Shum Graduate Fellowship Again Offered

For the third consecutive year, the Fairbank Center is offering two Desmond and Whitney Shum Fellowships. Competition for the fellowships is open to all Harvard PhD candidates from any school within the university who are specializing in a field of the social sciences and studying contemporary China. Each fellowship provides a stipend of $20,000 to enable the student to spend a year doing research work in China. Applicants should submit a brief letter setting out the title of their project, the institution in China where they will be doing their research, and their planned dates of travel. In addition, applicants should provide a project description of no more than two pages, a letter of support from their thesis supervisor, and, if available, a letter of acceptance from the Chinese institution where they intend to work. Full information is available on the Fairbank Center web site.

The application deadline is March 15, 2007. Past recipients have been able to meet their benefactor, Desmond Shum, in Beijing. The Fairbank Center is grateful to the Shum family for providing this important fellowship.

Welcome to the Spring 2007 Semester

We find that the spring semester is usually the busiest at the Fairbank Center. This newsletter gives information on three workshops organized by this year’s post-doctoral fellows; a conference on the history of print in Imperial China, which takes place in June; and the prestigious Annual Reischauer Lecture Series, which will take place during the first half of 2007.

Announcements of all of our forthcoming programs appear on the Asia Bulletin at http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~asiactr/events.html, or on the Fairbank web site at http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~fairbank. All of our programs are free and open to the public, and members of the Harvard community are especially welcome.

—Ronald Suleski, Assistant Director

Adding Special Touches to Our Space

Visitors to the Fairbank Center will see an impressive collection of Chinese arts and antiques on loan to us from Mr. Ma Sang. At the Asian Collections, his shop in Brookline, Mr. Ma specializes in reasonably priced antiques from a variety of geographical locations in China—some dating back to the eighteenth century. He and our Program Officer, Tien Wen-hao, have put together a lovely collection that warms our new space at 1730 Cambridge Street. On display at the Fairbank Center, we have an impressive Scholar’s Rock, a table for ancestor tablets, a Yunnan carved screen, a calligraphy piece by Wan Guangyao from the Hangzhou Lingyin Temple, a Daoist painting of the Seven Stars who control the fates of human beings, and a Dongyang carved screen. We invite all of our associates and friends to come by to appreciate these fine examples of Chinese skill and craftsmanship, and be sure to visit Mr. Ma’s shop, Asian Collections, at 370 Boylston Street in Brookline, 617-738-8888.
Ancestors, Virgins and Friars: Christianity as a Local Religion in Late Imperial China was the title of the workshop organized by Eugenio Menegon, Assistant Professor of Chinese History at Boston University, and presented on February 24, 2007, at the Fairbank Center. Professor Menegon is working on a book with this title, and the purpose of the workshop was to explore the topic and to comment on the author’s approach and interpretive findings. Themes reviewed at the workshop included Fujian’s local religion and society and their relationship to Christianity, Catholicism as a Chinese heterodox and local religion, Catholicism as a transnational and foreign religion, China and world Christianity in the early modern period, clergy and gender issues in Chinese religions and Christianity, and Chinese Christians traveling to Europe and European missionaries traveling to China and the effects of cultural and social dislocation.

An Wang Post-doctoral Fellows Lee Haiyan and Liu Yu will present a workshop on Saturday, April 7, 2007, entitled “The Growth of Myriad Things Depends on the Sun”: Mobilization, Performance, and the Production of Legitimacy in Mao’s China. The Fellows will discuss the paradox: Why did millions of Chinese enthusiastically support Mao’s revolutionary regime while so many of its policies and campaigns proved disastrous? By bringing together a group of scholars working with new materials and representing interdisciplinary methodologies from social history, historical anthropology, political philosophy, social psychology, and cultural studies, the Fellows hope to overcome the conventional disciplinary divide between the social sciences and the humanities and encourage new and innovative efforts in rethinking Maoism.

The workshop will be held on Saturday, April 7, 2007, at CGIS South Building, Room S050, 1730 Cambridge Street, Cambridge. For more information, contact Lee Haiyan at haiyan.lee@colorado.edu or Liu Yu at yl487@columbia.edu.

Authorship, Copyright, and Editions: The Circulation of Works in Late Imperial China is the title of the workshop organized by Harvard-Yenching Post-doctoral Fellow He Zhaohui and scheduled for May 5, 2007.

