

Global South Perspectives



International workshop

20. April 2017

8:40am~

Room 1312, 13th Floor

Academic and Administration Building,

Baptist University Road Campus

Hong Kong Baptist University

Keynote speaker:

Matthew M Chew

Organized by
The Joint Research Group 'Migration, China, and the Global Context'
The Max Weber Foundation
The Faculty of Social Sciences, Hong Kong Baptist University

Max Weber
Stiftung



社會科學院
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES



香港浸會大學
HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

About the Workshop

Europe's expansion during the last five centuries has shaped the world economically, politically and culturally, and initiated a range of global inequalities that persist until today. This includes global inequalities in the academy: At its core are scholars perspectives, concerns, theories, methodological approaches, and objects of investigation from dominant groups in the Global North. Perspectives of scholars from the Global South and of minority scholars in the Global North continue to play a marginal role. We may be missing much in our understanding of the world if we investigate it mainly from the perspectives of dominant groups. The goal of this workshop is to provide an interdisciplinary platform that brings together scholars from the Global South, minority scholars from the Global North, and scholars working on North-South relations, in order to start filling gaps in knowledge and perspectives, and to work toward a better North-South balance in academia.

This interdisciplinary workshop aims to facilitate a dialogue among research that advances our understanding on Global South, minorities in the Global North, perspectives on theory, methodology and methods, empirical work in the Global South, and Global South groups in the Global North.

We are delighted to present a distinguished keynote speech that introduces the concept of cultural inequality. Panel one will discuss Southern understandings of Northern discursive formations and how they impact ethnic minorities or migrants. Panel two will discuss approaches to re-formulate theory based on empirical material in the Global South. Panel three follows Chinese perspectives on culture and historicity. Panel four discusses minority perspectives on ethnicity and inequality, and panel five on social relations. Finally, panel six gathers Global South perspectives on work in a global economy. We are proud to host a diverse range of presenters from Southeast, South and East Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Europe.

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About

About the Joint Research Group Migration, China, and the Global Context

The *Joint Research Group Migration, China and the Global Context* is a collaboration between the Max Weber Foundation and the Faculty of Social Sciences of Hong Kong Baptist University. The research group aims to comparatively understand migration to and from Mainland China and Hong Kong, with a focus on economic and social integration and mobility. News about publications, conference presentations, and events with and by the research group can be found at their blog <https://mcgc.hypotheses.org/>.

About the Max Weber Foundation

The Max Weber Foundation is a legal entity closely linked to the German Federal Government located in Bonn. It comprises ten humanities research institutes. The Foundation's goal is to promote research with a focus on history, culture, economic and social sciences in selected countries and to promote a mutual understanding between Germany and those countries.

The Max Weber Foundation is the only German research institute which is academically active abroad exclusively due to its programme of work. Through its own research, extensive publications, international events and numerous scholarships it makes a considerable contribution towards an international exchange through its institutes, in regard of questions, methods and results of humanities research. In this way it strengthens both the position of the humanities in Germany and that of German humanities in an international context. In total there are over 275 staff, of which 100 are academic fellows, employed in the institutes and in the Central Office in Bonn.

The Max Weber Foundation promotes global research, concentrated around the areas of social sciences, cultural studies and the humanities. Research is conducted at ten institutes in various countries across the globe with distinctive and independent focal points. Through its globally operating institutes, the Foundation is able to contribute to the communication and networking between Germany and the host countries or regions of its establishments. By promoting scientific dialogue and merging academic as well as non-academic employees from several countries with different cultural backgrounds, the Max Weber Foundation is able to strengthen the Internationalization of research in its three fields of dedication. More info: <http://www.maxweberstiftung.de/en/startseite.html>

About the Faculty of Social Sciences, Hong Kong Baptist University

Hong Kong Baptist University encompasses eight Faculties/Schools offering a range of undergraduate programmes, associate degree and higher diploma programmes as well as taught postgraduate programmes and research postgraduate programmes leading to the award of master and doctoral degrees. It prides itself on its dual focus on teaching and research and encourages service to society among its staff and students. Over the years, HKBU has remained committed to academic excellence and the development of the whole person, and has gained a reputation as one of Asia's finest institutions of higher learning. More info: <http://www.hkbu.edu.hk/>

The Faculty of Social Sciences comprises seven departments: Education Studies, Geography, Government & International Studies, History, Physical Education, Social Work and Sociology. Upholding the whole person educational philosophy of the University, the Faculty is committed to nurturing student personal, intellectual and professional development with a liberal arts education. We emphasize global social science knowledge for whole person development. The Faculty also shares a passion to inspire students to be creative and fulfilled builders of a fair global society and a strong University for the region. More info: <http://sosc.hkbu.edu.hk>.

Program

All sessions take place in Room 1312, Academic and Administration Building

Registration 8:30 - 8:40

Welcome 8:40 - 8:45

Keynote speech 8:45 - 9:30

Cultural inequality: What is it and why is this term rarely discussed?

CHEW, Matthew M. Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong

Panel 1: Majority Discourses and Minority Positions 9:45 - 11:00

Chair: LAM, Katy N. PolyU / Max Weber Foundation

Discussant: HASSAN, Kanwal Hong Kong Baptist University

Long Arm of the State or Vagaries of Integration? Weaponization of Migrant and Minority Bodies in Turkey and the Netherlands

ES, Murat Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

Thinking Race and Inequalities: Reflections from the Field

KWOK, Kim Caritas Institute of Higher Education, Hong Kong

LIU, Kam-Sau Caritas Institute of Higher Education, Hong Kong

Performing Sociability: Chinese Baristas' Everyday Social Interactions in Bologna, Italy

DENG, Grazia Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

Conflicting Identities and Homelessness in the Muslim Diaspora: A study of Mohsin Hamid's 'The Reluctant Fundamentalist'

HUSSAIN, Amina University of Lucknow, India

Panel 2: De-Centering Social Theory 11:15 - 12:10

Chair: WONG, Day Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong

Discussant: TANG, Ling University of Oxford

To be South or not to be South: Towards a Correlative Understanding of South-interweaving-North

TANG, Wing-Shing Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong

Self-making or Struggling? Rethinking Neoliberalism theory in East Asia: Working class Money Boys and Migrant women in China and Taiwan

LU, Chia-Hung Benny Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

Theorizing Se: Re-Imagining the Sociology of Sexuality in Mainland China

LUO, Muyuan Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

SUEN, Yiu Tung Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

Program

Lunch 12:10 - 1:00

Panel 3: Re-thinking Global South Historicity

1:00 - 1:55

Chair: LU, Chia-Hung Benny Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

Early colonial state management of Chinese deaths in Hong Kong (1856-1880)

TAM, Chun Bobby The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

Kinship Network and Social Mobility in Southern Song China: A Case Study of Yuan Lineage in Ming Zhou

LI, Xueying Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong

Online music, fandom and Chinese identity? Exploration of the cultural practices of the young Chinese music lovers of “ancient Chinese style” in cyberspace

DU, Yi Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong

Panel 4: Ethnicity and Inequality

2:10 - 3:25

Chair: KWOK, Kim Caritas Institute of Higher Education, HK

Discussant: GUINTO, Nicanor L. The University of Hong Kong, King's College London

