

Highlights

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)

The Ninth Joseph Needham Memorial Lecture, one of two events commemorating the 114th anniversary of the birth of the British sinologist, saw speaker Prof. Francesca Bray engage the audience in a stimulating discussion on feminist critiques of science as well as Dr. Needham’s concepts of femininity-masculinity in his own expounding of the history of science in China. The event, jointly organized by the Institute and the East Asian History of Science Foundation, was attended by more than 80 people, including Prof. Mei Jianjun, Director of the Needham Research Institute. Prof. Bray provided numerous examples from her own and others’ work on gender, technology and science in imperial China and concluded by proposing what can be benefitted from taking gender more seriously.



From left: Prof. Mei Jianjun, Prof. Angela Leung, Prof. Francesca Bray, and Dr. Peter Lee, Chairman of the East Asian History of Science Foundation Hong Kong

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

A total of 28 papers were presented at the International Conference on “Food and Health” in December, with local and overseas participants engaging in an intense exchange of ideas during the two-day conference. Six topics were covered and a roundtable discussion at the end of the conference gave participants an opportunity to offer comments and suggestions for a future publication – a project the organizing committee is currently working on.



This event was co-organized by the Institute and the Asian Society for the History of Medicine, and sponsored by the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange, the Strategic Research Theme in China-West Studies of the Faculty of Arts at The University of Hong Kong and the D. Kim Foundation for the History of Science and Technology in East Asia.

Success in Obtaining Seed Funding for Incubating Group-based Collaborative Research Projects

The Institute received HKD 100,000 of seed funding from the University Research Committee in January 2015 to prepare its application for the Collaborative Research Fund (CRF). Led by Prof. Angela Leung with co-investigators Dr. Gonçalo Santos, Dr. Izumi Nakayama and Prof. Nauhabar Sharif (HKUST), the proposed project “Envisioning Modernity: Technology and the Making of East Asia” also involves colleagues at HKUST, CUHK and several overseas institutions. To aid the team in its endeavor, the Institute has invited Prof. Arne Kaijser of the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm to visit in early May. Prof. Kaijser will give a talk and share his experience in organizing the project “Tensions of Europe: Technology and The Making of Europe” with the CRF project collaborators.

Collaborations

Humanities, Social Sciences and Medicine in East Asia: Interdisciplinary Approaches (August 10-17, 2015, Beijing)

“Humanities, Social Sciences and Medicine in East Asia: Interdisciplinary Approaches” is a two-year advanced training program jointly organized and sponsored by the Institute, the Harvard-Yenching Institute, the Institute of Medical Humanities and Center for History of Medicine at Peking University, and the Key Research Institute of Social Research of China at Nankai University.

We are now inviting graduate students and junior scholars to apply to participate in the first advanced training workshop on the theme of “Circulation of Medical Knowledge and Practices, Past and Present” to be held at Peking University from August 10 to 17, 2015. This training workshop will encompass historical and contemporary perspectives, highlighting the relevance of medicine to humanities and social science analyses of East Asia and facilitating creative conversations among young researchers under the guidance of leading scholars in medical history. Applications should be submitted online at <https://harvardfas.slideroom.com/#/permalink/program/24758> before **5PM, April 3, 2015 (Eastern Standard Time)**. For any questions or queries about the advanced training program or application procedures, please send an email to ihss@hku.hk.

Postgraduate Programs

Lee Hysan-HKIHSS Fellowship

In 2013, the Institute received a generous donation from the Lee Hysan Foundation to establish the Institutional Enhancement Scheme, which funds visits by world-renowned scholars for short-term teaching at the University. The Scheme also supports the Lee Hysan-HKIHSS Fellowship which allows the University of Hong Kong students the opportunity to visit overseas institutions on exchange.

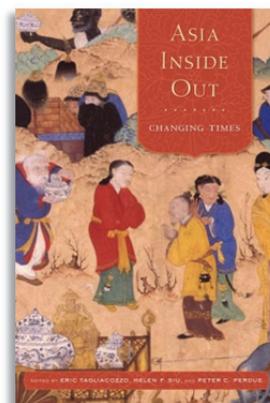


The first recipient of the Fellowship, HKIHSS MPhil student Peter Tam, was selected to go on a semester-long visit at Columbia University and he studied under the mentorship of Prof. Dorothy Ko at its Department of History from September to December 2014. Peter completed his exchange and returned in January 2015 with new ideas and inspiration.

