

中國文化研究所通訊

ICS BULLETIN

2020 no.1 & no.2 Combined Issue

EVENT REPORTS

Digital Humanities and Chinese Studies Public Lecture Series 2020

1. From Spatio-temporal GIS to GeoHumanities

Speaker: Prof. Fan I-chun

2. The Cyber Infrastructure for Geo-Humanities and the Study of Environmental History Based on HGIS

Speaker: Mr. Liao Hsiung-ming



Co-organised by the Institute of Chinese Studies, the CUHK-CCK Asia-Pacific Centre for Chinese Studies and the CUHK Library, the public lectures series of Digital Humanities and Chinese Studies were held on 7 & 10 January 2020. It was an honour to have Prof. Fan I-chun and Mr. Liao Hsiung-ming from Centre for Geographic Information Science, Academia Sinica (Centre for GIS) to share with us how geographic information system facilitated the studies of Chinese culture.

Prof. Fan I-chun, Executive Director of the Centre for GIS, delivered the first talk, “From Spatio-temporal GIS to GeoHumanities”, on 7 January 2020.

Prof. Fan received his doctorate from Stanford University. His research interests include Ming-Qing socio-economic history and Geographic Information Systems. The former involved exploring China’s trade from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries to the pre-modern period. The latter is dedicated to the development and promotion of the GIS system since the 1980s. This exploration and development has been widely implemented in the fields of humanities and social sciences including history, religion and society, so-called GeoHumanities.



GeoHumanities is a new field combining digital humanities and geographic information science. In the lecture, Prof. Fan shared from an academic perspective how to implement the technologies of geographic information science by integrating time, places, textual data, various maps and photos to effectively display multiple perspectives of Spatial Humanities. Prof. Fan explained that this technology can not only serve as a basic framework for recreating historical scenes, but also utilize multiple system models of management, analysis, integration and presentation of spatio-temporal information to continuously collect, expand and integrate various original information and researches.

The second lecture was held on 10 January 2020. Mr. Liao Hsiung-ming, Assistant Research Specialist from the Centre for GIS, share his insights on the topic, “The Cyber Infrastructure for Geo-Humanities and the Study of Environmental History Based on HGIS”.

Mr. Liao’s research areas cover Geographic Information Science, Digital Archives and Digital Humanities. He is currently Assistant Research Specialist at the Centre for GIS. With more than 20 years’ experience in GIS development, Mr. Liao explores the possibility of value-added applications of archives. In recent years, Mr. Liao has worked closely with Prof. Fan in developing and promoting the application of GIS in Humanities and Social Sciences.

Mr. Liao explained in the lecture that historical GIS like Chinese Civilization in Time and Space (CCTS) can be regarded as a virtual spatio-temporal information framework that can be applied to convert unstructured historical literature into numerical coordinates or link space-time relationship between different textual materials. CCTS is developed by the Centre for GIS, Academia Sinica, as a historical GIS platform of a large number of Chinese historical gazetteers. On this basis, the research methods of digital humanities and the study of environmental history that involve using spatio-temporal tools for visualization and analysis can become a new research domain known as GeoHumanities or Spatial Humanities.



ICS Luncheon 2020

ICS Luncheon 2020–Ghee Kung Tong, the Chinese Free Mason of the World and Its Participation in Politics in Republican China, 1911–1950

Speaker: Dr. Steven K. Luk

ICS Luncheon invited Dr. Steven K. Luk, a historian and retired bilingual publisher, to deliver a talk titled “Ghee Kung Tong, the Chinese Free Mason of the World and Its Participation in Politics in Republican China” on 15 January 2020.

Dr. Luk was formerly the Director, General Manager and Editor-in-Chief of The Commercial Press (H.K.) Ltd. (1992–1998 & 2008–2013) and Director of The Chinese University Press (1998–2007). He held numerous civic and advisory positions in Hong Kong’s publishing and educational sectors prior to his retirement in 2013. He now resides in the Bay Area, California, and has just published a book on modern Chinese history entitled *Dr. Sun Yat-sen and the Overseas Chinese in America: The Ghee Kung Tong & Republican Chinese Politics* 孫中山與美洲華僑：洪門致公堂與民國政治 (Commercial Press, HK, July 2019).

Taking advantage of his research on Ghee Kung Tong, Dr. Luk shared with the audience the history about the official Chinese immigration to the US and the rise of Ghee Kung Tong (GKT, Triads) as an overall protector of the Chinese labourers during the Gold Rush and the railroad construction. The GKT also began to get involved in Chinese home politics around 1903. Competition for their support became a bone of contention between Kang-Liang’s pro-Manchu and Sun Yat-sen’s anti-Manchu groups among Chinese communities. Sun’s republicanism won over most of these tongs around 1910.



