

Hopping Vampires and Mr Vampire Series: Hong Kong and (Compassionate) Vampire Capitalism



Dr. Magdalen Ki

Associate Professor, Department of English Language and Literature
Hong Kong Baptist University, Kowloon Tong, Hong Kong, China

Hopping vampires are ancient creatures associated with the premodern Qing Dynasty. As Hong Kong evolves from a humble fishing village into an international metropolis, it continually faces threats from both within and outside. In The Mr. Vampire Series, the return of hopping vampires is often linked to a traditional or advanced form of vampire capitalism. In the traditional form, a small group of individuals engages with hopping vampires to profit while providing them with repose. In the advanced form, humans exploit hopping vampires for their own self-interest, resulting in a fragmented society and social chaos. In this context, vampire hunters in Hong Kong navigate a delicate balance between defending religious compassion and capitalistic profit, persecution and harmonious coexistence. Their ethics of care compel them to befriend human-friendly ghosts and hopping vampires, emphasizing both prosperity and vigilance.