



香港人文社會研究所

Hong Kong Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG



2017-2019 REPORT



HONG KONG INSTITUTE FOR THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

2017–2019 REPORT

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FOREWORD

In the past three years, the Institute aligned its development strategies with the University’s “3+1 Is” vision — converging **international**, **innovative** and **interdisciplinary initiatives** to create **impact**. Despite our compactness, the Institute has continued to make considerable impact through working with universities and research institutions in Asia, Europe, and the United States, developing cutting-edge, innovative inter-disciplinary projects. We have utilized public and private funds strategically to drive research that has relevance in both policy-making and in the larger community. We have published books and articles in leading academic presses and journals based on research funded by competitive grants. We have also produced a growing number of graduate students co-nurtured with overseas mentors and distinguished visiting scholars.

HIGHLIGHTS OF ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Successful Applications of Competitive Research Grants

The Institute boasts a remarkable record of securing competitive awards from the Research Grants Council (RGC) of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. Between the years 2017 and 2019, Institute has made great strides in applying for prestigious collaborative research grants. Two collaborative project grants were awarded by RGC under the Collaborative Research Fund Scheme¹ in 2017 and 2019. A total of HK \$13 million was awarded.

In addition, five out of seven projects submitted by colleagues of the Institute were funded by the RGC under three award schemes: the General Research Fund (GRF), the Early Career Scheme (ECS), and the Humanities and Social Sciences Prestigious Fellowship Scheme (HSSPFS). The amounts awarded totaled HK \$2.33 million.

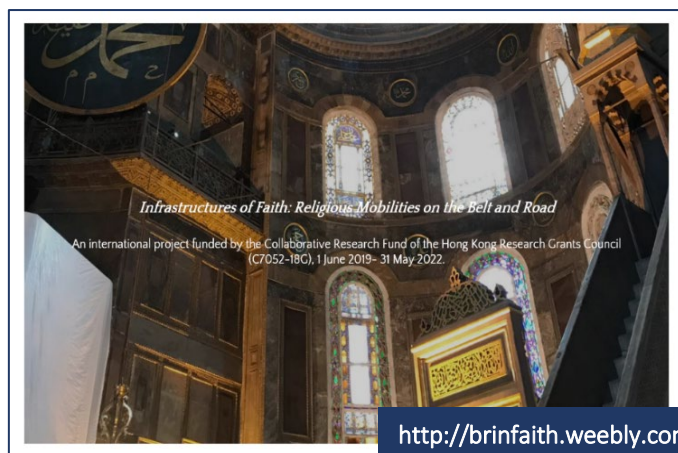
¹ The main objective of the Collaborative Research Fund Scheme is to encourage research groups in UGC-funded institutions to engage in collaborative research across disciplines and/or across institutions with a view to enhancing the research output of the institutions in terms of level of attainment, quantity, dimensions, and/or speed. Over the past twenty years, 214 projects were awarded under the Scheme; the total awarded amount was HK \$1.142 billion. Among them, 18 awarded projects (HK \$73.62 million) have been in the Humanities and Social Sciences Panel, including the two CRF Projects of the Institute.

The first of the two CRF Projects, “Making Modernity in East Asia: Technologies of Everyday Life, 19th–21st Centuries” (MMEA) (打造現代東亞：十九至廿一世紀的日用技術), is led by Prof. Angela Ki Che Leung. Since June 2017, the project’s international team, comprising 16 scholars of the humanities and social sciences, has worked together closely to establish a new, interdisciplinary way of understanding East Asian modernity through the lens of everyday technology. The team’s ambition is to build a sustainable platform to synergize research on this topic, and to create in four years an *area of excellence* which will make Hong Kong a world-class research center for the study of technology and culture in East Asia.



<https://mmea.hku.hk/>

With his international and interdisciplinary team of 21 scholars in anthropology, geography, sociology, history, political science, and religious studies, Dr. David A. Palmer started the second of the CRF Projects, entitled “Infrastructures of Faith: Religious Mobility on the Belt and Road” (BRINFAITH) (信仰基建：一帶一路與宗教流動), in June 2019. The team has been investigating the religious impact of China’s intensification of ties and infrastructures linking it to the rest of Asia, now subsumed under the label of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), and it aims to develop critically needed expertise for Hong Kong, China and Asia on the religious dimensions of the Belt and Road Initiative ties and their implications for relations with the Chinese world, with applications in the fields of public policy, education, and inter-cultural and inter-religious understanding. The output of the project will create a critical mass of scholarship that will become a foundational reference for reshaping the social scientific study of religion in China and Asia, and the geographical and geopolitical studies of Asia.



<http://brinfaith.weebly.com/>

These two CRF Projects have been driven by research graduate teaching and knowledge transfer events in collaboration with local and overseas partners. The two platforms integrate visits of global scholars with local research activities, facilitating the generation of collaborative publication projects and the co-supervision of graduate students. More about our students is on pp.36-40.

2. Gifts for Institutional Development

The Institute received generous gifts from donors in the past three years for different programs intending to further boost up our institutional capacity.

A major donation from the Hung Hing Ying and Leung Hau Ling Charitable Foundation and Kowloon Investment Company Limited was matched by the University to establish the Hung Leung Hau Ling Distinguished Visiting Professorship in the Humanities and Social Sciences. The scheme was set up at the Institute in 2016, and Prof. Eric Tagliacozzo of Cornell



University, world-renowned historian of East Asia and Southeast Asia, was appointed the inaugural scholar of the distinguished professorship scheme for two years (2017–2018).

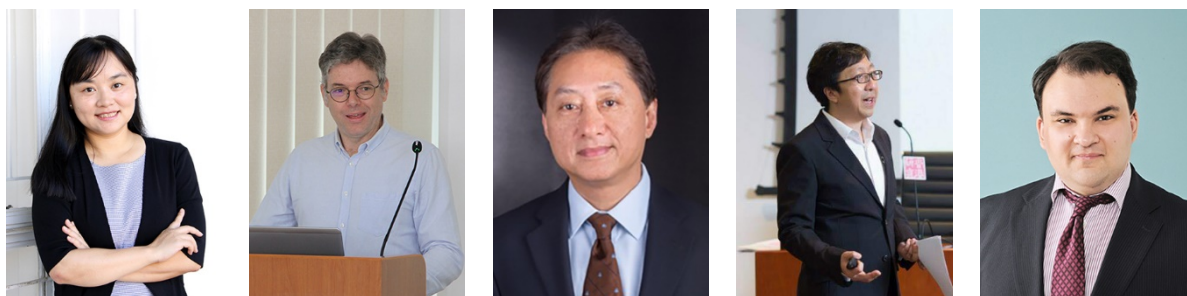
The Institute also received generous gifts from the Hong Kong Foundation for the Humanities and Social Sciences, the NeoUnion Education Science and Culture Organization, the Lee Hysan Foundation, and other private donors for designated programs and projects established by the Institute and its research clusters. These have led to the building of path-breaking programs in target areas, invaluable links with reputable institutions, and the provision of a knowledge-exchange platform for the Hong Kong community.

3. Growing Manpower Resource

The number of the Institute's academic colleagues significantly increased in the past years. These colleagues have formed a core group, working closely with other scholars to participate in the Institute's multi-year cross-disciplinary research and teaching. (Appendix 1: List of Academic Colleagues and Visiting Scholars)

A. Joint Professorships

To further boost our research capacity, the Institute has collaborated with the Faculties of Arts, Social Sciences, and Business and Economics on establishing joint professorships: Dr. Ji Li (with Arts since 2016), Dr. David A. Palmer (with Social Sciences since 2018), Prof. James Kai-sing Kung (with Business and Economics from 2019), and Dr. John D. Wong (with Arts from 2020). We also launched a global search for a tenure-track assistant professor in spring 2018, subsequently recruiting Dr. Ghassan Moazzin, a Cambridge PhD in History, who has been on board since summer of 2019, and will work closely with the History Department of Faculty of Arts.



From left are Dr. Ji Li, Dr. David A. Palmer, Prof. James Kai-sing Kung, Dr. John D. Wong, and Dr. Ghassan Moazzin

B. Post-doctoral Fellowships

In addition to joint professorships, the Institute has also created post-doctoral fellow positions, some of which have been established with the Faculty of Arts: Dr. Christine Luk (2016–2018, with Arts) and Dr. Till Mostowlansky (2018, with Arts). Both of them worked closely with colleagues in Faculty of Arts to do undergraduate teaching and to co-organize joint academic events. Four other young scholars joined the Institute in 2018 and 2019: Dr. Kyoungjin Bae and Dr. Chaoxiong Zhang (under the CRF Project on “Making Modernities in East Asia”), Dr. Elvan Cobb, and Dr. Jonathan Y. H. Hui, one of the first HKU Presidential Postdoctoral Fellows.

These young talents were trained at renowned universities in the United States and Europe — Cornell University, Columbia University, Washington University in St. Louis, Arizona State University, Bern University and the University of Cambridge. Their intellectual interests are closely tied to the Institute’s Inter-Asia agenda. In a relatively short amount of time, they have increased the visibility of the Institute’s programs by organizing well-attended seminars, linking the Institute with local and overseas institutions through participation in research events, and producing publications.



