

NEWSLETTER

January 2020



Featured News

Warmest Welcome to our New Colleagues



Dr. Jonathan Hui (Presidential Postdoctoral Fellow)

Dr. Jonathan Hui obtained his BA in English Literature at the University of Durham, followed by an MPhil and PhD in Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic at the University of Cambridge. His research interests lie in the literary genre of historical romance, both medieval and modern, as well as in related fields such as folklore and textual studies. His current research project seeks to explore the poetics of the historical romance, employing comparative approaches to examine the fiction of Jin Yong (金庸) alongside the British tradition, which includes authors such as Walter Scott, William Morris and J. R. R. Tolkien.

Dr. John D. Wong (Joint Associate Professor)

Dr. John D. Wong is Joint Associate Professor in the Institute and the Faculty of Arts. His research focuses on the flow of people, goods, capital and ideas. Dr. Wong is currently working on two projects. The first one connects the experience of the dairy industry in the Treaty Ports of Shanghai and Canton as well as the British colony of Hong Kong with the cow milk and soymilk consumption in post-war Hong Kong and Taipei. In his other project, he studies the development of the airline industry in Hong Kong after WWII. This study explores not only global connections that new flight routes facilitated but also the imagination and manifestation of modernity through air travel.



Collaborations

Publication Workshop on the History of Science, Technology and Medicine (STM) (August 2020, HKU)

The Institute and the Harvard Yenching Institute, having collaborated in the advanced training workshops on “Humanities, Social Sciences and Medicine in East Asia” in 2015 and 2016, are now organising a follow-up publication workshop for selected alumni. This 2020 workshop is designed to help young Asian scholars in the field of history of science, technology and medicine prepare for publication as well as building a global STM network. Senior scholars from Asia, America and Europe with extensive publication and editorial experiences will mentor the selected participants through the process of preparing journal articles and book manuscripts. The participants will undertake an intensive series of lectures, small group discussions, writing exercises and workshopping to better improve their publication opportunities.

Call for Applications for the Admission to Research Postgraduate Programs at HKIHSS, 2020-21

HKU First Clearing Round

Application period: December 3, 2019 to April 30, 2020

About our programs and application procedures: www.hkihss.hku.hk/admission_2020-21

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

Online application: www.gradsch.hku.hk

Upcoming Events *(Lectures, Workshops, and Conferences)*

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

Workshop on “In the Driver’s Seat? The Spectre of Autonomous Vehicles Across Contemporary East Asia” (February 2020, HKUST)

Project Co-Principal Investigator Prof. Naubahar Sharif (HKUST) will convene a workshop “In the Driver’s Seat? The Spectre of Autonomous Vehicles Across Contemporary East Asia” at HKUST in February 2020. This workshop investigates the emergence and development of the autonomous vehicles (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. Publication of special issue is slated after the workshop.

Roundtable Sessions at AAS 2020 Annual Conference (March 2020, Boston)

Project Director Prof. Angela Ki Che Leung (HKU) together with Project Collaborators Prof. Suzanne Gottschang (Smith College), Prof. Kuo Wen-hua (National Yang-Ming University), Dr. Max Hirsh and Dr. Izumi Nakayama (both from HKU), will organize a roundtable panel on “Technologies of Everyday Life: Insights from a Collaborative Research Project on the Making of Modern East Asia” at the Association for Asian Studies 2020 Annual Conference to be held in Boston. The team will discuss the preliminary findings of their respective projects to illustrate the strengths and opportunities of the collaborative undertaking as well as the cross-disciplinary and methodological challenges that they have so far encountered along the way. The “Technologies of Everyday Life” Panel has a back-to-back roundtable with “The Techno-Politics of the China Model of Development” led by Prof. Timothy Oakes (University of Colorado Boulder). It seeks to examine the infrastructure practices and projects that have enabled and shaped China’s growing global presence. It hopes to demonstrate different approaches to the techno-politics and everyday materialities of Chinese infrastructure development and to offer a collective case for how an infrastructural lens provides for a more nuanced understanding state formation and reproduction in contemporary China as well as for understanding “global China’s” relations with other states.



Workshop on “State and Technoscience: Making Food in Modern East Asia” (April 23-24, 2020, HKU)

Following up the first two food workshops held in 2018 and 2019, the third workshop on “State and Technoscience: Making Food in Modern East Asia” will bring together 15 scholars from Asia, the United States and the United Kingdom to discuss a diverse range of topics – kimchi refrigerators, Taiwan bubble tea, East Asian soy sauce production, potatoes and the Chinese national diet, the domestication of aboriginal “wild plants” in Taiwan, among others. The team plans to prepare an edited volume after the workshop.

