Highlights

Warmest Welcome to Our New Colleagues

Gonçalo Santos (PhD in Anthropology), Assistant Professor
Gonçalo Santos was an LSE Fellow at the Department of Anthropology of the London School of Economics and Political Science (2007-2011) and a Senior Research Fellow at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology in Halle/Saale (2011-2013). He obtained his PhD in Anthropology at the ISCTE – Lisbon University Institute in Portugal in 2004 with a dissertation focusing on social change and intimate relations in rural South China. He has extensive field research experience in China, both rural and urban areas.

Gonçalo’s research interests include kinship, gender, and intimacy; development and capitalist transformations; charity, ethics and popular religion; and science and technology studies. He is the author of many refereed journal articles and book chapters on contemporary Chinese society and the co-editor of the volume *Chinese Kinship* (Routledge 2009). He is currently completing an edited volume on Chinese family and gender relations (with Stevan Harrell), a special issue on love, marriage, and intimacy in China and India (with Henrike Donner), and a monograph on technology, kinship, and intimacy in contemporary rural China. He plans to develop a new research project on flush toilets and personal hygiene in contemporary China.

Oiyan Liu (PhD in History), Research Assistant Professor
Oiyan Liu joined the Institute upon completing her PhD at Cornell University. A historian in Chinese, Southeast Asian, and overseas Chinese history, Oiyan’s research interests include the study of empires and diaspora in transnational and comparative contexts. Her work concentrates on the extension of Chinese influence into overseas territories, particularly the empowerment of the Chinese in colonial Southeast Asia.

Oiyan’s dissertation discusses how the Chinese under Dutch colonial rule transformed their status from stateless subjects to Chinese nationals and Dutch colonial subjects. Currently she is working on two projects. The first compares Chinese and European views of political legitimacy over Southeast Asia. The second project examines multiple interpretations of Confucianism among overseas Chinese communities.
Featured News

Conference on “Inter-Asian Connections IV: Istanbul” (October 2-5, 2013, Istanbul)

The Conference on “Inter-Asian Connections IV: Istanbul” was successfully held at Koç University, Istanbul. It is the fourth conference in the series and the third event of the Institute’s multi-year collaboration with a growing set of partners. The original partners (the Institute, National University of Singapore (NUS) and the Social Science Research Council, New York) from 2009 have now been joined by Yale University and Göttingen University.

Intensive workshop sessions were held during the four days of meeting on seven individual themes:

- “After Neoliberalism?” The Future of Post Neoliberal State and Society in Asia
- Asian Early Modernities: Empires, Bureaucrats, Confessions, Borders, Merchants
- Contemporary Art and the Inter-Asian Imaginary
- Inequalities in Asian Societies: Bringing Back Class Analysis
- Porous Enclaves: Inter-Asian Residential Projects and the Popular Classes from Istanbul to Seoul
- Rescuing Taste from the Nations: Oceans, Borders, and Culinary Flows
- The Sounds and Scripts of Languages in Motion

Prof. Willem van Schendel from the University of Amsterdam gave a keynote address on “Recombining Asia, or Three Wars and a Conversion”. Prof. Deniz Kandiyoti from SOAS, University of London gave a presentation on “Ambiguous Locations/Shifting Vocations: Turkey in Asia” at one of the public plenary sessions. These two fascinating presentations, together with a round-table discussion on “Istanbul Conversations – The New Global Left and the Politics of Mediated Activism” brought together leading scholars such as Chu Yun-han (Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange), Prasenjit Duara (NUS), Michael Feener (NUS), Engseng Ho (Duke University), K. Sivaramakrishnan (Yale University), and Helen Siu (Yale University). Six HKU scholars attended the conference. They are Helen Siu as Honorary Professor of the Institute, Christopher Munn (HKU Press and HKIHSS), Lawrence Zhang (HKIHSS), Lin Pei-yin (Chinese), Shih Shu-mei (Chinese), and John Wong (Modern Languages and Cultures).

