

Recent Books from/on Hong Kong – Aug 2019

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Anthropology

A Chinese Melting Pot Original People and Immigrants in Hong Kong's First 'New Town' / Elizabeth Lominska Johnson and Graham E. Johnson

Hong Kong : Hong Kong University Press, 2019

232p.

9789888455898

\$ 70.00 / HB

Drawing on almost fifty years of research and first-hand experience, Elizabeth Lominska Johnson and Graham E. Johnson have produced a masterpiece of ethnography, a fine-grained study of the transformation of a rural district into a chaotic industrial—and now post-industrial—city. Their work has implications far beyond its specific location; scholars of history, anthropology and sociology, urban planning, ethnomusicology, women's studies, political science, ethnic relations, and China studies in general will all find it meaningful.

Tsuen Wan was incorporated into colonial Hong Kong in 1898. The original inhabitants were Hakka who were guaranteed land rights, which were central to later developments. After the Japanese war, the town was overwhelmed by vast numbers of immigrants—fleeing civil war and revolution—seeking employment in rapidly developing industries. The newcomers were welcomed as tenants, but in the absence of firm planning guidelines, their number far exceeded the town's capacity to

house and accommodate them. The original inhabitants were firmly rooted in villages and elaborate kinship organizations; the immigrants similarly relied on voluntary associations to help them face the many challenges that change brought into their lives. Over time, the government became more interventionist and developed Tsuen Wan as the first planned new town in Hong Kong's New Territories. In recent years, the culture of the original inhabitants has been diluted and differences among immigrants have diminished as all have assumed a general Hong Kong identity.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=650593>

Tales of Hope, Tastes of Bitterness : Chinese Road Builders in Ethiopia / Miriam Driessen

Hong Kong : Hong Kong University Press, 2019

208p.

9789888528042

\$ 45.00 / HB

China's new globalism plays out as much in the lives of ordinary workers who shoulder the task of implementing infrastructure projects in the world as in the upper echelons of power. Through unprecedented ethnographic research among Chinese road builders in Ethiopia, Miriam Driessen finds that the hope of sharing China's success with developing countries soon turns into bitterness, as Chinese workers perceive a lack of support and appreciation from Ethiopian laborers and state entities. The bitterness is compounded by their position at the margins of Chinese society, suspended as they are between China and Africa and between a poor rural background and a precarious urban future. Workers' aspirations and predicaments reflect back on a Chinese society in flux as well as China's shifting place in the world.

Tales of Hope, Tastes of Bitterness: Chinese Road Builders in Ethiopia sheds light on situations of contact in which disparate cultures meet and wrestle with each other in highly asymmetric relations of power. Revealing the intricate and intimate dimensions of these encounters, Driessen conceptualizes how

structures of domination and subordination are reshaped on the ground. The book skillfully interrogates micro-level experiences and teases out how China's involvement in Africa is both similar to and different from historical forms of imperialism.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=650594>

-----Art

Emperor Qianlong's Hidden Treasures : Reconsidering the Collection of the Qing Imperial Household / Nicole T. C. Chiang
Hong Kong : Hong Kong University Press, 2019

168p.

97898888528059

\$ 46.00 / HB

In this stunning reassessment, Nicole T. C. Chiang argues that the famous Qianlong art collection is really 'the collection of the imperial household in the Qianlong reign'. The distinction is significant because it strips away the modern, Eurocentric preconceptions that have led scholars to misconstrue the size of the collection, the role of nationalism in its formation, the distinction between art and artifact, and the actual involvement of the emperor in assembling the collection. No one interested in Chinese art will be able to ignore the ramifications of this important study.

Emperor Qianlong's Hidden Treasures: Reconsidering the Collection of the Qing Imperial Household argues that the size of the collection was actually smaller than previously stated. Moreover, the idea that the collection put the whole of the empire on display (and thereby promoted political unity) does not square with the reality that most of the collection was hidden away. Instead, the collection was primarily for the emperor's gaze alone. Chiang further explains that the collection was largely the product of work done by many specialists working at the Qianlong court, noting that the emperor often assumed a more supervisory role. Preliminary drawings, patterns, models, and prototypes of the items made in the imperial workshops also formed an important part of the collection, as they served to establish standardized models used to run the imperial household.

