

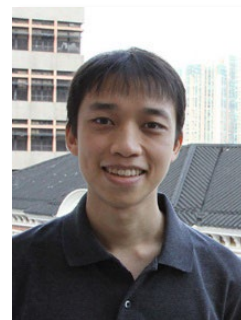
NEWSLETTER

September 2020



Highlights

Competitive Grants and Fellowships, 2020 – 21



Congratulations to (from left) Prof. David A. Palmer, Dr. Ji Li, Dr. John D. Wong, Dr. Ghassan Moazzin, and Dr. Jonathan Hui for securing funding from the Research Grants Council (RGC)!

Research Grants

In the 2020 – 21 round of funding exercise, all four of the Institute's applications for grants from the RGC are successful.

General Research Fund

Prof. David A. Palmer is awarded HK\$ 638,642 for the project "Religious Cosmopolitanism in China, 1895 – 1927." The project aims to trace the networks, practices, and social ideas of religious cosmopolitanism, in the period of transition between the end of the first Sino-Japanese war (1895) and the establishment of the Kuomintang regime in Nanjing (1927).

Dr. Ji Li is awarded HK\$ 604,938 for her project "Christianity on the Move: Routes and Religious Mobility in Late Imperial and Modern China from 1750s to 1950s." The project studies the intricate and largely overlooked relationship between religious circulation, transportation routes and urban space in the historical context of state building and global connection in mid-eighteenth to mid-twentieth-century China.

Dr. John D. Wong receives an award of HK\$ 510,000 for a 36-month project entitled "Hong Kong Takes Flight: Commercial Aviation and the Making of Hong Kong, 1930s – 1998." This project investigates how the development of commercial aviation took shape in Hong Kong as the city developed into a powerful economy.

Early Career Scheme

Dr. Ghassan Moazzin is awarded HK\$ 755,000 for his project "Electric China: A History of the Chinese Electrical and Electronics Industries, 1870 – 1937." The project will constitute the first comprehensive archival-based study of the electrical and electronics industries in prewar China.

Fellowships

We are very proud to announce that Prof. David A. Palmer and Dr. Jonathan Hui have respectively been awarded a Research Fellowship (RF) and a Postdoctoral Fellowship (PDF). The two fellowships were newly launched by RGC last year.

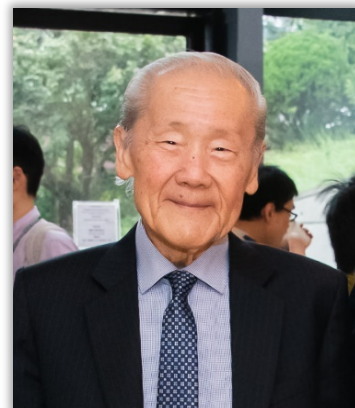
Prof. Palmer will receive a total of HK\$ 5 million to start a new project called “Chinese Modernity and Soft Power on the Belt and Road.” Dr. Hui will receive an annual fellowship of HK\$ 396,000 for three years to continue his research “Jin Yong (金庸) and J. R. R. Tolkien: Historical Romance East and West.”

Featured News

Prof. Gungwu Wang Speaks at 2020 Tang Prize Masters’ Forum

Prof. Gungwu Wang, former President of the University and Fellow of the Institute, was awarded the prestigious Tang Prize in Sinology (唐獎漢學獎) 2020 in recognition of his pioneer work and contributions to the history of the Chinese world order, Chinese overseas, and Chinese migratory experience.

Prof. Wang will speak on the topic, “The High Road to Pluralist Sinology” at the 2020 Tang Prize Masters’ Forum co-hosted by the Tang Prize Foundation and the National Chengchi University, Taipei on September 22, 2020, 2:00-4:00 pm, Taiwan time. Prof. Wang will be joined by distinguished scholars in Taiwan.



For more information, please visit:

www.tang-prize.org/en/media_detail.php?id=1467&cat=23&utm_source=Newsletter

Prof. Elizabeth Sinn Receives the 13th Hong Kong Book Prize

Congratulations to Prof. Elizabeth Sinn on receiving a Hong Kong Book Prize from Radio Television Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Publishing Federation with her book “穿梭太平洋：金山夢、華人出洋與香港的形成.” The book was selected by readers as well as a professional panel as one of nine “best books” published in 2019.

The winning book uncovers both leadership and agency among the many Chinese who crossed the Pacific. In presenting Hong Kong as an “in-between place” of repeated journeys and continuous movement, Prof. Sinn also offers a fresh view of the British colony and a new paradigm for migration studies.



