New Programme—African Studies

The African Studies Programme is an interdisciplinary area studies programme offering various courses for undergraduate students. Our courses approach the African continent from different angles and cover its complex history, literature and musical traditions.

In recent years, the relationship between the African continent and China experienced dramatic changes that translated into frequent visits of top Chinese political leaders to various African countries; an exponential increase of Chinese investment in the continent and in the extension of impressive loans to African states. The University of Hong Kong has recognized this shift in momentum and has taken on the task of providing a pool of academically-trained and culturally sensitized students.

The African Studies Programme is the only field of study in Hong Kong and southern China that offers interdisciplinary courses dealing with the mostly unknown complex realities of Africa. The programme is situated within the faculty of Arts, but it is also open to students from other faculties.

The African Studies Programme is ideal for students whose interest in Africa goes beyond disciplinary divides. Although we are only offering a Bachelor of Arts minor in African Studies at the moment, plans are currently underway to turn this unique programme into a major by introducing a wide range of exciting new courses.

Dr. Facil Tesfaye
Programme Director
Assistant Professor

Dr Tesfaye has a PhD in History from McGill University (Montréal/Canada). He also holds an MA in Political Science from the Université du Quebec à Montréal. He did his undergraduate studies in African Studies and Political Science at the Humboldt University in Berlin (Germany).

- Research and Teaching Interests
Our students...

KWOK, Pui Ki Patricia

Africa is arguably one of the most heavily stereotyped places in the world. The typical association with poverty and war actually exists elsewhere too. By engaging in African Studies, I hope to conduct an interdisciplinary analysis on several critical issues. I believe that our world can be understood more accurately only with the full picture taken into consideration. In any case, Africa is just as equally important as any other parts of the world. The learning of Bantu languages such as Swahili and Chichewa has provided me with insights related to African culture, history and linguistics situations. Meanwhile, the reflection on the colonial legacy in Africa has been highly inspiring, which might be able to provide explanations for many recent conflicts. The academic enlightenment has equipped me with a better understanding of the African continent, which will certainly become a pre-requisite for my career trajectory in the future.

CHENG, Kwan Yee Queenie

I decided to take AFRI 1001: Introduction to African Studies because Africa is the origin of the ancient civilization and the cradle of the humankind. Therefore, it would be interesting to learn more about this part of the world and its development over the past thousand years. After taking 2 courses offered by African Studies Programme, I have come to appreciate African cultures and histories in many different ways. We were offered the chance to study works related to Africa by scholars from around the world. The wide variety of readings available allowed us to examine a specific from different perspectives. Moreover, the lecturer adopted different elements to the class, such as movies, guest seminars, visit to museums to name but a few. These interactive elements made the lessons more interesting and fruitful, hence we were motivated to explore beyond the topics listed on the syllabus! I would recommend AFRI 1001 to anyone who is interested in the study of Africa. The content is easy to comprehend as this course adopts a direct approach to tackle common topics of Africa at an introductory level.

Africa@ HKU – Angola Today

28 Oct 2014 (Tue)
Seminar: Africa: Challenges and Opportunities
by Dr. Ria SINHA & Carina KIALA, Consulate General of Angola in HK

4 Nov 2014 (Tue)
Seminar: African Lusophone writers. The remarkable life and work of Angolan poet, Agostinho Neto

6 Nov 2014 (Thu)
EXPO – Angola Today

More events are planned for 2015. Please follow updates on http://www.african.hku.hk/
El Greco (Lecture & Movie Screening)

Greek and Spanish Programme, 27 Nov, 2014

The year 2014 marked the 400th anniversary of the death of Doménikos Theotokópoulos, a Renaissance painter better known in the art world by his nickname, El Greco (The Greek). Born in Greece, El Greco spent most of his life in Spain, in Toledo, where he also died. El Greco’s works are easily recognized because of his elongated figures and his characters’ dramatic expressions. To commemorate the life and work of this very important artist, the Consulates of Greece and Spain, in cooperation with The School of Modern Languages and Cultures, organized a screening on November 27th of a film which documented the life and work of El Greco. The screening was preceded by a scholarly presentation by Mr. Juan José Morales about the artist, and followed by a reception where participants had the opportunity to taste wine and delicacies from Greece and Spain, the host countries. The event was attended by the Consuls General of Greece and Spain, other consular representatives from the European Union, and was well attended by members of the Greek and Spanish communities in Hong Kong, teachers, students and the general public.

