The University of Hong Kong - School of Humanities - Department of History

presents

Spring *History*
Symposium

For History Research Postgraduate Students

Thursday 8 May, 2014
08:30 - 18:15
(Reception follows till 19:00)

B404 & B436
Run Run Shaw Tower
Centennial Campus
The University of Hong Kong

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For more information, please visit:
http://www.history.hku.hk/news/2014-shs.html

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

All are welcome

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SPRING HISTORY SYMPOSIUM
EVENT SCHEDULE
8 MAY 2014

	Time	Event	Panel	Moderator / MC	Presenters and Paper Titles
1	0830-0845	Registration	---		---
	0845-0900	Opening	---	Angharad FLETCHER	**Prof Charles Schencking** **Prof John Carroll**
	0900-1100	Plenary Session B436	**Refugees and Diaspora**	Federico PACHETTI	**YUEN Hong Kiu, Kenny (HKU)**: Humanitarianism and Politics: The Hong Kong Vietnamese Refugee Crisis of 1979 **KONG Wai Yan, Vivian (HKU)**: Public Reactions to the 1940 Evacuation of British Families in Hong Kong **RU Yawei, Flora (NENU)**: US Refugee Policy in Hong Kong during the Early Cold War **Jennifer Reeve (UEA)**: A Question of Race? Jewish Refugees and British Colonial Policy
	Morning Tea (Served during Plenary Session)				
2	1100-1300	2A B436	**Spaces of Empire**	Melody SHUM	**Chi Chi HUANG (HKU)**: Vignettes of an Outpost: British Postcards of Hong Kong **James FELLOWS (LU)**: Hong Kong and a Defence of Free Trade, 1950-1984 **Angharad FLETCHER (HKU & KCL)**: "The Benefit Would Be Incalculable": Disease, Crisis and Nursing in Colonial Hong Kong **Patrick CONNOLLY (MU)**: Macau's Role in the Pirate World of the 1850s

2	1100-1300	2B B404	**China and the Wider World**	Aurelio INSISA	**Federico PACHETTI (HKU)**: US-China Relations in the 1970s and 1980s **Alsu TAGIROVA (SYU)**: Chinese Nuclear Policy: Continuity vs. Change **Maria Adele CARRAI (HKU)**: Chinese Conceptions of National Sovereignty **Anna COSTA (HKU)**: Deeply Rooted *in the Present*: Assessing Sino-Japanese Territorial and 'History' Disputes in View of the Contemporary Rivalry
					Lunch: 1300-1400
3	1400-1600	3A B436	**History of China (1ˢᵗ panel)**	KONG Wai Yan, Vivian	**Aurelio INSISA (HKU)**: *Rouli 柔力*: Soft Power and History in Ming China **CHEN Zhang (NTHU)**: A New Interpretation of the Geographical Demarcation between the States of Wu and Yue **CHE Qun (HKU & SJU)**: Research on Environmental Changes and Schistosomiasis-related Population Decrease: A Case Study of Yuanjiang County, Hunan Province (1700-1949) **Tom MARLING (LU)**: The Right to the Changing City: Chinese Anarcho-syndicalism and Urban Space, 1918-1922
3	1400-1600	3B B404	**International History**	Chi Chi HUANG	**Laura VERNER (HKU & KCL)**: Innovation in the Sacramental Life of Catholics in Elizabethan England **LUO Xi (SU)**: Perceptions of Western Women in the Late Qing Dynasty **Maurits MEERWIJK (HKU)**: What is Dengue? Rethinking Disease in Colonial Asia **MA Yao (ECNU)**: A Comparative Study of the World Historical Theory of L. S. Stavrianos and Wu Yajin
					Afternoon Tea (Served during Third Session)

4	1600-1800	4A B404	**History of China (2nd panel)**	YUEN Hong Kiu, Kenny	**Melody SHUM (HKU):** Developing Education in French Kwang-Chow-Wan (1898–1945) **REN Yunzhu, Bamboo (HKBU)**: The Retreat of Universities from Japanese-Occupied China and the Establishment of the Huashiba Community. **LAW Kwok Fai, Peter (LU)**: The Extradition of Communists by the Shanghai Municipal Police, 1927-1937 **TSANG Yik Man, Edmond (CUHK)**: The Earliest Political Parties in Hong Kong and their Pursuit of Political Reforms in the Postwar Era
4	1600-1800	4B B436	**Cultural Expressions and the Film Industry**	Maurits MEERWIJK	**Juan Escudero (ECNU & UCM):** Antonio Ramos Espejo and the Beginning of the Film Business in Hong Kong and Macau **Jasper van HOLSTEIJN (HKU)**: Demythologizing Gangsters: The Triad Origin Myth in Johnnie To's *Election* **TSE Hiu Tung, Christy (CUHK)**: Representations of Middle-Class Women in Early to Mid-Victorian Age Advice Literature **Nis GROEN (LU)**: Changing Dynamics of Masculinity on Samurai Cinema: *The Historical Transformation of the Scarred Warrior*
5	1800-1815	Closing	---	Angharad FLETCHER	**Dr David Pomfret**

