

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2018



Featured News

Visiting Professors at the Institute

The Institute was pleased to host Prof. Dagmar Schäfer (Max Planck Institute for the History of Science) and Prof. Ellen Hertz (Institute of Ethnology, University of Neuchâtel) this spring. The Institute was also delighted to welcome Prof. Helen F. Siu (Yale University) for her year-long visit. Their visiting professorships were funded by the Institutional Enhancement Scheme of the Lee Hysan Foundation.

The three professors worked intensely with the Institute's colleagues to develop existing and new research projects. Professors Siu and Hertz have worked closely together on the research clusters "Hubs, Mobilities and the Asian Urban" and "China-Africa Diasporas". They are also planning a small local project on the Sai Ying Pun community. Prof. Schäfer has worked closely with Prof. Leung on the government-funded CRF Project "Making Modernity in East Asia: Technologies of Everyday Life, 19th-21st Centuries" (MMEA), planning a workshop for young East Asian scholars in the field of Science, Technology and Medicine.

In March, Prof. Schäfer delivered a lecture in the MMEA Lecture Series on "Politics and Scientific Change in Dynastic China", followed by Prof. Hertz's lecture on "Digging Deep: Anthropological Encounters with the Zambian Copperbelt" in mid-April. Both public talks engaged enthusiastic audiences in lively discussions. A report on their teaching activities can be found on p.3.



(Top row) Prof. Dagmar Schäfer speaking at the lecture and responding to Dr. Li Ji. (Bottom row) Prof. Ellen Hertz presenting her findings to the attentive audiences

The Institute will host the second visit of Prof. Eric Tagliacozzo (Cornell University) as the inaugural Hung Leung Hau Ling Distinguished Visiting Professor in the Humanities and Social Sciences at the Institute this summer. Prof. Tagliacozzo will continue to work closely with Prof. Helen F. Siu on the third and final volume of the *Asia Inside Out* series, entitled *Mobile Peoples*, contracted by Harvard University Press, as a research output of the cluster “Hubs, Mobilities and the Asian Urban”. He will also engage with postgraduate students and colleagues during his stay in Hong Kong.



Collaborations

Conference on “InterAsian Connections VI: Hanoi” (December 4-7, 2018, Hanoi, Vietnam)

The international InterAsian Connections Conference series will hold the sixth conference in Hanoi, Vietnam this December. It is organized by the Institute with its long-term partners Social Science Research Council (SSRC), Asia Research Institute at National University of Singapore, Duke University Global Asia Initiative, Göttingen University Global and Transregional Studies Platform, and Yale University (since 2013), and new partners Seoul National University Asia Center (since summer 2017), and Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences.

The 2018 Hanoi conference – comprising eight concurrent, director-led workshops as well as plenary sessions – is structured to enable intensive working group interactions on specific research themes as well as broader exchange on topics of shared interest and concern. Eight workshops are organized each by two selected directors:

- Beyond the New Media: Deep Time of Networks and Infrastructural Memory in Asia
- China’s OBOR Initiative and Its Impacts for Asian Countries
- Divine/Transcendent Rulers of Imagined Communities: The Rise and Fall of Royal Nationhood in Asia
- Eurasia’s Islamic Socialist Ecumene
- Sacred Forests and Political Ecology: Cosmological Properties and Environmentality
- Sport Mega-Events as Hubs for InterAsian Interactions
- States of Fortification: Connecting Asia through Technologies of Food and Health
- The Netware of the New Asian Economy under the Industrial Revolution

The workshop “States of Fortification: Connecting Asia through Technologies of Food and Health” is co-convened by Dr. Izumi Nakayama of the Institute with Prof. Melissa L. Caldwell of the University of California, Santa Cruz.

The conference organizers and workshop directors will select papers from a competitive pool of over 260 proposals. Successful applicants will present their papers at one of the above eight concurrent thematic workshops. Results will be announced shortly. More information about the conference can be viewed at www.ssrc.org/programs/child-component/interasia-program/interasian-connections-conference-series/interasian-connections-vi-hanoi-2018/.



