



**MARTIAL  
ARTS STUDIES**

# **Conference Programme**



**10–12 June 2015**

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## Find A Panel – At a Glance

Panel Title	Day	Time	Room	Chair
Women's Martial Arts 1	Thursday	11-12.30	0.14	Kerry Moore
Martial Mediations	Thursday	11-12.30	0.05	Hui Chan
Martial Science	Thursday	11-12.30	0.31	Ian Kenvyn
Historical European Martial Arts 1	Thursday	3.30-5.00	0.14	Daniel Jaquet
Cinema	Thursday	3.30-5.00	0.05	Kyle Barrowman
Meaning Making	Thursday	3.30-5.00	0.31	Luke White
Bruce Lee's Legacies	Friday	11-12.30	0.14	Kyle Barrowman
Historical Encounters	Friday	11-12.30	0.05	Ben Judkins
Pedagogy	Friday	11-12.30	0.31	Mark Langweiler
Historical European Martial Arts 2	Friday	2-3.30	0.14	Brian R Price
Women's Martial Arts 2	Friday	2-3.30	0.05	Alex Channon
Communities	Friday	2-3.30	0.31	Paul Bowman
Choreographies of Gender	Friday	4-5.30	0.05	Wayne Wong
From Taijiquan to Mindfulness	Friday	4-5.30	0.14	Neil R Hall

## Introduction

*Martial Arts Studies* is a pioneering international interdisciplinary conference featuring academic speakers from many disciplines from all over the world. Keynote speakers include Professor Stephen Chan, OBE (SOAS), Professor Meaghan Morris (Sydney), Professor Douglas Farrer (Guam), Dr Ben Judkins (NY, the author of the ground-breaking 'Kung Fu Tea' martial arts studies blog). The conference is organised by Dr Paul Bowman (author of multiple books on martial arts, film and culture), and features speakers from disciplines as diverse as cultural studies, philosophy, sociology, religious studies, film studies, anthropology, history, medicine, sports science, race, ethnicity, gender and sexuality studies, and more.

## Registration

- **Conference:** Register for the conference here:
- <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/martial-arts-studies-conference-tickets-15418310582>
- **Conference Dinners:** Registration information is here: [www.mastudiesrn.org](http://www.mastudiesrn.org)

## Location

- **Venue:** *Bute Building, King Edward VII Avenue, Cardiff University, Cardiff, CF10 3NB.*
- Bute is close to the city centre: 15 minutes' walk from Cardiff Central Train Station, 5 minutes from Cathays Train Station, and 2 minutes from the Megabus Stop.
- Maps of Cardiff University are here: <http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/locations/maps/>
- Google Maps can locate Bute Building. Add postcode CF10 3NB.

## Information

- **Contact** the organiser: [BowmanP@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:BowmanP@cardiff.ac.uk)
- **Telephone** the venue (School Office in Bute Building): 029 208 74509
- **Information** and updates: [www.mastudiesrn.org](http://www.mastudiesrn.org)
- **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/234783753324561/>
- **Twitter:** @MAstudies – hashtag: #martscon

## Exercise

The university will allow conference delegates to use the Fitness & Squash Centre and also the Strength & Conditioning Centre, which are located by Cathays Station, either side of the railway. To use the facilities, **take your conference name badge as ID**, sign a disclaimer to avoid the full induction, and pay £4.70 per session.

## Funding and Sponsors


This conference is primarily funded by registration fees. Every effort has been made to keep the cost of registration to a minimum, so that waged and unwaged scholars, students, academics and researchers can afford to attend. However, we are delighted to have received some generous sponsorship donations from the following institutions:

- **RDX Sports:** <http://rdxsports.com/>
- **Rowman and Littlefield International:** <http://www.rowmaninternational.com/>
- **JOMEK, Cardiff University:** <http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/jomec/>
- **Lishi Tea** have also provided a selection of teas: [www.lishitea.com](http://www.lishitea.com)

