

NEWSLETTER

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

December 2021

Edition 01



CONTENT

MESSAGE FROM CHAIRMAN	01
ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTER FOR POPULATION RESEARCH	02-03
STAFF HIGHLIGHTS	04
GRANT UPDATES	05
SOCIOLOGY IN THE MEDIA	06-07
STUDENT SHARING ALUMNI INTERNS NEW RESEARCH POSTGRADUATES	08-19
STAY CONNECTED	20



MESSAGE FROM CHAIRMAN



DEAR COLLEAGUES,

I am very pleased to announce the publication of the first issue of the Sociology Department Newsletter in 2021. Ever since the establishment of our department in the early 1960s, we have devoted ourselves to advancing the research of important social issues in Chinese societies and other social contexts. Members of our teaching staff have expertise in a wide range of research areas, employing a diverse set of research methods. We have also prided ourselves on offering excellent academic and professional training to our students, providing them with the most comprehensive curriculum of any local Sociology department.

“ Together with our CPR, the new research centers will enhance the capacities of our faculty and students to apply cutting-edge methods to investigate important social problems and generate social impact. ”

I am also glad to announce the establishment of The Centre for Population Research (CPR) under the Department. The CPR was established to advance population research in Asian societies and consists of four clusters, including population health, inequality, methods and migration. In the coming year, the CPR will be engaged in a number of interdisciplinary research projects, among which two related to COVID-19 will be the highlights. Moreover, the CPR will organize an international summit on population health, which focuses on the interaction between social institutions and population health. In addition, a series of workshops on policy issues and analysis will be organized for our colleagues and students who are interested in public policy research.

On the other hand, as a major new initiative under the Faculty of Social Science, the newly established Computational Social Science Lab (CSSL) provides an interdisciplinary platform for promoting computational methods and big data analysis in social research. Together with our CPR, the new research centers will enhance the capacities of our faculty and students to apply cutting-edge methods to investigate important social problems and generate social impact.

Despite the ongoing pandemic, our department has seized every opportunity to examine fundamental social issues, often in synergy, with the goals of promoting social research and serving the public interest. I am highly appreciative of our colleagues' collaborative efforts and looking forward to more achievements in the future.

Prof, Tony Tam



SPECIAL FEATURE

ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTRE FOR POPULATION RESEARCH (CPR)

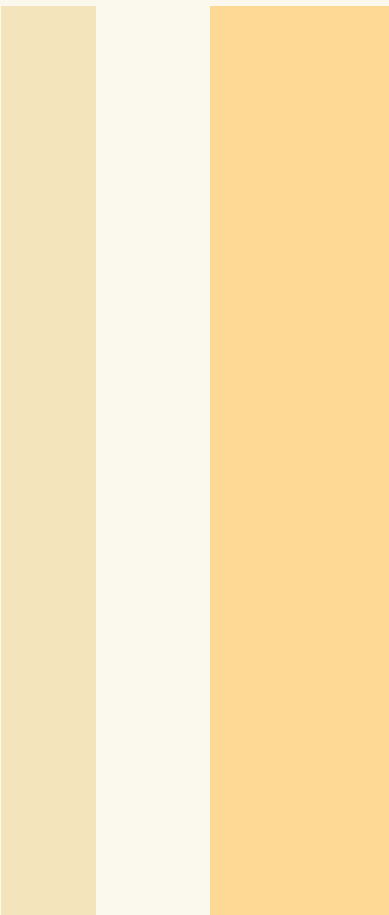
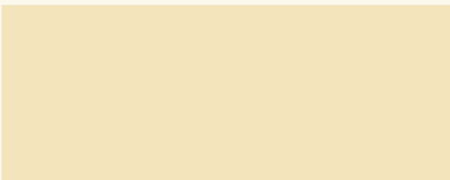
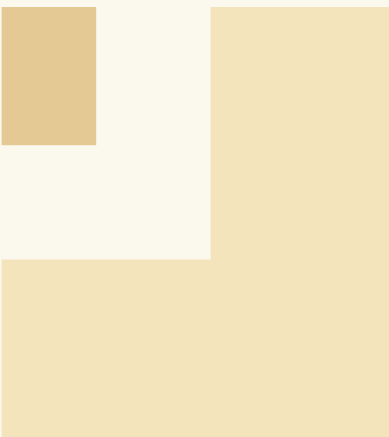
Our department established the Centre for Population Research (CPR) in 2021, with the goal of advancing interdisciplinary and cutting-edge research in population studies, broadly defined. The CPR consists of four clusters, including health, inequality, methods, and migration. Health, inequality, and migration are important topics in both sociology and population research and encompass the research strengths of many of our faculty members. The methods cluster, together with the Computational Social Science Laboratory (CSSL), newly established by the Social Science Faculty, seeks to promote the application of cutting-edge methods, including computational methods and big data analysis in population research.