Immigrants in Chinese settings: The promotion of culturally specific resilience research and practice with immigrant populations

ARAT, Gizem The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

Factors affecting ethnic minority students' intention to pursue tertiary education in Hong Kong

SAHOTA, Gurdev Singh Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong

Attitudes towards migrants - a comparative study in Hong Kong

SCHÖPF, Caroline M. Hong Kong Baptist University, Max Weber Foundation

Challenging Precarious Lives: A Case of Foreign Language Teachers in Mainland China

KUJAWA, Izabela Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland

Tea 3:25 - 3:55

Program

Panel 5: Migration and Social Relations

3:55 - 4:50

Chair: **GAGNÉ, Isaac T.** The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong
Discussant: **ES, Murat** Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

Rethinking precarity of Chinese migrant women in Hong Kong

GAO, Elaine Hong Kong Baptist University, Max Weber Foundation

Losing home in searching: A phenomenological sociology of belongingness of the Chinese migrant

ZHANG, Qing Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong

Mobility in the margins: Linguistic repertoire of a Filipina Domestic Worker in Hong Kong

GUINTO, Nicanor L. Guinto The University of Hong Kong, King's College London

Panel 6: Work in Globalizing Economies

5:05 - 6:40

Chair: **RUAN, Danching** Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong
Discussant: **WITTEBORN, Saskia** Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

Emerging Markets in the Global South and Restructuring of Global Production Networks: Evidence from Cross-border Relocation of Chinese Garment Firms to Southeast Asia

YANG, Chun Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong

South-South Globalization and Human Mobility: Chinese in West Africa

LAM, Katy N. Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Max Weber Foundation

Constituents of Life Denial Processes in Labour Life Worlds

BIJULAL, M.V. Mahatma Gandhi University, India

Understanding the role of *guanxi* in Small Start-Up Business in E-Commerce Industry - Study of Private Entrepreneurs in Anhui, China

ZHANG, Linlin Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong

Paradox of Debt Burdens and Foreign Aid to Developing Countries in Africa: Implications for Sustainable Development

ADEBAYO, Anthony Abayomi Federal University Oye-Ekiti, Nigeria

Workshop Dinner

(Renfrey Restaurant, HKBU)

6:50 ~

Abstract Keynote Speech

Keynote speech

Cultural inequality: What is it and why is this term rarely discussed?

CHEW, Matthew M.

Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong

Surprisingly few scholars refer to 'cultural inequality' or similar concepts (eg. cultural injustice, exclusion, discrimination, unfairness, and hierarchy) and even fewer theorize on them. This study problematizes the neglect of 'cultural inequality' and explores what cultural inequality may be. Firstly, I illustrate the enormous degree to which 'cultural inequality' has been neglected by comparing the number of scholarly works that cite the word 'cultural inequality' to those that cite other inequality concepts such as economic, political, social, racial, gender, and class inequality. Secondly, I briefly discuss four fields that potentially deal with cultural inequality issues (but that eventually do not). The fields include cultural imperialism in communications studies, minority cultural rights in political theory, hybridity in literary studies, and cultural capital in cultural sociology. Thirdly, I identify a major theoretical reason for the neglect: difficulty of distinguishing between unjust and non-unjust cultural inequality. I trace this difficulty to sources including for example contestedness in estimating the worth of a person's cultural capital and the socioculturally value of certain kinds of cultural inequality. Fourthly, I propose a simple way to begin to conceptualize cultural inequality.

Matthew M. Chew is an Associate Professor at the Sociology Department of Hong Kong Baptist University. His research interests include cultural sociology, social theory, sociology of knowledge, sociology of consumption, globalization, and popular culture. Most of his recent articles deal with empirical data on the internet, dress, and nightlife in China. He is currently working on a project that develops an alternative critique of neoliberalism and another that explicates the radical sociopolitical meanings of Chinese web novels. He has published in journals including *New Media and Society*, *Current Sociology*, *International Sociology*, *Positions*, *China Information*, and *The China Quarterly*.

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Abstracts Panel One

Panel 1: Majority Discourses and Minority Positions

Long Arm of the State or Vagaries of Integration? Weaponization of Migrant and Minority Bodies in Turkey and the Netherlands

ES, Murat

Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

Turkey and the Netherlands are currently in the midst of a diplomatic crisis over the contested performances of transnational citizenship. On March 11, Turkish Minister of Family and Social Affairs attempted to conduct an unauthorized visit to Rotterdam to campaign among the Turkish-Dutch population for the upcoming presidential referendum in Turkey. She was denied entry and expelled after a tense stand-off with the Dutch police. Meanwhile, mayors of several cities banned Turkish ministers from campaigning in Germany. Immigrants and citizens of Turkish descent constitute the largest minorities in both countries and their transnational links to Turkey have increasingly come under scrutiny over the years.

This paper looks at the connections between contested politics of integration, religion and ethnicity to explain the weaponization of mobility in geopolitical struggles between Turkey and the European Union countries. Relying on my field research about the institutionalization and regulation of Turkish Islam in the Netherlands and the postdemocratic/postsecular shift in Turkey, I compare the shifting policies and public debates about transnational migration, citizenship and political participation of the Turkish-Dutch in the Netherlands and recognition struggles of ethno-religious Alevi and Kurdish minorities alongside the public discourses about Syrian refugees in Turkey. I argue that the rise of right-wing populism in both contexts are predicated on the securitized mobilities of migrant and minority networks.

Murat Es is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Geography and Resource Management, the Chinese University of Hong Kong. He studied History (BA) and Sociology (MA) at Bogazici University in his native Turkey. Es continued his doctoral studies at the Department of Geography, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA. His work highlights the co-construction of urban spaces and identities through cross-cultural encounters forged by national and transnational mobilities. He has conducted extensive field research in the Netherlands and Turkey with ethno-religious minority groups. His current research explores practices of citizenship, belonging, and urban development in Turkey, the Netherlands, and Hong Kong.

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Kanwal Hassan, the discussant of panel one, is a PhD candidate at the Department of International and Government Studies, Hong Kong Baptist University. Her PhD thesis investigates the international relations between China and Pakistan. Her research interests incorporate the Politics of Pakistan, Asian Politics, Foreign Policy Analysis, Strategic Studies, and Theories of International Relations.

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Abstracts Panel One

Thinking Race and Inequalities: Reflections from the Field

KWOK, Kim

Caritas Institute of Higher Education, Hong Kong

LIU, Kam-Sau

Caritas Institute of Higher Education, Hong Kong

This presentation offers some reflections from ethnographic fieldwork conducted in South Asian and Southeast Asian communities in Hong Kong since 2014. The researchers work on ethnic economies, and have conducted extensive fieldwork including in-depth interviews, focus group interviews, questionnaire interviews and participant observations. Believing in ethnography's commitment in providing "some kind of voice" and in contesting racial bias and inequalities, the researchers' fieldwork processes have been, ironically, confronted by the risk of working towards the opposite.