For details on the Hong Kong Book Prize, please visit: app4.rthk.hk/culture/13thbookprize/final_list.php

“Delta on the Move” – A New Research Initiative

The Institute is building a new research initiative “Delta on the Move: The Becoming of the Greater Bay Region, 1700–2000”. It is a collaborative project on the historical roots and the global reach of the Greater Bay Area. The initiative builds on the Institute’s research strengths, cumulated over a decade, especially from the cluster on urban hubs and its agenda on inter-Asian connections. It aims to study the hybrid cultural traits at the region’s core (the Hong Kong/Macau/Guangzhou nexus) and the extensive maritime connections created by the human, ideational and material flows through the region from the 18th to the 21st century.

Dr. John D. Wong is Convener of the new initiative. Key team members include Prof. Helen F. Siu of Yale University, Prof. May Bo Ching of City University of Hong Kong, and academic colleagues of the Institute including Prof. Angela Ki Che Leung, Dr. Ji Li, Dr. Ghassan Moazzin, Prof. David A. Palmer, and Dr. Izumi Nakayama. The team is inviting colleagues in China, Europe, and the U.S to join the project as partners. News and updates on the Initiative will be released shortly.



New Research Sub-group: Chinese Business History

With the growth of Chinese enterprises both in China and abroad, there has been increased scholarly interest in exploring the history of Chinese business. Dr. John D. Wong and Dr. Ghassan Moazzin have established a new research sub-group “Chinese Business History” to foster international collaborative research on the historical development of Chinese business with a view to making the Institute a center for the international study of Chinese business history. The research group focuses on the growing role of Chinese businesses in the Greater Bay Area in particular and the global economy more broadly. By organizing regular research activities such as webinars and conferences, and collecting resources for the study of business history, the group seeks to build a global community of researchers working on the history of business in China. More updates to follow.

Online Resources: Chinese Business History Newsletter

Chinese Business History (中國商業史) was a newsletter published by the Chinese Business History Research Group between 1990 and 2005 in the U.S. It contains mainly short research articles, book reviews, reports on archives and conferences, and reflections on the development of the field, and represents an important source for understanding the development of historical research on Chinese business history.

With help and permission from Prof. Andrea McElderry (University of Louisville), former editor of the newsletter, the Institute has obtained copies of the newsletter and, for the first time, it has been made available online. www.hkihss.hku.hk/en/researchs/chinese-business-history-resources/

Publications

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

Prof. Naubahar Sharif (HKUST), Co-PI of the MMEA Project, together with Mr. Jack Xing, MPhil graduate of the Institute, published the journal article “From creative destruction to creative appropriation: A comprehensive framework” in a top journal, *Research Policy* (vol. 49, issue 7, September 2020).

Prof. Angela Ki Che Leung published an article entitled “Chinese State and Society in Epidemic Governance: A Historical Perspective” in *Centaurus, An International Journal of the History of Science and its Cultural Aspects* (vol. 62, issue 2, July 27, 2020).

Prof. Leung, Dr. Izumi Nakayama, and Dr. Max Hirsh published an article entitled “Infrastructure, Modernity, and the Technologies of Everyday Life: Insights from a Collaborative Research Project on the Making of Modern East Asia” in *East Asian Science, Technology and Society: An International Journal* (vol. 14, issue 3, September 1, 2020).

Please visit mmea.hku.hk/publications/ for more details.

Asian Religious Connections Cluster

Prof. David A. Palmer published two articles:

- “Ethics of the Heart: Moral Breakdown and the Aporia of Chinese Volunteers” (with Rundong Ning) in *Current Anthropology* (vol. 61, issue 4, pp. 395 – 417).
- “Chinese NGOs at the Interface between Governmentality and Local Society: An Actor-Oriented Perspective” (with Qing Liu) in *China Information* (September 7, 2020).

Chinese Business History Sub-group

Dr. Ghassan Moazzin published an article entitled “Sino-Foreign Business Networks: Foreign and Chinese Banks in the Chinese Banking Sector, 1890 – 1911” in the journal *Modern Asian Studies* (vol. 54, issue 3, pp. 970 – 1004). The article explores the interaction between foreign and Chinese banks in the Chinese banking sector during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Upcoming Events

1. Interdisciplinary Lunchtime Seminars (Fall 2020, HKU)

Seven more talks will be organized in the fall. Details of the individual talks will be announced.

Dr. Jedidiah Kroncke (Law, HKU), “Legal Complicity in an Age of Resurgent Authoritarianism,” September 22.

Dr. Devika Shankar (History, HKU), “A Blurry Boundary: British Cochin and the Princely States of Malabar 1911 – 1920,” October 6.

Dr. Crystal Luk (Culture and Religious Studies, CUHK), “The Interactive Relations between Daoism and Traditional Chinese Medicine: Through a Comprehensive Study of the Theory of the Heart in *Wenzi* and *Huangdi Neijing*,” October 20.

