



Featured News

The New Director Checks in

Professor Angela Ki-che Leung, a leading historian of the medical and social history of late Imperial and modern China, joined the Institute as its first full-time Director on January 1, 2011.

Professor Leung received her doctoral degree at the *École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales*, Paris. Prior to joining the Institute, she was Chair Professor of History at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. She is also an Academician of the Academia Sinica in Taiwan, and a Panel Member of the European Research Council.

In the first 6 months of her tenure, Professor Leung devoted much time to the reorganization of the Institute, which incorporated the former Centre for Asian Studies in 2009, and to dialoguing with colleagues from different faculties for closer collaboration on research and graduate teaching. She is also coordinating a team of local and international scholars in submitting a proposal to the Research Grants Council's new Theme-based Research Scheme that has so far been successful.

Professor Leung gave her inaugural talk as the Director of the Institute on March 14, 2011, on "[The Berberi/Jiaogqi in Colonial Asia ca. 1850-1940: Meanings and Significance](#)".



Upcoming Lecture

Marriage in Cosmopolitan China

By **Professor Deborah S. Davis**, Yale University

Date: July 7, 2011 (Thursday)

Time: 5:00p.m. (Reception 4:30p.m.)

Venue: MW103, Mengwah Complex, HKU

Registration is not required.

Abstract

In the past 30 years, the economies, politics, and cultural repertoires in cosmopolitan Chinese cities have altered the character and quality of marriage. Professor Davis will consider in this talk the implications of the prevalence of no-fault unilateral divorce, non-marital sexual relations, one-child policy, and rapidly declining birthrates on people's definition of a "good marriage."

Please see [this link](#) for more details.



Recent Lectures

The Great Reversal: The 'Rise of Japan' and the 'Fall of China' after 1895 as Historical Fables

by **Professor Benjamin Elman**, Princeton University
June 9, 2011, Theatre T5, Mengwah Complex, HKU

Benjamin Elman is currently Professor of East Asian Studies at Princeton University. His latest research focuses on the intellectual impact of late Imperial Chinese classicism, medicine, and science in Tokugawa Japan from 1700-1850, and the talk captured some of his findings from the study.



'Stand Up Straight': Posture and the Meanings Attributed to the Upright Body

by **Professor Sander Gilman**, Emory University
January 14, 2011, MB150, Main Building, HKU

Sander Gilman was a Visiting Research Professor of European Studies at HKU when he gave his talk, which took place in the Main Building of HKU. In his presentation, he focused on the set of interlinked claims about posture in modern culture, and illustrated how these brought all of the earlier debates together to reform unhealthy posture.

Recent Lectures

中國歷史上大國的興衰 (Lecture in Chinese)

by Professor Hsu Cho-yun (許倬雲)

April 27, 2011, Kwan Fong Lecture Theatre, HKU

Hsu Cho-yun is Professor Emeritus of History and Sociology at University of Pittsburgh, and Special Distinguished Research Fellow at Academia Sinica, Taiwan. His theoretical examination of Chinese civilization and history has a worldwide readership. Over 200 guests queued up for this inspiring talk on the controversies in the development of Chinese history from historic to modern times.

An audio recording of the talk is available for loan upon request. Please email ihss@hku.hk for details.



Prospects for China's 12th 5-Year Plan 展望「十二五」

by Professor Wu Jinglian (吳敬璉)

March 30, 2011, Rayson Huang Theatre, HKU

This lecture was organized by the Faculty of Business and Economics in association with the Institute, as a program of HKU's Centenary Celebration. Prof. Wu Jinglian's distinguished profile as China's most influential economist had attracted a huge audience of over 500 people who were eager to share Prof. Wu's view on China's development with the implementation of the 12th Five-Year Plan.

Prof. Wu is a Research Fellow of the Development Research Centre of the State Council, Deputy Director at the Advisory Committee for State Informatization, and Professor of Economics at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

Other Recent Activities

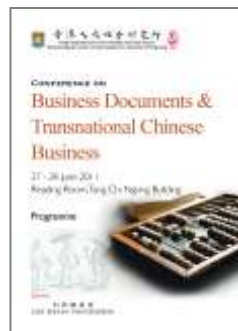
Conference on "Business Documents and Transnational Chinese Business"

June 27-28, 2011, Tang Chi Ngong Building, HKU

This conference examined traditional Chinese merchants and their networks in the 19th and 20th centuries. There were 11 presentations on aspects such as capital flow and accounting, transnational trade, contracts and commercial laws, and the impact of colonial rule on business development.

A follow-up one-day workshop on "Chinese Capital: History and Documents" was held at the Hong Kong Museum of History. An exhibition on "Hong Kong Chinese Business: History and Documents" is being staged on G/F, HKU Main Library between June 20 and July 11, 2011.

Please click [here](#) for the HKU conference program, and [here](#) for the HKMH workshop program.



Inter-Asian Connections III: Hong Kong - Call for Papers

This is the third conference in a series jointly organized by the Institute, the Social Science Research Council (USA) and the National University of Singapore. A call for papers just closed in late June 2011, receiving over 100 proposals. Selection will take place in July by a team of workshop directors who are distinguished scholars in various humanities and social science disciplines.

The conference, to be held on June 6-8, 2011 in HKU, will host concurrent workshops on the following themes:

- Anatomies of Knowledge: Medicine, Science, & Health in Asia
- Asian Crossings, 1789-1914
- Just Society at Last? Ideals and Projects of the Common Good across Asia
- Networks of Religious Learning and the Dissemination of Religious Knowledge across Asia
- Shifting Geopolitical Ecologies and New Spatial Imaginaries

Annual Conference of Association for Asian Studies

March 31- April 3, 2011, Hawaii, U.S.A.

Research colleagues of the Institute attended this year's AAS annual conference as panel conveners and paper presenters. We also sponsored the attendance of four scholars to encourage participation from Asian colleagues, and to bring the Institute to closer connection with one of the world's leading academic organizations on Asian studies.



Prof. Angela Leung with Prof. Helen Siu, former Honorary Director of the Institute, and Prof. Gail Hershatter, the incoming President of AAS

Delegation to Promote Postgraduate Studies

May 23-24, 2011, Taipei

Professor Angela Leung led a delegation to National Chengchi University and National Taiwan University in late May to promote postgraduate studies at the Institute. Talks were given to introduce our teaching and research expertise, as well as opportunities for sponsored studies at HKU. Similar 'roadshows' will be organized in key universities in Beijing and Shanghai in summer/fall 2011.



Prof. Angela Leung and Prof. Lu Shao-li, Head of Department of History, National Chengchi University