Recent Books from Hong Kong - January 2010

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Cinema Studies

Herman Yau, Director in Focus Hong Kong: Hong Kong International Film Festival Society 92p.; 26cm ISBN-13: 9789889918118 A 31st Hong Kong International Film Festival Programme \$ 15.00 http://www.marymartin.com/web/product?pid=117108

A Tribute to Action Choreographers / Li Cheuk-to (Editor) Hong Kong: Hong Kong International Film Festival Society, 2006 184p.; 29cm ISBN-13: 9789889796679 A 30th Hong Kong International Film Festival Programme \$ 22.00 http://www.marymartin.com/web/product?pid=106881

Chinese Ecocinema: In the Age of Environmental Challenge / Sheldon H. Lu & Jiayan Mi (Eds.) Aberdeen, Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2009 xiii. 370p.; 23cm ISBN-13: 9789622090866 \$ 24.95 http://www.marymartin.com/web/product?pid=117109

This anthology is the first book-length study of China's ecosystem through the lens of cinema. Proposing "ecocinema" as a new critical framework, the volume collectively investigates a wide range of urgent topics in today's world: Chinese and Western epistemes of nature and humanity; the dialect of socialist modernization amid capitalist globalization; shifting configurations of space, locale, cityscape, and natural landscape; gender, religion, and ethnic cultures; as well as bioethics and environmental politics

Education

Traces 5: Universities in Translation: The Mental Labor of Globalization / Brett de Bary (Ed.) Aberdeen, Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2010 xviii. 390p.; 23cm ISBN-13: 9789622099920 Traces: A Multilingual Series of Cultural Theory and Translation \$ 29.95 http://www.marymartin.com/web/product?pid=117110

Essays in the book deal with university restructuring across multiple national and disciplinary boundaries. It is unique in its symposium-style structure, which brings together critical perspectives on university reform produced by scholars from China, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Korea, Mexico, Russia, Singapore, Taiwan, and the United States.

History

Underground Front: The Chinese Communist Party in Hong Kong / Christine Loh Aberdeen, Hong Kong : Hong Kong University Press, 2010 372p.; 23cm. 9789622099968 \$ 35.00 http://www.marymartin.com/web/product?pid=117111

Underground Front is a pioneering examination of the role that the Chinese Communist Party has played in Hong Kong since the creation of the Party in 1921, through to the present day. This book brings events right up to date and includes the results of a survey about the Hong Kong public's attitude towards the CCP. The numerous appendices on the key targets of the party's united front activities also make it an especially useful read for all who are interested in Hong Kong history and politics, and readers who are interested in the history of modern China.

Taxation Without Representation: The History of Hong Kong's Troublingly Successful Tax System / Michael Littlewood Aberdeen, Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2010 x. 376p.; 24cm ISBN-13: 9789622090996 (HB) \$ 50.00 http://www.marymartin.com/web/product?pid=117112 This book tells an instructive tale of Hong Kong's tax system from 1940 (when taxes on income were first introduced in the territory) until the present day. For Hong Kong's own historians and political scientists, it supplies cogent but previously neglected evidence of the influence of the territory's business interests. For students of British imperialism, it provides a compelling case-study of relations between London and a recalcitrant colony. For Hong Kong's own tax profession, it corrects the notion that the territory's tax system was the product of governmental design. And for tax theorists and taxpayers everywhere, it suggests how it might be possible to structure a combination of very light taxes and very low public spending so as to win broad popular support.

China Bound and Unbound: History in the Making – An Early Returnee's Account / Frances Wong Aberdeen, Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2009 xvi. 151p.; 24cm ISBN-13: 9789622091719 (HB) \$ 35.00 http://www.marymartin.com/web/product?pid=117113

China Bound and Unbound recounts how one woman's hope of building a new China gradually turned to disappointment, disillusionment and despair, reflecting the minds of China's intellectuals at the time.

