

*Hong Kong Institute for the
Humanities and Social Sciences*

香港人文社會研究所

運亨題

Annual Report
2002-2003

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THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

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ESTABLISHMENT

The formation of the Hong Kong Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences was officially approved by the Senate of the University of Hong Kong in late November 2001. The Institute was established to:

- ✧ support the University's role as a major centre for training post-graduate students with multidisciplinary and comparative interests;
- ✧ attract a world community of scholars in the humanities and social sciences, so as to create diverse opportunities for dialogue, cooperation and collaboration;
- ✧ organize field trips and training workshops in the summer months with the aim of involving junior scholars and graduate students in their own research endeavors, and eventually;
- ✧ develop a critical mass of scholar in Hong Kong, China and overseas to sustain innovative and interdisciplinary research.

The Hong Kong Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences is an independent research entity hosted by and accountable to the University of Hong Kong. It reports directly to the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Hong Kong on academic and financial matters. It serves the entire tertiary education sector by creating an intellectual community that transcends institutional, geographical and generational boundaries.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

At the core of the Institute is an executive committee. It carries out the objectives and functions of the Institute, developing, overseeing and reviewing research programs. It also monitors the Institute's budget and charts its future directions.

The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Hong Kong appointed the Chair and the members of the Executive Committee of the Institute in 2002.

Chair of the Executive Committee:

For the period January 1, 2002 to December 31, 2004

Helen F. Siu, Professor of Anthropology, Yale University

Members of the Executive Committee:

For the period January 1, 2002 to December 31, 2003

Lu Han-long, Professor and Director of Institute of Sociology, the Shanghai

Academy of Social Sciences

Elizabeth Perry, Henry Rosovsky Professor of Government, Harvard University

Alvin So, Professor of Division of Social Sciences, The Hong Kong University of

Science & Technology

For the period January 1, 2002 to December 31, 2004

C. F. Lee, Professor and Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research), the University of Hong

Kong

Leo Ou-fan Lee, Professor of Chinese Literature, Department of East Asian

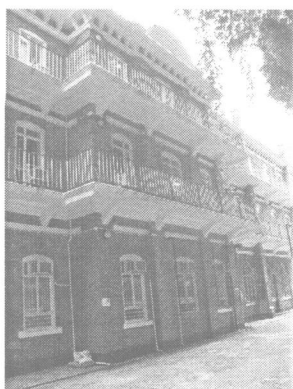
Languages and Civilizations, Harvard University

Elizabeth Sinn, Associate Professor and Deputy Director of Centre of Asian

Studies, the University of Hong Kong

Robert C. Tang, S. C., J. P.

PERSONNEL



May Hall, within which the Institute is located

Staff

Since November 2001, the Institute has established an administrative framework and initiated academic networks and research programs. With the help of the University Registry and a search committee, the Institute appointed Dr. Sun Wen-bin as a Research Officer. Her duties are to take charge of the Institute's administration and to participate in research projects whenever possible. She formally joined the Institute on January 1, 2002. The Institute also successfully competed for a Post-doctoral Fellowship in the university, to be shared with the Centre of Asian Studies. After a formal search, Dr. Chin Kong, a historian on the Chinese Diaspora and migration, was appointed. He assumed duty in the beginning of July 2002. His expertise bridges two of the Institute's research projects – those concerned with South China and Hong Kong. Mr. Yu Kwok Leung joined the Institute as Senior Research Assistant in October 2002. For many years Mr. Yu was assistant, and then associate editor of *Twenty-First Century Bimonthly* at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. He brings to the Institute editorial and research networks in China Studies.

ADMINISTRATION AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

1st Executive Committee Meeting

The first Executive Committee meeting of the Institute was held on January 5, 2002. The meeting confirmed the vision and general direction of the Institute, and approved two commissioned research projects, which were “The Urban Transformation in South China: Issues in Town and City Governance since the Late Qing Reforms”, and “Hong Kong: World City on the Move”. Various administrative arrangements were deliberated during the meeting. Decisions included the appointment of core members, research coordinators, and an advisory board. The committee also discussed in detail the Institute’s administrative links with the University, and the guidelines for cooperation with other institutions.

