

CENTRE FOR CHINA STUDIES

Newsletter of the Centre for China Studies, the Chinese University of Hong Kong

CCS Welcomes New Leadership



Professor Jan Kiely



Professor Ling Minhua



Professor Tim Summers

The Centre for China Studies has welcomed three faculty members into new leadership roles this academic term; Professor Jan Kiely as Centre Director, Professor Ling Minhua as Associate Director and Division Head of Chinese Studies, and Professor Tim Summers as MA Programme Director.

"Our Chinese Studies programme offers students an opportunity to make the most of the unique traditions, resources and innovations of this university known throughout China and the world as a gathering place for scholars and students fascinated with exploring the richness and complexity of Chinese culture, history, society, governance and economy."

Professor Jan Kiely



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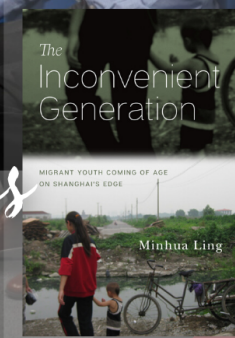
INTRODUCING THE NEW CCS PODCAST SERIES



CCS Podcast Series

Episode 1

Professor Ling Minhua discusses her new book,
The Inconvenient Generation



CCS is proud to announce the beginning of a new podcast series. Throughout the course of this series, the Centre plans to feature a number of CCS faculty to discuss their research and publications.

The first episode features Professor Ling Minhua, interviewed by Professor Tim Summers, and her new book, *The Inconvenient Generation: Migrant Youth Coming of Age on Shanghai's Edge*. Professor Ling discusses her motivations for pursuing research on Shanghai's migrant youth as well as her personal connection to her research.

"The story of those migrants in Shanghai can find a lot of resonance across the world where you can find an existing social stratus and migrants have to navigate through a complex web of prejudice and discrimination."

Professor Ling Minhua

Upcoming, Professor John Lagerwey will be featured in a podcast on China as a religious state, his journey through discovering the truth of religion in China, and common misconceptions held on Chinese society.

You can find the Centre for China Studies podcast on Spotify, SoundCloud, and the Apple Podcast app. As well as the full script of the first episode on the CCS website, at ccs.cuhk.edu.hk.

LISTEN ON  Spotify

 Listen on
Apple Podcasts



Professor Ling doing research in an Anhui Province village

[Click Here to Read the Full Script](#)



VIRTUAL SUMMER FIELD TRIP

Virtual Exploration of Southern China

PROFESSOR YUNWEN GAO

The summer field trip course is a required course for all undergraduate students. In previous years, professors have taken students to various sites such as Guangzhou, Shanghai, Suzhou, Chongqing, etc. This year, I originally planned to take the group to Quanzhou, a historical city with a rich past and vibrant culture. However, due to the outbreak of COVID-19, the field study course was redesigned as an online course to prepare students for future fieldwork through the study of the history and contemporary culture of Southern China.

We explored significant issues such as urban development, religious sites and practices, immigration history, preservation of cultural heritage, entertainment culture, gender and marriage in Southern China. Through the case studies of Quanzhou, Xiamen, and Shunde, the course aims to prepare students for future fieldwork in China and other Chinese-speaking communities.

One of the favorite topics of the course is Nanyin 南音, literally translated as the Music of the South, an essential component of Buddhist and Daoist culture. Classified as the intangible cultural heritage of humanity by UNESCO in 2009, Nanyin remains popular among the locals regardless of age. As a port city, Quanzhou was also the ancestral homeland of the immigrant population in Taiwan and Southeast Asian countries. The Belt and Road initiative adopted by the Chinese government in 2013 has once again brought government support and public attention to the city. Today, Quanzhou is the home of many domestic manufacturers of clothes and shoes, including Anta, Qipilang, and Tebu.

In addition to discussing academic texts related to these topics, I also took the opportunity to show the videos and photos I took in December 2019 in Quanzhou and Xiamen. At the end of the course, students were encouraged to explore their own field research topics in the broader Chinese-speaking regions. They proposed a variety of topics related to cultural heritage preservation and revitalization of historical cities, tourism, local identity, and so on. I find this part of the course most engaging and rewarding.

