Exit from Brexit?
Prof Timothy Garton Ash’s Public Lecture about Britain's Place in the Wider Crisis of Europe

European Studies, 15 Mar 2019 (Fri)

On March 15, the European Studies programme hosted a prominent British public intellectual and distinguished scholar, Prof Timothy Garton ASH, who is Isaiah Berlin Professorial Fellow at St Antony’s College, Oxford and a Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University.

(cont’d)
In a well-attended public lecture on ‘Brexit! Britain’s Place in the Wider Crisis of Europe’, Professor Garton ASH stressed that there was nothing inevitable about the outcome of the referendum. What both the U.K. and the EU need, Professor Garton ASH argued, is ‘the reversal of the exit’, which would amount to a badly needed ‘shot in the arm of the European project’. This is because the causes of Brexit are relevant to the wider European malaise. The rise of populism in Italy, Hungary and Poland, the state of the Eurozone, the refugee crisis and the growing number of external threats to Europe, including from Putin’s Russia, are all testing the limits of European unity.

Many months after the lecture, we still do not know whether, when and how the UK will actually leave the European Union, notwithstanding the promises of the newly appointed British Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, that this will happen on October 31, 2019, ‘come what may’. At any rate, Prof Garton ASH argued convincingly that its impact will be more negative than many people realise not just on Britain, but the EU as well. Dr Stefan AUER, whose Jean Monnet Chair project supported the event, responded by arguing that it is becoming harder and harder for many Europeans to see the EU as a source of solutions, rather than problems. The lecture was followed by a lively discussion.
On July 2, 2019, the Korean Studies Programme hosted Venerable Pomnyun Sunim for a special speaking engagement opened to the public, at the University of Hong Kong.

Ven. Pomnyun is the founder of the Jungtao Society, a Buddhist community aimed at addressing the multitude of maladies confronting modern societies. He is internationally recognized for his work in humanitarian relief in North Korea and his advocacy for the peaceful reunification of the Korean peninsula. His visit to Hong Kong was a part of a world speaking tour.

Over three hundred Hong Kong residents gathered for the event, titled “A Casual Conversation with a Zen Master on Life Love Success Happiness and Meaning.” Rather than a formal lecture, he fielded questions of concern from the audience on a wide variety of topics. Of particular interest was the problem of reconciling multiple cultural identities for expatriates when living in Hong Kong. Through the use of wit, and without esoteric jargon, he conveyed to the audience the necessity to set aside preconceived notions of what one should be or how one should act. This event was organized and co-sponsored by the Korean Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong and the Korean Cultural Center.
Spots of Light: Women in the Holocaust Exhibition

European Studies and German Programme,
13-26 Feb 2019

"Spots of Light: Women in the Holocaust" exhibition was co-organized by Dr. Roland VOGT, Dr. Elizabeth LACOUTURE and Dr. Li CHONG. This Knowledge Exchange (KE) event was co-sponsored by the Committee on Gender Equality and Diversity and the Hong Kong Holocaust and Tolerance Centre. The exhibition featured different themes and personal stories of women who experienced the barbarism of the Holocaust. It was well attended by both HKU members and participants from a diverse spectrum of the community including Consul-General of the State of Israel to Hong Kong and Macao, students from Elsa High School as well as other interested members.

The exhibition and academic talks were also organized at two top-tier local secondary schools including "St. Paul's Convent School" and "St. Paul's Co-educational College" to further enhance the KE reach. Dr. Vogt’s talks highlighted the importance of critical reflection of Holocaust related to both past and present.

Dr. Roland VOGT
Talks on the Holocaust and its history at local secondary schools

14 March 2019 (Thu)
St Paul’s Convent School

06 May 2019 (Mon)
St Paul’s Co-Educational College

17 May 2019 (Fri)
American International School
Every year in March, major cities around the globe celebrate the International Day of la Francophonie (20th March) by holding a series of cultural and educational events. Organized in Hong Kong since 2001, the Francophonie Festival is an invitation to discover the cultural diversity of the French-speaking communities across the five continents.

This year, on 12 March 2019, the 19th Francophonie Festival in Hong Kong was officially launched at The University of Hong Kong, under the patronage of the Canadian novelist and French Academician, Dany Laferrière.

Francophone Consulates General in Hong Kong together with Alliance Française Hong Kong held a Press Conference in presence of the Consuls General of Belgium, Canada, France, Greece and Switzerland and the Director of Alliance Française Hong Kong.

