

**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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Co-organized Conference

International Conference on Spatial and Social Transformation in Urban China (13-14 December 2012)

The International Conference on Spatial and Social Transformation in Urban China held on 13 and 14 December 2012 was the second academic activity under the “Global Social Sciences: Hong Kong Initiative” project of the Faculty of Social Sciences. It attracted more than 200 participants from Hong Kong as well as the United States, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Germany, France, Greece, Korea, Taiwan and Mainland China. Five parallel sessions were carried out in four time sessions each day, and a total of 160 papers were presented at the conference. It was organised by HKBU’s Centre for China Urban and Regional Studies (CURS), jointly with the Department of Geography, and the David C. Lam Institute for East-West Studies (LEWI), as well as the Centre for Urban Studies and Urban Planning of The University of Hong Kong, and the Urban China Research Network of Brown University and the University at Albany, SUNY, USA.

An opening speech was officiated by Professor Anthony Cheung, Secretary for Transport and Housing, Hong Kong SAR Government. Welcome speeches were addressed by Professor Rick Wong, Vice-President (Research and Development) and Professor Adrian Bailey, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences. Keynote speeches were delivered following the opening ceremony. Professor Deborah Davis, Professor of Sociology at Yale University, spoke on “Institutional and Theoretical Challenges to Understanding Urban China” and Professor Ning Yuemin, Professor of the School of Resources and Environmental Sciences at East China Normal University, spoke on “The Role of Large City Clusters in Regional Development”. More than 200 international scholars enjoyed sharing the current knowledge to promote and support study, practice, teaching and research at the conference. It brought a good opportunity for scholars to interact and share their research findings and experience in the areas of China’s urban development, spatial transformation and urbanisation.



Prof. Deborah Davis, Professor of Sociology at Yale University, was the keynote speaker of the conference on “Spatial and Social Transformation in Urban China”

LEWI Seminar Series

Connect or disconnect? Transborder Activities and Family Networks of Mainland Chinese with Children Born in Hong Kong (25 February 2013)

Speaker: Prof. Li Xiyuan, Professor, Centre for the Studies of Hong Kong, Macao and Pearl River Delta, Department of Sociology, Sun Yat-Sen University

Abstract:

Based on thirty-one in-depth interviews, this paper analyzes the distinctive characteristics of transborder activities among mainland Chinese families with children born in Hong Kong. The transborder activities of mainland families are prompted and motivated by benefits and opportunities produced by the two different systems of Hong Kong and the mainland. As a result, different residents and identities have emerged in families and communities. Although family networks have been developed to support transborder activities, these families have to constantly make choices between moving or staying, here or there, connect or disconnect to local society. The complexities of transbordering reveal that the border has different functions and meanings for the state, region and family. Contrary to the notion of a “world without border”, borders can pose substantial or even insuperable barriers for mainland Chinese.



Prof. Li Xiyuan, Professor of Sun Yat-Sen University, China

Private Homeownership, the Internet, and the Establishment of Homeowners' Association in Urban China (24 Jan 2013)

Speaker: Dr. Limei Li, Visiting Scholar, David C. Lam Institute for East-West Studies, HKBU

Abstract:

Since the launching of urban housing reform in the late 1980s, China has experienced a revolution of homeownership, changing from a nation of public housing tenants to a nation of private homeowners. The privatization of residential property has engendered neighborhood activism among homeowners, who are increasingly using the Internet in neighborhood activism especially in associational practice to confront the encroaching power of the developers, property management companies, and governments. Using data from two household surveys in Guangzhou in 2005 and 2010, this study examines the effects of private homeownership and online neighborhood forums on the establishment of homeowners' association (HOA). The results of the logistic regression analyses show that the presence of the online neighborhood forum significantly enhances the likelihood of the establishment of HOA. The different roads to private homeownership also have strong implications. There is a positive association between commodity housing and the HOA formation.



