

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

The 7th
Spring History Symposium

Open to History Research Postgraduate Students from Hong Kong and abroad

Thursday 7 May 2015

8:30am Registration and Opening

9:00am - 6:00pm Symposium

Reception until 7:00pm

**Rooms 4.36 and 4.34
Run Run Shaw Tower,
Centennial Campus,
The University of Hong Kong**

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.history.hku.hk/news/2015-shs.html>

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MC

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The Spring History Symposium has been generously supported by the

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	Time	Event	Panel	Moderator / MC	Presenter / Title
1	08.30 – 08.45	Registration			
	08.45 – 09.00	Opening		Maurits MEERWIJK	Prof. Charles SCHENCKING Head of the Department of History, The University of Hong Kong
	09.00 – 10.50	Plenary Session 4.36	Knowledge Exchange	Vivian Wai-yan KONG	Sarah Xia YU, University of Hong Kong Studying for War, During War: Memoirs of Chinese Study Abroad Students during World War II Pete MILLWOOD, London School of Economics Familiarity Breeding Contempt? Bilateral Exchanges, People-to-People Contacts and the Breakdown of Sino-American Rapprochement during the Ford Presidency Raphael NGAI, University of Hong Kong Chinese Culture In Danger: The Role of Chan Kwan Po in Protecting Books in Hong Kong During the Japanese Occupation Alexandra LINDGREN-GIBSON, Northwestern University Class and Colonial Knowledge: The Miseducation of Private Frederick Lambert
Morning Tea					
2	11.00 – 12.50	Parallel A 4.36	Colonial Imaginations	Georges PAPAVASILIOU	Maurits Bastiaan MEERWIJK, University of Hong Kong Framing Fever: understanding dengue in colonial Hong Kong Blake SMITH, Northwestern University The Circulation of Antisemitism and Anti-Chinese Sentiments in Late-Eighteenth Century Java and Western Europe Rachel TAYLOR, Northwestern University “Coolie” Fantasies: German East Africa and the Ideal of the East Asian Laborer YAU Ka Lo, Luca, Lingnan University The Making of Hakka Women in Hong Kong

	11.00 – 12.50	Parallel B 4.34	China and the World	Aurelio INSISA	<p>Reed CHERVIN, University of Hong Kong Origins of the 1962 Sino-Indian War: National Perspectives</p> <p>Ylber MARKU, Lingnan University Sino-Albanian Relations in the Cold War.</p> <p>Federico PACHETTI, University of Hong Kong Beyond the Cold War: U.S.-China Relations During the First Reagan Presidency (1981-1985)</p> <p>Keith A. CLARK II, Northwestern University Defining China: The 1971 Transfer of the UN's 'China Seat' from Taipei to Beijing</p>
Lunch (Room 10.66)					
3	14.00 – 15.50	Parallel C 4.36	Chinese Assets	Raphael NGAI	<p>James FELLOWS, Lingnan University Empire Unravelling: Restricting Textile Exports from Hong Kong, 1957-59</p> <p>Danielle HUM, University of Hong Kong Substitution of the Chinese Restaurant Licence in the late 1940s-1950s Hong Kong: Corruption, Compromises, and Regulations in a Changing Socio- Physical Landscape</p> <p>XU Guanmian, Chinese University of Hong Kong “Commodity Chains and Imperial State: Connecting Divergent Agricultural Development of Chaozhou and Taiwan in Pre-Modern Period”</p> <p>HAO Xiaowen, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology Dealing with Insolvency without Bankruptcy Law: A Historical Survey of “Prosperity Bill” (Xinglong Piao) in Late Qing and Republican China</p>

3	14.00 – 15.50	Parallel D 4.34	Politics of Interaction	Sarah Xia YU	<p>Alex HOBSON, Northwestern University How to Uproot an Empire: The Anti-Imperialist Vision of Dr. Jurj Habash, Dr. Wadi'a Haddad, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, 1967-1970</p> <p>Enyi HU, University of Hong Kong Fashioning the Intellectual Gospel: Yenching Educational Missionaries' Formative Years</p> <p>LAW Kwok Fai, Lingnan University Colonialism and Compromise: The Shanghai Municipal Police and the Arrest of Communists, 1927-1937</p> <p>Georges PAPAVALIOU, University of Hong Kong Seismic Politics and Quake Science: The Development of Seismology in Post-1950's China.</p>
Afternoon Tea					
4	16.00 – 17.50	Parallel E 4.36	Political Cultures	Reed CHERVIN	<p>Aurelio INSISA, University of Hong Kong Soft Power Under Pressure: Song China's Diplomacy and Cultural Exchange in Multipolar East Asia (975-1206)</p> <p>HO Ka Ki, Alan, McGill University "He thus became an uncrowned king": The Deification of Confucius' Image in Prophtic Texts (Chen Wei)</p> <p>Joe Ryan HUME, University of Glasgow Fighting Over the Past: Liberal Reactions to the Supreme Court Nomination of Robert Bork in 1987</p> <p>Jie LI, University of Edinburgh Sovietology in Post-Mao China: An Introduction</p>