Teaching and Learning at the Institute

Institutional Enhancement Scheme supported by Lee Hysan Foundation

Visiting Professors

Professors Helen F. Siu, Dagmar Schäfer and Ellen Hertz have actively taken part in the University's teaching programs. The graduate seminars "Cultures of Innovation in East Asia's History" co-taught by Prof. Dagmar Schäfer and Prof. Angela Leung and "Law, Norms and Social Order: Anthropological Perspectives" by Prof. Ellen Hertz attracted enthusiastic students and auditors from HKU and other universities. Prof. Schäfer and Prof. Hertz expressed great satisfaction in their teaching experience at the Institute and found local students extremely promising with good potential.



Prof. Helen F. Siu was invited by Graduate School to share her experience and insights from decades of research, teaching and publishing with HKU students and academic staff on January 23 and March 23. In particular, Prof. Siu highlighted interdisciplinary approaches across the social sciences and humanities.

Prof. Helen F. Siu sharing her experience with colleagues and students



(Left) Prof. Dagmar Schäfer teaching in the graduate seminar. Prof. Ellen Hertz and her students in the last meeting

“The most rewarding experience”, said Miss Tian Jingyi, a Finalist of the Three Minutes Thesis (3MT®) Competition



Miss Tian Jingyi, an MPhil student at the Institute, was selected as a finalist and the only representative from the Faculty of Social Sciences in this year's Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition, an academic competition that challenges research postgraduate students to explain their research within three minutes to a general audience. Miss Tian presented her MPhil research “Re-creating a swordsman's soul in modern martial art – a case study of Kendo in Hong Kong,” and impressed the judges among the other 22 competitors. In recalling her experience, Miss Tian appreciated the opportunity to learn from her fellow competitors.

She has also found practicing the “story-telling” the most rewarding.

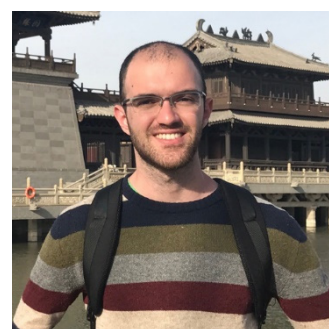
Welcome to Our New Students

The Institute is delighted to announce two young scholars being admitted to the Institute's PhD program in 2018-19.



Mr. Rao Yichen (饒一晨), with an MPhil degree in Anthropology at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, is interested in exploring the intersections of social structures and individual experiences. He will be working on his PhD research project “Crush by Design: Dating Coaches and ‘Seduction Industry’ in China” under the supervision of Dr. Gonalo Santos and Dr. David A. Palmer.

Mr. Luis Fernando Bernardi Junqueira, currently pursuing a Master degree in History Department at Fudan University, will work under the guidance of Prof. Angela Leung and Dr. Izumi Nakayama for his research project on “The Publication and Circulation of Talismanic Healing Texts in China from the Late Qing through the Republican Period, 1750-1940”. Mr. Bernardi Junqueira is also an awardee of the University's Jessie Ho Memorial Postgraduate Fellowship.