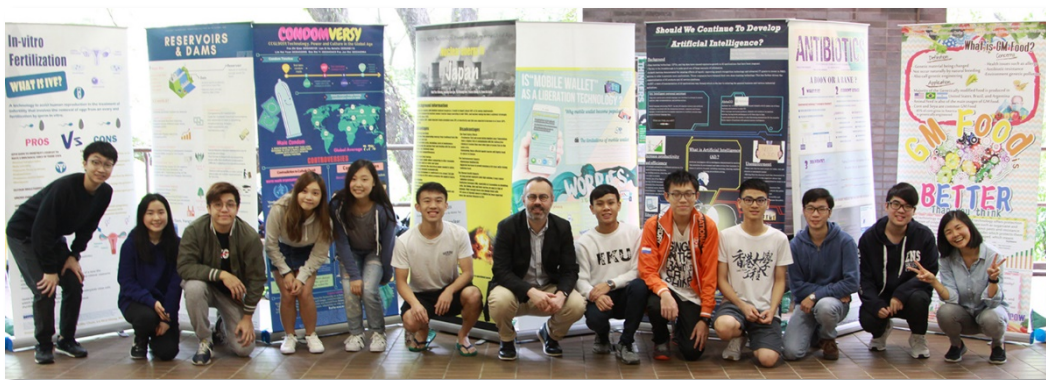
From left are:

- Dr. Luk, currently Assistant Professor at Tsinghua University in Beijing
- Dr. Mostowlansky, currently Research Fellow in anthropology at Graduate Institute Geneva, active in the Institute's CRF Projects
- Dr. Bae, currently Assistant Professor of Asian History at Kenyon College
- Dr. Cobb, currently Spatial Humanities Fellow in Levantine Studies, Humanities Research Center, Rice University
- Dr. Zhang works under the CRF Project on "Making Modernities in East Asia" at the Institute
- Dr. Hui is developing a project to compare the fictions of Jin Yong with those by British authors including Walter Scott, William Morris, and J. R. R. Tolkien

4. Deeper Integration in the University

A. Contributions to the Common Core Curriculum

Since 2017, the Institute has contributed two courses — "Gender, Health, and Globalization" and "Technology, Power, and Culture in the Global Age" — to the University's undergraduate Common Core Curriculum (CCC). These courses have each attracted more than 100 students and received excellent assessment from enrolled students.



Class of 2018 of "Technology, Power, and Culture in the Global Age," showing off their project posters on HKU campus

Our efforts to inspire undergraduate students caught the University's attention in 2019. The CCC Office invited the Institute and Dr. Izumi Nakayama to offer "Gender, Health, and Globalization"

for the new initiative “China Liberal Arts Summer Session (CLASS),” a collaboration between the University and three major partner universities in the mainland — Nanjing, Zhejiang, and Shanghai Jiao Tong, in summer 2019. Dr. Nakayama’s course is one of five selected courses that have made this initiative a success. A third course, “Chinese Medicine: Innovation, Tradition, and Experience,” has also been selected by the CCC Office, to be offered in the coming years.

B. Collaborating with Other Units

The Institute also worked closely with the Department of History of the Faculty of Arts and the Development and Alumni Affairs Office of the University to bring Prof. Gungwu Wang (王賡武), Former President of the University, back to the campus for a two-week visit under the Sin Wai-Kin Distinguished Visiting Professorship in the Humanities in November 2018. Our special thanks to Graduate House, who sponsored the venue and offered support in providing live streaming of the event.



During his visit, Prof. Wang delivered a lecture on “China’s South: Changing Perspectives,” which attracted an enthusiastic audience of more than 250 responding with a standing ovation. Along with Prof. Yun-Han Chu (朱雲漢), leading political scientist from Academia Sinica in Taiwan, and Prof. Zhaoguang Ge (葛兆光), prominent historian from Fudan University in Shanghai, Prof. Wang also led a panel discussion (in Mandarin Chinese) on the wax and wane of modern China from a global history’s perspective (從全球史看近世中國的興衰), inspiring lively interactions with the audience around the role of China on the global stage in recent history.



(From right) Prof. Gungwu Wang, Prof. Angela Ki Che Leung (moderator), Prof. Zhaoguang Ge, and Prof. Yun-Han Chu at the Forum

The twin events were streamed live to engage more audience from different regions:

Lecture: <https://uvision.hku.hk/m/22468>

Panel discussion: <https://uvision.hku.hk/m/22469>

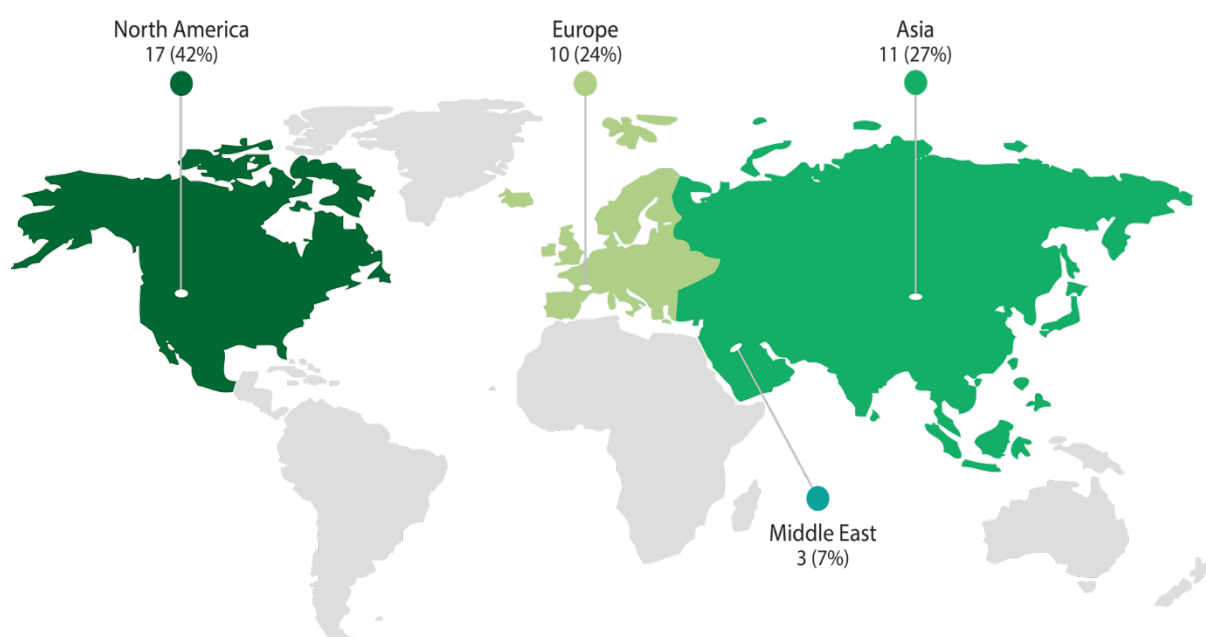
Transcripts of Prof. Gungwu Wang's lecture and Prof. Zhaoguang Ge's talk are currently available online:

Prof. Wang's lecture: <https://www.hkihss.hku.hk/WGW-lecture>

Prof. Ge's talk: <https://www.hkihss.hku.hk/GZG-script>

5. Expanding Global Network

The Institute has a mission to promote innovative, cross-disciplinary scholarship in a global context. Over the years, we have developed global strategic partnerships, and have continued to enlarge these networks through research activities and collaboration.



A map shows the number of our partners and their locations

In addition to long-term partners such as Yale University, the Harvard-Yenching Institute, the Social Science Research Council (New York), National University of Singapore, and Peking University, the Institute's two aforementioned CRF Projects have created new partnerships with global institutions such as the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity, Heidelberg University, the Oxford Centre for

Islamic Studies (OCIS), Needham Research Institute (NRI), Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (Geneva), Society for the History of Technology (SHOT), Academia Sinica, Duke University's *East Asian Science, Technology and Society: An International Journal (EASTS)*, the Indonesian Consortium for Religious Studies (ICRS), King Faisal Centre for Research and Islamic Studies, Singapore Management University (SMU), and Chonbuk National University in South Korea. More on the multi-year partnerships and global network is detailed on pp.22-26.

We are grateful to the University and private donors for supporting the Institute's efforts in bringing to Hong Kong our partners, world renowned scholars, as well as young talents whose expertise may not be readily available in the local community. In the past three years, senior scholars from the United States, Europe, and Asia visited the Institute with support from the University's Visiting Research Professorship Scheme and the Sin Wai-Kin Distinguished Visiting Professorship Scheme, as well as the Hung Leung Hau Ling Distinguished Visiting Professorship Scheme and the Institutional Enhancement Scheme established by generous donors. Distinguished scholars gave public lectures, taught seminar courses, mentored students and young scholars, while engaging in the work and projects of the Institute's research clusters during their stay in the Institute. Their partnerships with the Institute have continued after their tenure.

On the right are professors who have visited the Institute in the past three years: (top row from left) Prof. Gungwu Wang (National University of Singapore and HKU), Prof. Helen F. Siu (Yale University); (middle row from left) Prof. Eric Tagliacozzo (Cornell University), Prof. Ellen Hertz (Université de Neuchâtel), Prof. Benjamin A. Elman (Princeton University); (bottom row from left) Prof. Biao Xiang (Oxford University), Prof. Dagmar Schäfer (Max Planck Institute for the History of Science), Prof. Timothy Oakes (University of Colorado Boulder).



We also thank Dr. Sin Wai-Kin (冼為堅博士) for his generosity to the Institute for establishing the Sin Wai-Kin Junior Fellowship. Since 2011, this scheme has allowed us to groom junior colleagues and advanced graduate students from the University. It also enables us to subsidize the visits of junior scholars from overseas who share the Institute's research interests. Over time, we have seen an emerging global network of the younger generation attached to the Institute. We have every reason to believe that their long-term impact in producing leadership in Hong Kong's tertiary education will be immense.

