Highlights

The Establishment of Hung Leung Hau Ling Distinguished Visiting Professorship in the Humanities and Social Sciences

With a generous donation of HK$ 20 million from the Hung Hing Ying & Leung Hau Ling Charitable Foundation and Kowloon Investment Company Limited and the matching funds provided by the University, the Hung Leung Hau Ling Distinguished Visiting Professorship in the Humanities and Social Sciences was established at the Ceremony of the Ninth Inauguration of Endowed Professorships on April 15, 2016. The endowment will support the appointments of visiting scholars in the fields of humanities and social sciences visiting HKU. The Scheme will provide the impetus to promote the development of path-breaking programmes in targeted areas; foster invaluable links with reputable institutions; and provide a knowledge exchange platform for the Hong Kong community.

“Canton’s India Connections” A Dialogue with Amitav Ghosh (August 18, 2016, HKU)

The Institute hosted the acclaimed Indian author Amitav Ghosh’s visit to HKU on August 18. Mr. Ghosh engaged in an inter-disciplinary dialogue on “Canton’s India Connections” with Prof. Angela Leung (HKU), Prof. Tansen Sen (New York University Shanghai), Prof. Helen F. Siu (Yale University and HKU), and Dr. John Wong (HKU). Mr. Ghosh is the author of one book of non-fiction, a collection of essays and eight novels, of which the most recent is Flood of Fire, the third volume of The Ibis Trilogy. His writings have won prizes in India, Europe and Myanmar and he has been awarded honorary degrees by University of Paris: Sorbonne and Queens College in New York. The event was co-sponsored by the Consulate General of India Hong Kong and the Center for Global Asia of New York University Shanghai.
**Featured News**

**Advanced Training Workshop “Humanities, Social Sciences and Medicine in East Asia: Interdisciplinary Approaches” (August 1-8, 2016, Tianjin)**

The second advanced training programme “Humanities, Social Sciences and Medicine in East Asia: Interdisciplinary Approaches” was held at Nankai University in Tianjin, focusing on “Medical Knowledge in Practice, Medical Practice as Knowledge.”

Three young scholars from HKU, including two from the Institute together with seventeen others from Hong Kong, China and around the world were selected from 47 applicants to engage with leading scholars in medical history from Asia and the United States – Profs. Angela Leung (HKU), Shigehisa Kuriyama (Harvard University), Yu Xinzhong (Nankai University), Zhang Daqing (Peking University), Jeremy Greene, and Gianna Pomata (both from Johns Hopkins University) – and conduct fieldwork during the 8-day workshop. Two colleagues of the “Science, Technology and Medicine in Asian Society” cluster - Dr. Izumi Nakayama and Dr. Daniel Trambaiolo - participated in the programme as mentors. Our PhD student Mr. Liu Xiaomeng attended as instructor.

*Clockwise from top left:*

Professors Jeremy Greene (left), Gianna Pomata and Shigehisa Kuriyuma (right) at the workshop

Dr. Daniel Trambaiolo (right) and a group of trainees at the presentation session

Prof. Kuriyama briefing the trainees on presentation skills

Prof. Greene participating in a small-group discussion
The trainees from different disciplines such as History, Sociology, Anthropology, and STS - engaged in a series of interactive lectures, group discussions, group projects, and fieldwork. Through the various planned activities, they gained better understanding on the interplay between medical knowledge and practice in history and different culture contexts through historical and contemporary perspectives, highlighting the relevance of medicine to humanistic and social scientific analyses of East Asia.
The Seoul Conference – the fifth in the InterAsia Connections Conference series – hosted by the Seoul National University Asia Center, was successfully held in April. This series, which has been developed by the Institute and its international partners – Social Science Research Council, Yale University, Göttingen University, and National University of Singapore, showcased innovative research from across the social sciences, humanities and related disciplines, on themes of particular relevance to Asia, re-conceptualized historical, geographical, and cultural formation stretching from West Asia through Eurasia, South Asia and Southeast Asia to East Asia.

