

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Please refer to previous issues of this publication for more details of the following ongoing research at the department:

Edition Title/Investigators

2001-02 Selling Soap to China: Global Consumerism and the Sources of Desire (SS01348)

✉ BOSCO Joseph

2002-03 Rethinking Ainu Identity: An Ethnographic Study of Ainu Folk Art in Lake Akan, Hokkaido (SS02568)

✉ CHEUNG Chin Hung Sidney

2002-03 Fishpond in the Marsh: An Ethnography Study of Fishing Industry in Inner Deep Bay (SS02505)

✉ CHEUNG Chin Hung Sidney

2002-03 Psychological Trauma, Prostitution and Its Associated Antecedents in a Chinese Sample (SS02789)

✉ LEAHY Patricia • HOLROYD Eleanor Anne (The Nethersole School of Nursing)

2002-03 The Subsistence Strategies in South China and Hong Kong between 10,000 and 4000 Years Ago (CU02196)

✉ LU Lie Dan • FU Xian Guo*

2002-03 On Learning to Belong to a Nation: A Comparison of Hong Kong, Chinese, and American Young People's Senses of National Identity (SS02712)

✉ MATHEWS Gordon Clark

1994-95 Youth in Hong Kong: Popular Culture, Political Culture (SS94091)

✉ TAM Siu Mi Maria

2001-02 The Social Construction of Family and Gender: An Investigation of Polygyny across the Hong Kong-China Border (SS01349)

✉ TAM Siu Mi Maria • MA Lai Chong (Dept of Social Work)

2001-02 家族、移民 與華人網絡：泉州華僑村落的研究

Lineage, Migration and Chinese Network: A Study of Emigrant Communities in Quanzhou of Fujian (SS01926)

✉ 陳志明 TAN Chee Beng • WANG Lianmao* • ANG See Teresita*

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Linear City Research

✍ BANIASSAD Esmail • CHOW Kelly Chi Wai • LIU Yuyang • SHIN Hae Won# • WONG Kam Sing • TSOU Jin Yeu • NG Heung Hung • FUNG Tung (Dept of Geography & Resource Management) • SHEN Jianfa (Dept of Geography & Resource Management) • ZHANG Li (Dept of Geography & Resource Management) • HUANG Yefang (Dept of Geography & Resource Management) • LEUNG Wai Han Maggi (Dept of Geography & Resource Management) • MARAFA Lawal Mohammed (Dept of Geography & Resource Management) • LEUNG Ka Yui Charles (Dept of Economics) • Richard Frewer* • Frederik Pretorius* • Cookson-Smith* • HUNG Wing Tat*

□ 1 September 2003

❖ Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation

The Research Team has been engaged by Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation (KCRC) to examine possible visions of the city with reference primarily to lines of transportation.

The Project provides for the involvement of several groups of researchers from any number of institutions or from the public sector. Working as a multi-disciplinary group, the researchers will investigate: existing policies; land bank information; demographic / sociological information; employment; economics / econometrics survey; facilities survey; housing (public and private); transport; property management & services; government planning policies; environmental information (sustainability);

precedents / international examples; and public opinion in different development contexts.

The research is aimed towards the establishment of fundamental objectives and corresponding strategies to lead innovation in the development of cities.

(SS03644)

Feasibility Study for Establishment of Air Ventilation Assessment System

✍ BANIASSAD Esmail • NG Anthony* • NG Yan Yung • TSOU Jin Yeu • WONG Kam Sing • CHIU Frank • LAM Kin Che (Dept of Geography & Resource Management) • TAM Iris* • CHAN K Y Geoffrey*

□ 1 November 2003

❖ Planning Department, HKSAR Government

The study as proposed by the Planning Department (PD) is designed to examine the feasibility & practicality of stipulating air ventilation assessment as one of the considerations for development in future planning. The fundamental objective of the Study is to establish an assessment system for evaluating impacts of land use planning & site development control on air circulation in an urban environment. The assessment system will be designed to be applicable at the district/site planning level rather than building design level. The Study therefore requires investigation in a scientific manner how changes in planning/design parameters (e.g. building heights, site coverage, plot ratio, gross floor area, etc.) and land use distribution affect the air ventilation performance in different development contexts. The findings of the technical investigation will be translated into appropriate planning guidelines for preparation of town plans, and planning criteria & standards for measuring ventilation performance of different planning & development.

(SS03986)

Research in Architectural Design

✍ CHOW Kelly Chi Wai

☐ 5 March 2004

❖ Hong Kong Institute of Architects

Design is the basis of studying architecture. As part of the program of Design Studio in the Department of Architecture, a body of work has been developed that reveals the positions of the studios and establishes relationships between the theory and practice in the studios. The relationship between word and work is subtle in all its instances. It offers rich ground for further refinement of both as they develop in a reciprocal manner. This project seeks to advance the position of architectural design in the department; the issues related to it; the methods in which these issues can be studied and developed.

(SS03758)

Heritage Consultancy Regarding Nga Tsin Wai Tsuen (Kowloon)

✍ CODY Jeffrey William

☐ 20 April 2004

❖ Sai Ling Realty Company

The purpose of this project was to advise the Sai Ling Realty Company concerning heritage conservation issues associated with the historic Kowloon village, Nga Tsin Wai Tsuen, which is experiencing severe challenges associated with its historic site because of ongoing real estate development in the vicinity

(SS03570)

Heritage Consultancy on Two Temples Under the Management of the Chinese Temples Committee (CTC)

✍ HO Puay Peng • HUI Mei Kei Maggie# • FONG Man Sze# • NG Pui Tsz# • LO Ka Yu#

☐ 30 July 2003

❖ Chinese Temples Committee

In collaboration with the Chinese Temples Committee (CTC), Professor Ho Puay-Peng, Architecture Department of the University will develop comprehensive heritage consultancy reports on two Chinese temples of Hong Kong:

- (1) Tin Hau Temple, Joss House Bay, Sai Kung, N.T.
- (2) Tam Kung & Tin Hau Temple, No.9, Blue Pool Road, Wong Nei Chung, Hong Kong

The purpose of the project is to provide adequate information to the CTC for future maintenance and renovation service made to the temples. So, the project team will undertake a detailed measurement, photographic record and historical research before renovation work to the temple commences. It is to recall drawings or reports that have been lost and illustrate the present condition and dimensions of the temples, which at last will produce a full set of measured drawings and photographic record. Site visits and interviews with neighbors in vicinity and meeting with the Secretariat and its appointed architects and engineers are also tasks needed to be done by the team so as to comprise a research as well as a recommendation on conservation.

Hardcopies of heritage reports, measured drawings, photographic survey record and electronic copies would be the final products for this project.

(SS03507)

Cartographic Survey on 12 Suffolk Road, NKIL No. 850, Kowloon Tong, Kowloon

✍ HO Puay Peng • HUI Mei Kei Maggie# • LO Ka Yu# • FONG Man Sze# • NG Pui Tsz#

□ 30 July 2003

❖ Chan, Kan & Associates Ltd.

A cartographic survey will be conducted on a site in Kowloon Tong, which will be demolished soon for re-development. Considering the historical value of the site, the project is to record the site condition and dimension and any necessary details of the existing building there.

Two full sets of the cartographic drawings will be submitted to the Antiquities and Monuments Office of Leisure and Cultural Services Department before any commencement of construction work made to the site.

(SS03907)

Chinese Village Settlement Research - Donglong Village, Jiangxi

✍ HO Puay Peng • LO Ka Yu# • CHEUNG Hei Wai

□ 16 February 2004

❖ Donation from John Lagerwey

With a donation from John Lagerwey, Professor Ho Puay-Peng, Architecture Department of the University will conduct a research on Donglong village in Ningdu County of Jiangxi province. This is a Hakka village with traditional buildings and culture very well preserved.

We will explore diverse aspects within the Chinese vernacular architecture in this village, such as Chinese culture and traditional society, the characteristics of the village layout, *fengshui* considerations and rituals, design of houses,

structural systems, construction methods, and decoration schema and individual decorative motifs.

The final products for this project would be a book published by Joint publishing (Beijing) Co. Ltd, including texts, photography and measured drawings.

(SS03440)

Conservation Appraisal for the Hong Kong Housing Society Preservation Projects in Wan Chai

✍ HO Puay Peng • HUI Mei Kei Maggie# • CHEUNG Hei Wai • LO Ka Yu#

□ 18 May 2004

❖ C M Wong & Associates Ltd

Professor Ho Puay-Peng, Architecture Department of the University will conduct the conservation appraisal for the Hong Kong Housing Society preservation projects at two locations in Wan Chai:

Mallory Street/ Burrows Street

Stone Nullah Lane (Blue House)

It is the intention of the Hong Kong Housing Society to take up the preservation projects at the two locations in Wan Chai. The buildings at the site were completed before 1950 and comprises of 13 blocks. In the conservation appraisal we shall include an overall assessment of the architectural and cultural significance of the two projects; an inventory of the existing historical structures and architectural features which are suitable for conservation and/or adaptive reuse; and also an architectural and historical appraisal and technical guidelines for future conservation and /or adaptive reuse.

Hardcopies of heritage reports, measured drawings and electronic copies would be the final products for this project.

(SS02545)

Parametric Studies of Light and Air Performance in Urban Conditions

✍ NG Yan Yung • WONG Nyuk Hien*

□ 15 November 2003

❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

Determining the availability and performance of daylighting and natural ventilation in high-density cities will help designers to optimize their design. Using parametric study method, this study investigate how plot ratio and building density, building shape, site coverage and mass to space ratio, gaps and permeability, and building heights and skyline affect daylighting and natural ventilation performance. Wind tunnel, artificial sky and computational simulation methods will be used to conduct the investigation. The significance of the study is to identify quantitatively the effect of various factors to the lighting and ventilation performance of buildings. This will allow one to concentrate detail efforts to zoom in onto parameters that matter most.

(SS03548)

Researches and Knowledge Advancement of the Understanding of Solar Resources in Hong Kong

✍ NG Yan Yung

□ 31 December 2003

❖ CLP Power Renewable Energy Fund

Solar resources is a form of renewable energy. In Hong Kong, the Observatory has collected data of their availability for many years now. Various researchers in Hong Kong also collected their own research data. The purpose of this study is to review the current state of knowledge and to propose a way forward. It is anticipated that a collated effort will

be formed to establish a Solar Resources Standard for Hong Kong in a few years time to guide calculation and research into areas of studies like PV cell.

(SS03920)

Ducted Wind Turbine - A Partnership Project with Schools

✍ NG Yan Yung

□ 3 January 2004

❖ CLP Renewable Energy Community Project 2004

A new generation of “invisible” wind turbine will be investigated. The Energy Systems Research Unit (ESRU) of the University of Strathclyde originally developed the design. The advantage is that unlike normal wind turbine, it can be well integrated into the façade of buildings - hence less intrusive. The design is attractive to high-rise urban cityscape of Hong Kong due to its invisibility. However, its detailed design and feasibility is still to be investigated. Partner with 3 secondary schools to conduct experimental studies of the design for renewable energy generation, the project will benefit advanced secondary students to understand physics, mechanics, electricity generation, fabrication, measurement, data analysis, climate, and the development of a scholarly methodology to investigate a problem intellectually and creatively. Based on outline drawings, students will develop the design, fabricate the turbine, mount it on their school building, monitor its efficiency, calibrated against theoretical results and report their findings. The three secondary schools are Law Ting Pong Secondary School, Kiangsu-Chekiang College (Shatin), and Tai Po San Yuk Secondary School. The three schools were selected from over 20 schools invited to participate.

(SS03558)

Assessing the Quality of Open Space in Public Housing Design: An Environmental-Behavioral Approach

✍ TSOU Jin Yeu • GIVONI Baruch • CHAN Ying
Keung (Dept of Sociology) • LAM Fung Ki#

□ 1 September 2003

❖ Research Grants Council (Earmarked Grants)

Open spaces are omnipresent in Hong Kong public housing estates. With the planning standards as many as 2,500 to 2,800 persons per hectare, open space is important for relieving the sense of over-congestion. As 46% of Hong Kong's population lives in public housing estates, the quality of public open space is critical to the quality of life of more than three million people. Nevertheless, an initial study indicates that their usage may be as low as 1.36%¹, which is largely due to inappropriate planning and design rather than insufficient area.

Most previous studies of local open spaces are either from a sociological perspective or administratively focused on abstract budgetary metrics such as average area and green space per capita. Only limited studies concerning both the built environment and social behavior in these spaces have been carried out. In this study, we will conduct an environmental-behavioral (E-B) study² to investigate the quality and livability of open spaces in Hong Kong public housing estates. Considering Hong Kong's hyper-dense habitation pattern and subtropical climate, the two primary phenomena to be examined are the built environment and the social behavior of the residents. The built environment interacts with ambient physical conditions, especially with respect to visual sustainability, daylighting, airflow, and acoustics. It also relates to the

administrative and social attributes of the settlement. Establishing the relationship between the built environments and the social behavioral patterns of the users will enable us to develop planning and design guidelines for Hong Kong's public open spaces.