Overall, though we were not able to travel to the southern part of China in person, I find the more in-depth lectures a better tool to prepare students for the field trip in the future and look forward to incorporating this into future versions of this course.



Words from a student

Emily Hong Eun KWON

Our main theme of the study course was based on Quanzhou in Fujian province, and other neighbouring cities. After exploring (virtually) the history, religion, arts, and society of southern China, I could get a multifaceted view of the region. We could not be physically present in the destination but could only listen to the professor sharing stories. In fact, I was less distracted and could focus more throughout the course. It could have been great if we could have tasted the southern cuisines and listened to nan-yin. However, now that I'm well-prepared with knowledge in advance to the actual trip, I look forward to traveling to southern China in the future more (hopefully).



'Preservation of Taiwanese Identity in Southern Taiwan' Fieldwork

EMILY HONG EUN KWON

Professor Gao gave us the freedom to choose the topic of our final research, in which we could self-explore any city of, or near China. I personally think that this was the best part of the fieldwork. I did not hesitate a second to write about Taiwan, since it has always been my favourite destination. Although I had a 3-week stay in Taiwan right before the pandemic situation, I was clueless about how to re-appreciate my Taiwan experience, instead of regurgitating old photos on Instagram. Hence, this assignment has been a fun opportunity for me to re-approach my trip memories academically, and to learn more about Taiwan. With the guidance of Professor Gao, there were enough resources that I could refer to. The best take-away from this assignment is that it really has changed my perception towards Taiwanese culture, and now I have developed more academic interest for a deeper understanding.

To be honest, I think it will be more than a challenge for humanity to either conquer or choose to coexist with the coronavirus. In either way, a virtual trip will be an inevitable choice and there is a need to enhance this platform for the better experience. Despite being the very first time that CCS has conducted the virtual fieldwork, I was generally satisfied with this experience, and I hope more students would maximize the use of this course to visit the amazing Chinese culture, or even revisit their beautiful memories.



Professor Gao with the summer field trip course in 2019



[Click here to listen to their discussion](#)

Prof Ling and Prof Gao discussing aspects of the virtual field trip



Emily Hong Eun Kwon during her study abroad time in Taiwan

MEET SOME OF OUR NEW UNDERGRADS

photo submitted by CCS student Jade NEWMAN



Jade Newman, United Kingdom
Year 1

Why did you decide to come to CCS?

I studied maths, further maths and Chinese at A level. Although I originally planned to study maths in England, when the suggestion arose to study in Hong Kong, I fell in love with the idea. I had always wanted to travel and explore different cultures and to me, this was the perfect way to do it.

How are you finding Hong Kong so far?

The decision to move here was a huge risk as I had never previously lived in or visited Hong Kong. So far, I have been nothing but amazed at the beauty of the architecture and the stunning views, all the wonderful and different local foods, the vast range of shops and just how convenient it is to live here.

Had you ever been to China before?

Previously I had only ever visited China once on a brief school trip to Beijing. It was there that I visited the Great Wall of China, the Forbidden City, the Summer Palace and a large range of tourist attractions. I thoroughly enjoyed the trip and when I returned to England, I immediately missed what I had experienced.

Do you expect that CCS will change your perspectives and understanding of China?

I studied Chinese history before in my A level class but within the few weeks of classes I have had so far, I have already discovered so many new things I never knew before. I would definitely say that Chinese studies changes your perspective and understanding of China. I think what I most enjoy about Chinese studies is the vast range of topics. It is not just about the history but also religion, literature, politics, and many other aspects which all tie in together. I also feel very fortunate to be able to attend lectures from widely revered professors and to listen to all the knowledge and experiences that they have to share.

Have you been able to connect and make friends with this online method of teaching?

Through the 'CUHK ISA International Freshmen 2020' 'Facebook' group, we created a WhatsApp group and from there all started speaking to one another. Some people then proceeded to form smaller groups of people in the same classes, or the same college or even just with the same interests. I was also contacted by people over Instagram due to the 'cuhkclassof2020' Instagram page where we could introduce ourselves. I found this very helpful in making friends. It also made the transition a lot easier as I already knew people, through online social platforms, who were on campus so did not feel alone when I arrived. If you are not already part of these groups or pages I would highly recommend getting involved!