The issue of authorship and copyright is one of the keys in understanding the circulation of works in late Imperial China. No official registration system existed that identified authors and publishers; nor were there legal codes offering protection to the rights of publishers and authors.

Despite of the absence of substantial protection to authors and publishers, the publishing industry still enjoyed a boom in late Imperial China. The study of extant editions is a powerful tool in the research of pre-modern Chinese books. Through investigating the various editions of a specific work and tracing its circulation, scholars can see the circulating mode of the work and the relations between the author, the original publisher, and other publishers (not necessarily pirates). The aim of this workshop is to provide an opportunity for scholars to address these issues and share their findings.

The workshop will be held on Saturday, May 5, 2007, in the Common Room of the Harvard-Yenching Building, 2 Divinity Avenue, Cambridge. Contact He Zhaohui, zhe@fas.harvard.edu, for more information.
The 2007 Annual Reischauer Lecture Series, co-sponsored by the Fairbank Center for East Asian Research and the Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies, Harvard University, will take place on April 18, 19, and 20, 2007. The theme of this year's lectures is From Luoyang to Shanghai: The Genesis of Sino-Japanese Relations and Their Revival in the Nineteenth Century, and they will be delivered by Joshua A. Fogel, Canada Research Chair in Modern Chinese History, York University.

Professor Fogel is a specialist in Chinese-Japanese cross-cultural connections. He received his PhD in history from Columbia University in 1980. He taught at the University of California, Santa Barbara from 1989 until 2005 when he joined the faculty at York University. Professor Fogel was also visiting professor at the Institute for Research in the Humanities, Kyoto University, from 1996 to 1997 and Visiting Mellon Professor in East Asian Studies, the School of Historical Studies, Institute for Advanced Studies, Princeton University, from 2001 to 2003.


He has also published (or has in press) nine edited volumes, and he is currently writing two books, both concerned with Sino-Japanese relations and centered in Shanghai in the 19th century.

Each of Professor Fogel's lectures takes place in CGIS South Building, Room S030, 1730 Cambridge Street, Cambridge. They begin at 4:00 pm.

THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 2007
Lecture by Professor Fogel: The Voyage of the Senzaimaru and the Road to Diplomatic Normalcy: An International Perspective
Discussant: Andrew Gordon, Chair, Department of History, Harvard University

FRIDAY, APRIL 20, 2007
Lecture by Professor Fogel: The Japanese Community in Shanghai: The First Generation, 1860s–1890s
Discussant: Yang Daqing, Associate Professor, The Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University

The Fairbank Center and the Reischauer Institute invite member of the Harvard community and all other interested individuals to attend this series of lectures, which are free and open to the public.
Two new academic studies, published by the Harvard Asia Center with funds provided by the Fairbank Center, will be issued in the coming months.

Deirdre Sabina Knight

*The Heart of Time: Moral Agency in Twentieth-Century Chinese Fiction*

This work describes modern Chinese fiction’s unique contribution to ethical and literary debates over the possibility for meaningful moral action. How does Chinese fiction express the desire for freedom as well as fears of attendant responsibilities and abuses? How does it depict struggles for and against freedom? How do the texts allow for or deny the possibility of freedom and agency? By analyzing discourses of agency and fatalism and the ethical import of narrative structures, the author explores how presentations of determinism and moral responsibility changed over the twentieth century. To bring out Chinese fiction’s distinctive treatments of dilemmas of human agency, Sabina Knight links these changes to representations of time and to enduring commitments to human-heartedness and social justice.

Although, story for story, Chinese fiction may contain some of the most disconsolate pages in the twentieth century’s long literature of disenchantment, it also bespeaks, Knight argues, a passion for freedom and more responsibility. Responding to ongoing conflicts between the claims of modernity and the resources of past traditions, these stories and novels are often dominated by challenges to human agency. Yet read with sensitivity to traditional Chinese conceptions of moral experience, their testimony to both the promises of freedom and the failure of such promises opens new perspectives on moral agency.

Deirdre Sabina Knight is Associate Professor of Chinese at Smith College.

