



Congratulations

Professor Angela Ki Che Leung as first Joseph Needham-Philip Mao Professor in Chinese History, Science and Civilization in HKU



Prof. Angela Ki Che Leung, Chair Professor and Director of the Institute, is appointed Joseph Needham-Philip Mao Professor in Chinese History, Science and Civilization in HKU. The endowed professorship is established with donation made by the East Asian History of Science Foundation (Hong Kong) to honor the late Dr. Joseph Needham, architect of the monumental project "Science and Civilization in China", and the late Dr. Philip Wen Chee Mao, founding Chairman.

Prof. Leung shaking hands with Dr. Peter Lee of the EAHSF at the inauguration ceremony of endowed professorships held on April 20, 2012

Featured News



Visit by Professor Wu Jinglian as the first Sin Wai-Kin Distinguished Visiting Professor in the Humanities

(March 21-31, 2012)

In 2011, the University received a generous donation from Dr. Sin Wai-Kin to establish the Sin Wai-Kin Distinguished Visiting Professorship in the Humanities. The Institute had the honor of hosting Prof. Wu Jinglian (吳敬璉), a leading China economist, as the first visiting professor under this new scheme.

Prof. Wu delivered the inaugural lecture "中國改革的總體規劃和頂層設計問題" ("Comprehensive Plan and Top-Level Design for China's Reforms") on March 23. Prof. Lawrence Lau, former Vice-Chancellor of CUHK, and Prof. He Weifang of Peking University Law School took part in the discussion after the lecture. The forum was moderated by Prof. Richard Wong, HKU Chair Professor of Economics. In his speech, Prof.

Wu reiterated the necessity of political reform and economic restructuring for more healthy and sustainable development in China. More than 350 guests packed Wang Gungwu Theatre and an adjacent classroom with video broadcast.

Prof. Wu also spoke in a seminar for postgraduate students on March 26 with the theme "中國經濟取得的成績和面臨的挑戰" ("Achievements of Economic Development in China and Challenges Ahead"). The seminar was facilitated by Prof. Xu Chenggang, HKU Quoin Professor in Economic Development.

Lecture Series

Distinguished Lecture on “Imperial Thinking” and the New Qing History (May 28, 2012)

by Prof. Mark Elliott

Mark Schwartz Professor of Chinese and Inner Asian History
Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations
Harvard University



Prof. Elliott's lecture focuses on the reception of the New Qing History by scholars in China and its connections to new types of thinking that appear to draw tighter connections between the imperial past and the revolutionary present.

Conferences & Workshops

Workshop on “China's Urban Political Culture in Comparative Perspective”

(May 4-5, 2012, Harvard-Yenching Institute)

The workshop is the first event of a 3-year collaborative program on “Urban Studies and the China Experience” with HYI and East China Normal University conference. 12 presentations at the workshop will involve a comparison between the political culture of two or more cities, at least one of which is Chinese. They will construe the concept of political culture broadly to encompass political attitudes, values, practices, and symbols. While comparisons and contrasts between the political culture of urban and rural China are commonplace, distinctions among Chinese cities are less often drawn. The workshop will explore such similarities and differences and their implications for political and cultural change.

Conference on “Nguyen Vietnam: 1558-1885”

(May 11-12, 2012, HKU)



This conference is presented jointly with the Asia Center of Harvard University, and convened by Dr. Charles Wheeler, Research Assistant Professor of the Institute and Prof. Hue-Tam Ho Tai of Harvard University. There will be 13 presentations on the history of Vietnam in the Nguyen Dynasty, and a wrap-up discussion on new sources for the study of Vietnam.

International Workshop on “Defining the *Jecen* – the Evolution of the Qing Frontiers, 1644-1918”

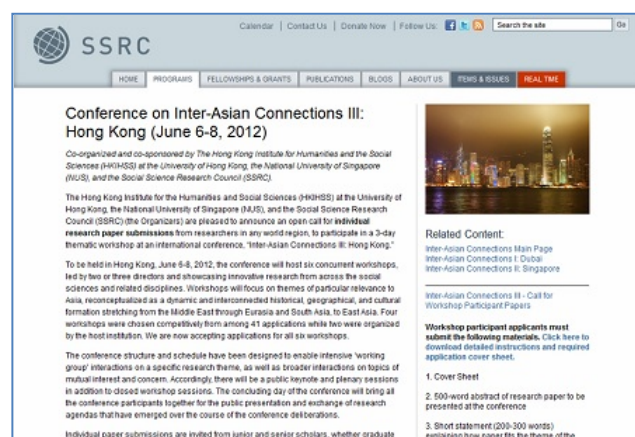
(May 25 & 26, 2012, HKU and HK Baptist University)