### Conference Overview – at a Glance

<b>WEDNESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> June 2015</b>			
3-4pm	<b>Registration</b> – Bute Building		
4pm	<b>Welcome and Introduction</b>		
4.30pm	<b>Opening Keynote:</b> Professor Stephen Chan		
6pm	<b>Drinks Reception</b> – Bute Café		
<b>THURSDAY 11<sup>th</sup> June 2015</b>			
9-9.30	<b>Registration</b> – Bute Foyer		
9.30-9.40	<b>Welcome &amp; Introduction</b> – Birt Acres Lecture Theatre		
9.45-11	<b>Keynote:</b> Dr Ben Judkins		
11-12.30	<b>Women's Martial Arts 1</b> Room 0.14	<b>Martial Mediations</b> Room 0.05	<b>Martial Science</b> Room 0.31
12.30-2	<b>Lunch</b> – <i>Aberdare Hall</i>		
2-3pm	<b>Special Session: Key Questions (1)</b> – Sixt Wetzler		
3-3.30	<b>Break</b> – Bute Café		
3.30-5pm	<b>Historical European Martial Arts 1</b> Room 0.14	<b>Cinema</b> Room 0.05	<b>Meaning Making</b> Room 0.31
5-5.15pm	<b>Break</b>		
5.15-6.30	<b>Keynote:</b> Professor Douglas Farrer		
<b>Conference Dinner: La Bodega</b>			
<b>FRIDAY 12<sup>th</sup> June 2015</b>			
9-9.30	<b>Registration</b> – Bute Foyer		
9.30-10	<b>Welcome and Introduction</b>		
10-11	<b>Special Session: Key Questions (2):</b> Hutan Ashrafian		
11-12.30	<b>Bruce Lee</b> Room 0.14	<b>Historical Encounters</b> Room 0.05	<b>Pedagogy</b> Room 0.31
12.30-2	<b>Lunch</b> – <i>Bute Building</i>		
2-3.30	<b>Historical European Martial Arts 2</b> Room 0.14	<b>Women's Martial Arts 2</b> Room 0.05	<b>Communities</b> Room 0.31
3.30-4	<b>Break</b>		
4-5.30	<b>Choreographies of Gender</b> Room 0.05	<b>Taijiquan to Mindfulness and back again</b> Room 0.14	
5.30pm	<b>Closing Keynote:</b> Professor Meaghan Morris (Sydney)		
<b>Conference Dinner @ Aberdare Hall</b>			

**Programme**

<b>WEDNESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> June 2015</b>	
3-4pm	<b>Registration</b> – Bute Building Foyer
4pm	<b>Welcome and Introduction:</b> Paul Bowman – Birt Acres Lecture Theatre
4.30pm	<p><b>Opening Keynote:</b> Professor Stephen Chan, OBE (SOAS)</p> <p><i>Martial Arts: The Imposture of an Impersonation of an Improvisation of Infidelities (amidst some few residual fidelities)</i></p> <p><b>Location:</b> Birt Acres Lecture Theatre, Bute Building</p>
	<p><b>About Stephen Chan</b></p> <p><b>Stephen Chan (OBE)</b> is Professor of Global Politics in the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) at the University of London. He has been an international civil servant involved with several key diplomatic initiatives in Africa, helping to pioneer modern electoral observation, and continues to be seconded to diplomatic assignments today. He has twice been Dean at SOAS and has published 29 books and supervised many successful PhD theses. He won the 2010 International Studies Association prize, <i>Eminent Scholar in Global Development</i> and broadcasts and lectures internationally.</p>
6pm	<b>Drinks Reception</b> – Bute Foyer. (Afterwards we will go to The Wig & Pen pub)
<p>Drinks Reception sponsored by Rowman and Littlefield International</p> 	

