



ANTHROPOLOGY CONNECTION

TRIENNIAL UPDATES FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY, THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Spring 2015

Special Feature

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It is the season of graduation and job-hunting, and final year students are ready to land their first job. Working in the museum maybe a dream career for students majoring in anthropology, but the question is: Are there any positions in local museums that are open to fresh graduates?

Working in a museum may be the dream of many anthropology students. However, it seems to be an unattainable goal for many fresh graduates since prior working experience is often required.

Kathy Chang, who graduated from our Department in 2014, started her first job as a research assistant in the Ethnography Unit of the Hong Kong Museum of History. She shared her experience with us here, giving us more information on job opportunities and work in museums.

"There are many units in the Hong Kong Museum of History, such as Ethnography, Natural History, Urban and Oral History, Archaeology, Collection Management and some more. I work at the Ethnography unit which is responsible for one of the galleries *Folk culture in Hong Kong*, in *The Hong Kong Story* permanent exhibition," Kathy said.

"We manage and maintain an inventory of the exhibits in the gallery. We also write captions for the showcased items. If my unit has been assigned to a temporary exhibition, I will assist in the event. Apart from routine work, I research on the objects that the public donate to us, in order to facilitate the collection process. My task is to trace the origins and find out the cultural and historical values of those objects by doing information search and setting interview questions for the donor.

Kathy was an intern in the Antiquities and Monuments Office when she was a student in the Department. When asked how her current job is different from her internship, she said, "I have more opportunities in doing field work in my current job. Tasks are also more challenging. For instance, I have to set specific interview questions based on the nature of a donated item. Since my internship only lasted for six weeks, tasks assigned to me at that time were simpler and usually one-off."

Kathy also talked about the pros and cons of her job. Her position is contract-based rather than permanent. Hence, it would not lead to long term development in this field. She found this job in an advertisement on a recruitment website instead of on the official website of the Government. Nevertheless, being a research assistant at the Hong Kong Museum of History enables her to apply what she had learnt in anthropology programme and it would be considered relevant work experience if she is going to work in the cultural sector in future.



One of Kathy's field sites—Tang Ancestral Hall in Ha Tsuen, Yuen Long (Kathy Chang 2015)



The Tang lineage's lantern-lighting ceremony held on the 12th of the first month of the lunar year (Kathy Chang 2015)

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Honors and Appointments



Prof. Sealing Cheng (second row, first right) and other awardees of the Arts Faculty Outstanding Teaching Award, with Dean of Arts Prof. Leung Yuen Sang (first row, fifth left), Guest of Honour Prof. Alex Cheung (first row, fifth right), Associate Deans Prof. Lai Pan Chiu (first row, fourth right) and Prof. Benjamin Ng (first row, fourth left).



Prof. Sidney Cheung

***F*aculty of Arts Outstanding Teaching Award 2014**

Professor Sealing Cheng received the Faculty of Arts Outstanding Teaching Award 2014 for her outstanding achievements in teaching and learning. She is also one of the nominees for the Vice-Chancellor's Exemplary Teaching Award.

Professor Cheng joined the Department in 2012 and teaches *Anthropology: The Study of Cultures, Gender in Asia, Political Violence and Human Rights*, and *Anthropology of Love, Body, and Emotions*.

***A*ppointment as the Associate Dean (Education) of the Faculty of Arts**

After serving as the Chairperson of the Department of Anthropology for six years, Professor Sidney Cheung has been appointed as the Associate Dean (Education) of the Faculty of Arts from 1 August 2014.

"With the good legacies of the past, I am not keen on introducing changes at the moment. Instead, it is an opportune time to review what have been achieved so far and explore how we move to a new height. Take the review of the 4-year curriculum as an example. The first cohort of FYFD students studying the 4-year curriculum will graduate in 2016. It is time for faculty members to share their views on the effectiveness of the new curriculum at this juncture, including the implementation of the capstone courses," Professor Cheung said. [More...](#)

***A*ppointment to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee**

Professor Sidney Cheung has also been appointed as member of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee of the Home Affairs Bureau from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2016. The Advisory Committee provides advice on: compilation and updating of the inventory of intangible cultural heritage in Hong Kong, selection and nomination Hong Kong's intangible cultural heritage items for application for inscription onto the national list or the UNESCO's list, and measures for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage including research on and promotion, enhancement, transmission and revitalization of intangible cultural heritage.

