

## DOCTORAL THESIS

### Musing new museology: politics of the Hong Kong Museum of Art

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**Musing New Museology:  
Politics of the Hong Kong Museum of Art**

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for the degree of  
Doctor of Philosophy**

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## Abstract

By the end of the 1980s, two significant groups of museologists arose in the academia of museology in Germany and Britain, and have given a remarkable contribution to the establishment of a new standpoint in museology – *the new museology*. The new museology refers not only to a theoretical perspective in museology but also to wider changes in the museum world. Since the 1970s, the new museology inspired by critical theories and cultural studies has formed a climate of increasing reflexivity in the museum world. In this regard, I wonder: Does the new museology lead to another form of simplification and reduction? Where are the local museums, especially those with the postcolonial and global context, in these discussions? How does museum as cultural production interact with the new museology as theory in its practices? This thesis explores these questions with a local text – the Hong Kong Museum of Art (HKMA) – and argues that the local practices of the HKMA significantly negotiate with the new museological discourse in the postcolonial and global context.

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