



SCHOOL OF  
**MODERN LANGUAGES AND CULTURES**  
FACULTY OF ARTS, THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG



SMLC Highlight

## Dr Yoshiko NAKANO awarded the Japanese Foreign Minister's Commendation for 2021

Japanese Studies; 17 Nov, 2021

Dr. Yoshiko NAKANO, Director and Associate Professor, Department of Japanese Studies, SMLC, has been awarded the Japanese Foreign Minister's Commendation 2021 for her contribution to the promotion of mutual understanding between Japan and Hong Kong.

Dr. Nakano joined the Department of Japanese Studies at HKU in 2000. Her research focuses on intercultural communication and the study of globalisation of Japanese products and services. She has championed experiential learning by providing students with opportunities to join academic exchange programs at prestigious Japanese universities, and through initiatives such as the "HKU-UTokyo Joint Summer Program," which ran from 2013 to 2018. She has been proactive in creating opportunities for students to interact with the wider Japanese community in Hong Kong, and establish bridges between the two. Examples of her efforts include the setting up of internships at the local branches of Japanese companies.

Dr Nakano has played an important role within the Japanese community and was made the first female director of the Hongkong Japanese Club in 2007. She has spearheaded and contributed to various initiatives for the Club, including, most recently, a research project related to the Japanese graves in the Hong Kong Cemetery.

Dr. Nakano was presented with the Foreign Minister's Commendation at an official ceremony on November 17.

# SMLC Newsletter

2021-2022  
FIRST ISSUE

### About the Award

First introduced in 1984, the Japanese Foreign Minister's Commendations are awarded to individuals and groups who have distinguished themselves in international fields, and is an acknowledgement of their outstanding contributions to the promotion of friendship between Japan and other countries and regions.

This year, the Commendations will be awarded to 177 individuals and 41 groups (22 individuals and 5 groups reside in Japan, and 155 individuals and 36 groups reside overseas).

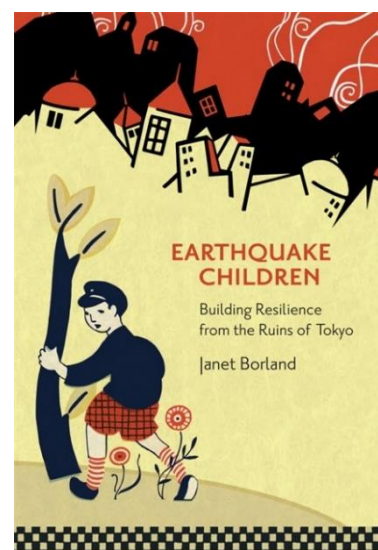
# Dr. Janet BORLAND becomes First Scholar of Japan to Win Prestigious International Book Prize

Japanese Studies; 17 Nov, 2021

Dr. Janet BORLAND, Assistant Professor in the Department of Japanese Studies, won the 2020 Grace Abbott Book Prize for *Earthquake Children: Building Resilience from the Ruins of Tokyo* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Asia Center, 2020). The prize is awarded annually by the Society for the History of Children and Youth for the best book published in English on the history of children, childhood, or youth (broadly construed). Dr. Borland received the prize in an online ceremony at the biennial conference in Galway held in July. She is the first scholar of Japan to win this prestigious international book prize.

"By mining a remarkable archive of materials generated before and after the earthquake, Dr. Borland demonstrates that children played a critical role in the development of Japan's distinctive approach to disaster-preparedness," noted the prize committee. "It provides a model for how historians might analyze and incorporate sources produced by children into their scholarship." Members of the prize committee were "particularly impressed" with Dr. Borland's "expansive and creative archive, and her nuanced analysis of the diverse material children generated about the disaster, including narratives, images, and poems." The committee likewise praised the "book's graceful narrative rendered in clear and accessible prose, along with its helpful methodological discussions." Both features, they agreed, "will make it valuable to scholars and students in many fields."

