SMLC Newsletter 2020-2021 1st Issue





SMLCNewsletter

2020-2021 FIRST ISSUE

SMLC Highlight

About Dr. Roland VOGT

The Covid Crisis Is also an Opportunity for Universities

School of Modern Languages and Cultures; by Dr. Roland VOGT

Dear students, dear colleagues-

The Covid-19 pandemic has changed university life much more profoundly than we could have ever anticipated. Many of the changes are temporary and will be rolled back once the pandemic-related restrictions are lifted, vaccines are rolled out, and normal travel resumes. But some changes will stick and alter the way we teach, learn, and research.

The changes affecting our world do not halt at the campus gates. Its consequences will be felt in the economy and the job market, in the way we produce and consume, and in the way we socialise. It is only normal that universities will be affected too. Some changes - like online classes, the proliferation of webinars, virtual conferences and even virtual field trips - are rapidly becoming a new normal. Others, like working and studying from home, will probably ebb away again.

Dr. Roland VOGT is Associate Professor of European Studies and Head of the School of Modern Languages and Cultures. An International Relations specialist by training, Roland teaches on contemporary European politics, the EU, Europe's role in the world, and the Holocaust. His research focuses on European diplomacy and security policies. He is currently conducting research on the implications of the US-Chinese 'tech war' on Europe as well as the fight against money laundering and organised crime in Europe.

(cont'd)

The response of our teaching staff and students in the SMLC to these new challenges has been resoundingly positive. Our learning community is showing a great capacity to adapt, to experiment and to be resilient and resourceful in testing times.

The SMLC stands at a crossroad. Knowledge of foreign languages and other cultures is central to prepare new generations for a tightly integrated and interdependent but also highly competitive world. Through our area studies, language, and global creative industry programmes, we address the demand of our students to learn more about other cultures with their distinct languages, literatures, histories, philosophical traditions, religions, social practices, and institutions. Yet the form of how we impart this knowledge may need to adapt and change much further than we currently envision.

The SMLC is well-positioned to succeed with the challenges that lie ahead. We are used to interdisciplinary research and to working across different countries and cross-cultural settings. But we must also ensure that our students benefit from an attractive, rich, inclusive, and intellectually stimulating curriculum that enables them to pursue their curiosity and talents, as well as to address the demands of an ever more demanding job market.

Changes bring disruptions but also new opportunities. It is incumbent on us to make the best use of these opportunities. The challenge for universities around the world is to simultaneously equip students for the future but also to serve as a 'brains trust' of ideas, knowledge, compassion, and critical reflection that are central to the human condition. Universities need to simultaneously embrace change and caution against it. We must not close ourselves off to new realities but also not jump on the bandwagon of every latest trend. Exercising careful judgement, weighing options, analysing situations, learning to distinguish fact from fiction is central to our endeavour - and doing this is not getting any easier.

Moments of crisis and turmoil are also moments of new beginnings. Maybe now the time is ripe to take stock of what we do, what we have achieved, and where we are lacking and should do more. The point is not to be driven by the flow of change but to steer it to a direction that is beneficial to us - as individuals and as members of a great university in one of the world's leading financial centres.

"Cultural Sino-Latin American Relations: Between Poetry and Diplomacy" & "The Chilean Plebiscite Digested"

American Studies, 14 Oct 2020 (Wed) & 25 Nov 2020 (Wed)

The American Studies programme widens its current strengths with the addition of a Latin American Studies academic track in 2019. So far, Latin American Studies at HKU has had a local presence through innovative courses delving into culture, history, literature and film. Further afield, we have participated in international symposia, knowledge exchange initiatives and through the publication of articles at prestigious academic journals.

Two of the events developed during the 2020/21 academic year should be highlighted. The first one was the open talk on "Cultural Sino-Latin American Relations: Between Poetry and Diplomacy" where Dr Bárbara FERNÁNDEZ MELLEDA introduced the Chilean-Chinese diplomatic relationship, which started with a sincere friendship between two poets, Chilean Nobel Prize winner Pablo NERUDA (1904-1973) and the renowned Chinese poet Al Qing (1910-1996). This friendship is the foundation of Dr FERNÁNDEZ MELLEDA's new research project, where she looks to demonstrate the relevance of cultural/literary exchange laying at the core of strong relationships between nations that go beyond economic interests.

