

VOL. 8 ISSUE 1 • JAN 2021

# CENTRE FOR CHINA STUDIES

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

## Catch up with us on our CCS Podcast

CCS released our very own podcast series, and we welcome you to catch up with our professors. If you missed the University Services Centre - Centre for China Studies Webinar Series: "Molihua as Cultural Text: what can music bring to Chinese Studies?" you can listen to the edited version on our podcast series. Recently released we also have an in-depth interview with Professor John Lagerwey on the topic of China as a Religious State. On 10 December 2020, Professor Gao Yunwen was invited by the University of Southern California to talk at the Eileen Chang Centennial Celebration event, "Love, Lust, Caution: Centennial Celebration of the Cross-Cultural Legacies of Eileen Chang". You can listen to Prof Gao's edited talk on our podcast, titled, "Approaching Eileen Chang through translation."

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](http://ccs.cuhk.edu.hk).



### CCS Podcast Series

Episode 3

This episode is a pre-recorded talk on the USC-CCS Webinar series, titled "Molihua as Cultural Text: what music can bring to Chinese Studies". Professor Frederick Lau gives a discussion on one of the best known Chinese songs, *molihua*.



### CCS Podcast Series

Episode 2

Listen as Professor Gao Yunwen explains the challenges of conducting her summer field trip course to Quanzhou online, as well as a cultural walk through the city



[Click Here to listen on SoundCloud](#)

## This Issue:

Farewell to Professor Lagerwey  
PAGE 2

CCS Alum Spotlight  
PAGE 3

Recent Graduate Heads to  
Columbia University  
PAGE 4

Brown University Exchange  
Student Benefits from CCS  
PAGE 4

Meet our Undergrads  
PAGE 5-6

Meet our MAs  
PAGE 7-8

Faculty and Student News  
PAGE 9

A LASTING LEGACY...

# A FAREWELL TO PROFESSOR JOHN LAGERWEY

Joining the then Center for East Asian Studies in 2012, Professor John Lagerwey will be dearly missed by faculty, staff, and students at CCS. Before his retirement, he recounted to us his thoughts on his time at CCS.

"If I were to give myself a label, it would not be sinologist in a traditional way, it'd be a humanist. Usually we restrict that term to the Italian Renaissance, but I found out, after years of studying Buddhism, Chinese religions and my own experience of Biblical-based religions, that the reason why religions play such an important role in all societies and all histories is because they are all about human beings, their survival, their overcoming anxieties, difficulties. Through ritual practices you see what is really important to people. To me, there's this natural division between hard sciences and soft sciences. And here are the two things that I say to students: one, you may not know your history, but your history knows you. You're a product of your history. When talking about the elites of the governments all around the world and in China in particular, it is ironic that modernity in China was built up by a discourse which attacks Confucianism. They saw Confucianism as the cause of all their troubles, but May Fourth, the Kuomintang, the CCP, they all continued with Confucian policies, such as bureaucratic structures, patriarchy, and above all their attitudes towards popular religion. The Cultural Revolution is the end product of 2500 years of China's elites attacking popular religion. And so, going into the field and seeing how the people live, think and feel is so important to get a perspective on the 'real China'." - Prof. John Lagerwey

## Why did you decide to pursue a career in Chinese Studies and at CCS in general?

I didn't do my entire career at CCS, I started in the United States studying Chinese in 1966 when I was 20 years old, and I think it was just because I thought it was something far away, intriguing and different. At that time in the United States there were no diplomatic relations with China. China was kind of this mysterious thing of the imagination. China basically didn't exist, except for in my imagination because of the things I had read about it. It was through my fieldwork in Taiwan during the 1980s when I first met David Faure, who's been director of CCS for a long time. Then he had a book published about the New Territories and I wrote a very positive review of it and from that point on I was always interested in what Professor Faure was doing. Then, in 2007, I was asked whether I'd be interested in coming to CCS as faculty.