4	16.00 – 17.50	Parallel F 4.34	Britain in the East	Danielle HUM	<p>Vivian Wai-yan KONG, University of Hong Kong Beyond Saving the ‘Desirable’ Race: The Evacuation of British Families from Hong Kong in 1940</p> <p>Simon CASE, Lingnan University Blurring Foreign and Imperial Affairs: Britain’s Reactive Imperial Policy and the Escalation of Sino-Japanese Tensions, 1870-1896</p> <p>Chi Chi HUANG, University of Hong Kong The Making of a Hong Kong Landscape</p> <p>KONG Rong, Lingnan University Weihaiwei: Cinderella of British Empire (1898-1911)</p>
5	17.50 – 18.00	Closing Remarks 4.36		Maurits MEERWIJK	Dr. Peter CARROLL (Northwestern University)

Reception (until 19.00)

Studying for War, during War: Memoirs of Chinese Study Abroad Students during World War II

Sarah Xia Yu
University of Hong Kong
Plenary Session

Research about Chinese study abroad students has mostly focused on the late nineteenth century and the Qing government's "Self-Strengthening Movement", and stopped around the time of the Second World War. However, the war created a set of special conditions for university students that made education abroad seem more appealing, even though it became logistically difficult to travel abroad. The group of students who left China during the Second World War is also worth studying in detail – it includes individuals who would later become prominent academics, Nobel Prize winners, and the first educated professionals of the international Chinese diaspora.

This paper aims to highlight some of the themes and trends in China's higher education during the Second World War, through studying the memoirs of study abroad students. Specifically, I aim to link the motivations of the students to study abroad with the wartime political climate and education policies, and show that the opportunity to study abroad during the war was not considered an escape route. Instead, studying abroad became seen as one of the most important ways for young people to contribute to Chinese society after the war's end.

**Familiarity Breeding Contempt?
Bilateral Exchanges, People-to-People Contacts and the Breakdown of
Sino-American Rapprochement during the Ford Presidency**

Pete Millwood
London School of Economics
Plenary Session

This paper examines the role of the bilateral exchange programme and people-to-people contacts in Sino-American diplomacy during the Ford Presidency. During Ford's time in office, relations between Beijing and Washington deteriorated to their lowest ebb since Nixon's first overtures. A deadlock in high-level negotiations pushed both sides, but in particular the US, to attach greater attention to exchanges as a means to achieve agreements less than normalisation and to preserve the bilateral relationship that had already been established. A vigorous exchange programme was also critical to maintaining the public facade of robust relations, both to adversaries in Moscow and audiences at home. Important as they were, exchanges also proved problematic: Ford's term saw a succession of rows over people-to-people contacts threaten to further erode cordiality between America and China. My paper will draw on extensive archival work with newly declassified American documents, as well as incorporating research that I am currently conducting in China. I will also discuss how this paper fits into my larger project on the role of bilateral exchanges and people-to-people contacts in Sino-American diplomacy from Nixon's inauguration until Carter's exit from office.

Chinese Culture In Danger: The Role of Chan Kwan Po in Protecting Books in Hong Kong During the Japanese Occupation

Raphael Ngai
University of Hong Kong
Plenary Session

The Second World War was a catastrophe to Chinese Culture. As the Japanese troops moved southward, Chinese books were sent to Hong Kong to escape war. Chan Kwan Po, librarian of the Fung Ping Shan Library of HKU, took responsibility to protect these valuable Chinese treasures. Before the Japanese arrived, Chan cooperated with different Chinese scholars, accommodated books from Mainland China and prepared to send them out of Hong Kong. After Hong Kong fell, he collected books from different parts of the city, dealt with the Japanese authorities and consequently saved numerous books. He even helped retrieve books in the post-war period.

This paper aims to give a general overview of the cultural preservation work in Hong Kong before and during the Japanese occupation. It examines the role played by Chan Kwan Po in this story. Particular interest is given to how he made use of his personal networks to contact Chinese scholars and cope with pressure from the Japanese to save books, and how he retrieved books through diplomatic links. Examples will also be taken from different parts of the world to help further understand the broader picture of cultural protection during the Second World War.

Class and Colonial Knowledge: The Miseducation of Private Frederick Lambert

Alexandra Lindgren-Gibson
Northwestern University
Plenary Session

Like most soldiers in the British Army, Private Frederick Lambert knew little about the culture or language of India when he arrived in the country in 1889. Unlike most, he spent his time in India, and later Burma, immersing himself in the study of Asian languages while attempting to make sense of Indian and Burmese culture with limited educational resources. In spite of his repeated attempts to prove his mettle as a multilingual autodidact, Lambert never managed to advance beyond the rank of private.