This conference is co-convened by Dr. Matthew Mosca, Research Assistant Professor of the Institute, Dr. Victor Zatsopine of HKU Department of History, and Dr. Loretta Kim of HKBU Department of History. 18 contributors are invited to speak on research regarding China's frontiers during the early modern period, to reinterpret the concept of “frontier” in political, economic, social and cultural contexts.

“Inter-Asian Connections III: Hong Kong”

(June 6-8, 2012, HKU)

The conference is co-organized by the Institute, the National University of Singapore, and the New York-based Social Science Research Council as a HKU Centenary Celebration Program. There will be six concurrent closed-door workshops on themes of a broader “Asia” as an interconnected historical, geographical and cultural formation. Public keynotes and plenary sessions will bring together leading scholars such as Wang Gungwu (NUS), Prasenjit Duara (NUS), Engseng Ho (Duke University), Angela Ki Che Leung (HKU) and Helen Siu (Yale University). A workshop on how to incorporate the “Inter-Asian Connections” perspective into the postgraduate curriculum will be held on June 9.



For enquiries and further information about
our upcoming events, please visit the Institute's website:
www.ihss.hku.hk or contact us.

Email: ihss@hku.hk

Tel.: 2219-4640 (Mr. Cheng) / 2241-5772 (Ms. Ng)

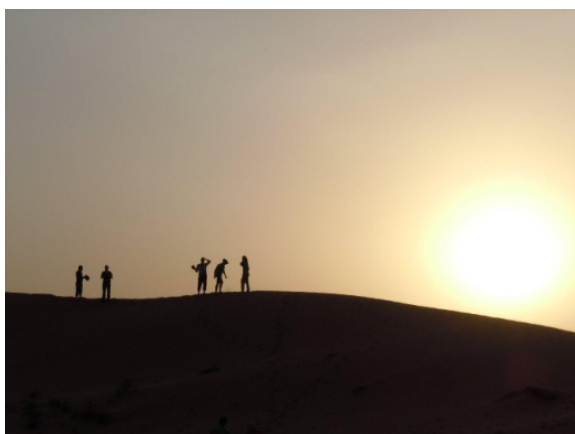
Office Address: G14, May Hall, The University of Hong
Kong, Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong

Recent Activities

Conference on “Asia Inside-out: Place” and fieldwork in Qatar and Oman

(December 14-22, 2011)

This workshop, co-organized by the Institute and Weill Cornell University Medical College in Qatar, examined trading communities, trade routes between Asia and the Middle East, and implications of such travels for redefining “Asia”. 11 scholars from the Institute and around the globe took part in the two-day workshop hosted by Weill Cornell Medical Center in Doha. This was followed by a week’s fieldwork in Qatar and Oman to explore the region as a major contact point between the Middle East, Indian Ocean, and East Africa.



Conference on “Charities and Legitimacy of Organisation, Law, Accountability, and Transparency” in Istanbul (December 13-15, 2011)

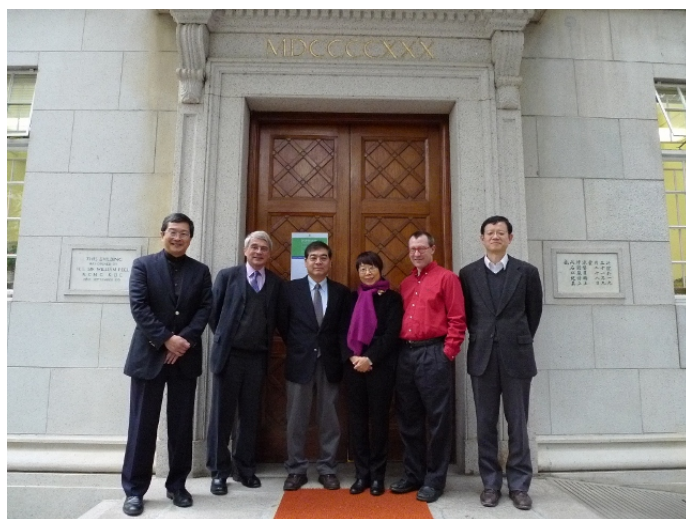
This conference is the second in a series under the Institute’s research training cluster of “Modern Indigenous Charities”. There were 20 presentations on a wide range of governance issues relating to charities and NGOs, and how they interacted with the state, donors, people they served, and society at large. The two-day meeting was followed with a visit to two Islamic charities based in Turkey - Kimse Yok Mu and IHH Foundation for Human Rights and Freedoms and Humanitarian Relief. Participants also saw a logistics center where commodities donated were sorted, recorded and packed for delivery to the needy.



