

THE HANG SENG UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCE
Centre for Greater China Studies

Conference on Social Transformation & Social Challenges in Greater China

Conference Programme

Date: April 27, 2024 (Saturday)

Venue: Lee Ping Yuen Chamber (D801); D501, Lee Quo Wei Academic Building, Yuen Campus, The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong

TIME	PROGRAMME
0900-0930	Registration
0930-0940	Welcoming Remarks Prof. Kwok-Kan TAM Dean of School of Humanities and Social Science Chair Professor, Department of English The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong Venue: Lee Ping Yuen Chamber (D801)
0940-1040	Keynote Presentation <i>The Impact of geopolitics on international student mobility: The Chinese students' perspective and challenges for sustainable development</i> Prof. Joshua Ka Ho MOK Vice-President of Lingnan University Lam Man Tsan Chair Professor of Comparative Policy Lingnan University Venue: Lee Ping Yuen Chamber (D801)
1040-1055	Break
1055-1255	<u>Session 1: Ageing & Healthcare</u> Chair: Dr. Lucille Lok Sun NGAN The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong Venue: Lee Ping Yuen Chamber (D801)

	<p><i>Promoting Age-friendly Conditions in a Productivist Welfare Regime: Towards Active Ageing in Hong Kong</i> Dr. Padmore Adusei AMOAH^a, Prof. Joshua Ka Ho MOK^a, Dr. Zhouyi WEN^b ^aLingnan University, ^bThe Education University of Hong Kong</p> <p><i>Bridging Local Welfare and National Ambitions: How do mid-rank officials drive integrated care reforms in Southwestern China?</i> Dr. Todd Yuda SHI The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong</p> <p><i>A Consumerist Perspective on the Sustainability of the Hong Kong Public Healthcare Sector since the 21st Century</i> Dr. Ivan Shui Kau CHIU Technological and Higher Education Institute of Hong Kong</p> <p><i>Politicization of Public Health Discourse Through Memes: A Case Study of Medicine Vaccine Debate in Taiwan</i> Dr. Gary Kin Yat TANG^a, Ms. Stephanie Kwan Nga LAM^a, Dr. Lawrence Ka Ki HO^b & Ms. Lai Yan TANG^c ^aThe Hang Seng University of Hong Kong, ^bThe Education University of Hong Kong, ^cThe Chinese University of Hong Kong</p> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
1255-1415	Lunch Break
1415-1545	<p><u>Session 2: Migration Issues</u></p> <p>Chair: Dr. Rami Hin Yeung CHAN The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong</p> <p>Venue: Lee Ping Yuen Chamber (D801)</p> <p><i>Invisible Groups: Understanding the Social Impacts of Urban Regeneration on Temporary Migrants</i> Prof. Hui ZHANG & Mr. Shangxian SHEN Guangzhou University</p> <p><i>Exploring the Influence of Digital Technologies on Aging Experience in Transnational Contexts: A Study of Older Adults from Hong Kong</i> Dr. Lucille Lok Sun NGAN^a & Dr. Anita Kit Wa CHAN^b ^aThe Hang Seng University of Hong Kong, ^bThe Education University of Hong Kong</p>

	<p><i>Negotiating Achievement amid Challenges: Exploring Hong Kong Migrants' Narrative Construction</i> Ms. Queenie Kwan Yee SIU^a & Dr. Lucille Lok Sun NGAN^b ^aThe Australian National University, ^bThe Hang Seng University of Hong Kong</p> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
1415-1545	<p><u>Session 3: Sustainable Cities</u></p> <p>Chair: Dr. Gary Kin Yat TANG The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong</p> <p>Venue: D501</p> <p><i>Does the Special Deduction Policy Reduce the Multiple Vulnerabilities of Households?—Evidence from China Household Finance Survey (CHFS)</i> Dr. Yali LI Jiangxi University of Science and Technology</p> <p><i>Hong Kong Government's Climate Change Policy Shifts and Social Media Activism</i> Mr. Yuen Chau LEE & Dr. Shiru WANG The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong</p> <p><i>Navigating Green Governance: The Pursuit of environmental Sustainability in China Under Xi Jinping</i> Dr. Victor Chi Ming CHAN The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong</p> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
1545-1600	Break
1600-1730	<p><u>Session 4: Diversity and Inclusion</u></p> <p>Chair: Dr. Victor Chi Ming CHAN The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong</p> <p>Venue: Lee Ping Yuen Chamber (D801)</p>