Scholars who were awarded the Sin Wai-Kin Junior Fellowship continue to work with the Institute regardless of their whereabouts. Awardees in the past three years include:

Mr. George Bayuga (Anthropology, Yale University), Ms. Dorothy Tang (Architecture, MIT), Dr. Nina Sylvanus (Anthropology, Northeastern University), Dr. Christine Luk (History of Science, Tsinghua University in Beijing), Dr. Till Mostowlansky (Anthropology, Graduate Institute Geneva), Dr. Loretta Kim, Dr. John D. Wong, Dr. Ji Li, Dr. Daniel Trambaiolo, Dr. Max Hirsh, Dr. Izumi Nakayama, and Dr. Cheris Chan (all are from HKU). (Appendix 2: List of Projects funded by Sin Wai-Kin Junior Fellowship 2017–2019)



Top row from left: Dr. Kim, Dr. Wong, Dr. Li, Dr. Trambaiolo, and Dr. Hirsh

Bottom row from left: Dr. Chan, Dr. Luk, Mr. Bayuga, Ms. Tang, Dr. Sylvanus, and Dr. Mostowlansky

LOOKING AHEAD

Not letting itself be held back by a modest beginning, the Institute has flourished into a hub of learning in a well-connected Asia, and is now one of the two key independent research units at HKU. Our distinguished characters — multi-disciplinary approach, dynamic structure with multiplier effects, strategic leveraging in teaching and research, stable funding unencumbered by bureaucratic restrictions — have allowed us to build a dedicated community of critical minds. We continue to sink roots in the University, to extend our global and regional connections and reach out to society. By so doing, we will continue to serve as a model to show what is possible for collaborative research in the humanities and social sciences, and how it can inspire younger generations to be creative.

We spent the first ten years securing a solid scholarly infrastructure and governance. The last eight years saw an acceleration of program-building, networking, and establishing a global brand name. The next ten years will be a period of consolidation and strategic repositioning in view of the drastic transformations in Hong Kong, China, Asia, and the world. We are launching a major fund drive to ensure that our efforts in the past two decades are sustainable, and can be passed on to the next generation of academic leaders.

CORE PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

1. Signature Research Clusters

The Institute has strategically leveraged public and private funds to drive basic research that has policy and community relevance. In 2013, the Institute re-organized existing research clusters to reinforce an Inter-Asian agenda. The new groups are **Science, Technology and Medicine in Asian Societies (STMS)**, **Hubs, Mobilities and the Asian Urban (HMAU)**, and **Asian Religious Connections (ARC)** (formerly known as “Rethinking Spirituality and Religion in Asia”). In addition to organizing regular seminars and lectures (pp.26-29), the research clusters and CRF Projects have continued to deliver research output in the form of high-impact research-based events (e.g. conferences, workshops, and forums) and collaborative publications.

A. Science, Technology and Medicine in Asian Societies (STMS)

Directed by Prof. Angela Ki Che Leung, the STMS research cluster challenges deeply entrenched ideas about the autonomy of science and technology, and encourages the development of innovative cross-disciplinary approaches to the interplay between science-technology, social political life, and humanistic values.

I. Projects funded by Competitive Grants

In 2017, the cluster won a prestigious Collaborative Research Grant of HK \$6.6 million from the Research Grants Council for the three-year project “Making Modernity in East Asia: Technologies of Everyday Life, 19th–21st Centuries” (MMEA). Led by Prof. Angela Ki Che Leung, the team of 16 scholars ² — both local and global — has collaborated with institutional partners including the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin, Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies (HCTS), Heidelberg University, the Needham Research Institute in Cambridge, United Kingdom, and the journal *East Asian Science, Technology and Society (EASTS)*. An international advisory board ³ has also been

² Local team members include Prof. Angela Ki Che Leung (Project Director), Dr. Izumi Nakayama, Dr. Kam Wing Fung, Dr. Daniel Trambaiolo, Prof. Robert Peckham, Dr. Max Hirsh, Dr. Gonçalo Santos (all from HKU), Prof. Christian A. Daniels, Prof. Naubahar Sharif, and Dr. Lawrence Zhang from HKUST. International collaborators include Dr. Tae-Ho Kim (Chonbuk National University), Prof. Wen-Hua Kuo (National Yang-Ming University), Dr. Hallam Stevens (Nanyang Technological University), Prof. Francesca Bray (University of Edinburgh), Prof. Suzanne Gottschang (Smith College), and Ms. Dorothy Tang (MIT). Dr. Santos left the University on October 3, 2019.

³ Advisory Board members include Prof. Wiebe E. Bijker (Maastricht University), Prof. Gregory Clancey (National University of Singapore), Prof. Francesca Bray (University of Edinburgh), Prof. Fa-ti Fan (SUNY Binghamton), and Prof. Suzanne Moon (University of Oklahoma).

established. Two annual board meetings were held where insightful advice on ways to maintain a sustainable and international platform in Hong Kong for the study of technology in East Asia was offered.



Key members of the CRF MMEA Project and invited scholars at a brainstorming workshop before the project commenced

In 2018, the STMS cluster also obtained another competitive grant of HK \$0.53 million from the General Research Fund Scheme of the Research Grants Council in support of the project “The Birth of East Asian Modern Entrepreneurship: the Case of Soy Sauce Making, ca. 1880–1960,” led by Prof. Angela Ki Che Leung and Dr. Izumi Nakayama. The team has been working in the past couple of years, conducting field work and site visits in China, Taiwan, Japan, and South Korea, and collecting archival materials. The team has shared preliminary findings on the history of soy sauce-making in East Asia with the academia in the *HKU Bulletin* (Volume 20, May 2019).

Selected here are pictures showing field visits to soy sauce/miso manufacturers in Hong Kong, Japan, Taiwan, and South Korea.



(Clockwise from top left)
Soy sauce manufacturer reminiscing at his family workshop in Shodoshima, Japan (October 2018); quality miso in barrel in Ishikawa, Japan (November 2019); Prof. Angela Ki Che Leung interviewing owner of traditional soy sauce manufacturing house in Xiluo, Taiwan (April 2019); soy sauce manufacturer in Sheung Shui, Hong Kong (September 2019); teacher of a soy sauce workshop in village outside Jeollabuk-do, South Korea (November 2019)



In the past three years, the MMEA team has been productive, organizing two plenary conferences, 13 workshops, 13 public lectures and seminars, two film screenings, one exhibition preview, and three collective fieldwork in Asia. All of these research-driven events focused on the technologies of everyday life in the Asian region, with sub-themes of food technologies, reproductive labour and gynocentric technologies, socio-technical systems of pharmacotherapy, transport and urban infrastructure, weather and environmental technologies, epidemic intelligence and the future of communications, and automation and the future of work. Pictured below are some examples:



(Clockwise from top left) Team members and invited scholars at the First MMEA Plenary Conference in December 2017; participants of the workshop “Technological Innovations and Social Change,” May 2018; speakers at the “Weather, Climate, and Everyday Life” forum, May 2019; workshop “Making East Asian Foods,” May 2019

In 2019, the MMEA Project progressed to its second stage, and the team started reaching out to international communities, announcing its mid-term research findings. It organized a panel at the 9th Tension of Europe Conference, “Decoding Europe: Technological Pasts in the Digital Age” in

June 2019, where a small group of three from the team — Prof. Angela Ki Che Leung, Dr. Max Hirsh and Dr. Izumi Nakayama — gave a presentation on the project’s main goals, structure, and mid-term findings. The group transformed the presentation into a position paper on infrastructure, technologies and everyday life, which has been accepted by *East Asian Science, Technology and Society (EASTS)*.

The CRF MMEA Project has also planned to share its research findings with the community through a Virtual Museum, which will be launched in spring 2020 to engage the curiosity of the public.

II. Publications

- A book volume *Gender, Health, and History in Modern East Asia*, edited by Prof. Angela Ki Che Leung and Dr. Izumi Nakayama (Hong Kong University Press, 2017).
- A book volume *Moral Foods: The Construction of Nutrition and Health in Modern Asia*, edited by Prof. Angela Ki Che Leung and Prof. Melissa L. Caldwell (University of Hawai’i Press, 2019).
- A special issue *Innovation and Work in East Asia*, edited by Prof. Naubahar Sharif and Dr. Yu Huang for the journal *Science, Technology and Society* (2019).
- Three journal articles were published: one by Prof. Robert Peckham and Dr. Ria Sinha in *Global Public Health: An International Journal for Research, Policy and Practice* (November 2018); one by Prof. Naubahar Sharif and Dr. Yu Huang in *The China Journal* (January 2019); and another one by Prof. Naubahar Sharif and Mr. Linzhou Xing in *Science and Public Policy* (September 2019).
- An article by Dr. Izumi Nakayama, published on *AsiaGlobal Online*, HKU (May 2018).



More about MMEA publications: <https://mmea.hku.hk/publications>

III. Nurturing Young Talents

The STMS cluster collaborated with the Institute's long-time partner Peking University on the organization of a seminar course titled "Methodology and Practice in History of Material Culture" (物質文化史的方法和實踐) for selected undergraduate, graduate students and teachers from Peking University and other local universities in Beijing from December 9 to 20, 2019. The ten-day course was hosted by the Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences of Peking University. Led by Prof. Angela Ki Che Leung, Prof. Dorothy Ko of Barnard College of Columbia University, and Prof. Dagmar Schäfer of the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin, the trainees engaged in three open lectures, small group presentations and discussions, and field visits to traditional food making workshops. More about the program is detailed on pp.25-26.

Professors Dagmar Schäfer, Angela Ki Che Leung, and Dorothy Ko (back row, middle) with some of the workshop trainees at the Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences, Beijing



The cluster has also entered into a second phase agreement with the Harvard-Yenching Institute in 2019 to organize a publication workshop on the "Technology and East Asian Society" for selected participants from the two advanced training workshops on "Humanities, Social Sciences and Medicine in East Asia: Interdisciplinary Approaches" in 2015 and 2016.