The Conference comprised 10 concurrent, closed director-led workshops and two public plenaries. The first Plenary Session started with the keynote speech “National Histories and the Cold War: A Transpacific Critique” by Prof. Lisa Yoneyama (University of Toronto) and followed by lively discussions among Prof. Yoneyama, Plenary Chair Prof. Tae-Gyun Park (Seoul National University), and two panelists Prof. Juliette Chung (National Tsing Hua University) and Prof. Myoung-Kyu Park (Seoul National University). The second Plenary Session “Reviewing InterAsia Work: Reflections of Past Workshop Directors” was chaired by Prof. Helen F. Siu. It gathered Profs. Kevin Hewison and Arne Kalleberg (both from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), Prof. Tim Harper (Cambridge University) and Prof. Engseng Ho (Duke University) to reflect on the InterAsian theoretical framework.

Prof. Angela Leung and Ms. Dorothy Tang (HKU Architecture) took part in the Directors’ Plenary Session and working group on Environmental Humanities. This theme will be highlighted in the next Conference to be held in Vietnam.
Congratulations to Dr. Zhang Jun

Dr. Zhang Jun, Research Assistant Professor at the Institute, has been awarded a General Research Fund grant of HK$ 611,180 for a two-year project “Old Neighbourhoods, New Spaces: Urban Reconstruction and Governance in China’s Urbanization.” This project will focus on three different case studies of old neighborhood reconstruction in Guangzhou at three critical moments of the process of China’s urbanization since the early twentieth century, adding significant historical complexity to conventional accounts of post-Mao processes of urbanization, while challenging master narratives of urban transformation that give too much agency to state actors. The project will make an important contribution to recent debates on infrastructure, power, and governance in the fields of urban studies, anthropology, post-colonial studies, and STS, adding a much-needed non-Western perspective into what remains a largely Western-centric research agenda.

Collaborations

Building a Trans-Asia Collaborative Network on Researching and Teaching Religion and Society in Asia: China – India – Indonesia

The “Rethinking Spirituality and Religion in Asia” cluster, together with partners in China, India and Indonesia, and with the support of United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia, will launch a series of summer schools to build collaborative network on teaching and research on religion and society in Asia. The first summer school is to be hosted by Dali University, Yunnan in 2017. The organizing committee, led by director of the research cluster, Dr. David A. Palmer, Dr. Liang Yongjia (National University of Singapore), Dr. Felix Wilfred (Asian Centre for Cross-Cultural Studies, Chennai) and Dr. Bernard Adeney-Risakotta (Indonesian Consortium for Religious Studies, Yogyakarta) met at the Institute on May 20, 2016 to plan the details.

Teaching at the Institute

New Common Core Courses

The Institute will participate in undergraduate teaching by launching two Common Core Courses under “Global Issues” in the spring semester of 2017 – CCGL9028 “Gender, Health, and Globalization” by Dr. Izumi Nakayama and CCGL9051 “Technology, Power, and Culture in the Global Age” by Dr. Gonçalo Santos. Course information is available online at http://www.hkihss.hku.hk/en/common_core_2016-2017/.

Welcome Our New Postgraduate Students

Our warmest welcome to two newly admitted MPhil students in the academic year 2016-2017.

Miss Zhong Yishan obtained her Bachelor’s degree in Translation from Xi’an International Studies University in 2014. After graduation, she has been working in Nanfang Media Group as Editor. She will be working on her thesis research project, “The Intergenerational Culture of Internet Philanthropy in Mainland China – A Case Study of gongyi.weibo.com”, under the supervision of Dr. Gonçalo Santos and Prof. Angela Leung.