***E*xemplary Teaching Award in General Education 2014**

Professor Gordon Mathews was awarded the Exemplary Teaching Award in General Education 2014. He has been teaching in the Department of Anthropology at The Chinese University of Hong Kong for the past 21 years, and is now Department chairperson.

"Students do need to learn facts, and I am careful to teach a framework of factual knowledge. But most important is that students learn to think for themselves on the basis of facts. I don't want to teach students to hold a particular opinion but rather to be able to think clearly, logically, imaginatively, and fearlessly in arriving at their own opinion, whatever that opinion may be," Professor Mathews said. [More...](#)

***A*ppointment to the Antiquities Advisory Board**

Professor Sharon Wong has been appointed a member of the Antiquities Advisory Board, a statutory body set up to advise the Antiquities Authority on matters relating to antiquities and monuments. The appointment period is 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2016.

Professor Sharon Wong joined the Department in 2014 and her areas of interest include Archaeology, China-Southeast Asia cultural interaction in pre-modern period, trade ceramic studies, technology of craft production, and museology.

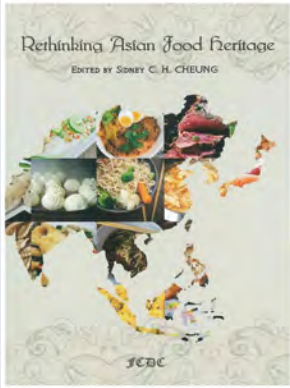


Prof. Gordon Mathews at the award ceremony



Prof. Sharon Wong

Latest Publications



Rethinking Asian Food Heritage

Editor: Sidney C. H. Cheung

Language: English

Paperback: 313 pages

Year of publication: 2014

Publisher: Foundation of Chinese Dietary Culture

Book Description:

Foodways is an important cultural marker of identity in many globalizing Asian societies, and provides insight to not only social changes, cultural nationalism, and traditional values, but also cultural inheritance in the context of political economy. This book is a collection of selected and revised papers from the international conference "Foodways and Heritage: A Perspective of Safeguarding the Intangible Cultural Heritage". The 13 chapters in the book provide rich ethnographic description and analysis on food as an intangible cultural heritage among Asia's diverse cultures.



Love's Uncertainty:

The Politics and Ethics of Child Rearing in Contemporary China

Author: Teresa Kuan

Language: English

Paperback: 272 pages

Year of publication: 2015

Publisher: University of California Press

Book Description:

The book explores the hopes and anxieties of urban, middle-class parents in contemporary China. Combining long-term ethnographic research with analyses of popular child-rearing manuals, television dramas, and government documents, the author bears witness to the dilemmas of ordinary Chinese parents, who struggle to reconcile new definitions of good parenting with the reality of limited resources. Situating these parents' experiences in the historical context of state efforts to improve "population quality", the book reveals how global transformations are expressed in the most intimate of human experiences, and ultimately offers a meditation on the nature of moral agency, examining how people discern, amid the myriad contingencies of life, the boundary between what can and cannot be controlled.

Knowledge Transfer

Multiculturalism In Action: Nepali Culture Workshop



Visit to New Home Centre

Jan 17

Field Trip: A Day in the Nepali Community

Jordan is known as Little Nepal. In January, Prof. Maria Tam and Ms. Kala, guest speaker of the field trip, took workshop participants to Jordan to learn more about the Nepali community. They visited the Bowring Commercial Centre and shops (internet café, jewellery store, grocery stores, and beauty and hair salon) that target at Nepali customers. The field trip gave participants a better understanding of the daily life of Nepali in Hong Kong.