Publications

Eric Tagliacozzo, Helen F. Siu & Peter C. Perdue (eds.), *Asia Inside Out: Changing Times*, Harvard University Press, 2015.

Asia Inside Out: Changing Times is the first of three volumes investigating the historical, spatial, and human dimensions of inter-Asian connections. In this book, 11 different authors examine a specific time—a single year or decade—that redefined Asia in a significant way. They venture beyond traditional demarcations such as West, East, South, and Southeast Asia to highlight the fluidity and contingency of trans-Asian social, cultural, economic, and political interactions spanning across diverse networks in the past five centuries. Together, the essays provide an analytically nuanced and empirically rich understanding of the legacies of Asian globalization. All of chapters in this volume were produced from papers presented at the “Asia Inside Out: Period” workshop organized by the “Trading Empires of the South China, South Asia and the Gulf Region” Cluster. This volume also includes contributions from cluster Principal Investigator, Eric Tagliacozzo (Cornell University) and Core Co-Investigator, Peter Perdue (Yale University).



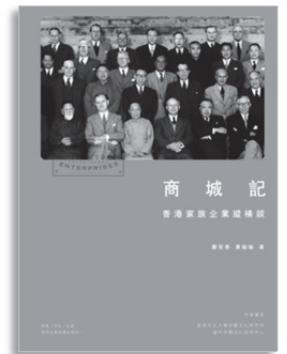
鄭宏泰，黃紹倫：《女爭》，香港：三聯書店(香港)有限公司，2014。

Just as traditional gender stereotypes portray men as ambitious and dominant, women have been stereotyped as being jealous and attention seeking. This book attempts to counter such perceptions, giving voice to women who have long been silent on the matter. Dr. Victor Zheng and Dr. Wong Siu Lun, the Institute's Honorary Assistant Professor and Honorary Professor respectively, use anecdotal evidence collected from estate planning and lawsuit cases spanning many years. These narratives demonstrate the agency of women in their struggles for autonomy, inheritance, status and eminence, and reflect their views on life, family, marriage, career, legacy and society. The book also enriches our understanding of Hong Kong by showing how its nuanced mix of East and West has enabled women to progressively gain more independence.



鄭宏泰，黃紹倫：《商城記—香港家族企業縱橫談》，香港：中華書局(香港)有限公司，2014。

Authors Dr. Victor Zheng and Dr. Wong Siu Lun have conducted extensive research and fieldwork on the birth and evolution of Chinese family businesses in Hong Kong. In this book, they reveal how the prominent families that own and run many of Hong Kong's successful private enterprises were formed under unique circumstances. They also highlight the vital involvement of female entrepreneurs amidst commercial rivalry and competition. Case studies include the Ho family, Li family (Bank of East Asia), and Wu family (Hopewell Holdings). Readers will gain a more complete insight into the adaptations and innovations of these business families from various fascinating perspectives.



Upcoming Events

Conferences

International Symposium on "Utopia and Utopianism in the Contemporary Chinese Context: Texts, Ideas, Spaces" (March 20-21, 2015, Hong Kong)

The Institute and the French Centre for Research on Contemporary China are jointly organizing a conference to historicize and problematize both the essential and contingent aspects of utopia. A total of 15 papers will be shared and more than 20 scholars from the region and abroad will be participating. Prof. David Der-wei Wang, Hung Leung Hau Ling Distinguished Fellow in Humanities at The University of Hong Kong and Edward C. Henderson Professor of Chinese and Comparative Literature at Harvard University will be giving the keynote speech "Panglossian Dream and Dark Consciousness: Modern Chinese Literature and Utopia". The keynote address is presented together with the Hung Leung Hau Ling Distinguished Fellowship in Humanities Lecture, and is part of several activities that have been lined up to coincide with the conference.

