

香港史研究中心

HONG KONG HISTORY CENTRE

3rd Workshop of Early Career Scholars on Hong Kong History

Date: 22nd March 2024

Time: 12:30 – 17:00

Venue: Room 3.23, Wills Memorial Building, University of Bristol
Queens Road, Clifton, Bristol, BS8 1QE

(Need card to access the building, please gather at the reception at 12:15)

Program

12:30-13:10	Arrival, Introduction and lunch
13:10-14:00	Presentation by Sze Hong Lam (Ocean)
14:00-14:50	Presentation by Alex Cheung
14:50-15:10	Coffee Break
15:10-16:00	Presentation by Phyllis Chan
16:00-16:50	Presentation by Adrian Kwong
16:50-17:00	Rounding Up

The Sino-British negotiations for Hong Kong's Handover and the international law on decolonization

Sze Hong Lam, Universiteit Leiden, the Netherlands

In view of the procedural rules laid down by the United Nations General Assembly in Resolution 1514(XV) and 1541(XV), this research looks at four issues in details: (1) the holding of plebiscite and referendum prior to, during, and after the negotiations of the Sino-British Joint Declaration; (2) the question of Hong Kong's representation and their right to be informed during the Sino-British negotiations; (3) the guarantee, enforcement, and the dispute settlement in the Sino-British Joint Declaration; and (4) the content of 'Hong Kong people governing Hong Kong' in the Sino-British Joint Declaration and its subsequent agreements, including the Basic Law. It concludes by summarizing the international legal implications of the four issues examined and how they have a lasting impact on Hong Kong's autonomy even today.

Housing Problem and Chinese Migrant Workers in the Colonial Port: The Case of Interwar Hong Kong

Alex Cheung, University of Bristol, United Kingdom

This paper focuses on inhabitants of Chinese tenements, the most typical dwelling form in Hong Kong before the Second World War. In order to reconstruct daily life experience of living in Chinese tenements and the city, it will utilise wide range of primary sources, including archival materials documenting official discourse, newspaper reports on tenant eviction cases, social surveys of workers and their housing condition, and photographs of working-class neighbourhoods. Contrasting different experience of migrants and local population in securing accommodation, this paper seeks to challenge the notion of 'native population' in colonial urban historiography and explore how labour mobility transformed the landscape and society of colonial port cities during the interwar years. By focusing on labour mobility, this paper would also contribute to the historiography of migration by exploring how housing condition in port cities displaced migrant workers.

A 'balance of probabilities': Investigating claims of British nationality in Hong Kong 1945-1962

Phyllis Chan, University of Bristol, United Kingdom

This paper examines how officials investigated claims that Hong Kong residents made to British nationality. It will highlight the variety of origins of British subjects of Chinese descent, and the multifaceted ways in which they claimed and asserted their identity. While existing histories of British nationality and citizenship have focused predominantly on Commonwealth immigration to Britain, this paper shifts the perspective to the experience of British subjects who, though never setting foot in Britain, lived their lives entwined with the fabric of empire, and had connections and affinities not so easily unwound or explained in the new age of the nation-state.

Who Votes for Pro-Regime Parties in Hong Kong? Applying a New Class Voting Framework

Adrian Kwong, University of Oxford, United Kingdom

The article argues that, in a comparable way to many postindustrial democracies, the socialisation experiences of education and work created by Hong Kong's development challenges the authoritarian stability of Hong Kong, but the high-income and wealthy stratum benefitting from the current political economy supports it. Because of its importance to both social values and economic interest, education and income exert their effects on one issue dimension, democratisation, rather than two as in postindustrial democracies. In response, the current regime has sought to change socialisation processes like education to favour itself rather than the pro-democracy opposition over the long term.