



Institute for Advanced Study In Asian Cultures and Theologies (IASACT)

Inviting you to join a 4-week forum
for research, reflection and writing

**Theme: Revisiting Heritage
in Asia? Preserving, Active
Remembering, and
Re-imagining**

18 JUNE - 15 JULY 2023



This year's theme acknowledges the importance of significant cultural and natural structures and markers that shape human civilizations in Asia. This acknowledgment emphasizes the interconnectedness of the past, present, and future through in-depth examination of the repositories of cultural memories. Unfortunately, these cultural repositories have become endangered, stagnant, or essentialized due to ecological crises, rapid social changes, and political and economic uncertainties. Revisiting the connections are crucial in that they lead to tangible and intangible structural changes. When the changes happen, they can transform into sites of cultivating personal and common identity, inclusion and diversity, interfaith dialogue, and a renewed cooperation among peoples arising from a deep understanding and appreciation of the complex cultural traditions of Asia. The choice of using the words 'preserving', 'remembering' and 're-imagining', rather than 'preservation,' 'remembrance' and 're-imagination' is purposeful to demonstrate the organicity, fluidity, ambiguity, and interminability of the notion of 'heritage.'

FOLLOW US AT [HTTPS://WWW.THEOLOGY.CUHK.EDU.HK/EN/ACADEMICS/IASACT](https://www.theology.cuhk.edu.hk/en/academics/iasact)
for the program updates.

A vertical column of stylized illustrations in shades of brown and orange. From top to bottom: a bird, a corn cob, a deer, a flower, a branch with leaves, and a bear.

IASACT 2023

RATIONALE

IASACT 2023 recognizes the value of interdisciplinary engagement as a basis for exploring the full range of questions about the theme.

Accordingly, we invite anyone with a research, professional or practical interest in the theme to contribute to exploring the role of Asian cultures, religions, and spiritualities on critical issues around heritage in Asia. Research could offer empirical data (interviews, media analysis, contextual analysis, and creative approaches) or theoretical analysis. Possible subthemes, far from being exhaustive, are as follows:

- Heritage and Religion

Theology, ethics; performances of piety; diverse belief systems

- Heritage and Cultural/ Ethnic Memories

Reclamation and reconstruction of what has been destroyed by colonial legacies; identification of vulnerable repositories of memory; violence and trauma associated with historical memories

- Heritage and Migration

Movements of people; shifting identities; invisibility

- Heritage and Built/Natural Environments

Conservation of natural areas in urban spaces; land use planning; natural landscapes

- Heritage and Digital Media

Preservation of heritage through digitization

- Heritage, Genders, and Sexualities

Intersectionality of gender, ethnicity, and class in heritage studies; gendered histories of heritage sites

- Heritage and Tourism

Sustainable Tourism; Economic and political implications of heritage tourism

VENUE & ACCOMMODATION

The Divinity School of Chung Chi College,
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Arrival: 18 June 2023 (Sunday)

Opening; 19 June 2023 (Monday)

Departure: 15 July 2023 (Saturday)



PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Selected scholars must be available for all activities taking place in Hong Kong:

- Opening & Orientation
- Brief Presentations of proposals
- Full presentation of research
- Regular individual meetings with the assigned mentor
- Submission of a final paper before departure
- Mini-conference or special lectures



SCHOLARSHIP & ALLOWANCES

The institute will

- Sponsor airfare, while giving special consideration to those with financial difficulties or special needs;
- Cover room and meal expenses of all scholars
- Provide a stipend of US\$1000 to cover basic costs related to research and writing

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

- A mentor will be assigned to provide academic advice for research and publishing throughout the program.
- Additional advice by relevant resource persons may be arranged where available.
- Online and physical access to the University Library System of the Chinese University of Hong Kong will be available.

DELIVERABLES

- A mid-term presentation on the research progress (framework, methodology, plans, difficulties, and findings or tentative conclusion);
- Written commentaries to at least two other research projects upon their presentation.
- A research paper offering empirical data (interviews, media analysis, contextual analysis) or theoretical analysis.



ELIGIBILITY

Priority will be given to emerging scholars of Asian descent who:

- are working in Asia;
- have a professional affiliation with an Asian higher education institution;
- are early to mid-career faculty or researchers; for example, early-career faculty or researchers are those currently involved in doctoral programs or have completed one within 5 years.
- have already started their research and are seeking advice and support to develop the research to an advanced stage.
- possess spoken and written English proficiency..



**Participants will be responsible for their COVID-related arrangements and costs incurred during their travels. These include travel insurance, quarantine, vaccinations, related tests, and leave permission from the institutions.

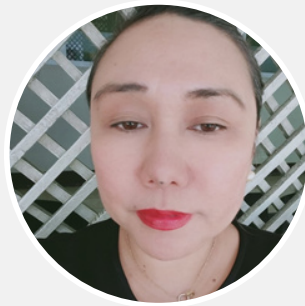
APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Applications must be submitted online and should include the following attachments:

- an updated CV (not exceeding two pages);
- a project abstract with objectives and description of no more than 1,500 words, not including footnotes and bibliography;
- a brief outline of the expected output (not exceeding two pages);
- a recommendation letter from the affiliated institution.



MENTORSHIP



JEANE PERACULLO

Professor and Chair
Department of Philosophy
De La Salle University in
Manila



KUNG LAP YAN

IASACT Dean and Associate
Professor
Department of Cultural and
Religious Studies, CUHK

Deadline of application: February 17, 2023



ENQUIRY



<http://www.theology.cuhk.edu.hk/academics/iasact>



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If you encounter difficulty in accessing the online form, please register by email and send the required documents to iasact@cuhk.edu.hk.

