

3 May 2012
Thursday
0830 - 1730

MB150 / 154
Main Building

Spring History Symposium

Programme

Department of History
School of Humanities
The University of Hong Kong



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Ms Phoebe TANG
Ms Laura VERNER

MC

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Ms Laura VERNER

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Mr Andy LEUNG

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The Spring History Symposium would like to acknowledge the generous support of the History Endowment Fund.

SPRING HISTORY SYMPOSIUM EVENT SCHEDULE

3 MAY 2012

Time	Event	Panel	Moderator / MC	Presenters and Paper Titles
1	0830-0845	Registration MB 150	---	---
	0845-0900	Opening MB 150	---	Dr Charles Schencking
	0900-1030	Plenary Session MB 150	Diplomacy and International Relations	Henry CHOI TANG Yin Hang, Phoebe (HKU): Justifying Skylab: Last of the Space Race Kenneth YUNG (USyd): Chinese Liberalism in Hong Kong and Taiwan, 1949-1969 Kris ERSKINE (HKU): Two American Missionaries and Chinese Public Diplomacy during the Second Sino-Japanese War: The American Committee for Non-Participation of Japanese Aggression, 1938-1941
Morning Tea: 1030-1100				
2	1100-1230	2A MB 150	History through Methods and Regional and Local Studies	WANG Chongyuan CHEN Dong, Sophie (TU): In the Labyrinth of Reality: Carlo Ginzburg, Hayden White and Historical Method HO Kar Yin, Loretta (HKU): A Challenge to Official History: Subaltern Historiography of the Mong Kok Flower Market in Hong Kong Laura Verner (HKU): Post-Reformation Catholic Community in the English Midlands

		2B MB 154	Socio- Economic History	Zardas LEE	<p>Brett Gearing (UMac): Road Rage in the Treaty Ports: Extraterritoriality and the Automobile</p> <p>WONG Ming Hong (LU): Comprehensive Studies on Hebei's Economic Situation during the Late Jin Dynasty</p>
Lunch: 1230-1330					
3	1330-1515	3A MB 150	Propaganda and Censorship in Hong Kong and Abroad	Laura VERNER	<p>WANG Chongyuan (HKU): Taiwan's Propaganda activities in the United States, 1971-1979</p> <p>IP Kelvin (HKU): A Self-Inflicted Fate: The Decline of Leftist Propaganda during the 1967 Riots in Hong Kong</p> <p>LEE Zardas (HKU): Under the Veil of 'Neutrality': Suppression of Communist Propaganda in Film and Censorship in Cold War Hong Kong</p>
Afternoon Tea: 1515-1545					
4	1545-1715	Plenary Session MB 150	Trade and Mercantilism in Nineteenth Century China	Phoebe TANG	<p>Thomas Stasko (UMAC): The History of Cumsingmoon and the Coolie Trade</p> <p>Henry CHOI (HKU): Life and Death: Piracy and British Steamboat Business on the West River (1897-1907)</p> <p>Sonia HUANG (UMAC): Chinese Exportation of Silk for the American Market in the 19th Century and it's female influence</p>
5	1715-1730	Closing MB 150	---	Kris ERSKINE	Prof John CARROLL

Phoebe TANG
MPhil Candidate
The University of Hong Kong

Justifying Skylab: Last of the Space Race

Skylab, built by the United States and launched in 1973, was the first successful space station. From 1973 to 1974, it accommodated 3 missions for carrying out experiments in a weightless environment, and outside the Earth's atmosphere. Planning for a space station started in the second half of the 1960s by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). This paper argues that Skylab was built as part of the space race in which the United States government viewed the Soviet Union as a competent opponent, until 1973 when US' space technology capacity significantly overtook that of the Soviets'. Documents from 1965 to 1973, such as US estimates of Soviet space plans and capabilities, and congressional meetings and reports, are examined in this paper. These documents reveal that the US government paid close attention to Soviet space programs' development, believing building a space station, similar to a moonlanding, was a feat which the Soviet Union desired and was capable of. The US accordingly felt the need to uphold their prestige through sustaining space programs, including the Skylab. The competitive element of Skylab did not cease until 1973 when it was clear that Salyut, Skylab's Soviet counterpart, was too defective to match Skylab's achievements. Through the decline of competition as one of the reasons to build Skylab, this paper also hopes to reflect US' shifting attitude towards the Soviet Union in the Cold War.

