

The 16th Annual CUHK Anthropology Postgraduate Forum
DISTURBANCE AND REVERBERATION

21 Feb 2025 (Fri) & 22 Feb 2025 (Sat)
HELD MIXED-MODE
CUHK, Hong Kong / Online

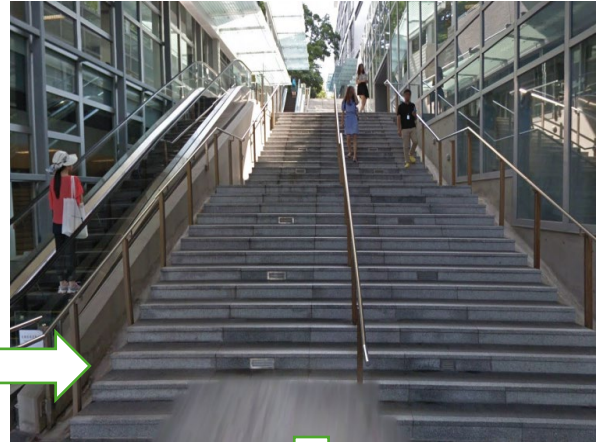
Artist: Juliette J Wu



文學院
Faculty of Arts

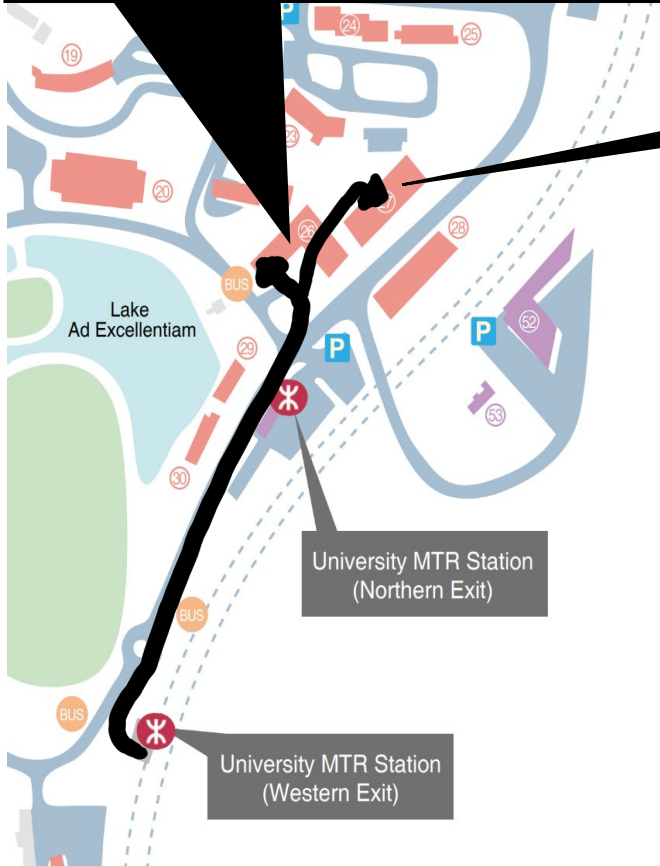


Map



Yasumoto International Academic Park

Wu Ho Man Yuen Building (L3)



- To all forum venues, please walk about 5 minutes on the right side of the University MTR Station (Exit A or C or D). No need to take a shuttle bus.
- Visitors without a CU Link card are required to register details of their identification documents (Hong Kong ID card, Hong Kong and Macao Travel Permit, passport, etc.) and destinations at the entrance to campus.

Preface

We are constantly challenged by disturbances; as agentic actors, human beings are rendered vulnerable facing the unknown, unforeseen, and unprecedented. But there is no other way out except to reverberate within these disturbances. The perception of disturbance is always linked with disorder, confusion, and chaos, which overwhelms us with an atmosphere full of unsettling tensions. However, what we call disturbance is also where changes unfold. People forge solidarity while feeling vulnerable, learn fresh ideas when the old ones are obsolete, and create new order out of the decadent. Indeed, disturbances always vibrate our world, but so do our connections, which reverberate the warm sense of togetherness to the surrounding others. Reverberation is about intensity, but whether fleeting or enduring, we are emanating support and hope in this precarious world.