The theme of contemporary social changes in Shanghai is one of the major research areas of the Institute. The first Executive Committee meeting agreed to approach Dr. Li Cheng, Professor of Government at Hamilton College, to be a convenor for organizing a Shanghai project. The meeting also decided to co-sponsor a conference on “Repositioning Hong Kong and Shanghai in Modern Chinese History”, because the event would provide an opportunity for the Institute to engage with a growing network of Shanghai researchers in the humanities and social sciences.

2nd Executive Committee Meeting

The second Executive Committee meeting was held on 10 June 2002. Professor Li Cheng made a presentation to the Committee on a group research project entitled “Shanghai: Changing Landscapes and Transcending Boundaries”. The Executive Committee approved the proposal in principle, pending further polishing and revision of

the sub-projects. Professor Deborah Davis agreed to join Professors Li Cheng and Lu Han-long to work out the specific content and logistics.

Dr. Sun made a report of the Institute's activities for the first half year. With clerical help from the Centre of Asian Studies, she has worked with the research groups to start their research and training programs. In April 2002, she joined several executive committee members of the Institute at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, held in Washington D.C. to introduce the Institute to a globally situated community of colleagues. She also visited Yale and Harvard Universities to gain a personal understanding of our potential institutional partners.

Outreach

The Institute was the co-organizer of the international conference on "Repositioning Hong Kong and Shanghai in Modern Chinese History". This event, held at the University of Hong Kong on 11-12 June 2002, was the third of a series of conferences on Shanghai studies, co-organized by the University of Hong Kong, New York University, and the Fairbank Centre for East Asian Research, Harvard University. The first conference, entitled "Shanghai Urban Culture: Comparative Perspectives", was held in New York in April 2001. The second, focusing on political development, was held in November 2001 at Harvard University.



Leading scholars from China and the U.S. presented papers and served as discussants at the June 2002 conference. Several core members of the Institute were actively involved. They included Professors Elizabeth Perry (Harvard), Leo Lee (Harvard), Elizabeth Sinn (HKU), Siu-lun Wong (HKU), Richard Wong (HKU), Takeshi Hamashita (Kyoto), Helen Siu (Yale), and Deborah Davis (Yale).

Consortium

In September 2002, the Institute joined the “Consortium for the Study of Asian Economies” and co-organized a workshop which was held on 12-13 September 2002 in Hong Kong. This web-based consortium is an international interdisciplinary network of scholars dedicated to the study of Asian economies. It has two primary objectives: (1) to develop and conduct parallel and collaborative research projects on critical topics of interest to the group, and (2) to create, preserve and disseminate data and research findings related to consortium research emphases.

The founding meeting of the Consortium was held in May 2001. With the University of Hong Kong and University of California, Davis as lead universities, the Consortium also includes the University of Washington, Seattle; the Chinese University of Hong Kong; Ewha Womans University; Yonsei University; the National University of Singapore; Tunghai University, Taiwan; Peking University; the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences; and Tohoku University, Sendai.



With the support of the Social Science Research Council (US), the September workshop was jointly held as the second of the Consortium's conference series. At the meeting, the group agreed upon an organizational structure for the Consortium, established an Executive Committee, and adopted four research concentrations.

Other Research and Outreach Activities

Chinese Diaspora

Dr. Chin Kong was invited by the EU-IOM (International Organization of Migration under the European Union) to join the Expert Team on Chinese Migration in July 2002, and subsequently attended two working meetings in Madrid and in Brussels. A book on current migration from the mainland will be published soon by the EU, which will include a chapter by Dr. Chin on the topic of Fujian illegal emigration. Apart from his expertise on the current emigration from South China, Dr. Chin also studies the historical aspect of the Chinese migration and maritime trade between Hong Kong and Southeast Asia. Some research findings on Teochew traders and rice trading between Hong Kong and the mainland of Southeast Asia were presented at an international conference held in Singapore in November 2002. Meanwhile, Dr. Chin co-edited two works. One was a special issue of the *Journal of South Seas Society*. The other was a book, in honour of Professor Wang Gungwu, entitled *Power and Identity in the Chinese World Order* which

would be published by the Hong Kong University Press in 2003. Three articles were published since he joined the Institute. These articles are concerned with Chinese overseas and Chinese migration from South China, either in the form of journal article or book chapter. In the meantime, Dr. Chin was invited to attend three international conferences on South China and Southeast Asia held respectively in Singapore, Taipei and Munich.

