

Dear readers,

The Hong Kong Anthropologist is an open-access, on-line anthropological journal that provides a platform for undergraduate and postgraduate students, scholars, and others to publish their research work. We actively seek research papers drawing upon the varied areas of anthropology and related fields, especially in the context and region of East Asia.

Based on the very interesting and insightful work of budding anthropological scholars, in this issue of the Hong Kong Anthropologist, the papers cover a range of very interesting and relevant topics, pertaining to bridging cultures and sub-cultures in the modern urban context.

The urban space is an amalgam of intersectionalities between the normative and sub-culture, between communities in the eyes of government planning and the communities of the everyday. Yamada and Tsoi's paper discuss the performativity of gender roles and sexuality in urban places in Hong Kong and South Korean society. In Tsoi's paper, he discusses ethnic and class tensions among Korean homosexual relationships, as part of the process in their attempt to construct what he terms "homosexual citizenship" in a post-colonial Korean society. Yamada's topic on men's underwear depicts how the everyday item that people put on and take for granted reveals a hierarchy of normative acceptance in what is considered appropriate for men to wear, regardless of their sexuality. Both Tsoi and Yamada's papers on homosexuality and masculinity respectively unpacks the layered hierarchies and tensions within these identities which have been assumed and taken to be a homogenous whole. Their research unveils potential for more studies on masculinity, which has been a growing sub-field in recent years, as well as homosexual studies in the East-Asian context, an area which also has potential for further research.

Fung's research on heritage and Li's on new-age movement in Hong Kong reveal how certain communities in Hong Kong move away from normative understandings of both state-defined heritage and institutionalized religion. In her paper, Fung deconstructs the idea of heritage through studying trams and tramways in Hong Kong, arguing for a wider imagination of cultural identity through heritage. Through this she argues that the understanding of heritage should shift from one that is state-defined, to one that is felt belonged and relevant to the local community today. Li explores the use of new-age spirituality in Hong Kong society. She argues that in a neo-liberal society that places emphasis on individualism, new-age spirituality allows people to 'pick and choose' the sort of practices they like to address needs that are present in the urban city, such as issues with relationships and careers. It portrays the need for supernatural sources of guidance, through how it progressively decentralizes from normative religious institutions.

We look forward and encourage submissions from all disciplines on all regions of East Asia. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to e-mail us. To learn more about the journal, please visit our web page at: <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/ant/hkas>.

Best regards

Phua Mei Yen

Editor

PhD Student, Dept of Anthropology, CUHK