

NEWSLETTER

Summer 2017



Featured News

Distinguished Lecture on “The Last Stand of the Cultural Revolution: Film, Society, and Politics 1972-1976” by Prof. Rudolf Wagner (June 7, 2017, HKU)



Rudolf Wagner, Senior Professor of Chinese Studies at Heidelberg University, visited the institute and delivered a distinguished lecture on “The Last Stand of the Cultural Revolution: Film, Society, and Politics 1972-1976”. His lecture focused on “Chunmiao” (“Spring Sprouts”) (directed by Xie Jin, Shanghai film studio, 1975), a film that qualified as “conspiracy art” made to serve the political goals of the “Culture Group” of the State Council around Zhang Chunqiao and Jiang Qing. Prof. Wagner compared the film with a spoken drama “Barefoot Doctor” to show how the routines developed in the film influenced later films. The lecture attracted an

enthusiastic audience who engaged in a lively discussion with Prof. Wagner.



*Dr. York Liao (left) and Dr. Raymond Ch'ien
commenting during the discussion session*

Visit of Prof. Eric Tagliacozzo, Hung Leung Hau Ling Distinguished Visiting Professor in the Humanities and Social Sciences

We are pleased to welcome Prof. Eric Tagliacozzo (Cornell University), the Inaugural Hung Leung Hau Ling Distinguished Visiting Professor in the Humanities and Social Sciences, to the Institute this summer from July to August. During his first visit, Prof. Tagliacozzo has worked closely with Prof. Helen F. Siu on the third volume of the edited book series “Asia Inside Out: Mobile Peoples” contracted with Harvard University Press. He has also had several exchange sessions with students and colleagues. His second visit as Hung Leung Hau Ling Professor will be in June - July 2018.



*Prof. Eric Tagliacozzo and Prof. Angela
Leung at May Hall*

Congratulations to Dr. Li Ji

Dr. Li Ji, Joint Assistant Professor of HKIHSS and Faculty of Arts, won a highly competitive grant in the 2017-18 exercise of the Early Career Scheme administered by the Research Grants Council. She obtained HK\$573,056 for her 36-month project “Negotiating Spirituality and Urban Space in Jiangbeicheng: Local History, Religion and the Making of Modern China” (宗教與城市空間：清代以來“江北城”的地方歷史與城市變遷). Dr. Li seeks to study the complicated

relationship between religion and urban space by focusing on the local history and changing religious landscape of Jiangbeicheng, a river town on the upper Yangtze River, during the imperial, Republican, and socialist periods. The project will develop a micro-historical approach to the study of urban China by focusing on the local experience of religion and urban development; and to provide a much-needed historical narrative on the development of Chongqing as the leading inland megacity in strategic plans to develop western China and One Belt One Road initiatives.



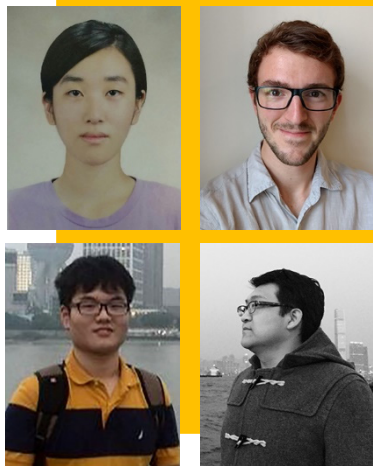
Collaborations

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

Led by Prof. Angela Leung, the CRF Project Team has started its collaborative work with regional and international partners on the 36-month project “Making Modernity in East Asia: Technologies of Everyday Life, 19th-21st Centuries” this June. The Team has scheduled its first plenary conference on December 7 - 9, 2017. Local and international collaborators and representatives from partner institutions - Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin, Needham Research Institute in Cambridge, Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies of Heidelberg University and *East Asian Science and Technology: an International Journal* - will participate. Prof. Wiebe Bijker (Maastricht University), one of the Project’s advisors, will deliver the keynote speech.

The CRF Team has also launched a new lecture series “Making Modernity in East Asia”. Prof. Pun Ngai (Sociology, HKU) and Prof. Chu Wan-wen (Academic Sinica) have been invited to give a talk this fall. More details will be announced. You are also welcome to visit MMEA webpage at www.hkihss.hku.hk/mmea.

