

**The David C. Lam Institute for East-West Studies (LEWI)  
Hong Kong Baptist University**

LEWI e-Newsletter

LEWI e-Newsletter is published quarterly by David C. Lam Institute for East-West Studies for circulation among its member institutions. Contributions are most welcome.

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## **Conference co-sponsored**

### **China and the World (17-18 November 2011)**

The Conference, which took place on 17 & 18 November, was organized by the History Department of Shue Yan University and Hong Kong Baptist University; LEWI is a supporting organization. The Conference focused on China's relationship – social, economical, political and cultural – with other countries from the period of Pre-Qin to modern times. More than 40 scholars from seven countries presented papers and shared their research findings at the plenary sessions.

### **Hong Kong in China/Cosmopolitan Journeys (12-15 October 2011)**

The HKBU Faculty of Social Sciences, China Research Centre of the University of Technology Sydney, and the Centre of Studies of Hong Kong, Macao and the Pearl River Delta of the Sun Yat-Sen University on the Mainland jointly presented the groundbreaking cross-border “International Conference on Hong Kong in China/Cosmopolitan Journeys” on the HKBU campus and in Guangzhou from 12 to 15 October. LEWI is a sponsor of the event.

The conference explored how Mainland China influences Hong Kong by tracing the contributions from Hong Kong in the arenas of the arts, architecture and design, citizenship and rights, food, consumer culture, education, medicine, entrepreneurialism, sports and leisure. The theme “Hong Kong in China” explored the discursive, symbolic and material realities of the dynamic relationship between cosmopolitan Hong Kong and multiple Chinas, and draws on perspectives of “Cosmopolitan Journeys” through their potential to re-theorise cosmopolitanism in light of contemporary reconfigurations of diversity, hybridity, citizenship, and governance.



## **Public Lectures**

### **Holy Men and Pilgrims along the Silk Road (24 November 2011) & The History of Marian Devotion in China (25 November 2011)**

LEWI is honoured to invite Dr. Jean-Paul Wiest, Senior Researcher of the Beijing Center for Chinese Studies, to deliver two lectures on 24 & 25 November.

Dr. Wiest has been a research fellow at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and a visiting scholar at the University of Hong Kong's Centre of Asian Studies. He was also the founder and research director of the Center for Mission Research & Study at Maryknoll, coordinator of the Maryknoll in China History Project, and research director of the Maryknoll Society of Oral History Program. His publications include: *Popular Catholicism in A World Church* (Maryknoll, Orbis Books, 1999); *The Catholic Church in Modern China* (Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 1993); *Maryknoll in China* (Armonk: M.E. Sharpe, 1988); and others. He has published numerous articles on the Chinese Catholic Church.

#### **Holy Men and Pilgrims along the Silk Road**

Held in the evening of 24 November, the lecture was about the silk road in Chinese territory. This is a most captivating story that retraces the importance of the silk road as a religious conduit in both directions, eastward and westward (mainly Buddhism, Christianity, and Islam).

#### **The History of Marian Devotion in China**

The lecture, held in the afternoon of 25 November, retraced how the Marian devotion spread among Chinese Catholics from its origin to the present situation. It was a fascinating story of endurance in faith and ups and downs in inculturation.



## **LEWI Public Lecture Series**

Following the success of the Public Lecture Series on “East-West Cultural Exchange: The Late Ming Period”, LEWI Visiting Scholar Fr. Louis Ha presented two new series in Fall 2011. The two series, entitled “The Encounter of the Latin Language with the Chinese Classic Language” and “The Roman Empire and Its Legacies”, were held from September to November. Below are details of the Series.

### **The Encounter of the Latin Language with the Chinese Classic Language I & II (14 October & 4 November 2011)**

The first lecture, held on 14 October, explored East-West cultural differences by studying three versions of Latin translation of the Chinese classics, The Analects. Differences in grammar and syntactic structure reflect the differences in the ways of thinking between the two cultures – one stresses on accuracy while the other on sophistication.