Distinguished Lecture “東亞的奇觀山水” (A Reflection on Landscape Painting in East Asia) by Prof. Shih Shou-chien (October 28, 2013)

Prof. Shih Shou-chien (石守謙), Academician and Distinguished Research Fellow, Academia Sinica, former Director of the National Palace of Museum of Taipei, gave a highly inspiring lecture, entitled “東亞的奇觀山水”. The lecture explored mountain landscape painting in China in the 17th and the 18th centuries, with an emphasis on the impact of woodblock prints on mountain landscape targeting tourists as readers. It then focused on the intriguing interaction and dialogue between Chinese and Korean styles in mountain landscape painting in the same period. Following the lecture was an animated discussion between Prof. Shih and an audience of more than 90.

Prof. Shih with Prof. Angela Leung and Prof. S.P. Chow, Pro-Vice Chancellor of the University
Collaboration

International Conference on “Food and Health” (December 15-17, 2014)

The Institute is pleased to co-organize with the Asian Society for the History of Medicine (ASHM) its 7th bi-annual conference in Hong Kong in December 2014. This conference, entitled “Food and Health”, will look towards establishing a link between what we eat and our health from both the Asian and historic point of view. Based on this the organizing committee has identified three important themes. They are “nutrition and body”, “food as product/poison/cure”, and “hunger and famine”. Scholars from various disciplines are encouraged to submit proposals at www.hkihss.hku.hk/Food&Health. The deadline for online submission is January 15, 2014.

Postgraduate Programs

Roadshows in Tianjin & Beijing to promote Postgraduate Studies (September 14-18, 2013)

Prof. Angela Leung led a delegation to Tianjin and Beijing in mid-September to promote postgraduate programs offered by the Institute in 2014-15. Two information seminars were organized with the generous assistance of the School of History, Nankai University, Tianjin, and the Institute of Medical Humanities of Peking University, Beijing. Over 60 students attended the seminars with enthusiastic feedback and enquiries from prospective students.

Applications for Admission to Postgraduate Programs, 2014-15

The Institute now invites applications for admission to MPhil and PhD programs in 2014-15. For details of our programs and application procedure, please visit www.hkihss.hku.hk.

Application Period for Hong Kong PhD Fellowship (HKPF) Scheme and HKU Main Round

HKPF Scheme
Initial Application to HK Research Grants Council: (HK Time) September 2, 2013 to December 2, 2013, 12 Noon
Full Application to HKU: early September to December 2, 2013

HKU Main Round Application
Full Application to HKU: Early September to December 2, 2013

Enquiry: ihssrpg@hku.hk
Publications

A number of books based on collaborative work of the Institute, and by our colleagues were published recently. They are:


An output of the Institute’s research cluster “Indigenous Charities in the Modern World”, co-convened by Prof. David Faure and Prof. Rajeswary A. Brown, this book looks at operations of indigenous charities in countries from China to Indonesia, Thailand, Iran, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Lebanon and Turkey with a focus on adaptability and accountability. Also examined are ownership and participation of these charities at the local, regional and international level. Drawing upon experiences of their operations, the book offers interesting insights into the function, identification, and impact of such charitable operations.


Pacific Crossing, authored by Dr. Elizabeth Sinn, charts the rise of Chinese Gold Mountain firms engaged in all kinds of transpacific trade, especially the lucrative export of prepared opium and other luxury goods. Challenging the traditional view that the migration was primarily a “coolie trade”, Dr. Sinn uncovers leadership and agency among the many Chinese who made the crossing. In presenting Hong Kong as “in-between place” of repeated journeys and continuous movement, Dr. Sinn also offers a fresh view of the British colony and a new paradigm for migration studies.

Dr. Sinn is an Honorary Professor at the Institute. Since 2006, she has been invited by the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust to lead the Hong Kong Memory Project and to create a website on Hong Kong history, culture and heritage.


Hong Kong is among the richest cities in the world. Yet over the past 15 years, living conditions for the average family have deteriorated despite a robust economy, ample budget surpluses and record labour productivity. Mr. Leo Goodstadt’s Poverty in the Midst of Affluence identifies the causes and the course of worsening poverty amid growing affluence in Hong Kong. He traces how officials have created a “new poverty” in Hong Kong and argues that their misguided policies are both a legacy of the colonial era and a deliberate choice by modern governments, and not the result of economic crisis. The book’s Chinese title is 《繁華底下的貧窮：香港施政失誤》.