Teaching and Learning at the Institute



Welcome to Our New Students

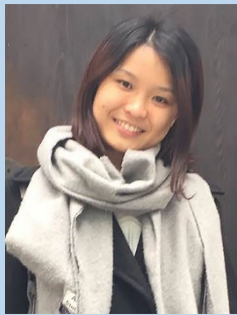
Our warmest welcome to four newly admitted MPhil students in the academic year of 2017-2018.

Miss Lee Song Ah (top left) obtained her Bachelor’s degree in Sociology and Comparative Literature at HKU in 2017. Her thesis research project “The Construction of Japanese Shokunins’ Craftsman Ethos and National Identity in the Contemporary Age of Technology and Neoliberal Globalization” will be supervised by Drs. Gonalo Santos and Izumi Nakayama.

Mr. Graham Link (top right) earned his Bachelor’s degree in Anthropology from Yale-NUS College in 2017. He will be working on his thesis research project, “Suzhi at the Margins: Minority Politics of Quality and Belonging in Southwest China”, under the supervision of Dr. Gonalo Santos and Prof. Angela Leung.

Mr. Xing Linzhou (bottom right) received his Master’s degree in Social Science at Hong Kong University of Science and Technology in 2017. The tentative title of his MPhil thesis project is “Taxi Drivers’ Technological Choice and the Underlying Mechanism Under the Impact of Online Car-hailing Technology and Business: The Case of Xi’an, China”. He will be supervised by Dr. Gonalo Santos and Prof. Naubahar Sharif of HKUST.

Mr. Xiao Zhongxian (bottom left) obtained his Bachelor’s degree from the School of History, Nankai University in the summer of 2017. He will continue his MPhil research on “Narrative of Science and Ideological Context: Perceiving Parasitism in Modern China” under the supervision of Prof. Angela Leung and Dr. Izumi Nakayama.



Miss Zhong Yishan obtained a Research Grant from “Tencent – Sun Yat-Sen University Internet Anthropology Program”

Miss Zhong Yishan (MPhil student) was awarded a research grant from Mainland China’s “Tencent – Sun Yat-Sen University Internet Anthropology Program” in support of her on-going ethnographic research project on parent-child dynamics and mobile phone use in urban China. She is working on her project under the supervision of Dr. Gonalo Santos with Dr. Cheris Chan (Sociology, HKU).

Institutional Enhancement Scheme supported by Lee Hysan Foundation

The Institute is pleased to host the visit of Dr. Till Mostowlansky, an anthropologist with a focus on Central Asia, from August 2017 to January 2018. Dr. Mostowlansky’s visit is co-funded by the Institutional Enhancement Scheme and the Faculty of Arts. He will participate in the research clusters of the Institute and teach two undergraduate courses at China Studies of the Faculty during his stay.



Prof. Helen F. Siu, Professor of Anthropology at Yale University and Founding Director of the Institute, will spend a year in HKU under the Institutional Enhancement Scheme in 2018. During her year-long visit, Prof. Siu plans to launch an intensive one-to-one research seminar for students whose research projects are in line with the research cluster “Hubs, Mobilities and the Asian Urban”. She will organize a series of mega events connecting Asian urban, infrastructure, sports, pop music, and political space. She will also work closely with colleagues to build a collaborative international research team for preparing a competitive grants application. Currently, Prof. Siu is visiting the University and the Institute as Visiting Research Professor from June to August 2017.

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 students were awarded.



Mr. Jules Liu with Prof. Elizabeth Perry, Director of HYI

Mr. Jules Liu (PhD in Sociology), returned from his 10-month study stay (October 2016 to July 2017) to Hong Kong from the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, France under the mentorship of Prof. Sebastian Veg for 10 months from October 2016 to July 2017. During his stay in France, Jules continued his research under the guidance of Prof. Sebastian Veg. Through discussions with these scholars from various disciplines (philosophy, sociology, anthropology, history and literature), Mr. Liu was able to rethink the methodological framework and revised it from a multi-perspective angle. The unique experiences in France has also facilitated his successful application for Harvard-Yenching (HYI) Fellowship in 2017-2018.



Mr. Liu Xiaomeng, a PhD student at the Institute, spent 5 months at the Center for Science and Society in the Columbia University from January 2017, with Prof. Pamela H. Smith as his mentor. During his stay, he participated in seminars, lectures, conferences and workshops, which introduced him to new perspectives and methodologies which enabled further comparative analysis when doing his own research. This academic visit was a fruitful and productive experience to Mr. Liu.



