

NEWSLETTER

Summer 2015



Highlights

HKU President and Vice-Chancellor's Visit to the Institute and Tour of the Newly Completed East Wing of May Hall

The Institute welcomed Prof. Peter Mathieson, President and Vice-Chancellor of HKU and his wife Dr. Christina Mathieson for a visit on August 5, 2015. Prof. Angela Leung and Prof. Helen Siu gave the guests a presentation on the Institute and introduced our academic staff and students to them. Prof. Mathieson also had a first look at the newly renovated ground floor of the east wing of May Hall. The occasion concluded with colleagues and students of the Institute joining the guests for a tea party.

May Hall's east wing now features a seminar room, a lecture hall which seats up to 72 people, and a multi-purpose room with live broadcasting capabilities, and with this first part of the final phase of renovation now complete, the Institute will proceed to restoring the original building façade by removing the exterior staircase that connects May Hall and Eliot Hall. We thank everyone who has worked tirelessly on this endeavor, and invite all to look forward to a rejuvenated exterior.



(Anticlockwise from top right)

Dr. Christina Mathieson being introduced to one of the Institute's PhD candidates, Mr. Fabian Winiger; Prof. Peter Mathieson with Dr. Mathieson and Prof. Angela Leung; Prof. Helen Siu guiding guests through a display of the Institute's publications in the multi-purpose room; and, the new lecture hall at the recently renovated ground floor



Featured News

Advanced Training Program on “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 History of China at Nankai University.

20 graduate students and young researchers took part in the first advanced training program this August. Held in Peking University, the eight-day program invited top medical humanities scholars such as Professors Shigehisa Kuriyama (Harvard University), Marie-Christine Pouchelle (Centre national de la recherche scientifique), Sean Lei



(Clockwise from top left) Dr. Liu Yan (first from left) and trainees in the midst of a group discussion; Prof. Shigehisa Kuriyama during his lecture presentation; everyone taking part in a relaxation exercise led by Prof. Kuriyama before the museum project presentations; and, Prof. Marie-Christine Pouchelle at the workshop

(Academia Sinica), Angela Leung, Yu Xinzhong (Nankai University), Zhang Daqing (Peking University), and Ding Yizhuang (Chinese Academy of Social Sciences) to engage participants in a series of lectures, discussions and fieldwork.

Trainees also created virtual museum exhibitions on the subject of medicine and pharmaceuticals as a project for this workshop. Through this activity, the students were encouraged to reflect the importance of material culture for historical research and to think about the best ways to make their research findings accessible to a wide audience.

Following the success of the first run, the next advanced training workshop will be held at Nankai University in the summer of 2016. Details on the theme and application procedures will be announced through the Institute's website (www.hkihss.hku.hk) in due time.



(Clockwise from bottom left)

A trainee looks on as prescriptions are being filled out during the fieldtrip to the Tongrentang traditional Chinese medical clinic in Beijing; group photo of lecturers and trainees; Mr. Liu Xiaomeng (middle), PhD candidate at the Institute, during the training workshop; and, trainee Dr. Zhang Xueqian speaking up at the workshop

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

The Institute jointly hosted the International Conference on Jing Jiao with the School of Chinese of HKU and the Divinity School of Chung Chi College of the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK). Prof. Peter Mathieson, President and Vice-Chancellor of HKU, officiated the opening of the three-day event, which saw keynote speaker Prof. Samuel Lieu and 19 scholars from Hong Kong, China, Japan, Europe, and the United States share fascinating research discoveries on the Nestorian faith during the Tang and Yuan dynasties, as well as its religious and cultural influences on East Asia. Presentations were given among three panels that focused on various inter-related themes – the artistic, the scientific, linguistic, textual, and its religious influences.

New projects arising from the conference were also established as a result of the commitment of the organizing committee and participants to promote all aspects of the study of Tang and Yuan dynasty Christianity. Work is underway to create a database providing descriptions and high resolution photographs of all *Jing Jiao* artifacts, critical editions of all *Jing Jiao* texts with translations in major languages, and an up-to-date annotated bibliography of all works relating to *Jing Jiao* and *Yelikewenjiao*. The database will be hosted by the School of Chinese when completed, and serve as an invaluable resource for scholars, students and researchers.



