

NEWSLETTER

September 2019



New Faces at HKIHSS

Dr. Ghassan Moazzin



Dr. Ghassan Moazzin is Assistant Professor at the Hong Kong Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences, HKU. He was educated at the University of Cambridge, where he received both his B.A. (2012) and Ph.D. (2017). His doctoral dissertation on German bankers in modern China won both the Coleman Prize of the Association of Business Historians and the Herman E. Krooss Prize of the Business History Conference. It was also a finalist for the Dissertation Prize (Category: The Long 19th Century) of the World Economic History Congress 2018.

Dr. Moazzin's research explores the history of foreign banking and international finance in modern China. In his current book project, he uses a wide range of sources in German, English, Chinese and Japanese to investigate the role foreign banks played in the financial internationalization of modern China and its financial integration into the global economy during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. He has also developed an interest in the history of multinational enterprises and the comparative study of the history of modern banking in China and Japan.

Prof. James Kai-sing Kung

Prof. James Kai-sing Kung is Sein and Isaac Souede Professor in Economic History in the Faculty of Business and Economics, HKU. Before joining HKU, he was the Yan Ai Foundation Professor of Social Science at the Hong Kong University of Science of Technology.

Prof. Kung's research interests are steeped in the economic history of China, its institutions and its political economy of development. Currently, he is studying both the origins of China's meritocratic civil exam system (*keju*) and its long-term persistent effects on human capital development. At the same time, he is examining issues related to the political exchange between firms and officials, and corruption more broadly in contemporary China.



Publications

1) “Science, Technology, and Medicine in Asian Society” Cluster

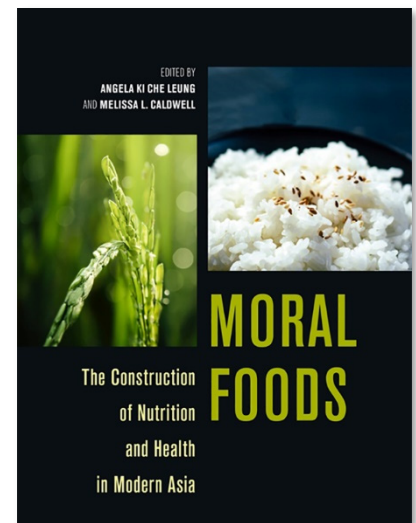
CRF Project “Making Modernity in East Asia: Technologies of Everyday Life, 19th-21st Centuries” (MMEA)

Moral Foods: The Construction of Nutrition and Health in Modern Asia

(University of Hawai'i Press, October 2019)

Moral Foods, edited by Prof. Angela Leung (HKU) and Prof. Melissa Caldwell (UC Santa Cruz), investigates how foods came to be established as moral entities, how moral food regimes reveal emerging systems of knowledge and enforcement, and how these developments have contributed to new Asian nutritional knowledge regimes. The collection's focus on cross-cultural and trans-historical comparisons across Asia brings into view a broad spectrum of modern Asia that extends from East Asia, Southeast Asia, to South Asia, as well as into global communities of Western knowledge, practice, and power outside Asia.

Six contributors of this book volume are members of the CRF project - Prof. Francesca Bray, Prof. Angela Leung, Dr. Kim Tae-Ho, Prof. Robert Peckham, Dr. Lawrence Zhang, and Dr. Izumi Nakayama. The work of this book volume is partially funded by the project.

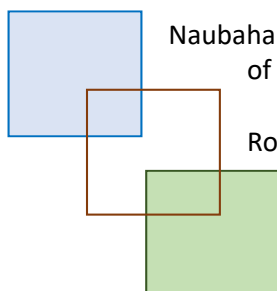


Special Issue on Innovation and Work in East Asia (July 2019)

Project Co-Principal Investigator Prof. Naubahar Sharif (HKUST) and a group of scholars have published a Special Issue ***Innovation and Work in East Asia***, for *Science, Technology and Society* this July (Volume 24, Number 2). The Special Issue consists of the work of six contributors who participated in an international workshop “Technological Innovations and Social Change: The History of Automation and the Future of Work in East Asia, 1960s – 2010s” (May 2018) organized by Prof. Sharif, together with Dr. Huang Yu, formerly a Postdoctoral Fellow of the project at HKUST and funded by the MMEA Project. One of the contributors of the Special Issue is Dr. Hallam Stevens who is a Collaborator of the project.

