

## David FAURE

Department of History

Central to Professor David Faure's interest in history is an understanding of how people deal with the social structures in which they live, as identified in their own terms. He believes that history plays a role in helping people to understand and surpass the restraints they accept, and that 'we read history to contribute to a better life'. An internationally renowned expert on China's economic and business history, Professor Faure has also published widely on Chinese social history and the history of Hong Kong at the local level.

As Director of CUHK's multidisciplinary Centre for Comparative and Public History Professor Faure is an example of his own philosophy, having been born, raised and largely educated in Hong Kong before completing his studies in the US and commencing his research career in the UK. Since publishing his first book on the eastern New Territories in 1986, he has written numerous social histories of southern China and edited several important historical document collections.

Described by the *China Review* as 'one of the premier authorities on the history of Chinese lineage and society', Professor Faure recently published *Emperor and Ancestor*, an acclaimed study of county government and ritual reforms in the Pearl River Delta during the Ming and Qing dynasties. His history of business in modern China, published in 2006 under the title *China and Capitalism*, has been described as offering an historical perspective on the development of Chinese business groups that is often ignored by scholars too impressed by the rapid changes taking place

in the country today. With Professor Faure's research, perceptions of a historically 'changeless' China are themselves history.

✉ [dfaure@cuhk.edu.hk](mailto:dfaure@cuhk.edu.hk)

