

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2017



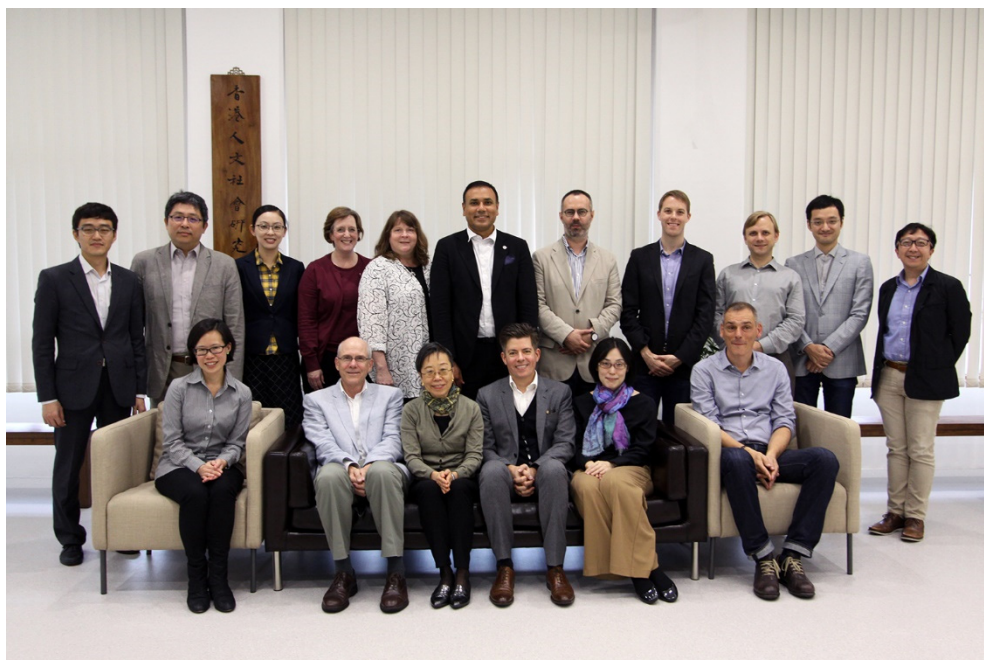
Highlights

Congratulations to the Institute's Team led by Prof. Angela Leung for obtaining a \$6.6 million CRF grant from RGC

Prof. Angela Leung, Director of the Institute, and her international team have obtained a HKD 6.6 million from the highly competitive Collaborative Research Fund Scheme (2016-17 exercise) administered by the Research Grants Council for three years on the project "Making Modernity in East Asia: Technologies of Everyday Life, 19th-21st Centuries" (打造現代東亞:十九至廿一世紀的日用技術).

The team of sixteen scholars in the humanities and social sciences will collaborate in the next three years (June 2017 to May 2020). Local team members include Christian A. Daniels, Naubahar Sharif (both Co-PIs from HKUST), Gonçalo Santos (Co-PI), Fung Kam Wing, Max Hirsh, Izumi Nakayama, Robert Peckham, Dorothy Tang, Daniel Trambaiolo (all from HKU), and Lawrence Zhang (HKUST). International collaborators include Kim Tae-Ho (Chonbuk National University), Kuo Wen-hua (National Yang-Ming University), Hallam Stevens (Nanyang Technological University), Francesca Bray (Edinburgh University), and Suzanne Gottschang (Smith College).

Institutional partners include HKUST, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin, Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies of Heidelberg University, Needham Research Institute in Cambridge, UK, and *East Asian Science and Technology: an International Journal*, Taiwan.



Angela Leung (front row, third from left) together with members of the Project and external experts in a 2-day workshop held in November 2016. Sitting in the front are (from left) Dorothy Tang, Christian A. Daniels, Robert Peckham, Izumi Nakayama, Jacob Eyferth (University of Chicago). Smiling behind them are (from left) Kim Tae-Ho, Kuo Wen-Hua, Christine Luk (HKIHSS, HKU), Suzanne Moon (University of Oklahoma), Suzanne Gottschang, Naubahar Sharif, Gonçalo Santos, Max Hirsh, Daniel Trambaiolo, Lawrence Zhang, and John Wong (Hong Kong Studies, HKU)

The main objective of this collaborative project is to establish a new, interdisciplinary way of understanding East Asian modernity through the lens of everyday technology. Why do East Asian societies engage with modern technology the way they do today? The project is about a history of East Asia that emphasizes the region's technological dynamism in the last 200 years. It is a study of planning, engagement, maintenance, resilience and innovation in technology. This

project will place technology at the center of 21st-century debates on the rise of a new East Asian world order. East Asia here is defined as a historically connected cultural region shaped both by Chinese cultural influence and western and Japanese colonialism in its more recent history. East Asia is also a field of interactions transcending simple political boundaries.