B. Hubs, Mobilities and the Asian Urban (HMAU)

I. Research Projects and Project-based Events

Led by Prof. Helen F. Siu, the HMAU cluster tracks the "art of hubbing" — local, regional and global positioning by Asian cities — and captures the lived experiences of their populations as they engage in the tumultuous modern transformations of Asia in the past century and the urban renaissance of the new century. In the past three years, the cluster focused on research and

organization of research-based events and knowledge transfer activities. The pictures below capture some of these academic and knowledge transfer events, organized in collaboration with local intellectuals and overseas partners.



Clockwise from top left are:

- Scholars at workshop “Asia Inside Out: Mobile Peoples” in Vietnam, January 2017, leading to *Itinerant People*, third volume of *Asia Inside Out* (Harvard University Press)
- Prof. K. Sivaramakrishnan at the “Urban Ecologies in Asia III” workshop, HKIHS, June 2018. After the three-day workshop and fieldwork, the team began working on the third volume of the *Ecologies and Urbanism* Series
- At “Forum on the Political Economy of China-Hong Kong Relations during the Trade War,” January 2019, co-organized with Society for Hong Kong Studies
- Project Citizens Forum “What Makes Hong Kong Special?,” held in collaboration with the Project Citizens Foundation, June 2018. A second forum entitled “Voice of Hong Kong” was held in May 2019



Internationally, the cluster also formed in 2018 a partnership with the University of Colorado Center for Asian Studies, led by Prof. Timothy Oakes, and successfully obtained a research grant of US \$390,000 from the New York-based Henry Luce Foundation, for a three-year interdisciplinary research collaboration called “China Made: Asia Infrastructure and the ‘China Model’ of

Development.” The first China Made workshop, “Conceiving Infrastructures in a Chinese Register,” was held at the University of Colorado in October 2018. More details are on p.24.

II. Hong Kong Documentary Film Project

In 2017, the cluster embarked on a major documentary film project *Denise Ho: Becoming the Song*. The project is jointly supported by HKIHSS, the Council on East Asian Studies at Yale University and numerous individual donors. An award-winning team — Sue Williams (Director/Producer), Emma Morris (Editor), Jerry Risius (Director of Photography), and Nancy Tong (Co-producer) — worked with students and colleagues from Yale and Hong Kong who provided the needed background research.

The film focuses on the life and career of Cantopop singer Denise Ho to reflect the rapid transformations of Hong Kong/Lingnan culture and society in the past decades. The talented and determined young singer/song-writer grew up with an elite English education in Hong Kong and came of age in Montreal after her family emigrated to Canada. She represents a generation of HongKongers whose identities and values straddle cultures and continental divides. A longtime advocate for an encompassing society who has chosen to speak truth to power, Ho is seen by many as a voice of hope for a young generation of HongKongers striving to uphold Hong Kong’s institutional integrity, cosmopolitan styles, and humanist values.

Most of the filming was done in Hong Kong and North America in 2018 and in the summer and fall of 2019. The editing process took over a year in 2019. A final cut of the film will be produced in early 2020 for submission to several documentary film festivals in North America and Europe.

III. Publications

Most of the Institute's research-based workshops have resulted in top-quality publications, published by leading presses including Harvard University Press and Hong Kong University Press, to promote the fundamental rethinking of conventional analytical categories. Some examples are shown below:

- The *Asia Inside Out* series, edited by Prof. Helen F. Siu, Prof. Eric Tagliacozzo and Prof. Peter Perdue, published by Harvard University Press. The third volume of the series, *Itinerant People*, was published in 2019. The first and second volumes, *Changing Times* and *Connected Places* were published in 2015.
- *Places of Nature in Ecologies of Urbanism*, edited by Prof. K. Sivaramakrishnan and Prof. Anne M. Rademacher. It was the second volume of a series published by Hong Kong University Press in 2017. The first volume, *Ecologies of Urbanism in India: Metropolitan Civility and Sustainability*, was published in 2013.
- *Meeting Place: Encounters across Cultures in Hong Kong, 1841–1984*, edited by Prof. Elizabeth Sinn and Dr. Christopher Munn, was published by Hong Kong University Press in 2017.



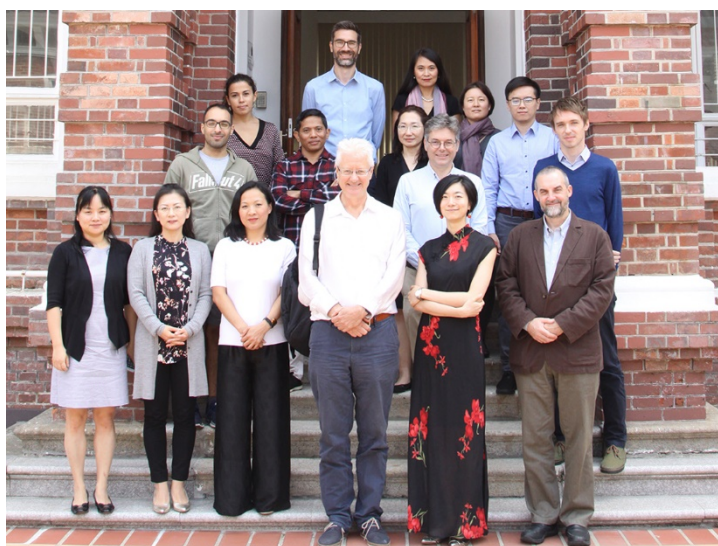
C. Asian Religious Connections (ARC)

I. Projects Funded by Competitive Grants

The past three years have been highly productive for the ARC cluster (formerly Rethinking Spirituality and Religion in Asia), led by Dr. David A. Palmer. The cluster has notably secured grants of HK \$8.2 million from the Research Grants Council of Hong Kong for three projects: two — one on religious mobility under the Belt and Road Initiative, and one on Daoist rituals in China,

Vietnam, and Laos — led by Dr. Palmer, and one on Christianity and modern China led by Dr. Ji Li.

Among these projects, “Infrastructures of Faith: Religious Mobility on the Belt and Road” (BRINFAITH) has received a grant of HK \$6.2 million from the RGC, and is a CRF Project. Directed by Dr. Palmer, the international and cross-disciplinary team comprises 21 scholars from anthropology, geography, sociology, political science and religious studies.⁴ International partners of the project include the American Institute of Pakistan Studies in Islamabad, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity, Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies, the Asia Research Institute of the National University of Singapore, and the School of Social Sciences of Singapore Management University. The team will develop critically needed expertise for Hong Kong, China and Asia on the religious dimension of the Belt and Road Initiative and its implications and relations with the Chinese world, with applications in



Members of the CRF BRINFAITH team and some invited scholars after a planning meeting in October 2018

public policy, education, and intercultural and inter-religious understanding. The project hopes to generate critical scholarship that will form a foundation for reshaping the social and scientific study of religion in China and Asia.

In 2019, with new injections of resources, the cluster completed the Digital Library of the Lanten Yao Textual Heritage. A collaboration with the University of Münster, this project begun in 2015 with funding support from the British Library’s Endangered Archives Programme. The project completed the scanning of over 2,000 manuscripts in northern Laos that constituted a resource of

⁴ The CRF BRINFAITH team includes five co-principal investigators and 16 collaborators from local and overseas. The co-principal investigators are Dr. Georgios Halkias, Dr. Ji Li and Dr. Junxi Qian (HKU), Dr. James Frankel (CUHK), and Dr. Wai Yip Ho (EdUHK). The collaborators are Dr. Paul Joosse, Dr. Liping Wang, Dr. Loretta Kim, Mr. Joseba Estévez, and Ms. Anna Iskra (HKU), Dr. Weishan Huang (CUHK), Mr. Ian Johnson (Beijing Center for Chinese Studies), Dr. Samsul Maarif (Universitas Gadjah Mada in Indonesia), Dr. Yuting Wang (American University Sharjah), Prof. Kenneth Dean (NUS), Dr. Orlando Woods (Singapore Management University), Dr. Michael Feener (Oxford), Prof. Peter van der Veer and Dr. Tam Ngo (Max Planck Institute), and Dr. Till Mostowlansky (Graduate Institute Geneva).

unique cultural value in Lanten society. The complete Digital Library of the Lanten Textual Heritage will be available on the Endangered Archives Programme's website in two phases (EAP791 and EAP1126). Please also see p.32.

While carrying out research, the ARC cluster has continued to serve as a platform for scholars from different regions to showcase their work and to engage the wider academic community. In the past three years, a total of 26 lectures and nine workshops were organized, and several talks were presented with other HKU units such as the Department of Sociology and the Journalism and Media Studies Centre.



Speakers at the Spirituality, Religion and Society Lecture Series: Prof. Jeffrey Wasserstrom of UC Irvine (left); Prof. Ithamar Theodor of Zefat Academic College, Israel

The cluster has also participated in nurturing scholars in the field of religious studies. It organized a three-week “Asia Network Faculty Enrichment Program” with the Hong Kong-America Center in 2018 for ten US-based faculty members who taught on religious issues in Asia. The program included a week-long seminar in Hong Kong and two-week fieldwork in China and India.

With funding support from the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia, the cluster partnered with institutions in India and Indonesia to organize a series of three annual summer schools on “New Approaches to Religious Diversity in Asia: India-China-Indonesia” in 2017–2019. The three-year project has built research, teaching and collaborative capacity among a core network of junior and senior scholars in India, China, and Indonesia through the summer schools, hosted at the Institute and partners in India and Indonesia. The final school was held in early August 2019. The group plans to publish an edited book volume or journal issue on new approaches to religious pluralism in Asia and an online resources for education purposes. More details about the project are available at <https://rsa-ici.weebly.com/>.