The collection was thus both broader and narrower than previously stated.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=650595>

Salon Salon 沙龍沙龍 : Fine Art Practices from 1972 to 1982 in Profile– A Beijing Perspective, 1972–1982 / Edited by Liu Ding (劉鼎) and Carol Yinghua Lu (盧迎華)

Hong Kong : The Chinese University Press, 2019

660p.

9789882370890

\$ 70.00 / HB

Salon Salon unfolds a narrative about Beijing’s art scene in a decade from the late period of the Cultural Revolution to the beginning of the Reform and Opening-up (1972–1982)—a period that is considered as a brand-new start for contemporary Chinese art. It focuses on the continuous influence of the ideological structure of socialist realism in China on the practice and discourse of contemporary Chinese art; how artists and their pieces engaged in “internal exile” wherever possible amidst a harsh political environment, feeling out and defining the tense relationship between art and politics or adjusting their individual standpoints. This book also attempts to discover hidden crevices in the existing narratives of contemporary Chinese art history, to serve as starting points for rethinking.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=650596>

Economics

Understanding Corporate Governance in China / Bob Tricker,

Gregg Li

Hong Kong : Hong Kong University Press, 2019

332p.

97898888455713

\$ 50.00 / PB

China has traveled a unique road to reach its present economic significance in the world with corporate governance central to political and economic policy. In Understanding Corporate Governance in China, Bob Tricker and Gregg Li look at a variety

of companies in China and the challenges they face. Based on in-depth interviews with business leaders, entrepreneurs, auditors, bankers, lawyers, and others closely involved in corporate governance in China, they argue that corporate governance involves more than company law, governance guidelines, and the rules of the stock exchanges and regulatory authorities. Culture and ethics lie at the core of corporate governance. In Chinese business these are still evolving, and business-government relations continue to change. It is vital to understand how business people and officials act in practice in China. They also explain how the regulatory framework of corporate governance in Hong Kong increases the sophistication. As more and more companies based in mainland China are listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange and increasingly dominate the Hong Kong market, the business worlds of China and Hong Kong become intertwined and grow together.

After a brief introduction to the basic theories of corporate governance and the evolution of corporate governance in China, the book guides the reader through current issues and practices in both mainland China and Hong Kong. Topics like Chinese culture and ethics, the regulatory corporate governance framework in mainland China and Hong Kong, the function and practice of the board of directors in China, and the governance of Chinese companies abroad are covered.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=650597>

Health & Medicine

Traditional Chinese Medicine : Professionalization and Integration in Hong Kong / (Ed) Kara Chan & Dong Dong Kowloon: City University of Hong Kong Press, 2019
xx, 212p. ; 152x229mm.

Includes Index
9789629373795
\$ 38.00 / PB
428gm.

Chinese medicine has a rich history that has only been made more complex by its integration with “Western” biomedicine.

Legitimization of Chinese medicine in biomedicine-dominated health systems, such as that in Hong Kong, has posed significant issues. This anthology of articles explores relevant social issues related to various Chinese medicine treatments, including acupuncture and medicinal oils, as well as insight into practitioner licensing and public perception. Each chapter tackles a topic related to the complicated process of legitimizing knowledge and power within a specific social and historical context. Written by professors and researchers with extensive knowledge of Chinese medicine, government regulation, and sociology, this collection provides an overview of the challenges and current social context of Chinese medicine that affect students and practitioners of Chinese medicine, health and para-health biomedical professionals, and patients alike. *Traditional Chinese Medicine: Professionalization and Integration in Hong Kong* is the first book in the *Mediated Health Series*, which focuses on the effects of media, lifestyle, doctor-patient communication, and the economy on health and aims to help inform medical decisions and enhance the wellbeing of individuals.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=650612>

History

The Writ of the Three Sovereigns : From Local Lore to Institutional Daoism /

Dominic Steavu

Hong Kong : Chinese University Press, 2019

388p. ; 23cm.

