SPRING HISTORY SYMPOSIUM

Programme

Thursday 5 May 2016

Organized by the Department of History
The University of Hong Kong

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	Time	Event	Panel	Commentator/Chair	Presenter / Title
1	08.30 – 08.40	**Registration**			
	08.40 – 09.00	**Opening**		Reed CHERVIN	Dr David POMFRET Chairperson, History Department, The University of Hong Kong Dr Priscilla ROBERTS Postgraduate Students Coordinator, The University of Hong Kong
	09.00 – 11.00	**Plenary Session 4.36**	**China and the World**	Commentator: Prof Melissa MACAULEY, Northwestern University Chair: David SAUNDERS	Aurelio INSISA, PhD Candidate, The University of Hong Kong 'Political Agency and Soft Power: Song China and 'Vietnam' (X-XIII century)' Sarah Xia YU, MPhil Candidate, The University of Hong Kong 'Students in Distress: Allied Support for Chinese Study Abroad, 1941–1944' Reed CHERVIN, PhD Candidate, The University of Hong Kong 'The Sino-Indian Border Dispute and Multimedia Politics' Song GE, PhD Candidate, Lingnan University 'Transfer of Chinese Literati Taste to the Anglophone World from the 20th Century to the Present – Chinese Calligraphy as a Case Study'
			Morning Tea		
2	11.15 – 13.15	**Parallel A 4.36**	**The Cold War in Asia**	Commentator: Dr Priscilla ROBERTS Chair: Aurelio INSISA	Yanqiu ZHENG, PhD Candidate, Northwestern University 'Transpacific Reverberations of An Extraordinary Gift: The China House and the Chinese Cultural Diplomacy in the United States at a Crossroads, 1943-1944' Koki HIRATA, PhD Candidate, Stanford University 'How the Steel Was Tempered in China: the Stalinist Model and the State-Owned Enterprise System in the Early PRC' Michael FALCONE, PhD Candidate, Northwestern University 'Leviathans and Lab Coats: Global Power and Technological Nationalism in the U.S. and Asia' Kazushi MINAMI, PhD Candidate, The University of Texas at Austin 'In Search of a "Miracle Drug": Science and Sino-American Normalization, 1971-1979' Federico PACHETTI, PhD Candidate, The University of Hong Kong 'Helping the Dragon Taking Off: America's Pledge for China's Economic

					Modernization During the Reagan Presidency, 1981-1989'
	11.15 – 13.15	**Parallel B 4.34**	**Colonialism in Asia**	Commentator: Dr David POMFRET Chair: Raphael NGAI	Nathan KWAN, PhD Candidate, The University of Hong Kong/King's College London 'The pirate flag, black, waved from every eminence': The Problem of Piracy and Sino-British Relations, 1842-1860' Melody SHUM, MPhil Candidate, The University of Hong Kong 'Colonial Childhood in French Kwang Chow Wan (1930s – 1940s)' David SAUNDERS, PhD Candidate, The University of Hong Kong 'Towards Nationhood by Timetable: Bornean Decolonisation and the Creation of Malaysia, 1957-1963' So Ka HEI, PhD Candidate, Lingnan University 'Corruption and Anti-Corruption before the ICAC: A Case of Pragmatic Paternalism of the Post-War Hong Kong Colonial Government'
				Lunch (Room 10.66)	
3	14.30 – 16.30	**Parallel C 4.36**	**Hong Kong History**	Commentator: Prof John CARROL, The University of Hong Kong Chair: Reed CHERVIN	Nele FABIAN, PhD Candidate, Ruhr University Bochum 'Waste Treatment Strategies in Hong Kong and Shanghai during the Late Qing and Early Republican Eras' Vivian KONG, PHD Candidate, University of Bristol 'Situating Britishness in pre-WWII Hong Kong' James FELLOWS, PhD Candidate, Lingnan University 'Crafting Hong Kong's Image Overseas: "Commercial Public Relations" in Hong Kong, 1962-1966' Chris WEMYSS, PhD Candidate, University of Bristol 'Exploring the Impact of the Handover on the British Expatriate Community in Hong Kong, 1980-2000'

