



(Faculty Niche Research Area)
Marginalized Populations Studies presents
international conference:

Marginality and Migration: Narratives of Resilience and Belonging

Location:

Hong Kong Baptist University,
Eileen L. Tsui Student Activities Room

WLB 301 *refreshments provided
+ZOOM

Day 1: 25.07.2024
15:00 – 19:00

Day 2: 26.07.2024
09:00 – 18:00



About the Conference

The Marginalized Populations Studies Network is a group of researchers across various disciplines in the arts and visual arts at Hong Kong Baptist University. We have worked to create multifaceted and impactful outcomes that explore and expand on the concept of marginality in our society, locally and globally. We define marginalized populations as individuals whose social, economic, cultural, and political identities limit their ability to participate and engage fully in society. Their voices are often unheard, stories untold, rendering them invisible or limited to the periphery.

In today's polarized world, it is more important than ever to study the meanings and impacts of various forms of marginalization. This conference draws on values from the arts and responds to the theme of well-being, value, and the public good. It is concerned with the well-being of marginalized groups, and aims to extend understanding and cultivate empathy to bring about social cohesion and positive impact. We look at research and practices that are impactful to communities involved and have currency on the global scene, especially in embracing cross-cultural understandings and engaging with multiple perspectives in world building.

Having launched a successful Comic and Podcast titled "Untold Stories of Hong Kong", in December 2023, the Marginalized Populations Studies Network wishes to create a platform for researchers and practitioners of marginalization studies from Hong Kong, Asia, and beyond to share their insights, knowledge, and experiences of and from their respective fields.

Convenors

Dr. Emily Shun Man Chow-Quesada (ENG)
Ms. Emily Alice Farmer (ENG)
Dr. Johnathan Harrington (ENG)
Dr. Evelyn Kwok (AVA)
Dr. François Mouillot (HMW)
Dr. Daisy DS Tam (HMW)
Dr. Marija Todorova (TIIS)
Dr. Louis Barui Waruwu (HMW)
Dr. Clara Chuan Yu (TIIS)
110% Hong Kong

About 110% Hong Kong

110% Hong Kong is a research group dedicated to showcasing the stories of marginalized populations. The group aims to empower communities such as ethnic, religious, sexual, and linguistic minorities by amplifying their voices and promoting cultural production.



Schedule

Day 1: 25.07.2024

15:00 – 19:00

Opening

15:00 – 16:15

Keynote:
Dr. Gcina Mhlophe, South African Poet & Storyteller,
Founding Director of Gcinamasiko Arts & Heritage Trust

Moderated by Dr. Emily Shun Man Chow-Quesada, Hong Kong Baptist University

Panel 1 – Round Table: Practical Aspects

16:30 – 18:00

Roundtable Panelists:
Ms. Ailenemae Ramos, Migrant Writers of Hong Kong
Ms. Lynette Nam, Justice Centre Hong Kong
Mr. Jeffrey Andrews, Christian Action Centre for Refugees
Ms. Tegan Smyth, Grassroots Future & Table of Two Cities

Moderated by Dr. Daisy DS Tam, Hong Kong Baptist University

Drinks

18:00 – 19:00

Day 2: 26.07.2024

09:00 – 18:00

Panel 2 – Hong Kong/Asia-focus: Agency

09:00 – 10:30

(includes discussion time)

Speakers:
Dr. Helena Wu, University of British Columbia
Prof. Lisa Yuk-ming Leung, Lingnan University, Hong Kong
Dr. Evelyn Kwok, Hong Kong Baptist University

Moderated by Dr. François Mouillot, Hong Kong Baptist University

Panel 3 – Hong Kong-focus: Representation

10:45 – 11:45

(includes discussion time)

Speakers:
Dr. Clara Chuan Yu, Hong Kong Baptist University
Mr. Innocent Mutanga, Africa Center Hong Kong
Dr. Emily Shun Man Chow-Quesada, Hong Kong Baptist University

Moderated by Dr. François Mouillot, Hong Kong Baptist University

Lunch

12:00 – 13:30

Panel 4 – Language, Minority, Marginality

13:30 – 15:15

(includes discussion time)

Speakers:
Prof. Duncan James Poupard, Chinese University of Hong Kong
Prof. Darryl Cameron Sterk, Lingnan University, Hong Kong
Dr. Marija Todorova, Hong Kong Baptist University
Prof. Hans J Ladegaard, Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Moderated by Dr. Clara Chuan Yu, Hong Kong Baptist University