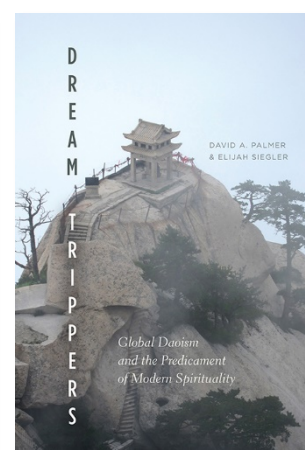
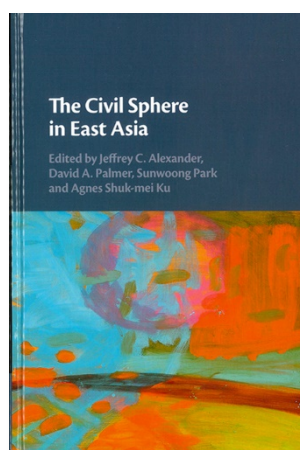
At HKU, the cluster has started collaborations with the Faith and Science Collaborative Research Forum (FaSCORE) in the area of discourses of science and religion. Dr. Palmer and Dr. Michael

Brownutt, Associate Director of FaSCORE, have been co-teaching a Common Core Course on “Science and Religion: Questioning Truth, Knowledge and Life” for undergraduate students in the past years.

II. Publications

While research and teaching advanced at a robust rhythm, the cluster has delivered high-quality publications in the past three years:

- Two books were published: *Dream Trippers: Global Daoism and the Predicament of Modern Spirituality*, edited by Dr. Palmer with Dr. Elijah Siegler (University of Chicago Press, 2017); and *The Civil Sphere in East Asia*, edited by Dr. Palmer et al. (Cambridge University Press, 2019).
- Four single-authored/co-authored articles in peer-reviewed journals: two articles by Dr. Ji Li on religions and governance in *The China Review* and *Twentieth-Century China* (2018); one by Dr. Palmer and Dr. Jeremy James on religion and the building of a national identity in the *Journal of Asian Studies* (2018); and another one by Dr. Palmer, Mr. Martin Tse, and Mr. Chip Colwell on cultural objects and Guanyin practices and discourses in Hong Kong in *American Anthropologist* (August 2019).



2. Global Multi-Year Partnerships

A. Social Science Research Council and National University of Singapore

Since 2010, the Institute has worked with the Social Science Research Council (SSRC) and National University of Singapore (NUS) to organize international conferences under the “Inter-Asian Connections” (IAC) program. The partnership has extended to Yale University and University of Göttingen in the last three years. The extended partnership has organized two IAC conferences (fifth and sixth of the series).

The fifth conference was hosted by the Seoul National University Asia Center (SNUAC) in April 2016. The sixth conference was hosted by the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences (VASS) in

Hanoi in December 2018. Each conference was composed of open plenary sessions, keynote speeches, and six to eight workshops to showcase cutting-edge research from across the social sciences and related disciplines that underlined the re-definition of Asia as a region by its connectedness and dis-connectedness. Applications to each event were more than 200. Only 101 were accepted in 2016, and 74 in 2018.



At the IAC Conference in Seoul: Prof. Helen F. Siu (left) listening to Prof. Angela Ki Che Leung at the Directors' Plenary Session "Mediated Populism Across Asia"

At the 2018 conference in Hanoi, Dr. Izumi Nakayama of the Institute co-directed the workshop "States of Fortifications: Connecting Asia through Technologies of Food and Health" with Prof. Melissa L. Caldwell of University of California, Santa Cruz. Ten papers were accepted for this workshop on technological interventions in food and health and how informed projects of modernity, sovereignty, empire building, and subjectivity across Asia, with particular attention to the temporal and geopolitical modalities. The group planned to edit a special journal issue with selected workshop papers.

B. Yale University

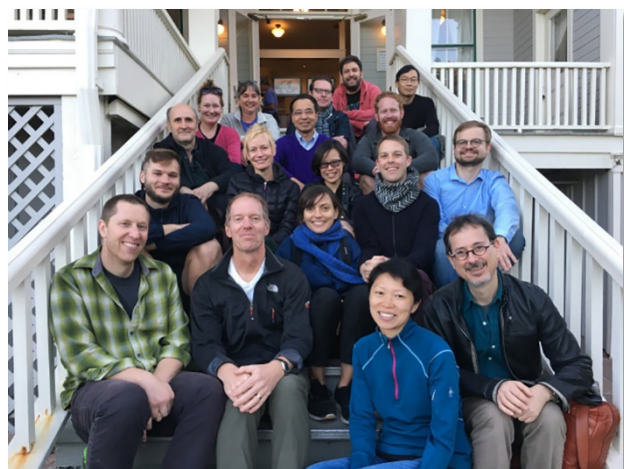
Yale University is the Institute's long-term partner. As Visiting Professor, Prof. Helen F. Siu has worked closely with the Institute on research, organizing events, and nurturing postgraduate students, while leading the Institute's Hubs, Mobilities and the Asia Urban (HMAU) cluster. Yale's Council on East Asian Studies and Department of Anthropology have engaged some of the HMAU programs, including the workshop series "Asia Inside Out: Mobile Peoples," the publication of the *Asia Inside Out* series, and the production of the Hong Kong documentary film project.

Yale University and the Institute have continued long-term efforts to nurture young scholars. In 2016, Mr. George Bayuga (Anthropology, Yale University) was awarded the Sin Wai-Kin Junior Fellowship and came to the Institute for one year to conduct research on his PhD thesis “Infrastructures of Faith: Catholics Channels Across the South China Sea.” During his visit, Mr. Bayuga also shared first-hand experience on applying for competitive international grants.



C. Center for Asian Studies, University of Colorado Boulder

The Institute began collaborating with the Center for Asian Studies (CAS) at the University of Colorado Boulder after Prof. Timothy Oakes, Director of CAS, visited the Institute for a semester in 2017. In 2018, CAS and the Institute started the research project entitled “China Made: Asian Infrastructures and the ‘China Model’ of Development,” which was eventually awarded a grant of USD \$390,000 by the Henry Luce Foundation. The *China Made* project has been proceeding in three stages, with each stage culminating in a work. The project seeks to bring infrastructural studies into a much needed and overdue conversation with China’s infrastructural development initiatives. In doing so, a trans-Pacific network will be developed through workshops and research initiatives. The inaugural workshop “Conceiving Infrastructures in a Chinese Register” was held at CAS on October 17–19, 2018. The workshop was devoted to exploring the concept of infrastructure as a research analytic in the contexts of East and Southeast Asia. The second workshop “Infrastructural Urbanism in China,” hosted by the Institute, was scheduled for January 9–10, 2020.



D. Harvard-Yenching Institute

The Institute's collaboration with the Harvard-Yenching Institute (HYI) started some years back when Prof. Elizabeth Perry (Director of HYI) became an advisor of the Institute. In the years that followed, the Institute partnered with HYI to co-organize three training workshops in Beijing and Shanghai for graduate students and junior faculty members from Hong Kong, China, elsewhere in Asia, and the United States. In 2011, the Institute teamed up with HYI and another long-term partner, East China Normal University (ECNU) to organize a three-year training program called "Urban Studies and the China Experience." Workshops and conferences were organized at ECNU and Yale in the following years, and received great acclaim from participants and partners. In 2015 and 2016, the Institute was in collaboration with HYI, Peking University and Nankai University to organize two successful advanced training workshops, "Humanities, Social Sciences and Medicine in East Asia: Interdisciplinary Approaches," for graduate students and junior faculty members in the field of humanities, social sciences and medicine. The two workshops trained some 40 participants, of whom a small number of outstanding individuals were selected to spend a year in residency as visiting scholars at HYI.

The Institute and HYI decided to launch a publication workshop for selected alumni of the training program in 2015 and 2016. Scheduled to be held in the summer of 2020, this publication workshop will help young Asian scholars in the field of history of science, technology and medicine (STM) to prepare for publication.

E. Peking University

The Institute continued its partnership with Peking University in 2019 after the advanced training program held in 2015 and 2016.

Prof. Angela Ki Che Leung worked with Prof. Xiaonan Deng, Dean of the Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences at Peking University, to organize an intensive course titled "Methodology and Practice in History of Material Culture" in Beijing from December 9 to 20, 2019. Two area experts from America and Europe, Prof. Dorothy Ko from Barnard College of Columbia University and Prof. Dagmar Schäfer from the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin, joined Prof. Leung to lead the course. Some 25 undergraduate and graduate students, and teachers from Peking University and other universities in Beijing were selected to participate in this ten-day workshop, consisting of three open lectures — "Changing Values of a Daily Food: the History of Soy Sauce Making in China" by Prof. Leung, "The Inheritance and Innovation of Craftsmanship:

Legends of Craftsmen in Jingdezhen” by Prof. Ko, and “Disasters and Digital Humanities” by Prof. Schäfer, group presentations and discussions, and field visits to a molasses workshop, and a soy sauce manufacture. Trainees were offered opportunities to learn more about the cross-disciplinary area of the history of material cultures, and to re-think Chinese history and cultures using new approaches. In addition to the trainees, the open lectures drew a large enthusiastic audience from Peking University.



(Clockwise from top left) Professors Leung, Ko and Schäfer in discussion with trainees; craftsman of a traditional molasses workshop presenting a finished product

3. Lectures, Seminars, Workshops and Conferences

Making up another essential aspect of the Institute’s work were regular seminars and lectures where renowned intellectuals, colleagues and visiting scholars shared expertise, showcased their work and engaged in in-depth discussions. In the past three years, prominent scholars from humanities and social sciences visited the Institute from around the world, giving distinguished lectures during their stay.

