

FEATURED NEWS

Book Webinar by Prof. Gungwu Wang



The Institute and the HKU Government and Laws Committee (GLaws) jointly invited Prof. Gungwu Wang, Fellow of HKIHSS and University Professor of the National University of Singapore, to give a webinar on his books, *Home is not Here* and *Home is Where You Are*, on April 21, 2021. In this fascinating, one-and-a-half-hour talk, Prof. Wang shared with over 300 audience members his life journeys in Malaya and China, as well as stories featuring his late wife Mrs. Margaret Wang, reflecting on the ideas of family, identity, and one's sense of belonging.

The entire webinar may now be re-experienced at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=odO8Vt9ytf8>. The transcript of the webinar is also available at

<https://www.hkihss.hku.hk/transcript/book-webinar-20210421>.

Prof. Helen F. Siu (top left) giving welcoming remarks. With her are (clockwise from top right) Dr. John D. Wong serving as moderator, Mr. Anfield Tam of GLaws, and Prof. Angela Leung



Congratulations to Prof. David A. Palmer for obtaining RGC General Research Fund (2021-2022 Exercise)

Prof. David A. Palmer has been awarded HK\$776,709 for a 36-month project entitled "Rituals and Manuscripts of the Lanten Yao (Yao Mun)." The project will bring together expertise in anthropology, sinology, history, and manuscript studies in China, Laos, and Vietnam. The project will transcend national boundaries that fragment the study of ethnic minorities in continental Southeast Asia, and significantly advance the study of Daoism among non-Han, non-Chinese ethnic groups.



UPCOMING EVENTS

1. Delta on the Move Webinar Series

The “Delta on the Move: The Becoming of the Greater Bay Region” cluster launched a new webinar series in the spring of 2021, which is both designed to bring prospective collaborators to the Institute for the research initiative, and to introduce cutting-edge research on the historical development of the Greater Bay Area to a wider audience. Four scholars have been invited to give talks this coming fall: Dr. Yubin Shen (Sun Yat-sen University, Zhuhai), Dr. Sheng Fei (Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou), Dr. Xing Hang (Brandeis University), and Dr. Yijun Wang (New York University). Stay tuned for more details.



2. Chinese Business History Webinar Series

Since last fall (2020), the Chinese Business History sub-group of the “Hubs, Mobilities and the Asian Urban” cluster has held a monthly webinar series that features the latest research on the history of Chinese business and entrepreneurship. In the coming September and October, the series will bring three overseas scholars to give presentations on interesting these topics:



September 24: “Unending Capitalism: How Consumerism Negated China’s Communist Revolution” by Prof. Karl Gerth (UC San Diego)



October 15: “Timber and Forestry in Qing China: Sustaining the Market” by Dr. Meng Zhang (Vanderbilt University)



October 29: “Mao’s Third Front: The Militarization of Cold War China” by Dr. Covell Meyskens (Naval Postgraduate School)



November 12: ““Scientific” Management in Republican Shanghai: American-Returned Students and the Concept of Efficiency” by Dr. Peter Hamilton (Lingnan University).



December 10: “An American Salesman in China: Local Markets, Global Business, and Competition in Marketing Cigarettes during the 1920s” by Prof. Elisabeth Köll (University of Notre Dame)



3. Interdisciplinary Lunchtime Seminar Series

Launched in 2009, the Interdisciplinary Lunchtime Seminar Series continues to introduce cutting-edge research in various disciplines and areas, covering topics from history, sociology, law, finance, and business to literature, as well as cultural and film studies. In the coming fall semester, Dr. Ghassan Moazzin and Dr. Anna Iskra, coordinators of the series, bring together seven scholars who will share their research with the audience.

