



THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

NEWSLETTER

FACULTY OF

ARTS

January 2010



Summer Institute in the Arts & Humanities



**Humanities Now:
Perspectives
across
Cultures**

Prof. Leo Ou-fan Lee
李歐梵 教授

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Welcome to the first issue of the Faculty of Arts newsletter! While many of the Faculty's achievements and activities are mentioned in various University publications, we thought it was time for us to have our own. This is a work in progress and we value your feedback and suggestions on how to ensure that it adequately reflects our educational and intellectual contributions to both the University and the community as a whole.

Our inaugural newsletter kicks off with a review of the past 12 months in the Faculty of Arts, highlighting some of 2009's most memorable occasions as well as significant accomplishments in teaching and research. The next issue is scheduled for Summer 2010.

OVERVIEW OF THE FACULTY OF ARTS

Established in 1912, the Faculty of Arts is one of the three founding faculties of the University of Hong Kong and remains one of the largest, with over 2,000 students and more than 200 academic staff. Over the last 98 years, it has grown to become one of the flagship faculties of the University and our graduates have made significant contributions to the development of Hong Kong, the region and the world at large.

Following a major restructuring in 2006, the Faculty now comprises four Schools and one Centre: School of Chinese, School of English, School of Humanities (Comparative Literature, Fine Arts, History, Linguistics, Music, and Philosophy), School of Modern Languages and Cultures (American Studies, European Studies, Japanese Studies, Modern China Studies, Arabic, French, German, Greek, Italian, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish, Swedish, and Thai), and Centre for Applied English Studies. The Centre of Buddhist Studies is a self-funded academic centre affiliated with the Faculty of Arts.

In addition to taught and research postgraduate degree programmes, the Faculty currently offers one of the region's most comprehensive Bachelor of Arts programmes, as well as a four-year double degree programme with the Faculty of Education. As part of our preparations for the introduction of the four-year undergraduate curriculum in 2012, we are in the process of further expanding our offerings with a proposed new Bachelor of Arts (Literary Studies) and Bachelor of Laws joint degree, developed in conjunction with the University's Faculty of Law.

The Faculty admitted 385 students to the first year of its BA degree programme in 2009, of which almost 70% came through the Joint University Programmes Admissions System. The Faculty's Open Day and Career Forum for JUPAS applicants were held on May 18 this year. All four Schools were invited to participate and to provide brief introductions of their programmes during the main session in Rayson Huang Theatre. An information area was also set up in the foyer to allow applicants to pick up leaflets and meet with teachers and current undergraduate students. New degree programmes introduced for the 2009-2010 academic year include the Minor in African Studies, the Minor in Greek and the Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing in English, the first of its kind in Asia. The 2010 Faculty Open Day is scheduled for the week of May 18, 2010.

The Faculty took part in the University's Information Day for Undergraduate Admissions, held on October 24, 2009. Attendance on the day reached a record-breaking 43,000 people. The Faculty's Schools showcased their programmes through a variety of activities, including talks, exhibition booths, workshops, video displays and performances.





One of the Faculty's four stated missions is to serve as an international gateway and forum for humanistic scholarship between China and the rest of the world. In 2008, under leadership in the Faculty of Arts, China-West Studies joined Language and Communication as a Strategic Research Theme (SRT) within the University. Preparations are underway for a bid to the University Grants Committee to recognize China-West Studies as an Area of Excellence in 2011-2012.

China-West Studies focuses on three groupings for internal and external collaborations: language and culture studies, diaspora studies, and visual, literary and music arts. The first bi-annual conference sponsored by the theme, "Diasporas: Cultural Transfer", was held in December 2008. Notable events organized under the China-West SRT initiative in 2009 included:

NOVEMBER 17, 2008 - JUNE 3, 2009

The China and Global Modernity Lecture Series explored the nature and significance of economic, political, social and cultural interactions across the Afro-Eurasian ecumene in the historical construction of China as political, ideological and cultural formation. The Lecture Series was jointly sponsored by the School of English, the Department of Comparative Literature, and the Centre for East Asian Studies at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

APRIL 9-10, 2009

An international symposium on the writer Eileen Chang, who studied literature at the University of Hong Kong, entitled "Eileen Chang: Romancing Two Cultures". Eileen Chang is the author of the short story on which Ang Lee's 2007 film "Lust, Caution" is based. The Main Building's Loke Yew Hall featured prominently in Ang Lee's adaptation of the book and the director returned to the University of Hong Kong in October 2009 for a talk moderated by the Head of the School of Humanities, Professor Daniel Chua.