(CU03282)

Feasibility Study for Establishing Airflow Simulation for Infectious Disease Transmission in the Built Environment

✍ TSOU Jin Yeu • ZHU Yimin • CHOW Ka Ming

□ 1 April 2004

❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) stroked the globe in March 2003 and is expected to impact the world again. The pathogen has been identified to impact in the form of droplet and dust through speaking, coughing and sneezing which could be affected by density, living condition and herd susceptibility. The outbreak at the Amoy Gardens Block E has induced different studies on the airflow pattern in systems or environment. Various studies using both computational method and physical models have been carried out to analyze several hypotheses for virus spread, mainly to look for correlations between the predictions of these hypotheses and the actual pattern of infection in Block E. Consider the infection is affected by the piston effect as generated by the action of speaking, coughing and sneezing, ventilation systems, natural wind, climate and also the built environment, water vapor, air and substitute gases used in previous studies may not provide similar information regarding the transmission as the infection media of droplet and dust. We therefore intend to incorporate

the impact factors to characterize the infection media that more comprehensive information regarding transmission pattern could be enabled. The scientific model that results could be used to study the transmission pattern of infectious agent in the built environment.
(EE03330)

樓) and the Surrounding Walls(圍樓) of Sheung Cheung Wai(上璋圍) in Ping Shan, Yuen Long (SS01588)
✍ HO Puay Peng

Please refer to previous issues of this publication for more details of the following ongoing research at the department:

Edition Title/Investigators

1998-99 The Vernacular Contained, a Study of Hong Kong's Container Architecture (SS98024)
✍ BERTIN Vito Daniel • GU Daqing • WOO Pui Leng

2002-03 Hong Kong Traditional Architectural Information System HKTAIS (SS02882)
✍ HO Puay Peng • WONG Kam Fai William (Dept of Systems Engineering & Engin. Management) • YANG Christopher Chuen Chi (Dept of Systems Engineering & Engin. Management) • HUI Mei Kei Maggie# • LO Ka Yu#

1998-99 Ritual, Opera and Bamboo Structures (SS98076)
✍ CHANG Ping Hung • LEE Tunney Fee

2001-02 A Prototype of an Interactive Grammar-based Design Tool (SS01440)
✍ LI Andrew I-kang

2002-03 Tectonics in Hong Kong (SS02341)
✍ GU Daqing • BERTIN Vito Daniel • NUTT Timothy John

1999-00 Review of Lighting and Ventilation Requirements of Buildings (SS99054)
✍ NG Yan Yung • TSOU Jin Yeu

2001-02 Chinese Traditional Buildings in Hong Kong: An Investigation into Their Design, Layout, Construction, and Ornamentation (SS01366)
✍ HO Puay Peng • LAM Sair Ling* • LIM Wan Fung Bernard

2002-03 Facility at CUHK for Testing Temperatures and Ventilation Conditions in Highrise Apartments in Hong Kong (EE02861)
✍ NG Yan Yung • GIVONI Baruch

2001-02 Cartographic Survey of the Entrance of Wai (圍門樓), the Worshipping Hall(神

2002-03 Defining Standard Skies for Daylighting and Energy Efficient Design of Buildings in Hong Kong (CU02198)
✍ NG Yan Yung • TREGENZA Peter*
1998-99 Computer Simulation for Architectural Design (SS98059C)
✍ TSOU Jin Yeu • LIM Wan Fung Bernard • LONNMAN Bruce Eric#

	• KAN Wai Tak Jeff • LIAO Zaiyi# • CHOW Ka Ming	2002-03	Developing Modeling Method in Architecture Utilizing Photogrammetric Technique (SS02520)
2000-01	Environmental Simulation for Investigating High-rise Residential Building Block Design (SS20003) ✍ TSOU Jin Yeu • ZHU Yimin • KAN Wai Tak Jeff • CHOW Ka Ming • LAM Fung Ki#		✍ TSOU Jin Yeu • ZHANG Zu Xun* • ZHANG Jian Qing*
		2002-03	Housing Development at Sha Tin Areas 4C & 38A Phase 3 Environmental Study on Alternative Design Options (SS02998)
2002-03	Improving the Air Quality of Public Transport Interchanges: A CFD Design Model (CU02199) ✍ TSOU Jin Yeu		✍ TSOU Jin Yeu • CHOW Ka Ming • ZHU Yimin

RESEARCH PROJECTS

The Boundaries of the Firms in the Absence of Property Rights

✉ CHOU Szu Wen

☐ 23 July 2003

❖ Research Grants Council (Earmarked Grants)

This paper explores the role of firm boundaries by abstracting from the property rights approach, which is not applicable to the increasingly important human-capital intensive firms. By focusing on firm boundaries' role as information barriers' that blur employees' individual outside identities, we find that firms boundaries matter because they can alter investment specificity and hence alleviate or aggravate the hold-up problem. Specifically, when there is substantial investment externalities integration is more efficient, and conversely separation is more efficient when investment externality is small. This main result is obtained under both Nash and alternating-offer bargaining, while optimal organization structure is characterized under the former. Finally, we also examine the effect of relational contracts and show that organization structures matter even when relational contracts can be signed.

(CU03265)

An Analysis of China's Regional Demand for Health Care: A Panel Cointegration Approach

✉ CHOU Win Lin

☐ 1 September 2003

❖ Research Grants Council (Earmarked Grants)

The *objective* of this project has three parts: (1) to investigate how the income growth (measured by per capita GDP growth) in China affects the demand for health care (proxied by per capita health expenditure); (2) to analyze how the non-income factors such as the proportion of health expenditure that is publicly funded, the proportion of population aged 65 and over, the relative price of health care, and other institutional factors affect the health care demand across different provinces in China; and (3) to evaluate the performance of newly developed econometric approaches in the estimation of panel cointegrated regression models. Unlike the survey research approach that had been used by the World Bank, this project adopts an econometric approach. Specifically, it employs a panel cointegration approach.

(CU03271)

Squared Residual Autocorrelations and Portmanteau Tests for General Nonlinear Structure

✉ KWAN Cheuk Chiu

☐ 1 March 2004

❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

The portmanteau test proposed by McLeod and Li (1983) is undoubtedly the most commonly used method for detecting general nonlinear structure in time series data. Unfortunately, a number of studies have reported that its finite-sample performances are far from perfect. In light of this, the present project proposes several modified portmanteau tests for linearity based on the variance-stabilizing transformations to the squared residual autocorrelations. Under the null hypothesis of randomness, the proposed tests and the McLeod-Li

test are asymptotically equivalent, but clearly, some differences may be expected in their small-sample behaviours. In light of this, the main objective of this research project is to investigate the comparative performance of these tests in commonly used sample sizes. Such an investigation would definitely make valuable contribution to the literature on the subject. In particular, the theoretical and simulation results will show whether or not there is a substantial gain from using the proposed tests in empirical applications.

(SS03815)

Understanding the Variation of Housing Prices before and after the Asian Crisis

✍ LEUNG Ka Yui Charles • CHOW Ying Foon (Dept of Finance) • ROBERT Edelstein* • TSE Chung Yi* • WANG Yong*

□ 1 August 2003

❖ Research Grants Council (Earmarked Grants)

Property prices are well known for the large variation across different housing units. While some of the variation can be explained by the difference in housing attributes, the “residual” price variation is still large. In addition, the “implicit prices” of different attributes are known to vary over time, especially after the Asian financial crisis.

This project intends to understand these variations of the housing prices and the results generated would be relevant to academic researchers, practitioners and policy makers. Existing search theoretic models provide reasons for the persistence of price variation among stores selling the same product. However, the attention on how the price dispersion would vary with the economic environment is relatively rare. The results generated from this project can provide guidelines for more theoretical works on this topic.

Practitioners (from the banks as well as real estate brokers) might also find this research interesting as they will be able to “estimate” the property prices in higher accuracy. Policy makers would also benefit as this research enables them to distinguish “normal” price movements from the “abnormal” counterparts, as well as providing guidance on the “types” and “compositions” of public housing to be built in the future.

(CU03268)

Testing Alternative Theories of Property Price-Trading Volume with Commercial Real Estate Market Data

✍ LEUNG Ka Yui Charles

□ 1 December 2003

❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

The significant price-trading volume correlation found in the residential property market presents a challenge to the rational expectation hypothesis. Existing theories account for this fact with either capital market imperfection (down-payment effect or loss-aversion consideration) or imperfect information (search theoretic models). This paper employs data from both the sale and the rental commercial real estate market, which face different degrees of severity of capital market constraint and thus provide an indirect but effective test for alternative theories. This will contribute to direct the theoretical modeling strategy of the property market (capital market imperfection vs. informational imperfection). It also sheds light on the issue of liquidity in the property market and thus can potentially add value to the policy debate on how to “revive” the housing market, and to speed up the economic recovery.

(SS03722)

Globalization Institution and the Real Estate Sector

✉ LEUNG Ka Yui Charles

☐ 1 September 2004

❖ Fulbright Hong Kong Scholar Programme

Real Estate market booms in the U.S. and other places such as the U.K. have received significant exposure in the media in the last year. Surprisingly, the academic literature on international economics and real estate economics coexist in virtually isolated arenas, with rare contact, connections or cross-references. In this project, we will first explore, to our knowledge for the first time, a transmission mechanism from economic openness and international trading activity to the real estate sector. This channel or impact has long been intimated in international economics theory, under the rubric of the “Balassa-Samuelson effect”. Yet its existence in the real estate sector has never been theoretically established or empirically confirmed. We will build a mathematical model and empirically test it with international data.

Secondly, we will explore, probably the first time as well, the relationship among the international trade, institutional change and the development of the real estate sector. Edelstien (2003) provides perhaps the first paper which outlines how the international trade, institutional change and real estate sector can be related, with some interesting historical examples in which the institutional change is significantly driven by an increase in international trade. However, neither formal model nor systematic evidence has been provided. The second objective of this project is a preliminary attempt to fill this gap.

(SS04482)

China's Family Firms

✉ LI Hongbin • BRANDT Loren* • CHEN Ling*
• PARK Albert* • SHEN Minggao* • YAO
Xianguo* • ZHOU Li-an*

☐ 11 July 2003

❖ Research Grants Council (Earmarked Grants)

In the past two decades the private sector has been the most dynamic sector of the Chinese economy. The most striking feature of China’s private firms is that many of them are owned and controlled by families. Family ownership and control raises fundamental questions about the nature of these firms. The overall goal of our proposed research is to address the fundamental questions regarding the extent and determinants of family ownership and control, and its impact on firm behavior and performance, notably governance, employment, firm efficiency, and profitability. To meet this broad goal, we intend to carry out an extensive enterprise survey in 20 municipalities in four provinces of China. To our best knowledge, we will be the first to conduct surveys and systematic empirical research on China’s family firms.

(CU03267)

Time Preference, Jealousy, and Endogenous Aggregate Fluctuations

✉ MENG Qinglai

☐ 16 March 2004

❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

The rate of impatience (time preference), i.e. the degree of unwillingness to delay gratification, plays an important role in individual consumption and saving decisions. This project investigates the

hypothesis that individual subjective rate of impatience is largely determined by the social environment, and studies its implications for the dynamic aggregate economy. We explore under the hypothesis whether the economy can be subject to endogenous aggregate fluctuations due to self-fulfilling revisions in expectations. This project focuses on the influence of jealousy and fashion on intertemporal allocations, wealth accumulation, and aggregate stability. The project intends to address the following two questions: (1) Does jealousy lead to persistent fluctuations in wealth? (2): Are wealth and consumption more likely to be dynamically unstable in an economy with jealousy than without jealousy? Informal arguments typically provide affirmative answers to both questions. Constructing a model to incorporate jealousy not only provides a rigorous examination of these informal arguments but also has interesting applications.

(SS03901)

Schooling, Technology Diffusion and Productivity Growth in Developing Countries: A Cross-country Robustness Study

✍ TANG Sammy Hak Kan • GROENEWOLD Nicolaas*

□ 15 November 2003

❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

There are two main objectives in the proposed study. Firstly, it attempts to evaluate the role of schooling in explaining the extent of technology diffusion in less developed countries (LDCs) and, secondly, it tests whether technology diffusion from multinational corporations (MNCs) to LDCs contributes significantly to productivity growth of these countries. Since productivity growth is an important source of

long-term economic growth, the results of the proposed study are useful as a guide in formulating specific policies for enhancing productivity growth of LDCs. In particular, if technology diffusion from MNCs is found to be a statistically and economically significant factor in contributing to productivity growth of LDCs, then attracting more MNCs and foreign direct investment to LDCs becomes a priority concern of the government in these countries. In addition, if schooling in the host country is found to be a major cause of technology diffusion, then government of LDCs have to focus on improving education. We anticipate the results to show that technology diffusion from MNCs to LDCs is substantial and that this technology diffusion is responsible for the observed productivity growth of LDCs over the sample period. However, the causal linkage between schooling and technology diffusion may not be statistically significant, which casts a doubt on the norm that education (measured by schooling) is necessary for productivity improvement and long-term economic growth.