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

HKU Second Clearing Round

Application period: May 1, 2018 to August 31, 2018

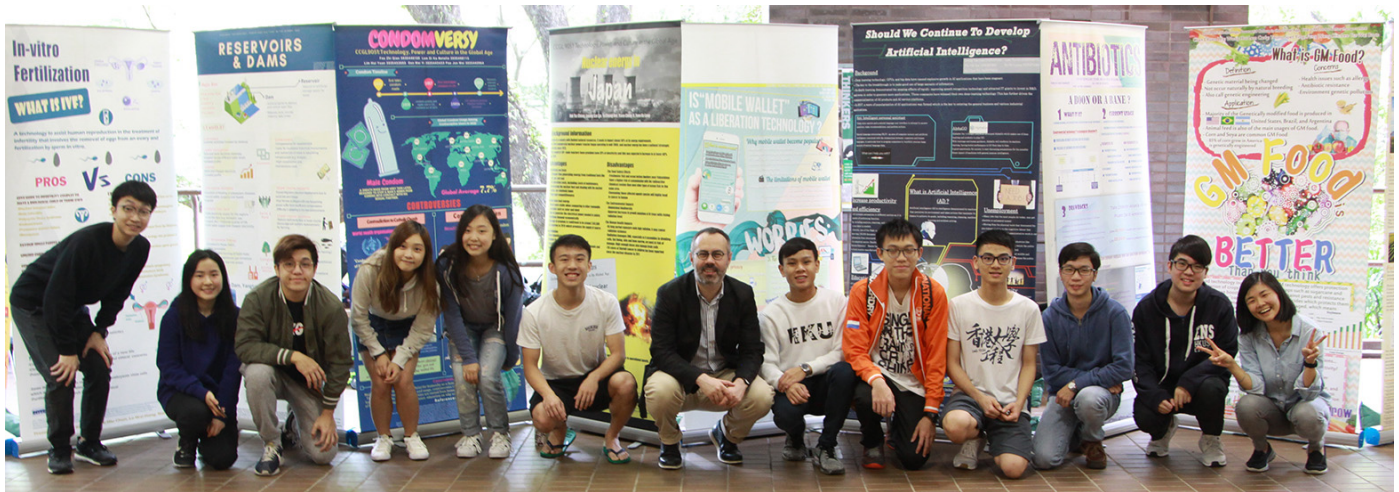
About our programs and application procedures: www.hkihss.hku.hk/en/teaching/application-details/

Enquiries: (Email) ihssrpg@hku.hk (Phone) (852) 3917-5772

Online application: www.gradsch.hku.hk

Common Core Course Student Capstone Project Exhibition (April 18-27, 2018, HKU)

The students of CCGL9501 Technology, Power, and Culture in the Global Age proudly presented their Capstone Project Exhibition “Disaster/Controversy Technology” on HKU campus from April 18 to 27, 2018. This visually-arresting and thought-provoking banner exhibition invited visitors to reflect on society’s entangled relationship with technology, while bringing to light some of the underlying uncertainties of the global technological society.



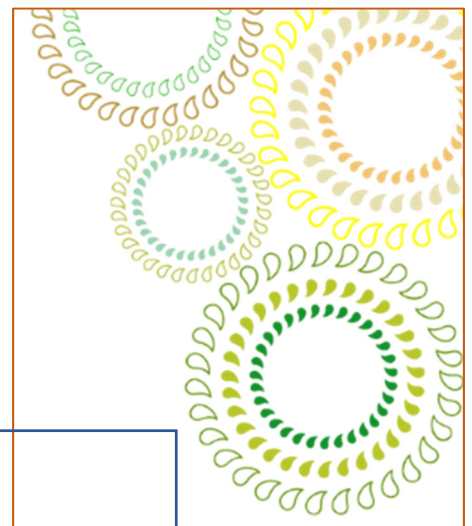
Dr. Gonalo Santos (middle) and Miss Shum Ting Ting (right) with the students in front of the exhibition banners

Upcoming Event

Workshop on “Ecologies of Urbanism in Asia III: Death and Life nature in Asian Cities” (June 14-16, 2018, HKU)

Convened by Prof. Kalyanakrishnan Sivaramakrishnan (Anthropology, Yale) and Dr. Anne Rademacher (Anthropology and Environmental Studies, New York University), this workshop is the third meeting organized by the “Environmental Sustainability, Political Ecology and Civil Society” cluster. Fourteen participants in this three-day workshop-cum-fieldtrip will draw from case studies across urban Asia to explore the biophysical and cultural processes that shape ideas about, and responses to, the death and life of nature.