	<p><i>To stay or to leave: overseas migrants and their quick return considerations</i> Dr. Rami Hin Yeung CHAN The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong</p> <p><i>The Impact of Sports on Migrants' Social Integration in Hong Kong</i> Ms. Karen Lok Yiu TSANG, Mr. Stephen Ka Yuen CHEUNG & Dr. Lucille Lok Sun NGAN The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong</p> <p><i>Decentralising China: Exploring Complex Relations between Chinese Migrants and Locals in Contemporary Senegal Through the Lens of Traditional Medicine (online)</i> Mr. Stefano GALEAZZI University of Padua and Ca'Foscari University of Venice</p> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
1600- 1730	<p><u>Public Policy and Risk Governance Postgraduate Session</u></p> <p>Chair: Dr. Shiru WANG The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong Venue: D501</p> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
<i>End of Programme</i>	

Abstracts

Session 1: Ageing & Healthcare

1. Promoting Age-friendly Conditions in a Productivist Welfare Regime: Towards Active Ageing in Hong Kong

Dr. Padmore Adusei AMOAH^a, Prof. Joshua Ka Ho MOK^a, Dr. Zhouyi WEN^b

^aLingnan University, ^bThe Education University of Hong Kong

Abstract: Creating age-friendly environments and promoting active ageing are among the top priorities for the Hong Kong Government and other stakeholders in the city. These goals align with Hong Kong's productivist welfare system, which emphasises economic productivity and labour market participation as the main sources of social well-being. In this paper, we use a cross-national comparative framework to explore how productive engagement (voluntary involvement) in later life can be enhanced among older adults in two districts of Hong Kong: the Islands and Tsuen Wan. We conducted a social survey in 2016 and 2018 to collect data from 1,638 people aged 60 and above on their perception of an age-friendly city and active ageing. The results show some differences in the perceived determinants of productive engagement across the two districts, but they also reveal some common factors, such as social atmosphere, social provisions and the built environment. We argue that supportive environments that enable older adults to participate productively in their communities can improve their physical and cognitive functioning and help them maintain their active role in society. Such environments can also empower older adults to be independent and support the productivist welfare system that Hong Kong has adopted in response to the socio-cultural and economic ramifications of ageing.

2. Bridging Local Welfare and National Ambitions: How do mid-rank officials drive integrated care reforms in Southwestern China?

Dr. Todd Yuda SHI

The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong

Abstract: Integrated care stands as a crucial component of healthcare reform, facilitating the coordination of services across various levels and types to enhance cost-efficiency and equity within the system. However, achieving integrated care is a complex task due to conflicting interests among stakeholders. In this context, policy entrepreneurs, defined as proactive policy actors driving change, play a pivotal role in employing strategies such as issue framing and coalition building to address these challenges. Serving as intermediaries between central government policymakers and street-level bureaucrats, mid-rank officials at the local level possess significant potential in aligning local demands and conditions with national policy objectives. Despite this potential, little attention has been given to their entrepreneurial roles in previous research. This study aims to bridge this research gap by exploring how mid-rank officials in local governments catalyse local innovation through creative policy implementation. Using the integrated care reform in a southwestern province as a case study, this research also sheds light on the motivations and strategies employed by local mid-rank officials in China to promote sustainable development in the health sector.

3. A Consumerist Perspective on the Sustainability of the Hong Kong Public Healthcare Sector since the 21st Century

Dr. Ivan Shui Kau CHIU

Technological and Higher Education Institute of Hong Kong

Abstract: The Hong Kong government has implemented new public management to administer the public sector since the 21st century. Driven by the principles of efficiency, effectiveness, and economy, government expenditure has to be reviewed and apportioned under the idea of value of money. Meanwhile, with a decreasing trend of fertility rate and increasing life expectancy, Hong Kong society has experienced an ageing population. The need for better quality of public healthcare has been raised accordingly. However, this demand constitutes a dilemma for the Hong Kong government since the sustainability of providing quality public healthcare is under threat due to financial constraints. The Hong Kong government has responded to the challenge by launching reforms in the public healthcare sector. Even though the reforms have been carried out for more than a decade, research on the reforms is inadequate. To narrow down the academic gap, a study of public healthcare was thus formed. This theoretical article aims to review those strategies taken by the Hong Kong government to ensure the sustainability of the public healthcare sector since the 21st century. Consumerism was employed as a theoretical framework of this article as it focuses on the rights and choices of selecting from different approaches to satisfy one's desire. A research question of how consumerism helps understand the sustainability of the Hong Kong public healthcare sector since the 21st century was formed. Data were collected from the official documents and statistics, and the analysis was further informed by literature. Through adopting strategies such as enriching the availability of certain healthcare information and promoting partnerships between the public sector and the private sector, this article discovered that the Hong Kong government has consolidated the sustainability of the public healthcare sector by empowering the rights and choices of patients. By doing so, this article argued that the role of patients has been transformed from service users to customers, and that fulfils a consumerist portrayal. This article will form an important implication for healthcare practitioners and policymakers.