The second lecture was about *Mashi Wentong* and Latin grammar. *Mashi Wentong* is the first Chinese grammar textbook written by a Chinese scholar, Ma Jianzhong, who published it in 1898. *Mashi Wentong* is closely related to Latin grammar, and it is often criticized as being imposing Latin grammatical tradition on Chinese. The lecture discussed how an understanding of Latin grammar benefits the study of classical Chinese.



### **The Roman Empire and Its Legacies I & II (23 Sep & 30 Sept 2011)**

The extraordinarily rich cultural legacy of Rome is an exemplification of the Roman Empire at its height. Rome also witnesses the nineteenth-century Italian unification

movement, conflict of the Papal States and the ravages of two world wars in the twentieth century. Even today, the Roman city, with the legacies of the Roman Empire, reveals the achievements of European culture.

### **Arts & Cultural Education: Moving Beyond the Academy (6 Sep 2011)**

LEWI was pleased to invite Dr. Susan Daniels, International Director for the Faculty of Performance, Visual Arts and Communications, Leeds University, to give a lecture on “Arts & Cultural Education: Moving Beyond the Academy” on 6 September.

Dr. Daniels specialises in collaborations with external institutions, and is a member of the public liaison committee of the National Coal Mining Museum England. She has been proactive in DARE, the partnership between the University of Leeds and Opera North, since its inception. Her other major interest is in the global curriculum and she has led degree study for the University of Leeds in Israel, Palestine, and Eire. In 2011 she was awarded a University of Leeds Teaching Fellowship for excellence in teaching.

In the lecture, Dr. Daniels introduced the ways in which Leeds embeds externality into arts programmes, using case studies, e.g., the University’s partnership with local government, with arts agencies, and with cultural bodies. In the second half of the lecture, she explored the possibilities for transnational education in these fields.



## **LEWI Seminar Series**

LEWI launched a new research seminar series in October 2011. One seminar will be held each month for LEWI's research staff, working group members and visiting scholars to present their research findings. The first seminar was held on 19 October with Prof. Li Si-ming, LEWI Director, speaking on housing inequality in Guangzhou while the second seminar was delivered by LEWI Associate Director, Prof. Cindy Chu, on 9 November. Below please find the abstract of the two seminars.

### **The Catholic Church in China (9 Nov 2011)**

This is a history of the Catholic Church in China since the country opened itself to the world in December 1978. The speaker will talk about the history of China's Catholic Church for slightly more than three decades to the present and on various levels, diplomatic, political, societal, and individual.



### **Housing Inequality under Market Deepening: The Case of Guangzhou (19 Oct 2011)**

Ever escalating land and housing prices in China's major metropolises have brought widespread discontent. There is a general impression that housing inequality is rising, and that housing has become increasingly out of reach of ordinary Chinese households. Yet, to date much of the literature on housing consumption and housing inequalities in Chinese cities is based on data generated in the early reform period. Very little has been written about what has happened since the 1998 housing reform when both the production and consumption of housing became primarily market-based. The present paper aims to address this deficiency by reference to

surveys conducted in Guangzhou in 1996, 2001 and 2005. Quality-adjusted inequality indices including the Gini coefficient and the Theil index are computed to compare housing inequality before and after the ending of welfare allocation of housing at the turn of the century. Quite unexpectedly, the results show only modest increase in inequality for housing consumption as a whole as well as for the commodity housing sector.

## **LEWI Management Meeting**

LEWI hold its first management meeting on 7 October. The meeting was attended by LEWI directors, working group convenors and research staff, who are standing members of the meeting and LEWI fellows also attended the meeting as observers.

At the meeting, LEWI director Prof. Li briefed members on the background of the restructuring of the Institute and its recent development – 1) in spring 2011 LEWI received a major grant from the University under the Strategic Development Fund scheme to substantially strengthen the Institute’s research infrastructure; 2) seven research staff members at the ranks of Research Assistant Professor and Postdoctoral Research Fellow have been recruited; 3) LEWI has re-organized its research around three working groups, namely, urbanization and mobility working group, cross-cultural studies working group, and environment, health and sustainability working group; and 4) to transform LEWI into a vibrant research hub, LEWI will strive to bid for consultation projects for the government, NGOs, and to bid for GRF, PRF and other RGS grants.