More information:
[www.hkihss.hku.hk/
events/ecologies201
8/index.html](http://www.hkihss.hku.hk/events/ecologies2018/index.html)



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

MMEA Sub-project Workshops

The MMEA Project Team has organized several workshops in May and the coming summer months.



“Food Technology” (May 7-11, 2018, HKU and Taiwan)

More information: mmea.hku.hk

Convened by Dr. Izumi Nakayama (HKIHSS) and Prof. Angela Leung (HKIHSS), the workshop-cum-fieldwork on “Food Technology” will take place in Hong Kong and Taiwan from May 7 to 11. On May 7, four MMEA collaborators - Dr. Lawrence Zhang (HKUST), Dr. Kim Tae-Ho (Chonbuk National University), Dr. Hallam Stevens (Nanyang Technological University), and Dr. Bae Kyoungjin (HKU) - and six scholars – Prof. Eric C. Rath (University of Michigan & University of Kansas), Dr. Jenny Smith (HKUST), Prof. Hung Po-yi (National Taiwan University), Dr. Fan Ya-jiun (Fanhsu Corporation), Mr. Fan Huichuan (University of Science and Technology of China), and Dr. John Wong (HKU) – will join Dr. Nakayama and Prof. Leung for a one-day workshop discussing tea, liquor, and soy food manufacturing and consumption in East Asia in the critical transition from the traditional to the modern periods. This meeting will be followed by Prof. Eric C. Rath’s talk on “The Invention and Reinvention of Local Food in Japan” as part of the MMEA Lecture Series. Beginning on May 8, the group will conduct three days of field visits in Taiwan and will participate in a workshop co-organized with the History Department, National Chi Nan University, and a MMEA Partner Institution, *East Asian Science, Technology and Society: An International Journal (EASTS)*, an SSCI-indexed journal to continue the discussion on “food technology” on May 11.

“Technological Innovations and Social Change: The History of Automation and the Future of Work in East Asia, 1960s-2010s” (May 11, 2018, HKUST)

The one-day workshop, organized by MMEA Project Co-PI Prof. Naubahar Sharif (HKUST) with Dr. Huang Yu (HKUST), will gather scholars from Europe, Australia, and Asia to discuss two themes: 1) Industrial Automation and Technological Modernity, 2) Smart Economy and Social Technology. It aims at establishing an interdisciplinary network for East Asian scholars to look at industrial automation and social change as past, present, and future phenomena, seeking to promote dialectic understanding between technological innovations and social change and to explore the potential that the East Asian experiments might offer towards a work-centered, socially sustainable path of technology development. The group aims at publishing the workshop papers as a special issue in a high-impact journal in 2019.

“Phones, Drones & Disease: Epidemic Intelligence and the Future of Communications in East Asia” (May 17-18, 2018, HKU)

Coordinated by MMEA collaborator Prof. Robert Peckham (HKU), this two-day workshop will bring together researchers and practitioners from science and technology studies, public health, medicine, history, and anthropology to reflect on the opportunities and challenges that these technologies present. Ten papers will be presented during the workshop and a global Health Histories Seminar on “Strategies of Anti-Panic: A New Approach to Epidemic Panic” will be hosted by Prof. Peckham, Prof. Keiji Fukuda (Public Health, HKU), and Prof. Kirsten Osterr (Medical Futures Lab, Rice University) in the afternoon of May 18.

“Sociotechnical Systems of Pharmacotherapy in Modern East Asia, 1800-2020” (June 23-24, 2018, HKU)

MMEA Collaborator Dr. Daniel Trambaiolo (HKU) will invite scholars from USA, Taiwan and Japan to discuss and think across and beyond national boundaries, reconceptualizing the history of pharmacotherapy in terms of East Asian region as a whole.

“Instruments, Meteorological Forecasting and Everyday Technology in China, Hong Kong and Japan, 1870-1950” (August 27-28, 2018, HKU)

Convened by MMEA Collaborator Dr. Fung Kam Wing (HKU), the workshop will bring together ten scholars from Hong Kong, China, and Japan to discuss the flow of meteorological technology and instruments from Europe to Asia.

