

SPRING ISSUE 2014



www.socsc.hku.hk

# Socien**tist**

社  
科  
人

## Our Mental Well Being



Community Impact pp.5-6  
Social Sciences Strategic Areas pp.7-8



**FOUR** colleagues from the Department of Social Work and Social Administration (SWSA) have returned from overseas with a diverse training background including social work, clinical psychology, psychiatric rehabilitation, and psychiatry. In this brief report, they share their mental health research, which covers three areas of major importance in Hong Kong and beyond. By no means is this article a full representation of all the exciting and valuable mental health research currently being conducted by colleagues in the SWSA.

### From Research Participants to Research Associates - The Role of Service Users

The mental health recovery paradigm, used in advanced practice countries such as the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, and Australia; mandate that service users and caregivers engage in producing research which addresses the complex problems associated with severe mental illness. Research by service users, dates back to the 1970's, it has strong links to the community-based participatory research model, emancipatory disability research, and the grassroots service user/survivor movement. The aims of such work is to shift from conducting research "on" to "with" people with disabilities while promoting their human rights; challenging the oppression they face; and helping them to achieve a better quality of life. LEAPS-is an acronym for improving legislation, evidence, attitudes, policies and services. Building on previous GRF-funded studies on recovery for people with bipolar disorders, Dr Samson Tse Shu-ki has worked within the HKU community and with nongovernmental organisations utilizing users' self-help groups in Hong Kong. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on March 17, 2014 between SWSA and the Program for Recovery and Community Health at the School of Medicine, Yale University, while Professor Larry Davidson (Program Director) was visiting to Hong Kong. The MoU supports a joint research initiative between service users and academics at HKU to conduct, stimulate, and support research related to mental health recovery. Such an initiative will also examine the fit between the recovery paradigm with the ideology and belief systems of the Chinese culture in Hong Kong.

Our



## From Biomedical to Cultural Views: Age Responsive Studies on Mental Health Issues

"Stagnation," or in Chinese yu (鬱), means that something is not flowing, or is being entangled and clogged. Stagnation syndrome (鬱症) is a diagnosis from Chinese medicine that is characterized by mind/body obstruction. Symptoms include feeling that one's emotions are trapped inside and a sense of something obstructing the head, throat, chest, stomach, or abdomen. Funded by a 2009 General Research Fund (GRF) grant, an original study, by Dr Ng Siu Man operationalized stagnation for the first time as a psychological construct, validating a 3-factor, 16-item self-report scale. Stagnation syndrome is a culturally relevant entry point; which offers a fresh and non-stigmatizing way to engage Chinese adults in distress. Dr Ng's earlier work revealed stagnation syndrome to be rather common, with a prevalence rate of 6.2%. About 30% of sufferers are keen to seek treatment. Informed by these findings, Dr Ng and his colleagues have developed and piloted a six-session group therapy intervention for stagnation syndrome. He has recently received further GRF funding to conduct a randomized controlled trial, which will rigorously evaluate the efficacy of this intervention to support the participants' recovery. Participants will be recruited at the Chinese medicine clinical centres of The University of Hong Kong.

In other news, Dr Ran Maosheng is interested in socioeconomic developments (such as urbanization) and mental illness in China. He has conducted studies exploring the changes over time in the outcomes of persons with schizophrenia. He is using a unique cohort dataset spanning over two decades from rural Chengdu, China. His work is extremely timely given the rapid changes we are witnessing not only in the economic sphere but also on the mental health landscape. The results of two major national surveys (the National Epidemiological Survey of Mental Disorders and the Study of Disease Burden of Mental Disorders and Health Resource Utilization) have helped to implement the newly passed National Mental Health Law (May 1, 2013). Since 60-70% of adults with severe mental disorders in Hong Kong or other Asian cultures are looked after by family members, Dr Ran is also currently analysing a large dataset on the 14-year effectiveness of family interventions among persons with schizophrenia. This line of research may improve family interventions and also yield suggestions for how caregivers can receive better support.

Another line of research in this area relates to the relationships between young people and animals. Dr Paul Wong Wai-ching and his colleagues are conducting an evaluation of the impact of animal-assisted interventions on building the self-efficacy of young people with social withdrawal. They are also conducting the first qualitative study in Hong Kong on bereavement related to the loss of pets. This work may help provide some basic information to explain the increase in pet ownership in Hong Kong and many other Asian societies. Dr Wong and Dr Tse, along with a research team led by Professor Paul Yip Siu-fai from The Hong Kong Jockey Club Centre for Suicide Research and Prevention, are conducting mental health promotion and prevention evaluation studies with young people.



## FEATURE STORY

### From Suicide Prevention to Life “After Aborted Suicide”

On the suicide prevention note, Dr Ran is analysing a large 15-year follow-up dataset, on suicidal behaviour among persons with schizophrenia in rural China. This research will enhance our understanding of suicide prevention and recovery among persons with mental disorders. From a very different, and indeed unique, perspective, Dr Wong is currently receiving GRF funding to conduct a cutting edge study on aborted suicide attempts. Such a focus has the advantage of being able to gather and consider the actual thoughts and actions that have stopped such individuals from implementing their plans. Also, reviewing suicidal processes and the factors that foster the decision to abort an attempt will help to develop crisis interventions for individuals at imminent risk. Dr Wong’s study is an exciting extension of his previous work on understanding completed suicides using a psychological autopsy approach.

If you want to learn more about their work, please visit our Department’s new website at [www.socialwork.hku.hk](http://www.socialwork.hku.hk).



**Dr Ng Siu Man (吳兆文博士)**

**Dr Ran Maosheng (冉茂盛博士)**

**Dr Samson Tse Shu-ki (謝樹基博士)**

**Dr Paul Wong Wai-ching (黃蔚澄博士)**



**Dr Harry Hui Chi-chiu (許志超博士)**

### Head, Department of Psychology

In an email to my departmental colleagues at the beginning of this one-year headship I wrote: "I set as my goal that students will take our courses not only because psychology is interesting or because there is a good career prospect, but also because we care about them and we treat them with fairness." We shall set an example for our students to better understand people in this world in order to make it a better place.

To do the job well there are a lot of things that a Head should know, and which I am still learning. However, I am fortunate to have my academic and administrative colleagues in the Department who stand by me and provide wise counsel along with a loving and supportive family.



**Professor David Zhang Dian (章典教授)**

### Head, Department of Geography

I feel extremely honoured that my colleagues have entrusted and selected me to be the Head of the Department of Geography. I consider this to be a great opportunity for me to offer my services to the department and I will try my best to work alongside my colleagues in the next three years. Our Department has 60 years of history and is reputed for its excellent research around the Asia-Pacific region. It is a great responsibility for me to maintain and improve its research and teaching excellence.

I was born in Guiyang, a city far away from the central part of China. My childhood during the "Cultural Revolution" period meant I received little education. I was assigned to study Geology as a "youth to be re-educated" in the Guizhou Institute of Technology. Fortunately, I received a studentship to study my PhD at the University of Manchester in the late 1980s and then a lectureship in the University of the West Indies after the PhD. I came to HKU in 1995; my research has covered a wide range within the fields of earth sciences. In the last 8 years, my interest shifted from the physical environments to inter-disciplinary studies of the nature/human relationship. I was awarded with a HK Prestigious Fellowship in Social Sciences and Humanity, and I am also the recipient of the University's Outstanding Researcher Award, Research Output Prizes (2007-2008 and 2011-2012) and the Social Sciences Outstanding Research Output Award in this Faculty.

I have two lovely and intelligent daughters. My personal hobbies include computer games, science fiction, pop music, golf and football.