Closing

15:30 – 16:30

Keynote:
Prof. Gordon Mathews, Research Professor & Emeritus Professor in Anthropology,
Chinese University of Hong Kong
with Mr. John Outsider, Iranian Writer, Poet, Filmmaker, & Asylum Seeker

Moderated by Dr. Johnathan Harrington, Hong Kong Baptist University

Closing Reception

16:30 – 18:00

Screening of animated documentary short,
A Message from Migrant Workers,
with introduction by Ms Justyna Kabala, University of the Arts London

Followed by refreshments

Day 1 25.07.2024
15:00 - 19:00

Day 2 26.07.2024
09:00 - 18:00

Keynote:

**Dr. Gcina Mhlophe, South African Poet & Storyteller,
Founding Director of Gcinamasiko Arts & Heritage Trust**



Marginalization of Indigenous Narratives

Listen to the ancient voices. Hear the call of the fish eagle.

Announcing the first rays of the rising sun. Great grandmother Ocean dances a timeless dance resonating with the mystic water drum in the very unfathomable depths of spirit worlds. A powerful reminder to all humanity that we are one with Mother Nature.

From the beginning of time, we always knew how to celebrate the first peoples of this land of beginnings. With stories that reignite the mighty voices of ancestral spirits here in Africa and the world over.

No matter how much the world cultures have evolved, the foundation of humanity's values are deeply embedded in our memories.

That is why history telling is more powerful, and sorely needed today, more than ever before.

In this age of over information, it is horrendous that we seem to be regressing in self knowledge. Refusing to pay homage to the achievements of the humble pioneers of old. The unstoppable quest for diamonds, gold, platinum and many other riches, has robbed us, our children and their children's children, of the pure sense of belonging. We should be resuscitation our sense of identity in spite of the instability brought by the dominant imperialists who own the world media.

No matter what languages we speak, there are forms of communication that transcend all divides. These are found in our intangible cultural heritage. It is imperative that we pool all our resources to go down the deepest emotional mine shaft, in search of the marginalized indigenous narratives that will shine like the rising sun on some of the turmoil and self hatred in modern society. As we touch the past, we can embrace the future. Proving once and for all, that we are more alike than we are different.

Dr Gcina Mhlophe is an author storyteller and founding director of Gcinamasiko Arts & Heritage Trust. Her works have been translated into many languages, including all official South African languages, kiSwahili, French, German, Spanish, Portuguese, Japanese and even Braille. She has directed her theatre plays in USA, UK and Greenland, her most widely known and studied theatre text being "Have You Seen Zandile?". Her poetry has been reinterpreted into dance and classical music. She has recently edited and self-published the "Our Storytelling Tree: A South African Storytellers Directory" book under GAHT and it is the first of its kind in archiving 38 of the storytellers currently working in South Africa. Seven Universities both in South Africa and internationally have awarded her with honorary doctorates for her literary work and contribution to intangible heritage through storytelling.

Dr Mhlophe's awards include SAMA for her CD called "Stories of Africa", OBBIE Award and Joseph Jefferson Awards in USA, Fringe First in Edinburgh Festival, Multi Choice AFRICA Legend Storyteller Award, USIBA Cultural legend, SA Children's Laureate Award and more recently the SAFTA Lifetime Achievement award for her acting and contribution to film in South Africa. As a South African storytelling luminary, her birthday on the 24th October is now recognised as National Storytelling Day in South Africa, since 2019 where it was inaugurated at her very own adopted performance space — The Storytelling Tree, in Durban (RSA).

In November 2022, Dr Mhlophe was honoured by the Charlotte Manyax-Maxeke Institute as one of the Mothers of the Nation, alongside great Pioneers like Mrs Nokukhanya Mdima-Dube, Ms Nicky Newton King and Mrs Zanele Mbeki.

In May 2023, Dr Gcina Mhlophe was awarded the Flora Nwapa literature Award. Her achievements in the year 2023 also include working with East Coast radio on a podcast called African Story Magic. The podcast received so much attention at that it went on to be nominated for the Spotify content creator awards. The podcast also won the APVA awards for Best in fiction. Dr Mhlophe also republished Nozincwadi: Mother of books as a Sign language. She went on to have a successful 15th edition of the Nozincwadi: Mother of books International Storytelling Festival.

