



# NANKING



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## PROPOSAL

In December 1937, the Japanese launched a massive attack on the Chinese capital of Nanking. The city fell on December 13 and over the next six weeks the Japanese consolidated their control of the city through mass execution, rape, and looting. For many historians the atrocities, known as the Nanking Massacre, remain the symbol of Japanese militarism in World War II.

Despite the attempts at normalization that followed the War, underlying wounds have yet to be healed. In view of Asia's increasing role in the global arena, it is crucial to surmount all residual impediments to truthful and sincere intercultural exchange. It is time to begin the process of making national relationships real again, as suggested by Nobel Laureate Kenzaburo Oe.

East Asia today is one of the global economy's most dynamic and vital regions, and there is increasing worldwide uncertainty in the face of a more assertive China and an economically-powerful Japan. As the destiny of all nations becomes increasingly interwoven, it is imperative to establish international relations on an open and truthful foundation.

At the beginning of this century, President Woodrow Wilson established the preceptorial system at Princeton University to encourage free thinking and exchange of ideas. Intellectual dialogue continues to be an integral part of learning on the Princeton campus today. We feel that it is our responsibility and privilege as Princeton students to uphold this very tradition.

Through a conference on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Nanking Massacre, we hope to encourage the long-delayed healing process by exploring the event and its aftermath in many layers and from many angles. The time is long overdue to encourage unbiased discussion of the event, which are currently clouded by ignorance, politics, and prejudice. Nor will we treat Nanking in isolation, but rather from the viewpoint that all atrocities in human history have common features. We intend to relate this traumatic single event and its post-atrocity scars to the suffering of all people who have experienced similar events in recent human history.



## EVENTS

The conference proper will be on 21 and 22 November. During the preceding week an exhibition of archival photographs and documents will be held in collaboration with Yale Divinity School Library. Documentary films will also be screened during the week. For the detailed schedule, please refer to Appendix II.

## EXHIBITION

We will be displaying photographs, including many from Shi Young's book, *The Rape of Nanking: An Undeniable History in Photographs*. Shi's collection is currently being exhibited at the St. Louis Holocaust Museum and Learning Center. We will work in conjunction with Yale Divinity School Library which will provide copies of original missionary documents for display as well as expertise in producing panels and accompanying commentary. Yale University will also sponsor the curator of the Day Missions Collection, Martha Smalley, in her presentation on the missionaries and their roles in saving tens of thousands of Chinese lives.

## FILM SERIES

Three documentaries will be screened as part of our film series.

*Japanese War Crimes and Trials: Murder Under the Sun*. Produced by Lou Reda. This documentary examines World War II from a unique perspective – that of former American soldiers who were held as POWs under the Japanese Imperial Army. This film offers a vivid narration of Japanese aggression in the Far East; covering the period from the initial invasion of Manchuria to the Nanking Massacre and finally the post-war Tokyo War Crimes Tribunal. The film also seeks to understand the historical basis of Japan's present attitude towards its wartime past

*Magee's Testament*. 35 minutes. Directed by Peter Wong. The documentary relies heavily on footage from Rev John Magee's film record of the events in Nanking. John Magee was the Chairman of the Nanking Red Cross Council during the time of the Japanese occupation. He filmed the events at Nanking with a 16mm movie camera. David Magee, his son, will come to Princeton to give a brief talk about his own experiences in Nanking during the time of the Japanese occupation.



*In the Name of the Emperor*. 52 minutes. Directed by Christine Choy and Nancy Tong. This critically acclaimed film documents interviews with Chinese, American, and Japanese citizens, and presents conflicting recollections and views of the Japanese occupation of Nanking in 1937. We have invited directors, Christine Choy and Nancy Tong, to give a brief talk at the screening.

## CONFERENCE

We have invited the award-winning author and journalist, Ian Buruma to give the kenote speech. He will also speak as a guest on one of our panel discussions. Three experts, Professors Yu Ying-shih, Ikuhiko Hata and Tokushi Kasahara will be giving talks which will touch on the debate over the historiography of the Nanking Massacre. The highlight of the conference will be the two panel discussions to be held on November 22.