4. Politicization of Public Health Discourse Through Memes: A Case Study of Medicine Vaccine Debate in Taiwan

Dr. Gary Kin Yat TANG, Ms. Stephanie Kwan Nga LAM, Dr. Lawrence Ka Ki HO & Ms. Lai Yan TANG

^aThe Hang Seng University of Hong Kong, ^bThe Education University of Hong Kong

Abstract: In the digital age, internet memes have ascended as a significant cultural and communicative force, especially evident in the online political engagement of Taiwan. In the context of Taiwan's digital landscape, internet memes have emerged as powerful vectors of political discourse and social commentary. This study focuses on the role of anti-Medigen vaccine memes in shaping public opinion and debate around Taiwan's public health policies during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Through a qualitative analysis of 114 anti-Medigen vaccine meme images, this study underlying public discourses and the extended narratives about the government's public health policy. The research identifies the discourse within these memes extends beyond public health concerns, intertwining with partisan politics. The memes often target the ruling party and its supporters, indicating a broader politicization of health policy issues within the digital sphere. The study highlights that while outright misinformation is not widespread in the anti-Medigen vaccine memes, the occasional presence of such content suggests a potential vector for misinformation spread.

While the false information in anti-Medigen vaccine memes is not prevalent, occasional misinformation does have the potential to spread. These findings provide insights for government bodies in disseminating public health policies. In an online environment where memes are a popular medium, careful consideration must be given to who communicates and how public health policies are communicated to ensure greater exposure for scientific discourse and to prevent the oversimplification and politicization of complex issues.

Session 2: Migration Issues

1. Invisible Groups: Understanding the Social Impacts of Urban Regeneration on Temporary Migrants

Prof. Hui ZHANG & Mr. Shangxian SHEN
Guangzhou University

Abstract: While urban regeneration has brought significant benefits to local residents, it often has a series of negative impacts on the temporary migrants. However, existing research has not adequately discussed the social impacts related to urban regeneration, and there is scant attention to the condition of temporary migrants within this context. This oversight hinders a systematic understanding of the potential costs of urban regeneration and the promotion of social equity. This study focuses on an urban regeneration project in Kangle Village, Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, China, as an empirical case. Kangle Village, primarily known for its garment production and fabric wholesale, is a urban village within the city that is home to over one hundred thousand migrants from Hubei province. Through field surveys in Kangle Village and in-depth interviews with key informants such as garment factory owners, workers, and village committee members, this study assesses the various social impacts that the urban regeneration has already and will potentially have on the temporary migrants, including: disruption of livelihoods, inadequacy in obtaining sufficient compensation, dissolution of cooperative relationship networks, uncertainty due to ambiguous deadlines, challenges in continuing established production and business models, and impacts on migrant workers across diverse segments of the supply chain. This study breaks new ground by overcoming the limitations of traditional social impact assessment paradigms in defining the scope of urban regeneration impacts and analyzing specific migrant ecosystems. It pays special attention to the economic displacement issues of the affected groups. The findings are instrumental in providing references for densely populated and rapidly developing countries to formulate more equitable and effective urban regeneration strategies.

2. Exploring the Influence of Digital Technologies on Aging Experience in Transnational Contexts: A Study of Older Adults from Hong Kong

Dr. Lucille Lok Sun NGAN^a & Dr. Anita Kit Wa CHAN^b

^aThe Hang Seng University of Hong Kong, ^bThe Education University of Hong Kong

Abstract: Despite the significant changes brought about by international migration and global population aging, studies on aging have primarily focused on aging in place, assuming that healthy aging necessarily requires local support networks. Consequently, the role of migration, mobility, and digital technologies in the lives of older adults in transnational family contexts has been overlooked, leaving specific challenges and opportunities faced by them neglected. This paper aims to address this gap by examining the impact of digital technologies on the daily lives of relatively wealthy, middle-class older adults from Hong Kong living in transnational family contexts. Contrary to the belief that older adults tend to avoid engaging with new technologies due to access and the rapid pace of digital innovation, this study found that the participants actively embraced digital technologies. These technologies played a crucial role in facilitating social relationships locally and across borders, improving intergenerational familial care despite distance, and enhancing their overall sense of achievement in later life. The findings of this study offer valuable insights into how digital technology can shape the aging experience within the context of transnational family dynamics. This paper contends that a comprehensive analysis of aging among older adults living in transnational contexts necessitates a thorough understanding of the influence of digitalization and should transcend the constraints of spatially confined contexts.