Experiencing the post-COVID world with daunting challenges, we attempt to inquire again about issues of individuals and institutions, human beings and the environment, and social injustice and inequality. Listening to the often-silenced voices, anthropologists today are still dedicated to revealing the existing forms of negotiation and resistance to structural and literal violence, highlighting the moving stories about reverberating humans in their life worlds. What is disturbing different subjects? How can we trace trajectories of disturbances in the network across the boundaries? How do people dwell in this disorienting living condition? How do human beings imagine and engender possibilities? We seek papers that aim to discuss and debate the notion of disturbance and reverberation within anthropology and related disciplines. As anthropologists we aspire to unsettle commonsensical notions and even “disturbance” and “reverberation” themselves, hoping to vibrate/liberate our minds from the burden of hierarchical norms. And most importantly, we seek the vibratory energy that you bring.

我們不斷遭受到擾動的挑戰：作為行動者的人類在面對未知，不可預見甚至前所未有的情況時，往往會感到脆弱不堪。但除了與這些紛擾相共振，迴響以外，我們別無他法。人們關於擾動的認知總是與無序，迷亂和混沌聯繫在一起，而這種認知將我們籠罩在充滿不安張力的氛圍之中。不過，我們所說的紛擾也在孕育著轉機。人們會在感到脆弱時團結一致，會在思想落後時推陳出新，也會在荒蕪頹廢中建立新秩序。的確，紛擾本身總是在顫動著我們的世界，但我們彼此之間的聯繫也同樣如此----它讓和睦溫情不斷地在人們身邊傳遞。迴響與強度緊密相關，但無論它轉瞬即逝或經久不衰，我們都在這個風雨飄搖的世界播撒關懷和希望。

當體驗這個面臨嚴峻挑戰的後疫情世界時，我們希望再次探究個體與機構、人類與環

境、社會不平等和不公正等議題。時至今日，人類學家仍在聆聽著那些被湮沒的聲音，致力於昭示現存的對於結構性暴力甚至實質性暴力的討論與反抗，同時凸顯出人們生活中的動人故事。是什麼在干擾不同的主體？在跨越邊界的社會網絡中，我們如何追蹤擾動的軌跡？在迷惘的生活情形中，人們如何找尋自身的棲所？人們如何想像與創造出可能性？我們徵集的論文旨在研討和辯論人類學及相關學科中擾動與迴響之概念。以上是針對“擾動與迴響”這一主題的少許具體研究途徑。同時，我們也希望聽到更多的觀點和解讀。作為人類學人，我們渴望打破常識性的概念，甚至包括“擾動”與“迴響”這對概念本身。由此，我們希望將自身的思想從等第規範的重負中振動/解放出來。而最重要的是，我們期待你們帶來振動不息的能量。

The 16th Forum Committee

CHEN Tiankuang

LYU Zihan

CHEN Wenzhao

CHANG Lei

Juliette J WU

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Faculty of Arts of The Chinese University of Hong Kong

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Important Notes

- All times are in Hong Kong Time/GMT+8.
- Visitors without a CU Link card are required to register details of their identification documents (Hong Kong ID card, Hong Kong and Macao Travel Permit, passport, etc.) and destinations at the entrance to campus.
- Each scheduled panel contains: 1) panelist presentations (15 minutes each); 2) discussant comments and panelist responses (15 minutes in total); 3) Q&A session (15 minutes in total). Some panels may be shorter than others during the same session/time block.
- For panelists (both in person and online), please arrive at least 10 minutes early to set up your slides and other materials; for audience, please arrive at least 5 minutes before your panel to maximize your learning from the presentations. Also, we recommend all participants to come early for some warmup and sharing.
- Apart from photo-taking/screenshots to commemorate the event, we will not be recording any presentations or discussions except for the opening ceremony, the keynote address, and subsequent Q&A. Similarly, we refrain attendees from taking any video or audio recordings of the forum for reproduction on social media or other public spaces.
- If you encounter any problems, please contact anthforum@cuhk.edu.hk