His case illustrates the class dimensions of colonial knowledge and the limits of social mobility for nonelites in British India. This paper argues that creating colonial knowledge was not just a method of controlling a native population; it also distinguished the conceivers of empire from its builders. If the quest for colonial knowledge was prompted by the desire to, as Nicholas Dirks puts it, “know India well enough to rule it and profit by it”, then British nonelites were nonelite because they could neither rule nor profit, and so had no need to know. Autodidacticism and formal non-elite education were both little valued by imperial elites because they threatened to upset the British class system in empire and at home.

Framing Fever: Understanding Dengue in Colonial Hong Kong

Maurits Meerwijk
University of Hong Kong
Parallel A

Hong Kong has a fevered history. This paper explores the history of dengue fever there, seeking to disentangle that disease from scholarship that has centralised ‘Hong Kong fever’ – tacitly understood to have been “mostly malaria”. Reading the colonial and medical archives ‘against the grain’, I explore socio-cultural imaginations and understandings of dengue in the decades leading up to its modern (or scientific) framing around 1900.

Dengue provides a vantage for reflecting on ongoing debates in the history of medicine. How were disease entities constituted? By whom, by what methods, and with what motivations? How were assumptions on the role of the environment in disease aetiology reworked through the lens of the emerging discipline of tropical medicine? What variables govern the visibility of disease?

Hong Kong provides an exemplary case study for engaging with such and other questions. This paper examines shifts in dengue’s framing against the backdrop of more general changes in theories of disease aetiology. Hong Kong, moreover, played a central role in the formation of a transhistorical and comprehensive ‘modern’, scientific, identity of dengue fever. Tracing conceptualisations of a background disease now ubiquitous in the tropical world, this paper provides a fresh historical perspective on a contemporary problem.

The Circulation of Antisemitism and Anti-Chinese Sentiments in Late-Eighteenth Century Java and Western Europe

Blake Smith
Northwestern University
Parallel A

After evading arrest, Dirk van Hogendorp (1761-1822), an ex-official of the Dutch East India Company (VOC) wanted for his criticisms of his former employers, bound ship from Java for the Netherlands. He used his voyage to compose a condemnatory report that contributed significantly to the abolition of the VOC in 1799. Historians often approach this document as an example of liberal colonialism, inspired by Adam Smith's critiques of the British East India Company. Yet it has a darker legacy. Hogendorp attacked Chinese immigrants to Java as 'bloodsuckers', comparing them to European Jews. Playing on antisemitic stereotypes to build his case, he called for the Chinese to either expelled from Java or subjected to discriminatory taxes. Hogendorp was a critical figure in the articulation of a racialized political economy hostile to 'outsiders', which would speak to the anxieties of European imperialists and Southeast Asian alike. His views resounded in nineteenth-century colonial discourse and among white civilian populations throughout Southeast Asia. Moreover, the pairing of antisemitic and sinophobic stereotypes would become a theme of anti-colonial nationalist discourse in the early twentieth century, as evidenced by King Rama VI of Siam's 1916 pamphlet "The Jews of Asia".

**“Coolie” Fantasies:
German East Africa and the Ideal of the East Asian Laborer**

Rachel Taylor
Northwestern University
Parallel A

German colonial officials and settlers alike were convinced that the success of their enterprise depended upon a ready supply of tractable, hard-working, cheap and resilient labor to work on plantations and in railroad building. They dreamed that this kind of labor would be available from East Asia, in the form of Chinese “coolies”, imported into the colony on fixed-term contracts. The actual presence of East Asian laborers, however, had little effect on the labor supply in German East Africa. In fact, no workers at all were imported from China, with probably fewer than 1,000 East Asian laborers imported in total during the colony’s existence, all in the 1890s. In this paper I focus, therefore, not on the experience of the East Asian workers, their employees, or their African colleagues and neighbors. Instead, I explore why so many colonial officials in Germany and in the colony itself, and so many settlers and companies invested so much time, effort and money in advocating for and trying to secure access to East Asian labor. I argue that discussions of the “coolie” were used to envisage – and attempt to secure – an ideal future for the colony.

The Making of Hakka Women in Hong Kong

Yau Ka Lo, Luca
Lingnan University
Parallel A

Since the mid-nineteenth century, Hakka women have often been portrayed as industrious, thrifty and able-bodied with natural feet. These images, first appeared in Western missionaries and scholars' studies in the later part of the 19th century, have been increasingly enforced and standardized over time. The study of Hakka people began to flourish in China as a result of the rise of Hakka consciousness in the early 20th century. The 1930s were a turning point in the making of the discourses of Hakka women, when the first systematic study of the history of Hakka people was published by the Hakka scholar Lo Hsiang-lin.

This paper analyses the construction of discourses on Hakka women in Hong Kong by focusing on three groups of people, namely, missionaries, British colonists and Chinese Hakka scholars. The main question is how the image and culture of Hakka women was called into the service of Western imperialism, Chinese nationalism and Hakka ethnic identity construction. Hong Kong, as a borrowed place living on borrowed time under British colonial rule, provides an ideal geographical focus for studying the interplay between Western and Chinese forces in the making of ethnic construction in South China.