Pearl River Delta

Professor Siu and Dr. Sun participated in a conference on “Socio-Economic and Infrastructure Development for a Competitive Pearl River Delta” held on 19-20 December 2002 at the University of Hong Kong. The conference was jointly organized by the University of Hong Kong and Sun Yat-sen University. It was to provide a forum for sharing visions and the latest research findings on the linkages between Hong Kong and the Delta. Professor Siu made a presentation of her recent research in the region with a paper titled “The Cultural Landscape of Luxury Housing in South China: A Regional History”. Dr. Sun shared with the audience some preliminary analyses of a survey on family firms in the Mainland, which was conducted in the summer 2000.

HKIHSS RESEARCH CLUSTERS

The group research projects approved by the Executive Committee in January 2002 have made steady progress. Detailed reports follow:

a) **Urban Transformation in South China: Issues in Town and City Governance since the Late Qing Reforms**



Team Members:

David Faure (convenor), Institute for Chinese Studies, University of Oxford

Chen Chun-sheng, Faculty of Arts, Sun Yat-sen University

Ching May-bo, Department of History, Sun Yat-sen University

Liu Zhi-wei, Department of History, Sun Yat-sen University

Choi Chi-cheung, Division of Humanities,

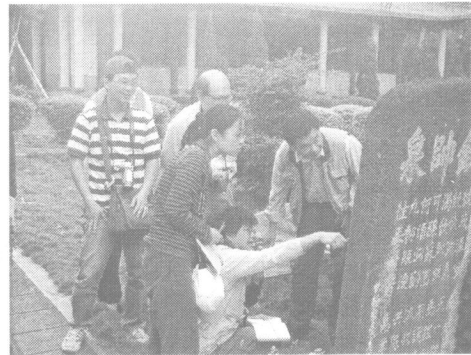
The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Ma Muk-chi, Division of Humanities,

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Wong Wing-ho, Division of Humanities,

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology



Research

The group project has three component parts. First, there are several interrelated field study and archival research projects. The team, composed of younger scholars and advanced graduate students, examines emerging city institutions, the material and cultural bases of urban elites, and the definitions of modern citizenship in China's turbulent twentieth century. Through the research processes, we hope to engage colleagues and graduate students in innovative historical-anthropological approaches. In the first half of 2002, various research teams worked on refining the research ideas and making logistical preparations, while awaiting for the transfer of funds from the University of Hong Kong to the Center for History and Anthropology in Sun Yat-sen University (where the research projects are administered). The fund was transferred in late May 2002. Dr. David Faure from Oxford University, together with Professor Helen Siu and Dr. Sun Wen-bin, participated in a workshop with the team members on 1 June 2002 in Hong Kong. The second half of the year saw its team members busy visiting their field sites, conducting library research and presenting research findings to conferences. On 21 December 2002, the research group held its second meeting at Sun Yat-sen University to review the progress of various projects. Once again Professor Helen Siu and Dr. Sun Wen-bin attended the gathering. The South China research team plans to hold to a small workshop of the principal participants in this project towards the end of 2003 to discuss a first draft of their research findings as a book, so that revised drafts can be ready by mid-2004.

