



Highlights

Special Visit by Prof. Zhang Guangda, Sin Wai-Kin Distinguished Visiting Professor in the Humanities

We were pleased to receive Prof. Zhang Guangda (張廣達教授), Chair Professor at National Chengchi University and Academician of Academia Sinica this November. Prof. Zhang was appointed Sin Wai-Kin Distinguished Visiting Professor in the Humanities by the University in 2014.

Prof. Zhang sat as the chair speaker of a distinguished panel that included Prof. Wang Ming-ke (王明珂教授) (Academia Sinica), Prof. Ding Yizhuang (定宜庄教授) (Chinese Academy of Social Sciences), Prof. Rong Xinjiang (榮新江教授) (Peking University), and Prof. Helen Siu (蕭鳳霞教授) (Yale University and HKU) at the public forum on “Frontier and Ethnicity” (「邊疆與族群」) held on November 18. Prof. Zhang then gave a public lecture on “The Contributions of Émmanuel-Édouard Chavannes towards Chinese Traditional Historiography and the Transformation of European Sinology” (「沙畹對中國傳統史學轉型和歐洲漢學轉型的貢獻」) on the following day. The events attracted almost 300 people over the two-day period. To conclude his visit, Prof. Zhang hosted the seminar “The Way to Learning” (「問學之道」) on November 20. It was very well-received and more than 40 colleagues and students attended the inspiring talk.

During his visit, Prof. Zhang also met with Prof. Jao Tsung-I (饒宗頤教授) as well as Dr. and Mrs. Sin Wai-Kin for a luncheon on November 18.



Clockwise, from top left: Prof. Zhang Guangda; the public forum on “Frontier and Ethnicity”; and, a group photo from the luncheon with Prof. Jao Tsung-I and Dr. and Mrs. Sin Wai-Kin

Featured News

International Conference on “Text and Context: Redemptive Societies and Religious Movements in Modern and Contemporary China and Southeast Asia” (November 8-9, 2014)

19 scholars gathered from various countries – Germany, Australia, Singapore, Taiwan, and mainland China – for discussions on the topic “redemptive societies and new religious movements”. This wave of universalist and syncretistic religious movements appeared in early 20th century China and Vietnam and continues to expand in a variety of Asian contexts.

Prof. Prasenjit Duara of the National University of Singapore was the conference’s keynote speaker. His speech “Is the Concept of Secularism Relevant to China?” on November 7 was jointly organized by the Institute and the Faculty of Social Sciences.



From left: Prof. Prasenjit Duara during his keynote lecture on November; and, Prof. David Ownby and Prof. Philip Clart presenting on the Text and Context project with Dr. David A. Palmer

Postgraduate Programs

Call for Applications for Admission to Research Postgraduate Programs

Applications for admission to the Institute’s MPhil and PhD programs in 2015-2016 are now open. We invite interested candidates to refer to the details on research postgraduate programs and application procedures on our website, www.hkihss.hku.hk.

The deadline for the **Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme** and the **Main Round** is **December 1, 2014, 12 Noon (Hong Kong Time)**. First Clearing Round applications will subsequently be open from December 2, 2014 to April 30, 2015. Enquiries can be made by email to ihssrpg@hku.hk.

Upcoming Activities

Conferences

International Conference on “Food and Health” (December 16-17, 2014, HKU)

Involving nearly 40 participants from over 20 different local and overseas institutions, the International Conference on “Food and Health” will take place on December 16 and 17. Six panel sessions addressing various topics related to the themes “Nutrition and Body” and “Food as Product/Poison/Cure” have been scheduled. The conference is held in conjunction with the Asian Society for the History of Medicine’s bi-annual meeting, and the 2014 winner of the Taniguchi Medal will receive the award during the event.

International Symposium on “Utopia and Utopianism in the Contemporary Chinese Context: Texts, Ideas, Spaces” (March 20-21, 2015, HKU)

Jointly organized by the Institute and the French Centre for Research on Contemporary China, this conference proposes to reflect anew on the idea of utopia, both analyzing how it has been debated, while at the same time emphasizing the persistence of utopianism and, particularly, its irreducible socially critical and politically imaginative function. For this purpose, three levels – text, thought and society – are suggested as areas of discussion. Over 20 participants from Hong Kong, Taiwan, China, France and the US would examine how various genres, discourses and ways of expression – including literature, social sciences and visual art – have independently and interactively framed the debate on utopia in the Chinese context, drawing on a large corpus that runs from the modern period up to the present day.