More information on the conference is available at www.hkihss.hku.hk/utopia/sym_overview.html. To register as an auditor, please visit: www.hkihss.hku.hk/registration/event_utopia.php?q=18&p=19 (limited seats; available on a first come, first served basis).



International Conference on Jing Jiao (June 10-12, 2015, Hong Kong)

This year marks the 1380th anniversary of *Jing Jiao's* (Nestorianism) introduction to China. It is also the golden jubilee of the late Prof. Lo Hsiang-lin's (Department of Chinese, HKU) seminal publication *Nestorianism in the T'ang and Yuan Dynasties* (中國學社, 1966). To honor this occasion, the Institute, the School of Chinese, The University of Hong Kong, and the Divinity School of Chung Chi College, The Chinese University of Hong Kong are organizing an international conference on *Jing Jiao*. This conference will gather specialists from across Asia, Australia, Europe and America. We are delighted to have Prof. Samuel Lieu, Professor of Ancient History and Co-Deputy Director of the Ancient Cultures Research Centre at Macquarie University as the keynote speaker. In conjunction with the conference, the University of Hong Kong's University Museum and Art Gallery will be holding the first ever exhibition of its F.A. Nixon Collection of Nestorian Bronze Crosses. The events promise to engage scholars and researchers while promoting a greater interest and understanding of *Jing Jiao* and its influences in China and the rest of Asia. More information can be found at www.hkihss.hku.hk/jingjiao2015.

Visits of Distinguished Scholars



Prof. Ronnie Po-chia Hsia, Sin Wai-Kin Distinguished Visiting Professor in the Humanities

We welcome Prof. Ronnie Po-chia Hsia, Edwin Erle Sparks Professor of History at Pennsylvania State University to the University this spring semester. During his stay here as the Sin Wai-Kin Distinguished Visiting Professor in the Humanities and Honorary Professor of the Institute, Prof. Hsia is teaching a course titled "Christianity and Chinese Culture" with Dr. Fung Kam Wing at the School of Chinese, mentoring graduate students in the humanities as well as working closely with colleagues of the "Rethinking Spirituality and Religion in Asia" Cluster of the Institute. He is also giving a distinguished lecture on "慈航女神：明清媽祖與聖瑪利亞的比較研究" at the University on April 29, 2015.

Prof. David Der-wei Wang, Hung Leung Hau Ling Distinguished Fellow in Humanities

In March, the Institute will receive Prof. David Der-wei Wang, Hung Leung Hau Ling Distinguished Fellow in Humanities. Prof. Wang is an organizer of the International Symposium on "Utopia and Utopianism in the Contemporary Chinese Context: Texts, Ideas, Spaces", and will appear at several other events in the same month. On March 21, 2015, he is joining a screening of the documentary film "Making Friends with Mr. Zhang". Following this, he will be participating in a dialogue session with film director Evans Chan at a Hong Kong Arts Festival PLUS event – a special showing of the film "Datong: The Great Society" – taking place the next day. Most notably, Prof. Wang is delivering the distinguished lecture on "Panglossian Dream and Dark Consciousness: Modern Chinese Literature and Utopia" on March 20, 2015 to inaugurate his distinguished fellowship.



"Hubs, Mobilities and the Asian Urban" Cluster Brain-storming Workshop (HKU)

Led by Prof. Helen Siu and Prof. Richard Wong, the "Hubs, Mobilities and the Asian Urban" Cluster will hold a brain-storming workshop on March 17, 2015. It brings together scholars from local and overseas universities to focus on analytical issues in circulation, movement, cultural openness and institutional fusion across a connected Asian region. The group explores new theoretical approaches centering on the concept of "hubbing." It highlights historical assemblages in contemporary urban forms and moral imaginations. Topics to address include infrastructures and institutions of mobility, the social life of finance, new state spaces and boundaries, social immobility, inchoate experiences of power and contestations. The group seeks to connect other research clusters at the Institute and its partners overseas (e.g. Yale University, Social Science Research Council) to promote an Inter-Asian and inter-disciplinary agenda. An open conversation follows the workshop featuring Professors William Kelly (Yale), Gordon Mathews (CUHK) and Helen Siu (Yale). They will discuss "Anthropology in, of, and by East Asia: Moving to the Center in the 21st Century".