Kenneth YUNG
PhD Candidate
The University of Sydney

Chinese Liberalism in Hong Kong and Taiwan, 1949–1969

The Communist takeover of the Chinese mainland in 1949 was significant in the development of liberalism in modern China. From the early 1950s on, Marxism became the dominant political doctrine on the Chinese mainland and it was difficult for adherents of other schools to express their ideas publicly in Communist China. Some Chinese liberals, however, were able to flee to Hong Kong, Taiwan and various overseas Chinese communities before the Communist takeover. These émigrés were free to write about their thought. They continued to advocate freedom and democracy during their self-exile. This paper examines Chinese liberalism that survived outside the mainland in the 1950s and 1960s with reference to the activities and thought of several émigré Chinese intellectuals. It argues that a distinctive kind of “Chinese Cold War liberalism” was formed in Hong Kong and Taiwan during this period. It also suggests that “Chinese Cold War liberalism” has shaped the thought of some contemporary Taiwan- and overseas-based scholars who are still active nowadays.

Kris ERSKINE
PhD Candidate
The University of Hong Kong

**Two American Missionaries and Chinese Public Diplomacy during the
Second Sino-Japanese War: The American Committee for Non-Participation
of Japanese Aggression, 1938-1941**

When the Second Sino-Japanese war began in 1937, much of Japan's war material was imported from the United States. The American government, however, refused to implement an embargo on war materials; Americans feared such an embargo would provoke a Japanese attack on the United States. China's Vice-Minister of Information, Hollington Tong (董显光), believed that the most effective method of shifting American public opinion in China's favor would be wage a war of public diplomacy in which Americans, rather than Chinese, generated and delivered propaganda on China's behalf. Tong's plan hinged on the covert employment of both journalists and American missionaries. The secret relationship between the Chinese government and these Americans between 1937 and 1941 is not well known.

This paper focuses on the efforts of two individuals -- brothers, Frank and Harry Price -- and draws on files from the Republic of China's recently declassified Presidential and KMT records in Taipei, as well as numerous collections of missionary papers in the United States. The research also draws on US State Department files and the records for a publicity campaign begun by two missionaries whom the KMT recruited.

Research will demonstrate that between 1937 and 1941, contrary to US law, the Chinese were covertly using Americans to wage a publicity campaign in the United States, and that the US State Department was not only aware of the propaganda generated by Americans on China's behalf, but encouraged such efforts. This research will contribute to how historians interpret the role of non-state actors, particularly missionaries, in both international public diplomacy and international relations.

CHEN Dong, Sophie
MPhil Candidate
Tsinghua University

In the Laybrinth of Reality: Carlo Ginzburg, Hayden White and the Historical Method

This paper intends to trace the course of a theoretical debate between Carlo Ginzburg and Hayden White, analyse their theoretical positions, and reveal the dilemmas inherent in their respective theories.

Since the early 1980's, opposition to White's "skepticism" and "moral relativism" has become the central concern of Ginzburg's work. In "Just One Witness", a paper published in 1992, Ginzburg even condemned White's relativism as a theory resembling Fascist philosophy. White never replied directly, though his paper (in the same volume with "Just One Witness") suggests that he has made a considerable retreat from his earlier position. This retreat, however, resulted in a contradiction between relativism and ethical consideration within White's historical theory, which hasn't been solved even today.

Nevertheless, Ginzburg is not a "positive historian" who repudiates White blindly. Like White, Ginzburg also argues that history and literature shouldn't be regarded as two "disparate fields". The divergence between the two lies in Ginzburg's insistence that literature, as well as history, has "an obligation to the truth." However, in the employment of truth as a criterion in criticizing historical narratives, the reliability of the historical method, that is, its ability to reach the truth, became a permanent dilemma in Ginzburg's work.