3	14.30 – 16.30	**Parallel D 4.34**	**Local Stories**	Commentator: Dr Staci FORD, The University of Hong Kong Chair: Sarah Xia YU	Enyi HU, MPhil Candidate, The University of Hong Kong 'Sinicizing the Intellectual Gospel: The Life and Work of Yenching Educational Missionaries' Emma GOLDSMITH, PhD Candidate, Northwestern University 'Around the World in 400 Days: Family, Business and Travel in the 1890s' Guangshuo YANG, PhD Candidate, Northwestern University 'Animals, Buddhists, and Civilizations: The ABC of the Animal Protectionist Movement in Republican Shanghai' Raphael NGAI, MPhil Candidate, The University of Hong 'Animals and their Relationship to Hong Kong People's Life during the Japanese Occupation'
				Afternoon Tea	
4	17.00 – 17.45	**Closing Remarks 4.36**		Reed CHERVIN	Prof Jay WINTER (Yale University) Dr David POMFRET Dr Priscilla ROBERTS
			Reception (until 19.00)		

Political Agency and Soft Power: Song China and 'Vietnam' (X-XIII century)

Aurelio INSISA, PhD Candidate, The University of Hong Kong

This paper aims to provide an insight on the functional mechanisms of Chinese pre-modern soft power through a survey of the relations between Song China and the Vietnamese central polity between the X and the XIII century. While the Song suffered the looming existential threat posed by its powerful Sino-barbarian neighbors on the northern arc of its frontiers, the dynasty was unquestionably the major political actor in the South-East Asian regional order of the time. However, the environmental asperities of the region, the military resolve of the Vietnamese people and the constant draining of resources and manpower from the north pointed Sino-Vietnamese relations since the beginning of the Song period on a different path from that occurred during the Han and Tang empires. China and Vietnam became enmeshed into a political relation in which the contested management of investitures and symbolical declarations of allegiance and cultural affinity (largely) substituted military confrontation. This paper explores then the unfolding of this relation through the conceptual lenses of soft power, showing how and to what extent Chinese conceptions of non-coercive political power and cultural transformation influenced the Song political calculus in the region. At the same time, it acknowledges the Vietnamese rulers' ability to exercise a considerable degree of political agency vis-à-vis Kaifeng without necessarily resorting to the use of military force by playing along the 'soft power rules' of the 'game' established by the Song.

Students in Distress: Allied Support for Chinese Study Abroad, 1941 – 1944

Sarah Xia YU, MPhil Candidate, The University of Hong Kong

For the duration of the Second World War (1937–1945), the Chinese Ministry of Education endeavoured to provide financial assistance for its overseas students whose scholarships and personal finances had been affected by the Japanese occupation, wartime shortages, and rising inflation rates. However, its mostly ad hoc, inefficient system severely lacked funding and logistical support, and many students still found themselves without means of continuing their studies or of finding their ways home.

This paper focuses on the period between 1941 and 1944, especially after the American entrance as an Ally into the Pacific War. During this time, changing diplomatic relations between China and the West gave rise to new sources of aid. I provide an overview of the new collaborative initiatives and examples of how they affected the war-weary students. This paper reveals that these later war years were integral as study abroad students had unprecedented opportunity to advance their careers in the West. They became the first generation of educated Chinese diaspora, but their relationships with the Guomindang government that supported them would drastically change.

The Sino-Indian Border Dispute and Multimedia Politics

Reed CHERVIN, PhD Candidate, The University of Hong Kong

The Sino-Indian border dispute became increasingly serious starting in 1955 and peaked in 1962 when the two countries went to war. This paper explores how China and India used multimedia (e.g., historical documents and books) to support their respective territorial claims. It argues that these countries employed surprisingly similar authoritarian approaches by expanding government archives, banning books, and scrutinizing maps. They regarded dissenting views not only as incorrect, but also as a threat to national security. These domestic efforts were necessary for China and India to both legitimize government policies and to present their cases to the international community. Therefore, the Sino-Indian conflict was as much a war of information as one of territory.