YUEN Hong Kiu, Kenny
MPhil Candidate
The University of Hong Kong

Humanitarianism and Politics: The Hong Kong Vietnamese Refugee Crisis of 1979

This paper explores how the British government tackled the refugee problem by initiating the Geneva conference on Indochinese refugees in 1979. The British government saw the obligation to help Hong Kong's refugee problem, but it was reluctant to make practical contribution. Different views about Britain's contribution to the refugee crisis led to tensions between the metropole and the colony. Because of the increasing risk of bearing more responsibility for the Vietnamese refugees that were rescued by British vessels, the newly elected British government abandoned its humanitarian policy. The paper demonstrates how the increasing number of refugees changed Britain's and Hong Kong's humanitarian consideration. Lastly, this paper will clarify some misunderstanding about the refugee crisis of Hong Kong which was widely spread by mass media today and recent studies. Journalists, scholars, and even former Legislative Council member attributed the refugee influx to the British government's decision of declaring Hong Kong as a port of first asylum in the Geneva conference. Britain's decision, however, did not lead to further refugee inflow. People made sense of the refugee crisis by blaming the British government's decision in the conference.

KONG Wai Yan, Vivian
MPhil Candidate
The University of Hong Kong

Public Reactions to the 1940 Evacuation of British Families in Hong Kong

In June 1940, the Colonial Office in London instructed the Hong Kong colonial government to evacuate all European women and children to Australia. Before the colonial government abruptly cancelled the compulsory evacuation later in the year, on the grounds that it was unconstitutional, more than 3000 evacuees had been sent to Australia. These evacuees were not allowed to return to the Colony until years later when the Pacific War had ended. The evacuation had important social and political repercussions – not only in Hong Kong but also in Britain and Australia.

Although this evacuation seemed very logical and indeed was for the evacuees' own good, it upset the general public and created internal trouble. Many – if not all – were dissatisfied with the evacuation. The poor arrangement and sudden separations angered the evacuees and their husbands, who remained in the Colony. The scheme also upset those who were not included in the evacuation order. These irritated people expressed their discontent and created an administration crisis for the colonial government. By examining this controversy and salutary evacuation, this paper seeks to understand the mentality of the general public in pre-war Hong Kong.

RU Yawei, Flora
PhD Candidate
North Eastern Normal University

US Refugee Policy in Hong Kong during the Early Cold War

The United States has a long history of aiding refugees, especially during the later stages of World War II. However, the beginning of the Cold War functioned as a watershed, and a shift appeared from humanitarian considerations to Cold War political ideology. The "escapee program" was an important operation under the PBS (Psychological Strategy Board) and the OCB (Operation Cooperation Board), both of which fell under the control of the NSC (National Security Council), during which the "Far Eastern Escapees Program" was a vital branch of the Un-Euro place. This paper demonstrates that, from the beginning of the Cold War, during the Truman administration, the government focused primarily on European refugees from the Soviet Union, but the phenomenon altered during the Eisenhower administration because the President valued psychological warfare. In February 1952, Aid Refugee Chinese Intellectual Inc. was established in New York by a group of prominent American politicians, businessmen and scholars under the leadership of Congressman Walter H. Judd. The main program of agency was the registration and resettlement of refugee intellectuals, mainly in Taiwan but to a lesser extent, in west or Southeast Asia. It should be stressed that the American approach to the Chinese refugee problem was selective and limited in nature, demonstrating a mix of humanitarian concern and political and psychological considerations.

Jennifer REEVE
PhD Candidate
University of East Anglia

A Question of Race? Jewish Refugees and British Colonial Policy

During the late 1930s, the international community faced growing pressure to respond to the escalating Jewish refugee crisis. The British domestic response was limited by economic and employment concerns, while entry into the British Mandate of Palestine was limited by growing Arab unrest and concerns regarding British imperial relations with its predominantly Arab empire. In order to limit pressure for action in Britain and Palestine, British policy-makers increasingly considered the potential for large-scale refugee settlement in Britain's tropical territories. This raised new challenges for colonial officials who sought to balance the need for British humanitarian action with the guiding principle of 'paternalism' in the colonies – both of which were informed by official perceptions of Jewish refugees and indigenous populations.