Moderated by:

Dr. Emily Shun Man Chow-Quesada, Hong Kong Baptist University

Emily Chow-Quesada is an associate professor at the Department of English Language and Literature, Hong Kong Baptist University. Her research focuses on world and postcolonial anglophone literature, and intersectional feminism. Among her journal articles and book chapters, she produced a documentary on the Black female diaspora in Hong Kong, *Echo: Black Women Artists in Hong Kong* (2023), and published a monograph on Dambudzo Marechera, *The Zimbabwean Maverick: Dambudzo Marechera and Utopian Thinking* (Routledge, 2023). She is also the editor of the "Hong Kong and Chinese Literature and Culture" section of Hong Kong Review of Books.

Panel 1 – Round Table: Practical Aspects

Roundtable panelists:

Ms. Ailenemae Ramos, Migrant Writers of Hong Kong

Ailenemae Salvador Ramos from Jones Isabela, Philippines has been happily married since 2004 and is the proud mother of 2 teenagers. She has been working in Hong Kong since July 2010. She is a Team Leader and Mentor of the Uplifters community. She is one of the Ambassadors of PathFinders for Migrant Domestic Workers Hong Kong. She is one of the three co-founders of the Migrant Writers of Hong Kong. "Beyond the Sunset", her first-ever Poem Collection book was published March 16, 2021.

Ms. Lynette Nam, Justice Centre Hong Kong

Lynette is the Executive Director of Justice Centre Hong Kong, a local charitable organisation that is here to make sure that no one walks alone on the path to protection, justice and a decent life. It works with refugees and other migrants in vulnerable situations in Hong Kong, offering specialist and dedicated legal services, while ensuring those affected by trauma, isolation and destitution receive mental health and social support. As a qualified lawyer, Lynette believes that the law can be a powerful tool for good. Building on this belief, she has dedicated her professional career to making the law work for people fleeing war and persecution, and ensuring those most marginalised are empowered and have a voice in our society.

Mr. Jeffrey Andrews, Christian Action Centre for Refugees

An Indian by descent, Hong Kong-born and raised and one of the first ethnic minority registered social workers in Hong Kong. Committed to helping refugees and minority rights, in 2014 he travelled to the United Nations in Geneva to speak about the issues of segregated schools. He has received The Secretary for Home Affairs' Commendation awarded in recognition of his dedicated service and outstanding contributions to the enhancement of racial harmony and integration to Hong Kong. Recently he has been selected as 2019 JCI Top Outstanding young persons and also 2019 Cathay Pacific's Change Makers award and in 2020, his beloved football team Manchester United recognized him as one of 7 Global heroes. He has been with Christian Action's Centre for refugees in Chungking mansions for 14 years.

Ms. Tegan Smyth, Grassroots Future & Table of Two Cities

Tegan trained as a lawyer in Australia and has worked for several global financial institutions in financial crime compliance and project management. Her interest in refugee issues stems from her days training as a lawyer, which involved working for a community legal centre in Australia that focussed on providing civil law advice to refugees and new migrants.

In late 2016, she set up Table of Two Cities, a community storytelling initiative to showcase refugee narratives through the medium of food. Table of Two Cities started in 2016 and is an ongoing project within Grassroots Future to this day. Table of Two Cities continues to spotlight the untold stories and narratives of refugees and asylum seekers, particularly women, through different events and food experiences.

Grassroots Future (est. 2020) is a registered charity working with refugee-led organisations in Hong Kong to build capacity. The organisation has programs under community building, education and well-being. The NGO assists families with educational expenses and develops adult vocational training programs as well as crafting and sports activities for a mental health outlet. Grassroots Future has also spearheaded Refugee Week, a global open source festival, for the last three years.

Moderated by:

Dr. Daisy DS Tam, Hong Kong Baptist University

Daisy is Associate Professor at the Department of Humanities and Creative Writing at the Hong Kong Baptist University. With a PhD in Cultural Studies, her research is a combination of theoretical and practical endeavour underpinned by an interest in ethical practices of care. She collaborates closely with community organisations and works in an interdisciplinary and impact-driven manner. In addition to her academic work, she is the founder of local charity HKFoodWorks and Breadline — HK's first public digital platform for food rescue. She has also been involved with empowerment of migrant domestic workers for many years as board chair of Enrich.

Speakers:

Dr. Helena Wu, University of British Columbia

Engaging and Playing with Marginality: The Street Writing of “King of Kowloon”

This paper will examine the construction and the negotiation of marginality at the intersection of cultural icon, public art, and semiotics. The presentation will focus on the street writing of “King of Kowloon” Tsang Tsou-choi (1921-2007), a Hong Kong street calligrapher who was much marginalized during most part of his life but received posthumous popularity in popular culture, as well as the arts and cultural scene after his passing. By tracing the cultural circulation, mediation, and re-invention of Tsang and his work in urban public spaces as well as in texts in Hong Kong and beyond, the study aims to explore the relationship between object, place, human and nonhuman agencies and reflect on translocal relations, community building, and shared experiences.

