



Featured News

Admission to Postgraduate Studies at the Institute now invites applications



The Institute is pleased to announce its enhanced postgraduate programs starting in the academic year of 2012-13. We offer research degrees of Master of Philosophy (MPhil) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in the humanities and social sciences, with a focus on **medicine, science and technology in East Asia**. Our teaching experts include members from not only the Institute but also the Faculties of Arts and of Social Sciences. The University's Distinguished Visiting Professors in the Humanities from overseas universities will also participate in our programs. Students will be supervised by a member of the Institute's academic staff or a qualified Fellow engaged in research at the Institute. If need arises, students may seek joint supervision from academic staff in other faculties of the University.

The Institute will offer exciting opportunities for our students to participate in fieldtrips and short-term study programs under supervision of the Institute's honorary professors and international research partners.

Applications for admission to postgraduate studies at The University of Hong Kong are now open until December 1, 2011. Please browse the Institute's website at: http://hku.hk/ihss/eng/en_posstgraduate.html for more information.

Upcoming Public Programs

Distinguished Public Lecture Series

The Institute will present two lectures by distinguished scholars on their areas of expertise in the coming season:

October 19, 2011

"Healing and Heritage: Sorting out Ethnic Traditional Medicine in Southwest China"

by Prof. Judith Farquhar

Department of Anthropology, University of Chicago

Prof. Farquhar will speak on her preliminary findings from research conducted on several ethnic minorities in China, focusing on their unique ways of healing, and how they assimilate these practices into the mainstream medical system.



Prof. Judith Farquhar

A roundtable session for interested academic colleagues and students will be held on October 20 on the theme of

"The Folk and the Formal: Common Sense, Experience and Official Authority in East Asia". The panel will discuss examples of interactions between popular knowledge and elite-led knowledge production. The historical and sociological theories and methods that reveal the interweaving of folklore and formalized knowledge will also be explored. **Registration is required for this roundtable session.**

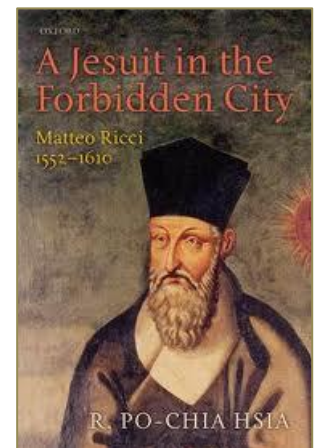
November 14, 2011

"From Buddhist Monk to Western Confucian: the Career of Matteo Ricci in Ming China"

by Prof. Ronnie Hsia 夏伯嘉

Department of History, Penn State University

Prof. Hsia's lecture will be based on his recent biography, *A Jesuit in the Forbidden City: Matteo Ricci 1552-1610*. It will trace the highlight of Ricci's life and achievements, from Italy to India and China, and assess his legacy in the history of Sino-Western cultural history.



The two public lectures will be held in lecture theatre T6 of Ming Wah Complex, HKU. There is no need to register beforehand but do come early to secure a seat.

For enquiries and registration to our programs, please browse the Institute's website:

www.hku.hk/ihss, or email us at ihss@hku.hk;

Tel.: 2241-5056 (Mr. Francis Cheng);

Our office address: G-14 May Hall, The University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong



Contemporary Chinese Documentary Series

The Institute has over the years organized several successful film shows to bring independent filmmakers and their productions to our colleagues and friends. Our aim is to disseminate our research mission and analysis of contemporary social issues through these inspiring visual arts. This year, we will introduce four documentaries / movies directed by independent Chinese directors. Two shows are scheduled in 2011 as follows:

October 14 (Friday)

田喜回家 *Come Home, Tianxi!*

(Director: 艾晓明 Ai Xiaoming)

This documentary depicts the tough campaign of a young HIV activist Tian Xi who was infected by blood transfusion in a public hospital. The screening was followed by a video conference among the director, commentators Mr. Huang Haitao (independent critic from Guangzhou) and Dr. Marco Wan (Department of Law, HKU), and an audience of over 130 colleagues and students. There was a very intensive discussion on the issue of law and justice in contemporary Chinese society, and the audience's response was overwhelming.



Audience continued their exchange with the director over video conference even after the formal session was over

November 25 (Friday)

煤市街 *Meishi Street* (Director: 欧宁 Ou Ning)

(color / 85 minutes / 2006 / Chinese and English subtitles)

The time and venue of this show are to be confirmed, please check our website for update and registration.

Conferences and Workshops

The Institute has set up several multi-year research training clusters under the main theme of "Inter-Asian Connections", and presents academic workshops cum fieldtrips in Asia, the Middle East, and even Africa. Two workshops cum fieldtrips will be organized in late 2011:

"Asia Inside-out: Place"

December 14-22, 2011, Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar, Qatar

This academic workshop aims at examining trading communities and the routes they traveled through Asia to the Middle East, and their implication on redefining "Asia". There will be a small group of 11 scholars to present papers on particular "places" of significance to the above theme, and to conduct fieldwork in Qatar and Oman, which were historical trading hubs among Asia and the Arabic world. A conference volume will be published to capture and disseminate the discussion.