Origins of the 1962 Sino-Indian War: National Perspectives

Reed Chervin
University of Hong Kong
Parallel B

The Cuban Missile Crisis was arguably the most prominent global event of 1962. Therefore, the Sino-Indian War in the same month and year remains an overshadowed and understudied historical event. In spite of its short duration and low number of casualties, this conflict made a considerable impact on Sino-Indian relations, the non-aligned movement, and the Cold War. As such, this paper will seek to understand the origins of this war by examining national perspectives. Specifically, it will look to China and the United States as case studies. China argued that India's military incursions into Tibet and Xinjiang, refusal to negotiate regarding the border, and political philosophy led to the 1962 war. In contrast, the United States pointed to China's occupation of Tibet, non-cooperation in bilateral talks, and construction of the Tibet-Xinjiang road as factors.

Sino-Albanian Relations in the Cold War

Ylber Marku
Lingnan University
Parallel B

During Cold War, a strong friendship tied Albania with China, a country Albanian did not know almost at all before 1949. What brought these two countries together were many national and international circumstances. Albania had broken with Soviet Union in 1961 because with Khrushchev in power, and his “revisionist” course, felt that a Soviet Union approaching Yugoslavia might have been a threat to its national independence. China too was toward a split with Soviet Union, and both countries offered their respective assistance to each other. Albania could offer its ideological and political support on international stage, act as China’s spokesperson in international organizations where RPC had no representation, UNO included. China, in turn, would award Albania with economic and military assistance. By 1961, this asymmetric alliance came to be established.

The aim of the study is to analyze the reasons that made China and Albania first ally with each other, in 1961, and then the reasons that caused the split in 1976-78. According to some scholars (Womack, 2001) asymmetric alliances are unstable because the disparity of interests. In meantime according to other scholars (Biberaj, 1985) Albania, in this asymmetry, maximized the benefits from this alliance more than one might have expected. It is, however, necessary, in the light of new accessible documents, analyze this alliance in the context of the Cold War and see who won and who lost in short and long term.

**Beyond the Cold War:
U.S.-China Relations During the First Reagan Presidency (1981-1985)**

Federico Pachetti
University of Hong Kong
Parallel B

My proposed paper addresses U.S.-China relations during the first Reagan Presidency, a topic still unexplored by historians. This paper spotlights the characteristics of the ‘new’ relationship that emerged in the wake of the achievement of diplomatic relations in January 1979. It argues that, although remaining a central part of Washington-Beijing ties, Cold War considerations increasingly played a diminishing role in defying U.S.-China relations. Therefore, great consideration will be devoted to the building of a solid, durable and long-term relationship, something at which the two countries had already started to consolidate in the late 1970s. A key argument is that in the 1981-1985 period, the core of U.S.-PRC relations involved the passing of American laws and legislations that strengthened and favoured China’s modernisation and opening up reforms. Consequently, non-governmental, economic and cultural relations grew tremendously during these years, bringing the relationship beyond the high politics meetings of the 1970s. Finally, my paper addresses the delicate role Taiwan played in the shaping of U.S.-China relations during the first Reagan Presidency. My paper frames the Taiwan issue in the context of a factor that had the potential to ruin or slow the development of a fully constructive relationship between Washington and Beijing.

Defining China: The 1971 Transfer of the UN's 'China Seat' from Taipei to Beijing

Keith A. Clark II
Northwestern University
Parallel B

The 1971 transfer of the United Nation's 'China seat' from the Republic of China (ROC) in Taipei to the People's Republic of China (PRC) in Beijing realigned the two governments' competition to represent 'China'. PRC representatives entered the world body after 22 years of exclusion. ROC representatives, on the other hand, were forced to defend their state's existence without the international legitimacy the organization provided. Officials in Beijing and Taipei provided different interpretations of both 'China' and legitimacy throughout this period. ROC agents presented 'China' as a legally constituted entity where PRC agents presented it as a revolutionary one. Representatives in both states sought to use the organization to bolster their competing definitions of 'China' as well as use the UN's international legitimacy to enhance their governments' domestic legitimacy. Accordingly, change of status in the UN had significant consequences for Beijing and Taipei as states switched their recognition to align with the China defined as legitimate by the UN. An analysis of how the competing governments in Beijing and Taipei sought to portray the UN's international role during this period demonstrates their differing visions of 'China' as well as how these images were affected by membership in the world body.

Empire Unravelling: Restricting Textile Exports from Hong Kong, 1957-59

James Fellows
Lingnan University
Parallel C

British and Hong Kong inter-industry negotiations for a voluntary restriction on the colony's textile exports in the years 1957-59 were indicative of the transitional nature of British imperialism during this period - from one of commitment to retaining empire and thereby great power status in the immediate postwar years, to a belief that closer ties with Europe rather than the remaining empire and Commonwealth offered greater economic opportunity. Likewise, for Hong Kong, the period was one of in which the divergent interests of metropole and colony were becoming apparent.

