

What's new at the CEFC?

Perspectives chinoises has just been officially recognized by the French Agency for the evaluation of scientific research (AERES) as an authoritative academic journal in both political sciences and sociology/demography.

Conference and Seminars

Upcoming Conference

Filming on the margins

Dates: 2-3 April 2010

Venue: Hong Kong Science Museum Lecture Hall

Languages: English and Mandarin with simultaneous interpretation

Co-organised by the CEFC and HKIFF 2010

Independent film in China has, from its inception, been associated with the margins of society: the alternative world of artists in Wu Wenguang's *Bumming in Beijing*, laid-off workers in Wang Bing's *West of Tracks*, or the victims of Mao's campaigns in Hu Jie's *Though I am gone*. Two recent films offer an opportunity to reflect on the question of margins and central values. Zhao Liang's *Petition* films the "petitioners," victims of injustice from the whole of China who have exhausted all channels of appeal, over a period of ten years, thus giving voice to their grievances that no-one will listen to. Lou Ye's film *Nights of Spring Fever*, loosely based on Yu Dafu's early narrative explorations of sexuality, breaks with this aesthetics of documentary realism, social approach and political commitment, giving primacy to individuality, and a more subjective approach to questions of sexuality and identity. Taken together, they represent two different directions within independent cinema, opening new angles for discussion on realism, social issues, and "independence."

April 2 (Friday)

12:30 Screening: Zhao Liang, *Petition* (2009, 124 min)

Followed by Q&A with director Zhao Liang

Panel discussion (free admission):

Chair: Jean-Philippe Béja, Senior Research Fellow, French Centre for Research on Contemporary China

15:15 Jean-Philippe Tessé (Deputy chief editor, Les Cahiers du cinéma): Order and Disorder in Zhao Liang's films.

15:45 Yu Jianrong 于建嵘 (Professor, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences): Petitioning: the inextricable dilemma in Chinese politics 上访：中国政治的二难选择

16:15 Zhao Liang

16:45 Roundtable discussion

17:30 End

For more information, [click here](#)

Upcoming Seminar

中国劳 动教养制度批判”

“A denunciation of the system of Re-education through labour”

by Yu Jianrong, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

Date: Thursday 1 April @ 7pm

Venue: Room Segalen, 25/F Admiralty Centre, Tower 2, 18 Harcourt Road, Hong Kong

Yu Jianrong has obtained a PhD in law from the Normal University of Central China in 2001. He is presently the director of the Centre on Social Problems of the Institute on Agriculture at CASS. He has been working on peasants' rightful resistance and on workers protest. His main publications include *The Situation of the Chinese Working Class: Notes from Anyuan*, Hongkong, Mirror Books, 2006, and *Chinese Peasants Rights Defense Resistance*, Hongkong, Mirror Books, 2006.

For more information, [click here](#)

April 3 (Saturday)

12:30 Screening: Lou Ye, *Spring Fever* (2009, 112 min)

Panel discussion (free admission):

Chair: Sebastian Veg (Researcher, French Centre for Research on Contemporary China)

15:00 Opening remarks: Marginality and individuality from Yu Dafu's to Lou Ye's Spring Fever.

15:20 Esther C. M. Yau 丘静美 (Associate Professor, University of Hong Kong): Eros and Melancholy in Summer Palace and Spring Fever

15:50 Emilie Yeh Yueh-yu 葉月瑜 (Professor, Hong Kong Baptist University), discussant.

16:10 Jean-Philippe Tessé (Deputy chief editor, Les Cahiers du cinéma), discussant.

17:00 End

Rencontre avec le photographe Eric

Dessert

Conférence et diaporama

Suivi d'une séance de dédicaces de l'ouvrage

Une autre Chine, aux éditions Lieux Dits

co-organisée par l'Alliance française de HK et le CEFC

Date: 31 mars 2010 à 19h00

Venue: Room Segalen, 25/F, Admiralty Centre Tower 2, 18 Harcourt Road, Hong Kong

Eric Dessert, voyageur et photographe, sait prendre le temps de regarder un paysage, un visage ou un objet avant de poser sa chambre noire sur son trépied et de créer une image. Grand voyageur, il construit son oeuvre autour de ses nombreuses expériences à l'étranger, au Japon, en Roumanie, en Chine ou à Jérusalem. Son art est une forme d'ascèse. Appareil à l'épaule, il trimbale sa chambre dans le monde entier et nous rapporte des images en noir et blanc, précises et expurgées de tout exotisme.

