

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2016



Highlights

HKIHSS at May Hall: A Celebration (January 12, 2016, HKU)

The Institute was honored to have President Professor Peter Mathieson and over 70 honorable guests to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Institute at the new lecture hall in May Hall on January 12, 2016. The anniversary celebration also marked the completion of the renovation and restoration project of historic May Hall.



“The work here at the Institute aligns seamlessly with the four Is (internationalization, innovation, interdisciplinarity and impact). We have an international faculty that continues to cultivate collaborations with the world’s leading institutions. The research here has brought us everywhere humans have left footprints, and has shown us the kaleidoscope that we inhabit in ways unforeseen. Boundaries have been redrawn here, fresh fostered, people being brought closer together. ...This Institute has had to overcome many challenges in the last fifteen years as it grew from a humble beginning. Today, it has matured and gained a lot of momentum. ... It continues to invest in people and ideas, and has become a gem of this university,” said President Professor Mathieson at the ceremony.

Since its humble establishment in 2001, the Institute has been devotedly promoting cross-boundary, innovative, interdisciplinary research and teaching in the humanities and social sciences. In fifteen years, with supports from donors, friends and colleagues who believe in our humanistic vision, the Institute has been transformed from “a unit that could easily be carried in a bag” to a global entity that has firmly rooted in HKU and in Asia.



(From right) Smiling faces – Dr. Steven Cannon, Mr. Douglas So, Prof. Helen Siu, Prof. S.P. Ho, President Prof. Peter Mathieson, and Dr. Christina Mathieson



Prof. Angela Leung, Director of the Institute, expressing her gratitude to the University’s Senior Management Team for their faith in the Institute, an “oddball” in the University’s set up. She also thanked Deans of Arts and Social Sciences for helping the Institute to sink deeper roots in the University

Prof. Helen Siu, Founding Director of the Institute, concluded her speech at the ceremonial celebration that “we will extend our vision. We will continue to support a community of scholars who are not afraid to think outside the box, who take risks and bridge diverse realms from all directions. They will make HKU and HK the intellectually vibrant, civil, cosmopolitan place we want it to be.”

Prof. Siu also announced that, with the support from Ms. Belinda Hung and Prof. S.P. Ho, the Institute is setting up a new Distinguished Visiting Professorship in the Humanities and Social Sciences.



Clockwise from top left:

President Prof. Mathieson, Prof. Leung, Prof. Siu hosting a brief ceremony with Prof. S.P. Ho to unveil a plaque that expresses the Institute's gratitude to Prof. Ho for his generous support in the past decade



Prof Andy Hor (left) joins Prof. Siu, Prof. Leung, Prof. S.P. Ho, and President Prof. Mathieson at the roasted pig cutting ceremony

Ms. Belinda Hung (right) with Prof. Siu, President Prof. Mathieson, Prof. S.P. Ho and Prof. Leung



(From left) Prof. Fung Kam Wing, Dr. Gonçalo Santos and Dean of Arts, Prof. Derek Collins

Ms. Cecilia Ho (middle), President of the Lee Hysan Foundation and her team with Prof. Leung, Prof. Siu and our students

Smiling in the middle is Dr. John Wong, on his left is Dr. Johan Mathew, and on his right is Dr. Lawrence Zhang

Collaborations

Advanced Training Workshop “Humanities, Social Sciences and Medicine in East Asia: Interdisciplinary Approaches” (August 1-8, 2016, Tianjin)

The Institute and its partners, Harvard-Yenching Institute, the Institute of Medical Humanities and Centre for History of Medicine at Peking University, and the Key Research Institute of Social History of China at Nankai University, are now inviting graduate students and junior scholars to apply to participate in the training workshop on the theme of “**Medical Knowledge in Practice, Medical Practice as Knowledge**” to be held at Nankai University, Tianjin from August 1 to 8, 2016. This is the second workshop of the 2-year training program organized by the Institute and its partners. It 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 such as Professors Jeremy Greene, Gianna Pomota (both from Johns Hopkins University), Shigehisa Kuriyama (Harvard University), Yu Xinzhong (Nankai University), Zhang Daqing (Peking University), and Angela Leung (HKU).