In our continuing series on the impact of social sciences staff on the community, we profile the work of **Dr Law Chi Kwong** (羅致光博士) who joined HKU's Department of Social Work as it was then called in 1981. Dr Law has served on the Legislative Council, and on many committees and working groups that have focused on social welfare policy. He is a model of how individuals can have an impact on public policy. Dr Law writes:

## The Elderly Community Service Review and Re-engineering Process

In January 2000 the Health and Welfare Bureau of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government contracted a review to examine the provision of community care and support services to elderly people living at home and their families. The review focused on the services currently provided by day care centres, multi-service centres and social centres for the elderly. I took up the study and submitted the recommendations in July the same year. Subsequently, the Government took up all the recommendations which they intended to implement in phases. The process was interrupted, however, when in 2003 the Community Chest decided to withdraw its financial support to multi-service centres and social centres. I served as the mediator between NGOs and the Social Welfare Department to re-engineer the implementation of our 2000 study recommendations in one go. Through this process all multi-service centres were converted to District Elderly Community Centres (DECC) and most social centres were converted to Neighbourhood Elderly Centers (NEC) within a few months. The Government provided \$37M per annum of additional resources to cover the loss of \$28M due to the withdrawal of support from Community Chest. The names "DECC" and "NEC" were coined by me.

## The Urban Renewal Strategy (URS) Review

The URS (2001) spelt out that it should be reviewed every two to three years. Yet, the Government hesitated to carry out a review until 2007 when the new Development Bureau was formed. I was consulted on how such a review could be conducted. I recommended a three-stage public engagement process, namely, scoping (subsequently known as the envisioning stage), engagement and consensus building. The review began in August 2008 and I was appointed as the policy consultant for the whole review process. The new URS (2011) was published in February 2011. While I participated in the whole process of formulating the new URS, I can identify several results of the URS review that were directly related to my input:

- The formation of the Urban Renewal Fund Limited to fund and monitor the services provided by social service teams to help those who are affected by urban renewal projects <sup>1</sup>;

- Subsidiary legislation which specified types of lots (with buildings aged 50 years or over) where the threshold of owner consent to re-develop reached 80% to force a compulsory sale to developers for re-development (Cap 545) was enacted in April 2010. The subsidiary legislation was based on a comparison of international practice, which found that a threshold of 80% was the highest among relevant countries (other buildings in Hong Kong required a 90% threshold to force a sale) <sup>2</sup>.

## Public Engagement

- I served as the Term Consultant of the Urban Renewal Authority between 2005 and 2009 giving advice on various social and political issues and on various public engagement activities. The public engagement process of the Kwun Tong Town Centre (2006-2007) was considered to be a very successful public engagement process within the Government and I was asked to write a case study on the process for the reference of the Chief Executive. Subsequently



reference to a kind of public engagement appeared in the 2007 October Policy Address. In the Address, Donald Tsang Yam-kuen said "To strengthen interaction between the Government and the community, ...the Third Term Government to (sic) proactively reach out to the community, listen to public views and work with the stakeholders."

<sup>1</sup> Recommendation was made via the study on *"The Future Directions of Providing Social Work Services under the New Urban Renewal Strategy"* (July, 2010) Development Bureau, HKSAR Government.

<sup>2</sup> Findings that supported the subsidiary legislation were obtained from the *Study Report on Urban Renewal Policies in Asian Cities for the Urban Renewal Strategy Review* (March, 2009) Development Bureau, HKSAR Government.

## Tacloban Notes

Jacky is a nurse and a pastor who works and lives by the eastern shore of the city of Tacloban. His home and clinic doubles as a training center for youth and also serves as a gathering place for his congregation. Many families who were squatting along surrounding walls were crushed by three structures that fell during Typhoon Haiyan. Luckily, Jacky and his family survived. It was a warm, cloudy day when he walked me over fallen coconut trees and over the rubble where bodies had been excavated.

Since December, I have been traveling to the Philippines on a monthly basis in order to provide psychological services to survivors of Typhoon Yolanda/Haiyan. I am working primarily with a small Manila-based NGO called Institute for Studies in Asian Church and Culture (ISACC). Between the four trips that I have made so far, I have given a dozen workshops on post-disaster psychological relief to approximately 300 participants; focusing mostly on psychological first aid, self-care, sleep, and coping. These survivors are themselves service providers; such as doctors, nurses, preschool teachers, pastors, and community health workers. I asked to work with them because they are the "wounded healers." They are devoted to rebuilding their communities, on a dedicated long term basis. Equipping and empowering them can enable them to help more effectively. Indeed, a community doctor was able to teach over 100 youth her new skills after attending the February workshop. Reports like this inspire me to continue moving forward.

In parallel, I have also been sharing my experience and opinion on long-term rehabilitation in a series of policy consultation sessions, attended by local government officials, economists, engineers, doctors, psychologists, as well as representatives from micro-financing NGOs, and international NGOs. The conclusions derived in these collegial meetings were presented to the mayor of Tacloban and his team. They will be put together as a white paper to be presented to the President.

I thank the Faculty and Professor John P. Burns for supporting my work. To be frank, I continue to hesitate every time I book my flights to Manila and Tacloban. The trips have been difficult—with limited electricity and water, and swarms of mosquitos. On top of that, the tenure clock never fails to haunt. I may not always see the fruit of my service, yet I know it is the right thing to do.

**Dr Christian Chan Shaunlyn (陳濬靈博士)**  
Department of Psychology



**CHINA STUDIES** Based on the Faculty's strengths in the study of contemporary China's geography, politics, society, and social policy, the Faculty promotes research and teaching on contemporary China through a public lecture series, Departmentally-organized research seminars, an undergraduate major jointly organized with the Faculty of Arts, and collaboration with the Hong Kong Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences that focuses on postgraduate research. Throughout the Faculty over 30 scholars are working in this area. The Faculty also houses the URC's Contemporary China Strategic Research Theme (SRT), which includes interdisciplinary research in three areas: urban development (Leader: Professor George Lin Chu-sheng, Geography); social transformation (Leader: Dr Cheris Chan Shun-ching, Sociology); and China and the globalizing world (Leader: Dr Richard Hu Weixing, Politics and Public Administration). The URC Contemporary China SRT is convened by Professor John P Burns, Dean of Social Sciences with Professor Anthony Yeh Gar-on, Department of Urban Planning and Design, Faculty of Architecture, as Deputy Convenor. See <http://www.socsc.hku.hk/china>.



## 4 Social Science Strategic Areas

**NGO AND CIVIL SOCIETY STUDIES** With the support of The Hong Kong Jockey Club and HKU, and based on the Faculty's strengths in NGO and civil society studies concentrated in social work and social policy, politics, geography, and society (media and culture), the Faculty launched ExCEL3 (Excellence in Capacity-building on Entrepreneurship and Leadership for the Third-sector), which focused initially on knowledge exchange through various institutes, seminars, and workshops and projects with groups of NGO aimed at capacity building. ExCEL3 has brought together colleagues from the Faculty's departments and research centers with colleagues in the Faculties of Arts, Business and Economics, and Medicine. ExCEL3 also has a strong research arm (working on social impact assessment and NGO leadership competencies) and an e-case bank, linked to the Hubert Project in the USA (<http://www.hubertproject.org/>). ExCEL3 has just embarked on its second phase that will focus in part on philanthropy studies, seeking not only to generate knowledge to inform good practice but also to build a marketplace connecting grant makers and grant receivers. ExCEL3 will be supported by a new taught postgraduate degree, Masters in Non-Profit Management to be offered together with Indiana University in the US, a leader in non-profit management studies, from September 2015. ExCEL3 is led by Professor Cecilia Chan Lai-wan (Social Work and Social Administration) and Professor Wai-Fung Lam (Politics and Public Administration). See ExCEL3 website: <http://foss.hku.hk/ExCEL3/>.

