The Hong Kong I Love - Lin Xi

Hong Kong Studies; 10 Apr, 2014

On 10th April, SMLC’s Hong Kong Studies Programme hosted Lin Xi (林夕), well-known lyricist and HKU alumnus. Speaking to a full house in the Grand Hall, Lin explained certain challenges to the creative process brought about by the changing socio-political climate in Hong Kong. The lyricist cautioned against self-censorship of record companies in Hong Kong, Taiwan, and China and underscored the difficulties of writing songs that would satisfy sensitive record producers while remaining faithful to oneself. “You can’t blame others for cultural degradation when you censor your own works before any government censorship,” Lin said.
EUAP Annual Conference

European Studies; 28-29 Nov 2013

Security communities and security risk management in Europe and East Asia was the central theme of the first European Union Academic Programme (EUAP) Conference held at the University of Hong Kong in November 2013. As intercontinental activities are more frequent than ever, securities institutions are larger in scale, from state level to continent level. Participants from Hong Kong, Europe, and South East Asia discussed several aspects of security communities and security risk management in Europe and East Asia. With China becoming a prominent player in global political stage, the regional dynamic has changed and it has triggered anxieties among its neighbours. Participants of the conference addressed the differences of security communities in Europe and East Asia, political and cultural factors that affect the effectiveness of security governance arrangements, security challenges, common tactics of security cooperation, and the potentialities and the constraints of a valid security governance mechanism.

Publications

AUER, Stefan
'The Holocaust as Fiction: From Andrzej Wajda’s Korczak to Quentin Tarantino’s Inglorious Basterds'
in Gwenda Tavan (editor), State of the Nation: Essays for Robert Manne
Melbourne, Black Inc. October 2013

JOHNSON, Kendall
"Reading for Contexts of American Orientalism from the Far East to the Far West"
American Literary History (ALH) 25.3 (Fall 2013): 638-659
Creative Management in Luxury Industry Programme

Global Creative Industries; 9 Oct 2013

The School of Modern Languages and Cultures and the TSL | 謝瑞麟 Foundation introduced a new programme called "Creative Management in Luxury Industry Programme 2013-2014" for undergraduate students of HKU.

Commenting on the cooperation with the TSL | 謝瑞麟 Foundation in the programme’s opening ceremony, Dr. Kendall Johnson, Head of the School of Modern Languages and Cultures, said, "Diversity and creativity have always been at the core of our School. Working together with the TSL | 謝瑞麟 Foundation to put together this brand new Programme that combines academic theories with real-business experiences will definitely add a new dimension to understanding the luxury industry that goes beyond what a normal undergraduate course can offer. With resources provided by the TSL | 謝瑞麟 Foundation, complemented by other distinguished speakers who are leaders in their respective fields, I am sure students of HKU will find the Programme both interesting and rewarding."

The "Creative Management in Luxury Industry Programme 2013-2014" is designed for all undergraduate students of HKU who are interested in the luxury industry. It is a one-semester non-credit bearing programme running from February to April 2014. The Programme consists of multiple sessions during which students will participate in both in-class and out-of-class activities. It combines lectures, case studies, firm visit and renowned guest-speaker sharing. Interactive communication with the distinguished speakers will enable students to get an all-round understanding about the application of creativity in the real world business management.
ASN Conference

American Studies, 15-17 Nov 2013

The 10th Anniversary Conference of the American Studies Network of the US-China Education Trust was hosted by the American Studies Programme from 15 to 17 November 2013. The conference featured close to 100 speakers from around the world including over thirty from universities throughout Mainland China. In 24 panels and three keynote addresses, scholars explored the conference topic “Transnational Currents of US-China Relations” from a broad range of disciplinary approaches including political science, history, literature and film studies, media studies, sociology, and religious studies. After a reception at the residence of the US Consul General, the programme began with a keynote speech by Mr. James Fallows, National Correspondent of The Atlantic, on “The Undiscovered Country of America,” in which he drew on recent travels through rural America and presented an optimistic assessment of Americans’ resilience and creativity in response to transformations of the economy and ensuing hardships. Professor Shelley Fisher Fishkin of Stanford University concluded the day with the second keynote lecture on “Transnational American Studies Today: The U.S. and China,” which made a strong case for transnational approaches to American studies at the example of the Chinese Workers in North America project based at Stanford University. One highlight of the conference was the anniversary celebration gala dinner at the Conrad Hotel, which featured a conversation between Mr. James Fallows and Mr. Ronnie C. Chan, Chairman of Hang Lung Properties and Co-Chairman of the Asia Society. After the dinner, the co-chairman treated all conference participants to a private tour of the gallery and the historic grounds of the Asia Society. The two and a half day event concluded with a third keynote by Professor Marilyn Lake of the University of Melbourne, who explored “The Apprehension of Chinese Power: A Transnational and Historical Perspective.” Professor Lake demonstrated that fears of the “rise of China” have a long history in the Western imagination and are by no means limited to China’s recent economic resurgence.