In response to British government pressure to accept a ceiling on textile exports to Britain, Hong Kong government and business representatives accentuated the colony's postwar constraints – an economic embargo limiting entrepôt trade, a large refugee population and the absence of a substantial home market for manufactured goods – whilst business groups initiated a public relations campaign in Britain in an attempt to counter protectionist agitation in Britain. In doing so, they demonstrated a belief that the colony could no longer rely on the British government to safeguard its interests, and the episode marked a critical juncture in Hong Kong's progression towards greater autonomy and a departure from conventional metropole-colony relations.

Substitution of the Chinese Restaurant Licence in the late 1940s-1950s Hong Kong: Corruption, Compromises, and Regulations in a Changing Socio-Physical Landscape

Danielle Hum
University of Hong Kong
Parallel C

During the late-1940s and 1950s in Hong Kong, the Legislative Council increased regulation on the consumption and distribution of food and alcohol. While these changes may have been prompted by health code violations, circumventions of legal systems, and “oversaturation”, they may have also been used as means of social control, or for singling out groups for protection or persecution. They also highlighted a clash of motivations between the government, as well as intra- and extra-cultural social conflicts from dismantling segregational laws and ineffective policies. The abolition of the Chinese Restaurant Licence in 1955/56, which provided significant revenue to the government since the late 1800s, and catered to 98% of the population, is a prime example, which prompts the following questions: 1) If Chinese Restaurant Licences were so profitable in ensuring more revenue for the Colony, and were deemed necessary to the majority of the population, why were they ultimately abolished, and substituted with the Restaurant Adjunct licence? and 2) Did the Legislative Council’s preoccupation with food and alcohol legislation in the 1950s coincide with increased interaction among the Chinese and the westerners living in Hong Kong? And if so, did these restaurant legislations impact today’s restaurant culture?

Commodity Chains and Imperial State: Connecting Divergent Agricultural Development of Chaozhou and Taiwan in Pre-Modern Period

Xu Guanmian
Chinese University of Hong Kong
Parallel C

The basic framework of most research on Commodity Chains is structured on an overarching capitalist world economy. Qing China as an imperial state or, in other words, a world empire has been by so far not within their considerations.

My MPhil dissertation aims to fill this gap by investigating the rising trajectory of Chaozhou sugar (the later famous Swatow sugar) commodity chain along China coast in the eighteenth century.

The chain was constructed in the conjuncture of the so-called high Qing when the sugar consumption in Jiangnan and North China was in an upward curve but the sugar production in Taiwan was prematurely peaked. Then, the still marginal Chaozhou junk merchants caught the niche and gradually built an unprecedented sugar network along China coast, which extended from Hainan to Tianjin and contributed to the expansion of sugar frontiers in Chaozhou, Leishou, and Hainan.

Projected as the second chapter of my dissertation, the article to be presented in this symposium is going to compare and connect the divergent development of sugar agro-industries in Taiwan and Chaozhou during this period.

I think the divergence was a hybrid product of the coastal commodity chains and the commodity policy of Qing imperial state. The later institutionally promoted the rice cultivation in Taiwan by sacrificing the interests of the local sugar agro-industry, whereas the former fastened and enlarged the differentiation.

I expect an in-depth analysis of this divergence would provide us a vantage point to understand how commodity chains existed and worked in an imperial state.

Dealing with Insolvency without Bankruptcy Law: A Historical Survey of “Prosperity Bill” (Xinglong Piao) in Late Qing and Republican China

Hao Xiaowen
The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
Parallel C

This paper examines a commercial debt dispute resolution—“prosperity bill” (*xinglong piao*) in late Qing and Republican China. As a useful debt dispute resolution, *xinglong piao* were widely used by merchants in both treaty ports and the hinterland. When a debtor became insolvent and could not fully repay his debt in the short term, he would write a long term, noninterest-bearing *xinglong piao* to the creditor, promising that he would fully repay the debt when he becomes rich in the future. Relying on commercial custom survey reports, merchant handbooks and debt dispute cases in the court and chamber of commerce, the paper argues that usually the part of the debt settled by *xinglong piao* would not be repaid in the end, or would only be repaid after a considerably long time, which resulted in *de facto* debt relief of the debtor. Besides, since commercial debt disputes often arose from the underpayment of credit loans, and middleman usually played an extremely crucial role in settling these disputes, *xinglong piao* might also serve as a bad reputational record of the debtor. In the legal reform era, *xinglong piao* was reconceptualized as debt without exact repaying date by lawyers and judges. Although the debt discharge function of *xinglong piao* was eventually replaced by the 1935 Bankruptcy Code, its idea and formula was adopted by the new procedural laws since 1920, and the formal court started to act as a more active third party in issuing and enforcing the bill.