Mr. Goodstadt is the Institute’s Honorary Fellow. He was head of the Hong Kong government’s Central Policy Unit from 1989 to 1997. He teaches at the University of Dublin.
Upcoming Activities

**Departmental Seminar Series**

This series provides a platform for students, colleagues and friends to engage in intellectual discussions with an invited speaker or in-house researcher. Dr. Lawrence Zhang, one of the Institute’s young researchers, will present on December 11, 2013. Spring sessions will be announced very soon.

**Lunchtime Series on Interdisciplinary China Studies**

This year’s series is coordinated by Dr. Ji Li and Dr. Lawrence Zhang. Three sessions will be given by HKU and CUHK scholars in November and December 2013. Another seven scholars will speak in the Spring semester of 2014:

**Fall semester, 2013**

- November 5: Dr. Zheng Jing, City U and HKU HKIHSS
- December 3: Dr. David A. Palmer, HKU Sociology and HKIHSS
- December 17: Dr. Jennifer Wan, HKU Biological Sciences

**Spring semester, 2014**

- January 28: Dr. Tong Qing Sheng, HKU English
- February 11: Dr. Ho Chih-Hsing, HKU Medical Ethics & Law
- February 25: Dr. Elizabeth Sinn, HKU HKIHSS
- March 18: Prof. Wu Yiching, Toronto East Asian Studies
- April 1: Prof. Loretta Kim, HKBU History
- April 15: Dr. Joys Hoi Yan Cheung, CUHK Music
- April 29: Dr. Gonçalo Santos, HKU HKIHSS

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The volume edited by Dr. Fung Kam Wing with two other scholars Dr. Lau Y. W. and Dr. Chan C. M. studies the history of the engineering profession and the development of major engineering projects from 1842 to 1975. This volume, in which Dr. Fung also contributes a co-authored paper, was published with the generous support of the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers. The English version, entitled *Upon the Plinth of A Fisherman Port: 130 Years of Engineering Development in Hong Kong*, will be published in early 2014.

Dr. Fung is the Institute’s Honorary Associate Professor and Fellow.

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**Liang Qi:** *Leprosy in China. A History* (NY: Columbia University Press 2009) has recently been translated into Chinese and published by the Commercial Press in Beijing.

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**Dr. Nanlai Cao’s book** *Constructing China’s Jerusalem: Christians, Power, and Place in Contemporary Wenzhou* (Stanford University Press 2010) has been translated into Chinese and published by the HKU Press.

Dr. Cao is a former Research Assistant Professor at the Institute where he finished writing his first book and had it published in English and in Chinese.
Training Program “Historical Anthropology: the History and Development of Guangzhou” (歷史人類學考察項目：廣州歷史及其當代發展) (November 22-24, 2013, Guangzhou)

To enhance local students’ understanding of the development of mainland China, Hong Kong Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences will co-organize with the Centre for Historical Anthropology, Sun Yat-Sen University the program “歷史人類學考察項目：廣州歷史及其當代發展”. This program is part of the HKU-China 1000 Exchange Scheme 2013 and will run from November 22-24, 2013. Through lectures, city walks, visits and other exchanges, this training program hopes to enhance participants’ knowledge about Guangzhou from a historical and contemporary perspective. Emphasis will be placed on the contemporary interactive development between Hong Kong and Guangzhou. The three-day training program attracted applications from 39 HKU undergraduate students, 20 of whom have been admitted.

Public Program

Contemporary Chinese Documentary Series -- Meeting the Director: Dai Pai Dong Tea Trail (半世紀茶跡) Directed by Dr. Petula S. Y. Ho (何式凝) (November 25, 2013, HKU)

The documentary tells the story of the twin sisters, Hazel and Dai Ga Jer (big sister), whose family owns a Dai Pai Dong (cooked food stall) in Tsuen Wan. In 2009 the family celebrated 50 years of being in business.

Through the decades, the Dai Pai Dong has given the family eight children and the means to weather difficult times. When Hazel was a student she worked hard. She became the only member of the family to study abroad in the UK, where she would later meet her husband. Now a mother of two, she holds degree from the Open University – graduating in the same year as her daughter in the UK – and has finished an MBA whilst working full time as an administrator in an insurance company. Her sister Dai Ga Jer has always worked at the Dai Pai Dong and has now taken up ballroom dancing with her husband.