For more information, [click here](#)

Previous Seminars

"Underground Front - The Chinese Communist Party in Hong Kong"

Book presentation and discussion

by **Christine Loh**, CEO of Civic Exchange

Date: Tuesday 16 March @ 7pm

Venue: Room Segalen, 25/F, Admiralty Centre, Tower 2, 18 Harcourt Road, Hong Kong

For more information and to listen to the seminar, click here

"Histoire de la présence maritime française à Hong Kong et en mer de Chine du sud"

par **Christian Ramage**, consul général adjoint au consulat général de France à Hong Kong et Macao

Date: Jeudi 11 mars à 19h

Lieu : Salle Segalen, 25/F, Admiralty Centre, Tower 2, 18 Harcourt Road, Hong Kong

For more information and to listen to the seminar, click here

Taiwanese youth's will to fight: When pragmatism meets identity

book presentation and discussion on:

L'esprit de défense de Taiwan face à la Chine. La jeunesse taiwanaise face à la tentation de la Chine, Paris, L'Harmattan, 2009, 258 pp.

by **Jean-Pierre Cabestan**, Professor and Head, Department of Government and International Studies at Hong Kong Baptist University

Tanguy Le Pesant, Assistant Professor, National Central University, Chongli, Taiwan

Date: Thursday 4 March @ 7pm

Venue: Room Segalen, 25/F, Admiralty Centre, Tower 2, 18 Harcourt Road, Hong Kong

For more information and to listen to the seminar, click here

"Reflection on Chinese Civilisation" (中国文明的反思)

by **Xiao Jiansheng**, author, journalist at the Hunan Daily and

Bao Pu, publisher, head of New Century Press

Date: Thursday 28 January @ 7pm

Venue: Room Segalen, 25/F, Admiralty Centre, Tower 2, 18 Harcourt Road, Hong Kong

For more information and to listen to the seminar, click here

"Building Constitutionalism in China"

book presentation and discussion on China's most recent legal and judicial developments

by **Stéphanie Balme**, research fellow at Sciences Po Paris

Date: Thursday 4 February @ 7pm

Venue: Room Segalen, 25/F, Admiralty Centre, Tower 2, 18 Harcourt Road, Hong Kong

For more information and to listen to the seminar, click here

A Documentary Film Symposium: "History, Trauma and Memory"

Film Screenings and Symposium:

5.00pm IN THE NAME OF THE EMPEROR (Nancy Tong, 1998) (「奉天皇之名」)

6.30pm YASUKUNI (Li Ying, 2007) (「靖国神社」)

Post-Screening Film Symposium:

Dr. Esther Yau (HKU, Department of Comparative Literature) (Facilitator), **Nancy Tong** (Producer, co-director, IN THE NAME OF THE EMPEROR, Visiting Associate Professor, HKU Journalism and Media Studies Programme), **Li Ying** (Director, YASUKUNI)

Dr. Sebastian Veg (French Centre for Research on Contemporary China, HKU Department of Comparative Literature), **Dr. Song Gang** (HKU, School of Chinese) and **Dr. Wang Aihe** (HKU, School of Chinese)

Co-organized CEFC, HKU School of Humanities, HKU Centre for the Study of Globalization and Cultures, HKU School of Chinese, Chinese History and Culture Programme, HKU Journalism and Media Studies Centre and HKU Department of Comparative Literature.

For more information and to listen to the seminar, click here

Research and Researchers

Jean-François Huchet

Publications:

Book Published:

Marlène Laruelle, Jean-François Huchet, Sébastien Peyrouse, Bayram Balci (eds.), « "China and India in Central Asia", New York, Palgrave, à paraître

Chapters in Books:

Huchet Jean-François, « Foreign investment since 1949 », in David Pong (ed.), Encyclopedia of Modern China, Detroit, MI, Charles Scribner's Sons, pp. 77-79, 2009.

