

TIME TERM TURN

CALL FOR PAPERS: “Time, Term, and Turn”

In the fourth week of January 2025, Chinese netizens found themselves caught in a wave of unexpected activity triggered by an American “invasion.” Just a week earlier, American users, popularly dubbed “TikTok refugees,” had migrated to RedNote following the ban of TikTok, controversially labeled a “Chinese spy app.” Meanwhile, Trump introduced \$TRUMP, a cryptocurrency devoid of intrinsic value but remarkably effective at generating data traffic. Within two days, speculative investors saw staggering returns as this meme coin surged from \$1 to a peak of \$100. These events provoke critical questions: What *time* are we living in? What *turns* are shaping our present and future?

We are pleased to invite submissions for the upcoming graduate symposium, “**Time, Term, and Turn**,” organized by graduate students from the Department of East Asian Studies at McGill University. This symposium seeks to examine generational transformations and intellectual challenges faced by emerging scholars while fostering an interdisciplinary dialogue on the evolution of academic methodologies and theoretical frameworks over time. It particularly encourages participants to explore alternative understandings and experiences of time within Asian cultural and historical contexts, both past and present. Possible topics include, but are not limited to queer temporality, mythological timescapes of gods and spirits, the deep time of geology.

Scholars have long grappled with the complexities of time and temporality—how it is experienced, understood, and represented in both recent and distant histories of Asia. Modernity, as we understand it, is deeply entwined with coloniality, shaping temporal frameworks and narratives. From a broader perspective, human bodies decay and merge with the earth, returning as bones and dust. Yet time is also constructed and institutionalized differently: it may manifest as a national decision, such as the establishment of unified time zones, or as subjective experiences influenced by factors like locality, race, and ethnicity.

For instance, the people of Hokkaido often reflect on Japan’s transformation from archipelagos into a nation-state, juxtaposed with the Ainu people’s cyclical conception of time as attuned to nature and spirituality—a perspective that clashed with the linear historical worldview imposed upon them. Similarly, the experimental fiction of Chinese author Can Xue defies linear storytelling, constructing alternative temporalities and reimagining human existence. The experiences of Korean War survivors further complicate notions of time; their traumatized memories fragmented not only their physical and psychological landscapes but also disrupted the progressive temporality of war and postwar narratives. These counter-narratives challenge official South Korean discourse, particularly its glorified portrayal of U.S. involvement during the postwar period.

This symposium welcomes submissions from graduate students across all disciplines and institutions. The conference is generously supported by the Department of East Asian Studies, the Office of the Provost and Executive Vice-President, and the Dean of Arts Development Fund at McGill University. The symposium will be held on **April 26, 2025**, in Room 1041, Sherbrooke 680, Montreal, Quebec. Each presenter will have 20 minutes for their presentation, followed by a 10-minute Q&A session.

Submission Guidelines:

Please submit a 250–500-word abstract in either .docx or .pdf format. The document should include: (1) Your name; (2) Program and institution; (3) Title of the presentation; (4) Contact information.

Deadline for submission: March 3, 2025 **Notification of acceptance:** March 14, 2025

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