Forum Programme

(Regular fonts for in-person panelists, *Italic for online panelists*)

DAY 1 21 February 2025 (Friday)

9:00-9:30 Registration

Room 503, Yasumoto International Academic Park (YIA)

- All panelists and discussants will receive your name cards and forum souvenirs in registration. For those who successfully applied for the scholarship, please prepare your transport and accommodation receipts for the money collection.

9:30-9:45 Opening Ceremony

Room 503, Yasumoto International Academic Park (YIA)

Zoom Meeting ID: 432 078 5746 Passcode: 432078

9:45-10:30 Coffee Break

2/F, near LT9, Yasumoto International Academic Park (YIA)

- Please bring your own bottle for refilling. We will also appreciate it if you bring your own utensils for the tea break.
- Vegetarian snacks provided. Please feel free to inform helpers of any special needs.

Panel A1: Digital Connection in the Unsettling World

10:30-12:15 / Room 303, Wu Ho Man Yuen Building (WMY)

Discussant: Prof. Andrew KIPNIS

Zoom Meeting ID: 949 9138 3198 Passcode: 309885

LUO Xi (MPhil in Institute of Communication Studies, Communication University of China)

“Waiting” for Traffic: Platform Globalization and Precarity: An Ethnography of Transnational Live Commerce on TikTok in Guangzhou

Vesper LONG (PhD student in Anthropology, New York University)

Eventful Media: Amateur Image-Making and Contested Truth-Claiming on the Chinese Internet

Matthew ADAMS (PhD student in anthropology, Brunel University of London)

Virtual, Transnational, and Heterotopic: Chinapunk Subculture as Sanctuary

Wendi XU (MA in Anthropology, University of Chicago)

Performing Madness, Producing Hope: Nostalgia, Frustration and Aspiration of Chinese Youth in the Post-COVID-19 Malaise

Panel A2: The Agitated Ethics in Everyday Disturbance

10:30-12:15 / Room 407, Wu Ho Man Yuen Building (WMY)

Discussant: Prof. Teresa KUAN

Zoom Meeting ID: 432 078 5746 Passcode: 432078

LI Yanchen (PhD student in anthropology, Nanjing University)

Stroke Anxiety: Care Crisis and Ethical Reverberation in Aging Rural China

Pengkai WANG (Master in Anthropology, East China Normal University)

Precarious Adolescence: Everyday Affects and Ethics in a Chinese High School

LIU Pei (Master of Anthropology, Renmin University of China)

Producing Model Roles: Living in the Peer Group in developing China

XIANG Zhilin (PhD student in Audio-visual communication and creative media, Tsinghua University)

"Remembrance Bear": Anthropological Study on a New kind of Grief Care

Shangqin LI (School of Sociology and Anthropology, Sun Yat-sen University)

Transformation and Collaboration: Technological Practices and Boundary Reconstruction of Medical Professions in AI Era

12:30-13:45 Lunch SHHO College Student Canteen

- Vegetarian sets provided. Please feel free to inform helpers of any special needs.

Panel B1: Ripples of Change: Gender in the Shifting Tides

14:00-15:45 / Room 303, Wu Ho Man Yuen Building (WMY)

Discussant: Prof. Sealing CHENG

Zoom Meeting ID: 949 9138 3198 Passcode: 309885

LIU Zhuoran (Master of Social Sciences, Hong Kong University)

A Queer Metaphor: Exploring Ecology - Sexuality and Nature - Culture in Queer Gardens

GUO Chuer (MA in Literary and Cultural Studies, The University of Hong Kong)

Digital Echoes and Divides: Analyzing the Role of Social Bots in Empowering and Disrupting Lower-Class Women in China

Minyan HUANG (Research Assistant in Cultural Studies / Independent Researcher, The Chinese University of Hong Kong)