Huchet Jean-François, « Entre rivalités géostratégiques et concurrence économique : l'émergence d'une relation pragmatique entre l'Inde et la Chine », in Jean-Luc Racine (ed.), L'Inde et l'Asie, Paris, 2009, 213 p.

Fieldwork:

Jean-François Huchet went to Beijing from January 18 to February 3. He realized survey on the Part of the Government in the Chinese industrial take-off.

Lecture:

Jean-François Huchet was invited on March 08 2010 by the Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies of the Chinese University of Hong Kong to give a 3 hours lecture at Chinese University of Hong Kong, on the Evolution of Sino - India Bilateral relations.

Interviews:

Jean-François Huchet has been interviewed by the French economic weekly magazine L'expansion, by the Belgium daily newspaper L'écho, by the French daily newspaper Ouest France and by the French radio BFM for the Radio programme Chine Hebdo

Jean-Philippe Béja

Fieldworks:

9 December 2009 : Defense of Séverine Arsène's doctoral dissertation at Sciences-Po Paris, « The Political Expression of China's Netizens », that I supervised. Ms Arsène obtained the highest grade : « Mention très honorable avec félicitations du jury à l'unanimité »

29 December 2009- 6 January 2010 : Fieldwork in Beijing. Interviews on the trial of Liu Xiaobo, discussions with signatories of Charter 08 in order to prepare an international symposium that I co-organize with Eva Pils (CUHK) and Fu Hualing (HKU) on the following subject : « Liu Xiaobo's trial : the sign of a political change ? » which will take place at the end of May 2010

Mission in Beijing :

Jean-Philippe Béja was supposed to take part on March 27th in a symposium organized in Peking by

Mr Tie Liu, a former Rightist on « the 1957 Anti-Rightist Movement », as part of my research program on Memory, History and Political Change in the People's Republic. Unhappily, this symposium has been canceled on March 26th following an intervention by the CCP department of propaganda.

Interviews with political science specialists and with colleagues of Liu Xiaobo in preparation of my intervention in the conference I will co-organize with the departments of law of HKU and CUHK on May 21st and 22nd at the University of Hong Kong on « Liu Xiaobo's Trial : A Watershed in Chinese Politics ? »

Interview with Prof.Zhou Xiaozheng, who is preparing the creation of a political sciences department at Tsinghua University to explore the possibilities of collaboration on my program on « Memory and the writing of history ».

Interview with Wu Si, Editor of *Yanhuan chunqiu*, a history journal. We explored the possibility of a regular collaboration on reflexion over the writing of history in the People's Republic.

Scientific Animation:

Since the beginning of 2010, Jean-Philippe Béja have started to teach a course on « Political Reform in the People' Republic of China » in the Department of Governement and Politics at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Jean-Philippe Béja chaired the seminar on "Underground Front - The Chinese Communist Party in Hong Kong" with Christine Loh, 16 March.

Jean-Philippe Béja chaired a seminar intitled "A denunciation of the system of Re-education through labour" with Yu Jianrong (Chinese Academy of Social Sciences) and a debate around Zhao Liang's *Petition*, with Zhao Liang (director), Jean-Philippe Tessé (*Les cahiers du cinéma*) and Yu Jianrong (CASS) on 1st April.

Sébastien Billiou

Fieldwork:

Sébastien Billiou carried out some fieldwork on "minjian" Confucianism in Taiwan and in Guangdong.

Sylvie Démurger

Publications:

Peer-reviewed article:

DEMURGER S., GURGAND M., LI S., YUE X., « Migrants as second-class workers in urban China? A

decomposition analysis », Journal of Comparative Economics, December 2009, 37(4):610-628.

Working paper:

DEMURGER S., XU H., "Return migrants: The rise of new entrepreneurs in rural China", Working Paper mars 2010.

