

FACULTY OF ASIAN  
AND MIDDLE EASTERN  
STUDIES,  
UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE

# Cambridge Chinese Studies

## Newsletter

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## Welcome Letter from Prof. Sterckx

Dear friends,

At a time when social media bombards us with continuous newsfeeds, instant digests, and an overload of trivia, some of our alumni – in true revolutionary spirit! – expressed a wish to receive more news in the form of a periodic update of what happens in the field of Chinese Studies at Cambridge. We are very happy to respond and hope that this short newsletter can be the beginning of a new series of minor dynastic histories to be consumed alongside our Chinese Studies Facebook page and twitter account, and the Thomas Wade Society's network of communication.

I hope the following update will reassure you that Chinese Studies at Cambridge is thriving, despite the *Zhuangzi*-like doom and gloom one may detect here and there about the fated decline of the arts, humanities, and social sciences in UK higher education. Our undergraduate Tripos still attracts the brightest, our graduate community is steadily growing, as are the number of postdoctoral fellows and junior researchers that contribute to teaching and research. I am particularly delighted to report that we have been able to add an additional lectureship to our establishment—Dr Noga Ganany joined us this year as Lecturer in the Study of Late Imperial China. For the first time we



June 2019 Faculty Party

are now able to offer Ming and Qing literature alongside our long-established offerings in modern and contemporary Chinese literature and culture.

We are always keen to hear from you. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us any time.

Season's greetings!

- Roel Sterckx

## Letter from the Editor

It has been a great honour to bring together this inaugural issue of the Cambridge Chinese Studies Newsletter.

Having been an undergraduate in the department from 2012 to 2016 and having rejoined as a PhD student in 2018, it has come as no great surprise just how much goes on at the Faculty—whether it be our two series of weekly seminars, annual lectures, welcome events, or the upcoming and

well-loved First Year's Poetry Reading. The photos and reports herein can only touch the surface of how each attendee has been inspired, moved, engaged, or even enraged during these lively debates and discussions.

I can only hope this newsletter will continue to grow and develop with time, feedback, and hopefully less ire!

- Kelsey Granger

## China Research Seminar Series



David Ownby, Timothy Cheek, and Joshua Fogel



Dr Adam Yuet Chau introducing Prof. Donald S. Sutton

Beginning with Prof. Donald S. Sutton's richly-illustrated presentation on the efforts of Qing Dynasty Emperor Qianlong to define his own historical legacy, the Michaelmas 2019 iteration of the Chinese Research Seminar series once again offered glimpses into the depth and breadth of research being undertaken across the China Studies field.

Art historian Dr. Hajni Elias took her audience back to the Eastern Han (25–220AD) to examine the iconography of banqueting and acrobatic performances which adorn stone sarcophagi of the period, while Roel Sterckx entertained with his initial explorations of the 'metaphorical and rhetorical uses of illness' in early China.

Modern China, meanwhile, received attention from LSE's Peter Millward and his look, below the headline-making diplomacy of Nixon and Kissinger, at the largely unheralded people – physicists, dance troupes, and seismologists - who engendered rapprochement between the PRC and the USA after 1972. Chen Na and Fan Lizhu of Fudan University jumped straight off of a plane from Shanghai to present their ethnographic study of a Fujianese Confucian congregation 儒家道坛 – a pseudo-religious group whose activities provoke us to consider the mainland's Confucian revival in an alternative light. Finally, in a departure from the seminar series' usual format, David Ownby, Timothy

Cheek, and Joshua Fogel dropped in to speak about their collaborative, online translation project, 'Reading the China Dream'.

As the PRC today looks to surpass the renown of its imperial predecessors, including the reign of the aforementioned Emperor Qianlong, the 'Reading the China Dream' website is already proving invaluable to an anglophone audience desirous of access to debates amongst the mainland's public intellectuals whose work looks to shape the content and form of a concept central to China's twenty-first century rejuvenation.

- James Dawson  
PhD student

## Dunhuang and Silk Road Seminar Series



Prof. Jean-Pierre Drège



Dr Michelle C. Wang

As always when covering a field as vast as Dunhuang and the Silk Road, this term has seen speakers engage with eras ranging from early China through to the modern day, geographic locales across Central and East Asia, and topics from Buddhist scriptures to Tibetan hand-writing.