These dilemmas will be elaborated and discussed in three aspects. First, **performing mainstream**. In the postcolonial context of neoliberal economy, global migration and racial bias, many ethnic minority informants demonstrate enthusiasm to conform to the mainstream neoliberal discourse of "Hong Kong spirit" – self-reliance and hard work – even at the expense of pushing oneself into a very precarious situation. Second, **performing victim**. Mainstream academic and public discourses tend to perceive ethnic minorities as vulnerable victims, who lack agency and autonomy. Social actors in the field, including ethnic minorities and NGO workers, appear to internalize these discourses and collaborate to play the role of victims in their negotiation of rights. While both these performances can be seen as ways of resistance against a process of othering in the postcolonial Hong Kong, it is not clear whether they will perpetuate the dominant discourses and obscure structural social inequalities or will prompt awareness for further resistance. Third, **performing multiculturalism**. Following public ethnography's pursuit to make academic study socially useful, the researchers act as a bridge between the general public and the worlds of ethnic economy. The dilemma lies in how to attract the general public for more understanding while striving to denounce the exotic gaze of the mainstream public.

Kim Kwok is an Assistant Professor of School of Social Sciences, Caritas Institute of Higher Education. She received her MA in Migration Studies from the University of Sussex, and PhD from East Asian Institute, University of Vienna. Her research interests are ethnic economy, Chinese global migration and multiculturalism.

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Kam-sau Liu is a Research Assistant at the School Social Sciences, Caritas Institute of Higher Education. She is trained in sociology, and is interested in issues related to ethnic minorities, gender, and social movements.

Abstracts Panel One

Performing Sociability: Chinese Baristas' Everyday Social Interactions in Bologna, Italy

DENG, Grazia

Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

Coffee bars are commonly seen as symbols of Italian urban culture and of local neighborhood identity. However, since the economic recession of 2008, many coffee bars have been taken over by the Chinese immigrants in Northern-Central Italy. Both Italian media coverage and ordinary people have showed the concerns and worries about the loss of Italian culture. Nevertheless, local customers, who have ever had the experience with the Chinese barista, are often impressed by their good service, proper manners, and extraordinary cordiality. Many of them believe that there must be a kind of typical Chinese sociability. However, does Chinese sociability, differentiated from the Italian one, really exist?

Based on 14-months ethnographic research in Bologna, this paper will demonstrate how Chinese migrants practice entrepreneurship, while negotiating cultural differences with host society in the routine context of everyday life. It will argue that the unique and homogeneous Chinese sociability is only a myth. The extraordinary cordiality is one of the cultural strategies deployed by many Chinese businesspeople to overcome the racial and ethnic boundaries and compensate for cultural incompetence in the management of coffee bars. In this process, ethnicity and gender are intertwined to play an active role in their everyday sociability. It will explore that Chinese baristas do not passively adapt themselves to the cultural environment of coffee bars, but actively participate into the construction of a segregated and distinctive social space through a set of practices of sociability.

Grazia Deng is a PhD candidate in Anthropology at The Chinese University of Hong Kong. She is working on her PhD dissertation project about Chinese migrant entrepreneurship in coffee bar business in Bologna, Italy.

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Abstracts Panel One

Conflicting Identities and Homelessness in the Muslim Diaspora: A study of Mohsin Hamid's *'The Reluctant Fundamentalist'*

HUSSAIN, Amina

University of Lucknow, India

9/11 is a watershed moment in the lives of muslim immigrants. The growing muslim diaspora in the west is subjected to new rage and fear where islam and xenophobia together formed an uncanny terror in the form of Islamophobia. The ban on burqas in France, repeated attacks on hijabs, rise in the number of hate crimes seems to reinforce Huntington's 'Clash of Civilisation', reiterated by Bush's infamous war on terror as 'with us or against us'. The anti immigrant (mainly muslim) sentiments are also manifested in the triumph of Trump in the US Presidential elections and Brexit as an open referendum against globalisation and immigration. The surge in the anti muslim fiction like Ian McEwan's *Saturday*, Don DeLilo's *Falling Man* and Updike's *The Terrorist* delineate the Muslim characters as 'other', reinforcing the cultural typecast of the 'gun toting, bearded fanatic hell bent on destroying the great enemy, the United States'.

In an interesting 'writing back' analogy, we see an arresting trend of muslim diasporic writers's with the more nuanced and profound analysis of the muslim diasporic experience in novels like *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* by Mohsin Hamid. The paper attempts to explore the complex muslim identity in diaspora with its ethical, cultural and religious implications questioning the utopic American dream after the night of 9/11.

Shortlisted for Man Booker prize in 2007, and also adapted into motion pictures in 2012, the novel traces the transformation of an elite American, Changez Khan into a 'reluctant fundamentalist' dispelling the stereotypes of Islam and muslims. Changez's enchantment and subsequent disillusionment with America, an angst to return and search for 'home' becomes very crucial to his hybrid identity. The paper will focus on an emerging new muslim migrant identity assertive of its religious and cultural difference with more heads turning hijabs and beards with the US war on terror.

Keywords: diaspora, muslim identity, islamophobia, immigration, cultural intolerance, stereotypes, Islam, religious diaspora, multiculturalism.

Amina Hussain is a Junieur Research Fellow with the University of Lucknow, department of Modern European Languages and English Literature at Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India. She has worked as an Assisstant Professor with the Amity University, Lucknow Campus. Post Graduate from the esteemed Delhi University she has been assiduously involved with school teaching and methodology. She has taken part in numerous national and international conferences and seminars. Her areas of interest and activism includes Gender Studies, Women Studies, Diaspora, Contemporary Muslim writers in Diaspora, Dalit Studies, Fourth World Literature amongst many others.

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Abstracts Panel Two

Panel 2: De-Centering Social Theory

To be South or not to be South: Towards a Correlative Understanding of South-interweaving-North

TANG, Wing-Shing

Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong

The theme of the workshop is to work towards a better North-South dialogue by letting the subaltern South speak. Implicit in it is the post-colonialist separation of history into History 1 and History 2. The reality is not only that there may be History 3, as some would us believe that is the case of China, but that the world is in fact inter-connected. The crux of the issue is how to decipher the inter-connectedness without following into the trap of biased North-South dialogue. The paper proposes an approach to achieve this objective that is unconventional. It dis-favours a methodology that validates an abstract theory, usually developed in the North, with general processes or phenomena, as ideal types, and burdens other researchers, especially from the South, to undertake empirical cases with local variants – so to speak variegated capitalisms or neo-liberalisms. Instead of comparing indicators or against benchmarks, the focus proposed here is on how objects, events, places or thinking are constituted correlatively through power-laden everyday life practices within particular geo-histories. In a nutshell, it is a nuanced spatial story approach that takes into account the socio-historical development 'subjectivity' of the places in comparison as well as the spatio-temporal interactions among these places in the world. At the end, it outlines an urban comparative research project between Hong Kong and German cities by drawing on Maoism as the interweaving process.

Tang is Professor in the Department of Geography at Hong Kong Baptist University. He is interested in interrogating urban development in Hong Kong and China with, on the one hand, western theories including Harvey, Lefebvre and Foucault, and, on the other, Chinese philosophy. His recent projects include comparative urban research between China and India, and between Hong Kong and German cities.

