

“Islam in Asia”:

A Multinational Book Display to Celebrate Shared Asian Culture
and to Challenge Stereotypes

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McGill

Libraries
Bibliothèques

About me

- East Asian Studies Librarian, University of Notre Dame, 2012-2023.

Subject specialist

Cataloger

- East Asian Studies and Political Science Librarian, McGill University, 2023-

Participate in public services as a member of

- The Humanities and Social Sciences Library
- The library-wide liaison librarian group

- Background
 - Redpath Library Display
 - Asian Heritage Month in Canada
- Why “Islam in Asia”?
- Project details
- Outcomes
- Conclusion

Redpath Book Display

- Curated by librarians or staff members.
- Books are selected from the Libraries collection.
- The display rotates every month.
- Purposes:
 - increase awareness and use of Library resources.
 - send a positive message to the community

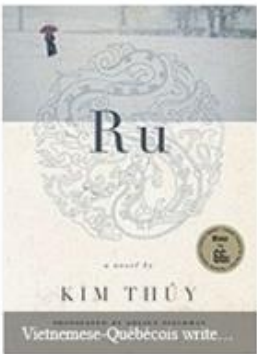


“May is Asian Heritage Month in Canada”

- Started in the 1990s.
- Became official in 2002.
 - Asian Heritage Month is “a time to reflect on and recognize the many contributions that people of Asian origin have made and continue to make to Canada.”

Asian-Canadians Celebrated by Academic Libraries in Canada

Asian-Québécois



Shining a light on works by and about Asian Canadians

In honour of Asian Heritage Month, the SFU Library invites you to celebrate the histories, stories, and experiences of Asian Canadians through books, films, video games, and more.

Visit our in-person display

During the month of May, drop by our in-person displays at Fraser Library (Surrey), Beitzberg Library (Vancouver), and the 3rd floor of Bennett Library (Burnaby).

Read a book, online or in print

Browse through the SFU Library's collection of print books and e-books written by Asian Canadian authors.

Asian Heritage Month

May is Asian Heritage month in Canada. This guide highlights resources that celebrate the beliefs, history, culture of people of Asian descent.

[Noteworthy Canadians of Asian Heritage \(Government of Canada\)](#)

Noteworthy Canadians of Asian heritage

These short biographies highlight some of the many valuable contributions made by Canadians of Asian heritage. They reflect historical and cultural milestones that help define the rich and significant history of communities of Asian heritage in Canada.

 Ben Zook (1916-2021)	 Jenson Galati	 Steven Kato
 Yung Liu	 Jack Shreeve	 Wai Sze Hong

ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH

to provide a sliver of insight into the diverse Asian-Canadian authors and cover a range of experiences of growing up Chinese in Canada, experiencing a sense of place in a multicultural society and more.

Search

Why “Islam in Asia” for Asia Heritage Month?

Islam is a religious tradition and culture of Asia

“Asia is home of 65 percent of the world's Muslims, and Indonesia, in Southeast, is the world's most populous Muslim country.”

(Laffan, “Islam in Southeast Asia”)

Country	Christians	Muslims ▼
▶ World (All)	2,382,750,000	1,907,110,000
▼ Asia-Pacific (All)	319,830,000	1,139,990,000
2010	287,100,000	986,420,000
2020	319,830,000	1,139,990,000
2030	346,840,000	1,273,030,000
2040	367,640,000	1,380,160,000
2050	381,200,000	1,457,720,000
▶ Middle East-North Africa (All)	14,600,000	381,140,000
▶ Sub-Saharan Africa (All)	650,240,000	329,740,000
▶ Indonesia	26,930,000	229,620,000
▶ India	33,800,000	213,340,000
▶ Pakistan	3,260,000	200,490,000
▶ Bangladesh	520,000	153,010,000
▶ Nigeria	96,080,000	104,650,000
▶ Egypt	4,440,000	90,420,000
▶ Iran	100,000	80,880,000

Islam is becoming a new Canadian cultural heritage

- Islam was the second largest religion in Canada after Christianity.
- Muslims represented 4.9% of the entire population (38 million)--South Asians (37.6%); Arabs (32.2%); West Asians (13.0%); Black people (11.6%). (2021 Canada Census of Population)
- The Muslim population is expected to grow
 - Muslims arrive through immigration programs, as well as through Canada's Refugees and Asylum Program.

