Highlight

The Journal of History and Anthropology (《歷史人類學刊》) was added as a core journal to the “Taiwan Humanities Citation Index” (臺灣人文學引索引核心期刊) in November 2012. This insertion by the National Science Council in Taiwan shows that the journal continues to gain visibility, accessibility and impact. As a key supporter of the journal, the Institute is delighted about this inclusion.

The journal is an important output of the Institute’s long-time collaboration with the Center of Historical Anthropology at Sun Yat-sen University in Guangzhou. The only journal of its kind from Greater China and published bi-annually since 2003, there have been 17 issues so far with some 100 peer-reviewed articles and 160 book reviews.

While the Journal of History and Anthropology is about looking into the past, we want to move it forward at the same time. We are looking into the possibility of making it electronically available on our website.

Featured News

International Conference on “Philanthropy, the State and Globalisation”
(December 6-8, 2012, HKU)

Convened by Professors Rajeswary A. Brown and David Faure, the International Conference on “Philanthropy, the State and Globalisation” was the third and last conference of our research cluster “Indigenous Charities in the Modern World”. The focus was on comparing local, indigenous charities to their foreign counterparts, those having been brought into a particular community from a greater region or internationally. Charitable operations and experiences from many corners of Asia and Africa were examined. Of particular interest was the relationship between charitable groups and the State in places like China, Turkey and Indonesia.

Participants of the two-day workshop then spent a day in Guangzhou visiting the Lions Club, En-ning Road Concern Group and ICS 807 Creative Space. The group of 13 compared each of these charities in aim and strategy with the other two, as well as with similar organizations in the Western tradition.
Collaborations

1. Inter-Asian Connections IV: Istanbul, October 2013

Organized by the Institute, the Social Science Research Council (SSRC), Yale University, the National University of Singapore (NUS), Göttingen University, and Koç University, the International Conference on “Inter-Asian Connections IV: Istanbul” will be held in Istanbul from October 2 to 5, 2013 with Koç University playing host. The call for papers ended in mid-February 2013. Selection will take place in March/April by a team of workshop directors who are distinguished scholars in various humanities and social science disciplines.

There will be seven concurrent workshops held over four days and these are the themes:

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

More details are available on the official website of SSRC (www.ssrc.org).

2. Urban Studies & the China Experience, June 2013

The Institute teamed up with Harvard-Yenching Institute and our long-term partner, East China Normal University, organized a three-year program on “Urban Studies and the China Experience” in 2011. The first event of this collaboration was a two–day workshop on “China's Urban Political Culture in Comparative Perspective”, held at Harvard University on May 4-5, 2012. The second event takes place this year in Shanghai from June 15-24, 2013, and will comprise two programs: (1) a workshop for scholars on “State and City” (June 15-16), and (2) a training camp on “China Urban Studies: A Comparative Perspective” for postgraduate students (June 17-24). The camp will include opportunities for trainees to explore new approaches in research and develop new ways of conceptualizing China’s urban issues. A small number of outstanding trainees may be selected as Harvard-Yenching Visiting Fellows to spend a year in residence at Harvard to pursue advanced studies. The closing date for enrolling in the training camp is March 18, 2013. Visit www.hkihss.hku.hk for more details.

3. Hosting Postdoctoral Fellows from Needham Research Institute, Cambridge

The Institute is working with the Needham Research Institute, Cambridge, to co-mentor young scholars who are awarded funding under the newly established postdoctoral fellowship scheme. This scheme has the aim to provide academic support to those who intend to carry out research in the history of science, technology and medicine in China. Mentees are expected to spend most of their time in residence in Cambridge but a significant amount in Hong Kong as well. Their stay in Hong Kong will be hosted by the Institute.
Publications

The Institute collaborates with major academic presses in China, Hong Kong and overseas to deliver outputs of our research clusters, and these are in press:

K. Sivaramakrishnan & Anne Rademacher (eds.), Ecologies of Urbanism in India: Metropolitan Civility & Sustainability. With HKU Press. Forthcoming 2013. This volume is an output of the cluster “Environmental Sustainability and Political Ecology”.

Rajeswary A. Brown and Justin Pierce (eds.), Charities in the Non-Western World: The Development and Regulation. With Routledge. Forthcoming 2013. This volume is an output of the cluster “Indigenous Charities in the Modern World”.