The center will serve as an interdisciplinary for both undergraduate and graduate students to boost their academic development and career prospects. In particular, undergraduate students may choose to take part in internship programs in the research clusters or work for funded projects at the CPR. The hands-on research experience will enhance students' employability and prepare them to be strong candidates for postgraduate students.

The CPR has several initiatives aimed at promoting research and facilitating scholarly exchange. In terms of research projects, several interdisciplinary projects cover a wide range of topics. For example, a project, in collaboration with faculty members from the Department of Geography and Resource Management and the School of Public Health, examines the prevention and control of COVID-19. Another project, in collaboration with faculty members from the School of Journalism, seeks to understand why people are misinformed and how misinformation influences their behavior during the ongoing pandemic.

In terms of scholarly exchange, the CPR will organize an international summit on population health, led by Professor Tam Hong Wing and Professor Jin Lei . Funded by our faculty dean and the Research Grants Council of Hong Kong, the summit will focus on the interaction between social and political institutions and population health. In addition, Professor Zhou Xiang, from the department of Sociology at Harvard University, will hold a series of virtual workshops in 2022. The workshops will be based on the joint work with Professor XIE Yu (Professor at Princeton University), which examines policy questions using causal analysis. The workshops will enhance the capacities of our colleagues and students to connect research in the CPR with practical policy concerns.

We welcome our students to actively participate in the activities and initiatives of the CPR.



Staff Highlights

Welcome our new academic staffs

SHEN Wensong

Assistant Professor



ZHU Ling

Assistant Professor



Jaemin LEE

Assistant Professor



HAN Siqi

Assistant Professor



Jacob Richard THOMAS

Research Assistant Professor



GRANT UPDATES

Three of our high-caliber colleagues have lately been awarded a renowned and substantial amount of research grants for their outstanding and high-impact research in the GRF/ECS 2020-21 exercise.



Prof. TAM Tony Hong Wing

Professor & Chair

China as a Meritocratic Mobility Regime?
Evidence from a Comparative Model and
Analysis

Funding Scheme:

General Research Fund in 2021-22 exercise



Prof. CHEUNG Nicole Wai Ting

Associate Professor

Safe Dates Compromised: Understanding
the Social and Situated Correlates of
Adolescent Dating Aggression in China

Funding Scheme:

General Research Fund in 2021-22 exercise



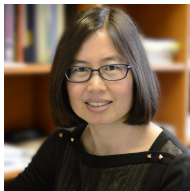
Prof. Mark Simon COHEN

Assistant Professor

Inequality in Early Modern Agrarian
Economy: The Case of Tokugawa-era Japan

Funding Scheme:

Early Career Scheme in 2021-22 exercise



Prof. Tong Yuying

Professor, Department of Sociology

10 Jan 2019 CUHK NEWSLETTER

Whether Shall we Go: Tong YuYing Reveals The Dynamics Of Internal In China 何處是我家？同鈺瑩談中國人口內部遷移的動力 🔍

16 May 2021 HK01.com

香港01 深度報道系列——封面報道連載 🔍

【人口老化·一】「少干預」人口政策「少子化」後患無窮

【人口老化·二】這樣的社會 只有「不生不養」才是正常

【人口老化·三】掃平生育障礙 推動家庭友善社會

【人口老化·四】誰說窮人沒有生育權利？



Leave a comment...