<b>THURSDAY 11<sup>th</sup> June 2015</b>			
9-9.30	<b>Registration</b> – Tea, Coffee and Biscuits – Bute Café		
9.30-9.40	<b>Welcome &amp; Introduction</b> – Paul Bowman – Birt Acres Lecture Theatre		
9.45-11am	<p><b>Keynote:</b> Dr Ben Judkins</p> <p><i>Imagining Ip Man: Globalization and Growth of Wing Chun Kung Fu</i></p> <p><b>Location:</b> Birt Acres Lecture Theatre</p>		
	<p><b>About Ben Judkins</b></p> <p><b>Dr Ben Judkins</b> earned a doctorate in Political Science from Columbia University. He has taught at the University of Utah where his research and teaching focused on international relations and the political economy of globalization. His book, <i>The Creation of Wing Chun: A Social History of the Southern Chinese Martial Arts</i> (State University of New York Press, 2015) examines the various social, economic, political and cultural forces that helped to shape the emergence of southern China's unique fighting systems during the tumultuous 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century. He is also editor of the Chinese Martial Studies Blog, <i>Kung Fu Tea</i>, and co-editor of the journal <i>Martial Arts Studies</i>.</p>		
	<b>Parallel Sessions</b>		
11-12.30	<p><b>Women's Martial Arts 1</b></p> <p>Room 0.14</p> <p>Anna Kavoura Alex Channon Chris Matthews</p>	<p><b>Martial Mediations</b></p> <p>Room 0.05</p> <p>Wayne Wong Tim Trausch Kyle Barrowman</p>	<p><b>Martial Science</b></p> <p>Room 0.31</p> <p>Dominique Brizin Mario Staller</p>
12.30-2	<b>Lunch @ Aberdare Hall</b> (left out of Bute Building, up road, red building facing)		

2-3pm	<p><b>Special Session: Key Questions (1) – Sixt Wetzler</b></p> <p>Room: 0.14</p> <p><i>Comparative martial arts studies as a cultural-historical discipline: Possible objects, necessary sources, applicable methods</i></p> <p><b>Abstract:</b> The recent growth and integration of martial arts studies as a field of academic research raises fundamental methodological questions: Beyond attempts to define the objects taken into perspective, researchers should aim at a better mutual understanding concerning the sources that have to be studied, and the methods to be applied. Based on the experiences of the four conferences on martial arts studies held by the German commission Kampfkunst &amp; Kampfsport (martial arts and combat sports), the lecture will argue for a comparative perspective on martial arts, and a polysystemic approach to put the various meanings ascribed to a given martial art system into an comprehensible network.</p> <p><b>About Sixt Wetzler</b> Sixt Wetzler studied religious studies, Scandinavian literature, and medieval history at the universities of Tübingen, Reykjavík, and Freiburg. He is currently finishing his PhD on 'The Martial Arts of Medieval Iceland: Literary representation and historical form'. He is a member of the board of spokesmen of the commission Kampfkunst &amp; Kampfsport (Martial Arts &amp; Combat Sports) in the dvs (German Association for Sports Sciences) and works for the German Blade Museum in Solingen, with a focus on the European fencing tradition. His research interests lie on the comparative study of martial arts as a cultural-historical discipline, European martial arts, and blade fighting systems in general. Wetzler has published on martial arts issues both in German and English, and is among the highest ranked European practitioners of Pekiti Tirsia Kali, a Filipino martial art.</p>		
3-3.30	<b>Break – Tea, Coffee and Welsh Cakes – Bute Café</b>		
3.30-5pm	<p><b>Historical European Martial Arts 1</b></p> <p>Room 0.14</p> <p>Brian Price Alexander Hay Els Dom</p>	<p><b>Cinema</b></p> <p>Room 0.05</p> <p>Raymond Tsang Melissa M Chan Hiu M Chan</p>	<p><b>Meaning Making</b></p> <p>Room 0.31</p> <p>Agnes Kanizsai Paul Hilton Martin Minarik</p>
5-5.15pm	<b>Break</b>		