Lecture Series

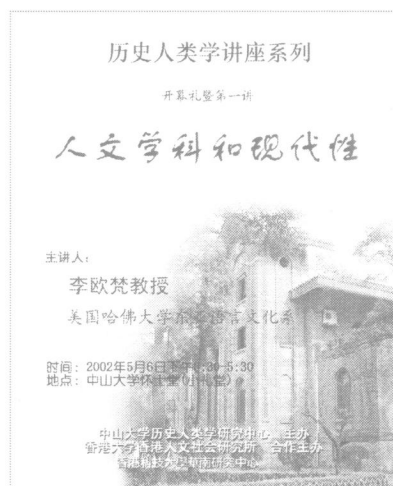
To provide the cluster's research interests a critical public forum, our Institute and the Center for History and Anthropology at Sun Yat-sen University have planned ten public lectures annually for three years starting from 2002. These lectures are to be given by established scholars in the humanities and social sciences who can summarize their fields of expertise, provide critical self-reflections and new research directions. Positioned at a range of institutions across the globe, they expose young colleagues and advanced graduate students to different academic traditions. To encourage bonding among the students, we have made available small travel subsidies for those coming from institutions in other regions. From May to December 2002, five scholars were invited to give a series of lectures. The details are as follows:

May 6-7, 2002

Professor Leo Ou-fan Lee, Harvard University

The Humanities and Modernity

Fin-de-siècle Splendor: Visions of Modern
Chinese Culture



June 12-17, 2002 Professor Edward Q. Wang, Rowan University



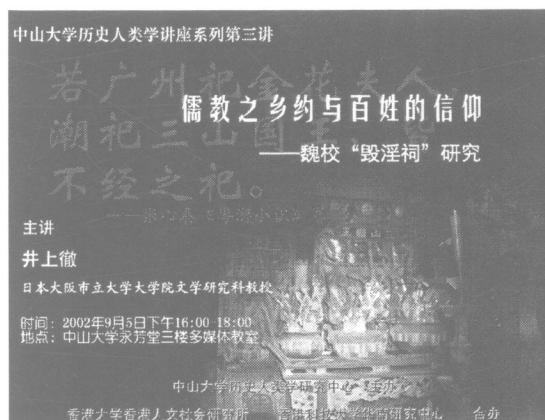
Sociology and Anthropology in History: On the Expansion of the History Discipline

Re-positioning Chinese History Study in the United States: Responses to the Post-modern and Post-colonial Critique

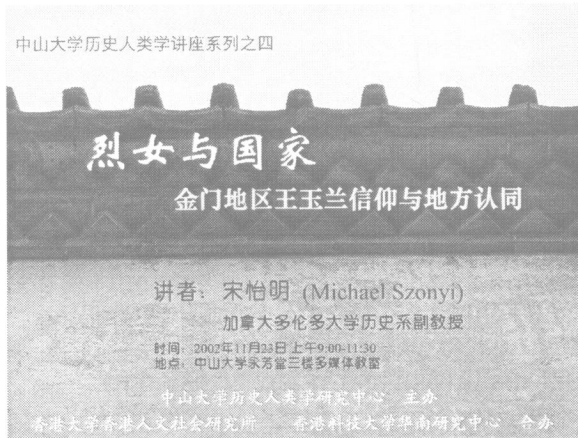
Philosophy of History without Toynbee?

September 5, 2002 Professor Inoue Toru, Osaka City University

Confucian Community Pact and People's Belief: Implications of Wei Xiao's Attack on Monasteries



November 23, 2002 Professor Michael Szonyi, University of Toronto

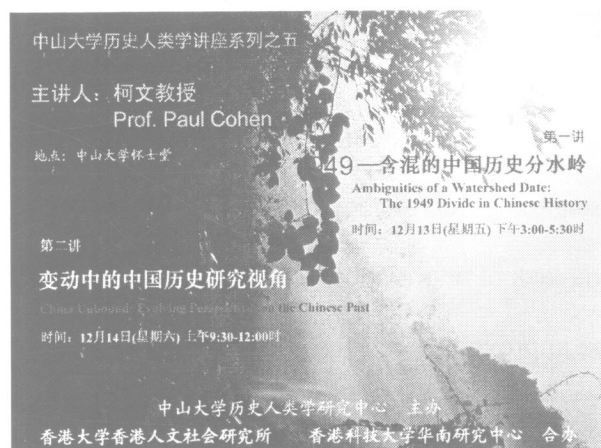


Chaste Woman and the Chinese State:
The Cult of Wang Yulan and the Politics
of Local Identity on Jinmen (Quemoy)