## What will retirement look like for you?

I'm seventy-four so I think it's the time to retire, but I have at least one major book that I'm working on and I really need the time, because it's about my thirty years of fieldwork and I need to put together all the photos, videos, and writings, so summarizing all that fieldwork is my primary occupation when I go back to France. We initiated about six years of field work workshops that would take students for a trip to China, along with students from five mainland universities and one in Taiwan. This is the first year when we haven't done it because of COVID but theoretically that's going to continue and I'll definitely come out to participate in these field trips. I feel very strongly about the importance of doing this kind of fieldwork. Students often tell me that going into the field is what changes their perspective on China. Walking through villages rather than going to the big cities, that's when you start seeing the real China and start thinking more creatively about the country's circumstances.

## Do you think Hong Kong is a good place to study China?

I started taking an interest in the 1990s in new exploration of the mainland after the Opening Up reform. It made a lot of sense, hop on a train and in 25-minutes you're at the border. In the 1990s, Hong Kong was a very special place. You could meet more people from China at CUHK, than you could meet anywhere else in the world. There were also incredibly good libraries, since there was a very active policy of collecting books from all over China, so all of these things made CUHK,

I'd say, the most attractive place outside of Western universities, to study mainland China.



CCS TO HARVARD - A 2017 BA GRAD'S JOURNEY...

# CCS ALUM SPOTLIGHT

Wei Li is now studying at Harvard for an MA in East Asian Studies, focusing on Chinese religion—an interest that was sparked at CCS in Professor John Lagerwey's classroom.

## Where has life brought you since you graduated from the BA program?

The training I received at CCS made me a more competent reader and researcher. I'm at Harvard for a master program in Regional Studies East Asia with a fellowship from the Harvard-Yenching Institute. My research interests are Buddhist and Daoist rituals, meditation texts, and religious art.

## What led to your interest in Buddhism and Daoism?

Prof. John Lagerwey's class at CCS! I knew nothing about Chinese religion before taking his class. Never have I imagined that history can be understood from the viewpoint of religion. You can check out his course, A Critical Cultural History of China, online now.

## Can you tell us more about how you came to know Prof Lagerwey?

I was encouraged by a senior student at CCS orientation, who kept telling me that Prof. Lagerwey's course is a must-take. Back then, I had no idea how intense his course was, I ended up being the only undergrad in that classroom. By the end of the semester, I learned just how much I didn't know about my own culture. Later on, Prof. Lagerwey encouraged me to do a summer school at Harvard, where I met my current advisor Prof. James Robson. The next summer, Prof. Lagerwey took me to do fieldwork in Fujian, and another summer he took me to Zhejiang. The fieldwork was a collaboration between universities; we had students from mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and the United States. We went to different villages to observe religious practices and conduct interviews. When you go to local societies, you discover things that are not taught in textbooks.

## CCS has obviously had a huge impact on your life. Would you say it has had more general on your life as well?

The impact lies in the presence of each CCS professor—their hard work, generosity, and wisdom. If you are here, you absorb their light every day, and eventually you become that light.

## Can you give us an example?

I can give you one example for each professor!

I remember, at orientation, Prof. Jan Kiely seriously addressed the importance of asking for help in college. "If you have a question, ask! We will help you." If it weren't for his advice, I would have chosen to suffer in silence in many difficult circumstances throughout my college years.



Prof. Minhua Ling, who hired me as research assistant for two academic years, literally taught me how to do citations and write how to do citations and write literature reviews hand by hand. Every time I went to her office hour, she welcomed me with snacks and gave me the most heartening advice on my academic work.

"Critical thinking is highly valued here. CCS professors don't transfer knowledge; they teach you to make discoveries by yourself, and then they guide you to critique what you discovered."

Wei Li

Prof. Chen Li, once on a fieldtrip, shared with me stories from his student days. The advice he gave me was that there is no such thing called "failure" in this world; everything you do before finding your place is called "experiment," not "failure."

