Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) are toxic, long-lived, can travel long distances, and move from warm areas to colder areas. Due to their affinity to lipids, they are absorbed by the fatty tissues of animals and humans and are bioaccumulated and biomagnified through the food chain. These chemicals affect growth and development, immune function, neurological function, reproduction, and induce mutations and cancers.

This project will complement the UNEP project on monitoring the 12 Stockholm Convention POPs, in which more than 150 countries have signed the legally binding treaty to reduce and/or eliminate these deadly chemicals.

Hong Kong, Beijing and Shenyang are three of the most developed cities within China, with different environmental settings and stages of development. Industrialization in these cities has resulted in severe environmental problems. In order to safeguard the environment and to minimize the adverse impacts imposed by POPs, this project is aimed at studying the long-term residual dynamic, ecotoxicological impact and risk assessment of POPs in the three cities.

The protocols involved in this project will include a combined approach of chemical and biological investigations of environmental samples, including air, water, sediment and soil, and agricultural products including grains, vegetables and fish, and food items available in local markets, in order to characterize key aspects of the contamination pattern, and its ecotoxicological impacts.

An analysis of accumulated POP levels in human milk collected from the three cities will also be conducted to determine the potential hazard due to dietary intake. A battery of “combination biomarkers” and bioassays will be developed and applied as diagnostic tools to assess the impacts of POPs. Mathematical modeling will be employed to study the fates of these POPs.

The results generated from this project will provide valuable scientific information for environmental quality management and pollution control in the three cities, and also serve as reference for other cities/regions in China which have also undergone a similar change.

Team members of this project included Dr. CKC Wong and Dr. KC Cheung of Hong Kong Baptist University; Dr. CSW Ngai of The University of Hong Kong; Dr. CKM Leung of In Vitro Fertilization Clinic; and Prof. S Tao, Prof. XJ Wang and Prof. ZC Zhou of Peking University.

Available at
http://www.hkbu.edu.hk/~gs/
Agricultural water use has risen to more than 70% of the total water consumption by mankind. With the rapid expansion of irrigated areas and depletion of water resources, water has become the number one limiting factor to today’s agriculture. Rice is a luxury water user and consumes about 70% of agricultural water use. Normally it should have the least drought problem because it is mainly grown in paddy fields in areas where typhoons bring abundant rains in the summer. That is why rice production is much more stable than other crops in terms of the weather-induced fluctuations. Recent developments, however, are threatening stable rice production in China. Uncontrolled deforestation in the upper reaches of rivers is causing river flows and rainfalls more fluctuated than ever and more often rice fields are facing periodic water shortages. In some parts of Northern China, depletion of water resources has led to great reduction of rice areas to save water for other crops and other ecological demands such as maintaining lakes, wetlands and grasslands.

This research aims to grow rice with less water. Earlier research has mainly focused on the drought-resistance of other dry-land crops, but much less is known about the responses of rice to reduced irrigation. Various irrigation schemes that may save water have not been tested on rice yet. This RGC-supported project will assess two irrigation methods that have been proved to use less water for dry-land crops and several rice cultivars that may perform better under water-limited cultivation. We will also study the physiological consequences and water stress indicators of rice when irrigation is reduced. We hope such studies will tell us the practicability of cutting down rice irrigation and the potential for exploring rice genetic resources for this purpose.

### The 2005-2006 CERG Exercise

**Successful endeavours in the 2005-2006 CERG Exercise**

1. **Dr. Christie, Stuart (ARTD)**
   - Project Title: Contemporary American Indian Mixedblood Literature
   - Fund Awarded: HK$308,352

2. **Dr. Lo, Kwai Cheung (ARTD)**
   - Project Title: Asian Masculinities and a Query into Universality
   - Fund Awarded: HK$278,400

3. **Prof. Lo, Ping Cheung (ARTD)**
   - Project Title: Philosophical Foundations for Genetic Ethics - A Bicultural Investigation
   - Fund Awarded: HK$207,904

4. **Prof. Pfister, Lauren (ARTD)**
   - Project Title: Reinterpreting Richard Wilhelm’s (1873-1930) Missionary and Scholarly Life in the Light of his German Renderings of Classical Chinese Scriptures
   - Fund Awarded: HK$207,904

