

## EDITORIAL

Looking back over the past few issues of *The Hong Kong Anthropologist*, there has been a significant focus on the global impact of the internet, in the role of sports, as well as the educational experience in Hong Kong. This issue continues the trend and contains five new articles from young scholars on contemporary Hong Kong culture and society.

This issue (Volume 4, 2010) looks at Hong Kong's position in an ever-increasingly interconnected global world, a world filled with incessant migration, travel, and international sporting competitions. In LEUNG Wing Cheong's article on couch-surfing, for example, he introduces us to the exciting new world of online strangers/friends that trust and invite each other from apparently different part of the globe, into one's very own living room, as a sojourning guest-lodger. His well-crafted article discussed how the internet has facilitated the latest round of globalization and promotes a hospitality exchange network, better known as couch-surfing. He enlightens the reader about the romantic dreams of low-budget travelling and how a traveler must be both wary of the excitement and dangers that this practice may entail. On a transnational level, SO Fun Hang followed a group of Hong Kong Pakistani women back to their respective homelands to explore how they switch between certain identities in and out of their two homes. Her work pointed out women who had spent an extended period of time away from home, in Hong Kong for instance, did not necessarily refuse age-old traditional practices; but instead acquired a newfound sense of superiority over their homeland counterparts, as a consequence of migration. This includes increased wealth, a heightened fashion sense, as well as new cross-cultural understanding, all of which are transferable into economic, social and cultural capital. Similarly, in some respects to SO's study on Pakistani women, Soisci PORCHETTA's article takes a look at women boxers, and examines how they negotiate their gender identities in and out of the boxing ring in Hong Kong. Her work starts with a historical focus on the development of Muay Thai. She traces the origins of the martial arts, which had both a religious and bloody past, and how it later transformed into a global sporting activity that has become popular among young, athletic, and competition-driven women around the world.

In light current trends to be global exposed, there is another dominant aspect that dwells on the heart and minds of Hong Kong families; this is the ever-important area of education. This issue contains two key works on education, and they look at the system through two very different perspectives. First, on a national level, YIM Kin Kei's article explores the meaning of civic education in Hong Kong through a comparative field-study undertaken at three secondary schools. His insightful analysis of civic education closely examines the changing attitudes and values of students, parents and their respective teachers towards a nationalistic identity and how China's role is perceived and received in the post-colonial sphere of secondary education in Hong Kong. The second article, being much closer to home, and in fact in many cases, taking place at the comfort of the students' own home, is Hong Kong's shadow education: private tutoring. HO Nga Hon identified twelve different roles that tutors take up, as part of a mutual bluff process, as both tutors and students are constantly out to out-perform their respective roles, in each other's presence and also in front of parents. Her article also discusses how tutors and students alike employ strategies of hard and soft power to negotiate and sustain their tutor-student relationship.

As editors, we have had a delightful time reviewing the submissions for this issue. Once again, we would like to thank all our young scholars for their contributions. Also, this issue would not have been possible without the time and meticulous editing of our generous and behind-the-scenes editorial team. Our team consists of CHANG Xinyue, CHUN See Ching, LIANG Yaqian, LUO Jiting, Charlotte YAU, and YU Po-ting. Finally, if the breadth and scope of the current issue attests to the city's position as a resourceful multifaceted field-site, boasting a diverse and rich array of cultural practices, activities, and human interactions, then it must be safe to say, Hong Kong remains a special, important and also attractive place for scholars to continue ethnographic field-studies.

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Hong Kong