Article Presentation:

"Return migration and occupational mobility in rural China: a case study of Wuwei county" at the 2009 International Symposium on Contemporary Labor Economics, Xiamen University, China. International conference organized by the Wang Yanan Institute for Studies in Economics (WISE)

Paul Jobin

Publications:

Chapter in book:

Paul Jobin, Keisuke Kikuchi, Sara Liverant, « Mémoires et responsabilités de guerre : les procès de Tôkyô et de La Haye », p.9-19.

Editorial Activity:

Paul Jobin, Keisuke Kikuchi, Sara Liverant, Dossier « Mémoires et responsabilités de guerre : les procès de Tôkyô et de La Haye », Droit et cultures, No 58, L'Harmattan, Paris, 2009/2, p. 9-176.

Articles presentations:

« L'amiante encore. Les procès en cours au Japon » at the International conference intitled Le risque industriel, une question de sciences humaines et sociales at ENS, Lyon the 24-25 mars 2010 organized by Thierry Coanus, ENS, ENTPE, CNRS (UMR 5600)

“Guinea pigs go to court. Two cases of industrial hazards (CMR) in Taiwan” at the International conference Carcinogens, Mutagens, Reproductive Toxicants: the Politics of Limit Values and Low Doses in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries at Strasbourg University, 29-31 mars 2010 organized by Soraya Boudia, Nathalie Jas (Université de Strasbourg, ANR, MISHA)

Scientific Animation:

Invited Discutant of the Franco-Japanese Quatrième atelier de présentation de travaux dans le cadre du programme de recherche franco-japonais ANR/JSPS sur la silicose et les maladies de l'amiante (en japonais)

Fieldworks:

Paul Jobin realizes a survey on dioxin and Mercury pollutions at Anshun (Tainan, Taiwan) from February 1st to April 26, with Cheng Kung University, Tainan

Paul Jobin realized a comparative of survey lean management (toyotisme) in France/Taiwan/Japan; wtth CHSCT Airbus Industries (Nantes) on March 26 2010

Interviews:

Paul Jobin has been interviewed by the Swiss radio

Radio Suisse Romande for the programme « Passé Présent » (information) and by the French daily newspaper Le Monde dated of 25 February 2010.

Jean Ruffier

Working paper:

Jean RUFFIER (2010), Rapport d'acceptation de la thèse de doctorat de Monsieur Lansana SEYDI, Le commerce international de la Chine et du Brésil – Après l'ouverture du marché : la voie vers le développement ?, Thèse de doctorat soutenue à l'Université de Paris 3 – Sorbonne Nouvelle le 11 janvier, jury Jean RUFFIER (président), Pierre SALAMA et Sylvain ZEGHNI (rapporteurs), Rabah BENAKOUCHE et Xavier RICHET (directeur), 425 p.

Fieldwork:

Objet : Soutenance de thèse et conférences invitées

Organisme partenaire : Université Sorbonne Nouvelle Paris 3 et Université Jean Moulin Lyon 3

Pays d'accueil : France

Durée sur l'année et dates : une semaine janvier 2010

Sebastian Veg

Publications:

Peer-reviewed articles:

Introduction, « Opening public spaces », and coordination of the special feature “Independent Chinese cinema: Filming in the ‘space of the people’,” China Perspectives no. 2010/1.

Article Presentation:

« De l'histoire à la fiction : questions sur la genèse de la littérature chinoise moderne », colloque « Fiction et cultures », Université Paris 7, 8-9 janvier 2010.

« From Meiji modernity to the Nanking massacre: Yasukuni's critical perspective on history and memory », conference intitled A Documentary Film Symposium: "History, Trauma and Memory", Hong Kong University, 3 February 2010.

Participation in an journée d'études interdisciplinaire sur « Littérature et politique », CRAL-GRIHL-CRA, EHESS Paris, 6 February 2010.

Participation in the seminar "Su Tong's The Age of Tattoo", Hong Kong University, 12 March 2010.

Fieldworks:

Sebastian Veg conducted research on Contemporary Chinese cinema and literature, 27 February to 5 March 2010.