The Faculty of Social Sciences has identified four strategic areas in which it seeks to be leading. These are areas that bring together research, teaching, and knowledge exchange to link our Faculty to other Faculties in the University and to the University Research Committee's strategic research themes. Our four areas are:



A HKU project supported by The Hong Kong Jockey Club

**SOCIAL AND COGNITIVE NEUROSCIENCE** Based in a strong research team in the Department of Psychology social and cognitive neuroscience seeks to address fundamental questions about the mind and its dynamic interaction with both the biological systems of the brain and body, and with the social world in which they reside. The Faculty is also a core part of the URC's Neuroscience Strategic Research Theme which focuses on seven areas of interdisciplinary research: basic neuroscience, vision, engineering and neuroimaging, cognitive neuroscience, social affective neuroscience, clinical neuroscience, and communication and education and brings together our social sciences colleagues with those from Arts, Education, Engineering, and Medicine and with colleagues from overseas. The area/theme organized public lectures, research symposia and workshops, and supports research groups in the areas identified above. The strategic research theme is led by Professor David Wong Sai-hung (Ophthalmology) and Professor Tatia Lee Mei-chun (Psychology). See <http://www.socsc.hku.hk/neuroscience>.

udies

es  
gic

Identified four  
become world  
ing together  
exchange, and  
the University  
nittee's (URC)  
areas are:

## SOCIAL AND COGNITIVE NEUROSCIENCE

**PUBLIC POLICY** Based on our strengths in social policy and in cross boundary policy issues such as water governance, the Faculty has launched a public policy initiative that seeks to establish an institute or school of public policy focused on research, teaching, and knowledge exchange. We have identified two research programmes, namely water governance and social policy, and expect to add additional programmes that focus on global issues that resonate locally. The initiative seeks to collaborate with those doing public policy research now located in Business and Economics, Education, Public Health, and Urban Planning and Development to bring recognition to our public policy work, engage the local community (NGOs, business, and government) by addressing policy problems of direct concern to it, and further education in public policy among the community. We plan a new taught Master's of Public Policy that recruits globally and that examines policy problems with global significance. The initiative is led by Professor Wai-Fung Lam (Politics and Public Administration) and includes Dr Frederick Lee Yok-shiu and Dr Ng Cho Nam (Geography) from the Faculty of Social Sciences. See <http://www.socsc.hku.hk/ppspl>.

## PUBLIC POLICY

## Others

In addition to these Faculty-identified areas, colleagues in the Faculty of Social Sciences are leading other URC strategic research themes:

**AGEING** The SRT brings together colleagues from the Faculties of Medicine, Social Sciences and Education to work on Alzheimer's disease and dementia research, healthy-ageing research, cardio-metabolic research and psychosocial research. Their work more closely related to social sciences focuses on evaluating the effectiveness of support programmes for dementia care givers, the performance of long-term care facilities, and use of IT technology to raise awareness about chronic age-related illnesses in the general population. This area is led by Professor Karen Lam Siu-ling (Medicine), while Dr Terry Lum Yat-sang (Social Work and Social Administration and Director of the Sau Po Centre on Ageing) and Professor Xu Aimin (Medicine) are deputy convenors.

**CANCER** The SRT brings together colleagues from the Faculties of Engineering, Medicine, Science and Social Sciences that will focus on cancer genetics and biomarkers, imagine and cancer stem cells, and psychosocial oncology. Social scientists contribute to evaluating the effectiveness of psycho-behavioral intervention in cancer prevention and care, drawing on integrative care, Traditional Chinese Medicine and social sciences. The SRT is led by Professors Guan Xin Yuan (Clinical Oncology); Professor Cecilia Chan Lai-wan (Social Work and Social Administration and the Centre on Behavioral Health) and Professor Tsao George Sai-wah (Anatomy).

# FACULTY AWARDS



## Social Sciences Outstanding Research Output Award – Applied Research

**Dr Paul WONG Wai-ching** of the Department of Social Work and Social Administration has won this year's Faculty Applied Research Output Award for his and the research team members of The Hong Kong Jockey Club Centre for Suicide Research and Prevention's (CSRPP) academic article *Effectiveness of a Universal School-based Programme for Preventing Depression in Chinese Adolescents: A Quasi-experimental Pilot Study*. It was published in the *Journal of Affective Disorders* in 2012.

Hong Kong is perceived as an upwelling of stress for adults and youth alike. Although anxiety disorders are more prevalent among youth in Hong Kong, the youth prevalence rates of depressive symptoms and depressive disorders have been estimated at about 9% and 1.3%, respectively. The article describes the development, implementation, and evaluation of a universal school-based depression prevention programme, "The Little Prince is Depressed" (LPD), adopted the cognitive-behavioural model and aimed to reduce depressive symptoms and enhance protective factors of depression among secondary school students in Hong Kong. Although the study was a pilot study with a small number of participants, the article is a milestone that shows the team's efforts in combating depression. This is fundamental as depression is one of the most robust factors for suicide and suicidal behaviours. Therefore, we must enhance the mental health of our youth using creative and evidenced-based initiatives.

The research team developed the LPD website in 2004 providing the general public with a user-friendly educational website about depression prevention and management. This self-developed website guided the team to many awards ceremonies locally and internationally. The team then introduced the content from the website to secondary students in a more structured manner. Hence, the team developed a 12-week school-based programme they piloted with the support of the Education Bureau in partnership with several secondary schools. After the trial study, the team learned from the experiences and modified the programme in order to test it again with more schools. The team's desire is that every youth in Hong Kong can find his/her own path in developing a bright and meaningful life.

Dr Wong is a Clinical Psychologist and specializes in Cognitive-Behavioural Therapies. His research, teaching, and clinical practices draw from the principles of a variety of paradigms and research methodologies to examine and address mental health and social issues. His vision is that psychological science and knowledge will always be available, accessible and affordable to those who are in need when distressed and want to live a better day than yesterday. He wishes to thank all of the team members, collaborators, students, and research participants who have been walking with and guiding him since he returned to Hong Kong in 2003.

**Dr Paul WONG Wai-ching (黃蔚澄博士)**  
Department of Social Work and Social Administration



### Social Sciences Outstanding Research Output Award – Basic Research

**Dr Timothea Touloupoulou** is the Head of the Psychosis Lab and the Director of Bio-psychosocial and Developmental Research in the Faculty of Social Sciences at The University of Hong Kong. She earned her PhD, under the supervision of Professor Sir Robin Murray and Professor Robin Morris, at the University of London in 2001. She completed most of her training, and spent most of her early working career at the Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London, UK where she retains a Visiting Senior Lecturer position. In 2003 she was awarded a Canon Foundation in Europe Research Fellowship that brought her to Hamamatsu Medical School, Japan to work with Professor Nori Takei. In 2005, she received a two-year Young Investigator Award from the National Alliance of Research on Schizophrenia and Affective Disorders (USA), which she completed at Harvard Medical School, USA under Professor Larry Seidman. In 2011, she was awarded a one-year fellowship from the Chinese Academy of Sciences that she undertook with Professor Raymond Chan at the Institute of Psychology, Beijing, China. Dr Touloupoulou was the lead scientist for the Genes and Cognition work package of the European Community's 6th Framework Programme, and is a partner in the current European Community's 7th Framework Programme coordinated by Professor Jim Van Os from Maastricht. She currently holds grants from the Economic and Social Research Council (UK), Research Grants Council (Hong Kong), The University of Hong Kong and the National Institutes of Health (USA). She reviews regularly for numerous journals including *JAMA Psychiatry*, *Brain* and *Psychological Medicine*. Dr Touloupoulou is a consulting editor for *Clinical Psychological Science* and is on the Editorial boards of the *Psychiatry Journal*, the *International Scholarly Research Network Psychiatry*, *Annals of General Psychiatry* and the *World Journal of Psychiatry*. She also serves as a Fellowship and grant reviewer for the Wellcome Trust, UK, and the Medical Research Council (MRC), UK.

Dr Touloupoulou's Lab focuses on understanding the genetic, neurobiological, cognitive and environmental mechanisms that reduce or contribute to an individual's susceptibility of developing psychosis. Her research is aimed at improving our knowledge of what characteristics will make an individual more vulnerable to developing mental disorders as well as what factors may act protectively. The more we understand about mental disorders, and the associated factors, the more we will be able to help those already suffering, as well as protect those who are at high risk. You can find more information on Dr Touloupoulou's work here: <http://www.psychology.hku.hk/touloupouloulab/>

### Dr Timothea Touloupoulou

Department of Psychology

# FACULTY AWARDS



## Social Sciences Outstanding Research Output Award – Basic Research

### Causal Links Between Climate Change and Large Scale Human Crises

In the past few years, **Professor David Zhang Dian** and his research group have published a series of papers about the statistical links between climate change and war frequency, dynastic cycles in China, Europe and around the world during the last millennium. This innovative research has led to a series of publications on the quantitative analysis of social crises and climate change around the international science community. Trying to move beyond the strong statistical links, Professor Zhang designed new research to explore the specific causal mechanisms underlying this social/climate relation. Firstly, he and his colleagues collected a large amount of historical datasets and explored quantitative responses of 14 fine-grained agro-ecological, socio-economic and demographic variables to climate fluctuations from AD 1500 to 1800 in Europe. Results show that cooling from 1560 to 1660 was followed by successive agro-ecological, socio-economic and demographic catastrophes, leading to the General Crisis of the Seventeenth Century.