SNAPSHOTS:



Prof. Choi Yuk Ping Susanne

Professor, Department of Sociology

04 Mar 2017 CUHK NEWSLETTER

Nominal Marriage Compromising Desire And Duty 形式婚姻：慾望與責任的折衷 🔍

04 May 2017 RTHK 香港電臺

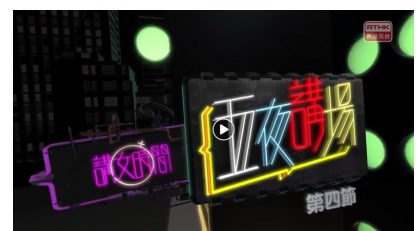
【五夜講場】"講女時間：女·性·自主"

在節目中，蔡教授精彩地與理大香港專上學院洪子雲博士激辯「女性情欲」之定義，及該情欲如何在父權社會中受到種種壓抑。 🔍



Leave a comment...

SNAPSHOTS:



Sociology in media



Prof. Wong Suk Ying
Professor, Department of Sociology

19 Oct 2014 CW Chu College
Small College Dream Big 小書院，大理想 🔍

19 MAR 2014 CUHK NEWSLETTER
Thus Spake 如是說 🔍

04 APR 2018 CUHK NEWSLETTER
Talent from Across the Strait 🔍

SNAPSHOTS:



Prof. Tam Hong Wing
Professor, Department of Sociology

16 SEP 2019 CHUNG CHI NEWSLETTER
Interview: Insisting On Original Aspiration In 40-year Pursuit As Sociologist 毋忘初心——四十載社會學人之路 🔍

SNAPSHOTS:



but was certain of one thing: "Sociology is the most extensive and unrestricted subject in social science." After enrolling in sociology, I would like to respond to the idea I had had since secondary school: I believed that being a broad-minded scholar is the most satisfying thing in life, while being a professor to carry out research enjoys most autonomy, independence and freedom." With this belief, Professor Tam launched his research career in sociology.

Upon graduation, Professor Tam pursued further study in the University of Chicago in hope of equipping himself to give back to Hong Kong society. However, in the mid-1980s, China and the UK began negotiations about Hong Kong's 1997 issue. After reading the news in the United States, he felt difficult to imagine the life of a scholar in Hong Kong after the handover. The Beijing Democracy Movement in 1989 made him even more unwilling to return to Hong Kong. Therefore, he made a difficult decision: "I decided to separate 'the ambition from 'survival'. What I thought and did at that time was for the purpose of staying in the US, for completing my doctoral dissertation. It was purely for 'survival', just like the term 'alienation' by Karl Marx."

Later, Professor Tam was offered a teaching post in Harvard University. The unplanned move from Chicago to Harvard led to a beautiful encounter with his Taiwanese wife. In 1995, Professor Tam accompanied his wife to his Taiwanese place that he had never thought of even visiting. "At that time, my mind was still occupied with 'survival'. I did not give a thought about my interest not to establish my own identity of



Prof. Tam Hong Wing and his wife at a park.



Prof. Tam Hong Wing and his wife at a mountain.

Besides, religion also inspired him. He once went to the church with his wife, and suddenly an anthem touched him wonderfully. Since studying in secondary school, Professor Tam tried his every effort to know God from the knowledge and rationality. But found it hard to understand the meaning of "faithfulness". And because his spiritual connection with God was comparatively weak, he slowly became proud, gradually left the church and went his own way. In a flash, the anthem enlightened him. He saw the compassion of God whenever he went during his journey. With this spiritual experience, he realized God's faithfulness and compassion, and became humble. He prayed to God: "In the past, I only relied to



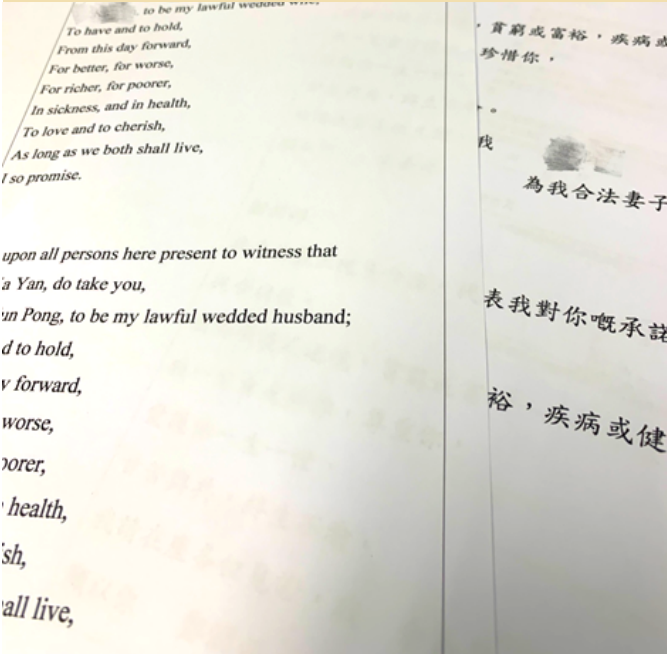
Leave a comment...




