

2004 Toronto Hakka Conference Program

This is a preview copy of the official program to be distributed on enrolment on December 30 at York University.

Wednesday, December 29, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Toronto, 5183 Sheppard Ave. E (east of Markham Rd.), Scarborough
Opening Reception and Photo Exhibition: THE CHINESE IN JAMAICA 1854-2004

Thursday, December 30, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Vari Hall, York University, Keele St., south of Steeles Ave W.

8:00-9:00 a.m., Enrolment, Rotunda

9:00-9:15 a.m., Opening Ceremony, Auditorium (Theatre A, Room 1009)

Welcome by Dr. Robert Drummond, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, York University

Welcome by Dr. Keith Lowe, Hakka Chinese Community

Welcome (taped) by Senator Vivienne Poy

Official opening by award-winning author Wayson Choy, *The Jade Peony, All That Matters*

9:15-10:15 a.m., Keynote Address: HAKKA DESTINY, Auditorium (Theatre A, Room 1009)

*Joseph Tsang Mang Kin, author of *The Hakka Epic**

10:15-10:30, **TRANSITION/BREAK**

10:30-11:15 a.m., Concurrent Sessions A, (various rooms)

Dialogue on “Hakka Destiny”, Auditorium

Professor Richard Bohr, Professor Pietro Giordan, Dr. Shiu-Loon Kong

Analysis and extension of the keynote address

Identity Formation Among Caribbean and Indian Hakka in Toronto, Room 1154, (repeated 2:15-3:00 p.m.)

Shirley Chiu

Interviews of Caribbean-born and Indian-born individuals of Hakka origin reveal how identity is formed through social ties, food, community involvement and knowledge attainment. Characteristics important to developing increased consciousness of Hakka identity are identified. The presenter draws on the findings of her master's thesis for York University.

The Portrayal of Hakka Women in Current Fiction, 1152A, (repeated 2:15-3:00 p.m.)

Helen Atteck, Bernadette Dyer, Henrietta Akit

Three women writers from the Caribbean demonstrate how they portrayed Hakka female characters in their works published within the last two years. They read from their fiction and poetry, and share with the audience the personal and historical background on which their stories were based. Although the settings are for the most part in the Caribbean, one author starts her historical novel in a small village in China before her heroine boards the British ship in Hong Kong harbour.

150 Years of The Hakka in Jamaica, Theatre D Room 2021, (repeated 2:15-3:00 p.m.)

Patrick Lee, Loraine Lee

Drawing on their extensive collection of archival material, this husband and wife team takes the audience through the stages of Hakka settlement in Jamaica. Arriving as indentured workers on sugar estates, they later become shopkeepers dispersed in every town and large village. In one generation, they move into various businesses and professions.

Proposed Study of Boys Sent Back To China, 2005, (repeated 2:15-3:00 p.m.)

Dr. Ann-Marie Lee Loy

Hakka settlers in overseas territories believed that the best means of preserving the family and the culture was to send their young sons back to China to live in the ancestral village until adolescence. No systematic study has been done to date of the effect of this practice on the individuals and the community they returned to. The approach to this study will be outlined. Subjects for this study are now being sought.

Chinese Calligraphy: The Art of Mind and Body, Theatre B Room 1023, (repeated Dec 31, in English and Mandarin)

Dr. Siu-Leung Lee

An outstanding and innovative calligrapher, Dr. Lee combines his art with music and movement. He draws on his recent exhibitions in the USA and his commission for the inscription on the gateway to a new national park in China. One's frame

of mind is the basis of good calligraphy. With brush, ink and paper, Dr. Lee demonstrates various aspects of the art of Chinese writing.

11:15-11:30 a.m., TRANSITION/BREAK

11:30-12:15 p.m., Concurrent Sessions B, (various rooms)

Chinese Spirituality and the Influence of Confucius and Mencius in Chinese Culture, 1154, (repeated 3:15-4:00 p.m.)

Louis Ng, Ting Tao Chiu

The Chinese language, written over 4500 years ago, is the oldest continuously written language in the world. It is sometimes referred to as the language of God. If one analyses the Chinese characters, one can see there is a close connection between Chinese spirituality and God. During the first three dynasties of China - Hsia, Shang and Chou – the Chinese people worshipped Shang Di, the same God described in the Bible. He was the creator, and annual sacrifices were offered to Him. Worship of Buddha came to China from India only in about 50 B.C.

Young Adult Mix and Mingle: Social and Business Networking, 3009, (repeated 3:15-4:00 p.m.)

Elaine Yeung, Ken Young, Shirley Chiu

Young men and women are the bearers of our culture into the future. Their present concerns are with their place in the community, and their capacity to make a living and establish careers or businesses to sustain their families. In Canada where the community is relatively new, there must be a conscious effort to find and create resources in the community through social and business networking. This workshop provides a setting for young adults to mix and mingle with a view to establishing networks for the future.

The Importance of a Chinese Historical Museum in preserving culture, traditions and heritage, Theatre D Room 2021, (repeated 3:15-4:00 p.m.)

Cynthia Yao

Why should the overseas Chinese in a particular community have a historical museum? What materials should be collected? How are they displayed? What are the driving forces for such a museum to come into being? Such questions are addressed by a professional museum developer, based on her recent experience with setting up a new museum.

Different Routes From The Same Roots: Hakka Emigration From China To Different Countries, 1152A, (repeated 3:15-4:00 p.m.)

Gerard Lan (Mauritius) Gordon Lock (South Africa), Henry Lee (Malaysia), Ying Hsien Liu (India)

Individuals who grew up in territories to which Hakka emigrated, such as Malaysia, Mauritius, India, South Africa, describe how and why the Hakka arrived and how they settled. Their accounts show how the characteristics they inherited from their region in China have changed or not changed in the regions to which they emigrated.

