Introducing a World of Interdependency: Globalization and the Creation of Global Issues

Dr Anna Lee, Assistant Professor

Globalization refers to processes of economic, political, and social integration that have collectively created ties that make a difference to lives around the planet. These integrations mean that what happens “here” (like you using your smartphones) affects things over “there” (like labours working extra hours in assembling the phones). Reciprocally, the interconnectedness of the processes can work the other way round with events over “there” (like NGOs advocating for actions against labour exploitation) leading to effects “here” (like you wishing no forced labours are involved in making the phone). Also, in the era of globalization, something new is happening in the world and new concerns and issues are increasingly being recognized as global in nature. This feature talk will introduce students to some of the key forces of globalisation and enable students to make sense of how and why “global issues” need to be considered.

Young Female Model and Otaku: Gender and Sexuality in Hong Kong

Dr Mario Liong, Assistant Professor

In recent years, the intensely sexualized images of “leng mo” (young female models) have entered into the social sphere due to their transgression of the erotic and decent boundaries, making sexual objectification of women’s bodies and display of masculine heterosexuality pervasive in various spcoaö interactions than before. Dr Liong will talk about what gender and sexual conceptions these images and their consumption convey for both young women and men.

Ads in Wonderland: How Out-of-the-box Advertisements Get Made into Reality

Dr Allie Tang, Assistant Professor

In today’s saturated and highly competitive market, firms definitely need a creative twist to market their business. Is innovative thinking a learnt skill or an innate talent? Do I have to believe as many as six impossible things before breakfast for creativity? Do I have to join a mad hatter tea party to nurture my out-of-the-box mindset? Let’s explore how fascinating advertisements are catapulted from wonderland to the real world.
Who Has Stolen My Song? Tunes and Adaptations in Western Pop and Cantopop Music

Ms Li Wai Chung, Assistant Professor

In popular music production, tunes’ adaptation can be observed anywhere: this is the practice of re-using a previously composed tune or melody by different producers along the history. The issue of authenticity – whether a composition should be regarded as an original music, or just a copycat of some earlier works – has always been under intense debate. This lecture aims at introducing the use of tunes and adaption in pop songs of the U.S. and Hong Kong in the 1960s. I will discuss the tunes of adaptation in both western pop and Cantopop, how two genres are related to each other and other musical styles (such as Cantonese opera and African American music), and how each genre is associated with different socio-cultural issues at the time (such as race, copyright, profit-making, aesthetics, and creativity).

“Natural Functions Must Be Performed at the Appropriate Places”

Dr Jacob Meunier, Assistant Professor

The rapid development of industry that began in Great Britain in the late eighteenth century is called the Industrial Revolution. Spreading quickly to the European continent and North America, it transformed the lives of millions of ordinary people. For centuries, farming had been a way of life for all but the very wealthiest Europeans. Families worked together, planting crops and raising animals they needed for food, while inhabiting small cottages scattered across the countryside. Within a few short decades their lives were transformed by a new system of production and social organization: the urban factory system.

How did people adapt to life in the new factories? To answer this question, social historians study “primary source” documents left behind by workers, their supervisors, and other contemporary observers. One such primary source, a rulebook issued to employees at a factory in Berlin in 1844, will be the focus of this talk. Following a brief introduction to the Industrial Revolution, we will examine several of the rules to see what they reveal about the attitudes of both workers and their bosses toward factory work. How attitudes have changed since 1844—and how they have stayed the same—may surprise you!

What is Discourse Analysis? Is it useful for Language Learning?

Dr Michael Wong, Associate Professor

Discourse analysis is the examination of language use by members of a speech community. The speaker will share with the audience different definitions and concepts of discourse analysis and discuss its effectiveness in language learning by using a number of intelligible examples. Students should find the information relevant to their own interests.

Your selection of the feature talk topic is subject to the availability of our teachers.

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