While Hong Kong Still Has Us

趁香港還有我們

Hong Kong Studies, 10 Oct, 2014

Dr. Chow Yiu Fai, veteran lyricist, HKU Arts Faculty alumnus and Assistant Professor of Department of Humanities and Creative Writing at Hong Kong Baptist University, hosted a Hong Kong Studies Programme Public Seminar - “While Hong Kong Still Has Us” - on 10 October 2014. He shared with the audience in Loke Yew Hall his views on recent developments of Hong Kong culture and society. Hong Kong has been witnessing many controversies over the past decade. Using his own experience as example, Dr. Chow reiterated the importance of imagination, articulation and resistance in this particular context.
International Conference of Commerce, Production and Markets in Creative Industries


International Conference of Commerce, Production and Markets in Creative Industries was held at Centennial Campus, the University of Hong Kong on 25 October 2014. The conference has been supported by the Postgraduate Students Conference/ Seminar Grant of the Research Grants Council, Hong Kong.

This conference aimed to provide a platform for researchers and postgraduate students from different disciplines to explore various topics on commerce, production and markets in creative industries. After Dr. Dixon Heung Wah Wong, director of Global Creative Industries Program, gave a warm welcome speech, about 12 researchers from UK, Korea, Mainland China and Hong Kong presented their papers in four sessions: Animation, Celebrity and Culture; Advertising; J-pop & K-pop; Music & Television.

The keynote Speech was titled Constructing the Public Self: Online Reputation and the Personification of Value given by Professor David Marshall. Professor Marshall is a research professor and holding a personal chair in new media, communication and cultural studies at Deakin University, Australia. He has published several books that have helped establish the study of celebrity and the public personality as well as explore new media cultures, media and popular culture from a cultural studies perspective.

This conference was organized by Ms. ZHANG Mei and Miss CHANG Ching-fang, both Ph.D. Candidates of School of Modern Languages and Cultures, and was supported by School of Modern Languages and Cultures, the University of Hong Kong.
After the Leviathan? 
About the creation of global lines of politics and polity in and after the Age of Extremes

European Studies, 23-24 Oct, 2014

From 23rd till 24th of October 2014 the School of Modern Languages and Cultures hosted the international conference "After the Leviathan? About the Creation of global lines of politics and polity in and after the Age of Extremes", which was organized by DAAD Visiting Assistant Professor Dr. Andreas Leutzsch and the European Studies Programme. The conference was sponsored by the German Consulate General and supported by the Common Core Curriculum and brought together scholars from Australia, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Norway and the Netherlands.

Whereas the first part of the conference dealt with theoretical questions regarding world order and world society, the second part focused on the question what kind of role historical parallels and public commemoration play for empowering “global” values.

The first part of the conference consisted of three panels: “Rethinking world in and after Behemoth”, “The Recreation of global lines?” and “Overcoming global lines?”, including contributions on Carl Schmitt’s theory by Dr. Auer (HKU), Dr. Derman (HKUST), Prof. Carty (HKU), and Dr. Leutzsch (HKU), law of nations by Dr. Johnson (HKU), and regionalism by Prof. Veitch (HKU). The contributions by Dr. Pianciola (Lignan), Dr. Tesfaye (HKU), Dr. Fichter (HKU), Dr. D. Wong (HKU), Prof. Abelshauser and Dr. Koch (Bielefeld U.), Dr. Ahlers (Oslo), Dr. Visone (Pisa), Prof. Cristauod (Darwin), Dr. Pavkovic (Macquarie) an Dr. J. Wong (HKU) dealt with concepts of and examples for the constitution and reconfiguration of global lines in different perspectives.