Miss Tian Jingyi obtained her Bachelor’s degree in Journalism and Japanese Studies at HKU in 2015. Her thesis research project is tentatively titled “Sportsmanship or Swordsmanship: Producing Martial Bodies in Modern Kendo”. She will be supervised by Drs. Gonçalo Santos and Izumi Nakayama.
Call for Applications for Admission to Research Postgraduate Programmes


Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme
Step 1: Initial application to the Hong Kong Research Grants Council (RGC) at www.rgc.edu.hk/hkphd. Application period: Early September to December 1, 2016 noon (exact dates to be announced by RGC). Step 2: Full application to HKU at www.gradsch.hku.hk.

Application period: September 1 to December 1, 2016

HKU Main Round
Full application to HKU at www.gradsch.hku.hk.

Application period: September 1 to December 1, 2016

Institutional Enhancement Scheme

The Institute is pleased to welcome Prof. Benjamin Elman, Gordon Wu ’58 Professor of Chinese Studies and Professor of East Asian Studies and History at Princeton University, to the Institute this fall. Prof. Elman will teach a postgraduate research seminar course titled “Classicism, Commerce & Society in Late Imperial China, 1400-1900” at the Institute and give a distinguished lecture during his stay.

Ms. Yan Xia, a PhD candidate of HKU Sociology Department, benefitted from the Lee Hysan-HKIHSS Fellowship and studied at Duke University under Prof. Gary Gereffi of the Centre on Globalization, Governance & Competitiveness for five months from January to May 2016. Yan Xia engaged with prominent scholars and fellow students in her research field during her stay at Duke University.

Mr. Jules Liu, a PhD student in Sociology, was selected as the upcoming Lee Hysan-HKIHSS Fellowship recipient. He will spend 11 months at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS) in France from October 2016. He is supervised by Dr. David A. Palmer and, in Paris, will be under the guidance of Dr. Sebastian Veg to develop his PhD thesis project “The Invention of Tradition and Social Transformation in Pingxiang.”

Call for Applications for Lee Hysan-HKIHSS Fellowship

We now invite postgraduate or senior undergraduate students in Humanities or Social Sciences disciplines to apply for the Lee Hysan-HKIHSS Fellowship. Successful applicants will be awarded a fellowship to undertake research training for up to a semester at an institution abroad. Application details are available online at www.hkihss.hku.hk/events/ies/cfa2016.pdf.

Application Deadline: September 15, 2016
The Institute’s Founding Director and Visiting Research Professor Prof. Helen F. Siu returned to the Institute this summer, and organized a workshop to introduce cutting-edge research approaches and to build knowledge exchange platforms for young scholars engaged in international research grants applications. Mr. George Bayuga (right), PhD student of Anthropology at Yale University and a recipient of the Institute’s Sin Wai-Kin Junior Fellowship, shared his first-hand experience on competitive grant applications.

Publications


Theorists of globalization as well as activists’ writing from a range of positions have argued that phenomena such as the emergence of romantic courtship, companionate marriage, and gay identity politics in different parts of the world are symptomatic of a more general global transformation in the realm of intimate life. This special issue approaches these globally changing realities of love and marriage from the perspective of two distinct but not entirely dissimilar Asian contexts: China and India. This focus on China and India is a good way to overcome the limitations of conventional, nation-bound approaches in Asian studies, while challenging standard Western-centric accounts of the globalization of love, marriage, and intimate life. Dominant social science theorizations tend to focus too narrowly on macro-structural processes of individualization and the rise of affective individualism. The six articles included in this special issue propose an alternative approach that highlights the increasing centrality of individual choice, confessional and affective modes, and personal autonomy without overstating the extent to which individuals have become unmoored from broader moral and normative structures, including the institution of the family, larger kin groups, neighborhoods, caste, and other associational identities. Dr. Gonçalo Santos is Assistant Professor at the Institute. Dr. Henrike Donner is Associate Professor of Anthropology at Goldsmiths College, London.