Ms. Hua Shuo, a PhD student at the Institute, was selected as the sixth Lee Hysan-HKIHSS Fellowship recipient. She will spend 4 months at Heidelberg University under the mentorship of Prof. Monica Juneja and Dr. Franziska Koch of the Cluster of Excellence “Asia and Europe in a Global Context”, from September to December 2017. She will be working under the guidance of Prof. Juneja and Dr. Koch to develop her PhD thesis project “Hong Kong as China’s Hub for Contemporary Art since 1993”.

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

The Institute invites eligible student to 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

Application Deadline:
September 15, 2017

Call for Applications for the Admission to Research Postgraduate Programs, 2018-19

Interested candidates are invited to apply for admission to the MPhil and PhD programs of the Institute in 2018-19.

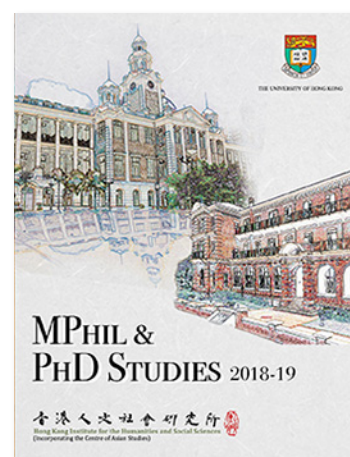
Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme

Step 1: Initial application to the Hong Kong Research Grants Council (RGC) at www.rgc.edu.hk/hkphd

Application period: Early September - December 1, 2017 noon (exact dates to be announced by RGC at its website)

Step 2: Full application to HKU at www.gradsch.hku.hk

Application period: September 1 – December 1, 2017



Common Core Courses

The Institute will offer two common core courses to undergraduate students in the second semester of 2017-18:

CCGL9028 “Gender, Health, and Globalization” by Dr. Izumi Nakayama

CCGL9051 “Technology, Power, and Culture in the Global Age” by Dr. Gonalo Santos.

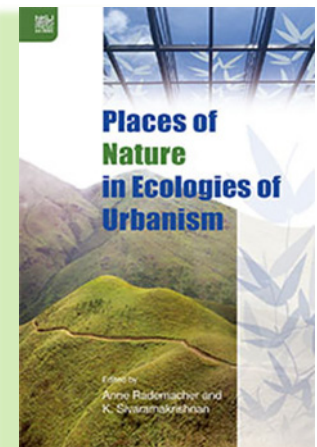
Course information will be released online at:

www.hkihss.hku.hk/en/teaching_learning/undergraduate/common_core/index.html

Publications

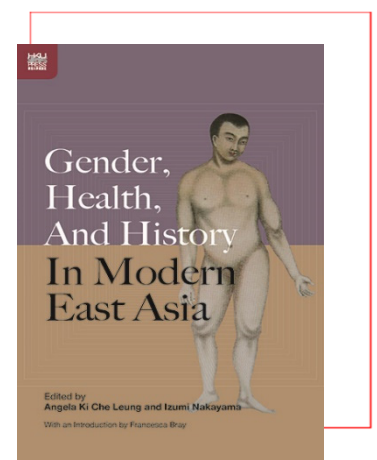
K. Sivaramakrishnan and Anne M. Rademacher (eds.), *Places of Nature in Ecologies of Urbanism*, Hong Kong University Press, 2017.

The case studies in this book – including leopards in Mumbai, a network of tubewells in northern India, an island that grows through reclamation in Hong Kong, and a railway continuum linking Khon Kaen and Bangkok – all attest to the versatility of ecologies of urbanism. Guided by urban processes rather than geopolitical boundaries, *Places of Nature in Ecologies of Urbanism* offers a picture of urban Asia that is composed of varied ecologies of urbanism. Prof. K. Sivaramakrishnan (Yale University) and Prof. Anne M. Rademacher (New York University) are Co-PIs of the Institute's research cluster "Environmental Sustainability, Political Ecology and Civil Society". This volume is the second output of the cluster.



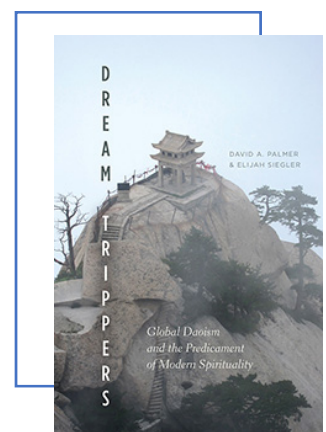
Angela Ki Che Leung and Izumi Nakayama (eds.), *Gender, Health, and History in Modern East Asia*, Hong Kong University Press, December 2017.

