

COVID-19 WEBINAR SERIES



Policy Research @ HKIAPS

Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Behavioural Responses to COVID-19

The Role of Institutions and Identity

PROGRAMME

22 March 2021, 11:00 AM–12:15 PM (UTC+8)

11:00–11:05 AM

Welcoming Remark

Prof. Fanny M. CHEUNG

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



11:05–11:25 AM

Paper Presentation

***War Against COVID-19:
How is National Identification
Linked to the Adoption of
Disease-Preventive Behaviours
in China and the United States?***

Prof. Ying-yi HONG

*Professor,
Department of Management, CUHK Business School*



Fighting the COVID-19 pandemic requires large numbers of citizens to adopt disease-preventive practices. We contend that national identification can mobilize and motivate people to engage in preventive behaviours that protect the general public, which in turn would further heighten national identification. The results of our study revealed that, in general, national identification was associated with an increase in disease-preventive behaviours in both countries. However, among politically conservative American participants higher national identification was associated with greater trust in the Trump administration, which was then associated with the slower adoption of preventive behaviours. The reinforcing effect of preventive behaviours on national identification was observed only in China.

11:25–11:45 AM

Paper Presentation

***Behavioural Responses to
Natural Disasters:
Top-down and Bottom-up Engines***

Dr. Hongchuan SHEN

*Postdoctoral Fellow,
Department of Decision Sciences and Managerial Economics,
CUHK Business School*



Using the recent COVID-19 pandemic as a case study, and drawing on a unique dataset on the mobility of Chinese individuals, we first provide a fact that has not been officially reported: during China's lockdown period people curtailed long-distance movements (de jure social distancing), but lingered more around their neighbourhood (de facto social distancing). We explain these natural disaster behaviours in relation to two types of institutions — top-down (formal) and bottom-up (informal). With regard to the former, the success of anti-COVID-19 efforts is attributed to the effectiveness of local leaders in implementing lockdown policies. With regard to the latter, people who are adherents to Confucian values were observed to behave more hypocritically during the pandemic, while those exposed to domestic religions were found to be more altruistic.

11:45–11:55 AM

Prof. Tian XIE

*Associate Professor,
College of Business,
Shanghai University of Finance and Economics*



11:55 AM–12:15 PM

Q&A Session