Other Journal Articles

Two more articles have been published by members of the MMEA Project - Prof. Naubahar Sharif, Dr. Huang Yu, Prof. Robert Peckham and his colleague Dr. Ria Sinha at the Centre of Humanities and Medicine at HKU.

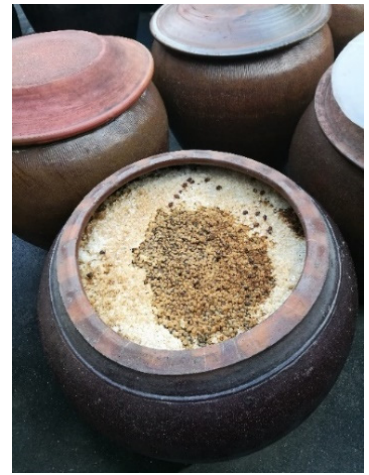


Naubahar Sharif and Huang Yu, “Industrial Automation in China’s ‘Workshop of the World’,” *The China Journal*, Volume 81, January 2019, pp. 1-22.

Robert Peckham and Ria Sinha, “Anarchitectures of Health: Futures for the Biomedical Drone,” *Global Public Health An International Journal for Research, Policy and Practice*, Volume 14, 2019, Issue 8, pp. 1204-1219.

GRF Project “The Birth of East Asian Modern Entrepreneurship: the Case of Soy Sauce Making, ca. 1880 – 1960”: An interview

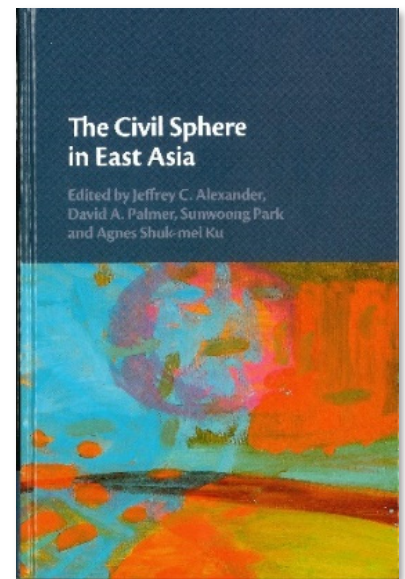
Prof. Angela Leung and Dr. Izumi Nakayama shared their research on soy sauce making history in East Asia in the latest issue of *HKU Bulletin*, May 2019 Issue. Although soy sauce is ubiquitous across East Asia, it has taken hold in each region in different ways that are revealing about cultural and political currents. The research of Prof. Leung and Dr. Nakayama shows that the condiment illustrates the region’s response to modernity. Their research is funded by the General Research Grants of the Research Grants Council and is part of the CRF MMEA Project. Full version of interview is available at www.hkihss.hku.hk/a-saucy-take-on-history.



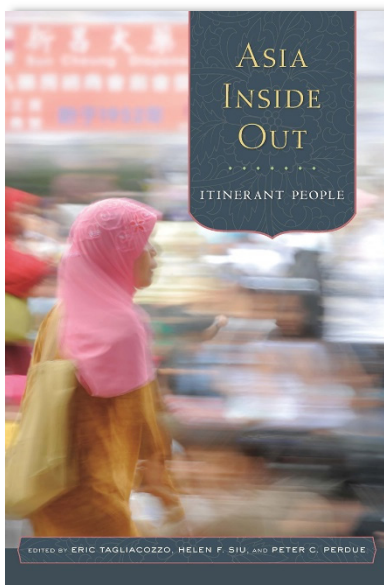
2) “Asian Religious Connections” Cluster

The Civil Sphere in East Asia (Cambridge University Press, February 2019)

Edited by Dr. David A. Palmer, *et. al.*, *The Civil Sphere in East Asia* includes cases from Japan, mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and South China and it brings together efforts by sociologists based in East Asian academic institutions. Through an extraordinary blend of sophisticated social theory and path breaking empirical research, this edited volume aims to advance civil sphere theory by globalizing and regionalizing it at the same time.



