



Congratulations to Dr. Nanlai Cao

Dr. Nanlai Cao has obtained his second grant from the General Research Fund (2011-12) for his project **China's Private Commercial Engagement in Africa: The Wenzhou Trade Diaspora in Nigeria**. The grant, valued at HKD 608,546 over two years, is funded by the Research Grants Council (RGC). Dr. Cao seeks to study the intertwined relationship between a household-based market economy and a state-led model of capitalist development and how this relationship unfolds in the current context of China's rise in Africa. He will also explore the diasporic contexts in which Wenzhou merchants combine commitments to native community, the Chinese nation-state and transnational commercial activity.

Featured News

International Conference on “Inter-Asian Connections III: Hong Kong”

(June 6-9, 2012, HKU)

The conference was the second of a series and was part of the HKU Centenary Celebrations. Hosted by the Institute, it was our cooperative effort with the New York-based Social Science Research Council (SSRC) and the National University of Singapore (NUS). Six concurrent, intensive workshops were held during the three days of meeting and these were the individual 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
- Sustainability and Citizenships in Asia Cities



Prof. Helen Siu, Prof. Wang Gungwu, and Prof. Angela Leung

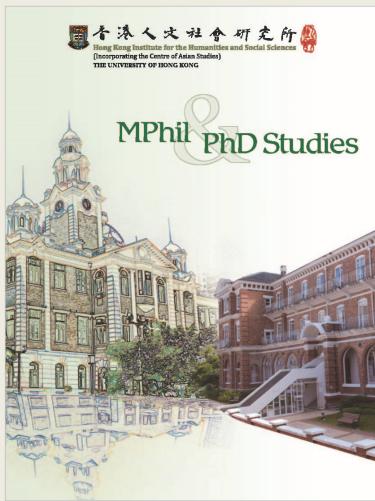
Three public plenary sessions during the conference also brought together distinguished public figures like Margaret Ng (Member of HKSAR Legislative Council) and Stephen Vines (Independent journalist and writer), and leading scholars such as Wang Gungwu (NUS), Prasenjit Duara (NUS), Engseng Ho (Duke University), Helen Siu (Yale University), Takeshi Hamashita (Sun Yat-sen University), Xiang Biao (Oxford University), Finbarr Flood (New York University), and Michael Feener (NUS).

A workshop on how to incorporate the “Inter-Asian Connections” perspective into postgraduate curricula was held after the conference. HKU faculty members had in-depth and fruitful discussions with scholars from SSRC, Ohio University, NUS, Oxford University and Yale University.

A group photo taken after the opening remarks



Applications for Admission to Postgraduate Studies at the Institute in 2013-14



The Institute now invites applications for admission to MPhil and PhD programs in 2013-14. Our postgraduate programs are designed to accommodate a wide range of research interests in the humanities and social sciences with a focus on **medicine, science and technology in East Asia**. The Institute offers exciting opportunities for our students to participate in fieldtrips and short-term study programs under the supervision of the Institute's honorary professors and international research partners.

Application Period for Admissions 2013-14:

Hong Kong PhD Fellowships (HKPF) Scheme

Initial application to the Research Grants Council (RGC): Early September – December 1, 2012, 12 Noon

Full application to the University: September 1 – December 1, 2012

HKU Main Round Application

Full application to the University: September 1 – December 1, 2012

Upcoming Activities

Lecture Series

Departmental Seminar Series

Established in September 2011, this series provides a platform for students, colleagues and friends to engage in intellectual discussions with an invited speaker or in-house researcher. Dr. Wong Wai Ling and Dr. Renaud Egreteau, two of the Institute's young researchers, will present on October 10 and December 5 during the fall semester.

China Lunchtime Interdisciplinary Seminar Series

This series aims to introduce scholars from across the University to the wide range of research on China currently being carried out by their colleagues in various disciplines. Seminars are held every Tuesday from 12 noon in May Hall. Each hour-long seminar begins with a 30-minute presentation on a research project, followed by a discussion session. Dr. Ji Li and Dr. Renaud Egreteau are the coordinators of this year's series.