On the other hand, Chilean society experienced its own revolt starting in October 2019, which culminated in the decision to call for a referendum towards the writing of a new Constitution, which approved this by 78%. This process will allow Chilean society to build their own future and to overcome the legacy of the Pinochet regime (1973-1990). In order to understand what happened and what's to come, the Latin American Studies track organized a seminar entitled "The Chilean Plebiscite Digested" which counted with the presence of Dr FERNÁNDEZ MELLEDA and Dr Roland VOGT as hosts. They were joined by prestigious scholars, Dr Walescka PINO-OJEDA, Associate Professor of Latin American Studies at The University of Auckland and Dr Pablo GREZ HIDALGO, Lawyer and Research Associate at The University of Birmingham.

On a Related Topic

The Everyday in Allende's Chile: Peter Lilienthal's La Victoria & Raúl Ruíz's Palomita Blanca

Spanish Programme, 5 Oct 2020 (Mon)

By Dr. Claudia SANDBERG



Theatre of War: Virtual Book Launch by Charco Press

American Studies Programme, 8 Dec 2020 (Tue)

Author Andrea JEFTANOVIC and translator Frances RIDDLE in conversation with Dr. Bárbara FERNÁNDEZ MELLEDA



A Linguistics-based Approach to the Acquisition of Japanese Verb Categories

Japanese Studies, 17 Oct 2020 (Sat)



This is the first online public lecture of Japanese Department regarding Japanese linguistics in 2020. There were more than 70 participants, including Japanese language students and teachers attended the lecture. We had a fruitful discussion on how to use transitive-intransitive verb and volitive-involitive verb correctly in elementary level. Verbs are misused easily by Chinese native learners because of crosslinguistic influence (CLI). Therefore, the acquisition of transitive-intransitive verb and volitiveinvolitive verb is difficult to handle in Japanese language education in Hong Kong. This lecture was a good chance for teachers with different background to develop better teaching methods to remedy this issue. Also, we have received many meaningful feedbacks by the students saying that they overwhelmingly appreciated the opportunity to learn about a specific topic of Japanese because it helps them to understand the concept at a deeper level. The participants also expressed an interest in further public lecture with other Japanese linguistics topics. We are going to hold other public lectures this year and are ready to discuss with students and teachers all over the world.

Unsettling the City: Queer Assemblages in Authoritarian-Era Seoul

Korean Studies, 24 Nov 2020 (Tue)

Co-organized with Gender Studies Programme, HKU

In this paper, "Unsettling the City: Queer Assemblages in Authoritarian-Era Seoul 도시공간의 재해석: 독재시대 서울의 퀴어아상블라주", Dr. Todd A. Henry (Department of History, University of California, San Diego) traces the development of Seoul's queer spaces under capitalist authoritarianism to expand our understanding of this period of South Korean history as well as the Western-centric concepts used to study minority populations.



African Studies Talks

African Studies, 15-23 Sep 2020

The African Studies Programme organized a series of talks in September 2020, focusing on African history and culture.

(Un)thinking Chinese Influence and Urbanity in Southern Africa

15 Sep 2020 (Tue)

By Dr. Romain DITTGEN

African Centre for Migration and Society, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg (South Africa)

The Possibilities of Archival Thinking

16 Sep 2020 (Wed)

By Dr. Tinashe MUSHAKAVANHU

Wits Institute for Social & Economic Research (WiSER) University of the Witwatersrand South Africa

Jihad from Below: a Social History of Muslim Expansion in West Africa (15th-19th centuries)