- ◆ September 7: Dr. Linus Huang (HKU), “Why Explainable AI Needs Feminist Philosophy: Epistemic Injustice, Situated Knowledge, and the Amelioration of Algorithmic Bias”
- ◆ September 14: Dr. Venera R. Khalikova (CUHK), “‘I am not an expat, I am brown’: Racialized Subjectivities of High-earning Mobile Professionals from India in Hong Kong’
- ◆ September 21: Dr. Carl Hildebrand (HKU), “‘Reason’s Sympathy’: Kant’s Novel Account of Sympathy and its 18th Century Precedents’
- ◆ October 19: Dr. Peng Wang and Dr. Wanlin Lin (both from HKU), “Extralegal Governance: Private Orderings in China’s Illegal Markets”
- ◆ November 2: Dr. Anna Iskra (HKU), “Crafting Utopias for Spiritual Nationalism. Heterodoxy and Patriotism in Indian Guru Worship in China”
- ◆ November 16: Dr. Janet Borland (HKU), “Crane Diplomacy: Auspicious Gifts of a Species on the Brink of Extinction”
- ◆ November 30: Dr. Wicky Tse (CUHK), “Military Bounties in Early Imperial China”

4. Collaborative Research Fund Projects

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

The MMEA team has re-scheduled its third and final plenary conference for May 2022. The event will connect the whole team—collaborators, advisory board members, and institutional partners—to discuss project findings and explore new pathways for East Asian studies. Professor Pamela H. Smith (Seth Low Professor of History; Director of the Center for Science and Society, Columbia University) will give a keynote speech at the conference. Details will be announced soon.



<https://mmea.hku.hk>

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



The BRINFAITH team organizes three panels at the 12th International Convention of Asia Scholars (ICAS) (August 24–28, 2021) to present its latest research findings focusing on the themes “Religious Strategies and Circulations in the Infrastructures of Colonial Empires and Postcolonial States,” “Chinese Cosmological and Religious Expansions and Appropriations in South and West Asia,” and ‘The “Tao among the Yao”: Ethnographic and Textual Studies on the Rituals and Manuscripts of the Lanten Yao of Laos.’ Abstracts are available online at <https://www.eventscribe.net/2021/ICAS12/>.

RECENT EVENTS

1. Interdisciplinary Lunchtime Seminar Series

The Interdisciplinary Lunchtime Seminar Series presented nine thought-provoking talks in the spring and summer of 2021:

January 26: “Hybrid Regulatory Regime in Turbulent Times: The Role of State in China’s Stock Market Crisis in 2015–2016” by Dr. Chen Li (CUHK)

February 9: “From Edo to Sōseki: Emotion, Desire, and the Making of the Novel in Nineteenth-Century Japan” by Dr. Daniel Poch (HKU)

February 23: “Of Faith and Fortune: Perpetual Trusts and the *Mukṭad* Ceremonies” by Dr. Leilah Vevaina (CUHK)

March 9: “A Source of Vernacular Knowledge or a Final Frontier for Globalized Science? American and Chinese Discourses on Science in the People’s Republic of China, 1971–1978” by Dr. Pete Millwood (HKU)

March 23: “The Grammar of Leprosy: Temporal Politics and an Impossible Subject” by Dr. Laura Meek (HKU)

April 13: “Spreading the Word of God in Wartime China: The China Bible House in the Second Sino-Japanese War” by Dr. George Mak (HKBU) (co-hosted by the Delta on the Move Lecture Series)

May 4: “The Daoist-Marxist Monk of Iraq: On the Life and Thought of Hadi al-‘Alawi” by Dr. Mohammed Al-Sudairi (HKU)

April 27: “Visualizing the Configuration (*hay’a*): Thinking with Images in Islamic Astronomical Manuscripts” by Dr. Scott Trigg (HKU)

May 18: “On Aliveness: Viruses, Evolution, Life” by Dr. Timothy Gitzen (HKU)

2. “Delta on the Move: The Becoming of the Greater Bay Region” (GBA) Cluster

Delta on the Move Webinar Series

With the aim to introduce foremost research on the historical development of the Greater Bay Area, the series hosted the following two talks in spring 2021 and co-hosted four others, including the book webinar by Prof. Gungwu Wang (see p.1) and talks by Drs. George Mak (see above lunchtime seminar series), Philip Thai (see p.5), and Veronica Sau-Wa Mak (p.6).