In a further honour, the Premier of New South Wales announced in August that *Earthquake Children* had been shortlisted for Australia's most prestigious history prize: the General History Prize, which is part of the 2021 NSW Premier's History Awards. Dr. Borland's book was one of three finalists for this Prize.



# The Sixth Global Creative Industries Conference

Global Creative Industries, Conference & Exhibition, 06-07 Nov 2021 (Sat-Sun)

The Sixth Global Creative Industries Conference “Artists, Markets, and Survival” held from the 6<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> November concluded successfully. The conference was organized by the Global Creative Industries Programme and supported by the Education Foundation for Asian and African Studies. The conference was one of the major events that marked the 10th anniversary of the Global Creative Industries Programme. This year, around fifty scholars, researchers, practitioners, postgraduate and undergraduate students from all disciplines participated in this hybrid event.

The conference invited three distinguished speakers to give special lectures on art administration, NFTs and the digital art market in Hong Kong. They were Dr. David TSUI, the executive director of Hong Kong Dance Company; Mr. Roger CHUNG, the founder and CEO of Maximus Consulting (Hong Kong) Ltd; and Mr. Heiman NG, the director of Digital Art Fair Asia. Dr. Karl Ian Cheng CHUA, Dr. Marco PELLITTERI, and Dr. Heung-wah WONG also presented their new book “Japanese Animation in Asia: Transnational Industry, Audiences, and Success” at the book launch roundtable. The next Global Creative Industries conference will be held in Tokyo in 2022.

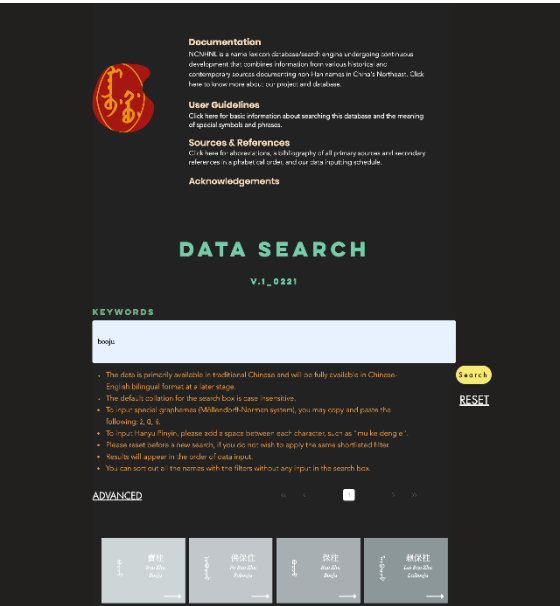


# The NCNHNL database

Knowledge Exchange, China Studies, by Dr. Loretta KIM

The **Northeast China Non-Han Name Lexicon (NCNHNL)** is an online searchable database of non-Han people's names from historical sources about Northeast China. It is the principal output from a three-year research project to elucidate the social and cultural diversity of Northeast China.

The NCNHNL is now fully accessible: [www.regionalstudiesofchina.net/dataset](http://www.regionalstudiesofchina.net/dataset).

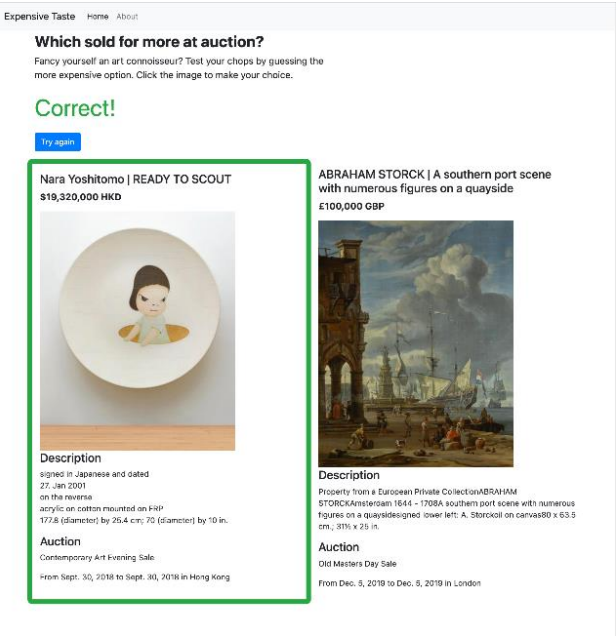


# Expensive Taste, 2021

Knowledge Exchange, American Studies,  
by Dr. Monica STEINBERG and Mr. Gabriel GETZIE