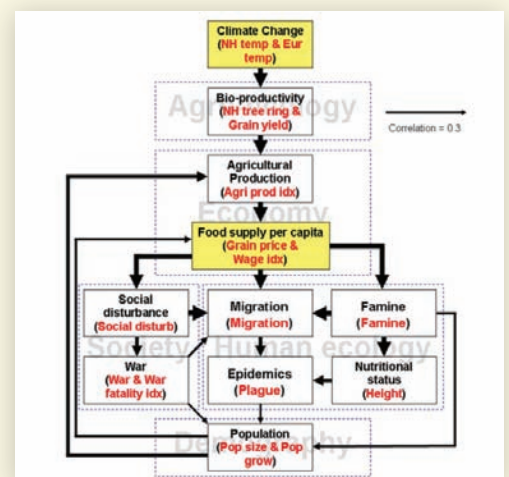
Temperature change appears to have nothing to do with these social, economic, ecological and political phenomena, yet they identified and quantified a set of causal linkages between climate change and human crisis. They were able to show how temperature change affected societies by a series of chain reactions (Figure 1). Using the five criteria for verifying the causal relationship in a scientific approach, they have verified that temperature change directly affected agricultural production and then led to economic crisis. This climate-driven economy resulted in a series of human crises in Europe. Therefore, climate change was the ultimate cause, and the climate-driven economic downturn was the direct cause, of large-scale human crises in pre-industrial Europe. Using this causal model, this research simulated the alternation of defined “golden” and “dark” ages in Europe and the Northern Hemisphere over the past millennium. The simulated results largely concur with historians’ delimitations on the time spans of European and Northern Hemispheric crisis and periods of harmony.

The article was published on *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* and selected as the leading cover article for the issue 42 in 2011.

### Professor David Zhang Dian (章典教授)

Department of Geography

Figure 1. Set of causal linkages from climate change to large-scale human crisis in pre-industrial Europe. The terms in bold black stand for sectors, while terms in red and parentheses stand for variables that represent the sector. Thickness of arrow indicates the degree of “average correlation”.



## UNIVERSITY AWARDS

---



### Outstanding Teaching Award

It was a rainy autumn evening a decade ago when I first walked, soaking wet, into the largest tutorial room in Pforzheimer House at Harvard University as a first-time teacher. The rain was heavy, and I had been unable to find a parking spot anywhere nearby. Nothing is more embarrassing than having to begin your teaching career in such circumstances. Worse still, all of my notes and my “cheat sheet” on American constitutionalism – which I had spent almost a month preparing – were soaked through and could not be read. However, the absence of my back up, and ultimately the rain itself, had the unanticipated consequence of affording the students and me an opportunity to turn the evening into an active discussion session filled with imagination, exploration, debate and conversation on the living constitution. From that day on, I knew that teaching would never be merely a professional responsibility for me. Instead, it would be an exhilarating journey, a self-enriching experience and an inalienable part of my intellectual life as an explorer and producer of knowledge on the ever-changing human world.

I arrived at The University of Hong Kong (HKU) as an Assistant Professor in 2009. As a freshly minted intellectual about to start a career in education, I saw – and still see – teaching as the central crux of my intellectual life and one of the privileges of a university career. For academics working in higher education, teaching ought to be the most important commitment, as it is the intellectual expression of our shared belief in and commitment to the continuing development and betterment of the intelligentsia and society at large. In my view, teaching is a transformative and interactive process. By interacting with the younger generation in an energetic, creative and experiential setting, it affords an opportunity to inspire and empower and to learn, both for ourselves and for our students.

University teaching in the 21st century is a challenging yet rewarding enterprise. The globalisation of knowledge, rise of new communication technologies, decline of the traditional intelligentsia and generational changes all pose new challenges, but also new opportunities, for educators in tertiary institutions. Witnessing the epic changes in the higher education sector, successful university teaching must be student-based and student-centred and must aim to provide students with the perspective, vision, motivation and critical-thinking skills necessary to remain at the frontier of human knowledge. University teachers need to be innovative in creating a learning environment that encourages the explorative, critical and experiential pursuit of knowledge. What is more, with the aid of advanced visualisation and communication information technologies, university teaching in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is meant to be a journey of discovery in which students are guided in productive self-learning, peer-learning and problem-based learning.

Teaching is never a solo performance. In my five years of teaching at HKU, I have received an enormous amount of help from Faculty and departmental colleagues, tutors, administrative staff, the Common Core Curriculum Office and the Centre for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning. I would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to all of them.

**Dr Yan Xiaojun** (閻小駿博士)

Department of Politics and Public Administration

## UNIVERSITY AWARDS



### Research Output Prize

It is a great honour for my research team to be the recipient of the University's Research Output Prize for 2013-2014. Our work challenges the current (Western) view that adopts a universal perspective on the role of perceived control in psychological symptoms. This paper was recently published in *Psychological Bulletin*.

Perceived control is one of the most widely studied constructs in various realms of psychology, such as social/personality psychology and clinical psychology. Existing Asian studies have directly "imported" Western theories and conceptualisations of this construct. This "direct import" approach is grounded in the assumption that the effect of perceived control in psychological well-being is universal or culture free. In my team's view, however, an uncritical adoption of Western approaches ignores the culturally specific characteristics of individuals from non-Western countries.

Exercising control over one's life, as emphasised in the Western conceptualisation, is consistent with the cultural norm of agency valued by individualist societies. As collectivist countries emphasise a different set of cultural norms, the higher external control scores reported by individuals from collectivist countries may not necessarily reflect their perception of having less control over their own lives and a lower level of psychological well-being. Such cultural differences in external control scores call into question the assumption of a universal meaning of control across cultures.

It is important to note that the adoption of an absolute cultural-relativistic stance is also unrealistic, because most people are exposed to multiple cultures in this age of globalisation. Taking these two perspectives together, my team seeks to enrich the literature on perceived control by blending the Western and culturally specific approaches. Although we put forward that the meaning of control may be linked to cultural norms, we empirically test both cultural invariance and variations in the perception of control, with the overarching aim of providing a more nuanced analysis of the culturally specific meaning of this psychological construct. This piece of work seeks to fill the current gap in knowledge by examining the cultural meaning of control in countries with distinct societal structures and cultural norms.

My research team performed a culture-moderated meta-analytic study that used cultural dimensions to explain the variability in the strength of the relationship between perceived control and psychological symptoms. We scrutinised a body of empirical studies spanning 1960 to 2010. Our findings indicate cultural differences in the relationship between perceived control and anxiety symptoms. A greater sense of external control is associated with higher anxiety levels for members of individualist societies, but this link is much weaker for members of collectivist societies. Such cultural differences, however, are not found in the relationship between perceived control and depression symptoms, suggesting that the role of perceived control in depression symptoms is largely universal.

This meta-analytic study is the first to indicate that perceived control is differentially related to arousal-related and dejection-related affect across societies with varying levels of individualist orientation. Our new findings thus highlight the need to incorporate cultural elements into extant (Western) theories of perceived control; and may sharpen practitioners' sensitivity to the cultural meaning of perceived control, enabling them to work within the parameters of their clients' culturally specific needs and values.

**Professor Cecilia Cheng (鄭思雅教授)**

Department of Psychology

# REUNION DINNER

## 80-83

Alumni

We all belong to the 80's! We are all young persons who attended HKU as students in the Faculty of Social Sciences from 1980-83. Time flies as we all have been graduated for 30 years now. Unimaginable!