How can we challenge stereotypes and fight racism?



Home News Sport Business Innovation Culture Arts Travel Earth Audio Video Live

Atlanta spa shootings: Who are the victims?

22 March 2021

Share Save



Atlanta shootings: "It's scary just to be an Asian American woman"

CANADA

Quebec City mosque attack

Six Muslim men were fatally shot in an attack on the Islamic Cultural Centre on January 29, 2017.



“Addressing anti-Asian racism” (Government of Canada)

- Learn about pan-Asian diversity
- Challenge stereotypes
- Show solidarity
- Be an ally
- Interrupt unconscious biases

Objectives

- Target audience: undergraduate students
- Introduce less-known and important culture that broadly applies to the geographic region, Asia.
- Foster interest in Asian studies

Scope & Content

- Size: online exhibition + 50-60 titles for 2 display cases.
- Formats: print books; ebooks; streaming videos
- Categories: general reference + 4 regions (Central; South Asia; Southeast Asia; East Asia) + videos (documentaries).
- Subjects: history, traditional literature, ethnography, sociology, philosophy, architecture, cinema, music and dance

Categories

- Asia & Islam: general reference/history books (6)
- Central Asia (15)
- South Asia (18)
- Southeast Asia (18)
- East Asia (17)
- Documentary films (7)
- Related Sources (4)

Collaborator

■ Soraya Ata

- A staff member at Rare Books & Special Collections, with a Master's Degree in Film Studies (*Thesis title: *The Small, Imperfect Cinema of Afghanistan – Through the Work of Roya Sadat*)
- Served as an illustrator, a selector and a cultural adviser.

Online exhibition



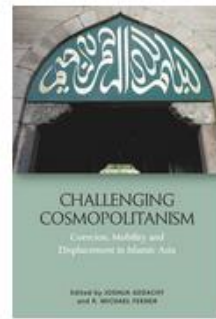
In celebration of the 22nd [Asian Heritage Month in Canada](#), the McGill Library showcases scholarly and educational resources about the people, history and culture of Islam in Asia through the Redpath book display (May 1-31, 2024) and the online exhibit of books and documentary films.

Asia & Islam

- Background Information -



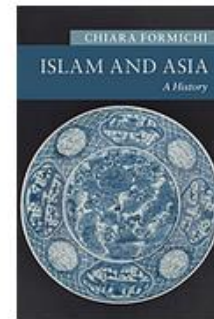
Asian Islam in the 21st century.



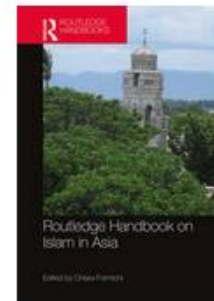
Challenging cosmopolitanism: coercion, mobility and displacement in Muslim Asia



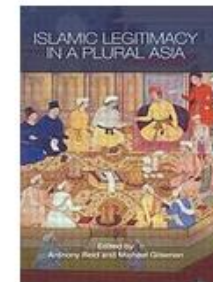
Concepts of philosophy in Asia and the Islamic world



Islam and Asia: a history.