How to Uproot an Empire: The Anti-Imperialist Vision of Dr. Jurj Habash, Dr. Wadi‘a Haddad, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, 1967-1970

Alex Hobson
Northwestern University
Parallel D

In the decades after World War II, many Middle Easterners perceived a U.S. empire in their midst. Yet U.S. historiography has paid little attention to these actors' perceptions of empire, how those perceptions changed over time, and how those perceptions shaped action. These topics offer a path to re-examining the relationship between the United States and the modern Middle East. This paper explores the anti-imperialist vision of Dr. Jurj Habash and Dr. Wadi‘a Haddad, the leaders of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), and connects their evolving understanding of a U.S. empire and its vulnerabilities to the Front's activities between 1967 and 1970. Based on research in Arabic and English conducted at the Library of the Institute for Palestine Studies in Beirut, this paper shows how Habash and Haddad's anti-imperialist vision emboldened them to expand their field of battle. On "Hijack Sunday", Habash and Haddad tried to exploit the "contradictions" in U.S. imperialism and kick-start a people's war in the Levant. While Habash and Haddad understood the movement's predicament better than their rivals, the paper concludes, they became victims of their successes, and their bold actions brought tragic consequences for many involved.

Fashioning the Intellectual Gospel: Yenching Educational Missionaries' Formative Years

Enyi HU
University of Hong Kong
Parallel D

Historians since Jessie G. Lutz and John K. Fairbank have incisively examined American Christian experiments in Asia from the perspectives of cultural imperialism and cultural accommodation in transnational interactions, yet often overlooked in the historiography is the question of motivation, or in other words, what American student volunteers aimed to bring and why they came to China to teach. A complement to current scholarly debates, this paper argues that American educational missionaries' desire to disseminate the intellectual gospel abroad coincided with contemporary capitalist conquest at home and overseas. By comparing the historical accounts of Student Volunteer Movement in the United States with China Inland Mission founded by British missionaries, this paper closely examines the distinctive shift from religious salvation to social salvation in American Protestant discourses that paved the way for educational missionaries' subsequent participation in Chinese national salvation. Through a case study of Yenching University, this paper attempts to sketch out the rarely known formative years of prospective missionaries in a broader context of American industrialization at the crescendo of capitalism. Additionally, the paper highlights the role of Rockefeller Foundation in promoting secularism among Yenching educational missionaries-to-be.

Colonialism and Compromise: The Shanghai Municipal Police and the Arrest of Communists, 1927-1937

LAW Kwok Fai
Lingnan University
Parallel D

Pressured by Chinese authorities and the Foreign Office, the Shanghai International Settlement was forced to compromise with the Nationalist government about the arrest of communists between 1927 and 1937. Not only was the foreign presence in Shanghai threatened by fervid Chinese nationalism, it was endangered by communist disturbances in the Settlement. This study illustrates cooperation between the Kuomintang and the Shanghai Municipal Police [SMP] in tackling communist activities. Arrest procedures initiated the first episode concerning the diminishing institutional autonomy of the SMP. After the strengthening of Jiang Jieshi in 1927, the SMP increasingly collaborated with the Kuomintang. In addition to their failure to execute warrants accordingly, the SMP even violated the criminal procedure, arresting communist suspects without acquiring formal approval from the Shanghai Special District Court. This signified the decline of the SMP's supreme status and paved the way for further concessions.

Protected by extraterritoriality, British settlers used to exercise great influence in China. But how did they strive for their survival in China during an era of turmoil and unrest? I will argue that decolonisation actually took place since the late 1920s in China. A new way of conceptualising British imperialism in East Asia will be shown here.

Seismic Politics and Quake Science: The Development of Seismology in Post-1950's China

Georges Papavasiliou
University of Hong Kong
Parallel D

The development of science in China has garnered considerable traction among historians in recent years yet the institutionalization of academic disciplines remains understudied. Seismology, a sub discipline of geology and the earth sciences is one such example. As a scientific endeavour, the development of geology in China began in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, but was formally institutionalized with the advent of the Guomindang's Republic of China as a way of mastering the Chinese geostrata and the resources that lay buried within. In this paper, I argue that while geology provided the necessary theoretical knowledge for seismology to develop, the driving force was the result of a nascent People's Republic of China seeking to stabilize the country both physically and politically with this new-found knowledge. Looking to the context of revolution, I explore how seismology served as a means of solidifying state power, and prevent the destabilizing effects of seismic phenomena by making knowable the unknowables of seismic hazards.

**Soft Power Under Pressure:
Song China's Diplomacy and Cultural Exchange in Multipolar East Asia
(975-1206)**

Aurelio Insisa
University of Hong Kong
Parallel E

Since the 1980s, Western scholarship has progressively deconstructed the hegemonic rhetoric of Song China, unearthing a more nuanced political context characterised not only by military inferiority but also by diplomatic equality. Acknowledging these findings, and drawing from dynastic records and historical writings of the era, this presentation has two aims. First, to highlight how and when Song China's decision-makers pursued soft power policies towards neighbouring countries through the establishment of diplomatic frameworks and cultural exchange. Second, to reconnect such policies to contemporary Confucian ideals of "kingly government" (*wangdao*) and their articulation within Song China self-image.

