

# RUBY LECTURES

## IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY



# HKBU

Sponsored by Hung Hin Shiu Charitable Foundation

### About the Speaker

Mary P. Ryan is an Emeritus Professor of history at Johns Hopkins University and at the University of California Berkeley. She has spent her career interrogating the history of the United States in order to address a range of issues, among them the difference gender makes, the formation of the middle class and the democracy of public space. Much of her historical research has been situated in American cities: New York, New Orleans, Los Angeles and the two subjects of her forthcoming book *Taking the Land to Make the City, Baltimore, Maryland and San Francisco, California*.

Books:

- *Womanhood in America*, New Viewpoints, 1975; Second, Revised Edition, 1979; Third, Revised Edition, 1983.
- *Cradle of the Middle Class: The Families of Oneida County New York 1790-1865*. Cambridge University Press, 1981.
- Winner of the Bancroft Prize and the Berkshire Prize
- *Empire of the Mother: American Writing about Domesticity, 1830-1860*, Haworth Press, 1982.
- *The Doubled Vision: Sex and Class in Women's History*, editor with Judith Walkowitz and Judith Newton, Routledge and Kegan Paul, March, 1983.
- *Women in Public: Between Banners and Ballots, 1825-1880*, Johns Hopkins University Press 1990. Winner of the Gustavus Meyers Prize
- *Civic Wars: Democracy and Public Life in the City during the Nineteenth Century*, University of California Press, 1997
- *Mysteries of Sex: Tracing Women and Men through American History*, University of North Carolina Press, 2006.
- *Taking the Land to Make the City: A Bio coastal North American History*, University of Texas Press, in production, 2018.



## Global Cities of the 19th Century:

Starting in San Francisco and Stretching toward Hong Kong

**Professor Mary P. RYAN** (Johns Hopkins University / University of California, Berkeley)



November 23, 2018 (Friday)



9:30 am - 11:20 am



**AAB301, Academic and  
Administration Building,  
Baptist University Road,  
Kowloon Tong**



ALL ARE WELCOME



### Abstract

For thousands of years cities have been at the center of wide networks of trade and politics. It was not until the Spanish arrived in the Americas in the 16th century, however, that the circuit of commerce linked the eastern and western hemispheres together into one world. Historians have sited the origins of modernity in that global epoch, most often tracing its origins to the nation states that patrolled the North Atlantic. Based on the presumption that history is not made just in the national capitals of Western Europe, I have examined global history from an urban location along the Pacific. Starting along San Francisco Bay around 1800 I propose to show how events in cities had global consequences. By exercising municipal sovereignty, cities could circumvent and even superseded the federal government of the United States. I will argue that the creation of a city along San Francisco Bay had global consequences, including the advancement of both democracy and capitalism. Even before the Gold Rush in 1849 the ports of San Francisco and Canton were trading partners. Although the connection between San Francisco and Hong Kong is more of a stretch, about which I have only superficial knowledge, I will propose in conclusion that it is an opportunity to think together about those promises and perils of globalization that confront both cities in the 21st Century.