SMLC Seminar Series

Established in 2007, the SMLC Seminar Series is one of the many exciting SMLC events that runs through every academic term. Over the years the, the SMLC seminar series have hosted speakers hailing from different area studies and from all corners of the world. Addressing topical issues articulated through literature, history, religion, philosophy, architecture, political science, film, and music that span broad geographical locales, these speakers present work that resonates with each other in intriguing ways, galvanizing a platform for continual dialogues on interdisciplinarity and transnational thinking. Fruitfully, the series often runs alongside major events held in the different area studies and language programs within SMLC as well as in the Faculty of Arts, most recently the Kinsey Collection of African American History and Culture held in conjunction with University Museum and Art Gallery, the University of Hong Kong. The exhibition brought together a host of cultural activities and semester-long seminars that were in conversation with the seminar series itself.

SMLC looks forward to further collaborations with speakers in the fall

List of SMLC Seminars

25 Jan 2017 (Wed)
“The Slippery are Very Crafty”: The Politics of Translation in David Henry Hwang’s Chinglish
By Dr. Grace WANG

08 Feb 2017 (Wed)
Desire, History, Work, Death: an approach to Alexandre Kojève’s reading of Hegel
By Mr. Luis J. PEDRAZUELA

22 Feb 2017 (Wed)
Divided Church, Reunified Nation: Christian Leadership in Discussing Reunification in South Korea
By Dr. Paul S. CHA

15 Mar 2017 (Wed)
Drawing Close to the Heart: Post-disaster Mental Health Care and Grassroots Therapy in Japan
By Dr. Isaac GAGNÉ

29 Mar 2017 (Wed)
The Un-dead History of Residual Hauntings: Transgressive Identities in Alvin Lu’s The Hell Screens
By Dr. Haerin SHIN

26 Apr 2017 (Wed)
A Korean-language Student from the Kumamoto Prefecture, 1895-1922: The Progress of Nakamura Kentarō, Protectorate Censor of Korean Newspapers
By Dr. Kyeong-Hee CHOI
On the 25th of May, the SMLC and HKU's Centre for Comparative and Public Law hosted Prof Joseph WEILER (New York University Law School), one of the leading scholars of the European Union, for a lively workshop about National Sovereignty in Times of Crisis. The workshop pursued the ambitious agenda of the Jean Monnet Chair project held by Dr Stefan AUER, which was to compare the problems encountered by the crisis of borderless Europe and those that confront 'One Country Two Systems' in China and Hong Kong. Prof Weiler’s keynote opened the debate with his reflections on the crisis of the European project, the roots of which he located in long term processes going back to the very origins of the Union. What had proved particularly pernicious, according to Weiler, was the attempt to abandon patriotism.

‘Like Lord Voldemort of Harry Potter fame - the-one-whose-name-must-not-be-spoken - sovereignty wasn’t mentioned even once by Prof Weiler’, Dr Auer noted, in response to the keynote. ‘It might be wise not to rush into abandoning sovereignty. As long as we do not have a better system of democratic governance than the one that arose over the last few centuries alongside the rise of the democratic nation-state, sovereignty as a concept and a living political project has a lot going for it. Burying it may well hasten the demise not just of the nation-state but of democracy itself.’

After a heated debate about the uses and abuses of this controversial concept, Dr Nicole SCICLUNA (HKU, Politics) discussed the democratic deficit of the European Union, Prof Jiwei CI (HKU, Philosophy) talked about ‘Sovereignty, Democracy, and Identification’ from a Chinese perspective and Prof Hualing FU (HKU, Law) made some comparative observations on sources of legitimacy in China and Europe. The workshop was skilfully chaired by Ms Cora CHAN (HKU, Law) and attracted a full house in the Academic Conference Room (Yu Tung Tower).
This spring, the American Studies Programme organized a lecture series alongside the exhibition of the Kinsey Collection of African American History and Culture at University Museum and Art Gallery, the University of Hong Kong. Five speakers from the United States and three from HKU selected one item from the Kinsey Collection as a starting point to explore larger issues of African American cultural history. Following the example of the collection, the lecture series engaged both visual art and objects of historical significance. For example, Dr. Ivy Wilson of Northwestern University selected a watercolor by Lois Mailou Jones of a scene on Martha’s Vineyard to explain how the island became a destination for African Americans because it provided an escape from racism on the U.S. mainland. In another popular talk, Dr. Greta De Jong from the University of Nevada used a placard proclaiming “Honor King: End Racism!”, which was carried during the memorial march held four days after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., to lecture on the Civil Rights leader’s turn towards social justice in his final years. She concluded that to truly honor King today one needs to call for an end to poverty as well as racism. All presenters also visited an undergraduate class designed around the Kinsey collection before their lecture. One highlight was an invitation of the class to the private residence of Consul General of the United States Kurt W. Tong, during which Professor Kendall Johnson lead a seminar on Frederick Douglass. In summary, the lecture series attracted a mixed audience of students, faculty, and the public to the museum’s gallery; a model example of combining research, teaching, and knowledge exchange.
2017 Young Leaders Tour of Japan