This term's program, sponsored by the Glorison Global Buddhist Network, began with Prof. Nicholas Williams and his discussion of Liu Xiang and the political rhetoric imbued in his use of the 'topos of the world upside down turned rightside up.'

From early Chinese texts, Prof. Jean-Pierre Drège brought us into the Tang period with his engaging talk on the letters to and from Xuanzang, giving us great insight into the life and character of this celebrated traveller.

Catalysing great debate on the subject of fragments and 'fragmentology,' Dr Chiara Barbati continued this theme of travel to lead us into Central Asia and the world of Sogdian religious materials—providing a fascinating glimpse into the material aspects of Christian, Buddhist, and Manichean

manuscripts.

Both Dr Michelle C. Wang and Master Sheng Kai discussed topics related with Buddhism—the first focusing on comparing and contrasting Tangut depictions of 'the welcome descent' with other examples from East Asia, while the second sought out the root of Chinese-Buddhist vegetarianism through scriptures and the biographies of monks.

Our series closed with Li Channa's analysis of Chos grub's handwriting across several Tibetan manuscripts.

- Kelsey Granger

# Interview with Dr Hajni Elias

In this issue, we speak with Prof. Roel Sterckx's doctoral graduate Dr Hajni Elias about her research on early China

**Dr Elias, you recently completed your PhD here at Cambridge, can you give a short summary of your research findings?**

My PhD thesis, titled "The Southwest: A Study of Regional Identity in Material Culture and Textual Sources during the Eastern Han Dynasty" is a study of the regional identity of southwest China, present day Sichuan province, in early imperial China. It examines the southwest's material culture, which includes pictorial brick tiles, stone reliefs, decorated stone sarcophagi and commemorative and ancestral stelae. Using early textual sources as well, the thesis explores the region's social make-up, economic activities, burial practices, education and governance, as well as notions of social and cultural memory and identity.

In my thesis I argue that the southwest's unique material culture showcases a distinctive artistic development and reflects a society with a particular ideology, identity and set of customs. The region's early art is a specific expression of its identity and appears to nuance established norms from the dominant Central Plains of the Han Empire in a subtle yet distinct manner.

The originality of my research lies in its methodology which combines information obtained from both material culture and textual sources, bridging two fields of study, art history and cultural history, which have often been pursued separately because of their distinct specialisations

**You've gone on to receive a Leverhulme post-doctoral fellowship. What has your experience been like so far?**

Receiving the Leverhulme Fellowship has given me a wonderful opportunity to teach at FAMES in the field I love, be an active member of a vibrant and diverse community and to start on an exciting new research project. My new project examines the artistic and cultural transmission amongst early societies along the Southwest Silk Road. From Sichuan, I am now able to venture further south in my specialisation to include Yunnan, Thailand and Vietnam.

**This term you spoke at the China Research Seminar series and will be speaking in the Dunhuang and Silk Road Seminar series as well. What do you think makes the field of Han art so fascinating?**

Due to the scarcity of early textual sources on Han society and culture, its tomb art provides an indispensable material culture with an insight into how society functioned and what people deemed essential in their daily lives. While the arts of previous ages may be generally associated with rituals and ceremonies, Han art concerned itself with status and everyday life, evolving into an expression of social importance. It is an art form that is both narrative and expressive. From tomb art to painting, lacquerware and jade carvings, Han artisans pushed technical and aesthetic boundaries to new levels not seen before.

**Are there any upcoming research articles or activities we can look forward to?**

Since completing my dissertation, my paper titled "Cliff Tomb Burial and Decorated Stone Sarcophagi from Sichuan from the Eastern Han Dynasty (25 - 220 CE)" has been published in *Asian Studies*. Vol. VII (XXIII), Issue 2 (2019), 175-201. I have two further articles coming out next year, one titled "Women's Role in the Production and Sale of Alcohol in Han China as Reflected in Tomb Art from Sichuan," in *Early China*. 43 (2020) and the other titled, "Stele for Magistrate Jing Yun 景雲: An Eastern Han Memorial Stele from the Southwest with Reference to the *Chuci* 楚辭," in the *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies*. I am also working on adapting my dissertation into a book under the editorial guidance of the Washington University Press.