December 13-14, 2002 Professor Paul Cohen, Harvard University

Ambiguities of a Watershed Date:
The 1949 Divide in Chinese History

China Unbound: Evolving
Perspectives on the Chinese Past





Attendance was excellent. Aside from staff and students at Sun Yat-sen University and elsewhere in Guangzhou, members of the audience came from Peking University, Fudan University, Nanjing University, Nankai University, Wuhan University, Guangxi Normal University, Xiamen University, Shantou University, and Jiangxi Normal University. Travel subsidies were provided by the Institute for a small number of graduate students from outside Guangzhou to make it possible for them to attend. Ten such subsidized places were taken up for the Leo Lee lectures, 5 each for the ones given by Edward Wang, Inoue Toru and Michael Szonyi, and 20 for Paul Cohen's talks. Applications exceeded these numbers. Sun Yat-sen University provided subsidies for beyond quota students who came from Shantou and Xiamen.

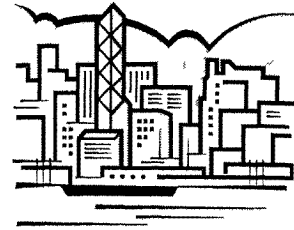
Students from the Chinese University of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong University of Science & Technology also attended these lectures. We were, however, disappointed by the lack of attendance from the University of Hong Kong and hope that the situation could be improved.



Summer Training Courses

Third, the group are planning intensive six-week professionalizing courses to be held in the summers of 2003 and 2004. The workshops will focus on the theory and method of historical anthropology, involving scholars and practitioners familiar with the handling of rare field materials and with the art of historical ethnography. During the past few months, the team has examined very carefully the launching of the training course and set the time for the first course in August 2003. There will be two weeks of seminars and guided field trips, followed by four weeks' of independent fieldwork by the student participants. After fulfilling all the requirements, a certificate will be awarded to successful students. The Institute will support 15 students from the Mainland, and up to 5 more students who may pay their own way.

After much discussion, the group has decided to hold the summer course in Beijing. A Beijing site gives the Institute and its projects greater visibility and a wider audience, especially because the intellectual theme of the summer course does not focus on a particular region. Professor Zhao Shi-yu of Beijing Normal University was approached. He heads the Research Centre of Beijing History and Culture at the University, and has agreed to host the training course.



b) Hong Kong: World City on the Move

Team Members:

Wong Siu-lun (convenor), Centre of Asian Studies, the University of Hong Kong

Johannes Chan, Department of Law, the University of Hong Kong

Ying Chan, Journalism and Media Studies Centre, the University of Hong Kong

Elaine Ho, Department of English, the University of Hong Kong

Richard Wong, School of Business, the University of Hong Kong

Helen Siu, Department of Anthropology, Yale University

Research

Inspired by an interdisciplinary initiative of the Mellon Foundation, this study is an exercise in “crossing borders”. It starts with the analytical assumption that Hong Kong is not a geographical territory with a natural boundary, but a socially constructed “place” to which identities, imaginings and discursive strategies are attached, improvised and sustained. In redefining Hong Kong’s regional positioning as well as perceiving Hong Kong as a node in the current global restructuring, the project aims to challenge positivist social science categories. Some of the questions it poses will have policy implications: How to reintegrate Hong Kong with China precisely by appreciating, preserving and stressing the global positioning of Hong Kong? Can the professional backbone of Hong Kong continue to be the cosmopolitan and dynamic agents of change in the decades ahead? And to what extent and through what channels can Hong Kong integrate with South China, economically, socially, and culturally?