This paper will argue that one of the most important factors in British policy towards Jewish refugees was perceptions of race – including Jewishness, British 'whiteness' and colonial otherness, be it Indian, Asian or African. This manifested itself clearly in immigration regulations, issues of settlement and internment. Through an assessment of these three policies, this paper will conclude that racial thinking impacted policy in several ways: the prioritisation of 'white' British over other racial categories; the perception of the Jewish 'other' as a potential problem and benefit; and concern over the susceptibility of indigenous 'others' to Jewish influence.

Chi Chi HUANG
PhD Candidate
The University of Hong Kong

Vignettes of an Outpost: British Postcards of Hong Kong

Postcards are an easily mass-produced cultural encounter that reflect the interests of tourism and the needs of commerce. These attributes make them fascinating objects, acting as a point of reference to cultural ideals that are spread across the globe, but all the while reinforcing and replicating prefabricated images that form a canon. They have, however, received little attention in the field of history and are often analysed as secondary to other material and visual artefacts. This study examines postcards of Hong Kong that were sold in London by Raphael Tuck & Sons, a prolific postcard company, in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. It will first look at where these images were sourced and the pictorial styles from which they stem. It will then consider the role Raphael Tuck & Sons had in the dissemination of an encyclopaedic knowledge of a relatively small British colony to a wide section of the British public. The significance of Hong Kong as a place of study is twofold. Firstly, its depiction is a way to scrutinise the perceived boundaries of two cultural empires, China and Britain. Secondly, examining Hong Kong allows us to consider the ways in which neglected parts of this Empire were made to matter "at home". By exploring the development of these postcards, this study suggests that Britons were able to relate to Hong Kong as an imagined place that was not quite British, yet not quite Chinese.

James FELLOWS
PhD Candidate
Lingnan University

Hong Kong and a Defence of Free Trade, 1950-1984

Hong Kong's postwar economic success is often accredited to the British laissez-faire principles that supposedly underpinned the governing ethos of the colony. Chief among them was free trade, which according to a 1960 editorial in the *Far Eastern Economic Review* was both `the historical basis of Hong Kong's existence' and likewise had `made its prosperity'. Hong Kong's commitment to nineteenth-century values however ran counter to prevailing world trends of state intervention and regulation, and from the late 1950s, free trade ideals were challenged by the rise of protectionism as governments overseas sought to manage the growth of textile and clothing imports from Hong Kong. With its Lancashire textile industry under serious threat from overseas competition, the British government sought to persuade the colony to enter a voluntary agreement with its domestic manufacturers to restrict the flow of textile imports into the UK, with similar demands from the US and elsewhere. On one hand, I am interested in assessing the rhetoric used by Hong Kong to express its reluctance to accept export controls, as part of a wider study on Hong Kong's commitment to free trade principles during this period. On the other, the study also concerns the nature of relations between the Hong Kong and UK governments as one of between colony and metropole, and involving issues of interests and representation.

Angharad FLETCHER
PhD Candidate
The University of Hong Kong and King's College, London

"The Benefit would be Incalculable": Disease, Crisis and Nursing in Colonial Hong Kong

The outbreak of the Third Plague Pandemic has been traced to Yunnan Province in southern China, some time in the 1850s. By the time the disease finished ravaging Hong Kong in 1894, it had killed over 100,000 people, disrupted the city's status as a vital trade hub, spread panic throughout other colonial outposts and revealed deficiencies in the port's disparate and divided healthcare system. Amongst the most frequently noted issues was the need for professional nurses, sent from Britain or other outposts, to replace predominantly unskilled labour and help alleviate unnecessary patient suffering.

Utilising the 1894 plague outbreak in Hong Kong as a case study, this paper discusses several ideas including the extent to which nursing developed differently in different colonial outposts, the potential emergence of a transnational nursing profession, how the governmental structures of various societies, and their priorities, altered the development of professional nursing, the impact of racial mixing within the port city, what influence the global circulation of nurses had on the development of local professional self-identity, the relationship between the development of nursing education and practice in the metropole and colonial "peripheries", and finally, the role of crisis, specifically disease outbreaks, in the expansion and export of nursing as an institution. This paper will attempt to explore such questions in relation to a changing understanding of healthcare provision within the British Empire, transnational developments in biomedicine, shifting economic priorities and broader social change.