The Buddy Program kicked off in Jordan

Jan 24 & Feb 28

Buddy Program Kick-off party

In the Buddy Program, university students and their Nepali buddies jointly develop community-based projects that will enhance mutual understanding and empowerment between Chinese and Nepali Hongkongers. They also visited the Good Lab, a social enterprise, and presented their projects to Ms. Ada Wong (founder of Good Lab) for comments and suggestions.

April 13

Namaste! Nepali New Year 2072 B.S. Intercultural Program

An intercultural program will be presented in celebration of the Nepali New Year. The event, entitled "Namaste! Nepali New Year 2072 B.S. Intercultural Program" will be held on 13 April, 2015 at the New Asia Concourse, at 4:30pm—6:30pm.

The program features Nepali and Chinese music, art, and interactive games, and will showcase projects by workshop participants on aspects of Nepali culture, including an exhibition on the forgotten history of the Gurkhas in Hong Kong, documentary on growing up as an ethnic minority, and Nepali-Chinese festival exchange.

The event is free of charge and open to all—join the event to learn more about Nepali culture and have a fun-filled afternoon! For details, please contact Ms Winsome Lee (winsome2989@icloud.com).



Poster of "Namaste! Nepali New Year 2072 B.S. Intercultural Program"

"Multicultural Hong Kong in Celebration" Series

Succeeding the "Anthropologists on the Road Series", a local magazine *Hong Kong Discovery*, in collaboration with the Institute of Future Cities (IOFC), has begun a new series called "Multicultural Hong Kong in Celebration" starting from Vol.86.

"Hong Kong is a multicultural society. Each of the various ethnic groups has its own traditions, beliefs, and customs. Ethnic festivals are truly a showcase of this diversity, and have very much been part of Hong Kong's intercultural history and heritage. This new column takes up festivals as a lens to seek an understanding of Hong Kong's ethnic communities, and how they have contributed to the city's culture as they maintain their own identity. It reminds us how lucky we are in Hong Kong, to be able to partake in a multicultural space in which everyone can enjoy and learn about each other's cultures as equals, which is an essential element of a metropolitan society." (*Hong Kong Discovery* 2015:63)

Click [here](#) to check where you can purchase the magazine.



Cover page of *Hong Kong Discovery*, Vol.86

Conferences and Seminars

Jan 23 & 24

The 7th Anthropology Postgraduate Student Forum



Participants of the 7th Anthropology Postgraduate Student Forum

Since 2009, the Department of Anthropology has organised an annual Postgraduate Student Forum to encourage academic exchanges among young anthropologists and other social scientists studying Asia. This year's theme was "Impacting the World: The Emerging Voices of Asian Anthropology".

On 23–24 January 2015, 44 participants from different local and overseas universities presented their papers. Ten panels were formed, including "Gender Politics and Sexuality", "Creativity and Bodily Performance", "Border Crossing and Transnational Contact", "Health, Illness and Healing", "Risk, Morality and Modernity", "Emerging Field Practices and Innovative Theories", "Politics of History and Space, Domination and its Remedies", "Meanings of Life and Identity in the Global Age", and "Agrarian Change and Foodscapes".

Apart from the forum, a field trip to Wan Chai was organised to give participants a better insight into the urban changes that have taken place in the district.

For further details and abstracts of papers, please visit:

<http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/ant/pgforum7/>



RAO Yichen, MPhil student of our Department, presenting his paper at the Forum



Field trip to Wan Chai

Apr 20

Undergraduate Student Forum

The Undergraduate Student Forum is a platform for final year students to present their final year research project on a topic of their choice. In the project, students would demonstrate their ability in applying concepts, theories and skills they have learnt in their years of anthropology study. This year the forum will be held on Apr 20, 2015 at 14:00-17:30 at NAH 213. There will be more than 25 presentations on diverse topics.

All interested are welcome. Undergraduate students of other years are recommended to attend the forum since it can help them to have a better idea of their capstone course and inspire them of more anthropological research topics. For details, please contact Ms Allie Kwong (allie_abc@yahoo.com.hk).