5. **Dr. Sin, Chor Yiu (BUSD)**
   - Project Title: Estimating and Forecasting the Risk for Multivariate Time Series Data: An Exploratory Approach
   - Fund Awarded: HK$387,776

6. **Prof. Aryee, Samuel (BUSD)**
   - Project Title: Justice Perceptions and Workplace Deviance: A Test of the Trickle-down Model in a Chinese Context
   - Fund Awarded: HK$385,400

7. **Dr. Fock, Henry K (BUSD)**
   - Project Title: Discretion Empowerment, Psychological Empowerment and Relational Empowerment: How to Empower Service Workers Across Cultures?
   - Fund Awarded: HK$341,990

8. **Dr. Yeh, Emilie Y Y (COMD)**
   - Project Title: Survival, Resistance and Assimilation: Hollywood Hegemony and Chinese-language Film
   - Fund Awarded: HK$411,136

9. **Prof. Wong, Ming Hung (SCID)**
   - Project Title: Environmental and Health Risk Assessment of Persistent Organic Pollutants in Hong Kong, Beijing and Shenyang, China
   - Fund Awarded: HK$1,433,914

10. **Prof. Zhang, Jianhua (SCID)**
    - Project Title: Assessment of Irrigation Methods and Rice Cultivars for Water-limited Cultivation
    - Fund Awarded: HK$1,071,914

11. **Prof. Huie, Wah Kit (SCID)**
    - Project Title: Rapid screening/determination of analytes from solid samples via the coupling of surfactant-mediated (cloud-point) extraction, flow injection analysis and chemiluminescence/room temperature phosphorescence detection
    - Fund Awarded: HK$428,000

12. **Dr. Leung, Man Lay Louis (SCID)**
    - Project Title: Charge balance bipolar small molecules and polymers for electroluminescence applications
    - Fund Awarded: HK$321,000

13. **Dr. Wong, Man Shing Ricky (SCID)**
    - Project Title: Multi-functional properties of dendritic π-conjugated oligomers and their applications in molecular electronics
    - Fund Awarded: HK$428,000
MPhil students win full scholarships in America

Two MPhil students in the School of Communication, Miss Xie Wenjing and Mr. Shen Fei, have been awarded three-year full scholarships to pursue PhD studies this September at the University of Maryland and Ohio State University respectively. The scholarships pay tuition fees in full and support living expenses.

Courses offered by the University of Maryland’s Philip Merrill College of Journalism are recognised as “one of the nation’s best journalism programmes” in America, according to The Washington Post. Many of its alumni and faculty members are internationally celebrated communication theoreticians and media economists.

Having obtained a Master’s degree in Arts from the School of Journalism and Mass Communication of Renmin University of China, Wenjing came to HKBU in 2003 to study in the School of Communication. Under the supervision of Prof. Wang and Prof. Chen, she completed her thesis entitled “The Reception of Global, Regional and Local TV Dramas in Hong Kong”.

Wenjing’s supervisors, Prof. Georgette Wang, Dean of Communication, and Prof. Chen Ling, Head of Communication Studies, appraised Wenjing as a hard-working student with great enthusiasm for learning.

“Wenjing is quite special,” Prof. Wang said. “She possesses remarkable ability to explore and approach research questions and is always ready to bring in new insights and perspectives to existing theoretical discourse. She also took the initiatives of attending external seminars and played an active role in class discussion as well.”

Added Prof. Chen: “I was impressed with Wenjing’s determination and diligence in the pursuit of advanced knowledge. She is an outstanding student and also a good role model for her peers.”

Wenjing is happy and excited. “Great thanks go to my supervisor and co-supervisor, Prof. Wang and Prof. Chen,” she said. “I am grateful for their inspiring instruction in my study during the past two years and also for their recommendation for my scholarship applications.” She thanked the School of Communication for its support.
Dr. Li Lianjiang first Hong Kong scholar to win Sage Paper Award

Dr. Li Lianjiang, Associate Professor of Government & International Studies, has become the first Hong Kong scholar to win the Sage Paper Award for the best paper in comparative politics. He won the award for his paper entitled “Popular Contention and Its Impact in Rural China” delivered at the 2004 Annual Meetings of the American Political Science Association. The paper was co-authored with Prof. Kevin O’Brien, Bedford Professor of Political Science at the University of California at Berkeley.