MMEA Lecture Series (May 7, 2018, HKU)

Prof. Eric C. Rath (Toyota Visiting Professor at the Center for Japanese Studies in the University of Michigan and Professor of Premodern Japanese History at the University of Kansas) will deliver a public lecture on “The Invention and Reinvention of Local Food in Japan” on May 7 in May Hall.



Former HKU Vice-Chancellor Prof. Gungwu Wang returns this fall for a week-long visit

The Institute is proud to announce that Prof. Wang Gungwu (王賡武) will return to the University this fall for a week-long visit as Sin Wai-Kin Distinguished Visiting Professor in the Humanities. Collaborating with History Department of Faculty of Arts and the Development & Alumni Affairs Office of the University, the Institute is organizing events and activities involving Prof. Wang and two Asian renowned scholars – Prof. Ge Zhaoguang (葛兆光) (Fudan University) and Prof. Chu Yun-han (朱雲漢) (Academia Sinica). Stay tuned for more information!

Recent Activities

Workshop on “The Study of Chinese *Minjian* Religion: Reviewing the Field and Future Directions” (May 5, 2018, HKU)

Convened by Dr. David A. Palmer (HKIHSS & Sociology, HKU), the “Rethinking Spirituality and Religion in Asia” cluster invited Prof. Yang Fenggang (Purdue University), Prof. Selina Chan (Hong Kong Shue Yan University), Prof. Andrew Kipnis (CUHK), Prof. John Lagerwey (CUHK), Dr. Pan Junliang (Paris Diderot-Paris 7 University), and Prof. David Ownby (University of Montreal) to review the study of Chinese *minjian* religion at the workshop on “the Study of Chinese *Minjian* Region: Reviewing the Field and Future Directions” sponsored by the Center on Religion and Chinese Society, Purdue University. Papers presented in the workshop plan will be published in a special issue of a high impact journal in the field.

Lectures and Seminars

MMEA Lecture Series

Prof. Michael Herzfeld (Anthropology, Harvard University) spoke on “The Ethics of Mastery in Global Perspective: Skill and Trust among Artisans in Bangkok” on February 28, sharing his recent findings from his ongoing research on Thai goldsmiths in Bangkok.

Prof. Michael Herzfeld responding to questions raised by Miss Lee Song Ah (left) and Dr. Bae Kyoungjin (middle)



Prof. Dagmar Schäfer gave a lecture on “Politics and Scientific Change in Dynastic China” on March 20 to discuss if and in which cases socio-political rupture, understandings of nature and changes in ways of knowing were correlated and in which way historiography contributed to such views by exemplifying on the Yuan-Ming (14th century) and Ming-Qing (17th century) transitions in the field of sericulture: the worm, the fibre, and the fabric to illustrate when, where and how representation and reasoning varied.

Interdisciplinary Lunchtime Seminar Series

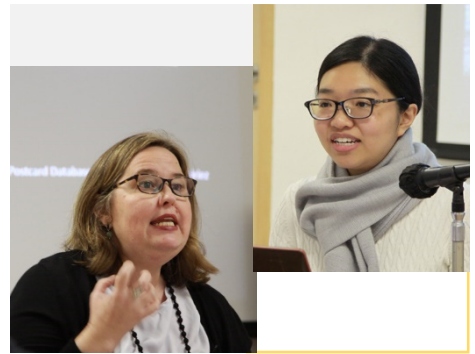
The Institute hosted six lunchtime seminars in the second half of 2017-18. In January, Dr. Robert Hellyer (History, Wake Forest University) spoke on “Chinese-Style, Japanese Green Tea for Americans: Japanese Tea Exports to the United States, 1860 to 1890”, and Dr. Emma Yu Zhang (The Society of Fellows in the Humanities, HKU) gave a presentation on “Industrializing the Chinese Countryside in Representational and Aesthetic Forms: A Socialist Fantasia of Human Creativity”. In February, two other Society of Fellows in the Humanities of HKU, Dr. Harriet Hulme and Dr. Robert Kramm, shared their projects on “Unconditional Hospitality? Translation, Travel and Telling Tales” and “Sexuality, Intimacy and Venereal Disease Control during the Occupation of Japan, 1945-1952”, respectively. In the following two months, two more seminars were organized - Prof. Christopher Hutton (English, HKU) on “‘Ordinary Language’ as Legal Fiction”, and Prof. Charles Schencking (History, HKU) on “Gratitude Betrayed and Forgotten: Pearl Harbor and America’s Humanitarian Moment with Japan in 1923”. The events were well attended and the series will resume in September.