Panel Discussions:

### *Creating the Past: Multiple Histories of Nanking 1937*

A number of different histories have been written in an attempt to record this complex and tumultuous event and offer some reasons for its occurrence. On one hand conservative Japanese histories de-emphasize or deny the atrocities of the Nanking Massacre, while on the other Chinese histories exaggerate Japanese excesses. However, a healthy tendency to be skeptical about the fragmentary and biased nature of all versions of the past need not preclude an attempt to gain a clearer understanding of what actually occurred through debate and discussion. An examination of the many viewpoints from which people approach the Nanking Massacre will hopefully provide us with a clearer lens through which to view this important event in modern Chinese history. This panel will examine the origin and development of the multiple histories of Nanking 1937. What has motivated the vigorous debate about Nanking that is currently raging between conservative and liberal Japanese historians? What motivates the creation and perpetuation of Japan's postwar culture of denial, which has led to the current widespread ignorance of her wartime atrocities? How does collective memory and group psychology affect popular perception of this tragedy?



*Healing Past Wounds: From Conflict to Cooperation*

The multiplicity of perspectives from which people view the Nanking Massacre have frustrated those people who aim for a postwar reconciliation in East Asia. How does postwar culture affect contemporary Asian politics? What problems are caused by conflicting representations of Nanking 1937, and how can we move beyond such conflict to foster greater intercultural exchange and dialogue? How should the Nanking Massacre and other war crimes be situated in the context of international law? What insights might the Japanese government draw from German attempts to make formal reparation for offenses committed during World War II, and what obstacles stand in the way of those who wish to make such reparations? How should East Asian policy makers devise solutions to these obstacles? Can intra-community initiatives strengthen the process of reconciliation, and what should such initiatives entail?

## PARTICIPANTS

Vera Schwarcz:	Professor, History, Wesleyan University (comparative studies of the Holocaust and Chinese experience under Japanese occupation)
Takashi Yoshida:	PhD candidate in History, Columbia University
Ikuhiko Hata:	Professor, History, Chiba University
Tokushi Kasahara	Professor, History, Utsunomiya University
Iris Chang:	Discoverer of the Rabe Diaries, Author of <i>The Rape of Nanking</i>
Yu Ying-shih:	Professor, East Asian Studies, Princeton University
Richard Falk:	Professor, International Affairs & Politics, Princeton University (contemporary policy)



Daqing Yang:	Professor, International Affairs, George Washington University
Gilbert Hair:	Executive Director, Center for Internee Rights
Norman Itzkowitz:	Professor, Near Eastern Studies, Princeton University (psychohistory, collective violence, ethnic violence)
Ian Buruma:	Author, <i>The Wages of Guilt</i>
Perry Link:	Professor, East Asian Studies, Princeton University (Chinese language and literature)
Sheldon Garon:	Professor, History, Princeton University (contemporary Japanese history)
Ruth Rogaski:	Professor, History, Princeton University (contemporary Chinese history)
Shi Young:	Coauthor of <i>The Rape of Nanking: An Undeniable History in Photographs</i>
Martha Smalley	Curator, Day Missions Collection, Yale University
David Magee	Son of missionary John Magee
Nancy Tong	Producer, <i>In the Name of the Emperor</i>
Lou Reda	Producer, <i>Japanese War Crimes and Trials: Murder Under the Sun</i>



## APPENDIX I: SUPPORT

In organizing the conference we have been greatly encouraged by the strong level of support from experts and academics in the field, as well as various organizations and interest groups. These are listed below.