Prof. Rudolf Stichweh (Bonn), who is one of the most well known theoreticians of world society theory and Professor Dahrendorf for the theory of modern society and President of the Institute for International Science at the University of Bonn, discussed in his key-note speech evolution and socio-cultural diversity in world society.

The second part of the conference dealt with the “power of historical analogies” and the role history and commemoration of war and terror play for creating world society as a normative social space. These both panels included talks and comments regarding historical parallels by Prof. Antoon de Baets (RUG Groningen), who is founder of the “Network of Concerned Historians”, Dr. Vogt (HKU), and Prof. Kochhar-Lindgren (HKU). Finally, Dr. Chung (BUHK), Dr. Gruenewald, Dr. Knothe, and Dr. Leutzsch (all HKU) discussed examples for the transnationalisation of public commemoration in the United States and Hong Kong. The conference papers shall be published 2015/2016. Please contact Dr. Leutzsch regarding any inquiries (leutzsch@hku.hk).
Academic Talks

Korean Studies

SMLC Seminar; 17 Sep 2014 (Wed)
Rethinking the Rise of Confucianism in Medieval Korea
By Dr. Javier CHA

SMLC Seminar; 8 Oct 2014 (Wed)
South Korea’s Elusive Middlepowermanship in the US-South Korea-China Strategic Triangle
By Dr. Soon-ok SHIN

China Studies

SMLC Seminar; 29 Oct 2013 (Wed)
Chinese Translocal Migration to Peru, 1849-1890
By Dr. Felipe RUBIO

American Studies

SMLC Seminar; 10 Nov 2014 (Mon)
Sex and the Founding Fathers: The American Quest for a Relatable Past
By Prof. Thomas FOSTER

Spanish

Book talk; 20 Nov 2014 (Thu)
HKUL Book Talk - Migration and Theatre (Migración y teatro)
By Dr. Nora PAROLA-LECONTE
Moderator: Ms. Mercedes VÁZQUEZ

Hong Kong Studies

Conference; 7-9 Dec 2014 (Sun-Tue)
Hong Kong As Method (香港作為方法) International Conference
Featuring Mr CHAN Koonchung & Prof. Leo LEE
chairperson Professor Anthony FUNG

African Studies

SMLC Seminar; 26 Nov 2014 (Wed)
By Dr. Cole ROSKAM

African Studies

18 Dec 2014 (Thu)
African Studies in the United States of America: Structure, Governance, and Funding Opportunities
By Prof. Samuel Gyasi OBENG
Publications

MEYER, Denis C. and WAGLÉ, Anuradha
Au Bord de l’Inde - Portraits d’objets, d’icônes et de célébrités
New Delhi: Goyal Publishers and Distributors, 2014

This book is a collection of objects, icons and celebrities that are marked by their pan-Indianness and unified by a sense of collective experience and identity. These objects may be looked at distinct notes of a musical piece, pitches that come together to compose a cultural landscape in which every Indian is immersed.

The purpose of this book is to sketch brief portraits of these objects, which manifest themselves in various modes, each representing a symbolic field: glorify, believe, fight, admire and enjoy. Whether it is real or mythical heroes, passions or superstitions, struggles against injustice, things to marvel at or flavours to taste, they can all be narrated, deciphered and (re)discovered. One just needs to stand at a point that will reveal a bit of it all — at India’s edge, Au Bord de l’Inde.