Tracing China’s journey began from exploring rural revolution and reconstitutions of community in South China. Spanning decades of rural-urban divide, it finally uncovers China’s global reach and Hong Kong’s cross-border dynamics. Prof. Siu traverses physical and cultural landscapes to examine political tumults transforming into everyday lives, and fathom the depths of human drama amid China’s frenetic momentum toward modernity. Highlighting complicity, she portrays how villagers, urbanites, cadres, entrepreneurs, and intellectuals-laden with historical baggage-venture forward.
Upcoming Activities

Lectures and Seminars

“Sinophiles and Sinophobes: Medical Debates and Medical Philology in Tokugawa Japan” by Prof. Benjamin Elman (October 6, 2016, HKU)

Prof. Benjamin Elman (Princeton University) will deliver a talk as part of the Distinguished Lecture Series in October, focusing on medical debates in Tokugawa Japan. In the lecture, he will examine how the inflow of Ming and Qing medical books to Japan in the mid-eighteenth century influenced Japanese medical studies. He will also explain why Tokugawa scholar-physicians rejected Song dynasty medical sources and how the questioning of these sources contributed to the rapid rise of Japanese medical philology, which focused on restoring the Chinese medical classics by removing later interpolations.


Dr. Liang Yongjia (National University of Singapore) will review the anthropological study of religion in the last three decades against the social, political, and academic contexts. He argues that the anthropology of religion in China is a fuzzy field. In response to the religious revival, such studies are rather fragmentary and diffused.

“Rockefeller Philanthropy and China” by Prof. Mary Brown Bullock (September 12, 2016, HKU)

Prof. Mary Brown Bullock will explore a Century of Rockefeller Philanthropy and in China. Across the 20th and into the 21st century the Rockefeller philanthropic investment in China’s science, medicine and higher education far outpaced any other American source – upwards of a billion and half dollars. The Rockefeller China interests in commerce, religion, science and art epitomize the multi-dimensional non-governmental sources that continue to shape U.S. China relations. The Rockefeller’s emphasis on institution building and the longevity of their commitment to China resulted in distinct Chinese epistemic communities with shared intellectual values that have persisted to this day. This event is co-organized with the Faculty of Education of HKU.

“The Paradox of Moving Labor: Workers in the films of Jia Zhang-ke” by Prof. Peter Hitchcock (October 12, 2016, HKU)

Prof. Peter Hitchcock (Baruch College, The City University of New York) will focus on how migrant labor figures in or makes transition in Jia Zhang-ke’s films in his presentation. He argues that while politically obtuse and devoid of sociological standpoint, Jia’s films reveal a moving labor at the heart of social change, however much this process be deemed “ill-fated.” This event is co-organized with the Department of Comparative Literature of the University.
### Departmental Seminar Series

**September 14:** “When the Psycho-Boom Meets the Startup Frenzy: Therapist-Entrepreneurs and Their Remaking of the Psychotherapy Scene in China” by Dr. Hsuan-Ying Huang (Anthropology, CUHK).

**November 16:** “Between killing and curing: arsenic in Hong Kong” by Dr. Christine Luk (HKIHSS & School of Modern Languages and Cultures, HKU).

### Interdisciplinary Lunchtime Seminar Series

Drs. Max Hirsh and Christine Luk will coordinate the series in 2016-17. In the coming fall semester, seven speakers of various backgrounds will share their research with us:

- **September 6:** Dr. He Shenjing (Architecture, HKU)
- **September 27:** Dr. Wong Pak-Hang (Social Science, Hang Seng Management College)
- **October 11:** Ms. Lu Xiaoxuan (Architecture, HKU)
- **October 25:** Dr. Huwy-min Lucia Liu (Humanities, HKUST)
- **November 1:** Dr. Mark Clifford (History of Technology, Asia Business Council)
- **November 15:** Dr. Hervé Munz (Anthropology, Swiss National Science Foundation and HKIHSS, HKU)
- **November 29:** Dr. Ruben Gonzalez-Vicente (Asian & International Studies, CityU)

### Public Programme

**Contemporary Chinese Documentary Series – Meet the Director: “Planting for Life (種植人生)” by Director Gu Xiaogang (顧曉剛) (September 22, 2016, HKU)**

This film is about a young man (Old Jia) who abandoned metropolitan life in Shanghai in pursuit of safe food, natural farming, and true nature of love and life in Chongming Island. His attitude and philosophy attracted a big group of admirers from the city, whereas local villagers found his approaches disagreeable. When Old Jia finally left and looked back on this part of his life, he saw the germination of seeds, the birth of new life, the harvest of crops, and the betrayal of love.

