

Monthly newsletter: February 2017



Message from Keith

Welcome back! And on behalf of everyone at the JMASC, we want to wish you a Happy Year of the Rooster.

We had a relatively slow motion opening to our Spring semester, as classes resumed on 16 January after the long winter break, and the Lunar New Year began just ten days later. But we're back now, buckled up and ready for another active stretch of classes, events, speakers and outside activities.

This is going to be a busy period for journalists in this part of the world. In Hong Kong, the race for chief executive appears to be intensifying, with five candidates now vying for the post. There were new concerns about the city's autonomy after the disappearance of a Chinese billionaire believed spirited back to China. The new Trump administration in Washington is still getting settled but is already raising fears about the prospect of a trade war between the US and China. There are new worries about tension in the South China Sea and across the Taiwan Strait.

This year also marks the 20th anniversary of Hong Kong's handover to China, and we at the JMASC will be marking that too (and it will be particularly memorable for me, since I covered the handover as the Hong Kong correspondent for *The Washington Post*). Stay tuned here for more details.

I've said before, this is an exciting time to be a journalist, and an exciting time to be back in Asia—and events right now prove the point. Our student journalists here at the JMSC, many just back from winter internships and “real world” reporting experiences, are ready to seize this great opportunity to produce top quality journalism.

This month's newsletter will highlight some of our most recent activities, as well as providing links to our staff's work and, most impressively, our student activities. I encourage you all to have a look.

I read that the feng shui masters are predicting this Year of the Fire Rooster will be marked by aggression and heated arguments. Let's keep our fingers crossed that they may be wrong. But as journalists, we will have our notebooks and cameras out and be ready for whatever comes.

Keith

Keith Richburg
JMSC Director

Highlights last month

MJ 2017–18 Admissions

Webinar

Prospective MJ students from around the world joined Keith Richburg and current students to learn all about the MJ programme in [this one-hour webinar](#) broadcast live from the new studio on 14 January. MJ Tamsyn Burgmann also presented [this Facebook Live](#) to tee up the webinar.



New partnership between the JMSC and Asia Sentinel to produce local and regional reporting

Under the new collaboration, JMSC



Winner of 2014 SOPA Awards for Excellence in Explanatory Journalism

students will pitch stories of local and regional interest to Asia Sentinel, allowing them to work directly with professional editors to produce digital story packages for a general audience—in other words, producing journalism for wider readership, not just for the classroom. Read more [here](#).

International journalism students come alive studying in Hong Kong and Asia

They come from countries around the world. They speak multiple languages, have held a variety of jobs, and hold different university degrees. But since joining the MJ programme, what this diverse group of international students has in common is the belief that studying in Hong Kong—and the Asian region—is providing them with exciting new opportunities and the fresh inspiration they need to develop as professional journalists. Read more [here](#).



From Mexico to Hong Kong: starting a career as a business and financial journalist

Nicole Pabello comes from Veracruz, a state in Mexico which has been described as one of the most dangerous places for journalists in Latin America. It's a world away from Hong Kong, the city which Pabello now calls home, and where she is training to become a business and financial journalist through the MJ programme. Read more [here](#).



JMSC students learn adaptability is key to “real

world” journalism on winter internships around Asia

From refining interview techniques to experimenting with different writing and video production styles, MJ students learnt that adaptability is key to producing effective journalism during their recent winter internships. Read more [here](#), and more photos from the internships [here](#).



Donors visit new studio and production facilities

Board members from the Azalea Fund [visited the JMSC](#) on Tuesday 17 January to take a tour around the new studio and facilities. The new broadcast studio and production facilities were created with the support of the Azalea (1972) Endowment Fund, established in 2006 by Mr Lawrence Fung Siu-por 馮紹波 (BSocSc, 1972) and Mrs Alexandra Fung Lee Suk-wai 馮李淑慧 (BSocSc, 1972).



Making Sense of the News kicks off

The news literacy MOOC kicked off on 9 January and the team have been uploading sneak preview clips from the course [here](#). Assistant Professor Masato Kajimoto also shared [this one slide explainer](#) on what constitutes fake news.



