

Summer school: 1-8 September 2024
ASIAN ANGLO LIFE WRITING
Mulhouse, Alsace (France)

The Asian Anglo Life Writing summer school is hosted at the University of Upper Alsace (Université de Haute-Alsace, UHA), a public teaching and research university located in Mulhouse, France. UHA is part of a trinational cross-border university alliance (EUCOR) that includes the Swiss, French, and German universities of Basel, Mulhouse, Strasbourg, Freiburg, and the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology. This collaboration reflects UHA's high academic standards and geographical advantages, as Mulhouse is a border city located next to Switzerland and Germany.

The summer school welcomes applicants from the Greater China region, regardless of their career stage—be it postgraduates, postdocs, early-career scholars, or established professionals. In Mulhouse, participants will engage with the summer school faculty, a group of experts from various Asian and European institutions, including professors, journal editors, and writers. The theme of the summer school is Life Writing, a genre that includes writings about personal memories, experiences, opinions, emotions, and more. Notably, the autobiography genre, along with subgenres such as biography, memoir, diary, letter, testimony, and personal essays, are all forms of life writing. During the summer school, we will explore the study of life writing, with a particular focus on Asian Anglophone life writings. This includes both literary classics written by authors such as Maxine Hong Kingston, as well as more recent works by emerging Asian American and Asian Diaspora authors. In addition to written texts such as novels, the summer school will also cover topics like comics, as well as popular music and lyrics by artists such as Coco Lee and Leehom Wang.

The structure of the summer school consists of a series of lectures and seminars, as well as cultural activities, including visits to local sites in Mulhouse, the art museum in Basel, Switzerland, the Cathedral of Strasbourg, France, and wine tasting at a French vineyard, among others. It also includes an academic publishing workshop, where participants can meet journal editors and book series editors from reputable journals and academic publishers to discuss strategies for publishing internationally. The summer school will conclude with a one-day symposium where participants are invited to present their work-in-progress and receive feedback from the faculty members.

Faculty:

Nicoleta ALEXOAE-ZAGNI (Université Paris 8 Vincennes-Saint-Denis, France)

Rocio DAVIS (Universidad de Navarra, Pamplona, Spain)

Pin-chia FENG (National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University, China)

Chang LIU (Universität Heidelberg, Germany)

Sämi LUDWIG (UHA Mulhouse, France)

Jihyun PARK (author, UK)

Strong Points of Program:

- *Lecture and seminar* with each faculty member—a *reader* of life-writing texts will be made available
- *Film screenings*, discussions in the evenings
- *Academic publishing workshops*:
 - o *Atlantic Studies* (Davis)
 - o LIT Verlag: *Contributions of Asian American Literary Studies* (Ludwig, Alexoae)
 - o *Celebrity Studies* (Liu)
- *Participant presentations*
- *Contact with staff* (stay in the same hotel)
- *Cultural program*:
 - o local museums
 - o sights in Alsace
 - o sights in neighboring Switzerland
 - o etc.

Day-by-day Activities (to be confirmed):

Sunday

- evening: arrival, welcome reception

Monday

- morning:
 - o LUDWIG, lecture and seminar on Maxine Hong Kingston's *The Woman Warrior: Memoirs on a Girlhood Among Ghosts*
- afternoon:
 - o ALEXOE-ZAGNI, lecture and seminar on Tom Lin or C. Pam Zhang
- evening:
 - o Introduction to *Contributions to Asian American Studies* (CAALS)

Tuesday

- morning:
 - o LIU, lecture and seminar on "Lyricism and Identity: Asian American Artists in Mandopop and Mandopop as Life Writing." (Coco Lee, Wang Leehum, MC Jin, Bohan Phoenix).
- afternoon
 - o tour of the Musée de impression sur étoffes (MISE, Mulhouse)
 - o street art in Mulhouse (Rogan Stevens)
- evening
 - o screening of movie 1

Wednesday

- morning:
 - o FENG, lecture and seminar on Pauline Chen's *Final Exam: A Surgeon's Reflections on Mortality*. New York: Vintage, 2007.
- afternoon:
 - o visit of Strasbourg: Musée Tomi Ungerer, Cathedral
- evening:
 - o choucroute in Strasbourg

Thursday

- morning:
 - o DAVIS lecture and seminar on "Representing Asian Americans in 21st-Century Films": "Crazy Rich Asians," "Everything, everywhere, all at once," and the Marvel movie, "Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings."
- afternoon
 - o Visit of Basel, Art Museum
- evening
 - o PARK on *The Hard Road Out*

Friday

- morning:
 - o participant presentations
- afternoon
 - o participant presentations
- evening
 - o reception at old Mulhouse City Hall, screening of movie 2

Saturday

- o wine-tasting tour
- evening: conference dinner

Accommodation:

Shared rooms in the *Hotel La Maison*, in the center of town in Mulhouse
<https://www.hotel-mulhouse.com/en>

Participation fee: €1200, including accommodation (see above), at least two meals a day, local fees and transportation, cultural events, trips to Basel and Strasbourg, etc.

Single room: €1400.—

Early booking: €200.— discount (before the end of July 2025)

Application procedure:

Please send a *short bio* and a one-page *statement of motivation* with our research interests, and your expectations for and potential contributions to the summer school to Dr. Chang LIU (chang.liu@hcts.uni-heidelberg.de) and Prof. Sămi LUDWIG (samuel.ludwig@uha.fr) by April 30th 2025. We will send official acceptance letters by the end of June 2025.

See website: TBD

Reading materials (to be completed):

Kingston, Maxine, Hong. *The Woman Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood Among Ghosts* (1976), esp. "White Tigers"

Liu, Chang. "Coco Lee vs. the U.S. Music Industry: An Asian American Diva's Journey Across Borders." In *The Borders Between and within: Writing America with No Bounds*. Eds. Nicoleta Alexoae-Zagni, Pin-chia Feng. Münster: LIT Verlag, (forthcoming, 2025).

Wang, Grace. "The ABC of Chinese Pop: Wang Leehom and the Market of Global Chinese Celebrity." *Journal of Transnational American Studies*, 4.1, 2012.

Park, Jihyun. *The Hard Road Out*. Harper North, 2022.