Six-interrelated Sub-projects

The research group is made up of six interrelated sub-projects. It includes: (1) Mapping Hong Kong's Human Landscape, focusing on the fluid demographic configurations of Hong Kong (Richard Wong); (2) Law and Citizenship, a study on the evolution of immigration policy since the post-war period (Johannes Chan); (3) Institutionalization of English and Social Mobility, an attempt to comment on the nature of cultural space in historical terms (Elaine Ho); (4) Immigration, Emigration and the Unmaking of Hong Kong's Middle Class, which highlights the social implications of the disappearing border when Hong Kong faces global fluidities as well as rapid reintegration with China (Wong Siu-lun); (5) Media, the Culture Industry, and Intercity Linkages, an examination of the journalistic and cinematic tradition in Hong Kong and Shanghai from the 1930s to early 1950s to appreciate mutual influence between the two most "modern" cities of China (Ying Chan); and (6) Culture on the Move: Rethinking Cosmopolitanism in a World City, a study of the historical urban cultures of Hong Kong to reflect on the prospects of a world city of tomorrow (Helen Siu).

Mapping Hong Kong's Human Landscape

Following the approval of the Executive Committee in January, the sub-groups of the project have put their plans into action. Professor Richard Wong has hired a Research Assistant Professor – Dr. Wong Ka-fu, who assumed his position in July 2002 -- to work on the demographic data, using his own research funding. Since then, they have worked with various Hong Kong Census datasets, trying to document the impact of demographic changes on the choice of labour force participation. A paper has been written based on their research findings entitled "The Rise and Decline of Women Outworkers in Hong Kong", which examines Hong Kong's demographic changes and their influence on the labor participation of married women in the 1960s through the 1990s.



Law and Citizenship

Immigration laws shape demographic patterns and define the rights of membership. The laws have profound impact on the economic, social and political life in Hong Kong. The major focus of the sub-group “Law and Citizenship” is the collection of historical records on Hong Kong immigration policies from the 1950s to the mid-1960s. Mr. Yu Kwok-leung, our senior research assistant, has largely completed the research for this period at the Hong Kong Public Records Office. Professor Chan and Mr. Yu are now working on the records in the mid-1960s and the 1970s. There were a number of important changes during this period, including the amendments to the Commonwealth Immigrants Acts culminating in the enactment of the Hong Kong Immigration Act 1971, which took away the right of free entry into the United Kingdom. The touch-base policy, affecting tens of thousands of rural immigrants from China, was introduced but abolished in October 1980.

Institutionalization of English and Social Mobility

An M. Phil student working for Dr. Elaine Ho conducted library and archival research in London, Cambridge and Oxford for a month in July 2002. She collected records and documents related to the development of the University of Hong Kong from the 1930s to the 1950s. A report gave a summary of the key themes being researched, including 1) the University of Hong Kong in the 1920s and the post World War II years; 2) the English Association and its relationship with the Commonwealth branches; and 3) materials on the language education in African school education. This is part of a larger project to assess cultural capital by relating English language education and social mobility. The

University of Hong Kong, being the leading English education institution, is a most relevant site for exploring the issues.



Immigration, Emigration and the Unmaking of Hong Kong's Middle

Class

Adding social attributes to the changing demographic patterns in post-war Hong Kong, Professor Wong continues to collaborate with Professor Janet Salaff (University of Toronto) to track 30 selected Hong Kong emigrant and non-emigrant families from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds. For the report period, they have consolidated their family case files and worked out a list of interviewees for further study in the summer 2003. They have written a detailed book proposal based on the preliminary research. Their book will cover the theoretical background to network capital and migration studies, together with cases organized by social class, such as working class and kinship capital, middle class and cultural capital, and upper middle class and economic capital. Dr. Chin Kong also worked with Professor Siu-lun Wong on immigration/emigration issues, including overseas Chinese and Indian diaspora.