Art Museum

Ancient Chinese Goldsmithing Techniques Research Lecture Series II (4 Talks)

The lecture series consisted of four talks: “Damascening in Ancient China and Its Influence” delivered by Professor Xu Xiaodong (Associate Director, Art Museum, CUHK); “From Inlaying to Damascening: A Scientific Study on the Transformation in Goldsmithing Techniques” by Ms. Tang Man-wai (Assistant Curator I (Conservation), LCSD); “Gold and Silver Chain-Making Techniques in Ancient China” by Dr. Tong Yu (Postdoctoral Fellow, Art Museum, CUHK); and “Gold Mining, Refining and Testing in Ancient China” by Mr. Lai Wing-fai (Curator, Government Records Service). The lecture series took place on 12 January 2020 (Sunday) at the lecture hall of the Hong Kong Museum of History, drawing a crowd of 149 people.



Prof. Xu Xiaodong
(Associate Director, Art Museum, CUHK)



Ms. Tang Man-wai
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Dr. Tong Yu
(Postdoctoral Fellow, Art Museum, CUHK)



Mr. Lai Wing-fai
(Curator, Government Records Service)



Fai Chun Writing to Celebrate the Chinese New Year

Instructors and students from the "ICS Chinese Culture Series: Chinese Calligraphy Workshop" were invited to write Fai Chun at participants' requests on 17 January 2020 (Friday). Participants were encouraged to write Fai Chun, too. More than a hundred participants took part in the event.



Life and Arts in Pre-Modern China

The summer General Education course "Life and Arts in Pre-Modern China", generously sponsored by the D. H. Chen Foundation and co-organised by the Art Museum and the Department of Fine Arts, has been cancelled due to the outbreak of COVID-19. This course aimed to give students a better feeling of



the intangible ideational world of the ancient masters and their artistic pursuits by walking through the areas of Shanghai, Suzhou and Hangzhou where the artists were active in. It also encouraged students to review the endeavours of the local communities in preserving these invaluable treasures. A briefing session for the course was held on 17 January 2020 (Friday) at Activities Room, 2/F, East Wing, Art Museum, attracting 20 students to attend.

Lantern Festival Online Riddle Game

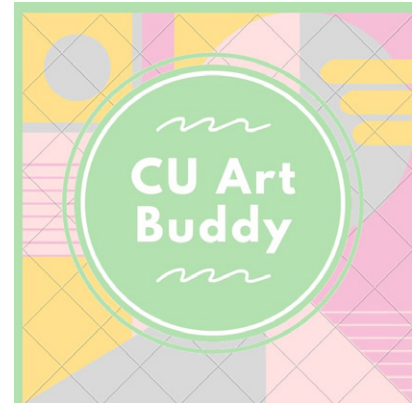
To celebrate the Lantern Festival, online riddle games were held by Art Museum through Facebook and Instagram on 7 February 2020 (Friday), attracting 187 participants.

Link to the riddles: [Click Here](#)



CU Art Buddy 2020

From March to June, Art Museum runs the scheme “CU Art Buddy”, discovering and connecting art-loving CUHK students and staff. As of the deadline for the scheme’s registration on 1 May 2020, a total of 162 participants have been involved. The paired-up participants receive online tasks from time to time. The scheme seeks to provide artistic and intellectual amusement that can enliven the participants’ stay at home.



Embrace Art at Home

To help people embrace art from home in times of the pandemic, the Art Museum has organised and published online learning resources on various topics including rubbings of stone engraving and model calligraphy, painting and ancient Chinese gold techniques.

Link to the platform: [Click Here](#)



Universities Service Centre for China Studies

On 10 January, the Centre organised a luncheon seminar entitled “The Country and the City in Chongqing: Old Markets and New Geographies in Urbanising Tongliang”, delivered by, Prof. Carolyn Cartier, a renowned scholar from the University of Technology Sydney.

Based on her fieldwork in Tongliang, a city district of Chongqing, Prof. Cartier contextualized the continuity of periodic markets in the “three rurals” debate since the 1990s and the city-town system of urbanisation. The seminar attracted around 20 participants, and many insightful comments and questions were raised during the discussion session.

Journals

*Journal of Chinese Studies*, no.70

Number 70 (January 2020) of the *Journal of Chinese Studies* has just been published. It contains 6 articles, 10 book reviews and spans 260 pages.

