

# 香港人文社會研究所

Hong Kong Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences  
The University of Hong Kong



The Hong Kong Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences, established in 2001 at HKU, has a mission to promote innovative, multi-disciplinary research and teaching in the humanities and social sciences. Focusing on China in Asia and in the world from both historical and contemporary perspectives, it supports diverse platforms for a critical community of scholars to share experiences across the globe.

From a modest beginning, the Institute grew steadily under the leadership of its founding Honorary Director Professor Helen Siu. An important milestone was the migration of the staff, students, and projects of the Centre of Asian Studies into the Institute, approved by the University Senate and Council for the purposes of intellectual and programmatic synergy, on July 1, 2009. The enhanced Hong Kong Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences (incorporating the Centre of Asian Studies), is committed to provide an ever more robust platform for Asian and China studies based at The University of Hong Kong and with global partners. In January 2011, Professor Angela Ki Che Leung became the Institute's first full-time Director.

In 2001, the Institute began with a focus on comparative regional studies of China, historical and contemporary. It worked with major universities in China to conduct multi-year research training clusters with a focus on historical preservation, lineage formations, religious and rituals of local communities in different regions. Later training workshops included contemporary social science issues such as urbanization, migrant health, and modern public sphere. These programs generated a critical mass of young scholars and advanced graduate students from Hong Kong, China, Europe and North America.

*May Hall, HKU*



Since 2006, the Institute has broadened its agenda to explore China's global engagements and a dynamic Asia. An Inter-Asian agenda has supported multi-year research teams. The Institute also developed new strategic partners such as Yale University, the Harvard-Yenching Institute, National Singapore University, and the Social Science Research Council. More research clusters have been being generated.

In 2011, Professor Helen F. Siu concluded her conscientious and voluntary service as Honorary Director after ten years, but she remains the chairperson of the Institute's Executive Committee. She works closely with Professor Leung to develop the Institute's programs and to line up new global partners for the Institute.



In 2012, the Institute moved into May Hall, a historic building constructed in 1915 on the main campus of the University. This renovated structure not only provides the Institute with the necessary space for expansion, but is also emblematic of a humanistic tradition that the Institute works hard to preserve and revitalize. In this new home, the Institute has found the intellectual and organizational flexibility to integrate with other faculties of the University and to meaningfully connect with global scholarship.

In the past seven years, the Institute has skillfully used public and private funds to drive basic research that has policy and community relevance. The three leading research clusters today include **Science, Technology, and Medicine in Asian Societies**; **Hubs, Mobilities and the Asian Urban**; **Rethinking Spirituality and Religion in Asia**. A developing one involves China-Africa encounters. For more information on the Institute's research, teaching and outreach programs, please visit <https://www.hkihss.hku.hk>.