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Yiren Yi Gushi [One Person, One Story] edited by CLEMENT YORK-KEE SO, LAVENDER WANG-YIN CHEUNG, VIVIAN WAI-WAN TAM, & YONDER YURU LI. Yiren You Yi Gushi [One Person, Another Story] edited by CLEMENT YORK-KEE SO, LAVENDER WANG-YIN CHEUNG, & YONDER YURU LI

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achieving their political goals – a Confucian state. For a discussion of the development of the concept, see Huai-chen Kan's *Purifying the World: A Political Discourse in the Late Han*, *Interpretation and Intellectual Change: Chinese Hermeneutics in Historical Perspective*, edited by Ching-I Tu, New Brunswick: Transaction Publisher, 2005, Chap. 6, pp. 81–92.

2. Ming shi (名士), “eminent personalities,” refers to persons detaching themselves from the masses and society, especially officialdom.

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Yiren Yi Gushi [One Person, One Story], edited by Clement York-Kee So, Lavender Wang-Yin Cheung, Vivian Wai-Wan Tam, & Yonder Yuru Li, Hong Kong, Cosmos Books, 2010, HKD98.00 (paperback), 472 pp.

Yiren You Yi Gushi [One Person, Another Story], edited by Clement York-Kee So, Lavender Wang-Yin Cheung, & Yonder Yuru Li, Hong Kong, Cosmos Books, 2013, HKD98.00 (paperback), 456 pp.

One Person, One Story contains 141 mini personal stories by senior journalists in Hong Kong about their work or experience in and out of the metropolis. *One Person, Another Story*, published three years later in 2013 as a sequel, contains 106 stories by both senior and junior journalists, including 56 who wrote for the first volume and 50 who participate for the first time. From 19 Hong Kong news media, the senior journalists have either retired or taken up a second career in public relations, civil services, media production, or universities. As accounted by editor Clement York-kee So (p. 469 in *One Story* and pp. 454–455 in *Another Story*), the stories in the two books can be summarized around 13 themes: multifaceted topics, attention to different classes, freedom of expression, global interests, political and

social personages, gender differences, affection for news work, journalistic ideals, work attitudes, social institutions, reflections on life, professionalism, and spirit of care and love. While their experiences or topics vary, the journalists share a serious concern for, and a strong commitment to press freedom. Concluding each collection is the overview by Professor So of the stories through content analysis on topical categories and implied core values. For those who wish to maximize the gains, they will need to use these two postscripts as starters to conduct anatomies of their own. For instance, do senior journalists differ from their junior counterparts in terms of topical concerns or satisfactions and frustrations? Are the former more realistic and the latter more idealistic? Do they see news process differently? Answers to such questions should be of significance and help in better understanding of news work. Journalism teachers may also want to assign their students to analyze the stories as a means to knowing more about the press and the profession.

People enjoy hearing and telling stories, although certain stories are more meaningful and interesting than others. The stories told in these two books are *insider* reporting experiences by Hong Kong journalists that can enlighten professionals and lay audiences alike as the journalists bare their feelings, reflect on their reportorial faults or oversights, question Hong Kong's legal proceedings, or point out the various unreasonable restrictions on reporting. Clearly permeating these stories are trustworthiness, responsibility, dependability, respect, justice, and caution, which coincide with the core values that underline Hong Kong as a dynamic capitalistic metropolis. Whether interviewing China's or Hong Kong's government leaders, earthquake or aids victims, or billionaire tycoons or welfare recipients, or the highly tense 4 June 1989 military crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators in Beijing or the ceremonial proceeding of Hong Kong's return to China on July 1 in 1997, etc., Hong Kong journalists have endeavored to assume respect and caution toward the interviewees or subjects of their news reporting. The 247 stories in the two books, some highly emotion-charged, unequivocally demonstrate that journalism remains a worthy career cherished in Hong Kong in spite of its low salaries frequently lamented by both the profession and the public. The two books can thus be considered a means of recognition. For this alone, the authors and the editors, and the School of Journalism and Communication of the Chinese University of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Journalism Education Foundation as well, deserve to be applauded.

