



STANFORD UNIVERSITY
CENTER FOR EAST ASIAN STUDIES

June 10, 2019

Dear President Tessier-Lavigne and Provost Drell,

We, the Steering Committee of the Center for East Asian Studies and affiliated faculty, write to express our concern about the future of the Stanford University Press. We believe that the announced plan to eliminate the modest base subsidy to the Stanford University Press will fatally diminish its resources, dealing a critical blow to its lists in area studies, and undermining its ability to expand the series in Asian Studies which is among the best in the country, and the world.

As our colleagues in History, Sociology, Anthropology, East Asian Languages & Cultures, and the Division of Literatures, Cultures, and Languages have commented, university presses serve an indispensable role in disseminating cutting-edge scholarly research that, while vital to the academic mission, cannot hope to reach a large enough market to be profitable. Accordingly, almost all university presses operate at a loss, which is made up with endowment income (both Harvard and Princeton have endowments of over \$100 million), journal income, fundraising, and subsidies from their universities. The small annual subsidy the Press receives pays dividends in the form of wide-ranging lists that showcase a variety of academic disciplines, and because of the Press's reputation for excellence and thoughtfulness, regularly compete for authors with much larger and better-funded presses.

Eliminating that subsidy will not only undermine an important venue for scholarship, but it also sends an unfortunate signal about Stanford's commitment to scholarship in the arts, humanities and social sciences. Moreover, such a move will contradict the university's ongoing mission to educate "global citizens" and "promote diversity"—a mission in which Stanford University Press, through its internationally renowned series in East Asian Studies, South Asian Studies, Modern Middle East among others, has played a crucial part. In our field of East Asia, the Press has published paradigm-shifting works across decades, and launched the careers of many scholars, too numerous to mention, who have gone on to become leaders in area studies nationally. In more recent years, its editorial team has led the way in bringing the field into the digital age, publishing ground-breaking research projects such as *The Chinese Deathscape* by Thomas Mullaney and *The Chinese and the Iron Road: Building the Transcontinental Railroad* by Gordon H. Chang and Shelley Fisher Fishkin.

We hope you will reconsider any decision to eliminate the subsidy to Stanford University Press, which has served consistently to maintain Stanford's unique standing as a transpacific hub of





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intellectual exchange with Asia. We also believe that any decision about drastic restructuring at the press should be made only after full consultation and discussion with the faculty, with a chance for all members of the university community—including students, librarians, and archivists—to be heard.

Sincerely, the CEAS Steering Committee,

Jun Uchida, Director, Center for East Asian Studies
Dr. **Karen Eggleston**, Deputy Director, FSI Asia-Pacific Research Center
Professor **John Kieschnick**, Religious Studies
Dr. **Alice Miller**, Hoover Institution
Professor **Andrew Walder**, Sociology
Professor **Kären Wigen**, History
Professor **Dafna Zur**, East Asian Languages & Cultures

Additional faculty co-signers from the CEAS Community:

Michael H. Armacost, Fellow, Shorenstein Asia Pacific Research Center
Larry Diamond, Hoover Institution/Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies
Thomas Fingar, Freeman Spogli Institute/Shorenstein Asia Pacific Research Center
Momoe Saito Fu, Language Center
Takeo Hoshi, Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies
Matthew Kohrman, Department of Anthropology
Marci Kwon, Department of Art & Art History
Haiyan Lee, East Asian Languages & Cultures/Comparative Literature
Indra Levy, East Asian Languages & Cultures/Comparative Literature
Phillip Y. Lipsy, Political Science/ Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies
Jean Ma, Associate Professor of Art and Art History
Professor Yoshiko Matsumoto, East Asian Languages & Cultures
Yumi Moon, Department of History
Jean Oi, Department of Political Science
David Palumbo-Liu, Louise Hewlett Nixon Professor
James Reichert, East Asian Languages & Cultures
Matthew H. Sommer, Professor of Chinese History; Chair, Department of History
Melinda R. Takeuchi, Professor, East Asian Languages & Cultures
Barbara L. Voss, Department of Anthropology
Ban Wang, East Asian Languages & Cultures/Comparative Literature
Yiqun Zhou, East Asian Languages & Cultures

