



## Monthly newsletter: May 2017



### Message from Keith

Greetings,

It's funny how quickly two decades can fly by.

Twenty years ago, my colleagues and I in the international press were gathered here in Hong Kong for what was then considered one of the most momentous events of the decade; Hong Kong's change of sovereignty from British to Chinese rule.

The details had all been inked out years ahead of time, and the weeks-long events felt a bit contrived—the Handover-themed parties, the concerts, the light shows and fireworks. There was a Handover baby crawl with, yes, 1,997 infants. And the Handover souvenirs ranged from the commemorative to the mildly ridiculous, like a can of “colonial air” that allowed you to take home a sealed whiff of British rule.

But there was also a sense of uncertainty. No one knew exactly what would happen when Communist China, run by a secretive and authoritarian Marxist-Leninist party, took control of one of the world's most open, prosperous and sophisticated cities.

And we were all there to cover the story.

Looking back, it's somewhat amazing how many of us foreign journalists were here to cover the story of the handover. *The Washington Post*, my old paper, *The*

*New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *USA Today* and *The Boston Globe* all opened Hong Kong bureaus for the occasion. Correspondents from *The Chicago Tribune*, *Newsday* and others flew down from Beijing. All the British papers were well represented. The tabloid *New York Post* commissioned George Russell (MJ 2016) to write a piece on how the bar girls of Wanchai would fare under Chinese rule.

After a decade or two of media cutbacks, layoffs and buyouts due to declining readership, many of those media outlets no longer even have foreign correspondents, leaving international news coverage to the wire services.

So was all that handover coverage too much? Was the fear surrounding the coming of Chinese rule over Hong Kong exaggerated? What did we in the media get right about Hong Kong's future under Beijing and what did we get wrong?

Those are some of the questions we will be exploring later in May at a planned panel discussion that will bring together some of the foreign correspondents who were here at the time, from *The New York Times*, CNN, *The Economist*, *The Independent*, and myself. We hope to turn the spotlight critically on ourselves and our coverage at the time, and ask: is Hong Kong 20 years later the place we expected it to be?

We at HKU are also marking another important anniversary this year: the 50th anniversary of the Faculty of Social Sciences, founded in 1967. And in a fortunate coincidence of timing, this will be the JMSC's first major event as a fully-fledged department of the Faculty. So we have two big birthdays converging: the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region turning 20, and the Faculty of Social Sciences celebrating the half-century mark.

The handover panel should make for a lively and illuminating discussion. It will be a great reunion of old hands meeting again after 20 short years, and the JMSC's debutante event as a newly-minted member of the prestigious Faculty of Social Sciences. Look out for

more details to follow shortly by email and on JMSC social media channels, and please join us!

**Keith Richburg**  
**JMSC Director**

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## Highlights last month

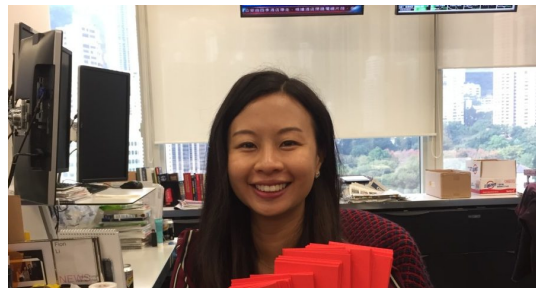
### **New JMSC project focuses on checking and verifying online sources**

The Cyber News Verification Lab is a new project at the JMSC with the aim of bolstering traditional reporting and writing classes to focus on, and apply, verification of online sources. Read more [here](#).



### **From the JMSC to Bloomberg: three alumni tell their stories**

Current Master of Journalism student Katie Lam sat down with Fion Li (BJ 2007), Natasha Khan (MJ 2011) and Adrian Wong (MJ 2011) to find out [how their careers have progressed since leaving the JMSC](#), and hear their thoughts on advice for journalism students today.



### **Dialogue with Filmmakers 2017**

Hong Kong Documentary Initiative's Dialogue with Filmmakers 2017 ran between 10 and 24 April. Visit the [HKDI Facebook page](#) for clips, quotes and photos from the eight filmmakers and six days of screenings and discussions.