Global Connection Series

GRUENEWALD, Tim
"From Fan Activism to Graphic Narrative: Culture and Race in Gene Luen Yang’s Avatar: The Last Airbender."
Drawing New Color Lines: Transnational Asian American Graphic Narratives
Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2015. Pages 165-188

AUER, Stefan
Europe, Ukraine and the German Roots of the New Russian Geopolitics
Fifth International Symposium on European Languages in East Asia
“Crises, Changes, and Chances: The European Conundrum”
October 24-25, 2014. (Publication No.: 241508)

AUER, Stefan
Ukraine between Europe and Russia and the Return of Geopolitics
Sino-European Strategic Dialogue, organized by CIICR (China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations) in collaboration with Asia Centre (Paris) and IHEDN
Beijing: 1-2 December 2014. (Publication No.: 241778)

Others

AUER, Stefan
"Maidan between Europe and Russia and the Return of Geopolitics”
Testfall Ukraine - Europa und seine Werte [The Test Case Ukraine: Europe and its Values]
Berlin: Suhrkamp, 2015

AUER, Stefan
Ukraine between Europe and Russia and the Return of Geopolitics
Sino-European Strategic Dialogue, organized by CIICR (China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations) in collaboration with Asia Centre (Paris) and IHEDN
Beijing: 1-2 December 2014. (Publication No.: 241778)
EDWARDS, Louise P.
Qing Dai Zhongguo De Nan Xing Yu Nü Xing - Hongliumeng Zhong De Xin Bie
清代中國的男性與女性：《紅樓夢》中的性別
Trans. Youjun Nie
Beijing: Peking University Print, 2014

GÓMEZ AMICH, María, and PÉREZ ABAD, Abel
“Situación del español en un país africano multilingüe: el caso de Sudáfrica”
La Enseñanza Del Español En África Subsahariana

TEO, Victor EL & GUEN, L (Eds.).
The Koreans between China and Japan
Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK: Cambridge Scholars Publishing. 2014

TESFAYE, Facil
Statistiqué(s) et génocide au Rwanda: la genèse d’un système de catégorisation ‘génocidaire’

VÁZQUEZ, Maria Mercedes
“Brazil at a Socio-Cinematic Crossroads. State Intervention on Screen.”
Maryland: Lexington Books, 2014

Forthcoming

LAI-HENDERSON, Selina
Mark Twain in China
California: Stanford University Press, 2015

Wong, HW and Sugiura, M (Eds.)
Japanese Consumer Creativity: User Innovations, Role Playing and Consumer Communities
United States: Routledge. 2015
## In the Media