5.15-6.30	<p><b>Keynote:</b> Professor Douglas Farrer (Guam)</p> <p><i>Efficacy and Entertainment in Martial Arts Studies: Anthropological Perspectives on Performance</i></p> <p>Room: Birt Acres Lecture Theatre</p> <p><b>About D. S. Farrer</b></p> <p><b>Douglas Farrer</b> was awarded a PhD in Social Anthropology by the National University of Singapore in 2007. He has taught anthropology, sociology, social psychology, and martial arts since 1992. Before moving to Guam he lectured in universities and colleges in England, Africa, and Singapore. He conducted ethnographic fieldwork for a decade in Malaysia and Singapore, and has also conducted fieldwork in Thailand, London, and Hong Kong. His research includes the anthropology of performance, religion, and art, visual anthropology, violence, spiritual healing, and Chinese and Malay martial arts. Dr. Farrer has published an ethnographic book entitled <i>Shadows of the Prophet: Martial Arts and Sufi Mysticism</i> (2009) with Springer, and a volume (co-edited with John Whalen-Bridge) entitled <i>Martial Arts as Embodied Knowledge: Asian Traditions in a Transnational World</i> (2011) with SUNY. In 2011 he won the University of Guam College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences Research Excellence Award. On Guam he is interested in mixed martial arts and indigenous cultural revival.</p>
<p><i>From 6.30-7.30, we will go to The Rummer Tavern – near the corner of Cardiff Castle</i></p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Conference Dinner:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>La Bodega</b></p> <p>The first of our conference dinners during The Martial Arts Studies Conference will be held at La Bodega – Cardiff's finest Spanish restaurant. La Bodega is friendly, informal and provides food and service of the very highest standards. Food will flow from the kitchen all night until we can eat no more. For all attending the Conference, this dinner will be an ideal time and place to meet others at the conference in informal and convivial surroundings. (We recommend that everyone try the amazing manzanilla sherry they serve here.)</p> <p>We are delighted to say that some generous sponsorship from <b>RDX Sports</b> means that we are able to offer this dinner FREE to the unwaged students who are presenting a paper at the conference.</p> <p><b>Registration:</b> <a href="http://www.eventbrite.com/e/martial-arts-studies-conference-thursday-evening-dinner-la-bodega-tickets-16896348433">http://www.eventbrite.com/e/martial-arts-studies-conference-thursday-evening-dinner-la-bodega-tickets-16896348433</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;">  </p>	



FRIDAY 12 <sup>th</sup> June 2015			
9-9.30	<b>Registration</b> – Tea, Coffee and Biscuits – Bute Building Café		
9.30-10	<b>Welcome and Introduction</b> – Paul Bowman – Birt Acres		
10-11	<p><b>Special Session: Key Questions (2) Hutan Ashrafian</b></p> <p>Room: Birt Acres Lecture Theatre</p> <p><i>The Death Of Bruce Lee: A Modern Medical Perspective</i></p> <p>A 32-year-old American-born Chinese actor and celebrated martial artist suffers from a headache for which he takes over-the-counter medication (200 mg meprobamate and 325 mg aspirin). He becomes unconscious and dies from acute cerebral oedema. The individual was the famed Bruce Lee whose death remains to generate significant controversy and speculation. Herein I highlight the clinical events of this case and discuss the differential diagnoses of his cause of death. The likelihood of an adult Reye's-like syndrome is considered, and the cautious use of aspirin is advised in young athletes and martial artists, with dissuasion from administration being emphasized during times of viral illness.</p> <p><b>About Hutan Ashrafian</b></p> <p><b>Hutan Ashrafian</b> is a doctor, martial artist and historian. He currently holds a 5th degree black belt in Okinawan Goju Ryu Karate. He has trained in several schools of martial arts for over a quarter of a century and has a particular interest in the evolution of Karate, Kung-Fu and Ninjutsu. His book <i>Warrior Origins</i> elucidates on the authentic Bodhidharma as a forefather of Zen and Shaolin and further applies bio-political evolutionary models to understand the development of martial arts styles. He trains with the Jindokai International Martial Arts Association at the London SOAS Dojo. He is a practising surgeon, a Clinical Lecturer in Surgery at Imperial College London and a council member of the Royal Asiatic Society.</p>		
11-12.30	<p><b>Bruce Lee's Legacies</b></p> <p>Room 0.14</p> <p>Oliver Carter &amp; Simon Barber Mike Molasky Maryam Aziz</p>	<p><b>Historical Encounters</b></p> <p>Room 0.05</p> <p>Scott P Phillips Ernest Kozin Ben Judkins (discussant)</p>	<p><b>Pedagogy</b></p> <p>Room 0.31</p> <p>Tommaso Gianni Charles Spring Ian Kenwyn &amp; Alexander Boyd</p>