Following Prof. Li’s briefing, the new recruits introduced themselves and their research interests and the working group convenors gave a summary of 2011-12 activities for the three working groups.

The meeting concluded with Prof. Li’s presentation on the planning for academic year 2011-2012, which include the launching of summer school, public lecture series and LEWI seminar series.

## **Visitorship Program**

### **Dr. Carmen Mendes, University of Coimbra (26 September – 25 November 2011)**

Dr. Carmen Mendes, Professor of International Relations of the University of Coimbra, was LEWI’s visiting scholar from September to November. During her visit, Dr. Mendes traveled to Macau occasionally to do fieldwork for her research on “How



the Hong Kong and Macau Special Administrative Regions (SARs) have been Cases of Successful Implementation of the Formula “One Country, Two Systems”. In Macau, she interviewed Portuguese, Chinese and Macanese people, both from the Government and the civil society, that are directly or indirectly involved in the strategy of creating in Macau a platform for the relationship between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries. While in Hong Kong, she had several meetings with academics from the Department of Government and International Studies (GIS) sharing findings of her fieldwork in Hong Kong and Macau.

On 27 October, Dr. Mendes presented a seminar on “The Role of Macau in China's relations with the Portuguese Speaking Countries”, organized by LEWI and the Department of GIS.



## **Resident Graduate Scholarship Program**

### **New Students in Fall 2011**

In Fall 2011, we welcome two new students to LEWI to participate in the Resident Graduate Scholarship (RGS) Program:

**Fanny Chen, Ph.D. Candidate, School of Business, The University of Kent.** Thesis topic: “Targeting Young Consumers through Product Placement: A Cross-Cultural Comparison between Hong Kong and the UK”. Field supervisor at HKBU: Professor Ringo Ma, Department of Communication Studies.

Fanny is a Ph.D. candidate at Kent Business School, The University of Kent, U.K. Her research project focuses on the effect of product placement in movies, which is tentatively titled as “Product placement: The Role of Prominence, Brand Awareness,

Prior Notification and Culture on Persuasiveness”. She has published several articles, book chapters and conference papers. Her work appears in Asian Journal of Communication, Humour: International Journal of Humour, Journal of Marketing Communications, etc. Her research interests include advertising and product placement effectiveness, culture, humour and consumer psychology.

“I am extremely grateful to the Resident Graduate Scholarship (RGS) Programme offered by David C. Lam Institute for East-West Studies. The support from LEWI allows me to carry out fieldwork in Hong Kong smoothly. I am also thankful to my field supervisor, Prof. Ringo Ma, School of Communication, who provides valuable comments and suggestions during this field trip.”

**Wu, Long, Master Candidate, Chinese Academy of Social Science, School of Business, The University of Kent.** Thesis topic: “Liaodong Frontier Markets and the Rise of Nurhachi”. Field supervisor at HKBU: Dr. Loretta Kim, Department of History.

I received my B.L. in politics from Northwest University of Politics and Law in 2009. I am now reading my master’s degree at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing. My academic interest covers many fields, including Ming-Qing conflict, Han Chinese intellectuals and their relationship with Manchus, the sinicization of Eight Bannermen and the identity of the Manchus. Now I am doing research on the frontier markets and the rise of Nurhachi in the late Ming dynasty in LEWI.

I’ve been through a really tough and hard time after I came to study in HKBU, especially the food and Cantonese. But now, after four months of studying here, I’ve almost adapted to the whole new learning environment. I can understand Cantonese well, though I can not say it very fluently. I often hang out with friends to enjoy the really beautiful and melting pot like city and enjoy all kinds of sports and other entertainment facilities of the university. But the most attractive thing to me here in Hong Kong is the wonderful lectures at HKBU and other universities. I have learned a lot from those lectures. I must express my gratitude to director Li who gives me this opportunity to undertake research in LEWI. I am equally thankful to Miss Alice Lu, LEWI Program Officer, for her kind assistance.

## **Research Activities**

### **Application for Research Grants**

November is a busy month for LEWI’s researchers as the deadline for applications for

the General Research Fund (GRF) of Hong Kong Research Grants Council 2012/13 was due on 21 November. Apart from the GRF, our research staff was also busy preparing proposals for submission to HKBU for applications for the Faculty Research Grants.