Workshop on “Instruments of Precision, Meteorological Forecasting and Everyday Life Technology in China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Japan, 1870-1960” (April 28-29, 2020, HKU)

Convened by Dr. Fung Kam Wing (HKU), some 18 scholars and meteorological professionals from China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Japan will present their research on the technology of meteorological forecasting from 1870 to 1960. This is a follow-up workshop of the first workshop held in 2018, with an extended time span of 10 years from 1950 to 1960 which marks the transformation of instrument manufacturers from military to civilian uses. By rethinking meteorological forecasting before and after WWII, this workshop aims to provide new insights in meteorological forecasting technology.

Third Plenary Conference and Keynote Lecture (May 28-29, 2020, HKU)

The MMEA team will hold its Third Plenary Conference and the Advisory Board Meeting on May 28-29, 2020. The conference will include a public keynote lecture by Prof. Pamela H. Smith (History, Columbia University) and closed-door panel discussions focusing on the collective themes of infrastructure, everyday technology and East Asia as a region. These events will gather over thirty scholars from around the globe, including the MMEA Project Team, Advisory Board, and representatives from partner institutions.

MMEA Lecture Series

The CRF project will present several lectures at the MMEA Lecture Series. Dr. Ghassan Moazzin (HKIHS, HKU) will lecture on “Electric China: A History of the Chinese Electrical and Electronics Industries, 1870 – 1937” on May 14. In this new research project, Dr. Moazzin aims at tracing the introduction and adaptation of electrical technology and electrical appliances — first by multinational and then by Chinese businesses — in modern China.

Call for Applications: Publication Workshop on Technology and East Asian Society (August 2020, HKU)

Advanced PhD students and early career scholars in the humanities and social sciences working on topics related to science, technology and society, are invited to apply to participate in the publication workshop entitled “Technology and East Asian Society” to be held at the University of Hong Kong in August 2020.

More details: mmea.hku.hk/news/publication-workshop.

Application deadline: (Hong Kong Time) 17:00, February 3, 2020

Enquiries: mmea@hku.hk

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

BRINFAITH Roundtable Session at AAS (March 2020, Boston)

Dr. David A. Palmer and his partners, Dr. Michael Feener (Oxford University), Prof. Mimi Yiengpruksawan (Yale University), Prof. Dorothy Wong (University of Virginia), and Dr. Georgios Halkias (HKU), will host a roundtable session on “The Materialities of Religious Circulation in Asia, from the Silk Road to the Belt and Road” at AAS 2020 Annual Conference in Boston. The roundtable includes specialists in Archaeology, Anthropology, Art History, Buddhist Studies and Islamic Studies, who will each briefly present a specific case, and then engage in a discussion on what these cases can tell us about envisioning the past, present and future of trans-Asian religious connections under the Belt and Road Initiative and other contemporary geopolitical and economic configurations.

BRINFAITH Strategies Group Meeting (March 10, 2020, HKU)

Dr. David A. Palmer, CRF collaborators Dr. James Frankel (CUHK) and Dr. Huang Weishan (CUHK), and scholars Prof. Tansen Sen (NYU Shanghai) and Prof. Jeremy Jammes (Brunei University), will hold a workshop of the “religious strategies” group of the BRINFAITH CRF project. The workshop will bring together specialists in Anthropology, Sociology, Political Science, Buddhist Studies, Christian Studies and Islamic Studies, giving presentations and participating in discussions about the theoretical frameworks and approaches that might be relevant to the study of trans-Asian religious connections and expressions of religiosity under the Belt and Road Initiative and other contemporary geopolitical and economic configurations.

Conference on “Historical Antecedents of BRI: Empires, Religions, Material Culture and Economics of the Silk Road” (March 22-24, 2020, University of Virginia)

Dr. David A. Palmer and Dr. Li Ji, as a part of the BRINFAITH CRF project, will attend the Conference on “Historical Antecedents of BRI: Empires, Religions, Material Culture and Economics of the Silk Road” to be held at the University of Virginia on March 22-24.

BRINFAITH Urban Hubs Study Tour (April 21-23, 2020, Yiwu, China)

Dr. David A. Palmer and his BRINFAITH research partners will hold a three-day study tour in Yiwu, China in collaboration with Dr. Fan Lizhu (Sociology, Fudan University). Yiwu city, as a rapid growing wholesale market, attracted a large number of Muslim merchants in the past two decades. The study tour will investigate the transnational religious circulation between China and Muslim countries under the Belt and Road Initiative. It will also look into the impact of intensifying religious mobilities on the local religious landscape.