Transfer of Chinese Literati Taste to the Anglophone World from the 20th Century to the Present

―Chinese Calligraphy as a Case Study

Song GE, PhD Candidate, Lingnan University

At the turn of the 20th century, China was forced to open its door more widely to the Western powers, whose military and colonial ambitions always overshadowed a culturally exotic China. With all its aesthetic peculiarities, China became an abiding interest for the West. Calligraphy culture, one of the best embodiments of Chinese literati taste, has been systematically introduced to the West via English since the early 20th century. From then on, the transfer of the literati taste exemplified by calligraphy has undergone three historical stages: the first (early 20th century to 1950s) saw a sporadic import of ancient calligraphy treatises translated into English by ethnic Chinese who, due to multiple reasons, dwelled abroad. At the second stage (1960s to 1980s), a dynamic interplay appeared between a continued translation of calligraphy classics and a corresponding scholarship produced by English-speaking Sinologists, whose contribution directly led to the third stage (1990s to present) at which there formed a cluster of English discourses on Chinese calligraphy that was increasingly tinged with political and ideological implications. This essay aims to explore the relations between these stages, the motives behind, and the effects made, in the hope of reconstructing the historical line that may otherwise be constantly ignored.

Transpacific Reverberations of An Extraordinary Gift: The China House and the Chinese Cultural Diplomacy in the United States at a Crossroads, 1943-1944

Yanqiu ZHENG, PhD Candidate, Northwestern University

This paper focuses on the philanthropic transaction of the gift of a midtown Manhattan townhouse by the Henry Luce Foundation to the China Institute in America between 1943 and 1944 and its transpacific impact on the direction of Chinese cultural diplomacy in the United States. As the only such organization under the directorship of cosmopolitan Chinese intellectuals, the China Institute faced an unprecedented financial crisis in 1943 and was compelled to scramble for any potential philanthropic contributions. The Institute failed to impress the hard-headed Rockefellers, but secured the generous gift from Luce, a romantic champion of Chinese culture yet also a staunch supporter of the Chinese Nationalist government and. Luce's patronage of the Institute further attracted funding from the Nationalist government, which had been forced to suspend its own cultural diplomacy initiatives during the protracted Sino-Japanese War and was searching for a reputable proxy to shore up its reputations in the United States. The Luce gift, a cultural decision in origin, inadvertently politicized the China Institute's pragmatic fundraising and facilitated, as my dissertation will demonstrate, its contingent partnership with the Nationalists in the ensuing Cold War.

How the Steel Was Tempered in China: the Stalinist Model and the State-Owned Enterprise System in the Early PRC

Koji HIRATA, PhD Candidate, Stanford University

This paper examines how the Soviet-style planned economy was introduced and implemented in Mao's China by examining one of its largest state-owned enterprises, the Anshan Steel and Iron Works (ASIW) in the north-eastern province of Liaoning, around the time of the First Five-Year Plan (1953-57). Drawing upon an array of published and unpublished sources in Chinese and Russian, this paper will explore how China learned from the Soviet model in the making of the five-year plan, how construction of new factories went on in the ASIW, how the Soviet technology in steel industry was transferred to China, and how the ASIW purchased raw materials and sold finished products to other factories in China. By doing so, I will show how and to what extent the Soviet Union served as a model for the state building in the early People's Republic of China. At the same time, the ASIW's story also reveals the fragmented nature of the Chinese Communist state: even though Mao's regime introduced centralized system of command economy and party hierarchy, rules and regulations set by the central authority were constantly reinterpreted and circumscribed by grassroots-level agents of the state such as city officials, factory managers, engineers, and lower-level party members.

Leviathans and Lab Coats:
Global Power and Technological Nationalism in the U.S. and Asia

Michael FALCONE, PhD Candidate, Northwestern University

This paper outlines the rise of statist techno-nationalism in international prestige politics and world political economies during the mid-twentieth century, as Asian and European states prioritized technological competition and investment in the wake of American high-tech advances. By the 1950s and 60s, a once-laggard U.S. had become the foremost technological-statist power the world, formulating a new nationalism based on awe-inducing innovations underwritten by the state. A sprawling federal science bureaucracy came to be seen as central to the U.S.'s economic prosperity and to its positioning as a new kind of superpower for a newly advanced age. Validating this model of technological hegemony, rival nations redoubled their state-science efforts, attempting through research spending and political mechanisms to access American-style prosperity and the projection of global power that seemed to correspond to national technological command. These challenges to American dominance from European, Japanese, South Korean, Singaporean, and eventually Chinese technological and industrial bureaucracies laid the grounds for the multipolar tech order of today. This paper argues that the techno-nationalist ideology of prestige that climaxed around the achievements of post-war American state-science signalled a new configuration of global power politics. Today's state-tech complexes in Asia, Europe, and the U.S. are therefore not inevitable products of Great Power growth, but are rather contingent manifestations of a particular historical moment and its priorities.