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Abstracts Panel Two

Self-making or Struggling? Rethinking Neoliberalism theory in East Asia: Working class Money Boys and Migrant women in China and Taiwan

LU, Chia-Hung Benny Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

This presentation looks into the core ethics of neo-liberalism critically for reconsideration by employing it to think of the marginal in East Asia. For researchers, particularly Foucauldian ethnographers who examine human life as politics or ethics of self-making or self-enterprising tinged with individualism, I propose to complex these neo-liberal values. Through my own research of Money Boys in Shanghai and married migrant women in Taiwan, I tend to expand the discussion of self-making here as a politics that still deeply decided by their class and gender background. For my informants in Shanghai or migrant women in Taiwan, the neo-liberal “self” of self-making and self-fulfillment is a classed and gendered self that distant from the Western-centric idea of neoliberal self which needs to be reconsidered critically.

Benny Chia-hung Lu is a postdoctoral research fellow in Gender Studies Programme, The Chinese University of Hong Kong. He holds a PhD in Sociology, Goldsmiths College University of London. His research interests include sexualities, Neo-liberalism, class, media and global ethnographies. He was an adjunct assistant professor at Gender Studies, National Tsing Hua University and working on a new project on Queer Taiwan.

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Abstracts Panel Two

Theorizing Se: Re-Imagining the Sociology of Sexuality in Mainland China

LUO, Muyuan

SUEN, Yiu Tung

Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

Recent decades have witnessed a global turn in sociology, which is characterized by the entanglement of the reflections on the dominant Northern perspectives and the efforts of indigenization in local context, including China. This paper examines the failed indigenization project of the sociology of sexuality in mainland China, and provides new way of thinking by theorizing se (色). We illustrate the complicated intersections between the North and the South, the global and the local, the past and the present in sociological studies of sexuality in mainland China, based on which the gap between Northern theorizations of sexuality and Chinese realities could be well presented. In order to capture, to exemplify, and to go beyond this gap, we examine the culture of se in ancient China, the contemporary interpretation, or invention of it, as well as its potentials for sociological studies of sexuality. Taking the sociology of homosexuality as an example, we further argue for a framework that juxtaposes a provincialization of the Northern theorizations, and a connected sociological approach to the so-called “local”, or “indigenous” wisdoms. This research contributes to the sociology of sexuality in mainland China by providing new possibilities to re-imagine the landscape; it also builds on the emerging criticisms on the North dominant knowledge production of sociology by offering a Chinese case of “indigenization”.

Muyuan Luo is Ph.D student of Sociology and Gender Studies at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and Special Researcher of Contemporary Min-Tai Culture Research Institute at Fuzhou University. Geographically located in mainland China, his research interests include sexuality and gender, rural/urban and migration, marriage and family, and social theory. His articles have been published in Chinese journals such as Chinese Journal of Sociology (社会), Sociological Review of China (社会学评论), etc.

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Yiu Tung Suen (D. Phil in Sociology, University of Oxford) is Assistant Professor of Gender Studies, Founding Director of Sexualities Research Programme, and Associate Director of the Gender Research Centre, Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. His research interests include sexualities, LGBT issues, gender, social policy, law, discrimination, aging, health and HIV/AIDS. His academic writings can be found published in such journals as Journal of Homosexuality, Sociological Research Online, etc.

Abstracts Panel Two

Day Wong, the chair of panel two, is Associate Professor of Sociology at Hong Kong Baptist University. She also serves as Coordinator of Gender Research Unit in the Advanced Institute for Contemporary China Studies at the University. Her research interests include construction of gender and sexual identities, practices of intimacy, and queer/feminist politics. She has published in journals such as *Sexualities*, *Journal of Homosexuality*, *Women Studies International Forum* and *Inter-Asia Cultural Studies*.

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Ling Tang, the discussant of panel two, is a DPhil candidate in Oriental Studies and a junior research associate of the International Gender Studies Centre in University of Oxford. Ling studies gendered and sexualized guanxi and critically brings into the discussion the concept of erotic capital, which she sees essential for understanding of instrumental interpersonal relationship in urban China and beyond. While her MPhil thesis targets the white-collar women workers in Shenzhen, her DPhil research focuses on the female-led E-commerce entrepreneurs. Ling is also interested in social enterprises, moral business and has also co-founded a photography-based visual anthropology feminist art project called Whatswoman <https://www.instagram.com/whatswoman/>

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Abstracts Panel Three

Panel 3: Re-thinking Global South Historicity

Early colonial state management of Chinese deaths in Hong Kong (1856-1880)

TAM, Chun Bobby

The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

This paper studies how death, both the physical dead body and cultural memorials to the deceased, were managed in early colonial Hong Kong. It analyses the gradual and contested development of burial spaces, and the enactment of laws and burial regulations in order to explain how considerations related to race, health and security influenced 'death management' in Hong Kong from the 1840s to the 1870s.

The paper argues that military considerations and fears surrounding the health of the colonial body powerfully shaped death management in this period. It also seeks to explain the colonial state's early interventions into the death practices of the Chinese population in the 1850s. The result was a paradox – while regulating Chinese burial practices and tracking mortality figures, the colonial state failed to provide burial spaces until the 1870s and left death management to organizations within the Chinese community. This had important consequences, especially by the 1870s as a larger European community sought to showcase their emotional and moral standards through colonial cemeteries, and as the colonial state moved towards a more interventionist approach in the 1880s. An 'Orientalist' discourse on Chinese death practices was also developed and reinforced by the colonizers to justify their often paradoxical policies in death management.

Bobby Tam Chun: I was born in 1994 in Hong Kong. I have been fascinated by history since I was very young. I studied history in The University of Hong Kong (2012-2016) and just finished my undergraduate study this summer. During these four years, I have developed interests in a wide range of social cultural history topics; I worked on a research project on London Counterculture in the 1960s and also a dissertation on managing the dead in early colonial Hong Kong. I now continue my study in the University of Hong Kong as a MPhil candidate. My MPhil research will be an in-depth and broader expansion of the previous dissertation. I hope to continue my academic study and research after this two-year Mphil degree but I am still open to a wide range of social cultural history topics without much geographical preferences.

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Abstracts Panel Three

Kinship Network and Social Mobility in Southern Song China: A Case Study of Yuan Lineage in Ming Zhou

Li, Xueying

Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong

Civil service examination in Southern Song China, as major mechanism of official recruitment, draws lots of scholars' attention on its possible influence on social mobility. Besides, other factors, such as economic status, marriage, political power and social reputation, also make a difference to one's mobility. This paper looks upon one single aspect, kinship network, and examines how its privileges can be transformed into practical benefits in other preceding aspects then further help with one's climbing up.

The existing literatures normally exaggerate the influence of the kinship network and assume that one's ascendance to the ruling class indicates a benefit for his lineage members as a whole. In this study, I divide kinship into different layers based on their genealogical distance and look upon the differentiation among the kinsmen of associating with and receiving benefits from the elite lineage member. My case study confirmed that kinship network only effectively promotes social mobility within a small kinship circle. For those without this circle, their connections with the elite relative are rather limited, not to mention getting privileges from them.

Xueying Li: I'm currently a final-year student in Sociology department, Hong Kong Baptist University and will pursue an MPhil degree in the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology after graduation. My research interests include kinship and social mobility.