(SS03712)

Fiscal Disparities and Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations in China

✍ TSUI Kai Yuen

□ 1 December 2003

❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

The research is an in-depth study of China's fiscal disparities with respect to subprovincial jurisdictions for the period 1994-2000. The issue of fiscal disparities is important because fiscal resources controlled by subprovincial governments are critical to the level of public services enjoyed by local residents. With the help of a unique set of

nation-wide fiscal statistics on subprovincial public finance, the research specifically looks into the following questions: Is there an increase in fiscal disparities? What are the forces driving fiscal disparities? To what extent does the intergovernmental transfer system serve the purpose of fiscal equalization ensuring adequate levels of local public services? The empirical results shed light on the impact of the tax-sharing system introduced in 1994 and provide information useful for the crafting of a transparent and need-based fiscal transfer system.

(SS03956)

**Institutions and Economic Performance:
Time-Series Evidence from Hong Kong**

✉ YUNG Chor Wing Linda • TANG Sammy Hak Kan

□ 1 February 2004

❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

The proposed study investigates the impact of institutional changes which have been taking place since 1997 on the economic performance of Hong Kong Special Administration Region (SAR). We propose to test the hypothesis that changes in institutional arrangements since 1997 have had a significant impact on economic performance of the SAR has enjoyed a high degree of autonomy. However, its sovereignty resides with the non-democratic institutions ultimately chosen by China's central government in Beijing. We argue that this institutional arrangement has adversely affected democratic accountability in the SAR, leading to implementation of policies which have damaged the traditional market-oriented, *laissez faire* economy of Hong Kong.

The proposed study is the first that uses current sophisticated time-series econometric methods to study Hong Kong's economic performance in a background of rapid institutional changes. More specifically, it has three long-term significances. First, it contributes to the academic literature of institutions and economic growth by analyzing Hong Kong's unique experiment of a rapid but peaceful changeover of institutions which we rarely see in the world. Second, the results of the proposed study will be of special interest to policy-makers in setting the pace and form of democratization in Hong Kong, which is under intense debate currently. Third, the results of the proposed study will be useful to business sector for making investment planning. If current democratic accountability can be used as a signal of subsequent economic prosperity of Hong Kong, business sector will have a reliable tool to forecast the up- and downsides of their potential investment.

(SS03861)

Understanding Business Cycle Comovement

✉ ZENG Zhixiong

□ 1 December 2003

❖ Research Grants Council (Earmarked Grants)

Both economists and laymen are keenly aware of booms and recessions as they witness output, employment, and investment in most sectors expanding and contracting simultaneously. Such synchronized movement of sectors activities, referred to as cross-sector comovement, is one of the defining characteristics of the business cycle. Unfortunately, this important phenomenon has received very little attention in the literature. Furthermore, the limited number of existing studies are largely confined to a framework where shocks to technology alone drive

the business cycle. In contrast, this project brings monetary and financial elements into a dynamic business cycle model to investigate the mechanism that underlies the synchronized movement of sectoral activities. This study will emphasize the fact that firms in most sectors of the economy rely heavily on the financial market to obtain necessary funds for their operation, therefore fluctuations in financial market conditions, such as interest rates, risk premium, and collateral value, etc., can have economy-wide impact and induce employment and investment to move together across sectors over the business cycle. The framework allows examination of the effects on sectoral and aggregate economic activities of monetary and financial factors, as well as the widely studied technology shocks.

(CU03269)

An Investigation of Exchange Rate Volatility and Persistence

✉ ZENG Zhixiong

☐ 1 January 2004

❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

A central puzzle in open-economy macroeconomics and international finance is that fluctuations in nominal and real exchange rates are highly volatile and persistent. Developing a theory that is capable of explaining these facts is important because policy evaluations can only be conducted using models that are able to reproduce key features of reality. The most popular modeling strategy in the literature has been centered around the interaction between monetary shocks and price stickiness. While recognizing the importance of these elements, this project proposes to offer a broader perspective on this subject by modeling frictions in domestic and

international goods markets and asset markets in depth, and by incorporating various sources of disturbances. Quantitative dynamic stochastic general equilibrium models will be constructed to address three issues. First, what accounts for the observed exchange rate volatility and persistence? Second, how do monetary and fiscal policies affect exchange rates, terms of trade, domestic and foreign interest rates, and other variables? Third, what is the best policy response when there are shocks to a country's external economic conditions? Answering these questions are important not only to countries adopting flexible exchange rate arrangements, but also to economies with pegged exchange rate systems such as contemporary Hong Kong.

(SS03403)

Please refer to previous issues of this publication for more details of the following ongoing research at the department:

Edition	Title/Investigators
2001-02	Foreign Equity Participation, Domestic Capital Accumulation, Income Distribution and Welfare (SS01520) ✉ CHAO Chi Chur
2001-02	International Capital Mobility and Pollution Tax Coordination (SS01685) ✉ CHAO Chi Chur
2002-03	An Analysis of the Admission of Talents Scheme in Hong Kong: Theory and CGE Evaluation (CU02201) ✉ CHAO Chi Chur • YAO Shunli* • YU Siu Hung Eden*

2002-03	The Boundaries of the Firms in the Absence of Property Rights (SS02734) ✍ CHOU Szu Wen	2001-02	Asian Crisis, Recovery and Real Estate (SS01595) ✍ LEUNG Ka Yui Charles • EDELSTIEN Robert H*
2002-03	An Econometric Analysis of China's Regional Demand for Health Care (SS02768) ✍ CHOU Win Lin	2001-02	Does a Financial Crisis Change the Demand of Housing Attributes? (SS01951) ✍ LEUNG Ka Yui Charles
2001-02	Do External Markets Affect the Efficiency of Internal Markets: An International Study (SS01623) ✍ DU Julian	2002-03	Capital Market Imperfection and Informational Friction in Property Markets (SS02389) ✍ LEUNG Ka Yui Charles • CHOW Ying Foon (Dept of Finance)
2001-02	Why is Stock Volatility So Different around the World? Evidence from Cross-Country Firm-level Data (SS01924) ✍ DU Julian • WEI Shang Jin*	2001-02	Privatization of China's State Owned Enterprises (SS01978) ✍ LI Hongbin • BRANDT Loyen* • SHEN Minggao*
2002-03	Institutions, Financial System Structure, and Financial Crises (CU02203) ✍ DU Julian	2001-02	Are Private Firms Discriminated by China's Commercial Banks? (SS01906) ✍ LI Hongbin
2002-03	Corporate Ownership Structure and Stock Volatility (BS02629) ✍ DU Julian	2002-03	China's Family Firms (SS02413) ✍ LI Hongbin • BRANDT Wren* • PARK Albert* • ZHOU Li-an* • SHEN Minggao* • YAO Xianguo* • CHEN Ling*
2002-03	What Causes Consumer Confidence to Move? A Multi-country Analysis (SS02382) ✍ KWAN Cheuk Chiu	2002-03	Indeterminacy of Equilibrium in Open Economies (CU02206) ✍ MENG Qinglai
2000-01	Volatility and Dynamics of Property Prices (CU00329) ✍ LEUNG Ka Yui Charles • KAN Kamhon* • KWONG Kai Sun Sunny • TSE Chung Yi*	2002-03	Investment and Interest Rate Policy in Models of Discrete-time (SS02977) ✍ MENG Qinglai • YIP Chong Kee

- 2002-03 Hong Kong's Economic Integration with the Pearl River Delta: Quantifying the Benefits and Costs (SS02304)
✉ SUNG Yun Wing
- 2002-03 Understanding Business Cycle Comovement (SS02764)
✉ ZENG Zhixiong
- 2001-02 Business-Cycle Volatility and Technical Change: Cross-Country and Cross-Industry Evidence (SS01392)
✉ TANG Sammy Hak Kan
- 2001-02 Schooling Investments and Returns under Different Policy Regimes in Urban China: A Collection and Study of Twins Data (SS01358)
✉ ZHANG Junsen • LIU Pak Wai
- 2002-03 The Roles of Institutions and Technical Change in Macroeconomic Volatility, Crisis and Growth (SS02923)
✉ TANG Sammy Hak Kan
- 2001-02 Labor Supply, Earnings and Consumption in China's Economic Transition, 1986-2000 (SS01805)
✉ ZHANG Junsen • GONG Xiaodong* • LI Shi*
- 2001-02 Welfare Impact of Changing Housing Policy in Hong Kong (SS01472)
✉ YAN Wai Hin • LEUNG Ka Yui Charles
- 2001-02 Economic Reforms and Labour Market Transitions in Urban China (BS01632)
✉ ZHANG Junsen • ZHAO Yao Hui*
- 2002-03 Barriers to International Capital Flows: Theory and Policy (CU02207)
✉ YIP Chong Kee
- 2001-02 Rising Longevity, Population Growth, and Economic Growth (SS01952)
✉ ZHANG Junsen • ZHANG Jie*
- 2000-01 The Impact of Twinning on Educational Attainment (SS00569)
✉ YUNG Chor Wing Linda • ZHANG Junsen

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Characterization of Low Flows for Water Resources Management in the East River (Dongjiang) Basin

✉ CHEN Yongqin David • CHEN Min-jian* • FUNG Tung • LEUNG Yee • SHAO Quanxi* • XIA Jun*

☐ 1 December 2003

❖ Research Grants Council (Earmarked Grants)

Water resources in the East River basin have been highly developed and heavily committed for a variety of uses such as water supply, hydropower, navigation, irrigation, and suppression of seawater invasion. In recent years the East River provides supply to meet about 80% of Hong Kong's annual water demands. Low-flow conditions and hydrologic droughts are obviously very crucial to the reliability and vulnerability of the East River water resources systems to satisfy the multiple objectives of water uses. This study is therefore proposed to employ hydrologic analysis methods for low-flow characterization and modeling techniques for optimization of water resources systems under low-flow conditions. This research will advance the state-of-the-art of low-flow hydrology through studies for developing and applying a variety of techniques and models (both statistical and analytical) to characterize and estimate low-flow regimes. Two techniques, frequency analysis and baseflow recession analysis, will be performed to characterize low flows in terms of minimum average-streamflow rates and the associated probability distributions. To estimate low-flow statistics at ungauged sites, this study will adopt a regional hydrologic modeling

approach to developing statistical relationships (both ordinary regression and geographically weighted regression) between low-flow statistics at gauged sites and a number of drainage basin characteristics derived from maps and remote sensing images. Finally, impacts of low flows on water quality and other water uses will be assessed and, multi-objective programming techniques will be applied to optimize water resources systems for the formulation of management strategies and plans. This study will not only have tremendous scientific merits, but also highly valuable practical significance and enormous relevance to Hong Kong.

(CU03247)

An Assessment of Green Space in Chinese Cities Using ASTER Data

✉ FUNG Tung • CHEN YunHao* • SHI Peijun* • WANG Jinfei*

☐ 1 October 2003

❖ Research Grants Council (Earmarked Grants)

Green space is an important component for quality of life in cities. It provides recreational space, improves public health, enhances esthetic values, helps promote the image of a city and benefits the urban economy ultimately. Chinese cities have undergone a rapid pace of development. Increasing concern over the quality of life and keen competition among cities in attracting investment have called upon planning for better preservation and expansion of green space in cities. This study attempts to make use of ASTER and other satellite data to map out green space with object-oriented image analysis techniques. Landscape metric analysis will be used to assess the landscape composition, diversity, connectivity and fragmentation of green space. A decision support system will be devised to assess the

landscape ecology of green space in selected Chinese cities. The results will be beneficial to landscape planning and quality of life among cities in China.

(CU03251)

Unraveling Factors Affecting Annoyance Reactions to Rail Noise

✉ LAM Kin Che • CHAN Tin Cheung (Dept of Psychology)

□ 1 October 2003

❖ Research Grants Council (Earmarked Grants)

Transportation noise is a problem commonly found in many cities of the world and affecting an increasing number of people. In Hong Kong, the increase in the frequency of train services and extension of the rail network to previously less developed areas are likely to expose more and more people to rail noise resulting in greater annoyance. This project attempts to unravel the intricate relationships between rail noise and human annoyance, focusing on the acoustical and non-acoustical factors that are significant in Hong Kong. The relative significance of various factors will be determined by a combination of laboratory simulation experiments and social interviews. The findings will not only fill the current knowledge gaps in our understanding of noise-annoyance relationships, but also provide the basis for setting noise standards and formulating transportation strategies.

(CU03248)

Keeping the “Gypsy Kings” at home – An Inquiry into Hong Kong’s Geographic Advantages for Transnational Highly Skilled Labour Migrants

✉ LEUNG Wai Han Maggi

□ 15 March 2004

❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

In the age of intensified globalisation, world cities are in competition to attract transnational skilled labour migrants who are characterised as one of the fundamental flows (as compared to global capital flow) in the world economy. These migrants are usually depicted as educated, cosmopolitan, hyper-mobile and affluent. What are the important factors considered by these footloose labour migrants of diverse geographic, socio-cultural backgrounds in their choice of where to work and live? How is Hong Kong perceived according to these criteria? How can the public and private sectors improve the city’s geographic advantages and keep these “gypsy kings” at home in Hong Kong?