What are you most looking forward to when students can return to campus?

When students are able to return to campus, I am most looking forward to getting to meet all these new brilliant people that I have only been able to speak to online. One thing that I think everyone can sympathise with is that we have not been able to fully experience 'life as a freshman' like everybody else has in the past. I feel like it will bring a greater sense of community and actually quite an emotional experience. After speaking online to each other for months, we will finally all get to meet and enjoy CUHK life together.



Haochen Wang, China
Year 1

Can you tell us about yourself?

Sure! My name is Haochen Wang and I also go by “Kenny,” I’m a transfer student to the CCS department. I’m originally from Shenzhen City right across the border to Hong Kong. Previously I was studying at the University of Iowa in the United States and Meiji University in Japan for two and a half years. I chose to do Chinese Studies in CUHK because not only was it close to my home in Shenzhen, but I was personally attracted by the academic opportunities and the resources available here that are outstanding among Asian institutions.

Sounds like you have spent a lot of time abroad. What’s your experience in those places and what led you to CUHK?

Indeed I’ve had a very long journey, but I’m really happy about what I ended up with, those experiences and friendships along the way meant a lot to me as well. What’s fascinating about studying in different places is you get these chances to appreciate different humanities and beauties. People across the globe tend to have diverse cultural representations and perspectives on things- that applies to even things that we’ve taken for granted on a daily basis. As I was in America, I started to develop an interest in humanities across East Asia- I know this might sound a bit weird for a Chinese student to do “Asian Studies” in America, but I found it rather intriguing as it presents a new perspective for familiar things. Anyway, I caught traces of our program from Dr. Tim Summers’ interview -right when I was considering my options for university transfer- so I’ve decided to give it a try at the CCS.

How do you feel about the study environment at CUHK/CCS, are they different from your previous institutions?

I feel that CCS courses are mostly discussion-based and require a certain amount of readings. Generally speaking, the instructors here are truly experts in Chinese Studies areas - so aside from assigning reading materials, they would organize many discussions and try to guide us through opinion exchanges toward a right conclusion. Oh and even it’s only my first semester at CUHK, but I found many courses here that asked students to conduct group presentations. From my own experience, it is a bit uncommon for Asian institutions, let’s say, Japanese universities to ask freshmen students to go straight ahead conducting presentations at a 1000-level course. But it’s perhaps different across various institutions.

What kind of opportunities are you hoping to explore through the CCS programme?

I’m thinking about making good use of the opportunities in our CCS department and applying for some academic exchange in the future semesters. We have some really great resources and connections in both mainland China and around the world. I’m currently considering the possibility of going on an exchange again at an institution in the Greater China region- but that’d be something to worry about after the pandemic settles down. (smile)

MEET SOME OF OUR NEW MA STUDENTS



HUANG Danyang, China

Can you tell us a bit about yourself and your background?

I majored in Chinese Language and Literature for my undergraduate studies. I was overwhelmed by the marvelous history and culture reflected in the Chinese language, literature, and arts. I also learned and understood more about national culture and China's relations with the world. I realized that Chinese studies can help Chinese people understand our nation and culture deeply, and the studies of China in my undergraduate also offered me innovative ideas for my media and communication career that followed. For the past seven years, I have worked at a TV station as a TV program director, mainly responsible for various China-related programs and projects, specifically in the production of Chinese minority cultural programs. And, I also worked as the communicator, both internally and externally, in a series of cross-regional cultural media projects about the Chinese culture and Chinese stories.

Why did you choose our MA programme to further your studies?

From my previous job, I gained awareness and a strong desire to let more people understand Chinese culture and its society through the programs I created. And since then, I became deeply aware that Chinese studies plays an important role in breaking down the barriers between different countries and cultures, and that inspires me to explore and gain a better knowledge of China; Chinese-foreign cultural exchanges, and cross-cultural communications. As a Chinese and a media worker, I aspire to tell Chinese stories and spread Chinese voices to larger audiences and the globe. However, my current knowledge is still far from enough to achieve my career goals: I hope to produce more culturally concerned programs, to make more people overcome the cultural complexity and be able to experience the charm of China with the profound Chinese culture. As a result, I do need to further my knowledge in Chinese studies and know how to apply the acquired skills in my future job. Moreover, Hong Kong is such an energetic and international place in which Chinese culture and global culture meet. Whenever I come to visit, no matter on a business trip or just here to travel and shop, Hong Kong always impresses me with its blended and dynamic culture. With no exception this time: traditional Chinese culture comes alive in this contemporary Chinese metropolis, and with lots of Western elements that completely catches my attention. This is indeed an ideal environment pursue scholarship in China studies from a global perspective.