Patrick CONNOLLY
PhD Candidate
University of Macau

Macau's Role in the Pirate World of the 1850s

Macau's history is filled with all types of criminal activity. At present casinos are often used for laundering money and there is a continued issue with loansharking. However, while smuggling and money laundering and lending, Macau has had a long history of pirate interaction. Most of the current scholarship has focused on the famous female pirate Lai Choi San in the late 1920s and early 1930s or the battle that took place between the Portuguese and the pirates of Coloane in 1910. These pirates did not suddenly appear on the scene in Macau in the twentieth century. They had been there for a long time and in the nineteenth century Macau was haven for illicit activities.

The middle nineteenth century saw a sharp decline in the importance of Macau and its place in the foreign trade market especially after the British opened up Hong Kong and turned it into the most profitable port in Southern China. The 1850s was a decade of trouble in Qing China, especially with the Taiping Rebellion, which facilitated an increase in the opportunities for pirates and bandits and Macau was a good place for pirates to hide, sell their goods, or keep money. This study explores the pirates' involvement in Macau during the 1850s.

Federico PACHETTI
PhD Candidate
The University of Hong Kong

US-China Relations in the 1970s and 1980s

My presentation will explore US-China relations during the late 1970s and 1980s. The perspective will be that of a multi-thematic approach; in fact, in addition to political and strategic considerations, economic and cultural factors also exerted significant influence in pushing Washington and Beijing to narrow the gap that separated the two countries after 1949. In other words, while it examines the place of Cold War concerns and triangular diplomacy in the process of Sino-American rapprochement and normalization, my presentation will specifically emphasize the importance of constructive elements. Indeed, the first Nixon initiative towards the PRC, though grounded in strategic concerns, also contemplated the possibility of opening the way to a broader play of forces in US-China relations including, notably, economic and cultural interaction and exchange. Such avenues and ties were developed further during the Ford, Carter, and Reagan Presidencies. In this context, my presentation will seek to show that, essentially from the start of rapprochement, the two countries were interested in transcending the logic of the Cold War in order to create, in the long term, a far more complex relationship.

Alsu TAGIROVA
PhD Candidate
Sun Yat-sen University

Chinese Nuclear Policy: Continuity vs. Change

Modern Chinese nuclear policy can be seen as a very peculiar combination of continuity and change. On its way towards becoming a respected nuclear state the Chinese leadership made some decisions that contained both of the components mentioned above. According to Arnold J. Toynbee's theory every civilization needs to respond to historical challenges in order to continue to exist. For the purpose of establishing and maintaining good relationship with nuclear states, China had to make important changes on its views on nuclear proliferation and arms control. Nevertheless, when it comes to the military posture the Chinese government has been quite conservative, ensuring continuity in its policy.

This paper analyzes Chinese nuclear policy through the prism of the concepts of change and continuity. The paper focuses mainly on nuclear doctrine and military posture as the key aspects of the Chinese nuclear policy. It attempts to analyze the changes that were made during different periods of Chinese history and point out the possible reasons for those changes. By using both Chinese and international sources, as well as analyzing the difference in definitions, this paper attempts to understand whether China is responding to challenges from the outside and how it chooses to respond to them.

Maria Adele CARRAI
PhD Candidate
The University of Hong Kong

Chinese Conceptions of National Sovereignty

Sovereignty is a key concept in modern international law and Western legal and political thought. Its translation in China together with international law in the nineteenth century deeply shook the philosophical and moral foundations of the Middle Kingdom and contributed to the development of the discourse of Chinese modernity.

The reception of modern Western legal thinking in China during the end of the Qing Dynasty has been extensively studied but often in a way that treats China as a passive entity, and that considers Western concepts as monoliths without history. What has not yet been sufficiently investigated is the hybridity of the concept of sovereignty before, during and after it was systematically introduced in China in the mid-nineteenth century, particularly with W. A. P. Martin's translation of Wheaton's *Elements of International Law* in 1864, and the distinctiveness of Chinese conceptualization of it. The project proceeds from the premise that the concept of 'sovereignty' is contested and is part of a constantly evolving discourse that originated with its catachresis in the West.

Adopting the method of conceptual history, and looking at the works of the most influential Chinese intellectuals and political figures to see how they discussed and conceptualized sovereignty, this research aims to uncover the proper roots of the concept of sovereignty in China, and to explore the significance of the change and continuity of the meaning and usage of the term in China during the period between the mid-nineteenth century, when it was firstly translated in Chinese, and the beginning of the twenty-first century. The focus of this research is not the reception of modern Western international law in China. Rather, it aims to investigate the peculiarities of Chinese moral and legal tradition in order to contribute to a deeper understanding of the philosophical foundations of its world legal and ritual order.