3. *Negotiating Achievement amid Challenges: Exploring Hong Kong Migrants' Narrative Construction*

Ms. Queenie Kwan Yee SIU^a & Dr. Lucille Lok Sun NGAN^b

^aThe Australian National University, ^bThe Hang Seng University of Hong Kong

Abstract: In the transnational migration literature of middle and upper-middle-class Hong Kong migrants, studies have tended to centre on their privileged social positions and successful capital accumulation strategies. Nevertheless, there has been limited attention received on how these migrants construct their achievements in circumstances where they encounter challenges during the migration process or when reality differs from their expectations. In this paper, we draw on data from three projects examining the aspirations of Hong Kong mid age returnee parents and older age parents and international students. Our findings show that despite feelings of ambivalence, Hong Kong migrants often construct a narrative of migration achievement that involves acknowledging a limit to their social mobility in the host country due to their minority status, a desire for a work-life balance lifestyle and the comparison of the socio-political atmosphere between the host countries and Hong Kong. This study contributes to a better understanding migrants' emotional coping strategy, particularly in how Hong Kong migrants construct their personal and/or family migration projects. Moreover, we reveal that even among the relatively privileged, whose migration journey is often assumed to be frictionless, their narratives frequently contain contradictory sentiments.

Session 3: Sustainable Cities

1. *Does the Special Deduction Policy Reduce the Multiple Vulnerabilities of Households?—Evidence from China Household Finance Survey (CHFS)*

Dr. Yali LI

Jiangxi University of Science and Technology

Abstract: China's absolute poverty has basically been eliminated after 2020, however, the vulnerability of Chinese households to multi-poverty remains significantly. Based on the China Household Finance Survey (CHFS) 2015-2019 micro-panel data, this paper first used the VEP model to capture the vulnerability of Chinese households to income and health poverty. And it developed an intensity double-difference model to investigate the possibility of special additional deduction to alleviate the vulnerability of Chinese households to income and health poverty using the quasi-natural experiment of special additional deduction for personal income tax in 2018. We found that the special additional deduction policy significantly reduces the vulnerability of Chinese households to income and health poverty by lowering the tax burden of households with the aim of upgrading their income standards and consumption structures. However, a quality effect exists when separating samples according to the access to the public medical insurance and Government subsidies. Furthermore, this policy affects households in the central and western region more than households in the eastern and north-eastern region of China. For this reason, we believe optimizing the income redistribution mechanism of individual income tax, and exploring the policy of differentiating the special additional deduction indifferent regions is a necessary part of the process, and completing the redistribution adjustment mechanism with taxation, social security and transfer payments as the main means, and enhancing the adequacy of the government's fiscal redistribution policy package, with a view to achieving equity in curbing the vulnerability of households.

2. Hong Kong Government's Climate Change Policy Shifts and Social Media Activism

Mr. Yuen Chau LEE & Dr. Shiru WANG

The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong

Abstract: This paper explores the development of the Hong Kong Government's policy orientations towards climate change over the past quarter of the century, specifically, on its emphasis upon individual vs. institutional level climate action; and to explore the responses of civil society on social media regarding climate change. The extant literature demonstrates a significant tendency for government, corporate, NGOs and even independent influencers to highlight the impact of individual behaviors (e.g. reducing waste, conserving energy) on climate change, while responsibility of the government and corporates has been largely omitted from social media discussion. Using the most recent social media data and multiple government documents, this paper intends to investigate the evolution of government policies towards climate change and how the issue of climate change is being approached on social media today.

3. Navigating Green Governance: The Pursuit of environmental Sustainability in China Under Xi Jinping

Dr. Victor Chi Ming CHAN

The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong

Abstract: This study investigates the transformative policies and initiatives undertaken by China to promote environmental sustainability under the leadership of Xi Jinping since 2013. The central research question explores how these governance reforms have been articulated and implemented to address the pressing issues of ecological degradation and climate change, and what challenges and successes have characterized this process. By employing a qualitative methodology, the paper provides the policy discourse, analyzes the institutional frameworks, and evaluates the practical outcomes of sustainability measures, aiming to provide a nuanced understanding of China's environmental strategy.