Twin Events Commemorating the 114th Anniversary of the Birth of Joseph Needham

Lecture on “Challenge with Curiosity: Joseph Needham and his Intellectual Heritage”

(December 8, 2014, Queen’s College School Hall)

Prof. Mei Jianjun, Director of the Needham Research Institute will be highlighting Dr. Joseph Needham's outstanding life and his unique intellectual heritage in this lecture. The event is organized by the East Asian History of Science Foundation and sponsored by the Institute.

The Ninth Joseph Needham Memorial Lecture – “Men Plough, Women Weave”: Joseph Needham, Feminism and the History of Science and Technology in China (December 9, 2014, HKU)

In this lecture jointly organized by the East Asian History of Science Foundation and the Institute, Prof. Francesca Bray, Professor of Social Anthropology at the University of Edinburgh will discuss the implications of the classic Chinese saying “men plough, women weave” in terms of Dr. Joseph Needham’s concepts of femininity-masculinity in his own expounding of the history of science in China. She will then discuss how feminism has changed the history of STM (Science, Technology and Medicine) in China since Dr. Needham’s *Science and Civilization in China* series. Examples will be cited from her own and others’ work on gender, technology and science in imperial China to suggest what we may learn by taking gender seriously.

The 9th Joseph Needham Memorial Lecture
“Men Plough, Women Weave”:
Joseph Needham, Feminism and the History of
Science and Technology in China

Professor Francesca Bray
Professor of Social Anthropology,
University of Edinburgh;
Visiting Professor, The University of Hong Kong

Date: 9 December 2014 (Tuesday)
Time: 4:30pm (Refreshments 4:00pm)
Venue: Social Sciences Chamber, 11 F,
The Jockey Club Tower, HKU

Abstract:
Professor Francesca Bray will discuss the implications of the classic Chinese saying “men plough, women weave” in terms of Dr. Joseph Needham’s concepts of femininity-masculinity in his own expounding of the history of science in China. She will then discuss how feminism has changed the history of STM (Science, Technology and Medicine) in China since Dr. Needham was working on the *Science and Civilization in China*. Professor Bray will cite examples from her own and others’ work on gender, technology and science in imperial China to suggest what we may learn by taking gender seriously.

About the speaker:
Francesca Bray worked with Joseph Needham at the East Asia History of Science Library (later renamed the Needham Research Institute) in Cambridge from 1973 to 1984. She is the author of the volume on agriculture in *Science and Civilisation in China*, and co-author of the first two volumes of the *History of TCM* (Science, Technology and Medicine) in China. Since Dr. Needham was working on the *Science and Civilization in China*, Professor Bray will cite examples from her own and others’ work on gender, technology and science in imperial China to suggest what we may learn by taking gender seriously.

Please register at www.hkiss.hku.hk/francesca

Enquiries: (852) 3917 5772 / francesca@hku.hk www.hkiss.hku.hk

Prof. Bray is the Institute’s Honorary Professor visiting the Institute in the 2014 fall semester. She is co-teaching a postgraduate course “Research Seminar on East Asian Medicine, Science and Technology – Techno-cultures: A Cross-disciplinary Exploration” with Dr. Gonçalo Santos.

Science, Technology, and Medicine in Societies (STMS) Colloquium Series

The Perils of Pregnancy: Comparing Risk in Chinese and U.S. Advice Books and Websites

(December 18, 2014, HKU)

An initiative of the “Science, Technology, and Medicine in Asian Societies” Cluster, the STMS Colloquium Series is intended to build a global network of scholars whose research focuses on and considers developments in the field of science, technology, and medicine (STM) in China and Asia. Invited speakers will address critical problems of the 21st century from diverse intellectual frameworks and perspectives.

For the inaugural lecture of the series, we are excited to have Prof. Suzanne Z. Gottschang, Associate Professor in Anthropology of Smith College. She will be sharing findings from a comparative study conducted with Prof. Leslie King, demonstrating that risks perceived to be scientifically objective are in fact framed by cultural differences.