In Search of a "Miracle Drug":
Science and Sino-American Normalization, 1971-1979

Kazushi MINAMI, PhD Candidate, The University of Texas at Austin

Historians have long debated the causes of Sino-American rapprochement in the 1970s, with overwhelming emphasis on secret negotiations between Washington and Beijing. Nevertheless, a more comprehensive reconciliation between the two vastly different societies, which viewed each other as the primary geopolitical and ideological enemy for two decades, required more than a written agreement between government officials. As part of my dissertation project, my paper focuses on Sino-American scientific exchange, mainly managed by semi-government organizations in the Untied States and China, which comprised a large part in bilateral exchange from its initiation in 1971 to normalization of relations in 1979. As Chinese science underwent tectonic change from the Cultural Revolution to the reform and opening-up, Chinese science officials started to see science exchange with foreign countries, especially the United States, as an indispensable means to achieve the four modernizations. Recognizing Chinese desire for modern technology, American scholars sought to restore scientific cooperation with Chinese counterparts that existed before the Communist Revolution. Using hitherto underused American and Chinese sources, archival and published, my paper shows how scientific exchange galvanized American and Chinese interests for scientific cooperation and helped to shape their social reconciliation.

Helping the Dragon Taking Off: America's Pledge for China's Economic Modernization During the Reagan Presidency, 1981-1989

Federico PACHETTI, PhD Candidate, The University of Hong Kong

This paper addresses the United States' efforts in supporting the People's Republic of China's (PRC) economic modernisation during the Reagan Administration. The analysis deals with the knowledge American policymakers, businessman, congressmen, and China-watchers had on the PRC's reforms, as well as on the actions and legislations promoted to help Beijing implementing those reforms. Likewise, this paper explores the internal American debate about the consistency, path, and success of China's opening up process. This paper draws on records held at US Presidential Libraries, non-government organisations, World Bank and International Monetary Fund Archives, as well as personal papers of leading US Sinologists.

'The pirate flag, black, waved from every eminence': The Problem of Piracy and Sino-British Relations, 1842-1860

Nathan KWAN, PhD Candidate, The University of Hong Kong/King's College London

The disturbances of the First Opium War exacerbated economic and ecological pressures in the Pearl River Delta and resulted in an increase in piracy in the region. By threatening trade and social order, piracy undermined British and Qing objectives. Both powers proved incapable of resolving this problem without the assistance of the other. Qing authorities lacked the resolve and naval capacity to suppress piracy while the British lacked the jurisdiction and geographical familiarity necessary to take effective action against pirates. Despite mutual hostility and suspicion, the advantages of complementarity facilitated the development of a *modus vivendi* between the British and the Qing. In this informal arrangement, the Qing gained assistance from the most powerful navy in the world while the British benefitted from the knowledge of local mandarins in directing the Royal Navy's anti-piracy expeditions and also reduced the strain on their colony of Hong Kong's criminal justice system by rendering pirates to Qing justice. Though tensions persisted, British and Qing officials were able to set aside their differences for the sake of a marriage of convenience. While such cooperation undermines the narrative of gunboat diplomacy, it did not prevent the Second Opium War. The Treaty of Tientsin, ratified as the Convention of Peking, which ended the war, contained several articles that formalized a means of dealing with piracy, a testament to the resilience of the *modus vivendi* established in the face of a common problem.

Colonial Childhood in French Kwang Chow Wan (1930s – 1940s)

Melody SHUM, MPhil Candidate, The University of Hong Kong

The history of European empires has often ignored the significance of childhood as a crucial component in the construction of colonial society. This oversight is especially remarkable given that histories of France's empire in Asia have so often underlined the importance of institutions catering for children, such as schools and orphanages. The history of Kwang Chow Wan was no different.

