

**The University of Hong Kong
Hong Kong Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences**

IHSS6004: Selected Topics on Inter-Asian Connections

Course teacher: John D. Wong

Semester: Semester 1, 2022-2023

Focusing on exploring Hong Kong in an Inter-Asian context, this seminar involves intensive reading, discussion, and writing exercises aimed at assisting HKIHSS advanced graduate students with their individualized methodological and theoretical training and to broaden and deepen their understanding of how their research interests relate to other disciplinary and thematic fields. The seminar takes students through the process of identifying relevant issues as well as designing and implementing research projects. It familiarizes them with the manifold challenges of a reflexive disciplinary identity and methodology.

Building on some foundational works, students will compile and master a substantial reading list pertinent to their research topics. Each student is expected to write a project abstract by mid-term, conduct an oral presentation outlining particular research design and literature review, and finish a chapter/article-length research piece by the end of the semester. All students will discuss their classmates' projects with a view toward assessing each other's use of evidence to build an argument, as well as their scholarly contributions to the related fields. Participation in class is essential.

ASSESSMENT

- Attendance & Participation 40%
Students are expected to attend all meetings. Each student will be required to present one of the topics and facilitate discussion during the weekly sessions. Active, thoughtful participation in all aspects of the course is important. Unexcused absences will result in a failing grade.
- Abstract 10%
- Oral Presentation of Project 10%
- Research Paper (around 8,000 words) 40%
Students should prepare a paper on a topic related to their dissertation research. The topic should ideally use a case from empirical research to critically engage with a body of literature in an Inter-Asian context.

SCHEDULE (Weekly two-hour meetings in May Hall)

Schedule subject to change, contingent on public health regulations.

- Week 1: Introduction
- Weeks 2 through 4: Foundational Texts
- Week 5: Discussion of Abstracts
- Weeks 6 through 8: Discussion of Students' Selection of Inter-Asia Readings
- Weeks 9 through 11: Presentation and Discussion of Research Projects

READINGS

Foundational Readings

- Chen, Kuan-Hsing. 2010. *Asia as Method: Toward Deimperialization*. Durham [NC]: Duke University Press.
- Lee, Christopher, Kuan-Hsing Chen, Sneja Gunew, Michelle O'Brien, Audrey Yue, and Rusaba Alam. 2019. "Trajectories, Institutions, and Re-Locations: A Conversation on Inter-Asia Outside Asia." *Inter-Asia Cultural Studies* 20 (2): 341–55.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/14649373.2019.1617228>.
- Tagliacozzo, Eric. 2011. *Chinese Circulations: Capital, Commodities, and Networks in Southeast Asia*. E-Duke Books Scholarly Collection. Durham [N.C.]: Duke University Press.
- Tagliacozzo, Eric. 2015. *Asia Inside Out: Changing Times*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
- Tagliacozzo, Eric, Helen F. Siu, and Peter C. Perdue. 2015. *Asia Inside Out: Connected Places*. Vol. 2. Cambridge, Massachusetts, London, England: Harvard University Press.
- Tagliacozzo, Eric, Helen F. Siu, and Peter C. Perdue. 2019. *Asia Inside Out. Itinerant People*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press.

Recommended Readings

- Carroll, John M. 2005. *Edge of Empires: Chinese Elites and British Colonials in Hong Kong*. Cambridge, Mass. ; London, Eng.: Harvard University Press.
- Hamilton, Peter E. 2021. *Made in Hong Kong: Transpacific Networks and a New History of Globalization*. New York: Columbia University Press.
- Sinn, Elizabeth. 2013. *Pacific Crossing: California Gold, Chinese Migration, and the Making of Hong Kong*. Hong Kong: University Press.
- Wong, John D. 2022. *Hong Kong Takes Flight: Commercial Aviation and the Making of a Global Hub, 1930s–1998*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Asia Center.
<https://www.hup.harvard.edu/catalog.php?isbn=9780674278264>.