**Expensive Taste** transforms historic auction data into a "this or that" game. Players are tasked with choosing the object that fetched the higher hammer price.

Visit <https://expensivetaste.art/> and have a try!





# Latin America in the aftermath of Covid-19: What is next?

European Studies and American Studies; 26 May, 2021

This event was the first of the **Focus on Latin America Seminar Series** and was centred on 3 Latin American countries, the Covid-19 situation and also other internal issues affecting nation. Dr Anna Bautista (American Studies HKU) moderated the event and introduced each speaker. Dr Bárbara Fernández-Melleda (Latin American Studies, HKU) talked about Chilean politics, the recent protests leading to the establishment of a Constitutional Assembly, and the vaccination programme in the country. Dr Marcelo Thompson (Faculty of Law, HKU) discussed the situation in Brazil under Jair Bolsonaro's government and delved into misinformation regarding the management of the pandemic there. Dr Roland Vogt (European Studies, HKU) spoke about Colombia and the challenges the country faces also after several rounds of protests and the attempt at reorganizing the country given the Covid situation. In all three countries the common denominator was precariousness. Despite governmental attempts at mitigating the effects of the pandemic and prolonged lockdowns through bonuses, vouchers and other policies, thousands if not millions of Latin Americans could not access this aid as their work is informal and takes place in the streets. It has been calculated that over 20 million people in Latin America have fallen below the poverty line during 2020. It remains to be seen how the region will cope with this new scenario in the years to come.

Focus on Latin America series

## Latin America in the aftermath of Covid-19: What is next?

Please join us for a live discussion on current social and political developments in Latin America

**26 May 2021 (Wednesday) 5.00 - 6.30 pm**  
**Room 5.41, 5/F, Run Run Shaw Tower, Centennial Campus, HKU**

or via Zoom: <https://hku.zoom.us/j/99156869445>

Meeting ID: 991 5686 9445  
 Password: 449477

**Participants:**  
 Dr Bárbara Fernández-Melleda - Chile  
 Assistant Professor in Latin American Studies, The University of Hong Kong  
 Dr Marcelo Thompson - Brazil  
 Assistant Professor of Law, The University of Hong Kong  
 Dr Roland Vogt - Colombia  
 Associate Professor in European Studies, The University of Hong Kong

All are welcome. No registration is required. For enquiries, please contact Dr Anna Bautista at [anna.bautista@hku.hk](mailto:anna.bautista@hku.hk)

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# Discussion Forum with Japanese university students

Japanese Studies; 02 Feb, 2021; by Ms. Atsuko MITO

On February 2nd, JAPN4023 ("Nihonjinron": The question of Japanese uniqueness) invited some Japanese university students to join a "Discussion Forum" via ZOOM, where the students engaged themselves in cross-cultural dialogues in a more internationally diverse environment.



# The Consulate General of Korea and the Korean Cultural Center

Korean Studies; 26 June, 2021

On June 26, 2021, the 5th Korean Consul General Cup Speech Contest and the Quiz on Korea were successfully held in HKU. The participants are from all over Hong Kong: students learning the Korean language at universities in Hong Kong, including HKU students and graduates and many other participants who have deep interests in Korean culture and language. They enjoyed the quiz competition and

explored Korean culture through the various quiz questions, covering K-pop music to demographical features of Korea. In the speech contest, four HKU students participated, and Miss PUK Sum Yin from the Korean Studies programme won the second prize with a 5000hk\$-worth voucher and Korean Airline tickets to Korea.