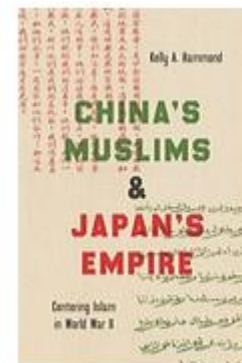
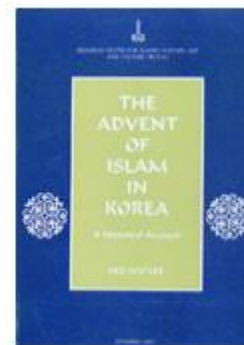
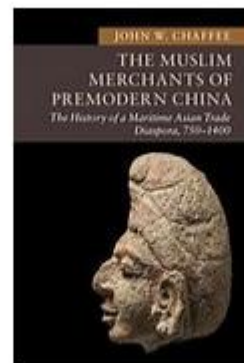
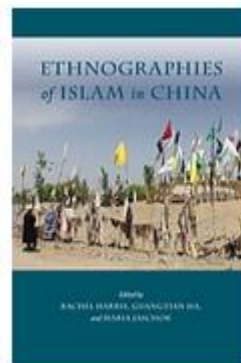
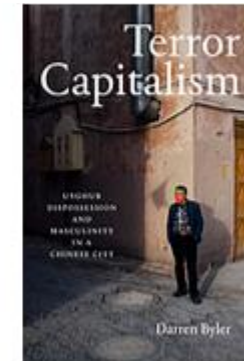
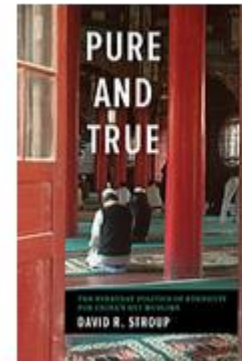
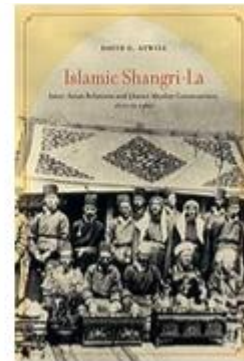
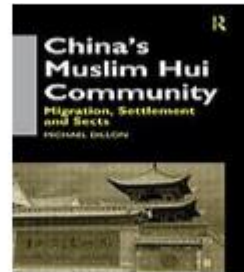
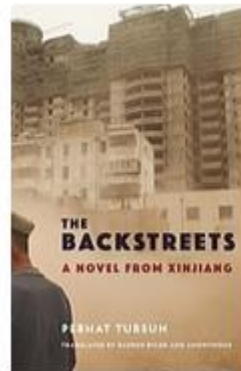
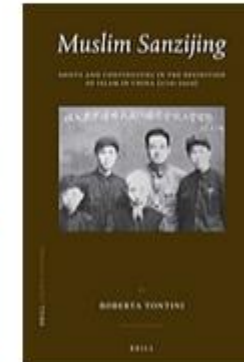
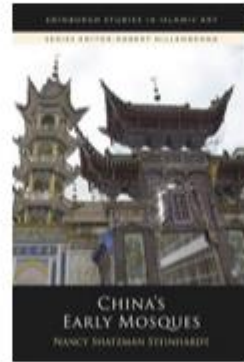


Routledge handbook on Islam in Asia

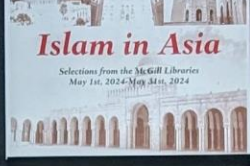


Islamic legitimacy in a plural Asia

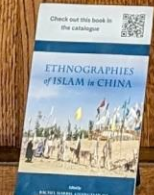
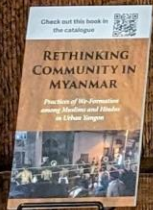
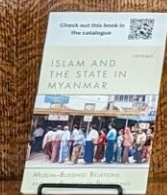
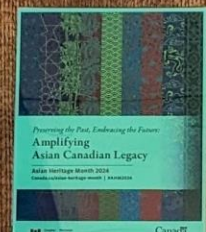
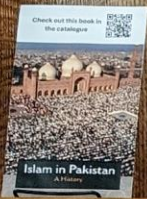
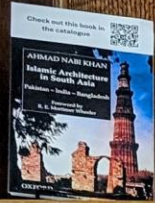
East Asia