Anna COSTA
PhD Candidate
The University of Hong Kong

Deeply Rooted *in the Present*: Assessing Sino-Japanese Territorial and 'History' Disputes in View of the Contemporary Rivalry

This paper analyses the notion of *status quo* and the historical narratives currently deployed by both China and Japan in their competition over the Diaoyu/Senkaku Islands. Conflicting interpretations of East Asian and European twentieth century history are seen as part of the diplomatic strategy put in place by Beijing and Tokyo to legitimise, in the eyes of their domestic publics as well as the international community, attempts to best position themselves in a post-Cold War regional security architecture that is still *in fieri,* and adjust to its new threats and opportunities. Particular historical analogies and conflicting depictions of the *status quo* are deployed by both state-elites to promote, and provide reassurances about, their current foreign and security policies, while framing those of the rival country as illegitimate and dangerous.

The paper departs from the 'rootedness in history' bias it detects in most scholarly analysis and media commentary on the islands dispute, positing that particular interpretations of the past have been instrumentally maintained by both the Chinese and Japanese sides to advance current *desiderata*. The past, and the way in which it is described differently by the Chinese and Japanese establishments, is a constituent part of the contemporary rivalry, but it is more a symptom rather than the trigger it is commonly presumed to be. The bulk of sources analysed in the paper consist of recent official statements made by the Chinese and Japanese foreign policy establishments and top leaders.

Aurelio INSISA
PhD Candidate
The University of Hong Kong

Rouli 柔力: Soft Power and History in Ming China

This presentation argues for the existence of a distinct Chinese conception and projection of state power through cultural, non-coercive means, which I define as *rouli*. Approaching the issue from a historical perspective, rather than focusing exclusively on the pre-Qin era normative political values of Confucian philosophy, I intend to discuss the transmission, implementation and effectiveness of this particular body of thought in the context of Song and Ming China's foreign relations between the 10th and 16th century.

I will explain why it is the East Asian international system, pivoted by Ming China between the 13th and 17th century, which serves as the litmus test for the effectiveness of Chinese soft power, rather than the regional multistate systems that emerged during the Tang and Song dynasties. In doing so, I will also discuss how and through which sources it is possible to reconstruct the effects of this modality of Chinese state power in the region. Finally, I will examine how analysing Ming China's foreign relations through the soft power framework provides new perspectives on the debate on the nature of Chinese strategic culture.

CHEN Zhang
PhD Candidate
National Tsing Hua University

A New Interpretation of the Geographical Demarcation between the States of Wu and Yue

Almost all current research concerning the geographical demarcation between the states of Wu and Yue during the Spring and Autumn Period remains inconclusive. This is perhaps due to war between Wu and Yue, which caused the border between the two countries to frequently change. However, previous academic discussions seem to ignore some essential factors, such as the tribes located on the borderlines between Wu and Yue, and the idiosyncratic nature of nation formation within Wu and Yue, totally different from that of the Zhu Xia 諸夏 countries, which resulted from the long-term existence of the tribes on their boundaries. This paper discusses these perspectives, intending to offer a new viewpoint on this issue.

CHE Qun
PhD Candidate
The University of Hong Kong &Shanghai Jiaotong University

Research on Environmental Changes and Schistosomiasis-related Population Decrease: A Case Study of Yuanjiang County, Hunan Province (1700-1949)

The disease Schistosomiasis has a wide geographic distribution in China, almost covering all six provinces along the Yangtze River. Epidemiological surveys conducted in 1950s showed that 11,600,000 people were infected by Schistosomiasis nationwide and more than 100,000,000 people lived under the shadow of the illness. In Jiangxi Province alone, 310,000 people died of it, and 1,300 villages were destroyed over 40 years between 1911 and 1949. It is questionable how these regions, which used to be developed areas of ancient China, could achieve prosperity, if the prevalence of Schistosomiasis had always been so severe. It is frequently claimed in previous related medical history research that a major outbreak of Schistosomiasis did not happen until the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). If this is the case then when did Schistosomiasis appear? Why did it disappear? How did it affect the human population? These are the focus concerns of this study.

Schistosomiasis is one of the natural epidemic zoonoses caused by the *Schistosoma*, a type of parasitic worm, whose intermediate host is the oncomelania snail. The Dongting Lake Region has always been a popular habitat for the oncomelania snail, with large areas of snail-infested beaches in evidence, causing it to be amongst the most severely afflicted area of Schistosomiasis, both in history and at present. This study investigates population trends in Schistosomiasis afflicted area from 1400 to 1950, clarifying its prevalence throughout history, and exploring the relationship between Schistosomiasis epidemics and environmental changes.