# Japan Month: Decorated Sushi Rolls Online Workshop

Japanese Studies; 30 Apr, 2021

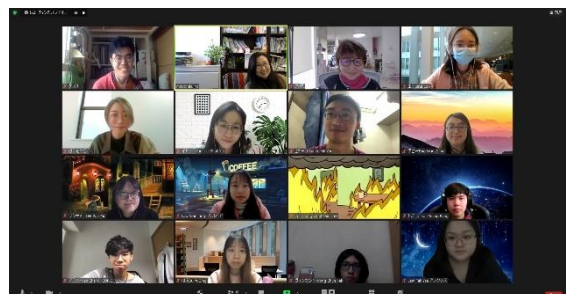
On 30 April, the Japanese Studies program organized an event named "Japan Month: Decorated Sushi Rolls Online Workshop". Instructed by Ms. Yumiko MITSUHASHI, participants made their own sushi rolls during the workshop.



# Poetry Reading Session with Japanese university students

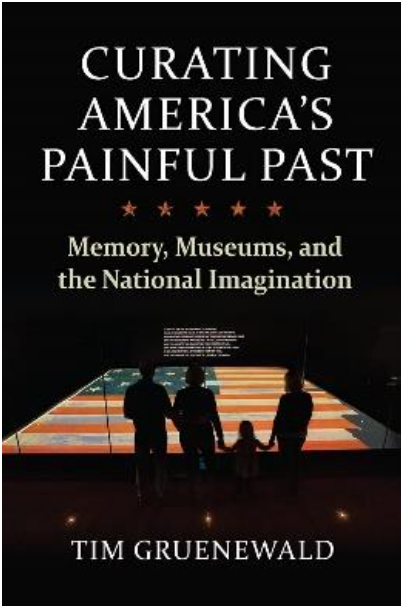
Japanese Studies; 04 Mar, 2021; by Ms. Atsuko MITO

In JAPN2o61 ("Japanese for effective communication"), we invited some Japanese university students to join a poetry making activity and held a "Poetry Reading Session" via ZOOM on March 4th, where the participants shared their thoughts and emotions about the world deeply affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and produced an anthology together.





# Publications



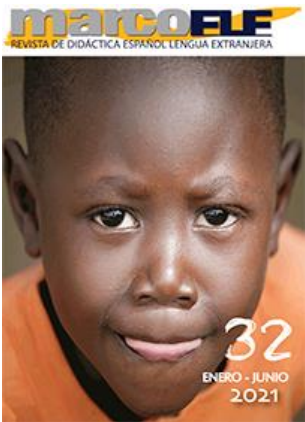
GRUENEWALD, Tim  
*Curating America's Painful Past Memory, Museums, and the National Imagination*  
Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2021.

During the global Black Lives Matter protests of 2020, many called upon the United States to finally face its painful past. Tim Gruenewald's new book is an in-depth investigation of how that past is currently remembered at the national museums in Washington, DC. *Curating America's Painful Past* reveals how the tragic past is either minimized or framed in a way that does not threaten dominant national ideologies. Gruenewald analyzes the National Museum of American History (NMAH), the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM), the National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC), and the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI).

AUER, Stefan (with SCICLUNA, Nicole)  
**"The Impossibility of Constitutionalizing Emergency Europe."**  
  
Journal of Common Market Studies, Annual Review, Vol 59, 2021, pp. 1-12.



BERDÚN VILLAMONTE, Iruene  
**"La presencia de las expresiones metaforicas en ocho manuales de ELE de nivel B1"**  
  
marcoELE REVISTA DE DIDÁCTICA ESPAÑOL LENGUA EXTRANJERA, NÚM. 32, ENERO - JUNIO 2021.



BEZABEH, Samson  
**"Djibouti and the Death of Hamoudi Ahmed: Reflection on Indian Ocean Studies"**  
  
Cahiers d'études africaines, 243, 2021, pp. 511-531.