Eric Tagliacozzo, Helen F. Siu, and Peter C. Perdue (eds.), Asia Inside Out Vol. 1: Critical Times was accepted by Harvard University Press. This volume is an output of the cluster “Trading Empires of the South China Coast, South Asia, and the Gulf Region”.

Discussions of publication plans with other international academic presses are being held.

Upcoming Activities

Lecture & Seminar Series

Distinguished Lectures

Mok Hing-Yiu Distinguished Lecture on “A Second Fanshen: Village Real Estate and Cultural Belonging in Urban South China” (March 7, 2013, HKU)
By Prof. Helen Siu, Professor of Anthropology, Yale University

Distinguished Lecture on “China in the Early Modern World” (April 5, 2013, HKU)
By Prof. R. Bin Wong, Professor of History, University of California, Los Angeles

Departmental Seminar Series

The Institute’s Honorary Fellow, Mr. Leo Goodstadt, will present “A World without Welfare” on April 10, 2013. Another talk by the Institute’s young researcher, Dr. Nanlai Cao, is scheduled for June 6, 2013.

Conferences & Workshops

Workshop on “Anatomical Modernity: Gender and Health in East Asia” (June 3-4, 2013, HKU)

This small workshop, convened by Prof. Angela Leung and Dr. Izumi Nakayama, will follow up on the March 2012 Conference and prepare for a book volume. Scholars from Taiwan, South Korea, UK and USA will discuss roughly eight to nine papers, focusing the theme of gendered bodies in modern East Asian with historical, anthropological, and sociological perspectives. Prof. Francesca Bray (University of Edinburgh), the Institute’s Honorary Professor, will participate as the general discussant.

Public Programs

Contemporary Chinese Documentary Series: Meeting the Director (March 22, 2013, HKU)
“One Nation, Two Cities” (一國雙城) directed by Cheung King Wai (張經緯)

New immigrants from Mainland China to Hong Kong are often labeled “uneducated” and “uncivilized” and are considered inferior by many locals. While Hong Kong is and has been a society of migrants, those who now consider themselves locals have come very far from that idea, calling the new migrants “them” and themselves “us”. The us constantly demonizes the them, passing judgment without cause. This them-vs-us segregation is what Director Cheung King Wai tries to capture in his film through the eye of a Mainland migrant. Mr. Leung Man Tao (梁文道) has been invited to serve as commentator on the day.
Recent Activities

Distinguished Lectures

(From left) Prof. Dorothy Ko, Prof. Volker Scheid and Prof. Deborah S. Davis

Three distinguished lectures were held at HKU in December 2012 and January 2013 and generated very positive response from colleagues and students alike. They were:

“Body, Text, and Stone: The Crafting & Connoisseurship of Inkstones in the Early Qing” by Prof. Dorothy Ko (Barnard College, Columbia University) (December 3, 2012)

“From Irrigation Culture via Territorial Warfare to Proto-Immunity: Re-imaging the Body in the late Imperial China” by Prof. Volker Scheid (University of Westminster) (December 11, 2012)

“Post-socialist Families & Marriages: the Experience of Shanghai” by Prof. Deborah S. Davis (Yale University) (January 15, 2013)

Lunchtime Series Interdisciplinary China Studies

Three seminars were given by HKU colleagues in early 2013. Dr. Cheris Shun-ching Chan of Sociology spoke on “Marketing Death: Culture and Life Insurance Markets in China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong” in January. Dr. Marco Wan of the Faculty of Law’s presented on “Law and Film in Hong Kong, 1984-1997” and Dr. Yoshiko Nakano of Japanese Studies shared her findings on “Flying with Madame Butterfly: Early Japan Airlines Advertising in the U.S. and Hong Kong” in February. Much interest was attracted from faculty members and students of the University.

Departmental Seminar Series

Dr. Renaud Egretneau gave a talk on “Islam, Jade Migration & Diasporic Solidarities in the Yunnan-Burma (Mayanmar) Borderlands” in December 2012. Dr. Egretneau shared his field observations and interviews with the audience: why and how Burmese Muslim communities have migrated northwards into China, and managed to position themselves as relatively successful “middlemen”.

Dr. Chan Man Sing gave a seminar on “Knowledge Transfer as Cooperative Conflict: Benjamin Hobson (1816-1873) and the Translation of Western Medicine in late Qing China” in February 2013 where he shared with HKU colleagues and students findings on his project on missionary medicine in late Qing China.

