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LIU Tik-sang is an Associate Professor in the Division of Humanities and Director of the South China Research Center at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. He is a cultural anthropologist with research interest in kinship, popular religion, food and globalization, cultural heritage, cultures and societies in South China and Hong Kong. His research team conducted Hong Kong's first "Territory-wide Survey of the Intangible Cultural Heritage." His publications include: "Tradition, Identity and Resources: The Making of Hong Kong's Intangible Cultural Heritage" (傳統、認同與資源：香港非物質文化遺產的創造) (2014); "Identity in Performance: Tianhou

Worship Activities in the Conservation of Hong Kong's Intangible Cultural Heritage" (展演中的認同：香港非物質文化遺產保育中的天后崇拜活動) (2014); *Intangible Cultural Heritage and Local Communities in East Asia* (2011); "Turning Fengshui into Heritage: A Case Study of Constructing 'Heritage Discourse' in Hong Kong's New Territories" (把風水變成文物：在香港新界建構「文物話語」之個案研究) (2007); *The Cult of Tian Hou (Empress of Heaven) in Hong Kong* (香港天后崇拜) (2000).

The Making of Intangible Cultural Heritage: The Hong Kong Experience

In 2006, the UNESCO's "Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage" was adopted in China, and the Hong Kong Government has followed the convention to create the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) system in Hong Kong. After nine years, Hong Kong now has 10 ICH items on the national list and has also created its own inventory list of 210 items. ICH has become a new system in Hong Kong, but the Chinese government, Hong Kong government, and the local communities have very different understandings and expectations of it. At the same time, ICH has become a new cultural resource that local communities want to pursue. In this paper, I will explore the process of the creation of this new system, how local traditions and practices are given the titles of ICH items, and how local communities are reacting to this new system.



Dragon Boat