The nine empirically based studies by scholars of history of medicine, sociology, anthropology, and STS (science, technology, and society), spanning Japan, Korea, China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong from the 1870s to the present, demonstrate how concerns with gender and health have been tightly woven into the enterprise of modernization and nation-building throughout the long twentieth century. This volume is based on a conference organized by the research cluster "Science, Technology, and Medicine in Asian Societies" of the Institute.



David A. Palmer and Elijah Siegler, *Dream Trippers: Global Daoism and the Predicament of Modern Spirituality*, University of Chicago Press, 2017.

Co-authored by Dr. Palmer and Dr. Siegler (College of Charleston), *Dream Trippers* draws on more than a decade of ethnographic work with Daoist monks and Western seekers to trace the spread of Westernized Daoism in contemporary China. The authors take the readers into the daily life of the monastic community atop the mountain of Huashan and explore its relationship to the socialist state. They follow the international circuit of Daoist "energy tourism" which connects a number of sites throughout China, and examine the controversies around Western scholars who become practitioners and promoters of Daoism. It untangles the anxieties, confusions, and ambiguities that arise as Chinese and American practitioners balance cosmological attunement and radical spiritual individualism in their search for authenticity in a globalized world. This volume is an output of the Institute's "Rethinking Spirituality and Religion in Asia" led by Dr. Palmer, Associate Professor in the Institute and Sociology, HKU.



Upcoming Events

Lectures

“A Russian Treaty Port on China’s Inner Asian Frontier? Colonial Vernyi as a ‘Plural Society’, 1854-1914” by Dr. Alexander Morrison (September 21, 2017, HKU)

Dr. Alexander Morrison (History, Oxford) will discuss the emergence of “plural society”, a concept developed by J.S. Furnivall and discuss the landlocked Russian Outpost on the Inner Asian frontier of Qing China. (This lecture is being part of Dr. Till Mostowlansky’s project on “Building Difference: Early Attempts at Materially Connecting and Dividing

Colonial Badakhshan” sponsored by the Sin Wai-Kin Junior Fellowship of the Institute.)

Making Modernity in East Asia Lecture Series

“Digital Technologies and the Politics of Global Production: Apple, Foxconn and China’s New Working Class” by Prof. Pun Ngai (November 2, 2017, HKU)

Prof. Pun Ngai is a Professor in Sociology of HKU. Her research focuses on social media, migrant labor protection in China. More about the lecture will be announced.

Departmental Seminar Series

The Departmental Seminar Series is coordinated by Dr. Gonalo Santos. In this academic year, there will be four seminar sessions. The first session “Modernity, Materiality and Social Encounters in the Margins of the State: Salient Themes in the Study of Central Asia and China’s North” will be given by Dr. Till Mostowlansky of the Institute on October 11, 2017. Dr. Mostowlansky’s presentation will focus on his newly published book *Asan on the Moon: Entangling Modernity along Tajikistan’s Pamir Highway* by the University of Pittsburgh Press. Dr. Loretta Kim (China Studies, HKU) and Dr. Niccolò Pianciola (History, Lingnan University) will give comments on his presentation, followed by a Q and A session. Details of this talk and updates about the series will be announced at a later date.

Interdisciplinary Lunchtime Seminar Series

The Lunchtime Seminar series is coordinated by Drs. Max Hirsh, Christine Luk, and Till Mostowlansky. Six sessions are scheduled to be organized in the Fall Semester. Details about individual sessions will be announced.

September 12: “The Sacred Fonts of the American Mission Press: Printing Mongolian in Canton between the Opium Wars” by Prof. Kendall Johnson (SMLC, HKU).

September 26: “Leaving the Arabian Peninsula, Choosing to Go East: The Case of the Yemeni Diaspora in China” by Dr. Ho Wai Yip (Social Sciences, EUHK)

October 10: “Urban Loopholes: The Transformation of Shanghai’s City Center since 1992” by Dr. Zhou Ying (Architecture, HKU).

October 31: “Famine in the Age of Complex Emergencies: A Brief History of Humanitarian Logistics” by Prof. Jenny L. Smith (Humanities, HKUST)

November 14: “Building the Design and Architecture Collection at Hong Kong’s M+ Museum” by Ms. Shirley Surya (Design & Architecture, M+).

November 28: “How Finance Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Soviet Union” by Dr. Oscar Sanchez-Sibony (History, HKU).