The following guests/colleagues will speak in fall 2012:

September 18:	Prof. Fu Hualing, HKU Faculty of Law
September 25:	Prof. Wasana Wongsurawat, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok
October 9:	Dr. Janet Borland, HKU Department of History
October 16:	Mr. Brian Tsui, Columbia University
November 6:	Ms. Melissa Inouye, Harvard University
November 13:	Dr. Tian Xiaoli, HKU Department of Sociology
November 20:	Prof. Xu Chenggang, HKU Faculty of Economics and Business
December 4:	Dr. Koon Yee Wan, HKU Department of Fine Arts

Public Programs

Contemporary Chinese Documentary Series:

Meeting the Director (September 28, 2012, HKU)

"In Macau" (在澳門) directed by **Marcio Loureiro, Chu Iao Ian (朱佑人), Ivo M. Ferreira**

Macau, ten years after the administration transfer to Chinese Territory. Two Portuguese filmmakers, Marcio Loureiro and Ivo Marques Ferreira, came together with local Macanese director Chu Iao Ian and completed a film entitled "In Macau" (在澳門), just in time to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Macau's return to China. Loureiro was born in Macau while Ferreira has lived in the former Portuguese colony since before the handover. They each present in the project an individual perspective and, combining with Chu's yet slightly different experience as a Macau local, together produce an interesting mosaic of personal tales and interviews. The film comprises three episodes but has one common theme — change that Macau has undergone since the handover and what lies ahead in the future.

Conferences & Workshops

International Conference on "Philanthropy, the State and Globalisation"

(December 6-9, 2012, Hong Kong and Guangzhou)

The third event of the research cluster "Indigenous Charities in the Modern World", the conference is co-organized by the Institute and Sun Yat-sen University of Guangzhou and co-convened by Prof. David Faure (Chinese University of Hong Kong) and Prof. Rajeswary A. Brown (Royal Holloway, University of London). The conference attempts to delve deeper into examining the institutional aspect of charities by studying state-charity relations, transformation and adaptation methods of charities at the local level, and how they cooperate with legal and socio-economic institutions. Participants at the conference also look at strategies used by global charities in dealing with local constraints.

Public Seminar on “Family Business and Women”

(家族企業與婦女)

(December 15, 2012, Hong Kong Museum of History)

The public seminar is co-organized by the Institute, the Chinese University of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Museum of History, and convened by Prof. Wong Siu Lun. Over ten presentations will be given by scholars from Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan and China on Chinese family business and women.

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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

Office Address: 101, May Hall, The University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong

Recent Activities

Workshop on “China’s Urban Political Cultures: A Comparative Perspective”

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



The workshop was the first event of a three-year collaboration titled **Urban Studies and the China Experience** with the Harvard-Yenching Institute and East China Normal University. 12 presenters and other scholars engaged in in-depth discussions on political and cultural issues related to Chinese cities. The Institute's Prof. Helen Siu, Dr. Elizabeth Sinn and Dr. Jascha Yu attended the workshop.

A Visit by Prof. Patrice Bourdelais (May 10, 2012)



Prof. Patrice Bourdelais, Director of the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences of the Centre Nationale de la Recherche Scientifique (France), and Mrs. Bourdelais, visited the Institute on May 10.

Conference on “Nguyen Vietnam: 1558-1885”

(May 11-12, 2012, Hong Kong)



Jointly presented by the Institute and the Asia Centre of Harvard University, and convened by Dr. Charles Wheeler (HKIHS) and Prof. Hue-Tam Ho Tai (Harvard University), the conference featured 13 presentations on the history of Vietnam in the Nguyen Dynasty. A discussion on new sources for the study of Vietnam concluded the two-day event.

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

(May 25-26, 2012, Hong Kong)



The conference was co-convened by Dr. Matthew Mosca of the Institute, Dr. Victor Zatsepine of HKU Department of History, and Dr. Loretta Kim of HKBU Department of History. 18 contributors were invited to speak on research regarding China's frontiers during the early modern period and to reinterpret the concept of “frontier” in a political, economic, social and cultural context.

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



by Prof. Mark Elliott
Mark Schwartz Professor of Chinese and Inner Asian History
Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations
Harvard University

Prof. Elliott lectured on what is known as the “New Qing History” and its connections to new types of scholarly thinking that appear to bridge the imperial past and the revolutionary present. While reception of the New Qing History was being examined, the lecture itself was well received by over 50 guests.