FCC Thailand panel discussion: Trump and SE Asia

Keith Richburg joined a [panel discussion](#) hosted by the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Thailand on 25 January looking at the likely impact of the Trump presidency on



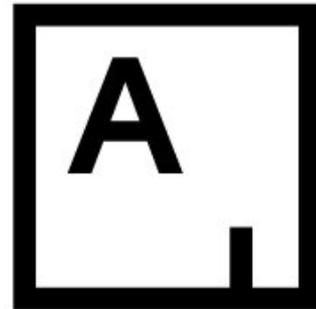
week in rstats

PhD candidate Chan Chung Hong has started a weekly video podcast on the latest developments in the R programming language. Pilot episode [here](#) and Episode 1 [here](#)



Eyeing Recession, Art Stage Singapore Asks If Current Art Fair Model Can Survive

Honorary Lecturer Vivienne Chow looks at one of the biggest art fairs in south-east Asia and how the art market is faring in [this Artsy editorial](#).



We need Cantonese opera IN the city: why a Cantonese opera exhibition at Times Square matters

Vivienne Chow reports on [a Cantonese opera showcase right in the heart of Hong Kong](#), and why it's important to stop Cantonese opera culture fading in the city. Chow also wrote [this piece](#) looking forward to Hong Kong's Art Basel event.



Student news: MJ internships special

Interning at Malaysiakini

Zhang Hao and Juliette Li Xinrui flew to Malaysia and interned with Malaysiakini. Zhang Hao made [this video report](#) about an NGO which provides a safe zone for children in the fight against child abuse. Juliette Li Xinrui helped to shoot [this report](#) about a prize giving ceremony and [this report](#) about a smart city press conference.



On internship at Mizzima in Myanmar

A team of five students interned at Mizzima in Myanmar. Elsie Chen Yi took [this photo](#) which was used as the cover image for *Mizzima Weekly* and Zhang Deming Tedmond also wrote [the cover](#)



[story](#) for the issue. [Ernest Chan](#), [Yizhen Jia](#) and [Yang Deng](#) also had stories published by Mizzima too.

FT Chinese internships

Several MJ students interned with FT Chinese in Beijing this year. They helped to verify data, pitched/translated/wrote stories and produced videos. Among the reports they worked on, Kuki Zhu Xiuxi edited and produced [this video](#) about Trump, the Dodd-Frank Act and the Chinese economy, Zhang Boning researched and wrote [this story](#) about the heavy smog in Beijing, Liu Zhaohui Andy focused on stories about innovation in China's economy, including the reports [here](#) and [here](#), and Wei Shuhang co-authored [this video](#) about the fallen stars of 2016.



First student articles published on Asia Sentinel

The first ten articles by students have been published by Asia Sentinel. The *Asia in 2016* series includes articles on Australia and the Philippines (by Nicole Pabello), China and Korea (by Ada Zheng Xin), India and Indonesia (by Tanvi Gupta), Japan and Taiwan (by Liya Fan), and Thailand and Hong Kong (by Nov Povleakhena). Overview of the articles [here](#).



Interning at GoKunming in mainland China

Wu Xiaoxi and Jonas Kelsch went to GoKunming in south-west China's Yunnan province. Wu Xiaoxi wrote [this story](#) about a new high speed railway connection to Kunming and [this piece](#) about elderly dancers in one of the city's parks. Jonas Kelsch wrote [a range of stories for GoKunming](#), including a review of 2016 [here](#) and [here](#).



A lonely goddess

Kristina Shperlik, interning at the *Nepali Times*, wrote [this story](#) about a former goddess trying to fit back into society. Photos and video by fellow MJ Pan Lan, also in Nepal. Shperlik also wrote [this piece](#) about how a resurgent Russia is reviving the interest of Nepalis in education, trade and tourism. Pan Lan also had [this piece](#) published, looking at relationships between people in China and Nepal.



MJ interview clips

Current MJ [Ernest Chan talks with Keith Richburg](#) about moving to Hong Kong from Canada and how he has found the MJ course so far, including its international mix of students. Tamsyn Burgmann also discusses leaving her job as a senior reporter in Canada and moving to Asia in [this clip](#).



