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Editor-in-Chief's Foreword to the Inaugural Issue of the *Asian Journal of Social Studies*

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Abstract: This article serves as the Editor-in-Chief's Foreword for the inaugural issue of the *Asian Journal of Social Studies* (AJSS), Vol. 1, No. 1, 2026. Against the backdrop of globalization and localization, the journal is dedicated to exploring the unique development paths and governance experiences of Asian societies. This issue features 15 outstanding academic works exploring three core dimensions: transnational cultural identity, social mobility and digital governance, and the reconstruction of historical memory. The research extensively employs diverse theoretical frameworks, including Pierre Bourdieu's capital and field theories, Michel Foucault's power-discourse and heterotopia, David Harvey's time-space compression, and Walter Benjamin's philosophy of history. AJSS implements a full Open Access policy to eliminate economic barriers to knowledge dissemination and promote responsible academic sharing.

Keywords: Asian Journal of Social Studies; Inaugural Issue; Editor-in-Chief's Foreword; Social Change; Theoretical Frameworks

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题目:《亚洲社会研究学刊》创刊号主编前言

摘要: 本文为《亚洲社会研究学刊》(AJSS) 2026 年第一卷创刊号主编前言。在全球化与本土化交织的背景下, 本刊致力于探索亚洲社会独特的发展路径与治理经验, 聚焦社会变迁与发展议题。本期创刊号共收录 15 篇优秀学术成果, 集中呈现了跨越国界的文

化认同、社会流动与数字治理，以及历史记忆重构三大维度的探讨。本期研究广泛征引了布迪厄资本与场域理论、福柯权力话语与异托邦、大卫·哈维时空压缩、本雅明历史哲学等多元理论框架对各议题进行深度剖析。本刊实行全面开放获取（Open Access）政策，旨在消除知识传播的经济壁垒，推动负责任的学术共享。

关键词： 亚洲研究学刊；创刊号；主编前言；社会变迁；理论框架

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Issues concerning social change and development in Asian countries encompass core areas such as social structural transformation, cultural identity, grassroots governance, social mobility, and digital society. It is with this observation that the *Asian Journal of Social Studies (AJSS)* is launched, presenting the inaugural issue of Volume 1, 2026.

Published by the Hong Kong Information Education Publishing Company Limited, *AJSS* is a peer-reviewed bilingual academic journal. Its goal is to explore the unique development paths and governance experiences of Asian societies, reveal the underlying mechanisms of regional social phenomena, and provide a solid academic platform for understanding the complexity of contemporary Asia.

This inaugural issue includes 15 outstanding academic achievements (10 research articles and 5 book reviews). Spanning multiple disciplines, these articles actively employ cutting-edge theoretical frameworks and methodologies to present profound explorations across three core dimensions:

I. Transnational Cultural Identity, Inheritance, and Integration

Several articles delve into the evolution of culture across different regions. Drawing upon Pierre Bourdieu's "literary field" theory, Chen Xiuwen and Florence Kuek examine how the Malaysia Huazong Literary Award shapes the ecology of Mahua literature. Wu Jiaxi integrates cultural adaptation and social capital perspectives to analyze the heritage and innovation of Singapore's Ping Sheh and Thau Yong Peking Opera Troupes. Xu Shiyang and Cai Siyin apply agenda-setting and cultural communication theories of mass media to review the Hong Kong *Centre Daily News'* role as a cultural bridge connecting compatriots. Furthermore, utilizing literary and iconographic corroboration, Ma Lili explores the cross-cultural integration between Cao Zhi's ornate poetry and the jeweled ornaments (*yingluo*) of early Chinese Buddhist statues.

II. Social Mobility and Digital Governance under the Tide of the Times

Faced with modernization and digital civilization, Li Qiang's research integrates Bourdieu's capital theory, institutional isomorphism, and the perspective of global academic stratification to dissect the structural dilemmas of university teachers pursuing doctoral degrees in Southeast Asia. In digital governance, Wu Juan and Liu Ang base their arguments on administrative law

principles, such as legal reservation, proportionality, and due process, to analyze the regulatory pathways of facial information processing. Meanwhile, through the lens of David Harvey's "time-space compression" and "historical-geographical materialism", Zhang Liaoping et al. reveal the cultural identity dilemma of Chinese youth amidst accelerated capital and algorithmic control. Applying digital ontology and Foucault's "dispositif" theory, the book review by Zhao Jiaqi and Wang Xiaoying explores the international communication mechanisms of Chinese online genre literature.

III. Reconstruction of Historical Memory and Reflection on Literary Discourse

At the intersection of history and literature, studies reflect deeply on power-discourse and collective memory. Wu Chen and Florence Kuek employ Foucault's theories of "power-discourse" and "heterotopia" to decode the disciplinary discourse in *A Dictionary of Maqiao*. Wang Yifan utilizes Walter Benjamin's philosophy of history (the opposition between historical materialism and historicism) to examine the genealogy of violent politics in modern Japan through *The Silent Cry*. Through corroboration of images and literature, Wang Juan investigates the political connotations of meritorious officials' portraits during the Yuan-Ming transition, reflecting on their unpredictable fates and nostalgia for the former dynasty.

In the book reviews, Wu Fengqi and Zhang Lianqiao use the poetic approach of cultural politics to analyze the dialectical relationship between early Chinese new poetry and the construction of the May 4th youth's "ego." Sun Rong and Xiang Chengru review *The Burden of Eminent Scholar* using poetry-historical corroboration and the "experiential vs. conceptual figures" framework to demystify Su Shi's paradoxical predicament in political strife. Hu Jiaming reviews *The Diary of an Envoy to the Qing Dynasty*, applying the literature genealogy method to restore the historical scene and reflect on the divergent modernization paths of China and Japan. Additionally, Jian Meiru reviews *Ten Lectures on Modern and Contemporary Chinese Literature*, extracting the critical method of "deciphering characters and interpreting imagery" to build a transferable research paradigm between micro-textual analysis and macro-historical narratives.

The *Asian Journal of Social Studies* implements a full Open Access (CC BY) policy without charging any Article Processing Charges (APCs). Nonetheless, we promote high-impact knowledge dissemination and support responsible academic sharing. We look forward to these 15 articles stimulating more intellectual collisions as we continue to uphold rigorous academic standards and record the changes and hopes of this vast continent.

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