

Proposal for a Critical Asian Humanities MA

I. Introduction

The Academic Programs Committee reviewed the proposal to establish an MA in Critical Asian Humanities on December 6, 2017. Leo Ching, Associate Professor and Acting Chair, Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, and Carlos Rojas, Professor and Director of Graduate Studies, Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, were in attendance as representatives for the proposal. The proposal had been previously reviewed by the Executive Committee of the Graduate Faculty and the Masters Advisory Council. APC was provided with the following documents for review: the revised proposal (September, 2017), Masters Advisory Council guidance, questions from the ECGF and the response, and the ECGF resolution.

II. Summary of APC discussion

The discussion covered the relationship between the MA in CAH and the existing MA in EAS (East Asian Studies), both of which are currently housed in APSI (Asia/Pacific Studies Institute). The AMES representatives explained the rationale for the change at some length. Their explanation, which was well-received by the APC, focused on how the faculty and staff resources for the MA were overwhelmingly in AMES, on the differences in the two MA programs (the CAH is a theoretically-oriented course of study that differs from the area studies approach of the EAS MA), and on the larger vision for Asian studies at Duke moving forward. Various questions – including questions about the name, its specialized focus on contemporary culture, the problem of fielding a diverse cohort of students (given tuition realities, etc.), and its potential role within a broader PhD program in Asian Studies – were raised and answered in an intelligent and compelling manner. Professors Ching and Rojas are to be commended on their preparation, candor, and their clarity and persuasiveness.

III. Resolution: APC recommends to the provost the approval of the proposal for a MA program in Critical Asian Humanities to be housed in AMES.

IV. Further Considerations. The APC recommends that attention be paid to how the new MA in CAH, once up and running, actually impacts the application pool of the existing MA in EAS.

V. Approved – 24; abstained – 1; did not vote - 4