3) “Hubs, Mobilities and the Asian Urban” Cluster



Asia Inside Out: Itinerant People
(Harvard University Press, March 2019)

Edited by Professors Helen F. Siu (Yale and HKU), Eric Tagliacozzo (Cornell), and Peter C. Perdue (Yale), *Asia Inside Out: Itinerant People* is the final volume of the trilogy investigating the historical, spatial, and human dimensions of inter-Asian connections. A stellar interdisciplinary team of scholars considers the migration of people—and the ideas, practices, and things they brought with them—to show the ways in which itinerant groups have transformed their culture and surroundings.

The trilogy of *Asia Inside Out* is the output of the sub-group “Trading Empires of the South China, South Asia and the Gulf Region” of the Institute’s “Hubs, Mobilities and the Asian Urban” Cluster. Details of the sub-group and the trilogy could be viewed at www.hkihss.hku.hk/research/asia-inside-out-itinerant-people.

Teaching and Learning

Warmest Welcome to Our New Students



The Institute is delighted to announce two young scholars joining our MPhil and PhD programs in this academic year.

Mr. Wu Wenbing (吳文兵) received his MPhil degree in Social Science at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. He also holds a master degree in Sociology from Tsinghua University, Beijing. Wenbing is interested in historical sociology and social history in China. He is doing his PhD research project “The Collapse of Last Empire in China: The Quantitative Analysis of Mass Rebellion and its Roots, 1644-1911” under the supervision of Prof. James Kai-sing Kung with Prof. Angela Leung.



Mr. Martin Man Him Tse (謝孟謙), who has a Master degree in Religious Studies at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, is interested in researching religion and society in Asia. His MPhil project “An ethnographic and textual study of the ‘Attack on Hell’ Daoist ritual among the Lanten Yao in Laos” is under the guidance and supervision of Dr. David A. Palmer with Dr. Fung Kam Wing.



Admission to Research Postgraduate Programs: Call for Applications

Applications for admission to Research Postgraduate Program in 2020-21 opens now. Interested applicants can refer to the details and application procedures online at:

www.hkihss.hku.hk/en/teaching/application-details/

Students' Engagement with Academic Community

Ms. Hua Shuo, PhD student at the Institute, participated in the University of Chicago/Getty Dissertation Workshop in Chinese Art History with her dissertation project entitled “A Mobile Art World: Exhibiting and Dealing Modern Chinese Ink Paintings in Hong Kong (1945-1984)” held at the University of Chicago Center in Beijing, June 18-30, 2019.

10 doctoral candidates in Chinese art history from North America, Europe, and Asia, were admitted to the workshop, with Shuo being the only candidate from Hong Kong. The workshop entailed presentations of PhD research projects from these admitted candidates, intense discussions and exchange, and studio visits. Through the activities, Shuo and the other participants shared, developed and sharpened their dissertation projects while being exposed to a variety of different topics and divergent methodologies and bridging historical links with conceptual connections.

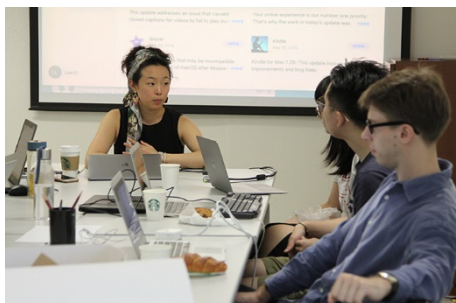


Front row second from left, Ms. Hua Shuo and Prof. Wu Hung, Chicago University, and other workshop participants



Mr. Rao Yichen received the dissertation fieldwork grant from Wenner-Gren Foundation in May 2019 for his PhD project on the issues of trust, hope, and risks in China's digital peer-to-peer (P2P) lending industry. The Wenner-Gren Foundation is a private operating foundation dedicated to the advancement of anthropology throughout the world. It is one of the major international funding sources for anthropological research and is actively engaged with the anthropological community through its varied grant, fellowship, conference, and capacity building program.

