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| RGC Reference CUHK403-HSS-13 |
| <i>please insert ref. above</i> |

The Research Grants Council of Hong Kong
Prestigious Fellowship Scheme under the Humanities and Social Sciences Panel
Completion Report

(for completed projects only)

Part A: Project and Award Holder

1. Project Title

How African and Middle Eastern Traders Make Their Livings and Lives in Guangzhou, As Examined from Economic, Social, and Cultural Perspectives

2. Award Holder and Academic Department/Unit Involved

| Name/Post | Unit/Department/Institution | Contact Information |
|--|---|---|
| Gordon MATHEWS/ Professor, Chair | Dept. of Anthropology, The Chinese University of Hong Kong | cmgordon@cuhk.edu.hk 852-3943-7718 |

5.2 Revised workplan

Date of approval from the RGC: Jan. 22, 2014

Reasons for the change: _____

The timetable of the research was extended for six months to allow for travels to Istanbul in winter 2015, as well as the dissemination of research in conferences. I had initially intended to hire a research assistant, but was later told that this was not allowed by RGC under the terms of the HSSPFS, which is why I did not use up my budget fully.

5.3 Realisation of the workplan

(maximum 2 pages; please state how and to what extent the work as stated in the workplan has been achieved; give reasons for under-achievements and outline attempts to overcome problems, if any)

The workplan has been achieved. Rather than spending the first 4 months of the research in Sanyuanli, Guangzhou and the next 6 months of the research in Xiaobei, I alternated between these two sites throughout the research, since this is what my informants did, specifically working in Sanyuanli during the day and going to Xiaobei at night. I traveled to all the sites I had intended to travel to, except for Lagos (which, at the time I intended to travel there, was under threat of the Ebola virus, which killed a traveler); instead, I traced out low-end globalization trade in Bangkok and then Istanbul, meeting my informants from Guangzhou in these cities. I traveled to Istanbul in February 2015. I also did research in Dubai, Nairobi, and Yiwu and other Chinese cities, as originally planned. My research unfolded as I had anticipated: I was able to do what I set out to do.

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6.3 Realisation of the dissemination plan

(maximum 2 pages; please state how and to what extent the output as stated in the dissemination plan has been achieved; give reasons for under-achievements and outline attempts to overcome problems, if any)

Thus far, I have published three articles and a book chapter on this research. The HSSPFS Award is fully acknowledged in the three English-language articles, but was unaccountably dropped from the French-language chapter; I do not read French and had no chance to proofread this publication.

2016. "Médiateurs culturels africains en China de Sud." In Karsten Giese and Laurence Marfaing (eds.) *Entrepreneurs africains et chinois: les impacts sociaux d'une rencontre particulière* Paris: Karthala, pp. 95-126
2015. "African Logistics Agents and Middlemen as Cultural Brokers in Guangzhou," in topical issue of *Journal of Current Chinese Affairs*, "Foreign Lives in a Globalising City: Africans in Guangzhou," 44(4): 117-144.
- 2015 "Taking Copies from China Past Customs: Routines, Risks, and the Possibility of Catastrophe." *Journal of Borderland Studies* 30(3): 423-435
2014. "How to Evade States and Slip Past Borders: Lessons from Traders, Overstayers, and Asylum Seekers in Hong Kong and China." By Gordon Mathews, Lin Dan and Yang Yang. *City & Society* 26(2): 217-238.

I am now completing the manuscript of the book *The World in Guangzhou: Africans and Other Foreigners in South China's Global Marketplace*. I have told the University of Chicago Press that I will send them this manuscript by Feb. 28, 2016. This is one year after this research project was completed, as promised.

7. **Other impact** *(e.g. award of patents or prizes, collaboration with other research institutions, knowledge transfer, etc.)*