### **AFP journalists speak to the Global Issues seminar**

Agence France-Presse APAC director Philippe Massonet, Asia chief editor Giles Hewitt and former editor-in-

chief (and current FCCHK President) Eric Wishart discussed the role of news agencies in the "post-factual" world with JMSC students on 6 April. Read all of the tweets from the seminar [here](#).



### **Eliot Hall: the view from above**

A [short drone video](#) showing JMSC HQ Eliot Hall in all its springtime glory (shot on a DJI Mavic Pro).



### **MJs visit *The Macau Post Daily***

MJs in the Reporting Global Affairs class [visited \*The Macau Post Daily\*](#), Macau's oldest and top circulation English-language newspaper, with Keith Richburg on 28 April and met with Harald Bruning, director of the newspaper. Katy Wong also shared a [live clip](#) from the visit here.



### **Human rights and journalism**

Minky Worden, Director Global Initiatives at Human Rights Watch, [spoke to the Global Issues class](#) about human rights and journalism on 20 April via Skype.

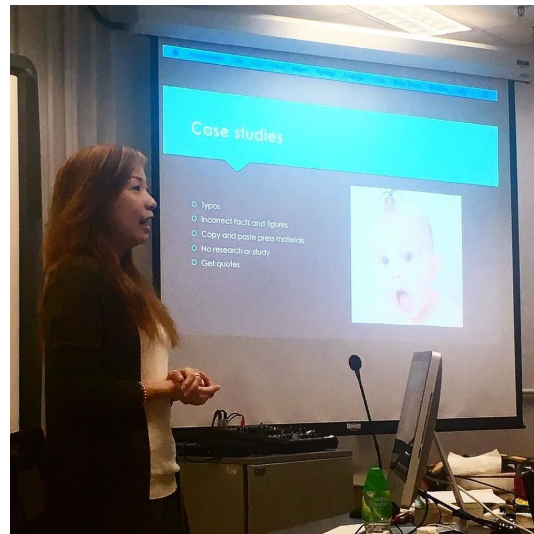


### **Culture journalism and public relations**

Erica Siu of Sutton PR, a global cultural communications agency, [spoke to](#) Honorary Lecturer Vivienne Chow's Entertainment, Arts and Culture Journalism class on 27 April.



Siu shared her experience as a PR person specialising in the arts and the challenges of juggling between journalists and clients.

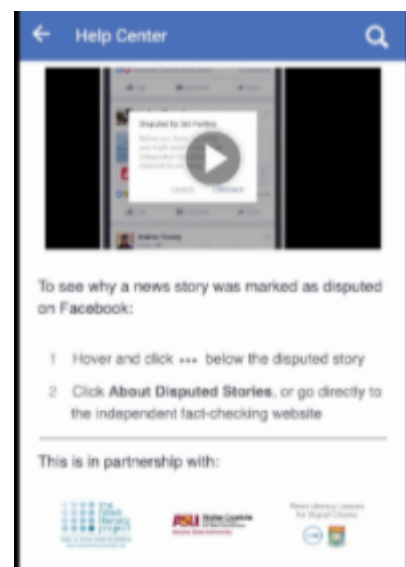


**Feature Writing guest speaker**  
Jason Y. Ng, author, news columnist and President of PEN Hong Kong, gave a [guest talk](#) to David Bandurski's BJ Feature Writing class on 21 April. The group discussed feature writing, the secrets of freelancing, and Ng's latest book about the 2014 pro-democracy Umbrella Movement in Hong Kong.



### **New Facebook page links to JMISC MOOC**

Facebook's PSA campaign to "spot false news" rolled out in 14 countries in April and the campaign's page has a direct link to [MOOC Making Sense of the News: News Literacy Lessons for Digital Citizens](#). The course is running periodically on Coursera for the rest of 2017 and you can sign up [here](#).