Distinguished Lectures



Communists and Peasants in the Soviet Union and China: A Comparison (January 8, 2015, HKU)

By Prof. Lucien Bianco, Professor Emeritus at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris

風險的故事：金融如何改變人類社會 (February 3, 2015, HKU)

By Prof. Chen Zhiwu, Professor of Finance at Yale University

Departmental Seminar Series

We have two sessions lined up for next semester's Departmental Seminar Series. They are:

January 14: "Life after death in Japan, China, and the United States" by Prof. Gordon Mathews, CUHK

March 25: "Hospital Care in Contemporary China" by Dr. Cheris Shun-ching Chan, HKU

Interdisciplinary Lunchtime Seminar Series

There are two more presentations for the fall semester's Interdisciplinary Lunchtime Seminar Series:

December 2: "Kinship and Inequality in China: Big Data for a Big Topic" by Prof. Cameron D. Campbell, HKUST Social Science

December 16: "Traditions, Trends and Testimony: European Art in Qing Dynasty China" by Dr. Florian Knothe, HKIASS and HKU University Museum and Art Gallery

In addition seven new sessions have been arranged for the coming semester, and the new schedule will be announced very soon.

The aim of this series is to introduce scholars throughout the university to the wide range of current research on China, its society, people, institutions, and its connections with the rest of Asia being carried out on campus in various disciplines. We look forward to having you join us and welcome your participation and input.

Tuesdays at noon, Room 201, May Hall
Semester 1, 2014-15

No registration required.
If you want to share your on-going research in our seminar series, please contact the convenors: Dr. Jun Zhang (jzhang02@hku.hk) or Dr. Lawrence Zhang (lczhang@hku.hk).
Enquiries: (Tel) 3917 5772 (Email) ihs@hku.hk (Homepage) www.Ihs.hku.hk

Research Seminars

The Dao of World Religions: The China Problem in Modern Religion

(December 10, 2014, HKU; organized by the "Rethinking Spirituality and Religion in Asia" Cluster)

By Dr. Mark Larrimore, Associate Professor of Religious Studies at Eugene Lang College, The New School for Liberal Arts, New York

Subjects of Debt? Entrepreneurialism and Islamic Finance in Malaysia

(December 11, 2014, HKU; organized by the "Hubs, Mobilities and the Asian Urban" Cluster with HKU Department of Sociology)

By Dr. Daromir Rudnyckyj, Associate Professor at Department of Anthropology, University of Victoria, Canada

Public Program

Talk Series on "Family Business in Crisis: Ways and Cases" (「家族企業與危機應對系列講座」)

(November 29, December 6 and December 20, 2014, Hong Kong Museum of History)

Co-organized by the Institute, The Chinese University of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Museum of History, this series of lectures will take place over three Saturday afternoons beginning from November 29. Every week three presenters will each share a case study about a prominent family business in the region and discuss the ways in which it has dealt with transformations and challenges posed by rapidly changing business environments.

Recent Activities

Distinguished Lecture

The Rising Gap between Haves and Have-Nots in Hong Kong (October 24, 2014)

In this highly informative lecture attended by over 70 guests, Prof. Richard Wong, Chair of Economics and Philip Wong Kennedy Wong Professor in Political Economy HKU, highlighted the issues of a rising income gap and the vanishing middle class in Hong Kong. He examined the role of education, housing, divorce, and remarriage in providing a rich interplay of micro factors, and reflected on the changes in Hong Kong amidst the larger context of macroeconomic changes. Through this, Prof. Wong discussed the real role played by globalization and China's opening in this process, as well as the challenges we face today.



Prof. Helen Siu and Prof. Richard Wong

Public Lectures Organized with the Faculty of Social Sciences (FOSS)

The Institute collaborated with the Faculty of Social Sciences at HKU this semester to co-organize selected sessions of the Contemporary China Studies Public Lecture Series.

Two of these sessions took place in September, beginning with Prof. Andrew Kipnis (Australian National University) and his presentation on "Perspectives on the History of a Chinese Conglomerate: Weiqiao Pioneering Group, Ltd." on September 11. Prof. Mayfair Yang of the University of California, Santa Barbara then gave a lecture entitled "The Jade Emperor: Sovereign Power, Celestial Bureaucracy, and the Political Theology of the Masses in China" in the subsequent week. Prof. Yang's talk was an event jointly organized by the Institute's "Rethinking Spirituality and Religion in Asia" Cluster and the Faculty of Social Sciences.