12.30-2	<b>Lunch</b> – Bute Building Café		
2-3.30	<b>Historical European Martial Arts 2</b>  Room 0.14  Daniel Jaquet Eric Burkart Sixt Wetzler	<b>Women's Martial Arts 2</b>  Room 0.05  Helen Owton Catherine Phipps George Jennings	<b>Communities</b>  Room 0.31  Martin Meyer Anna Seabourne Discussant: Paul Bowman
3.30-4	<b>Break</b> – Tea, Coffee and Welsh Cakes – Bute Café		
4-5.30	<b>Choreographies of Gender</b>  Luke White Susan Lok Gladys Mac  Room: 0.05	<b>Taijiquan to Mindfulness and back again</b>  Mark Langweiler Stefanie Sachsenmaier Giles Yeates  Room 0.14	
5.30pm	<b>Closing Keynote:</b> Professor Meaghan Morris (Sydney)  <i>On Answering the Question, "What is the Use of Kung Fu?"</i>  <b>About Meaghan Morris</b>  <b>Meaghan Morris</b> is a figure of world stature in the field of Cultural Studies. She is Chair of the Inter-Asia Cultural Studies Society and past Chair of the international Association for Cultural Studies (ACS), 2004-08. A Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities, the Hong Kong Academy of the Humanities, and a former ARC Senior Fellow, from 2000-2012 she was founding Chair Professor of Cultural Studies at Lingnan University, Hong Kong.		
<b>Conference Dinner @ Aberdare Hall</b>  <b>Registration: <a href="http://www.eventbrite.com/e/friday-night-conference-dinner-martial-arts-studies-conference-tickets-16954264662">http://www.eventbrite.com/e/friday-night-conference-dinner-martial-arts-studies-conference-tickets-16954264662</a></b>			

### Conference Panel Details

<b>Women's Martial Arts 1</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>11-12.30</b>	<b>0.14</b>	
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- Anna Kavoura: Women Fighters as the Agents of Change: A Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Case Study from Finland
- Alex Channon: Subverting Gender through Combat Sports: Sketching the Limits of Optimism
- Christopher R. Matthews: Subverting Gender through Combat Sports: Sketching the Limits of Optimism

<b>Martial Mediations</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>11-12.30</b>	<b>0.05</b>	
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- Wayne Wong: From Ip Man to Chen Zhen: Metamorphosis of Traditional Kung Fu Masters in (Post)Modernity
- Tim Trausch: Martial Arts Television Series as Medium and Text
- Kyle Barrowman: A Neglected Tradition: American Action Aesthetics from James Cagney to Steven Seagal

<b>Martial Science</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>11-12.30</b>	<b>0.31</b>	
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- Dominique Brizin: Combatology: in search of a unifying theory of fighting
- Mario Staller: Bridging the Gap: Investigating Effectiveness in Self-Defence

<b>Historical European Martial Arts 1</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>3.30-5.00</b>	<b>0.14</b>	
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- Brian R. Price: Aristotle and the Martial Arts of Medieval Europe: The Idea of "Arte", Pedagogical Method and Historical Context in the Surviving Fechtbuchen
- Alexander Hay: The art and politics of Fence: Subtexts and ideologies of late 16th Century fencing manuals
- Els Dom: The analysis of the organization and regulation of full contact martial arts in Flanders