(Anticlockwise from left)

Prof. Peter Mathieson speaking at the opening of the conference; Prof. Samuel Lieu giving his keynote speech; participants at the book display; and, organizing committee members Dr. Fung Kam Wing and Prof. David Lung taking comments from participants at the closing of the conference



Collaborations

Inter-Asian Connections V: Seoul

A cornerstone of the InterAsia Partnership, the international Inter-Asian Connections Conference Series is a long running collaboration between the Institute, the Social Science Research Council, Yale University, the National University of Singapore and Göttingen University. The series has gathered more than 400 scholars over four conferences, showcased innovative research from across the social sciences and related disciplines, and explored themes that transform conventional understandings of Asia. The series will return in April 27 to 30, 2016 with a fifth conference hosted by the Seoul National University Asia Centre. The conference will comprise ten concurrent thematic workshops, and its organizing committee is now accepting individual research paper submissions. Detailed abstracts, application procedures, frequently asked questions and information on financial support can be found on the official website at www.ssrc.org/pages/interasian-connections-v-seoul-2016. The deadline for applications is September 8, 2015.

Postgraduate Programs

New Beginnings in the 2015-2016 Academic Year

The Institute welcomed new postgraduate students this summer. After the latest round of admission, four students were accepted to the Institute's MPhil and PhD programs in 2015-2016:

Anna Maria Iskra (4-year PhD) obtained a double Master's degree in Ethnology and Sinology from the College of Inter-Area Individual Studies in the Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Warsaw in 2014. Her doctoral research will focus on 'Coaches, Motivational Speakers, Deified Teachers, "Success Studies in China"'. Anna will be supervised by Dr. David A. Palmer and Dr. Gonçalo Santos.

Sue Shuo Hua (MPhil) graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 2011 and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics and Mathematics. Her proposed project is "The Functions of High Culture: On Art Consumption by the Newly Established Wealthy Chinese Immigrants in Hong Kong Today", supervised by Dr. Gonçalo Santos and Dr. Florian Knothe.

Andrea Jian Chen (Part-time 4-year PhD) earned her Bachelor of Arts in Chinese Literature and Education from Guangxi Normal University in 2002, and received another two graduate degrees – Master of Arts in Christian Studies and Master of Divinity – from CUHK in 2012 and 2015. The proposed title of her research is "Re-presenting the Configuration of the *Yelikewen* Religious World – An Art History Approach to the Visual Text of *Jingjiao*". She will be supervised by Dr. Fung Kam Wing and Dr. Florian Knothe.

Wang Fengzhan (MPhil) studied history at Nankai University and received her Bachelor's degree in 2015. She is interested in the dissemination and practice of child nutrition knowledge in modern China, and will be supervised by Prof. Angela Leung and Dr. Izumi Nakayama.



(From left) Miss Anna Maria Iskra, Miss Andrea Jian Chen, Miss Sue Shuo Hua and Miss Wang Fengzhan

Meanwhile, three of our students have successfully completed and defended their dissertations this past year. We are very proud of their hard work and would like to offer our best wishes to Mr. Chris Kai Chun Leung, Mr. Ning Rundong, and Miss Mathilde Biard, as they embark on the next phase of their academic careers.



Call for Applications for Admission to Research Postgraduate Programs

Applications for admission to the Institute's MPhil and PhD programs in 2016-2017 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, 2015, 12 Noon (Hong Kong Time)**.

First Clearing Round applications will subsequently be open from December 2, 2015 to April 30, 2016. Enquiries can be made by email to ihssrpg@hku.hk.

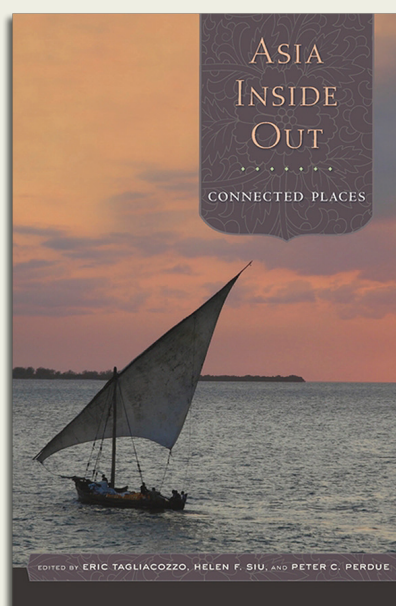
Lee Hysan-HKIHSS Fellowship

MPhil candidate Miss Ryan Xin Xie has become the second recipient of the Lee Hysan-HKIHSS Fellowship. Aimed at encouraging students from the University of Hong Kong to gain greater exposure and professional experience, the fellowship supports those who wish to visit overseas institutions on academic exchanges. Ryan will be spending a semester at Yale University this fall to pursue her postgraduate studies under the mentorship of Prof. Helen Siu.