HO Kar Yin, Loretta
MPhil Candidate
The University of Hong Kong

**A Challenge to Official History: Subaltern Historiography of the Mong Kok
Flower Market in Hong Kong**

My research on the historiography of the Mong Kok Flower Market has shown that the place is important to Hong Kong studies since it is located in Boundary Street - the borderline between Kowloon and the New Territories (NT) – where it demarcates the historical site of colonisation of Hong Kong. I have been exploring the special nature of flower cultivators and flower traders in relation to the rise and decline of agriculture in the colonial and post-colony era, which is also linked to the politics of land development in the NT and the emergence of imported flowers as a sign of economic prosperity. This paper focuses on revealing a subaltern historiography of the market. It is a way to challenge the official history of this place which is limited to the historical value of built architecture. In contrast, subaltern historiography acknowledges the cultural value of the area from the perspective of the people living in it. In fact, the people created it and use it on a daily basis, and thus a historiography of the place contributes to the process of decolonisation.

Laura VERNER
PhD Candidate
The University of Hong Kong and King's College London

Post-Reformation Catholic Community in the English Midlands

This paper examines the nature of Catholic community in the English Midlands during the post-Reformation period. The subject of Catholic community has been hotly debated by historians for decades with questions such as at which point did the post-Reformation community become disconnected from its Medieval counterpart, and how it was influenced, both internally and externally. Even so, most of the research on the subject has been in the form of survey studies of individual families, martyrdom, Catholic politics or county studies. Differing from the normal model of research into recusancy which focuses the above themes, it may be more valuable to understand the struggle between protestants and Catholics in terms of regional community, culture, patronage and networks rather than solely on the basis of numbers and militancy, as the foundation of community must be more complex than this. Research on regional community, in this case the English Midlands, can add an important new layer to our knowledge of post-Reformation Catholicism.

Brett GEARING
MPhil Candidate
The University of Macau

Road Rage in the Treaty Ports: Extraterritoriality and the Automobile

The Treaty Ports represented, in many ways, an unwelcome intrusion of all things foreign into Chinese territory and life. Within the boundaries of their legations and settlements, expatriates imposed the culture, architecture, law, and morality of their homelands upon the land and its inhabitants. In the early part of the twentieth century, one element of this imposition was the introduction of the automobile.

As cars were introduced into the treaty ports, the traditional routines of the cities were disrupted. While similar disruptions exist anywhere in which transformative technologies are introduced, in China the conflict was tainted by resentment of imperialist privilege. In the Treaty Ports cars were not merely new, they were inherently foreign. Traffic accidents, particularly those that resulted in the death or injury of Chinese people, had the potential to bring simmering tensions to a boil. These collisions between expatriate motorists and native rickshaw drivers, coolies, or pedestrians could easily result in outbreaks of violence, even full-scale riots. From the perspective of many resident foreigners, the Chinese readiness to assign complete responsibility for any accident indicated an archaic, inferior concept of justice. In debates concerning an end to extraterritoriality, supporters of foreign privilege used allegedly unfair treatment of motorists to justify their opposition to change.

WONG Ming Hong
MPhil Candidate
Lingnan University

**Comprehensive Studies on Beijing and Hebei's Economic Situation During
Late Jin Dynasty**

Starting from Shizong in Jin Dynasty, the government developed the economy of Hebei and Central Capital (Modern Beijing) area, and as a result it became prosperous. During Xuanzong era, Central Capital and Hebei area was abolished after facing Mongol's invasion. As a result, Jin Dynasty was weakened. There has been lots of research about economic development in Hebei, which can be classified into four types: 1. Chinese economic history; 2. Chinese demographic history; 3. Economic history focused on Jin Dynasty; and 4. Economic history focused on studying Hebei area. Actually, Hebei's economic history during Jin Dynasty is very important for government's income, but there are little specific researches about Hebei's economic history in Jin Dynasty. On the other hand, lots of general history mentioned this theme because it is important to Jin Dynasty economic situation.