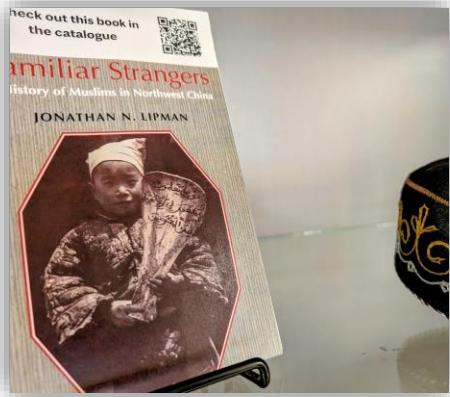
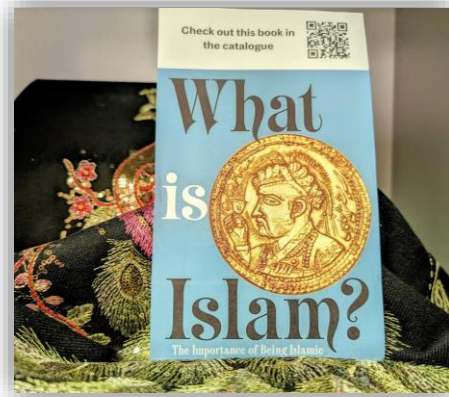