16 Sep 2020 (Wed)

By Dr. Thiago H. MOTA

Professor of African History, Federal University of Viçosa - Brazil

Africa in Broader Perspective: Interdisciplinary and Interregional Enquiries

18 Sep 2020 (Fri)

By Dr. Samson BEZABEH

Makerere University

Moi, Mau Mau, and the Problem of Ethnological Reason

23 Sep 2020 (Wed)

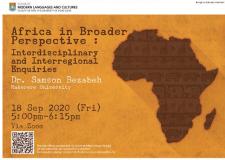
By Dr. Alírio KARINA

History of Consciousness Chair's Fellow, University of California, Santa Cruz

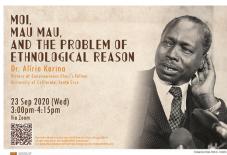












MODERN LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

In the Media

China Studies

Dr. Loretta KIM

Don't Try to Tame Me: Mongols in China Protest Plan to Teach in Chinese

Inkstone News, South China Morning Post 31 Aug 2020



European Studies

Dr. Stefan AUER

Russian interference in US election and Belarus

RTHK, The Pulse 9 Oct 2020



Hong Kong Studies

Prof. Stephen CHU

相愛也未算萬能

RTHK, 歷史係咁話 2020 15 Sep 2020



Dr. John D. O. WONG

挺<mark>粤落英不普</mark>通 (Languages in Hong Kong)

RTHK, 歷史係咁話 2019 27 Aug 2019

曾經天上三千劫 (Commercial aviation in Hong Kong)

RTHK, 歷史係咁話 2020 8 Dec 2020

何處香港 (Situating Hong Kong)

RTHK**,** 學人串社科 2020 23 Dec 2020



Spanish

Dr. Mercedes VÁZQUEZ VÁZQUEZ

Measures to prevent the spread of Covid in Hong Kong

Cosmopolitik of Radio Samán, Colombia Oct 2020

El Futuro Del Español 2020

Ministerio de Educación y Formación Profesional, Tinta China

Dec 2020

TINTA CLINA Nº 19 / 202

Profesorado

EL FUTURO DEL ESPAÑOL 2020



Dra. Mercedes Väzquez Universidad de Heng Kon

Publications

AUER, Stefan (with CHAN, Ching Yeung Kenneth)

"Power, Violence and the Politics of Hope: Global 1989 from Czechoslovakia to Hong Kong."

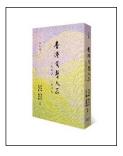
Australian Journal of Politics & History, vol. 66, no. 3, 2020, 467–482.



CHU, Stephen Yiu Wai (with WONG, Chi Wah, NG, Yuet Wah and LO, Wai Han)

香港文學大系一九五〇—一 九六九: 歌詞卷

Hong Kong: Commercial Press, 2020.



CHU, Stephen Yiu Wai
"Once Upon a Time in Hong
Kong Cantopop: 1984."

A. Fung and A. Chik (Eds.), **Made in Hong Kong: Studies in Popular Music,**New York: Routledge, 2020, 21-32.



CHU, Stephen Yiu Wai
"Hong Kong (in China)
studies: Hong Kong popular
culture as example."
Global Media and China, vol. 5, no. 2,

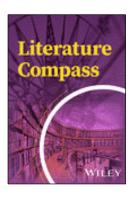
2020, 109-123.

CHU, Stephen Yiu Wai "Introduction: Mediating borders: New boundaries for Hong Kong studies." Global Media and China, vol. 5, no. 2, 2020, 103-108.



FERNÁNDEZ MELLEDA, Barbara "In Mistral's footsteps: "The Other" (1954) as the substrate poem for contemporary Chilean women poets."

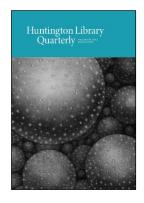
Literature Compass, vol.17, no.11, 2020, 1-16.



FICHTER, James

"The Palimpsest Captive: Narratives of Islam, the Essex, and Her Boy in Early Republican Culture."

Huntington Library Quarterly, vol. 83, no. 1, 2020, 143-179.



GRUENEWALD, Tim (with WITTEBORN, Saskia)

"Wang was missing: Rediscovering Wayne Wang's independence."