In November, about 40 of us celebrated our 30th Anniversary at the Banker's Club. There was little music but we enjoyed delicious food and wine. Cheers and laughter resounded from every corner. For some of us, we were reunited for the first time since leaving school. Amazing, isn't it? I am happy that the character of the classmates has not changed much, despite the years.

I am envious of those who have been lucky enough to enjoy early retirement while the rest of us still have many responsibilities such as the schooling of our children.

Shall we commit now for the next 40th Anniversary when some of us will become grandpas and grandmas?

**Mr Robert Li Tai-chai (李大齊先生)**  
BSocSc (1983)



## From SocSc to Pro Boxing: A Journey from HKU to the Top of the Pro Sports World

By day, I am a public relations (PR) consultant at a major international PR firm, but come evenings and weekends, I'm a boxing promoter. In fact, I am the co-promoter and co-manager of Rex "The Wonder Kid" Tso, Hong Kong's first-ever professional boxer, and PR director at DEF Boxing, Hong Kong's premier boxing gym and hangout of the likes of Asian megastar Daniel Wu!

My unlikely and unexpected journey to the world of professional boxing actually began at HKU - I enrolled in Muay Thai and boxing classes at the HKU Institute of Human Performance, and later became an instructor of those classes. I then followed my coaches to DEF Boxing, where I both trained and taught. As graduation neared, the boss and head coach of the gym recognised my talents and potential and decided to hire me to help him carry out his vision of making Hong Kong a boxing mecca. We organised a number of successful events in Hong Kong, which gained the attention of a series of business partners that include boxing legends Ricky Hatton and Bob Arum. My proudest achievement is the role I have played in making my friend Rex Tso not just a star and the WBC and WBO Asia Super Flyweight champion, but also an inspirational figure and role model who's been cheered on by 15,000 boxing fans whenever he fights at The Venetian Macao.

I have to admit that this job did not pay very well, at first. In fact, despite signing sponsorship deals with the likes of Nike and Cafe de Coral, there's still no way I can pay the bills if I were to do this full-time. But what makes up for this is the sense of achievement I have for having built something so successful from scratch.

Dr Kenneth Ho is a PR consultant at Hill+Knowlton Strategies and Director of Marketing and Communications at DEF Promotions and DEF Boxing.

**Dr Kenneth Ho (何健宇先生)**  
PhD (2011)



## Starting a New Page in Life

In the love of God, and under the witness of our beloved families and friends, our wedding day was lovely. It was full of love, joy and blessings. In the past few months, we have settled down at our new home. While I have been trying to cook new dishes, my husband has been researching and identifying various appliances for our home. Being in this new stage of life, it is fantastic to feel the care and love between us through the small, yet significant, accomplishments in our lives. We look forward to the many years ahead, where we will continue to go hand in hand to face all the ups and downs life brings our way.

**Emily Ho Pui-yung** (何佩融小姐)  
BSocSc (2006)



## STUDENTS

Social Sciences Society, HKUSU

**Social Sciences Society, HKUSU**, one of the ten faculty societies in the University, carries the duty of representing all undergraduate students in the Faculty of Social Sciences. It has been forty-six years since our society started uniting and connecting members, fostering a sense of consciousness of the local and global communities among our fellows.

Since the start of 2014, we have initiated various kinds of activities. This is the first year we organized the Joint University Social Sciences Festival with student societies in The Chinese University of Hong Kong and City University of Hong Kong. We focused on the poverty in society via a series of exhibitions, forums, visits and a touch camp. We hope the students involved and also society can address the issue we are facing now.

Apart from that, we also aim at promoting the general welfare of our members. We organized the Amazing Winter Lucky Draw in order to collect our members' opinions and we celebrated Christmas with them. The society room is open with various kinds of welfare including photocopying services, snacks, and vending machines. Society products such as hoodies, laptop cases and T-shirts are also available. Please feel free to come and enjoy your time at our society room!

Besides all the excitement above, we are organizing the Graduation Dinner, Orientation Series, High Table Dinner and Welfare Week within the coming months. We will update our events and various promotions on our Facebook page. We hope all the registered members would come and join these wonderful events.

As social science students, we are beyond question, the pillars of society. One of our responsibilities is to keep an eye on the current affairs and respond promptly. We have organized several activities aimed to address current affairs with a deeper understanding. In January, we organized a talk with our honourable guest Mr Ricky Wong Wai-kay about his business transition from Hong Kong Broadband Network to Hong Kong Television Network Limited. The democratic development in Hong Kong is one of significant concern and the freedom of the press is considered the most fundamental value among the local community. We made several announcements and organized forums to address social issues in order to instil a sense of social responsibility amongst The University of Hong Kong. We believe all students, especially social sciences students, are responsible for the future development in our society. We hope that we can ignite students via our upcoming activities.

I would like to thank our Faculty for their support during some of our challenges. Despite the difficulties we face when carrying out our duties and running our society, the Executive Committee Members still regard serving our members and raising their social responsibilities as an honour. I sincerely look forward to seeing all of you in the coming events.

I wish all of you a great life at The University of Hong Kong.

**Mr Vangary Li Jinpeng** (李金鵬先生)  
Chairman, Social Sciences Society, HKUSU  
Session 2014



## EVENTS SPOTLIGHT

### Workshop on NGO Relationships with the Private Sector: Cooperation and Confrontation

September 5, 2013

Speaker: John Sayer

Former Director General

Oxfam Hong Kong, Hong Kong



### Changing Lenses: An Invitation to Visual Sociology

September 28 – October 9, 2013

### Press Conference on Use of Traditional Chinese Interventions for People with Insomnia and Mood Disorder: The First Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT) in Hong Kong

October 9, 2013



### Public Lecture on Taking Up Space on Earth: Theorizing Territorial Rights, the Justification of States and Immigration

November 1, 2013

Speaker: Professor Mathias Risse

Professor of Philosophy and Public Policy

Carr Center for Human Rights Policy

Harvard University, USA

### Workshop on Organisational Capacity Assessment for NGOs

November 7, 2013



## EVENTS SPOTLIGHT

### Symposium on East-West Evolution of Mental Health Services: Learning from the Past, Vision into the Future

December 2, 2013



### Workshop on Reducing Hallucination: Avatar Therapy

December 3, 2013

Speaker: Professor Julian Leff  
Emeritus Professor, Institute of Psychiatry  
King's College London, United Kingdom

### Workshop on Asia Pacific Journal of Public Administration Symposium – In Celebration of Public Administration

December 9 & 10, 2013



### Conference on Travel Behaviour and Society – the 18<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Hong Kong Society of Transportation Studies

December 14 – 16, 2013

### S C Fan Memorial Lecture: Addressing the Challenges in US-China Relations

February 27, 2014

Speaker: Professor Kenneth Lieberthal  
Senior Fellow  
Foreign Policy Studies  
John L Thornton China Center  
The Brookings Institution, USA



## Social and Cognitive Neuroscience Public Lecture: The Application of Psychological Theory to Clinical Practice

March 11, 2014

Speaker: Professor Barbara A Wilson  
OBE, PhD, DSc, CPsychol, FBPSS,



## Seminar on Stories of Giving from HK and HKU

March 20, 2014

## Seminar on When a Confucian Perfectionist Meets a Queer Perfectionist

March 25, 2014



## Contemporary China Studies Public Lecture

### Public Finance, Local Governments and the Challenges Facing China in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

November 6, 2013

Speaker: Professor Christine Wong  
Professor of Chinese Studies  
Director, Centre for Contemporary Chinese Studies  
The University of Melbourne, Australia

### Moral Implications of Immorality in Contemporary Chinese Society

November 7, 2013

Speaker: Professor Yunxiang Yan  
Professor of Anthropology  
Director, Center for Chinese Studies  
University of California, Los Angeles, USA

### Red Dawn: the Power and Peril of Chinese Capital in Africa

November 27, 2013

Speaker: Professor Lee Ching Kwan  
Professor of Sociology  
University of California, Los Angeles, USA



## EVENTS SPOTLIGHT



### Public Policy Public Lecture / Seminar

#### Globalization of the Policy Analysis Field: New Patterns, Similar Problems

December 3, 2013

Speaker: Professor Beryl Radin  
Adjunct Professor  
McCourt School of Public Policy  
Georgetown University, USA



