



**Spring
History
Symposium**
programme

06.05.2011

Friday 0830-1730
Department of History
School of Humanities
The University of Hong Kong

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The Spring History Symposium would like to acknowledge the generous support of the History Endowment Fund, and the help of Mr Dave Macri.

SPRING HISTORY SYMPOSIUM EVENT SCHEDULE

6 MAY 2011

Time	Event	Panel	Moderator / MC	Presenters and Paper Titles
1	0830-0845	Registration MB 150	---	---
	0845-0900	Opening MB 150	---	Wilhelmina KO Dr Priscilla ROBERTS
	0900-1030	Plenary Session MB 150	History Through Material Culture and Museum Studies	Henry CHOI FENG Ying (SY-sU): Networked Material of East-Asia: Cross-Cultural Adhesive of Ryukyu Lacquer, 1700s-1800s LAI Yunyun (TU): Interpreting 'Museum': The Early Experience of Exhibition Culture in China (1876-1878) XI Huidong (PU): Military Maps and the Painted Wars in Qing Dynasty
Morning Tea: 1030-1100				
2	1100-1230	2A MB 150	Culture and Diplomacy in the Pacific Rim	Laura VERNER Angharad FLETCHER (HKU): Matron Sage's Poster Girls: Representing Australian Military Nursing during the Second World War YUNG Kenneth (USyd): The Loss of the Chinese Mainland, the Émigré Intellectuals and the Quest for Chinese Democracy (1949-1960) WANG Chongyuan (HKU): Pragmatic diplomacy: Taiwan's withdrawal from the United Nations in 1971

		2B MB 136	Social History	Kris ERSKINE	<p>HO Xyrus (HKU): Diluting or Clearing Slums: The Politics of Public Housing in 1960s Hong Kong</p> <p>Kyaw Soe LWIN (HKCU): The Evolution of Institutions in Post-Colonial Labour Politics in Myanmar</p> <p>XIE Yingying (UMac): Women not be 'Ransomed': A Study of Jiu ji-yung's Cathonese Love Songs of the Early 19th Century</p>
Lunch: 1230-1330					
3	1330-1515	3A MB 150	Religion and Society	Chongyuan WANG	<p>Laura VERNER (HKU): 'The Whole Discoverie of this Treason': Edward Arden, John Somerville and the Fabrication of Treason in Catholic Warwickshire, 1583</p> <p>Chris WHITE (HKBU): Blending the Sacred and the Secular: Relational Networks and Social Activities of Minnan Christians in the Early 1900s</p>
		3B MB 136	Trade and Diplomacy: Qing Dynasty China and Hong Kong	Xyrus HO	<p>CHOI Henry (HKU): Porous Borders: Kowloon Imperial Maritime Customs and the Regulation of Foreign-Flagged Chinese Junks from Hong Kong (1902-1911)</p> <p>WANG Dongqing (HKU): Negotiating Imperial Sovereignty at its Periphery: The <i>Lady Hughes</i> Affair and Qing Jurisdiction over Westerners</p> <p>HE Jiangfeng (CUHK): Rethinking Late-Qing Diplomacy: A Case Study of China's Concession in Incheon from 1884 to 1894</p>
Afternoon Tea: 1515-1545					
4	1545-1715	Plenary Session MB 150	The Cold War	Angharad FLETCHER	<p>Kris ERSKINE (HKU): Chiang Kai Shek and Frank W. Price: A Missionary and Nationalist Public Diplomacy, 1938-1947</p> <p>Catherine S. CHAN (HKBU): <i>Tabula Rasa</i> in 1985: The Bitburg Controversy and the Implications on U.S.-West German Relations</p> <p>Paul WENHAM (HKU): Satellite to America and Europa: British policy on Space 1957-73.</p>

5	1715-1730	Closing MB 150	---	Wilhelmina KO	Prof John CARROLL
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FENG Ying
PhD Candidate
Sun Yat-sen University