Publications

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

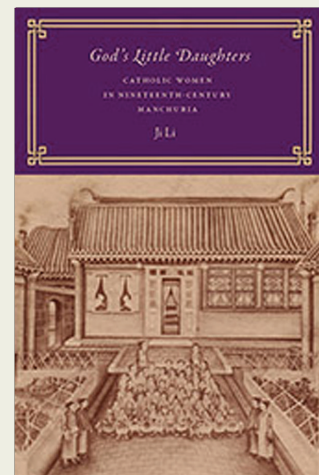


The three-part series *Asia Inside Out* surveys the dynamic forces that have historically linked regions of Asia, from Japan and Korea to China, India and the Middle East. *Connected Places*, the second installment of the series, is a kaleidoscope comprising stories of pirates in Vietnam, merchants in the Himalayas, Muslims in Central Asia that are ethnically Chinese, migrants and migrations, patterns of trade, culture, and beyond.

The individual essays examine linkage and disjuncture from the early modern period to the present. They explore themes of maritime connections, mobile landscapes and spatial movements, trace the way goods, ideas and people move along sea routes and mountain passes, and challenge the conventional idea that a geopolitical region is only land-based, state-centered and historically linear. The essay collection instead shows how fluctuations that are ever-present have shaped various Asian territories over centuries, illustrating that the historical construction of place and space is very much a result of the confluence of trans-regional factors. This book is the outcome of the Institute's research cluster "Trading Empires of the South China, South Asia and Gulf Region".

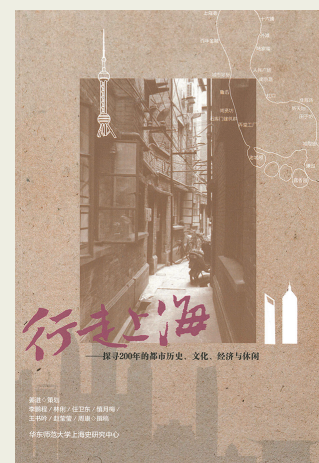
Ji Li, *God's Little Daughters: Catholic Women in Nineteenth-Century Manchuria*, University of Washington Press, 2015.

Inspired by a set of letters written by three sisters from a small village in Manchuria to their French missionary, *God's Little Daughters* looks at how French Catholic missionaries of the Société des Missions Etrangères de Paris (MEP) translated and disseminated their Christian message in northeast China from the mid-19th to the early 20th century, and reconstructs the neglected voices of Catholic women in rural China. Dr. Ji Li, Research Assistant Professor at the Institute, traces as revealed in the letters the interplay of religious experience, rhetorical skill and gender relations, and examines how these women who had taken religious vows interpreted and transformed their Catholic faith to articulate an awareness of self.



姜進：《行走上海——探尋200年的都市歷史、文化、經濟與休閒》，華東師範大學上海史研究中心，2015。

Prof. Jiang Jin, Professor of History at East China Normal University and Principal Investigator of the sub-project “Everyday Life in Global Shanghai: The Economic Life and Work Ethics of Shanghai Youth Today”, has worked with various collaborators to put together a volume that showcases the multiple facets of Shanghai. Employing a city-walk format, each essay in the book details a carefully planned route that deftly leads readers through different aspects – historical, cultural and economic – of Shanghai’s urban development in the past 200 years. This book project is supported by the “Global Cities and Social Life of Finance Capital in Asia” Cluster and sponsored by the Institute.



Upcoming Activities

Forthcoming Visits by Distinguished Scholars

Two distinguished scholars will arrive in the fall to spend some time at the Institute: Prof. Dorothy Ko of Barnard College, Columbia University will offer a postgraduate course titled “Technology, Medicine and Body”. She will also deliver a public lecture, mentor students and work closely with the “Science, Technology, and Medicine in Asian Societies” Cluster. We will also welcome back Prof. David Der-wei Wang, Hung Leung Hau Ling Distinguished Fellow in Humanities and Edward C. Henderson Professor of Chinese and Comparative Literature at Harvard University. Prof. Wang will take part in a public forum and a workshop on Sinophone literature during this follow up visit.