#### How Flawed Policies Contributed to the Crisis and Helped to Make It Worse

February 14, 2014

Speaker: Professor Josef Konvitz  
Visiting Professor  
Department of Geography  
King's College London, United Kingdom



#### Emerging Directions in Public Analysis: Theory, Methods and Data

March 11, 2014

Speaker: Professor Maureen Pirog  
Ruby Professor  
School of Public and Environment Affairs  
Indiana University, USA

### The HKU Young Brain Scientist Programme Lecture Series

#### Why Do We Miss the Dancing Bear?

December 13, 2013

#### The Asymmetries in Our Mind

January 24, 2014

#### Optical Illusions

March 1, 2014



### The 10<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Grief and Bereavement in Contemporary Society: EAST MEETS WEST Expanding Frontiers and Diversity

June 11–14, 2014, Hong Kong | 9:00am – 5:30pm

Venue: Grand Hall, Lee Shau Kee Lecture Centre, Centennial Campus, The University of Hong Kong

Contact: Miss Alda Chan | Tel: 3917 1237

Email: [info@icgb2014.org](mailto:info@icgb2014.org) | Website: [www.icgb2014.org](http://www.icgb2014.org)

#### Prelude Public Seminar Series

Lessons from the Body

遺愛臭皮囊

October 26, 2013

Rituals in Transit

死得有禮

November 30, 2013

There's Always Tomorrow

雨後彩虹

December 7, 2013

Where Have All the Flowers Gone?

吾・識死

February 22, 2014

Pet Loss and Mourning

善別愛寵

March 15, 2014

Innovative Healing from Loss

創新悼念法

March 29, 2014

Healing Soul

醫護・仁心

April 12, 2014



## DONATIONS

## Donations (From August to December 2013)

Donor	Recipient	Nature	Amount (HK\$)
MTR Corporation Limited	Department of Geography	Supporting the On-going Urban Greening Research of Professor Jim Chi Yung	100,000
Mr Daniel Wong Chung-ming	Faculty of Social Sciences	Supporting the Civil Referendum Project	20,000
Victor and William Fung Foundation Limited		Supporting the Li & Fung Service Leadership Initiative	1,000,000
Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange	HKJC Centre for Suicide Research & Prevention	Project on "One Hundred Years of Suicide in Taiwan"	100,680
Cally K Jewellery Ltd	Sau Po Centre on Ageing	Supporting the Dementia Care Research and Education	50,000
Catwalk Productions Ltd			10,000
Culture Technology Ltd			30,000
Dr Karen Cheung			170,000
HEC Securities Ltd			200,000
Joyfit Development Limited			300,000
Lapton Electric and Machinery Ltd			50,000
Mr Ma Tak Chung			170,000
Mr Owen Chan Sze-wai			10,000

We would like to hear from all alumni, especially those who have not been in contact for some time. We wish to take this opportunity to invite you to share with the Faculty the contact details of local or overseas alumni with whom you are in touch. Please complete and return the following form to the Faculty so that we can keep them informed of the most up-to-date developments and activities of the Faculty and the University.



Fax: 2517 0806/ E-mail: socsc@hku.hk

## Part I : Your Information

Name : \_\_\_\_\_  
(Surname) (Given Name)

Chinese Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Sex : M/F

Contact Phone No. : \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail:

Year of Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

Degree Awarded: \_\_\_\_\_

## Part II: Other Alumni's Information

Name : \_\_\_\_\_  
(Surname) (Given Name)

Chinese Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Sex : M/F

Contact Phone No. : \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: [maria.fernandez@univie.ac.at](mailto:maria.fernandez@univie.ac.at)

Correspondence Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Year of Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

Degree Awarded: \_\_\_\_\_

# Stay in touch

## SELECTION OF RECENT PUBLICATIONS (From August to December 2013)

### Accessing Suicide-related Information on the Internet: A Retrospective Observational Study of Search Behavior

Authors: Wong, P W C, Fu, K W, Yau, R S P, Ma, H H M, Law, Y W, Chang, S S & Yip, P S F

Journal: Journal of Medical Internet Research

*The Internet's potential impact on suicide is of major public health interest as easy online access to pro-suicide information or specific suicide methods may increase suicide risk among vulnerable Internet users. This study is to investigate what webpages people usually clicked on after searching with suicide-related queries on a search engine and examine what queries people used to get access to pro-suicide websites. This findings showed that the search terms used to access these sites included "committing suicide with a gas oven" and "hairless goat". However, searching suicide-related or pro-suicide webpages was actually uncommon.*

**Dr Paul Wong Wai-ching (黃蔚澄博士)**

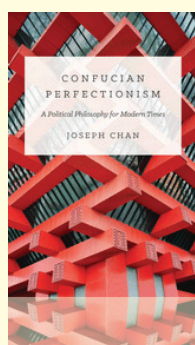
The Hong Kong Jockey Club Centre for Suicide Research and Prevention



### Confucian Perfectionism: A Political Philosophy for Modern Times

Author: Chan, Joseph

Publisher: Princeton University Press



*Since the very beginning, Confucianism has been troubled by a serious gap between its political ideals and the reality of societal circumstances. Contemporary Confucians must develop a viable method of governance that can retain the spirit of the Confucian ideal while tackling problems arising from nonideal modern situations. The best way to meet this challenge, Joseph Chan argues, is to adopt liberal democratic institutions that are shaped by the Confucian conception of the good rather than the liberal conception of the right.*

*Confucian Perfectionism examines and reconstructs both Confucian political thought and liberal democratic institutions, blending them to form a new Confucian political philosophy. Chan decouples liberal democratic institutions from their popular liberal philosophical foundations in fundamental moral rights, such as popular sovereignty, political equality, and individual sovereignty. Instead, he grounds them on Confucian principles and redefines their roles and functions, thus mixing Confucianism with liberal democratic institutions in a way that strengthens both. Then he explores the implications of this new yet traditional political philosophy for fundamental issues in modern politics, including authority, democracy, human rights, civil liberties, and social justice.*

*Confucian Perfectionism critically reconfigures the Confucian political philosophy of the classical period for the contemporary era.*

**Professor Joseph Chan Cho-wai (陳祖為教授)**

Department of Politics and Public Administration



### El Niño Modulations Over the Past Seven Centuries

Authors: Li, J, Xie, S P, Cook, E R, Morales, M S, Christie, D A, Johnson, N C, Chen, F, D'Arrigo, R, Fowler, A M, Gou, X & Fang, K

Journal: Nature Climate Change

*El Niño is the dominant forcing of extreme weather and interannual climate variability. Our tree-ring study of El Niño variability during the past seven centuries indicates that El Niño will get more extreme under global warming, and we predict more extreme weather conditions ahead.*

**Dr Li Jinbao (李金豹博士)**

Department of Geography





## Grandparent–grandchild Family Capital and Self-rated Health of Older Rural Chinese Adults: The Role of the Grandparent–parent Relationship

Authors: Lou, V W Q, Lu, N, Xu, L, & Chi, I

Journal: The Journals of Gerontology Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences

*This study tested the relationship between grandparent–grandchild family capital and self-rated health of older rural Chinese adults and the mediating role of the grandparent–parent relationship in terms of grandparent–grandchild family capital and self-rated health. Data were derived from a random sample of 1,027 adults aged 60 and older who were interviewed in the rural Chaohu region in 2009. The results showed grandparent–grandchild family capital had a unique direct effect on the self-rated health of older rural Chinese adults, enriching our theoretical understanding of sources of family capital and their impacts in a collectivist cultural context that emphasizes intergenerational interaction and exchange. The findings also highlighted the mediation effects of grandparent–parent relationships on the relationship between grandparent–grandchild family capital and self-rated health of older rural Chinese adults, supporting the “grandchild-as-linkage” hypothesis in understanding the social determination of self-rated health in China.*

**Dr Vivian Lou Weiqun (樓瑋群博士)**

Department of Social Work and Social Administration

## Heat-sink Effect and Indoor Warming Imposed by Tropical Extensive Green Roof

Author: Jim, C Y

Journal: Ecological Engineering (Elsevier Science, Amsterdam)