Steven B. Miles

*The Sea of Learning: Mobility and Identity in Nineteenth-Century Guangzhou*

The Xuehaitang (Sea of Learning Hall) is credited as the main factor in the upsurge of scholarship in the Guangzhou area during the nineteenth century. Founded in the 1820s by the eminent scholar-official Ruan Yuan, the Xuehaitang was indeed one of the premier academies of that period.

The celebratory discourse that portrayed the Xuehaitang as having radically altered literati culture in Guangzhou also legitimated the academy’s place in Guangzhou and Guangzhou’s place as a cultural center in the Qing Empire. This study asks: Who constructed this discourse and why? Why did some Cantonese elites find this discourse compelling and other did not.

To answer these questions, Steven Miles looks beyond intellectual history to local social and cultural history and the cultural politics of place and examines the interplay between scholarly and literary affiliations and identities of social and geographical place—transregional, regional, and urban. He argues that the academy did not exist in a scholarly vacuum. Its location in the city of Guangzhou and the larger Pearl River Delta embedded it in social settings and networks that determined who utilized its resources and who celebrated its successes and values.

Steven B. Miles is Assistant Professor of History at Washington University in St. Louis.
Conference on the History of Print in China

First Impressions: The Cultural History of Print in Imperial China (8th to 14th Centuries) is a conference organized by Lucille Chia, Associate Professor of History, University of California at Riverside; Hilde De Weerdt, Assistant Professor of History, University of Tennessee at Knoxville; and Wilt Idema, Professor of Chinese Literature, Harvard University.

Our knowledge of the twelve-centuries-old history of Chinese printed books remains spotty. The use of woodblocks (zylography) was the dominant method of printing in China from the early eighth century until the introduction of movable type (typography) and lithography became popular in the late nineteenth century. Block printing was first utilized for replicating Buddhist and possibly Daoist texts and images. By the ninth century in China, printed books on sale included works on divination, portents, dreams, geomancy, "character books," and elementary school books.

The importance of these and many related themes will be fully explored at the conference to be held on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, June 25, 26, and 27, 2007, in CGIS South Building, Room S050, 1730 Cambridge Street, Cambridge. The conference is sponsored by the American Council of Learned Societies, the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Fairbank Center. For more information, contact Professor Idema, idema@fas.harvard.edu, or Professor Chia, lucille.chia@ucr.edu.

Coming Up in October 2007

Chinese Justice: Civil Dispute Resolution in Post-Reform China is a workshop organized by Margaret Woo, Professor of Law at Northeastern University, and Merle Goldman, Professor of History, Emeritus, from Boston University and Associate of the Fairbank Center. They have received support for the workshop from the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation, the program in East Asian Legal Studies at the Harvard Law School, and the Fairbank Center.

In recent years, the Chinese state has implemented a wide array of competing legal mechanisms ranging from courts to mediation to arbitration to administrative review. Are these institutions working at cross-purposes or are they reaffirming each other’s legitimacy? What are the experiences of ordinary citizens in their dispute resolution? How do these legal institutions adjust state and society relations? More importantly, is there a “gap” between ordinary Chinese citizens and their legal institutions?

This gathering will draw together the various disciplines involved in the study of this “legalization” phenomenon in a workshop that will culminate in an edited volume. The workshop will bring together leading law scholars from China, Taiwan, and the U.S. who have gained unusual access to mainland Chinese courts and collected interviews and empirical data of civil disputes resolution in China.

The workshop will be held on 12 and 13 Friday and Saturday, October 12 and 13, 2007 and will take place in CGIS South Building, 1730 Cambridge Street, Room S050, Cambridge. For more information, contact mgoldman@fas.harvard.edu.
How Did Mao Wield Power?

In December 2006, An Wang Post-doctoral Fellow Liu Yu described her ongoing research based on her dissertation *From the Mass Line to the Mao Cult: The Production of Legitimate Dictatorship in Revolutionary China*. Her dissertation tackles the puzzle: Why did so many Chinese show a very high level of political loyalty to Mao’s regime while they suffered so much under this regime?

Her answer to this puzzle is based on Mao’s unique power technique: the Mass Line. She argues that Mao was particularly fond of mobilizing the masses to achieve his political goals, while other totalitarian leaders relied more on bureaucrats and secret police. However, she warns that the Mass Line should not be romanticized as a way of representation. It was instead a way of policy implementation. She argues that mass participation had a serious consequence on legitimacy production.