Q. Li and R. Conte (Eds.), Migration and Memory: Arts and Cinemas of the Chinese Diaspora, French Polynesia: Maison des Sciences et de l'Homme du Pacifique, 2020, 57-80.

GRUENEWALD, Tim (with WITTEBORN, Saskia)

"Feeling good: Humanitarian virtual reality film, emotional style and global citizenship."

Cultural Studies, 2020 .



IBANEZ GARCIA, Estela (with KNOTHE, Florian) (Eds.)

Colours of Congo: Patterns, Symbols and Narratives in 20th Century Congolese Paintings

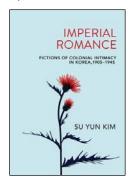
Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2021.



KIM, Su Yun

Imperial Romance: Fictions of Colonial Intimacy in Korea, 1905–1945

Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press, 2020.



KIM, Su Yun

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

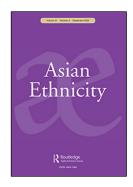
Asian Studies Review, 2020.



TESFAYE, Facil (with CHOW, Shun Man Emily)

"(Re)mediating 'Blackness' in Hong Kong Chinese Medium Newspapers: Representations of African Cultures in Relation to Hong Kong."

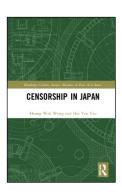
Asian Ethnicity, vol. 21, no. 4, 2020, 384-406.



WONG, Dixon Heung Wah (with YAU, Hoi Yan)

Censorship in Japan

London: Routledge, 2020.



WONG, Max Wai Lun (with NG, Michael and ZHANG, Shengyue)

"Who but the Governor in Executive Council is the Judge?' — Historical Use of the Emergency Regulations Ordinance."

Hong Kong Law Journal, vol. 50, no. 2, 2020, 425-461.

WONG, Max Wai Lun

"英治時代香港「緊急狀態」 法律的嬗變."

M. Ng and J. Wong (Eds.), 香港動盪: 法 與治的歷史與文化解讀, Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2020, 65-76.



WONG, John D.O.

"Flexible Corporate
Nationality: Transforming
Cathay Pacific for the
Shifting Geopolitics of Hong
Kong in the Closing Decades
of British Colonial Rule."

Enterprise and Society, 2020, 1-33.



SMLC Language Week: South East Asian Festival and Global Language Carnival

School of Modern Languages and Cultures, 23-28 Nov 2020

23 Nov 2020 (Mon) - Opening Ceremony

24 Nov 2020 (Tue) - Malaysian Cultural Day

Movie: Ola Bola / DIY Wau & Batik Set Workshop / Singing Performance

25 Nov 2020 (Wed) - Indonesian Cultural Day

Movie: Ada Apa Dengan Cinta / Drums Workshop / Dancing Performance

26 Nov 2020 (Thu) - Arabic Cultural Day

Movie: X-Large / Belly Dance Workshop / Belly Dance Performance

26 Nov 2020 (Thu) - Russian Cultural Day

Movie: Piter FM/ Motanka Doll Workshop / Gingerbread Printing Workshop /

Dancing Performance

27 Nov 2020 (Fri) - Thai Cultural Day

Loy Krathong Workshop / Dancing Performance

28 Nov 2020 (Sat) - Global Language Carnival



German Speaking Contest for Students

German Programme, 21 Nov 2020 (Sat)

On November 21, 2020, SMLC hosted the final round of this year's German Speaking Contest for Students "Zukunft ohne Plastik? — A Future without plastics?". The event was jointly organized by the Goethe Institute Hong Kong and Tonja Fung of the German Programme and was supported by the Consulate General of Germany, the Consulate General of Switzerland, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the Heinrich Böll Foundation, and the ALBA Group, with great technical support by William and Kin. Dr. Roland Vogt kindly gave a welcoming speech.

Students from Baptist University, the Chinese University, and the University of Hong Kong gave well-researched presentations in German in front of a jury and teachers. In the end, the big prize for best performance in the B level deservedly went to SMLC's own Luo Ruijie, Annabelle! Annabelle can now look forward to a four-week summer language course at a German university of her choice including flights and accommodation.



