



## Highlights

### New Faces at the HKIHS

Our warmest welcome to these new colleagues:

**Max Hirsh (Research Assistant Professor)** obtained his PhD in History of Architecture and Urban Planning from Harvard University in 2012. Prior to joining the Institute, he was a post-doctoral research fellow at the ETH Zurich's Future Cities Laboratory in Singapore. Max studies both practical and theoretical implications that human mobility has on architecture and urban planning. His other research interest is in post-socialist urbanism.

Max already has a number of journal articles to his name. His current project is a book on the expansion of international air traffic since 1970 and how this has influenced the planning and design of Asian cities. The book will focus on low-cost, informal, and trans-border transportation networks in the Pearl River Delta, and provide a reconceptualized model of urban space.



First trained as a lawyer at Sun Yat-sen University in China, **Jun Zhang (Research Assistant Professor)** received her PhD in Anthropology at Yale University in 2009, and taught a series of courses in urban studies at Bryn Mawr College, an academic development she herself describes as "unforeseen".

Jun is particularly interested in the political economy, social stratification and urbanization in contemporary China. Currently she is working on a book manuscript in which she studies the making of an urban middle class through examining car consumption in the Pearl River Delta. Her second project explores the spatial metamorphosis of Canton/Guangzhou as a way to understand the socio-economic and political transformations in the intense urbanization processes in China.

**Daniel Trambaiolo (Post-doctoral Fellow)** joined the Institute in January 2014 upon completing his PhD in History of Medicine at Princeton University. He examines the history of medicine in East Asia, focusing primarily on the history of Chinese-style medicine (*kanpō*) in early modern Japan.

Daniel is currently working on two major projects. The first is a book manuscript that explores the relationships between texts, social institutions and clinical practices in the formation of medical knowledge, analyzing how Japanese doctors engaged with new ideas and practices from China, Korea and Europe and incorporated them into their own medical culture. His second project examines the history of medical commodities in early modern East Asia, showing how the development of local and global trading networks have given rise to new ways of thinking on the nature and efficacy of medicinal substances.



## Institute's News

### Welcome to Prof. Helen Siu, Mok Hing-Yiu Distinguished Visiting Professor

Prof. Helen Siu, Professor of Anthropology at Yale University, Founder and former Honorary Director of the HKIHS, has returned to the Institute for 2014. Prof. Siu is currently teaching the postgraduate seminar course on "Research in Sociocultural Anthropology: Design and Method" at the Institute. In addition to mentoring students and younger colleagues, she is building the research cluster "Hubs, Mobilities and the Asian Urban" with Prof. Richard Wong, Chair of Economics at HKU and the Institute's Honorary Professor.



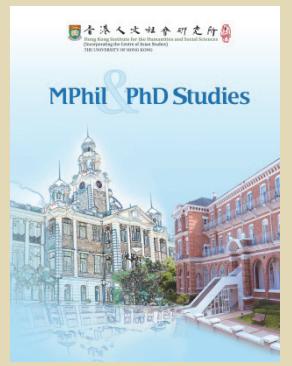
### New Research Clusters

With a new team of young researchers on board, the Institute will reorganize its existing research clusters into three new ones. They are: "**Humanities in Science, Technology & Medicine**" directed by Prof. Angela Leung and Dr. Gonçalo Santos; "**Hubs, Mobilities and the Asian Urban**" directed by Prof. Helen Siu and Prof. Richard Wong; and "**Rethinking Spirituality and Religion in Asia**" directed by Dr. David A. Palmer. These clusters are consolidated under the principal theme of "**Inter-Asian Connections**", and will partner other HKU faculties as well as local and overseas scholars to deliver quality research and pioneer new, exciting goals. More information about each cluster will be available on the Institute's website.

### Postgraduate Programs

#### Postgraduate Studies 2014-15 Application Now Open

The Institute now invites applications for admission to our MPhil and PhD programs. For more details on these programs and application procedures, please visit [www.hkihs.hku.hk](http://www.hkihs.hku.hk). Deadline for the First Clearing Round is **April 30, 2014**. Enquiries can be made by email to [ihssrpg@hku.hk](mailto:ihssrpg@hku.hk).



### Collaborations

#### Urban Studies and the China Experience – Advanced Training Program on “Inter-Asian Urbanity: Connections and Comparisons” (August 18-24, 2014, HKU)

This annual advanced training program is part of "**Urban Studies and the China Experience**", a three-year collaboration between the Institute, the Harvard-Yenching Institute and East China Normal University. This year's advanced training program will be held in Hong Kong.