Workshop on “Multi-cultural Encounters in Hong Kong” (January 3, 2013, HKU)

Convened by Dr. Elizabeth Sinn, the workshop opened with a keynote speech by Prof. Leo Ou-fan Lee (CUHK), and had 12 presentations by Hong Kong and overseas scholars. Dr. Sinn is now working closely with the participating scholars on the possibility of publishing the papers.

Left: Dr. Yoshiko Nakano and Dr. Christopher Munn (right)
Middle: Prof. Leo Ou-fan Lee
Right: Dr. Elizabeth Sinn and Prof. Ching Maybo (right)
Contemporary Chinese Documentary Series: Meeting the Director (November 28, 2012, HKU)

“Doctor Ma’s Clinic” directed by Cong Feng
Director Cong Feng brought from Beijing an abridged version of “Doctor Ma’s Clinic” for the screening, and invited Prof. Li Jianmin of Academia Sinica to serve as commentator. Hosted by the Institute’s Director, Prof. Angela Leung, the film was very well received by an enthusiastic audience of nearly a hundred people. As always, after the screening, the audience and guests had a lively discussion on the current health and medical needs of people in the rural areas of China, and on China’s health-care reforms.

Institute’s News

Obituary

Prof. Frank H.H. King (1926-2012)

Prof. Frank H.H. King, who passed away on December 22, 2012 at Roswell, New Mexico, USA, was the founding director of the University’s Centre of Asian Studies, and Distinguished Fellow of the Hong Kong Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences (incorporating the Centre of Asian Studies). He obtained degrees from Stanford University and the University of Oxford and came to teach economics at the University in the 1950s. He was a specialist in economic and monetary history of Asia with particular reference to China. Prof. King’s own magnum opus was a four-volume, commissioned history of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation published by Cambridge University Press, describing and analyzing in a multi-disciplinary approach the Bank's development for the period 1864 to 1984. Prof. King was a prolific writer and an eloquent speaker. He was also an accomplished and persistent world traveller, and a passionate devotee of classical music, opera and the theatre.

(By Prof. Edward Chen, Honorary Distinguished Fellow of the Institute.)

Personalia

Honorary Staff Appointment
Dr. David A. Palmer, Honorary Associate Professor from January 1, 2013.

Staff Appointments
Mr. Leung Chun Kan, Research Assistant I (Hong Kong Memory Project) from December 17, 2012.
Ms. Hilson Ng, Program Officer from February 15, 2013.
Dr. Lawrence Zhang, Post-doctoral Fellow from January 2, 2013.

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

Postgraduate Student
Miss Mathilde Evelyne Biard, MPhil student of History of Medicine admitted in the year 2012-13.

Staff Departures
Dr. Zhou Xun (Research Officer), Dr. Zhang Xueqian (Senior Research Assistant), and Miss Yee Mei Kei (Research Executive, Hong Kong Memory Project) left the institute in December 2012 and January 2013. We wish them every success in their future endeavors.
Congratulations to Dr. Kam Wing Fung

The Chinese Academy of Sciences (中国科学院) has conferred the Sixth Zhu Kezhen History of Science Visiting Research Professorship (竺可桢科学史講席教授) on Dr. Fung Kam Wing, Fellow and Honorary Associate Professor of the Hong Kong Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences, HKU recently.

In order to promote research in the history of science in China and to strengthen exchanges between Chinese and international historians involved in such endeavors, as well as to commemorate Professor Zhu Kezhen, who was a pioneer in the field in modern China, the Institute for the History of Natural Science, Chinese Academy of Sciences, established the Zhu Kezhen History of Science Visiting Research Professorship in 2001. This distinguished appointment has been conferred to eminent historians of science such as Sir Geoffrey Lloyd and Professor Nathan Sivin. Dr. Fung’s tenure at Chinese Academy of Sciences runs from October 2012 to March 2013 during which he gives series of public lectures under the main theme of “Multi-Cultural Perspectives of the History of Science and Technology in East Asia”.

Chinese New Year Tea Party at Our New Home

A tea party was held at the Institute’s new home, May Hall, and was attended by over 40 colleagues, students and friends. The University’s senior management and deans were also able to join. Following the outdoor party was a tour of the Institute’s new offices and the beautiful historic building itself.