As early as in 1960s, western scholar Robert Hartwell and Hong Kong scholar Chan Hok Lam published several English articles on Jurchen's economic development in northern China. Since 1980s, Japanese scholars started to investigate Jin Dynasty's Hebei economic development. During 1990s, there is bloom of study in economic history in China, and specific articles in the mentioned aspect emerged. Starting from 21st Century, Jin Dynasty Hebei economic history books published. There were also more specific economic history of Jin Dynasty research conducted by Japanese scholars translated into Chinese.

WANG Chongyuan
MPhil Candidate
The University of Hong Kong

Taiwan's propaganda activities in the United States, 1971-1979

Nixon's 1972 "ice-breaking" visit to Beijing precluded the honeymoon between the United States and the People's Republic of China. After 20-years' isolation, Beijing suddenly became popular in the United States. On the other side of the Taiwan Strait, the Republic of China suffered a miserable time. The first diplomatic setback came in the United Nations. On October 25, 1971, the United Nations General Assembly admitted People's Republic of China's seat in the United Nations and expelled the Republic of China. From then on, the ROC was no longer recognized by the international community. But Taipei still enjoyed formal diplomatic relations with the US, until 1979, the US established formal relations with Beijing. From 1971 to 1979, Taipei made great efforts to maintain the relations with the US, as long as possible. Propaganda activities were taken out among the mass media, the local communities, and the Congress. Taipei tried to sell a favourable and positive Taiwan image to Americans, and persuade Americans to support Taipei. This paper will discuss Taipei's propaganda activities in the 70s: who was in charge of propaganda, how Taipei conducted propaganda, and what the difference between the 70s' propaganda with the previous years.

Kelvin IP
MPhil Candidate
The University of Hong Kong

A Self-Inflicted Fate: The Decline of Leftist Propaganda during the 1967 Riots in Hong Kong

In May 1967, the most violent anti-government campaign in Hong Kong history began. The leftist anti-government clique organized several thousand people to join demonstrations. The demonstrators chanted Mao Zedong's name and encircled Government House. Soon after the riots began, put more pressure on the colonial government, in June the leftist leaders called for a general strike. More than 60,000 workers joined the strike and brought chaos to Hong Kong. At this point, the anti-government propaganda enjoyed initial success. Faced with this acute situation, the Colonial Office even asked Governor David Trench to plan for evacuating Hong Kong. The colonial government almost seemed to be counting down their last in the colony. Though the local communists enjoyed a promising start, they failed to make use of the opportunity to kick out the "Fascist persecutor", the colonial government. Nevertheless, they made several mistakes which caused the decline of the propaganda effort and thus the whole anti-government campaign. This paper will illustrate the decline of the leftist propaganda with the help of various sources and psychological theories.

Zardas LEE
MPhil Candidate
The University of Hong Kong

**Under the Veil of “Neutrality”: Suppression of Communist Propaganda in
Film Censorship in Cold War Hong Kong**

This paper examines film censorship policy in Hong Kong in the context of global Cold War from the late 1940s to 1950s. Right after the British regained control of Hong Kong from the Japanese in August 1945, the Hong Kong government considered to resume film censorship. The policy was put into force in 1947. At the beginning, film censorship in Hong Kong was a measure against communist propaganda, especially those from People’s Republic of China. Contrary to common belief that Hong Kong strove to stay neutral in the 1950s, this study of film censorship argues that the government never attempted to do so even though conflicts between the Communist countries and the Free World were intensifying. Based on Directive for Film Censors, Film Censorship Regulations, government correspondences and materials from film distributor, this paper reveals how the Hong Kong government continuously hid the intention of crushing communist film propaganda and pretended to be neutral on paper. This research concludes by discussing Hong Kong’s governmental strategy in global Cold War that was reflected in the contradiction of principles of flexibility and “neutrality” in film censorship.

