

Contributors

Ye Chen (Zora) did her undergraduate degree in economics and arts, followed by a master's in the social sciences. Zora has always been passionate about literature, art, and philosophy. Composing poetry and prose, and analysing literature and art / pieces cultivated her aesthetic world view, which was challenged by Wang Dongyue's *A Unified Theory of Evolution*. The book lit up her curiosity about the ultimacy of beings, a topic that covers multiple disciplines of nature and social studies. Through Wang's model, the world (with its chaotic and fortuitous phenomena happening at every instant) turns out to be reasonable and clearer than ever in Zora's view. Currently, she is planning to do a PhD on macro-evolution, philosophy and nature, which would contribute to the final completion of her book, *Introduction to the General Law of Being*. Zora may be contacted at <nighton352@gmail.com>.

Kenji Ichikawa 市川賢司 is a teacher at Aletheia Shonan Junior and Senior High School in Chigasaki, Kanagawa, Japan. He teaches world history and began the first high-school Big History class in Japan in 2016. As an extension of his teaching, he organizes field trips to nearby Enoshima Island, which provides students with important experiences with which to understand the world and the cosmos. In 2019, he gave a report about his teaching of Big History and the liberal arts at the first international Big History symposium held in Japan. Kenji may be reached at <fumimaya001@gmail.com>.

Hirofumi Katayama 片山博文 is professor at J.F. Oberlin University, Tokyo, where he specializes in environmental economics. He organized and teaches one of the first big history courses in Japan <<http://obhp.org>>. In 2019, he and Nobuo Tsujimura organized the first Japanese Big History symposium, Big History and Liberal Arts, hosted by J.F. Oberlin University. Hiro's goal is to construct a 'Buddhist Big History,' which is based on the respect for all life and existence. His publications include *Politics of Climate Change over the Arctic: Preliminary Thoughts on the Global Commons* (Bunshindo 2014) and *Free Market and the Commons: An Introduction to Environmental Finance* (Jichosha 2008). His e-mail address is <katayama@obirin.ac.jp>.

Theyiesinuo Kreditsu is a feminist poet, folklorist, writer, and educator. She is co-founder of the Centre for Indigenous Knowledge & Alternative Learning and advocates the revival of Indigenous Naga textiles and women's narratives through her popular Instagram avatar: @mekhalama. She has published two books of poetry, *Sopfünuo* and *Wake*, under the pen name T. Kreditsu, and has contributed to a number of anthologies and journals in her academic and literary capacities. Her poem, 'Whore,' was translated into Gujarati by Sitanshu Yashaschandra. Theyiesinuo has a PhD in Cultural Studies from the Tata Institute of Social

Sciences, Mumbai. A member of the Angami tribe, her research focuses on contemporary Naga culture, Indigenous knowledge, Indigenous feminisms, and the oral and written literatures of Nagaland. She is widely sought as a motivational speaker and compère, and conducts trainings in diction, communication, performance, and creative writing. With over fifteen years of teaching, Theyie has taught at Sazolie College in Jotsoma (Nagaland) and at Hindu College and Delhi University. She is currently Assistant Professor in Kohima College, Kohima, Nagaland (India). She may be reached via <theyiek@gmail.com>.

Seohyung Kim, PhD, is a historian who studies infectious disease and medicine, as well as Big History. She was the first Korean professor to teach Big History – at Ewha Woman's University in Seoul. She structured her course as a convergence between the natural sciences and humanities. She also introduced the Big History Project into Korean high schools with world historian Ji-Hyung Cho. Seohyung has widely disseminated big-history knowledge to Korean scholars, teachers and students via public lectures for universities and government agencies, as well as in newspaper columns, on TV and for radio. In addition, she was a member of the Committee of 20 Big History Books, released in Korean by Y School Publishers, for which she wrote *Big History for the Primary Student* and *Six Vaccines that Changed World History*, among other titles. She also translated David Christian's *This Fleeting World* (2008) and *Origin Story* (2018) into Korean, as well as Alfred Crosby's *America's Forgotten Pandemic* (2003). Seohyung may be reached at <flander77@gmail.com>.

Afshan Majid is an Assistant Professor for History at Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts. She co-developed and co-teaches the first course in Big History in a university in South Asia. She has a PhD in Medieval Indian History from the Centre of Advanced Study in History at Aligarh Muslim University in Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh (India). Her thesis involved a reconceptualization of Mughal society and culture as gleaned from 16th century historian 'Abdul Qādir Badāūnī's work, the *Muntakhab-ut-Tawārikh*. In addition to her specialisation in history, Afshan also holds a degree in Women's Studies and has interdisciplinary publications in both fields. She may be reached at <afshan.majid@ssla.edu.in>.

Yuri Matsuzaki obtained her PhD from Keio University in Tokyo, where she developed biochemical simulation models to study the regulation system of bacterial signal transduction. She then worked as a post-doctoral researcher at the Tokyo Institute of Technology, where she investigated protein-protein interaction-prediction systems and their application to systems biology. After her post-doctoral work, Yuri shifted her focus toward promoting the

improvement of scientific research culture. She joined the Education Academy for Computational Life Sciences at the Tokyo Institute of Technology as adjunct faculty and later moved to the Tokyo Tech Academy for Leadership, where she designs leadership education programs for graduate students in science and technology from various majors. She seeks to use Big History as a part of this leadership program because it helps to bridge different scientific and engineering fields and spark discussions. Yuri may be reached at <matsuzaki.y.ad@m.titech.ac.jp>.