May 19: “‘Use Hong Kong to Construct Bao’an’: Shenzhen during the Mao Era and the Origins of China’s Reform and Opening’ by Dr. Taomo Zhou (Nanyang Technological University)

June 18: “Tropical Enlightenment: Chinese Sugar, Creole Dutch, and the First European Learned Society in Asia, 1778–1800” by Mr. Guanmian Xu (Leiden University)



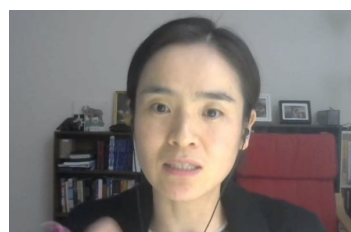
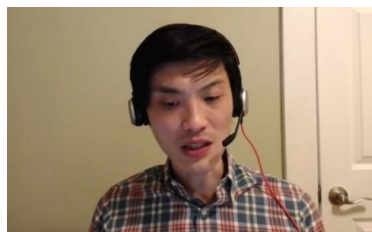


3. Hubs, Mobilities and the Asian Urban

Chinese Business History Sub-Group

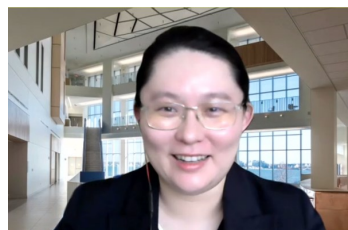
The sub-group organized a monthly Chinese Business Webinar Series, bringing together scholars who are interested in the history of Chinese Business. In spring 2021, The six talks organized from January to June 2021 were:

- ♦ January 29: “Milk from the Butterfly Spring: State and Enterprise in the Yunnan Dairy Industry” by Prof. Thomas DuBois (Beijing Normal University)
- ♦ February 26: “Vice City: Hong Kong in the Anglo-American War on Drugs, 1970–1979” by Dr. Philip Thai (Northeastern University)
- ♦ March 26: “Industrial Craft: A Global History of Chinese Cotton Mills, 1877–1937” by Dr. Yi Yuan (Columbia University)
- ♦ April 23: “Corporate Conquests: Business, the State, and the Origins of Ethnic Inequality in Southwest China” by Prof C. Pat Giersch (Wellesley College)
- ♦ May 21: “Chinese Hinterland Capitalism and Shanxi *Piaohao*: Banking, State, and Family, 1720–1910” by Dr. Luman Wang (University of Massachusetts Boston)
- ♦ June 18: “Factories and China’s Special Century” by Dr. Zhaojin Zeng (Duke Kunshan)



From left: Prof. Thomas DuBois, Dr. Philip Thai, and Dr. Yi Yuan

From left: Prof. C. Pat Giersch, Dr. Luman Wang, and Dr. Zhaojin Zeng



Interview with Dr. John D. Wong

In May, Dr. Ghassan Moazzin interviewed Dr. John D. Wong, Associate Professor in the Institute, about his book *Global Trade in the Nineteenth Century: The House of Houqua and the Canton System* for New Books Network. Listen to the interview at: <https://newbooksnetwork.com/global-trade-in-the-nineteenth-century>



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

Online Dialogue “Soy Sauce Across Asia: Tradition, Taste, and Technology” (May 27, 2021)

Prof. Angela Ki Che Leung, together with Dr. Izumi Nakayama, Dr. John D. Wong, Dr. Hallam Stevens (Nanyang Technological University), and Mr. Daniel Chan, a soy sauce maker from Hong Kong’s Koon Chun Sauce Factory, discussed the history of soy sauce and examined the differences and similarities across production methods in Singapore, Hong Kong, China, and Japan. The discussion revolves around the view that the development of soy sauce can be used to map and track the technological and industrial development, globalization, as well as the heritage value of food.

A recording of the dialogue is available at <https://www.sgheritagefest.gov.sg/programmes/soy-sauce-across-asia---tradition-taste-and-technology>. Enjoy!



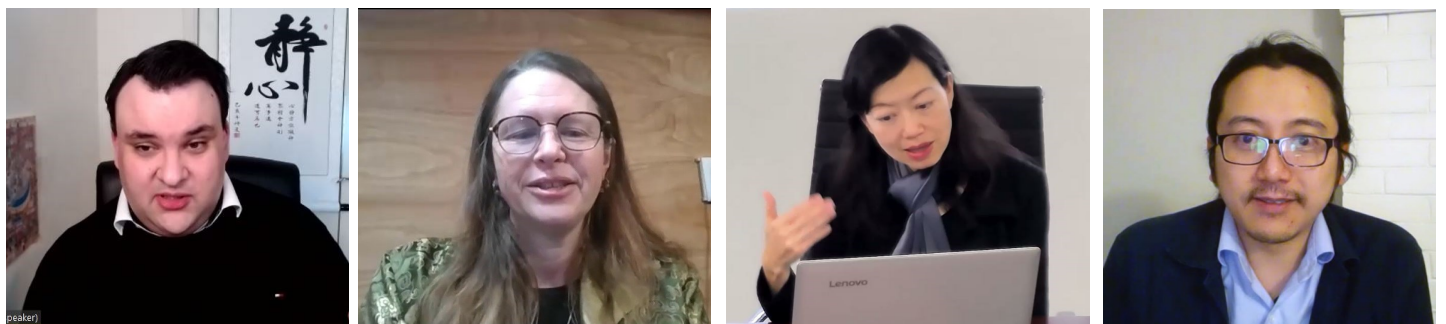
(From left) Soy sauce factories in Japan, Hong Kong, and Taiwan