<b>Cinema</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>3.30-5.00</b>	<b>0.05</b>	
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- Raymond Tsang: Beyond Transnational and National Cinema – Chinese Martial Arts Cinema in Recent Decades
- Melissa M. Chan: Fragmentation of Chineseness in The Martial Arts Films of Wong Kar-wai
- Hiu M. Chan: Mo Lei Tau Style: Stephen Chow and His Martial Arts Embodiment in Hong Kong Cinema

<b>Meaning Making</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>3.30-5.00</b>	<b>0.31</b>	
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- Agnes Kanizsai: Body, combat and transmission in Michael Dante DiMartino and Bryan Konietzko's The Legend of Korra
- Paul Hilton: Kung Fu, time-honoured traditions, rethinking the DNA of 12 animation principles
- Martin Minarik: Taekwondo Poomsae Competition as Theatrical Exhibition – Semiotics Versus Performative Aesthetics

<b>Bruce Lee's Legacies</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>11-12.30</b>	<b>0.14</b>	
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- Oliver Carter, Simon Barber: The Clones of Bruce Lee: The Political Economy of 'Brucesploitation'
- Michael Molasky: Contemporary Responses to Bruce Lee Movies in Japan: Japanese Villains, Fans, Media
- Maryam Aziz: Beyond the Dragon: Charting the influence of Bruce Lee and Black Power Activists in the rise of Martial Arts in 20th Century, African American Communities

<b>Historical Encounters</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>11-12.30</b>	<b>0.05</b>	
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- Scott P. Phillips: Shaking Thunder Hands: Where Martial and Performing Arts Meet in India and China
- Ernest Kozin: Martial Arts Practice and Popular Religion in Late Imperial North China: The Evidence of a Recently Discovered Manuscript
- Ben Judkins (discussant)

<b>Pedagogy</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>11-12.30</b>	<b>0.31</b>	
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- Tommaso Gianni: Comparing martial art pedagogies: Teachings in the Leung Ting WingTsunkuen: In the EWTO-Italy-England-Germany and in the IWTA-South Korea
- Charles Spring: Professionalisation of Martial Arts: Case of University of Derby Developing a BA (Hons) Joint Honours Degree in Martial Arts with the European Wing Tsun Organisation in Heidelberg Germany
- Ian Kenvyn & Alexander Boyd: The challenge of developing an effective coach education process when dealing with an ancient embodied knowledge system; the evolution of a coaching foundation degree for a Chinese Daoist embodied learning and practice system.

<b>Historical European Martial Arts 2</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>2-3.30</b>	<b>0.14</b>	
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- Daniel Jaquet: "That's how they handled longswords...": Historical European Martial Arts, towards a critical definition of a concept.
- Eric Burkart: Memorizing Martial Arts: The 14th Century Notebook of an Erudite Martial Artist in the Tradition of Johannes Liechtenauer (Nuremberg, Germanisches Nationalmuseum, Hs. 3227a)
- Sixt Wetzler: Glíma-wrestling in medieval Iceland: Technical characteristics and social functions in the light of Old Norse literature.

<b>Women's Martial Arts 2</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>2-3.30</b>	<b>0.05</b>	
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- Helen Owton: Performative Female Boxing Embodiment
- Catherine Phipps: "I'm not the Type of Person who does Yoga": Women, 'Hard' Martial Arts and the Quest for Exciting Significance
- George Jennings: Sharing Women's Stories of Martial Arts: Language, Audience and the Life of Marisela Ugalde, the Founder of Xilam

<b>Communities</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>2-3.30</b>	<b>0.31</b>	
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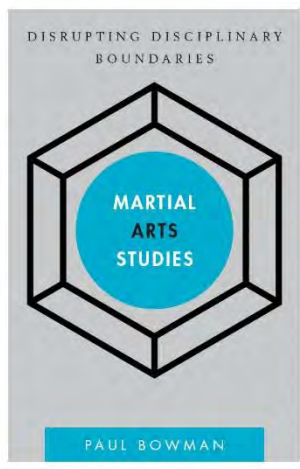
- Martin Joh. Meyer: Doormen Fraternities and their Resemblance and Affinity to Martial Arts Societies
- Anna Seabourne: 'The students create the teacher': Participation in a martial art's community of practice.
- Discussant: Paul Bowman