Dr. Haomin Gong (Chinese, Lingnan University), “Nature and Nation: Ethnicity in Chinese Ecocinema,” November 3.

Dr. Tom McDonald (Sociology, HKU), “Debt at a Distance: China’s Debt Collection Callers during Covid-19,” November 17.

Dr. Nicholas Wong (Society of Fellows, HKU), “Ritual Time, Secular Democracy: On Literary Depictions of Chinese and Indian Popular Religions in Malaysia,” December 1.

Dr. Lynn Tang (Sociology and Social Policy, Lingnan University), “Reclaiming Recovery: Critical Reflections on the Use of the Recovery Approach in Mental Health Service and Suicide Prevention among Chinese Communities in the UK and Hong Kong,” December 15.

2. “Science, Technology, and Medicine in Asian Society” (STMS) Cluster

CRF MMEA Project

Sub-project Workshop: “Food Making: State and Technoscience in Modern East Asia, 19th–21st Centuries” (December 10 – 12, 2020)

Prof. Angela Ki Che Leung and Dr. Izumi Nakayama will invite 10 scholars from the U.S, UK, Singapore, South Korea, and Hong Kong to the workshop. The meeting will discuss the (changing) role of the East Asian state (imperial state, colonial state, post-colonial state, socialist state etc.) in the history of food making, consumption, and circulation. Also to be explored during the workshop are aspects of food technoscience — making, transforming, preserving, marketing, circulating, etc. — in the modern period (19th century to the present), as deployed by East Asian states or entrepreneurs targeting changing local, regional, and global markets.



Publication Workshop (Mid-December, 2020)

This December event is a continuation of the Publication Workshop held in August 2020 (see p. 6). It is a collaboration between the CRF Project and the Harvard-Yenching Institute to mentor early career scholars and advanced PhD students on their publication plans. Ten trainees were recruited this spring to participate in the August workshop. Senior scholars of the Institute will continue their partnership with Prof. Ruth Rogaski (History, Vanderbilt University; Associate editor, *Modern Asian Studies*) and Dr. Xaq Frohlich (History, Auburn University) to provide guidance to trainees on their book and journal publication strategies.

MMEA Lecture Series

The team is inviting local and overseas experts to give talks on topics related to technologies of everyday life, such as buffalo milk production in Guangdong Province by Dr. Veronica Mak (Hong Kong Shue Yan University), Chinese agricultural science and politics by Prof. Sigrid Schmalzer (University of Massachusetts, Amherst), and coal resources and mining technologies in East Asia by Dr. Victor Seow (Harvard University). More details will be announced soon!

3. “Asian Religious Connections” (ARC) Cluster

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

Workshop (September 21 – 25, 2020)

A workshop for the CRF collaborators will hold several sessions in September. The first session was held from September 14 to 18, 2020 (p. 6). The second session will be held in late September. The team will hold discussions along these following themes: Urban religious hubs; religious strategies and circulations; and history, geopolitics and mapping.

Religion and Empire Lecture Series

International speakers will be invited to present in the Religion and Empire Lecture Series. On September 28, Dr. Ruslan Yusupov will share his research finding on “Islamic Belonging to Chinese Society: Taboo, Tolerance and the Ban on Alcohol in a Chinese Hui Muslim Town.” More details on the series will be announced soon.

Recent Events

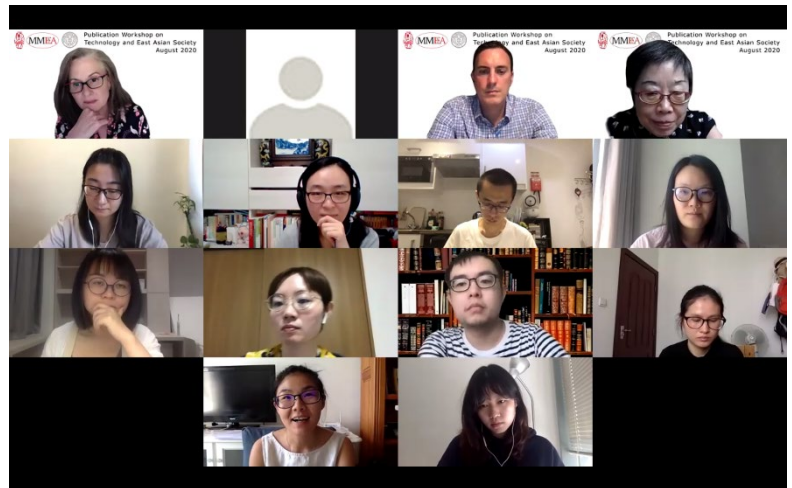
1. Interdisciplinary Lunchtime Seminars

Two speakers shared with audience of the Interdisciplinary Lunchtime Seminar Series via Zoom. In late August, Dr. Jonathan Hui (HKIHSS, HKU) spoke on the topic “Historicities and Temporalities and Jin Yong’s Fiction.” On September 8, Dr. Jing Xu (Anthropology, University of Washington) gave a presentation entitled “The Dark Side of Moral Development in a Taiwanese Village: Re-analyzing Arthur P. Wolf’s 1958 – 1960 Field-notes in a New Framework.”