Asian cities have undergone centuries of growth and decline, social transformations, political strife and cultural fusion. They also present diverse paths to engage the global political economy in the 21st century. As in the past, the re-emergence of a vibrant and inter-connected Asia sees the region's urban populations mobile and growing. The week-long training program shall attempt to use different disciplinary frameworks to position cities at global crossroads of trade and finance, politics, culture, and ethnicity, and to understand people's strategies for survival and advancement as urban spaces are reconfigured. Participants will attend a series of forums and lectures, take part in field trips and join a screening of a documentary. Application is now open to PhD candidates and junior faculty members. For more information on the program, please refer to [www.hkihs.hku.hk/urban\\_china\\_studies](http://www.hkihs.hku.hk/urban_china_studies). The deadline for application is **March 31, 2014**.

## Conference on “Ecologies of Urbanism in Asia II: Cities, Towns, and the Places of Nature”

(June 9-12, 2014, HKU)

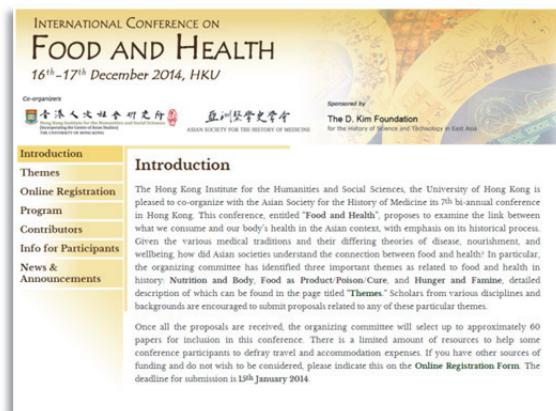
Following the “Urban Ecologies in Asia” conference convened in 2010, this shall be the second event organized by Professors Anne Rademacher (New York University) and K. Sivaramakrishnan (Yale University) under the Institute’s “Environmental Sustainability and Political Ecology” Cluster.

The four-day conference seeks to explore the ways that urban social processes intersect with assessments of urban environmental order and disorder in specific cities, and these questions will be the engine of discussion: how are relationships between urban environments and urban societies made, and made meaningful? How do biophysical properties, rules, and histories of nature matter in the city? How is the urban environment used to construct social identities and demarcate political spaces? Papers will focus on studies of cities and towns South Asia, Southeast Asia, as well as South China. 30 scholars from Hong Kong, China, India, USA and Europe are to participate, and there are two fieldtrips to follow the conference.

## International Conference on “Food and Health”

(December 16-17, 2014, HKU)

Jointly organized by the Institute, the Asian Society for the History of Medicine (ASHM) and Academia Sinica, this conference will focus on two major themes – “Nutrition and Body” and “Food as Product/Poison/Cure”. Over 30 scholars from Hong Kong, Taiwan, China and overseas will be presenting. We are especially delighted that Prof. Francesca Bray, Professor of Social Anthropology from University of Edinburgh has accepted our invitation to be the conference’s keynote speaker.



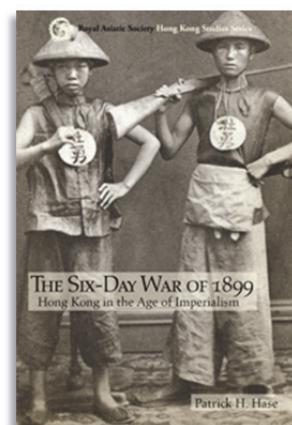
## Publications

Several colleagues have published their work recently:

### Patrick H. Hase, *The Six-Day War of 1899: Hong Kong in the Age of Imperialism*, Hong Kong University Press, 2013.

The book recounts in a lively style those six days of resistance in the New Territories in 1899, when the British moved to establish control over the area a year after it was leased to them. For the first time, this chapter of history was thoroughly researched, thanks to Dr. Hase, Honorary Fellow of the Institute and an expert on the people and history of the New Territories. In addition to the day-by-day account of events, the book also details the disagreement between then Governor of Hong Kong, Henry Blake and Colonial Secretary, James Stewart Lockhart on how to handle the situation.

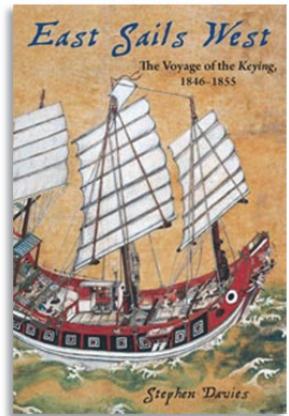
Dr. Hase paints a thorough picture of both colonial leaders and village rank and file, and, by giving new estimates of casualties, interprets why previous British accounts have often understated the number of victims. As a narrative of British Imperialism, the book will prove interesting to historians and general readers alike.