Can you share how the pandemic affects your learning experience?

I moved and have been living in Hong Kong for more than a month now, and I gradually get used to both the life and studies here. Although pursuing further studies after working for such a long period is not an easy task, I think I am coping with this switching track progressively. Under the current pandemic, there might be inconvenience in daily life and challenges for my studies, such as losing some opportunities to experience the cultural life in Hong Kong and/or join different activities on campus, and I can't interact with professors and classmates in person. To be honest, it is a little bit disappointing, but at the same time, I can be more disciplined and focused, and make full use of the online resources to compensate for the losses during this uncertain and difficult period.



ZENG Wenjie, China

Can you tell us a bit about yourself and your background?

My name is Zeng Wenjie. I was born in Xing Ning, a county-level city of Mei Zhou City, which is in East Guangdong Province. I graduated from Guangzhou University last year, where I majored in Chinese Language and Literature. When I was doing my Bachelor's degree, I developed my interests in modern Chinese literature, literary theory, and the ancient Chinese language. And now, being influenced by the teachers from CCS, I have started to develop an interest in modern Chinese history and film.

Why did you choose the Master of Arts in Chinese Studies (MACS) programme?

Oh, there are many reasons. First of all, CUHK is well known by everyone in mainland China as a top university like Peking University. I do believe CCS is one of the best representatives among the Chinese Studies related departments. I truly like the design of them [CCS courses], as I think the courses are diverse and offer me a very different learning experience. I enjoy having cross-disciplinary studies that MACS is offering; I am now trying to explore literature, history, and film studies. Besides, I want to apply for an MPhil after graduating from MACS. I think this program allows me to observe China from an innovative and macro perspective before conducting thorough research in my next academic stage. Not to mention that there are lots of renowned scholars in our Centre. I consider it a privilege and honor to study at CCS and learn from them. As mentioned, I have decided to study overseas in the near future, I prefer enrolling in English-taught programs like ours; all in all, MACS at CUHK works perfect for me.

How are you doing this term so far? What do you plan on doing when classes resume?

Life has already been back to normal in my hometown. However, my learning environment is a bit noisy. So, I bought some noise-canceling tools for attending the online classes, and sometimes I need to go to a coffee shop to study. I find these measures efficient, and my studies are not affected so far. Plus, I think our online learning system is fairly stable and effective. Since my visa is expired, I would need to renew it when our classes resume on campus. If I can go to Hong Kong in November, I would definitely be back to campus as it must be much quieter than my place. If I can't make it, maybe I would stay at home until the next semester. As I am busy with both the assignments and the MPhil application at the same time, I am still learning to allocate my time efficiently, and hope I would have better time management for the rest of this semester.

Can you share how the special situation with the pandemic affected your learning experience?

Well, the special situation affects my learning efficiency to a certain extent, I can't go back to the campus and/or access the libraries. Sometimes I have to find the eBooks by myself, but thanks to our thoughtful TAs and the resourceful e-learning system, I don't need to spend much time searching the materials. I have been longing to have access to our libraries and attend face-to-face classes. Yet, I think there are still some advantages to having online learning: I can see the PowerPoint slides very clearly on my screen, and I do not need to take the subway every day, which saves quite a bit of time for me. Even with different challenges and uncertainties, I hope I can make full use of the time and online resources to learn at CCS this year!