Not to mention Prof. Lagerwey. He pulls me out of the woods every time I get stuck in life. I remember, back in 2016 when Trump was elected president, our whole campus was mad. I too was disoriented by that event, so I wrote to Prof. Lagerwey asking him how I should cope with it. He responded with a long email explaining world politics to me. Above all, he told me "when outside news is bad, double down on your own worthwhile work, and stick to your ideals." So, I learned from him not to get mad, but get to work.

## CCS PhD Graduate Accepts Post-doc Position at Columbia

Another student heavily influenced by Professor John Lagerwey is 2019 PhD Grad Marnyi Gyatso, who spent his years at CCS studying Chinese Buddhism. Originally from Chone, a small county in Kanlho Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture of Gansu, Gyatso travelled to Nanjing for his undergrad studies where he got his first job at the Jinling Buddhist Press. "My daily work was to collate sutras and to compile a catalogue of the extant sutra blocks carved from the 1870s to the 1950s". In 2014, he received a PhD offer to continue his research under Professor Jan Kiely at CCS. His original PhD thesis was inspired by his time at the Jinling Buddhist Press, but he changed his mind after taking courses with Professors Kiely and Lagerwey. Their courses concerning Chinese rural society and people's religious practices often led me to think about my hometown and its past."

"I felt the urge to write a history of my hometown, once a predominant religious and political centre in the

eastern Tibetan Plateau while on the margins of Central Tibet and China proper." His dissertation now focuses on the resilience of the Tibetan tsowa organization under the impact of waves of social violence, natural catastrophe and the Chinese state-building process on the Inner Asian Frontier. In three years Gyatso had completed his field research and his writing. "I did enjoy doing this research. For me, it was not only a journey to re-understand the land and history that nourished me, but also a 'road' that can take me home no matter where I am." After finishing his PhD, Gyatso lectured a course in the fall of 2020, Social Issues and Problems in Contemporary China. Although challenging due to the online method of teaching, Gyatso did enjoy the experience. "I am inspired by our students' adaptive capacity to the online mode of learning." The new semester will look a bit different for Gyatso, as he travels to New York City to accept a position as a Postdoctoral Research Scholar in the Weatherhead East Asian Institute at Columbia University, where he plans to turn his dissertation into a book manuscript. "I will also continue my research on the environmental history of the eastern Tibetan Plateau from the 14th to the 17th century." Gyatso will be missed at CCS, but he did have some parting words for our aspiring PhDs. "Our faculty spare no effort to make us qualified scholars. I think it's crucial for us to survive the training process by reading, writing, drinking and being reflexive."

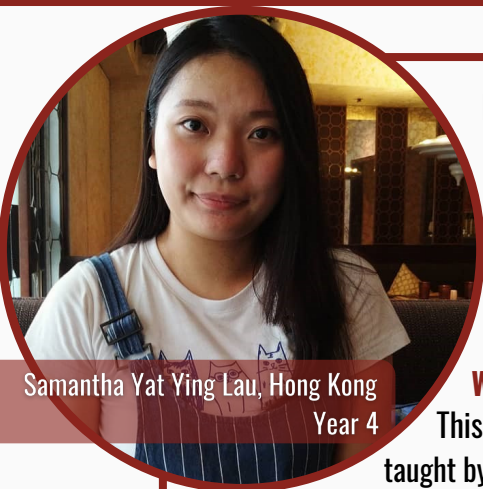
## Brown University Student Benefits from Exchange at CCS