Curriculum Development Workshop on the History of East Asian Science, Medicine and Technology

(June 18, 2012, HKU)

The curriculum workshop was held with the objective to enhance the Institute’s new interdisciplinary teaching program on history of science, medicine, and technology in East Asia. Prof. Angela Leung and Dr. Izumi Nakayama, co-conveners of the workshop, shared views and teaching experience with invited scholars, including Prof. Francesca Bray (University of Edinburgh and Honorary Professor of the Institute), Prof. Fan Fa-ti (University of New York, Binghamton) and Dr. Sean Lei (Academia Sinica). Discussions and ideas generated during the workshop also laid down the groundwork for the Institute’s first summer workshop for postgraduates and young scholars in 2013.

A Visit by the Capital Normal University

(June 25, 2012)



Led by Prof. Tao Dongfeng, a team of ten delegates from the Institute for Cultural Studies of Capital Normal University (Beijing) visited the Institute in the morning on June 25, 2012. They were received by Dr. Jascha Yu, who then shared with them the latest development of the Institute.

China-Africa Diasporas Workshop cum Fieldtrip (July 7-18 2012, Tanzania)



This two-day workshop cum fieldtrip in Tanzania was the second event of the cluster “**China-Africa Diasporas**”, co-convened by Prof. Helen Siu (Yale University and HKU) and Prof. Mike McGovern (Yale University). A core group of 12 scholars from HKU, Yale University, Cornell University and University of Illinois at Chicago examined historical trading routes between Asia and Africa across the Indian Ocean and various contemporary forms of Chinese involvement in African economy, culture, and society. Workshop presentations focused on historical linkages, political landscapes of development, and forms of soft power and new spaces. The fieldtrip then brought the group to significant sites in Tanzania and Zanzibar: the China Agricultural Research Demonstration Centre, Sisal Plantation at PeiyaPeiya, Sino-Tanzania Friendship Hospital, the Central Market and the Chinese-built railway station in Dar es Salaam. The group interviewed Chinese textile importers, Tanzanian electrical retailers, as well as Tanzanian peasants affected by new experimental farms managed by the Chinese government. A book manuscript is being prepared for publishing in the future.

Advanced Summer Training Workshop on Historical Anthropology (歷史人類學高級研修班) (August 3-13, 2012, Hunan)



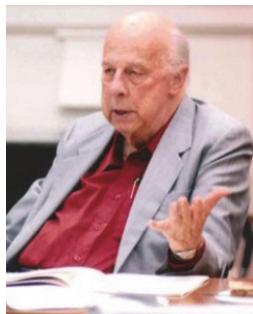
Co-organized by the Institute, Sun Yat-sen University, Peking University, and Xiamen University, the 10th Advanced Summer Training Workshop on Historical Anthropology was held in Hunan, China on August 3-13, 2012. 28 scholars and students participated in intellectual discussions, followed by fieldwork in Yongzhou and Yizhang, Hunan Province. Prof. Helen Siu was the event’s keynote speaker. She shared with the audience the ideas and work of leading American anthropologist G. William Skinner.

Donation from Hong Kong Foundation for the Humanities and Social Sciences

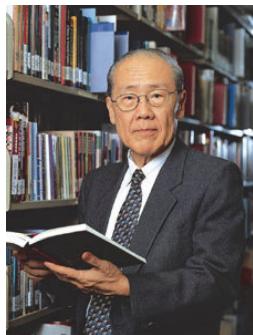
The Institute is delighted to have received a generous donation of HKD 4,000,000 from the Hong Kong Foundation for the Humanities and Social Sciences to support its programs and projects. This gift will allow the Institute to be more proactive in pursuing new partnerships with internationally renowned academic institutions, in enhancing current research and teaching programs, as well as in funding the restoration of historic May Hall.

Distinguished Institute Fellows

The Institute is proud to announce that Prof. Frank H.H. King, Prof. Wang Gungwu and Prof. Edward K. Y. Chen have graciously accepted the Institute's invitations to be our Distinguished Institute Fellows, effective from July 1, 2012.



Professor Emeritus Frank H. H. King taught economics at HKU between 1952 and 1956. He was also the founding Director (1968-1979) of the former Centre of Asian Studies.



Professor Wang Gungwu was Vice-Chancellor of HKU between 1986 and 1995. He is University Professor, Chairman of the governing board at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, and Chairman of the East Asian Institute at the National University of Singapore. Prof. Wang is also an Emeritus Professor of the Australian National University, Canberra.