Interdisciplinary Lunchtime Seminar Series

Below is this spring's Lunchtime Series line-up:

- March 17: "A History of Communications: Bian Zhilin 卞之林, Li Shangyin 李商隱, and World Literature in Chinese Poetry" by Dr. Lucas Klein, HKU Chinese
- March 31: "Madness Made in China: Manufacturing Mental Disorders and the Incomplete Medical Modernity" by Dr. Harry Wu, Humanities and Social Sciences, Nanyang Technological University
- April 14: "Contesting and Remaking Identities and Belonging: Canadians in Hong Kong and the Umbrella Movement Protests" by Dr. Susan Henders, Political Science, York University
- April 28: "Curating Cultural Revolution: Exhibitions by and for Red Guards in Shanghai, 1966-1967" by Dr. Denise Ho, CUHK China Studies



Departmental Seminar Series

The next talk is "A Market of Distrust: Unofficial Payments for Hospital Care in China" by Dr. Cheri Shun-ching Chan, HKU. It will be held on March 25, 2015 at HKU.

Public Program

Contemporary Chinese Documentary Series – Meet the Director: China Dreams Series "Making Friends with Mr. Zhang" (中國夢系列「和張老師做朋友」) by Director Cao Diao (曹雕) (March 21, 2015, HKU)

Cao Diao's film documents one Zhang Fucheng's lonely effort to honor the late Chairman Mao. Zhang, a retired teacher living with throat cancer, is disgruntled with China's current state of affair and social climate. A self-proclaimed "revolutionist", Zhang has profound respect and admiration for Mao, so much so that in recent years he personally funded and organized commemorative events in Mao's hometown Ji'an. Though support was scarce, Zhang continued to look for people who would share his vision, until he found Cao, a 20-year-old student and film director who was willing to listen and who cared to debate about Mao. The film was shot between 2013 and 2014 in Ji'an and Mount Jinggangshan in Jiangxi province, known foremost for being the cradle of Mao's Revolution.

The film will be accompanied by a discussion with director Cao Diao, producer of the China Dreams Series, Jian Yi, and Judith Pernin from the French Center for Research on Contemporary China. This event is organized in conjunction with the International Symposium on "Utopia and Utopianism in Contemporary Chinese Context: Texts, Ideas, Spaces". To register, please visit: www.hkihss.hku.hk/register/film10.



Recent Activities

Distinguished Lectures

Communists and Peasants in the Soviet Union and China: A Comparison

(January 8, 2015, HKU)

Prof. Lucien Bianco, Professor Emeritus at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, compared and contrasted the ways in which Stalin and Mao, revolutionary leaders with very different relationships with peasants, implemented primitive accumulation strategies. This intriguing lecture – attended by more than 50 people – also explored how Russian and Chinese revolutionaries viewed and treated peasants within their ideological framework and historical experiences.



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

This lecture, which drew a full house, explained how institutions have evolved to deal with risks. Prof. Chen Zhiwu of Yale University's School of Management elaborated on how financial markets have freed the individual and replaced social institutions as impersonal risk-sharing instruments. In particular, he described the changes that have taken place in cultural and behavioral norms as individual rights and freedom have superseded traditional non-market relationships and how financial markets have taken over the mitigation of risks.



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)

The recent inclusion of Daoism as one of the six "major, living, international religions" in the Norton Anthology of World Religions was an opportunity for Dr. Mark Larrimore of The New School of Liberal Arts to look at the construction of "world religions" in western scholarship. Dr. Larrimore's seminar investigated China's role as a challenge and irritant in this history and reflected on what understanding of Daoism as the Chinese "world religion" might portend for the future of "religion" in an increasingly globalized world.



Subjects of Debt? Entrepreneurialism and Islamic Finance in Malaysia

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

Malaysia has developed Islamic finance in conjunction with two distinct strategies of subject formation. Dr. Daromir Rudnyckj of the University of Victoria traced the shift away from "debt-based" instruments towards "equity-based" ones, and concluded that efforts to reformulate Islamic finance around equity rather than debt offer an alternative solution to the way the predicament of finance has been characterized in the human sciences today.