**Networked Material of East Asia: Cross-Cultural Adhesive of Ryukyu
Lacquer, 1700s-1800s**

Ishizawa Hyogo compiled *Ryukyu Shikki Ko* (Treatise of Ryukyuan Lacquerware) in 1889, the first published monograph focusing on lacquer industry in the Ryukyu Kingdom with templates of dated lacquerwares. This essay scrutinizes *Ryukyu Shikki Ko* and relevant historical documents to evaluate the production and regional exchange of Ryukyu lacquer in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Hyogo's allegation of Japanese origin of Ryukyu lacquer was in compliance with sovereign claim of Japan over Ryukyu during mid-Meiji period. Government guidance on Ryukyu lacquer industry was exerted through prudent selections of templates in *Ryukyu Shikki Ko*. However, affinities between Ryukyu lacquer and its Chinese and Japanese counterparts in terms of decorative techniques and ware forms suggest cross-regional and multi-cultural imprints of Ryukyu lacquer industry. *Ryukyu Shikki Ko* serves as invaluable reference in provenance identification and approximate dating of Ryukyu lacquers, some of which successfully made their ways to the Royal Palace of Qing dynasty and the Tokugawa Shogunal Collection via tribute and trade. Lacquer production in Ryukyu Kingdom is therefore interpreted in relation to history of the regional exchange of lacquer materials in East Asia.

LAI Yunyun
PhD Candidate
Tsinghua University

**Interpreting “Museum”: The early experience of exhibition
culture of China (1876-1878)**

This article uses the official journal of Kuo Sung-tao, who was the first Chinese ambassador to England and France from 1876 to 1878. He observed some museums and exhibition institutes which were completely recorded in his personal diary and other official journals of his envoy. Kuo also tried very hard to establish the first exhibition in China but finally failed. This article will describe how did the envoys to recorded the western style exhibition, and discuss why the efforts to establishing the institute were failed, and the different definitions and terms among China, Japan and West.

XI Huidong
PhD Candidate
Peking University

Military maps and the painted wars in Qing Dynasty

The military maps, depicting the topography, geomorphology and military configuration, take a large proportion of the Chinese traditional maps drew in Qing Dynasty. Reflecting the military strategy, tactics, and mobilizing mechanism of Qing Dynasty, the military maps had been fully utilized as the important tool for the generals to state the military situation and their strategy and for Qing court to make military decision and strategic planning in the domestic and overseas wars. During the early and middle Qing Dynasty, the wars were mainly against the domestic ethnic minorities in the border areas or the neighboured vassal States, while the wars in the late Qing Dynasty were mainly against the Western countries and the domestic peasant uprisings. Correspondingly, the military maps, which took the “Wu gong tu” (map of the military merits, 武功图) and “Hai fang tu” (coast-defending map, 海防图) as the main forms in the early and middle Qing Dynasty, mainly depicted the offensive situations and the triumphal sceneries in order to show the Emperors’ merits of expansion and victory. However, the military maps, which took the “Pao tai tu” (map of the Forts and batteries, 砲台图) and “Bu fang tu” (map of the military installations and troop deployment, 布防图) as the main forms in the late Qing Dynasty, mainly depicted the defensive situations along the south east coast in order to defend military threats from the western countries. Taking the Chinese traditional landscape painting methods, the military maps take an important position in cartographic history and art history of China in addition to their academic value.

Angharad FLETCHER
MPhil Candidate
The University of Hong Kong

**Matron Sage's Poster Girls: Representing Australian Military Nursing during
the Second World War**

This paper explores the ways in which Australian military nurses were depicted in popular representations both during the Second World War and in the immediate post-war era. Between January 9, 1940, when the first group of Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS) Sisters left for overseas service in the Middle East, and the cessation of hostilities, 3,477 nurses worked on the home front and in combat regions around the world. Analysing primary sources from this period, including print media, memoirs and advertising campaigns, the chapter demonstrates the ways in which popular representations of military nurses differed from those of their civilian counterparts.