The team's ambition is to build a sustainable platform to synergize research on this topic and to create in four years an Area of Excellence which will make Hong Kong a world-class research center for the study of technology and culture in East Asia. For details, please visit our website at www.hkihss.hku.hk/mmea.

Featured News



The Inaugural Hung Leung Hau Ling Distinguished Visiting Professor in the Humanities and Social Sciences

Prof. Eric Tagliacozzo has been appointed as the inaugural scholar for the Hung Leung Hau Ling Distinguished Visiting Professorship. Prof. Tagliacozzo is Professor of History and Director of the Comparative Muslim Societies Program at Cornell University. He is a world-renowned historian of East Asia and Southeast Asia, focusing on maritime trade and multi-ethnic cultural encounters in the region.

Prof. Tagliacozzo will visit the University this summer from mid-July to mid-August and will return in June 2018. During his visits, Prof. Tagliacozzo will give a public lecture on the larger maritime region in which South China and Hong Kong have assumed significant, transformative roles over the centuries. He will meet colleagues in the Faculties of Arts and Social Sciences in the University and work closely with Prof. Helen F. Siu on a volume, "Asia inside Out: Mobile Peoples," the third book manuscript contracted with Harvard University Press, a project supported by the Institute. He will also participate in building the Institute's team on "Hubs, Mobilities and the Asian Urban" for an application for major competitive collaborative grants.

Teaching and Learning at the Institute

Institutional Enhancement Scheme supported by Lee Hysan Foundation



Visiting Professor

The Institute welcomes Prof. Timothy Oakes, Professor of Geography and Director of Centre for Asian Studies at the University of Colorado Boulder, to spend five months at the Institute under the Institutional Enhancement Scheme.

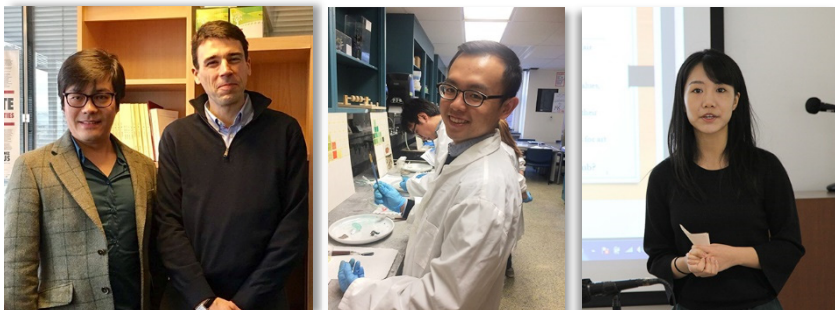
During his stay, Prof. Oakes teaches a postgraduate seminar course (IHSS6066) "China's Urban Geographies". In March, he organized a one-day fieldtrip to Baishizhou, one of Shengzhen's largest urbanized villages, introducing to students the village's recent history (from the 1950s onward), socio-spatial patterns and relations, street commerce and family industries, as well as the government's plans for re-development and renewal. He works closely with the Division of Landscape Architecture, and participates in a lunchtime series "Dialogues between Veteran and Aspiring Researchers" organized by the Graduate School, sharing his research experience and ideas with the postgraduate students in the University.

Lee Hysan-HKIHSS Fellowship

The 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, five HKU students were awarded. Two of them are currently studying with overseas mentors: Mr. Jules Liu, a PhD student in Sociology, is at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences

Sociales in France under the mentorship of Prof. Sebastian Veg, and Mr. Liu Xiaomeng, a PhD student at the Institute, is studying with Prof. Pamela H. Smith at Columbia University.

Ms. Hua Shuo, PhD student at the Institute, will become the sixth recipient of the Lee Hysan-HKIHSS Fellowship. Ms. Hua will spend five months under the mentorship of Prof. Monica Juneja and Dr. Franziska Koch at Heidelberg University's Cluster of Excellence "Asia and Europe in a Global Context", from September 2017 to January 2018. She will work under the guidance of Prof. Juneja to develop her PhD thesis project "Hong Kong as China's Hub for Contemporary Art since 1993".



(From left) Mr. Jules Liu and his mentor, Prof. Sebastian Veg; Mr. Liu Xiaomeng working in a laboratory; Ms. Hua Shuo

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

The Institute invites eligible student apply for the fellowship in the next academic year. Details about the scheme are available online at www.hkihss.hku.hk/events/ies/cfa2017.pdf.

