

Buses are also living social history. Recently, the brutal rape and death of a student on a city bus in Delhi caused riots and protests across India and beyond, and drew attention to the treatment and status of women. Almost sixty years ago Rosa Parks refused to give her seat to a white man on one of Montgomery's segregated buses ("blacks at the back") and the ensuing legal case became an important chapter in the civil rights movement in the US. It's harder to know what to make of the infamous "Bus Uncle" incident in 2006 which occurred when a middle age rider on the 68X to Yuen Long argued with a young man; a passenger filmed the altercation on his phone and the downloaded clip went viral on YouTube and now has over 4.1 million hits. Is this a sign of stressed out city life; of boredom; of the power of social media? Easier to read is the circuitous routing of the 84 in Bristol, UK, which takes a seemingly random arc to connect the run down inner city terraces with post war council housing estates. In fact, it is simply mapping out where war-displaced residents were moved to in the 1950s as Bristol, like other bombed cities, built new estates and thousands of residents without cars needed to stay in touch with those who remained: as this generation dies, the commercial basis of the route withers. All of which makes the remarkably un-changing bus routes of Hong Kong so paradoxical, in a city of so much change.

Maybe in the end, my passion for buses was a foregone conclusion – after all, my Dad's first job was as a fitter with London Transport, after which he spent several years as a driver. Maybe, but I think the connection is wider - buses are always going somewhere, and the appeal is about reaching new destinations, sharing cross-cultural and comparative knowledge, and undertaking journeys of understanding. Or, put another way, Global Social Science!

Contributed by Prof. Adrian J Bailey, Dean of Social Sciences, HKBU



HKBU Distinguished Alumni Award 香港浸會大學傑出校友獎

The University launched the first Distinguished Alumni Award in August 2013 to recognise the distinguished achievements of HKBU alumni. Chaired by Mr. Cheng Yan-kee, Chairman of the Council and the Court of HKBU, the Selection Committee has selected the awardees and the finalised results will be announced in early 2014. All award recipients and their nominators and supporters will be invited to attend the Award Presentation Ceremony at HKBU Founders' Day Reception in March 2014. For details of the Award, please browse <http://aao.hkbu.edu.hk/en/home/index.php>.

為表揚優秀校友的卓越成就，香港浸會大學於2013年8月首次設立「傑出校友獎」。由大學校董會暨諮議會主席鄭恩基先生擔任主席的評審委員會，經已選出得獎人，結果將於2014年上旬公佈。得獎人及其提名人與贊同人將獲邀出席在2014年3月於香港浸會大學校慶酒會中舉行的「傑出校友獎」頒獎典禮。有關「傑出校友獎」的詳情，請瀏覽<http://aao.hkbu.edu.hk/en/home/index.php>。