The School of Modern Languages and Cultures is thankful to the sponsors who made this event possible: The University of Hong Kong, US-China Education Trust, US Consulate General in Hong Kong and Macau, and the Luce Foundation.
The Spanish Programme, in collaboration with Edinumen publishing house, held the II Teacher Training Conference for Teachers of Spanish as a Foreign Language on March 14th & 15th 2014. The conference attracted over one hundred participants from Asia, Europe, Australasia and America.

The aim of the conference was to bring together teachers and educators in order to share their knowledge and experience in the field of Spanish as a Foreign Language. There were a total of four plenary talks: Jose Manuel Foncubierta talked about Visual Alphabetization and Second Language Acquisition; Prof. Jane Arnold, of The University of Seville, dealt with the issue of the Affective Filter in Second Language learning; Dr. Zhang Peng, Dean of the Faculty of Spanish at the University of Foreign Studies in Tianjin, spoke about a project to teach Chinese graduates how to teach Chinese culture in Spanish; and finally, Dr. Fernando Trujillo, of the University of Granada, closed the conference on the second day with a plenary talk about the issue of Digital and Intercultural Competence in foreign language teaching.

In addition to the plenary talks, there were a total of twenty workshops on different aspects of teaching and learning Spanish as a Foreign Language. Participants expressed their satisfaction with the conference and their hope that it continues being held in years to come.
Global Connections

In 2012, the SMLC launched its Global Connections Series. Edited by Dixon H. W. Wong, the Series explores the movement of ideas, people, technologies, capital and goods across national and regional borders. Contributing authors reveal how these interconnections have the power to produce new global forms of cultures, politics, identities and economies. Currently there are four titles in the series, ranging from topics that include colonial architecture in Asia, Chinese Fashion, and the commercial and political relationships between China and the United States and Europe. With new titles in the pipeline, the Global Connections series will continue to build international networks of interdisciplinary scholarship that showcase the vitality of our area studies programs and the diversity of cultures here in the SMLC.

For more on the Global Connections series, and a list of its current titles, please take a look at: http://www.hkupress.org/

Series General Editor: WONG, Dixon H. W.

VOGT, Roland
Europe and China: Strategic Partners or Rivals?
Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press
2012

JOHNSON, Kendall
Narratives of Free Trade: The Commercial Cultures of Early US-China Relations
Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press
2012

TSUI, Christine 冷芸
China Fashion: Conversations with Designers
中国时尚: 与中国设计师对话
Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press
2013
Academic Talks

**European Studies**

SMLC Seminar; 9 Oct 2013 (Wed)

**Tocqueville on religion in democracies: natural or supernatural?**

By Dr. Üner DAGLIER

**American Studies**

SMLC Seminar; 27 Nov 2013 (Wed)

**Mark Twain in China**

By Dr. Selina LAI

**SMLC Seminar; 20 Mar 2014 (Thu)**

**Hailing the Subject: Visual and Narrative Progression in Nananan’s Blue**

By Prof. Monica CHI U

**American Studies**

SMLC Seminar; 30 Oct 2013 (Wed)

**Looking for a Modern Hercules: The Strongman Figure in American and Global Culture**

By Prof. Simon J. BRONNER

**American Studies**

SMLC Seminar; 26 Mar 2014 (Wed)

**Chinese American Women: Photography, Memoir and History**

By Dr. Robert G. LEE

**European Studies**

SMLC Seminar; 12 Feb 2014 (Wed)

**Behind the Suez Canal: Colonial Geopolitics and Anglo-French Rivalry, 1859-1869**

By Dr. James R. FICTHER

**European Studies**

SMLC Seminar; 16 Apr 2014 (Wed)

**Holocaust Literature and the Taboo**

By Dr. Matthew BOSWELL

**Hong Kong Studies**

SMLC Seminar; 5 Mar 2014 (Wed)

**Lost (and Found) in Transition: Hong Kong Culture Reconfigured in the Age of China**

By Prof. Stephen CHU

**Korean Studies**

23 Oct 2013 (Wed)

**Everyday Lives and Economic Conditions in the DPRK**

By Mr. Matthew REI CHEL
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<td>American Studies</td>
<td>Mr. Nicholas KRALEV</td>
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<td>21 Mar 2014</td>
<td>Disease, Medicine and Colonialism in Africa: Robert Koch's 1898 Medical Expedition in German East Africa</td>
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<td>Screening and Round Table Discussion: Holocaust Impiety: Quentin Tarantino's Inglorious Basterds</td>
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<td>Between Hong Kong and Japan: The Violence of Disappearance in Ye Si and Tomatsu Shomei</td>
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<td>25 Apr 2014</td>
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<td>6 June 2014</td>
<td>Harnessing the Human Frontier: The Orochen and Qing Borderland Administration</td>
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Events

Korean Studies

3 Oct 2013 (Thu)
Making Films My Way: In Conversation with Director Kang Je-gyu

By Mr. KANG Je-gyu

Kang Je-gyu (姜帝圭) is the director of South Korea’s first ever blockbuster Shiri《生死諜變》 which broke all records upon its release in 1999. It was seen by over 6.5 million people, 2 million more than previous record holder Titanic. Kang followed this success in 2004 with another record-breaking film, Taegukgi: The Brotherhood of War《太極旗飄揚》. The film made its director a member of the exclusive 10 million admissions club. His most recent film, My Way《登陸之日》, is a sweeping historical epic centering on a Korean marathon runner in Japanese-occupied Korea who is conscripted into the Japanese Imperial Army, made a prisoner of war in the Soviet Union, and eventually caught up in the Allied Invasion of Normandy in 1944 fighting for the Germans.