Helena Wu is Canada Research Chair in Hong Kong Studies and Assistant Professor at the Department of Asian Studies of the University of British Columbia, Vancouver. She is the author of *The Hangover After the Handover: Places, Things and Cultural Icons in Hong Kong* (Liverpool University Press, 2020). She has written on the topics of cinema, literature, and culture for peer-reviewed journals and edited volumes such as *Chinese Martial Arts and Media Culture* (2018), *Global Media and China* (2020), *Journal of Chinese Cinemas* (2020), *Asian Cinema* (2022), *HKU Journal of Chinese Studies* (2023), *Screen* (2023), and *Cultural Studies* (2024).

Dr. Evelyn Kwok, Hong Kong Baptist University

Spatial Agency and Occupation: Migrant Domestic Workers in Hong Kong

Contemplating on a decade of research on how migrant domestic workers use public space in Hong Kong and unpacking the intersected issues that create and exacerbate their Marginalized conditions and experiences, this presentation reflects on the concept of “agency”. It looks at how agency has been viewed, understood and how it can be explored further in the context of spatial agency and much more.

Evelyn Kwok is an interdisciplinary design researcher. Her research interests lie at the intersection of gender, labor and space, how marginal communities in urban spaces use public space, ethnographic methodologies in design research, migration and invisible economies and socially-engaged art and design. Born in Hong Kong and raised in Australia, her education and cultural heritage have created a particular awareness of the intercultural aspects of architecture, design and visual arts. With experience working across Australian and Hong Kong educational institutions whilst establishing international and local connections, she has an active knowledge of the intercultural context of the Pearl River Delta region, Asia-Pacific and beyond.

Prof. Lisa Yuk-ming Leung, Lingnan University, Hong Kong

'I am you, even more!' — narrativising minority 'be-longing' among ethnically diverse youths in Hong Kong

In recent years, we have witnessed an increasing number of ethnic minority youths in Hong Kong making the voices heard in public realms in Hong Kong. Having been born, raised or spent their formative years in the territory, they have been struggling with the contradictions of someone with 'hyphenated identity' — having a strong sense of belonging to the place they grew up in, yet feeling excluded from or even discriminated in society. Refusing to engage in more confrontational means to protest (against everyday injustices) or simply shut up, some youths choose to make their voice heard through music, art and fashion, or even standup comedy. This presentation draws on findings from a research that looks into the tactical creative agencies of this generation of multicultural 'minority' youths, who resist conventional label of 'ethnic minority' and demanding to be known as 'ethnically diverse communities' (EDC). It will discuss how their creative works reveal the diverse dynamics, conditions, and narrativity behind their agencies to 'talk back' at mainstream, claiming their rightful place as 'hyphenated Hong Kong-er', while desiring to be recognized as 'ordinary'.

Lisa Y.M. Leung is Associate Professor of Department of Cultural Studies, Lingnan University Hong Kong. She has researched and published extensively in the area of transnational media circulation. Her recent research focuses on minority, migration and race. She is co-author of the book *Understanding South Asian Minorities in Hong Kong* (HKU Press, 2014). Her second book, *Ethnic Minorities, Media and Participation: Creative Belonging in Hong Kong*, examines the diverse participation of migrant / minority youths to struggle for recognition, while engaging in calls for democratic changes in the territory (Routledge, 2021). Her latest research explores the added precarities facing racial minority gig workers.

Moderated by:

Dr. François Mouillot, Hong Kong Baptist University

François Mouillot is Assistant Professor in the Department of Humanities & Creative Writing at the Hong Kong Baptist University. He holds a PhD in Communication Studies from McGill University and his research interests include popular music, cultural scenes, digital platforms and health humanities in global minority urban contexts. He has extensive experience conducting ethnographic research in Hong Kong S.A.R., the province of Québec in Canada, and the Basque region. He has co-edited the book *Fractured Scenes Underground Music-Making in Hong Kong and East Asia* (Palgrave MacMillan, 2021), and his scholarly articles are published in the journals *Popular Communication*, *Perfect Beat*, *Organised Sound*, *Cinéma & Cie.*, and *Critical Studies in Improvisation/Études Critiques en Improvisation*, among others.