### Within Princeton:

Harold Shapiro, President, Princeton University  
Kenzaburo Oe, Visiting Fellow, Princeton University, Nobel Laureate (Literature)  
Chih-ping, Chou, Professor, East Asian Studies, Princeton University  
Soho Machida, Professor, East Asian Studies, Princeton University  
Morris Jansen, Professor Emeritus, East Asian Studies, Princeton University  
Fredrick Mote, Professor Emeritus, East Asian Studies, Princeton University  
Selena Ramadge, Scholar, East Asian Studies, Princeton University

### Other Experts and Academics

Jonathan Spence, Professor, History, Yale University  
Kaimay Yuen Terry, APTSJW (Minneapolis)  
Beatrice Bartlett, Professor, History, Yale University  
Barbara Brooks, Professor, History, City University of New York  
John Dower, Professor, Japanese History, MIT  
Beverly Hong-Fincher, PhD candidate, Asian Studies, Australia National University  
Cho-yun Hsu, Professor, University of Pittsburgh  
Xiao-bin Ji, Professor, History, Rutgers University  
Tzuping Shao, former UN officer, discoverer of the Rabe Diaries  
Ben Alpers, Professor, History, Princeton University

### Organizations

Yale Divinity School Library  
Rutgers Chinese Student and Scholar Association  
Alliance to Preserve the Truth of Sino-Japanese War  
International Center (Princeton University)  
School of Architecture (Princeton University)  
Alliance in Memory of the Victims of the Nanking Massacre



## Financial Contributors

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Center for Jewish Life (Princeton University)  
Department of East Asian Studies (Princeton University)  
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TECO  
Hsieh Mu Tu  
Lin Kuo Ching  
Yang Sing Fung  
Dean of Colleges (Princeton University)  
Chen Chung Yi  
Chen Yung Chan  
Lai Then Yen  
Center of International Studies (Princeton University)  
Parsipanny Pan Asian Association  
Liu Jang Wen-Shiu  
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## APPENDIX II: EVENTS

<p>Monday to Saturday 17 – 22 November <i>School of Architecture Gallery</i></p>		<p><b>Witness</b> <i>An exhibition of photographs and documents of the Nanking Massacre Held in collaboration with Yale Divinity School Library</i></p>
<p>Tuesday, 18 November <i>Robertson, Bowl 6</i></p>	8.00 pm	<p><b>Japanese War Crimes and Trials: Murder under the Sun</b> <i>Film screening with introduction by Lou Reda</i></p>
<p>Wednesday, 19 November <i>Robertson, Bowl 1</i></p>	8.00 pm	<p><b>Magee's Testament</b> <i>Film screening with introduction by David Magee</i></p>
<p>Thursday, 20 November <i>School of Architecture Gallery</i></p>	4.30 pm	<p><b>Missionaries in Nanking</b> <i>Talk by Martha Smalley</i></p>
<p><i>Robertson, Bowl 1</i></p>	8.00 pm	<p><b>Unearthing Nanking: Authors at Work</b> <i>Discussion moderated by Ruth Rogaski Shi Young and Iris Chang, authors</i></p>
<p>Friday, 21 November <i>Robertson, Dodds Auditorium</i></p>	4.30 pm	<p><b>Keynote Speech</b> <i>Ian Buruma</i></p>
	5.45 pm	<p><b>Reception and Book-signing</b> <i>Ian Buruma, Iris Chang, Shi Young, Nancy Tong</i></p>
	6.15 pm	<p><b>Dinner with the Speakers</b> <i>At the Schultz Cafeteria (Robertson) Registration required</i></p>
	8:00 pm	<p><b>In the Name of the Emperor</b> <i>Film screening with introduction by Nancy Tong</i></p>
<p>Saturday, 22 November <i>Robertson, Dodds Auditorium</i></p>	9:30 am	<p><b>Nanking 1937: An Introduction</b> <i>Talk by Yu Ying-shih</i></p>
	10:00 am	<p><b>Viewing Nanking: Perspectives from Japan</b> <i>Two talks followed by a question/answer session Ikuhiko Hata, Tokushi Kasahara</i></p>
	1.00 pm	<p><b>Creating the Past: Multiple Histories of Nanking 1937</b> <i>Panel discussion moderated by Perry Link Vera Schwarcz, Ian Buruma, Takashi Yoshida, Iris Chang</i></p>
	3:00 pm	<p><b>Break</b></p>
	3:30 pm	<p><b>Healing Past Wounds: From Conflict to Cooperation</b> <i>Panel discussion moderated by Sheldon Garon Richard Falk, Yang Daqing, Gilbert Hair, Norman Itzkowitz</i></p>