Particular attention is paid to the complex role of nurses in combat zones and to the ways in which nurses who became POWs, or were victims of violence, were represented in the mainstream media. The chapter argues that the experience of the thirty-two AANS Sisters imprisoned on Sumatra between 1942 and 1945, as well as the smaller number interned on Rabaul, exemplify tensions surrounding the construction of various popular representations, including those of 'victims' or martyrs', and the ways in which these representations were internalized and commandeered by wider socio-political ideologies. Frequently celebrated as examples of an indomitable fighting spirit that was quintessentially 'Australian', the chapter argues that representations of nurses, both civilian and military, were incorporated into the mass of ideas and images and became crucial in forging a postcolonial national identity.

This paper adopts a comparative perspective and aims to demonstrate how popular depictions embodied a complex set of cultural assumptions about the nurse as a woman and a professional, and the latent social anxieties surrounding the extension of nurses' activity into new specialist domains and environments, particularly the tropical setting of the Pacific arena.

YUNG Kenneth
PhD Candidate
The University of Sydney

**The Loss of the Chinese Mainland, the Émigré Intellectuals and the Quest for
Chinese Democracy (1949–1960)**

A large number of Chinese liberals fled the Chinese mainland to Taiwan, Hong Kong and overseas before the Communist takeover in 1949. Their political attitudes and responses to the loss of the Chinese Mainland were under the influence of the idea of “national salvation.” Most of them were eager to save the Chinese nation with a democratic Chinese government, but their approaches varied. Xu Fuguan, Yin Haiguang and Zhang Junmai were three of the most distinguished émigré intellectuals. Being a prominent liberal Confucian, Xu was devoted to the realisation of Confucian democracy under Chiang Kai-shek’s leadership in Taiwan. Yin, a major editor of the *Free China* magazine in Taiwan, was determined to turn against Chiang’s authoritarian rule and to fight for democratisation on the island. Zhang, one of the founders of the minor Taiwan-based Democratic Socialist Party, had chosen self-exile overseas and became an organizer of the Chinese Third Force Movement, which was opposed to both the Communists and the Nationalists. This paper offers a preliminary observation of how the idea of “national salvation” interacted with other relevant factors in the shaping of the three men’s responses to the Chinese political circumstances in the 1950s.

WANG Chongyuan
MPhil Candidate
The University of Hong Kong

Pragmatic diplomacy: Taiwan's withdrawal from the United Nations in 1971

Taiwan adopted a more flexible foreign policy towards the United States after 1971, when Taiwan was expelled from the United Nations.

During the late 1960s, due to the situation in Vietnam and the threats from the Soviet Union, both the People's Republic of China and the United States sent signals of friendship to each other. In 1971, following President Kissinger's secret mission to China, Sino-US relationship began to improve gradually. At the same time, the U.S. put more political pressure on Taiwan, which resulted in Taiwan withdrawing itself from the United Nations in October of the same year.

This paper examines the economic, military and diplomatic reasons behind this shift. Economically, Taiwan relied on the U.S. in many aspects. Militarily, without the protection of the U.S., the Nationalist government would lose its control of Taiwan. Diplomatically, the relationship with the U.S. was crucial for Taiwan to maintain its international status. By analysing these reasons, the aim is to gain further clarify on shift of Taiwan-American relations between 1971 and 1978.

HO Xyrus
MPhil Candidate
The University of Hong Kong

Diluting or Clearing Slums: The Politics of Public Housing in 1960s' Hong Kong

Adopting a holistic perspective, this paper explores the politics behind slum dilution and slum clearance as the two strategies to solve the housing problem in the 1960s' Hong Kong. It argues that the housing policies in this decade were no less important than those in the next. Ineffectiveness and inequity prompted policy changes and greater coordination, which further strengthened the government senses of commitment and the colonial desire to improve its image. Slum dilution through providing public housing was the confirmed strategy to tackle the housing problem. Commentaries rarely challenge why diluting but not clearing slums was adopted. This paper argues that the colonial insistence of laissez faire favoured no direct government intervention into the complicated private space of urban slums. Over time, urban renewal was designed not to solve the origin of the problem as intended, but to encourage private redevelopment. The land-abundant New Kowloon and the New Territories were ideal locations for public housing estates. Yet, political compromises between the government and indigenous people were necessary before smoothing the provision of public housing. The colonial relationship with these people, and with capitalism, shaped the logic of which space was and was not developable for housing. Challenging the 1967 riot as a watershed, this paper indicates that the government perceptions of the housing problem and solutions had more apparent continuities than changes.

