

NEWSLETTER

Fall 2016



Featured News

Visit by Prof. Benjamin Elman in Fall Semester

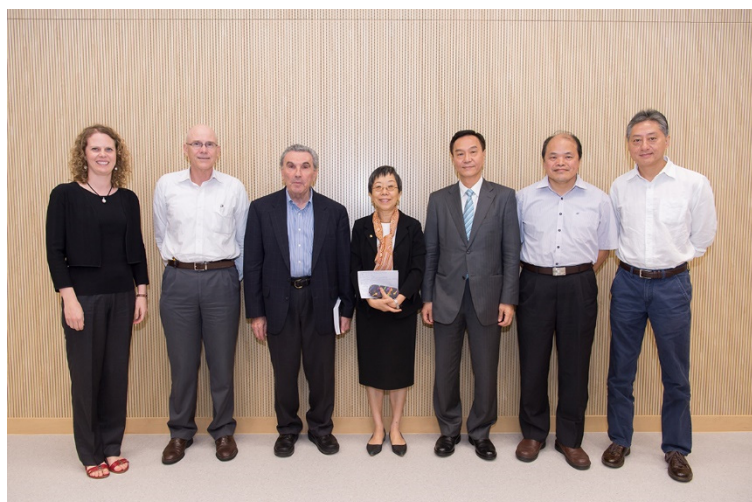


The Institute was pleased to welcome Prof. Benjamin Elman, Gordon Wu '58 Professor of Chinese Studies and Professor of East Asian Studies and History at Princeton University this fall. Prof. Elman was appointed Visiting Professor under the Institutional Enhancement Scheme.

Prof. Elman taught a postgraduate seminar course "Classicism, Commerce & Society in Late Imperial China, 1400-1900" at the Institute. This course attracted students and auditors from other faculties and universities. Prof. Elman also gave a well-attended distinguished lecture on "Sinophiles and Sinophobes: Medical Debates and Medical Philology in Tokugawa Japan" on October 6, 2016.



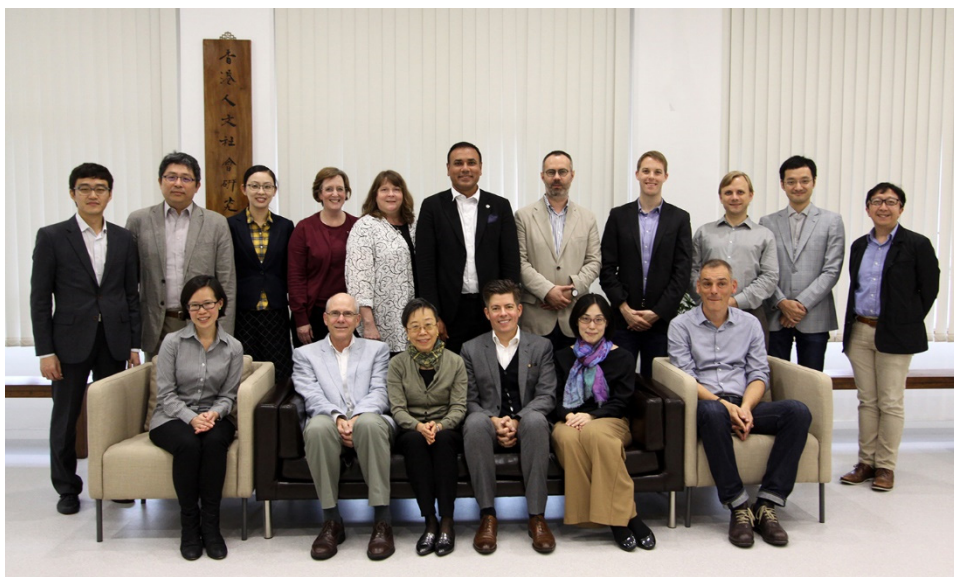
Clockwise from top right:
Prof. Elman in the discussion session;
Dr. Gonçalves Santos raising a question;
A group photo showing Prof. Elman and guests after the distinguished lecture - (from left) Dr. Janet Borland, Prof. Christian Daniels, Prof. Angela Leung, Prof. Chu Hung Lam, Prof. Huang Yi-long, and Prof. James Kung;
Prof. Elman and students at the last class meeting



Collaborations

Making Modernity in East Asia: Technologies of Everyday Life, 19th- 21st Centuries