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Abstracts Panel Three

Online music, fandom and Chinese identity? Exploration of the cultural practices of the young Chinese music lovers of “ancient Chinese style” in cyberspace

DU, Yi

Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong

The study starts from my observation of a new culture form online - “ancient Chinese style” music. “Ancient Chinese style” music (*Gufeng* in Chinese), a form of original work created by online Chinese youngsters, has just developed on the Internet in recent 10 years. These young people, in their twenties and early thirties, mobilize traditional Chinese elements in their creative music projects to depict the romanticized ancient Chinese world. This research starts from the crossroad of fandom and nationalism studies. By examining the blurred boundary between music production and consumption, fans and stars in this new cultural form, I hope to contribute to existing studies about fandom; relating this cultural phenomenon to previous scholarship on Chinese nationalism and national identity, I intend to unfold new patterns of Chinese national identity that are embedded in daily cultural practices of the young generations in contemporary global politics.

Du Yi: I am currently an MPhil student in Sociology in Hong Kong Baptist University. I received my bachelor degree on Sociology in Hong Kong Baptist University, and I have studied at the University of Copenhagen for the exchange program. My research interest is in the constructions of national and cultural identity of Chinese young people. In my current research, I hope to unravel new perceptions of their national identity through studying young people’s music listening and creation activities online.

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Abstracts Panel Four

Panel 4: Ethnicity and Inequality

Immigrants in Chinese settings: The promotion of culturally specific resilience research and practice with immigrant populations

ARAT, Gizem

The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

Resilience is rooted in western settings to help people bounce back from adverse circumstances or high levels of stress. Resilience has become an important framework to empower marginalized populations such as immigrants with low socioeconomic backgrounds. However, most existing studies on resilience are about to strengthen immigrants' individual characteristics (e.g., intelligence) seeming lacking diverse socio-cultural backgrounds in which resilience may be hidden. This may also stereotype this particular population in the face of systemic adversity and structural inequalities (e.g., poverty, financial instability, poor education) in which they may not fully display resilience regardless of their individual traits (e.g., optimism). For example, the outlet media tends to stereotype non-ethnic majority individuals as *lazy*, *incapable*, or *criminal*. Resilience processes embedded in diverse socio-cultural contexts appear to be very important for immigrant groups. However, in many Chinese settings, i.e., Hong Kong, resilience is mostly promoted based on individual traits, most possibly due to the Chinese societal values and culture rather than emphasis on cultural contexts. To break through the oppression and stereotypes, and also to encourage both ethnic majority population and ethnic minorities for social integration, it is prominent to understand the culturally specific processes which may be helpful to potentiate resilience among immigrants. We should acknowledge that ethnic minorities are an asset for the socioeconomic growth of an ageing society with a decreasing fertility rate like Hong Kong as well as many East Asian settings.

Miss **Gizem Arat** is a final year PhD student in the Department of Social Work and Social Administration, at the University of Hong Kong. She obtained her Master of Social Work Degree from the University of Pittsburgh, School of Social Work. Her research area is resilience processes of positive health behaviors among ethnic minority youth in Hong Kong. She is interested in the articulation of multiculturalism for non-ethnic majority youth as well as the promotion of social justice and social harmony.

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Abstracts Panel Four

Factors affecting ethnic minority students' intention to pursue tertiary education in Hong Kong

SAHOTA, Gurdev Singh Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong

Plenty of qualitative research has been conducted to study educational problems of ethnic minority students, but not much research has been conducted using mixed research methods and a research model. This study seeks to address this gap. A student sample, aged 15 or above, was selected for this study. A total of 25 students participated. During the in-depth interviews, three variables were identified that affected their intention to pursue tertiary education. These were social support, financial support and academic motivation. Four hypotheses were developed for quantitative data analysis.

- 1) Financial support positively affects ethnic minority students' intention to pursue tertiary education in Hong Kong.
- 2) Peer influence positively affects ethnic minority students' intention to pursue tertiary education in Hong Kong.
- 3) Family influence positively affects ethnic minority students' intention to pursue tertiary education in Hong Kong.
- 4) Motivation positively affects ethnic minority students' intention to pursue tertiary education in Hong Kong.

Based on the analysis of the quantitative data, the first, second and third hypotheses were rejected. Financial support findings were contradictory to the findings of Kapai (2015) research conducted in Hong Kong. Social support findings were contradictory to the findings of Kusumawati (2013, p 316), according to whom, "Studies in Asian countries predominantly found that reference groups' influenced a student's choice of a university". The fourth hypothesis was supported. It was consistent with the research findings of Ku, Chan, and Sandhu (2005), who found that ethnic minority students were highly motivated and had high hopes for themselves. Although this study's findings were contrary to the findings of other research conducted in Hong Kong. Financial, social and motivation were an important determinant of ethnic minority students' intention to pursue tertiary education.

Gurdev Singh Sahota: Presently studying Master of Education in English Language Teaching at Hong Kong Baptist University. I worked in sales after completing undergraduate in BBA Marketing. I decided to change career so that I can help ethnic minority students in Hong Kong.

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Abstracts Panel Four

Attitudes towards migrants - A comparative study in Hong Kong

SCHÖPF, Caroline M. Hong Kong Baptist University, Max Weber Foundation

The main theories in the *attitudes towards immigrants* literature that seek to explain the causes for locals' negative attitudes towards migrants can be divided into three groups: (1) causes ascribed to psychological traits of humans in general or in specific personality profiles, (2) causes ascribed to the self-interest of certain (underprivileged) groups, or (3) causes ascribed to specific forms of group dynamics, such as perceived group threat. Race and ethnicity scholars have criticized that this framing individualizes the problem, or relegates it to the margins of society (depicting the core of society as prejudice-free), while diverting the focus away from systemic, structural causes of prejudice. However, even more systemic approaches operate within a nation state framework, understanding negative attitudes towards immigrants as rooted in unequal distributions of various forms of power within a given society. This study argues that the focus should be expanded to supra-national or global factors. Drawing on in-depth interviews with Hong Kong Chinese on their attitudes on various migrant groups in Hong Kong, it is found that informants have more positive attitudes towards a migrant group, and more nuanced understandings of those migrants' culture, if they consume information and media products created by the migrant group's sending society, whereas they have more negative attitudes towards a migrant group, and more stereotypical and one-dimensional understandings of their culture, if they consume information and media products created by local or third party sources. This finding is discussed in the context of international landscapes of cultural power and soft power.

Caroline M. Schöpf's PhD project consists of a comparative study of the occupational trajectories of Indians and U.S. Americans in Hong Kong, which ties to her wider research interest of comparing South-to-North with North-to-South migration. She was born in socialist East Germany and moved to West Germany as a child, holds a M.A. in Japanese and Chinese studies, has lived and worked in Asia (Japan, Hong Kong and China) for 8 years, and speaks fluent Chinese and Japanese. Her own rich migration experience sparked her interest in migration and ethnic inequality. Caroline's work has been presented at international conferences. Her forthcoming projects include conference presentations at the Canadian, European, and American Sociological Association annual meetings.

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Abstracts Panel Four

Challenging Precarious Lives: A Case of Foreign Language Teachers in Mainland China

KUJAWA, Izabela

Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland

It has been a long time since China has been recognized as a country of emigration. At the same time, the state with its opening up, intensified international cooperation and economic growth has become attractive to numerous groups of foreigners. Among the migrants trying their luck there are Westerners who move to Asia in order to earn their living by teaching English in both public and private educational institutions.