RPG Digital Workshop (May 29, 2019, HKU)



With the objective of improving RPG students' use of technologies for visual aid and presentations, the Institute has been hosting annual digital workshops, led by Dr. Li Lan, Presidential Scholar in Society and Neuroscience at Columbia University. During the workshop, students gave 5-minute presentations on their individual research projects, and were given suggestions on how to make improvement through better use of technology and understanding of visual narratives. Dr. Li also showed several of her visual projects as examples, and then worked with the students on the basics of storyboarding, reshaping and redesigning individual students' presentations using Photoshop and Keynote.

Institutional Enhancement Scheme

Lee Hysan-HKIHSS Fellowship



The Fellowship is aimed at supporting 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.

Ms. Anna Iskra, the eighth Lee Hysan-HKIHSS Fellowship recipient, was hosted by the Department of Anthropology of Harvard University under the mentorship of Prof. Arthur Kleinman from January to May 2019. During her stay at Harvard, she audited courses and actively engaged with the local academic communities at Harvard and Yale, sharing her research

with renowned scholars, such as Prof. Helen F. Siu (Yale), Prof. Michael Puett (Harvard), Prof. Michael Jackson (Harvard), Prof. Robert Weller (Boston), and Prof. Li Zhang (UC Davis). On March 15, Anna presented her research "Healing the nation through self-discovery: Chinese New Age milieu and the politics of 'psy-venting'" at a weekly Seminar Series on Culture, Psychiatry and Global Mental Health co-sponsored by the Department of Global Health and Social Medicine, Harvard Medical School, and the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs of the Harvard University.

Teaching for the University's New Initiative - China Liberal Arts Summer Sessions (CLASS) (July 8-28, 2019, HKU & Nanjing University)

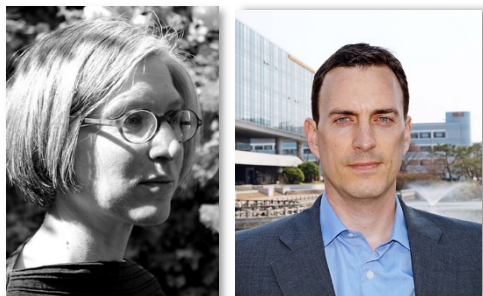
Dr. Izumi Nakayama was invited to teach the course "Gender, Health, and Globalization" (CCGL9208) for the New Initiative "CLASS" collaborated by the University with three major partner universities in Mainland – Nanjing, Zhejiang, and Shanghai Jiao Tong this summer. Some 60 students from Nanjing University and HKU enrolled in the course to explore the issues of new reproductive and organ transplants technologies and its ethics through lectures, tutorials, discussion, presentation and final projects.

Upcoming Events (Lectures, Workshops, and Conferences)

1) “Science, Technology, and Medicine in Asian Society” Cluster

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

Lecture Series (September - November, 2019, HKU)



Prof. Lauren Kassell (left), Professor of the History of Science and Medicine in the Department of History and Philosophy of Science and Fellow of Pembroke College, University of Cambridge will speak on “Written in the Stars: Digitising an Astrological Archive” on September 19, 2019.

Dr. Xaq Frohlich (right), Assistant Professor of Department of History, Auburn University will lecture on “The Rise (and Fall) of the Food-Drug Line: Classification, Gatekeepers, and Spatial Mediation in Food and Health Markets” on November 12, 2019.

Workshops on Automation (February 2020, HKUST)

Co-Principal Investigator of the Project Prof. Naubahar Sharif (HKUST) has planned two workshops focusing on automation and technologies next spring. The first workshop, “Automating the Future of Farm Work? Precision and Smart Agriculture Technologies across East Asia in the 21st Century”, is scheduled to be held on February 20-21, 2020. It will examine the automation of farm work and the emergence, development and deployment of precision and smart agriculture technologies across East Asia in the 21st century and will seek to go beyond the topic of technical componentry and explore the processes and outcomes of precision and smart agriculture technologies. Following it is the second workshop “The Road to Autonomy? Autonomous Vehicles and Technologies across East Asia in the 21st Century” being scheduled for February 27-28, 2020. It aims at investigating the emergence and development of the autonomous vehicle (AV) industry across East Asia in the 21st century, with the goal of deliberating theoretical and empirical research findings with a view to identifying regulations and policies that can facilitate the broad-based development of the AV industry across East Asia.