**European Studies**

**Dr. AUER, Stefan**

**To Vima Newspaper**  
(Greece)  
06 Sep 2014

**Kathimerini daily newspaper**  
(Greece)  
07 Sep 2014

**"Scottish Referendum - what's the future of Scotland?"**  
Radio 3, RTHK; Backchat  
18 Sep 2014

**'Scotland referendum is a wake-up call'**  
CNBC's Squawk Box  
22 Sep 2014

**Just how revolutionary is Hong Kong's 'umbrella movement'?**  
South China Morning Post  
21 Oct 2014

**The Prime Time News Bulletin: "Velke Noviny"**  
TV JOJ, Slovak TV station  
03 Dec 2014

**Hong Kong Studies**

**Prof. CHU, Stephen**

**【人物訪問】本土文化的出路——訪問朱耀偉教授**  
Local Press (本土新聞)  
12 Aug 2014

**廣東歌已死?**  
TVB; Sunday Report (星期日檔案)  
30 Nov 2014

**廣東歌再生**  
TVB; Sunday Report (星期日檔案)  
7 Dec 2014

**“香港一代鬼才”黃霑**  
Radio 2, RTHK; 思潮作動·文明單位  
12 Dec 2014

**Programme 52: Postcolonialism**  
Radio 3, RTHK; The Big Idea  
20 Dec 2014

**Japanese Studies**

**Dr. NAKANO, Yoshiko**

**Student Protest in Hong Kong**  
Nikkei Newspaper  
21 Sep 2014

**Nakano's Profile in a column “Hong Kong Power People”**  
Concierge  
December 2014

**A 1350-character column**  
Yomiuri Newspaper Asia edition  
Every 5 weeks

**Korean Studies**

**Dr. CHA, Javier**

**韓國文化**  
Radio 1, RTHK; 講東講西  
2 Dec 2014

**Spanish**

**Ms. Vázquez Vázquez, Mercedes**

**Corresponsales en Línea**  
Radio Ciudad, Buenos Aires, Argentina  
5 Oct 2014
Cultural and Other Events

Japanese Studies
1-13 Aug 2014
HKU-U Tokyo Summer Program
From August 2-12, 2014, twenty students from the University of Tokyo (U Tokyo) joined ten HKU students for a new experiential learning programme in Hong Kong. The first part of the programme included seminars given by HKU and guest speakers as well as field trips to city super, Yakult, and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council. The second part required students to work on group presentations. All students stayed in the new Shun Hing College in Kennedy Town. The programme was co-organized by Dr Yoshiko Nakano of Japanese Studies, and Professor Shigeto Sonoda of the University of Tokyo. The programme was offered as a credit-bearing course “JAPN 3031 Japan in Hong Kong”, and reported in Yahoo Japan and NNA, a Hong Kong-based Japanese daily.

German
28 Oct 2014 (Tue)
The Austrian Short Film Series 2014
3 of the nominated films of “Best Short Film” was screened. The event also consist of a brief introduction to contemporary Austria by Mr. Roland Rudorfer, Deputy Consul General of Austria and an introduction to the selection of short films by Dr. Tim Gruenewald.

Spanish
11, 14, 18 Nov 2014
Argentine Movie Days
Introduction by Mr Luciano BATTAGLIA

German
15 Nov 2014 (Sat)
4th Inter-University German Speech Competition
„Deutsch: Meine Brücke nach Europa!“

Thai
21 Nov 2014 (Fri)
Loy Krathong Night

Swedish
8 Nov 2014 (Sat)
Information Day

Spanish
10 & 13 Nov 2014 (Mon & Thu)
Swedish Film Week @ HKU

German
8 Oct - 3 Nov 2014
German October
The Department of Japanese Studies welcomed three new Assistant Professors in September 2014.

Dr. Janet Borland is a historian of modern Japan with research interests in natural disasters. Janet received her PhD from the University of Melbourne and prior to joining SMLC she was a Research Assistant Professor in the Department of History at HKU.

Dr. Timothy Unverzagt Goddard teaches Japanese literature, film, and cultural history. He received his PhD in Asian Languages and Cultures from the University of California, Los Angeles in 2013. His research interests include modernism, colonialism, urban space, and visual culture.

Dr. Daniel Poch holds a PhD in Japanese Literature from Columbia University in 2014. Daniel’s main research area is modern as well as early modern Japanese literature, with a strong focus on the 19th and early 20th centuries.
Designed by Lo S.T. Evelyn, the SMLC postcards incorporate quintessential patterns of different cultures and the hidden “S”, “M”, “L” & “C” characters, representing each and every programme that the school offers.

SMLC Postcard

CONTACT

For more details on all of the above events, please visit http://www.smlc.hku.hk/news/

If there is any information you would like to see featured in future issues of the e-newsletter or if you have any comments or suggestions related to the current issue, please don’t hesitate to contact the Outreach and Development committee.

EDITORIAL TEAM

Mr. Sylvain HOLTERMANN
39172036
sylvainh@hku.hk

Ms. Sherman HONG
39174404
shermanh@hku.hk

Ms. Evelyn LO
39174403
evelynlo@hku.hk

Special thanks to the following contributors to this issue:
Ms. Rocio BLASCO-GARCIA
Dr. Janet Lorraine BORLAND
Ms. CHANG Ching-fang
Ms. CHENG Kwan Yee Queenie
Prof. Stephen CHU
Ms. Hyacintha Olaitan FAUSTINO
Ms. KWOK, Pui Ki Patricia
Dr. Andreas LEUTZSCH
Dr. Yoshiko NAKANO
Dr. Georgios REPOUSIS
Dr. Facil TESFAYE
Ms. ZHANG Mei