Panel 3 – Hong Kong-focus: Representation

Speakers:

Dr. Emily Shun Man Chow-Quesada, Hong Kong Baptist University

Unveiling Marginalization: Blackness in Hong Kong's Education System

This presentation sheds light on the marginalization of Blackness in Hong Kong and explores the potential roles education plays in addressing this issue. Blackness, understood as a term representing Africans, its diaspora, people of African descent, and their cultures, is generally either unrepresented or misrepresented in Hong Kong popular media. While national initiatives like "Belt and Road" are becoming more prominent in HK, racialized stereotypes of Black peoples and their cultures remain. However, when one looks at the local education system, little attention has been given to this matter. Based on the research and teaching experiences of the presenters, this section discusses the potential roles of education. It examines case studies relevant to literary studies, service-learning projects, and outreach experience of Africa Center Hong Kong in schools, providing a real-life perspective on the efforts to address marginalization through educational interventions. It aims to demonstrate that education has an emerging yet significant role in catalyzing change and empowerment of the marginalization of Blackness in Hong Kong. It also emphasizes the importance of unlearning biases and prejudices as a key step toward fostering inclusivity and dismantling systemic marginalization.

Emily Chow-Quesada is an associate professor at the Department of English Language and Literature, Hong Kong Baptist University. Her research focuses on world and postcolonial anglophone literature, and intersectional feminism. Among her journal articles and book chapters, she produced a documentary on the Black female diaspora in Hong Kong, *Echo: Black Women Artists in Hong Kong (2023)*, and published a monograph on Dambudzo Marechera, *The Zimbabwean Maverick: Dambudzo Marechera and Utopian Thinking* (Routledge, 2023). She is also the editor of the "Hong Kong and Chinese Literature and Culture" section of Hong Kong Review of Books.

Mr. Innocent Mutanga, Africa Center Hong Kong

Innocent Mutanga is dedicated to rebranding blackness and sharing an African perspective, particularly black consciousness in Asia. In 2019, he launched the Africa Center Hong Kong, a social enterprise that has gained significant traction since its inception. With over 700 programs conducted annually and impacting approximately 1,000 people in a given week, the Africa Center Hong Kong offers a diverse range of cultural exchange initiatives, including programs focused on food, arts, literature, and more. The center actively works with educational institutions, corporations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and individuals who are committed to fostering positive social impact in areas such as Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), social innovation, experiential learning, and cultural exchange.

Born and raised in Zimbabwe, Innocent Mutanga fled his homeland in 2013, arriving in Hong Kong as a refugee with only 200 HKD. He faced homelessness and overcame immense challenges before pursuing his passion for Anthropology at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Notably, he became the first refugee to be accepted into an official undergraduate program at a local university and later went on to work for a prestigious global investment bank where he is deeply fascinated by trading systems & flows, and consistently seeks opportunities to optimize them through embracing automation and minimizing manual touchpoints to ensure commercially sound and robust controls environment that safeguards the financial system and its participants.

Dr. Clara Chuan Yu, Hong Kong Baptist University

Social inclusion through collaborative translation: Language and identity

Minority language speakers such as domestic migrant workers and South Asians in Hong Kong often encounter difficulties in integrating into mainstream society. This presentation sets out to explore the interplay between majority and minority language speakers in a service-learning course that promotes social inclusion. It also analyses the ways in which the participants' different cultural identities draw upon their intercultural communication practice when they engage in the activities to collaboratively translate and produce multilingual media content.

Clara Chuan Yu is a researcher, editor and ethnographer whose research is principally situated in the field of translation studies and also intersects with others such as anthropology, and media and communication studies. One of the motivations that drives her work is her curiosity about people — in particular, ordinary citizens who deploy language and translation as tools for self-expression, representation and empowerment. Her projects include the ways in which the internet users collaborate and interact with each other to produce translated content in the digital space; and more recently, the linguistically and culturally mediated communication needs of Hong Kong's ethnic minority communities. Outside of research, Clara enjoys reading, swimming and travelling, exploring nature, culture and local communities where possible.

Moderated by:

Dr. François Mouillot, Hong Kong Baptist University

François Mouillot is Assistant Professor in the Department of Humanities & Creative Writing at the Hong Kong Baptist University. He holds a PhD in Communication Studies from McGill University and his research interests include popular music, cultural scenes, digital platforms and health humanities in global minority urban contexts. He has extensive experience conducting ethnographic research in Hong Kong S.A.R., the province of Québec in Canada, and the Basque region. He has co-edited the book *Fractured Scenes Underground Music-Making in Hong Kong and East Asia* (Palgrave MacMillan, 2021), and his scholarly articles are published in the journals *Popular Communication*, *Perfect Beat*, *Organised Sound*, *Cinéma & Cie.*, and *Critical Studies in Improvisation/Études Critiques en Improvisation*, among others.