Tom MARLING
PhD Candidate
Lingnan University

The Right to the Changing City: Chinese Anarcho-Syndacalism and Urban Space, 1918-1922

In recent years the, the move away from nation centric approaches and into transnational linkages has resulted in productive new understandings of anarchist and syndicalist movements. While agreeing with the constraints of the nation as spatial boundary, this paper eschews supra-national connections in favour of reincorporating micro-contexts and lived experiences – including physical ecologies and local societal structures – into discussions of movement developments and extramovement relations.

This paper postulates that the Canton syndicalist movement's secondary socially-transformative energies found their expression in the cultivating of a role for organised labour in the struggle over the use and meaning of urban space. Echoing Dingxin Zhao's (2001) analysis of campus ecology in the 1989 Student Movement in China, the movement's own relation with urban technology is considered a central factor in determining its relative "radicalism".

Laura VERNER

PhD Candidate

The University of Hong Kong & King's College, London

Innovation in the Sacramental Life of Catholics in Elizabethan England

In 1559, the Elizabethan Religious Settlement effectively de-legitimised Roman Catholicism in England. During Elizabeth I's reign, the Catholic community observed the decline of their rites and ceremonies, material objects, sacred space, and the sacraments. The reformed church maintained baptism and communion as sacraments, but the remaining five (confirmation, confession, last rites, ordination and marriage), were rites that were no longer considered as part of the Sacraments of the Gospel. The shortage of priests naturally made the conferring of these all-important sacraments challenging, and the community was forced to make adjustments and concessions.

Numerous Catholic writers wrote replies and responses to the changes within England, either from within England or more frequently from abroad. These priests, among others, advised the Catholic community on ways to keep the traditional Catholic faith, as well as the sacraments, albeit by innovative and refashioned methods, because of the void created by absent or infrequent access to priests. But these men, many of whom wrote from the remote safety of the Continent, and the question of how this advice was considered and practised by the community, who actually had to manoeuvre within the new confines of religion in England, is problematic and not as simply understood.

This paper will discuss the Catholic response to the national changes in regard to the sacraments and how they were refashioned by the recusant community. Catholics were obliged to alter their traditional interpretation of the sacraments, and the Catholic willingness to re-negotiate their religious practices, to experiment with substitutes to the traditional medieval church teachings, demonstrates an understanding and acceptance of a new recusant church within a protestant country.

LUO Xi
MPhil Candidate
Shanghai University

Perceptions of Western Women in the Late Qing Dynasty

The Western image of China has constantly changed, frequently in relation to associations between China and the Western countries. The mythologizing and demonizing behind such images has not only created unintended misunderstandings, but has also prompted intentional attacks. The perception of China among Western women in the late Qing Dynasty forms a part of the image of China in the West.

As a result, it is necessary for us to regard such perceptions as an independent subject for study, not lease because of differences in the identity, background, experience and education of the Western women who came to China in the late Qing Dynasty. These influencing factors have become apparent through some of the similarities and differences within images of China, both influencing and enriching images of China in the West to different extents.

Maurits MEERWIJK
PhD Candidate
The University of Hong Kong

What is Dengue? Rethinking Disease in Colonial Asia

What is dengue fever? This straightforward question could be answered by supplying a WHO definition, but historical understandings are not as definite. Current identities of dengue fever have been composed out of the complex interactions between public, scientific, and institutional understandings. Through a focus on colonial realms in Asia – notably in India and the Philippines – in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, my project is located on the crossroads of 'western' and 'indigenous' interpretations of disease, and of highly diverse systems of medical thought and practice.

As such, dengue fever is a lens through which larger questions can be addressed. Histories of disease so far have tended to focus on large-scale outbreaks of major diseases such as plague, cholera, and aids, the study of which have informed conceptualisations of 'the epidemic' as events of mass death and far-reaching public response. The historical study of dengue fever challenges existing notions of epidemics, pushing for a more nuanced understanding. It leads us to rethink a fundamental question: 'what is disease?'

MA Yao
PhD Candidate
East China Normal University

A Comparative Study of the World Historical Theory of L. S. Stavrianos and Wu Yajin

L.S.Stavrianos was a pioneer of global history in the USA, while Wu Yujin was the founder of the discipline of world history in the PRC. They have many things in common; they were born in the year 1913, they studied regional history in their youth and they were both significant scholars of world history. Both have defined the discipline of world history, taking the 15th century as a key point in the making of world history, and both believed that there were several conflicts between the nomadic and agricultural worlds. Despite sharing some of the same ideas, they often emphasize different viewpoints. To date, much has been written concerning their historical ideas, but few have adopted a comparative approach to the writings of both scholars. Consequently, many issues have not yet been explored in detail.

 The aim of my paper is not to demonstrate whose ideas are good or whose are bad, but to learn something helpful for wider historical study. This research has already fostered several interesting questions; Is there a "correct" method of world historical study? How do we construct theories of world history by using the "proper" method of global history?