Dr. Limei Li is visiting scholar of LEWI

Successive Rounds of Regulatory Experiments in Singapore's Public Housing Sector: Transformation from Developmentalism to Neoliberalism? (17 December 2012)

Speaker: Dr. Jun Wang, Research Assistant Professor, David C. Lam Institute for East-West Studies, HKBU

Abstract:

Among studies on neoliberal globalization, a great deal of attention has been directed towards the Asian Tigers, where the neoliberal logic lands on the place dominated by Developmentalism. This study chronicles the successive rounds of market-oriented regulatory restructuring from 1979 to 2011 in Singapore, attempting to peel apart different layers of institutional transformation on normative orientation and organizational structure. The study finds that, the main drivers of market-oriented regulation relaxation and financial liberalization have been more domestic in origin. Meanwhile, what the international/private capital pursues is a ticket to enter the public housing domain that was dominated by the interlocking coalition of the state and Government-linked Corporations. The two programs of EC and DBSS under this circumstance are compared, with an attempt of reflecting the embedded market-society relationship.



Seventh Joint Board Meeting of LEWI & IIBD (3 December 2012)

The meeting, held at Assumption University, Thailand, was attended by twenty representatives from the two consortiums and HKBU. Joint board business was discussed at the morning session while LEWI and IIBD businesses were discussed at the afternoon session. Matters for discussion at the meeting included: format of future board of governors meeting, LEWI and IIBD summer programme and research collaboration among member institutions.

Below is a summary of decisions made at the meeting:

1) Members approved to adopt the new format of future board of governors meeting. Details are as follow: 1. To call for a board meeting, at least one member has to make a motion and the meeting can be convened when it is supported by a seconder and when the quorum is met, i.e. at least six members; 2. Telephone/video conferencing is acceptable in case the meeting cannot be held physically; 3. The LEWI & IIBD office of HKBU will continue to serve as the Secretariat, and, 4. The Executive Committee will be discontinued after the new format takes effect.

2) Members supported the proposal to launch the LEWI and IIBD summer programme. The structure, operation and timeline of the programme could be found in the meeting agenda.

The minutes of the meeting has been sent to the official representative of each member institution.



The 7th Joint Board Meeting of LEWI and IIBD was held at Assumption University, Thailand

Outputs of Research Staff

Publications

By directors/working group convenors:

Bailey, A.J. and Lau, A. (2013 forthcoming). Whither and whence Hong Kong migration studies? *International Migration*

Chan, K., Tsang, L. and V. Leung (2013). Consumers' attitudes towards advertisements of medical professionals. *Media Digest*. February, 16-17.

Chan, K. and Ng, Y.L. (2013). How Chinese adolescent girls perceive gender roles: A psychographic study. *Journal of Consumer Marketing*, 30(1), 50-61.

Chan, K., Ng, Y.L., and Williams, R.B. (2012). Adolescent girls' interpretation of sexuality found in media image. *International Communication Studies*, 21(3), 63-81.

Gronhoj, A., Bech-Larsen, T., **Chan, K.**, and Tsang, L. (2012). Using theory of planned behavior to predict healthy eating among Danish adolescents. *Health Education*, 113(1), 4-17.

Li, L.M. and Li, S.M. (2013). Becoming homeowners: The emergence and use of online neighborhood forums in transitional urban China. *Habitat International*, 38, 232-239.

Li, S.M. (2012). Housing Inequalities under market deepening: The case of Guangzhou, China, *Environment and Planning A*, 44(12), 2852-2866.

By Research Assistant Professors and Postdoctoral Research Fellows:

Lan, S. 2012. Negotiating multiple boundaries: Diasporic Hong Kong identities in the United States. *Identities: Global Studies in Culture and Power*, 19(6), 708-724.

Siu, J.Y.M. (2012). The cultural perceptions, folk taxonomies, and the relationship with alternative medicine practices among Hong Kong people. *Alternative Medicine*, pp.25 – 45.