JUNE 4-6, 2009

"Where Are We Now? A Symposium on Postcolonial Collections and Archives" organized by the School of English.

JUNE 8-9, 2009

"Rethinking Visual Narratives from Asia: Intercultural and Comparative Perspectives" organized by the Department of Fine Arts, and sponsored by the Asian Cultural Council and the Louis Cha Fund.

JUNE 15-19, 2009

"Narratives of Free Trade in Early Sino-American Relations" organized by the School of Modern Languages and Cultures, the Hong Kong-America Center, the Instituto Cultural do Governo da R.A.E. de Macau, and Sun Yat-sen University's School of Asia-Pacific Studies and Department of History.

SEPTEMBER 18 - DECEMBER 11, 2009

"Humanities Now: Perspectives across Cultures" was a series of six lectures given by the renowned scholar and cultural critic Professor Leo Ou-fan Lee. The event was held under the auspices of the Muse Magazine Distinguished Lecture Series in the Humanities and was co-organized by the School of Humanities and the Journalism and Media Studies Centre.



DECEMBER 10-11, 2009

"Happiness East and West" organized by the Department of Philosophy, with the support of the School of Humanities and the Louis Cha Fund.

The Faculty of Arts continues to explore new means of facilitating interdisciplinary collaboration and of attracting leading international scholars to Hong Kong. While the establishment of the China-West Strategic Research Theme will undoubtedly enhance our position as a world-class humanities faculty, there were several other initiatives in 2009 aimed at raising our global research profile.

SOCIETY OF SCHOLARS IN THE HUMANITIES

Launched in September 2009, the Society aims to bring together exceptionally talented scholars at the beginning of their careers and to provide them with an opportunity to pursue their research free from any formal requirements. The Society received over 400 applications from young scholars worldwide for just seven initial scholarships. The first three scholars, attached to the Department of History, Department of Fine Arts, and the School of English respectively, are already in residence at Robert Black College. A further four scholarships in Comparative Literature, Linguistics, Music, and Philosophy will be awarded in 2010.



From left to right: Dr. Ryan Crewe (History), Dr. Minyong Cho (Fine Arts), and Dr. Rajeev Balasubramanyam (English)

CENTRE FOR THE HUMANITIES AND MEDICINE

The first institution of its kind in Asia, the Centre for the Humanities and Medicine is a joint initiative between the Faculty of Arts and the Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine. Its mission is to foster interdisciplinary research and teaching in relation to three broad interconnected themes: the challenges posed by the translation of biomedical technologies into society; the relationship between disease, health, culture and society; and the humanization of our understanding and practice of medicine. The Centre's official Opening Ceremony was hosted by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Lap-Chee Tsui, on December 11, 2009.

RESULTS OF THE RESEARCH GRANTS COUNCIL'S (RGC) GENERAL RESEARCH FUND (GRF) 2009-2010 EXERCISE

Nine projects put forward by members of the Faculty of Arts were awarded funding under the Research Grants Council's General Research Fund 2009-2010 Exercise, two in the School of English and seven in the School of Humanities. Total funding for the projects exceeded four million Hong Kong dollars.

EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH 2009

Three of the Faculty's distinguished scholars will be honoured for their research achievements in 2009 at the University's Award Presentation Ceremony for Excellence in Teaching and Research, to be held on January 28, 2010.

OUTSTANDING RESEARCHER AWARD

Professor Frank Dikötter, Department of History, School of Humanities

OUTSTANDING YOUNG RESEARCHER AWARD

Dr. Giorgio Biancorosso, Department of Music, School of Humanities

RESEARCH OUTPUT PRIZE

Professor Douglas Kerr, School of English, for his book *Eastern Figures: Orient and Empire in British Writing*, published by the Hong Kong University Press.



Official Opening Ceremony of the Centre for the Humanities and Medicine

Arts Faculty scholars publish books with the leading university presses around the world. The Faculty also plays a major role in the work of the Hong Kong University Press, which is fast becoming a world-class publisher of academic books, particularly on China and Hong Kong. To give you an idea of the diversity of disciplinary and interdisciplinary areas of intellectual inquiry explored in these publications, below are the volumes authored by members of the Faculty and published by HKUP in 2008 and 2009.