Year	Region	Distinguished Scholars
2016 (Fall)	America	Prof. Mary Bullock (Agnes Scott College) Prof. Benjamin A. Elman (Princeton University) Prof. Miklós Müller (Rockefeller University)
2017	Europe	Prof. Wiebe E. Bijker (Maastricht University) Prof. Don Kulick (Uppsala University) Prof. Biao Xiang (University of Oxford) Prof. Rudolf G. Wagner (Heidelberg University)
	America	Prof. William Jankowiak (University of Nevada, Las Vegas) Prof. Timothy Oakes (University of Colorado Boulder) Prof. Sherry B. Ortner (UCLA) Prof. James T. Richardson (University of Nevada, Reno) Prof. Eric Tagliacozzo (Cornell University)
2018	Asia	Prof. Yun-Han Chu (Academia Sinica) Prof. Zhaoguang Ge (Fudan University) Prof. Gungwu Wang (National University of Singapore)
	Europe	Prof. Ellen Hertz (Université de Neuchâtel) Prof. Dagmar Schäfer (Max Planck Institute for the History of Science) Prof. Peter van der Veer (Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity)
	America	Prof. Melissa L. Caldwell (UC Santa Cruz) Prof. Michael Herzfeld (Harvard University) Prof. Krishan Kumar (University of Virginia) Prof. Eric Rath (University of Michigan and University of Kansas) Prof. Eric Tagliacozzo (Cornell University)
2019	Asia	Prof. Lizhu Fan (Fudan University) Prof. John Lagerwey (CUHK)
	Europe	Prof. Lauren Kassell (University of Cambridge) Prof. Jakob Klein (SOAS)
	America	Prof. Gabriela Soto Laveaga (Harvard University) Prof. Paul Cohen (Harvard University) Prof. Jeffrey Wasserstrom (UC Irvine)

Pictured below are some of the distinguished visitors at the Institute:



From left: Prof. Wiebe E. Bijker (December 2017); Prof. Gabriela Soto Laveaga (December 2018)

From left: Prof. Sherry B. Ortner (June 2017); Prof. Peter van der Veer (October 2018)



From left: Prof. Michael Herzfeld (February 2018); Prof. Lauren Kassell (September 2019)

From left: Prof. John Lagerwey (January 2019); Prof. Lizhu Fan (September 2019)



From left: Prof. Melissa L. Caldwell (September 2018); Prof. Jakob Klein (May 2019)

In addition to the distinguished lectures, the Institute and its research clusters organized regular public lectures and seminars, research-based workshops and conferences.

Table 1: Number of Lectures and Seminars held at HKU

Year	Number of Lectures and Seminars at HKU		Cumulative Attendance
	By Scholars from Hong Kong	By Scholars from Overseas	
2016 (Fall)	10	10	514
2017	18	20	1,161
2018	14	22	1,843
2019	15	19	1,320

Table 2: Number of Workshops and Conferences held at HKU and Overseas

Year	Number of Workshops/Conferences at HKU and Overseas	Number of Paper Givers	Number of Commentators/Auditors
2016 (Fall)	2	21	79
2017	8	62	92
2018	12	191	116
2019	6	45	43

4. Knowledge Transfer

The Institute is committed to outreach and knowledge sharing with the community at large. This is frequently done through film screening activities and other events.

A. Documentary Film Screening and Dialogue with Film Directors

The “Contemporary Chinese Documentary Series” serves as a platform to showcase films that highlight socio-economic, political and cultural issues in Greater China. The series provides an occasion where an audience would be able to interact and exchange ideas and opinions with filmmakers. Between 2017 and 2019, the Institute organized seven film screenings and post-screening dialogues with film directors, each drawing an enthusiastic audience from the academia and beyond:

- “Of Shadows” (影), directed by Yi Cui (崔誼), February 17, 2017.
- “Death by Design” (科技代價), directed by Sue Williams (韋蘇), March 22, 2017.
- “Murmuring Days” (日日喃喃), directed by Ko-shang Shen (沈可尚), November 17, 2017.
- “Egg and Stone” (雞蛋和石頭), directed by Ji Huang (黃驥), March 22, 2018.
- “The Virtue in the Valley” (群羊嘎耙), directed by Jamyang Tashi (加洋扎西), February 15, 2019.
- “The Search” (覓食), directed by Losang Nyima (羅藏尼瑪), February 15, 2019.
- “Children at a Village School” (村小的孩子), directed by Nengjie Jiang (蔣能杰), March 19, 2019.

香港人文社會研究所
Hong Kong Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences
(Incorporating the Centre of Asian Studies)
THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

當代中國紀錄片系列：與導演面對面
Contemporary Chinese Documentary Series: Meet the Director

謹以此片獻給中國2.5億農民工和5800萬留守兒童
This documentary is dedicated to the 250 million migrant workers
And 58 million left-behind children in China



蔣能杰作品
a Jiang Nengjie film
in Putunghua
with Chinese & English subtitles

Children
at a Village School

2009年：尹鴻光導演，深入廣東省河源市22個村莊（共計17萬名留守兒童），拍攝這些小兒和他們的母親。
2010年：當地政府與香港社會服務處合作，在該片放映後，為這些留守兒童提供心理輔導，並組織留守兒童的學習、心理、生活等問題進行探討。
2011年：香港社會服務處與香港社會服務處合作，在該片放映後，為這些留守兒童提供心理輔導，並組織留守兒童的學習、心理、生活等問題進行探討。
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19.3.2019

香港大學梅堂地下演講廳
Lecture Hall, G/F, May Hall, HKU

15:30 茶點 Reception
16:00 電影放映 Film screening
17:35 導演座談 Discussion with Director [Jiang Nengjie (蔣能杰) and Dr. Wang Dan (王丹)]
[Discussion in English and Putunghua]

查詢詳情: 3517-5772 / tw@hku.hk / www.hku.hk

香港大學
梅堂地下演講廳
Lecture Hall, G/F, May Hall, HKU

These were all very well received. In particular, the screening of “Death by Design” (科技代價) in March 2017 drew a full house, prompting the “Science, Technology and Medicine in Asian Societies” research cluster and its CRF Project “Making Modernity in East Asia: Technologies of Everyday Life, 19th–21st Centuries (MMEA)” to invite director Sue Williams back to Hong Kong in November 2017 for a second screening and to engage in a dialogue with the audience. The November event attracted a large audience (over 100 people) from HKU, other universities and the local community.



Prof. Helen F. Siu (left) moderating discussion after screening of “Death by Design,” with Director Sue Williams seated next to her; Dr. Margaret Ng, former Legislator, presenting her view

The CRF MMEA Project organized another film screening on November 4, 2019. Director Yi Jian (簡藝), also Founder of the Good Food Fund, shared with the audience 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 post-screening presentation by Director Jian generated engaged responses from the audience.



Prof. Paul Cohen (Harvard) during the discussion

B. Exhibition Preview

The CRF MMEA Project hosted a preview of the exhibition “Infrastructure Imagination: Hong Kong City Futures, 1972–1988” on December 7, 2017. The exhibition, which was officially held at the City Gallery, Hong Kong from March to May 2018, was curated by Project Collaborator Ms. Dorothy Tang (MIT), Dr. Cecilia Chu (Architecture, HKU) and her team. The



exhibition wanted to revisit infrastructure projects in Hong Kong from the last four decades. It featured photographs from the Heather Coulson Photograph Collection, which had been donated to the HKU Libraries by Heather Coulson, a construction photographer working in Hong Kong from the early 1970s to the late 1980s. It weaved together personal stories, historic films, oral histories from professional and community members, and archival records that documented the construction boom in Hong Kong in the last quarter of the 20th century.

C. Web-based Projects

The Institute's research clusters launched new platforms on the Internet to share research-based experiences with a larger community.

The CRF Project of the "Science, Technology and Medicine in Asian Societies" cluster is developing a Virtual Museum to create a wider user community, with a three-tier approach to engage the intellectual curiosity of diverse users. It will reflect the diversity of East Asian cultures, languages, histories, and most certainly, technologies, of which the virtual museum will include representations from Hong Kong, Taiwan, mainland China, South Korea, Japan, and Singapore.

The "Asian Religious Connections" (ARC) research cluster hosts a website called "Religious Life in the Chinese World," a companion resource to the volume *Chinese Religious Life*, edited by Dr. David A. Palmer, with Dr. Glenn Shive and Dr. Philip L. Wickeri.

The first phase (EAP 791) of the Digital Library of the Lanten Textual Heritage, co-hosted by the ARC cluster, will be launched soon. The project, which was funded by the British Library's Endangered Archives Programme, will feature 768 manuscripts of unique cultural value in Lanten society.



5. Institutional Development

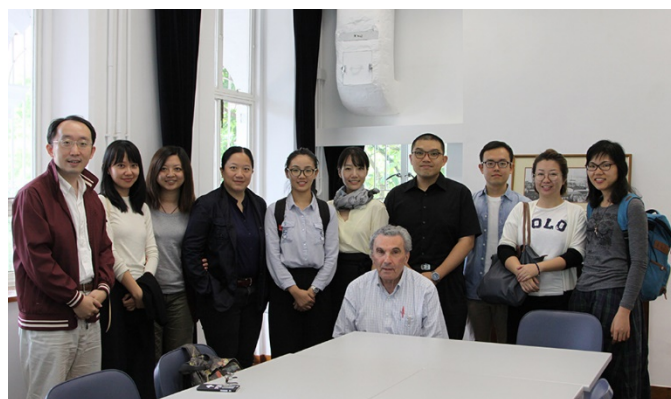
A. Institutional Enhancement Scheme

With a generous gift from the Lee Hysan Foundation, the Institute established the Institutional Enhancement Scheme in 2013 and the Lee Hysan-HKIHSS Fellowship in 2014. These have greatly boosted our teaching capacity with distinguished visiting scholars who came successively to teach and mentor students, each for a semester. They have also provided unique opportunities for some of the best graduate students of the University to study with overseas mentors in top European and American academic institutions, maximizing the intellectual exposure of our graduate students, creating a valuable international network that connects the Institute with the best universities in the world. The scheme has already played a key role in building the intellectual hub that is the Institute today, and enriching its graduate teaching. We also look forward to seeing its longer-term impacts and fruits in the years to come.