(From top left) Dr. Robert Hellyer, Dr. Emma Yu Zhang, Dr. Harriet Hulme, Dr. Robert Kramm, Prof. Christopher Hutton, and Prof. Charles Schencking



Departmental Seminar Series

Two departmental seminars were held in the spring semester. Dr. Elizabeth LaCouture (History, HKU) shared her findings on the theme of family planning on “Controlling the Population: From Family Social Science to Family Planning in 20th Century China, Taiwan, and Korea” on January 17, and Dr. Carol Tsang (History, HKU) spoke on “‘Suicide’ or Salvation: Margaret Sanger and the Birth Control Debate in Interwar Hong Kong” on March 21.



Spirituality, Religion and Society Lecture Series

Organized by Dr. David A. Palmer and Dr. Li Ji, the Spirituality, Religion and Society Lecture Series invited four experts to share their research findings. On January 18, Prof. Zhang Baichun (Philosophy, Beijing Normal University) spoke on “The Spiritual Practice of Orthodoxy” (東正教的靈修傳統). It was followed by a presentation by Prof. Chu Xiaobai (Chinese Language and Literature, East China Normal University; Institute of Sino-Christian Studies) on “Interactions Between Christianity and Local Folk Religions in 19th and 20th Century China” on February 12. On March 22, the Institute jointly organized the seminar on “Why Empire? Empire as a Topic in World History” by Prof. Krishan Kumar (Sociology, University of Virginia), with Robert Black College and the Department of Sociology of the University. Prof. Liu Xun (History, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey) spoke on “Daoist Patronage and Practices of Arts, Literati Culture, Local Politics and Society in Late Qing and Early Republican Nanyang” on April 20.



(From left) Prof. Zhang Baichun, Prof. Chu Xiaobai, Prof. Krishan Kumar, and Prof. Liu Xun

Public Seminars organized by the “Hubs, Mobilities and the Asian Urban” Cluster



The research cluster “Hubs, Mobilities and the Asian Urban” hosted a seminar by Prof. Gordon Mathews (Anthropology, CUHK) on “The World in Guangzhou: Africans and Other Foreigners in South China’s Global Marketplace” on February 26. The talk engaged faculty members, students, and the public in a lively discussion.

Prof. Gordon Mathews speaking at the seminar and attentive audiences



Dr. Anne-Christine Trémon (Institute of Social Sciences, University of Lausanne) gave a presentation on “Acting for the ‘Public Good’ and Tributary Social Reproduction in a Former Emigrant Village of Shenzhen” on April 10. She shared her research work on Pine Mansion and its people, and discussed how the triangle formed by the diaspora, the local community and the state is framed by a tributary relationship.



Book launch co-organized by the “Science, Technology, and Medicine in Societies” (STMS) Cluster and National Taiwan University (April 20, 2018, Taiwan)

The STMS cluster co-organized a book launch on the recent book volume, *Gender, Health and History in Modern East Asia* (co-edited by Angela Leung and Izumi Nakayama, HKU Press 2017) with the Global Asia Research Center, National Taiwan University (NTU) on April 20 in NTU. Prof. Leung and Dr. Nakayama joined Dr. Lee Jen-der (李貞德) (Academia Sinica) and Prof. Wu Chia-ling (吳嘉苓) (Sociology, NTU), contributors to the volume, to discuss the content and contributions of the book in the field of gender and health in East Asia.