Melody SHUM
MPhil Candidate
The University of Hong Kong

Developing Education in French Kwang-Chow-Wan (1898–1945)

The French *mission civilisatrice* was one of the driving ideological forces that justified colonial ambitions through educating the 'uncivilized.' Although there is no single formula to colonialism, the establishment of schools and education systems was normally an exemplification of long-term colonial planning. However, this was not entirely the case in French Kwang-Chow-Wan (廣州灣), a territory in the south of Guangdong Province (right opposite the Island of Hainan) that was leased to France for 99 years in 1899. For one thing, the French had no comprehensive plan on how to develop Kwang-Chow-Wan, which implied that education might not have been high on the colonial government's agenda.

Nonetheless, this top-down approach excludes other stakeholders who were involved in the provision of education in territory, including the missionaries, the local Chinese elites, or even the Annamite teachers who taught at the French schools. Thus, this paper examines the provision and development of education in Kwang-Chow-Wan, which serves as a valuable insight into its complex social composition. By looking into the establishment and operations of French schools and Chinese schools, as well as the role of ordinary pupils, Chinese philanthropists and French missionaries, this paper aims to show how society functioned despite convoluted colonial ambitions on the prospects of Kwang-Chow-Wan.

REN Yunzhu, Bamboo
PhD Candidate
Hong Kong Baptist University

The Retreat of Universities from Japanese-Occupied China and the Establishment of the Huahsiba Community

After the Marco Polo Bridge Incident, especially after the battle of Shanghai, many colleges and universities in Northern and Eastern China tended to retreat to the home front. All types of universities involved in the migration, including national universities, private universities and Christian universities. The most well know associated university was National Southeastern Associated University in Kunming, retreating from North China. From late 1937, however, Christian colleges and universities from the East started to retreat to Chengtu and Chungking.

The biggest community in Chengtu located in Huahsiba, which was the campus of WCUU (West China Union University) before the War. The Huahsiba community during the war consisted of students and faculty members from six universities, West China Union University, National Central University (Medical and Dental College), the University of Nanking, Ginlin College, Cheeloo University and Yenching University.

This study mainly focused on the retreat process of five universities. The individual study of each university's retreat can clearly show the situation during the war with the involvement of different parties. The interaction among central government, local authorities, Christian missionaries and even elites individual connection enriched the whole picture of universities retreat during the war of resistance.

LAW Kwok Fai, Peter
MPhil Candidate
Lingnan University

The Extradition of Communists by the Shanghai Municipal Police, 1927-1937

In early 20th Century China, nationalism was a prevalent response to decades of foreign encroachment. Numerous boycotts, strikes, and assassinations were carried out by nationalists in the Shanghai International Settlement, which was formed after the Treaty of Nanking placed the territory under the control of Britain and other foreign countries in the 1840s. In 1925, the May Thirteenth Incident, during which British police constables killed eleven Chinese civilians, marked the beginning of anti-British and anti-imperialist protests in Shanghai.

In 1927, during the Northern Expedition under the leadership of General Chiang Kai-shek, the Greater Shanghai City Government was established to illustrate the determination of the Nationalists to modernize China. General Chiang, who was keen on eliminating communists in China, further instigated nationalist activity in the Settlement. The only way to guarantee the security of the International Settlement was for the Shanghai Municipal Council to cooperate with the Chinese authorities. Pressured by the Chinese and the British Foreign Office, the Shanghai Municipal Council was forced to compromise with the Nationalist government on the issue of communists arrested in the Settlement between 1927 and 1937.

The extradition of communists is one of my areas of focus. The weakened judicial autonomy of the Settlement was evidenced when the Municipal Police were forced to extradite to the Chinese authorities non-residents, bona fide residents and finally some suspects who engaged in communist activities within the Settlement.

TSANG Yik Man, Edmond
PhD Candidate
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

The Earliest Political Parties in Hong Kong and their Pursuit of Political Reforms in the Postwar Era

According to the majority of scholarship on Hong Kong political history, the birth of political parties and the pursuit of democracy began in the 1980s. This is usually explained by the "lifeboat" and the "administrative absorption" theories, as well as the apparently apolitical nature of Chinese people. This paper, however, attempts to point out that the earliest political parties in Hong Kong, the Reform Club and the Civic Association, emerged in 1949 and 1954 respectively, and were formed mainly for the request of political reforms.

Archives demonstrate the intricate relationship between the Colonial Office, Members of Parliament, and the local Government, which the two parties often employed to press for their demands. By examining these two early political parties, a new picture of the political landscape in the postwar Hong Kong, including the reason why political advancement was not granted before the 1980s, emerges.

