

CULTURAL HERITAGE



Fishermen's Churches in Hong Kong

Dr. Agnes Suk-man Pang, an Assistant Professor and Associate Head of the History Department at Hong Kong Shue Yan University, documented the development of fishermen's churches from their inception to the decline of the fishing industry in the 1960s and 1970s. Utilizing historical archives, old photos, Christian fishing folk songs, oral histories and field studies, Dr. Pang's research revealed the unique cultural and religious dynamics within the fishing community and the collaboration between Chinese pastors and Western missionaries. The findings provide a new perspective on Hong Kong's cultural identity and the broader societal development influenced by religion, highlighting the significant role of Western missionaries in supporting Hong Kong's marginalized fishing community during the early 20th century and their influence on the transition of Christian fishermen from traditional folk beliefs. Public lectures and book launches held at Hong Kong Shue Yan University in September 2023 attracted around 150 attendees from diverse backgrounds, including academics, school teachers, students, history enthusiasts, and members of Christian churches. These activities have made Dr. Pang's research accessible to a wide audience, fostering a greater appreciation for Hong Kong's cultural and religious history. Media coverage, including articles in Wen Wei Po, has further highlighted the importance of preserving Hong Kong's intangible cultural heritage, including fishermen's traditions and local history.

Dr. Pang's research has increased public awareness and interest in the unique role of fishermen's churches in Hong Kong's socio-cultural history, demonstrating the translatability of Christianity into local cultural traditions. By documenting and sharing these stories, the project has contributed to a deeper understanding of the cultural and religious heritage of the fishing community. The research has also sparked discussions on the preservation of intangible cultural heritage, emphasizing the need to protect and celebrate the traditions and histories of marginalized communities.



“Appreciation for the cultural and religious heritage of Fishermen's Church in Hong Kong's history”



Related Publication

彭淑敏 (2023), 香港漁民教會, 香港: 基督教中國宗教文化研究社

Funding: From Tradition to Modernity: Christianity and Fishermen's Churches in Hong Kong [Lord Wilson Heritage Trust]