Workshop for Research Postgraduate Students (January 11, 2017, HKU)

In early January, a RPG workshop on digital presentations was organized by Dr. Izumi Nakayama of the Institute. Dr. Li Lan, a documentary film maker and Presidential Scholar in Society and Neuroscience at Columbia University, was invited as the guest lecturer. Nine of the Institute's research postgraduate students presented their research projects in the morning, and in the afternoon, Dr. Li gave a hands-on tutorial on how to utilize technology and different types of software to better illustrate one's research arguments, adjusting each student's PowerPoint presentation to demonstrate how to engage the audience more effectively. The Institute plans to make this workshop an annual event.

Upcoming Events

Advanced Summer Program on "Religion and Society in the Asia World: China, India, Indonesia" (May 15 to 19, 2017, HKU)

The Advanced Summer School on "Religion and Society in the Asia World: China, India, Indonesia" will be organized by the Institute in HKU in May. Fourteen young scholars from China, India, and Indonesia have been selected to engage with senior scholars Prof. Prasenjit Duara (Duke University), Dr. David A. Palmer (HKU), Dr. Glenn Shive (Hong Kong-America Center), Prof. Dr. Felix Wilfred (the State University of Madras), Dr. Yongjia Liang (National University of Singapore) and Prof. Dr. Bernard Adeney-Risakotta (Gadjah Mada University) to enhance their capacity for research and teaching on religion in Asian societies. Prof. Duara will also give a keynote lecture. This is the inaugural event of a 3-year summer school program "Building a Trans-Asia Collaborative Network on Researching and Teaching Religion and Society in Asia: China-India-Indonesia" led by Dr. David A. Palmer and funded by the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia. The aim of the program is to develop capacity and collaboration among scholars from the three countries, and to enhance their understanding of each other's society and religious conditions.

Call for Applications for the Admission to Research Postgraduate Programs (First Clearing Round)

Application for admission to the Institute's MPhil and PhD programs in 2017-18 are now open. Interested candidates can refer to the details and application procedures on our webpage:

www.hkihss.hku.hk/en/admission_2017-2018.

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

Lectures and Seminar

Distinguished Lecture on “The Last Stand of the Cultural Revolution: Film, Society, and Politics 1972-1976”

(June 7, 2017, HKU)

By Prof. Rudolf Wagner, Senior Professor at the Cluster of Excellence “Asia and Europe in a Global Context” at the University of Heidelberg. Details of the talk will be announced.

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

April 18, 2017: “Revisiting Overpopulation in India: Demography, Research and the Population Problem in the Twentieth Century” by Dr. Cathryn Johnston (HKIHSS, HKU).

May 31, 2017: “Locating the Central Asiatic Expedition: Science, Business, and Foreign Intelligence” by Dr. Lukas Rieppel (History, Brown University).

Interdisciplinary Lunchtime Seminar Series

April 11, 2017: “From Pirates to Patents: A Story of Structure, Culture, and the Translation of Knowledge into Property in Taiwan” by Dr. Matthew West (Anthropology, CUHK).

April 25, 2017: “Reflecting on Mezzadra and Neilson's Border as Method, or the Multiplication of Labor. Struggling around borders: visibility/invisibility, the state, capital and the politics of undocumented labor” by Dr. Eric Florence (French Centre for Research on Contemporary China).

Jointly Sponsored Lectures

Three public lectures will be organized jointly with the Department of Sociology: Prof. Don Kulick (Uppsala University) will give a presentation on “The End: How a Language Dies” on April 27. In the following month, Prof. William Jankowiak (University of Nevada) will speak on “Cultural Contradictions, Personal Rejuvenation, and Changing Ideas of Well-Being in Contemporary China” on May 24. Another one will be given by Prof. Sherry B. Ortner (UCLA) on June 28. More information about the talks will be available online.

Recent Activities

International Workshop on “Asia Inside-out” in Hanoi, Vietnam

(January 9-13, 2017, Hanoi)

This workshop is the third in a series under the Institute’s cluster “Hubs, Mobilities and the Asian Urban” headed by Prof. Helen F. Siu (Yale and HKU) and Prof. Richard Wong (HKU).

Fourteen papers on “Mobile People” were presented at the workshop in Hanoi. They discussed how people have fabricated an “Asia” through their mobility and rootedness. In addition to the meetings, the participants also engaged in fieldwork.