## **Stephen Davies, *East Sails West. The Voyage of the Keying, 1846-1855*, Hong Kong University Press, 2013.**

*East Sails West* details the *Keying*, a junk named after the Chinese Imperial Commissioner who signed Hong Kong away to the British. In the book, Davies gives an account of *Keying's* troubled voyage from Hong Kong to London between 1846 and 1848, documenting the quarrels on board and the diversion to New York that climaxed in a legal dispute over wages owed to Chinese crew members. This tale of missed opportunities, erratic course, overambition, and unexpected good fortune is, in fact, a microcosm of early Hong Kong and the relationship between China and the West.

Stephen Davies is former Museum Director at the Hong Kong Maritime Museum and currently its first China State Shipbuilding Corporation Maritime Heritage Research Fellow. He is an Honorary Fellow of the Institute.



## **譚金花：《開平碉樓與村落的建築裝飾研究》，中國華僑出版社，2013。**

Ms. Tan Jinhua, a collaborator of the Institute, has always been very fond of the unique architectural style – characterized by rich and colorful ornaments – in her hometown of Kaiping, China. This book showcases exactly that: her appreciation in the form of research conducted on the history and cultural significance of all 3030 villages in Kaiping, accompanied by photographs she has taken since 1996. At the same time, the book also explores any critical influences overseas Chinese had on the design and ornamentation of buildings in their local hometown villages.



## **Upcoming Activities**

### **Distinguished Lectures**

#### **Star Wars Vs. Seopyeonje: The Images of Science and Technology in South Korea (March 4, 2014, HKU)**

By Prof. Kim Dong-Won, President of D. Kim Foundation for the History of Science and Technology and Former Dean of the College of Cultural Science at the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST)

#### **The Role of the ERC (European Research Council) in Funding Research in the Humanities and Social Sciences Domain in Europe (May 20, 2014, HKU)**

By Prof. Alain Peyraube, Director of the School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences in Lyons (France), Founding Member of the Scientific Council of the European Research Council (ERC); Member of the Academia Europaea (The Academy of Europe), and Honorary Member of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences since 2009

#### **New Networks of Knowledge: How to Achieve Benefits for the Individual and Society at Large (May 21, 2014, HKU)**

By Prof. Milena Žic-Fuchs, Chair of the Standing Committee for the Humanities of the European Science Foundation and Full Professor at the English Department of the University of Zagreb

### **Public Lectures**

#### **The Body Anatomic and the Body Politic in Modern China (May 26, 2014, HKU)**

By Dr. David Luesink, Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of History, University of Pittsburgh

## **Departmental Seminar Series**

The series continues to provide a platform for students, colleagues and friends to engage in intellectual discussions, and here is 2014 spring semester's line-up of speakers:

April 9: Dr. Jun Zhang

June 5: Dr. Max Hirsh

## **Lunchtime Series on Interdisciplinary China Studies**

Four sessions will take place in the coming two months:

March 18: Prof. Wu Yiching, Toronto East Asian Studies

April 1: Prof. Loretta Kim, HKBU History

April 15: Dr. Joys Hoi Yan Cheung, CUHK Music

April 29: Dr. Gonçalo Santos, HKU HKIASS

## **An Exciting Public Event...**

### **Contemporary Chinese Documentary Series – Meeting the Director: Kawagarbo (卡瓦格博)**

**Directed by Guo Jing (郭淨) (April 11, 2014, HKU)**

Mount Kawagarbo (卡瓦格博) is the highest peak in Yunnan province, China and a sacred ground for Tibetan Buddhists. In this documentary film, director Guo Jing (郭淨), researcher and anthropologist at the Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences, brings us right into the heart of that holy land beneath Mount Kawagarbo, uncovering life in a Tibetan village.

The audience will have the opportunity to participate in a discussion with Dr. Guo after the film.

## **Recent Activities**

### **Departmental Seminar Series**

In December 2013, Dr. Lawrence Zhang analyzed from a new angle the relationship between Imperial China's civil service examination system and its social mobility in a talk entitled "Multiple ladders of success: Office purchase and social mobility during late imperial China". By considering the system of office purchase (*juanna* 捐納), he argues that the pathway to political and social advancement was not as narrow as it seemed and ambitious men of the late imperial period had multiple alternatives which rested on the possession of material wealth.



In the spring semester, Dr. Daniel Trambaiolo compared the different production methods for mercury chloride compounds in early modern Europe, China and Japan in his talk "Antisyphilitic Mercury Drugs as Objects of Knowledge in Early Modern Japan". Dr. Trambaiolo showed how Japanese doctors and patients' ability to make use of these compounds depended on global trading networks for raw materials and finished drug products. He also examined how an increased willingness to publicize knowledge about production methods transformed over time how people thought about these compounds and used them for treating syphilis and other diseases.