### Recent Activities

**Talks by Prof. Xiang Biao’s visit**

Prof. Xiang Biao (Oxford University) spent from January to May 2016 at the Institute with the support of the Institutional Enhancement Scheme. In addition to teaching and mentoring students, he spoke at the departmental seminar on March 23 and gave a public lecture on April 14. Both events were well attended.
Public Lectures

Spirituality, Religion and Society Lecture Series: “The Birth of a Religious Group: An Ethnographic Study of Confucian Congregation” by Dr. Chen Na (April 19, 2016, HKU; organized by the “Rethinking Spirituality and Religion in Asia” Cluster)

Dr. Chen Na (Fudan University) gave the inaugural lecture at the Spirituality, Religion and Society Lecture Series, launched by Rethinking Spirituality and Religion in Asia cluster, entitled, “The Birth of a Religious Group: An Ethnographic Study of Confucian Congregation.” He explored the origins, the beliefs and rituals, the organization, and the development strategies of an emerging religious group in Fujian province, founded by a person with “supernatural healing power,” and the ensuing discussion addresses its features and implications.

“Chao Yuen Ren and the Modern Soundscape of Republican China, 1912-1937” by Prof. Yeang Chen-Pang (June 20, 2016, HKU; organized by the “Science, Technology, and Medicine in Asian Societies” Cluster)

In this lecture, Dr. Yeang Chen-Pang (University of Toronto) highlighted the contribution of Chao Yuen Ren to modern China’s science and technology “soundscape” to explore the evolving sonic sensibility for the educated public in Republican China. He first examined Chao’s phonetic research, dialect surveys, and representation scheme of tones, then analyzing the Romanization of Chinese characters advocated by Chao, discussing Chao’s involvement in music and drama and his attempt to improve sound reproducing technologies such as phonograph, broadcasting, and spectrographic “visible” speech.

Critical Dialogues about China Lecture Series

The Institute and the Faculty of Arts organized the lecture series “Critical Dialogues about China” in the Spring 2016. The lecture series sought to expand the growing interest in Hong Kong about how scholars all around the world pursued in-depth and meaningful research on China. Each event in the series consisted of a moderated dialogue between 2 leading scholars followed by a discussion. Speakers included Profs. Mark Elliott, Peter Bol, and Michael Szonyi (Harvard University), James Lee (HKUST), Lin Wei-ping (National Taiwan University), Liu Xiaomeng (Chinese Academy of Social Sciences), Arif Dirlik (Oregon University), Louise Edwards (University of New South Wales), Harriet Zurndorfer (Leiden University), Alka Acharya (Jawaharlal Nehru University). Concluding the series on 6 June 2016 was a special triadlogue on “Hong Kong in China Studies” by Profs. Poshek Fu (Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), Stephen Chu and John Carroll (both from HKU). This series was sponsored by the Strategic Research Theme of China-West Studies of the Faculty of Arts.
Interdisciplinary Lunchtime Seminar Series

In the second half of academic year 2015-16, the Institute hosted four lunchtime seminars. In March, Dr. Jonathan London (CityU) spoke on “Wonks, Tree Huggers, and Zombies: The Development and Limits of Vietnam’s Incipient Public Sphere” and Dr. Aurore Dumont (CUHK) gave a talk entitled “Ethnic Tourism and the Recreation of ‘Reindeer Evenki Culture’ in Inner Mongolia”. In April, Mr. Leo Goodstadt (HKU) lectured on “One Country, Two Economies: The Conflict Between Hong Kong Capitalism and Mainland Socialism” and Dr. Wu Jinting (University of Macau) presented “Performing the Nation, Performing the Market: Hybrid Practices and Negotiated Meanings of Chinese Rural Teachers.”