3 Oct & 7 Oct 2013
Peruvian Movie Days

Introduction by Mr. David MALAGA

Spanish

4 Oct 2013 (Fri)
Pursue Your Entrepreneurial Ambitions

By Ms. Carol’Ann TAPPAZ

22 Oct 2013 (Tue)
Learn about the new trend in Hollywood: TransMedia, the future of entertainment and media

By Ms. Carol’Ann TAPPAZ

Global Creative Industries

Shin Kyung-sook (申京淑) made her literary debut in 1985 by winning the Munye Joongang New Author Prize with the novella Winter’s Fable. Since then, Shin became one of South Korea’s most widely read and acclaimed novelists. Shin has been honored with the Manhae Prize for Literature, the Dong-in Literature Prize, and the Yi Sang Literary Prize, as well as France’s Prix de l’Inaperçu. She won the 2011 Man Asian Literary Prize, the first Korean and woman to do so, for her novel Please Look After Mom. The book has been translated into several languages and sold in over 30 countries. It featured on the New York Times best seller list and was selected as one of the Best Books of 2011 by the editors of amazon.com. Shin’s works have significantly raised the status of contemporary Korean literature worldwide.

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22 Oct 2013 (Tue)
Learn about the new trend in Hollywood: TransMedia, the future of entertainment and media

By Ms. Carol’Ann TAPPAZ

Korean Studies

31 Oct 2013 (Thu)
On Family and Gender in Korea: Man Asian Literary Prize Winner Shin Kyung-sook

By Ms. SHIN Kyung-sook
Oct 2013

**German October**

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**Japanese Studies**

13 Oct 2013 (Sun)

**Workshop on Curriculum Design and Development for Japanese Language Education**

By Prof. Yoshikazu KAWAGUCHI

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**Spanish**

11 Nov, 21 Nov & 26 Nov 2013

**Argentine Movie Days**

Introduction by Mr. Luciano BATTAGLIA

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**Arabic**

22 Oct – 13 Nov 2013

**Arabic Learning Workshop**

By Dr. Mohammad A.A. ALOMAI RNI

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**Swedish**

4 Nov 2013 (Mon)

**Mythical Muses of the Land of Ice**

By Sjón

Sjón’s talk explored the significance of myths in the contemporary world and how they have inspired his artistic output. In 2001, his long-time collaboration with the Icelandic singer Björk led to an Oscar nomination for his lyrics for the Lars von Trier movie *Dancer in the Dark.*

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**German**

2 Dec to 13 Dec 2013

**We want to be free men! The East German People’s Uprising of 17 June 1953**

Panelists of the round-table:

- Dr. Martin CHUNG
- Dr. Tim GRUENEWALD
- Dr. Andreas LEUTZSCH

The exhibition commemorated the 60th anniversary of the East German people’s uprising against their government in 1953 and was shown in the Foyer of the Chi Wah Learning Commons, Centennial Campus, HKU. The exhibition was jointly organized by the German Consulate General of Hong Kong and the School of Modern Languages and Cultures at HKU.

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**German**

29 Jan 2014 (Wed)

**Meeting Famous Germans at HKU – Meeting with German Olympic Medalist Marcel Nguyen**

By Mr. Marcel NGUYEN

German gymnast and Olympic medalist Marcel Nguyen visited HKU and met with students of SMLC German programme during his stay in Hong Kong in January. In a Q&A session, he talked about his athletic life. This event was organized by SMLC’s German programme.
Symposium: Contextualizing Intercomprehension Strategies in Hong Kong Foreign Language Classes

The concept of intercomprehension (IC) in respect of the didactics of languages has drawn much attention lately in Europe, owing to a host of factors: the European integration, language and social diversity, people mobility, linguistic multi-competence and intercultural dialogue. This symposium organized by the French programme, aimed to explore a recontextualizing of intercomprehension in an extra-European setting so as to provide fresh perspectives to local language teachers and specialists of language education.

Japanese Studies

Japanese Month 2014

In April 2014, SMLC’s Japanese Studies held a series of Japanese cultural events. This year’s Japan Month included ema boards, kimono workshop, mochitsuki (rice cake pounding), mini model UN on the topic of nuclear energy in East Asia, and student performances. Japan Month was Co-organized with Japanese Society, A.A.H.K.U.S.U. and supported by Canon, Hong Kong Judokan, Japan Airlines, Okami Association of Japanese Ryokan, and Global Lounge.