BRINFAITH Lecture Series (March – June, 2020, HKU)

Seven lectures are arranged from March to June. Invited speakers include Dr. Jeremy Jammes (Brunei University), Prof. Tansen Sen (NYU Shanghai), Dr. Jackie Armijo (Qatar University), Dr. Kyle Fonda-Haddad (Shanghai Jiaotong University), Dr. Qiu Zhongmin (Beijing Institute of Fashion Design), Prof. Vincent Goossaert (EPHE), Prof. Benoît Vermander (Fudan University), and Dr. Till Mostowlansky (Graduate Institute Geneva). More details will be announced.

3. Interdisciplinary Lunchtime Seminar Series (Spring 2020, HKU)

The Interdisciplinary Lunchtime Seminar Series provides a platform for scholars to share their ongoing research projects with HKU colleagues and students. The Spring series is coordinated by Drs. Zhang Chaoxiong and Ghassan Moazzin and ten talks are arranged. The first four talks will be given by HKU scholars:

February 4: “‘Pulling the Sheep’s Wool’: Online Thrift, Labour Relations and Domesticity in a Chinese Factory” by Dr. Tom McDonald (Sociology).

February 18: “The Grammar of Leprosy: Temporal Politics & an Impossible Subject” by Dr. Laura Meek (CHM).

February 11: “Legal Complicity in an Age of Resurgent Authoritarianism” by Dr. Jedidiah Kroncke (Law).

February 25: “Historicities and Temporalities in Jin Yong’s Fiction” by Dr. Jonathan Hui (HKIHSS)

More scholars from HKU and other universities are invited to present their research at the Seminar Series in March, April and May. Details are available online at www.hkihss.hku.hk/en/

Recent Events

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

Public Lectures (HKU and Peking University)



Prof. Lauren Kassell (Cambridge University) gave a MMEA Lecture on “Written in the Stars: Digitising an Astrological Archive” in the Institute on September 19, 2019. Prof. Kassell spoke on the Casebooks Project, having led a team of historians of science and medicine to create a new digital archive out of an older paper-based archival collection based on the works of English astrologer-physicians from around 1600. By introducing the Casebooks Project, she reflected on the approaches from the histories of science and medicine to the production of knowledge, both on paper and in xml, with broader questions about the history of record keeping, the meanings of archives, and the nature of scholarship in the 21st century.



Prof. Angela Ki Che Leung delivered a public lecture on “Changing Values of a Daily Food: the History of Soy Sauce Making in China” (日常食物的價值：醬油製造與中國歷史) at Peking University’s Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences as Distinguished Visiting Professor on December 19, 2019. This talk traced the long history of soy sauce making in China, focusing especially on its industrialization in a period of political division and economic crisis, and post-industrial developments that witnessed the construction of its values as a heritage food.

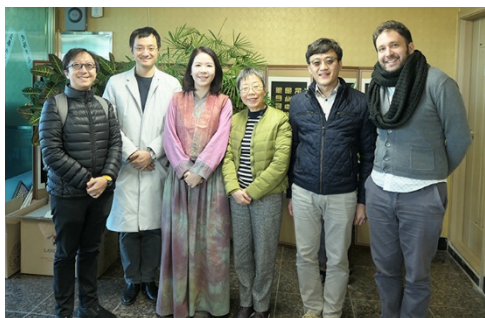
Film Screening and Dialogue with Director (November 4, 2019, HKU)

Director Jian Yi (簡藝), founder of the Good Food Fund, was invited to share with audience at HKU his short documentary *Six Years On*, a sequel to his *What’s for Dinner?*, and the thoughts behind his exciting journey from filmmaking to revolutionizing China’s culinary space in the last few years. The film show and the post-screening presentation by Director Jian provoked enthusiastic response from the audience.



From left: Dr. Xaq Frohich (Auburn University), Director Jian Yi, and Dr. Elizabeth Sinn engaging in post-screening discussion

Research fieldwork by the Food Technology Subproject Team (November 13-17, 2019, South Korea)



Prof. Angela Ki Che Leung and team members – Dr. Lawrence Zhang (HKUST), Dr. Hallam Stevens (Nanyang Technological University), Dr. Kim Tae-Ho (Chonbuk National University), Dr. Izumi Nakayama and Dr. John Wong (both from HKU) – conducted field research in Busan, Jeonju and Seoul during November 13-17, 2019. Joined by Dr. John P. DiMoia (Seoul National University), the group visited various sites including seaweed and fish sauce factories, tea farms, and National Folklore Museum, as well as engaged with colleagues of history of science and technology in Korea in in-depth discussions.