CHONG, Li

**"Das Deutschprogramm an der University of Hong Kong - Kulturelle Prägung und didaktische Konzepte" (The German Programme at the University of Hong Kong - Cultural Impact and Didactic Concepts)**

Zhao, Jin & Giessen, Hans (Eds.): *Kulturalität der Sprache und Sprachlichkeit der Kultur*, Berlin: Peter Lang, 2021, pp.255-267.

KODAMA, Hiroaki

**"効果的な教え方とは何か—授業の構造に注目して—" (What Makes Teaching Effective?: Focusing on Structures in Lesson Planning)**

Nihon Gakkan vol. 24, 2021, pp. 68-80.

KIM, Su Yun

**"Transwar Continuities of Colonial Intimacy: Korean–Japanese Relationships in Korean Cinema, 1940s-1960s."**

Asian Studies Review 45, no.3, 2021, pp. 400-419.



MALIKOV, Amir Zufarovich (with Aliya Nailevna Miftakhova, Tatiana Gennadievna Bochina)

**"Woman vs. Baba in Russian Culture and Internet Language."**

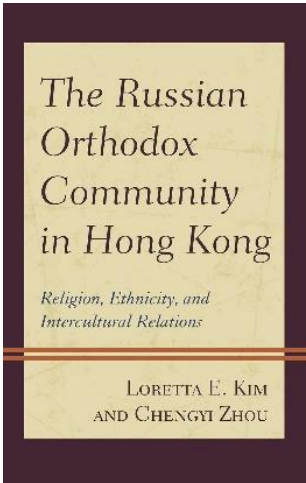
International Journal of Society, Culture & Language, Volume 8, 3 (Special Issue on Russian Culture and Language), 2020, pp. 54-62.



KIM, Loretta (with ZHOU, Chengyi)

**The Russian Orthodox Community of Hong Kong: Religion, Ethnicity, and Intercultural Relations.**

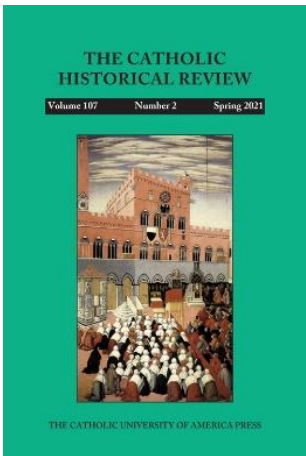
Lanham: Lexington Books, 2021.



LI, Ji

**"Mobility and Identity: Christianity and the Making of Local Society in Northeast China, 1840-1945,"**

The Catholic Historical Review, Vol. 107, 2021, pp. 253–76.



STEINBERG, Monica

**"Financial True Crime: Art, Para-journalism, and Data-Driven Storytelling,"**

Art History 44, no. 2, 2021, pp. 256-284.



**Ms. Irune, BERDÚN VILLAMONTE**

(Spanish Programme)

During the summer, Ms. Irune, BERDÚN VILLAMONTE has participated in various events, namely, the “Una aproximación a la lengua vasca desde una perspectiva sociolingüista” Seminar organized by Universidad de Brasilia in May 2021; Conference “La enseñanza de expresiones metafóricas en clase de ELE: aplicación de una metodología innovadora”, X Congreso Asiático de Hispanistas: 500 años del encuentro entre Asia y el mundo hispánico by Universidad de Hankuk, Seul in June 2021, and Workshop: “No pierdas la cabeza, te echo una mano: la enseñanza de las expresiones metafóricas en el aula de ELE” by VI encuentro Programa de ProfedeELE-Nebrija, Madrid in July 2021.

**Dr. Paul S.K. CHA**

(Korean Studies)

Dr. Paul S.K. CHA was awarded over HKD 568,000 in GRF funding for a project entitled 'Building a Transnational Protestant Network: the Korean War, Protestant ecumenism and protest movements'.

