

## Thomas Abraham

Thomas Abraham is Director of the Public Health Media Programme and Assistant Professor at the University of Hong Kong's Journalism and Media Studies Centre. He is the author of "Twenty First Century Plague: The Story of SARS" (Johns Hopkins University Press 2005) and runs a research programme on the reporting and communicating of public health issues, particularly infectious disease.

His primary research focus is on risk communication during infectious disease epidemics and other social crises, and he heads a regional research project funded by the European Union looking at how governments in Asia communicated the risk of SARS to their peoples.

He is also part of a WHO working group that is working to develop risk communication principles to be used in the event of an influenza pandemic.

Thomas Abraham is a former Editor and Deputy Editor of the South China Morning Post in Hong Kong (2000-2002), and has 25 years of experience as a journalist in Asia and Europe.

Prior to joining the SCMP, Thomas Abraham spent more than two decades with one of India's premier English language newspapers, The Hindu. For 13 of those years, he was a foreign correspondent, based in London, Geneva, and Colombo, Sri Lanka.

He has reported and written on global issues such as world trade and an arm control, and has covered conflicts in the former Yugoslavia, Sri Lanka and Northern Ireland.

He has also been on the staff of the United Nations in Geneva working in the field of arms control and disarmament.

When in London, he was regular commentator for BBC World television on South Asian affairs and a panellist for the current affairs programme "Dateline London." He was also vice president of the Foreign Correspondents Association in London, and President of the Foreign Correspondents Association of Sri Lanka.