

A PUBLIC LECTURE

COOLIE TRADE AND GLOBAL MIGRATION IN THE 19TH CENTURY

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Abstract

When the abolitionist movement advanced across the Atlantic in the early nineteenth century, plantation operators in Latin America realized that the days they could rely on African slaves were numbered. Their frantic search for alternative manpower succeeded in China, where affordable laborers appeared limitless. The coolie trade, thus, began in 1847 between South China and Latin America. In less than 30 years, over 250,000 Chinese indentured laborers traveled to Cuba and Peru to fulfill their eight-year contract. They performed arduous work in sugar mills, guano mines, tobacco factories, and other vital production sites. While conventional historiography has often focused on their struggles, this presentation will retrace their collective migratory patterns, demonstrating how these Chinese workers became an integral part of the globalizing economy in the nineteenth century.

Date	October 26, 2023 (Thursday)
Time	10:30 am - 12:00 pm
Venue	AAB205, Academic and Administration Building Baptist University Road Campus, Kowloon Tong
Language	English