Mr Laferrière then delivered an inaugural lecture on the quintessential role of books and reading in a world dominated by the immediacy of news. As an outstanding storyteller, he captivated an audience of 200 people including many students from the University of Hong Kong, Baptist University, City University, and the French International School.
Comic + Film in Spain: Intimate Accounts of Autism and Alzheimer’s Disease

Spanish programme, 18 & 27 Mar 2019 (Mon & Wed)

This film miniseries showcased two Spanish films based on graphic novels: *Wrinkles* (2011) and *Maria and I* (2012). The authors of the original graphic novels, Paco ROCA and Miguel GALLARDO, took part in after-screening discussions. Mr. ROCA spoke via videoconference, whereas Mr. GALLARDO could attend the event, where he was joined by Ms. Ana PARRA, mother of a child with autism, and Dr. WONG Wai Ching, Project Director of JC A-Connect.

The Spanish Programme had the support of the Consulate General of Spain in Hong Kong and the HKU-SMLC. The Faculty of Social Sciences was also deeply involved in the promotion and arranged for the participation of Dr. WONG.

The two events had a large audience from inside and outside the University, although the second screening was the one that received the most attention (more than 120 attendees) probably due to the presence of guest speakers in the room.
SMLC Seminars

Spanish Programme

SMLC Seminar; 20 Feb 2019 (Wed)

Book Launch: The Question of Class in Contemporary Latin American Cinema

By Dr. Mercedes VÁZQUEZ VÁZQUEZ

American Studies

SMLC Seminar; 13 Mar 2019 (Wed)

Troubling Memorials: Disgraced Monuments and Problematic Public Art in America

By Prof. Erika DOSS

Japanese Studies

SMLC Seminar; 27 Mar 2019 (Wed)

The Artificial Birth of Modern Japanese Literature Out of the Spirit of Technology

By Mr. Ron Martin WILSON

Hong Kong Studies

SMLC Seminar; 27 Feb 2019 (Wed)

Book Launch: Found in Transition: Hong Kong Studies in the Age of China

By Prof. Stephen Yiu-Wai CHU

European Studies

SMLC Seminar; 20 Mar 2019 (Wed)

The fight against money laundering, terrorist financing, and organised crime in Europe

By Dr. Roland VOGT

European Studies

SMLC Seminar; 01 Apr 2019 (Mon)

Russia-West Relations: Is the Confrontation Reversible?

By Dr. Marie MENDRAS
European Studies

SMLC Seminar; 03 Apr 2019 (Wed)
The partition of the world: the Berlin conferences, 1878-1884 and the origins of global disorder

By Prof. Miles TAYLOR

African Studies

SMLC Seminar; 18 Apr 2018 (Wed)
You have to name it to reclaim it

By Dr. June BAM-HUTCHISON

Japanese Studies

SMLC Seminar; 24 Apr 2019 (Wed)
Time and Tourism in (Post)Colonial Taipei

By Dr. Michael FACIUS

China Studies

SMLC Seminar; 10 Apr 2019 (Wed)
Book Launch: Going Backward and Forward at the Same Time: Ethnic Chrysalis and Making History Useful for Contemporary Ethnic Communities in Northeast China

By Dr. Loretta KIM

Chinese Studies

SMLC Seminar; 17 Apr 2019 (Wed)
Japan’s apologies: Can they find the “right” words?

By Dr. Helena MEYER-KNAPP

Japanese Studies

SMLC Seminar; 26 Apr 2019 (Fri)
Digital Nationalism and Sino-Japanese Relations: Selling Sovereignty in Digital China

By Dr. Florian SCHNEIDER
KIM, Loretta

**Ethnic Chrysalis: China’s Orochen People and the Legacy of Qing Borderland Administration**
Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Asia Center, 2019

*Ethnic Chrysalis* contemplates the impact of historical identities on the continuous development of a group’s socio-cultural heritage. This book examines relations between the imperial state and the Orochen, a population indigenous to a region now divided between Siberia (Russian Federation) and Northeast China during the Qing dynasty (1644-1911). The Orochen were loyal servitors of the Qing government but also transgressed the physical border between empires and also the cultural frontiers of language and material customs. This case sheds new light on how ethnic identity in China is based on cumulative layers of history and both official and experiential definitions.