Media, the Culture Industry, and Intercity Linkages

For the sub-project "Media, Culture Industry, and Intercity Linkages", Professor Ying Chan brings focus to the journalistic and cinematic traditions in Hong Kong and Shanghai. The study covers two decades, from 1930s to the early 1950s. Professor Meyer of Dr. Ying Chan's team has been funded by the Institute to go to Shanghai and Beijing to

explore the film archives. Professor Chan has also been working with Mr. Qian Gang, a prominent PRC journalist and writer, to produce a research plan on the journalistic interaction between Hong Kong and Shanghai.

Culture on the Move: Rethinking Cosmopolitanism in a World City

In between academic conferences, Helen Siu has started her documentary and ethnographic field research in Guangdong and Hong Kong. Documentary data on cross-border activities between Hong Kong and Guangdong were systematically collected, together with a preliminary literature review on the predicaments of Hong Kong's middle classes and their cultural styles. Professor Siu also formed a research team based at Sun Yat-sen University to focus on the stakeholders in an emerging "vernacular modernity" in South China. She spent part of July and August in Guangzhou training the research assistants there, and conducted some informal interviews. Attention was also paid to the rising middle classes in Guangzhou and their consumption. In November 2002, Professor Siu presented her preliminary research idea at a joint Yale-Columbia University workshop on the rural-urban divide in post-reform China. She is now working on a paper for a conference on urban violence and social conflict, which is to be held in Amsterdam in August 2003.

The research group held a brainstorming session on June 7, 2002. Members are genuinely excited at the intellectual synergy. A public lecture series based on their research findings is expected to be organized at the University of Hong Kong in 2003.



c) Shanghai: Changing Landscapes and Transcending Boundaries

Team Members:

Li Cheng (convenor), Department of Government, Hamilton College

Ni Shi-xiong, School of International Relations and Public Affairs, Fudan University

Pan Tian-shu, Department of Sociology, Georgetown University

Wang Yi-zhi, Institute of Information Research, the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences

Lynn White, Department of Politics, Princeton University

Fei Cheng-kang, Institute of Law, the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences

Lu Han-long, Institute of Sociology, the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences

Xu Ji-lin, Department of History, East China Normal University

Research

Using Shanghai as a site, this interdisciplinary research group examines the transformation of late socialist city spaces. First, its various teams hope to collect systematic empirical data on human resources, infrastructural growth, legal and other administrative frameworks that are undergoing unprecedented changes, the consumer revolution and subsequent public discourses. Second, the group uses the research to explore new analytical paradigms that reach beyond dichotomous conceptual categories -- that between socialism and capitalism, East and West, local and cosmopolitan, indigenous and foreign, state and society, tradition and modernity, to list but a few.

Because of the multi-faceted nature of the transformation in Shanghai, the research team consists of scholars in the fields of anthropology, economics, international affairs, law, political science, and sociology. Various sub-projects of this study deal with the broad theme of changing landscapes with detailed plans of empirical studies. Together this project hopes to reveal the enormity and complexity of the remarkable transformation as well as the tensions and problems that are involved.

After a careful consideration during the Executive Committee meeting in June 2002, the Committee felt that although the research proposals might inspire policy discussions, policy-oriented studies were not a top priority at this stage of the Institute's development. It has put a few sub-projects on hold and approved the following for immediate funding.

Bridging Minds across the Pacific: Shanghai's Role in the Sino-US Educational Exchange

This project has two interrelated parts. The first is a survey of returnees in various walks of life in Shanghai, exploring their characteristics, concerns and contributions. The second approach is an international workshop to examine various aspects of the Sino-US educational exchange in light of the 25th anniversary of China's open door policy. Professor Li Cheng collected biographical information and established a database, which now contains biographical and educational information about 800 current presidents and party secretaries of Chinese universities. A related international workshop is being organized. To be held at the School of International Relations and Public Affairs of Fudan University in November 2003, it will be a two-day conference with five panels. Professors Li Cheng and Ni Shi-xiong are working on a list of conference participants.