Speakers:

Prof. Duncan James Poupard, Chinese University of Hong Kong

Encoding and visibility of low-resource languages: a challenge for linguists and translators

The advancement of AI tools, the dawn of big data, and the emergence of large language models has meant for us in TS an overwhelming number of new tools and technologies. But these new inventions are, generally speaking, the sole preserve of the languages that possess the critical mass of data to be processed, the linguistic fodder to be churned into the digital training mills. Is there a way to make sure that low-resource languages do not become unwitting casualties of technological progress? The problems faced by the languages at the bottom end of the power hierarchy begin before we even get to the point of sifting through the data. The data must first be encoded, and even at this level, disparities between language representations at the token level ensure that inequality is “baked in”. Even before tokenization, however, the language or script must be digitally encoded into readable “text”. This paper will discuss two types of encoding and the disadvantages low-resource languages and scripts suffer: tokenization used in large language models, and Unicode character encoding. While a number of low-resource languages are discussed, the focus will be on the Naxi language of China, for it possesses a unique script that has not yet been digitally encoded. This paper argues that scholars across disciplines must unite to take several basic steps that can ensure the survival of low-resource languages in the age of big data, beginning with making these languages more visible.

Duncan Poupard is Associate Professor in the Department of Translation at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. His research is primarily concerned with the written heritage of the Naxi minority of southwest China. He has worked with museums and libraries around the world on revitalizing the unique Naxi manuscript traditions, and his most recent book is a critical edition of a central etiological myth, *A Pictographic Naxi Origin Myth from Southwest China* (Leiden University Press, 2023).

Prof. Darryl Cameron Sterk, Lingnan University, Hong Kong

Minority autoethnobotanical translation in Taiwan

This talk will describe translation as a tool of linguistic and cultural preservation for an Indigenous minority group in a multicultural society. Under colonialism, Indigenous languages and cultures tend to become endangered. Colonial or settler states that embrace multiculturalism attempt to reverse language and culture “shift.” One way is by funding initiatives by Indigenous minority communities to record traditional knowledge in ancestral languages.

My case study is the Seediq from Taiwan. Seediq elders have, with state funding, been “translating” traditional knowledge, in two senses. First, intermedially, they translate traditional “know-how,” which is often “show-how,” into texts on various subjects; they are, as it were, carving out different domains of knowledge in a modern context. Second, interlingually, they translate their texts into the colonial language, Mandarin.

I focus on a Seediq book about ethnic plants from 2017. The production of the book involved “autoethnobotanical translation,” the translation of practical knowledge about plants. Through participant-observation and textual analysis, I made 3 observations. 1. Autoethnobotanical translation from Mandarin into Seediq is enriching the Seediq lexicon. 2. Titillating content was sometimes censored. 3. Traditional knowledge of plants is historicized, so that the book of autoethnobotanical translation can serve as a social history of the Seediq adaptation of/to colonial modernity.

Darryl Sterk is an associate professor of translation at Lingnan University. He's written articles and a monograph about minority language translation in Taiwan, particularly *Indigenous Cultural Translation: A Thick Description of Seediq Bale*, “Inclusive Development, Translation and Indigenous-Language Pop: Yuku Walis’s Seediq Hip Hop,” and “Pedagogical Devices: On the Subtitling of Atayalic Speech in Indigenous Film from Taiwan.” He’s now working on ecotranslation in Sinophone cities. He’s also a literary translator, known for translations of Wu Ming-Yi’s *The Man With the Compound Eyes* and *The Stolen Bicycle*, Lee Wei-Jing’s *The Mermaid’s Tale*, and Kevin Chen’s *Ghost Town*.

Prof. Hans J Ladegaard, Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Language, discrimination and employability: Hong Kong employers' othering of Filipino and Indonesian domestic migrant workers on social media

The evidence of domestic migrant workers' (DMWs) experiences of racism and discrimination in Hong Kong and other receiving destinations comes overwhelmingly from DMWs' own stories (Ladegaard 2017). These stories show that they feel marginalized and excluded from Hong Kong society, and reports of labour law violations (such as underpayment, insufficient food and accommodation, and verbal and physical assault) are common, not just in Hong Kong but across the world. However, little research has looked at the employers' perspective, and we therefore know little about how they position the DMWs that work for them.