The Institute collaborated with sixteen scholars from HKU, HKUST, and institutions in Asia, Europe and USA, on a new project “Making Modernity in East Asia: Technology of Everyday Life, 19th – 21st Centuries” with Prof. Angela Leung as Project Coordinator. A two-day workshop was organized on November 23 and 24, 2016 to plan the details of the collaboration. Participating scholars included Prof. Christian Daniels, Prof. Naubahar Sharif, Dr. Lawrence Zhang (all from HKUST), Drs. Gonçalo Santos, Izumi Nakayama, Max Hirsh, Christine Luk, Robert Peckham, Daniel Trambaiolo, and Ms. Dorothy Tang (all from HKU), Prof. Suzanne Gottschang (Smith College), Prof. Kim Tae-ho (Chonbuk National University), and Prof. Kuo Wen-hua (National Yang-Ming University). Prof. Suzanne Moon (University of Oklahoma) and Prof. Jacob Eyferth (University of Chicago) were invited as commentators. Dr. John Wong and Mr. Liu Xiaomeng (both from HKU) attended the workshop as auditors.



Anti-clockwise from top left: Prof. Angela Leung speaking at the workshop; Prof. Christian Daniels in discussion with a colleague; Prof. Naubahar Sharif listening attentively to Dr. Gonçalo Santos. Prof. Daniels, Prof. Sharif, and Dr. Santos are the project's Co-Principal Investigators; a group photo of the participants

Building a Trans-Asia Collaborative Network on Researching on Teaching Religion and Society in Asia: China – India – Indonesia

The “Rethinking Spiritually and Religion in Asia” Cluster, together with partners in China, India and Indonesia, and with the support of the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia, will organize a series of summer schools to build collaborative networks on teaching and research on religion and society in Asia. The first summer school will be hosted by Dali University in Yunnan in 2017.

Institutional Enhancement Scheme



Next spring **Prof. Timothy Oakes**, Professor of Geography and Director of Centre for Asian Studies at the University of Colorado Boulder, will spend five months at the Institute under the Institutional Enhancement Scheme, which enables esteemed scholars to visit the University and the Institute for up to a semester. Prof. Oakes will teach a postgraduate seminar course (IHSS6066) “China’s Urban Geographies” during his time at the Institute. RPg students from HKU and other local universities are welcome to register the course. Details could be found online at www.hkihss.hku.hk/pdf/teaching_learning/2016-17-6006s2-syllabus.pdf. Prof. Oakes will also give a public lecture and participate in the “Hubs, Mobilities and Asian Urban” Cluster during his stay. The details of the lecture will be announced in the upcoming semester.

The **Lee Hysan-HKIHSS Fellowship**, established under the Institutional Enhancement Scheme, aims to support HKU postgraduate or senior undergraduate students in the disciplines of Humanities and Social Sciences to undertake overseas research training for a period of up to one academic year. In the past years, four HKU students were awarded. The fifth awardee is Mr. Liu Xiaomeng, the Institute’s PhD student. Mr. Liu will spend five months under the mentorship of Prof. Pamela H. Smith at Columbia University, USA, from early January to early June, 2017. Mr. Liu is supervised by Prof. Angela Leung and Dr. Izumi Nakayama, and in New York, he will be under the guidance of Prof. Pamela H. Smith to develop his PhD thesis project “Transforming the *Materia Medica*: Skill and Technology in *Paozhi* and the Making of Modern Chinese Medicine”.

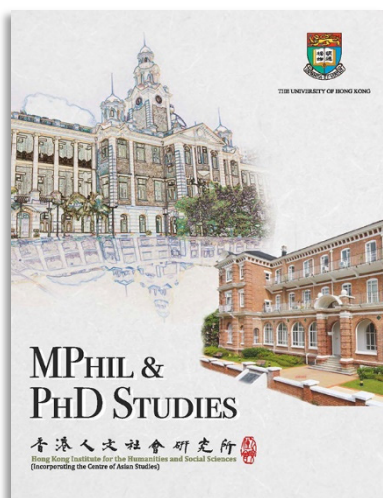


Call for Applications for Lee Hysan-HKIHSS Fellowship for Postgraduate/ Senior Undergraduate Students

The Institute invites eligible students to apply for the fellowship in the next academic year:

Details on the Fellowship: www.hkihss.hku.hk/events/ies/cfa2017.pdf

Application Deadline: February 28, 2017.