David Bartel

David Bartel has participated in the PhD Candidate

seminar "The Three Histories of Jin Guantao – A Journey in Chinese Contemporary Historiography", EHESS/CECMC, March 9th, 2010.

David Bartel has participated in Prof. Michel Bonnin's Seminar "Modalities of Intellectual Practices in Contemporary China", EHESS/CECMC, March 12th, 2010

Judith Pernin

Publications:

Peer-reviewed articles:

« Filming Space/Mapping Reality in Chinese Independent Documentary Films », China Perspectives, mars 2010.

« Filmer l'espace - cartographier le réel », Perspectives chinoises, mars 2010.

Chapter in Book:

Sous presse : « Cinéma et écriture de l'histoire: le cas des documentaires indépendants chinois », in Jean-Pierre Bertin-Maghit (ed.), Quand Clio s'empare du documentaire, Paris, INA L'Harmattan, 2010

Editorial Activity:

China Perspectives & Perspectives chinoises 2010-1 : « Le cinéma indépendant chinois : filmer dans 'l'espace du peuple' »

Claudia Astarita

Publications:

Chapter in Book:

"Problemi e prospettive delle Zone economiche speciali indiane", in S. Mezzetti e G. Prodi (eds.), Produrre nella terra dei servizi. Le imprese italiane in India, Bologna, Il Mulino, 2009.

Book review:

Kent E. Calder and Francis Fukuyama (eds), East Asian Multilateralism: Prospects for Regional Stability, Millennium - Journal of International Studies 2009 38: 489-491.

Translations:

"Problems and prospects of Indian special economic zones", in S. Mezzetti e G. Prodi (eds.), Producing in the land of services. Italian companies in India, Bologna, Il

Mulino, 2009.

Gladys Chicharro Saito

Publications:

Book:

Le fardeau des petits empereurs. Une génération d'enfants uniques en Chine, Nanterre, Société d'ethnologie.

Article Presentation:

"Du pinceau à l'ordinateur : Révolution numérique et réinvention de l'écriture par les jeunes Chinois" at the conference "L'hétérogène de l'écriture" organised by L'éphémère Laboratoire

Marylène Lieber

Publications:

Peer-reviewed articles:

Lévy Florence, Lieber Marylène (2009). "La sexualité comme ressource migratoire. Les Chinoises du Nord à Paris", Revue française de sociologie, vol. 50, no 4, p. 719-746.

Lieber Marylène (2010). "Chinese migrants in Switzerland: from mutual assistance to promoting economic interests", Journal of Chinese Overseas, vol. 6, no 1 (Forthcoming).

Other Articles:

Lieber Marylène, Dahinden Janine, Hertz Ellen (Eds.) (2010). Cachez ce travail que je ne saurais voir? Ethnographies du travail du sexe, Lausanne, Antipodes (Forthcoming).

Chapters in book:

Lieber Marylène, Lévy Florence (2010). "Le faire sans 'en être'. Le dilemme identitaire des prostituées chinoises à Paris", in Lieber Marylène, Dahinden Janine, Hert Ellen (Eds.), Sexe, race et classe : pour une épistémologie de la domination. Paris : PUF.

Book reviews:

Lieber Marylène, Peng Jenyu (2009). "Le srevues en mandarin sur le genre". Les cahiers du genre, no 47.

Recension de : Lombardo Emanuela, Meier Petra, Verloo Mieke (2009). The discursive Politics of Gender Equality. Oxon : Routledge in (2010). Revue française de science politique, vol. 60, no 2. (Forthcoming).

CHINA PERSPECTIVES 2010/1

Special Feature.

