



The Department of Anthropology  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

presents a seminar

by

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on

# Reflecting on Ethnographic Inquiry and Lived Experience: An Epistemological Critique

Friday, 8 March 2019

1:00 – 2:30 pm

Room 115 Humanities Building

New Asia College, CUHK

A light lunch will be served at 12:30 pm. First come first served.

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The book *Ethnographic Inquiry and Lived Experience: An Epistemological Critique* (Routledge) addresses two fundamental theoretical questions about how best to practice ethnographic inquiries to obtain qualitative, experience-near, and shareable accounts of human living. The first question is regarding the epistemology of ethnography. The author posits that writing is epistemologically prior to the researcher's fieldwork experience in the production of ethnographic knowledge. The second question is: what is the putative *object* that the ethnographer writes about? The book argues that "lived experience" (*Erlebnis*) offers such an ethnographic object. Since the lived experience that an ethnographer experiences during fieldwork cannot be studied directly, further theorizations of lived experience are necessary. The author underscores both the non-discursivity and transcendence of lived experience in the lifeworld, and the way power is clandestinely imbued in everyday life in shaping subjectivity and practice. The book aims to provide a crucial knowledge base for comprehending the current epistemological debates inherent in the production of ethnographic knowledge and furthering discussions in the field.

**Wing-Chung HO** (何榮宗) is an associate professor of sociology at City University of Hong Kong and holds a PhD in anthropology from SOAS, University of London. He has published broadly on community studies and social problems in relation to subordinate people in Hong Kong and Chinese societies. He is the author of *The Transition Study of Postsocialist China: An Ethnographic Study of a Model Community* (2010, World Scientific Pub.), *Occupational Health and Social Estrangement in China* (2017, Manchester U Press), and *Ethnographic Inquiry and Lived Experience: An Epistemological Critique* (2019, Routledge). His academic articles appear in *The China Quarterly*, *The China Journal*, *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*, *Journal of Contemporary China*, *Journal of Contemporary Asia*, and *China Review*.

ALL INTERESTED ARE WELCOME