**What has been your most memorable achievement during your time in the University of Cambridge?**

I love teaching and sharing my interest and passion for Chinese art and culture with my peers and students at FAMES. The opportunity to create a new MPhil paper on Chinese art and material culture, to be offered from Michaelmas 2020, is also very exciting.



Presenting at the China Research Seminar Series

**"Han art concerned itself with status and everyday life, evolving into an expression of social importance. It is an art form that is both narrative and expressive."**

## Chuan Lyu Lectures in Taiwan Studies



Prof. Paul R. Katz at St John's College

Professor Paul R. Katz of the Institute of Modern History of the Academia Sinica, Taiwan, gave this year's Chuan Lyu Lectures in Taiwan Studies on the theme of *Religion and Society in Modern Taiwan: Challenges, Adjustments, and Innovations*. His first lecture (13 May) was on 'Religion and Resistance in Colonial Taiwan: The Ta-pa-ni Incident of 1915', and his second lecture (15 May) was on 'Judicial Rituals in Postwar Taiwan'. Both lectures were very well attended. We are grateful to Dr Lee Hwalin of the Chuan Lyu Foundation for having endowed this annual lecture series that has allowed us, since 1991, to bring leading scholars of Taiwan or prominent Taiwanese figures to lecture on a wide variety of topics relating to Taiwan's history, society and culture.

Professor Paul R. Katz received his B.A. from Yale in 1984 and his Ph.D. from Princeton in 1990. After teaching at different universities in Taiwan from 1991 to 2002, he joined the Institute of Modern History in 2002 and was promoted to the rank of Research Fellow in 2005, becoming Program Director of the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange that same year. In 2015, he was awarded the rank of Distinguished Research

Fellow. His research centers on modern Chinese religious life, covering both the late imperial and modern eras, mainland China as well as Taiwan.

His publications include *Demon Hordes and Burning Boats: The Cult of Marshal Wen in Late Imperial Chekiang* (SUNY Press, 1995); *Images of the Immortal: The Cult of Lü Dongbin at the Palace of Eternal Joy* (University of Hawaii Press, 1999); *When Valleys Turned Blood Red: The Ta-pa-ni Incident in Colonial Taiwan* (University of Hawaii Press, 2005); *Divine Justice: Religion and the Development of Chinese Legal Culture* (Routledge, 2009) and *Religion in China and its Modern Fate* (Brandeis University Press, 2014). Two new books are forthcoming: *Religion, Ethnicity, and Gender in Western Hunan during the Modern Era: The Dao among the Miao?* (Routledge) and *The Fifty Years that Changed Chinese Religion: 1898-1948* (AAS, co-authored with Vincent Goossaert). More recently, he has been working on ethnic history and local economic development in Nantou County, Taiwan, as well as the interaction between Han and non-Han religious traditions in Southwest China.

- Dr Adam Yuet Chau



Dr Galambos, Prof. Sterckx, and Prof. Mei Jianjun at the Joseph Needham Memorial Lecture

## Joseph Needham Memorial Lecture

The fourth Joseph Needham Memorial Lecture, sponsored by the Jing Brand Co. Ltd., China, was held in Clare College's Riley Auditorium on Friday 25th October, attracting a large audience drawn from within academia and the public.

The lecture, under the title *The Science of Silk, or What Can China Contribute to the History of Science?* was delivered by Professor Dagmar Schäfer, Director, Department III, Max-Planck-Institute für Wissenschaftsgeschichte.

Professor Schäfer illustrated the changing nature of knowing, the role of empiricism, foreign actors, local knowledge and imperial power in thirteenth to fourteenth century

East Asia, and explored how materials shape cultures of science and what case studies of China can contribute to the History of Science.

Professor Roel Sterckx, Joseph Needham Professor of Chinese History, Science and Civilization of the University of Cambridge, chaired the lecture, which was followed by a lively question and answer session.

- From Needham Research Institute Newsletter, November 2019



Q&A at the Joseph Needham Memorial Lecture

## First Years' Report on Michaelmas '19

Christmas break is fast approaching, and with it the end of our first term of Chinese Studies. From intensively studying a foreign language to delving into East Asian pre-modern history, all whilst developing and maintaining our social lives, it has been a challenging yet incredibly rewarding first term.

