



香港大學
THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG



Utrecht University

Honours Research Exchange; the Transdisciplinary University
The Institute for the Contemporary
Utrecht 2017

29 mei.: Sweelinckzaal (Drift 21 - 0.05) van 10.00 tot 12.00 uur

Student Protests From The Yellow Umbrella Movement (Hong Kong) To The Maagdenhuis Occupation (The Netherlands)

When societies are confronted with social or political crisis, it is often the case that the revolts that signal these issues, are led by the students of that societies university. Our project focuses on finding out what role the university as an institution, and its student groups in particular, are playing when it comes to civil disobedience and social uproar. How do student protests operate and where does the crucial role of students come from? How do protestors legitimize their goals? How do governments react and how are protestors disciplined by the police? What is, or should be, the role of universities in a student protest? These and several other themes have come to surface during an transdisciplinary research exchange collaboration on the recent student protests in Hong Kong (the Yellow Umbrella Revolution) and the Netherlands (the Maagdenhuis Occupation).

Based on interviews with student leaders, stakeholders, and site visits in both Hong Kong and in the Netherlands, our aim is to generate discussions on the above mentioned issues. Dr. Dan Hassler-Forest (Utrecht University), prof. Dr. Leen Dorsman (Utrecht University), prof. Dr. Pál Nyíri (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam) and prof. Gray Kochhar-Lindgren (Hong Kong University) This event is open for everyone; feel free to join and bring your fellow students!"

By Marcus van Toor, Chung Tsz Chung en Claudia Hacke

30 mei: **Sweelinckzaal (Drift 21 - 0.05) van 13.00 tot 15.00 uur**

Cultivating Taboos: Sexuality And Disability In Hong Kong And The Netherlands

Taboos are of all cultures and have a lot to tell us about the construction of normality in different culture. In our research project we give special attention to two themes (sexuality and disability) that seem to be most vulnerable for cultural restrictions, and moral rules. During our research we explore how practices in Hong Kong and in the Netherlands, dealing with sexuality and disability, are subjected to similar and very different taboos. Which taboos are affiliated with the subject of the sexual experiences of people with a disability? To what extend is this subject debatable in the Dutch culture? How can we compare this with the situation in Hong Kong? This event will be centred around these questions. We will give an inside into the research (interviews, discussions, site visits) we have done concerning these topics both in Hong Kong and in the Netherlands. Afterwards we will have a discussion with Jacqueline Kool.

Jacqueline Kool is involved with the foundation 'Disability Studies in Nederland'. She is also the author of the book 'Eros in de kreukels' (*Eros Reformed*)

By Janet Lam, Hazel Usahana Chan, Winnie Suen, Igor de Groot, Annika van Bodegraven

31 mei: **Drift 23, zaal 0.20 van 13.00 tot 15.00 uur**

Sounding The City: Utrecht And Hong Kong

Though often unnoticed, the soundscape of a city is changing dramatically over time. Some of the sounds that used to be essential for everyday life, are now redundant, while others have taken over and dominate the city as if they've always defined its character. Many sounds are filtered out, while others have changed in meaning. How much are we aware of the sounds that make up everyday city life? Our project began with reading 'Walking through the city' by Michel de Certeau. After a few months of research and collaborating with the Hong Kong University, we now organise an excursion through Utrecht. We will visit several historic sites, accompanied by René de Kam (city historian). During this interactive excursion, we want to raise awareness of the issues mentioned above and gain a deeper understanding of the relevance and importance of soundscapes in urban areas. After this excursion, there is the possibility to reflect on these issues and to draw parallels between Utrecht and Hong Kong.

Bring your earphones!

By Fiona de Vries, Fleur Schellekens, Kam Wa Chow, Dominic Co, Abhinav Goyal

31 mei: **Sweelinckzaal (Drift 21 - 0.05) van 15.30 tot 18.00 uur**

Which Lives Is The City Proposing To Us? Mapping Urban Identity In Hong Kong And Utrecht

This project focuses on urban life, and on how architecture enables and gives form to the lives that make up the city. For the past half year, our focus has been on two very different urban spheres: Hong Kong and Utrecht. Our aim has been to catch the atmosphere of these cities in a documentary. Mapping the way urban spaces merge with urban identity, our documentary searches for ways to connect several of these spheres in Hong Kong to spheres in Utrecht (and vice versa). Not so much focussing on the joy and the sadness as people experience this while living the city, we documented the changing forms, asking ourselves; which lives is the city proposing to us?

By Nataly Burgzorg, Hannah de Korte, Kate Chan

2 juni: **Janskerkhof 13 Room 006, from 16:00 to 17:30**

Alienated From The Self In An Era Of Information Overload And Distraction

Interested in how the self is constructed in the digital age, we conducted a 'white room' experiment at Hong Kong University in order to see in what way people would respond to a situation where external stimuli (like social media) were reduced to a minimum. In Utrecht, we set up a short experimental film essay, which will build upon the event in Hong Kong, but framing the outcomes in the larger theme of this project. We will contrast and compare the white room with (public) spaces in Hong Kong and Utrecht where much noise and distraction is found. We filmed on different locations (in Hong Kong and Utrecht) and interviewed white room participants. The film footage is edited in a way that exposes the topic. As this project is a search and exploration in itself, the outcome is not yet set in stone. The 2nd of June we will show the results so far in a film screening in Utrecht. After the screening, there will be room for discussion.

By Tim Overkempe, Bonnie van Vugt, Guolin Gu, Johnson Chow Chun Shing, Sidhant Gupta

2 juni: **Janskerkhof 13 Room 006, from 17:30 to 19:00**

Closing event