Making Modernity in East Asia Lecture Series

Four online lectures were held in the spring semester: Dr. Ghassan Moazzin (HKU) gave a talk entitled “Electric China: A History of the Chinese Electrical and Electronics Industries, 1870–1937” on February 4. Following it, two others were delivered in March—on March 3, Prof. Sigrid Schmalzer (University of Massachusetts Amherst) presented “Connecting the Dots: A History of Systems Thinking in Chinese Agricultural Science and Politics,” and on March 8, Dr. Veronica Sau-Wa Mak (Hong Kong Shue Yan University) delivered a lecture called “From Medicine to a Staple Food—How Science and Tradition are Shaping the Milk Production and Consumption in Modern China.” In May, the team invited Dr. Victor Seow (Harvard University) to give a talk on “Fueling Imperial Anxieties: Energy and Empire in Interwar and Wartime Japan” on May 20.



Re-experiencing the lectures at:
<https://www.youtube.com/user/hkihss>

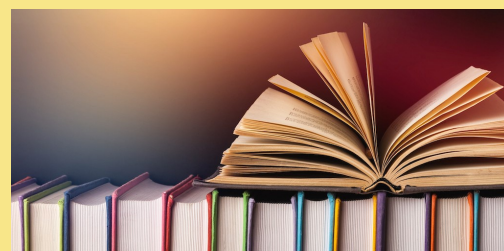


From left: Dr. Ghassan Moazzin, Prof. Sigrid Schmalzer, Dr. Veronica Mak, and Dr. Victor Seow



MMEA Publications

Since this spring, the Project Team Members published several articles focusing on local soy produce, Chinese vaccination campaigns, and innovation policies in Hong Kong and Shenzhen within the Greater Bay Area. Details are available at: <https://mmea.hku.hk/publications>



5. CRF Project “Infrastructures of Faith: Religious Mobilities on the Belt and Road”

Religion and Empire Lecture Series

Six Zoom lectures were organized in the first half of 2021. The invited speakers spoke on the entanglements between religion, infrastructure, and empire in the past and present. The cases covered locations from Rio de Janeiro to Nepal to Tokyo, all of which being connected to China through networks intertwined with religion, diplomacy, migration, or infrastructure. Audiences from around the world listened in and took part in the discussions, creating a Hong Kong-based, inter-continental space for analysis and reflection on the BRI and on religion. Follow the link <https://asiar.hku.hk/brinfaith/> to re-experience the lectures:



January 25: “Religion as Infrastructure: Congolese Migration, Diaspora, and Religious Networks” by Dr. Gerda Heck (American University in Cairo)

March 1: “The Universal Enemy: Jihad, Empire, and the Challenge of Solidarity” by Dr. Darryl Li (University of Chicago)



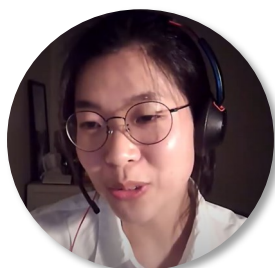
March 18: “The Politics of Muslim Infrastructure in Tanzania” by Dr. Benjamin Kirby (University of Leeds)



April 28: “The New Faith Roads in Southeast Asia: Dynamics of a Circulatory Missionary Process” by Prof. Jérémy Jammes (Sciences Po Lyon, France)



May 17: “Circulations and Convergences: Mecca in the Conceptions and Mobilities of Chinese Muslim Diasporas in Saudi Arabia” by Dr. Janice Hyeju Jeong (University of Göttingen)