Departmental Seminar Series

The Institute is pleased to present a new quarterly Departmental Seminar Series starting this academic year. It will provide a platform for our students, colleagues and friends to engage in an in-depth discussion led by an invited speaker or in-house researcher.

The first seminar will be held on November 10, 2011, to be presented by Prof. John R. Shepherd, Department of Anthropology, University of Virginia. He will speak on "**The Practice of Footbinding: Neglected Evidence from the Censuses of Taiwan**", exploring the census data from Taiwan for insights into the practice of foot-binding in Taiwanese society.

All seminars under this series will be held in the Reading Room, G/F., Tang Chi Ngong Building, HKU. Please browse the Institutes' website at www.hku.hk/ihss for updates.



Lunchtime Seminar Series on Interdisciplinary Contemporary China Studies

This series was launched in 2009 for a dedicated group of HKU scholars to regularly discuss their latest research on Chinese politics, society and culture. It is held between 12-1 p.m. on alternate Tuesdays in G-15, May Hall, and interested colleagues may sign up to join the exchange, or to speak on their own research. Please email the Institute at ihss@hku.hk for registration.

The following colleagues will speak in Fall 2011:

October 25: **Dr. Adelyn Lim** (School of Modern Languages and Cultures)

November 22: **Dr. Julia Keuhn** (School of English)

December 6: **Dr. Tao Zhu** (Department of Architecture)

"Charities and Legitimacy of Organisation, Law, Accountability, and Transparency"

December 13-15, University of Bogazici, Istanbul, Turkey

This workshop is the second of a series under the Institute's research training cluster of "Indigenous Charities in the Modern World". It will engage a group of over 25 scholars, professionals and practitioners to study the political and governance aspects of charity organizations and practices. There will be a two-day meeting and a full-day visit to charity organizations in Istanbul. Moslem and non-secular NGOs are approached for visits.



Recent Activities

9th Advanced Summer Training Workshop in Historical Anthropology, August 13-23, 2011

This is a long-standing training workshop organized jointly by the Institute and the Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou for advanced postgraduates and young scholars.

This year's field site was in Liping, Guizhou (貴州黎平). Fifteen trainees were led by a group of experienced field scholars to conduct historical/anthropological field work in villages of ethnic group Dong. The key perspectives and site methodologies are framed in response to anthropologist James Scott's influential theory on minority population and state-building. Long walks, field observations, interviews and intensive discussion were core elements of the program, distinguishing it from traditional classroom-based workshops.



Street Market in Guizhou, picture taken during fieldwork

Roadshows in Beijing & Shanghai to Promote Postgraduate Studies, September 14-20, 2011

Following the success of the roadshows held in Taipei this May, Prof. Angela Leung, Director of the Institute, led another delegation to Beijing and Shanghai in September. Four information seminars were organized with the generous assistance of the History Department of Peking University, School of Humanities and Social Sciences of Tsinghua University, National Institute for Advanced Humanistic Studies of Fudan University, and Si-mian Institute for Advanced Studies in Humanities of the East China Normal University. Over 150 students attended the seminars with enthusiastic feedback and enquiries on pursuing postgraduate studies at the Institute. The first batch of students will be admitted in Fall 2012.



Information session at East China Normal University, September 20, 2011

New Appointments and Departures

Honorary Appointments

The Institute is proud to announce appointment of the following distinguished international scholars as our honorary professors:



Prof. Francesca Bray
(Social Anthropology, University of Edinburgh)
http://www.sps.ed.ac.uk/staff/social_anthropology/bray_francesca



Prof. Dorothy Ko
(History, Columbia University)
<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/weai/faculty/ko.html>



Prof. Helen Siu
(Anthropology, Yale University)
http://www.yale.edu/anthro/anthropology/Helen_Siu.html

Dr. Izumi Nakayama (Japanese Studies, HKU) has been appointed as our honorary assistant professor. These scholars will assist in the building and teaching of postgraduate programs at the Institute.

Staff Appointments

Dr. Ji Li, Ph.D. in History from the University of Michigan, joined the Institute as a Post-doctoral Fellow starting June 29, 2011

Dr. Matthew Mosca, formerly Post-doctoral Fellow, was promoted to the grade of Research Assistant Professor from October 1, 2011

Departures

Dr. Victor Zheng (Research Assistant Professor), **Dr. Tsaiman Ho** (Post-doctoral Fellow), and **Dr. Louella Cheng** (Research Officer) have left the Institute in the summer of 2011. We wish them every success in their future academic endeavours.