Amid a pandemic, Brown PhD student Yu Cheng Shih, known as Richard to his friends, endured the two week quarantine in order to spend the fall semester studying at CCS. Shih is originally from Taiwan, and joined the PhD program at Brown in 2017. "My major academic interest is on China... China is a really big issue right now so we need to know more [about it], especially from the perspective of the lower-class society." While originally planning to research in mainland China, Shih found himself in Hong Kong after his plans changed due to COVID-19. "Since my wife had to start her job in Hong Kong, I thought that maybe I could go there as well, and CCS is one of the best institutions in my field." Shih considers himself lucky, as he found Professor Kiely to be incredibly supportive of his research. "He never says what I should or shouldn't do, so I can do whatever I want." Shih has benefited from the University Services Centre for China Studies, as it has a great collection on China. "...I would like to introduce also to other people in my field and [encourage them] to dig into these archives." Shih's research focuses on local fishermen in the Lake Tai at Yangtze River and how they have adjusted to the environment changes in modern China through the mid-19th century to the late 1950s. "I was also able to dig into religious practices, because for people from lower-class, there is no written archives. it's all about people's observations, so if you want to know about them, you need to get into their practices." Shih emphasized that Hong Kong was an ideal place to study, even during COVID. "...when doing research in mainland China sometimes we are not sure whether a religious topic would be too sensitive to study, but here in Hong Kong it is not a big issue." Shih's research is also benefited by his knowledge of Chinese dialects. "In Taiwan, besides Mandarin, there are two major local dialects. The first one is Hokkien...the second one is Hakka, which is very close to Cantonese, and the pronunciation of many words is similar. I was born in a family with roots in both Hakka and Hokkien families, so I know both of these languages." Knowing these dialects allowed him to understand a bit of Cantonese, while in Hong Kong. Shih looks at his time at CCS fondly, as he made good friends at CCS including PhD graduate Marnyi Gyatso and MPhil graduate Yan Yiqiao. "We shared many aspects of our research and had many debates about academic approaches." Shih mentioned that Hong Kong is special in that you are able to meet people from all walks of life here, which is different from his experience at Brown. "But in the United States... the highest percentage of foreign students is only 23%." Shih recently left Hong Kong to visit his family in Taiwan before hopefully leaving to do research in mainland China.



Shih pictured with Yan and Gyatso.

# MEET SOME OF OUR UNDERGRADS



Samantha Yat Ying Lau, Hong Kong  
Year 4

I'm a local final year student minoring in Hong Kong Sign Language. My academic interests include Hong Kong studies and Chinese society, particularly in urban development, cultures, family and marriage. The learning experience in CCS is incredibly meaningful and fruitful. I have developed a comprehensive understanding about China through its diversified courses including but not limited to history, arts, sociology, economics, and politics.

## **Which courses did you enjoy most this term?**

This term I have taken three CCS courses, China and Regional Order in Asia taught by Professor Tim Summers, Contemporary Chinese Popular Culture taught by Miss Sun and Social Research Methods taught by Professor Ling. All of them are great! But if I have to make one choice, I will recommend all of you to take Regional Order in Asia. At the beginning of the semester, I was quite nervous because I am not good at politics and I have never taken any IR course before. And I knew that Professor Summers was a former diplomat, I thought maybe he was a serious person. But the truth is that he is a very nice and easy-going teacher. He encouraged us to ask questions. He gave very detailed explanation on the IR theories which helped me a lot in understanding. I know politics is never an easy course, but it will help you to have a better understanding on the world's issues.

## **How does online learning differ from your expectations?**

I think I am enjoying the Zoom lessons more than I thought I would be. Mainly because I live in north-western part of Hong Kong which is far away from the campus. Now, I don't have to spend 2-3 hours on going back to school which give me more time to rest and study. Also, Zoom has discussion room function so that we can still discuss with our classmates no matter where they are. But of course, it will be great if we can have face-to-face lessons because I miss to see my teachers and friends at campus.

## **What are you most looking forward to when students are able to return to campus?**

I miss the food at CUHK! For instance, the beef rice noodle in Coffee Corner and the "cheap meal" 類飯 in Chung Chi Canteen. They are my all-time favourites. Whenever I don't know where to eat, I will go to these places. I also miss the view of CUHK. When I am in the campus, I prefer to walk instead of taking school bus as I love walking around to see our school. CUHK is so beautiful! You can see different pictures in every seasons, like student dem beats in summer and the falling leaves in Weiyuan Lake in autumn. When I am able to return to campus, I hope I can walk around our campus with my friends. And as a final year student, I hope I can have a photo day to record my best memory at CUHK and lastly, I want a face-to-face graduation ceremony.