New student Arts & Culture Instagram page

MJ students taking Vivienne Chow's Entertainment, arts and culture journalism course have started a new Instagram page [here](#).



Leaving behind my Daughter to take care of other Children

Current MJ Maria Cristhin Kuiper made [this video](#) about the sacrifices a domestic helper in Hong Kong makes for the future of her daughter.



Hong Kong's 'villain hitters' use sorcery to vent political anger

Current BJ student Eric Cheung co-wrote [this latest piece](#) for *The Guardian* about the roadside vendors who offer curses, blessings and spells against leaders using rituals from southern China that date back centuries.

the guardian



Alumni highlights

BJ named as one of HK's 30 under 30 enterprising young individuals



Ishita Desai (BJ 2014), founder of lifestyle brand Aanya, was named in [The Loop HK's 2016 30 under 30 list](#) of the most enterprising young individuals in the city who have continued to innovate and inspire.

MJ documentary screened by Asia Film Archive in Singapore



The documentary *Goodbye Dear* produced by Arshiya Khullar (MJ 2014) and classmates Susie Wu, Agnes Lu and Kenton Chan for a documentary production class at the JMSC was screened on 11 January at the National Library of Singapore by the Asian Film Archive. You can watch the film [here](#).

Bloomberg internship talk



Fion Li (BJ 2007) [returned to HKU](#) to give a talk about Bloomberg's internship programme on 24 January. Fion was one of the 'Magic 20' first cohort of BJ students and is now Bloomberg's Hong Kong bureau chief.

China's Relentless Media Expansion Creates Challenge of Global Proportions



Jojje Olsson (MJ 2010) writes about [China's media expansion](#) for new publication Taiwan Sentinel.

Lunar New Year reports



In the run up to Chinese New Year, Echo Huang (MJ 2016) wrote several stories for Quartz about the festival and its traditions: about the delicacy of [fat choy](#), [Hong Kong's Lunar New Year flower market](#), [the dishes eaten and their auspicious meanings](#), and [advice on how best to prepare for the festival from her 80-year-old Cantonese grandmother](#). The Quartz team also produced [this script](#) for answering nosy relatives' prying questions over the Lunar New Year.

Auspicious dishes: Get set for the family reunion dinner



Lin Wanxia (MJ 2016) produced [this report](#) for Asia Times about about her family's traditional Chinese New Year dinner. She also wrote [this report](#) about the three billion trips expected to be made over the Lunar New Year period.

How Untrained Canadian Troops Fought and Died in the Defense of Hong Kong



Kevin Lui (MJ 2016) went to Canada's commemoration of the Battle of Hong Kong anniversary and [examined this lesser known part of the city's history](#).

Stories behind Hong Kong districts: Pok Fu Lam Village, once a rural idyll, unbowed amid uncertain future



Christopher Dewolf (MJ 2009) reports for the *SCMP* on [one of Hong Kong Island's few indigenous villages](#), with a history stretching back almost 400 years.

Feature: Journalist Luke Hunt



Erin Hale (MJ 2014) wrote [this profile](#) of one of Cambodia's best-known foreign reporters. Hale also wrote this piece about [how members of Phnom Penh's Boeung Kak Lake community have been fighting against forced evictions since 2007](#).

Choking China



Natasha Khan (MJ 2011) looks at China's pollution problems in this [Quick Take for Bloomberg](#).

Coming up this month

SOPA 2017 Awards deadline: 15 February



The Society of Publishers in Asia (SOPA) 2017 Awards for Editorial Excellence are open for entry until 15 February, with categories including

Journalist of the Year, Excellence in Business Reporting and Excellence in Feature Writing. Two new categories have also been added this year: Excellence in Journalistic Innovation and Excellence in Video Reporting. Full details [here](#) (English) or [here](#) (Chinese).

***Media Law and Policy in the Internet Age* published**



Associate Professor Doreen Weisenhaus' latest book, *Media Law and Policy in the Internet Age*, will be published on 23 February. The book features essays by Weisenhaus and co-author Simon Young of HKU's Faculty of Law, along with some of the world's leading experts who examine the emerging landscape of media law and policy reform in nations with variable political and legal contexts. The book is [available for pre-order now](#).

