

COVID-19 WEBINAR SERIES



Policy Research @ HKIAPS | Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

INDIVIDUAL AND POLICY RESPONSES TO COVID-19

LOCAL AND GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES

PROGRAMME

18 September 2020, 11:00 AM–12:15 PM (GMT+8)

11:00–11:10 AM

Welcoming Remark

Prof. Fanny M. CHEUNG

*Senior Advisor,
Faculty of Social Science,
Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies, CUHK*



11:10–11:30 AM

COVID-19 and Travel

Activities:

Local and Global

Evidence from Airbnb

Prof. Maggie R. HU

*Assistant Professor of Real Estate and Finance,
CUHK Business School*



The COVID-19 pandemic has triggered an unprecedented crisis in the tourism economy. Based on a sample of 98 Airbnb markets across 30 countries around the world from January to March 2020, we study the impact of the COVID-19 epidemic on Airbnb bookings regarding three factors: the initial Wuhan lockdown, local COVID-19 cases, and local lockdowns. We provide a comprehensive understanding of the impact of COVID-19 on the demand and supply dynamics of Airbnb bookings with regional heterogeneity.

11:30–11:45 AM

Epidemiological

Characteristics of

Laboratory Confirmed

Cases of COVID-19

Epidemic in Hong Kong

Prof. Kin-on KWOK

*Assistant Professor,
JC School of Public Health and Primary Care, CUHK*



This presentation aims to describe key epidemiological parameters of COVID-19 in Hong Kong. The author extracted data of confirmed COVID-19 cases and their close contacts from the publicly available information released by the Hong Kong Centre for Health Protection during the early phase of first wave of epidemic. The author used doubly interval censored likelihood to estimate containment delay and serial interval, by fitting gamma, lognormal and Weibull distributions to respective empirical values using Bayesian framework with right truncation.

11:45 AM–12:00 noon

Containing COVID-19

by Testing

and Contact Tracing:

Evidence from Asia,

Europe and U.S.

Prof. Michael Z. SONG

Professor, Department of Economics, CUHK



Using structural econometrics techniques, we developed COVID-19 response models for a variety of territories: three European countries, Germany, Italy and Switzerland, four states in the U.S, as well as two Asian countries, Japan and South Korea. Our models show large cross-country heterogeneity in individual and policy responses to the pandemic. Germany and South Korea pursued more aggressive contact tracing, while Italy relied more on a strict lockdown. Low testing capacity in the early stage of local outbreaks was found to be a key factor for the much higher infection rates in the four U.S. states. We quantitatively demonstrate that testing plus contact tracing is an effective substitute for strict a lockdown.

12:00 noon–12:15 PM

Q&A Session