CCS STUDENT AND FACULTY NEWS

Research Updates, Awards, Promotions, & Publications

photo submitted by CCS graduate Jaliff YIU

Students

AN Hye Rin (BSSc) - New Asia Mr. and Mrs. Lam Wing Tak Scholarship

Marta GRAMATYKA (BA) - Published articles in SupChina and ISSIA HK

Farhan HUSSAIN (BA) - College Head's List and Ho Sin Hang Scholarship

KIM Heeyoon (BA) - Shaw College Scholarship

LAU Yat Ying (Bssc) - Link First Generation University Student Scholarship

SHI Xiaoting (BA) - Faculty Admission Scholarship

SUN Yining (BSSc) - Shaw College Outstanding Academic Achievement

YUN Jungwon (Bssc) - Chung Chi College Class Scholarship

ZHANG Shidai (Bssc) - United College Chung Yu Kong Prize

YANG Zhiqiang (Marnyi Gyatso) (PhD) - Part-time Lecturer at CCS (Term 1), Postdoctoral Research Scholar at Columbia University Weatherhead East Asian Institute

YANG Kai (MPhil) - PhD candidate in Government and Public Administration at CUHK

GAO Yu (MPhil) - PhD candidate in Sinologie at Hamburg University

NG Kum Hoon (PhD) - Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Chinese Studies at National University of Singapore

MA Huijuan (PhD) - Assistant Professor in the School of Ethnology and Sociology at South-Central Universities for Nationalities

MA Kuo-an (PhD) - Global Perspectives on Society Postdoctoral Fellow at New York University Shanghai

Todd KLAIMAN (PhD) - Ian Stewart Graduate Fellowship in Centre for Studies in Religion and Society and the University of Victoria

Faculty

Jan KIELY - Promoted to Centre Director

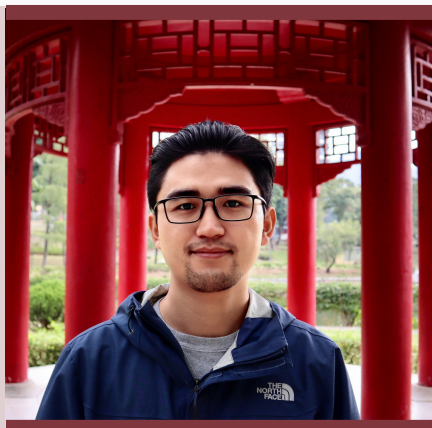
LING Minhua - Promoted to Associate Professor

Tim SUMMERS - Promoted to Assistant Professor

Prof. Jan KIELY has received a General Research Fund (GRF) Research Grant from the Hong Kong Research Grants Council (RGC) for the project "The Transformation of Local Religion in Rural Central China under Maoism, 1949-1976".

Prof. LI Chen recently wrote and co-authored two book chapters and a journal article: "Neoliberalism and Economic Policymaking in Contemporary China" in *Economic Neoliberalism and International Development* (Routledge, 2020) edited by Michael Tribe; "National Champions, Reforms and Industrial Policy in China" with Chen Muyang, in *The Oxford Handbook of Industrial Policy* (Oxford University Press, 2020), and "The hybrid regulatory regime in turbulent times: the role of the state in China's stock market crisis in 2015-2016" with Zheng Huanhuan and Liu Yunbo in *Regulation & Governance* in July, 2020.

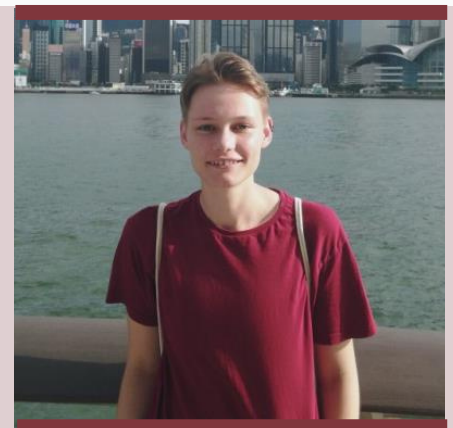
(See <https://doi-org.easyaccess2.lib.cuhk.edu.hk/10.1111/rego.12340>).



Marnyi GYATSO



LAU Yat Ying



Marta GRAMATYKA

HOMETOWN STUDENT VLOGS

Genova, Italy

Join Year 4 student Carlotta Orselli in her tour of her hometown, Genova Italy.



Nanjing, Jiangsu, China

Join Year 2 student Theresa Chen as she gives a historical perspective on her hometown of Nanjing.



Jinan, Shandong, China

Join Year 3 student Enid Sun Yining as she gives a historical perspective on her hometown Jinan, Shandong.