Prof. Andrew Kipnis (left) and Prof. Mayfair Yang during their respective lectures on September 11 and 18

Public Seminars

Research Seminar on "Urbanization and Transformations of Family and Gender in Shandong"

(September 10, 2014)

Prior to his lecture on September 11, Prof. Andrew Kipnis had given a research seminar at the Institute. He reviewed theories suggesting that modernization leads to simplification of family forms and decline in the governance of family life by male elders during the seminar. By comparing changes in kinship practice and structure between migrants from relatively nearby rural areas and others from further afield in a rapidly urbanizing county seat, he argued that traces of patriarchal family forms and family nuclearization continue to be evident in both groups despite their differences. Prof. Kipnis then raised questions about what it means to say that patriarchy is disappearing and the ways in which patriarchy continues even when the power of older men diminishes.

Round-table Seminar on “Comparing Indian and Chinese Philosophy and Religion: Reflection and Prospectus” (September 16, 2014)



Panelists (from left) Ven. Dr. Guang Xing, Prof. Ithamar Theodor and Dr. David A. Palmer

The “Rethinking Spirituality and Religion in Asia” Cluster held its very first event on September 16, 2014. To celebrate the publication of *Brahman and Dao: Comparative Studies of Indian and Chinese Philosophy and Religion* (Lexington, 2014), the cluster had invited co-editors Prof. Yao Zhihua (CUHK) and Prof. Ithamar Theodor (University of Haifa) along with Prof. Huang Yong (CUHK) and Ven. Dr. Guang Xing (HKU) to take part in a roundtable seminar. Dr. David A. Palmer, Honorary Associate Professor of the Institute and principal investigator of the cluster chaired the session attended by 33 people.

Public Program

Contemporary Chinese Documentary Series – Meet the Director: “Harvest” (麥子) by Director Guo Jing (郭淨) and “My Himalayan Vulture” (我的高山兀鷲) by Directors Tashi Sange and Zhou Jie (索西桑俄、周杰) (September 26, 2014)

The first session of the Contemporary Chinese Documentary Series was met with enthusiastic response, drawing a total of 110 students, staff and members of the general public to the screening of the two films. One of the directors, Guo Jing (郭淨) and Prof. Ma Jianxiong (馬健雄), Associate Professor of Chinese Anthropology at HKUST joined in in a discussion led by Dr. Ji Li that followed the screening. They responded to questions from an eager audience and generously shared their perspectives.



From left: Dr. Ji Li, with film director Guo Jing and Prof. Ma Jianxiong during the Q & A session

Departmental Seminar Series

November saw two thought-provoking departmental seminars – one probing the history of the making of identity, the other challenging preconceptions in western understandings of reincarnation.

In “Between Competing Empires: Overseas Chinese and the Making of Nationality”, Dr. Oiyan Liu proposed to understand the making of nationality laws from the perspective of two empires competing with each other. She focused her talk on December 1908, when a group of overseas Chinese in the Dutch Indies requested the Qing government to create a Chinese nationality; their basis was the bloodline principle. Dr. Liu then presented archival findings that countered assumptions of the claimants’ patriotism and revealed different motives and intentions behind the actions and responses of those overseas Chinese, the Qing state and Dutch authorities.





A fortnight later we had the pleasure of having Prof. A. F. Robertson, Honorary Professorial Fellow at the School of Social and Political Science, University of Edinburgh and Emeritus Professor of Anthropology at the University of California at Santa Barbara. In his seminar “Reincarnation in Africa”, Prof. Robertson told the story of a Ugandan boy – how he was his grandfather's reincarnation – and explored the dualist assumptions endemic in western epistemology, which had led to prejudiced interpretations of eschatologies outside of the western world. He suggested that African cases of reincarnation offer more unitary, emergent understandings of the transfer of personal identity, and may shed light on beliefs of rebirth in Asia.

Lunchtime Series on Interdisciplinary China Studies

Five different presenters have shared their research and insight during this semester's lunchtime lecture series so far. Dr. Joseph Bosco of CUHK Anthropology and Dr. Ling Minhua of the CUHK Centre for China Studies were the first to start off the series. They spoke on “Shampoo in China: Development, Consumerism, and Modernity” and “Learning Not to Labor: Vocational Education, Migrant Youth, and Future Making in Shanghai” respectively.