Visit of D. Kim Foundation Trustees and Workshop on “Recent Works in the History of Science, Technology and Medicine”

(January 5-6, 2012, HKU)

The D. Kim Foundation for the History of Science and Technology in East Asia is a US-based funding agency. The Institute had the honor to host its 2012 Trustees’ Meeting where our plan of building a postgraduate program on the history of science and medicine was presented. The Institute also organized a visit for the Trustees to the C.N. Yang archive in CUHK, where they met the Nobel Prize laureate C.N. Yang himself. The visit ended by a workshop with 5 young scholars from Hong Kong, Taiwan and China presenting their research on the history of science, technology and medicine.



(From left) Prof. Kuriyama Shigehisa (Harvard University), Prof. Christopher Cullen (Needham Research Institute), Prof. Dong-won Kim (President of the D. Kim Foundation), Prof. Angela Ki Che Leung, Prof. Stuart W. Leslie (The Johns Hopkins University) and Prof. Takehiko Hashimoto (The University of Tokyo)

Public Lecture on “Modern Agendas Through Ancient Text: Ecology and Environment in Early China”

(February 17, 2012, HKU)

by Prof. Roel Sterckx

Joseph Needham Professor of Chinese History, Science and Civilization, University of Cambridge

Prof. Sterckx’s lecture questioned some of the assumptions behind the harmony between humans and their natural environment in China’s past. More specifically it illustrated the sorts of problems historians are faced with when trying to make sense out of descriptions of natural events in ancient texts or match scientific data to historical sources.



Conference on “The Making of Asia: Health and Gender”

(March 9-10, 2012, HKU)

This 2-day meeting included 16 presentations examining the formative problems and issues of “Asia” and “Asians” through an interdisciplinary analysis of gender and health. Speakers included scholars of different generations from Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan and the USA. There is a plan to publish an edited volume with selected conference papers.



Contemporary Chinese Documentary Series: Meeting the Director

“Corner’s” directed by Zero Chou

(April 13, 2012, HKU)

The Institute brought this short movie of 60 minutes on gender issues in Taiwan, “Corner’s (私角落)”, directed by Zero Chou (周美玲), one of the most talented documentary film makers in Taiwan, to an audience of over 120 in HKU. The enthusiastic audience was deeply engaged in conversation with Director Zhou and Hoho Liu, the movie’s cinematographer, after the show for almost an hour.



Institute’s News

Visiting Scholars

Our warm welcome to Prof. André Laliberté (Political Studies, University of Ottawa, Canada) and Prof. Hiroshi Murai (Foreign Language, Kanagawa University) who visit the Institute in this spring and summer.

Staff Departures

Ms. Emily Ip (Associate Director, Administration) and Miss Bonnie Lai (Executive Officer, Design) left the Institute in March 2012. We wish them every success in their future endeavors.

Staff Appointments

Miss Yvonne Chan was appointed as Executive Officer from March 1, 2012.

Ms. Hilson Ng joined the Institute as Research Assistant I starting March 15, 2012.

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

Our Permanent Home in Historic May Hall



HKU has decided to allocate the entire May Hall to the Institute in two phases. In the summer of 2012, parts of May Hall will be evacuated to accommodate our present office in Tang Chi Ngong Building. The Institute will be in one physical space from then on.

May Hall, a Grade I-historic building rated by the HKSAR Government, not only provides the physical space for the Institute’s future development, but is also emblematic of the humanistic tradition that the Institute works hard to preserve and re-create. One of our priorities in designing the layout of the future home for the Institute is to restore the original architectural beauty and character of the building. This can only be achieved by removing the exterior staircase that was affixed in a later date blocking the main entrance, and reinstating the original façade. We are now working on the restoration project closely with HKU Estate Office.

Contact us at sycheng2@hku.hk if you would like to support this project.