Fruit Chan's Made in Hong Kong

by Esther Cheung, Associate Professor in the Department of Comparative Literature, School of Humanities

The Age of Openness: China before Mao

by Frank Dikötter, Chair Professor of Humanities, School of Humanities

Mabel Cheung Yuen-ting's An Autumn's Tale

by Stacilee Ford, Honorary Lecturer in the Department of History, School of Humanities

Eastern Figures: Orient and Empire in British Writing

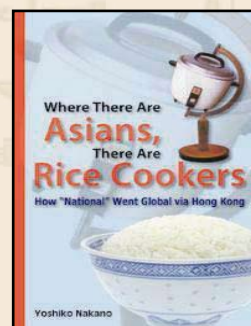
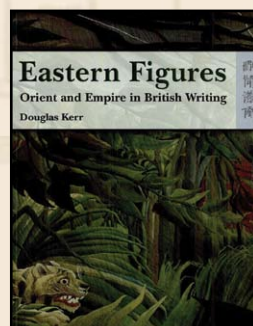
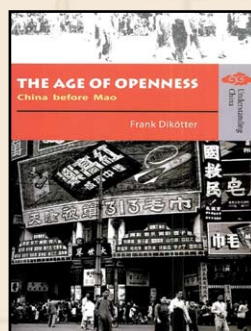
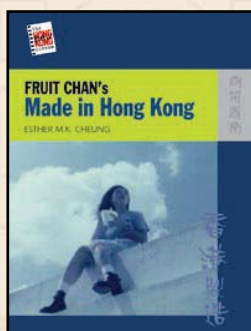
by Douglas Kerr, Professor in the School of English

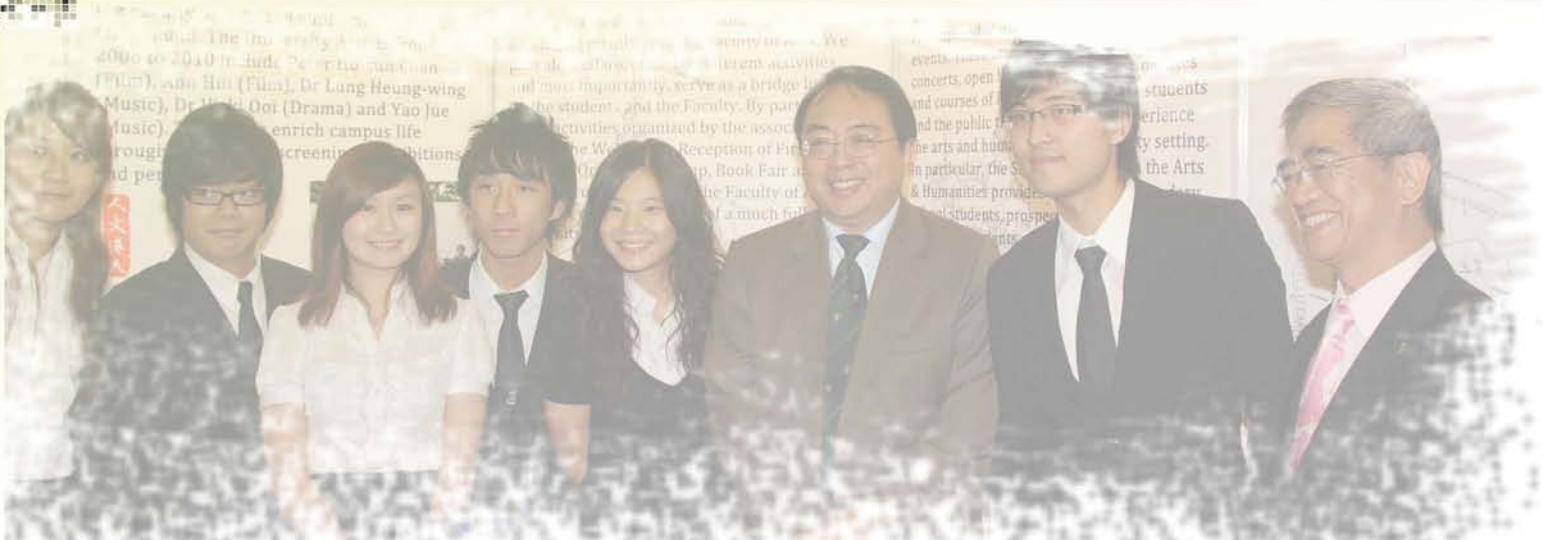
Where There Are Asians There Are Rice Cookers: How 'National' Went Global via Hong Kong

by Yoshiko Nakano, Assistant Professor in the Department of Japanese Studies, School of Modern Languages and Cultures

As a means of celebrating the works published by its members in 2009, the School of English held a book party on September 3, 2009. Over twenty books, including authored, co-authored and edited volumes, were on display in the Convocation Room. The event provided Faculty members with an excellent opportunity to find out more about each other's research interests and discuss areas of potential collaboration.