The sisters feel they complement each other well and share a fuller life than normal sisters do. Year 2011 saw their mother passing away suddenly. Since then the family has tried hard to cope and adapt to any changes faced. The second half of the film documents how their 80 plus year old father and four sons (aged 40 to 60) struggle to cope with life’s challenges.

Director Dr. Petula S. Y. Ho will engage in a discussion with the audience after the screening of the film. Prof. Lo Wai Luen (盧瑋鑾/小思) has been invited to serve as mediator.
Recent Activities

Lunchtime Series on Interdisciplinary China Studies

There were four interesting sessions in September and October. The first talk, “The Rise of the Psychological Self in Contemporary China”, was given by Dr. Teresa Kuan of CUHK Anthropology. Next up in the series was “Cowboys in Tropics: Milk, Hygiene, and the Acclimatization of Hong Kong” given by Dr. Robert Peckham of HKU History. In October the series continued to garner much enthusiasm from faculty members and students alike. Dr. Tang Ling-yun of HKU Sociology spoke on “Collecting Chinese Art in Hong Kong: A Global Perspective”, then Dr. Tian Hongping from the Yale-China Association share her findings on “Educational System for China’s Health Professionals: the Changing Role for a U.S. NGO”.

(Anti-clockwise, from top left) Dr. Teresa Kuan, Dr. Robert Peckham, Dr. Tian Hongping, and Dr. Tang Ling-yun

Workshop and Training Program on “Rethinking Chinese Cities: Comparative Approaches to Urban Studies” (June 15-16 and 18-24, 2013, East China Normal University, Shanghai)

The workshop was the second event of a three-year collaboration titled “Urban Studies and the China Experience” with the Harvard-Yenching Institute and East China Normal University. 16 presenters and other scholars in history, political and social sciences from the mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and North America engaged in in-depth discussions from different perspectives in an attempt to explore how these approaches might be useful in the study of Chinese cities.

The workshop was followed with a seven-day training program for advanced postgraduate students and junior faculties. 20 trainees were selected from over 100 applications worldwide with ten from the mainland China, nine from North America, Europe, Singapore, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau, together with an MPhil student, Ning Rundong, from the Institute. Renowned scholars such as Elizabeth Perry (Harvard University), Theodore Bester (Harvard University), Helen Siu (Yale University), Erik Harms (Yale University) were invited to deliver lectures.

Prof. Elizabeth Perry (foreground, right) and participants at the workshop

Mr. Ning Rundong (left), MPhil Student of the Institute at the training session
Contemporary Chinese Documentary Series — Meeting the Director: Sock’ N Roll (台灣黑狗兄)
Directed by Ho Chao-ti (October 11, 2013, HKU)

The first of this semester’s Contemporary Chinese Documentary Series was held on October 11. Ms. Ho Chao-ti (賀照緹), a talented Taiwan director, was invited to a screening of her latest work “Sock’N Roll” with renowned cultural critic Mr. Chang Tie-chi (張鐵志) as commentator. The event was attended by an enthusiastic audience of 110, which included faculty staff, members from the general public and students. During the discussion that followed, the audience was eager to ask questions regarding such issues as how Taiwanese workers and small businessmen struggle to survive in the context of globalization.

Ms. Ho Chao-ti and Mr. Chang Tie-chi

Dr. Lawrence Zhang in the discussion session

Institute’s News

Congratulations to Dr. Ji Li for obtaining the Incentive Award by the University

Dr. Ji Li, Research Assistant Professor, was recently granted the Incentive Award by the University to credit her project application at the 2013-14 round exercise of General Research Fund and Early Career Scheme applications.

Personalia

Staff Appointments
Dr. Gonçalo Santos, Assistant Professor, from October 2013.
Dr. Oiyan Liu, Research Assistant Professor, from October 2013.

Honorary Staff Appointment
Prof. Richard Wong, Honorary Professor, from December 2013.

Visiting Scholars/Fellows at HKIHSS
Mr. Leo Goodstadt, School of Business Studies, Trinity College, University of Dublin, October 2013 to May 2014.

Staff Departures
Dr. Nanlai Cao and Dr. Renaud Egreteau, Research Assistant Professors, left the Institute in September and October 2013 respectively. We wish them every success in their future endeavors.

If colleagues have news to share with the Institute, please email your materials to sycheng2@hku.hk.

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