Clockwise from top left: Mr. Leo Goodstadt; Dr. Jonathan London; Dr. Aurore Dumont; and Dr. Wu Jinting

Public Programme

Contemporary Chinese Documentary Series — Meet the Director: “Listen to Macau” (聆聽澳門街) by Director Ding Cheng (丁澄) (March 18, 2016, HKU)

Over fifty people from the HKU community and the general public enjoyed the documentary film “Listen to Macau” and engaged in conversations with Mr. Ding Cheng, the film director, Prof. Ching May Bo, Professor of Department of Chinese and History at CityU, and Dr. Li Ji of the Institute. Mr. Ding shared with the audience that his original focus was to interview and pay tribute to Dr. Ng Wing-mui and Nanyin narrative singing. He noted how he and his team realized that Macau was a fascinating place to observe people’s everyday life, resulting in the production of this film.

Institute’s News

Research Grants Council Visit (June 16, 2016, HKU)

Prof. Angela Leung, Drs. Li Ji and Gonçalo Santos participated in the Research Grants Council (RGC) Visit this June. Drs. Li and Santos showcased their on-going GRF projects: “Making Religion, Making Local Society: the Social History of a Catholic Village in Northeast China” and “Technology, Charitable Benefaction, and Humanitarian aid in Contemporary China” respectively at the poster display session. Dr. Li and PhD student Ms. Anna Iskra joined other HKU staff and postgraduate research students in meeting with the RGC panel members.

In April, Dr. Max Hirsh, Research Assistant Professor of the Institute, organized a workshop entitled “Building Asian Cities: Design, Technology, and the Circulation of Architectural Knowledge and Urban Expertise.” Funded by the Hang Seng Bank Golden Jubilee Education Fund for Research, the interdisciplinary workshop included architects, historians, and anthropologists who presented their research on the urban development of cities across Asia, including Abu Dhabi, Cochin, Manila, Shenzhen, and Singapore.

Society for the History of Technology (SHOT) Annual Meeting 2016 (June 22-26, 2016, Singapore)

Four colleagues of the Institute – Prof. Angela Leung, Dr. Izumi Nakayama, Dr. Gonçalo Santos, and Dr. Zhang Jun – participated in the Society for the History of Technology (SHOT) in Singapore, its first annual meeting to take place in Asia. They presented the Collaborative Research Fund project proposal submitted by the cluster team of Science, Technology and Medicine in Asian Societies. Dr. Santos together with Prof. Suzanne Gottschang (Smith College) organized a double panel entitled “Rethinking Reproductive Technologies and Modernities: Pregnancy, Childbirth, and Reproduction in East Asian Societies, 1800s-2000s.”

Dr. Fung Kam Wing’s visit to the Institute of Chinese Literature and Philosophy, Academia Sinica (March & July, 2016)

In February 2016, Dr. Fung Kam Wing, Honorary Associate Professor and Fellow of the Institute, was awarded Visiting Scholar of the Year (2016) by the Institute of Chinese Literature and Philosophy, Academia Sinica, Taiwan. He visited Academia Sinica this March and July and gave two presentations.

Personalia

Visiting Professor
Prof. Benjamin Elman, Department of East Asian Studies, Princeton University, has been appointed Visiting Professor from October to November 2016.

Staff Appointments
Prof. Xu Chenggang, has been appointed as Honorary Professor from July 1, 2016.

Staff Departures
Dr. Lawrence Zhang, Postdoctoral Fellow and Miss Christy Kan, Executive Assistant, left the Institute in July 2016. Research Assistant Professor Dr. Liu Oiyan is leaving the Institute at the end of August 2016. We wish them every success in their future endeavors.