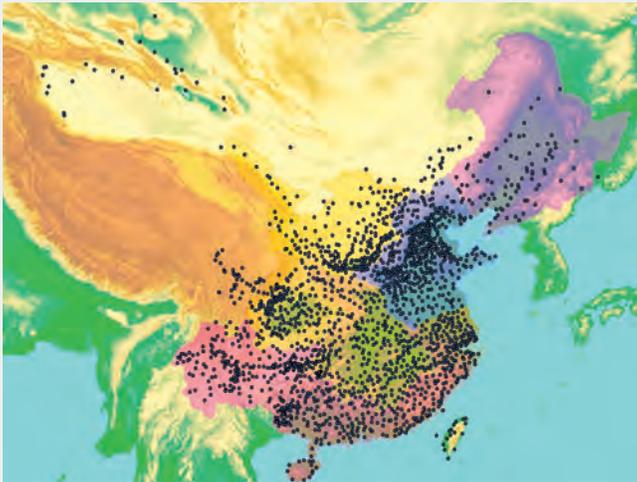From the *Tibetan and Himalayan Historical and Cultural Geography*: Monks and nuns gathered for the morning teachings of Khenpo Jikme Phuntsok, the founder of the Tibetan Larung Gar religious community in Golok, located in Sichuan Province, China.   PHOTO BY DAVID GERMANO

From the *China Historical Geographic Information System*: Two datasets developed by G.W. Skinner, with points representing local administrative units (1820–1893) and shaded areas representing macroregions of physical geography, overlaid on a topographic basemap of Asia.

From the *Visualizing Cultures* project "Rise & Fall of the Canton Trade System": *Trial of Four British Seamen at Canton*, 1807, attributed to Spoilum.
HONG KONG MUSEUM OF ART

Digital Humanities

NEW TRENDS IN SCHOLARSHIP

The Foundation supports several innovative projects that use digital technology to create new scholarly resources and foster transnational networks of educators and researchers focused on Asia.

The University of Virginia's Tibetan and Himalayan Library received support for the *Tibetan and Himalayan Historical and Cultural Geography*, which works with teams of Tibet-focused scholars in history, religious studies, anthropology, cartography and information technology to integrate research data. An interactive online mapping program explores Tibet's geographical features, monasteries and polities. Descriptive information and geographic coordinates are linked to images, videos and essays.

A grant to the Harvard-Yenching Institution laid the foundation for the *China Historical Geographic Information System* (CHGIS). A partnership with Shanghai's Fudan University and others working on geospatial data, CHGIS provides a platform on which scholars can collect, display and share Chinese historical information with a spatial element and can track change through time. For example, fluctuations in grain prices can provide information about climate change and economic trends, and shifts in administrative boundaries can show the effects of nomadic invasion. Scholars worldwide are able to download CHGIS for use in their research, and can also enrich the database with their own contributions. CHGIS has worked closely with the Tibetan and Himalayan Library project to share and coordinate data.

The *Visualizing Cultures* project at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology combines scholarly commentary, images and curriculum to examine the modern history of East Asia. Foundation grants have helped broaden the project's scope beyond Japan, its initial focus. All materials can be downloaded for educational purposes. For MIT professor John Dower, one of the project's founders, the value of image-driven scholarship is that it makes available "an enormous body of historically fascinating material embedded in the visual world—photographs, prints, paintings, popular graphics and material objects that saturate everyday life and influence how we see ourselves and others." ■