INTERNSHIP SHARING

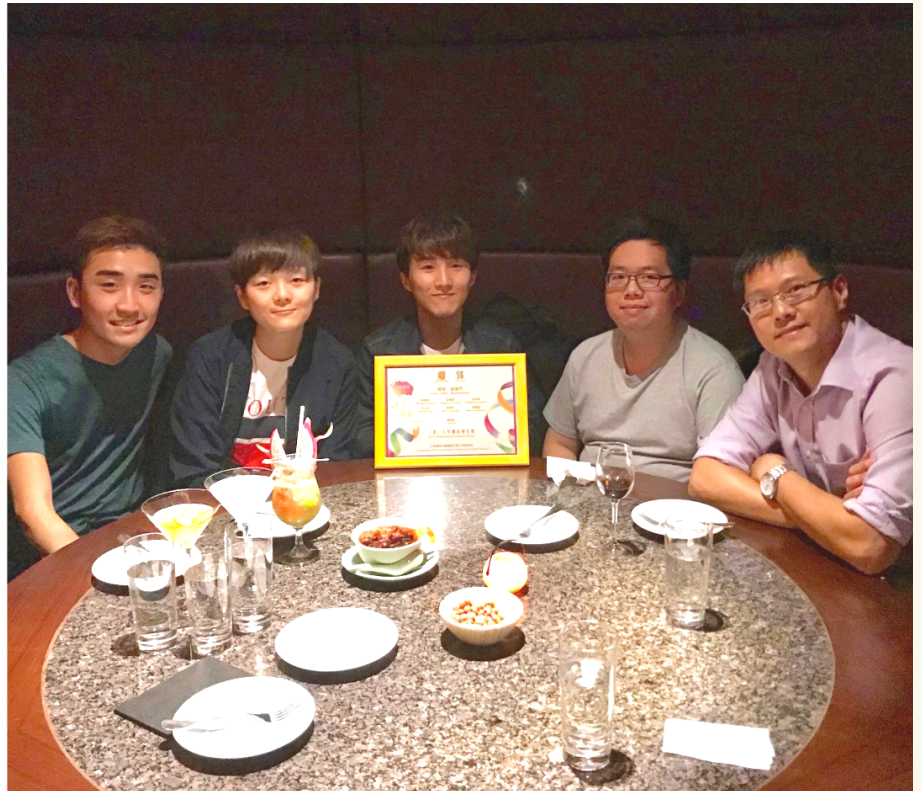


ALUMNI SHARING




NEW RESEARCH POSTGRADUATE

ALUMNI



MR. LAM KA WANG *MPHIL, Graduate of 2021*

Some said academics only live in their ivory tower, but to me, research and social participation are inter-connected, and I am dedicated to both of them. The former enables a closer look at social issues while the latter converts theory into practice.

This is Kelvin. I completed my undergraduate and MPhil degrees at the Department of Sociology of The Chinese University of Hong Kong. My research focuses on (forced) migration and immigrant incorporation. I am also passionate about doing social services with marginal social groups.

Where my journey of sociological imagination began?

My research interest originated in a course research project related to asylum seekers and refugees (ASRs) stranded in Hong Kong when doing my undergraduate study. ASRs' situation came to my attention through that assignment. Every year, social unrest, conflict and persecution in the Global South has forced millions of people there fleeing homes for survival. For those who take refuge in Hong Kong, they are given a monthly stipend of only some HK\$3,000 for a living and are normally prohibited from working. I was always wanting to 'do something' for them after submitting the assignment.

With that motivation, I decided to pursue an MPhil degree upon completing my undergraduate study. In my graduation thesis, I continued to study ASRs' lived experiences in Hong Kong. I was particularly interested in the ways they adjust to life and reasons why some adapt better than others. It was my hope to make some policy implications apart from the theoretical ones.