Independent Chinese Cinema: “Filming in the “Space of the People”

The special feature on independent Chinese cinema brings together research articles and documents from several seminars held in the HKIFF. It proposes to analyze “independence” in spatial terms, examining the spaces shown on screen as well as the social spaces in which independent films circulate. Independent cinema is thus considered on the context of the unofficial sphere of *minjian* or “space of the people.”

p.1 [Editorial](#) - Sebastian Veg • Judith Pernin

p.4 [Opening Public Spaces](#) - Sebastian Veg

p.11 [Realisms within Conundrum: The Personal and Authentic Appeal in Jia Zhangke's Accented Films](#) - Esther M. K. Cheung

With persistent efforts on constructing personal and collective memories arising from the unprecedented transformations in post-socialist China, Jia Zhangke has produced an ensemble of realist films with an impressive personal and authentic appeal. This paper examines how his films are characterised by a variety of accents, images of authenticity, a quotidian ambience, and a new sense of materiality within the local-global nexus. Within a tripartite model of truth, identity, and performance, Jia's oeuvres demonstrate the powerful performativity of different modes of realism arising out of a state of conundrum when China undergoes a transition from planned economy into wholesale marketisation and globalisation.

p.22 [Filming Space/Mapping Reality in Chinese Independent Documentary Films](#) - Judith Pernin

This article is a general attempt to sum up and challenge some of the issues the notion of Space raises when in contact with the Chinese independent documentary film movement. I will focus my analysis on how this concept influences the choice of topics, the roles it plays during the shooting process and how the representation of space in these films is linked to the emergence of a new documentary aesthetic and practice.

p.33 [Filming Power and the Powerless: Zhao Liang's Crime and Punishment\(2007\) and Petition\(2009\)](#) - Jie Li

*This article discusses two recent works by emerging documentary auteur Zhao Liang, *Crime and Punishment*(2007) and *Petition*(2009). These penetrating observations of state-society relations in contemporary China render visible those who are un(der)represented, critique the deception of mass media images, and show the various complex ways in which power is connected to surveillance and visibility. Thus the filmmaker, his camera, and the spectators are implicated in power relationships as we cast voyeuristic, panoptic, activist, empathetic, or critical gazes upon the representatives of state power and upon the disenfranchised.*

Special feature: Documents

p.46 [Irrepressible Images New Films in China from 1995](#) - Jia Zhangke

*Jia Zhangke, who had long accompanied his activities as a film-maker with theoretical reflections in the form of short articles, recently published a collection of his selected writings entitled *Jia Xiang*. *Jia Zhangke dianying shouji 1996–2008. Pai dianying shi wo jiejin ziyou de fangshi*, Beijing, Peking University Press, 2009 (*Jia's thoughts. Jia Zhangke's film notes 1996-2008. Making films is my way of approaching freedom*). Bringing together many important texts, this publication marks a retrospective moment in his work. Three essays have been selected for translation in this issue: “Irrepressible Images,” written in 2002, but which is also a reworking of two seminal essays published in 1998, “The Age of amateur cinema is about to return” and “Now that we have VCDs and digital video cameras.” The article sets out Jia Zhangke's view of how independent film in China developed since the early 1990s. It is followed by one essay on Jia's documentary *In Public*, dealing more specifically with space as an inspiration for film. Also in 2009, to accompany his latest film, *24 City*, Jia published a collection of the interviews on which the film is based, entitled: *Zhongguo gongren fangtan lu. Ershisi cheng ji*(Interviews with Chinese workers. 24 City). A Collective memory of Chinese Working class, Jinan, Shandong huabao chubanshe. The preface to this collection is also included in this issue. (SV)*

p.52 [In Public in My Own Words](#) - Jia Zhangke

p.54 [What Remains is Silence](#) - Jia Zhangke

p.58 [Building a Public Consciousness: A Conversation with Jia Zhangke](#) - Sebastian Veg

This text is transcribed from the recording of a panel discussion organised on 13 April 2009 by the Hong Kong International Film Festival and the French Centre for Research on Contemporary China, as part of the symposium “Between public and private : A space for independent Chinese cinema.” Jia Zhangke's answers to two additional audience questions have been inserted into the discussion where they seemed most relevant.

p.66 [“My motivation is to depict people I can identify with”: An Interview with Ning Ying](#) - S. Louisa Wei