Articles

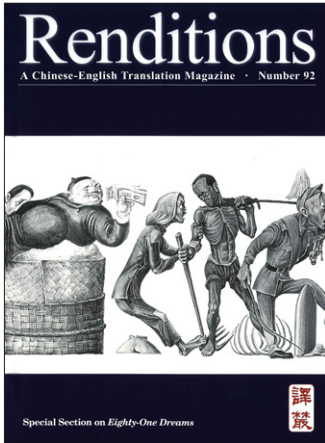
1. Jingjing Chen, "Murals, Texts, and Politics: Sima Chengzhen's *Zhentuzan* and Tang Pure Land Sutra Illustrations"
2. Kai-hsiang Hsu, "The Religious Space of Temple Fairs in Shu during the Tang-Song Period: A Case Study of the Silkworm Fair on the Third Day of the Third Lunar Month"
3. Lawrence C. H. Yim, "From 'Modern Poetry' to the 'Literati Culture': A Study of Qian Qianyi's "Sixteen Quatrains on Modern Poets"
4. Yang Chin-lung, "An Existence That Should Not Exist: The Presence of Qian Qianyi in the *Siku quanshu*"
5. Law Lok Yin, "Chosŏn Interpreters of Chinese and the Construction of the Sino-Chosŏn Cultural Interaction Network: A Case Study of the Relationship between Yi Sang-jŏk and Wandong Sehandŏ"
6. Rostislav Berezkin and Vincent Goossaert, "The Wutong Cult in the Modern and Contemporary Suzhou Area"



Book Reviews

1. Nianshen Song, "*Remaking the Chinese Empire: Manchu-Korean Relations, 1616–1911*. By Yuanhong Wang"
2. Allan H. Barr, "*The Dreaming Mind and the End of the Ming World*. By Lynn A. Struve"
3. Poo Mu-chou, "*Heaven Is Empty: A Cross-Cultural Approach to 'Religion' and Empire in Ancient China*. By Filippo Marsili"
4. Daiwie Fu, "*Shen Gua's Empiricism*. By Ya Zuo"
5. Maxim Korolkov, "*Literate Community in Early Imperial China: The Northwestern Frontier in Han Times*. By Charles Sanft"
6. Barbara Kaulbach, "*Efficacious Underworld: The Evolution of Ten Kings Paintings in Medieval China and Korea*. By Cheeyun Lilian Kwon"
7. Edmund S. K. Fung, "*Voting as a Rite: A History of Elections in Modern China*. By Joshua Hill"
8. Bruce Rusk, "*Bronze and Stone: The Cult of Antiquity in Song Dynasty China*. By Yunchiahn C. Sena"
9. James McMullen, "*Imagining China in Tokugawa Japan: Legends, Classics, and Historical Terms*. By Wai-ming Ng"
10. Meir Shahar, "*Mouse vs. Cat in Chinese Literature: Tales and Commentary*. Translated and introduced by Wilt L. Idema"

For more details, please visit the *Journal of Chinese Studies* website:
<http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/ics/journal/eng/journal.html>



Renditions no.92, Research Centre for Translation

Renditions no. 92 (Autumn 2019) is a general issue with a special section dedicated to excerpts from Zhang Henshui’s 張恨水 *Eighty-One Dreams* 八十一夢, a series of fantasies revolving around life in China before, during, and what the author imagines things might be like after the War of Resistance, beautifully rendered by Simon Schuchat. Other features comprise two pieces published in the same journal in the final decade of the Qing dynasty, one being “A New History of Rats” 新鼠史, an amusing allegory of Chinese weakness and potential for recovery, the other a short and lively satire titled “School Inspection” 查功課 by Wu Jianren 吳趸人.



Twenty-First Century Bimonthly (Issue 176, December 2019), Research Centre for Contemporary Chinese Culture

The Twenty-First Century Review section presents the topic “The Twentieth Anniversary of Macau’s Return to China”. Profound political, social and economic changes in Macau since the return are discussed:

Eilo Yu Wing-yat, “The Sustainability of Macao’s ‘One Country, Two Systems’ Model”

Lou Sheng-hua, “On the Development of Macao’s Associations and the Evolution of Their Social Roles after the Return of Macao”

Hao Zhi-dong, “Responsible Gambling? The Role of the Government and the Operators in Macau’s Gaming Industry”

The sustainability of the “Macao Model” is also investigated in four research articles:

leong Meng U, “Macao’s Regime Stability in Comparative Perspective”

Fang Mu-huan and Li Xi-yuan, “The Transformation of Political Strategies of Chinese Merchant Families before and after Macao’s Handover”