Fake It Till You Ate It: Deepfaking Female-Gaze, Erotism and Queer Desire on Chinese Digital Sphere

WANG Shuchang (MA Graduate in History of Science and Technology, Tsinghua University)

Disabled Feminism in Post-2015 China: From Migrant Sisterhood to Crip Futures

LIU Hangyu (Faculty of Education, Beijing Normal University)

Aluba as Deviant Play: Negotiating Power, Gender, and Institutional Ambivalence in Adolescent Rituals of Transgression

Panel B2: Resonances in the Worlds of Migration and Mobility

14:00-15:45 / Room 305, Wu Ho Man Yuen Building (WMY)

Discussant: Prof. Venera Khalikova

Zoom Meeting ID: 432 078 5746 Passcode: 432078

Yaotian CHEN (Bachelor student in sociology, Nanjing Univeristy)

WeChat Group as Disturbance: The Echo of Transnational Connections among Chinese Migrants in Busan

SHU Ya (Research Assistant in Anthropology, The Chinese University of Hong Kong)

Clustering in Hong Kong: An Anthropological Observation of Milk Tea

Yanxuan LU (Department of Sociology, Peking University)

(Im)mobility Infrastructure: Temporal Transformation, Lived Experiences and Agency Practices amongst African Migrants in China

15:45-16:30 Coffee Break

2/F, near LT9, Yasumoto International Academic Park (YIA)

Panel C1: Environmental Disturbance and Reverberation of Survival

16:30-18:15 / Room 303, Wu Ho Man Yuen Building (WMY)

Discussant: Prof. Man Kei TAM

Zoom Meeting ID: 949 9138 3198 Passcode: 309885

Boris WONG (PhD student in Ethnomusicology, SOAS University of London)

Heartbeats or Noise? Negotiating Military Band Sounds in Singapore's Urban Soundscapes

Zihan LYU (MPhil student in anthropology, The Chinese University of Hong Kong)

Kill the Beloved: Adaptive Ethics of Chinese Insect Enthusiasts

Xiyan WANG (PhD in social anthropology, EHESS)

Dolphins Across Time and Space

Panel C2: Body: Embodied Disturbances and Resonating Identities

16:30-18:15 / Room 305, Wu Ho Man Yuen Building (WMY)

Discussant: Prof. Niko BESNIER

Zoom Meeting ID: 432 078 5746 Passcode: 432078

Darren Tsz-Hin Fung (Department of Anthropology, The Chinese University of Hong Kong)

Text versus Image: Graphic Ideology and Hong Kong Blind People's Literacy Practices

Li Feng (PhD Student in Folklore and Anthropology of Art, Fudan University, China)

Not Say a Word: A Field-work in Japanese Sign Language Café

Zhaohang LYU (MA in Health Humanities, University College London)

Autoethnography: Reflections on a Family's Experience with Stem Cell Therapy

Li Mingyan (PhD student in anthropology, Sun Yat-Sen University)

Elderly Care and "Support"—An Embodied Study of Swimming among the Elderly in Yantai from the Perspective of National Fitness

CHEN Jiqing (MA in Anthropology, The Chinese University of Hong Kong)

Reframing ADHD: Diagnosis, Identity, and Resistance Among Chinese Women

18:30

Tak Kee (Fo Tan)

Self-paid Dinner (For registered participants)

DAY 2 22 February 2025 (Saturday)

Panel D1 Echoes of Governance: Credibility, Mobility, and Memory Across Borders

10:30-12:15 / Room 403, Yasumoto International Academic Park (YIA)

Discussant: Prof. Leilah VEVAINA

Zoom Meeting ID: 949 4191 2889 Passcode: 337845818

Xing LI (Department of Anthropology, The Chinese University of Hong Kong)

"The System Will Speak on Our Behalf":

Governing Credibility Through an Online Civil Registration System in Nepal

Jinlong YU (MPhil in Institute of Anthropology, East China Normal University)