Below please find details of the grant proposals submitted by LEWI working group convenors and research associate professors.

- **Prof. Adrian Bailey, Convenor, Urbanization and Mobility Working Group**

Proposal 1

Title: Return migration and the family circuits of Hong Kongers

Submitted to: General Research Fund, Research Grants Council

Abstract:

The return migration of Hong Kongers affects the development of Hong Kong's labour force, the nature and role of family connections across an increasingly diverse Chinese diaspora and, most broadly, how Hong Kong influences global society. However, while these are profoundly important economic, social, and political issues, the contributions of the group of returning migrants are poorly understood because of a series of methodological and conceptual obstacles. This research addresses itself to these obstacles by proposing a new concept (family circuits) and testing this with a new data-set.

The project addresses three gaps in theory. First, while theories of international migration emphasise economic motivations, and theories of return migration discuss social motivations like retirement, there are no empirically-driven analyses of how economic and social factors work together. In aging societies including Hong Kong this has manpower and social services implications. For example, will migrants work closer to home (mainland China compared to North America) to meet family obligations – and will a burden fall on some groups more than others?

The research also extends lifecourse theory to better account for the fact that global connectivity may increase the expectation on overseas migrants and their family members for more frequent and fluid forms of mobility. Lifecourse theory has begun to suggest that transnational family arrangements are emerging to give migrants flexibility in balancing expectations of hypermobility. Our research contributes new

data to provide systematic knowledge of such global circuits, and what this means for family relations.

Third, while theories of return migration acknowledge the importance of state policy, we explore the broader ways in which the governance of the population affects return migration. We explore how government policies and statements can project cultural and value-laden frameworks, against which certain patterns of migration appear more positively than others (for example, an ongoing public debate about the contributions of business migrants and domestic helpers).

Our research requires an innovative research design sensitive to the role of events, personal and family experiences, and changing external conditions. By supporting longitudinal modeling and offering rich insights into economic, social and political processes, this research design assembles systematic evidence to support manpower planning and to better understand how returning Hong Kongers are changing the global influence of Hong Kong.

## Proposal 2

Title: Translational studenthood between Hong Kong & UK: higher education mobility and transitions to adulthood across the Cantonese diaspora

Submitted to: Faculty Research Grants, Hong Kong Baptist University

### Abstract:

Processes of becoming an adult form a significant but understudied part of cultural reproduction. This research compares the University education strategies of Cantonese heritage persons born in Hong Kong with those born in the UK. It investigates how student migration is framed by, and reproduces the spaces and times of transnational families which help organize the lives of many Cantonese-heritage persons living between UK and Hong Kong. Combining our local knowledge of these families in Hong Kong and the UK with a transdisciplinary perspective enables the research team to explore the transnational context of social transitions and cultural reproduction. The research can make an immediate impact upon our understanding of youth transitions in UK, Hong Kong, and Chinese society, upon the short-term implications of educational reform in Hong Kong (334 reforms) and the UK (fees regulation), and upon the organization of the contemporary Cantonese-heritage population.

### Proposal 3

Title: Everyday object mobilities: the changing practices of return migrants in Hong Kong

Submitted to: Faculty Research Grants, Hong Kong Baptist University

Abstract:

Studies of migration and other areas of social science have demonstrated the value of examining objects in order to learn about everyday life and transnational links. Yet such work has often acknowledged the mobility of people without foregrounding that of objects, which undertake patterns of intermittent movement that help to constitute social life. This project contributes to understandings of migration, mobilities, and everyday practices by following the micro-mobilities of migrants' everyday objects. Using a research design that involves multiple rounds of interviews and participant-generated documentation of object movements, this study examines how the everyday use of objects compares at different points in the experience of migrants who have left and then later returned to Hong Kong. Investigating return migrants, who have left Hong Kong for other opportunities and then eventually returned, allows an opportunity to consider how seemingly banal everyday activities shift over the course of migration, and how the movement and availability of objects is central to this transformation. By bringing together concepts from the mobilities paradigm, theories of practice, and work on migration, this study not only contributes empirical insights into the object practices of Hong Kong return migrants, but will also generate new theoretical contributions by bringing together literatures that have often developed in parallel.