Ten students from the Department of Japanese Studies travelled to Japan’s Miyagi Prefecture in March 2017 to witness the devastation caused by the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and ongoing efforts to rebuild the area. The five-day Young Leaders Tour of Japan was initiated by the Japanese Studies Programme Director, Dr Janet Borland, with the aim of encouraging students to think about global issues such as natural disaster recovery. Highlights of the tour included visits to MORIUMIUS, a residential eco-activity centre for children, Akiu Winery, and Michisaki hydroponic farming corporation. The tour was supported by Mitsubishi Corporation and students also visited the company’s offices in Sendai and Tokyo to learn about its involvement in reconstruction efforts in Miyagi and its corporate social responsibility initiatives, particularly in the area of sustainability.

At the conclusion of the tour, second year student Lau Chun Ho Diva said, “Sharing what this trip was about with others is difficult, because they did not experience what we did, or see the things we saw. But the one thing I can share is that we should all cherish what we have.” Students shared the outcomes of their learning experiences with the HKU community in a special photo exhibition in the Ground Floor Gallery throughout April as part of Japan Month.
German Fun Day at HKU

German Programme, 20 May 2017 (Sat)

On 20th May 2017, a Knowledge Exchange (KE) event, “German Fun Day”, was hosted by Dr Chong Li, Project Coordinator, in collaboration with German Consulate, Goethe-Institut, German Swiss International School and German Association, at HKU.

This event is the highlight of KE Project “German with Fun” 2014-2017 for promoting German at secondary school level. 45 KE workshops were successfully held, reaching out to over 2,000 students from 28 local and international schools in HK and Mainland China. “German Fun Day” enhanced the interest of learning German and understanding German culture among participating students through talks, competitions and interactive games.

New Major in Italian

Italian Programme

Hong Kong and China’s relations with Italy have a long history. They started over 700 years ago with the Venice-born Marco Polo’s legendary journey to China. Today, Hong Kong represents the third largest commercial partner in Asia for Italy, after China and Japan.

In such context, the Italian Programme is pleased to announce that starting from this academic year 2017-2018, HKU students will have the opportunity to declare a major or minor in Italian. Italian Major programmes are offered in many countries in Europe and America. The University of Hong Kong, Faculty of Arts, is proud to be one of the first universities in Asia to offer such a Major. The Italian Major will contribute to HKU’s “internationalization at home” vision.

The Italian Major at HKU Faculty of Arts will incorporate a strong linguistic component as well as cultural, social and historical explorations. Aside from courses offered within the existing Italian programme, students will be encouraged to take courses with an Italian component in other programmes offered by the Faculty of Arts such as American Studies, European Studies, Fine Arts, Global Creative Industries, Linguistics and Music.

Students majoring in Italian will have access to a wide range of career opportunities in the field of arts, music, fashion, design, food, tourism, and so on.

For more information, please contact Dr. Nadia CAMPORESE (Italian program director).
Talks & Conferences

**European Studies**

17 Jan 2017 (Tue)
**A Dutch Survival Story of the Holocaust**

By Mr. Micha GELBER

23 Feb 2017 (Thu)
**Global Historical Research in the United States and Germany. Comparative Perspectives**

By Prof. Dominic SACHSENMAIER

**Spanish Programme**

10-11 Mar 2017 (Fri-Sat)
**Spanish Conference**

The Spanish Programme held their annual conference on March 10 & 11 “V Jornadas de Formación de Profesores en HK” with 126 attendees and 4 well-known plenary speakers in the field of Spanish as a Foreign Language.