While often contradictory, short-lived and unable to tilt the balance of power of the region in its favour in the long term, Song China's soft power policies remain nonetheless remarkable considering the multiple constraints of a highly competitive multipolar regional order, a long and fierce factional conflict at court and increasing xenophobic attitudes among Chinese elites. Ultimately, providing a perspective of the Song's foreign relations distant from both the unrealistic standard of Confucian rhetoric and the bitterly jingoistic portrait of recent scholarship, this presentation aims to explain the role played by Chinese culture and political values in East Asia before the Mongol conquests.

**“He thus became an uncrowned king”:
The Deification of Confucius’ Image in Prophtic Texts (Chen Wei)**

Ka Ki Alan Ho
McGill University
Parallel E

This paper sets out to discuss an important question in the history of ancient Chinese thought: How did Confucius, an unrecognised talent among the thinkers of the Hundred Schools of Thoughts during the Spring and Autumn Period, become the “su-wang” (an uncrowned king), revered and worshiped by succeeding dynasties several hundred years after his death? In fact, the term “su-wang” was first seen in the Taoist texts of the pre-Qin Period and was later borrowed by *The Master of Huainan* and *The Rich Dew of Spring and Autumn Classic* as an honorific name for Confucius, to indicate that although his virtues were then unrecognised by the rulers, he should be regarded the role model for emperors and their subjects in generations to come. However, back then, this term did not have the religious and mystical undertones it carries today. Previous scholarship on “the theory of Confucius as su-wang” normally went no further than this point and considered the theory as fully developed by the mid-Western Han Dynasty. Actually, the image of Confucius as “su-wang” was not fully formed until the time of the Han Dynasty’s prophetic texts. Prophetic texts were the unique product of a cultural trend during the Han Dynasties. It is a validated prophecy that usually required interpretation through decoding the message. Once it was successfully decoded, it could be used to predict events in the future. Since such prophetic texts were the essential basis for founding the regime of the Eastern Han Dynasty and most “prophetic texts” were falsely attributed to Confucius as the author or the disseminator, they needed to build an image of Confucius that was “immaculate and flawless” or even deified. Therefore, the biography of Confucius was rewritten to erase the two major “blemishes” in his life: being an “illegitimate son” and an unrecognised talent. He was then established as the sage appointed by the mandate of heaven to “create a political system for the Han Dynasty”. The image of “su-wang” was thus completed and was given its mystical and religious undertones.

**Fighting Over the Past:
Liberal Reactions to the Supreme Court Nomination of Robert Bork in
1987**

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Parallel E

From claims that it would lead to back alley abortions and segregated lunch counters to journalists trawling through movie rental records for sensationalistic scoops, the nomination of Robert Bork to the US Supreme Court in 1987 struck fear in the hearts of many liberals throughout America. In an era of supposed conservative dominance, when moderate Justice Lewis Powell announced that he was stepping down, President Ronald Reagan was determined to use the vacant seat to ensure his governing philosophy would outlast his administration. After the announcement that Bork was the nominee, there was tremendous fear that, if confirmed, he would swing the court to the conservatives and important liberal victories would be overturned. Bork's opposition to reproductive freedom as a constitutional principle and his scepticism about the civil rights laws induced various liberal groups to launch themselves into the political fray in order to prevent his confirmation. Caught in the maelstrom of the Iran-Contra scandal at the time, the forceful and well-organised liberal response to Bork's nomination stunned the Reagan administration and my paper intends to examine how and why liberals were able to mount such a concentrated attack during what is largely remembered as a conservative era.

Sovietology in Post-Mao China: An Introduction

Jie Li
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Parallel E

According to some scholars, after the disintegration of the Soviet Union, the People's Republic of China allegedly sponsored many Chinese Soviet experts across the country, to do the research on the reasons of why the USSR collapsed. They also perceive that Chinese Sovietology has been translated into the merely "lesson-drawing" approach designed by the Chinese government after 1991.

In order to examine the existing perception on Chinese Sovietology, the researcher decided to choose the largest official Sovietology journal in the PRC – "Matters of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe", as the primary source for analysis.

Going through the original documents from the 1980s to 1990s, the investigator found that the story of Chinese government having financed Chinese Soviet-watchers after 1991 may not be true. In fact, it was the Chinese Sovietologists who asked for official patronage in exchange for their advisory service on the lessons of the Soviet. Besides, the "lesson drawing" phenomenon was only one plot of the whole play. Chinese academics projected Sovietology as the legitimizer of post-Mao state policies, such as constructing socialism with Chinese characteristics, and demonstrating the legitimacy and longevity of the CCP rule, rather than purely devotion to "Sovietology for Sovietology's sake".

