

ANTH 2370/GENA 2362 Intangible Heritage in Hong Kong

Spring 2025

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Lecture: 12:30 ~ 2:15 (Tue); Tsang Shiu Tim Building 312

Tutorial: 2:30 ~ 3:15 (Tue); Tsang Shiu Tim Building 312

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Introduction:

Hong Kong, with its dominant image as an Asian global city as well as gateway to mainland China, has been representing itself with an image of *East meets West* for its tourist attractions in the last century. In order to maintain this image for its world visitors, there is no doubt that Hong Kong needs to find a balance between its global metropolitan aspect and unique cultural heritage with local characteristics in many ways. Yet, before moving on for extensive intangible heritage preservation, we might want to think about: What kind of heritage do we want to pass down to the coming generations? What kind of long-term policy do we have? How should the intangible heritage preservation and management be carried out? In this course, different types of intangible heritage in Hong Kong will be introduced and explained, and students will be guided to discuss and rethink the use and meanings of heritage from the socio-cultural anthropological perspectives.

Learning outcomes:

1. Students will learn about major anthropological theories and various intangible heritage in Hong Kong as well as relevant current situation, including changes in the urban and rural areas, and be able to critically identify factors affecting socio-cultural changes and political development in the society.
2. Students will be guided in examining changing cultural values in Hong Kong and become more conscious of aspects of culture that they take for granted.
3. Students will learn about different local lifestyles and their interaction with the changing living environment, and to develop an understanding of the role of tradition and globalization.
4. After the course, students will appreciate the diversity of cultural heritage in Hong Kong and the processes that mold and shape cultural identity.
5. Students will also learn skills in research design, cultural data collection, communication, and presentation of results.

Course schedule:

Week 1 (7 Jan) What is Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH)?

Readings:

張展鴻和田穎儀 2024. 《涼茶在民間》。香港：三聯書店，2024。

Week 2 (14 Jan) Preservation, Conservation and Heritage (from tangible to intangible)

Readings:

Ashworth, Gregory J. 2011. Preservation, Conservation and Heritage: Approaches to the Past in the Present through the Built Environment. *Asian Anthropology*, 10(1): 1-18.

Kurin, Richard. 2004. Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in the 2003 UNESCO Convention: A Critical Appraisal. *Museum International*, 56: 66-77.

Week 3 (21 Jan) Heritage Studies in Hong Kong

Readings:

Henderson, Joan. 2008. Conserving Hong Kong's Heritage: The Case of Queen's Pier. *International Journal of Heritage Studies*, 14: 540-554.

Ward, Barbara E. 1980. Rediscovering our Social and Cultural Heritage in the New Territories. *Journal of The Hong Kong Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society*, 20: 116-124.

Additional readings:

UNESCO. 2003. *Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage*. Paris: UNESCO.

Week 4 (2 Feb) Agricultural Heritage (Social Resilience)

Readings:

Cheung, Sidney C.H. 2011. The Politics of Wetlandscape: Fishery Heritage and Natural Conservation in Hong Kong. *International Journal of Heritage Studies*, 17 (1): 36-45.

Cheung, Sidney C.H. 2019. Floating Mountain in Pearl River: A Study of Oyster Cultivation and Food Heritage in Hong Kong. *Asian Education and Development Studies*, 8 (4): 433-442.

Additional materials:

[從蠔說起]系列 1-5 集。在 Youtube.com 公開分享。

第一集: 香港養蠔業的前世今生 - <https://youtu.be/b4zCap0Ztko>

第二集: 養蠔的日常 - <https://youtu.be/Hmm68KYS7Is>

第三集: 五花八門的蠔產品 - <https://youtu.be/CmcM4IjRXa8>

第四集: 養蠔業與生態環境 - https://youtu.be/IfjcL_uicH0

第五集 香港養蠔業的前景與挑戰 - <https://youtu.be/3CVRFZ4FJlk>

Week 5 (11 Feb) Foodways and Heritage (Paradox)

Readings:

Cheung, Sidney C.H. 2005. Consuming “Low” Cuisine after Hong Kong’s Handover: Village Banquets and Private Kitchens. *Asian Studies Review*, 29 (3): 259-273.

Cheung, Sidney C.H. 2013. From Foodways to Intangible Heritage: A Case Study of Chinese Culinary Resource, Retail and Recipe in Hong Kong. *International Journal of Heritage Studies*, 19 (4): 353-364.