**East Studies Division**

13 Mar 2017 (Mon)
**Talk on North Korea's Modernization and China-DPRK Relations**

By Dr. Victor TEO

**Hong Kong Studies**

13 Feb 2017 (Mon)
**A Bag(gag) of Identities: How ‘Red-White-Blue’ Travels from Hong Kong to Louis Vuitton**

By Dr. Wessie LING

23 Mar 2017 (Thu)
端Talk - 本土? 國際? 世界公民在香港

By Mr. Gregory Charles RIVERS and Mr. Vivek MAHBUBANI

Moderated by Ms. Fermi WONG
Global Creative Industries

17 Mar 2016 (Thu)
Local Music and Cultural Politics in Hong Kong 香港本土音樂與文化政治

By Mr. Adrian CHOW Pok-yin
Moderated by Prof. Stephen CHU

Spanish Programme

26 Apr 2017 (Wed)
Applied Linguistics and Second Language Learning: current situation, emerging lines of research and future challenges

By Ms. Susana Pastor

China Studies

19 Apr 2016 (Wed)
Some Reflections on Human Communities and their Boundaries

By Professor Ming-ke WANG

China Studies co-hosted a lecture with Department of Sociology entitled “Some Reflections on Human Communities and their Boundaries” by Professor Ming-ke WANG, Distinguished Research Fellow and Director, Institute of History & Philology, Academia Sinica. Professor Wang also met with postgraduate students for a seminar and lunch. During all the events, Professor Wang shared his own research findings, gave advice about conducting fieldwork, and reflected on his long and fruitful career.

Korean Studies

06 Apr 2017 (Thu)
Medicine as Moral Practice in Choson Korea

By Dr. Sonja M. KIM

American Studies

22-23 May 2017 (Mon-Tue)
Fulbright Conferences: Imagining Asia in the Era of Trump
JOHNSON, Kendall  

**The New Middle Kingdom: China and the Early American Romance of Free Trade**  
Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2017  

In the imaginations of early Americans, the Middle Kingdom was the wealthiest empire in the world. Its geographical distance did not deter commercial aspirations but inspired them. Starting in the late eighteenth century, merchants from New York, Philadelphia, Boston, Salem, Newport, and elsewhere cast speculative lines to China. The resulting fortunes shaped the cultural foundation of the early republic and funded westward frontier expansion.  

Drawing from a richly descriptive cross-cultural archive, this book presents key moments in early relations among the twenty-first century’s superpowers through memoirs, biographies, epistolary journals, magazines, book reviews, fiction and poetry by Melville, Twain, Whitman, and others, travel narratives, and treaties, as well as maps and engraved illustrations. Paying close attention to figurative language, generic forms, and the social dynamics of print cultural production and circulation, the book shows how authors, editors, and printers appealed to multiple overlapping audiences in China, in the United States, and throughout the world.

AUER, Stefan & STIEGLER Thomas  

"CEECs-China: whose norms, whose values?“  

China’s Relations with Central and Eastern Europe: From “Old Comrades” to New Partners. Ed. Weiqing SONG  


CHU, Stephen Yiu Wai  

**Hong Kong Culture and Society in the New Millennium: Hong Kong as Method**  
Singapore: Springer, 2017

KIM, Loretta  

“Inclement Weather and Human Error: Regular Irregularities in the Manchurian Tribute System during the Qing Dynasty”  

Empire and Environment in the Making of Manchuria. Ed. Norman Smith  


WONG, Dixon HW & CHAU, Ling-fung, Karin  

坐看雲起——平民商人謝瑞麟  

Taiwan: Chinese Art Books, 2017
In the Media

**European Studies**

**Dr. Stefan AUER**

*Why Scottish independence is not imminent*
CNBC’s Street Signs
14 Mar 2017

**Dr. Roland VOGT**

*Future of European Union*
Radio 3, RTHK; Backchat
23 Mar 2017

**Can Emmanuel Macron unite a very divided France?**
CNBC’s Squawk Box
08 May 2017

**U.K. 'can still get good Brexit' but maybe not with Theresa May as leader**
CNBC’s Street Signs
09 Jun 2017

**Review of French Election**
Radio 3, RTHK; Backchat
24 Apr 2017

**5年内倘無法安内 極右登場**
Hong Kong Economic Journal
13 May 2017

**化身「反特盟主」 默克爾「無得揀」**
Ming Pao
12 Jun 2017

**British position on Brexit may have weakened, but EU still faces significant problems**
CNBC’s Squawk Box
19 Jun 2017

**Review of UK Election – what's next for Theresa May?**
Radio 3, RTHK; Backchat
12 Jun 2017

**May Clings to Power After the Election**
Bloomberg
12 Jun 2017
Global Creative Industries

Dr. Dixon WONG

五夜講場·講女時間 我乳我煩惱
RTHK31
13 Jul 2017

Japanese Studies

Dr. NAKANO, Yoshiko

通識導賞：由無啖好食到大排長龍 日本菜如何征服港人的胃？
Ming Pao
08 Jan 2017

Dr. TEO, Victor

North Korea’s Nuclear Test
Radio 3, RTHK; Backchat
18 April 2017

Hong Kong Studies

Prof. CHU, Stephen

何式凝朱耀偉歎香港特質逐漸「消失」
Sing Tao Daily
26 Apr 2017

Vancouver’s heated debate on the future of Hong Kong
Asia Times
28 May 2017

Weekly Column《真假政經》
AM730

Topick
15 Jun 2017

North Korea says yesterday’s ICBM had the capability to carry a nuclear warhead
ABC News Radio; Japan in Focus
05 Jul 2017