## **Why were you interested in coming to CUHK as opposed to other universities in Hong Kong?**

I would say is because of CUHK's humanism. CUHK students are very concerned about the society and the world. Most of us are human-oriented rather than profit-oriented. In Hong Kong, people have stereotyped HKU and CUHK: HKU is for elites while CUHK is for the students who are truly care about society. I am not the person who is chasing for money. Instead, I care about how to make our place better. Besides, the liberal education of CUHK are also one of the reasons for me to study here. UGFN and UGFH are the best two courses I have ever taken. These two courses are very inspiring which have given me opportunities to think of the meanings of life and how to construct a better society. I don't think other universities in Hong Kong offer such inspiring courses.



Raymond Zheng Zhong Xiang,  
Shantou, China, Year 1

I am from a coastal city located on the eastern coast of mainland China, a city named Shantou. Hong Kong is such an incredible international metropolis as well as a well-known financial centre. This place could potentially offer me plenty of opportunities for future employment. Besides, I got to embrace a diversified culture of the east and the west combination. Since China has been growing in both economic and cultural significance, it will be interesting to learn about China to examine the rationale behind its policy-making, major culture changes, and ultimately understand the modernization process of Chinese society.

### **Which courses did you enjoy the most this term?**

The course Unofficial China is by far the course that I most enjoy this term, as it enables me to understand the complexity of Chinese society at different levels through studies of recognizing different social institutions as well as critical cultural patterns.

### **What aspect of the programme solidified your decision to apply?**

There are two aspects of the programme which fascinated me. The programme provides me with exchange study opportunities for enhancing my communication skills and embracing a different culture compared to where I originally come from. Besides, extracurricular activities, such as the summer field trip would offer me the hand-on experience to closely engage with Chinese culture and society, so that I could get a better understanding how China has been transforming itself compared to the past.

### **How does online learning differ from your expectations? Are you enjoying it more than you thought you would or less?**

The online learning model works pretty well for me since I am quite familiar with the operation of it with about one year of online learning experience before my entrance to CUHK. The online courses are designed carefully by the lecturers that could get me actively engage with the lectures and really learn from it.

### **What is some advice you'd give to students who are struggling to learn online? Have you found something that makes it easier to cope?**

Try to create To-do List for everyday studies, and that reminds you what to be completed each day. Plan ahead for your studies, prepare for lectures by going through lecture materials as well as revising the lecture contents in time right after the class.

### **Have you been able to/or do you think you'll be able to connect with your classmates/make friends during this online mode of teaching?**

Yes, I have managed to get to know several friends, both local and non-local from my major mostly through the channels of social media, e.g. WhatsApp, WeChat, Instagram.

### **What are you most looking forward to when students are able to return to campus?**

Hall life, campus restaurants, a series of face to face extra-curriculum actives and various school societies to join.

# MEET OUR MA STUDENTS



MA Jinghan  
Tianjin, China

Hi, my name is Ma Jinghan, and I was born and brought up in Tianjin. I got my MA degree in English at Sichuan University. I took a gap year between my undergraduate and master's studies and worked as a volunteer teacher in Hebei; that experience inspired me to pursue further studies.