Recent Activities

Advanced Summer Program on “New Approaches to Religious Pluralism in Asia: India-China-Indonesia (ICI)” (May 15 to 19, 2017, HKU)

Led by Dr. David A. Palmer, the first advanced summer school program on “Religion and Society in Asia: China-India-Indonesia” was held in Institute in May. This summer program is the inaugural event of a 3-year project funded by the

United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia, which aims at exploring an Asian approach to teaching religious pluralism from the experience of three countries: China, India, and Indonesia.

During the 5-day summer workshop, fourteen young scholars from China, India and Indonesia, engaged with senior scholars such as 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) in a series of interactive presentation and discussion sessions, reading seminars, and fieldwork to conduct research workshops, reading seminars and fieldtrips.



Lectures and Seminars

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

The “Science, Technology, and Medicine in Societies (STMS) Colloquium Series” featured two talks in the Spring Semester. Dr. Cathryn Johnston (HKIHSS, HKU) gave presentation on “Revisiting Overpopulation in India: Demography, Research and the Population Problem in the Twentieth Century” on 18 April, and Dr. Lukas Rieppel (History, Brown University) spoke on “Locating the Central Asiatic Expedition: Science, Business, and Foreign Intelligence” on 31 May.



Interdisciplinary Lunchtime Seminar Series

Two lunchtime seminars were held in April 2017. On April 11, Prof. Matthew West (Anthropology, CUHK) spoke on “From Pirates to Patents: A Story of Structure, Culture, and the Translation of Knowledge into Property in Taiwan”. Prof. Eric Florence (French Centre for Research on Contemporary China) delivered a talk on “Struggling around borders: visibility/invisibility, the state, capital and the politics of undocumented labor in post-Mao China” on April 25.



(From top left) Dr. Cathryn Johnston, Dr. Lukas Rieppel, Prof. Matthew West, and Prof. Eric Florence

Jointly Sponsored Lectures

The Institute jointly presented three lectures with the Department of Sociology in the Spring Semester of 2017. On April 27, Prof. Don Kulick (Anthropology, Uppsala University) delivered a public lecture on “Rape in a Papua New Guinean village: talk, sense and nonsense”. He examined the local concepts of “rape” and “domestic violence” in a small, isolated Sepik-river village where he has been conducting fieldwork for the past thirty years and discussed the issue of sense and nonsense of the sexual violence that happened. The second lecture was given by Prof. William Jankowiak (Anthropology, University of Nevada) on May 24. He spoke on “Cultural Contradictions, Personal Rejuvenation, and Changing Ideas of Well-Being in the PRC” His presentation explored the Chinese cultural

model for life satisfaction/well-being by looking into four domains - friendship, family, occupation, and fun activities - in which Chinese people sought their well-being in two different eras: work unit socialism (1981-83) and market reform (1987, 2000-02). The third lecture "Social Impact without Social Justice: Film and Politics in the Neoliberal Landscape" was delivered by Prof. Sherry B. Ortner (Anthropology, UCLA) on June 28. She explored some of the constraints facing the world of independent filmmaking in the United States when it comes to producing films capable of achieving social and political impact. These reflections were developed through a detailed study of the work of one film production company in Los Angeles.



(From left) Prof. Don Kulick, Prof. William Jankowiak, and Prof. Sherry B. Ortner

Institute's News



Dr. David A. Palmer (front row, second from right) gave a series of talks on August 7-9 at the Summer Workshop on Academic Writing in the Scientific Study of Chinese Religion, held at Concordia University (Montreal) and organized by the Centre for Religion and Chinese Society, Purdue University.

Personalia

Staff Appointments

Dr. David A. Palmer will be seconded to the Institute from Sociology Department during the period of September 2017 and August 2018.

Dr. Till Mostowlansky has been appointed as Post-Doctoral Fellow from August 2017. The appointment was jointly established with the Faculty of Arts.

Visiting Professors and Scholars

Prof. Helen Siu, Department of Anthropology, Yale University, returned to the University as Visiting Research Professor from June to August 2017.

Prof. Paul Cohen, Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, Harvard University, September 2017 - February 2018.

Mr. Leo Goodstadt, Trinity College, University of Dublin, November 2017 - March 2018.

Visiting Students

Ms. Shum Ting Ting, PhD student, School of Social and Political Science, Social Anthropology, University of Edinburgh, September 2017 - August 2019.

Ms. Leilah Vevaina, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, The Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity, August - October 2017.

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

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If colleagues have news to share with the Institute, please email your materials to sy Cheng2@hku.hk.