Applications should be submitted online at <https://harvardfas.slideroom.com/#/login/program/29718> before **5 PM, April 1, 2016 (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

Institutional Enhancement Scheme

Prof. Xiang Biao, Professor of Social Anthropology at Oxford University, has joined the Institute for this spring semester, sponsored by the Institutional Enhancement Scheme. Prof. Xiang teaches a postgraduate seminar course “Mobility, Governance and the Anthropological Imagination”, which examines how mobility challenges established political systems and how, in turn, governing mobility becomes constitutive of particular political regimes. He will speak at the Departmental Seminar Series on March 23, and will also give a public lecture on April 14.



Xie Xin (left) and Prof. Helen Siu at Yale University

With the sponsorship of the Lee Hysan-HKIHSS Fellowship established under the Scheme, **Ms. Xie Xin**, an MPhil student of the Institute, studied at Yale University under the mentorship of Prof. Helen Siu of the Department of Anthropology for four months from September 2015. “The material outcome of my visit at Yale is a further substantive research proposal. I participated in the Anthropological Research Design course, taught by my mentor Helen Siu’s during the semester. I therefore was able to work closely with all second year PhD students in the department to fine tune our research schemes. Prof. Siu has this magical talent in sharpening her students’ minds. Rather than getting down in a vast quantity of literatures, students in the course advised each other to engage the most critical and classical readings to their analytical framework,” said Ryan who resumed her study at the Institute in January 2016 with innovative ideas and invaluable experience gained from her peers and mentors at Yale.

Ms. Yan Xia, a PhD candidate of HKU Sociology Department, the third recipient of the Lee Hysan-HKIHSS Fellowship, has just commenced her studies at Duke University in January 2016. Affiliated with the Asian/Pacific Studies Institute, she is studying under the guidance of Prof. Gary Gereffi, Professor of Sociology and Director of the Center on Globalization, Governance & Competitiveness for five months until May 2016. In addition to auditing classes and giving paper presentations, Yan Xia will also continue her PhD research on “The Engineering is not a Decent Job: Labor Process in China’s High-tech Industry” during her study stay.



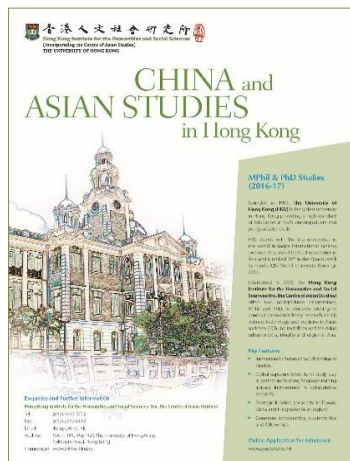
Yan Xia and Prof. Gary Gereffi at Duke University

Visiting Student



The Institute is delighted to host the visit of Ms. Shirley Hao-tzu Ho, a PhD student of Anthropology at Durham University. Under the mentorship of Dr. Gonalo Santos, Shirley is spending a year at the Institute until April 2017 to conduct research for her PhD project “Place, Locality, Community: an Anthropological Study of Local Food Networks in Hong Kong”.

Call for Applications for Admission to Research Postgraduate Programs



We invite interested candidates to apply for admission to our MPhil and PhD programs in 2016-2017. Details on research postgraduate programs and application procedures are on our website: www.hkihss.hku.hk. The application deadline is **April 30, 2016**. Enquiries can be made by email to ihsrpg@hku.hk.

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

HKU postgraduate and senior undergraduate students in the humanities and social sciences are invited to apply for the Lee Hysan-HKIHS Fellowship. The Scheme aims to support students to undertake overseas research training for a period up to a semester. Successful applicants will be provided a fellowship for the whole period of their study stay at an institution abroad. Application details are available online at www.hkihss.hku.hk/events/ies/cfa2016.pdf. Application Deadline: April 15, 2016.

Publications

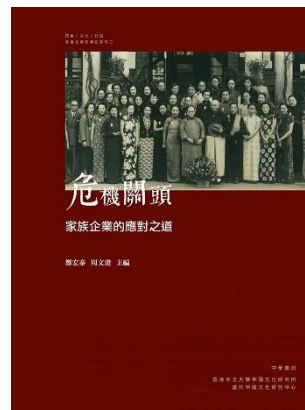


Max Hirsh, *Airport Urbanism: Infrastructure and Mobility in Asia*, Minnesota University Press, 2016.

