitter feed](#), and a photo-heavy post or two, so readers who can't join us in Philadelphia will be able to enjoy the experience vicariously. We're excited to experiment with different technologies as we integrate news from this professional conference into *China Beat* content; as Kate Merkel-Hess [wrote last week](#), all of us involved in the blog see it as a way "to reshape (or perhaps revitalize) the role of the academic as public intellectual." Tweeting from the meeting, I think, certainly accords with that goal! I hope to see many China Beatniks on the streets of Philadelphia in a few weeks — and will happily share my cannoli recommendations with anyone searching for an afternoon snack.

Tags: [AAS](#)