Prashant Olalekar is a Jesuit from Bombay who completed his Doctor of Ministry in Peace Studies at the Graduate Theological Union, (DMin) Berkeley, California in 2006. Recently retired as Head of the Department for Interreligious Studies, he was also Adviser of the All India Catholic University Federation unit at St. Xavier's College, Mumbai. Prashant coordinated *Jagruti* (Awakening), an experiential value education programme for junior college students, which included exposure trips to slums and rural areas of India. He was Novice Director and Coordinator for Formation of the Bombay Jesuit Province, Episcopal Vicar for Religious of Vasai Diocese, and Director of Pasayadaan Holistic Spirituality Centre, Vasai, and Retreat House, Bandra. Co-founder of *Samanvaya* (Harmony), a network for grassroots research scholars to collaborate for community peace, Prashant also founded InterPlay India and organized Peace Pilgrimages to India from the USA and Australia. InterPlay and Movement Meditation workshops are popular with professionals, students, teachers, as well as marginalized groups like the tribal community, the differently-abled, sex workers, and slum dwellers. He has facilitated Movement Meditation retreats in India, the United States, and Ireland. An active member of the Big History movement, he makes presentations on topics related to Cosmic Spirituality for the World Union of Jesuit Alumni, the Jesuit Educational Association of South Asia, and Fireflies Ashram in Bangalore. He may be reached at <prash7654@gmail.com>.

Joel S. Regala is Assistant Professor and former Chair of the General Education Department, School of Arts & Sciences, Holy Angel University, Angeles City (Philippines). He finished his BSEd in History, Magna Cum Laude, at Holy Angel University, then obtained his MA in Philippine Studies at the Asian Center, University of the Philippines, Diliman. Joel sits as a Vice President of ADHIKA (Asosasyon Ng Mga Dalubhasa May Hilig at Interes Sa Kasaysayan) Ng Pilipinas Inc. [Association of Professionals, Enthusiasts, and Interests in History of the Philippines]. He attended the Big History Summer Institute at the Dominican University of California in 2017. He may be contacted at <jregala@hau.edu.ph>.

Martin Robert is Associate Professor at Kyoto University in Japan, where he teaches undergraduate and graduate students about life and systems biology, data analysis, and scientific writing and communication. He obtained his BSc and PhD in the field of biochemistry from McGill University in his home city of Montreal, Canada. This was followed by postdoctoral training at Chugai Pharmaceuticals, near Tsukuba (Japan), and work as a project manager at Euroscreen, a biotech company in Brussels (Belgium). In 2003, Martin joined the Institute for Advanced Biosciences, a pioneering institute of Keio University in Tokyo. A decade later, he joined the Institute for Excellence in Higher Education at Tohoku University in Sendai, where he developed and taught his first big-history course. He is pursuing research on bacterial biofilms as a developmental model, with an emphasis on metabolic function. His research interests include among others the systems-biology and sociobiology of *E. coli*. Martin may be contacted at <robert.martin.4m@kyoto-u.ac.jp>.

Barry H. Rodrigue is a geographer, archaeologist, and professor of anthropology at the Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts, Symbiosis International University in India. He was a founding member of the International Big History Association, the Asian Big History Association, and the Indian Association of Big History. Along with Andrey Korotayev and Leonid Grinin, he compiled the three-volume collection, *From Big Bang to Galactic Civilizations: A Big History Anthology*, which includes chapters by one hundred scholars from two dozen nations. Barry serves on the editorial board of the *Journal of Big History; History, Archaeology and Ethnography of the Caucasus*, a journal of the Dagestan Scientific Centre, Russian Academy of Sciences, in Makhachkala; and the first anthropology journal in South Asia, *Man in India*. He sees the use of big history's micro/macro lens as an important tool for humanity's understanding of its place in the cosmos as well as a key to our survival as a species on Earth. He may be contacted at <rodrigue@archinets.org>.

Nobuo Tsujimura is a big historian living in Tokyo and has played a role as a hub to activate big history at home and abroad as president of the Asian Big History Association. He has served as a board member of the International Big History Association and the Institute for Global and Cosmic Peace in Yokohama and as adviser for the Oberlin Big History Movement based in J. F. Oberlin University in Tokyo. In 2019, he co-organized the first international big history symposium in Japan with Professor Hirofumi Katayama at Oberlin, where he is currently teaching three big history courses as adjunct lecturer. He may be contacted at <palettehole@gmail.com>.

Yangkahao Vashum is Professor of Systematic Theology and Tribal Theology at the Eastern Theological College in Jorhat, Assam (India). A member of the Tankhul tribe, he is also the Dean of the Tribal Study Centre and Executive Editor of the *Journal of Tribal Studies*. Ahao has also served as Head of the Department of Theology and Dean of Post-Graduate Studies. He received his ThM from Princeton Theological Seminary (New Jersey) and his PhD from the Iliff School of Theology and Denver University (Colorado) in the United States. He has authored, edited and co-edited a number of books including *Tribal Theology and the Bible* (2011); *Peacemaking in Northeast India* (2012); *Search for a New Society* (2012); and *The Quest for Harmony* (2013). *His Christology in Context: A Tribal-Indigenous Appraisal of North East India* received the J. G. Frank Collison Award for Outstanding Contribution to Theological Research in India in 2017. His latest, *Faith Seeking Transformation: Rethinking Faith, Theology and Mission in North East India*, was published in 2020. He has written many scholarly papers nationally and internationally. Ahao can be reached at <yvashum@gmail.com>.