This project aims to gain insights into the mobility patterns and migration decision processes among skilled labour migrants who are based in Hong Kong. Using a gender and identity approach and operated with a mixture of quantitative and qualitative research methodology, it seeks to explore the complex and contextualised nature of migration decision-making processes among transnational elites. It is hypothesized that migrants’ mobility is shaped by a wide range of political, socio-cultural, environmental and public health concerns beyond economics. Mechanisms that shape migration flows of skilled migrants of different gender, age, marital status, ethnic-cultural and geographic background will be uncovered. Furthermore, institutions and social networks that contribute in making Hong Kong another “home” for the transnational elites will also be examined. This in-depth empirical and theoretical investigation of skilled migrants in Hong Kong will contribute to the scholarship on

international migration, world cities and transnationalism.

(SS03967)

Build and Operate a Ground Receiving Station of the ENVISAT Remote Sensing Satellite for All-weather Environmental Monitoring

✉ LIN Hui • LIAN Shi Zhu* • SHAO Yun*

□ 1 January 2004

❖ Funding from Industrial Sponsors • Innovation and Technology Support Programme, ITF, Innovation & Technology Commission

This project aims to build and operate a ground receiving station on the campus of The Chinese University of Hong Kong for capturing and processing satellite-sourced remote sensing data and information. In particular, such image-based data will be processed for sale to governments, public authorities and private corporations throughout South China and neighboring regions. In the longer term, this project is expected to help build-up a new spatial information infrastructure in Hong Kong to foster the growth of new industries and businesses based around remote sensing data processing, software development, and other value-added professional services. As one of important results of this project, the station will become a new platform to enhance the technology collaboration between HKSAR and the mainland, accelerating the development of the remote sensing industrial in this greater Pearl River Delta region.

This project will initially operate with the radar image from ENVISAT, a remote sensing satellite. This all-weather remote sensing system is capable of monitoring Hong Kong and other neighboring regions notwithstanding the frequent cloudy and rainy weather. An urgent need of this station has

been brought up because of the increasing natural disasters in Hong Kong and the neighboring region, including landslide and subsidence, earthquake, flood, and typhoon.

Major research on the applications of the radar remote sensing images will be conducted after the station commences operation. Known regions of interest will be selected for case studies on environmental and disaster monitoring. The results will then be used to exploit the market for such products and services.

(EE03941)

Effects of Health Scare on Outdoor Recreation and Leisure Trends: Lessons from the SARS Outbreak

✉ MARAFA Lawal Mohammed • FUNG Tung

□ 21 March 2004

❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

In a densely populated urban environment like Hong Kong, most people maintain a buoyant and healthy lifestyle part of which involves leisure and recreation. At the onset of the SARS pandemic, people became psychologically apprehensive of the normal trends of daily life. Crowds were avoided, shopping malls and plazas were deserted, and people spent most of their free time indoors and had literally nowhere to go. As time went by, the alternative leisure and recreation activity was engaging in outdoor recreation in the countryside and open spaces.

In the period of SARS there was fear, alienation, frustration and most people felt insecure. In a situation of psychological trauma, leisure and recreation are believed to have beneficial consequences for improving psychological well-being and health particularly when this is done

in the outdoors. For people to continue to enjoy the outdoors and maintain a buoyant and healthy lifestyle, there is the need to understand how the outbreak affected leisure activities in the local context.

As a sense of normality returned to the city, open spaces in both rural and urban areas became beehives that attracted large number of visitors. As a result, the hitherto quiet countryside of Hong Kong (and particularly the New Territories) suddenly became alternative destinations and this trend deserves further attention. Understanding the trend of participation in leisure and recreation in the aftermath of SARS will help to elucidate the overall community response to the menace of SARS. What is the status of leisure in Hong Kong family life? How did the SARS episode interfere with family recreation patterns? What is the role of leisure and recreation in the psyche of people at a time of an unknown health scare? Some of these questions will be addressed in this study. The study will therefore investigate the changing trends to people's participation in outdoor recreation and identify what factors (if any) have influenced people's participation in leisure activities. (SS03376)

Questionnaire Surveys for Housing Estates under the Dry and Wet Waste Separation Pilot Programme

✍ NG Sai Leung

□ 1 January 2004

❖ Environmental Protection Department, HKSAR Government

In recent years, Government have been testing out various waste recovery systems in order to identify the modes that are the most cost-effective and will best suit local needs. A 12-month Dry and Wet Waste Separation Pilot Programme was launched in

March 2003 in four housing estates in the Eastern District on Hong Kong Island (Aldrich Garden, Heng Fa Chuen (upper), LeSommet and Lei King Wan), with a view to testing and alternative mode of waste separation, collection and sorting in further enhancing the waste recovery rates and providing more convenience to residents. Households of the three captioned housing estates will be surveyed in order to determine the individual participation rates for the housing estates and overall participation rate for the Programme. Furthermore, this survey will gauge the preference of residents towards the dry and wet waste separation system against the 3-coloured waste separation bins system and other existing waste separation and recovery systems.

(SS03868)

An Analysis of Differential Urbanization in China 1982-2000

✍ SHEN Jianfa

□ 1 December 2003

❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

There is still much confusion about the size of the urban population in China although it is one of the crucial indicators for assessing China's development and modernization. The difficulties in counting China's urban population arise from the accelerated urbanization in China under a model of dual track urbanization since the early 1980s. A large surplus rural labor force has been employed in TVEs and many rural migrants have moved into urban areas as "temporary population". It remains a conceptual and technical challenge to count such quasi-urban population as urban population due to a peculiar household registration system (hukou) in the country. Other than the urban population data in census years,

there are no reliable urban population data for inter-census years especially at regional level. This is a serious problem for the study of Chinese urbanization.

The objective of this project is to assess the comparability of urban population definitions in three recent censuses in 1982, 1990 and 2000. The national and regional urban population data will be adjusted and estimated according to the concept of dual track urbanization. The urban non-agricultural and agricultural populations will be counted and estimated separately. It is expected that a set of national regional urban population data for 1982-2000 would be obtained after a series of adjustment and estimation. The differential urbanization in various provincial regions would then be analyzed. The findings of this project would shed light on the processes of urbanization and regional development that is still unfolding in transitional China.
(SS03335)

Please refer to previous issues of this publication for more details of the following ongoing research at the department:

Edition Title/Investigators

2002-03 Characterization and Estimation of Low Flows in the East River (Dongjian) Basin (SS02987)

✉ CHEN Yongqin David

2000-01 Analysis and Development of Measurement-based Geographic Information System (GIS) (CU00362)

✉ LEUNG Yee • GOODCHILD Michael F*

2002-03 A Neural Network Approach to Entropy Maximizing Spatial Interaction Analysis (SS02305)

✉ LEUNG Yee • SIR Alan Wilson* • CHEN Kaizhou*

1993-94 Development of a Multi-Window System for Exploratory Spatial/Temporal Data Analysis (SS94005)

✉ LIN Hui

2002-03 The Development of a Building and Virtual Geographical Environment System (SS02655)

✉ LIN Hui

2002-03 Investigating and Analyzing Natural and Cultural Landscapes for Sustainable Use as Nature-based Recreation and Ecotourism Destinations in Hong Kong (SS02417)

✉ MARAFA Lawal Mohammed

2002-03 Survey of Community Attitudes to Waste Reduction and Recycling (SS02779)

✉ NG Sai Leung

2002-03 Soil and Nutrient Dynamics as a Function of Terracing Methods in the Three Gorges Reservoir Area in China: A Multi-disciplinary Investigation (CU02217)

✉ NG Sai Leung • CAI Qiangguo* • CHAU Kwai Cheong • LAM Kin Che • ZHANG Guanyuan*

2001-02 Organizing Urban Space under Rapid
Urbanization: Changing Urban
Governance in China (SS99951)

✉ SHEN Jianfa

2002-03 Self-help Housing and Chengzhongcun
(Urban Villages) in China's Urbanization
(SS02626)

✉ ZHANG Li • ZHAO Xiaobin*

RESEARCH PROJECTS

The Impact of the Lump Sum Grant System on Government Subsidized NGOs

✍ LEE Wing Yee Eliza

☐ 15 November 2003

❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

This project studies the impact of the Lump Sum Grant system (LSGS) introduced by the Social Welfare Department of the HKSAR government on subvented non-governmental organizations (NGOs). First put forward by the Government in 1999 and implemented in 2001, the LSGS has enormous impact on the NGOs that currently receive 77.8% of total government expenditure on social welfare and rehabilitation services and employ about 80% (or more than 27,000) of all social welfare personnel. Since it was first announced, it has aroused tremendous concern from the social service sector and the public, especially on the effect it has on NGOs, the social work profession, and the quality of social service in the long run. Through ethnographic study, documentary and archive research, I shall examine the incentive structure the LSGS has created for the NGOs; the personnel, financial and other management strategies derived by these agencies to meet the new regulatory rules; the impact of the reform on organizational culture and the internal administrative and governance systems; the relationship between managers and professionals, and the relationship between front line workers and clients. The findings will shed light on such important issues as organizational autonomy, professional autonomy and identity, citizenship, the

political role of social role of social service agents, and the interpenetration of the state and the voluntary sector. It will provide valuable information to our policymakers and the personnel in our voluntary sector as to how best they can deliver social service for the benefit of our citizens.

(SS03565)

Plagues and Institutions: The Status of Chinese Medicine in Tung Wah Hospital

✍ MA Shu Yun

☐ 1 April 2004

❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

This project is a study on institutional stability and change. It will examine the impact of the bubonic plague in 1894 and SARS in 2003 in the institutional status of Chinese medicine in Hong Kong's public health system in general, and in Tung Wah Hospital in particular. Specifically, it will focus on the following key issues:

Tung Wah Hospital and Chinese medicine as social institutions;

The policy environment of Chinese medicine in Tung Wah Hospital;

The impact of plagues on the institutional status of Chinese medicine In Hong Kong's public health system in general, and in Tung Wah Hospital in particular;

Implications of the case on theories on institutional stability and change.

(SS03761)

Please refer to previous issues of this publication for more details of the following ongoing research at the department:

Edition	Title/Investigators		
		2000-01	Associational Revolution in China (SS00362) ✍ WANG Shaoguang • WANG Ming*
2001-02	Visiting Scholars (Mainland China) Scheme (SS01813) ✍ KUAN Hsin Chi	2002-03	Global Information Technology Pressure and Government Accountability: A Study of Bureaucratic Response to E-Government in Hong Kong, China, Taiwan and Countries of Major Regions (CU02223) ✍ WONG Wai Ho • WELCH Eric*
2000-01	Comparing the New Public Management Reforms in Hong Kong and Singapore (CU00374) ✍ LEE Wing Yee Eliza • HAQUE Shamsul*		
2000-01	The Politics of Listing Chinese State Enterprises on Hong Kong (CU00354) ✍ MA Shu Yun	2000-01	Shaping Political Localism in Reform China (CU00347) ✍ WU Guoguang • TSAO King Kwun
2002-03	A Study of Tiananmen Square as a Spatial Space of Popular Protest in Modern China (SS02940) ✍ MA Shu Yun	2002-03	Mapping Hong Kong's Constitutional Identity (SS02664) ✍ YU Xingzhong

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Vocal Minorities and Silent Majorities: Citizen Perceptions and Media Representations of Public Opinion in Hong Kong

✉ CHAN Joseph Man • LEE Francis*

☐ 16 November 2003

❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

It is now widely accepted that the anti-government rally on July 1st, 2003, has changed the political landscape in Hong Kong. Among other things that it may have symbolized, the July 1st rally and its aftermath have demonstrated the power of “public opinion” in Hong Kong. However, given the fact that the Hong Kong government is not a fully democratic one, how could “public opinion” be effective in forcing the government to respond? This project is an attempt to understand the power and limitations of public opinions in Hong Kong through a conceptual focus on the notions of “vocal minorities” and “silent majorities”. The specific research questions that we ask in this project are: 1) Do the opinions of the silent majorities match those of the vocal minorities as represented in the news media on various political and social issues? 2) To what extent are citizens’ perceptions of public opinions influenced by the vocal minorities? 3) How do media representations of public opinions affect citizens’ perceptions of public opinion and their own individual opinions? 4) How do citizens’ perceptions of public opinions relate to their individual opinions on social issues?

(SS03622)

Global Companies, Local Culture: Production, Distribution and Consumption of Popular Music in Greater China

✉ FUNG Ying Him Anthony • MA Kit Wai

☐ 1 September 2003

❖ Research Grants Council (Earmarked Grants)

This project explores the globalization and localization of transnational music record companies in the China market. It examines how these global capitals produced Chinese singers and songs in relation to the changing cultural values of the new generations in Greater China. A significant body of literature in the fields of media studies and cultural studies, political economy and sociology of consumption has converged on (1) the interactions between global corporations and local cultures, and (2) the power of popular culture on the formation of local cultures and group identities. Specifically, our study sets out to empirically examine (1) the entry and then the localization of transnational record companies in China since the early 1990s, (2) how these foreign companies adapted local, Chinese and Asian strategies - partially from Hong Kong, Taiwan and Japan - to construct national Chinese stars and pave the way for their cultural business in China, and (3) how audience and fans in Hong Kong, Taiwan and urban China use popular music as a site to explore, interrogate, and transform their values and identities in relation to their subcultural groups, age, class, gender, politics and public life. The study employs multiple methods, including field and ethnographic work, in-depth interviews, and diary study as well as institutional and textual analysis. As the images of these stars and their popular songs circulate throughout China, our examination sheds light on the extent to which foreign capital has played a role in the transformation of Chinese culture in

particular after WTO, not through formal politics, but by means of popular culture. Equally important, in light of the fact that many audiences find aspirations, express views, and appropriate values, identities and norms in the realm of popular music as opposed to conventional formal and political processes, the research results will become significant thermometer for social change of China and cultural policy.