This book investigates the expansion of international air traffic since 1970 and its implications for the planning and design of Asian cities. Focusing on low-cost, informal, and transborder transportation networks in five Asian cities – Bangkok, Hong Kong, Shenzhen, Kuala Lumpur, and Singapore, it models a new understanding of urban space that fundamentally reconceptualizes the impact of cross-border mobility on urban form. Dr. Max Hirsh is a Research Assistant Professor at the Institute.

鄭宏泰、周文港主編:《危機關頭: 家族企業的應對之道》, 中華書局(香港)有限公司, 2015。

Edited by Dr. Victor Zheng, the Institute’s Honorary Assistant Professor and Dr. Chow Man Kong, this 9-chapter book volume illustrates the art of handling business crisis by reviewing how reputable and complex families tackled various difficulties and achieved sustainable development.



Upcoming Activities

Public Lecture

“A Costly Order: Labour Migration, Commercial Intermediaries and Social Reordering in China” by Prof. Xiang Biao
(April 14, 2016, HKU)



Prof. Xiang Biao will explain the processes that social life in China is simultaneously commercialized—people try to make money from every possibility, and bureaucratized—conformation to government rules and concerns is a precondition and sometimes a basis for money making, by exploring the relationship between labour migration, commercial intermediaries, and the state in this lecture. He plans to use these twin processes to illuminate various puzzles that we observe in China today.

Lunchtime Seminar Series

- March 15: “Wonks, Tree Huggers, and Zombies: The Development and Limits of Vietnam’s Incipient Public Sphere” by Dr. Jonathan London (Asian & International Studies, CityU)
- March 29: “Ethnic Tourism and the Recreation of ‘Evenki Culture’ in Inner Mongolia” by Dr. Aurore Dumont (China Studies, CUHK)
- April 12: “One Country, Two Economies: The Conflict between Hong Kong Capitalism and Mainland Socialism” by Mr. Leo Goodstadt (HKIHSS & Trinity College, University of Dublin)
- April 26: “Performing the Nation, Performing the Market: Hybrid Practices and Negotiated Meanings of Chinese Rural Teachers” by Dr. Jinting Wu (Education, University of Macau)

Departmental Seminar Series

“The Beginning of China’s Ethnicity Challenge” by Prof. Xiang Biao (March 23, 2016, HKU)

In the upcoming departmental seminar, Prof. Xiang Biao will share his view on China’s changing ethnicity policy under the context of the Regional Nationality Autonomy paradigm since 1949. He will discuss the current condition in relation to major historical debates since the 1910s, and especially to the changing nature of the Chinese state since the 1990s.

Critical Dialogues about China Lecture Series

Funded by the Strategic Research Theme of China-West Studies and organized by the Faculty of Arts and the Institute, “Critical Dialogues about China” lecture series seeks to expand the growing interest in Hong Kong about how scholars all around the world pursue in-depth and meaningful research about China. Each event in the series will consist of a moderated dialogue between two leading scholars from different geographical areas about a broad topic, followed by a general discussion session. Details please visit www.hkihss.hku.hk.

Digital Humanities in China Studies (March 10)

Peter Bol (Harvard) and James Z. Lee (HKUST)

Gender in China Studies (March 21)

Louise Edwards (UNSW) and Harriet Zurndorfer (Leiden)

War Memories in China Studies (April 29)

Michael Szonyi (Harvard) and Lin Wei-ping (National Taiwan University)

Interdisciplinary Approaches in Digital Humanities (May 16)

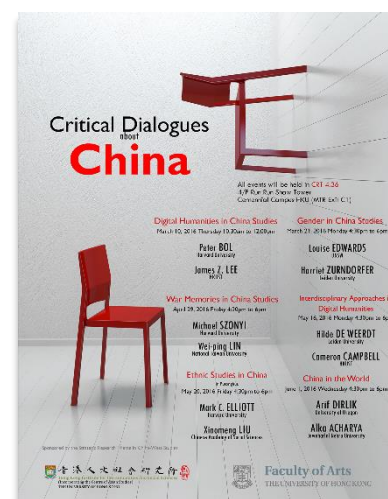
Hilde De Weerd (Leiden) and Cameron Campbell (HKUST)