- **Prof. Kara Chan, Convenor, Environment, Health and Sustainability Working Group**

Title: Predicting healthy eating behavior among adolescents using the Theory of Planned Behavior

Submitted to: General Research Fund, Research Grants Council

Abstract:

Healthy eating is important to everyone in every country, and its absence brings about considerable social and economic burdens. Twenty-two percent of primary school

students in Hong Kong were obese in 2008-09. This obesity rate demonstrated a significant increase when compared to the 16% in 1997-98 (Hong Kong SAR Government, 2010).

Mainland China also faces the issue of child obesity. Child obesity there is believed to be associated with the increasing acceptance of fast food, the indulgent feeding of the single-child generation by parents and grandparents, as well as physical inactivity among children (Cheng, 2004). The obesity rate among mainland children under the age of 15 increased from 15% in 1982 to 27% in 2004 (Lau, 2004). Problems such as obesity have raised questions about how the healthy eating message can best be communicated to young people. Effective health communication should be based on a sound knowledge of young people's attitudes toward healthy eating and the cognitive psychology involved in health communication.

This study will investigate Hong Kong and mainland Chinese adolescents' intention toward healthy eating. The Theory of Planned Behavior will be used as the theoretical framework to examine how the intention to engage in healthy eating is affected by attitudes towards healthy eating, perceived behavioral control and subjective norms related to healthy eating. Variables in addition to the Theory of Planned Behavior will include perceived barriers, self-efficacy, past healthy eating behavior, and behavioral knowledge. Data collection will involve a sample survey in Hong Kong and two cities in mainland China.

The research builds on the investigators' previous work in this area and will make significant theoretical and practical contributions to the understanding of adolescent eating habits in Hong Kong and mainland China. While there is a growing body of research on adolescents and healthy eating, the proposed study will be the first to apply the Theory of Planned Behavior to predict the effects on healthy eating in a Chinese society. Applications of the Theory of Planned Behavior and the associated Theory of Reasoned Action are commonplace in western countries, but the theory has been applied less often in a Chinese context and there is evidence to suggest that for some behaviors predictions may vary depending on the social and cultural settings (Bagozzi et al, 2000). How would the theory apply to the adoption of healthy eating behavior in China? Although the focus of this research is on the theoretical contribution, given the magnitude of the obesity problem in Hong Kong and mainland China the results of the study will also be of practical importance in assisting parents, educators and policy makers in designing health communication strategies for adolescents.

- **Prof. Cindy Chu, Convenor, Cross-Cultural Studies Working Group**

Title: The Catholic church in China, 1978 to the Present

Submitted to: General Research Fund, Research Grants Council

Abstract:

This is a history of the Catholic Church in China since the country opened itself to the world in December 1978. This project critically evaluates the Chinese Catholic Church on a number of different levels. First, it addresses the diplomatic level through an analysis of Sino-Vatican and Sino-foreign relations. Second, the governmental level is explored by examining the control over church activities by the Beijing government and the Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association. Third, the discussion of the societal level focuses on the supervision of local church groups, as well as religious and cultural exchanges between foreigners in China and Chinese abroad. Fourth, the individual level inquiry concerns the treatment of released clergy, the consecration of government-approved bishops, and the lives of Chinese Catholics.

The late renowned Jesuit scholar Edward J. Malatesta described the history of Christianity in China as having been marginalized and considered peripheral and insignificant until 1968. Moreover, the history had been viewed mainly from a European perspective. In 1997 he stated that Christianity in China grew into an increasingly mainstream study in Chinese history. Historians realized that Christian Churches had not disappeared during the Cultural Revolution as thought, but instead had continued underground and persisted and afterward revived once China opened its doors to the world. When Malatesta stated this revisionist view, he was putting an emphasis on the revival of Christianity that had never been extinct in Communist China. More importantly, he said that the growing importance of Christianity in China had propelled scholars to regard the developments since 1978 as part of a chronology in progress, and to see them from the viewpoint of a historian!