The calls for papers for the twin workshops and subsequent special issues for Science & Technology-related journals have been launched. Authors will be notified by the end of September 2019 if their papers have been accepted for presentation at the workshops. Details about the workshops are available at mmea.hku.hk/news/.

2) “Asian Religious Connections” (ARC) Cluster

CRF Project “Infrastructures of Faith: Religious Mobility on the Belt and Road” (BRINFAITH)

ARC Lecture Series (September 19, 2019, HKU)

The Cluster would like to present its first public lecture by Dr. Ithamar Theodor (Bar-Ilan University and Zefat Academic College) on “The All Asian *Bhagavad gītā*”. More details will be announced.

BRINFAITH Lecture Series (September 23, 2019, HKU)

The BRINFAITH CRF project presents its first lecture by Dr. Fan Lizhu (Fudan University) and Dr. Chen Na (Fudan University) on “Muslim Traders in Yiwu (Zhejiang): Global Migrant Merchants and Local Markets”. More information will be announced.

Planning Workshop on “Infrastructures and Religion” (September 24, 2019, HKU)

The workshop is part of the research project led by Dr. David A. Palmer, funded by Collaborative Research Fund (CRF) on “Infrastructures of Faith: Religious Mobility on the Belt and Road” (BRINFAITH). The project members will refine the conceptual framework through presentations and discussions on relevant theoretical approaches in the geography and anthropology of borderlands and infrastructures.

International Workshop on Yao Daoist Ritual (December 16-17, 2019, HKU)

Supported by the Hang Seng Bank Golden Jubilee Education Fund for Research of the Institute, the “Asian Religious Connections” Cluster will host a workshop on “Yao Daoism” where leading scholars of Daoism and Chinese religions are invited to present and discuss. Invited participants will present their research on the Daoist rituals inherited and lived out among the Lanten Yao people in the northwestern part of Laos.

3) Institute Interdisciplinary Lunchtime Seminar Series (Fall 2019, HKU)

The Interdisciplinary Lunchtime Seminar provides a platform for scholars to share their ongoing original research projects with HKU colleagues and students. The series is coordinated by Drs. Zhang Chaoxiong and Ghassan Moazzin in fall semester and nine talks are arranged.

September

10th: “Becoming Patients of the State? Addiction Treatment in China’s People’s War on Drugs” by Dr. Zhang Chaoxiong, HKU.

24th: “Animated Encounters: Transnational Movements of Chinese Animation 1940s – 1970s” by Dr. Daisy Yan Du, HKUST.

October

8th: “Champion Boxers and World-Famous Dancers: Law, Culture and Politics in the British Empire” by Dr. Alastair McClure, HKU.

22nd: “Old Wine in Old Bottles? 1980s Hong Kong Crime Films Revisited” by Dr. Kristof Van Den Troost, CUHK.

November

5th: “The Making of Scenic Sites: Tourism and Visual Representations of Scenic Landscape in Republican China” by Dr. Pedith Pui Chan, CUHK.

11th: “Nature and Nation: Ethnicity in Chinese Ecocinema” by Dr. Gong Haomin, Lingnan University.

19th: “Legal Complicity in an Age of Resurgent Authoritarianism” by Dr. Jedidiah J. Kroncke, HKU.

December

3rd: “Losing an Only Child in a Child-Centered Society: Parental Grief among China’s Shidu Parents” by Dr. Shi Lihong, Case Western Reserve University.

10th: “The Mischievous, the Naughty, and the Violent in a Taiwanese Village: Peer Aggression Narratives in Arthur P. Wolf’s ‘Child Interview’ (1959)” by Dr. Xu Jing, University of Washington.

Recent Events (Lectures, workshops, and conferences)

1) “Science, Technology, and Medicine in Asian Society” Cluster

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

Lecture Series

Dr. Raja Adal (University of Pittsburgh) spoke on “The Birth of the Modern Global Script Regime: From the Typewriter to Unicode” on April 1, 2019. Dr. Adal discussed the global history of working scripts in the twentieth century and argued that the relationship between writing and technology began with the typewriter revolution of the early twentieth century. The lecture was co-organised with School of Modern Languages and Cultures, HKU.