Kyaw Soe LWIN
PhD Candidate
City University of Hong Kong

The Evolution of Institutions in post-colonial labour politics in Myanmar

This paper examines the evolution of both formal and informal institutional channels between workers and the state in post-colonial Myanmar. Since Myanmar gained its independence in 1948, the workers in Myanmar had exploited these institutional channels in order to make their demands for occupational benefits and rights to their employers or the government. Myanmar had gone through three major political changes since 1948: the British-style parliamentary system from 1948 to 1962, the military-dominated socialist government rule from 1962 to 1988 and the military period from 1988 to 2010. Along with these political changes, a number of formal and informal institutional channels became available to the workers during these periods. These institutional channels include political parties, trade unions, formal labour institutions (state institutions), international organization representing formal institutions and labour-employer relationship for informal institution. Although most of these channels were available to workers in all periods, the channels, which workers relied on most, varied from one political period to another. This paper will examine how these institutional channels evolved through a historical-institutionalist framework.

XIE Yingying
MPhil Candidate
The University of Macau

**Women not be 'Ransomed: A Study of Jiu ji-yung's Cantonese Love Songs
of the Early 19th Century**

The 97 Cantonese-written love songs compiled by Jiu ji-yung (招子庸) in the nineteenth century was deemed as echoing the feelings and affections of those courtesans, or "sing-song girls" who served as entertainers in the "house of entertainment" at that time. Despite its conversational way of discourse, these songs were suffused with exquisite euphemisms, like "the spring in wound", "the flowers in the mirror", "the autumn with heartlessness", and "the moon on the rim of the sky". Accordingly, one problem arises: are these delicate but commonplace metaphors more likely to be an accurate reflection of the female sentiments, or are they mainly the emotional products of Jiu ji-yung's own perception of the seemingly stark reality beneath dignities of those specially-occupied women?

Further, to faithfully decode these songs, it is necessary to transcend the gender boundary to understand the inner world of these women of complicated sentiments. Since Jiu ji-yung was a uninhibited man who expressed himself with pen and ink, this is not as an easy task to conquer.

CHOI Henry
PhD Candidate
The University of Hong Kong

**Porous Borders: Kowloon Imperial Maritime Customs and the regulation of
foreign-flagged Chinese junks from Hong Kong (1902-1911)**

Although the Mackey Treaty in 1902 provided that the tariffs and Likin combined levied on goods carried by Chinese junks from Hong Kong to treaty ports in Guangdong province should not more than the duties on goods carried by steamships, however, the evasion of Likin and Chingfei by Chinese junks was continued and the new trading practice, that is, the namely ownership of Chinese junks by foreign trading firms and daily operation of the junks by Chinese masters, was becoming prosperous in the waters of Hong Kong, Canton and various non-treaty ports in Guangdong province. This created a problem for Kowloon Imperial Maritime Customs, which was responsible for collecting tariffs and Likin from Chinese junks traveling between Hong Kong and Guangdong province, how far it should regulate the foreign-flagged junks?

Based on the reports and correspondences written by Kowloon Imperial Maritime Customs, this paper first discusses Chinese junk's business model and their strategies of evading Likin and Chingfei, by using the colonial status of Hong Kong and the Chineseness of Chinese merchants. Second, it analyses the position of Kowloon Customs within the system of Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs and how Hong Kong, as a "free port", was fitted in treaty port and non-treaty systems in Guangdong province. This paper is suggesting that regardless of the increasing appearance of steamships in coastal trade of Hong Kong and South China in the 1890s, Chinese junks was still a crucial element of connecting Hong Kong with Guangdong province in the field of imports and exports trade.