(CU03274)

Digital Kids and New Media Use in the Privacy of Bedrooms: A Study on Social Capital, Identity, and Academic Performance

✉ LEUNG Wing Chi Louis

□ 1 March 2004

❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

Youngsters today are immersed in new media. Their lives are dedicated to many of the emerging communication technologies - the Internet, interactive games, mobile phones, SMS, MP3, and conversing in ICQ. Many policymakers and critics have voiced fears about what these personal communication technologies, especially consumed in the privacy of their own bedrooms, are doing to children. This study examines the social and psychological impacts of the Internet and mobile phones, two of the most popular technologies among youngsters aged 8-15. The main objectives of this research are to explore whether the Internet is drawing kids away from everyday life or adding layers of connectivity and opportunity to their social circle. Is it supporting new forms of human relationships, reproducing, or displacing existing patterns of communication behavior? How can the use of technologies be used as expression of identity and formation of independency in the youth culture?

Is there evidence to support the notion that Internet dependency may be associated with self-reported academic performance problem? Through quantitative and qualitative methods, this research will afford a more comprehensive understanding of the role of media use in the bedroom in overall cognitive, social, and psychological development of children. Knowing how new media technologies affect children in these fundamental ways will help parents, educators, technology designers, and policymakers to set priority and effective decisions about their children's use of new media.

(SS03612)

Please refer to previous issues of this publication for more details of the following ongoing research at the department:

Edition	Title/Investigators
2002-03	Reversed Cultural Globalization: A Case Study of <i>Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon</i> (SS02393) ✉ CHAN Joseph Man
2002-03	Construction the Picture of AIDS: How the Hong Kong Press Covering the Epidemic (SS02750) ✉ CHANG Hao Chieh
2000-01	Assessing the Role of Foreign Television in Hong Kong: Local Culture and Global Identity (CU00344) ✉ LEE Paul Siu Nam
2002-03	The Internet's Role in Cultivating Multiple Identities and Tolerance of Ambiguities (SS02658)

	✍ LEE Paul Siu Nam	2001-02	Media Representations and Identity Politics of Transborder Marriage in Hong Kong and China (SS01318)
2001-02	Critical Analysis of Libel Litigations in Hong Kong: Implications for Press Freedom and Responsibility (SS01316)		✍ MA Kit Wai • CHEUNG Chin Hung Sidney (Dept of Anthropology) • FUNG Anthony*
	✍ LEUNG Wai Yin Kenneth • CHAN Johannes M M*		
2001-02	Changing Patterns of New Media Consumption in the Information Age: A Study on Adoption, Use and Impact on Life Quality in Hong Kong Families (AL01315)	2001-02	The Changing News Landscape in Hong Kong: A Techno-Economic Perspective (SS01320)
	✍ LEUNG Wing Chi Louis • LEE Paul Siu Nam		✍ SO York Kee Clement

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Personal Goals and Self-regulation Processes among Chinese University Students in Hong Kong

✍ BOND Michael Harris

☐ 1 December 2003

❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

In this study, personal goals and self-regulation strategies of Chinese university students were explored through both qualitative and quantitative research methods. The content of personal goals found in the study was used to shed light on the structure and dimensions of goals pursued by university students in Hong Kong. The influences of individuals' social beliefs, values, degree of "goal-mindedness" on the type of self-regulation strategies used in the process of goal attainment and the outcome of their goal pursuit were also investigated in the prospective short-term panel study in this research project. A goal-directed motivational system model was built to illustrate and explain the relationships between the above mentioned psychological constructs.

(SS03939)

Plasticity of Memory and Language Associated with Temporal Lobe Epilepsy

✍ CHAN Sui Yin Agnes • CHAN Yu Leung (Dept of Diagnostic Radiology & Organ Imaging) • LAM Joseph M. K. (Dept of Surgery)*

☐ 1 September 2003

❖ Research Grants Council (Earmarked Grants)

Different parts of the brain mediate specific functions. For instance, the hippocampus is responsible for memory and the left hemisphere is primarily responsible for language processing. Thus, patients with damage to the hippocampus will have memory problems, and patients with damage to the left hemisphere will suffer from language impairment. Since no medication has yet been discovered to cure brain damage, recovery from cognitive functions, to a great extent, depends on the compensatory mechanism of the brain, that is, functions of damaged regions of the brain are taken over by other parts of the brain. This processing is usually referred to as plasticity of the brain. Although the plasticity of the brain is observed frequently in clinical populations, the neuropsychological mechanism behind this phenomenon is still unclear. Therefore, in order to develop more effective rehabilitation interventions, it is theoretically and clinically important to understand the pattern and factors of the neuroplasticity of memory and language. Thus, the primary goal of the present study is to utilize the functional magnetic resonance imaging technique in order to study the alteration of memory and language processing of patients with temporal lobe epilepsy.

(CU03263)

Differentiating Young Autistic Children with Single-Channel Encephalogram

✍ CHAN Sui Yin Agnes

☐ 1 April 2004

❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

Studies have shown that computerized spectral encephalogram parameters can discriminate between normal and patient groups, and were related to severity of symptoms in many acquired and

developmental brain disorders. This project aims to investigate whether similar EEG phenomena are found in autism, and whether a simple single-channel EEG recording protocol can generate a clinically useful diagnostic index for autism. Normal and autistic children will be invited to participate in the project. Their demographic information, various neuropsychological functioning, and computerized EEG measurements will be collected and compared. Attempts will be made to identify one or more EEG parameter(s) that can reliably differentiate between normal and autistic children, thereby developing it into a quick clinical screening tool for autism.

(MD03357)

The Psychological Mechanisms of Paranormal Beliefs

✉ CHAN Tin Cheung • KWAN Shui Man (Dept of Religion)

☐ 1 March 2004

❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

No one can miss the great impact religion has on the whole world these days. Many of the education and hospital care were established through the strong love and dedication of religious groups, yet superstition can be problematic. Because of the potential impact, we need to understand more the motivation, development and contamination of a belief system such that monitoring could be made through education when it is necessary.

In this project we ask three questions: Why do people develop paranormal belief? How do people make judgment of paranormal beliefs? And why do people hold on invalid beliefs? From these three questions, three hypotheses are formulated:

Paranormal beliefs are the expressions of needs within the boundary constraints of cognitive ability. The previous finding that low cognitive ability subjects show higher paranormal beliefs may be a result of the cognitive demand of the instruments used.

Evaluation of a paranormal personality description is affected by the presence of the other descriptions.

Strong and persistent invalid belief is a result of horizontal structure in belief systems.

Three sets of experiments will be conducted to test these three hypotheses. Results of testing these three hypotheses can increase our understanding of the cognitive constraints in religious expression, the dynamical organization and reorganization of the belief schema over inserted new elements, and the reduction of the susceptibility of invalid beliefs through education.

(SS03681)

An Item Response Theory Analysis and Computerized Adaptive Testing of the Chinese Personality Assessment Inventory

✉ CHAN Wai • CHEUNG Fanny Mui Ching

☐ 1 September 2003

❖ Research Grants Council (Earmarked Grants)

The Chinese Personality Assessment Inventory (CPAI) is an indigenously derived personality inventory designed for the Chinese people. Despite the attractive features and practical values of this instrument, there are still important but unsolved issues related to the psychometric properties of the CPAI items. In this project, it is proposed to analyze the CPAI using item response theory (IRT), a statistical method that provides a more refined and exhaustive item and scale level analysis than the traditional analytic method based on the classical test

theory. Statistical results from the IRT analysis will provide us information about the item characteristics that are independent of the test takers. Moreover, we will detect differential item functioning (DIF) of the CPAI-2 items in distinct population groups. The IRT-based DIF analysis will help us to separate measurement bias from true group differences on the estimated traits. Finally, we will develop a computerized adaptive testing (CAT) procedure for the CPAI-2. The main advantages of using the IRT-based CAT are test efficiency and security. The project will also aim at building up a CPAI item bank that will further enhance the flexibility of the CAT procedure.

(CU03254)

Processing Chinese Bi-morphemic Words

✉ CHEN Hsuan Chih

□ 1 November 2003

❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

The project aims to investigate the cognitive processes involved in reading Chinese. Specifically, a series of eye-movement experiments is planned to explore how the meaning of a character is accessed in reading a compound word. The main dependent measures in the experiments will be eye-movement indexes such as first fixation, gaze duration, total reading time, as well as skipping and regression rates. The experiments will advance our knowledge about language processing in Chinese and will contribute to the search for both universal and language-specific mechanisms associated with the processing of different languages.

(SS03741)

A Culturally Relevant Personality Inventory for Chinese Adolescents

✉ CHEUNG Fanny Mui Ching • LEUNG Kwok*

□ 1 September 2003

❖ Research Grants Council (Earmarked Grants)

This project aims to extend and adapt the comprehensive Chinese (Cross-cultural) Personality Assessment Inventory (CPA) for adolescents. The combined emic-etic approach in the development of the CPAI-A will address the concern regarding cross-cultural relevance of imported Western instruments. It will provide a reliable and valid inventory suitable for both normal and clinical personality assessment. The project involves two phases. In Phase 1, culturally relevant personality constructs will be identified and scales will be developed for the standardization version of the CPAI-A. In Phase 2, the CPAI-A will be standardized in Hong Kong using a large-scale quota sample. Ratings by parents and teachers will be collected on a sub-sample. The reliability and validity of the CPAI-A and its factor congruence with the adult version will also be examined. The CPAI-A will be useful in the assessment of psychopathology, psychosocial problems, as well as for guidance in career planning and personal growth during adolescence.

(CU03259)

The Role of Mental Language Acquisition in Developing a Mature Theory of Mind

✉ CHEUNG Him • CHEN Hsuan Chih

□ 1 October 2003

❖ Research Grants Council (Earmarked Grants)

In the proposed research we will examine the relation between Cantonese-speaking young children's acquisition of mental language and their developing ability to understand the mentalistic basis of behavior. We will focus on two aspects of mental language acquisition, namely, the learning of mental words (e.g. "seung2" (want), "lam2" (think), "gei3dak1" (remember), etc.) and their corresponding of mental words (e.g. "seung2 sik6" (want eat), "lam2 keui5 sik6-jo2" (think s/he eaten/ate), "gei3dak1 sik6" (remember eat), etc.). Children's recognition of the mentalistic nature of behavior, in the sense that behavior is explainable and predictable on the basis of people's mental states instead of the actual reality, is known as "theory of mind" (ToM). A child is said to possess a mature ToM when she is able to attribute others' behavior to their desires, beliefs, and knowledge, which do not necessarily match the child's own. We hypothesize that mental words and their corresponding syntax provide the most explicit and efficient way for children to think about people's minds, and therefore constitute a prerequisite for ToM development. For instance, in "John lam2 go3 bo1 hai6 go3 chaang2" (John think a/an/the ball am/is/are a/an/the orange), the mental verb "lam2" requires a complex object the truth value of which is to be evaluated only with reference to John's mind, such that the overall sentence remains true even though the embedded sentence (i.e. "go3 bo1 hai6 go3 chaang2") is wrong. Hence, language provides the most explicit structure for the child to represent John's own idiosyncratic representation of the ball's identity. Such "metarepresentation" enables the child to make sense of John's behavior, if he happens to eat the ball. In the proposed research we will evaluate how the learning of a sophisticated mental language (words + syntax) facilitates children's ToM development.

(CU03253)

Interrelations among Language, Theory of Mind, and Social Behaviour

✉ CHEUNG Him

☐ 16 November 2003

❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

Many past studies in developmental psychology have shown that children having high language abilities are more able to recognise that people have independent minds, in which very different or even conflicting interpretations of reality could be held. Such a cognitive-social capacity is known as theory-of-mind (ToM). ToM is typically assessed in laboratory settings, in which artificial tasks are set up and administered to the child, who then gives simple and restricted responses. The implications of ToM as such for the child's social development remains unclear; subsequently, we are ignorant about the role that language might play in shaping the child's social life through its interaction with ToM. In the proposed research, I extend the relation between language and ToM to the child's real-life social world by examining the intercorrelations among four sets of variables: nonverbal intelligence, language, ToM, and social behaviour, (i.e., peer acceptance and pro-social behaviour). If the relation between language and ToM has an effect on social behaviour, either of them would impact on social behaviour through the mediation of the other. On the other hand, language and/or ToM could have direct and independent effects on social behaviour, not requiring any form of mediation. Finally, language and ToM could have nothing to do with social behaviour. Nonverbal intelligence is assessed so as to ascertain that none of the mentioned effects is due to it. This investigation is significant because it bears on possible training

formats for enhancing (autistic) children's social functioning. It also unveils the theoretical linkage among language, ToM, and social development.