Four journals are edited in the Faculty. Jointly published by Hong Kong University Press and Nanjing University Press, *Critical Zone: A Forum of Chinese and Western Knowledge* is a series of publications especially concerned with intellectual issues in the mainland of China and Hong Kong. The *Journal of Oriental Studies* is co-published by the School of Chinese and the Center for Chinese Language and Cultural Studies at Stanford University. *Yuan Yang: A Journal of Hong Kong and International Writing* is a literary journal hosted by the School of English with a special focus on the work of young and emerging writers in Hong Kong. The *Hong Kong Journal of Applied Linguistics*, published by the Centre for Applied English Studies, is an international, refereed journal concerned with issues related to the use of English as a second or foreign language by Chinese first language background learners.





FACULTY TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD (FTEA) 2008-09

The Inaugural Faculty Teaching Excellence Awards went to Ms. Chui Chow Bun Ching, Language Instructor in the School of Chinese's Chinese Language Centre, and Dr. Page Richards, Associate Professor in the School of English.

The Faculty Teaching Excellence Award was established in 2009 and is designed to recognize full-time teaching staff for excellence in teaching and curriculum development.

FACULTY STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAMME 2010-2011

With a view to providing Arts students with additional opportunities to widen their horizons and enrich their learning experience, a Faculty-level undergraduate exchange programme was launched in November 2009. The exchange programme is open to all 2009-2010 undergraduate students who are not in their final year of study. Students are invited to apply for places at ten universities in the United States and Europe, including the University of California, University College Dublin, and King's College London.



ARTS FACULTY PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY AND GRADUATION RECEPTION 2008-2009

The Faculty held its annual Prize Presentation Ceremony on November 18, 2009 in the University's Loke Yew Hall. The Opening Address was given by



distinguished Arts alumnus Ms. Wendy Gan, Executive Director and Sales and Marketing Director of Pacific Century Premium Developments. The Closing Address was delivered by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Lap-Chee Tsui. The Ceremony was also attended by Pro-Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Tam, Registrar Mr. Henry Wai, the Dean, the Heads of School, teachers in the Faculty, and parents, as well as by secondary school principals and teachers.



A total of 133 undergraduate students received Faculty or University prizes in recognition of their outstanding academic performance. 130 undergraduate students placed on the Dean's Honours List were also presented with a Certificate. The Honours List was established in 1999 with the intention of giving extra encouragement and recognition to students performing well academically and striking a better balance between academic study and extra-curricular activities. It includes the top 10% of students in each of the three years of BA study.

The Prize Presentation was followed by a Graduation Reception for all 2009 undergraduate and postgraduate graduands, their families and friends.



SUMMER INSTITUTE IN THE ARTS & HUMANITIES

The Summer Institute in the Arts & Humanities is a new initiative by the Faculty of Arts designed to reach out to the community in order to enrich the cultural life of the region and to promote critical and creative thought through innovative and dynamic programming.

The Summer Institute 2009, held under a Literature theme, ran from July 13 to August 14 and included a scholarly symposium, seminars, workshops, forums, performances, lectures and courses aimed at secondary school students, university students and the general public. The Institute's Opening Celebration on July 13 featured performances of the works of renowned Chinese-American playwright and distinguished guest David Henry Hwang. Other highlights included a stage show by Japanese pop group Fu-Fu, a Writers' Public Forum featuring six local, Australian and US-based Hong Kong writers, and the Cross-Rhythms Concert, which brought together percussionists from Africa, Indonesia, Korea, and Hong Kong. Two events were held in the University Museum and Gallery: an a cappella concert by Cambridge University's Pembroke College Choir, and the Literati Evening: Qin Music Concert. Writer's Forums, jazz concerts and lunch-time concerts featuring traditional Chinese and Korean music took place on a weekly basis throughout the Summer Institute. Altogether twenty-eight cultural events were staged, entertaining a total audience of over 2,000 people.

Eleven courses for undergraduate students and six for secondary school students and the public were on offer during the five weeks. The open courses featured two creative English courses, "Sports Theatre" and "World Wrap Chorus", and a philosophy course "Critical Thinking". The three music courses, "Composing and Arranging Popular Music", "Percussion Workshop", and "Young Composers", all concluded with a public performance. In all, more than 300 people benefited from these courses. The theme for the Summer



Institute 2010, which will run from June 21 to August 14, 2010, is Film.



UNIVERSITY ARTISTS SCHEME

Hosted by the Faculty of Arts and supported by the Wah Ching Fund, the University Artists Scheme brings world-renowned artists to the University of Hong Kong to enrich campus life through workshops, screenings, exhibitions and performances. Current University Artists include theatre director and drama educator Dr. Vicki Ooi, filmmakers Mr. Peter Ho-sun Chan and Ms. Ann Hui, percussionist Dr. Lung Heung-wing, and violinist Ms. Yao Jue.