Call for Applications for the Admission to Research Postgraduate Programs

Application for admission to the Institute’s MPhil and PhD programs in 2017-18 are now open. Details and application procedures and a newly launched video clip about the Institute are available online at www.hkihss.hku.hk/en/admission_2017-2018.

HKU First Clearing Round

Full application to HKU at www.gradsch.hku.hk

Application period: December 2, 2016 to April 30, 2017

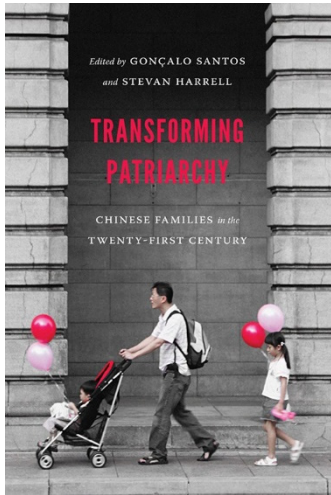
Enquiries can be made by email to ihssrpg@hku.hk

The Institute's First Common Core Courses in Spring Semester 2017

Two Common Core Courses will be offered by the Institute in the spring semester of 2017: CCGL9028 "Gender, Health, and Globalization" by Dr. Izumi Nakayama, and CCGL9051 "Technology, Power, and Culture in the Global Age" by Dr. Gonalo Santos. More details are available online at www.hkihss.hku.hk/en/common_core_2016-2017.



Publication



Gonalo Santos and Stevan Harrell (eds.) *Transforming Patriarchy. Chinese Families in the Twenty-First Century*. University of Washington Press, November 2016.

Each successive wave of revolution to hit modern China has radically reshaped Chinese society. Whereas patriarchy defined the familial social structure for thousands of years, changing realities in the last hundred years have altered and even reversed long-held expectations. *Transforming Patriarchy* explores the private and public dimensions of these changes in present-day China. Patriarchy is not dead, but it is no longer the default arrangement for Chinese families. Drawing on a multitude of sources and perspectives, this volume turns to the intimate territory of the family to challenge prevailing scholarly assumptions about gender and generational hierarchies in Chinese society. Case studies examine factors such as social class, geography, and globalization as they relate to patriarchal practice and resistance to it. The contributors bring the concept of patriarchy back to the heart of China studies while rethinking its significance in dominant Western-

centric theories of modernity and globalization. Gonalo Santos is Assistant Professor at The University of Hong Kong. Stevan Harrell is Professor of Anthropology at the University of Washington.

Upcoming Events

International Workshop on "Asia Inside-out" (January 8-13, 2017, Hanoi)

A group within the "Hubs, Mobilities and the Asian Urban" Cluster focuses on historical connections between Asia, the Gulf region and coastal East Africa. Since 2008, Profs. Helen F. Siu, Eric Tagliacozzo and Peter Perdue have led two groups of scholars in workshops and fieldtrips, one to explore historical communities and port cities in southeast India, the other, Oman and the Indian Ocean trade. They have published two volumes with Harvard University Press in 2015, entitled *Asia inside Out: Changing Times*, and *Asia inside Out: Connected Places*. In preparation for the third volume, *Asia inside Out: Mobile Peoples*, a group of fifteen scholars from Hong Kong and around the world will participate in a workshop and field trip in January 2017. The destination is Hanoi and its vicinity, an area with many layers of inter-Asian activities over land and sea.



International Conference on “Humanitarianism in Action: Asia-Pacific Ethnographic Perspectives” (January 12-14, 2017, HKU)

In January 2017, Drs Gonalo Santos and Jun Zhang of the Institute, together with Dr. Isaac Gagn  (Japanese Studies) will organize an international conference on contemporary practices and infrastructures of non-governmental humanitarian action in China and the Asia-Pacific. Awarded a prestigious grant from the American Council of Learned Societies (Comparative Perspectives on Chinese Culture and Society), the conference will bring together anthropologists, STS scholars, and historians based in the USA, Taiwan, Japan, UK, and Hong Kong. Prof. Erica Bornstein (Wisconsin Milwaukee) will deliver the keynote lecture of the conference. Prof. Peter Redfield (North Carolina Chapel Hill) will deliver the closing speech.