9789882370999

\$ 65.00 / HB

This study, the only book-length treatment of the Writ of the Three Sovereigns in any language, traces the text's transition from local tradition to empire-wide institutional religion. The volume begins by painting the social and historical backdrop against which the scripture emerged in early fourth century Jiangnan before turning to its textual history. It reflects on the work's centerpiece artifacts, the potent talismans in celestial

script, as well as other elements of its heritage, namely alchemical elixirs and “true form” diagrams. During the fifth and sixth centuries, with Daoism coalescing into a formal organized religion, the Writ of the Three Sovereigns took on a symbolic role as a liturgical token of initiation while retaining its straightforward language of sovereignty and strong political overtones, which eventually led to its prohibition. The writ endured, however, and later experienced a revival as its influence spread as far as Japan. Despite its central role in the development of institutional Daoism, the Writ of the Three Sovereigns has remained an understudied topic in Chinese history. Its fragmentary textual record combined with the esoteric nature of its content have shrouded it in speculation. This volume provides a lucid reconstruction of the text’s hidden history and enigmatic practices while shedding light on its contributions to the religious landscape of medieval China.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=650613>

Law

A Practical Guide to Mental Health Law in Hong Kong / Sherlynn G. Chan

Hong Kong : Hong Kong University Press, 2019

164p.

9789888528165

\$ 26.00 / PB

How can we best serve the interest of a family member who becomes mentally incapacitated because of ageing? How can parents of children with autism or Down syndrome arrange their affairs so their children will be taken care of even when they are gone? In light of the ageing population and increased life expectancy, these problems are likely to increase. A Practical Guide to Mental Health Law in Hong Kong will be a good starting point for preparing for the upcoming challenges before it is too late.

This book is divided into three parts. Part I consists of twelve modified case studies based on real-life scenarios, which provide

an introduction to the relevant mental health law in Hong Kong. Part II highlights the legal procedures and practical considerations for managing the property and affairs of persons suffering from mental incapacitation (MIPs). Part III addresses alternative planning tools such as wills, enduring powers of attorney, continuing powers of attorney, and advance medical directives. The book ends with a discussion of the way forward for Hong Kong, with reference to the mental health law and legal practices in other common law jurisdictions pertinent to the protection of the interests of MIPs.

Family members, caregivers for MIPs, and professionals who are in disciplines relevant to the care of the MIPs will find this book a highly informative resource. It will also be useful for legal practitioners who are not familiar with this area of law.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=650614>

Linguistics

Talk to Me in Cantonese / Betty Hung
Hong Kong : Hong Kong University Press, 2019
248p.
97898888455867
\$ 33.00 / PB

Talk to Me in Cantonese is a comprehensive and self-paced textbook tailor-made for English-speaking learners with a basic knowledge of Cantonese. It consists of 10 lessons, each covering a real-life situation using dialogues and stories. Through systematic explanations of the grammar and sentence patterns introduced in the text, readers are able to acquire crucial grammatical structures needed to express themselves fluently and precisely. Each lesson reinforces grammar usage with a review and a wide variety of exercises. The Cantonese pronunciation practice in Appendix 1 serves a dual purpose: it exposes the reader to the richness of the Cantonese language by using slang and colloquial expressions to practise every element of Cantonese pronunciation.

This book is a sequel to *A Cantonese Book*, a popular textbook designed for beginning-level learners. Since there are very few books that help teach anything beyond survival Cantonese, *Talk to Me in Cantonese* is suitable for anyone who wants to continue their study, no matter what text they used to start with. The book is enhanced by downloadable audio files by native speakers for all dialogues, stories, vocabulary items, and grammatical practices in the text.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=650615>

Literature

Maoist Laughter / Edited by Ping Zhu, Zhuoyi Wang, and Jason McGrath

Hong Kong : Hong Kong University Press, 2019

232p.