Prof. Dorothy Ko and Prof. David Der-wei Wang

Knowledge Exchange Event on 《香港的粵語流行曲——三個時期、三種不同的風格》(Cantopop in Hong Kong – Three different periods of development and three different styles) (October 14, 2015, HKU)

Prof. Liu Ching-chih, Honorary Institute Fellow, will give a public talk on the origination, development and transformation of Cantonese popular music (otherwise known as “Cantopop”) since the 1970s. He will discuss the multitude of local and international influences that have shaped Cantopop, its popularization in the 1980s and 1990s, and its subsequent decline at the beginning of the 21st century.

Departmental Seminar Series

The series returns this September with more thought-provoking presentations. We look forward to these upcoming talks:

- September 9: “Between perseverance and manipulation: the art of accumulation on social media in rural China” by Dr. Tom McDonald, HKU
- November 18: “Global Technology Leadership: The Case of China” by Prof. Naubahar Sharif, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Interdisciplinary Lunchtime Seminar Series

Dr. Jun Zhang and Dr. Oiyen Liu will coordinate the 2015-2016 series. They have scheduled these two speakers for September:

- September 8: “Chinese POWs serving as U.S. secret agents in the Korean War 九死一生：韓戰美軍征用中國戰俘從事敵後諜報工作探秘” by Prof. David Cheng Chang, Humanities, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
- September 22: “Diaspora and Diplomacy: China, Indonesia and the Cold War, 1945 – 1967” by Dr. Zhou Taomo, Humanities and Social Sciences, Nanyang Technological University

Recent Activities

Conference

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

The Institute and the French Centre for Research on Contemporary China ran an international symposium, proposing to reflect anew on the idea of utopia. “Utopia and Utopianism in the Contemporary Chinese Context: Texts, Ideas, Spaces” drew a healthy attendance over a two-day period, with many colleagues and students turning up for Prof. David Der-wei Wang’s stimulating keynote speech “Panglossian Dream and Dark Consciousness: Modern Chinese Literature and Utopia” and a writers forum involving prominent contemporary authors and cultural critics John Koon-chung Chan, Han Shaogong, and Leo Ou-fan Lee (CUHK).



(Clockwise from left) Group photo of contributors and participants of the symposium; the writers forum featuring (from left) Leo Ou-fan Lee, Han Shaogong and John Koon-chung Chan; and, Prof. Xu Zidong of Lingnan University (middle) during the general discussion



Panglossian Dream and Dark Consciousness: Modern Chinese Literature and Utopia (March 20, 2015, HKU)

To inaugurate his appointment as the Hung Leung Hau Ling Distinguished Fellow in Humanities, Prof. David Der-wei Wang delivered a distinguished lecture on the contested conditions of modern and contemporary Chinese utopia. His lecture contended that, precisely because utopia is generating public debate in post-socialist China, a critical reflection on its historical lineage as well as literary underpinning is in order. Prof. Wang concluded with an exploration of the new millennium where utopian political discourse coexists with dystopian literature.



(From left) Prof. David Der-wei Wang, Ms. Bernadette Tsui, Prof. Helen Siu, Prof. Angela Leung, Ms. Belinda Hung, Mr. Douglas So and Ms. Kitty Wong



慈航女神：明清媽祖與聖母瑪利亞的比較研究 (April 29, 2015, HKU)

Drawing upon Chinese and Catholic missionary records, Prof. Ronnie Po-chia Hsia examined the interactions between Catholicism and Chinese folk religions during the Ming and Qing dynasties and presented a comparative analysis of the role played by Mazu and the Virgin Mary in Chinese and Western maritime history. This lecture was part of the engagements held by Prof. Hsia during his visit as the Sin Wai-kin Distinguished Visiting Professor in the Humanities, succeeding an earlier seminar on "Christianity & Popular Religion in Late Imperial China: Some Notes from the Archives".



Prof. Ronnie Po-chia Hsia with Prof. Angela Leung (left) and during the lecture (right)



Europe's Infrastructure Transition (May 5, 2015, HKU; organized by the "Science, Technology, and Medicine in Asian Societies" Cluster)

Prof. Arne Kaijser (KTH Royal Institute of Technology) presented some of the main themes from *Europe's Infrastructure Transition: Economy, War, Nature*, a book he co-authored with Per Högselius and Erik van de Vleuten. He retells and revises mainstream narratives of European integration by taking material networks as its point of departure and introduces an alternative set of historical key individuals, organizations, and companies that have made modern Europe what it is.