Mak, K.W.G. (2012). Oral and written traditions [Review of Børdahl, Vibeke and Margaret B. Wan, eds. *The Interplay of the Oral and the Written in Chinese Popular Literature*. Copenhagen: NIAS Press, 2010]. *International Institute for Asian Studies Newsletter*, 62 (19).

Presentations

By Prof. Si-ming Li, Chair Professor of Geography and LEWI Director

Housing inequality in urban China in the early 21st century: a Study of Guangzhou survey data. A paper presented at the International Conference on Contemporary Urban China Research: Fostering the Next Generation of Urban China Scholars, Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, 4-6 January 2013.

By Prof. Kara Chan, Head, Department of Communication Studies and Convenor of Environment, Health and Sustainability Working Group

(with Gronhoj, A., Bech-Larsen, T. and Tsang, L). *A TPB study of adolescents' intentions for healthy food consumption*. A paper presented at the 5th International Conference on Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Child and Teen Consumption, Milan, Italy, 12-14 December 2012.

(with Ng, Y.L). *Urban Chinese girls' perception of gender roles and ideal female images*. A paper presented at the International Conference on Spatial and Social Transformation in Urban China, Hong Kong, 13-14 December 2012.

Dr. Shanshan Lan, Research Assistant Professor, Urbanization and Mobility Working Group

Migration, intergroup relations, and the restructuring of urban space: African raders in Guangzhou. A paper presented at the International Conference on Spatial and Social Transformation in Urban China, Hong Kong, 13-14 December 2012.

Cultural stereotypes and misunderstandings in non-governmental Chinese-African trade relations. A paper presented at the Conference on Urban Development: Ethnic Group Mobility and Cultural Diversity. Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China, 21-24 December 2012.

By Dr. Allison Hui, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Urbanization and Mobility Working Group

(with Bailey, A). *Transbordering and diverse Hong Kong mobilities*. A paper presented at the International Conference on Spatial and Social Transformation in Urban China, Hong Kong, 13-14 December 2012.

By Dr. George Mak, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Cross-Cultural Studies Working Group

Missionary sources of Max Weber's The Religion of China. A paper presented at Max Weber and Chinese Culture: "The Religion of China" Centennial International Conference, the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities and Social Science, National Taiwan University, 25-26 January, 2013.

Grants Secured

"Public Perception of Acupuncture: An Exploratory Study"

Principle Investigator: Prof. Kara Chan, Head, Department of Communication Studies and Convenor of Environment, Health and Sustainability Working Group, LEWI

Co Investigators: Dr. Judy Siu, Research Assistant Professor, Environment, Health and Sustainability Working Group, LEWI and Dr. Timothy Fung, Assistant Professor, Department of Communication Studies, HKBU

Source of Funding: Department of Communication Studies

Amount Awarded: HKD30,000

"Let's Eat Well" Project - A Social Marketing Program to Address Issues of Food Avoidance Problems among Cancer Patients

Co Investigator: Dr. Judy Siu, Research Assistant Professor, Environment, Health and Sustainability Working Group, LEWI

Source of Funding: Health Care and Promotion Fund, Food and Health Bureau, Hong Kong SAR Government

Amount Awarded: HK\$299,164

“Negotiating Multilingual Identities in Migrant Professional Contexts”

Principle Investigator: Professor Athelstan Canagarajah, Edwin Erle Sparks Professor, Departments of Applied Linguistics and English, Pennsylvania State University

Co Investigators: Prof Adrian Bailey, Dean of Social Sciences, HKBU and Convenor, Urbanization and Mobility Working Group, LEWI and Dr. Shanshan Lan, Research Assistant Professor, Urbanization and Mobility Working Group, LEWI (together with Pennsylvania State University, University of Bristol, University of Cape Town, Chinese University of Hong Kong, University of Leeds, Rochester University, University of Sydney, University of York)

Source of Funding: Worldwide Universities Network Research Development Fund

Amount Awarded: HKD\$416,084