<b>Choreographies of Gender</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>4-5.30</b>	<b>0.05</b>	
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- Luke White: Through the Window – Wing Chun as Woman Warrior
- Susan Lok: Through the Window – Wing Chun as Woman Warrior
- Gladys Mac: *Wen, Wu, and Romantic Love: The Xia and Masculinities in Jin Yong's Wuxia Novels*

<b>From Taijiquan to Mindfulness</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>4-5.30</b>	<b>0.14</b>	
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- Mark Langweiler & Stefanie Sachsenmaier: On Not Neglecting the Near for the Far: The Practice of Wu Style Tai Chi Chuan
- Giles N Yeates: Beyond Mindfulness: Introducing constructs and practices from Chinese Martial Arts into Western healthcare



## Martial Arts Studies

Disrupting Disciplinary Boundaries

By Paul Bowman

“Following Nietzsche, Paul Bowman likes philosophising ‘with the hammer’. I think what he wields as a writer is more like a magic wand. Whisking received ideas of discipline, institution, tradition, body, nation, narration, media, theory and reality out of their usual academic slots, Bowman sends them spinning into the air to meet dreams, a visionary politics of culture and deep learning in martial arts. The result is intoxicating, a rush of energy from page to page. In *Martial Arts Studies*, impossible combinations take sparkling new shape and thinking is free to begin again.”

– Meaghan Morris, University of Sydney

April 2015 | HB £65.00/\$95.00 9781783481279 | PB £22.95/\$32.95 9781783481286 | eBook £22.95/\$31.99 9781783481293

The phrase “martial arts studies” is increasingly circulating as a term to describe a new field of interest. But many academic fields, including History, Philosophy, Anthropology, and Area Studies already engage with martial arts in their own particular way. Therefore, is there really such a thing as a unique field of martial arts studies?

*Martial Arts Studies* is the first book to engage directly with these questions. It assesses the multiplicity and heterogeneity of possible approaches to martial arts studies, exploring orientations and limitations of existing approaches. It makes a case for constructing the field of martial arts studies in terms of key coordinates from post-structuralism, cultural studies, media studies, and post-colonialism. By using these anti-disciplinary approaches to disrupt the approaches of other disciplines, *Martial Arts Studies* proposes a field that both emerges out of and differs from its many disciplinary locations.

“What happens when a first rate scholar and long-time martial arts practitioner turns his attention to an orphan discipline? First, the field can never be considered marginal again; second, the founding fathers of martial arts studies will be challenged to step up their game to the next level; and finally, readers will get a crash course in the language and concepts of post-modern scholarship, allowing them to follow the ongoing debates in martial arts studies, where landing one good accusation of Orientalism, sexism or essentialism is like a flying roundhouse kick to the head. For those who seek a deeper knowledge of the role of martial arts in contemporary culture, and hence a deeper self-knowledge, they will find no better inspiration than Paul Bowman's *Martial Arts Studies*.” – Douglas Wile, Author of *Lost T'ai-chi Classics from the Late Ch'ing Dynasty and T'ai Chi's Ancestors*

**Paul Bowman** is Director of Postgraduate Research Studies in the School of Journalism, Media and Cultural Studies at Cardiff University. He is the founding editor of JOMEC Journal; founder of the Centre for Interdisciplinary Film and Visual Culture Research; Director of the Race, Representation and Cultural Politics Research Group and co-director of the Reconstructing Multiculturalism Research Network.

**Contents** 1. Martial Arts Studies as an Academic Field / 2. Writing Martial Arts Studies: Body, History, (Trans)Nation and Narration / 3. The Reality of Martial Arts / 4. Martial Arts and Cultural Politics Mediated: Disrupting Political Theory / 5. Conclusion: Orders of Discourse

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