### **DreamCatchers 100K Final Pitch event and awards**

The Final Pitch event for HKU's Entrepreneurship Seed Fund "DreamCatchers 100K" was held on 2 April and \$1 million (\$100K x 10) in seed funds was awarded to ten teams led by HKU students and



alumni. Read about the awardees [here](#).

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## Articles, publications and presentations

### JMSC well-represented at FCC Journalism Conference

JMSC director Keith Richburg and Lecturer Anne Kruger spoke at the Foreign Correspondents' Club, Hong Kong's [Journalism Conference](#) on Saturday 29 April. A live video from the closing panel, Covering China, is available [here](#). JMSC alumni, including Fion Li and Natasha Khan from Bloomberg News, also [spoke throughout the day](#).



### UNESCO study: Protecting Journalism Sources in the Digital Age

JMSC founding director Professor Ying Chan and Associate Professor Doreen Weisenhaus contributed to [this new United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization publication](#) looking at changes that impact on legal frameworks that support the protection of journalistic sources in the digital age.



### First 100 days of President Trump: like a drunk stumbling down a highway

Full of sound and fury about tariffs, border walls, North Korea and travel bans, all of the leader of the free world's bluster has thus far signified next to nothing, writes Keith Richburg in his [latest piece](#) for the *South China Morning Post*.



## North Korea looms over Xi-Trump summit

Keith Richburg wrote [this piece](#) for Nikkei Asian Review early in April ahead of the Chinese president's meeting with US president Donald Trump.

## For Journalism in China, a Millennial Shift

David Bandurski looks at a shift in Chinese journalism since the golden era of the mid-1990s to roughly the mid-2000s in his latest [piece](#) for the China Media Project. Bandurski also looked at [the possible reasons for the abrupt withdrawal of White Deer Plain](#) (白鹿原) from the broadcast lineup, and scrutiny of live streaming apps in China for this piece:

[Volcanoes and Peppers, Too Hot to Handle](#)

## Chinese book review: *Republic*

PhD candidate Chan Chung Hong's review of Harvard professor Cass Sunstein's *Republic* was [published by Mingpao](#) (Chinese article).

## Hong Kong Transparency Report at RightsCon Brussels 2017

HKTR Project Manager Benjamin Zhou [spoke at two sessions](#) on how to communicate with tech firms in Hong Kong and mainland China to progress corporate and government transparency at [RightsCon](#), an annual digital rights conference (held in Brussels this year) joined by 1,500 attendees from 100 countries.

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REPORT

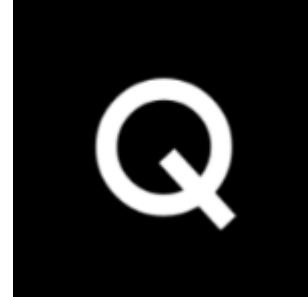
## The Arts Hour

Vivienne Chow was one of the guests on [BBC World Service's The Arts Hour](#) where she discussed the advantages of small budget films and other art and culture news.



## “Ghost in the Shell” is a poem to Hong Kong as it faces the 20th anniversary of its handover to China

Vivienne Chow [looks at Hollywood blockbuster \*Ghost in the Shell\* and its parallels](#) with the identity struggles of Hong Kong as it approaches the 20th anniversary of its handover from Britain to China.



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## Student news

### What drew you to the JMSC?

Second-year BJ student Anna Gustafson [talks about moving to Hong Kong](#) from the US, and how the BJ programme is preparing her to tell stories from Asia to a Western audience.



### In 2017, what are the best countries for women?

Anna Gustafson also made [this video](#) for U.S. News and World Report. Read more about the five attributes (cares about human rights, gender equality, income equality, safe and progressive) the list is based on [here](#).



## More Reporting Health & Medicine articles published

Reports by BJ and MJ students last month included [Elderly Healthcare Vouchers: the basics, the good, and the problems](#), [Regular legume consumption could help reduce diabetes risk](#), and [Senior HKU students breakfast more often than younger students](#). Browse all the reports [here](#).

Reporting Health & Medicine



## Meeting with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Third-year BJ Eric Cheung [met with a senior delegation](#) from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police on 11 April and discussed Hong Kong public-police relations, offering an insight from a journalist's angle.



