

2009-2010 Chairperson's Report of the Hong Kong Anthropological Society
presented on 13 May 2010 by Stan Dyer

The Hong Kong Anthropological Society has held 11 talks and one jointly-organised seminar so far this year, as compared to 14 events by the AGM in May last year. Our talks this year were generally well attended, with average audience sizes of around 40.

There are two more talks scheduled this year. The first will be held on Thursday 17 June. The talk, by Eric Cheng Siu-kei, is entitled "Adopting a new lifestyle: Formation of a local organic community in Hong Kong". The second, by Christine Yau and entitled "Mainland Chinese as "Scapegoats" in Hong Kong today" will be held on Thursday 8 July.

The first of our talks this year, by Millie Creighton, was entitled "The Korean Wave and Japanese Fandom: Transforming Historic Tensions through Popular Culture".

The next, after the summer, was by Graeme Lang, who spoke on Energy and Culture: The Coming Reversal of Globalisation Trends in China. Chen Ju-chen spoke about "Peasants" in the history of urban development: Migrant Labourers in Beijing and emerging social divisions in late socialist China". Following that talk, Chen Yingjun spoke on "Maids in Shanghai" in November.

A seminar on religion, jointly-organised by HKAS and Shue Yan University was held at the Shue Yan campus in early December. For our last talk of 2009, Gordon Mathews spoke on "Asylum Seekers: The Paradoxes of Lives on Hold," a look at the current situation for asylum seekers in Hong Kong.

For our first talk in 2010, Ivette Vargas-O'Bryan presented her research in her talk Demon Diseases, Doctors and Monks: Taking Religion Seriously for Medicine. In February, John Whelpton spoke on Twilight of the Gods: the Demise of the Monarchy in Nepal.

In March, Valerie Wilson Trower spoke on The Fashion of Western Women in Hong Kong. Our talk in April was Living in the New Tibet: How Lhasa Residents deal with Modernisation by Kabir Mansingh Heimsath. Tonight's talk on Hong Kong Migrants in the Netherlands was given by Brevis Chan

The HKAS journal, *Asian Anthropology*, is flourishing and continues to gain the respect of anthropologists, both in Asia and worldwide. As well, a group of anthropology major students at the Chinese University of Hong Kong published this year's edition of the revived publication, *The Hong Kong Anthropologist*, which had formerly been the representative publication of the Society.

I am very appreciative of the efforts of the editors, Gordon Mathews and Sidney Cheung Chin-hung. This year, we received a very generous donation from City University through the efforts of our vice-chairperson, Graeme Lang, which helped considerably in our ability to support the publication of our journal.

Our membership continues to maintain a very healthy level with most members choosing to continue their membership via the convenient 3-year renewal method.

I'd like to thank all members of this year's executive committee: Graeme Lang, Christine Ling, Yang Yang, S.J. Chan, Jane Fong, Paul Harrison, Gordon Mathews, Yoko Miyakawa, Siu Kit Wa Lydia, John Whelpton, Lynne Nakano, Wu Liang Andrew, Chun See-Ching, Jiting Luo, Christopher Cheng, Yu Po Ting Sonia, Zelda Liang, Danning Wang, and Wu Keping.

The executive committee and all members of the Society would like to thank Hong Kong Museum of History Chief Curator Ms. Esa Leung for her continued support. We would also like to thank Assistant Curator Josephine Wong, who has for a number of years helped to reserve the Museum's Lecture Theatre on our requested dates and who has arranged for the appropriate equipment to be in place and ready for our speakers. We are also greatly indebted to the technicians, the custodial staff and the security personnel who have stayed late to allow us to hold our events.

The Hong Kong Anthropological Society provides an opportunity for professional anthropologists and nonspecialists to learn together and learn from each other. As always, we seek involvement from general members. We welcome your participation in the Hong Kong Anthropological Society Executive Committee, which meets monthly. If you have the time and inclination, we welcome your opinions and participation as general members. You, the members, make the Society worthwhile. Let us continue to work together.

Hong Kong Anthropological Society Talks and Events 2009-2010

Millie Creighton: The Korean Wave and Japanese Fandom: Transforming Historic Tensions through Popular Culture 18 June

Graeme Lang: Energy and Culture: The Coming Reversal of Globalisation Trends in China. 17 September

Chen Ju-chen: "Peasants" in the history of urban development: Migrant Labourers in Beijing and emerging social divisions in late socialist China" 14 October

Chen Yingjun: Maids in Shanghai 19 November

Seminar on Religion, jointly organised by HKAS and Shue Yan University 3 December

Gordon Mathews: Asylum Seekers: The Paradoxes of Lives on Hold 17 December

Ivette Vargas-O'Bryan: Demon Diseases, Doctors and Monks: Taking Religion Seriously for Medicine 21 January

John Whelpton: Twilight of the Gods: the Demise of the Monarchy in Nepal 4 February

Valerie Wilson Trower: The Fashion of Western Women in Hong Kong 19 March

Kabir Mansingh Heimsath: Living in the New Tibet: How Lhasa Residents deal with Modernisation 30 April

Brevis Chan: Hong Kong Migrants in the Netherlands 13 May

Upcoming Talks

Eric Cheng: Adopting a new lifestyle: Formation of a local organic community in Hong Kong Thursday 17 June

Christine Yau: Mainland Chinese as "Scapegoats" in Hong Kong today Thursday 8 July