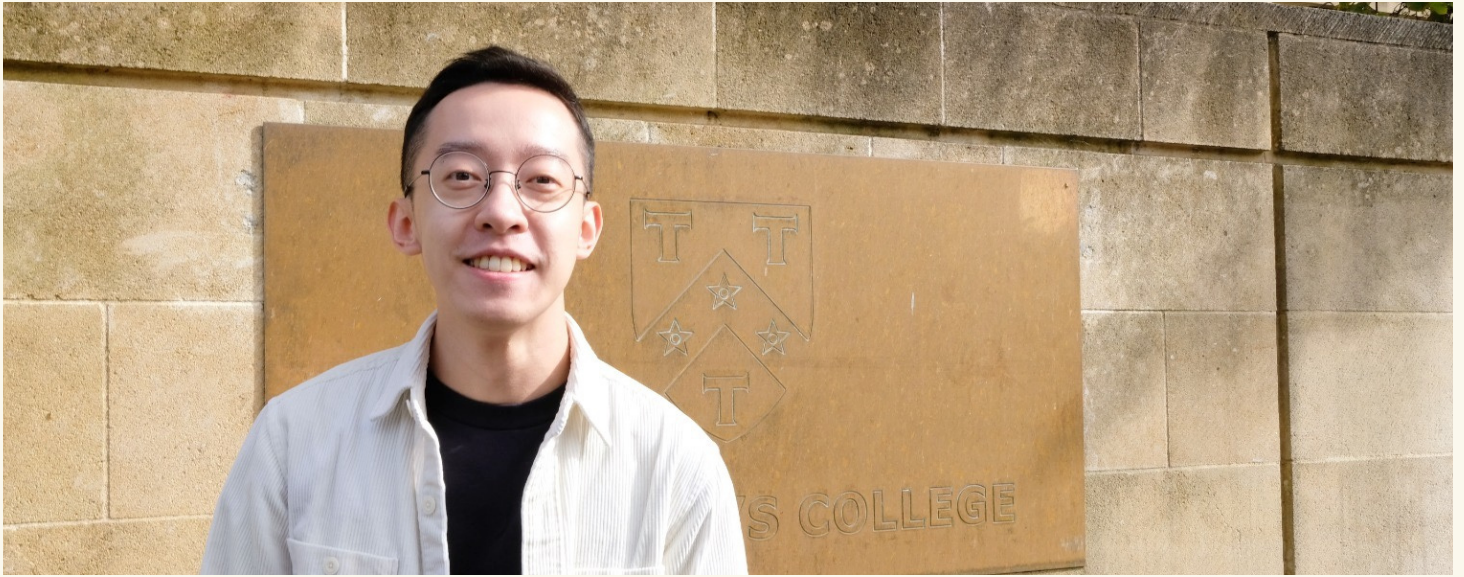
Convert theory into practice

In addition to research, I also initiated a service project entitled Care without Borders with my like-minded classmates and with funding support from the university's I-CARE Centre for Whole-person Development. Since 2018, we have been collaborating with the Refugee Union and organising wide-ranging activities, for instance, language classes, guided tours and other educational workshops, for 300+ ASRs stranded in Hong Kong to help them better adjust to life and draw social attention on relevant issues.

Projecting my future, I foresee myself developing an academic career in the field of (forced) migration, continuing my passion in both research and social services. CUHK is a land of opportunities. Here I got valuable opportunities to learn, to give, and to pursue my dreams without reservation. Thank you, CUHK, I am proud to be one of the members in this community.



ALUMINI



MS. SEE POK LOA

MPhil Graduate of 2020

It has already been almost a year since I have completed my M.Phil. at CUHK Sociology and started my D.Phil. in Sociology at Oxford. I am currently working on my doctoral project on labor precarity and gender dynamics in Japan. In addition to gender, my topic touches on the fields of labor, economic sociology, personal life and families, and globalization. I have also been expanding my M.Phil. project on inequality and sexuality for publication.

Oxford Sociology is particularly strong in research on stratification, inequality, and economic sociology. The Department is moreover a prime site for young scholars to explore their methodological ambitions and sharpen their techniques. In addition to working on my own qualitative work, here I have been given ample opportunities to be involved in quantitative projects.