9789888528011

\$ 59.00 / HB

During the Mao years, laughter in China was serious business. Simultaneously an outlet for frustrations and grievances, a vehicle for socialist education, and an object of official study, laughter brought together the political, the personal, the aesthetic, the ethical, the affective, the physical, the aural, and the visual. The ten essays in *Maoist Laughter* convincingly demonstrate that the connection between laughter and political culture was far more complex than conventional conceptions of communist indoctrination can explain. Their sophisticated readings of a variety of genres—including dance, cartoon, children’s literature, comedy, regional oral performance, film, and fiction—uncover many nuanced innovations and experiments with laughter during what has been too often misinterpreted as an unrelentingly bleak period. In Mao’s China, laughter helped to regulate both political and popular culture and often served as an indicator of shifting values, alliances, and political campaigns. In exploring this phenomenon, *Maoist Laughter* is a significant correction to conventional depictions of socialist China.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=650616>

Oceanic Archives, Indigenous Epistemologies, and Transpacific American Studies / Edited by Yuan Shu, Otto Heim, and Kendall Johnson

Hong Kong : Hong Kong University Press, 2019

308p.

97898888455775

\$ 72.00 / HB

The field of transnational American studies is going through a paradigm shift from the transatlantic to the transpacific. This volume demonstrates a critical method of engaging the Asian Pacific: the chapters present alternative narratives that negotiate American dominance and exceptionalism by analyzing the experiences of Asians and Pacific Islanders from the vast region, including those from the Philippines, Vietnam, Indonesia, Hawaii, Guam, and other archipelagos.

Contributors make use of materials from “oceanic archives,” retrieving what has seemingly been lost, forgotten, or downplayed inside and outside state-bound archives, state legal preoccupations, and state prioritized projects. The result is the recovery of indigenous epistemologies, which enables scholars to go beyond US-based sources and legitimates third-world knowledge production and dissemination.

Surprising findings and unexpected perspectives abound in this work. Minnan traders from southern China are identified as the agents who connected the Indian Ocean with the Pacific, making the Manila Galleon trade in the sixteenth century the first completely global commercial enterprise. The Chamorro poetry of Guam gives a view of America from beyond its national borders and articulates the cultural pride of the Chamorro against US colonialism and imperialism. The continuing distortion of indigenous claims to the sovereignty of Hawaii is analyzed through a reading of the most widely circulated English translation of the creation myth, Kumulipo. There is also a critique of the Korean involvement in the American War in Vietnam, which was informed and shaped by Korean economy and politics in a global context.

By investigating the transpacific as moments of military, cultural, and geopolitical contentions, this timely collection charts the reach and possibilities of the latest developments in the most dynamic form of transnational American studies.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=583938>

Philosophy

New Life for Old Ideas : Chinese Philosophy in the Contemporary World : A Festschrift in Honour of Donald J. Munro / (Eds)

Yanming An & Brian Bruya

Hong Kong: The Chinese University Press, 2019

viii, 424p.

Includes Index

9789882370524

\$ 52.00 / HB

752gm.

Over five decades, Donald J. Munro has been one of the most important voices in sinological philosophy. Among other accomplishments, his seminal book *The Concept of Man in Early China* influenced a generation of scholars. His rapprochement with contemporary cognitive and evolutionary science helped bolster the insights of Chinese philosophers, and set the standard for similar explorations today. In this festschrift volume, students of Munro and scholars influenced by him celebrate Munro's body of work in essays that extend his legacy, exploring their topics as varied as the ethics of Zhuangzi's autotelicity, the teleology of nature in Zhu Xi, and family love in Confucianism and Christianity. Essays also reflect on Munro's mentorship and his direct intellectual influence. Through their breadth, analytical excellence, and philosophical insight, the essays in this volume exemplify the spirit of intellectual inquiry that marked Donald Munro's career as scholar and teacher.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=650617>

Politics

Umbrella : A Political Tale from Hong Kong / Kong Tsung-Gan
USA: Pema Press, 2017

672p.