*Ning Ying was admitted to the Beijing Film Academy in 1978 together with the “core” filmmakers of China's Fifth Generation, but she left China for Italy in 1980 and completed her film training in the Rome Film Experimental Academy in 1986. After returning to China the next year, she first worked as Bernardo Bertolucci's assistant director for *The Last Emperor* (1987). She made her directorial debut with a commercially successful film *Someone Loves Just Me* (*You ren pianjian aishang wo*, 1990), and then directed her “Beijing Trilogy”: *For Fun* (*Zhao le*, 1992), *On the Beat* (*Mingjing gushi*, 1995), and *I Love Beijing* (*Xiari nuan yangyang*, 2000). *For Fun* and *On the Beat* received many awards at international film festivals, and her realistic representation of contemporary China is highly regarded. Ning Ying's 2001 documentary *Railroad of Hope* (*Xiwang zhi lü*) won the Grand Prize at the Cinema du Réel festival in Paris. Her 2005 feature *Perpetual Motion* (*Wuqiong dong*) was awarded “Most Original Film” at the Rome Asian Film Festival in 2006. (SLW)*

p.71 [“My Work Constitutes a Form of Participatory Action”: An Interview with Ai Xiaoming](#) - Peng Yurong • Judith Pernin

*Ai Xiaoming, born in 1953 in Wuhan, is a retired professor in the literature department of Guangzhou's Sun Yat-Sen University. Following an academic career in comparative literature, she came out as a public intellectual, initially through involvement in defending women's and gays rights. She organised many activities to raise awareness on issues such as discrimination and violence against women, the most famous of which was the translation and staging of *The Vagina Monologues* with her students. While she initially used documentary filmmaking as a tool to record and disseminate these activities for educative purposes, she quickly extended her work on video to the documenting of current cases of public violations of rights. In the past few years, she has produced a corpus of around ten independent documentaries on subjects such as village elections and property rights, AIDS, and the Sichuan earthquake scandal. (JP)*

p.78 [New Chinese Cinema at the HKIFF: A Look Back at the Last 20 Years](#) - Li Cheuk-To • Wong Ain-Ling • Jacob Wong

The Hong Kong International Film Festival was one of the earliest places where new Chinese films were shown outside China. In this article, three curators involved in the selection explain how they were first received.

Articles

p.85 [Public Opinion and the Death Penalty Debate in China](#) - Zhang Ning

What role does public opinion play in the present debate over the death penalty in China? Should one settle for an image of unanimous public support for the death penalty? The starting point of this article is a study of the growing awareness among Chinese legal experts, during the first decade of the millennium, of the particular role played by public opinion. Faced with violent opposition to their project to abolish the death penalty for economic crimes, legal experts share their concerns when confronted with such popular pressures, which can be reminiscent of certain Maoist practices. Using analyses of certain recent cases, the author seeks to bring out the other dimensions that make up public opinion, in order to question an idea that is ambiguous and problematical in the context of today's China.

p.97 [The Emergence of a Collaborative Approach Challenges Hong Kong's Urban Planning Model](#) - Nicolas Douay

Urban planning in Hong Kong is being transformed with the expansion of civil society and the development of various community movements. They are posing a challenge to current urban planning practices and throwing up conditions for a collaborative approach to urban planning, fashioning alternative strategies.

Current Affairs

p.110 [China Analysis](#) - Thomas Vendryes • Candice Tran Dai

Book Reviews

p.114 [Lung Yingtai, Da jiang da hai – 1949 \(Big River, big sea. Untold stories of 1949\) and Chi Pang-yuan, Ju liu he \(The River of Big Torrents\)](#) - Leo Ou-Fan Lee

p.117 [Larissa N. Heinrich, The Afterlife of Images: Translating the Pathological Body between China and the West](#) - David Luesink p.119 [Jay Taylor, The Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek and the Struggle for Modern China](#) - Tzu-Chin

p.120 [Pallavi Aiyar, Smoke and Mirrors: An Experience of China](#) - N. Jayaram

p.122 [Yan Hairong, New Masters, New Servants: Migration, Development, and Women Workers in China](#) - Mei-Lin Ellerman

p.124 [Anne-Marie Brady, Marketing Dictatorship: Propaganda and Thought Work in Contemporary China](#) - Marie-Eve Reny