“The paper uses evidence from the Chinese countryside to argue for an interactive approach to outcomes of popular contention that focuses on tracing how a confluence of mass and elite forces join to produce a result,” said Dr. Li.

The selection committee chose the paper from around 450 eligible papers as one of the two co-winners of the Sage Paper Award, which was first presented in 1997. In the committee’s view, this paper makes an exemplary and original contribution by showing how the literature on contentious politics can be applied to the study of Chinese politics. “In so doing, the paper helps comparativists see how such issues as accountability and policy responsiveness take shape in a regime which for decades remained opaque to most observers. This accomplishment is a significant step in the scholarly effort to show how debates in comparative politics are able to enhance our understanding of Chinese politics.”

The award-winning paper was published in Comparative Political Studies, one of the top political science journals, in April 2005 (Vol. 38, No. 3, pp. 235-59). It will be included as a chapter in the two scholars’ new book “Rightful Resistance in Rural China”, Cambridge University Press, forthcoming in spring 2006.

Cheung Kong Scholar Program

This year, Prof. ZHU Lixing in the Department of Mathematics of our University has been selected as Cheung Kong Chair professor by the Chinese Ministry of Education and Hong Kong Li Ka-Shing Foundation. Prof. Zhu will take up this honor at the People’s University of China in the period from September, 2005 to August, 2008.

The “Cheung Kong Scholar Program” was launched in 1998 jointly by the Chinese Ministry of Education and Hong Kong Li Ka-Shing Foundation. It aims at inviting internationally recognized scholars to help China develop science, social science, and technology.

From 1998 to this year, six professors from the universities in Hong Kong have been selected as Cheung Kong Chair professors. This year, three professors have been chosen to be at the People’s University of China. They are: Dr. Robert Mundell, Professor of Finance, the winner of Nobel Prize of Economics at Columbia University, USA; Dr. Christian Lewitt, Professor of Law, the former president of Paris III; and Prof. Zhu Lixing, Professor of Statistics at our University.
Prof. Tang Tao, Director of the Graduate School and Head and Chair Professor of the Mathematics Department, has won a special honour with his appointment as Distinguished Visiting Professor of the Academy of Mathematics and Systems Science (AMSS) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS).

AMSS has recently appointed eight Distinguished Visiting Professors who have made great contributions to mathematics research in CAS in the past few years. Prof. Tang is the sole appointee from Hong Kong. All the other scholars are from US institutions, including Princeton University, Columbia University and the California Institute of Technology.

A ceremony was held in Beijing, during which the AMSS Director, Prof. Guo Lei, presented the appointment letter to Prof. Tang. The honour was in recognition of his "significant contributions to numerical methods for incompressible flow simulations and hyperbolic conservation laws, especially for the development of moving mesh adaptive grid computations."

Prof. Tang is an overseas member of the International Research Team on Complex Systems of CAS. The research team comprises young scholars in the area of applied mathematics, system science, computational mathematics, statistical science, control science, management science and scientific computing.

Prof. Tang also won the Leslie Fox Prize in Analysis in 1988 and the Feng Kang Prize in Scientific Computing in 2003.

Events of Faculties/Schools

Upcoming Events (September 2005 - December 2005)

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<tr>
<th>Department/Centre</th>
<th>Conference/Activity</th>
<th>Date</th>
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| Centre for Translation | Translation Seminar Series  
- "Translation as a force for cultural change in Hong Kong in the 1950s" (by Dr. Yau Wai Ping, Department of Translation, CUHK) | 29 September 2005 |
| Institute for Enterprise Development and Management Research (IEDMR) | Study Tour of Chongqing Technology and Business University (CTBU)  
Objective: This study tour will be tailor-made for CTBU’s senior faculty members to better understand the higher education in Hong Kong.  
Speakers: HKBU faculty members and guest speakers | 3-6 October 2005 |
| Physical Education & Dr. Stephen Hui Research Centre for Physical Recreation and Wellness | Sports Seminar  
- The Spirit of Sport Participation | 16-17 October 2005 |
| Geography | Hong Kong Geography Day 2005  
- Education Reform and Geography Education | 19 November 2005 |
| Mathematics | International Conference  
- "International Conference on Scientific Computing and Partial Differential Equations & The First East Asia SIAM Conference" | 12-16 December 2005 |
Activities Organised (June 2005 - August 2005)