Ethnic Studies in China (May 20) (in Putonghua)

Mark C. Elliott (Harvard) and Liu Xiaomeng (Chinese Academy of Social Sciences)

China in the World (June 1)

Arif Dirlik (Oregon) and Alka Acharya (Jawaharlal Nehru University)



Venue: CRT 4.36, 4/F, Run Run Shaw Tower, Centennial Campus, HKU

Public Program

Contemporary Chinese Documentary Series – Meet the Director: Listen to Macau (聆聽澳門街) by Director Ding Cheng (丁澄) (March 18, 2016, HKU)

“Listen to Macau” is a documentary film, but unique in its objective for aiming to have its audience understand Macau through listening to the sounds of nature and from the community. Presenting Macau as a place with its historical characteristics slowly fading away, it is also presented as reflecting the state of Hong Kong and Guangzhou, which forms a greater connected region through various characters. The film screening will be accompanied by a discussion with Prof. Ching May Bo, Professor of the Department of Chinese and History, the City University of Hong Kong.

Recent Activities

Workshop and Forum on “Sinophone Hong Kong: Issues and Debates” (December 5, 2015, HKU)



Hung Leung Hau Ling Distinguished Fellow in Humanities Prof. David Der-wei Wang (Harvard University) returned to HKU for a second visit in December 2015. This time, Prof. Wang participated in a workshop and a forum, engaging colleagues, peers and students alike in rigorous and enlightening debates on the Sinophone discourse and its implications for the study of Hong Kong. The twin events, titled “Sinophone in Hong Kong: Issues and Debates”, drew an enthusiastic response from the HKU community and local academia. The forum was over-subscribed with more than 140 guests and attendees packing the lecture hall to the brim.

Prof. Wang delivered one of the two lectures slated at the forum. His “Sailing to the Sinophone World: On the Geopoetics of Postcolonialism and Postloyalism” addressed Sinophone Chinese literary studies in three aspects and proposed that a Sinophone imaginary provides a critical interface through which to rethink the configuration of (Chinese) national literature vis à vis world literature. Prof. Wang later joined fellow speaker Prof. Shih Shu-mei (HKU), panel moderator Prof. Angela Leung (HKU), and commentators Prof. Leonard Kwok Kou Chan (HKIE) and Prof. Lo Kwai Cheung (HKBU) for a lively and passionate hour-long discussion with the audience, on a wide range of topics and controversial issues in Sinophone literature, including the legacy of the Umbrella Movement.



Prof. Shih Shu-mei responding to an audience's question on Sinophone literature

Workshop on “Moral Foods” (January 11, 2016, HKU)

The Institute’s “Science, Technology, and Medicine in Asian Societies” cluster organized a workshop on “Moral foods: ‘good’ and ‘bad’ foods in the construction of modern Asian Health Regimes,” a book project meeting following up on the December 2014 conference on “Food and Health.” A diverse group of scholars from the UK, United States, India, Taiwan, Japan, and Hong Kong gathered to examine the moral values and meanings of food in the construction of modern health regimes and identities in Asia from roughly the 19th century to the present.

The Tenth Joseph Needham Memorial Lecture – Needham’s Intellectual Heritage: Universality of Science with or without Civilization (December 9, 2015, HKU)



Prof. Christian Daniels, Professor of Humanities at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology delivered a lecture in honor of the late Dr. Joseph Needham. Over 50 participants attended to the talk and engaged in the discussion of the relationship of Dr. Needham’s concepts of universality of modern science and civilization to post 1980s approaches that emphasize the production of the knowledge related to science and technology in social and political contexts.

Departmental Seminar Series



In “Disunifying the Nation: Modern Disciplines and Knowledge Transplantation in China, 1912-1949”, Dr. Wang Liping (Sociology, HKU) argued that the circulation of nationalist discourses in China was not conducive to the unification of the nation, or even the unification of the intellectuals in early 20th century China. Her talk examined why nationalism was potentially such a disunifying force by focusing on the evolution of two disciplines – ethnology from continental Europe and ethnographic sociology from the Anglo-American tradition – in China.