Session 4: Diversity & Inclusion

1. To stay or to leave: overseas migrants and their quick return considerations

Dr. Rami Hin Yeung CHAN

The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong

Abstract: This paper explores the factors influencing the decision of overseas migrants to either stay in their host country or return to their home, Hong Kong. The phenomenon of quick return migration, where migrants return to Hong Kong shortly after arriving in the host country, is examined through a comprehensive analysis of existing literature and some preliminary data. The paper focuses on the motivations and considerations that shape the decision-making process of overseas migrants. The study identifies various factors that contribute to the quick return decision, including economic, social, and personal factors. Economic factors include limited job opportunities, low wages, and unfavorable working conditions in the host country. Social factors encompass issues such as discrimination, cultural barriers, and lack of social support networks. Personal factors involve family obligations, nostalgia for home, and the desire to reunite with loved ones. By shedding light on the complexities of quick return migration, this paper provides valuable insights for policymakers and researchers in understanding the dynamics and challenges faced by overseas migrants.

2. The Impact of Sports on Migrants' Social Integration in Hong Kong

Ms. Karen Lok Yiu TSANG, Mr. Stephen Ka Yuen CHEUNG & Dr. Lucille Lok Sun NGAN
The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong

Abstract: Studies show the benefits of sports for enabling marginalised groups to integrate into local society, however its impact in Hong Kong remains underexamined. Filling this gap, this paper draws on in-depth interviews with young to middle-aged migrants residing in Hong Kong to examine the impact of participating in team sports in facilitating migrants' social integration. The findings of this study suggest that not only does the playing of team sports fosters migrants' social integration, the whole process of engaging in sports also facilitates across group and in-group interactions. Transnational social connections prior to migration to Hong Kong also play a role in facilitating migrants' engagement in team sports after settlement. Moreover, gender and occupation impact on the intensity of engagement. This research contributes to new insights on migrants' social integration into Hong Kong society.

3. Decentralising China: Exploring Complex Relations between Chinese Migrants and Locals in Contemporary Senegal Through the Lens of Traditional Medicine

Mr. Stefano GALEAZZI

University of Padua and Ca'Foscari University of Venice

Abstract: Since Mao Zedong's Cultural Revolution, China has been progressively expanding its interests in Africa, promoting a development and cooperation plan based on a rhetoric extolling the South-South and win-win relationship, in ideological opposition to the Euro-American West and its colonial past on the African continent. Senegal is globally considered as one of Africa's strongest democracies and plays a leading role within African Union and ECOWAS. Here, Chinese influence is substantial. For example, the Musée des Civilisations noires (which holds artefacts exported during the colonial period) in Dakar has been built thanks to Chinese funding. Moreover, according to data provided by the SAIS China Africa Research Initiative (SAIS-CARI) of the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, from 2000 to 2020 the amount of China's loans to Senegal reached about 2 billion dollars, China's exports to Senegal in 2021 reached more than 3 billion dollars and the gross annual revenues of Chinese companies' construction projects in Senegal rose to more than 800 million dollars in 2021. Furthermore, Senegal hosted the last edition of Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) in 2021. However, despite this and the vast ethnographic literature on Senegal, to date there is a lack of anthropological studies that address the Chinese presence in the Land of the Teranga.

Senegal is a complex country, in which the Wolof ethnic group is the majority and exerts its influence in a process of linguistic and cultural standardisation (Ndiaye 2004). Also, underlying the feeling of being Senegalese are the roles of Muslim brotherhoods - of which Muridiyyah and Tijaniyyah are the most important - influencing the individuals' life in areas such as health, work and politics (SamsonNdaw 2009). Considered as religious guides as well as traditional healers inside brotherhoods, marabouts, in fact, play an extremely important role within the daily routine of Senegalese societies (Foley 2010). From 2017, Senegalese news websites have been reporting about a dispute between Senegalese marabouts, gathered under the Intersyndicale des marabouts sénégalais (IMS), and Chinese healers, the latter being accused of unfair competition. Specifically, it was denounced that the Chinese, after coming to Senegal to work on infrastructure projects, had started to invest in other strategic sectors, such as traditional healing. The Chinese defence rested on the fact that their methods were more modern and one did not need to be Senegalese to cure certain diseases, love problems or impotence. In addition, we have to consider that an increasing number of Senegalese students take advantage of scholarships to study in China, hence importing what they have learnt, including Chinese medicine, back home. In fact, some investigations by TV5 Monde, Franceinfo and LeMonde witness the growth in Senegal, especially in Dakar, of clinics where traditional Chinese medicine is practised.

Given this scenario, this contribution will focus on the frictions between marabouts and Chinese traditional healers in order to ethnographically explore and deepen the entanglement of China in Senegal.