Lectures and Seminars

Joint Public Lectures

“Happy Town: Biopolitical Urbanism and Cultural Governance in China” by Prof. Timothy Oakes (March 29, 2017, HKU; organized by the Institute and the Division of Landscape Architecture, HKU)

Prof. Timothy Oakes (University of Colorado Boulder) will deliver a public lecture in March, exploring the cultural inscription of urban space in China as a technology of government.

“Childcare techniques, cosmology, and social support in Southwest China” by Dr. Wang Ruijing
(January 17, 2017, HKU)

A public lecture on “Childcare techniques, cosmology, and social support in Southwest China” by Dr. Wang Ruijing (Humanities and Social Science, Chongqing University) will be jointly organized by the Institute’s “Science, Technology, and Medicine in Society” Cluster, “Rethinking Spirituality and Religion in Asia” Cluster and the Department of Sociology.

Departmental Seminar Series

January 25, 2017: “Understanding the Sexual in Chinese Sociology: Homosexuality Studies in Contemporary China” by Dr. Travis Kong (Sociology, HKU)

March 22, 2017: “The Blood Lake Complex: Rethinking Female Power and Pollution in the Daoist Ritual Tradition” by Prof. Yang Der-Ruey (Anthropology, Nanjing University)

Interdisciplinary Lunchtime Seminar Series

Drs. Max Hirsh and Christine Luk coordinate the “Interdisciplinary Lunchtime Seminar Series” in 2016-17. The schedule of talks for the spring semester will be announced soon.

Spirituality Religion and Society Lecture Series (January 26, 2017, HKU)

Dr. Andrew T. Loke (Humanities, HKU) will give a talk on “Using transdisciplinary tools to address controversial issues in history of religion: the case of early Christianity”.

Public Program

Contemporary Chinese Documentary Series – Meet the Director – “Of Shadows” (影) by Director Cui Yi (崔誼)

(February 17, 2017, HKU)

“Of Shadows” (影) follows a group of shadow-play puppeteers through their travels in the Loess Plateau in northwest China, where the age-old art of the shadow play is still kept alive in tiny improvised village theatres. It shows the creative world of shadow theatre and players whose way of life balances between a centuries-old rural narrative tradition and the modern urban idea of a cultural heritage that has to be preserved.

Recent Activities

Lectures and Seminars

Spirituality Religion and Society Lecture Series

The “Rethinking Spirituality and Religion in Asia” Cluster has launched a new lecture series earlier this year to bring together religious scholars in different subfields. The new “Spirituality, Religion and Society Lecture Series”, organized by Dr. David A. Palmer and Dr. Ji Li, aims to highlight the most recent research topics and to build up a research community. From September 2016 to November 2016, the series has featured four talks given by Dr. Liang Yongjia, Ms. Wu Qi (both from National University of Singapore), Prof. Huang Weishan (CUHK), and Dr. An Wei (HKU). Scholars shared their on-going research projects and brought significant theoretical and methodological contributions to the development of the research cluster.



From top left: Dr. Liang Yongjia, Ms. Wu Qi, Prof. Huang Weishan, and Dr. An Wei



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

Prof. Miklós Müller of the Rockefeller University (NY) lectured on “Michurinist Biology and Its Recent Attempted Revival in Russia, China, Japan, and Korea” on November 22, 2016. Drawing upon his personal experience as a Hungarian translator of Lepeshinskaya’s works in the 1950s, Prof. Müller revealed the personal and institutional resilience behind these state-sponsored doctrines. The lecture attracted attendants from non-humanities disciplines as well as from other Hong Kong universities.

Interdisciplinary Lunchtime Seminar Series

In the first half of academic year 2016-17, the Institute hosted seven lunchtime seminars. In September, Dr. He Shenjing (HKU) spoke on “Small Property Right Housing Development in China: Towards a Renewed Understanding of Urban Villages” and Dr. Wong Pak-Hang (Hang Seng Management College) gave a talk entitled “Trusting Big Data? A Critique from Confucian Trust”. In October, Dr. Lu Xiaoxuan (HKU) presented “The Monumentality of Linear Landscape” and Dr. Lucia Huwy-min Liu (HKUST) lectured on “Religion and Pluralism: Modes of Religious Authority and Political Contestation in Urban Shanghai Funerals”. The following month saw another three speakers – Mr. Mark Clifford (Asia Business Council), Prof. Graeme Lang (CityU), Dr. Ruben Gozalez-Vicente (CityU). Mr. Clifford talked about “Let There Be Light: China Light & Power and the Manufacture of ‘Modern’ Hong Kong”, Prof. Lang shared his views on “Energy

Futures and City Life”, and Dr. Gozalez-Vincente gave a presentation on “The South-South Conundrum: The China-Ecuador Resource Development Nexus and the Elusive Promise of National Development”.