Latin American Conference on Spanish for Specific Purposes

Spanish Programme, 11 Dec 2020 (Fri)



Dr. Vázquez Vázquez was invited as the Keynote Speaker of the Latin American Conference on Spanish for Specific Purposes co-hosted by Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso (Chile) and Universidade Federal da Paraíba (Brazil) in December 2020. The keynote address presented a unique case study consisting in the application of a holistic approach to intercultural competence in a course of Spanish for Professional Purposes taught in the Spanish Programme of the School of Modern Languages and Cultures at HKU. The course showcased in the presentation involved the collaboration of university students from Colombia and Hong Kong in the design of an Asian-Latin American business project. More than 3800 participants from all over the world registered for the event. The feedback received from the conference participants suggests that the presentation was well received and is likely to produce an impact in the teaching and learning of foreign languages for specific purposes.

De la Terre à la Lune Novembre Numérique - Littérature Au Vol

French Programme

Littérature au Vol is an exciting project in which HKU French students have the opportunity to discuss, contextualize and interpret collectively a text by a major French author.

This year, to match the theme of the 2020 edition of Novembre Numérique, "Univers/e", a group of students had the opportunity to work on selected passages from De la Terre à la Lune, an 1865 novel by Jules Verne which inspired many subsequent literary, cinematographic and musical works.

Based on their reading and interpretation, participants adapted the text in the form of a short video using their own digital devices and collected materials. As a group, they were in charge of reading/performing the text, recording the video segments, editing and mixing the video.

The video they created was presented as part of the 2020, Hong Kong edition of Novembre Numérique; a worldwide festival celebrating digital cultures.

https://hongkong.consulfrance.org/Digital-November-2020-Novembre-Numerique-Univers-e-is-landing-in-Hong-Kong



French Expertise on Video Games - Digital November

Global Creative Industries, 16 Nov 2020 (Mon)

The Global Creative Industries Programme and the Consulate General of France in Hong Kong & Macau coorganized the workshop titled 'French Expertise on Video Games – Digital November' to introduce the French video game industry to students in GCIN2012. In the Zoom session, three prominent figures in the industry, Eric Chahi (Pixel Reef), Jehanne Rousseau (Spiders) and Frédéric Lecompte (Backlight), shared their career paths, representative projects and views about the future of video games. Students were amazed by the creativity and technology showcased in the presentations. In the Q&A session, the speakers also reminded students the importance of pursuing their passion.

HKU Virtual Information Day 2020

School of Modern Languages and Cultures, 31 Oct 2020 (Sat)

Programmes of SMLC took part in the "HKU Virtual Information Day for Undergraduate Admissions 2020" organized by the Admissions and Academic Liaison Section. This year's Information Day was conducted online. Our teachers adopted various interactive approaches, for example, programme talks, Q&A sessions, games, and workshops, to provide important information about the programmes. The activities have successfully attracted more than 100 participants. Besides, the Live Chat function on vFairs, an online platform, enabled the participants to chat with Programme representatives and to obtain relevant information of the Programmes offered by our School.



Faces and Places from The Arab World Photo Exhibition

Arabic Programme, 14 Sep - 14 Oct 2020

The Arab World is the region that stretches from the Arabian Sea in the East to the Atlantic Ocean in the West, and from the Mediterranean Sea in the North to the Indian Ocean in the Southeast. It consists of 22 Arab countries that form the Arab League.

The Arab World is rich in history and culture, and in every Arab country within the Arab World, you can easily see the harmony between the old traditions and the modern lifestyle.

This exhibition is a very short journey to some places in the Arab World, memories that are mainly shared by students of the University of Hong Kong.



Student Achievements

In the academic year of 2019-2020, thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, we gave out 16 separate prizes in 7 disciplines to 45 students who have distinguished themselves in their studies. The donations provided our students with opportunities to immerse themselves in the language and culture they are studying. Since there was no SMLC Award Ceremony due to COVID-19 pandemic, we would like to list the prizes and the recipients here.