Week 6 (22 Feb) 1st Heritage Fieldtrip Sat to Lantau Ngong Ping abandoned tea plantation

Situated on the plateau at an elevation of 450m, the Ngong Ping Tea Garden stood out as the sole large-scale tea-related agricultural heritage site on Lantau Island, and even across all of Hong Kong. It was established in 1948 by Mr. Brook Bernacchi, a former Queen’s Counsel and also a prominent figure involved in the development and welfare of Lantau.

Week 7 (25 Feb) Oral Traditions, Language, Festival and Folk Beliefs (Cultural Diversity)

Readings:

Choi, Chi Cheung. 1995. Reinforcing Ethnicity: The Jiao Festival in Cheung Chau. In *Down to Earth: the Territorial Bond in South China*, D. Faure and H. Siu eds. Stanford: Stanford Univ. Press.

Liu, Tik-sang. 2003. A Nameless but Active Religion: An Anthropologist’s View of Local religion in Hong Kong. *China Quarterly*, 174: 373-394.

Week 8 (11 March) Industrial Heritage (Transnationalism)

Readings:

Chan, K.Y. 1989. Joss Stick Manufacturing: A Study of a Traditional Industry in Hong Kong. *Journal of The Hong Kong Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society*, 29: 94-120.

Leung, Maggie W.H. and Soye, D. 2009. Industrial Heritage: Valorising the Spatial—Temporal Dynamics of Another Hong Kong Story. *International Journal of Heritage Studies*, 15: 57-75.

Week 9 (18 March) Performing Arts (Community and Neighborhood)

Readings:

Chan, Sau Yan. 2005. Performance Context as a Molding Force: Photographic Documentation of Cantonese Opera in Hong Kong. *Visual Anthropology*, 18: 167-198.

Cheung, Ah Li. 2019. The Voices of the Voiceless: The Cantonese Opera Music Community in Guangzhou, China. *Asian Education and Development Studies*, 8 (4): 443-453.

Additional materials:

Ward, Barbara E. 1979. Not Merely Players: Drama, Art and Ritual in Traditional China. *Man*, 14 (1): 18-39.

Week 10 (25 March) Discovering Local Traditional Practices for ICH recognition: Herbal Tea

Readings:

Cheung, Sidney and Alex Wong. 2024. Temples as Centers of Communal Network: A Case Study on South Lantau. (Special Issue on Historical Monuments for Countryside Conservation in Hong Kong and Its Surrounding Areas). *Built Heritage*, vol. 8, article no. 6, 11 pages, 2024.
<https://built-heritage.springeropen.com/articles/10.1186/s43238-024-00114-7>

Cheung, Sidney and Alex Wong. Forthcoming Cultural Landscape and Countryside Conservation: A Case Study on the Feasibility and Challenges of Conserving the Ngong Ping Tea Factory. *Journal of Chinese Architecture and Urbanism*, (Special Issue on Regenerating Views, Values and Visions in Countryside Conservation in Chinese Societies).

Week 11 (5 April) 2nd Heritage Fieldtrip to Fisherman Folk village, Lamma Island on Sat

Week 12. (8 April) Heritage and Tourism (Revitalization)

Readings:

Cheung, Sidney C.H. 2003. Remembering through Space: The Politics of Heritage in Hong Kong. *International Journal of Heritage Studies*, 9 (1): 7-26.

Chu, Cecilia (2007) Heritage of Disappearance? Shekkipmei and Collective Memory(s) in Post-handover Hong Kong. *Traditional Dwellings and Settlements Review*, 18 (2): 43-55.

Week 13. (15 April) Project Presentation/Interim Report of the Research paper

Course requirements:

1. Do the readings;
2. Participate in class discussions and fieldtrip; and
3. Write a field report and research paper.

Grading

Attendance (tutorial)	10%
Field report (4-5 pages)	40% (<i>deadline: 5 May 2025</i>)
Research paper on ICH in Hong Kong (8-10 pages)	50% (<i>deadline: 5 May 2025</i>)

Note:

For the format, I prefer if you use the Anthropology Department citation style which you can find at www.cuhk.edu.hk/ant under Current Students -> Thesis Style.

Students are required to submit all papers to VeriGuide system (the Chinese University Plagiarism Identification Engine System). No paper will be graded without a receipt from VeriGuide system included by the student with his or her paper.

Please check the website <https://veriguide1.cse.cuhk.edu.hk/>

for more information on plagiarism and on how to submit papers through the system.