Juan ESCUDERO

PhD Candidate

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Antonio Ramos Espejo and the Beginning of the Film Business in Hong Kong and Macau

Antonio Ramos Espejo (Alhama de Granada, 1878 – Madrid, 1944) has long been considered one of the main pioneers of cinema exhibition both in the Philippines and in China through his endeavours in Shanghai, which gave him the appellative of "the king of cinema" in the Paris of the Orient in the first decades of 20th century. Nevertheless, Ramos' film enterprises went far beyond the boundaries of Shanghai to establish, firstly through his society with another Spaniard, Ramón Ramos (not a relative despite the coincidental surname), the Ramos Bros., then, in the 1920s, through the Ramos Amusement Company, an international concern with offices in Manila, Sydney, Tianjin, Hong Kong and Macau, which brought both movies and vaudeville artists to the Orient for over two decades.

Moreover, the Ramos Bros., also known as Ramos & Ramos, built the first film theatres in Shanghai, Macau and Hong Kong. In Macau, they owned three cinemas and in Hong Kong they constructed the Empire Cinematograph and the first two Victoria Theatres. We will briefly account for Ramos' enterprises, with a focus in Hong Kong and Macau, in this paper.

Jasper van HOLSTEIJN
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Demythologizing Gangsters: The Triad Origin Myth in Johnnie To's *Election*

The gangster film *Election* (黑社會, 2005) by Hong Kong director Johnnie To portrays the Triads as fraternal organizations that arose at the beginning of the Qing dynasty with the revolutionary aim of 'Overthrowing the Qing and Restoring the Ming'. Several scholars writing on the popular Hong Kong Triad genre, such as Marchetti (2007), Chan (2009) and Ingham (2009), present a similar genesis of the Triads as patriotic organizations.

However, research in the Qing dynasty archives suggest that the Triads originated as mutual aid organizations without specific political goals (Murray and Qin, 1994). Film scholarship on Hong Kong Triad films has not yet incorporated these new insights.

My paper addresses this misconception by interpreting the origin myth of the Triads as an 'invented tradition' (Hobsbawm and Ranger, 1983) and considering how *Election* appropriates this myth for specific political aims.

Specifically, I argue that *Election* juxtaposes an apolitical, capitalist contemporary Triad society with a patriotic precursor as a form of nostalgia for an origin which, in historical reality, never existed. Likewise, the film revolves around Triad elections to explore issues of democracy and sovereignty in post-1997 Hong Kong, which has never existed as a sovereign state.

TSE Hiu Tung, Christy
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Representations of Middle-Class Women in Early to Mid-Victorian Age Advice Literature

The Victorian era saw the emergence of the British middle class, who exerted much influence on different aspects of British society. Industrialization and urbanization also meant that environmentally, Victorian Britain was undergoing rapid changes as well. The bourgeois notions of respectability and domesticity became dominant in the lives of Victorians. For Victorian middle-class women, an image of the ideal woman, "the Angel in the House," was created and advocated. Their respectability was then measured by how closely they compared to the descriptions of this "angel."

This presentation examines a popular genre in the Victorian era: advice literature published between the 1830s and 1860s, during which time the Victorian middle class began to gain power in various aspects of British society. Utilizing advice manuals and etiquette books, and with journal articles as a complement, the paper explores the ways that the ideal middle-class woman was represented and constructed literarily. In discussing the representation of middle-class women in advice literature, the paper also seeks to understand the nature of advice literature and its relationship with the construction of class and gender identity for middle-class Victorians; it also explains the complexities found within the concepts of respectability and domesticity.

Nis GROEN
PhD Candidate
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Changing Dynamics of Masculinity in Samurai Cinema: *The Historical Transformation of the Scarred Warrior*

The samurai has been an iconic figure within Japanese culture throughout the centuries, depicted in classical art forms such as woodblock prints, the kabuki theatre, and poetry. The ideals of the samurai have historically been closely related to central aspects of Japaneseness and audiovisual media has in the modern era been an important cultural realm for the ongoing articulation and negotiation of what it means to be Japanese.

It is the goal of this presentation to suggest an account that traces certain important traits of the development of the samurai film genre from its pre-WWII form to its post-WWII articulation and manifestation of the psychological or physically scared warrior. This will be done by tracing and relating the transformation of Japanese culture and society in the twentieth century with the changes in cinematic styles and themes in the representation of the iconic warrior. It is not the intent to present an overall historical account of samurai genre and its subgenres, but instead this paper centres its attention on those traits within the genre that will help trace the changing cinematic representation of the samurai character.

LIST OF PRESENTERS

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