Roundtable and Research Seminars

Anthropology in, of, and by East Asia: Moving to the Center in the 21st Century? (March 17, 2015, HKU; organized by the "Hubs, Mobilities and the Asian Urban" Cluster)

In this interesting roundtable session, leading discussants Prof. Gordon Mathews (CUHK), Prof. Helen Siu (Yale University), and Prof. William Kelly (Yale University) initiated a conversation on the state of East Asian anthropology in the world today.



(From left) Prof. Helen Siu, Prof. Gordon Mathews and Prof. William Kelly

Participants exchanged viewpoints on the advances made, as well as pressing issues faced by the discipline as it is being practiced in the region.



The development of Buddhist charity in China: the case study of the Ren'ai Foundation in Beijing (April 21, 2015, HKU; organized by the "Rethinking Spirituality and Religion in Asia" Cluster)

Focusing on a recently established Buddhist charity in Beijing, Prof. André Laliberté (University of Ottawa) argued that after the disaster of the usurpation strategy used during the Maoist period, the Chinese Communist Party has opted for a strategy of imitation in order to harness the resources of religious institutions in helping it implement aspects of its social policies.

Politics of Moral Sentiments: Civil Society and the 2008 Sichuan Earthquake in China (May 11, 2015, HKU)

In this talk, Dr. Xu Bin (Florida International University) elaborated on his book project on the 2008 Sichuan earthquake and reasoned that a massive disaster as such provides civil society under authoritarianism with rare political opportunities and symbolic moral resources to participate in large-scale public activities.



Daoist Ritual, the Transformation of Tradition and the Politics of Heritage among the Lanten Yao minority of Laos (May 12, 2015, HKU; organized by the "Rethinking Spirituality and Religion in Asia" Cluster)

Mr. Joseba Estevez (University of Münster), initiator of the "Lanten Schools" pilot project, spoke about the transfer of tradition among ritual experts of the Lanten Yao communities in Northern Laos and shared stories on his involvement in promoting literacy of the Lanten ritual language among Lanten youths.



通靈與修行：神佛授法者的修行經驗 (June 18, 2015, HKU; organized by the "Rethinking Spirituality and Religion in Asia" Cluster)

Drawing on more than 50 documented case studies collected in recent years, Prof. Lin Meirong (Academia Sinica) revealed her findings on Buddhist spirit mediums during this seminar. Prof. Lin explained in detail how their first spiritual encounter with the Buddha spurred individuals to take up practice and pursue a religious life.