*The study evaluates diurnal cooling effect of two herbs on tropical green roofs, C3 broadleaved Perennial Peanut (*Arachis pinto*) and CAM succulent Mexican Sedum (*Sedum mexicanum*) with contrasting photosynthesis-transpiration physiology. The holistic outdoor-substrate-indoor vertical temperature profile is evaluated. Control, Sedum and Peanut experimental plots were established on a residential building in Hong Kong, each equipped with temperature sensors at 7–11 vertical positions. Sensible heat stored in Sedum roof generates green-roof heat-sink effect, driving downward heat flux throughout the day to raise indoor temperature by 1–2 °C. At Peanut plot, lightly less heat than Sedum is fluxed downwards to raise indoor temperature. Both vegetated plots show less heat ingress into indoor space in daytime, but more in nighttime. Contrary to findings outside the tropics, the tropical extensive green roofs cannot bring net cooling to the indoor environment in summer.*

**Professor Jim Chi Yung (詹志勇講座教授)**

Department of Geography



## Joint Effects of Asymmetric Payoff and Reciprocity Mechanisms on Collective Cooperation in Water Sharing Interactions: A Game Theoretic Perspective

Authors: Ng, C N, Wang, R Y & Zhao, T

Journal: PLOS ONE

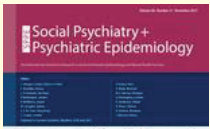
*Common-pool resource (CPR) dilemmas distinguish themselves from general public good problems by encompassing both social and physical features. This paper examines how a physical mechanism, namely asymmetric payoff; and a social mechanism, reciprocity; simultaneously affect collective cooperation in theoretical water sharing interactions. We present an iterative N-person game theoretic model to investigate the joint effects of these two mechanisms in a linear fully connected river system under three information assumptions.*

**Dr Ng Cho Nam (吳祖南博士)**

Department of Geography



# SELECTION OF RECENT PUBLICATIONS



## Prevalence and Trajectory of Psychopathology Among Child and Adolescent Survivors of Disasters: A Systematic Review of Epidemiological Studies Across 1987-2011

Authors: Wang, C W, Chan, C L W & Ho, R T H  
Journal: Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology

*The goal of this paper was to systematically review evidence on (1) the potential magnitude of the psychopathological impacts of community-wide disasters on child and adolescent survivors, and (2) the long-term course or trajectory of disaster-induced psychopathology among children and adolescents.*

**Professor Cecilia Chan Lai-wan (陳麗雲教授)**  
Centre on Behavioral Health



## Prevalence of Tuberculosis by Types of Housing

Authors: Low, C T, Lai, P C, Tse, W S, Tsui, C K, Lee, H & Hui, P K  
Journal: Social Science & Medicine (UK: Elsevier)

*A result of collaboration between Department of Geography and Kwong Wah Hospital, this study examines the relationship between TB outcomes and housing characteristics which is reflective of an individual's socio-economic standing. We demonstrated how housing characteristics could be useful input in an ecological study of the TB disease. These results have significant design and health implications for Asian cities that are getting denser and growing taller.*

**Dr Lai Poh Chin (賴寶珍博士)**  
Department of Geography



## Strategic Counting: A Novel Assessment of Place-value Understanding

Authors: Chan, W W L, Au, T K, & Tang J  
Journal: Learning and Instruction

*Highlights: (1) Strategic counting is the single strongest predictor of mathematical outcomes in this study of kindergartners and first- and second-grade children. (2) Low mathematical achievement is associated with early poor place-value understanding. (3) The Strategic Counting task we developed is a reliable assessment for early place-value understanding.*

**Professor Terry Au Kit-fong (區潔芳教授)**  
Department of Psychology



## Unfolding the Spatial and Temporal Neural Processing of Lying about Face Familiarity

Authors: Sun, D, Lee, T M C & Chan, C C H  
Journal: Cerebral Cortex

*To understand the neural processing underpinnings of deception, this study employed both neuroimaging (functional magnetic resonance imaging, fMRI) and neurophysiological (event-related potential, ERP) methodologies to examine the temporal and spatial coupling of the neural correlates and processes that occur when one lies about face familiarity. This was performed using simple directed lying tasks. According to cues provided by the researchers, the 17 participants were required to respond truthfully or with lies to a series of faces. The findings confirmed that lie and truth conditions are associated with different fMRI activations in the ventrolateral, dorsolateral, and dorsal medial-frontal cortices; premotor cortex, and inferior parietal gyrus. They are also associated with different amplitudes within the time interval between 300 and 1000 ms post face stimulus, after the initiation (270 ms) of face familiarity processing. These results support the cognitive model that suggests representations of truthful information are first aroused and then manipulated during deception. Stronger fMRI activations at the left inferior frontal gyrus and more positive-going ERP amplitudes within [1765, 1800] ms were observed in the contrast between lie and truth for familiar than for unfamiliar faces. The fMRI and ERP findings, together with ERP source reconstruction, clearly delineate the neural processing of face familiarity deception.*

**Professor Tatia Lee Mei-chun (李湄珍教授)**  
Department of Psychology



# CONGRATULATIONS

## Alumni

### Honours



**Dr Anna Hui On-wah**  
(許鞍華博士)

Doctor of Social Sciences  
*honoris causa*



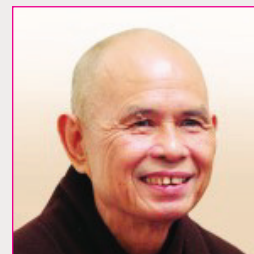
**Professor Huang Jiefu**  
(黃潔夫教授)

Doctor of Social Sciences  
*honoris causa*



**Dr Walton Li Wai-tat**  
(李維達醫生)

Doctor of Social Sciences  
*honoris causa*



**Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh**  
(釋一行禪師)

Doctor of Social Sciences  
*honoris causa*

### Awards



#### Hong Kong Social Workers Association 23<sup>rd</sup> Outstanding Social Workers Award

It's my honour to be awarded the 23rd Outstanding Social Workers Award (Junior) by Hong Kong Social Workers Association in January 2014. I have served the Hong Kong Christian Service as a social worker since my graduation from the Master of Social Work program at HKU in 2009. During these years, I have devoted to working with the 'hidden youth' who hide themselves at home, neither working nor studying, to terminate their long-term solitary and isolation and to re-integrate into society. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all excellent teachers and staffs of the Department of Social Work and Social Administration, as well as my lovely classmates who bought me a happy campus life.

**Miss So Ka Wing** (蘇嘉穎小姐)  
MSW (1996)



I felt humbly honoured to be one of the two Outstanding Social Workers Awardees in 2013, which was an important milestone of my clinical social work journey. Still remember my first internship program "Everyone deserves a Merry Christmas", an advocacy of underprivileged children's needs... up till a recent one "Together\*DreamsComeTrue", which was for adolescents with severe disabilities to have their dreams come true. Looking back, I realized my belief and persistence in helping others to pursue their longings and dreams; those overwhelming laughter and joys in the process are still very vivid.

Having worked with adolescents with complex bio-psycho-social issues for 18 years at the Adolescent Medical Centre of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, I gradually understood illnesses and traumas in life are inevitable. What matters our meaning in life is our attitude. I feel proud that my positivity elicits meanings in others' lives!

**Dr Eve Wong Wai-lan** (黃慧蘭博士)  
BSocSc(1993), MSW(1996)

## Students

### Awards



#### Annual Conference of Chinese Sociology First Prize of Excellent Conference Papers

It has been six years since I fell in love with Sociology and Anthropology. I enjoy the time in the fieldwork, it provides me the chance to live and talk with people of different culture. This experience not only help us to know more about others, but also give me a new understanding of myself and things I used to take for granted. Here I would like to express my gratitude to teachers, and share my honor with friends who helped me in the field.