(SS03393)

Age Differences in Social Goals: Should Older Adults Be Socially Active?

✉ FUNG Hoi Lam Helene • LANG Frieder*

□ 1 September 2003

❖ Research Grants Council (Earmarked Grants)

The project aims at studying whether being socially active is adaptive for older adults in a collectivistic society, i.e., a society that emphasizes interpersonal relatedness. Traditional theories of aging argue that older adults with larger social networks have higher psychological well-being. Yet, our theory and research in European and North American cultures have demonstrated that older adults are quite selective in choosing their social partners. What matters to their psychological well-being is having a small social network that consists of a high proportion of emotionally close social partners. Being socially active and having social networks that are as large as those of younger adults is not necessarily adaptive for older adults. In this project, we seek to extend this line of research to Hong Kong – a collectivistic culture. In an initial study and its 2-year follow-up, we will test (1) whether older adults are more likely to maintain emotionally close social partners and drop less close social partners than are younger adults; (2) whether these age differences in social network composition are positively related to the psychological well-being of the specific age groups; (3) whether the above relationships differ depending on the extent to which an individual emphasizes interpersonal relatedness.

(CU03256)

Attention to Emotional Stimuli: Influences of Age, Education and Culture

✉ FUNG Hoi Lam Helene • ISAACOWITZ Derek M*

□ 1 December 2003

❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

A paradox in psychology and aging is that older people maintain a high level of psychological well-being despite undeniable physical and cognitive declines. Socioemotional selectivity theory explains this paradox in terms of older people's increased focus on emotional, particularly positive, aspects of their lives. Support for the theory has been found in the areas of social relationships and memory, with older people having a higher percentage of emotionally close social partners in their social networks and remembering a higher proportion of emotional information than their younger counterparts. But the exact mechanism for these age differences is unknown. The proposed project seeks to shed light on the mechanism by employing eyetracking techniques to examine age differences in attention for emotional stimuli. We attempt to answer three research questions: (1) Do older individuals demonstrate attentional preferences for emotional over nonemotional visual stimuli to a greater extent than younger adults? (2) Do they demonstrate attentional preferences for positive over negative stimuli to a greater extent than younger adults? (3) Should these age differences occur, do they operate differently across educational levels and cultural backgrounds (i.e. Chinese vs. Americans)?

(SS03744)

An Investigation of the Independence of Mental Rotation and Viewpoint-dependent Object Recognition

✉ HAYWARD William Gordon • Irina HARRIS*
• Isabel GAUTHIER*

☐ 15 September 2003

❖ Research Grants Council (Earmarked Grants)

In a world of three dimensions, the ability to recognize and reason about objects with different perspectives and appearances is crucial to survival. Researchers have long known that one such ability is mental rotation, or reasoning about the 3-D structure of an object. More recent studies have shown similar results to mental rotation when more fundamental tests of object recognition are conducted. An earlier study by my colleagues and I examined the nature of the differences between mental rotation and view-specific object recognition. In this project, we investigate this issue further.

We will conduct three sets of studies in this research project. First, we will collect data from normal subjects at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and examine the factors that interfere with or facilitate either mental rotation or object recognition. Second, we will test normal subjects at Vanderbilt University, while they are placed in an MRI scanner. We will conduct fMRI while they are performing the tasks identified in the first phase of the project. Third, we will test brain-damaged patients from Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in Sydney, Australia, to examine whether damage to the temporal or parietal lobes are associated with specific deficits to object recognition or mental rotation, respectively.

The results will give us much better understanding of the relationship between these two similar cognitive processes, and the neural basis upon which they stand.

(CU03260)

Anxiety Symptoms in Children and Adolescents: A Cross-cultural comparison

✉ LEUNG Wing Leung Patrick • ESSAU Cecilia A*

☐ 1 January 2004

❖ Germany/Hong Kong Joint Research Scheme

This study examines the anxiety symptoms of a community sample of children and adolescents in Germany and in Hong Kong. The specific aims are to estimate the prevalence and risk factors of anxiety symptoms, and to examine the associated psychosocial impairment.

The cross-cultural design allows the recruitment of a large sample size (N=800) and the comparison of risk factors (personal and social/cultural factors) for anxiety symptoms in Germany and Hong Kong. Findings of this study may help to clarify the universality and different forms of anxiety symptoms among youths in these two cultures.

(SS03411)

Deliberate Self-harm in Adolescents in HK: The Role of Drawing in the Detection, Expression and Communication of Emotional Problems

✉ LIN Siu Fung • THOMAS Glyn V*

☐ 15 November 2003

❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

Adolescence reminds us of life, energy, hopes for the future, chances and challenges ahead. At the same time, the struggle for growth and independence can be so painful that it might bring some of our adolescents to the point of attempting or committing

suicide: an event which arouses the maximum collective fear (Haim, 1970).

To date, the causes or risk factors of suicide attempters is still a myth. But clinically, there is an indication that deliberate self-harm precedes suicide attempts. Unlike suicide, deliberate self-harm is noticeable and more easily identified; therefore, the prevalence of adolescence self-harms should receive more attention than it has been. It is expected that self-harm would be a less sensitive topic than suicide to be investigated in schools yet leading to a possible decrease in suicidal incidents.

It often seems as if adolescents are able to express themselves more easily in spontaneous drawing than in writing or speaking. Consequently, there seems to be a need for systematic examination of the ways in which young people may express emotion or difficult experiences in their HFDs, and also of the relationship between deliberate self-harm act, its repetition and perhaps the development of suicidal ideation.

(SS03508)

**To Live or to Die: Suicide Attempters' Account (a)
A Discourse Analysis (Study I) (b) Case Studies
(Study II)**

✍ LIN Siu Fung • WONG Chun Hon*

📅 15 March 2004

❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

Hitherto, there has not been any qualitative investigation into suicide attempters or para-suicidals locally among the Chinese population. Studies related to suicides were mainly conducted among adolescents and school children. Adults range from 20 to 59 years old constitutes 74% of suicide deaths

in year 2002 and 69% in year 2001 seemed to have been neglected. This project precisely fills the gaps. It is worth exploring how suicide-attempters describe and account for their suicidal act; and the ways they experience the world physically and psychologically. If discourse analysis makes available “ways-of-seeing” and “ways-of-being”, an analysis of the constructions should make available suicide attempters’ certain “ways-of-seeing” the world and certain “ways-of-being” in this world (Willig, 2001). Suicide is considered a “taboo”, an unpleasant topic to be discussed, something unspeakable and maybe even unknowable. Discourse analysis would then be helpful in filling this gap that it can be carried out “wherever there is meaning” (Parker & Bolton, 1999) (i.e. without direct naming or mentioning of the act or related emotions).

Altogether, autobiographical account of the clients should provide further insight into the way they live their lives in the past. Such information would be an added value to our understanding into the decision of committing suicide at a certain point of one’s life. Therefore, multiple-case studies will be conducted which involves a detailed exploration of a single case and then the comparison of the series of cases.

(SS03998)

**Experience of Stigma: Its Multifaceted Effects on
Social Minorities**

✍ MAK Wing Sze Winnie

📅 1 December 2003

❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

Social stigma has gained much attention in social psychological and health services research. Previous studies tend to focus on a single perspective and on a particular condition of concern. To more

comprehensively understand the experience of stigma and its effects on help-seeking, caregiving, and mental health, the proposed study attempts to use both qualitative and quantitative methods to elucidate core psychosocial and cultural factors that may be related to stigmatization of different social minorities (e.g. individuals with mental illness, individuals with intellectual disability, new arrivals from Mainland China). Moreover, the proposed study aims to understand the effects of stigma on psychological well-being and illness behaviors from different perspectives (from the public, the stigmatized, or their close associates). The significance of this study rests in providing a common basis from which we can understand stigma across different social minorities, which can further lead us into designing effective, empirically based, and ecologically valid stigma reduction campaigns in Hong Kong.

(SS03502)

Developmental Precursors to Early Literacy in Chinese Children

✍ MCBRIDE Catherine Alexandra • FLETCHER Paul* • SHU Hua* • TARDIF Twila Zoe* • WONG Anita*

☐ 1 August 2003

❖ Research Grants Council (Earmarked Grants)

This project examines longitudinal predictors of early reading skills in Chinese children. Our unique sample of approximately 300 children each from Hong Kong and Beijing has already been tested at least twice from ages 8-20-months on the Chinese Communicative Development Inventory. We will focus on how these children's previously tested early language skills predict subsequent performance on reading-related measures (e.g. phonological and morphological awareness) and reading itself. An

overall measure of nonverbal intelligence will also be administered to all participating children at around the age of 3.5 years. All children will be tested on reading-related skills at twelve-month intervals from 3.5 years to eighty months or the fifth testing time, whichever comes first. Hierarchical linear modeling will be used to test growth curves predicting subsequent reading development from early oral language and literacy-related skills. A Beijing-Hong Kong comparison of growth curves in reading is particularly useful because it highlights some of the effects of teaching and linguistic environment on reading development in Chinese children. This study will be among a very few that have examined normal early spoken language development in relation to normal reading development in any language or orthography. Theoretically, this study will help researchers to understand both universal and language/script-specific aspects of reading development. Practically, this study will indicate to clinicians those markers of early language development that may be diagnostically useful for identifying children in Chinese-speaking populations who may be at-risk for subsequent reading problems.

(CU03257)

The Influence of Signal Modality on Interval Timing: Pacemaker Speed, Attention or Both?

✍ PENNEY Trevor Bruce

☐ 1 September 2003

❖ Research Grants Council (Earmarked Grants)

How humans perceive the passage of time is a fundamental psychological question. Indeed, the ability to perceive and remember the duration of events, and to make decisions based on these percepts and memories underlies much of our behavior. For

example, the ability to learn predictive relationships between events requires sensitivity to inter-event durations. A very old claim in the study of time perception and production in humans is that auditory signals seem longer than equivalent duration visual signals. Although this claim is not without controversy, if one assumes that it is correct then the next logical question is what are the psychological and physiological mechanisms that underlie signal modality effects in short interval timing. This is the focus of the present research. Specifically, the experiments proposed here attempt to differentiate between an explanations of modality effects that claim an internal pacemaker “ticks” at different rates for auditory and visual signals, and those that locate the source of the effect at the level of an internal “timing switch”. Answering this question will further our understanding of the cognitive mechanisms of interval timing and provide a refinement of current models of temporal processing. (CU03264)

1989-90 Mutual Perceptions around the Pacific Rim (AB88005)
 ✍ BOND Michael Harris

2001-02 Neuropsychological Intervention Program for Primary School Underachievers - A Research Project (ED01312)
 ✍ CHAN Sui Yin Agnes • PUN Shuk Han (Faculty Office of Education) • CHAN Wing Kwong* • HO Yim Chi

2000-01 The Nature of Subliminal Perception (CU00338)
 ✍ CHAN Tin Cheung

2001-02 State Transition in Bimanual Motor Coordination (SS01321)
 ✍ CHAN Tin Cheung

Please refer to previous issues of this publication for more details of the following ongoing research at the department:

Edition	Title/Investigators
2002-03	A Self-paced Sequential Protocol of Play in Public Good Dilemmas (SS02402) ✍ AU Wing Tung
2002-03	Assessing Psychometric Properties of Chinese Rating Scale Qualifiers (SS02995) ✍ AU Wing Tung • TAYLOR Paul John# • HO Ming Chun • ROHRMANN Bernd*

2001-02 The Role of Brain Synchronization and Short Term Memory in Attention (SS01506)
 ✍ CHAN Tin Cheung

2002-03 Invariance of Haptic Perception in Force Pattern (CU02230)
 ✍ CHAN Tin Cheung

2002-03 An Item Response Theory Analysis of the Chinese Personality Assessment Inventory: A Case Study on Service Orientation in a Hotel Setting (SS02515)
 ✍ CHAN Wai • CHEUNG Fanny Mui Ching