Includes Index

9780997238532

\$ 29.99 / PB

1000gm

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Umbrella examines in detail the 2014 campaign for genuine universal suffrage, situating it within the contexts of the history of the HK pro-democracy movement, HK's relationship with China, recent developments in nonviolent resistance struggles globally, and democratization theory.

The occupations of three hubs of HK lasted 79 days, the longest continuous mass demonstrations to occur in any major world city in modern history. What triggered them? Why did they last so long? What were they fighting for? What did they achieve?

The tale is divided into five parts: 1) how the occupations began; 2) their immediate and historical backgrounds; 3) the occupations themselves; 4) the period after the occupations and up to the defeat of the fake universal suffrage plan of the Chinese and HK governments in June 2015; and 5) an assessment of the movement, an overview of the many rapidly occurring developments in its wake, and a discussion of the outlook for democracy and self-determination in Hong Kong.

Told from a pro-democracy perspective, in solidarity with the millions of Hong Kong people who have fought for their civil and political rights down through the years, *Umbrella* also looks critically at the limitations, weaknesses and errors of the movement while portraying the Chinese Communist Party as implacably hostile to popular sovereignty and the HK government and elites as its accomplices. The global struggle between democracy and authoritarianism will determine the direction of the world over the coming decades. Hong Kong is part of that struggle.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=650618>

Religion – Christianity

Thy Kingdom Come : A Photographic History of Anglicanism in Hong Kong, Macau, and Mainland China / Philip L. Wickeri and Ruiwen Chen

Hong Kong : Hong Kong University Press, 2019

224p.

Sheng Kung Hui: Historical Studies of Anglican Christianity in China

9789888528028

\$ 67.00 / HB

Celebrating the twentieth anniversary of the formation of the Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui (Anglican Church) Province in 2018, *Thy Kingdom Come: A Photographic History of Anglicanism in Hong Kong, Macau, and Mainland China* is a richly illustrated history of the past 200 years. Although connected to the British colonial government, Hong Kong bishops always sought to relate the Church to Chinese society, making this story predominantly Chinese.

The book is divided into five parts. Part I explores the beginnings of Anglican and Episcopal missions in China. Part II relates the history of the Chung Hua Sheng Kung Hui (CHSKH) from 1912 to 1951, a turbulent time in China, when the church's challenge was to respond to change in every facet of society. Part III illustrates the history of the Diocese from 1951 to 1981, during which new churches, schools, and clinics were established. Part IV records Hong Kong's transition from colonial rule to the return to China; it was during these years that Bishop Peter Kong-kit Kwong developed parish ministries, strengthened missions in education and social welfare, and solidified relations with the church in China. Part V describes new developments in the Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui.

With almost 180 photos, *Thy Kingdom Come* brings Church history to life in a way no prose history ever could.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=650619>

-----Religion -

Daoism

Sociology

Oral Histories of Older Gay Men in Hong Kong : Unspoken but Unforgotten / Travis S K Kong

Hong Kong : Hong Kong University Press, 2019

200p.

9789888528066

\$ 28.00 / PB

“This is very personal and private, but I’ve told you everything.” Old Chan thus gives voice to the attitude expressed in all thirteen stories told in this intimate oral history of life at the margins of Hong Kong society, stories punctuated by laughter, joy, happiness, and pride, as well as tears, anger, remorse, shame, and guilt.

Illustrated with photos, letters, and other images, Oral Histories of Older Gay Men in Hong Kong: Unspoken but Unforgotten gives voice to the complexities of a “secretive” past with unique hardships as these men came to terms with their sexuality, adulthood, and a colonial society. The men talk with equal candour about how their sexuality remains a complication as they negotiate failing health, ageing, and their current role in society.

While fascinating as life histories, these stories also add insight to the theoretical debates surrounding identity and masculinity, coming out, ageing and sexuality, and power and resistance. Confined within the heteronormative culture prescribed by government, family, and religion, these men have lived the whole of their lives struggling to find their social role, challenging the distinction between public and private, and longing for a stable homosexual relationship and a liberating homosexual space in the face of deteriorating health and a youth-obsessed gay community.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=650620>