Redpath Book Display Browse & Borrow



Présentoir de livres Redpath À consulter et emprunter





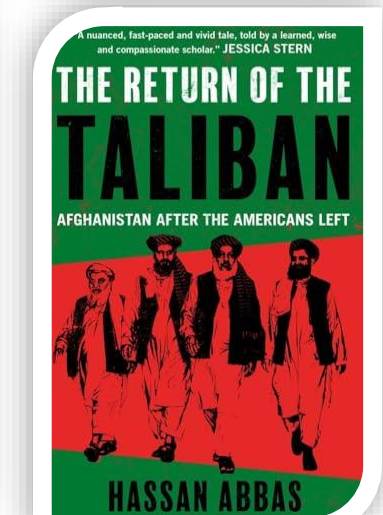
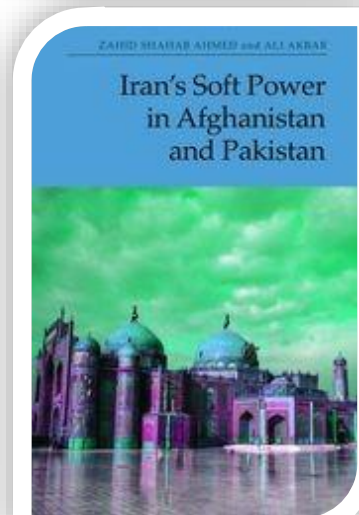
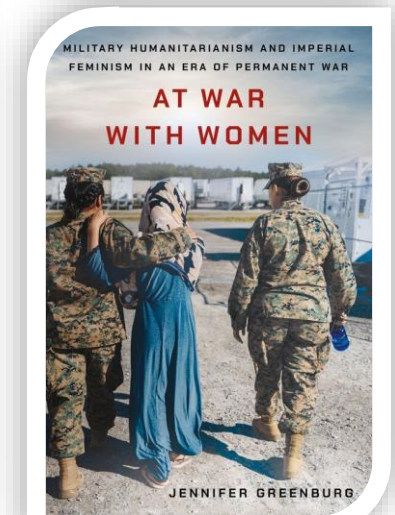
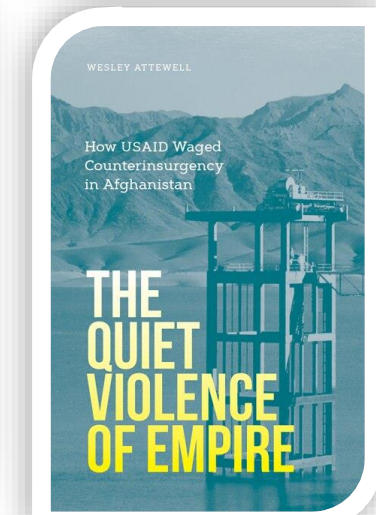
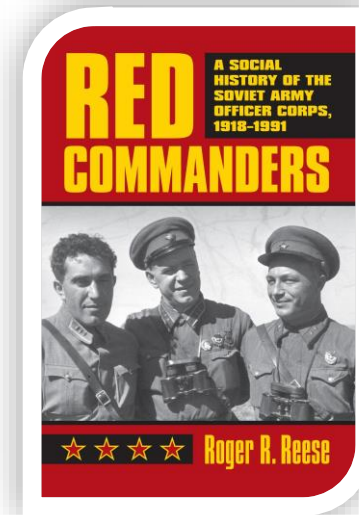
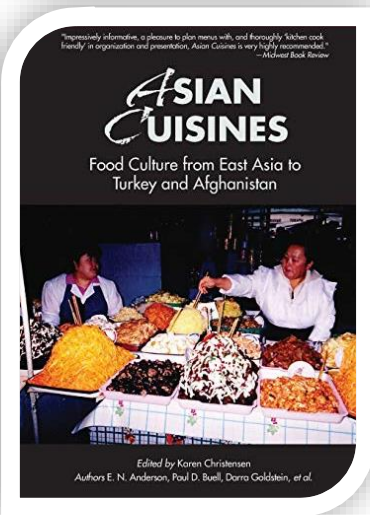
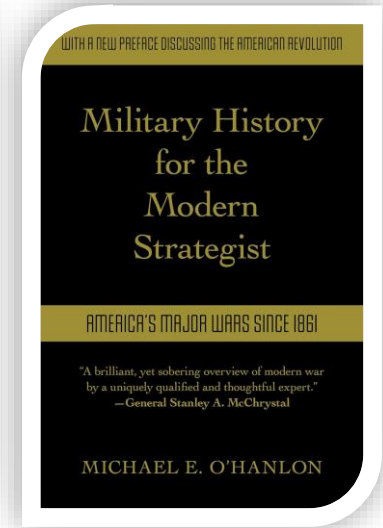
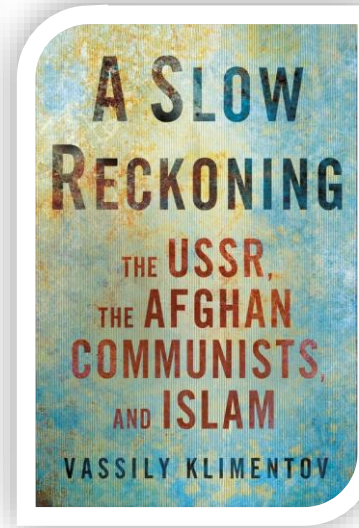
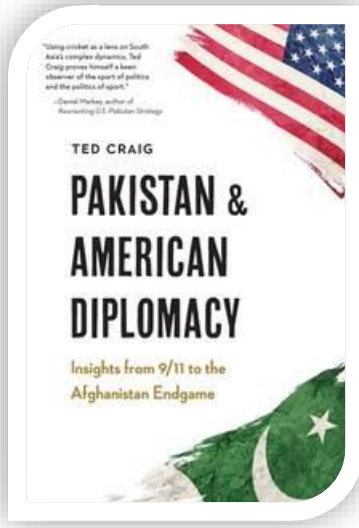
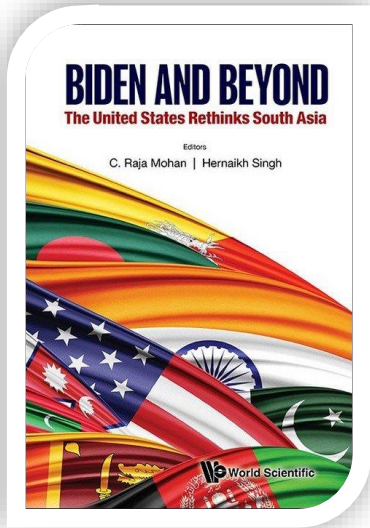
Outcomes

- 3 print books were checked out; an unknown number of electronic books and videos were used.
- Introduce less-known and important culture that broadly applies to the geographic region, Asia →?
- Foster interest in Asian studies →?
- Conversations with users!