Although the presence of foreigners in China has been officially acknowledged (in media, national population census), the country follows an unambiguous stance: it is not a country of immigration. This state of the affairs makes it close to impossible to gain Chinese citizenship, hinders receiving working visas and pushes the migrants into the area of illegal/semi-legal work and state of temporality as they constantly prolong their stay without being sure if the new stay allowance will be granted or improper visa controlled.

I analyze the situation of foreigners illegally working in Shenzhen. Based on the conducted interviews and participant observation (12 months) I discuss their strategies to deal with the state of constant transiency. In order to depict their life situation, I reach for the concept of *precarity* which describes a sense of social and economic insecurity associated with unstable employment. I claim that for these migrants common experiences, similar socio-economic position and struggles for spatial mobility are more important than national or ethnic ties, and serve as a basis for building a flexible infrastructure consisting of people who they may refer to in need.

Izabela Kujawa, Ph. D. candidate in the Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology of Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan (Poland), member of the Center for Migration Studies (Cebam) and Inter-Asia Cultural Studies Society, co-worker and researcher within scientific projects: *Socio-cultural identification of foreigners in Poland*, *Discord Land. Russian-Chinese borderland in national discourses of Russia, China and Mongolia*, *Active migrants in the local labor market. Project of Polish-German cooperation*, former visiting student at Chinese University of Geosciences in Wuhan, Shenzhen University (China) and Humboldt University in Berlin (Germany). Her research interests include: migration to and within Asia (especially Mainland China), qualitative research methods.

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Abstracts Panel Five

Panel 5: Migration and Social Relations

Rethinking precarity of Chinese migrant women in Hong Kong

GAO, Elaine

Hong Kong Baptist University, Max Weber Foundation

Different migration patterns in/from Asia are conventionally articulated which generate numbers of research themes. Although the border between HK/ML is reduced from international border to national border since Handover 1997, Hong Kong context is different from the *Hukou* system in Mainland. Mainland migration to Hong Kong is mainly for purpose of family reunification, yet the hypothesis of cross-border marriage as hypergamy might not be sustainable with regard to economic upheaval of China. The study explores the childcare of Chinese marriage migrant mothers in Hong Kong and suggests a critical perspective to rethink the precarity of migrant women portrayed as a homogeneous group. On one hand, migrant women compromise with various institutions and experience downward mobility in the destination. On the other hand, they struggle with border policy and labor market depending on their differential social positions. The paper argues that the settlement of migrant brides is contextualized by the capacity of migrant women in response to precarious conditions they are situated in.

Elaine GAO, PhD candidate of Hong Kong Baptist University and members of Joint Research Group of Max Weber Foundation. Her research explores how the cross-border marriages between Hong Kong and Mainland China gives rise to a rethinking of the new socio-spatial practices. The study will address the ongoing debate in cross-border migration research between Hong Kong and Mainland China.

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Abstracts Panel Five

Losing home in searching: A phenomenological sociology of belongingness of the Chinese migrant

ZHANG, Qing

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Existing scholarships examine home from the perspectives of anthropology, cultural geography, Marxism, feminist etc. This study examines home from the perspective of phenomenological sociology. In this study, phenomenological sociology is the theory, in the sense of defining home as the way of existence, and the method as well, in the sense of examining the lived experience of migrants. Basing on about 200 reports on the story of migrants who are back to the village, this study explores the meaning of home and the reasons why migrants lose the feeling of home while they are searching and struggling for it. I try to answer these questions from four aspects concerning home. First two aspects, the stories of marriage, specifically the wedding, and house show the mental life in village becomes more and more rationalized and calculated. The third aspect, the social relation becomes less and less close in the village. Finally, the migrants, including and especially the authors of the reports, lose the feeling of belonging in village. The mental life in village, increasing rationalization, is the reason for the losing of belongingness and home.

ZHANG Qing is a PhD candidate at the Department of Sociology of Hong Kong Baptist University. His research interests include phenomenological sociology, cultural sociology, social theory, communication, media and technology.

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Abstracts Panel Five

Mobility in the margins: Linguistic repertoire of a Filipina Domestic Worker in Hong Kong

GUINTO, Nicanor L. Guinto *The University of Hong Kong, King's College London*

The demand for migrant work in the Global North and a seemingly inexhaustible supply from the Global South since the end of WWII have contributed to ever increasing numbers of migrants from the developing countries to economically powerful ones (Duchene, Moyer & Roberts, 2013). A sizable part of this flow includes nearly 200,000 Filipina Domestic Workers (FDW) employed in Hong Kong (with numerous others working in Singapore, Taiwan and other parts of the world). As in all caring professions, linguistic communication is an important part of the job, which creates re-orderings in existing 'linguistic markets' (Heller & Duchêne, 2011). With the notion that 'repertoires in a superdiverse world are records of mobility...' (Blommaert & Backus, 2013: 23), this paper looked into the linguistic portrait of a FDW and argue that her linguistic repertoire was instrumental to her mobility beyond the marginal space she originated from. By employing Busch's (2012), and Blommaert and Backus's (2013) work on linguistic repertoire as methodological model, this paper demonstrates how a migrant domestic worker has worked her way up to defy the norms of peripheralisation by strategically deploying her available linguistic resources, and, in effect, becoming an agent of change in the redefined, multilingual 'central' social space.

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Nicanor Guinto is a first year Joint PhD in Sociolinguistics and Discourse Analysis student of the University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, and King's College London (University of London), United Kingdom. His PhD project is concerned with the way Filipino domestic workers in Hong Kong use sociolinguistic resources to negotiate their position across the centre-periphery spaces of transnational labour migration. He is also interested in the area of semiotic landscapes with a special focus on commodification of languages. Nic is on leave from his work as Instructor at Southern Luzon State University in the Philippines.

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Abstracts Panel Five

Isaac Gagné, chair of panel five, is an assistant professor at the department of Japanese Studies, University of Hong Kong, and an anthropologist of Japan who teaches courses on anthropology, popular culture, Japanese business culture, and gender and sexuality in Japan. His research focuses on four broad fields of inquiry: 1) Gender, sexuality, and popular culture; 2) Religion, secularity, and globalization; 3) Mental health, trauma, and psychotherapy; 4) Morality and ethics. He has conducted fieldwork on gender, sexuality, and identity among Japanese subcultures, and on the impact of globalization and socioeconomic changes on religion and moral authority in Japan. He is currently working on a book manuscript on the relationship between religion and morality under socioeconomic and demographic changes in contemporary Japan.

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Abstracts Panel Six

Panel 6: Work in Globalizing Economies

Emerging Markets in the Global South and Restructuring of Global Production Networks: Evidence from Cross-border Relocation of Chinese Garment Firms to Southeast Asia

YANG, Chun

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In the face of the upsurge of production cost and labor shortage, labor-intensive manufacturing firms in China have been moving processing operation from China to lower-wage neighboring Southeast Asian countries. A growing literature has devoted to examine the cross-border relocation, while little attention has been paid to the rise of emerging markets in the Global South and subsequent implications for the restructuring of global production networks (GPN). Drawing upon the market dynamics in the recent developed GPN 2.0 theory, this paper explores the market reorientation of China-based garment and textile firms amid cross-border relocation to Southeast Asian countries, e.g. Vietnam and Cambodia. Based on the trade data analysis and in-depth interviews with relocated garment firms, the study argues that the Western market-oriented assembly manufacturing in Southeast Asia (e.g. Vietnam) has been underpinned by the textile material sourcing from China and final market of garment targeting for the Western markets. It sheds light on the emergence of triangular production networks in the context of regional integration, such as China-initiated “one belt, one road” strategy. The study contributes to the developing literature on GPN through extending market dynamics from the prevailed Western to emerging markets in the Global South, while the emerging tendency of which warrants further investigation.