2002-03	Cognitive Processes in Picture Naming (SS02653) ✉ CHEN Hsuan Chih	2002-03	The Effects of Discounting and Downward Comparison on the Psychological Well-being of Older Adults (SS02845) ✉ FUNG Hoi Lam Helene • CHAN C M Alfred* • CHENG Sheung Tak*
2001-02	Rain Lily's Build-in Study (SS00726) ✉ CHEUNG Fanny Mui Ching	2001-02	Personality Profiles of Chinese Psychiatric Patients: An Indigenous Approach (SS01326) ✉ CHEUNG Fanny Mui Ching • LEUNG Yiu Kin Freedom
2001-02	Personality Profiles of Chinese Psychiatric Patients: An Indigenous Approach (SS01326) ✉ CHEUNG Fanny Mui Ching • LEUNG Yiu Kin Freedom	2002-03	Perceived Endings, Mortality Salience and Goal Regulation (SS02986) ✉ FUNG Hoi Lam Helene • LANG Frieder R*
2002-03	Gender Diversity and Leadership Effectiveness: An Exploratory Study in the Chinese Work Setting (SS02490) ✉ CHEUNG Fanny Mui Ching • TO Yuen Weun	2001-02	Investigating View Interpolation in Object Recognition (SS01831) ✉ HAYWARD William Gordon
2002-03	The Development of Adolescent Well-being Measures - A Preparatory Study to Validate the Chinese Personality Assessment Inventory for Adolescents (CPAI-A) (SS02689) ✉ CHEUNG Fanny Mui Ching	2002-03	What Causes Differences in Viewpoint Cost Functions in Object Recognition? (CU02232) ✉ HAYWARD William Gordon
2002-03	Contributions of Early Speech and Reading to Sound Awareness (SS02522) ✉ CHEUNG Him	2002-03	Development and Validation of Clinical Risks and Needs Evaluation Measures for Offenders (SS02348) ✉ LEUNG Wing Leung Patrick • CHEUNG Fanny Mui Ching • MAK Wing Sze Winnie
2001-02	Age Differences in Coping with Stress: Role of Time Perspective (SS01514) ✉ FUNG Hoi Lam Helene • LANG Frieder*	2001-02	Does Behavioral Inhibition Predict Later Anxiety Disorders among Chinese Adolescents in Hong Kong and Beijing? A 2-Year Follow-up Study (SS01485) ✉ LEUNG Yiu Kin Freedom • WANG Jianping* • WONG Max* • WONG Tony*
2002-03	Sending Memorable Health Messages to the Old (SS02455) ✉ FUNG Hoi Lam Helene	2002-03	Does a Fragile Sense of Self Predict Eating Pathology among Chinese Adolescent Girls in Hong Kong and

- Beijing? A 2-year Follow-up Study (SS02932)
 ✉ LEUNG Yiu Kin Freedom • WANG Jianping*
- 2001-02 Premenstrual Distress and Multiple Roles: A Comparative Study on Chinese and American Women (SS01946)
 ✉ TANG So Kum Catherine • LEE Antoinette Marie*
- 2002-03 Understanding Help-seeking: How Stigma and Other Sociocultural Factors Affect Illness Behaviors for Mental Illness (SS02908)
 ✉ MAK Wing Sze Winnie
- 2002-03 Cultural and Psychosocial Factors Associated with Willingness toward Posthumous Organ Donation in Hong Kong (SS02574)
 ✉ TANG So Kum Catherine
- 2001-02 Universals and Specifics in Reading Development: Speed of Processing, Phonological Awareness, Morphological Awareness, and Home Literacy Environment (ED01325)
 ✉ MCBRIDE Catherine Alexandra • SHU Hua* • WAGNER Richard K* • YIP Choy Yin Virginia (Dept of Linguistics And Modern Languages)
- 2002-03 A Study on Adolescent Sexuality and Peer Child Sexual Abuse in Hong Kong (SS02456)
 ✉ TANG So Kum Catherine
- 2000-01 Utilization of Neuro-cognitive Science for the Improvement of Language Education in Hong Kong (MD20022)
 ✉ TO Cho Yee • CHAN Sui Yin Agnes • CHAN Tin Cheung • CHAN Yu Leung (Dept of Diagnostic Radiology & Organ Imaging) • FOK Tai Fai (Dept of Paediatrics) • FUNG Kwok Pui (Biochemistry) • HUNG Hin Wai Joseph (Dept of English) • LAU Din Cheuk (Dept of Chinese Language & Literature) • MARK Kai Keung (Dept of Community and Family Medicine) • MOK Ka Wai Alice (Dept of Community and Family Medicine)# • YUE Kwan Cheuk (Dept of Japanese Studies)# • ZHANG Jingsong (School of Public Health)# • FUNG Man Lung* • SO
- 2002-03 Refinement and Testing of the Dialogical Reading Technique for Language-delayed Hong Kong Chinese Children (SS02784)
 ✉ MCBRIDE Catherine Alexandra
- 2001-02 A Behavioral and Electrophysiological Investigation of Temporal Processing (SS01322)
 ✉ PENNEY Trevor Bruce
- 2002-03 Functional Brain Imaging Using the Event Related Optical Signal (SS02508)
 ✉ PENNEY Trevor Bruce • HAYWARD William Gordon • CHEN Hsuan Chih • GRATTON Gabriele* • FABIANI Monica* • MACLIN Ed*

Ting Pat Albert* • KWAN Ting
Fai* • CHAN H Y Francis* •
CHAN Wing Kwong* • CHAU Wai
Lap Albert* • FUNG C W Peter* •
HOOSAIN Rumjahn* • LEE Hok

Ming* • MAN Tin Yau Tania* •
NG Choi Yi* • NG Yuk Lan Laura*
• TANG Mei Sin*

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Tracing the Contribution of Parental Organization to Child Development in Primary and Secondary Schools

✍ CHEUNG Chau Kiu • LAM Ching Man •
NGAI Sek Yum

☐ 15 March 2004

❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

Longitudinal data about the contribution of parental organizations (including parent-teacher associations and other autonomous parental groups) is lacking, not only locally but also in overseas. Most studies only examine the impact of parental involvement and overlook the role of parental organizations. However, physical organizations are the physical body advocated for home-school cooperation to enhance educational quality. Although we have recently conducted a study on parental organization, this study collected data only at one time. Without longitudinal data, it is impossible to ascertain the causal impact of parental organizations. To strengthen the proposed longitudinal study, theories about social capital and cultural capital are useful. These theories, able to explain the contribution of parental involvement, should be able to explain the impact of parental organizations as well. To be thorough, social capital would comprise structure and process components, including social networks and help invested in and expected of the social networks. Being pertinent to home-school cooperation, parental cultural capital refers to knowledge and practice consistent with the school culture. Both social cultural and cultural capital would derive from the

parent's involvement in the parental organization. The capital, apart from promoting child development directly, can modify the impact of parental involvement on child development, thoroughly covering intellectual/academic, emotional, sociomoral, and physical aspects. Without prior study of parental organizations, baseline data are already available. The proposed longitudinal study would add much value to the existing data. From the samples of parents and children, 800 parents and 400 of their children will participate again in the proposed study, with respect to the scale of funding. This proposed study, nevertheless, can generate solid evidence for applying for a larger grant to address the issues more thoroughly over longer time.

(SS03575)

Residential Service Needs of the Elderly

✍ LEE Jik Joen

☐ 4 August 2003

❖ Tung Wah Group of Hospitals

The Tung Wah Group of Hospitals (Tung Wah) has provided residential service for local older people for years. There is a pressing need for Tung Wah to explore the service need of the users for policy planning. The major purpose of this study is to find the best ways to satisfy needs of the service users, to promote their psychosocial well-being, as well as to facilitate Tung Wah's future development in the area of elderly residential care setting.

(SS03483)

Meanings of Self-starvation and the Outcome of Family Treatment for the Patients Suffering from Anorexia Nervosa in Shenzhen

✉ MA Lai Chong • CHAN Chung Yee Zenobia
(Centre for Health Ed. & Health Promotion) •
CHEN Xiangyi

□ 31 December 2003

❖ Research Grants Council (Earmarked Grants)

This study was formulated based on the results obtained from an earlier Hong Kong study by the PI and her team. Interdisciplinary in nature and headed by a clinical social worker, a Shenzhen psychiatrist and an experienced nurse both with an expertise in family therapy, this study aims to identify the meanings of self-starvation at the multiple levels: individual, family and society, to develop a culture-specific family treatment approach clinically effective and culturally relevant to the socio-cultural context of Shenzhen, and to assess its treatment outcome. The study will be implemented by two phases. The first phase is a qualitative study, which will employ the multiple case studies as its research design. Data will be collected through three means: peer review of the family treatment sessions of 10 families which have been video recorded with written consent, review of the family treatment sessions by the AN patients and their families, and in-depth interviews with the responsible family therapist. Content analysis will be employed for data analysis. The second phase of the study is an outcome study in which a before-after-one-group design will be employed to assess the treatment effectiveness. A total of 60 patients will be recruited within the study period, to be divided into the control group (CG) and the experimental group (EG). For both ethnical and practical (e.g., patients and families usually wish to receive the best treatment) reasons, randomization will not be employed. Two types of AN families will be assigned into the CG: (1) those AN patients and their families who cannot participate in family therapy due to prolong working hours or

unavailability of their families as they are residing outside Shenzhen; (2) those volunteer families who (a) have short working hours, and (b) have families in Shenzhen, who nevertheless do not want family therapy. The CG will receive conventional treatment; the EG will additionally receive family treatment. Symptomatology and general functioning will be assessed by patients and families' self-reports pre-treatment, post-treatment, at 6-month and 12-month follow-ups, using standardized measures. In addition, qualitative intensive pre-and-post interviews will identify family expectations toward treatment, their subjective experience in the treatment process and their perceptions of the therapist's roles and functions. The results of this study will inform mental health professionals in both Chinese and western cultural contexts on: (1) meanings of self-starvation in Shenzhen, especially in comparison with the Hong Kong study; (2) development of a culture-specific family treatment model for Chinese AN patients; and (3) the differential treatment outcome of this culture-specific treatment protocol for the adolescent AN patients in Shenzhen.

(CU03294)

Public Perception of Social Welfare in Shanghai

✉ MOK Bong Ho • WONG Chack Kie • XU Yong
Xiang*

□ 1 April 2004

❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

The primary objective of this study is to assess the public perception of social welfare and social welfare outcomes in Shanghai, using a telephone survey approach. This study is expected to generate a set of indicators of social welfare outcome which will

have important implications for social welfare policy-making. It will also contribute to a more systematic understanding of public perception of social welfare in Shanghai, their underlying ideologies and the effects of societal changes on them. The findings of this study will be compared with data collected in a telephone survey conducted by the PI and one of the CI in 2003.

(SS03845)

Development and Validation of Measures of Parent-adolescent Communication in Hong Kong

✍ SHEK Tan Lei Daniel • LAM Ching Man • LEE Tak Yan*

□ 15 July 2003

❖ Wofoo Foundation Limited

A survey of the literature shows that there is a severe lack of validated Chinese measures of parent-adolescent communication in Hong Kong. There are two objectives of this project. The first objective of the project is to develop two measures of parent-adolescent communication, including: 1) a measure of specific parent-adolescent communication on seven process dimensions (frequency, initiation, recognition, self-disclosure, domination, emotional responses, and evaluation) over theoretically and empirically derived content areas (including academic achievement, peer relations, family issues and proper behavior); 2) a measure that attempts to assess the global qualities of parent-adolescent communication, such as empathy and trust in communication. The second objective of the project is to validate the two measures developed in this study. Two studies will be carried out to validate the measures developed. First, a known group comparison method will be carried out to examine the discriminant validity of the measures. Second, a

test-retest reliability study will be carried out to examine the validity and reliability of the developed measures. The validated tools can help clinical practitioners to assess parent-adolescent communication in practice settings. Researchers can also use the developed tools to examine profiles of parent-adolescent communication in families with adolescents in Hong Kong.

(SS03547)

A Longitudinal Study of Parental Control in Early Adolescence in Hong Kong

✍ SHEK Tan Lei Daniel • LEE Tak Yan*

□ 31 December 2003

❖ Research Grants Council (Earmarked Grants)

Although studies have been conducted to examine the nature of parental control in adolescence, they are plagued with conceptual as well as methodological limitations. Recent studies suggest the need to differentiate two aspects of parental control - psychological control (parental intrusiveness) and behavioral control (parental regulation and supervision of child's behavior). While there are signs suggesting that parents in Hong Kong exercise inadequate parental behavioral control, no scientific studies with reference to the distinction between psychological control and behavioral control have been conducted. This study attempts to study: (1) the nature of psychological control in early adolescence in Hong Kong; (2) the nature of behavioral control in academic and socially regulated behavior domains in early adolescence in Hong Kong with reference to parental rules and regulations imposed, monitoring, knowledge, and indigenously derived behavioral control processes; (3) changes in psychological control and behavioral control in early adolescent years; (4) parental differences in

psychological control and behavioral control; (5) differential effects of different types of parental control (psychological control and behavioral control) on different adolescent developmental outcomes; and (6) antecedents of parental control, including trust, perceived traditional Chinese parenting beliefs of the parents, family types (families experiencing economic disadvantage, single parent families, new arrival families and families with special needs) and parental education. A longitudinal research design in which quantitative data based on 3,000 adolescents will be employed to achieve the above objectives.

(CU03293)

Cough Medicine Abuse among Young People in Hong Kong

✍ SHEK Tan Lei Daniel • NGAI Sek Yum • LAM Ching Man

□ 1 February 2004

❖ Tung Wah Group of Hospitals

A survey of the literature shows that there is a severe lack of validated Chinese measures of parent-adolescent communication in Hong Kong. There are two objectives of this project. The first objective of the project is to develop two measures of parent-adolescent communication, including: 1) a measure of specific parent-adolescent communication on seven process dimensions (frequency, initiation, recognition, self-disclosure, domination, emotional responses, and evaluation) over theoretically and empirically derived content areas (including academic achievement, peer relations, family issues and proper behavior); 2) a measure that attempts to assess the global qualities of parent-adolescent communication, such as empathy and trust in communication. The second objective of the project is to validate the two measures developed in this

study. Two studies will be carried out to validate the measures developed. First, a known group comparison method will be carried out to examine the discriminant validity of the measures. Second, a test-retest reliability study will be carried out to examine the validity and reliability of the developed measures. The validated tools can help clinical practitioners to assess parent-adolescent communication in practice settings. Researchers can also use the developed tools to examine profiles of parent-adolescent communication in families with adolescents in Hong Kong.