Training Courses and Lecture Series

It is hoped that the Shanghai project can be modelled on the South China project by providing parallel short-term training courses and a public forum on how to bridge the humanities and social sciences. To this end, Professor Li Cheng and Dr. Sun Wen-bin visited Shanghai in late June 2002 to polish the group proposal, to design the lecture series, and to confirm an operational base in Shanghai. Professor Li and Dr. Sun had several meetings with the members of the research team. Dr. Sun also met with scholars from Fudan University, Shanghai University, East China Normal University, and the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences. In addition to these meetings, Dr. Sun visited Nanjing and Hangzhou, introducing the Institute to scholars of Nanjing University, Johns Hopkins Center for Chinese & American Studies, the Jiangsu Provincial Academy of Social Sciences, and Zhejiang University. We hope that our research activities in Shanghai will benefit students and scholars from the cities nearby to Shanghai.

As an outcome of this visit, the Executive Committee decided to cooperate with the East China Normal University to launch a summer training course and a public lecture series in Shanghai. Subsequently, Professor Xu Ji-lin of East China Normal University submitted a proposed lecture series for Shanghai entitled "The Humanities and Social Sciences in an Age of Globalization". Under this broad umbrella, he proposed three sub-divided topics with lists of possible speakers. These topics were 1) The Humanities in an Age of Globalization; 2) Social Changes in the Age of Globalization; and 3) Chinese Modernity: A comparative perspective. The Executive Committee and some core members of the Institute commented on the proposal and made various suggestions for revision.

To bolster the various projects of the Institute in Shanghai, Professor Helen Siu and Dr. Sun Wen-bin paid a three-day visit to Shanghai over the period December 27-29, 2002. Formal meetings were held at East China Normal University on December 27, first with colleagues of the Institute of Modern Chinese Thought and Culture. We focused our attention on revising the lecture series proposal, and later met with Professor Zhang Ji-shun, the Party Committee Secretary, to explore, long-term cooperation between the Institute and the University. In the morning of 28 December, a meeting was convened with Professor Ni Shi-xiong, Dean of School of International Relations and Public Affairs, Fudan University, on detailed arrangements for the forthcoming conference on Sino-US educational exchange. Professor Siu and Dr. Sun spent the rest of their time in Shanghai meeting senior and junior scholars from the Shanghai universities, introducing the Institute and forging more linkages.

PUBLICATION & WEB SITE

Publication

Viewpoints -- A Mini-Monograph Series on Chinese History, Society and Culture

Dr. David Faure, one of our core members, was first approached by Dr. Colin Day of the Hong Kong University Press. Dr. Faure subsequently circulated a proposal for the *Viewpoints* series, and the idea was discussed at the Executive Committee meeting in June 2002. The book series is designed to fill a gap between the well-researched monograph and a state of the field journal article. Targeting upper-level undergraduates and post-graduate students, the books will be short (no more than 35,000 words). They intend to capture major issues in the field, steer readers through some of the key literature, alert them to possible analytical minefields, and draw them into debates. Chinese and Japanese versions of the series are considered for a later stage. The Committee asked Professor Siu and Dr. Sun to explore the project further, especially with regard to the Institute's possible financial commitments. A meeting with Dr. Colin Day clarified some of the concerns. The Hong Kong University Press does not request any direct financial commitment from the Institute. It was also further clarified that the book series will stand as an independent plan. Nevertheless, the Institute's lecture series in Hong Kong, Guangzhou, and Shanghai can serve as potential resource for the Press to develop possible manuscripts.

Web Site

The Institute has its web site at <http://www.hku.hk/ihss>

The web site provides information on the Institute, its research projects, and recent activities. In due course, it will be a digitized forum for our research findings and working papers.

These are the highlights of the Institute's activities in the first year of its establishment. Our aims have been to enhance the overall thrust of research in cultural and social studies, to build a critical mass of young scholars, to nurture a common language of quality and to generate sustainable synergy in the humanities and social sciences. We have made a humble start. The impact of these activities may not be immediately evident. As soon as the research and training programmes are in place, core programmes of the Institute will focus on collaborating with more colleagues and students from the University and other institutions. We thank our donors and our host for their constant encouragement, patience and support. It is our sincere hope that our visions will be shared.



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