Dr. Michael Stanley-Baker (Nanyang Technological University) delivered a lecture on “Medicines across Eurasia: A Digital Humanities Experiment” on June 18, 2019. Dr. Stanley-Baker explained how the “Medicines across Eurasia” project attempts to create digital tools to house full-text primary sources across languages. The talk was jointly organised by the Centre for the Humanities and Medicine and Medical Ethics and Humanities Unit of Li Ka-Shing Faculty of Medicine, HKU.

Dr. Raja Adal (right) and Dr. Michael Stanley-Baker



Sub-project Workshop on “Weather, Climate, and Everyday Life: Technologies of Environmental Monitoring and Management in Modern East Asia” and Open Forum (May 16-18, 2019, HKU)

Convened by Prof. Fan Fa-ti (State University of New York at Binghamton), the three-day workshop gathered scholars from the United States, the United Kingdom, Hong Kong, Japan, Taiwan, and Singapore to present highly innovative and systematic study of weather/climate, environmental science and technology, everyday life, and modern East Asia. The meeting demonstrated how the conceptions of weather and climate and the practices and institutions of meteorology formed an important part of everyday life in the region.



In addition to the workshop, the Institute hosted an open forum on “Climate Change and its Politics” on May 16, which was moderated by Prof. Fan Fa-ti, and Prof. Greg Bankoff (University of Hull), Prof. Zuoyue Wang (California Polytechnic State University), and Dr. Fiona Williamson (Singapore Management University) gave lectures for the panel. Dr. Harry Wu (Medical Ethics and Humanities Unit, HKU) joined the Forum as discussant. The group will submit a proposal for a special issue on weather and technologies for submission to the journal *History of Science* published by Sage.

Sub-project Workshop “Making East Asian Foods: Technologies and Values, 19th to 21st Centuries” and Keynote Lecture (May 30-31, 2019, HKU)



Prof. Angela Leung and Dr. Izumi Nakayama convened the CRF sub-project workshop in late May, with 15 scholars from Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan, South Korea, UK, Singapore, and the United States joining them to present their research and discuss future publications on the topic of East Asian foods, technologies, and values. Professor Melissa Caldwell (UCSC) and Dr. John Wong (HKU) joined the workshop as discussants. The keynote lecture was given by Professor Jakob Klein (SOAS) and the title of his talk was “Popularizing Potatoes: Technology and Tradition in the Creation of a National Chinese Staple”.



Sub-project Workshop “Technology, Gender and Reproductive Labor in East Asia” (June 7-9, 2019, HKU)

The workshop was convened by Dr. Goncalo Santos, Prof. Suzanne Gottschang (Smith) and Prof. Jacob Eyferth (Chicago). 16 were invited to give presentations and to participate in discussions during the 3-day workshop.

Roundtable Panel at the 9th Tension of Europe Conference “Decoding Europe: Technological Pasts in the Digital Age” (June 27-30, 2019, Luxembourg)

Prof. Angela Leung, Dr. Izumi Nakayama and Dr. Max Hirsh formed a panel and presented MMEA’s main objectives, the structure, and the mid-term findings of the collaborative research project at the 9th ToE bi-annual conference at University of Luxembourg. Prof. Mikael Hård (Darmstadt University of Technology) served as discussant.

2) “Asian Religious Connections” Cluster

Summer School on “New Approaches to Religious Pluralism in Asia: India-China-Indonesia” (Aug 4-10, 2019, Yogyakarta)

Dr. David A. Palmer of the HKIHSS held and led the third annual summer school “New Approaches to Religious Pluralism in Asia: India/China/Indonesia” with partner institute Indonesian Consortium for Religious Studies (ICRS) in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. The summer school invited 19 promising scholars from India, China, and Indonesia to study and discuss religion and society in the three countries.

The summer school featured study of two new book manuscripts written by Dr. Palmer and Dr. Bernard Adeney-Risakotta of ICRS. The scholars explored from Palmer’s Asian Religion as Method the new perspective of using Asian concepts and methods to approach religions in Asia. And from Adeney-Risakotta’s Living in a Sacred Cosmos: Indonesia and the Future of Islam, the participants developed an understanding about the development of Islam in modern Indonesia and its potential influence to the world.