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<th>Department/Centre</th>
<th>Conference/Activity</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Music</strong></td>
<td>Presentation of paper</td>
<td>June 2005</td>
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<td>&quot;The Phenomenon of Singing: The Role and Nature of Verbal Imagery Used in Vocal Studios&quot; at the 5th Asia Pacific Symposium on Music Education at Research at the University of Washington Seattle, U.S.A. (by Miss Chen Ti Wei, Ph.D. student)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>School Administration and Management System Training and Research Unit</strong></td>
<td>1st International Conference on &quot;Capacity Building for Information Technology Integration in Teaching and Learning”</td>
<td>1-4 June 2005</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Centre for Applied Ethics</strong></td>
<td>International Symposium on &quot;Environmental Ethics: An Inter-Religious Dialogue&quot;</td>
<td>9-10 June 2005</td>
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<td>- Over 20 world renowned scholars representing different religious and intellectual traditions, together with representatives from local green groups, participated in the symposium to exchange views on issues related to environmental ethics</td>
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<td><strong>Geography</strong></td>
<td>Conference on “Colonial Governmentality &amp; The Production of Space in Hong Kong”</td>
<td>14-15 June 2005</td>
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<td><strong>Education Studies</strong></td>
<td>The 6th Thinking Qualities Initiative Seminar</td>
<td>25 June 2005</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Institute for Enterprise Development and Management Research (IEDMR)</strong></td>
<td>Study Tour of Shanghai University</td>
<td>27 - 28 June 2005</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Objective: This study tour was tailor-made for the MBA students from Shanghai University. Seminars on Hong Kong Higher Education, Hong Kong MBA Courses, Human Capital, Swedish Overseas Development Assistance Success and Failure were arranged. IEDMR also arranged corporate visits to Wing Lung Bank Limited, KGI Asia Ltd. and Hong Kong International Terminals.</td>
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<td>Speakers: Dr. Anita Poon, Assistant Professor, EDUC; Prof. Allan Chan, MKT, Associate Dean of School of Business &amp; MBA Course Director; Ms. Linda Ho, Director of Operations, ACNielsen (China) Limited; Mrs. Elisabeth Berg Khan, Director, Communication Strategist Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs</td>
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<td><strong>Social Work</strong></td>
<td>7th International Narrative Therapy &amp; Community Work Conference</td>
<td>6-8 July 2005</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Institute for Enterprise Development and Management Research (IEDMR)</strong></td>
<td>Study Tour of China Chamber of International Commerce-Wuhan Chamber of Commerce</td>
<td>11-29 July 2005</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Objective: This 3-week study tour aimed to enhance participants the knowledge and practices of International Financial Reporting and Analysis, and International Taxation.</td>
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<td>Instructors: Prof. Lin Zhijun, Head and Professor, ACLW; Mr. Dicky S. L. To, Director, Tax Services RSM Nelson Wheeler</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Centre for Child Development</strong></td>
<td>Secondary School Teacher Training Program on Educating Gifted Students on Leadership, Creativity and Critical Thinking</td>
<td>25-28 &amp; 30 July, 2-3 August 2005</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Centre for Translation</strong></td>
<td>Translation Seminar Series</td>
<td>17 August 2005</td>
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<td>- &quot;The Status Struggle of Translators: The Pursuit of Symbiotic Capital by a Semi-Professional Group - The Case of Literary Translators in Israel” (by Dr. Rakefet Sela-Sheffy, Unit of Culture Research, Faculty of Humanities, Tel Aviv University)</td>
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<td>- &quot;The Ideational Industries and Heterogeneity Theories: Sustainability of Societies and the Efficacy of the Ideational Industries&quot; (by Prof. Ramar Even-Zohar, Professor of Culture Research and Porter Chair Professor of Semiotics, Tel Aviv University)</td>
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<td>- &quot;Constructing the Orient: Translations into English from India in the 19th Century” (by Prof. Harish Trivedi, Professor of English, University of Delhi)</td>
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