**ANTH 2370/GENA 2362 Intangible Heritage in Hong Kong Fall 2026**

Lecturer: Sidney Cheung sidneycheung@cuhk.edu.hk
Lecture: 12:30 ~ 2:15 (Wed); TC Cheng C3
Tutorial: 2:30 ~ 3:15 (Wed); TC Cheng 110
Tutor: Mandy Lai laihangman@link.cuhk.edu.hk

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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.

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**Course schedule:**

**Week 1 (9 September) What is Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH)?**

*Readings:*

羅樂然編著 《再現嶺南: 香港非物質文化遺產的地域文化》。香港：三聯書店，2024。

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

**Week 2 (16 September) 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 (23 September) 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.

Ng, Stanley C.C. 2025. Funeral Feast in Hong Kong: A Vanishing and Transforming Unattended Rite. *Journal of Intangible Cultural Heritage Studies*, 1(1), 1474. https://ojs.sin-chn.com/index.php/JICHS/article/view/1474

**Week 4 (30 September) 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

**Week 5 (7 October) 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 (14 October) Oral Traditions, Language, Festival and Folk Beliefs (Cultural Diversity)**

*Readings:*

Cheung, Sidney and Alex Wong. 2024. Temples as Centers of Communal Network: A Case Study on South Lantau. *Built Heritage*, vol. 8, article no. 6, 11 pages. https://built-heritage.springeropen.com/articles/10.1186/s43238-024-00114-7

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 7 (21 October) 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 Soyez, D. 2009. Industrial Heritage: Valorising the Spatial—Temporal Dynamics of Another Hong Kong Story. *International Journal of Heritage Studies,* 15: 57-75.

**Week 8 (28 October) 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.

**Week 9 (11 November) Discovering Local Traditional Practices for ICH recognition: Herbal Tea**

*Readings:*

Cheung, Sidney and Alex Wong. 2025. Conservation and Development: An Approach to the Study on Indigenous Land in the New Territories, Hong Kong. *Methodology Insight*, vol. 1, issue no. 1, article no. 9. https://www.scholepress.hk/journal/mi/1/1/9

Cheung, Sidney and Alex Wong. 2025. Feasibility and Challenges of Cultural Landscape and Countryside Conservation: A Case Study of the Ngong Ping Tea Factory. *Journal of Chinese Architecture and Urbanism*, vol. 7, issue no. 2, 13 pages. https://www.accscience.com/journal/JCAU/articles/online_first/4606

**Week 10 (14 November [Sat]) Fieldtrip to Lau Fau Shan 流浮山**

**Week 11. (18 November) 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 12. (25 November) ANTH Project Presentation of the Research paper**

**Week 13. (2 December) GENA Project Presentation 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**

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| Attendance (tutorial) | 10% |
| **Field report** (4-5 pages) | 40% (***deadline: 22 Dec 2026***) |
| **Research paper on ICH in Hong Kong** (8-10 pages) | 50% (***deadline: 22 Dec 2026***) |

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***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.