The installation of French colonialism here in 1898 produced francophone institutions that created new colonial identities that were neither completely French nor completely Chinese. The forty-six years of French rule in Kwang Chow Wan that followed have largely been forgotten, but the experience of growing up in contact with francophone culture has not. The memories of elders provide an extraordinarily valuable resource for the historian.

Using an extensive collection of oral history interviews conducted among elders who grew up in Kwang Chow Wan during the 1930s to 1940s and sources from private archives, this paper analyses how the Chinese used their francophone abilities to negotiate contact with the French colonial establishment. It shows a pathway towards upward social mobility for children from a variety of different social backgrounds. And it heavily influenced the kinds of identities forged by youth in colonial Kwang Chow Wan.

Towards Nationhood by Timetable: Bornean Decolonisation and the Creation of Malaysia, 1957-1963

David Saunders, PhD Candidate, The University of Hong Kong

Independent Malaya in July 1957 faced a number of domestic and foreign threats, and at the core of this sense of vulnerability were questions of ethnic imbalance and local desires to preserve Malay political supremacy. Meanwhile, the United Kingdom sought to reduce its colonial dependencies in Southeast Asia. The Borneo territories of Sarawak and British North Borneo had suffered profoundly during the period of Japanese occupation in World War Two, and, owing to their relatively late incorporation into the British Empire, were not yet deemed suitable to progress towards independent self-rule.

At the same time, the domestic issues of race in Malaya resurfaced during 1957-63. It soon became evident that the conjoining of the Borneo territories with Malaya would be mutually beneficial for both the British and the Malayans. This paper seeks to re-examine the foundations of such high-level political dealings, however, by analysing the methodologies that motivated these political decisions. It attempts to overturn the conception that the transfer of sovereignty in the Borneo territories in September 1963 was a benevolent act of enlightened decolonisation. Instead, it contends that it was a pragmatic relinquishment of imperial duties under the framework of a political timetable.

Corruption and Anti-Corruption before the ICAC: A Case of Pragmatic Paternalism of the Post-War Hong Kong Colonial Government

So Ka HEI, PhD Candidate, Lingnan University

The establishment of the Independent Corruption Against Corruption (ICAC) in the 1970s was widely regarded as the milestone in fighting corruption by the colonial government in Hong Kong. Syndicated corruption was minimised, if not eradicated, within the police force in just several years. The slogan of 'It's great for Hong Kong to have you and ICAC' was popular even after the handover. In fact, the colonial government had already realized the rampancy of corruption soon after the end of the World War II. However, it was neither interested nor capable in fighting corruption on a large scale. On one hand, the lack of adequate funds and experience rendered the government unable in pushing the fight forward. On the other hand, the lack of social pressures prompted the government's negligence on the suffering of the commons by corruption.

The limited effort of the colonial government in fighting corruption before the 1970s ought to be understood as an indication of pragmatic paternalism. The colonial government was pragmatic in a sense that the focus of the government was put on maintaining the stability and economic prosperity. The government would remain apathy until the social problem came to a head. Only after the 1970s when the colonial government acquired substantial reserves and also faced with the approaching negotiations over Hong Kong's future, it abandoned the cynic attitude and moved on to tackle several social evils that had troubled the commoners for more than a decade.

Waste Treatment Strategies in Hong Kong and Shanghai during the Late Qing and Early Republican Eras

Nele FABIAN, PhD Candidate, Ruhr University Bochum

This paper comparatively traces back the beginnings of modern waste problems in Hong Kong and Shanghai in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. An analysis of local newspapers, regional histories and archival material collects early evidence of pre-industrial urban throwaway habits and the struggle for solutions regarding the environmental and social consequences of insufficiently organized waste disposal in these densely populated metropolises. It reveals that both cities, and especially their waterways, were severely polluted with solid waste silting up rivers, piling up in public places, and posing a threat to local hygiene. Under the influence of foreign administration during the time observed, the waste problem turned out as a subject of conflict between foreign and local elites over standards of cleanliness, the quality of urban natural resources, and a 'modern' approach to waste treatment. In contrast to waste conflicts in 'Western' trading centres during the same period, they faced additional difficulties due to cultural segregation, multi-national governance in the case of Shanghai, and an unbalanced access to technological solutions. Administrative solutions had to be developed sensitively to effectively cooperate with local citizens and reach the common goal of a healthy urban environment and hygienic living conditions.