## Lunchtime Series on Interdisciplinary China Studies

A total of seven sessions of the Lunchtime Series were held between November 2013 and February 2014. Dr. Zheng Jing of City University commenced the November talks with her presentation "Tulou Construction in the People's Commune Period (1958-1983): vernacular architecture, cultural heritage and public history". Following her was Dr. Li Yahong from HKU Law, who spoke on "Changing Perception of Piracy/Copyright Protection in Digital and Internet Era".

In the following month, Dr. David A. Palmer of HKU Sociology gave a talk titled "When American Witches, Shamans and Sufis meet Daoist Hermits in China: Spiritual Tourism and the Globalization of Chinese Religion" and Dr. Jennifer Wan of HKU Biological Sciences shared with participants "Food and Medicine and Philosophy in East and West", bringing the fruitful year 2013 to a close.

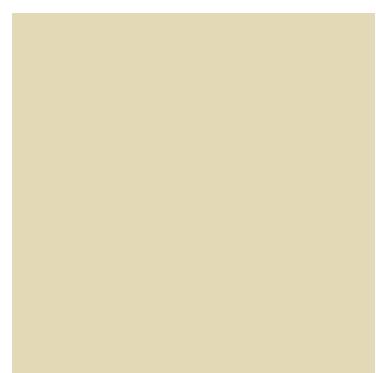
The series returned in January with Dr. Tong Qing Sheng from HKU School of English giving his presentation on "Towards a Common Civilization: G. Lowes Dickinson, China, and Global Humanism". There were two sessions in February. The first was "Biobanking in Taiwan: Law, Ethics, and Biocapitalism" by Dr. Ho Chih-hsing from the HKU Centre for Medical Ethics and Law. The second was "Innovator, Visionary, Maverick: Locating Mr. Ho Amei (1838-1901) in Modern Chinese History" by Dr. Elizabeth Sinn of the HKIHS.



*Top row (from left to right): Dr. Zheng Jing, Dr. Li Yahong, and Dr. David A. Palmer*

*Middle row (from left to right): Dr. Jennifer Wan and Dr. Tong Qing Sheng*

*Bottom row (from left to right): Dr. Ho Chih-hsing and Dr. Elizabeth Sinn*



## **Contemporary Chinese Documentary Series – Meeting the Director: Dai Pai Dong Tea Trail (半世紀茶跡) Directed by Dr. Petula S. Y. Ho (何式凝) (November 25, 2013, HKU)**

This screening, held on November 25, was the second event of our 2013-14 film series. The film attracted 75 interested members from the HKU community as well as the general public. Director Dr. Petula S. Y. Ho (何式凝) and Prof. Lo Wai Luen (盧瑋鑾/小思) interacted with the audience after the screening, and a lively discussion ensued.



(From Left) Prof. Lo and Dr. Ho



Group photo with some of the participants

## **Training Program on “Historical Anthropology: The History and Development of Guangzhou” (歷史人類學考察項目：廣州歷史及其當代發展) (November 22-24, 2013, Guangzhou)**

As part of the HKU-China 1000 Exchange Scheme 2013, the Institute, together with the Centre for Historical Anthropology at the Sun Yat-sen University, held the program from November 22 to 24, 2013. During the trip, 17 undergraduate and two postgraduate students from HKU participated in lectures, city walks, visits and exchanges with locals to learn more about both historical and contemporary relations between Hong Kong and Guangzhou.

In particular, participants relished the opportunity to exchange both knowledge and cultures with local youths and members of student organizations, which facilitated knowledge and cultural exchange between the groups. Through this experience, many also benefitted from acquiring a different perspective about Guangzhou, its people and its relationship with Hong Kong. Overall the feedback was largely positive and the program was well-received.



## Chinese New Year Tea Party

On the afternoon of February 12, 2014, colleagues, students and friends of the Institute were joined by senior management and deans from the University at a tea party to usher in the Year of the Horse. More than 50 guests attended this year's celebration, during which they enjoyed the opportunity to mingle with each other.



## Personalia

### Staff Appointments

Miss Siow Boon Chia, Senior Research Assistant, from January 2014.

Dr. Max Hirsh, Research Assistant Professor, from January 2014.

Dr. Daniel Trambaiolo, Post-doctoral Fellow, from January 2014.

Dr. Jun Zhang, Research Assistant Professor, from January 2014.

### Honorary Appointment

Dr. James K. Chin, Honorary Research Associate, from January 2014.

### Staff Departure

Dr. James K. Chin, Research Assistant Professor, retired from the Institute from January 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](mailto: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](mailto:ihss@hku.hk) (General) / [ihssrpg@hku.hk](mailto:ihssrpg@hku.hk) (Postgraduate Studies)

Homepage: [www.hkihss.hku.hk](http://www.hkihss.hku.hk)