The Faculty is planning to expand the University Artists Scheme to include the School of Chinese's Writer-in-Residence programme. Under the programme, academics and writers of high stature are invited to the School for a two-month stint, delivering public lectures, conducting undergraduate workshops and giving postgraduate seminars. The 2009 Writer-in-Residence was the acclaimed author of *Troubled Life, Apart from Love*, and *Comings and Goings*, Chi Li.

HKU CONCERT SERIES

The Department of Music stages an annual concert series on campus, known as the HKU Concert Series. Outstanding musicians and performers from Hong Kong and abroad are invited to share their talent and virtuosity with the University community and the public at large. The Department organized over 20 concerts and musical events in 2009. One of the highlights was a Lecture Recital by internationally acclaimed Opera Singer Hao Jiang Tian. One of the first native Chinese opera singers to achieve fame on the world stage, Mr. Tian has been singing at the Metropolitan Opera in New York every year since 1991. Through the performance of some of his favorite operatic arias, he shared the passion for music that has carried him from "Mao to the Met". The programme was funded by the HKU Culture & Humanities Fund and supported by the Faculty of Arts China-West SRT Initiative and the School of Humanities.



Summer Institute: <http://arts.hku.hk/summerinstitute>

University Artists Scheme: <http://arts.hku.hk/UAS>

HKU Concert Series: <http://www.hku.hk/music/concerts/about.html>

INTERNATIONAL DAYS, WEEKS AND MONTHS

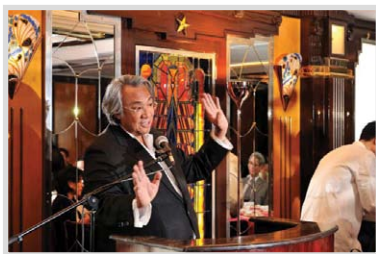
With over 60% of our academic staff recruited from outside Asia, the Faculty of Arts is the most international faculty in the University and offers language and culture studies not available elsewhere in Hong Kong. As part of an initiative to provide students with diversified learning experiences and an opportunity to interact with Hong Kong's foreign diplomatic and business communities, the School of Modern Languages and Cultures holds a number of international days, weeks, and months throughout the academic year. In 2009, these included French Speaking Day, Hispanic Month, Japan Month, Swedish Easter, and German October. The School of Humanities new African Studies Programme also organized a workshop to commemorate Africa Day on May 25, 2009.



Japan Month 2009: Mochitsuki Rice-pounding Ceremony

ARTS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

On November 10, 2009, the Hong Kong University Arts Alumni Association hosted a luncheon talk by Sir David Tang at the China Club in Central. The talk, entitled "Art and Culture Ad Nauseam", provided participants with a rare opportunity to engage Sir David in a lively discussion of what can be done to provide young people in Hong Kong with increased opportunities to experience the arts, and the role the Arts Faculty can play in furthering this objective.



The Hong Kong University Arts Alumni Association was incorporated in December 1999 with the aim of both leveraging the resources of its graduates to support the Arts Faculty in its objective to achieve ever higher standards of excellence in teaching and research, and enhance community awareness of the value of an arts education.

JANUARY 8-9, 2010

The Fifth Annual Conference of the Asian Studies Association of Hong Kong (ASAHK)
School of Modern Languages and Cultures

JANUARY 14-15, 2010

International History in Hong Kong: The Present and Future Workshop
Department of History, School of Humanities

JANUARY 20, 2010

Public Lecture:
"New Media and the Changing Horizons of Medical History: Using the Language of the Future Present to Reconceive the Distant Past"
By Professor Shigehisa Kuriyama
Reischauer Institute Professor of Cultural History at Harvard University
Centre for the Humanities and Medicine

JANUARY 21, 2010

95th Inauguration Ceremony of the Arts Association, H.K.U.S.U., Session 2009-2010

FEBRUARY 4, 2010

Evelyn Chang Piano Recital
Department of Music

FEBRUARY 10, 2010

Lecture Demonstration Concert of Hong Kong Composers
Department of Music

MARCH 9, 2010

Choreographing Classical Music
Department of Music

MARCH 12, 2010

Man Distinguished Lecture: "South African Fiction after Apartheid" by Andre Brink
School of English

APRIL 22, 2010

Percussion Concert II with University Artist Lung Heung-wing
Faculty of Arts

JUNE 21 TO AUGUST 14, 2010

Summer Institute in the Arts & Humanities