How Traditional Chinese Associations Have or Have Not Met Community Needs, 2005

Aaron Bohr, (repeated 3:15-4:00 p.m.)

As soon as they arrive in a new country, the Chinese immediately establish associations or clubs. Initially they serve the purposes of community protection and business start-ups, and later of recreation, education and care of the aged. The varieties of associations and clubs in Jamaica are explored, with analysis of how readily they adapt to change and how well they indicate the levels of social, cultural and economic adjustment. Ultimately, Chinese associations serve as important agents of both cultural preservation and acculturation.

12:15-1:15 p.m., HOT LUNCH/NETWORKING

1:15-2:00 p.m., Hakka 101: WHAT MAKES US HAKKA, Auditorium

Dr. Siu-Leung Lee

2:00-2:15 p.m., GROUP PHOTO Rotunda and TRANSITION

2:15-3:00 p.m., Concurrent Sessions A (repeated), (various rooms)

Dialogue on “Hakka 101: What makes us Hakka”, 3009

Joseph Tsang Mang Kin, Dr. Joyce Leung, Dr. Nam Low

Analysis and extension of Dr. Lee's lecture

Identity Formation Among Caribbean and Indian Hakka in Toronto, 1154

Shirley Chiu

<See description under 10:30-11:15 p.m.>

The Portrayal of Hakka Women in Current Fiction, 1152A

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Proposed Study of Boys Sent Back To China, 2005

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The Earth Castles of Fujian, (repeated on Dec 31 in English and Hakka), Theatre B Room 1023

Dr. Shiu-Loon Kong

The presenter made a recent visit to the mountainous area between Fujian and Guangdong province, and was deeply moved on witnessing the Hakka round villages or earth castles. They are not only beautiful and majestic, but they exemplify how humans can create shelter that harmoniously meets their communal needs and the needs of the natural environment. These 7,000 structures have been declared important to world heritage by UNESCO. What does their architecture tell us about Hakka history and culture? What can we infer concerning the character of the people who built them? What is their place in the global village?

3:00-3:15 p.m., TRANSITION/BREAK

3:15-4:00 p.m., Concurrent Sessions B (repeated), (various rooms)

Chinese Spirituality and the Influence of Confucius and Mencius in Chinese Culture, 1154

Louis Ng, Ting Tao Chiu

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Different Routes From The Same Roots: Hakka Emigration From China To Different Countries, 1152A

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<See description under 11:30-12:15 p.m.>

How Traditional Chinese Associations Have or Have Not Met Community Needs, 2005

Aaron Bohr

<See description under 11:30-12:15 p.m.>

4:00-4:30 p.m., END, NETWORKING

Friday, December 31, 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Vari Hall, York University, Keele St., south of Steeles Ave W.

9:00-9:55 a.m., THE HAKKA AND THE REMAKING OF CHINA, Auditorium
Professor Richard Bohr

9:55-10:00, TRANSITION ONLY

10:00-10:45 a.m., Concurrent Sessions C, (various rooms)

Dialogue on “The Hakka and The Remaking of China”, Auditorium
Professor Pietro Giordan, Joseph Tsang Mang Kin
Analysis and extension of Professor Bohr’s presentation

The Earth Castles of Fujian, Dr. Shiu Loon Kong (in English and Hakka), Theatre D Room 2021
Dr. Shiu-Loon Kong

<See description under December 30, 2:15-3:00 p.m.>

Chinese Calligraphy: The Art of Mind and Body (in English and Mandarin), Theatre B Room 1023
Dr. Siu-Leung Lee

<See description under December 30, 10:30-11:15 p.m.>

Cross-Cultural Dialogue: The Meeting of Minds Between The China-Born and The Overseas-Born Generations (in English and Hakka), 1152A
Dr. Kuen On Lee (Moderator)

The Hakka trait of being both conservative and revolutionary deeply affects the relationship between generations, between parents and children, between those born in China and those born overseas. We feel very close sometimes, and at other times very distant. Dr. Kuen Lee will explore with several elders their views about the stages of their life, and will invite questions from the audience, with the goal of understanding the contradictions that beset our communal and family life.

Leaders of Tomorrow Meet Leaders of Today: panel discussion for young adults, 3009
Shirley Chiu, Elaine Yeung, Ken Young

An overarching goal of this conference is to develop leadership ability among young adults in the community. It is urgent to do so in new homelands such as Canada, where our culture is not yet rooted. Proven leaders in the community and in the professions will dialogue with young adults to create a vision of the future.

Helping Hakka Communities and Organizations to Thrive, 1154
Dr. Keith Lowe, Aaron Bohr, Tsang Mang Kin

Another overarching goal of this conference is to develop a strategy for developing the community as a whole and the associations or institutions that serve it. What are the needs of the community, especially in the area of culture? To what extent are these needs addressed by community associations, and how do these associations relate to religious and governmental institutions? What are their goals, their criteria for membership and leadership? Leaders and members of local associations are especially invited to take part in this brainstorming session.

10:45-11:00 a.m., TRANSITION/BREAK

11:00-12:00 noon, REFLECTIONS ON THE 2004 WORLD HAKKA REUNION IN GANZHOU (GANXIAN), CHINA, (in English and Hakka), Auditorium
Dr. Nam Low

12:00-1:00, HOT LUNCH/NETWORKING

1:00-2:00 p.m., Closing Ceremonies, Auditorium

Moo Kee Lin dancing by Northern Legs, Southern Fists
Mountain Songs & Children’s Nursery Rhymes
Images of a visit to the ancestral village (Senator Vivienne Poy, from her village in China)
HAKKA ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS, presented by Madame Chen Xiaoling, Consul General of the People’s Republic of China

2:00-2:30, END, NETWORKING