(SS03355)

Project RAGE (Responsible Action, Genuine Encounter)

✍ SHEK Tan Lei Daniel • NG Ho Yee*

□ 1 May 2004

❖ Community Investment and Inclusion Fund, HKSAR Government

The objectives of this project are: 1) to strengthen community networks to promote social capital in the community and family contexts in order to impact on adolescent development, in particular, to arrest the negative development of high risk youth with marginal status in society; and 2) to initiate a self-help movement in high risk youth to complement the community action so create. To achieve the objectives, it is envisaged that through the process of empowerment by means of a mentoring scheme, and the cultivation of social and family capital, the setting up of a self-help organization for high risk youth will become possible within a span of three years.

The project fosters the development of personal competence of the participants, family social capital (family involvement and bonding) and social capital at the interpersonal level (building up of

mentor-mentee relationships, mutual help amongst uninvolved young people) and social capital at the community level (volunteer involvement in mentorship and training, community service provided by the young participants, strengthening the link between uninvolved young people and society). Vigorous evaluation of the effectiveness of the proposed project utilizing quantitative and qualitative methods will be attempted. The built-in vigorous evaluation mechanisms can yield objective and credible data on the effectiveness of the project. (SS03450)

Racial Discrimination in Hong Kong: Prevalence, Impacts and Coping Strategies

- ✍ TANG Kwong Leung • LAM Ching Man • LAM Mong Chow Amy • NGAI Sek Yum
- 20 November 2003
- ❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

Hong Kong, with its 6.7 million population, has witnessed a sizeable growth of ethnic and racial groups in the last decade. This study will examine the prevalence and impacts of racial discrimination in Hong Kong as well as the coping strategies used by ethnic minorities in managing the stressful effects of racial discrimination. Racial discrimination is an issue of growing concern partly due to its nature – violations of human rights, the extent of social costs as well as psychological impairments incurred to those who are affected. In this study, a survey of 150 ethnic minorities will be conducted, along with in-depth interviews of key informants. In addition, two focus groups comprising social service professionals and human rights activists will be conducted. The main goal of the focus groups is to explore policy and service action that is needed to

deal with this issue. This study will be significant in several respects. Firstly, the issue of racial discrimination has captured the attention of the Hong Kong SAR Government, human rights activists and world community. Findings of the study will also be of interest to academics, social service professionals and policy-makers. Secondly, the survey would inform us about the ethnic minorities' perceptions of the problem and their coping strategies. Finally, findings from this study can form a valuable base for developing into a large-scale opinion survey on racial discrimination in Hong Kong. (SS03405)

School Curriculum Reform and Implementation of Key Learning Area Curricula in Schools 2004

- ✍ TANG Kwong Leung • NGAI Ngan Pun • NGAI Sek Yum • CHEUNG Chau Kiu
- 1 April 2004
- ❖ Education & Manpower Bureau, HKSAR Government

The objectives of the survey are to examine their (1) agreement of primary and secondary schools with the curriculum reform, (2) their implementation of the reform, and (3) the impacts of the reform. These objectives in turn help identify ways to enhance the usefulness of the reform. Moreover, they are practically in need for the interim review of the curriculum reform in 2005-06.

There will be questionnaires for the school head, coordinator, and non-coordinating teacher for each key learning area in the 2004 survey. These questionnaires will build on those in the 2003 survey, with overall concerns for improvement regarding attention to an explicit time frame and the absolute level of performance, rather than change/impact. (ED03987)

Limits and Possibilities of the Civil Society in Facing Public Crisis: Roles and Functions of the NGOs in Hong Kong in Responding to the SARS Crisis

✉ WONG Hung • LEUNG Tse Fong Terry
 ☐ 15 March 2004
 ❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

This research aims to:
 Document the NGOs' responses and actions in responding to the SARS crisis from March 2003 to March 2004;
 Analyze how NGOs and the Government negotiate and play out their obligations and responsibility in the SARS crisis;
 Evaluate the limits and possibilities of the NGOs actions and responses in facing the SARS crisis.
 This research provides insights for us to understand the dynamics and the process of how Hong Kong civil society can be built and rebuilt in a crisis situation. The lack of trust towards government and the lack of cohesion among the civil society popularly opined as the main obstacles in the political and social development of Hong Kong society, this research will provide new understanding on how trust and cohesion can be built and negotiated between the government and the civil society and among the civil society.
 (SS03374)

Please refer to previous issues of this publication for more details of the following ongoing research at the department:

Edition Title/Investigators

2002-03 A Longitudinal Study of the Impact of Services Provided by Single Parents' Centres in Hong Kong (SS02563)
 ✉ AU Chor Fai

2002-03 The Impact of Managerialism on the Welfare Professionals (SS02682)
 ✉ LEUNG Tse Fong Terry • MOK Bong Ho • WONG Hung

1999-00 Evaluation of Structural Family Therapy for Chinese Anorexia Nervosa Patients in Hong Kong (CU99090)
 ✉ MA Lai Chong • LAI Yee Ching Kelly (Dept of Psychiatry) • LEE Sing (Dept of Psychiatry)

2002-03 Social Value, Societal Change and Perception of Social Welfare - An Extended Study of a RGC Project (SS02624)
 ✉ MOK Bong Ho • WONG Chack Kie • WONG Ka Ying Timothy (Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies)

2002-03 Support for Aged Parents: A Study of Hong Kong School Youth (SS02731)
 ✉ NGAI Ngan Pun • CHEUNG Chau Kiu*

2000-01 The Politics of Identity Constitution among Youth Workers in Hong Kong (SS00433)
 ✉ NGAI Sek Yum

1999-00 A Pioneering Longitudinal Study of the Development and Validation of a Drug

	Prevention Program in Hong Kong (SS99052)		2002-03	Health Insurance and Social and Economic Development in China (SS02448)
	✍ SHEK Tan Lei Daniel			✍ WONG Chack Kie • LO Vai Io* • TANG Kwong Leung*
2002-03	Parent-adolescent Communication, Adolescent Cognitions and Adolescent Psychological Well-being: An Exploratory Study (SS02538)		2002-03	Public Perceptions of Social Welfare in Hong Kong (CU02237)
	✍ SHEK Tan Lei Daniel • LAM Ching Man			✍ WONG Chack Kie • MOK Bong Ho • WONG Ka Ying Timothy (Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies)
2000-01	Citizenship and Social Development in Post-Colonial Hong Kong (CU00351)			
	✍ WONG Chack Kie • WONG Ka Ying Timothy (Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies)			

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Support Programme for the Teaching and Learning of Liberal Studies

✍ CHIU Wing Kai Stephen

☐ 1 September 2003

❖ Quality Education Fund, HKSAR Government

The programme supports the development of AS-Level Liberal Studies (LS), Project Learning, and generic skills training within the context of Personal, Social and Humanities Education. It also enhances the professional development and fosters the professional network building among LS teachers and other stakeholders concerning the development of LS and Project Learning. The programme aims at providing teaching and learning resources to LS teachers and students, offering training in a variety of generic skills, including critical thinking skills, information technology skills, and project-based learning skills and building a viable and organic professional community among LS teachers.

(ED03979)

Injecting Drug Use and HIV/AIDS in the People's Republic of China: A Gender and Social Capital Perspective

✍ CHOI Yuk Ping

☐ 1 December 2003

❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

This research combines quantitative (large scale questionnaire survey) and qualitative (in-depth interviews and focus group discussion) research

methods to examine gender differences in social networks and peer subculture among intravenous drug users (IDUs) in China. In 2001, China reported 26,058 cases of HIV infection. The UNAIDS suggests one million people may be HIV positive and estimates that the figure will reach ten million by 2010. Sharing contaminated needles among IDUs accounts for over 70% of all HIV infection, thus posing the greatest risk to HIV transmission in China. Although epidemiological research, which focuses on the collection of quantifiable variables related to injecting drug use, is crucial in assessing the future extent of the AIDS epidemic, they give little information on the social contexts and mechanisms generating such risk behavior. Moreover, it seldom focuses on the specific risk of female IDUs, who frequently engage in commercial sex in order to support their drug taking, and thus may serve as a bridge of transmission between low and high risk groups. By applying a gender perspective and the social capital theory, this research fills the gap and investigates (1) whether there are gender differences in family and social networks among IKUs; (2) if yes, the impacts of differentiated networks on peer subcultures and norms; (3) how do the subcultures of male and female IDUs create specific contexts that influence their risk behavior and needs; (4) how should existing prevention effort incorporate the specific needs of male and female IDUs. We believe that such information facilitates the development of harm reduction program that will reach the invisible networks of IDUs, address and meet their needs with public health goals.

(SS03812)

Crossing the Divide of Culture and Industry: An Exploratory Study of the Creative Industry in Hong Kong

✉ LUI Tai Lok

☐ 1 November 2003

❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

The proposed project is an attempt to study the creative industry in Hong Kong. Through an intensive case study of local collectible toy designers and their creative activities, the investigator looks into the formation of creative ideas, the interface between creativity and business, social and economic networking in the facilitation of creative design, manufacturing and business packaging, and the social structuring of a creative and innovative milieu. The findings of the proposed research would cast light on the existing debates about the significance of networking and clustering to innovation and the prospects of turning culture into marketable products. By unpacking the creative and innovative processes through ethnographic interviews, this study would also be relevant to the discussion of the significance of an 'industrial atmosphere' to economic success. (SS03691)

Please refer to previous issues of this publication for more details of the following ongoing research at the department:

Edition Title/Investigators

2002-03 廣東商業組織的社會、經濟及政治影響
——從清代到當代的研究
Social, Economic and Political Impacts
of Business Organizations in Guangdong
- From Qing to Contemporary China
(SS02608)

✉ 陳健民 CHAN Kin Man • QIU Hai Xiong* • LIU Zheng Gang* • QIU Jie*

1999-00 A Longitudinal Study of Chronic Drug Abusers in Hong Kong (SS99025)

✉ CHEUNG Yuet Wah • TANG So Kum Catherine (Dept of Psychology) • CH'EN James* • PI Peter*

2001-02 Northbound Pleasures: Pattern of Cross-border Deviance of Hong Kong Marginal Youths and Its Implications for Adolescent Deviance in Hong Kong (SS01331)

✉ CHEUNG Yuet Wah • LEE Wing Lin Francis* • TANG So Kum Catherine (Dept of Psychology)

2002-03 Problem Assessment and Programme Evaluation of Drug Abuse Treatment and Rehabilitation in Macau (SS01611)

✉ CHEUNG Yuet Wah • CHIEN James M. N.*

2001-02 Interface between Tertiary and School Sectors 2000 - Support Programme for the Teaching and Learning of Liberal Studies (ED01746)

✉ CHIU Wing Kai Stephen

2002-03 Between Maids and Surrogate Parents: Foreign Domestic Helpers and Family Changes in Hong Kong (SS02406)

✉ CHIU Wing Kai Stephen

1990-91 The Organizational Culture of Chinese Factories (AB91005)

✉ LAU Chong Chor • QIU Hai Xiong*

- 2000-01 The Rise of Rural Industrialization in China: A Grass Roots Survey (SS00685)
 ✍ LAU Chong Chor • PENG Yusheng • CAI He* • LIU Linping*
 Wai Man* • CHAN Kit Choi* • CHAN Cecilia*
- 1989-90 Subjective Social Indicators Research Programme (AB85008)
 ✍ LAU Siu Kai
- 1995-96 Legal Culture of Hong Kong (AB89092)
 ✍ LAU Siu Kai
- 1995-96 Political Culture and Political Participation in China, Taiwan and Hong Kong (AB92030)
 ✍ LAU Siu Kai • KUAN Hsin Chi (Dept of Government & Public Administration)
- 2002-03 Exploring the Phenomenon of Hospital Readmission: A System Analysis Approach (SS02790)
 ✍ LEE Pui Leung Rance • WONG Kam Yuet Frances* • CHANG Katherine* • CHOW Susan* • LEE
- 2002-03 The Middle Class in Asia: Its Ups and Downs in Three Chinese Cities (SS02630)
 ✍ LUI Tai Lok
- 1989-90 Urbanization in China (AB84002)
 ✍ MAN Jic Leung Peter
- 1989-90 Youth Life Satisfaction in Hong Kong (AB85012)
 ✍ MAN Jic Leung Peter
- 1993-94 Leisure and Social Change in Hong Kong (SS93018)
 ✍ NG Pedro Pak Tao
- 2002-03 Towards a Theory of Global Curricular Change: The Case of Social Studies Instructions (CU02238)
 ✍ WONG Suk Ying Veronica