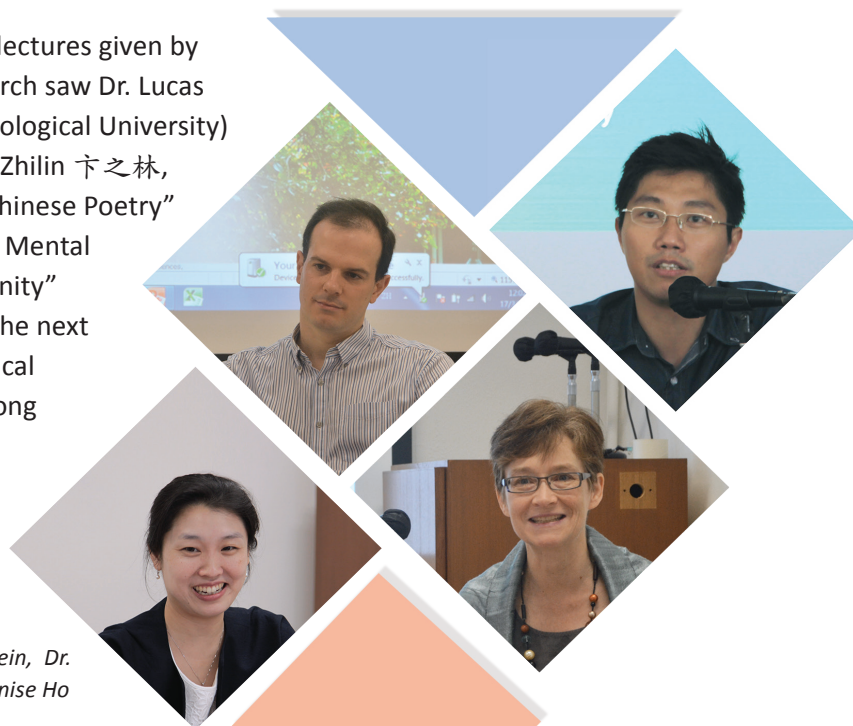
Departmental Seminar Series

In “A Market of Distrust: Unofficial Payments for Hospital Care in China”, Dr. Cheris Shun-ching Chan presented her study on how distrust constitutes and organizes unofficial payments for hospital care in urban China. She investigated how the practice of delivering hongbao (red packets containing money) to physicians whom one distrusts has been imbued with new meanings and new practices, and shed light on how and under what conditions distrust may give rise to an illegal market and shape its pattern of operation.



Interdisciplinary Lunchtime Seminar Series

Rounding off the semester's series were four lectures given by local and overseas scholars. The month of March saw Dr. Lucas Klein (HKU) and Dr. Harry Wu (Nanyang Technological University) speak on “A History of Communications: Bian Zhilin 卞之林, Li Shangyin 李商隱, and World Literature in Chinese Poetry” and “Madness Made in China: Manufacturing Mental Disorders and the Incomplete Medical Modernity” respectively. Dr. Susan Henders continued in the next month with “(Re)making and Contesting Political Subjectivities and Citizenship: Canadians in Hong Kong in the Era of the Umbrella Movement Protest”, before Dr. Denise Ho's (CUHK) talk entitled “Curating Cultural Revolution: Exhibitions by and for Red Guards in Shanghai”.



(Clockwise from top left) Dr. Lucas Klein, Dr. Harry Wu, Dr. Susan Henders and Dr. Denise Ho

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)

80 members of the HKU community and general public turned up for the screening of the documentary “Making Friends with Mr. Zhang” this March. Director Cao Diao (曹雕) joined Jian Yi (簡藝), producer of the China Dreams Series, and Dr. Judith Pernin from the French Center for Research on Contemporary China for a lighthearted discussion after the screening.



Prof. Jean-Pierre Cabestan, Head of the Department of Government and International Studies at Hong Kong Baptist University and Dr. Sebastian Veg, Director of the French Centre for Research on Contemporary China in audience



Film director Cao Diao (left) and producer Jian Yi



Prof. Helen Siu Appointed as Visiting Research Professor

Prof. Helen Siu, Mok Hing Yiu Distinguished Visiting Professor, has been appointed by the University as Visiting Research Professor (VRP) for two years beginning September 2015. The competitive VRP scheme will help Prof. Siu take the research clusters “Hubs, Mobilities and the Asian Urban” and “China-Africa Diasporas” to new heights. In addition, Prof. Siu will continue to supervise graduate students and mentor junior faculty members at the Institute.

Prof. Angela Leung Bestowed with the Distinction of Chevalier dans l'ordre des Palmes académiques

On April 1, 2015, Prof. Angela Leung was decorated with the Chevalier dans l'ordre des Palmes académiques by Mr. Arnaud Barthélémy, Consul-General of France to Hong Kong and Macau. The Ordre des Palmes académiques is a prestigious distinction awarded to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to French education and culture. Prof. Leung was highlighted for her role as a bridge between France and China, specifically in the diffusion of the work of the Annales School in the Sinophone world, and for supporting French researchers and institutions in the region. We extend our warmest congratulations to Prof. Leung.



Personalia

Visiting Professor

Prof. Dorothy Ko, Barnard College, Columbia University, September to December 2015.

Visiting Assistant Professor

Dr. Izumi Nakayama, the University of Hong Kong, September to December 2015.

Staff Appointments

Dr. Zhang Xueqian has joined the Institute as Research Assistant I from August 24, 2015.

Miss Christy Kan has joined the Institute as Executive Assistant from June 8, 2015.

Ms. May Chiu has joined the Institute as Office Attendant from August 18, 2015.

Staff Departures

Ms. Cathy Wong, Senior Clerk retired from the Institute on June 30, 2015. We wish her a wonderful and exciting next chapter of her life.

Ms. Emily Lai, Office Attendant left the Institute in July 2015. We wish her every success in her future endeavors.

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

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