

2ND ANNUAL JACK GLAZIER ENDOWED ANTHROPOLOGY LECTURE

JAMES WATSON

PROFESSOR OF ANTHROPOLOGY EMERITUS
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

DOES HONG KONG HAVE A FUTURE?

POSTCOLONIAL
DEVELOPMENTS SINCE 1997

TALK ABSTRACT:

Will Hong Kong remain a distinctive, quasi-autonomous outpost on the southern tip of China, or will it become just another Chinese city? This talk explores the history and cultural traditions of Hong Kong in an attempt to understand the recent pro-democracy demonstrations: Why now? Who are the leaders? What do ordinary people in Hong Kong think about their future as citizens of China? The speaker, an anthropologist, seeks answers in Hong Kong's ethnic and linguistic distinctiveness (Cantonese versus Mandarin) and its legacy of British colonialism (1842-1997). The ever-changing border between China and Hong Kong is a special focus of attention; as a transition zone, it reveals much about the processes of integration and separation.

APRIL 8TH
4:30-6PM
HALLOCK
AUDITORIUM
Reception to follow

SPEAKER BIO:

James L. Watson is Fairbank Professor of Chinese Society and Professor of Anthropology Emeritus at Harvard University (Univ. of Iowa, BA 1965; Univ. of California, Berkeley, Ph.D. 1972). Prof. Watson also taught at the University of London (School of Oriental and African Studies), University of Hawaii, and the University of Pittsburgh. He is an ethnographer who specializes in southern Chinese rural society. He learned to speak country Cantonese in Hong Kong's New Territories during the late 1960s and uses Mandarin for his work in other parts of China. Watson's research has focused on Chinese emigration, ancestor worship and popular religion, family life and village organization, food systems, and the emergence of a post socialist culture in the People's Republic of China. He worked with many graduate students in Harvard's Department of Anthropology to investigate foodways in China, Russia, Eastern Europe, South Asia, and North America. He continues to do research on comparative food systems, agriculture, and Chinese rural life.

JACK GLAZIER BIO:

Jack Glazier taught anthropology at Oberlin College from 1971 until his retirement in 2013. The scope of his fieldwork included research in East Africa among subsistence farmers, Eastern European immigrants and their descendants in the American Midwest, and African Americans in the upper South. He sees anthropology as a unique discipline, combining the explanatory and generalizing goals of the sciences with the interpretive and historical sensibilities of the humanities. In the classroom and in his books and articles, he sought an understanding of human experience in wide ranging comparative terms while never losing sight of the distinctiveness of that experience in particular times and places. In honoring Jack Glazier, the lectureship bearing his name recognizes his scholarly and professional contributions to an encompassing anthropology and to the liberal education of Oberlin students.