I. Visiting Professors

In the past few years, the Institute has hosted five distinguished scholars who are area experts in the fields of history, anthropology and urban studies. They are Prof. Benjamin A. Elman (Princeton University), Prof. Timothy Oakes (University of Colorado Boulder), Prof. Helen F. Siu (Yale University), Prof. Dagmar Schäfer (Max Planck Institute for the History of Science), and Prof. Ellen Hertz (Université de Neuchâtel).

These distinguished professors participated in mentoring younger colleagues and students by offering seminar courses, giving lectures, and organizing one-to-one private consultation while continuing their participation in the projects of the Institute's clusters. Prof. Helen F. Siu and Prof. Timothy Oakes were also invited by the University's Graduate School to participate in dialogue sessions with graduate students from different faculties.



Prof. Benjamin A. Elman with his students after the last class meeting

Offering Semester	Seminar Courses
2016 (Fall)	"Classicism, Commerce & Society in Late Imperial China, 1400–1900" by Prof. Elman
2017 (Spring)	"China's Urban Geographies" by Prof. Oakes
2018 (Spring)	"Law, Norms and Social Order: Anthropological Perspectives" by Prof. Hertz
2018 (Spring)	"Cultures of Innovation in East Asia's History" by Prof. Schäfer with Prof. Angela Ki Che Leung



Prof. Ellen Hertz (left) and Prof. Dagmar Schäfer with students in discussion

In addition, the visiting professors gave public lectures, and attended open forums and events. Here are some highlights:

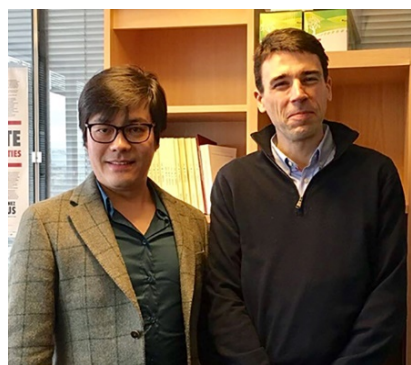
- “Sinophiles and Sinophobes: Medical Debates and Medical Philology in Tokugawa Japan” by Prof. Benjamin A. Elman, October 6, 2016.
- “Happy Town: Biopolitical Urbanism and Cultural Governance in China” by Prof. Timothy Oakes (picture on the right), March 29, 2017.
- Sharing sessions by Prof. Helen F. Siu, January 23 and March 13, 2018.
- “Politics and Scientific Change in Dynastic China” by Prof. Dagmar Schäfer, March 20, 2018.
- “Digging Deeper: Anthropological Encounters with the Zambian Copperbelt” by Prof. Ellen Hertz, April 17, 2018.
- “Project Citizens Forum: What Makes Hong Kong Special?” with Prof. Helen F. Siu as one of the panel speakers, June 9, 2018.
- Project Citizens Forum on “Voice of Hong Kong” with Prof. Siu introducing Prof. Maybo Ching, one of the panel speakers, May 18, 2019.



Collaborating with these distinguished professors, the Institute has cemented its role as an intellectual hub with a solid track record in international networking and cutting-edge research, establishing a platform for creating research synergy.

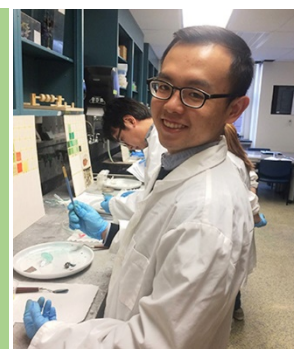
II. Lee Hysan-HKIHSS Fellowship

Five PhD students were able to broaden horizons overseas with support from the Lee Hysan-HKIHSS Fellowship Scheme during the past three years. They were: Mr. Jules Liu (Sociology), Mr. Xiaomeng Liu (HKIHSS, Science and Technology in Asian Society), Ms. Shuo Hua (HKIHSS, Asian Hubs), Mr. Longwen Fu (Sociology), and Ms. Anna Iskra (HKIHSS, Asian Religious Connections). Each of them spent at least a semester abroad under the mentorship of senior scholars and area experts, and returned to the University with fresh, illuminating ideas and perspectives.



Mr. Jules Liu (left) with his mentor Prof. Sebastian Veg at École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS) in Paris during his visit (October 2016 to July 2017). Mr. Liu's supervisor Dr. David A. Palmer commented, "I saw that [Liu] took full advantage of the intellectual resources at the EHESS and Paris, bringing stimulating insights for his thesis ["The Invention of Tradition and Social Transformation in Pingxiang"] and for his future career." Mr. Liu began another visit at the Harvard-Yenching Institute after returning from Paris.

During his visit to Columbia University's Department of History from January to May 2017, Mr. Xiaomeng Liu was fortunate to be involved with the "Making and Knowing Project," coordinated by his mentor, Prof. Pamela Smith. He also attended the laboratory seminar "Craft and Science: Objects and Their Making in the Early Modern World". His experience there offered him chances to explore new ideas highly relevant to his thesis, entitled "Medicinal Marketplaces: Commerce and Cultures of Knowledge Production in the Qing and Republican China."



Ms. Shuo Hua visited the University of Heidelberg's Cluster of Excellence on "Asia and Europe in a Global Context" during September and December 2017. She audited courses, participated in workshops and seminars, and gave presentations while continuing to build her thesis entitled "A Mobile Art World: Exhibiting and Dealing Modern Chinese Ink Paintings in Hong Kong, 1945–1984." Ms. Hua returned to HKU in early 2018 to continue her PhD studies while taking up another challenge – a teaching internship at the Academy of Visual Arts of Hong Kong Baptist University in the fall semester of 2019.

Mr. Longwen Fu visited the Department of Sociology at the University of York in the UK for six months from January and June 2018, to be mentored by medical sociologist Prof. Sarah Nettleton. He audited graduate courses, attended workshops and gave a conference presentation while continuing research work on his PhD thesis “Making Residents: Professional Socialization and the Challenges of Standardized Residency Training in China.” Mr. Fu returned to the University in the summer of 2018 to continue his PhD studies.



Ms. Anna Iskra visited the Department of Anthropology at Harvard University from January to May 2019. She audited graduate courses and gave presentations at different workshops and seminars. Ms. Iskra met several leading academics including her mentors Professors Arthur Kleinman, Michael Jackson, Li Zhang, Robert Weller, and David Wang at Harvard to discuss her research. She also took the opportunity to visit Yale University to meet with Prof. Helen F. Siu. Ms. Iskra returned to the University to continue her PhD studies.

B. Graduate Programs

The Institute has been an agile intellectual hub that offers a stimulating environment for academic training and scholarly interchanges, cultivating curiosity and interest in the humanities and social sciences. Our graduate programs have made great strides in recruiting and nurturing young talents while embracing diversity.

I. Graduates and Alumni

Our students come from Hong Kong, mainland China, the rest of Asia, Europe, and the United States. In 2017–2019, we were tremendously happy and proud to see some of our brightest students complete their research work at the Institute and move onto new chapters in their career.

Some of these graduates have remained in the academia: Mr. Peter Tam currently works at Hong Kong Baptist University’s History Department. Dr. Fabian Winiger (2018) is a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Zürich, where he now works on the intersection of spirituality and global health at the World Health Organization. Mr. Graham Link is serving at the Centre for International and Professional Experience (CIPE) at Yale-NUS College in Singapore. Ms. Song Ah Lee successfully defended her thesis in the summer of 2019 and received a fellowship from the Central European University in Budapest to pursue a Master of Public Administration degree starting September of the same year. Both Mr. Linzhou Xing and Ms. Yishan Zhong have remained at HKU to assist with research work.

List of Our Graduates from 2017:

Name (Degree, Year of Graduation)	Thesis Title
Peter Tam (MPhil, 2017)	Advocacy of Chicken Poultry in Republican China (1911–1949): History of a Modern Food Industry
Ryan Xie (MPhil, 2017)	Pilgrims to Prosperity: Business Trajectories and Networking Strategies of sub-Saharan African Women Traders in Guangzhou
Qi Sun (PhD, 2018)	Reluctant “Maocare”: the Shaping and Practice of the Rural Healthcare System in the Wenzhou Region (1949–1978)
Fabian Winiger (PhD, 2018)	Curing Capitalism: “Zhineng Qigong” and the Globalisation of Chinese Socialist Spiritual Civilisation
Song Ah Lee (MPhil, 2019)	Postpartum Care and Motherhood in Contemporary South Korea: A Study on <i>Sanhujoriwons</i>
Graham Link (MPhil, 2019)	Mosuo Kinship and State Civilisation: Making “Quality” Family in Southwest China
Jingyi Tian (MPhil, 2019)	Redefining the “Self” through Martial Arts — Ethic, Honor, and Moral Bodies in Transnational Kendo in Hong Kong
Yishan Zhong (MPhil, 2019)	Mothering with Mobile Communication Technologies in Urban China
Linzhou Xing (MPhil, 2019)	Technological Choices of Chinese Taxi Drivers under E-hailing: Conventional Occupation Groups under the Impact of Digital Automation and Post-Fordism
James Wright (PhD, 2019)	Technowelfare in Japan: Personal Care Robots and Temporalities of Care

II. Current Students

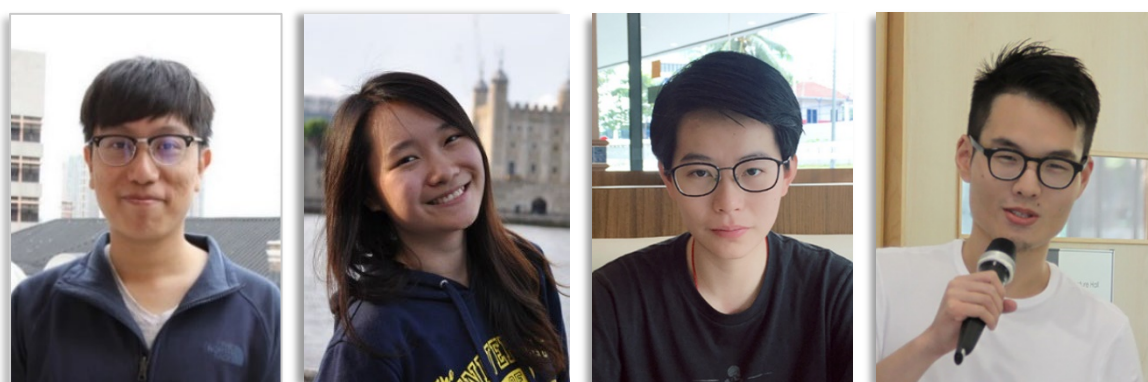
We have also welcomed a new group of students in the past few years. Currently, ten students are carrying out MPhil and PhD studies at the Institute.