## **What was volunteering as a teacher like, is there any connection between that and your current studies?**

During my undergraduate studies, I lived in my own uninterrupted world with novels. After graduation, with a romantic ideal of bucolic life, I joined an NGO named Teach Future China to do volunteer teaching in a village in Hebei. I taught only one class of Primary 3 students when I was there, but I was responsible for all the subjects, which included Chinese, English, Math, Music, Arts and even P.E. The work was demanding. On top of that, the living conditions were quite harsh. For example, we would have to get water from a well and in winter, water would freeze. Coupled with the fact that I experienced a bit of culture shock because the village locals and I have rather different worldviews and communication habits, I am sad to say I felt a sort of disillusionment. As I reflected on the experience, I came to the realization that much my understanding of the world is shaped by my cultural upbringing, which is limited. This realization urged me to look for opportunities to expand my horizons – I want to listen to other peoples' informed opinion about my country and the world, and development my understanding as well. And then I found CCS's MA program which offers courses for studying China. This is exactly what I wanted! So I did not hesitate to apply.

## **Can you talk about something which brings you joy or excitement this term?**

Well, one thing that is exciting but also a little bit painful is Prof. Kiely's course -- China under Mao. It is an advanced class and nothing like what I had experienced before. In fact, I used to not do very well in history class as a secondary school student. But I find this course and the assignments very challenging and inspiring. I especially like that I discovered new ways to learn about historical events (such as oral history). I learnt a lot from Prof. Kiely and my fellow classmates

## **What is some advice you'd give to students who are struggling to learn online? Have you found something that makes it easier to cope?**

I want to share a tip that I find very useful in attending online classes: focus on the voice rather than the image. I learnt this from Dr Chen Ju-chen in the Anthropology department. She said that most distractions in Zoom classes are visual. This totally works for me: I am usually distracted by technological difficulties (such as screen freezing and audio lagging). The aching of my eyes, the uneasiness of feeling stared at all the time and the consequent excessive self-awareness also add to the problem. Most importantly, I am also distracted by my urge to look around the environment which is much bigger and much more attractive than the screen of my device, even though I am aware that I have to focus. Thus I decided to shift my attention from the faces of my teachers and classmates to their voices. This tip may not be useful to all, but if you find it hard to focus, have a try and I hope it will help you too!



FU Boyu "Gavin"  
Beijing, China

I was born in Beijing and schooled in an international school in Shanghai. I earned my undergraduate degree from Colby College in the U.S. (with a major in East Asian Studies in concentration of Japanese and a minor in philosophy). I chose to study Japanese because of my family – both my parents speak fluent Japanese and as a child I lived in Japan for two years as well.

### **What was it like to study in a small liberal arts college like Colby?**

All of the classes I'm taking are offered by CCS, and since CCS has small class sizes, I don't think there is a lot of differences between my experience at Colby and what I now have at CCS.

### **Why did you choose CCS to pursue your further studies? What aspect(s) of the programme solidified your decision to apply?**

I chose CCS due to its rigorous academic program. I was also very attracted by the excellent faculty members. Specifically, I really wished to work with Professor Kiely, Professor Lagerwey and Professor Summers; I'm really glad I enrolled in their classes. Besides, CUHK has one of the best collections of resources about China in the world, which is extremely helpful for students like me, since I wish to have comprehensive access to primary and secondary sources on China. Professor Kiely is arranging to take his students on a tour of the Universities Service Centre next week so we can take advantage of the sources and materials there in order to work on our research papers for his class. All in all, I think Hong Kong is probably one of the best places to study contemporary China due to its unique location. The social movements and political events which took place last year also piqued my interest. I'm quite satisfied with my decision to come here.

### **Which course(s) did you enjoy the most this fall term?**

Professor Summers's China and Regional Order in Asia is a great course. The readings are all intriguing and I really enjoy the discussions we had during the lectures and in the tutorials. Since students are from different backgrounds (as an example, some of my classmates are local students, some are from South Korea, still more are from other places), it is always great to be able to hear different views on various weekly topics. One of the topics which I am particularly interested in is the theoretical comparison between liberalism and realism in international relations. It's kind of specific, but I really enjoy learning and thinking about it. Another class that I really enjoy is Professor Kiely's China under Mao. My favourite parts of the class are the Round-the-Table sessions and the critique sessions, in which students are expected to summarize the readings in a succinct way, lead the class into discussions and offer insights. Since the class size is quite small, everyone can share their thoughts, which is a terrific way of learning; I really like it.