With around 12 hours of intense Mandarin studies a week, our linguistic skills have skyrocketed. Memorising upwards of 150 Chinese characters per week and familiarising ourselves with foreign grammatical structures were certainly considerable tasks. However, these were made much easier (and more fun!) through the expert knowledge, gentle guidance and consistent support of our two language teachers, Wu Laoshi and Hong Laoshi. Patiently answering

(and even enjoying) our relentless onslaught of questions, they are to thank for our new found or rekindled love of the Chinese language. During moments of sleepiness, we were all happily revived by Hong Laoshi's cheery smile, Wu Laoshi's playlist of Chinese hits, or a required chorus of God Save the Queen if you happen to have “对不起，我迟到了” -ed one too many times that week.

Having a student body of 15 is a genuine blessing. Indeed, despite initially feeling like we would never memorise the newly coined Chinese names of our classmates, the size of our class immediately fostered a strong sense of community and kinship.

EAS.1 has been a whirlwind of essay-writing, furious scribbling, and pages

upon pages of reading; our heated debates, animated lecturers, and varied topics have made it a fascinating and exciting experience so far. Dr Brown's tour through the Qing dynasty and Professor Moretti's exposé on the exploits of the incredible Hiraga Gennai were particular highlights. We've also really enjoyed getting to know the students on the Japanese side, and have greatly appreciated the guidance of Dr Brown and our TAs!

Overall, the term has provided us with a dynamic introduction into a realm which we are excited to delve deeper into. 明年见 for another 很有意思的 term!

- Juliette Odolant & Harriet Howarth

Undergraduate class of 2019

## Thomas Wade Society Updates

On November 26th 2019, the Thomas Wade Society (TWS) held its second China careers event at the Faculty. Three alumni speakers from the TWS network of Chinese Studies alumni – Kate MacLeod (Class of '14), Guy Chambers (Class of '88) and Vivienne Goodger (Class of '13) – shared their experiences building UK-China careers with current Chinese students from across the year groups, as well as university students from a wide variety of other subject backgrounds. The speakers shared their journeys from graduates of FAMES to professionals working on China-related issues across different industries and roles, ranging from the Foreign Office to an education start-up and one of the world's oldest tea growers.

The event follows on from the society's successful inaugural careers event last year. It is part of TWS's efforts to encourage (future) graduates of Chinese to pursue work in or related to China by connecting current students with the society's vast network of Chinese Studies alumni.

The Thomas Wade Society itself was founded in 2009 as the University of Cambridge Chinese Studies Alumni Society. Until 2016 the society was dormant, when the Class of 2016 decided to rebuild the society into

something new that could bring faculty members, alumni and friends of the faculty together.

In the years since its revival, the society has collected approaching 200 members, held regular gatherings in London and Beijing and organised China careers events in Cambridge. While emphatically an alumni society, and restricted in that sense, it sees the promotion of the study of China, Chinese language and building links with the region as a key goal. TWS not only hopes to establish and maintain a strong relationship between Cambridge's Chinese Studies and its alumni, but also wishes to bring together people with an interest in China and encourage, or even enable, graduates of Chinese to pursue work in or related to China.



TWS Careers Event 2019



- Caroline Meinhardt

Undergraduate class of 2012

## China Research Seminar Series—Lent 2020

After an engaging and diverse Michaelmas programme, the Lent portfolio of speakers and topics continues this series' remit of engaging with a broad range of subjects relating to China.

Opening on Wednesday 22nd January 2020, Prof. Eva Pils (King's College London) will be speaking about Chinese human rights lawyers under Xi Jinping's 'New Era.'

On Wednesday 5th February, our own Dr Noga Ganany will present on the cult of warrior-god Zhenwu through the lens of hagiography.

Turning from the fantastic to the pragmatic, Prof. Judd Kinzley (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

will explore American demand for Chinese raw materials like hog bristles during the Second World War on Wednesday 26th February. Other speakers and dates are still to be finalised.

The full programme for next term's seminar series will be advertised on the AMES website in due course and circulated

via our mailing list. If you have any enquiries, please email the series' organiser Prof. Hans van de Ven or alternatively check the Cambridge Chinese Studies Facebook page.

Unless otherwise arranged, all seminars take place on Wednesdays at 5pm in Rooms 8/9 in the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies. Tea will be served at the same venue at 4:45pm. All are welcome. Attendees are also welcome to join us for the post-talk dinner afterwards at a local restaurant. The maximum student contribution to the cost of the meal is capped at £10.