Wang Chia-huang and Jan Jie-sheng, “A Study of the Identity of Macau People: A Comparison with the Case of Hong Kong”

Lin Zhong-xuan and Liu Shih-diing, “The Evolution of Media Ecology and Practices of Internet Journalism in Macao”

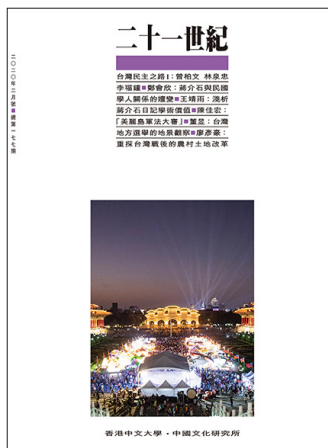
Other aspects of Macau are explored in columns of View on the World, Research Notes and Book Reviews:

André Lui, “Revisiting the Application of the Historic Centre of Macao as World Heritage before Macao’s Handover and Its Implications”

Victor Zheng, “‘Double Liminality’—A Sociological Observation on the Macao and Hong Kong Eurasian Communities”

Su Chang, “The Nightmare of Casino Capitalism: A Review on Janet Ng, *Dreamworld of Casino Capitalism: Macao’s Society, Literature, and Culture*”

Chen Ju-chen, “The Drifting Subject: A Review on Shi Wei, *Drifting around China’s Las Vegas: Migrant Workers in Macau*”



Twenty-First Century Bimonthly (Issue 177, February 2020), Research Centre for Contemporary Chinese Culture

The Twenty-First Century Review section for this issue and the next deals with “Taiwan’s Road to Democracy (Part I & Part II)”. Three essays give insights into the Taiwan Election 2020:

Albert Tzeng, “From Sunflower Movement to Taiwan’s 2020 Election: Progressionism, Populism and Anti-China Sentiment”

Lim Chuan-ti, “The Revelations of Taiwan’s National Identity in the Early Twenty-first Century”

Li Fu-chong, “From Authoritarian Rule to Democratization: Taiwan’s Political Changes in Seventy Years”

Four research articles cover the period from the Nanjing Nationalist government to the eve of Taiwan’s liberation, with the history of interactions between Chiang Kai-shek, Chiang Ching-kuo and the intellectuals, as well as different political and social powers as the main axis:

Cheng Hwei-shing, “The Transformation of the Relationship between Chiang Kai-shek and Scholars in Republican China (1932–1949)”

Wang Jing-yu, “An Analysis of *Chiang Kai-shek Diaries*’ Academic Value and Its Applications in Research”

Liao Yen-hao, “Taiwan’s Postwar Land Reform Reconsidered: An Urbanization and Industrialization Perspective”

Fupian Chen, “The Suppression of *Dangwai* Forces by the Kuomintang Authorities: Focus on the Formosa Military Trial”

In the View on the World column, “Behind the Billboards: Some Thoughts on Taiwan’s Electoral Culture” by Dong Yu shows different sceneries of the local elections in Taiwan.



Twenty-First Century Bimonthly (Issue 178, April 2020), Research Centre for Contemporary Chinese Culture

In the Twenty-First Century Review section, in-depth discussions of the various issues of democratization in Taiwan are continued:

Wu Zhe, “Democratization or Nationalism: Taiwan’s Political Transformation in a Historical Perspective”

Yeh Hao, “Democracy and the Spectre of One-party Statism in Taiwan”

Research Articles:

Ren Wei, “Reminiscences of the Chinese Revolution: Recollections and Interpretations of the Pingjiang Uprising”

Zuo Ci, “A Preliminary Study of the Percentage-based Mechanism for Execution in the Campaign to Suppress Counter-Revolutionaries”

Ma Zhao, “Revolutionary Memory and Cultural Transformation in 1980s China: Interpreting the Film *Deep in My Heart*”

Yin Tai, “A Study of the ‘Leadership Core’ in Chinese Communist Party’s Political System”

In view of the severe epidemic situation, two relevant articles are published in the column Research Notes:

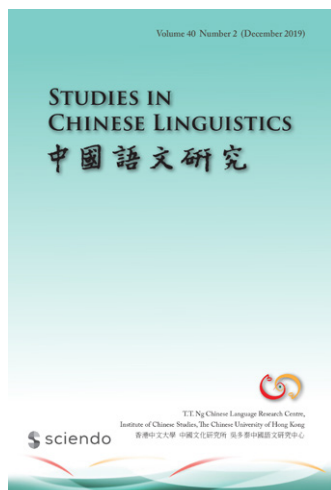
Xu Cheng-gang, “Institutional Problems behind Coronavirus Disease in Wuhan”

Lin Meng, “Transformation of Social Values as Seen from Media Reports and Public Discussions of Coronavirus Disease”

“Art Practices in the Time of the Coronavirus Outbreak” in the View on the World column shows different forms of artistic works of the social circumstances in 2003 SARS and COVID-19 viruses.