2. CRF Projects

MMEA “Publication Workshop on Technology and East Asian Society” (August 17 – 19, 2020)

The CRF MMEA project partnered with the Harvard-Yenching Institute to organize a Publication Workshop from August 17 to 19, 2020. Ten early career scholars and advanced PhD students were recruited to attend intensive lectures and participate in writing exercises and small group discussions on the strategies of article and book publication with senior scholars via Zoom. Prof. Ruth Rogaski (History, Vanderbilt University; Associate editor, *Modern Asian Studies*) and Dr. Xaq Frohlich (History, Auburn University) were invited to share hands-on experiences and provide mentorship to the participants together with Prof. Angela Ki Che Leung and Dr Izumi Nakayama. Participants and mentors will meet again in December 2020 to discuss book proposals.



BRINFAITH Workshop (September 14 – 18, 2020)

The CRF BRINFAITH project held a 5-day workshop in mid-September. The team held discussions on themes including religion and infrastructure in South and Central Asia, religion circulations at China’s borderlands, and urban religious hubs.

Teaching and Learning

Warmest Welcome to Our New Students

The Institute is delighted to introduce two young scholars joining us this academic year.



Mr. Joseph Sun (孫嘉珩) graduated with first-class honors in Social Sciences from HKU. He will do his MPhil research under the supervision of Prof. David A. Palmer and Prof. Angela Ki Che Leung. His project, provisionally titled “Buddhist Miracle Tales in Contemporary Hong Kong,” focuses on the oral and written Buddhist narratives developed in Hong Kong.

Mr. Gordon Yiu (姚浩洋) graduated with first-class honors in history from City University of Hong Kong. He is interested in Cold War history and historical memory. He will begin his MPhil research “A Global Liminal Space: Kowloon Bay of Cold War Hong Kong, 1950 – 1972” under the guidance of Dr. John D. Wong and Dr. Ghassan Moazzin.



Mr. Yichen Rao Receives the U21 Researcher Resilience Fund



Mr. Yichen Rao, PhD student at the Institute, has been awarded US\$ 5000 by the U21 Researcher Resilience Fund in support of his project “Reimagining Fieldwork in the Interconnected World: Ethnography-inspired Digital Strategies under the COVID-19 Challenges”. Yichen is collaborating with fellow students from the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile, University of Queensland of Australia, and UC Davis of the U.S. to organize an online forum, establish an online blog and write a virtual handbook for this project.

Admission to Research Postgraduate Programs, 2021 – 22

Prospective students are invited to apply for MPhil and PhD studies at the Institute. The deadline for application for the University’s Main Round and the prestigious Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme is **December 1, 2020** (Hong Kong time).

Interested candidates are encouraged to go through the details online at:

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

Key features of our programs



New Graduate Seminar Course (Semester 2)



“Food in Chinese Culture: The Past in the Present”

Prof. Angela Ki Che Leung will teach a new graduate seminar course “Food in Chinese Culture: the Past in the Present” in Semester 2. The syllabus will be announced soon.

Courses for Undergraduate Students (Semester 2)

Dr. Izumi Nakayama will teach the Common Core Course CCGL9028 “Gender, Health, and Globalization.” The course intends to explore the issues of new reproductive technologies, reproductive tourism, organ transplants, organ tourism, and legal and ethical debates to highlight the linkages of globalization, gender, and health, and to examine the impact that globalization has on women and men’s health around the globe. More information is available online at: commoncore.hku.hk/ccgl9028/

Dr. Ghassan Moazzin will teach the undergraduate course HIST2176 “Doing Business in Modern China, 1800 – 1949” in the History Department. In the course, students will learn about the modernization of Chinese business from the early 19th to the mid-20th century and investigate how the traditional Chinese family firm evolved into the modern Chinese corporation.



Personalia

Staff Appointments

Dr. Anna Iskra, Postdoctoral Fellow (CRF BRINFAITH Project), from September 2020.

Mr. Xiaomeng Liu, Research Assistant (CRF MMEA Project), from July 2020.

Miss Yue Tong, Multimedia Development Assistant (CRF BRINFAITH Project), from September 2020.

Mr. Jack Xing, Research Assistant (CRF MMEA Project), from September 2020.

Miss Mengting Zhang, Research Assistant (CRF BRINFAITH Project), from August 2020.

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