Professor Edward K. Y. Chen was President of Lingnan University in Hong Kong (1995-2007). A renowned economist and pioneer in the study of Asia's newly industrialized economies, Prof. Chen was Director of the former Centre of Asian Studies from 1979 to 1995.

Newly Admitted Students in 2012-13

The Institute welcomes three new students admitted to its postgraduate programs in 2012-13. They are Miss Mathilde Biard (MPhil), Mr. Brian Po-huei Hsieh (PhD), and Mr. Ning Rundong (MPhil). Mathilde and Brian share an interest in medical history while Rundong finds his interest in social anthropology. They are supervised by Prof. Angela Leung, Dr. Nanlai Cao, Dr. Izumi Nakayama and Dr. David A. Palmer.

Visiting Scholars and Students

We would like to extend our warmest welcome to the following scholars and students who will be visiting the Institute this summer and fall:

- Prof. Paul A. Cohen, Harvard University
- Mr. Leo Goodstadt , University of Dublin
- Dr. Simona Alba Grano, Zürich University
- Ms. Loretta Lou, University of Oxford
- Miss Hanna Mantila, University of Edinburgh
- Miss Mariske Westendorp, Macquarie University

Staff Appointments

Dr. Ji Li will be promoted Research Assistant Professor from September 1, 2012.

Miss Cheng Lam Sing joined the Hong Kong Memory Project as Research Assistant I from August 1, 2012.

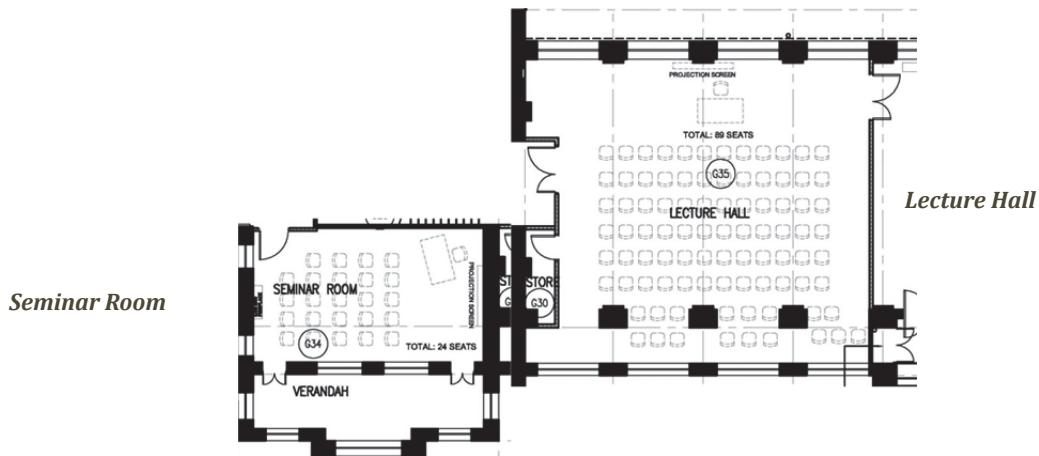
Staff Departures

Dr. Matthew Mosca (Research Assistant Professor), Dr. Charles Wheeler (Research Assistant Professor), Mr. Francis Cheng (Executive Assistant), Mr. Andrew Ho (Technical Officer) left the Institute in July/August 2012. 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.

Our Permanent Home in Historic May Hall

The Institute is delighted to announce that the first stage of renovation work in May Hall is near completion. Our present offices in Tang Chi Ngong and May Hall (ground floor) will be relocated to the newly renovated first and second floors of May Hall in early September 2012. The east wing of the ground floor, which now accommodates part of our research and administrative staff, will be evacuated for the second stage of renovation work, which focuses on re-creating a spacious area (a lecture hall and a seminar room) for learning, teaching and academic exchange.



The Institute is also working closely with HKU Estates Office on the project to restore the original architectural beauty and character of the building by reinstating the original façade. Contact us at sycheng2@hku.hk if you would like to support this project.

Artistic impression of May Hall after restoration



Removal Notice

The Institute's General Office will be closed during its relocation to the first floor, May Hall from September 7 to 13, 2012. Regular services will resume September 14, 2012. Please note our new contact information below:

Address: 101, May Hall, The University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong

Tel: 2241-5011, 2859-2460 (until September 13, 2012) / 3917-5011, 3917-2460 (from September 14, 2012)