

## Visiting Speaker Series 2017-18 Term 1

# Book Forum: The Politics and Ethics of Patriarchy in 21st Century China: A Conversation about Sex, Family, and Power

Gonçalo SANTOS (江紹龍) (HKIHSS, HKU)

Discussants: Petula S. Y. HO (何式凝) (Social Work, HKU),  
Gordon MATHEWS (麥高登) (Anthropology, CUHK),  
Teresa KUAN (關宜馨) (Anthropology, CUHK)  
Moderator: Minhua LING (凌旻華) (China Studies, CUHK)

### BOOK UNDER DISCUSSION:

*Transforming Patriarchy. Chinese Families in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.*

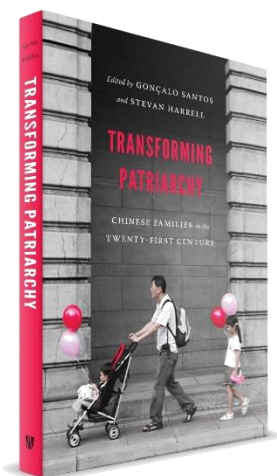
Edited by Gonçalo Santos and Stevan Harrell, University of Washington Press, 2017

**15 Sep 2017 (Friday)**

**1:00 – 2:30pm**

**NAH 11**

**Humanities Building, CUHK**



Each successive wave of revolution—political, cultural, and economic—to hit China from the 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards has radically reshaped society. Whereas patriarchy defined the familial social structure for thousands of years, changing realities in the last hundred years have altered and even reversed long-held hierarchical assumptions.

In *Transforming Patriarchy*, Gonçalo Santos and Stevan Harrell argue that patriarchy is not quite dead in present-day China, but it is no longer the default arrangement for Chinese families. Drawing on a multitude of sources and perspectives, the volume illustrates the varied and often contradictory frameworks of power and intimate life in contemporary China. Case studies critically examine factors such as social class, geography, and globalization as they relate to patriarchal practice and resistance to it.

This book brings the concept of patriarchy back to the heart of China studies, while calling for a rethinking of its position in dominant social science theorizations of modernity and globalization. But is the concept of patriarchy really suitable to talk about power and intimate life in the age of digital networks and global mobility? And what can we learn about the state of the world today by looking at the secret power struggles going on inside the homes of ordinary Chinese families?

### ABOUT THE GUEST SPEAKER

Gonçalo SANTOS (江紹龍) is an Assistant Professor at the Hong Kong Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Hong Kong. His research has been published in leading anthropology and Asia studies journals. He is also the co-editor of *Chinese Kinship* (2009) and *Transforming Patriarchy* (2017). He is currently working on two collaborative research projects: “Technology, charitable benefaction, and humanitarian aid in contemporary China” and “Reproductive Labor and Gynocentric Technologies in East Asia, 1800s-2000s”.



**Free Admission**

**The seminar is conducted in English**

**Enquiry: Centre for China Studies | [ccs@cuhk.edu.hk](mailto:ccs@cuhk.edu.hk) | [www.cuhk.edu.hk/ccs](http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/ccs)**