2. “Asian Religious Connections” (ARC) Cluster and CRF Project “Infrastructures of Faith: Religious Mobilities on the Belt and Road” (BRINFAITH)

Public Lectures

The Cluster presented ARC Lecture Series and BRINFAITH Lecture Series in the Institute in September 2019.



Dr. Ithamar Theodor (Zefat Academic College & Bar-Ilan University, Israel) was invited to speak on “The All Asian Bhagavad Gītā” at the ARC Lecture Series on September 19, 2019. Professors Fan Lizhu and Chen Na (both from Fudan University) were invited to give an inaugural lecture on “Muslim Traders in Yiwu (Zhejiang): Global Migrant Merchants and Local Markets” at the BRIFAITH Lecture Series on September 23, 2019. In the following week, Dr. Samsul Maarif (Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia) gave a presentation on “The Religiosity of Millennials and the Islamic Movement of Hijrah in Indonesia” on September 27, 2019.



From left are Prof. Fan Lizhu, Prof. Chen Na, and Dr. Samuel Maarif

BRINFAITH Infrastructure Group Theory Workshop (September 24, 2019, HKU)

The BRIFAITH project Hong Kong team members were joined by invited overseas scholars, Prof. Michael Feeners (Oxford University), Orlando Woods (Singapore Management University), Prof. Fan Lizhu and Prof. Chen Na (both from Fudan University), to discuss relevant theoretical approaches in the geography and anthropology of borderlands and infrastructures. Themes on Anthropology of Infrastructure, Infrastructural Geographies, Borders, and Zomia were addressed.

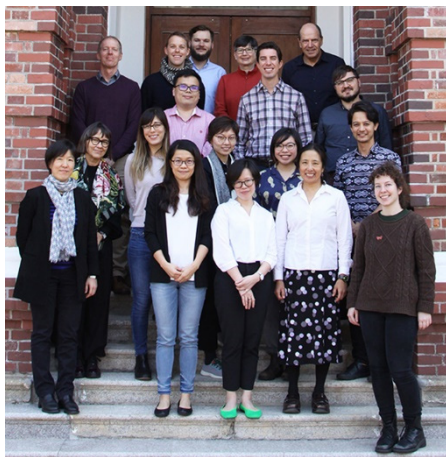
International Workshop on Yao Daoist Ritual (December 16-17, 2019, HKU)

The “International Workshop on Yao Daoist Ritual” was held on December 16-17, 2019. Participants included team members of the Yao Daoism (YAODAO) project in the Institute - Dr. David A. Palmer, Mr. Joseba Estevez, Dr. An Wei, Ms. Guo Huiwen and Mr. Martin Tse, co-investigators and collaborators - Dr. Lin Chen-yuan (Taiwan Chengchi University), Prof. Mark Meulenbeld (PolyU), and Dr. Tam Ngo (Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity). Prof. Huang Guiquan (Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences) gave a keynote address on indigenous classifications of Yao texts. Invited scholars Dr. Paul Katz (Academia Sinica), Dr. Chen Mei-wen (Hamburg University), and Dr. Guo Wu (Yunnan University). Prof. John Lagerwey (CUHK) offered valuable comments and suggestions to individual presentations.

The workshop, which was supported by the Institute’s Hang Seng Bank Golden Jubilee Education Fund for Research Scheme, is part of Dr. Palmer’s Yao Daoism project funded by the General Research Fund Scheme of the Hong Kong Research Grants Council. The project aims at developing a systematic ethnographic and textual anthropology of the Luang Namtha Lanten Yao ritual tradition in Laos, which will facilitate the analysis of the modern and contemporary transformations of the ritual tradition in the context of different socialist regimes and the Belt and Road Initiative.