**Dr. Bárbara FERNÁNDEZ MELLEDA**

(American Studies)

Dr. Bárbara FERNÁNDEZ MELLEDA was awarded funding from the Louis Cha Fund for a project entitled 'Poets as Friends: images of Chile in Ai Qing's poetry'. This research will examine a small corpus of Ai Qing's poems inspired in the Chilean landscape, composed during a visit to Pablo Neruda's house in Isla Negra in 1954, when the Chilean poet celebrated his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. Ai and Neruda's friendship had started a few years earlier when Neruda visited China as an envoy for the Lenin Peace Prize.

And on June 18, 2021, Dr. Bárbara Fernández-Melleda was invited as the plenary speaker of the "Gender and Social Movements" International Conference organized by the Gender Research Centre, CUHK. Titled with 'Lessons from Chilean Feminist Collective "Las Tesis" during the 2019 Revolt: The Viralization of "A Rapist in your Path"', the sharing was about her work and cogent analysis on the gender and the movement erupted in Chile since 2019.



# Staff Achievements

## Dr. Su Yun KIM

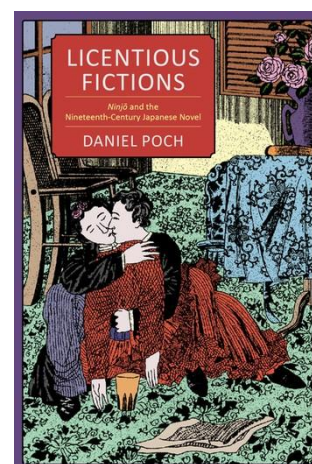
(Korean Studies)

Dr. Su Yun KIM has won the Cross-national Interdisciplinary Research Grant at the Harvard-Yenching Institute with a project title "Wars and Revolution in (E)motion: Inter-regional Cultural Exchanges in Cold War Asia." As the PI for this one-year group project, Dr. Kim will collaborate with group members in Hong Kong, Japan, and Vietnam from April 2022 to March 2023. Dr. Kim will also host an international conference at HKU in March 2023 for this project.

## Dr. Daniel POCH

(Japanese Studies)

On March 9, 2021, Dr. Daniel Poch was invited by a podcast Interview at the Japanese Studies channel of the *New Books Network* about his book *Licentious Fictions: Ninjō and the Nineteenth-Century Japanese Novel* (Columbia University Press, 2020). In the book, Dr. Daniel Poch investigates the significance of ninjō in defining the literary modernity of nineteenth-century Japan and explores how cultural anxieties about the power of literature in mediating emotions and desire shaped Japanese narrative from the late Edo through the Meiji period. Poch argues that the Meiji novel, instead of superseding earlier discourses and narrative practices surrounding ninjō, complicated them by integrating them into new cultural and literary concepts. The whole interview can be accessed via: <https://newbooksnetwork.com/licentious-fictions>



## Dr. Mercedes VÁZQUEZ VÁZQUEZ

(Spanish Programme)

Dr. Mercedes VÁZQUEZ VÁZQUEZ received a Teaching Development Grant for a project entitled 'Virtual field trip from East Asia to the Americas'.

## Dr. John WONG

(SMLC)

Dr. John WONG was awarded the Luce East Asia Fellowship at the National Humanities Center in Durham, NC and will spend most of the 2021-2022 in the US. He will work on a project entitled 'Hong Kong Takes Flight: commercial aviation and the making of Hong Kong, 1930s–1998'. In addition, he received funding from the Louis Cha Fund to host a conference at HKU on Chinese business history.




# Student Achievements

Independent Singer-songwriter **Dr Serruria LEUNG Ka-yan** (Alumni of SMLC, 2021), popularly known as “Serrini” has set up a scholarship for fellow students of the Faculty of Arts at HKU, where she obtained her PhD in 2021. According to the HKU website, up to five scholarships of the value of HK\$10,000 each shall be awarded annually to second year or above (non-final year) full-time local Bachelor of Arts students, based on academic merit (GPA 3.3 or above) and other attributes such as demonstrated leadership abilities, active participation in community service, mastery in areas such as sports, music or artistic pursuits or other non-academic achievements.

