**PAST AND PRESENT: THE SHIFTING HONG KONG IDENTITY**

**Date:** 26 May 2017 (Friday)

**Venue:** Treehouse, Berrick Saul Building, University of York

**Organizers:** David Clayton, Grace Wenling Cao and Florence Mok

**Summary of the symposium:**

Marking the 20th year anniversary of Hong Kong’s transfer of sovereignty from Britain to China, York is organizing a timely inter-disciplinary symposium in 2017 about one of the most debated topics, the changing Hong Kong identity.

Hong Kong was returned to China in 1997. Since the handover in 1997, there has been a rapid surge in localism. In 2014, there was the Umbrella Revolution, when hundreds of thousands of Hong Kong people participated in protests regarding the Hong Kong constitution.

Localism intensified a clash of values between Chinese and Hong Kong identities. A stronger Hong Kong identity developed, especially among younger generation. The change of identity has affected many aspects of Hong Kong society, for instance, language attitudes, policy-making, political mobilizations, tourism and academia. However, most existing work only focuses on identity change after 1997. A longer perspective is crucial, and a history of identity formation should be inter-disciplinary.

Our symposium focuses on the changes in Hong Kong identity over time. Nine speakers from different departments and institutions will be invited to participate in this one-day symposium. A variety of inter-disciplinary discussions are expected on changing attitudes towards languages, social movements, political mobilizations and evolving identities from the 1960s to the present.

The symposium will provide opportunities for inter-departmental/institutional discussions, and will be of interest to students and scholars from fields, such as Asian studies, and post-colonial studies, a large field for literary scholars. It will also advance scholarship of Britain, Hong Kong and public discourse about colonial past, and how identity affects constitutional and cultural change.
PROGRAMME

10:00-10:15 Registration and Introduction

Session 1: Language Use, Attitudes and Society (Co-chaired by Florence Mok and Grace Cao)

10.15-10:45 Jette Hansen Edwards (Chinese University of Hong Kong)
10:45-11:15 Grace Cao (University of York)
11:15-11:45 John Joseph (University Edinburgh)

11:45-1:00 lunch

Session 2: State’s Policy Making, Decolonization (Chaired by Grace Cao)

1:00-1:30 Gary Luk (University of London)
1:30-2:00 Florence Mok (University of York)
2:00-2:30 Chi-kwan Mark (Royal Holloway)

2:30-2:50 tea break

Session 3: Education, Family and Business Relations (Chaired by Florence Mok)

2:50-3:20 Paul Morris (University College of London)
3:20-3:50 Stevi Jackson (University of York)
3:50-4:20 David Clayton (University of York)

4:20-4:40 tea break

4:40-5:20 Round Table Discussion (Chaired by David Clayton)

5:20 onwards wine reception
Session 1: Language Use, Attitudes and Society

The Politics of English in Hong Kong: Attitudes, Identity, and Use
-Jette G. Hansen Edwards (Chinese University of Hong Kong)

Hong Kong Identity and Language Attitudes towards Different English Varieties in Hong Kong
-Grace Wenling Cao (University of York)

‘Language contains society’ Hong Kong’s Umbrella Movement interpreted through Benveniste’s Last Lectures (and vice-versa)
-John E. Joseph (University of Edinburgh)

Session 2: State’s Policy Making and Decolonization

New Perspective on British Decolonization in Hong Kong
-Gary Chi-hung Luk (University of London)

Re-exploring Political Identities in Hong Kong through State Surveillance, 1975-80
-Florence Mok (University of York)

Decolonizing Britishness? British Nationality Law, Hong Kong Elites, and Identity Crisis, 1980-4
-Chi-kwan Mark (Royal Holloway, University of London)

Session 3: Education, Family Relations and Business Groups

The Construction of Identity in Hong Kong: the 2012 ‘Moral and National Education’ Crisis in Historical Context
-Paul Morris (University College of London)

Speaking against Silence: Finding a Voice in Hong Kong Chinese Families through the Umbrella Movement
-Stevi Jackson (University of York)

Imagining Chinese Capitalism: The Public Relations Campaigns of Hong Kong Business Groups in Britain, 1958-1966
-David Clayton (University of York)