Dr. Chun Yang is an Associate Professor in the department of Geography, Hong Kong Baptist University. Her research interests include Urban and regional development in China, Global production networks, transnational corporations, Regional innovation systems and indigenous innovation, Industrial clusters and foreign direct investment, Cross-border regions and geopolitics of regional governance. She is conducting a project on industrial relocation from China to Southeast Asia, which is funded by the National Science Foundation of China.

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Abstracts Panel Six

South-South Globalization and Human Mobility: Chinese in West Africa

LAM, Katy N.

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This paper aims to understand Chinese mobility and globalization in the Global South. Informed by ethnographic investigations on Chinese in West Africa, a mobility paradox is observed in the Chinese migration trajectories: physical mobility becomes resources for social mobility, but such social promotion then leads to physical immobility. Many Chinese first expect to expatriate but then extend their stay in the continent for a prolonged period. How should be Chinese expatriation trajectories understood in the migration logic/ theories? In parallel, their companies (employers) tend to localize further in the same African nation and not necessarily expand their globalization in another country. Are there any linkages between the globalization-localization and expatriation-migration and how to explain? This paper will analyze these observations with the social transformations taking place in China and social embeddedness of the hosting country. Through studying the Chinese mobility pattern in the Global South, the paper hopes to shed light on how south-to-south globalization influences and enhances, but also conditions mobility-opportunity structure, in the era in which developing countries increasingly become globalization and migration destinations.

Dr. Katy N. Lam is an Assistant Professor of the Department of Applied Social Sciences of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. She is also a Research Fellow of Migration, China, and the Global Context Research Group of the Max Weber Foundation, Germany. Her research interests are on globalization dynamics of Chinese enterprises in Africa and Southeast Asia, as well as Chinese international migration. Her recent publications include *Chinese State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) in West Africa: A Triple-Embedded Globalization*, published by Routledge.

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Abstracts Panel Six

Constituents of Life Denial Processes in Labour Life Worlds

BIJULAL, M.V.

Mahatma Gandhi University, India

This presentation focusses on the violations of human rights of millions of unorganized and informal migrant workers in the oil rich countries in the gulf countries. The paper mainly shares the author's experiences with the workers mentioned above. *Life denials* indicate direct, indirect and cultural ways of human rights violations at the host and home countries to different degrees. The lifeworlds of the workers, in this presentation, mean the portrayals of life and work as it emerges in their narratives.

Millions of workers, commonly referred to as unskilled, low wage workers have been working in the gulf countries since the 1950s. Although a considerable time of their lives is spent in the host country, even without basic guarantees of civil, political, cultural or economic rights, these workers as branded as casual informal workers. From an official normative sense the rightlessness of these workers is inextricable to their identities since the law of the host countries do not account for protecting their rights as regular workers.

Rights denials amounted to life denial in many cases where the workers were treated by their sponsors as mere bodies for the purpose of production. Many such situations remind the extreme bareness of the life: mostly justified in the name of law or processes. The academic perception on workers merely revolves around the classical notion of progressive citizens, which in turn denied forms of inquiry on rights or livelihood tensions. While the life denials were partly restricted to the private conversational realm, few fictional accounts based on real incidents showed the Indian people that economic assumptions were rather justifying life denials.

The experience of workers needs to be placed in the urban development context in a highly amoral and illegal social milieu. It is argued here that such anti-worker scheming is part of the extreme level of alienation of workers, usually leading to death and life denials of millions of workers. The paper tries to place the question in the worsening global capital - labour relationship in neoliberal times. However, it focuses on the operations through which workers are denied life.

Making use of concepts like bare life, contemporary forms of slavery and advancements in the field of citizenship scholarship, this paper will explore the construction of life denials in the public, private and academic realms.

M.V. Bijulal is an Assistant Professor in the School of International Relations and Politics, Mahatma Gandhi University, India. He is also serving as Chairman, Centre for West Asian Studies, SIRP. He was Senior Researcher, Human Rights and Law Unit, Indian Social Institute, New Delhi and served as Co-ordinator, International Seminar on Rights of Indigenous People of South Asia and Amazonia, World Social Forum, Belem, Brazil, 2009 January and Co-coordinator, International Workshop on Livelihoods Struggles of Marginalised Communities, World Social Forum, Mumbai 2004, and Coordinated several training workshops on State and Democratic Reforms, Human Rights Investigation and Fact-Finding Techniques etc. Bijulal is specialising in State and Politics in West Asia, Indian Labour in West Asia Development and Human Rights, Peoples/Social Movements and Public Democratic Initiatives. He has contributed several books/monographs and articles in national and international journals.

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Abstracts Panel Six

Understanding the role of *guanxi* in Small Start-Up Business in E-Commerce Industry - Study of Private Entrepreneurs in Anhui, China

ZHANG, Linlin

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Guanxi plays an important role in the interpretation of entrepreneurial success in China. However, studies of *guanxi* contribute less to understanding the process of how private entrepreneurs achieved their success than they do to the failure of entrepreneurial processes in China. Understanding entrepreneurship from the perspective of both success and failure might be much more valuable. This study explores what can be learned about success in e-commerce entrepreneurship by examining the failures of small start-up business in e-commerce industry in the context of Chinese *guanxi* and how *guanxi* networks contribute to entrepreneurship. To answer the research questions, qualitative methods will be used for data collection and analysis. Preliminary findings indicate that the effect of *guanxi* on the success of entrepreneurship has decreased due to economic reforms introduced by China's government and by modern information technology.

Zhang Linlin is a PHD candidate of HKBU. Before Linlin started her PHD study, she had been managing her own e-commerce company for eight years in mainland China. Zhang Linlin's current project focuses on the role of *guanxi* in the process of entrepreneurship on e-commerce industry of China.