WANG Dongqing
PhD Candidate

The University of Hong Kong
Negotiating Imperial Sovereignty at its periphery: *Lady Hughes* Affair and
Qing Jurisdiction over the Westerners

Canton in the late eighteenth century, lying at the margins of the Qing and the British Empires, flourished as an Asian centre of global trade. Taking the Lady Hughes Affair as one example, this paper discusses how the Qing legal jurisdiction over alien offenses at Canton raised issues of translation, Maritime-Customs building and urban planning as part of global modernity, called notions of territory, population and security into question, and finally reshaped the formations of both imperial sovereigns in their mutual encounter. From the British perspective, this paper sees the Qing “collective punishment” against the foreign community as an early trace of colonial extraterritoriality established through the Opium War and even the judicial sovereignty of Hong Kong today.

Methodologically, the paper attempts to read the Sino-British legal disputes as not merely concerns of local justice, but the Qing response to both the growing western presence at its coast and the military crisis on its inland frontier, and how this response was socially conditioned by, in Foucault’s sense, the Qing “technology of power” and the operations of “governmentality” in the context of global modernity.

HE Jiangfeng
PhD Candidate
Chinese University of Hong Kong

**Rethinking Late-Qing Diploamcy: A case study of China's Concession in
Incheon from 1884 to 1894**

To strengthen the vassal relationship and resist the Japanese, China and Korea signed the Regulation of Incheon's Chinese concession and supplementary provisions in 1884. At the process of negotiations, China tried to strengthen the vassal relationship, but Korea intended to become a modern state. In Chinese concession, Qing's official got the power of administration, and Chinese commercial directors were responsible for specific services. Meanwhile, the police of Chinese concession was held by China and English. Although the English got the police's leadership, these police were able to transfer offenders with their country's consular at Chinese and International Concessions. Moreover, Qing's officials were responsible for Chinese litigation when Chinese got conflicts with another countries' people. Even if the Korean government attempted to arrest some Koreans at Chinese concession, they must inform Qing's officials in advance. Also, Qing's officials controlled the right of distributed lease and managed land-fund. Based on the characteristics of these concessions, the establishment of municipal institution and armed police, there are no differences with foreign concessions in China. However, because of these differences, both established reasons and international backgrounds, Chinese concession and foreign concessions were quiet different. It was a transitional and abnormal phenomenon of "One diplomacy, Two systems" in this period of Late-Qing.

Laura VERNER
MPhil Candidate
The University of Hong Kong

**'The Whole Discoverie of this Treason': Edward Arden, John Somerville and
the Fabrication of Treason in Catholic Warwickshire, 1583**

In the fall of 1583, the rural English county of Warwickshire came under national scrutiny; a young Catholic gentleman named John Somerville had been heard shouting profanities against Queen Elizabeth I, and promised to kill her with the intention that the Catholic Mary Queen of Scots would become queen of England. In this authoritarian and paranoid era, such actions could not be tolerated. What ensued was a brief examination of Somerville and his family, his mysterious death in a prison cell and the execution of his father-in-law, Edward Arden.

Close examination of the original documents supporting this case creates more questions than answers, and one is left with the same conclusion that the Elizabethan inhabitants of Warwickshire arrived at – that the whole case against Somerville and Arden was at best an exaggeration, at worst a complete fabrication.

The issues surrounding the plot seem to have been more political than religious, more national than local. In order to understand the case of the Somerville Plot, it is important to understand the questions that England was concerned with at the time, and then try to place Somerville and Arden into that framework. This paper will address these issues in order to shed light on this intriguing, and often overlooked, aspect of Elizabethan history.