Oxford has also opened my door to the global side of Sociology. Here I am connected with social scientists working on a variety of topics, such as the gig economy, technology and social change, climate crisis, among many others.

They made me realize the importance for researchers to grasp the pulse of our milieu and to keep abreast of the latest challenges society is confronting. Some of these topics are yet to be mature enough to generate a bulk of research in Hong Kong (or in Asia), but I am sure they will be. Academic part of Oxford is obviously prominent and well-known, but the city itself is no less mesmerizing. Meadows and parklands are very accessible here. They are the perfect places for researchers to rejuvenate themselves from work. The magnificent sceneries at Oxford sometimes remind me of the fascinating campus at CUHK.

Of course, life at Oxford can also be intense and challenging. I am fortunate that my supervisor, the sociologists, and friends at CUHK Sociology have sown a great seed in me. They have helped me navigate academia, realize my intellectual resolution, and most importantly, recognize the value of rigorous and credible research.

We now live in an era of world-societies where market forces and political powers have transcended spatial boundaries. Bringing sociological knowledge outside the West into the global academic dialogue is vital. Although I am unsure about how much of what I learnt will be able to contribute to this process, the unique sociological lens I have acquired will be permanent and eternal.



INTERNSHIP

MS. NG LAI YI

*Undergraduate Student,
worked in Hong Kong Unison in 2021 Summer*

Working in Hong Kong Unison was my first internship experience. The community project is a new project and competition organized by Hong Kong Unison, it targeted ethnic minorities youth - they had to design and carry out targeted-based projects among their community.

My duties included helping the operation of community projects, supporting teams from community projects, designing media posts for community projects, media pitching and writing an article for the press release. Although the workload was tremendous, I still thought that the works were meaningful and I enjoyed it a lot. Among all the job duties, I found the photography workshop from one team in the community project-Community Lens most thought-provoking.

In this workshop, ethnic minority participants shared their experiences and insights on the topics of identity and community in discussions. Not only was their sharing impressive, but it also allowed me to know more about the situations and difficulties of ethnic minorities in Hong Kong. Moreover,





I talked to the organizer of the photography workshop, which is also the founder of Community Lens. She said that “without Hong Kong Unison, I don’t know what can I do in Hong Kong”. It was so touching to understand how important the Unison was to the ethnic minorities in Hong Kong. After that, I told this to my supervisor and executive director, and they were so impressed and motivated by this message. I am so delighted to work in this significant company.

INTERNSHIP

MS. SUN SHIWEN

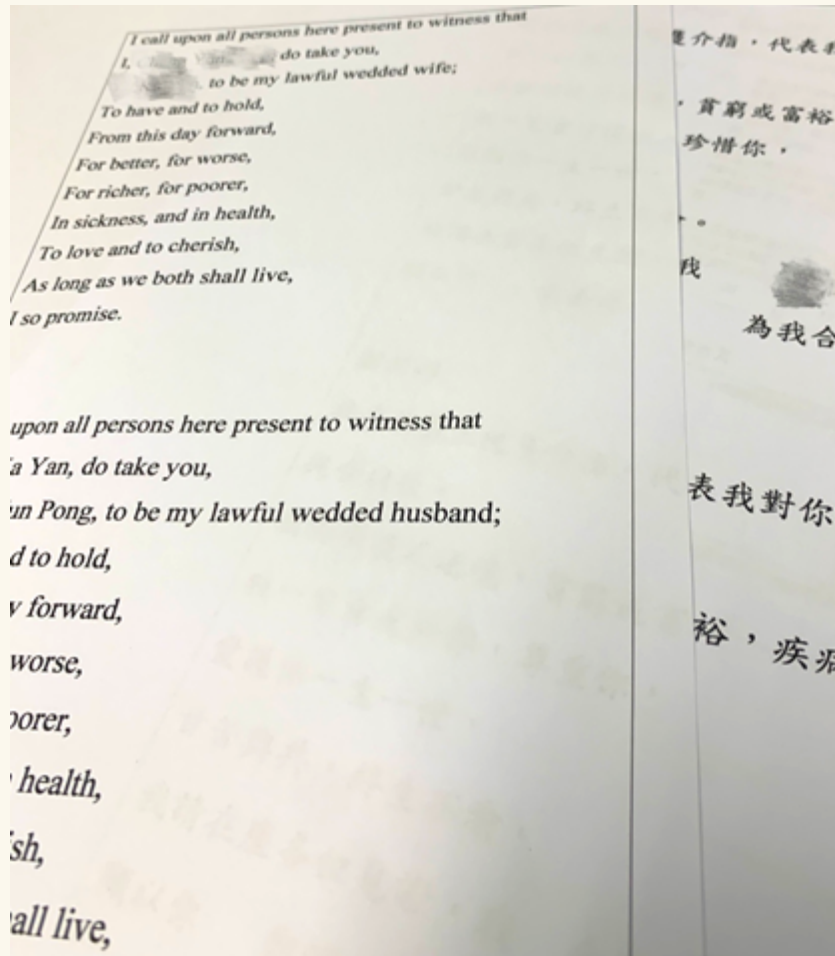
*Undergraduate Student
worked in Tang, Wong & Chow Solicitors in
2021 Summer*

