



香港浸會大學
HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

Department of English Language & Literature
DEPARTMENT SEMINAR SERIES
<http://buenglish.wordpress.com>

Date & time: Monday, 20 March 2017; 4:30p.m.

Venue: OEM1008, 10/F, OEN Hall Building, Ho Sin Hang Campus

Your Creative Writing: Get It Published! Two International Prizes based in Hong Kong Offer Publication to Winners.

Gillian Bickley

Abstract: Dr. Gillian Bickley, Associate Professor for 22 years at the Department of English Language and Literature at Hong Kong Baptist University, will talk about writing creatively, its motives and rewards. She will introduce two international prizes, founded by her husband, Dr. Verner Bickley, MBE and herself, which offer publication as a prize for work submitted in English. She will also introduce several of the writers whose work has been published as a result of entering for the Proverse Prize, suggesting lessons for those wishing their creative work to be published.

The Proverse Prize for book-length unpublished fiction, non-fiction or poetry was founded in 2008 and the Proverse Poetry Prize for single poems previously unpublished in English was founded in 2016. Each has attracted entries from many countries and from people of different nationalities, a wide range of ages and backgrounds, and of different writing experiences. To date, six men and six women have won the Proverse Prize and additionally ten men and nine women have won Supplementary Prizes. Totally, 37 entered book-length works have been published (some by repeat entrants). On 27 April 2017, 20 additional writers will achieve publication by Proverse, when their poems, entered for the Proverse Poetry Prize, will be published in *Mingled Voices: the Proverse Poetry Prize Anthology 2016*.

Dr. Bickley will bring to the seminar examples of some of the winning book-length entries.





Dr. Gillian Bickley was born and educated in the United Kingdom. She has held full-time academic positions teaching Literature in English at the University of Lagos (Nigeria), the University of Hong Kong, the University of Auckland (New Zealand) and retired as Associate Professor in the Department of English Language and Literature from Hong Kong Baptist University after twenty-two years of service there. She has lived and worked in Hong Kong since 1970 except for three years when living and teaching in New Zealand. She and her husband, Dr. Verner Bickley, MBE, are co-founders of the publishing arm of Proverse Hong Kong (proversepublishing.com) and

of two annual international Prizes for unpublished literary work (the Proverse Prize for unpublished (book-length) fiction, non-fiction or poetry and the Proverse Poetry Prize (single poems)). Her writing specialties are biography, Hong Kong educational and social history of the nineteenth century, and poetry. As an editor, she has edited autobiographies, memoirs, biographies, short story collections, novels and novellas, poetry, single author poetry collections and poetry anthologies, academic works, and others, and seen them through to publication.

She is the biographer of the founder of Hong Kong Government Education, Dr. Frederick Stewart, first principal of what is now known as Queen's College, and of the first bishop of Victoria, Dr. George Smith. Her poetry collections are: *For the Record* (2003), *Moving House* (2005), *Sightings* (2007), *China Suite* (2009) and *Perceptions* (2012). In April 2017, "Over the Years", her Selected Collected Poems 1972-2015, will be published.

Four of her poetry collections have received publication support from Hong Kong Arts Development Council. The first two collections have been published in Chinese (one translated by a former colleague at HKBU, Dr. Simon Chow and the other by a team of new graduates under the leadership of a former student of the department, Mr Tony Yip). Individual poems have been translated into several languages, including Arabic, Chinese, Czech and Turkish and anthologised in Hong Kong, the Philippines, Romania and the United Kingdom. In July 2014, at the 18th International Festival, "Curtea de Argeş Poetry Nights", held in Romania, she was awarded the "Grand Prix Orient-Occident Des Arts" by the Festival Board. In 2016, a selection from her published poems was published in Romania in a bilingual English/Romanian edition, "Poems / Poeme", by Editura Academiei Internaționale Orient-Occident. Gillian Bickley is one of the Hong Kong poets discussed in Agnes S. L. Lam's study, *Becoming poets: The Asian English Experience*.

Gillian has been President of the Hong Kong Association of University Women and is currently a Vice-President of the Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong.

From time to time she teaches creative writing at HKU SPACE and helps the English-Speaking Union Hong Kong deliver reading programmes to Hong Kong schools.