From left: Dr. He Shenjing, Dr. Wong Pak-Hang, Dr. Lu Xiaoxuan, Dr. Lucia Huwy-min Liu, Mr. Mark Clifford, Prof. Graeme Lang, and Dr. Ruben Gozalez-Vicente



Departmental Seminar Series

Two sessions were organized on September 14 and November 16, 2016, respectively. In “When the Psycho-Boom Meets the Startup Frenzy: Therapist-Entrepreneurs and Their Remaking of the Psychotherapy Scene in China”, Dr. Huang Hsuan-Ying (CUHK) explored how and why the recent startup frenzy in China has infiltrated psychotherapy, another burgeoning field born of the “psycho-boom” that roughly began in the early 2000s. He focused on one case – *Jiandan Xinli* (which literally means “easy psychology”) or My Therapist, a Beijing-based Internet startup founded by a former college counsellor Jane Li in 2014. Following this talk, Dr. Christine Luk (HKU) presented on “Making Space for Engineering Education: the South China Institute of Engineering”. She discussed her most recently published research on the spatiality of engineering education in China in 1950s. Her article is available online at www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/19378629.2016.1248437.



Jointly Sponsored Lectures

Two public lectures, sponsored jointly with other HKU units, were held in September and October. A public lecture on “Rockefeller Philanthropy and China” by Prof. Mary Bullock (The Asia Foundation, San Francisco) was held in cooperation with the Faculty of Education and Wah Ching Centre of Research on Education in China, on September 12. Her presentation focused on Rockefeller Philanthropy and the family foundation’s engagement with China in the twentieth century.



Another public lecture on “The Paradox of Moving Labor: Workers in the Films of Jia Zhangke” by Prof. Peter Hitchcock (Baruch College and City University of New York) was jointly held with the Center for the Study of Globalization and Cultures in the Department of Comparative Literature, Faculty of Arts, on October 12. His talk focused on how migrant labor figures or makes transition in Jia’s films.

Public Program

Contemporary Chinese Documentary Series – Meet the Director

“Planting for Life” (種植人生) by Director Gu Xiaogang (顧曉剛) (September 22, 2016)

“To Live for Food” (食為天) by Director Shang Ming (商明) (October 20, 2016)

Collaborating with the CNEX Foundation, the Institute organized two film screenings and post-screening discussions on the campus in this fall - “Planting for Life” (種植人生) by Director Gu Xiaogang (顧曉剛) and “To Live for Food” (食為天) by Director Shang Ming (商明). Over 120 people from the HKU community and the public participated in the events. Both films focus on themes of natural farming, food safety, and life and identity in today’s Chinese society. The audience greatly enjoyed the films and enthusiastically engaged in the after-screening conversations with the film directors.



Director Gu Xiaogang and Dr. Christine Luk in the discussion session

Personalia

Visiting Professor

Prof. Timothy Oakes, Geography Department and Centre for Asian Studies, University of Colorado Boulder, has been appointed Visiting Professor from early January to early June 2017.

Visiting Scholars and Students

Prof. Paul Cohen, Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, Harvard University, January to February 2017.

Dr. Till Mostowlansky, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, February to July 2017.

Staff Departure

Ms Yvonne Chan, Executive Officer, left the Institute in November 2016. We wish her every success in her future endeavors.

Staff Appointments

The Institute was pleased to welcome the following new staff who will take up new full-time positions during the period of December 15, 2016 to January 3, 2017:

Dr. Cathryn A. Johnston, Teaching Assistant

Mr. Martin Tse, Project Executive (“Rethinking Spirituality and Religion in Asia” Cluster)

Miss Ivy Lau, Executive Assistant

Our congratulations to the following existing member of staff took up new full-time position in November 2016:

Ms. Louise Mak, Senior Clerk

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

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