AUER, Stefan

“Merkel’s Germany and the European Union: Between Emergency and the Rule of Rules”

Government and Opposition: An International Journal of Comparative Politics 1-19

AUER, Stefan (with SCICLUNA, Nicole)

‘From the rule of law to the rule of rules: technocracy and the crisis of EU governance’

West European Politics 42(7), p. 1420-1442

BLASCO GARCÍA, Rocío (with ACOSTA CORTE, Álvaro)

“The glocalization of Spanish in Asia: Students’ foreign language choice at tertiary level and Spanish language use in multilingual families in Hong Kong”

A. Lynch (Ed.), *Spanish in the Global City*. Routledge, 2019
BORLAND, Janet (with SCHENCKING, Charles)
“Objects of Concern, Ambassadors of Gratitude: Children, Humanitarianism, and Transpacific Diplomacy Following Japan’s 1923 Great Kantō Earthquake”
Journal of the History of Childhood and Youth

CHA, S Paul
“Accounting for North Korea: Korean Reunification, the CCIA, and the Korean Christians Federation”

CHU, Stephen Yiu Wai (Ed.)
“香港關鍵詞：想像新未來”

CHU, Stephen Yiu Wai
“歌曲的力量”

FICHTER, James
“American and International Whaling, c.1770–1820: Toward an Ocean History”

GRUENEWALD, Tim (Ed.)
Rethinking America's Past: Voices from the Kinsey African American Art and History Collection
University of Cincinnati Press, 2019
KIM, Loretta
“Introduction: Watering the Land-Based Empires”
Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient, 2019, v. 62, p. 525-559

POCH, Daniel

VOGT, Roland
“Driving with the rearview mirror? Historical analogies and European foreign policy”
Andreas Leutzsch (Ed.), Historical Parallels, Commemoration and Icons. London: Routledge, 2019, 100-114.

KIM, Su Yun (with LIN, Pei-yin)
“Introduction”

KIM, Su Yun
“From the Detective to the Romance Genre: Popular Fiction in Postcolonial Korea”
Also as Editor
LIN, Pei-yin and KIM, Su Yun (Eds.), East Asian Transwar Popular Culture: Literature and Film from Taiwan and Korea. Singapore: Palgrave Macmillan, 2019

TRAMBAIOLO, Daniel
“Epidemics and Epistemology in Tokugawa Japan: Japanese Responses to Chinese Writings on Warm Epidemics and Sand-Rashes”
Harold J. Cook (Eds.), The Globalizing of Chinese Medicine in the Seventeenth Century: Translation at Work. Brill, 2018

WONG, John D.
“Improvising Protocols: Two Enterprising Chinese Migrant Families and the Resourceful Nguyễn Court

VOGT, Roland
“Reputations and the fight against tax evasion: EU pressure and Asian financial centres”
International Affairs 95:2 (2019), 365-381
In the Media

Dr. TEO, Victor

Free-Trade Agreements with EU More Critical Than Ever for Japan
Radio Sputnik International
25 Jan 2019

What role will the New Emperor play in modern Japan?
CGTN; The Point
03 May 2019

Japan and China look to strengthen ties at G-20 summit, even as Trump looms large
CNBC
24 Jun 2019

“China’s Leader Visits North Korea Special Program”
CGTN
19 Jun 2019

“Why doesn’t the West condemn Hong Kong violence?”
CGTN; The Point
03 Jul 2019

Xi Jinping to North Korea
CGTN; The Point
20 Jun 2019

China’s Relations with Japan
China Global Television Network (former CCTV News)
01 Feb 2019

“Japan praises Trump’s decision to walk away from his talks with North Korea and why Pyongyang wouldn’t be keen to have a Japan summit”
Australia Broadcasting Corporation; Japan Focus Program
01 Mar 2019

Interview: Prospects on Sino-Japanese Relations for the Osaka Summit
CNBC; Print Division
21 Jun 2019
**European Studies**

**Dr. Stefan Auer**

Brexit is the 'partial disintegration' of the EU: Professor

CNBC; Street Signs Asia
15 Jan 2019

**I'm not expecting a major Brexit 'breakthrough'

CNBC; Capital Connection
29 Jan 2019

**'Prof: I can’t see Theresa May’s [Brexit] deal getting through'

CNBC; Street Signs Asia
13 Mar 2019

**Far from clear if EU will grant extension, academic says

CNBC; Capital Connection
04 Apr 2019

**UK May's successor will be more 'confrontational' toward the EU, professor said

CNBC; Street Signs Asia
29 May 2019

**Die Entpolitisierung des Politischen? (Depoliticisation and Technocracy)

Austrian Radio Station, ORF1
01 Jul 2019

**Dr. Roland VOGT**

EU summit in Romania

CNBC; LIVE TV
09 May 2019

**University of Hong Kong professor of local culture hits all the right notes as Canto-pop historian

SCMP
28 May 2019

**Dr. Wong, John D.**

“白銀帝國 Empires of Silver” (Consultant)