African Studies

Ms. Cecilia Vong Prizes in African Studies

Mr. Cheung Lok Yin

American Studies

The Consular Book Award in American Studies

Mr. Fong Chun San Miss Mak Charmaine

Miss Mak Yan Kiu Joyce

Miss Ngai Hiu Lam

Mr. Shiu Man Fung

Miss Tse Hei Lam Claudia

Miss Wong Yu Ching

Mr. Yip Lang Sen Samuel

The Academic Excellence Award of the American Consulate

Miss Kwok Ka Ling Miss Xiao Wenquan

French

Prize of the Consulate General of France

Miss Leung Wai Ki



German

German Consulate General Book
Prize

Miss Kwok Ka Ling Miss Lin Xueping

Hong Kong Studies

Yuet Hing and Ho Sin Ming Prize in Hong Kong Studies

Mr. Choi Tsz Kei Miss Pang Ka Ching

Japanese Studies

Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Scholarship (MEXT) (2019-2020)

Miss Chan Carmen Miss Lau Wing Kiu

AEON Scholarship

Miss Cheng Wai Lam Miss Ho Tsz Ching Miss Law Hoi Ning Miss Tsui Tsz Ki

Miss Wong Hing Yan Mr. Wong Ho Chau

Mr. Yip Kin Chung

Miss Zhang Yuqi

Japan ICU Foundation Scholarship

Miss Chu Pui Sze

JASSO Scholarship

Miss Kam Lok Yin Charlotte Miss Ma Yan Loi Jacqueline

Murakami Fuminobu Memorial Prize in Japanese Studies

Miss Wong Hui Yan

Resona Bank Scholarship for Japanese Studies

Mr. Chan Tsz Ho Mr. Poon Tsun Wing

Shun Hing Exchange Scholarships

Mr. Tang Chun Wa

Soka Makiguchi Foundation

Mr. Chu Chun Ming Miss Tse Wan Ying

Special Honours in Japanese Language 2019

Miss Chan Yuen Ying
Miss Seto Yuen Ying
Miss Wong Sze Ning
Miss Wong Yuk Yin Evelyn

Miss Yu Yan Yiu

Swedish

The Consulate General of Sweden Prize

Mr. Choi Chong Hing Miss Chow Ho Shuen Amber Mr. Pang Kwok Hang

Miss Sun Man Yan Miss Tang Tsz Ching

Staff News

In loving memory of Marie Li Ying (August 14, 1958 - October 31, 2020)

French Programme

It is with great sadness that we learned the passing of our colleague and friend, Marie Li Ying, on October 31, 2020.

Born in Beijing in 1958, Marie Li completed her training in French at Beijing Normal School of Foreign languages (北京外国语师范学院) and taught French there for a period of two years before moving to Hong Kong. She went on to get her Master in French and Linguistics from Middlebury College while living in Paris for a year.

Marie joined the University of Hong Kong in 1994 where she taught French for the past 25 years. Beside teaching French language courses, Marie designed Chinese/French translation courses and was a regular editor of material for language learning and translation. She was also the author and co-author of several books on the subject.

Those who knew Marie will remember her for her genuinely caring nature, fun and outgoing demeanour, and for her love of life. Our deepest sympathy extends to her son Andrew.



New Staff

Dr. Samson BEZABEH

Assistant Professor (African Studies)

Ms. Alvis SIO

Executive Assistant (General Office)

Departing Staff

Dr. Estela IBANEZ-GARCIA

Assistant Professor (African Studies)

Mr. Ludovic KEI

Clerk II

Staff taking up new positions

Dr. Loretta KIM

Associate Professor (China Studies)

Dr. Su Yun KIM

Associate Professor (Korean Studies)

Dr. Yoshiko NAKANO

Programme Director (Japanese Studies)

Dr. Daniel POCH

Associate Professor (Japanese Studies)

Dr. Roland VOGT

School Head

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

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