## MJs shoot on location at Sikh temple

Ruby Yang, Hung Leung Hau Ling Distinguished Fellow in Humanities at the JMSC, shared [these photos](#) of MJs shooting at Khalsa Dewan Sikh Temple for their final documentary project. Their project, along with five other projects by MJ students, will be completed in early May—details to follow on a special screening event at HKU.



## Going live in 3, 2, 1...

MJ Natasha Fernandes uploaded [this cool video/GIF](#) of her classmates and Lecturer Anne Kruger in the studio before filming for their first broadcast bulletin in the TV News Anchoring course.



## Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia

MJ Tanvi Gupta helped to put [this list](#) together, detailing 300 of Asia's brightest young entrepreneurs, innovators and game changers, during her internship with Forbes.



## Ching Ming Festival World Map – How People Honor the Dead All Around the Globe

Third-year BJ student Lexie Ma Xiaochi produced [this interactive digital project](#) for the Shroffed website. She also reported on Hong Kong's Fringe Club and what it offers as a contemporary arts space, [here](#).



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## Alumni highlights

## **'I'm a walking corpse' – India to help its acid attack victims**

BJ 2016 graduate Medhavi Arora [reports for \*The Guardian\*](#) on a new Indian law which defines acid attack survivors as disabled, entitling them to government jobs.

the guardian

## **Shenzhen's gadget makers come of age**

BJ 2015 Gloria Cheung co-wrote [this piece](#) for the *Financial Times*, reporting from Huaqiangbei electronics market in downtown Shenzhen.



## **China's Lost and Found Daughters: MJ documentary aired on Al Jazeera**

A new film by Beijing-based filmmaker and photographer Vincent Du (MJ 2010)—about a civil servant on a mission to reunite families forced apart by China's one-child policy—[debuted on Al Jazeera's Witness programme](#) in early April.



## **MJ speaks at ISOJ 2017**

Tom Grundy (MJ 2017) Editor-in-Chief & co-founder of Hong Kong Free Press spoke about the news startup at the International Symposium on Online Journalism in Austin, Texas. Watch a video from the session [here](#).



## **A Wife's Search for Her Missing Husband**

Eva Tam (MJ 2012), video journalist at the *Wall Street Journal* and Teaching Assistant at the JMSC, made [this video](#) about Jee Ick-joo, a South Korean businessman in the Philippines who was abducted by police from his home in October. Tam described the video as one of her "proudest pieces of work to date" on Twitter.



## **Practical digital security for journalists**

Jonathan Stray (MJ 2010) shared [this video](#) of a recent presentation he made on basic digital security precautions that everyone in a news organisation should take, how to think

strategically about security, and recipes to solve specific reporting problems such as secure communication, handling leaks and crossing borders.



### **MJ profiled by VICE**

Justin Heifetz (MJ 2011) was one of the contributors to the April issue of VICE and was profiled by the magazine [here](#). His piece for the issue is here: [Foreign Domestic Worker Abuse Is Rampant in Hong Kong](#)



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## **Coming up this month**

### **Data journalism MOOC running again with added language support**

This popular free MOOC [started again on 1 May](#) and course materials are now available in Simplified and Traditional Chinese, Korean and Hindi. The course, produced in partnership with Google News Lab and top news organisations in Asia, ran for the first time last year, with more than 4,000 participants from over 100 countries. It is still possible to [enrol](#) for the course.



### **N3Con 2017 in Hong Kong**

AAJA-Asia's 7th annual New.Now.Next Media Conference titled Social Disruption: Navigating the New Journalism will be taking place from 19 to 21 May at HKU and the JMSC will be hosting the event. Read the latest news and announcements for the conference [here](#).



### **HKDI Master classes coming up in June: apply now**

Hong Kong Documentary Initiative is bringing three award-winning filmmakers in different technical fields to HKU to give a series of



workshops this summer: cinematography with Oscar-nominated director James Longley, sound mixing and design with Dan Olmsted, and colour correction with Gary Coates. Read more and apply to join the classes [here](#).