Historians specializing in Christianity in China should write a history of the Catholic Church in China since 1978. As historian Jean-Paul Wiest remarked: “What a surprise then, when in the early 1980’s, the West discovered that the Christian faith not only had survived but was growing” in China. Akira Iriye, Professor Emeritus of Harvard University, has encouraged historians to venture into new areas, which are usually examined by political scientists and non-historians. Iriye points out that historians can trace the continuing chronology and provide a different perspective to these areas of study. According to him, history is “the one perspective that seeks to look at the

phenomenon whole,” and historians’ objective is “to help our readers unify the various ways of seeing...into one connected vision.”

- **Dr. Perry Johansson, Research Associate Professor, Cross-Cultural Studies Working Group**

Title: National history inside out: The importance of China and Vietnam for the radicalization of Sweden

Submitted to: General Research Fund, Research Grants Council

Abstract:

This project aims for a fundamental revision of Sweden’s contemporary history by stressing the role of China and the Vietnam War for changing the nation’s political landscape. Shifting focus from the country’s role internationally to the importance of global events for the development of its domestic politics, a new understanding is sought for the emergence of a more radical Sweden under Olof Palme. Proceeding from newly opened archives and recently published memoirs, this proposed study will explain first the appearance of an influential Maoist movement in the late 1960s laying bare the reactions and changes this movement managed to force upon Swedish foreign and domestic policy of the 1970s. A first hypothesis, already tried in a pilot study, states that it was the Chinese Communist Party, by inviting and training a small number of Swedes, who laid the foundation for a Maoist led united front in Sweden. A second hypothesis, following from the first, is that the radicalization of the ruling Swedish Social Democratic Party under Olof Palme was directly caused by the provocation that this united front produced by its relentless focus on American atrocities in Vietnam. A third theory that follows from this is that the Social Democratic Party came to use the Indochinese wars for domestic politics; especially during election times. This proposed revisionist narrative of contemporary Swedish history will be framed by a metadiscussion on state influence over Swedish historiography during social democratic rule and a psychoanalytic reading of the trans-generational guilt dynamics caused by the nation’s tacit help to the Nazi war machine. Several smaller pilot studies have been undertaken, and much of the material from Chinese and Swedish archives have been collected. The project will run for three years and result in a monograph published in Swedish, English, and Chinese. By the lesson presumptively drawn from this proposed study - that local history is sometimes not understandable without its global context - this study might furthermore become an important first step for a much needed reorientation of Swedish historiography from National history to world history. However, with the



involvement of China, and the display of anti-Americanism shown by a Western power in a crucial moment of the Cold War, this proposed study might also bring important new information and insights to the fields of Cold War and China Studies.

- **Dr. Shanshan Lan, Research Associate Professor, Urbanization and Mobility Working Group**

Title: Race and the Cultural Politics of Belonging: African Diaspora Communities in Guangzhou

Submitted to: General Research Fund, Research Grants Council

Abstract:

With the expansion of Sino-African trade, African migrants are becoming an increasingly visible population in urban China. In the past decade, the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou has witnessed unprecedented growth in its African population and the formation of the most conspicuous African diaspora communities in China, dubbed by local Chinese as “Chocolate City” or “Little Africa.” According to an unofficial estimate, there are currently around 20,000 legal African immigrants in Guangzhou and the number of undocumented immigrants may be close to 200,000. The increase of African migrants in Guangzhou has raised pressing questions on issues of race, immigration control and cross-cultural communications in urban China. This project adopts a comparative perspective by placing African immigrants in China in the broader context of globalization and transnational migration. By comparing the African diaspora experience in China and in the United States, it investigates the changing meanings of race and racism in different cultural contexts. Specifically I am interested in how knowledge about Africa and blackness is constructed in China’s rising market economy and to what extent it contributes to the reproduction of a global racial hierarchy.

- **Dr. Judy Siu, Research Associate Professor, Environment, Health and Sustainability Working Group**

Proposal 1:

Title: Improving disease awareness and quality of life of overactive bladder (OAB) patients in Hong Kong: Using qualitative and communication strategy as an approach

Submitted to: Health and Health Services Research Fund (HHSRF), Food and Health

Bureau, HKSAR Government

Abstract:

Overactive bladder (OAB) has become a new but common chronic disease in Hong Kong. However, recent surveys show that OAB patients often have low motivation in seeking treatment. Although OAB is non-life threatening, literature demonstrates that it can lead to increasing fall and fracture cases that can endanger patients' health and safety. This study aims at enhancing the awareness and quality of life of OAB patients by understanding their physical and emotional needs.