Friday Seminars (Spring 2015)

Jan 30

講者: 朱曉陽 北京大學 社會學系教授、社會學人類學研究所

題目: 地勢、民族志和“本體論轉向”的人類學

Feb 13

Speaker: Josephine Smart, Professor, Department of Anthropology and Archaeology, University of Calgary

Topic: Against the Odds? Freshwater Fish Farming in Hong Kong

Feb 27

Speaker: Alan Smart, Professor, Department of Anthropology and Archaeology, University of Calgary

Topic: On the Threshold of Urban Hong Kong: Liminal Territoriality in New Kowloon

Mar 6

Speaker: Philipp Demgenski, PhD Candidate, Department of Anthropology, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Topic: Trapped in Transformation: Negotiating Inner-City Redevelopment in a Chinese Coastal City

Mar 13

講者: 張劭穎 香港中文大學人類學系博士候選人

題目: 中國的垃圾戰爭：社會行動與科技爭議

Mar 20

講者: 武洵宇 香港中文大學人類學系博士候選人

題目: “眼力”的法則：當代中國古玩權威地位的合法化研究

Mar 27

Speaker: Tseng Hsinhui, Assistant Professor, Gender Studies Programme, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Topic: Disjunctive Harmony: Life and Work of Foreign Spouses Engaging in Sex Work in Taiwan

Apr 10

Speaker: Lindsey Alexander, Doctoral Candidate, Department of Anthropology, Harvard University, and Visiting Student in the International Asian Studies Programme and Department of Anthropology, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Topic: Locally Risked Biologies: Heart Disease Epidemiology and the Politics of Representation in Transnational Medical Research

Click [here](#) for more details and visit our [blog](#) to read the recap of seminars.

Undergraduate Activities

Feb 25 Lunar New Year Dinner



Lunar New Year Dinner 2015



Music performance by students

The Lunar New Year Dinner organised by Wildman, Anthropology Undergraduate Student Society, was held on 25 February 2015. Music performance, games and lucky draw were the highlights of the evening, bringing lots of fun to students and teachers. [More photos...](#)

Mar 6 New Asia College Graduation Photo Day



Graduating students and teachers at New Asia Concourse

The New Asia College Graduation Photo Day was held on 6 March 2015. A group photo of the graduating class was taken with the College Head Prof. Henry Wong, Associate Head Prof. Maria Tam, Dean of Students Prof. Ip Wan Yim, Associate Dean of Students Prof. Sidney Cheung, together with teaching staff of the Anthropology Department: Prof. Joseph Bosco, Prof. Sealing Cheng, Prof. Huang Yu, Prof. Teresa Kuan and Prof. Gordon Mathews.

In the ceremony afterwards, certificates and souvenirs were given out to the graduates. Department Chair Prof. Gordon Mathews said this was a rite of passage for graduates, marking their transition from a student to an adult working in society. He hoped that students would remember what they had learnt here decades afterwards, which would be useful in their lives.

[More photos...](#)

Mar 28 Academic Planning Day for Secondary Five students



Prof. Teresa Kuan introducing the study areas of anthropology to Secondary Five students

The Academic Planning Day for Secondary Five students was successfully held on 28th March 2015. This year, a lot of students had demonstrated interest in the subject and attended our programme talk.

Prof. Teresa Kuan introduced the major study areas of Anthropology and talked about the distinctive differences between Anthropology and Cultural Studies. Undergraduates and graduates of our Department also shared their experience of doing fieldwork with the students.

Students also had chance to visit our department exhibitions on **teachers' publications and ethnological collections** to have a better overview of our programme.

Apr 1 Farewell Party



The farewell party for the graduating class of 2015 was held on Apr 1 at Pixel Café, Mongkok. This year's party theme was "zoo". Delicious food, lucky draw and games were prepared for the participants. Please keep an eye on the [Facebook page](#) of Wildman for photos of the party.

Contact Us

Feel free to contact us if you have any suggestions, comments or news to share with our subscribers. The next issue will be published in August. Please send us news and updates for including in the next issue by 31 July 2015.

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