### **Are you currently in Hong Kong or staying at home?**

I prefer face-to-face classes because I think I learn better in that setting, so I came to Hong Kong before the term started. I went through 14-day quarantine, which I thought might be boring, but the assigned course readings kept me kind of busy, so the quarantine was not too bad after all.





# CCS STUDENT AND FACULTY NEWS

Research Updates, Awards, Promotions, & Publications

photo submitted by CCS graduate Jaliff YIU

## Publications

### Full-time Faculty

The second edition of **Professor Tim Summers's** book *China's Hong Kong: The Politics of a Global City* is published by Agenda Publishing in November 2020.

**Professor Li Chen** and Dr. Guanie Lim and Mr. Emirza Adi Syailendra of Nanyang Technological University, co-authored a journal article on *World Development*. The article is titled "Why is It so Hard to Push Chinese Railway Projects in Southeast Asia? The Role of Domestic Politics in Malaysia and Indonesia".

**Professor Ling Minhua** published a journal article on *HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory*. The article is titled "Living between incongruous worlds in Hong Kong."

**Professor Kristof Van den Troost** published a journal article in *Asian Education and Development Studies*. The article is titled "Propagandist or Objective Observer? Independent Documentaries in/on Hong Kong's Recent Social Movements".

**Professor Kristof Van den Troost** published a book chapter. The chapter is titled "Genre and Censorship: The Crime Film in Late Colonial Hong Kong", in *Renegotiating Film Genres in East Asian Cinemas and Beyond* (co-edited by Feng Lin and James Aston).

### RPg Students and Graduates

**Dr. Marnyi Gyatso** published a journal article, "The Ming, Tibetan and Mongol Interactions in Shaping the Ming Fortification, Multicultural Society and Natural Landscape in Mdo smad, 1368–1644." *Revue d'Etudes Tibétaines* 55 (2020): 351–384.

**Dr. Gyatso** additionally published, "The Legacy of Lama Karmo (1835–1895): An Unsettled Dispute between Chone and Labrang on the Inner Asian Frontier." *Waxing Moon: Journal for Tibetan and Himalayan Studies* (accepted).

### Part-time Faculty

**Dr. Jackson Yeh** contributed to two edited volumes in 2020. His first piece, titled "China's Influence on Hong Kong's Economy: Lessons from Mainland Tourism", is part of *China's Influence in Centre-periphery Tug of War in Hong Kong, Taiwan and Indo-Pacific* (edited by Brian C. H. Fong, Jieh-min Wu and Andrew J. Nathan; published by Routledge).

**Dr. Séverine Arsène** authored an article titled "China's Social Credit System: A Chimera with Real Claws" in *Asie.Visions* (no. 110, November 2019).

### Alumni

**Ms. Gao Mei**, 2020 graduate of the MA in Chinese Studies programme, on *Journal of Communication and Languages* No. 53 (2020). The article is titled "Between Ontology and Hauntology: Magic Realism in Contemporary Chinese Cinema".

### Invited Talks

**Professor Gao Yunwen** was invited by the University of Southern California (USC) to offer a talk at the Eileen Chang Centennial Celebration event "Love, Lust, Caution: Centennial Celebration of the Cross-Cultural Legacies of Eileen Chang" on 20 November 2020. The title of Professor Gao's talk was "Approaching Eileen Chang through translation". You can listen to her edited talk on the CCS podcast, on Spotify, Apple Music, and Soundcloud.

### Promotions

**Todd Klaiman**, PhD candidate in Chinese Studies, accepted a teaching position in the Department of Asian Studies, Langara College, Vancouver, Canada. Next term, Klaiman will defend his doctoral dissertation, "Translocal Chinese Religiosity in Southeast Asia: Kek Lok Monastery and the Rise of Chinese Monastic Buddhism in Penang, 1887-1987."