This paper looks at two Facebook groups for employers of domestic helpers in Hong Kong. The aim of the groups, according to statements made on their website, is to help and provide advice to other employers of DMWs, but this is not what the majority of posts are used for. They function as warnings, often accompanied by photos and personal information, not to employ a particular domestic worker. DMWs are positioned as 'worker-princesses': lazy and disloyal maids who are afraid of hard work, and their race and cultural background are highlighted as a legitimate reason for othering them.

The talk provides evidence that these FB sites cause considerable damage to DMWs' reputation and integrity (Ho 2020; Ladegaard 2022). Employers' posts confirm what DMWs have testified in their stories: that they are marginalized and deprived of any sense of belonging in a city where many of them have spent the better part of their lives. Finally, the paper discusses what we as researchers can do to oppose the demeaning discourses about DMWs and make Hong Kong a more inclusive society.

Hans J. Ladegaard is Professor and former Head of the Department of English and Communication at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Before moving to Hong Kong in 2006, he taught at universities in Denmark and the U.K. His research interests include language attitudes and stereotypes, intercultural communication, language and gender, narratives of migration, and pragmatics and discourse analysis. He has worked with domestic migrant workers in Hong Kong as a researcher and social activist since 2008. He is Co-Editor-in-Chief of *Language and Intercultural Communication* (Routledge).

Dr. Marija Todorova, Hong Kong Baptist University

Rehumanising Refugees: Translating Personal Narratives of Crisis

Amid increased global migration movements due to violence and crises, asylum seekers are often portrayed in the media in a depersonalised and negative way. However, refugee advocacy organisations across the globe provide a platform for asylum seekers to engage in activities that help them integrate into the local community, including sharing their personal narratives through the use of community translation. This presentation investigates asylum seekers' life stories included in cookbooks and graphic novels. The analysis reveals how these spaces can serve as tools for translation and intercultural mediation allowing asylum seekers to communicate their culture and negotiate their place in the local community, thus helping establish meaningful connections with the local population.

Dr. Marija Todorova is a Research Assistant Professor at the Department of Translation, Interpreting and Intercultural Studies of the Hong Kong Baptist University. Todorova is an editor of *New Voices in Translation Studies* and guest co-editor of *Linguistica Antverpiensia* (2022). She has published on issues related to crisis translation and interpreting, interpreting in conflict, and community translation in leading academic journals, and edited collections. She is the author of *The Translation of Violence in Children's Literature* (Routledge 2021). She co-edited *Interpreter Training in Conflict and Post-conflict Scenarios* (Routledge 2023) and *Interpreting Conflict: A Comparative Framework* (Springer 2021). She serves on the Executive Council of the International Association for Translation and Intercultural Studies (IATIS) and the Board of Directors of Grassroots Future.

Moderated by:

Dr. Clara Chuan Yu, Hong Kong Baptist University

Clara Chuan Yu is a researcher, editor and ethnographer whose research is principally situated in the field of translation studies and also intersects with others such as anthropology, and media and communication studies. One of the motivations that drives her work is her curiosity about people — in particular, ordinary citizens who deploy language and translation as tools for self-expression, representation and empowerment. Her projects include the ways in which the internet users collaborate and interact with each other to produce translated content in the digital space; and more recently, the linguistically and culturally mediated communication needs of Hong Kong's ethnic minority communities. Outside of research, Clara enjoys reading, swimming and travelling, exploring nature, culture and local communities where possible.

Keynote:

Prof. Gordon Mathews,
Research Professor & Emeritus Professor in Anthropology,
Chinese University of Hong Kong



Asylum Seekers in Hong Kong: Resilience in the Face of Rejection

This talk, based on Mathews' convening of a weekly class of asylum seekers and businesspeople in Chungking Mansions for some two decades, discusses the situation of asylum seekers in Hong Kong and how it has changed over the past twenty years. It looks at the bleak psychological situations of asylum seekers stranded in the city for many years on end: asylum seekers are rendered beggars, unable to legally work in Hong Kong. It also explores the various ways out of that situation: a fortunate few gain refugee status and are settled overseas; others gain degrees in Hong Kong

and use their home country passports to gain jobs overseas; and others marry Hongkongers, virtually the only way that they can obtain residence status in Hong Kong. Many other fail and are deported, or are caught working and imprisoned, or simply languish in Hong Kong year after year. How are some people able to eventually emerge from their Hong Kong asylum seeker status with fulfilling lives, while others cannot? This talk cannot conclusively answer this question but it can offer hints. The finale of the talk will be "John Outsider," an Iranian asylum seeker, who will discuss how he himself has endured a difficult situation as an asylum seeker: he will consider the books he has written in Hong Kong, and also his black-humored standup comedy about asylum seeking in Hong Kong.