In general, the authors do not shun revealing their affection for their job. However, the "whys" of leaving their beloved profession were only implicitly dealt with in a great majority of the reminiscences. One exception is the article by Law Yi-ping, a veteran journalist for 23 years. She moans, in unequivocal language, the proliferation of sensational reporting of trivialities at the expense of coverage of stories with potential impact on both Hong Kong and China (pp. 450–452 in *Another Story*). Now the general-manager of a Hong Kong creative services company still in love with news work, she critically observes that Hong Kong media, albeit sans political censorship, are being "economically castrated," as evidenced in the proliferation of sex, violence, and entertainment. Readers are thus urged to adopt a cool mind in reading the stories so as to better grasp the complex dimensions of journalistic work and news media in Hong Kong. To properly appreciate and appraise news media's performance, one is encouraged to peer behind and look

outside the many glares of the journalism profession alluded to by the authors in their submissions.

Besides these two books, the Chinese University's School of Journalism and Communication has in the past years published *teshou xuanzhan, chuanmei and minyi* (Chief Executive Election, Media and Public Opinion) in 2012. *Dujia xinwen jiema* (Deciphering News Scoops) in 2011 and *Sichuan dizhen: xianggang jizhe fansilu* (Sichuan Earthquake: Reflections by Hong Kong Journalists) in 2010. These Chinese titles, and the two reviewed here, certainly are not as research-based as Louisa Lim's recent *The People's Republic of Amnesia: Tiananmen Revisited* by Oxford University Press. The mining efforts of Lim, a long-term China-based correspondent accommodated for a year by the University of Michigan to conduct her research, point unequivocally to the need for both *sense* and *sensibility*, i.e., rationality or logic and empathy or feeling, in understanding human beings. It cannot be over emphasized that these "journalistic" publications complement well the many English-language academic papers and scholarly books by the Chinese University journalism and communication faculty. They serve as crucial reminders that journalism and media academics, and those in humanities and social studies as well, have the dual responsibility in attending to global and local audiences as well as to academic and professional needs. Doing both distinguishes them from their counterparts on university campuses. While SSCI has increasingly being adopted by Asian universities, especially the top ones, as a core criterion in assessing the quality of research output and rewarding faculty for salary increment or promotion, using it as *the* criterion at the expense of others can be counterproductive to the development of humanities and social studies.

The two volumes also contain contributions by two Hong Kong-based "expatriate" correspondents, Peter Arnett and Mike Chinoy. Future volumes may want to consider inviting, in addition to Chinese journalists, more foreign journalists based in Hong Kong and soliciting personal stories on selected topics. These "selected" stories should be better able to provide more information about news processes in media organizations for varied comparisons other than being leisurely reads alone. Nonetheless, these two books, and the other Chinese titles published by the Chinese University's School of Journalism and Communication, are highly recommended for people who are responsible for coaching aspiring journalists or for those who intend to self-teach themselves to become journalists.

Journalists are used to writing about others. The two books are in a way stories that reveal themselves as journalists and as ordinary people. In their disclosure, journalists consciously and unconsciously raise important questions about themselves and their work. Do journalists have the right to judge others by their own values (Cheung Kwok-leung, pp. 24–27 in *One Story*)? Saving a life or doing a story, which should take precedence (Wong Pak-yew, pp. 224–226 in *One Story*)? How best to cover and report a tragedy without further injuries to feelings of a victim's relatives or close friends (Tam Wai-wan Vivian, pp. 291–294 in *One Story*)? How best to present and balance a touching yet "fleeting" story of "lasting" impact on its main actor (Poon Lai-king, pp. 56–60 in *Another Story*)? In defending press freedom after China's recovery of sovereignty from the United Kingdom on 1 July 1997, are Hong Kong journalists and youngsters aware of the "sophisticated news management" during the British's 155-year colonial rule (Cheung Kwai-yeung, pp. 397–399 in *Another Story*)? There are no easy answers to

these and many other soul-searching questions or dilemmas permeating the stories. For this reason alone, the journalists must write on and edit on while the public, read on!

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