The series continued in November with three lectures. Dr. Wang Aihe of HKU Chinese gave a talk entitled “Private Art during China's Cultural Revolution”. This was followed by Dr. Courtney Fung of HKU Politics and Public Administration presenting “Friends like these? China Regional Organizations and Intervention” and Dr. Huang Yu of CUHK Anthropology with “Can Capitalist Farms Compete with Family Farms? The Role of Technology in Facilitating the Agrarian Change in Shrimp Aquaculture in South China”.



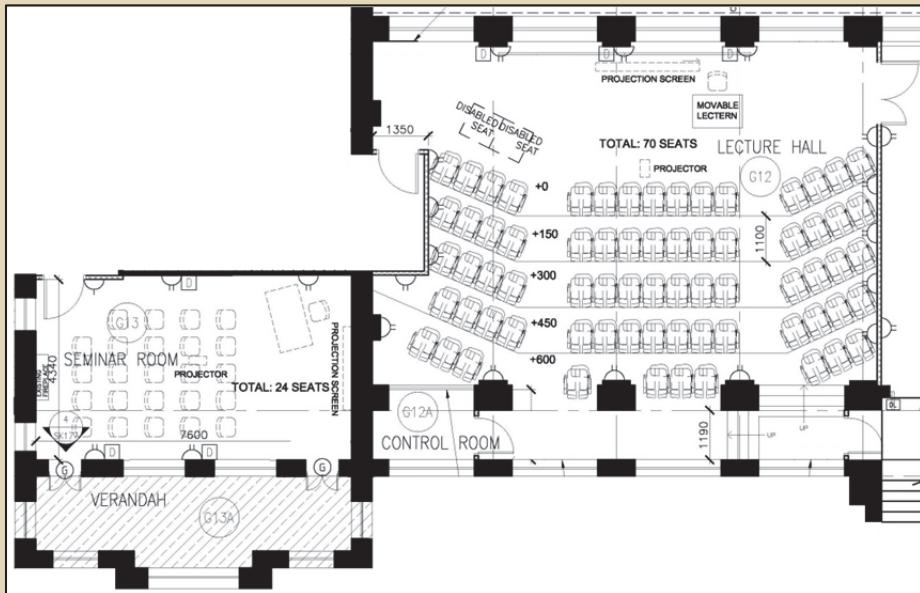
*Left: Dr. Joseph Bosco and Dr. Ling Minhua
Bottom (from left): Dr. Wang Aihe, Dr. Courtney Fung and Dr. Huang Yu*



Institute's News

Renovation and Restoration Work at May Hall

After much planning and frequent consultations with HKU Estates Office, we are now excited to announce that the last phase of renovation work at May Hall will commence in the first half of 2015. During this round of renovation, we will be removing the exterior staircase connecting May Hall and Eliot Hall – a later addition that is blocking the main entrance – and restoring the original façade of the building. The east wing of the ground floor will also be transformed into a space for learning, teaching and academic exchange with the creation of a seminar room and lecture hall. If you would like to support this project, please contact us at sycheng2@hku.hk.



Planned layout of the new east wing, converted into a seminar room and lecture hall

Personalia

Visiting Scholars

Dr. Felipe Rubio, Freie Universität Berlin, September to December 2014.

Prof. Paul A. Cohen, Fairbank Centre for Chinese Studies, Harvard University, October to November 2014.

Prof. Susan Henders, Department of Political Science, York University, October 2014 to April 2015.

Honorary Appointments

Dr. Florian Knothe, Honorary Associate Professor, September 1, 2014 to August 31, 2016.

Staff Departures

Mr. Eric Chan, Senior Technical Officer left the Institute in November 2014. We wish him every success in his future endeavors.

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

Enquiries & Further Information:

Address: Hong Kong Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences, Room 101, May Hall, The University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong

Tel: (852) 3917-5011 (General) / (852) 3917-5772 (Postgraduate Studies)

Email: ihss@hku.hk (General) / ihssrpg@hku.hk (Postgraduate Studies)

Homepage: www.hkihss.hku.hk