Situating Britishness in Pre-WWII Hong Kong

Vivian KONG, PhD Candidate, University of Bristol

Historians have studied how ideas of Britishness spread throughout networks of empire and maintained a collective identity amongst overseas Britons. Little, however, do we know about the ways colonial subjects responded to Britishness and claimed a British identity, and Britons' corresponding views towards these subjects. My doctoral research studies the meaning of Britishness for different communities in pre-war Hong Kong, and how the British regarded Chinese, Eurasians and Portuguese who claimed a British identity.

This paper examines the political and legal context of pre-war Hong Kong that allowed only a selective group of inhabitants to enact a British identity. While the law granted all Hong Kong-born individuals British subjecthood, the low numbers of British nationality claims reported and the details of British immigration cases suggest that only a few inhabitants there considered themselves – or were included – as part of the British polity. By studying British nationality law, population censuses and immigration records, I seek to identify how colonial officials and legislators categorised its population, and to whom they granted a British identity. Through a study of guidebooks and travel writings, this paper also asks how far was Hong Kong understood as a British colony, rather than a Chinese treaty port city.

Crafting Hong Kong's Image Overseas: "Commercial Public Relations" in Hong Kong, 1962-1966

James FELLOWS, PhD Candidate, Lingnan University

By the late 1950s, Hong Kong seemed to have a serious image problem. The colony's competitors in the textile trade argued that an exploited labor force gave Hong Kong's manufacturers an unfair advantage, and used such rhetoric to successfully agitate for restrictions on the industry's exports. Likewise, this poor reputation was regarded by those in the colony as undermining Hong Kong's quest for concessions from Europe, should Britain join the European Economic Community (EEC). In 1962, a Commercial Public Relations Coordinating Committee (CPRCC) was established to oversee and coordinate attempts by government departments and business associations – provided with public funds – to project a more positive picture of Hong Kong in the UK, US and Europe in order to preserve and enhance the colony's trading prospects.

This paper will explore the techniques employed in attempts to influence public and political opinion abroad, with a particular focus on the rhetoric of promotional material and media output. I will demonstrate how certain narratives in regard to Hong Kong's economy, its governance, and its history were deliberately constructed. Finally, I will provide a tentative assessment of the commercial public relations campaign and the implications of the episode for "informal decolonization" in Hong Kong.

Exploring the Impact of the Handover on the British Expatriate Community in Hong Kong, 1980-2000

Chris WEMYSS, PhD Candidate, University of Bristol

Research on British expatriates in Hong Kong often focuses on colonial administrators or businessmen. While these groups are undoubtedly important, they can obscure the diversity of Britons present in the territory before the handover, and the different ways in which they interacted with their surroundings. Considering the lives of a varied range of Britons, and how they were touched by the political circumstances of the period, will allow a detailed assessment of how a transfer of power affected a community.

Drawing on research conducted for my doctoral thesis, this paper seeks to investigate the impact of the 1997 handover on British expatriates. Utilising a range of sources including fresh oral interviews and newspapers, light will be shed on the different sections and activities of the community. This takes the analysis past focusing purely on the occupations fulfilled by Britons, appreciating how social interaction, family life, and networks with Britain and across empire contributed to the expatriate experience. The resilience of sections of the community to endure the formal passing of empire will also be considered, with societies and networks representing the afterlife of British Hong Kong.