June 30: “Making the Muslim World in the Age of Britain’s Steam and Print Initiative” by Prof. Cemil Aydin (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)



OUR POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMS

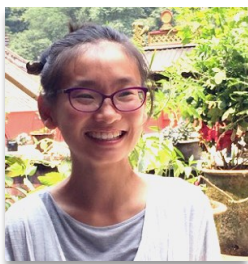
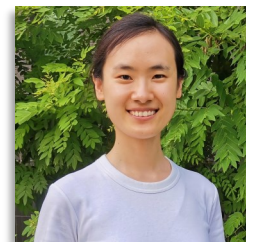
Warmest Welcome to Our New Students

The Institute is pleased to introduce four young scholars who have joined us for the 2021–2022 cohort:



Mr. Martin Tse, currently an MPhil student at the Institute, has been awarded the HKU Presidential PhD Scholarship for his doctoral studies on “Imperial Centre, Ethnic Periphery: An Ethnographic and Textual Study of the Daoist Ordination Rituals among the Lanten Yao in Laos,” under the supervision of Prof. David A. Palmer with Dr. Ji Li.

Ms. Yijun Gai was admitted to the University’s Joint PhD Program with Southern University of Science and Technology (SUSTech) in Shenzhen. Ms. Gai has an engineering degree from the University of Toronto. Her PhD research focuses on the pros and cons of solar energy in China and the social background and impact of the technology. She will conduct research under the guidance of Prof. Angela Ki Che Leung in the Institute and Prof. Yuehong Chen in SUSTech.



Ms. Ziwei Fan received her Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from the University of Bristol (2013) and Master of Science in Environmental Technology from Imperial College London (2014). She is working on her MPhil project, “The Transmission of the Dao at Mt. Qingcheng: Transnational Spiritual Encounters among Female Daoists, Western Scholars, and Western Pilgrims,” under the supervision of Prof. David A. Palmer and Dr. Izumi Nakayama.

Mr. Junfeng Zhang was trained at Peking University with a major in Indian Languages and Literature. He is doing his MPhil project on overseas Chinese in Calcutta under the joint supervision of Dr. Ghassan Moazzin, Dr. John D. Wong, and Prof. Helen F. Siu.



Call for Applications to Research Postgraduate Studies at HKIHSS, 2022-2023

HKU Main Round Admission

Application Period: September 1 to December 1, 2021

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

Online application: <https://www.gradsch.hku.hk>

Enquires: ihssrpg@hku.hk / (852) 3917-5011

HKU Presidential PhD Scholarship Scheme

Details at <https://www.gradsch.hku.hk>

Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme

Details at <https://cerg1.ugc.edu.hk/hkpfs/index.html>





New Graduate Seminar Course 2021–2022



Prof. David A. Palmer and Dr. Mike Brownutt (Fellow, HKIHSS) co-teach a graduate seminar course entitled “Re-Assembling Reality: Reframing Science, Religion and Society in Asia” in the fall semester. Admission is open to all disciplinary backgrounds. Course syllabus and admission details are available at <https://www.hkihss.hku.hk/en/teaching/courses-offering-in-2021-22/>

Updates from Current Students

Mr. Yichen Rao (PhD student, to graduate in 2021) has been awarded the Ernst Mach Grant by the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research of Austria for his research visit to the University of Vienna from March to August, 2021.

Placements of Recent Graduates

Dr. Xiaomeng Liu (PhD graduate, 2020) has received an a tenure-track appointment from Fudan University to join the History Department.

Dr. Anna Iskra (PhD graduate, 2020) has joined the team of Prof. David A. Palmer’s CRF project in the Institute as Postdoctoral Fellow since September 2020. She was a recipient of the Award for Outstanding Research Postgraduate Student for 2019–2020.

Dr. Shuo Hua (PhD graduate, 2021) has joined the University Museum and Art Gallery of HKU as Curatorial Research Fellow.

Dr. Qi Sun (PhD graduate, 2018) recently joined the History Department at Sun Yat-sen University (Zhuhai Campus) as Post-doctoral Fellow.

Dr. Andrea Chen (PhD graduate, 2021) is teaching at the Divinity School of Chung Chi College, CUHK, as Part-time Lecturer.