Historic defeat of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s Liberal Democratic Party in Sunday’s elections
CGTN; The Point
11 July 2017
Cultural & Other Events

American Studies
02 Mar 2017 (Thu)
Film Screening and Q&A session with Creator Patrick Sammon: CODEBREAKER
By Mr. Patrick Sammon

Japanese Studies
03-27 Apr 2017
Japan Month 2017
J ASO Tenmangu
Wishing for Success in Exams with Japanese Ema Plaques
Young Leaders Tour of Japan Photo Exhibition
Violinist Tomoko TANAKA Plays Japanese Melodies
Omamori Workshop with Art Club
The Serenity of Chado - Japanese Tea Ceremony
Department of Japanese Studies: Student Performance

African Studies
12 May 2017 (Fri)
Documentary film + Round Table discussion: Ousmane Sow
By Mr. Ousmane Sow

French Programme
13, 14, 17 Mar 2017
HKU Francophone Film Festival 2017
Organized by the Consulate General of France in Hong Kong and Macao, the French Programme of SMLC at HKU, and French Society, A.A.H.K.U.S.U.

Swedish Programme
20, 27, 28 Mar 2017
Swedish Film Week

African Studies
27 May-6 Jun 2017
Educational Field Trip to Ethiopia

Japanese Studies
23 Jun 2017
Hong Kong Japanese School Visit
Staff News

New Staff

Mr. Rachid BENDACHA
Assistant Lecturer
(French Programme)

Prof. Mary Louise BULEY-MEISSNER
Fulbright Visiting Associate Professor
(American Studies)

Dr. Emily CHOW Shun Man
Post-doctoral Fellow
(African Studies)

Dr. Maria Eugenia DE LUNA
Assistant Lecturer
(Spanish Programme)

Mr. Hiroaki KODAMA
Assistant Lecturer
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Mr. Steve LUK Ki Chun
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(European Studies)

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Assistant Lecturer
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Ms. Alice HUNTER
Teaching Assistant
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Lecturer
(Japanese Studies)

Ms. Alejandra SERRANO JIMENEZ
Assistant Lecturer
(Spanish Programme)

Dr. Grace WANG
Fulbright Visiting Associate Professor
(American Studies)

Staff taking up new positions

Prof. Kendall JOHNSON
Professor
(American Studies)

Mr. Sylvain HOLTERMANN
Acting Programme Director
(French Programme)

Dr. Daniel TRAMBAILO
Programme Director
(Japanese Studies)

In memory of

Mr. Simon AU
(1956-2017)
Technician of Technical Office
Staff Achievement

Ms. Rocío BLASCO-GARCIA
(Director of Spanish Programme)
Ms. Rocío BLASCO-GARCIA received the Faculty Teaching Excellence Award for 2015-16.

Dr. Mercedes VÁZQUEZ VÁZQUEZ
(Spanish Programme)
Dr. VÁZQUEZ VÁZQUEZ presented a report on the Faculty of Arts' research strengths on gender and sexuality to the President and the Senior Management Team at the Forum "Taking Gender Studies Research Seriously in Higher Education," held on March 8 at The University of Hong Kong. This was part of a series of initiatives promoted by the HeForShe campaign led by President Peter Mattheson. It was organized by the Woman Studies Research Center and supported by the Committee on Gender Equality and Diversity of the Faculty of Arts. The report will be used to help prospective students and colleagues in other universities identify areas of research that are attractive or relevant to them.

Dr. Victor TEO
(China Studies & Japanese Studies)
Dr. Victor TEO has been appointed as Project Fellow (Non-Stipendiary) for a Five-Year International Research Project on "The Cold War and Asian Regionalism" based at the University of Cambridge, UK

Dr. TEO has also been appointed as Co-investigator (Non-Stipendiary) for multi-year collaborative project on "Japan’s Role Asia-Pacific’s Peace and Stability" based at the University of Osaka, Japan

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

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