Proposal 2

Title: Integrated assessment of adaptations and resilience in cities: A case study of Hong Kong

Submitted to: Economic and Social Research Council, UK. (ESRC-RGC). Joint submission with University of Leeds, U.K.

Abstract:

It has few studies to quantify socioeconomic impacts of major disasters in the literature. The project brings expertise from scholars in Leeds and HKBU to collaboratively conduct an analysis from both qualitative and quantitative approaches to understand the inter-relationships between climate change induced extreme weather events and their impacts to transport, utility supplies, public health and urban economy and to use these measures to advise a sustainable and resilient city development in Hong Kong.

- **Dr. Jun Wang, Research Associate Professor, Urbanization and Mobility Working Group**

Title: Production of cultural cities in Asia: case studies of Shanghai, Hong Kong and Singapore in the global network

Submitted to: General Research Fund, Research Grants Council

Abstract:

Cultural making of cities is engineered worldwide, exemplified by high profile

examples like the “European City of Culture” by the EU and “Creative City network” by UNESCO . So are such practices embraced globally at an unprecedented speed, with some cities claiming substantial advancement and luring others to follow suit. It is advocated that cultural industry, the creative class, and the overall cultural image of a given city are truly vital for cities to stay competitive in the fierce global competition. Asian cities are not left out in this global wave. Singapore invited Richard Florida to educate its officials and announced its vision of “Renaissance Singapore” in 2001. In Hong Kong, culture as a vehicle to achieve “Asia’s World City” made its first appearance in 1998 when then Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa urged the construction of the West Kowloon Cultural District as “a catalyst for upgrading our image as Asia’s entertainment capital”. In a very similar vein, Shanghai sets its goal to be “Asian Creative Industries Hub” in the short term and “Global Creative Industries Hub” in the long run.

Academics, nevertheless, remain cautious and critical in front of the global wave. Space is a situated product of social process and has its socio-political origin. Cultural spatial development is not an exception. What remain to be debated are how the idea of cultural city travels among the “rhizomatic” network and how the idea mingles with local forces, leading to local versions of cultural spatial development not only as an output but also as a narrative force to construct and legitimize respective social interests. Endeavors to examine this typology of space production triggered cross-disciplinary explorations and new mode of thinking for theorizing urbanism. While urban sociologists incorporate the “spatial turn” to investigate spatial dimensions like space, territory and network; human geographers argue for “the cultural turn” to explore the power of cultural capital and symbolic value in urbanism. By exploring the evolving process of cultural spatial developments in the three Asian cities of Shanghai, Hong Kong and Singapore, we attempt to investigate:

1. Cultural spatial development as a product that reflects structurally biased social relations among the ‘rhizomatic’ network and,
2. as a narrative force that constructs a new urban imaginary, further legitimizing certain configurations of cultural city and placing the ground for institutionalization.

In a more specific sense we tend to explore how different social forces define the boundary of culture and cultural industry/industries, and what definitions are finally institutionalized, and how they are materialized through the built environment. Spatially, we adopt the account of global assemblage that offers a way to explore how ideas/strategies flows in the network established by mobile elites, institutions, etc., and to explore how globally mobile ideas mingle with local forces. Temporally, we

follow the concept of cultural political economy (CPE) that breaks down the evolving process to several stages of variation, selection and retention.

### **Outputs of Research Staff**

#### **Grants Secured:**

“Sheltering the Floating Poor: Housing Access and Residential Mobility of Rural Migrants in Urban China,” **Lincoln Institute of Land Policy China Program Research Fellowship**, Cambridge, Mass, USA. Amount Awarded: US\$30,000. (Jan 2012 – Dec 2012)

“Residential Inequalities in Urban China under Spatial Restructuring,” **Hong Kong Research Grant Council: General Research Fund**. Grant No. HKBU 245511. Amount Awarded: HK\$744,953. (Jan 2012 - Dec 2014)

#### **Publications**

Lan, Shanshan. (2012). *Diaspora and Class Consciousness: Chinese Immigrant Workers in Multiracial Chicago*. New York. Routledge Press.