**Miss Yan Xia** (嚴霞小姐)  
PhD Candidate (Sociology)

# CONGRATULATIONS

## Best Paper Award

### Conference on Informal Practices and Structures in Eastern Europe and Central Asia

## Romanian Student of the Year on Other Continents Award

### League of Romanian Students Abroad

I feel deeply honored and humbled to have received the Best Paper Award at the conference on informality. As is often the case in this sort of academic events, the distinction could have as well gone to other participants. Thus, apart from the inherent excitement and elation, the award brings along a feeling of immense responsibility. I owe a debt of gratitude to the University of Fribourg for making the conference possible, the Department of Sociology at HKU for providing an excellent research environment, and particularly to my supervisor, Dr Cheris Chan Shun-ching, for continuous guidance and support.

**Mr Marius Wamsiedel**

PhD Candidate (Sociology)



## Fulbright Junior Award

### Fulbright-RGC Hong Kong Research Scholar Programme

My eight-month Fulbright journey in The University of Michigan was awesome. I broadened my horizon through immersing myself in American culture and greatly sharpened my research skills by collaborating with esteemed professors in my field of possible selves study. Living and studying in Ann Arbor was a very valuable experience in my academic career. It gave me the opportunity to fulfill my Fulbright goal of exploring the cultural base of possible selves and studying the School-to Job Intervention Program. I have great gratitude for the support from my supervisors, HKU, and RGC-Fulbright Grant. They made my possible selves shine!

**Ms Zhu Shimin (朱詩敏小姐)**

PhD Candidate (Social Work and Social Administration)

## Academic Staff

### Awards



**Dr Amy Chow Yin-man**  
(周燕雯博士)

Department of Social Work  
and Social Administration

**Distinguished Alumni Award 2013**

Department of Social Work  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

**Rainbow of Life Outstanding  
Individual Award 2013**

China Soong Ching Ling Foundation and  
Organizing Committee of Life Education  
of Chinese Youth



**Professor Jim Chi Yung**  
(詹志勇講座教授)

Department of Geography

**ECO Star Award (Professional Group)**  
RoadShow



**Professor Tatia Lee Mei-chun**  
(李渭珍教授)

Department of Psychology

**The RGC Panel for Humanities and  
Social Science Prestigious  
Fellowship Award**

The University of Hong Kong



**Dr Uwe Steinhoff**  
(石樂凡博士)

Department of Politics and  
Public Administration

**Knowledge Exchange Award –  
On the Ethics of Violence:  
War, Terrorism, and Torture**  
The University of Hong Kong

## Promotion



**Dr Jeffrey Saunders**  
Associate Professor  
Department of Psychology

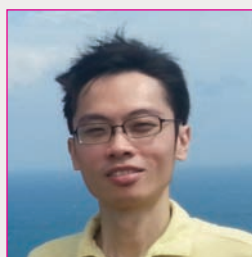
## New Appointments



**Professor David Wong Wing-shun**  
(黃永信教授)  
Professor  
Department of Geography



**Dr James Gledhill**  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Politics and Public Administration



**Dr Kai Quek Ch-yuan**  
(郭全鑑博士)  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Politics and Public Administration



**Dr Courtney Richardson**  
(李康雲博士)  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Politics and Public Administration

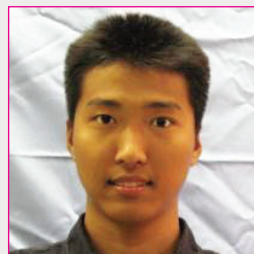


**Dr Ran Maosheng**  
(冉茂盛博士)  
Associate Professor  
Department of Social Work and Social Administration



**Dr Cheng Qijin**  
(程綺瑾博士)  
Post-doctoral Fellow  
The HKJC Centre for Suicide Research and Prevention

**Dr Shao Ruobing**  
(邵若冰博士)  
Post-doctoral Fellow  
Department of Psychology



**Dr Zhang Yi**  
(張一博士)  
Post-doctoral Fellow  
Department of Social Work and Social Administration



**Dr. Andy Ho Hau-yan**  
(何孝恩博士)  
Research Assistant Professor  
Sau Po Centre on Ageing



**Dr Gloria Wong Hoi-yan**  
(黃凱茵博士)  
Research Assistant Professor  
Sau Po Centre on Ageing

## Alumni Groups

Hong Kong University Social Sciences Alumni Association | <http://www.socsc.hku.hk/af/af.htm>

HKU Centre on Behavioral Health Alumni Association | <http://hku-msbh.blogspot.hk>

The University of Hong Kong Social Work Alumni Association | <http://hkuswaa.socialwork.hku.hk/index.htm>

HKU Master of Arts in Transport Policy and Planning Association | <http://web.hku.hk/~matppa>

HKU MIPA (Master of International and Public Affairs) Alumni Association

HKU MPA (Master of Public Administration) Alumni Association | <http://www.alumni.hku.hk/mpaaa>

HKU Master of Social Sciences (Counselling) Alumni Association | <http://counselling.socialwork.hku.hk/alumni.htm>

HKU Master of Social Sciences (Marriage and Family Therapy) Alumni Association | <http://hkufi.hku.hk/alumni.html>

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### June



#### **The 10th International Conference on Grief and Bereavement in Contemporary Society East Meets West: Expanding Frontiers and Diversity**

Date: June 11 – 14, 2014

Venue: Lee Shau Kee Lecture Centre, Centennial Campus, HKU

Contact: Miss Alda Chan

(Tel: 3917 1237; Email: [info@icgb2014.org](mailto:info@icgb2014.org);

Website: [www.icgb2014.org](http://www.icgb2014.org))

#### **2-day Workshop on Music Therapy by Dr Joe Moreno**

Date: June 20 & 21, 2014

Venue: Centre on Behavioral Health, HKU

Contact: Ms Amy Choi

(Tel: 2831 5163; Email: [amychoi@hku.hk](mailto:amychoi@hku.hk);

Website: [cbh.hku.hk](http://cbh.hku.hk))

#### **Workshop on NLP by Mr Eric Leung**

Date: June – July, 2014

Venue: Centre on Behavioral Health, HKU

Contact: Ms Amy Choi

(Tel: 2831 5163; Email: [amychoi@hku.hk](mailto:amychoi@hku.hk);

Website: [cbh.hku.hk](http://cbh.hku.hk))

### July



#### **HKU Social Sciences Summer Programme 2014**

Date: Jul 21 – 25, 2014

Venue: Centennial Campus, HKU

Contact: Mr Ren Au

(Tel: 3917 1226; Email: [sssp@hku.hk](mailto:sssp@hku.hk);

Website: <http://www.socsc.hku.hk/sssp/2014/>)



Date: Jul 28 – Aug 22, 2014

Venue: 11/F, The Jockey Club Tower, Centennial Campus, HKU

Contact: Miss Carmen Hor

(Tel: 3917 1220; Email: [ssrm@hku.hk](mailto:ssrm@hku.hk);

Website: <http://www.socsc.hku.hk/ssrm/2014/>)

### **Societist**

is published twice a year by the Faculty of Social Sciences, The University of Hong Kong. Electronic copies of *Societist* are available on the internet at [www.socsc.hku.hk](http://www.socsc.hku.hk).

For hard copies of *Societist*, please e-mail us at [socsc@hku.hk](mailto:socsc@hku.hk).

The Faculty welcomes any form of contribution to *Societist*.

#### **Editor-in-Chief**

Professor John P Burns, Dean

(卜約翰教授)

#### **Editorial Assistants**

Mrs Amy Tsang (曾梁惠慈女士)

Mr Tommy Fan (范溢雄先生)

Ms Florence Luk (陸可盈小姐)

#### **Graphic Design**

Mr Harold Tsang (曾可文先生)

#### **The Faculty of Social Sciences**

reserves the right to publish and edit any material submitted for publication. Views expressed in *Societist* by contributors do not necessarily represent those of the Faculty or the University.

#### **Faculty of Social Sciences**

11/F, Faculty of Social Sciences

The Jockey Club Tower

Centennial Campus

Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong

Telephone: (852) 3917 1234/ 3917 1235

Fax: (852) 2517 0806

E-mail: [socsc@hku.hk](mailto:socsc@hku.hk)

Website: [www.socsc.hku.hk](http://www.socsc.hku.hk)

All rights reserved.

Spring 2014