Thirteen international scholars participated in this week-long workshop-cum-fieldwork. They are Profs. Siu, Angela Leung (HKU), Ching May Bo (CityU), Eric Tagliacozzo, Tamara Loos (both from Cornell University), Peter Perdue, William Kelly, Erik Harms, Narges Erami (all from Yale University), Seema Alavi (University Delhi), James Pickett (University of Pittsburgh), Emma Teng (MIT), and Tamar Mounia Chekhab (Museum of Islamic Art in Doha).

This workshop was to prepare for the third volume “Mobile People” of the series *Asian Inside Out* contracted with Harvard University Press.



International Workshop on “Humanitarianism in Action: Asia-Pacific Ethnographic Perspectives”
(January 12-13, 2017, HKU)



Dr. Gonalo Santos and Dr. Zhang Jun of the Institute, together with Dr. Isaac Gagne (Japanese Studies, HKU), were the co-organizers of this conference funded by the *American Council of Learned Societies*. The conference was a major international academic event focusing on contemporary non-governmental humanitarian organizations and movements in China and the Asia-Pacific. Bringing together thirteen anthropologists, sociologists, and STS scholars from UK, Australia, Hong Kong, USA, Japan, and Taiwan, the conference explored recent transformations in Asian-Pacific moral economies of humanitarian action, situating these developments in the context of broader transnational processes, changing state-society frameworks, and existing cultural traditions of charity and philanthropy.

Focusing on detailed case studies from China, Japan, South Korea and India, the conference challenged existing Western-centric accounts of the global aid industry, highlighting the specificities of Asian-Pacific non-governmental humanitarian practices. Professor Peter Redfield (North Carolina Chapel Hill) and Professor Andrew Kipnis (ANU) were the discussants of the conference. The conference led to the establishment of an international network of studies of humanitarian action in the Asia-Pacific. A publication based on the papers presented at the conference is currently being discussed.



(Front row, from left) Liu Shao-hua, Everett Zhang, Negima Susumu, Andrew Kipnis, Peter Redfield, with (from left) Huang Hsuan-Ying, Gonalo Santos, Chika Watanabe, Nicolas Sternsdorff-Cisterna, Zhang Jun, Wang Ruijing, Jowoon Park, Isaac Gagn , Zhong Yishan, and Hua Shuo standing in the back

HKIHSS-SOKENDAI Symposium on “The Past, Present, and Future of Radiation and Everyday Technology in Japan and US in the 20th and 21st Centuries” (February 21, 2017, HKU)

Dr. Izumi Nakayama of the Institute, with Dr. Kenji Ito of The Graduate University for Advanced Studies (SOKENDAI), Japan, organized a symposium on “The Past, Present, and Future of Radiation and Everyday Technology in Japan and the US in the 20th and 21st Centuries.” This event brought three radiation specialists (Dr. Kenji Ito, Dr. Kaori Iida, and Dr. Nozomi Mizushima) from SOKENDAI, exploring the historical importation of radioisotopes to Occupied Japan in the immediate aftermath of World War II, the role of geneticists in shaping Japanese public discussion of radiation in the 1950s, and the radiation measurement movement by grassroots organizations in Japan after the 3.11 Fukushima accident. Dr. Fung Kam Wing (School of Chinese and HKIHSS) and Dr. Nakayama participated as commentators to the three presentations. A publication based on the papers and the comments is currently under discussion.



(From left) Dr. Kaori Iida; Dr. Nozomi Mizushima; and Dr. Kenji Ito

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

Prof. Timothy Oakes, Visiting Professor of the Institute, delivered a distinguished lecture on “Happy Town: Biopolitical Urbanism and Cultural Governance in China”, exploring the cultural inscription of urban space in China as a technology of government. He examined the case of Tongren, in Guizhou, and explored how planners and developers sought to transform behavior and create new urban citizens through spatial strategies of cultural governance. He also suggested that the happiness campaign should be understood as a deliberate effort to reconstitute state power at the local level.



Prof. Timothy Oakes (left) responding to questions from the audience

Lectures and Seminars

Spirituality Religion and Society Lecture Series

Organized by Dr. David A. Palmer and Dr. Ji Li, the “Spirituality Religion and Society Lecture Series” featured three talks by Dr. Andrew Ter Ern Loke (HKU), Dr. Wu Ka-ming (CUHK), and Prof. José Casanova (Georgetown University) in the first half of the second semester of 2016-17. They shared their research projects and brought significant theoretical and methodological contributions to the development of the “Rethinking Spirituality and Religion in Asia” Cluster.