Gordon Mathews is an Emeritus Research Professor in the Dept. of Anthropology at Chinese University of Hong Kong, and is Chair of the World Council of Anthropological Associations. He has written or edited ten books, including *Ghetto at the Center of the World: Chungking Mansions, Hong Kong*, and *The World in Guangzhou: Africans and Other Foreigners in South China's Global Marketplace*. He has been teaching a weekly class of asylum seekers in Hong Kong for the past eighteen years, and has written about them in *China Perspectives*, *Asian Anthropology*, and *The New York Times*, among other venues.



Mr. John Outsider, Iranian Writer, Poet, Filmmaker, & Asylum Seeker

John Outsider (pen name) is an Iranian asylum seeker in Hong Kong since 2012, who has published ten books on Amazon, and also poetry, as well as giving highly-regarded stand-up comedy performances in Hong Kong.

Moderated by:

Dr. Johnathan Harrington, Hong Kong Baptist University

Johnathan Harrington is an Assistant Professor, based at Hong Kong Baptist University. His current research is heavily focused on board game practices, including regional board game design, board game production pipelines, and identity formation in board game communities. He also researches online player communities, with a heavy focus on play-based design as well as playing outside of gaming peripheries, such as protests, memorials, as well as displays of nationalism in game spaces. Outside of research, Johnathan Harrington is a game designer and developer, having worked on over ten different titles.

About the documentary

A Message from Migrant Workers

Directed by: Cristina Cayat, Jonalyn Molina,
Maria Christina Castillo Anire, Marilyn Lopez & Marichel L. Tomines
Animation: Tom McCaughan
Project coordinator: Justyna Kabata



"A Message from Migrant Workers" is an experimental, animated documentary short produced in collaboration with five Filipino artists who work as domestic workers in Hong Kong. The film was co-directed by the five members of Guhit Kulay Artist Collective: Cristina Cayat, Jonalyn Molina, Maria Christina Castillo Anire, Marilyn Lopez and Marichel L. Tomines. The narrative tells stories collated by the co-directors from the migrant worker community during a series of online film-writing workshops run between 2021 and 2022. The aim of this community filmmaking project was to explore new ways of collaborating remotely through skill and knowledge share practice. Premiered in 2023 at Para Site gallery in Hong Kong, the film has been screened internationally in The Philippines, Europe and North America.

Justyna Kabata is an artist-filmmaker working on experimental and collaborative films with communities. Developing methodologies for sharing authorial control of creative projects through co-directing and collaborative filmmaking activities, her practice-based research aims to challenge the hierarchies and power relationships traditionally embedded in filmmaking and participatory practices.

Utilising filmmaking as a tool for social engagement, these collaborative projects explore and expand on the experiences of the individuals and communities involved through the co-creation of moving image work. The projects build lasting relationships not only through filmmaking, but also ongoing dissemination activities in exhibitions, talks and film festival screenings, the collaborative films serve as part of a wider conversation with a broad range of audiences, organisations and other communities.

Born in Poland, Justyna lives and works in London, UK, and is a Senior Lecturer at London College of Communication, University of the Arts London.

Acknowledgements

Funded by:
Faculty Niche Research Area Grant 2022–2024, Hong Kong Baptist University

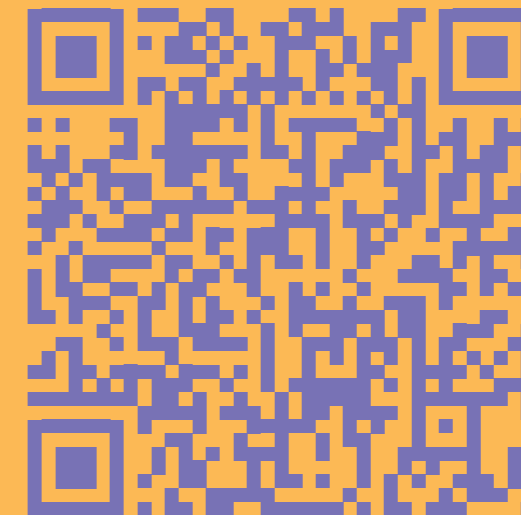
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