To Serve and To Lead: A History of the Diocesan Boys' School Hong Kong / Fung Yee Wang & Chan-Yeung Mo Wah Moira Aberdeen, Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2009 xix. 407p.; 23cm ISBN-13: 9789622099982 \$ 32.00 http://www.marymartin.com/web/product?pid=114081

Where There Are Asians, There Are Rice Cookers: How "National" Went Global via Hong Kong / Yoshiko Nakano Aberdeen, Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2009 ix. 214p.; 23cm ISBN-13: 9789888028085 \$ 22.50 http://www.marymartin.com/web/product?pid=117114

This is the first English-language book to focus on the electric rice cooker and the impact it has had on the lives of Asian people. This account of the rice cooker's globalization aims to move away from Japan-centric perspectives on how "Made in Japan" products made it big in the global marketplace, instead choosing to emphasize the collaborative approach adopted by one Japanese manufacturing giant and a Hong Kong entrepreneur. The book also highlights the role Hong Kong, as a free port, played in the rice cooker's globalization and describes how the city facilitated the transnational flow of Japanese appliances to Southeast Asia, China, and North America. Based on over 40 interviews conducted with key figures at both National/Panasonic and Shun Hing Group, it provides a fascinating insight into the process by which the National rice cooker was first localized and then globalized. Interspersed throughout are personal accounts by individuals in Japan and Hong Kong for whom owning a rice cooker meant far more than just a convenient way of cooking rice. The book includes over 60 images, among them advertisements dating back to the 1950s that illustrate how Japanese appliances contributed to the advent of a modern lifestyle in Hong Kong.

The Ambiguous Allure of the West: Traces of the Colonial in Thailand / Rachel V. Harrison & Peter A. Jackson (Eds.) Aberdeen, Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2010 xxiii. 268p.; 23cm ISBN-13: 9789622091238 \$ 25.00 http://www.marymartin.com/web/product?pid=117115

The book brings studies of modern Thai history and culture into dialogue with debates in comparative intellectual history, Asian cultural studies, and postcolonial studies. It takes Thai Studies in new directions through case studies of the cultural hybridity and ambivalences that have emerged from the manifold interactions between Siam/Thailand and the West from 1850 to the present day.

Politics

Whither Taiwan and Mainland China: National Identity, the State, and Intellectuals / Zhidong Hao Aberdeen, Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2010 xvi. 232p.; 24cm ISBN-13: 9789622091009 (HB) \$ 40.00 http://www.marymartin.com/web/product?pid=117116

This is one of the few books that argues for a feasible compromise solution to the political conflict across the Taiwan Strait that still troubles greater China. The author elaborates on the factors both enabling and constraining the formation of a hybrid of federation and confederation. In a unique way he deals with the role of the state and intellectuals (organic, professional, and critical) as well as their interaction in shaping national identities. The important questions raised are: Can China become a true world leader? Will Taiwan be a key player in China's transformation? The book should be of interest to students in political science, sociology, and history, as well as policy-makers and businesspeople who are concerned about the development of cross-Strait relations.

The Public Sector in Hong Kong / Ian Scott Aberdeen, Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2010 xiv. 395p.; 23cm ISBN-13: 9789622091726 \$ 29.95 http://www.marymartin.com/web/product?pid=117117

This book describes and analyses the role of the public sector in the often-charged political atmosphere of post-1997 Hong Kong. It discusses critical constitutional, organizational and policy problems and examines their effects on relationships between government and the people. A concluding chapter suggests some possible means of resolving or minimizing the difficulties which have been experienced.

Sociology

Searching for the Way: Theory of Knowledge in Pre-modern and Modern China / Jana S. Rosker Sha Tin, Hong Kong: The Chinese University Press, 2008 xvi. 356p.; 24cm ISBN-13: 9789629963279 (HB) \$ 52.00 http://www.marymartin.com/web/product?pid=97852

The search for knowledge has been the driving force behind mankind's existence since the dawn of civilization, and different cultures have developed their own theories of knowledge. Searching for the Way: Theory of Knowledge in Premodern and Modern China deals with the analyses and interpretations of modern Chinese philosophical discourses, especially those concerning theories of knowledge. The author looks at how contemporary Chinese philosophy is awakening from a long slumber and substantiates the hypothesis that this new awakening is fully prepared for fruitful confrontations with the new challenges presented by a globalized world.