Hou, Quan and Li Si-ming. (2011). Transport infrastructure development and Changing spatial accessibility in the Greater Pearl River Delta, China, 1990-2020". *Journal of Transport Geography*, Vol. 19, 2011, pp. 1350-1360.

Hui, Eddie Chi Man, Li, Si-ming & Wong, Francis Kwan Wah. (2012) Ethnicity, cultural disparity and residential mobility: Empirical analysis of Hong Kong". *Habitat International*, 36 (1): 1-10.

Siu, Judy Yuen-man. (at press). The use of *qigong* and *tai chi* as complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) among chronically patients in Hong Kong. *Alternative Medicine*.

Wang, Jun. (at press). The developmental state's reaction to global hegemony of neoliberalism: A new strategy for public housing in Singapore. *Cities*.

Wang, Jun and Li, Shaojun. (2011). *The rhetoric and reality of culture-led urban regeneration- a comparison of Beijing and Shanghai, China*. New York: Nova Science Publisher.

## **Presentations**

### **By Dr. George Kam-wah Mak, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Cross-cultural Working Group**

*Colportage and the Self-Sufficiency of the Bible in Late Qing China*. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Francisco, 19-22 November, 2011.

*The Mandarin Union Version as the 'Chinese King James Version'?*. Paper presented at The Centre for Christian Studies, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, 10th October 2011.

## **LEWI Publications**

The LEWI Working Paper Series is an endeavor of LEWI to foster dialogues among institutions and scholars in the field of East-West studies. It was launched in April 2002 and serves as a forum for the speedy and informal exchange of ideas as scholars and academic institutions attempt to grapple with issues of an inter-cultural and global nature. 115 papers have been published so far and we welcome papers in any academic field related to East-West studies and from authors within and outside of our LEWI consortium. For further information, please contact Miss Hidy Ng at [hidying@hkbu.edu.hk](mailto:hidyng@hkbu.edu.hk) or visit <http://www.hkbu.edu.hk/~lewi/publications.html#4> for details about ordering and submitting a manuscript. Where author's consent is given, full text of these papers is available on the Internet. This will provide a wide readership of the publications and will provide a platform for discussions.

Recent Publications in the Series (abstracts are available on our website):

Chen, Ling (Hong Kong Baptist University), Feng, Guangchao (Hong Kong Baptist University), Leung, Vivienne Shuet (Hong Kong Baptist University). Information sources, perceptions, and attitudes as predictor and mediator of behavioral inclination: A study of school students social learning about persons with a disability, English/22 Pages, September 2011.

Chen, Yanrong (Lanzhou University). *The encounters of Chinese women with china inland mission's English female missionaries: reconstruction of the conversion journey of Chinese women based on the record from missionary*, English/30 Pages, August 2011.

## **Others**

### **Invitation to the Council of Canadian Academies Survey of Research Strengths**

LEWI director Prof. Si-Ming Li was invited by the Council of Canadian Academies to complete a survey on the geographical distribution of research strengths in the field of geography. Prof. Li received the invitation because he is an author of one of the top 5% most highly cited papers in his field worldwide (according to a 2011 analysis).

The data gathered by the survey will be used for an assessment report by the Council of Canadian Academies – a not-for-profit corporation that supports independent, evidence-based, expert assessments that inform public policy development ([www.scienceadvice.ca](http://www.scienceadvice.ca)). The results will be used, along with the results of bibliometric analysis and other methods, to report on the state of geographical research in the Council of Canadian Academies' assessment of the State of Science and Technology in Canada, to be published in 2012.

### **Donation from alumni of Geography Department**

LEWI would like to express sincere gratitude to Mr. Siu Chiu Shun and Mr. Alec Tam, alumni of the Department of Geography, for their donation to the Institute. Mr. Siu and Mr. Tam visited Prof. Si-ming Li, Director of LEWI, on 25 October where they donated HKD2,000 and RMB4,000 respectively for the development of LEWI.