Mr. Martin Tse was admitted to our MPhil Program in 2019–2020. He is interested in researching religion and society in Asia, and is now formulating his thesis project provisionally titled “An ethnographic and textual study of the ‘Attack on Hell’ Daoist ritual among the Lanten Yao in Laos,” under the supervision of Dr. David A. Palmer and Dr. Kam Wing Fung.

Ms. Joyce Fung was admitted to our MPhil Program in September 2017. She is working on her thesis “An Ethnographic Study on the New Age Movement in Hong Kong” under the guidance of Dr. David A. Palmer and Dr. Izumi Nakayama.

Ms. Zichan Qiu joined the Institute in September 2017. She is now working on her MPhil project entitled “A Hakka Village of Malaysia: The Form of Communal Identity and Chinese Culture Identity of Senai New Village.” Her project is jointly supervised by Dr. David A. Palmer and Dr. Ji Li.

Mr. Zhongxian Xiao is completing his MPhil thesis “Legal Management of Suspicious Death in Modern Shanghai, 1860s–1920s,” under the guidance of Prof. Angela Ki Che Leung and Dr. Izumi Nakayama, for viva to be held in spring 2020. He considers the Institute “a great platform to get access to various academic resources.”



From left are Mr. Martin Tse, Ms. Joyce Fung, Ms. Zichan Qiu, and Mr. Zhongxian Xiao

Mr. Wenbing Wu received his first master’s degree in Sociology from Tsinghua University in Beijing, and obtained his MPhil degree in Social Science at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology in 2019. He joined the Institute in September, and is currently working on his PhD with Prof. James Kai-sing Kung and Prof. Angela Ki Che Leung. He is interested in historical sociology and social history in China, and his research focuses on the quantitative analysis of the collapse of the Qing Empire in China.

Admitted to the Institute’s PhD Program in 2018, Mr. Yichen Rao currently works on his thesis provisionally titled “Trusting Strangers with Big Data: Credit, Morality and Power on China’s P2P Lending Platforms” under the guidance of Dr. Tom McDonald and Dr. David A. Palmer. He received a dissertation fieldwork grant from the Wenner-Gren Foundation in May 2019 for his project.

Mr. Xiaomeng Liu, PhD student, said, “The Institute fosters interdisciplinary studies and provides an excellent platform for academic exchange. Scholars and students from diverse backgrounds gather here and form an intellectually inspiring and productive community. ... Courses offered by the distinguished visiting professors also give students more exposure to the research agendas and methods from around the globe.” Mr. Liu is completing his thesis “Medicinal Marketplaces: Commerce and Cultures of Knowledge Production in the Qing and Republican China” under the supervision of Prof. Angela Ki Che Leung and Dr. Izumi Nakayama.



From left are Mr. Wenbing Wu, Mr. Yichen Rao, and Mr. Xiaomeng Liu

Ms. Shuo Hua, PhD student, is working hard on the final stage of her PhD studies. As she completes her PhD thesis “A Mobile Art World: Exhibiting and Dealing Modern Chinese Ink Paintings in Hong Kong, 1945–1984” under the supervision of Dr. Florian Knothe and Prof. Angela Ki Che Leung, she has also taken up the challenge to co-teach, as an intern, a course on Chinese art, offered by the Academy of Visual Arts of Hong Kong Baptist University, in fall 2019.

Ms. Anna Iskra is completing her PhD thesis provisionally titled “Healing the Nation through Self-Discovery: Mainland Chinese New Age Milieu and the Politics of ‘Psy-venting’” for viva to be held in early 2020. In the past few years, Ms. Iskra has learned quite a lot from her primary supervisor Dr. David A. Palmer, as well as other faculty members and distinguished scholars at the Institute. She believes that “the guiding principle of HKIHSS is truly humanistic — in both research and teaching it goes beyond artificial divisions between disciplines, connecting researchers of various interests and backgrounds.”

Ms. Andrea Chen is working on her PhD thesis on a part-time basis, primarily under the supervision of Dr. Kam Wing Fung with Dr. Ji Li. She is interested in Nestorianism, and her thesis is provisionally titled “Re-configuring the Yelikewens — New Research on so-called Nestorian Crosses.”



From left are Ms. Shuo Hua, Ms. Anna Iskra, and Ms. Andrea Chen

Appendix 1: List of Academic Colleagues and Visiting Scholars (as at January 2020)

I. Academic Colleagues

Professor Angela Ki Che Leung	Director and Chair Professor of History; Joseph Needham-Philip Mao Professor in Chinese History, Science & Civilization
Dr. Jonathan Y. H. Hui	Presidential Post-doctoral Fellow
Prof. James Kai-sing Kung	Joint Professor with Faculty of Business and Economics Sein and Isaac Souede Professor in Economic History
Dr. Ji Li	Joint Assistant Professor with Faculty of Arts
Dr. Ghassan Moazzin	Assistant Professor
Dr. Izumi Nakayama	Research Officer & HKIHSS Fellow
Dr. David A. Palmer	Joint Associate Professor with Faculty of Social Sciences
Dr. John D. Wong	Joint Associate Professor with Faculty of Arts
Dr. Chaoxiong Zhang	Post-doctoral Fellow

II. Honorary Professors

Prof. Francesca Bray	The University of Edinburgh, UK
Prof. Takeshi Hamashita	The Toyo Bunko (Oriental Library), Japan
Prof. Dorothy Ko	Barnard College, Columbia University, USA
Prof. David Ping Yee Lung	Faculty of Architecture, HKU
Prof. Naubahar Sharif	Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
Prof. Elizabeth Y.Y. Sinn	HKIHSS, HKU
Prof. Helen F. Siu	Yale University, USA
Prof. Siu Lun Wong	HKIHSS and Sociology Department, HKU

III. HKIHSS Fellows

Prof. Edward Chen	HKU SPACE
Prof. Leo F. Goodstadt	Trinity College Dublin, Ireland
Dr. Florian Knothe	University Museum of Art Gallery, HKU
Dr. Kam Wing Fung	School of Chinese, HKU
Dr. Ching Chih Liu	HKIHSS, HKU
Dr. Tom McDonald	Department of Sociology, HKU
Dr. Christopher Munn	Department of History, HKU
Prof. Gungwu Wang	National University of Singapore, Singapore
Dr. Wen-bin Sun	Hong Kong Chronicles Institute, Our Hong Kong Foundation
Prof. Bell Yung	University of Pittsburgh, USA

IV. Visiting Scholars and Students

Ms. Vivien Chan	University of Nottingham, UK
Prof. Paul Cohen	Harvard University, USA
Ms. Claire Bouillot	Norbert Elias Centre EHESS, Marseille, France
Dr. Andrew B. Liu	Villanova University, USA
Dr. Till Mostowlansky	Graduate Institute Geneva, Switzerland
Dr. Leilah Vevaina	Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity in Göttingen, Germany
Ms. Ting Ting Shum	The University of Edinburgh, UK
Ms. Eunice To	University of Rochester, USA
Ms. Alice Yu	University of Oxford, UK
Dr. Xaq Frohlich	Auburn University, USA
Dr. Susan Henders	York University, Canada

Appendix 2: List of Projects Funded by Sin Wai-Kin Junior Fellowship (2017–2019)

Awardees

Research Projects

Mr. George Bayuga	Infrastructures of Faith: Catholics Channels Across the South China Sea
Dr. Cheris Chan	An Institutional Approach to Understand Doctor-Patient Conflicts in China
Dr. Max Hirsh	Building “Eurasian” Infrastructure: Chinese Capital and Transport Technology in Scandinavia
Dr. Ji Li	Rethinking indigenization and Christianity in China: Alfred Marie Caubrière (1876–1848) and his private writings in early twentieth-century Manchuria
Dr. Christine Luk	Narrating Hong Kong-China Relationship through the Prism of Physiology: Robert Kho-Seng Lim, Te Pei Feng, and Beyond
Dr. Loretta Kim	Evolution and Present Practices of Russian Orthodox Christianity in Hong Kong
Dr. Till Mostowlansky	Building Difference: Early Attempts at Materially Connecting and Dividing Colonial Badakhshan
Dr. Izumi Nakayama	Book project on Menstruation in Japan and Body Culture
Dr. Nina Sylvanus	Harboring the Future: The Togolese Techno-Port, Governance, and Global Economics in West Africa
Ms. Dorothy Tang	From Low Carbon Cities to Sponge Cities: Mapping the Landscapes of Climate Change Governance in Shanghai
Dr. Daniel Trambaiolo	Visual and Tactile Knowledge of the Human Body in Early Modern Japan
Dr. John D. Wong	Charting a New Course in the Skies: Air Travel in Postwar Hong Kong in a Comparative Framework

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