Public Program

Contemporary Chinese Documentary Series - Meet the Director

“Egg and Stone” by Director Huang Ji (March 22, 2018, HKU)

On March 22, a large crowd of audience gathered at May Hall to join the screening of documentary film of “Egg and Stone” (雞蛋和石頭) and dialogue with film director Huang Ji (黃驥), cinematographer Ryuji Otsuka (大塚龍治), and Prof. Petula Ho (何式凝) (HKU). The film unfolds Honggui, an unwanted girl’s personal story in her home village in rural Hunan Province and gives a portrait of her attempts to come to terms with her emerging sexual maturity.



(Left) Film director Huang Ji sharing with the audiences. (Right) A group photo after discussion - Dr. Li Ji, film director Huang Ji, Prof. Petula Ho, cinematographer Ryuji Otsuka, and Dr. Chen Chih-Ting

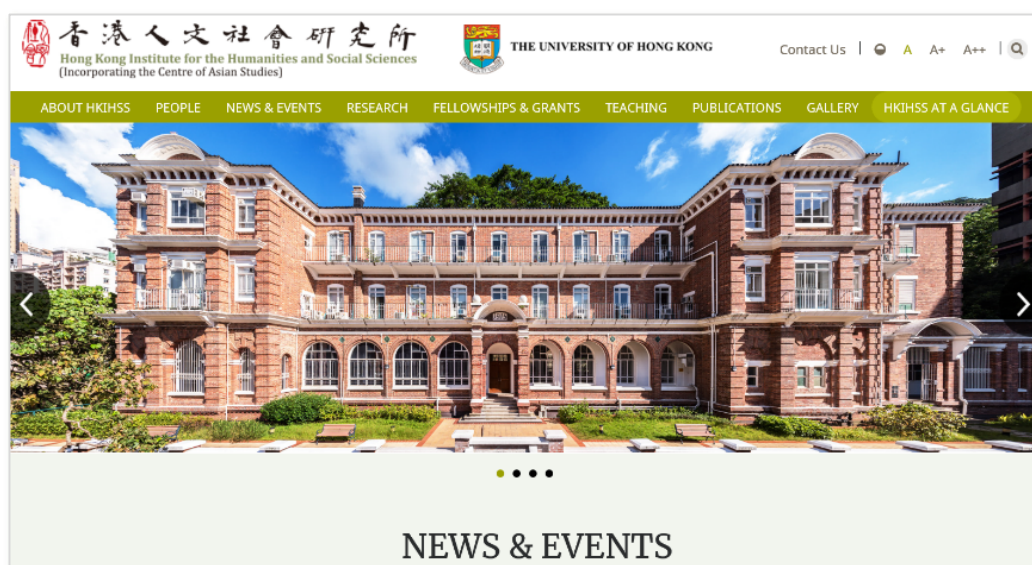
Institute's News

Search of Tenure-track Associate Professor/Assistant Professor Position

Applications are invited for appointment as tenure-track Associate Professor/Assistant Professor at the Institute. Scholars who have a PhD degree preferably in the humanities and social sciences are encouraged to apply. More details are available at HKU HR webpage: jobs.hku.hk/jd.php?id=201800438

Our New Website

The Institute's revamped website goes online. The new and refreshed website is compatible with all platforms: mobile phone, tablet, desktop computer. Please access it here: www.hkihss.hku.hk



Personalia

Visiting Scholar

Dr. Till Mostowlansky, former Postdoctoral Fellow of the Institute and currently Ambizione Research Fellow funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation, returns to the Institute as Visiting Scholar from April to July 2018.

Staff Appointments

Ms. Yvonne Chan has joined the Institute as Executive Officer starting from February 2018.

Mr. Louis Kwong has been promoted to Clerk II from March 2018.

Mr. Martin Tse has been appointed as Teaching Assistant from March 2018.

Hong Kong Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences

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