

The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies

South China Programme

Research Agenda

The agenda provides a focus for research activities of the Programme. It is not limited to any particular disciplines or topics – innovative research with relevance to Hong Kong and mainland China is all welcome. Currently, the grants cover research on Hong Kong, mainland China, and the region's interrelated development with Macao, Taiwan, and other parts of the world. The research areas include:

1. The Development of the Hong Kong-Mainland China Nexus

To study the historical/contemporary relationship between Hong Kong and mainland China from an economic, social, legal, political, or cultural dimension.

Focuses: The nature of mutual influences and interdependencies between the regions; the extent of their socio-economic integration and conflicts; solutions to trans-border problems; development of institutions, attitudes, and beliefs about the evolving relationship of the regions.

2. The External Relations of Hong Kong and Mainland China

To study the external relations of Hong Kong and mainland China against the backdrop of a rising role of China in global politics in recent years.

Focuses: The global policies of Hong Kong and mainland China; issues on terrorism, anti-terrorism, and Chinese nationalism.

3. Growth and Disparities in Regional Development

To study the regional growth and disparities in mainland China against the context of the rapid social and economic changes in recent decades.

Focuses: Regional differences and political efforts towards modern nationhood; maintenance of unity and identity despite of diversities; development and consequences of skewed distribution of population, resources, and income; competition and cooperation among the regions.

4. Institutional Evolution and Transformation

To study the evolution of institutional arrangements, social alignments, processes of learning and adaptation in Hong Kong and mainland China.

Focuses: The transition from old practices and the emergence of new institutions and behaviour in the economic, social, mass media and political arenas.

5. Interrelations among State-building, Culture, and Local Society

To study the interrelations among state-making, culture, and local society in different Chinese societies.

Focuses: The conceptual linkages between/among different parts of Greater China which have contributed to the evolution of the cultural complex. Studies may draw on collections from archives, museums, or ethnographic work of the regions.