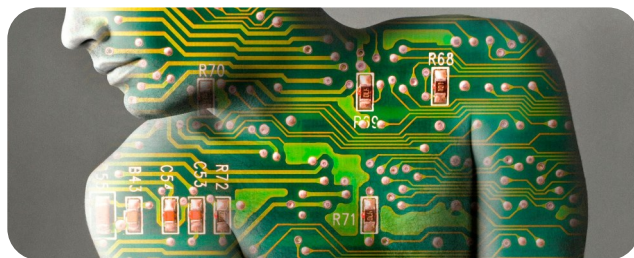
Mr. Zhongxian Xiao (MPhil graduate, 2020) received a full scholarship from the Georgia Institute of Technology to pursue PhD studies under the supervision of Prof. Hanchao Lu. Mr. Xiao will be working on the history of everyday technology in modern Shanghai and forensic medicine in modern China. Mr. Xiao is the second MPhil graduate of the Institute to be admitted to Georgia Tech. The first one was Mr. Jack Linzhou Xing, who was admitted to the same program in 2020.

Ms. Joyce Fung (MPhil graduate, 2021) is currently a Senior Research Assistant for the CRF project led by Prof. Angela Leung at the Institute.

Ms. Zichan Qiu (MPhil graduate, 2021) is working as a Research Assistant for a history project on the Southern District of Hong Kong at CUHK.

UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING

Dr. Izumi Nakayama will teach a new Common Core Course on “Gender, Science and Self-shaping: Biohacking and Techno-identities” (CCST9079) in the spring semester of 2022. More details on the course are available at <https://commoncore.hku.hk/ccst9079/>.



Dr. Ghassan Moazzin will teach a course on “The Economic History of Modern China, 1800 to the Present” for undergraduate students at the History Department in the coming spring semester of 2022. The course explores the development of the Chinese economy from the early 19th century to the present day.

PUBLICATIONS

Ji Li, “Mobility and Identity: Christianity and the Making of Local Society in Northeast China, 1840–1945,” *The Catholic Historical Review*, 107:2, Spring 2021, pp. 253–276. <https://muse.jhu.edu/article/796184>

David A. Palmer and Temily Tavangar, “The Bahá’í Faith and Covenantal Pluralism: Promoting Oneness, Respecting Difference,” *The Review of Faith & International Affairs*, 19:2, Jun 2021, pp. 29–39. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15570274.2021.1917138>

Yichen Rao, “Dreaming Like a Market: The Hidden Script of Financial Inclusion in China’s P2P Lending Platforms,” *Economic Anthropology*, 8:1, December 2020, pp. 102–115. <https://doi.org/10.1002/sea2.12200>

John D. Wong, ‘Making Vitasoy “Local” in Post-World War II Hong Kong: Traditionalizing Modernity, Engineering Progress, Nurturing Aspirations,’ *Business History Review*, 2021, 95(2), pp. 275–300. <https://mmea.hku.hk/publications/making-vitasoy-local>

INSTITUTE’S NEWS

Return of Professor Helen F. Siu as Visiting Professor

Prof. Helen F. Siu, Honorary Professor of the Institute, spent the summer months at the University. During her three-month visit, she collaborated with the Hubs and GBA cluster teams on on-going cross-cluster projects while working with CUHK Press to publish the Chinese version of her book *Tracing China: A Forty-Year Ethnographic Journey* (HKU Press, 2016). The book is tentatively entitled “踏跡尋中”. Prof. Siu will return to Yale University in early September, but plans to re-visit the University in 2022.





PERSONALIA

Staff Appointments

Ms. Joyce Fung, Senior Research Assistant (CRF, MMEA project), from July 2021.

Dr. Hua Loon Ling, Project Manager (FGE Program), from June 2021.

Dr. Kim Kwong Chan, Research Associate (CRF, BRINFAITH project), from September 2021.

Staff Departure

Dr. Xiaomeng Liu, Postdoctoral Fellow (CRF, MMEA project), w.e.f. June 1, 2021.

Mr. Linzhou Xing, Research Assistant (CRF, MMEA project), w.e.f. June 1, 2021.

Ms. Mengting Zhang, Research Assistant (CRF, BRINFAITH project), w.e.f. August 16, 2021.

Ms. Helen Fu, Research Assistant (CRF, BRINFAITH project), w.e.f. August 31, 2021.

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