Thomas STASKO
MPhil Candidate
The University of Macau

**The History of
Cumsingmoon and the Coolie Trade**

This paper examines the historical development of the anchorage of 金星门 (Cumsingmoon) and its progression from an opium station to its role in the inchoate stages of the coolie trade. It argues that its previous use as an opium station was precisely the reason why it was chosen as a center during the early stages of the coolie trade at a time when emigration was discouraged by the Qing government. Southeast China lured many would be human traffickers because of the lax state of its legal enforcement and the weakness of imperial government. These forces combined in a perfect situation for the development of the trade in this area.

Moreover, in examining the seventeen voyages that left Cumsingmoon during the years of its involvement in the coolie trade, from 1849 to 1854, the thesis finds that eight of those voyages ended either in mutiny by the passengers or in rampant illness caused by the British traffickers. This spelled doom to Cumsingmoon as an important station for the burgeoning trade, as traders sought regulation and protection culminating in the Chinese Passenger Act of 1855.

Henry CHOI
PhD Candidate
The University of Hong Kong

**Life and Death: Piracy and British Steamboat Business on the West River
(1897-1907)**

The treaty ports of Wuchow and Samshui on the West River were opened to foreign trade in 1897. Various British steamboat companies ran passenger lines plying between Hong Kong, Canton and the above treaty ports. These British steamers were under the competition from Chinese vessels which could call at non-treaty ports, and the threat from piratical attacks on the West River. However, British steamers still enjoyed an advantage over its Chinese competitors: British flag had the prestige that pirates would not dare to kill people travelling under it. The piracy case of *S.S. Sainam* witnessed the bankruptcy of this prestige. This paper is going to analyze the roles of the Hong Kong government, the Canton Viceroy and the China Association in formulating the ways of suppressing piracy and regulating steam navigation on the West River. It argues that uneasy balance between the sovereign rights of China and the interests of the British mercantile community was accounted the prolong outrages of piracy on the West River.

Sonia HUANG
MPhil Candidate
The University of Macau

**Chinese Export Silk for the American Market in the 19th Century and its
Female Influence**

The major export in the “China Trade,” besides tea, was silk, and this was mostly exported to the United States from approximately 1789-1850. This project focuses on a discussion of the types of silk (i.e., raw silk, clothing, bedding, furnishings, etc.) and their relationship with the American market’s needs and tastes. The study examines raw silk processing production, manufactured silk fabric in China, and silk shipments and consumption in the American silk market. From the rich historic images of silk nankeen, cloth, umbrellas, fans, garments, undergarments and so on. Inclusively, the categorization of the production process and the many hands these items passed through on their journey from silk worm to boudoir will highlight and clarify the merchant economy at that time. The account books and diaries by American merchants will be analyzed. Behind the great “China Trade”, which facially consisted of male investors, sailors, merchants, officials, and the merchant economy, the American market was actually driven by a range of decisions made by women.

LIST OF PRESENTERS

CHEN Dong, Sophie	MPhil Candidate, Tsinghua University
CHOI Henry	PhD Candidate, The University of Hong Kong
Kris ERSKINE	PhD Candidate, The University of Hong Kong
Brett GEARING	MPhil Candidate, The University of Macau
HO Kar Yin, Loretta	MPhil Candidate, The University of Hong Kong
HUANG Sophie	MPhil Candidate, The University of Macau
IP Kelvin	MPhil Candidate, The University of Hong Kong
LEE Zardas	MPhil Candidate, The University of Hong Kong
Thomas STASKO	MPhil Candidate, The University of Macau
TANG Phoebe	MPhil Candidate, The University of Hong Kong
Laura VERNER	PhD Candidate, The University of Hong Kong and King's College London
WANG Chongyuan	MPhil Candidate, The University of Hong Kong
WONG, Ming Hong	MPhil Candidate, Lingnan University
YUNG Kenneth	PhD Candidate, The University of Sydney