"Two China" in Southeast Asia: A Memory Anthropological Study of Chinese Political Refugees and the Lone Soldier Tomb in Thailand

WU Xuanyu (Department of Sociology, Zhejiang University)

Workers in a State of "Disenchantment": Constructing the Rationality of Legal Mobilization

YANG Fan (PhD in Ethnology, Sun Yat-sen University/University of Malaya)

Reverberation Across Borders: Navigating Life in a Small Town on the Malaysia-Thailand Border

Panel D2 Restless Life with Diseases and Hope

10:30-12:15 / Room 201, Yasumoto International Academic Park (YIA)

Discussant: Prof. Chaoxiong ZHANG

Zoom Meeting ID: 432 078 5746 Passcode: 432078

Keyu ZHANG (East China Normal University)

Tinkering and Moral Compromise in Pediatric Palliative Care: Ethical Challenges at Summer Home

LU Yimeng (PhD student, Peking University)

“Approach” to Illness: An Anthropological Study of Shentigan in Modern Chinese Medicine

FENG Qing (Department of Anthropology, Renmin University of China)

The Hope of Diagnosis? Genetic Testing for Rare Diseases in China

Chunkai CAO (Department of Anthropology, The Chinese University of Hong Kong)

Managing Lives, Managing NGOs: Global Health Transitions and the Changing Roles of Civil Society in China’s HIV/AIDS Epidemics

Ke MA (Communication University of China)

The Dual Entanglement of "Infectious Disease" and "Chronic Illness": The "Living with Illness" Experience of Leprosy Survivors

14:00-14:15 Closing

Room LT9, Yasumoto International Academic Park (YIA)

14:15-15:30 Keynote Speech

“Catastrophe and More-than-Human Worlds” by Prof. Yael Navaro

Room LT9, Yasumoto International Academic Park (YIA)

For audiences other than forum participants, please register here →



15:30-16:00 Coffee Break

2/F, near LT9, Yasumoto International Academic Park (YIA)

16:00-17:30 Writing Seminar with Prof. Yael Navaro

Room LT9, Yasumoto International Academic Park (YIA)

Prof. Navaro will comment on five selected attendees’ full papers in the writing seminar. All are welcome to audit!

Keynote Speech

Catastrophe and More-than-Human Worlds

14:15-15:30, 22 Feb (Sat)

Room LT9, Yasumoto International Academic Park (YIA)

Registered audience only



Abstract: ‘Memory’ has been the overarching framework for anthropological studies of political violence in its long durée. But, until more recently, ‘memory’ was conceptualised in a human-centred way, with works on loss, trauma, their social construction, cultural mediation, and collective commemoration. In this lecture, I ask if memory’s qualities and associations may be studied across ‘more-than-human’ worlds in sites of catastrophe and its aftermaths. Reflecting on the evidentiary limitations on research in the aftermath of catastrophe, when the human witnesses have been absented or silenced, I explore memory’s ‘other-than-human’ and ‘more-than-secular’ possibilities. Threading my ethnographic work on the aftermath of the Armenian genocide through with the aftermath of the recent earthquake in south Turkey, I ask if ‘more-than-human’ beings, ‘non-human’ things, and ‘more-than-secular’ entities may be incorporated in memory’s conceptual work and evidentiary potentialities.

Keynote speaker: Prof. Yael Navaro is a social anthropologist on politics, the state, and violence and its aftermaths. Currently she is a professor of social, political and psychological anthropology in the Department of Social Anthropology, Cambridge University. She has contributed to crafting an affective, spatial and material approach for the study of postwar environments, embedding social, political, and psychological anthropology through new methodologies. Regionally, her work has focused on social and political life in Turkey and Cyprus, and she has a continuing interest in ethnographically studying politics and the aftermath of violence in the everyday of the region. Further information on Prof. Yael Navaro can be checked in: <https://www.socanth.cam.ac.uk/directory/dr-yael-navaro>

For audiences other than forum participants, please register via the following link or QR code.

<https://forms.office.com/r/HPT9Q3jZVN>