RTHK31
Jun 2019
### Other Talks & Events

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13 Apr 2019 (Sat)
The Dragon and the Eagle: Interdisciplinary Symposium on Early Sino-American Maritime Trade
In Asia Society Hong Kong Center

By Dr. John D. WONG

17 Apr 2019 (Wed)
The Learning and Teaching of Arabic in a Changing World

By Prof. Mahmoud AL-BATAL

18 Apr 2019 (Thu)
BEING LEONARDO DA VINCI: an impossible interview

Directed by Massimiliano FINAZZER FLORY

25 Apr 2019 (Thu)
Learning Swedish in Finland: first language, second language, foreign language

By Prof. Sinikka LAHTINEN

26 Apr 2019 (Fri)
"We speak the language the guest wants"
Language attitudes and language use in touristic encounters in Austria

By Prof. Monika DANNERER

29 Apr 2019 (Mon)
Art and Uncivil Obedience: Radical Rule-Following as Creative Practice

By Dr. Monica Lee STEINBERG

30 Apr 2019 (Tue)

By Dr. Diana LEMBERG

06 May 2019 (Mon)
‘Era mejor cuando éramos ilegales – it was better when we were illegals’
Indigenous people, the State and ‘public interest’ indigenous radio stations in Colombia

By Dr. Diego M CORTES-ACACIO
American Studies

07 May 2019 (Tue)

Neoliberalism and its Discontents: Three Decades of Chilean Women’s Poetry (1980-2010); 1980s Focus

By Dr. Bárbara FERNÁNDEZ MELLEDA

Italian

07 May 2019 (Tue)

Watching Don Giovanni in the #MeToo Era: Tracing Mozart’s famous opera from its Spanish roots up through today

By Mr. Peter GORDON

African Studies

09-10 May, 2019 (Thu-Fri)

(Re)Mediating "Blackness": Absent Presence and Present Absence of Africa and Africans in Chinese Medium Print and Online Newspapers in HK

In the International Symposium on Inequality and Well-being in China-African Relations at Lingnan University

By Dr. Emily CHOW

China Studies

22 May 2019 (Wed)

May Fourth as a Constitutional Moment

By Dr. Hans VAN DE VEN

Global Creative Industries

30 May 2019 (hu)

International Forum: Cultural Power, Business and Creative Industries in East Asia

Hong Kong Studies

24 May 2019 (Fri)

Thinking Space in Hong Kong: Limits, Horizons, Imaginaries

Co-organized by Prof. Rey Chow and Prof. Stephen Chu
05 Jun 2019 (Wed)

All Roads Lead to Hong Kong: Paths to Becoming a Hong Kong Historian
In University of Bristol’s “Hong Kong History Project.”

By Dr. John D. WONG

06 Jun 2019 (Thu)

Book Launch & Reception: Kurosawa’s Rashomon: A Vanished City, a Lost Brother, and the Voice Inside His Iconic Films

By Prof. Paul ANDERER

11 Jun 2019 (Tue)

Southeast Asia and US-China Struggle: Challenges and Opportunities during the Trump Era
At the School of Foreign Studies, University of Osaka

By Dr. Victor TEO

13 Jun 2019 (Tue)

Southeast Asia’s Strategic Dilemma in the Looming US-China Conflict: Threats and Opportunities
At the Osaka School of Public Policy

By Dr. Victor TEO

21 Jun 2019 (Fri)

JIS visit 2019
Staff News

New Staff

Ms. Irune BERDÚN VILLAMONTE
Visiting Lecturer
(Spanish Programme)

Dr. Bárbara FERNÁNDEZ MELLEDA
Assistant Professor
(Latin American Studies)

Mr. Takuro HASHIMOTO
Senior Lecturer
(Japanese Studies)

Mr. Amgad REFAI
Assistant Lecturer
(Arabic Programme)

Dr. Monica STEINBERG
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Lecturer, Programme Director
(Arabic Programme)

Ms. Emily CHOW
Post-doctoral Fellow
(African Studies)

Mr. José Daniel DE LAS HERAS SALDAÑA
Visiting Lecturer
(Spanish Programme)

Dr. Miho YOROZU
Senior Lecturer
(Japanese Studies)

Staff taking up new positions

Dr. Dixon WONG
Acting School Head

For more details on all of the above events, please visit https://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.

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