Starting from June 2021, I had been working at Tang, Wong & Chow Solicitors as a summer intern recommended by the Department of Sociology.

Working in the legal domain was quite challenging at the beginning. Luckily with guidance, I soon got familiar with my work. During the internship, I learned to write solicitors' letters, draft the Agreement for Sale and Purchase, and prepare documents to be used at court. I also got the chance to go to the Family Court with senior solicitors, assisting them and making records. The one-month internship was intense but happy, allowing me to have a glance at a different profession.

The free legal service conducted at local communities was one of the most impressive experiences during my internship. We went to communities in Choi Hung and Sham Shui Po District several times after working hours to meet with local residents. Communities we went to were all public housing projects provided by the government, the "estates", of which the residents predominantly possessed middle-lower or lower socioeconomic status in the society. The relative lack of high education background, social capital and materials rendered them very limited access to resources, especially those associated with the "elite" class such as legal resources. When encountering problems or accidents, they were extremely helpless and fragile.





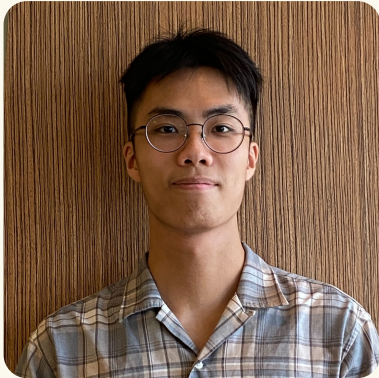
Marriage oath: my mentor solicitor witnessed many weddings as a Civil Celebrant of Marriages

Therefore, my mentor decided to help this group of people with his knowledge and legal background, providing free legal consultancy for them every week for over 30 years. Guided and supervised by him, I helped draft some petition letters and Wills for local residents. Wills were important especially for elderlies, ensuring their properties to be executed as they wished in case of accidents or diseases, yet not many elderlies had this sense and even if they did, they might face barriers: unable to write down all items of probate required by the laws, inability or hesitation to find solicitors, and solicitors' fee. Helping them list their prop-

erties, revise the wording and structures, and having the documents signed and sealed by the senior solicitor, I felt a great sense of achievement especially with their gratitude to us.

Participating in free legal consultancy in disadvantaged communities was very inspiring and insightful for me, showing me how the legal knowledge and experiences in other domains could work together and contribute to society. My mentor earned his JD degree after graduating from the Department of Social Work in CUHK. With the combined knowledge and practice, he became a socially responsible solicitor, being highly respected both in the legal profession and the community. Realizing this, now I appreciate my education in sociology even more than before, for it provides me a special and humane perspective to understand the society I have been living in as well as explore viable treatments to its problems.

NEW RESEARCH POSTGRADUATE



WONG Yue Hei, Jason / MPhil

Particularly inspired by the courses social demography and medical sociology and the research experience in an ageing center, my research interests intersect population ageing, intergenerational relationship, and determinants of population well-being by adopting quantitative techniques. One pertaining question that interested me is that despite the significant improvement in life expectancy over the past decades, are people living healthier and happier for longer? Questions can be further asked, for example, what would be the socio-cultural, familial, and socio-psychological factors associated with physical and mental health outcomes in old age? How have the dynamics of intergenerational relationships in the family been changed due to such demographic transition? These debates go beyond theoretical discussions to have practical implications on how government and citizens could respond to the unprecedented demographic challenges in the foreseeable future.