- Kelsey Granger



## Upcoming Dunhuang and Silk Road Seminar Series

We are very much looking forward to our upcoming seminar series next term. This series, which is generously sponsored by the Glorison Global Buddhist Network, is held on Thursdays during term time in Room 7. These talks begin at 3pm, lasting an hour with time allocated afterwards for questions, debate, and discussion. We welcome listeners from all fields who feel that these talks may help their own research or who are curious to know more about the diverse topics covered.

Our series will begin with Dr Agnieszka Helman-Wazny (University of Hamburg) on Thursday 23rd January 2020 where she will be dis-

cussing the spread of paper-making technologies along the Silk Roads.

Following on from this will be Dr Lilla Russell-Smith's (Asian Art Museum, Berlin) talk on the "Sogdian Deities" painting found in Dunhuang on Thursday 20th February 2020.

Our series will close with Prof. Brandon Dotson (Georgetown University) on Thursday 12th

March 2020.

We hope that, as speakers and titles continue to be confirmed, that this will be another exciting term with a varied programme covering a wide range of temporal, geographic, social, and cultural topics.

As always, our programme will be posted in due course on the AMES website as well as circulated via our mailing list. If you would like to be added to our mailing list please email series' organiser Dr Galambos' administrative assistant at [kl394@cam.ac.uk](mailto:kl394@cam.ac.uk).

- Kelsey Granger



## Staff Updates

**Dr Imre Galambos** has been organising the weekly Dunhuang and Silk Road Seminar series along with Kelsey Granger, and also organised the Cambridge 2019 Dunhuang Conference in April and the Graduate Student Conference on Chinese Manuscripts in May.

He is currently finishing a book project on Dunhuang manuscripts from the Guiyijun period. Beyond this, he has given quite a few talks on topics related to this subject in Beijing, Oxford, Paris, New York, Gothenburg, Leiden, Budapest, and London. His most recent publications are Imre Galambos, "Laozi teaching Confucius: History of a text through time," *Studies in Chinese Religions* (2019) 1, pp. 1–27, and "Multiple-Text Manuscripts in Medieval China," in Alessandro Bausi, Michael Friedrich and Marilena Maniaci, eds., *The Emergence of Multiple-Text Manuscripts*, Berlin: de Gruyter, pp. 35-55.

**Prof. Roel Sterckx** was on research leave and wrote *Chinese Thought. From Confucius to Cook Ding* (London: Penguin, 2019), appearing in the USA as *Ways of Heaven. An Introduction to Chinese Thought* (New York: Basic Books, 2019). Michael Wood, presenter of the BBC's "The Story of China", comments: "If you are looking for one book to understand the core ideas of Chinese civilization, read this". Our alumni, we trust, will know better! Roel also edited *Animals through Chinese History: Earliest Times to 1911* (Cambridge University Press, 2019), a book that contains essays on topics ranging from Song period cattle herding to the pork industry in China today.

Roel delivered the Ma Yifu lecture at Zhejiang University (Hangzhou) and was invited to deliver the 2019 Distinguished Lectures in Chinese Philosophy at Beijing University. He received a Distinguished Alumni Award from the Taiwanese Ministry of Education for services to higher education.

Off campus, Roel appeared on *Start the Week* with Andrew Marr (BBC Radio 4), produced a podcast with Dan Snow on Confucius, and contributed to an episode about Li Shizhen's *Bencao*

*gangmu* and Chinese science in the Ming on Melvyn Bragg's *In Our Time* (BBC Radio 4). He also wrote columns for the BBC's *History Magazine*, *The Diplomat*, and *Lapham's Quarterly*.

Two of Roel's graduate students finished their PhDs recently. **Hajni Elias** wrote on tomb murals and sarcophagi in Han dynasty China's southwest and will be with us as a Leverhulme Early Career Fellow for the next three years. **Avital Rom** graduated with a thesis on music in early China.