(From left) Dr. Andrew T.E. Loke speaking on “Using Transdisciplinary Tools to Address Controversial Issues in History of Religion: the Case of Early Christianity” on January 26. Dr. Wu Ka-ming sharing her views on “Spirit Cults and Surrogate Rural Subjectivity in Yan’an, China” on February 17. Prof. José Casanova giving a talk on “Early Modern Globalization Through a Jesuit Prism: Intercultural Encounters in Japan, China, India, and Tibet” on March 10

Departmental Seminar Series

Two sessions were organized on January 25 and March 22. In his talk “Understanding the Sexual in Chinese Sociology: Homosexuality Studies in Contemporary China”, Dr. Travis S.K. Kong (Sociology, HKU) focused on the changing contours of Chinese sociology of homosexuality in contemporary China through a meta-literature review. Prof. Yang Der-Ruey (Anthropology, Nanjing University) gave a talk on “The Blood Lake Complex: Rethinking Female Power and Pollution in the Daoist Ritual Tradition”, in which he suggested that the popularity of the “Blood Lake complex” maybe not be caused by some entrenched sexism against women, but that contrarily, it could be better explained by the moral authority actually commanded by the mother, especially the mother of sons, in the Chinese family.



Dr. Travis S.K. Kong (top) and Prof. Yang Der-Ruey

Interdisciplinary Lunchtime Seminar Series



(From left) Prof. Paul Cohen, Dr. Jiang Lijing, Dr. Till Mostowlansky, and Dr. Cole Roskam

In the first half of the second semester of 2016-17, the Institute hosted four lunchtime seminars. In January, Prof. Paul Cohen (Harvard University) spoke on “My Journey as a Historian of China: A Memoir”. Two scholars – Dr. Jiang Lijing (Yale University) and Dr. Till Mostowlansky (HKIHSS, HKU) – spoke in February. Dr. Jiang talked about “The Troubled Escape from China’s Lysenko: Sino-America Split of “Pseudosciences” and Migrating Biologists, 1950s and 1980s”, and Dr. Mostowlansky shared his views on “Soviet Gifts and Chinese Roads: Past Modernity and Future Aspirations in the Tajikistan-China Borderland”. In March, Dr. Cole Roskam (HKU) spoke on “Architectural Experimentation in China’s Early Reform Era (1978-1989)”.

Jointly Sponsored Talks

A talk on “Children Techniques, Cosmology, and Social Support in Southwest China” by Dr. Wang Ruijing (Humanities and Social Science, Chongqing University) was organized with the Department of Sociology on January 17. Dr. Wang suggested in her presentation that children of Akha, an ethnic transnational group spread throughout Yunnan and Southeast Asian countries still face certain health-threatening insecurities, which could not be solved by the state, i.e., the cosmological insecurities.



“Haunted Archives: Tracing Diasporic Deaths across Britain’s Indian Ocean Empire,” a presentation by Dr. Julia Stephens (History, State University at New Jersey) was organized jointly with the Department of History on March 2. Dr. Stephens traced the history of the Indian itinerant subjects by looking at the most intimate, but also often most public, moment of many migrants’ lives - their deaths and examined how this history of “mobile” governance troubles assumptions about the modern, bureaucratic state that focus more narrowly on its territorial facets.

Contemporary Chinese Documentary Series – Meet the Director

“Death by Design” (科技代價) by Director Sue Williams (韋蘇) (Jointly organized with Asia Global Institute, HKU) (March 22, 2017)



This first joint event with Asia Global Institute (AGI) was met with enthusiastic response, drawing a total of 120 students, staff and members of the general public to the screening of “Death by Design”. The documentary captured the dark side of the digital addiction. In an investigation that spans the globe, Director Sue Williams investigates the underbelly of the international electronics industry and reveals how even the tiniest devices have deadly environmental and health cost. After this exceptional screening, Prof. Chen Zhiwu, Director of AGI, moderated the passionate dialogues between the director and the audience in the Q and A session.



Prof. Chen Zhiwu (left) and Director Sue Williams in discussion with the audience

“Of Shadows” (影) by Director Cui Yi (崔誼) (February 17, 2017)

Seventy members of the HKU community and the general public turned up for the screening of the documentary “Of Shadows”. In the photo, Director Cui Yi (middle) joined Dr. Wu Ka-ming (CUHK) (right) and Dr. Li Ji, coordinator of the film series, for a discussion after the screening.



Personalia

Visiting Students

Ms. Claire Bouillot, PhD Students, CNRS Norbert Elias Centre – EHESS, Marseille, April 2017 to April 2018.

Mr. George Bayuga, PhD Student, Anthropology Department, Yale, April-December 2017.

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

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