Lunchtime Seminar Series

Rounding off the fall semester’s series in December 2015 was a talk by Dr. Reijiro Aoyama (Chinese and Bilingual Studies, Poly U) on “Japanese Craftsmanship–Myth, Marketing Strategy, or Both? Exploring Tensions between Nationalism and Capitalism in a Global Marketplace”.

Dr. Igor Chabrowski (China Studies, CUHK) kicked off the spring semester series with “Opera in Sichuan: Theater as Social Institution and the Politics of Culture in Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century China”. It was followed by three talks on “Sex, Laws, and Neoliberalism: Some Reflections from South Korea” by Dr. Sealing Cheng (Anthropology, CUHK), “Good ‘Bad’ Women in Popular Hindi Film: Filmic Representations of the Prostitute, 1950-2008” by Ms. Coonoor Kripalani-Thadani (HKIHSS), and “Methodology in Madness: Deciphering DPRK’s Foreign Policy and Intentions (1994-2016)” by Dr. Victor Teo (Japanese Studies, HKU).



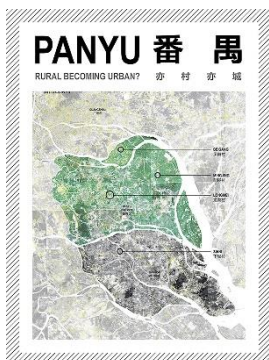
(Anti-clockwise from top right) Dr. Reijiro Aoyama, Dr. Igor Chabrowski, Dr. Sealing Cheng, Ms. Coonoor Kripalani-Thadani, Dr. Victor Teo

Public Program

The Institute organized the 2015 **“Chinese Family Business Studies” Lecture Series** with the Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies, CUHK, and the Hong Kong Museum of History in December 2015. Co-convened by Prof. Wong Siu Lun, Honorary Professor of the Institute and Dr. Victor Zheng, nine speakers from Hong Kong, Taiwan and China gave lively talks to demonstrate the power of Chinese financial families in exploration, consolidation and innovation.

Institute's News

Exhibition on “Panyu: Rural Becoming Urban?” (番禺：鄉村變城市?)



Dr. Max Hirsh of the Institute and Dr. Dorothy Tang of the Division of Landscape Architecture co-curated the exhibition on **“Panyu: Rural Becoming Urban?”** under the auspices of the Shenzhen Biennale for Urbanism and Architecture from December 2015 to February 2016 in Shenzhen. The exhibit showed how the overlapping “in-between” valences—between rural and urban, between agriculture and industry, and between villagers and migrants—make Panyu an excellent lens for interpreting broader changes in the social, aesthetic, and economic landscapes of China’s megacity regions. Rather than charting a progressive and irreversible urbanization of the countryside, Drs. Hirsh and Tang’s study of Panyu demonstrates how the creative juxtaposition of rural, urban, and suburban functions has produced an exceptional heterogeneity of spatial arrangements and village transformation strategies.

Humanitarianism in Action: Asia-Pacific Ethnographic Perspectives

The American Council of Learned Societies, with support from the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange, has awarded a grant of USD 15,000 for an International Conference project, entitled **Humanitarianism in Action: Asia-Pacific Ethnographic Perspectives**, developed by Dr. Gonalo Santos (HKIHS), Dr. Jun Zhang (HKIHS), and Dr. Isaac Gagn  (CUHK). More details regarding the conference will be announced in the coming months.

Personalia

Staff Appointments

Dr. Li Ji has been jointly appointed by the Institute and the Faculty of Arts as Assistant Professor in China Studies from January 1, 2016. Since 2011 Dr. Li has been with the Institute, first as a Post-doctoral Fellow, and then a Research Assistant Professor.

Dr. An Wei has joined the Institute as Post-doctoral Fellow from January 3, 2016. Dr. An is engaging in the “Rethinking Spirituality and Religion in Asia” Cluster directed by Dr. David A. Palmer.

Dr. Christine Luk Yi Lai, has been jointly appointed as Post-doctoral Fellow in China Studies by the Institute and the Faculty of Arts from March 1, 2016.

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

Hong Kong Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences

Room 101, May Hall, The University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong
www.hkihss.hku.hk

General Enquiries: (852) 3917-5011 | ihss@hku.hk

Postgraduate Programs: (852) 3917-5772 | ihssrpg@hku.hk