For the issues’ content, please visit the *Twenty-First Century Bimonthly* website:

<http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/ics/21c/en/issues/index.html>.



***Studies in Chinese Linguistics* (Volume 40, Number 2), T. T. Ng Chinese Language Research Centre**

Studies in Chinese Linguistics (Volume 40, Number 2) has been released. There are three articles in this issue:

1. Niina Ning Zhang, "Appearance and Existence in Mandarin Chinese"
2. Haiyong Liu, "Why Plurality of the Possessor Matters in Mandarin Chinese Inalienable Possession"
3. Jiaying Huang and Caterina Donati, "Subject-Object Asymmetry in the Production of Relative Clauses in Cantonese"

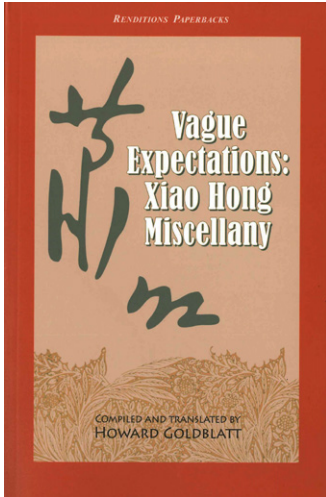
This is an open-access journal distributed by Sciendo (formerly known as De Gruyter Open). PDF copies of these articles can be downloaded freely via <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/ics/clrc/>.

Books



***Collected Papers on Commentaries of Ancient Chinese Texts: Glossaries, Exegeses, and Transmission*, D. C. Lau Research Centre for Chinese Ancient Texts**

The *Collected Papers on Commentaries of Ancient Chinese Texts: Glossaries, Exegeses, and Transmission* by Dr Lam Lai Ling was published by the D. C. Lau Research Centre for Chinese Ancient Texts in April 2020. This volume is the 48th title of *The CHANT Series*. The author compares the texts and the uncommon lexicons in the *Xunzi*, *Zhuangzi*, and *Guanzi*, and examines how these texts influenced each other in the Pre-Han period. She also analyses similar or identical vocabularies used in these texts and sheds light on their reflections of the prevalent schools of thoughts of the time. In addition, she collects comments of scholars including Zheng Xuan, Wei Zhao, and Wang Su. By examining the collected materials in the light of transmitted and excavated texts, the author studies the relationship between annotations and variants in order to have a better understanding of the method employed by commentators since the Han dynasty. Her further analysis explores to what extent the commentators had used variants in their annotations



Vague Expectations: Xiao Hong Miscellany, Research Centre for Translation

By Xiao Hong

Compiled and translated by Howard Goldblatt

As a novelist, Northeast writer Xiao Hong has few peers. In the introduction to her maiden novel, *Lu Xun*, for whom praise had to be earned, wrote, “Keen observations and an extraordinary writing style add considerably to [its] vividness and beauty. Its spirit is robust.” This plaudit came at the beginning of her tragically truncated career and life. Barely six years later, Mao Dun would write about another of her novels: “Satire is here, and humour. At the start you read with a sense of relaxation; then little by little your heart grows heavier. Still there is beauty, slightly morbid perhaps but bound to fascinate you.” Less well-known, but equally impressive, is her corpus of stories, essays, and miscellaneous writing, most published during her short lifetime. The characteristics cited in the appreciations of the two titans of Republican letters are all visible in the two dozen pieces included in this volume. Little wonder that Xiao Hong is one of the most widely read, widely written about, and widely translated Chinese writers of the first half of the twentieth century.

Born in 1911, the year that the Manchu regime was overthrown, in Harbin, Heilongjiang, Xiao Hong began a writing career in 1933, gaining nationwide notice for her first novel, thanks largely to the patronage of Lu Xun, with whom she would develop a deep friendship. She was highly popular among writers and poets, who were her friends, and a host of countrymen and countrywomen, who were her fans, her reading public. She died in Hong Kong in 1942, only weeks after it fell to the Japanese.

Howard Goldblatt has translated a number of literary works from China and Taiwan, including the novels of Mo Yan, 2012 laureate of the Nobel Prize for Literature. A Guggenheim fellow and awardee of several literary prizes and grants, he lives in Colorado with his wife and frequent co-translator, Sylvia Lin.

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