CALL FOR ABSTRACTS



Archival Hong Kong: Places, Practices, and Public Culture

A *Hong Kong Studies* Symposium

Thursday 11 & Friday 12 December 2025 | Online

Organised by *Hong Kong Studies*, this two-day symposium invites papers from across the humanities and social sciences that examine the idea and function of the archive—understood in the broadest terms—in relation to Hong Kong's cultural, historical, and spatial imaginaries. From official state repositories and institutional holdings to ephemeral, vernacular, or community-based practices of collecting and remembering, the archive has long figured as a site where power, identity, and cultural memory are negotiated.

While Hong Kong has often been described through the lenses of displacement and erasure, it also remains a city of remarkable reinvention and creative resilience. In light of recent transformations—spatial, political, and epistemological—the archive emerges as a record of what has been lost and a generative site for imagining what may yet come. We ask: what roles do archives play in preserving or reframing Hong Kong's pasts and futures? How do artists, writers, educators, curators, activists, and others engage with the archive as form, method, or provocation? And how might we understand "archiving" not solely as an institutional practice but also as an everyday, affective, and often hopeful negotiation with the present?

We welcome proposals that speak to these and related concerns, with a particular emphasis on interdisciplinary approaches and situated methodologies. Topics may include (but are not limited to):

- Unofficial or counter-archival practices
- Archival aesthetics in literature, film, visual art, and performance
- The politics of memory and forgetting
- Material and intangible heritage
- Public history and private recollection
- Oral narratives and embodied memory
- Spaces of memory: libraries, museums, housing estates, schools, disappeared or disappearing sites
- Archival absences, silences, and the logic of omission
- Digital archiving, data politics, and platform-based preservation

We invite contributions from scholars, artists, archivists, curators, librarians, educators, and community organisers. In addition to traditional academic papers, the symposium will include short presentations or informal talks by practitioners engaged in archival work, broadly conceived.

We especially welcome reflections that draw upon Hong Kong's evolving cultural institutions—its museums, universities, theatres, and libraries—not only as repositories of memory but as dynamic spaces for public engagement, creativity, and re-imagination.

Please submit an abstract of 300–500 words, along with a short third-person biography (approx. 150 words), compiled in a single Word document.

Submissions should be sent to **hkstudiesjournal@gmail.com** by **30 September 2025**.

Following the symposium, selected papers (6,000–8,000 words) will be considered for publication in future issues of *Hong Kong Studies* (Chinese University Press).