In this sense, Sociology is not a decontextualized discipline. Instead, it allows me to transcend the social imaginary beyond the immediate environment to visualize how the changes of social structure influence the daily life that each of us leads. This humanistic sensitivity and sociological imagination capacity are deeply ingrained in my personality; nobody can take away from me.



Raphael DUERR / Ph.D.

Hi, I'm Raphael DUERR, and I'm starting my PhD at the CUHK in September. Before coming to Hong Kong, I had studied and lived in Zurich, Switzerland, and I also did my Bachelor's and Master's degree at the University of Zurich, at their department of sociology. Among my main research interests are medical sociology and public health, diffusion and establishment of norms, game theory, and interdisciplinary research.

NEW RESEARCH POSTGRADUATE



Alicia BARRY / Ph.D.

Alicia Barry is a new PhD student in Sociology at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, where she will research gender and fertility in China. Originally from London, Alicia obtained her MSc in Contemporary Chinese Studies from the University of Oxford. For her master's thesis, she conducted qualitative interviews with urban Chinese mothers to examine the mechanisms underlying second-birth fertility intentions. Before that, she obtained her Bachelor's degree in Chinese (Modern & Classical) at SOAS University of London. During this time she obtained scholarships to participate in exchange programmes at Beijing Normal University and National Taiwan Normal University.

She has also worked for the China Women's Film Festival (an NGO based in Beijing and Hong Kong), China Hour UK (a China-oriented TV channel on Sky-TV), and Qumin (a China-focused digital marketing agency). Alicia is especially interested in women's conflicting roles between public and private spheres in contemporary society, and the role of policy for achieving a more gender equal future.



GEBEYEHU Kelemu Fenta / Ph.D.

I have been working as a lecturer of Sociology at the University of Gondar, Ethiopia. As to my educational background, I have a Bachelor degree in Sociology and social work, masters' degrees in Sociology, Governance and development which are obtained from Universities of Jimma, Ethiopia, Gondar, Ethiopia and Antwerp, Belgium respectively. Currently, I am a first year PhD student of Sociology at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, HKSAR. I am quite interested to do researches on multiple areas including: health and well-being, social inequality, development, social capital, sexual abuse and others.



Chan Hiu Sze Vincci / Ph.D.

Research Interest: Cultural Sociology, Education

Hu Yuhan / Ph.D.

Research Interest: Medical Sociology, Population Health, Aging



Jia Xinge / Ph.D.

Research Interest: Crime and deviance; Quantitative Methods

Li Yujie / Ph.D.

Research Interest: Computational Social Science, Social Networks, Text-as-data, Political Communication
Personal Web Page: yujie.li



Zhao Mengke / Ph.D.

Research Interest: Family, Health, Social Inequality

STAY CONNECTED

Office Hour

Monday – Thursday: 8:45 am – 5:30 pm

Friday: 8:45 am – 5:45 pm

(lunch hour : 1:00 pm-2:00 pm)

General Inquiries

Email: sociology@cuhk.edu.hk

Phone: (852) 3943 6604 / (852) 3943 6606

Fax: (852) 2603 5213

Executive Officer

Ms. Liko CHAN

Email: liko@cuhk.edu.hk

Phone: (852) 3943 6605

Undergraduate Programme

Ms. Queena NG

Email: sociology@cuhk.edu.hk

Phone: (852) 3943 1486

MPhil/Ph.D. Programme

Ms. Lorraine YU

Email: socrpg@cuhk.edu.hk

Phone: (852) 2603 7332

M.A. Programme

Ms. Tracy YAU

Email: SociologyMA@cuhk.edu.hk

Phone: (852) 2603 7619

Scholarship/ Internship Matters

Ms. Kirs LAU

Email: sociology@cuhk.edu.hk

Phone: (852) 3943 6271

Find Us



Room 431, 4/F,
Department of Sociology
Sino Building
The Chinese University of Hong Kong



@CUHKSOCIOLOGYADMISSION



2021-2022

CUHK Sociology