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Abstracts Panel Six

Paradox of Debt Burdens and Foreign Aid to Developing Countries in Africa: Implications for Sustainable Development

ADEBAYO, Anthony Abayomi Federal University Oye-Ekiti, Nigeria

The expected role of foreign aid in stimulating economic growth is to supplement domestic sources of finance. However, the role of foreign aid in the growth process of developing countries has been a topic of intense debate. Also, by the early 1990s, while the IMF and the World Bank claimed to be helping the third world develop and get out of debt, most of their clients not only remained underdeveloped and poor but had fallen deeper into debt. And by the mid-1990s, the global gap between the rich and poor countries had roughly doubled since the 1960s. Today the top 20 percent of the world's population controls more than 80 percent of the world's wealth and the bottom 20 percent controls about 1 percent. The debt burden has for decades remained a recurrent and discordant note in the discourse on the crisis and contradictions of Africa's development. This paper analyzes the effects of foreign aid on the economic growth of some developing countries in Africa vis-a-vis the crippling debt burdens these countries have to bear. The study uses annual data on a group of developing countries of Sub-Saharan Africa, for the period 1980-2012. The assumption that foreign aid can promote growth in developing countries was explored in the light of the debt overhang orchestrated from the same Western corridor. Given the importance of foreign aid and debts on economic growth and development, the effects are analyzed using panel data series. The effects are estimated using panel least square estimated method. The study reveals that debt payments from the poor countries to the rich ones usually outweigh aid flowing from the rich countries to the poor. Also, the debt burden eclipses the effect of the aid, thereby further guaranteeing Western hegemony. The study proffers that developing countries in Africa should strive to develop its human and natural resources to reduce foreign dependency which aids and borrowing represent, and eschew corruption.

Keywords: Debt burden, Foreign aid, developing countries, economic growth, inequality.

Anthony Abayomi ADEBAYO holds a PhD in Sociology from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. He is presently a Lecturer in the Department of Sociology, Federal University, Oye-Ekiti, Nigeria. His research interests include poverty, inequality, social policy, development and gender issues, and has published articles in such areas.

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Abstracts Panel Six

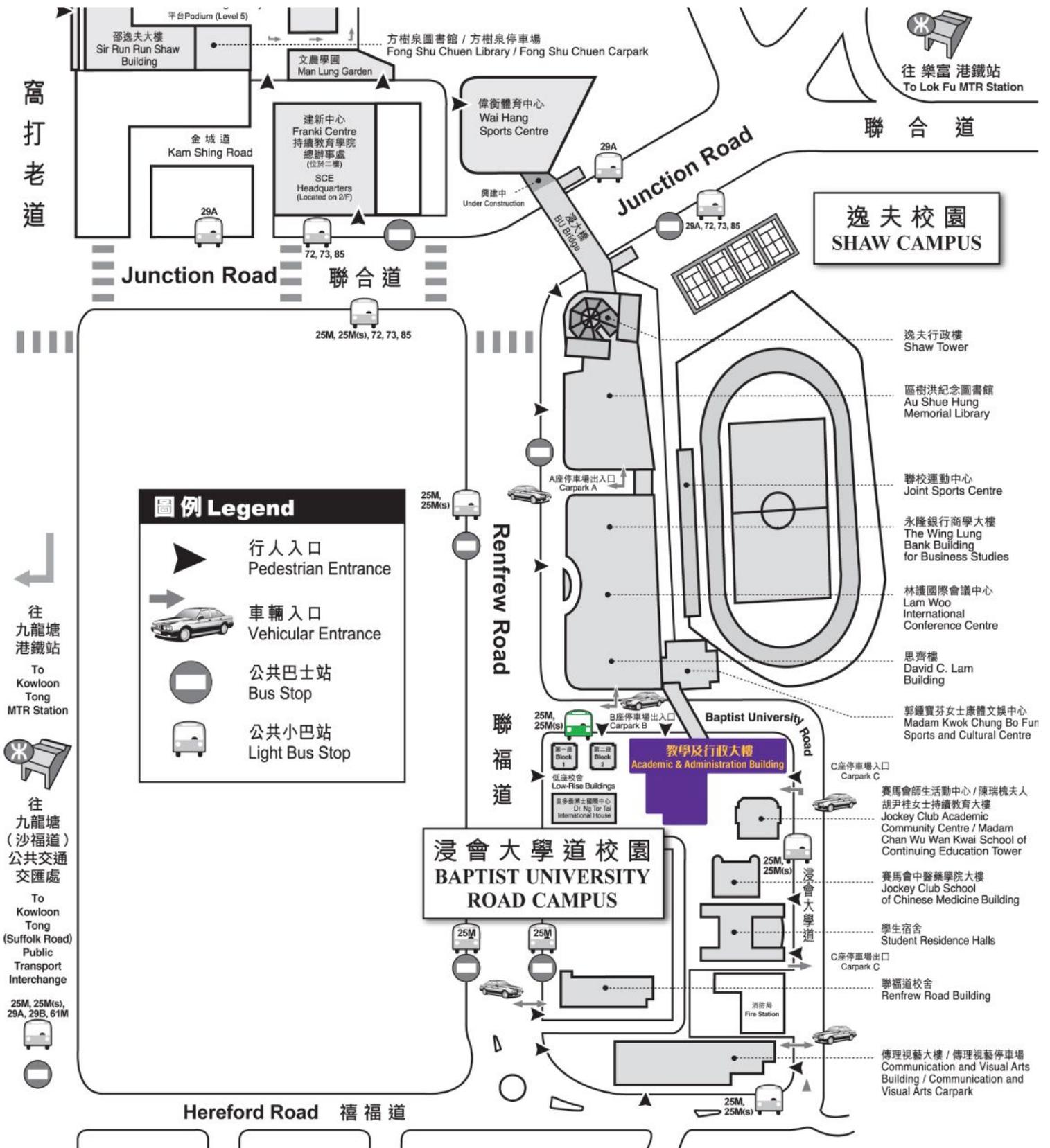
Danching Ruan, the chair of panel six, is a Professor at the Department of Sociology at Hong Kong Baptist University. Her research interests include social network analysis, social stratification, social inequality and the Sociology of Chinese societies.

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Saskia Witteborn, the discussant of panel six, is Associate Professor in the School of Journalism and Communication at CUHK where she directs the MA in Global Communication. Her research with refugees and other migrants spans three continents and has appeared in such outlets as the *Journal of Communication*, *Cultural Studies*, *Crossings*, the *Journal of Refugee Studies* and in edited volumes, such as *Circuits of Visibility* (NYU Press, 2011) or the *Handbook of Global Media Research* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2012), research funded by GRF grants from Hong Kong SAR. Specifically, she is interested in theorizing mobility, technology, and situated practice, with a current focus on the concept of *digital migration*. She has made theoretical contributions to the political economy of mobility and space, digital heterotopia, emotions and the digital, or grouping processes and place. She is currently co-editing the Sage Handbook on Media and Migration and has editorial board experience with the *Chinese Journal of Communication*, *Culture, Communication & Critique*, and the *Journal of International and Intercultural Communication*. Her research has been supported regularly by grants and has been discussed in the English and Chinese-speaking media. As Research Associate with the University of Washington Center for Local Strategy Research and as Associate Director of the Centre on Migration and Mobility at CUHK, Saskia is generally interested in culturally grounded approaches to communicative action around agendas for change.

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Map



Directions

All sessions take place in room 1312, Academic and Administration building (“AAB”)

Directions via Taxi

Take the MTR to Kowloon Tong MTR station.

Exit the station at Exits D or B.

There is a taxi stand across the road.

Tell the taxi driver that you want to go to Baptist University, Academic and Administration Building.

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Directions via Minibus

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Take the MTR to Kowloon Tong MTR station. Exit the station at exit A2, and walk straight towards Waterloo road (the big road). Walk to the campus either via Junction Road or Hereford Road, consulting the map. It's about 15 minutes. If lost, ask for

Baptist University, Academic and Administration Building (“AAB” / 香港浸會大學教學及行政大樓).

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