3. Hubs, Mobilities, and the Asian Urban (HMAU) Cluster



Second China Made Workshop: China’s Domestic Infrastructures (January 9-10, 2020, HKU)

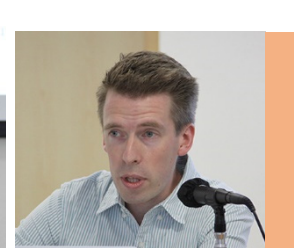
The Hubs, Mobilities and the Asian Urban Cluster has collaborated with University of Colorado Center for Asian Studies led by Prof. Timothy Oakes on the interdisciplinary research project, “China Made: Asian Infrastructures and the ‘China Model’ of Development”, with a grant of USD 390,000 from the Henry Luce Foundation. Followed the first China Made Workshop held at University of Colorado in October 2018, the Institute hosted the second workshop “China’s Domestic Infrastructures” in early January 2020. The workshop brought together 16 scholars from different fields of the social sciences and humanities to discuss infrastructure development in China to discuss China’s domestic infrastructure, including its political, social, cultural and environmental dimensions.

4. Institute Interdisciplinary Lunchtime Seminar Series (Fall 2019, HKU)

In the fall semester, five scholars shared their ongoing projects in the Interdisciplinary Lunchtime Seminar at the Institute. In September, Dr. Zhang Chaoxiong (HKIHSS, HKU) spoke on “Becoming Patients of the State? Addiction Treatment in China’s People’s War on Drugs” on September 10 and Dr. Daisy Yan Du (Humanities, HKUST) talked on “Animated Encounters: Transnational Movements of Chinese Animation 1940s – 1970s” on September 24. Three other talks were organized in the following months: “Champion Boxers and World-Famous Dancers: Law, Culture and Politics in the British Empire” by Dr. Alastair McClure (History, HKU) on October 8, “Old Wine in Old Bottles? 1980s Hong Kong Crime Films Revisited” by Dr. Kristof Van den Troost (China Studies, CUHK) on October 22, and “The Making of Scenic Sites: Tourism and Visual Representations of Scenic Landscape in Republican China” by Dr. Pedith Pui Chan (Cultural Management, CUHK) on November 5.



Dr. Zhang Chaoxiong and Dr. Daisy Yan Du



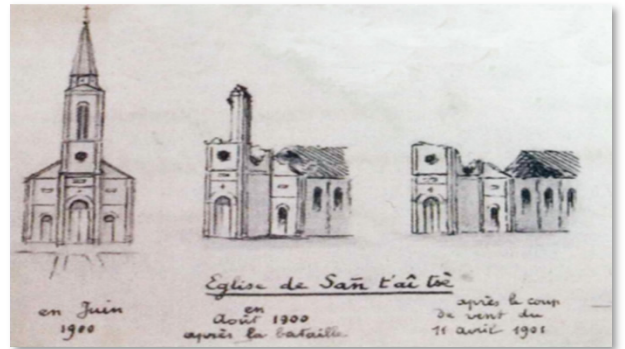
Dr. Alastair McClure and Dr. Kristof Van den Troost



Dr. Pedith Pui Chan

HKU Bulletin's Interview of Dr. Li Ji — Catholics in China: A Survival Story

Dr. Li Ji (HKIHSS & China Studies) shared her research on a survival story about Catholics in China in the latest issue of *HKU Bulletin*, November 2019. Dr. Li's work started in 2004 with a trip to the Society of Foreign Missions of Paris where she discovered letters between Chinese women from Manchuria villages and French missionaries. Her first book, *God's Little Daughters: Catholic Women in Nineteenth-Century Manchuria* (University of Washington Press, 2015) shows how Catholicism was disseminated by the priests and interpreted by believers to articulate an awareness of a self in the 19th century. She is now completing her second book manuscript, which will tell a story of how Catholics in China have held tightly to their identity and survived all the anti-Christian campaigns and movements after the Communist Party's took over until today. A full version of the interview is available online at www.hkihss.hku.hk/li-jis-bulletin.



Personalia

Staff Appointments

Dr. Jonathan Hui joined the Institute as Presidential Post-doctoral Fellow from November 2019.

Dr. John Wong joined the Institute as Joint Associate Professor from January 2020. Dr. John Wong is Associate Professor of Hong Kong Studies in the Faculty of Arts.

Dr. Tom McDonald, Assistant Professor, Sociology, HKU was appointed as HKIHSS Fellow from October 2019.

Mr. Jack Xing was appointed as Research Assistant from October 2019.

Visiting Scholars

Dr. Susan Henders, Associate Professor, Political Science, York University, from November 2019 – December 2020.

Prof. Paul Cohen, Professor of History Emeritus, Wellesley College, from January to February 2020.

Staff Departure

Dr. Gonçalo Santos, Assistant Professor, left the Institute w.e.f. October 3, 2019. We wish him every success in his future endeavors.

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.