The scholar participants formed writing groups and produced four key articles which contributed important insights to the study of the religions in the three countries. To mention but a few, the authors compared Christian liberation theology in Indonesia and socially engaged Hinduism in India; and compared the taboos on menstruating women in temples in India and China, etc. The knowledge exchange among the scholars evoked proximities and diversities between the three societies.

The religious sites of Indonesia are rich and unique. In two days of field trips around Yogyakarta, the group visited famous religious sites of Indonesian Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Christianity, Chinese religion, and a new religious movement derived from Indonesian folk religion. The summer school was very rewarding. One of the scholars, Dr. Liang Yongjia reflected, “I learned so much, and the project changed me a lot, setting up my research agenda for the next decade! Thank you for putting ICI together!”

Lecture Series (March – May, 2019)

Coordinated by Dr. David A. Palmer and Dr. Li Ji, the Cluster hosted six lectures in the spring semester 2019.

On March 19 and 21, we had Prof. Song Lihong (Nanjing University) to speak on “Globalizing Jewish Studies in China” and Prof. Jeffrey Wasserstrom (University of California, Irvine) to present “The Boxer Crisis in Comparative Perspective: Visions of Divine Intervention and Monuments of Martyrdom” respectively.



In April, Dr. Melissa Inouye (University of Auckland) and Dr. Benjamin Schewel (University of Groningen & University of Virginia) visited the Institute and engaged with colleagues and students at HKU. Dr. Inouye spoke on “Raising the Dead = Girl Power? Charismatic Practice and Women’s Authority in a Chinese Christian Church” on April 1. Dr. Schewel discussed “The Post-Secular Problematic and the Theory of Secularization” on April 2.



On May 8, the Cluster and University Museum and Art Gallery, HKU jointly invited Dr. Chip Colwell (Denver Museum of Nature & Science) to lecture on “Is Guanyin (And Everything Else) a Palimpsest?”. Prof. Kuah Khun Eng (Jinan University, Guangzhou) had an in-depth discussion with colleagues and students on “Micropolitics and the Reproduction of Tin Hau Communitas in Hong Kong” on May 29.

Clockwise from top left: Prof. Song Lihong, Prof. Jeffrey Wasserstrom, Dr. Melissa Inouye, Prof. Kuah Khun Eng, Dr. Chip Colwell, and Dr. Benjamin Schewel

3) “Hubs, Mobilities, and the Asia Urban” Cluster

Project Citizens Forum “The Voice of Hong Kong” (香港人的聲音) (May 18, 2019, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre)

The Cluster sponsored a highly successful forum on “The Voice of Hong Kong” organised by the Project Citizens Foundation on May 18. Opening remarks were given by Ms. Audrey Eu, SC, JP, Director of the Foundation, and introductions by Prof. Helen F. Siu (Yale and HKU), Mr. Tsim Tak Lung, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Foundation followed, with Prof. Petula Ho (HKU) engaging the panelists - Prof. Ching May Bo (City U), pop singer Anthony Wong, and lyricist Mr. Calvin Poon, respectively.

The event saw over 600 audience enjoying Prof. Ching’s insights on “From One & The Same To Going Separate Ways”; Mr. Wong’s sharing on “Where Have All The Flowers Gone?”; and Mr. Poon’s elaboration about “Hong Kong’s Popular Culture: As I See It”. The panelists continued the conversation and discussion on Hong Kong’s uniqueness and history of Cantonese culture with the audiences from Hong Kong and Guangdong. The recap the forum, please visit www.hkihss.hku.hk/events/the-voice-of-hk.



Left: Prof. Helen Siu introducing Prof. Ching May Bo

Right: Prof. Ching May Bo exchanging views with audience during the panel discussion. With her are (second from left) Mr. Calvin Poon, Mr. Anthony Wong and Dr. Allan Au

4) Institute Public Programs

Contemporary Chinese Documentary Series - Meet the Director (March 19, 2019, HKU)

The Institute screened the documentary film “Children at a Village School” (村小的孩子) directed by Mr. Jiang Nengjie (middle) on March 19 at May Hall. Dr. Wang Dan (HKU) (left) and Dr. Zhang Chaoxiong (right) moderated post-screening discussion. The event was co-organised with Wah Ching Centre of Research on Education in China of the University.



