Urban Hong Kong cannot be understood outside of the context of its relationship with the broader region beyond the Hong Kong border. This transborder region has changed dramatically over the last half-century. Drawing on two decades of ethnographic and archival research, this presentation will concentrate on three moments at which the region has become sharp qualitative shifts.

The border was closed for the first time in 1950. Its re-opening under China’s Economic Reforms in 1979 restructured not only Hong Kong but the entire global economy. The incorporation of Hong Kong as a Special Administrative Region of China in 1997 has resulted in the emergence of new cultural and economic trajectories.

Thursday, April 21
4:00 p.m., Anthropology 340
Reception in Anthropology 340