**Dr Adam Yuet Chau** has had a productive year in 2019. His second monograph, *Religion in China: Ties That Bind*, came out from Polity in the spring. A special issue he co-edited appeared in *L'Homme: Revue française d'anthropologie* ('Cumulus: Hoarding, Hosting, and Hospitality'), with his contribution 'Hosting as a Cultural Form'. Other articles include: 'Efficacy: The Immediate-Practical Modality of Doing Religion,' in *Sakralität und Macht* (Sacrality and Power); 'Youth Cultural Production in Rural China,' in *Youth and Collective Spaces in China*.

Conference and invited presentations include: 'Homo Arborealus: Regimes of Tree-Mindedness' (University of California Santa Barbara); 'The Indonesian Chinese in Indonesia, China and Hong Kong: Serial Migration and Cultural Identity' (Palacký University, Olomouc, the Czech Republic); 'Sinophone and Francophone Buddha's Light: Buddha's Light (Foguangshan) in France' (Renmin University, Beijing); 'The Modernity of the Practice of Treasuring Lettered-Paper' (惜字紙習俗的現代性) (Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou); 'Storied Spirits: Constructing Efficacy (*lingying* 靈應) and the Strange (*lingyi* 靈異) Through Telling Tales' (Freie Universität Berlin); 'Grounding Pilgrimage: Terroir and the Production of Localised Vitality' (University of Roehampton, London); 'Death by a Thousand Cuts?: Modernity and Death in China and the China Field' (University of Turin). He will be an academic visitor at the Beijing Normal University for two weeks in December of 2019.



Fourth-  
years with  
Dr Chau  
and Prof.  
van de  
Ven

## Staff Updates

We also welcome **Dr Noga Ganany** to the department as Lecturer in the Study of Late Imperial China.

Dr Ganany is currently working on her first book, which explores hagiographic writing in the context of late-imperial print culture and religious practice. Alongside her book project, Dr Ganany is also revising an article examining the trope of underworld journeys in hagiographic literature. She is also drafting an essay about the Chinese conception of *shen* for an edited volume on key terms in Chinese religions, based on a workshop at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, in which she participated in June 2019.

**Dr Tristan Brown** has been a Junior Research Fellow at St John's College since the autumn of 2018. Tristan has presented at the China Research Seminar series and has led a number of graduate seminars in premodern Chinese studies.

Being a JRF at Cambridge has afforded him ample time to work on finishing up his first book project, *The Law of the Living Land: Fengshui in Late Imperial China*. This project examines the centrality of cosmology within imperial law to showcase the dynamic relationships among legal, religious, and scientific realms of knowledge in premodern China. He has also had a chance to publish a few articles, the most recent of which, "A Mountain of Saints and Sages: Muslims in the Landscape of Popular Religion in Late Imperial China," poses a new direction for the study of Islam during the Qing dynasty by asking two related questions: how did Muslims explain Islam to everyday people in late imperial China and what exactly did Chinese people think Islam was prior to the information revolution of the nineteenth century?

Tristan reports that: "my most memorable experience here at Cambridge has been teaching EAS1 (Introduction to East Asian Studies) to a cohort of twenty-six very clever Cambridge freshers. Not only has it been a great pleasure to see faculty members present aspects of their research to

students completely new to Chinese and Japanese studies, but it's been a great opportunity for me to share my passion for the study of China's history to students embarking on a very difficult but hopefully rewarding path. One of the things I quickly recognised was that these students were prepared for everything, no matter how conceptually challenging. Through their questions and the stimulating conversations that followed, the class has covered important aspects of the history of women in China by examining foot-binding beyond the stereotypes as well as the history of Chinese science - not by answering Joseph Needham's famous question - but through excavating a long intellectual journey of Chinese scientific texts from Beijing to Paris that shaped the Enlightenment and made Needham ask it in the first place."

He adds that: "while I will be joining the faculty of History at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology next autumn, I hope to stay in touch with the fantastic scholars and students I have met during my time here."

**Prof. Hans van de Ven** reports that "in looking back over the past year, two things stand out to me. The first was my participation at Peking University's activities marking the 100th anniversary of the May Fourth Movement. In my first year as an undergraduate at Leiden University, I learned about the May Fourth Movement and was much inspired by it. Who would have thought that forty years later, I would join such scholars as David Derwei Wang, Wang Fansen, and Luo Zhitian to speak on a topic that remains so important and much discussed in China? This was for me a very proud moment. I have derived as much pleasure from teaching my course on China's second world war. This year students from the UK, Japan, the PRC, and Canada are attending it. They bring to the subject their own perceptions and concerns, and discuss them with intelligence, sensitivity, and mutual respect over a cup of tea in my room at St Catharine's College, showing just how wonderful Cambridge-style small group teaching and learning can be. We are privileged."