Scholarships at a Glance

Home > Scholarship Opportunities > Scholarships at a Glance > Scholarship Details

 Serrini Scholarship

梁嘉茵獎學金

**On the Donor**

In April 2021, Dr Leung Ka Yan Serrini (MA 2015, PhD 2021), a singer-songwriter, pledged a donation to establish a scholarship for fellow students of the Faculty of Arts.

**Purpose and Scope**

Up to FIVE scholarships shall be awarded annually to second year or above full-time local Bachelor of Arts students, based on academic merit (CGPA 3.3 or above) and other attributes such as but not limited to demonstrated leadership abilities, active participation in community service, mastery in areas such as sports, music or artistic pursuits or other non-academic achievements.

Awarded by External Body	
Value of Award	HK\$10,000 each
Renewal Conditions	—
Selection by	—
Type of Scholarships	Merit-based Scholarships for Current Students
Place of Origin of Students	Local
Level of Study	Undergraduate
Faculty	Arts
Year of Study	2, 3 (non-final year), 4 or above (non-final year)

**Ignatius G.D. SUGLO** receives the Laura Bassi Scholarship, his paper “*Visualizing Africa in Chinese Propaganda Posters 1950–1980*” was also published by Journal of Asian and African Studies.

**Allison DU Shichen** was among the second set of noteworthy applicants for the Laura Bassi Scholarship. Also, DU gave a presentation entitled “Making the Hometown of Qipao” in the “The Influence of Heritage on Tourism” panel for the ICAS (International Convention of Asia Scholars) 12 conference on August 25, 2021. The conference was held online in lieu of the original arrangement to convene in Kyoto, Japan.

**Raymond LOK Yiu Hong** recently graduated from the University of Hong Kong with a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in English Studies and Linguistics and minoring in Thai. He has spent his undergraduate years developing his interest and his knowledge in Thai, in addition to two overseas exchanges to universities in Thailand and the UK for Thai language and culture courses. This has built a solid foundation for him to undergo two occasions of internship to test his language skills, and finally landing an offer in the Royal Thai Consulate-General, Hong Kong. His current duty now involves PR, communications and culture.

# Staff News

## New Staff

**Dr. Geraldine Poppke Suter**  
Programme Director, Senior Lecturer  
(German Programme)

**Prof Mary Louise Buley-Meissner**  
Visiting Professor  
(American Studies)

## Departing Staff

**Dr. McGrath, Patrick Terence**  
Lecturer  
(American Studies)

**Ms. Lucilla CHENG**  
(General Office)

**Ms. Angel WONG**  
(General Office)

**Ms. Lavender LUI**  
(General Office)

**Ms. Evelyn LO**  
(General Office)

### CONTACT

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

### EDITORIAL TEAM

Mr. Sylvain HOLTERMANN  
39172036  
[sylvainh@hku.hk](mailto:sylvainh@hku.hk)

Ms. Evelyn LO  
39174403  
[evelynlo@hku.hk](mailto:evelynlo@hku.hk)

### Special thanks to the following contributors to this issue:

- Dr. Stefan AUER  
Ms. Irune BERDUN VILLAMONTE  
Dr. Samson BEZABEH  
Dr. Janet BORLAND  
Ms. Eunkyung CHANG  
Dr. Li CHONG  
Dr. Bárbara FERNÁNDEZ MELLEDA  
Dr. Loretta KIM  
Dr. Su Yun KIM  
Mr. Hiroaki KODAMA  
Dr. Ji LI  
Dr. Amir, MALIKOV  
Ms. Atsuko MITO  
Dr. Yoshiko NAKANO  
Dr. Daniel Taro POCH  
Ms. Kanokwal RATANA-U-BOL  
Ms. Dorothy SHUM  
Dr. Monica STEINBERG  
Dr. Mercedes VÁZQUEZ VÁZQUEZ  
Dr. Roland VOGT

Our NEW website is live,  
come and check out!