Chris WHITE
PhD Candidate
Hong Kong Baptist University

**Blending the Sacred and the Secular: Relational Networks and Social
Activities of Minnan Christians in the Early 1900s**

This paper argues that Chinese Christians, while proportionately negligible, were nonetheless influential in Minnan society throughout the early 1900s. It reveals that many urban Christians were involved in a variety of activities, some explicitly Christian, others more secular, and that the bonds formed by these various activities often times overlapped. This paper especially focuses on the activities of Xu Chuncao, a Christian and influential figure in Minnan, and shows that relational webs of Chinese Christians were appropriated for both secular and evangelistic purposes. Xu was an early member of Sun Yatsen's *Tongmenghui* and used his influence in the church to attract new members into the revolutionary group. Partly because of their involvement in the Revolution, following the collapse of the Qing in 1911, Christians in Minnan were viewed with greater respect and looked upon as leaders in creating a new society. As the 1920s approached, Chinese Christians did not continue to experience the prestige afforded to them in the early 1910s, but Xu remained a prominent figure in Minnan, administering a variety of social organizations that utilized church networks.

Kris ERSKINE
PhD Candidate
The University of Hong Kong

**Chiang Kai Shek and Frank W. Price: A Missionary and Nationalist
Public Diplomacy, 1938-1947**

In the late 1930's Chiang Kai Shek, immersed in war with both the communists and the Japanese, pushed forward with a new public relations strategy which included a sustained and focused effort at international public diplomacy, with particular attention given to the United States. These efforts, coordinated through China's Ministry of Information, targeted the US Government as well as private organizations and individuals. One individual, American missionary Dr. Frank W. Price, was specifically identified as being of particular use to propaganda efforts and was recruited for that end.

Using both Chinese and American sources this paper will give a brief overview of Price's work for the Chinese government the 1938-1947 period, and will then focus on one aspect of Dr. Price's work, an Interpreter's Training Institute, of which Price was the director in 1945. As director, Price established high level relationships with both Chinese and American officials and acted as a trusted representative of both governments. Importantly, this position also gave Price credibility among his missionary colleagues and their constituents. He provided constituents with regular newsletters while in China and spoke to them from the pulpit while home on furlough. Thus the Chinese government was able to reach, through Price, average Americans as well as their leaders.

This paper illustrates a critical element of Chiang's public diplomacy strategy, specifically, his use of the American missionary community from 1938-1947.

Catherine S. CHAN
MPhil Candidate
Hong Kong Baptist University

***Tabula Rasa* in 1985: The Bitburg Controversy and the Implications on
U.S.-West German Relations**

On the 5th of May 1985, Ronald Reagan strolled through the Kolmeshöhe Cemetery alongside West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl in celebration of the 40th anniversary of the V-E Day. Initially meant as an emblem of “reconciliation” between the German and American peoples, the visit quickly turned into a controversy with the presence of graves belonging to 49 Waffen-SS members. Enormous pressure inched in on the Reagan administration – repeated calls from the Capitol Hill for the President to refrain from paying tribute to Nazi soldiers, strong criticism from the Jewish community in and out of America which tagged the publicity stunt as a “misguided political gesture”. On top of all that was President Reagan’s determination, not only to proceed with his commitment to Kohl, but also in integrating Bonn as a “friend” of the United States. This incident signals a thrust away from the conventional state of U.S. perception towards Bonn for most of the Cold War, elevating West German position on a par with Washington and commencing a new stage in U.S.-West German relations.

Paul WENHAM
PhD Candidate
The University of Hong Kong

Satellite to America and Europa

In the wake of the disastrous Suez Canal campaign in Egypt in 1956, a chastened post-imperial Britain was searching for a new role in the world. The possibility of rebuilding influence in Europe by joining the six nations of the European Economic Community or, as the British preferred to call it then, the Common Market, began to loom ever larger on the radar of British politics. Such a move would have major implications for all areas of economic life, not least aerospace – the development of civil and military aircraft projects, missiles and, ultimately, space capability. This technology was an indication not only of national status; it was also seen as crucial to economic survival in the rapidly changing world of the late 20th century. Unfortunately, Britain's standing in this field had already been compromised by the cancellation of key projects such as an independent ballistic missile deterrent and a purely British transatlantic jet, as well as any pretensions to a national space program. This paper examines the role of aerospace in the political maneuvering over the British approach to Europe, the impact of such moves on its development, and how the nation's wavering technological fortunes affected its ability to determine its own political destiny.

LIST OF PRESENTERS

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