Sinicizing the Intellectual Gospel:
The Life and Work of Yenching Educational Missionaries

Enyi HU, MPhil Candidate, The University of Hong Kong

Historians have long debated the extent to which Western penetration altered the course of modern Chinese history. Explanatory paradigms such as impact-response model, tradition-modernity approach and imperialism theory are distorted by an underlying ethnocentrism, insightfully pointed out by Paul Cohen. This paper attempts to unravel the complex features of missionary writing that are often misconstrued and neglected, albeit crucial to our understanding of how might cross-cultural encounters affect the agenda of foreigners and locals. Through a case study of Yenching missionaries, this research sheds light on a rhythm of life that had been submerged under a torrent of national narratives. By giving a nuanced analysis of educational missionaries' activities and their changing perceptions of self-identity, this paper argues that Yenching faculty members endeavoured to realize the intellectual gospel through the ultimate conversion of the Chinese to modernity, be it in political structure or medical science. By showcasing the willingness of Yenching intellectual gospellers to dress evangelicalism in Buddhist chants, patriotic campaigns, and explore a healthy indigenous diet but not traditional Chinese medicine nor fundamentalist teaching, the study further challenges the predominant scholarly depiction of educational missionaries as passive victims of Chinese nationalism.

Around the World in 400 days: Family, Business and Travel in the 1890s

Emma GOLDSMITH, PhD Candidate, Northwestern University

In 1892 Richard Holt set off from Liverpool, England, for a long journey in Asia. His purpose was rather unusual — he was not a settler, a colonial official, a tourist, or an adventurer. This was a business trip, undertaken on behalf of the family business, the Blue Funnel or Ocean Steamship Company, a major player in South-East Asian shipping that was headquartered in Liverpool and owned by his uncles Philip and Alfred Holt. Richard began at Singapore, but his travels would take him to multiple sites through Sumatra, Java, the Molucca and Banda islands, from Hong Kong to Beijing, and right across Japan.

This paper uses Richard's diary of his travels firstly to explore the relationship between local agents and multinational shipping businesses. In his year of travelling, he was totally reliant on agents' trustworthiness, but his job was also to assess them. The diary gives a picture of a young man suddenly coming up against the sources of his wealth, including practices that he found distasteful such as coolie labor. It also provides an insight into the co-operation between imperial business and the imperial state. Finally this paper considers business, personal, and imperial history together to make some suggestions about the history of the business trip.

Animals, Buddhists, and Civilizations:
The ABC of the Animal Protectionist Movement in Republican Shanghai

Guangshuo YANG, PhD Candidate, Northwestern University

Since the arrival of the Jesuits in China, the symbolic relationship between humans and animals emerged as a contentious field of politics where competing claims about customs, culture, power, and race were negotiated. By the end of the 19th century, a new generation of Anglo-American expatriates in China began to recast human-animal relationship in China in a drastically different light, using the trope of the Chinese's cruel and callous treatment of animals to justify the cultural superiority of the Christian civilization that legitimized the West's colonial domination. In the 1930s, a group of Chinese philanthropists, many of whom inspired by Buddhism, organized the China Society for the Protection of Animals (CSPA) in Shanghai. Inspired by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) and explicitly claimed to be a modern and secular organization, the CSPA allied with Buddhist activists and reformers to publically campaign and privately lobby for greater protection of animals. More importantly, the Chinese animal protectionists creatively inverted the trope of the callous Chinese, thereby tapping into the making of Chinese nationalism and garnering greater public and state support. By focusing on the largely forgotten episode of Shanghai history, this paper highlights the contingency behind the cultural creation of modern Chinese subjectivity.

Animals and their Relationship to Hong Kong People's Life during the Japanese Occupation

Raphael NGAI, MPhil Candidate, The University of Hong

Animals have been an ignored group in the study of Second World War history. Through the perspective of animals, this paper revisits the life of Hong Kong people during the Japanese occupation in various aspects. Animals such as fish, chickens, and pigs were important sources of food, the fluctuation of price and changing supply availability intensified hunger. Not only limited to tigers in the New Territories, wild dogs also walked around the street and threatened people's safety. Rats and insects spread diseases that made health and hygienic conditions even worse. The Japanese authorities also employed animals for propaganda purpose: horse racing became an instrument to promote entertainment and create an atmosphere of prosperity; animals also appeared in the form of cartoon characters in children reading materials and vocabularies for Japanese language learning. All these will help us re-understand the general living conditions in wartime Hong Kong, the role and functions of animals, and the relationship between human activities and animals. More examples in the wider world such as animal festivals and animals as diplomatic agents will also be explored to further demonstrate the theme.