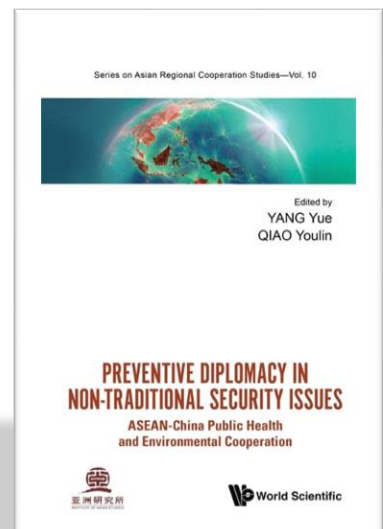
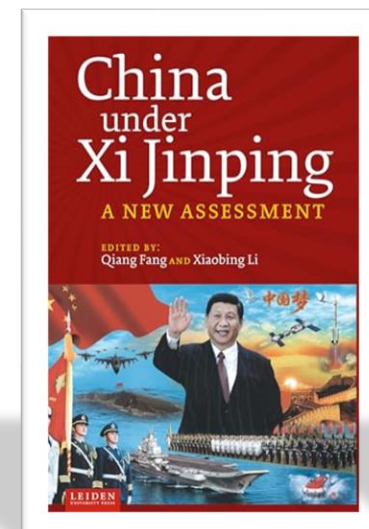
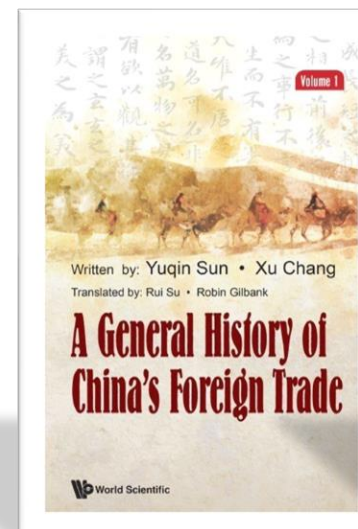
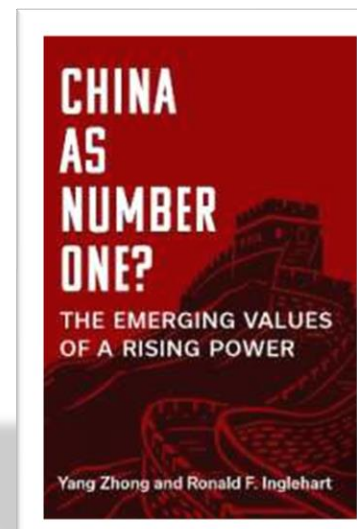
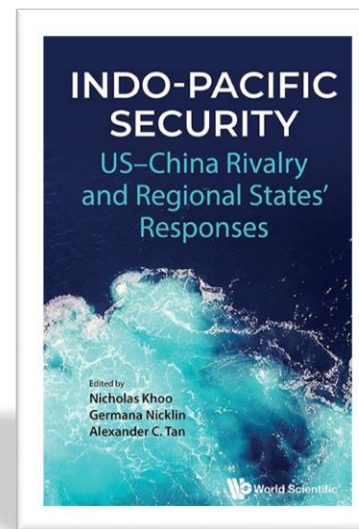
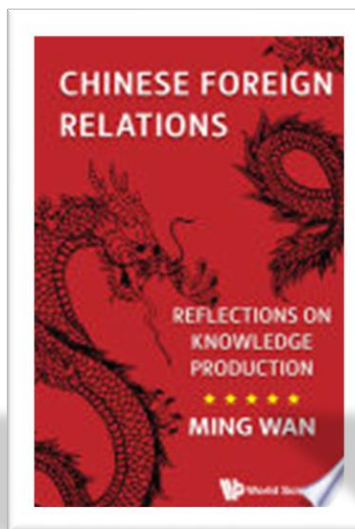
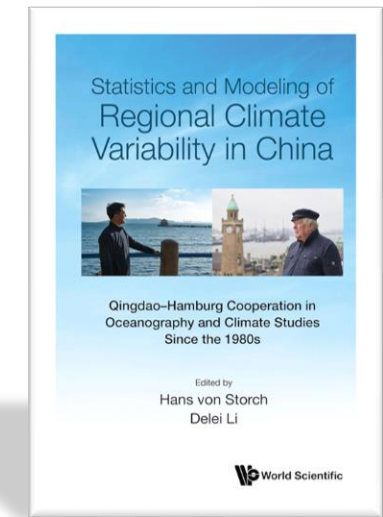
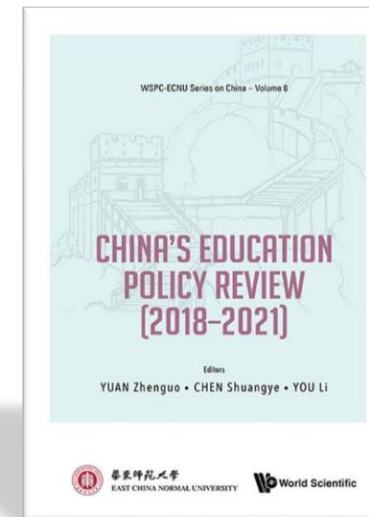
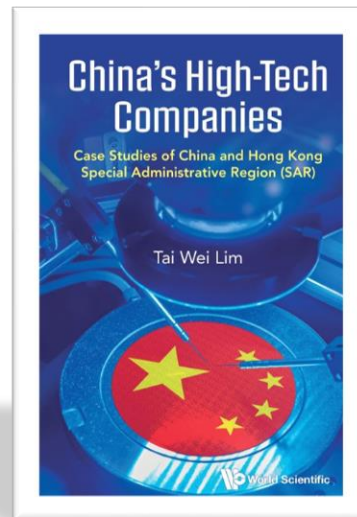
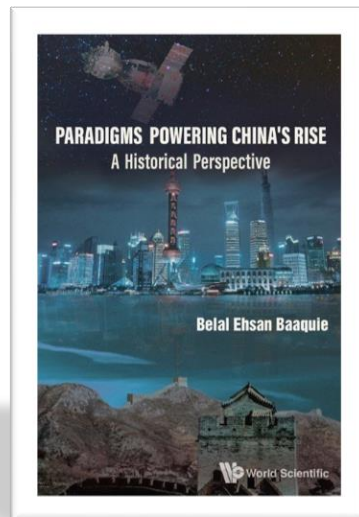
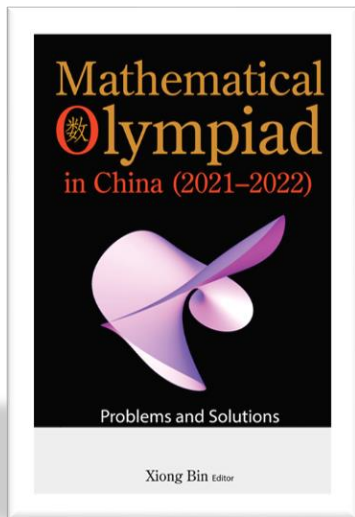
Conclusion

- Book Displays at Academic Libraries
 - Boost the circulation.
 - Create opportunities for user engagement.
- “Librarians are responsible for ensuring the usefulness and discoverability of collections.” (Tingle & Teeter, 2018)

Books on Afghanistan



Books on China



Decolonial Approach to Library and Information Studies: Starting Points

1. Commitment to social justice and antiracism
2. Political reflexivity and positionality: How do we reflect on our roles in reproducing and reinforcing colonial narratives?
3. Engagement with epistemic decolonisation and pluriversal [not universal] knowledges: Acknowledge and challenge the ways in which Western knowledge is promoted as a superior form of knowledge regardless of the context of application globally.

(Jimenez, Vannini & Cox, 2022)

Thank you!



Please visit
[https://libraryguides.mcgill.ca/redpathbookdisplay/islam in asia](https://libraryguides.mcgill.ca/redpathbookdisplay/islam%20in%20asia)

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- "Canada: Quebec City mosque attack" by [Aljazeera](#), used under [CC BY-NC-SA](#)
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