Interdisciplinary Lunchtime Seminars Series

In the spring term, the Institute invited nine scholars to share their ongoing interdisciplinary projects. On February 26, Dr. Stephen Chung On Ng (Medical Ethics and Humanities Unit, HKU), spoke on “Unearthing a South China Ammonite: Palaeontology in Hong Kong”

In March, the Institute hosted two talks by historians. Dr. Jason Petrulis (History, HKU) spoke on “A Country of Hair”: A Global Story of Korean Wigs, Korean-American Entrepreneurs, African-American Hairstyles, and Cold War Industrialization”. Dr. Elvan Cobb (HKIHSS, HKU) talked about “Iron Roads, Marble Columns: Ottoman Railways and the Shaping of Touristic Experiences of Space”.

Three speakers shared their research findings at the Institute in April. Dr. Elizabeth LaCouture (History, HKU) delivered “Translating Domesticity in Chinese History and Historiography”. Dr. Du Chunmei (History, Lingnan U) gave a talk on “‘Jeep Girls’ and American Servicemen in Post-WWII China”. Dr. Zhan Yang (Applied Social Sciences, HK Poly U) presented “Formalization as a New Mode of Accumulation? The Paradox of Dispossession and the Formalization of Informal Housing in Contemporary Shenzhen”.

In May, the Institute hosted three diverse talks, topics ranging from the histories of capitalism, Chinese medicine to urban spaces in Hong Kong. Dr. Andrew B. Liu (History, Villanova U; HKIHSS, HKU) talked about “Speculative Thoughts on Writing Histories of Capitalism for Asia: Industrious Accumulation in Late Twentieth-Century Hong Kong and China”. Dr. Natalie Köhle (History, HKBU) shared her findings on “Phlegm (*tan* 痰): Toward a Humoral History of Chinese Medicine”. Ms. Vivien Chan (U of Nottingham) introduced us her project on “Assembling the Dai Pai Dong: Living and Occupying the Street in Hong Kong, 1950s to the present”.

Clockwise from top left: Dr. Stephen Ng, Dr. Jason Petrulis, Dr. Elvan Cobb, Dr. Elizabeth LaCouture, Dr. Du Chunmei, Ms. Vivien Chan, Dr. Natalie Köhle, , Dr. Andrew Liu, and Dr. Zhan Yang



Personalia

Staff Appointments

Dr. Ghassan Moazzin joined the Institute as Assistant Professor from July 2019.

Prof. James Kai-sing Kung joined the Institute as Joint Professor from July 2019. Prof. Kung is Sein and Issac Souede Professor in Economic History at the Faculty of Business and Economics.

Prof. Helen F. Siu has been appointed as Visiting Professor from June 2019.

New recruits of the “Asian Religious Connections” Cluster in 2019:

Dr. An Wei, Senior Research Assistant from April.

Miss Shen Wenxi, Research Assistant from June.

Mr. Joseba Estévez, Senior Research Assistant from September.

Mr. Mohammed Turki A Alsudairi, Research Assistant from September.

Mr. Edward Man, Research Assistant from late September.

Visiting Scholars

Dr. Andrew B. Liu, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Villanova University from March to May 2019.

Ms. Vivien Chan, PhD Candidate, School of Humanities, The University of Nottingham from April to June 2019.

Ms. Shum Ting Ting, PhD Candidate, Social Anthropology, The University of Edinburgh, from September 2019 to June 2020.

Staff Departures

Dr. Christine Luk, Postdoctoral Fellow, left the Institute w.e.f. March 1, 2019.

Dr. Elvan Cobb, Postdoctoral Fellow, left the Institute w.e.f. June 1, 2019.

Miss Guo Huiwen, Research Assistant of the “Asian Religious Connections” Cluster, left the Institute w.e.f. August 17, 2019.

We wish them every success in their future endeavors.

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