Qigong and Healing Communities in Contemporary Shanghai: Techniques of the Body, State Institutions and Transnational Flows (January 20, 2015, HKU; organized by the "Rethinking Spirituality and Religion in Asia" Cluster)

Qigong has undergone a new phase of globalization in the 21st century with new training and teaching materials published by the National Chinese Association for Health Qigong and competition from wellness or spiritual centers. Dr. Marceau Chenault, Lecturer at the College of Physical Education and Health in East China Normal University, follows this transformation and shared how intercultural exchange and training have encouraged the modern development of Qigong and the global growth of healing communities.

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)

The inaugural lecture of the STMS Colloquium Series featured Dr. Suzanne Z. Gottschang, Associate Professor of Anthropology at Smith College, who argued that risks frequently deemed to be scientifically objective are in fact culturally constructed. She illustrated this point with findings from a study conducted with her colleague, Dr. Leslie King, comparing a sample of popular pregnancy advice manuals and websites published in China and the United States. The variances suggest the influence of culturally specific ideas and emphasize the importance of a critical examination of risk analysis in the social sciences.



Interdisciplinary Lunchtime Seminar Series

The final two talks in the first half of the 2014-2015 Interdisciplinary Lunchtime Seminar Series featured Prof. Cameron D. Campbell of HKUST Social Science, who spoke on "Kinship and Inequality in China: Big Data for a Big Topic" and Dr. Florian Knothe of the HKU University Museum and Art Gallery, also the Institute's Honorary Associate Professor, who talked about "Traditions, Trends and Testimony: European Art in Qing Dynasty China".

Dr. Lawrence Zhang and Dr. Jun Zhang have scheduled seven more sessions for the spring semester. January saw three presentations take place, starting with Dr. Kwong Chi Man of HKBU History with "Beyond the 'Three Years and Eight Months': Understanding the Japanese Occupation of Hong Kong during the Second World War". Next were Dr. Jeremy Yellen of CUHK Japanese Studies and Dr. Isaac Gagne of the Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies at Waseda University with "Strange Partners: Japan and the German Alliance, 1940" and "Localizing Mental Health Practices: Anthropological Research on the Psychosocial Dimensions of Disaster Recovery" respectively.



Top row: Prof. Cameron D. Campbell and Dr. Florian Knothe

Bottom row: Dr. Kwong Chi Man, Dr. Jeremy Yellen, and Dr. Isaac Gagne



Departmental Seminar Series

Prof. Gordon Mathews and Ms. Kwong Miu Ying from the Department of Anthropology at The Chinese University of Hong Kong used the Departmental Seminar Series in January to deal with the issue of life after death.

Their talk “Life after Death in Japan, China, and the United States” enquired how people in three different societies envision what happens to them after they die, and how these conceptions relate to their understanding of life before death. Contrary to ideas that this novel area may seem unpromising, the analyses offered a glimpse at the possibility of future study in the social sciences.



Institute's News

Hong Kong Memory Project

Last December, the Hong Kong Memory Project was officially handed over to the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. In the past eight years, the project team headed by Dr. Elizabeth Sinn, the Institute's Honorary Professor, has created an open digital archive of Hong Kong's history, culture and heritage. Their efforts have culminated in the Hong Kong Memory website (www.hkmemory.hk), which will be maintained and further developed by LCSD. The Institute would like to thank the team, our partners at LCSD and the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, as well as all participating experts, interviewees and institutions for their valuable contributions towards this meaningful endeavor.



Personalia

Staff Appointments

Mr. Roy Yiu joined the Institute as Senior Technical Officer starting from December 16, 2014.

Mr. Deng Xili joined the Institute as Research Assistant (“Rethinking Spirituality and Religion in Asia” Cluster) starting from January 15, 2015.

Mr. Yu Wai Tou joined the Institute as Research Assistant (“Rethinking Spirituality and Religion in Asia” Cluster) starting from January 15, 2015.

Mr. Louis Kwong has been promoted to Clerical Assistant with effect from December 2, 2014.

Staff Departures

Dr. Patrick Mok, Project Manager of the Hong Kong Memory Project left the Institute on December 1, 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.

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