

**Lingnan University 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Lecture Series (2017-2018)**  
**Inter-disciplinary Lectures on Culture and Society**

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**HKAC Art Shop Inspiration Series**

Organised by the Department of Cultural Studies, Lingnan University

Co-organised by Hong Kong Arts Centre

**Cosmopolitanism, Civil Disobedience and The Global Legacy of Martin Luther King**

Through the 19th century, the motor of China's geopolitical change shifted from Eurasia to its southern coast. The impact of the West on China, while resulting in disastrous territorial concessions, also gave rise to a Southern Cosmopolitanism, with Guangdong native, Kang Youwei, becoming a cutting edge figure. 120 years ago, Kang led the first major drive to modernize China in the ill-fated Hundred Days Reform. Three years earlier, in 1895, he organized Gongche Shangshu, the first Chinese "student movement" to petition the royal court for political reform. For many, this activist lineage's latest manifestation was the Umbrella Movement, Hong Kong's 79-day Occupy demonstration for universal suffrage in 2014. Following the Arab Spring and a worldwide economic justice movement spearheaded by Occupy Wall Street, the Umbrella Movement originated as a civil disobedience campaign called "Occupy Central with Love and Peace." One crucial document that inspired Benny Tai, law professor and conceiver of Occupy Central, is Martin Luther King's "Letter from Birmingham Jail" (1963). The Occupy campaign used the "Birmingham" essay as the foundation for an outstanding civic education initiative drawing upon a global legacy evolved from Thoreau and Gandhi. Evans Chan, New York-based film critic and director of "Raise the Umbrellas" (2016/2018) and acclaimed documentaries about Kang Youwei, explores this early stage of the Umbrella Movement to survey the continuing relevance of King's legacy in the US, Hong Kong, and the world today.

## Speaker

### Dr. Evans Chan

**Evans Chan** Born in Guangdong and grew up in Macau and Hong Kong, Evans Chan is an internationally renowned critic, librettist, playwright, and filmmaker. He received his Master's degree from the New School for Social Research in New York and PhD in Screen Culture at Northwestern University, USA. Currently based in New York, Chan is one of Hong Kong's leading independent filmmakers. His award-winning films have been shown at the Berlin, Rotterdam, London, Moscow, Vancouver, San Francisco and Taiwan film festivals, among others.

In his dramatic and documentary films Chan explores the challenges confronting Hong Kong before and after its return to Chinese rule in 1997. *To Liv(e)* (1991) was listed as one of the 100 Greatest Hong Kong Films by Time Out Magazine in Hong Kong. *Raise the Umbrellas* 《撐傘》 (2016–2018) documents the 79-day massive democratic protests known as the Umbrella Movement in 2014. As a playwright, Chan developed in 2015 his award-winning film *Datong: The Great Society* (2011) into the libretto as *Datong: The Chinese Utopia*, which was presented by the Hong Kong Arts Festival and staged in London in 2017.

Chan is also a writer whose work has appeared in many Chinese and English publications. His English-language play, adapted from Chinese writer Eileen Chang's novel *Naked Earth*, was staged at New York's Bank Street Theater.

### Filmography:

*To Liv(e)* 《浮世戀曲》 (1992), *Crossings* 《錯愛》 (1994), *Journey to Beijing* 《北征》 (1998), *Adeus Macau* 《澳門二千》 (2000), *The Map of Sex and Love* 《情色地圖》 (2001), *Bauhinia* 《紫荊》 (2002), *The Life and Times of Wu Zhongxian* 《吳仲賢的故事》 (2002), *Sorceress of the New Piano: The Artistry of Margaret Leng Tan* 《靈琴新韻》 (2004), *Makrokosmos I & II* 《宏宇》 (2004), *The Maverick Piano* 《獨行琴》 (2007), *Datong: The Great Society* 《大同：康有為在瑞典》 (2011), *Two or Three Things About Kang Youwei* 《康有為二三事》 (2012), *The Rose of the Name: Writing Hong Kong* 《名字的玫瑰—“董啟章”地圖》 (2014), *Raise the Umbrellas* 《撐傘》 (2016), *Death in Montmartre* 《蒙馬特·女書》 (2017).

[www.evanschan.com](http://www.evanschan.com)

## Discussant

### Prof. Leo Ou-fan Lee

**Leo Ou-fan Lee** is currently the Sin Wai Kin Professor of Chinese Culture at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. He received his Ph. D. degree from Harvard in 1970 and has taught at Harvard, UCLA, Chicago, Indiana, and Princeton Universities in the United States, as well as the University of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology as visiting professor.

His scholarly publications in English include: Shanghai Modern: The Flowering of a New Form of Urban Culture, 1930-1945 (Harvard University Press, 1999), Voices from the Iron House: A Study of Lu Xun (Indiana University Press, 1987), The Romantic Generation of Modern Chinese Writers (Harvard, 1973), City between Worlds: My Hong Kong (Harvard University Press, 2008), and Musings: Reading Hong Kong, China and the World (Hong Kong: Muse Books, 2011). In Hong Kong, he is known as both a scholar and cultural critic and has published more than 20 books in Chinese across a wide spectrum of subjects: literature, Hong Kong culture, film, classic music, and architecture.

## Moderator

### Prof Stephen CK Chan

**Stephen Chan** is Professor of Cultural Studies, Lingnan University, and Chair of the international Association for Cultural Studies. He was the founding Head of LU's Cultural Studies Department in 2000. Chan received his BA and MPhil (Chinese/Comparative Literature) from University of Hong Kong, and PhD in Literature from University of California, San Diego. Published on Hong Kong culture, film, literature, education and cultural studies, Chan's current interests are cultural politics and identity formation; martial arts cinema; pedagogy, performance and creativity studies. He edited "Hong Kong at a Crossroads" for *Inter-Asia Cultural Studies* (vol. 16, no. 3, 2015).

Registration: <http://www.hkaconlineregistration.com/event.php?lang=&en=NDM4>