Beyond Saving the ‘Desirable’ Race: The Evacuation of British Families from Hong Kong in 1940

Vivian Wai-yan Kong
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Parallel F

With the Japanese army garrisoned across the Shenzhen River, in June 1940 the British War Cabinet ordered the Hong Kong government to evacuate approximately 4,000 British women and children – first to Manila and then Australia. While the discriminatory nature of the evacuation shows colonial officials’ conscious effort to protect the British race from the Japanese, it also tells us much about their perception of the British subjects there and what they understood as Britishness. Considering the British population as “practical and desirable” to be evacuated, the colonial authorities assumed the Britons in Hong Kong as merely sojourners. Despite excluding most of the Chinese while planning for the evacuation, the colonial government also prepared to evacuate the families of prominent Chinese. By looking into how the authorities in London and Hong Kong drafted and carried out the evacuation policy, this paper aims to show how the colonial officials misunderstood their subjects and how they understood race and class as being the very core of Britishness.

**Blurring Foreign and Imperial Affairs:
Britain's Reactive Imperial Policy and the Escalation of Sino-Japanese
Tensions, 1870-1896.**

Simon Case
Lingnan University
Parallel F

As John Darwin has persuasively argued, Britain's approach to its "Empire Project" was overwhelmingly reactive. British imperial and foreign policy formulation was flexible and decentralised, and was defined to best suit shifting circumstances.¹ Drawing from Darwin's thesis, I shall examine the formation of Britain's East Asia policy in the years 1871-1896. Similar to Britain's wider stance on imperial policy, Britain's overriding response to developments in East Asia was to take a non-committal approach, waiting for events to unfold before formulating a mostly reactive policy that best fit the circumstances, and acting to limit or restrict the activities of British commerce and individuals as little as possible. Britain's strategic alliances and relationships evolved to suit the regional political and commercial realities. Through close analysis of British diplomatic and Foreign Office correspondence, I will examine how these regional and wider imperial priorities were balanced and consolidated in the formulation of British policy in the period of escalating Sino-Japanese tensions between the years 1871-1896, between the 1871 Sino-Japanese Friendship and Trade Treaty and the conclusion of the 1896 Treaty of Shimonoseki at the end of the First Sino-Japanese War.

¹ John Darwin, *The Empire Project: The Rise and Fall of the British World System, 1830-1970* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009)

The Making of a Hong Kong Landscape

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Parallel F

One of the most popular epithets of Hong Kong is that of a barren rock. When Hong Kong was ceded in 1841, Lord Palmerston wrote to Captain Charles Elliot expressing the utter disappointment of Britain having ceded nothing but “a barren rock with hardly a House on it”. It is still used today to emphasise the dramatic rise of Hong Kong financially, politically, socially, and of course its physical transformation. This talk looks at the characterisation of Hong Kong’s landscape in British culture during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Using news articles, travel journals, photographs and postcards, I want to explore how this island colony was portrayed to a disconnected public in Britain. By focusing on the landscape and the entangled assumptions, I question what the significance of the ‘barren rock’ imagery was when Hong Kong itself was physically becoming more ‘tropical’ through afforestation projects. Where did Hong Kong’s ‘tropicality’ fit into the British imperial worldview? And why was it significant for Hong Kong to remain perceived as ‘tropical’?

Weihaiwei: Cinderella of British Empire (1898-1911)

Kong Rong
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Parallel F

In 1898, British Empire takes two areas from China, Weihaiwei and the New Territories of Hong Kong. These two places were comparative similar both in size and population. Unlike NT was taken as an integral part for the existing colony in Hong Kong, Weihaiwei was regarded as a feedback to Russian occupation of Port Arthur so that leased period of Weihaiwei was as same as Port Arthur. An uncertain future of Weihaiwei made it impossible to get enough finance support from British Empire.

Facing up the limited funds and uncertain tenure, the government in WHW, especially its commissioner, Sir James Stewart Lockhart (a senior official in Hong Kong, was appointed to be Civil Commissioner of Weihaiwei from 1902 to 1921), took several measures to develop the colony. He tried to attract his Hong Kong merchant friends to invest in WHW, although failed. He relied on and improved the original headman system to keep the administration work smoothly, decreasing the cost of management. In order to develop economic of WHW, he enhanced a very good relation with Shandong governors in his first decade. With violent changes in China and his disappointment grows, Lockhart nearly gave up his hope in improve the situation of WHW, instead of taking things as they were.

It is a method to see the way of the development of an ill-fated or ignored colony of British Empire by researching the 1st decade of the leasehold of WHW. The communication of Lockhart and Shandong governors would be a window to observe the Anglo-Sino relationship in a provincial level. The failure development in WHW would offer some clues about the conditions how to construct a better colony. Meanwhile, comparing WHW with other colonies, especially with New Territory, would explain British policy in North China in late Qing.