Dr. Liu Yu applies the theory of cognitive dissonance to Mao’s China. A major application of the dissonance theory is the “induced-compliance paradigm,” which deals with the attitude change incurred by induced behavioral change. She argues that the Mass Line fits this paradigm. By inducing political participation, the Mass Line motivated the masses to internally justify the revolutionary politics they were engaged in. In other words, legitimizing a destructive regime might seem irrational, but legitimizing one’s own behavior was perfectly rational. The ingenuity of the Mass Line was to make the masses agents of dictatorship, thus transferring the burden of legitimizing the dictatorship from the dictator to the masses themselves. For more information, contact Liu Yu at yl487@columbia.edu.

Reception for the Kennedy School Asia Program fellows and the Fairbank Center postdoctoral fellows and visiting scholars on November 28, 2006. In the center is the honorable Stanley Kao, former Deputy Permanent Representative to the WTO for Taiwan. Kao spoke on “Taiwan and International Organizations: Achievement and Challenges.” Front row (from left): Chou Chuing, K. T. Yang, Stanley Kao, Steven Goldstein, Tien Wen-hao, Lee Haiyan, and Liu Yu. Back row (from left): Xu Baoyou, Lee Nam Ju, Julian Chang, Taylor Fravel, and Li Xiangmin.
Homosocial Smoking in China

Matthew Kohrman, Assistant Professor of Medical Anthropology at Stanford University, spoke at the Fairbank Center in December 2006 as part of the China Gender Studies Series. In his talk, which was titled *Sino Sacer: Reflections on Male Sociality, Life and Necropolitics among Chinese Cigarette Smokers*, Professor Kohrman described his current ethnographic project examining the production and experience of mass death. Weaving through this project is the question of how death—which is widely recognized as caused by a commercial product, the cigarette—generates so little anger or sense of victimization in those affected.

Using the death of Wu Fengping, a 32-year-old who died of lung cancer as a result of smoking as an example, Professor Kohrman demonstrated this lack of public outcry and associated it with a confluence of historical processes that has come to configure cigarette smoking among Chinese men as simultaneously an insistent embodied signifier of masculinity and a nearly inescapable interpersonal means to achieving success. For more information, email kohrman@stanford.edu or call 650-723-3130.

Agents of Change in Republican China

Anne Reinhardt, Assistant Professor of History at Williams College and An Wang Post-doctoral Fellow in 2003–2004, spoke at the Fairbank Center in January as part of the 20th Century China Seminar. Her talk was titled *National Capitalism and Enterprise Community: Lu Zuofu and the Minsheng Industrial Company, 1926–1937*.

In her talk, Professor Reinhardt examined the Minsheng Industrial Company, an enterprise based in Chongqing during the Republican period, in terms of how both the company and its founder, Lu Zuofu, fit into the historical category of “national capitalism.” The company’s “enterprise community” was established in order to transform both company employees and society at large into modern subjects committed to the Chinese nation. The company continues to operate today both in the PRC and in Taiwan, though as two separate organizations.

This research grew out of Professor Reinhardt’s work on Yangzi River shipping, and she is planning an upcoming project that will address the history of the Minsheng Company from the Republican period to the present day. For more information, contact Anne.Reinhardt@williams.edu.

TWO NEW VISITING SCHOLARS AT THE FAIRBANK CENTER

We welcome two new visiting scholars to the Fairbank Center during the spring 2007 semester. Both scholars have already established themselves as experts in their field. They welcome contact from all the members of the extended Fairbank community.

Liselotte Odgaard is an Associate Professor of Political Science at Aarhus University in Denmark. She specializes in international relations in the Asia-Pacific area. She will be at the Center from February through July 2007, and while here will be researching contemporary Chinese Northeast Asia policies and the prospects of coexistence. Her previous work includes some highly-regarded analysis on ASEAN responses to rising Chinese power. Professor Odgaard can be contacted at lodgaard@ps.au.dk.

Xiao Xiaosui will also be at the Fairbank Center from February though July 2007. Professor Xiao Xiaosui received his PhD from Ohio State University and now teaches as an Associate Professor at Hong Kong Baptist University. He is a specialist in the field of communications, and his research while at the Fairbank Center is an historical and rhetorical approach to China-West cultural dichotomies. Professor Xiao Xiaosui can be contacted at s82288@hkbu.edu.hk.