## Staff Updates

**Dr Boping Yuan** has been doing an AHRC-funded project, together with Dr Yanyu Guo (Postdoctoral Research Associate) and Miss Jingting Xiang (PhD student) on the acquisition of Chinese in bilingual and multilingual contexts. It has involved bi- and tri-lingual speakers of English, Cantonese and Mandarin in the U.K., Hong Kong, and mainland China. With the help of modern technology and interdisciplinary approaches, the project investigates cross-linguistic interactions and conscious and sub-conscious knowledge of the target language in the bi- and multilingual mind. Preliminary findings were presented at various international conferences and have aroused great interest in the research field of bilingualism and multilingualism. As part of the AHRC-funded project, an international conference was held at Churchill College, Cambridge in July 2019, which attracted over 100 scholars and researchers from different parts of the world. Selected papers from the conference will be published in a special issue of *Journal of Second Language Studies* (2020, John Benjamins).

During the 2018-2019 year, Boping was invited to deliver keynote speeches on first-language transfer in non-native language grammars, Chinese sentence processing, interfaces in non-native Chinese, etc. at various international conferences in Sydney, Hong Kong, Singapore, Beijing, and Qingdao, and his publications during the year include "Directionality and complexity of L1 transfer in L2 acquisition: Evidence from L2 Chinese discourse," *International Review of Applied Linguistics* (2019), and "An incremental model of second language speech production mechanisms: Developmental evidence from object ellipsis in second language Chinese speech production," *International Journal of Bilingualism* (2019).

Having attended several conferences in Europe, China, and north America in 2018, **Dr Joseph (Joe) McDermott**, (Reader Emeritus in Chinese History) has spent much of the past year revising papers for conference volumes as well as completing the manuscript for his forthcoming book on the Huizhou (徽州) merchants during the

Ming. He has spent a very happy and productive fall at Beida, where he is now well into another, shorter Huizhou volume on the role of concubines and bondservants in Huizhou lineages in the sixteenth century. He wants to assure those with any doubts about retirement, having retired in 2015, that it has many distinct merits.



**Sinologists' gathering in St John's College April 2018**

**Dr Heather Inwood** published a chapter in late 2018 in the book *Chinese Discourses on Happiness* (eds. Gerda Wielander and Derek Hird, Hong Kong University Press) entitled "The Happiness of Unrealisable Dreams: On the Pursuit of Pleasure in Contemporary Chinese Popular Fiction," and has since spent much of the past year on maternity leave and looking after her new baby and toddler. She has also welcomed three new PhD students, each working on different aspects of contemporary Chinese literature and culture - comics of the early Reform era, the resurgence of rural and folk cultures in contemporary urban China, and literary and cinematic representations of modern Chinese history. Along with her co-editor, Professor Gerda Wielander of the University of Westminster, she has also helped re-launch the journal formally known as the *Journal of the British Association of Chinese Studies* (JBACS) as the *British Journal of Chinese Studies* (Bjocs), which can be found at its new online home here: <https://bjocs.site/> - submissions are always welcome! She is looking forward to getting to spend more time on her current research project on contemporary Chinese popular narrative next academic year.

# Advertisements and Further Information

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THOMAS WADE SOCIETY

The Thomas Wade Society was founded in 2009 as the University of Cambridge Chinese Studies Alumni Society. Until 2016 the society was dormant, when the

Class of 2016 decided to rebuild the society into something new that could bring faculty members, alumni and friends of the faculty together.

If you would like to join the TWS network, please complete the sign-up form at <http://tinyurl.com/twssignupform> and/or join the society's social media groups on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/553636164826475/>) and LinkedIn (<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8577879>). If you have any questions, would like to find out more or even help out, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the committee at [thewadesociety@gmail.com](mailto:thewadesociety@gmail.com).

Is there something you would like to be included in our next issue? Don't hesitate to contact the editor by email at [k1394@cam.ac.uk](mailto:k1394@cam.ac.uk) whether it be with regards to an event, advertisement, interview idea, general suggestion, or an article contribution.

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