

# GRANT AND ACHIEVEMENT

AWARDS  
GRANTS



## 1

## Prestigious RGC Research Fellowship Awarded to Professor Pengyu Zhu

The Division of Public Policy is immensely proud to announce that our very own Prof. Pengyu Zhu has been awarded a prestigious Research Fellowship grant from the Research Grants Council (RGC).

This remarkable achievement is a testament to Prof. Zhu's distinguished research capabilities in the field of urban and regional development. His research project, titled "Regional Science and Complex Systems: A Five-year Research Plan on Transportation, Land Use, Labor, and Innovation Systems," has been awarded HK\$5.3 million in funding.

The RGC Research Fellowship is a highly competitive scheme that recognizes leading academics who have made significant contributions to their respective fields. Prof. Zhu's selection is a proud moment for our division, as it underscores the world-class caliber of our faculty and their impactful research.

This honor not only reflects the Division's strengths in addressing critical issues related to urban systems and policy, but also reinforces our commitment to driving innovation and generating knowledge that can positively influence policymaking and societal transformation.

We congratulate Prof. Zhu on this remarkable achievement and look forward to the insightful findings that will emerge from his groundbreaking research project.

Prof. Pengyu Zhu  
Associate Professor,  
PPOL





Prof. Alex Jingwei He  
Associate Professor, PPOL  
Acting Director, IPP

## 2

### **Professor Alex Jingwei He has been recognized among the top 2% of the most cited scientists worldwide in the fields of Political Science and Public Administration**

We are thrilled to announce that Professor Alex Jingwei He has been recognized among the top 2% of the most cited scientists worldwide in the fields of Political Science and Public Administration by Stanford University, based on the 2023 single-year impact metrics. Additionally, he is ranked as the second highest scholar in public policy in Hong Kong.

The Stanford World's Top 2% Most Cited Scholars ranking, released in September 2024, positions Professor He at 488 out of 22,449 scholars globally in the discipline of Political Science and Public Administration. This prestigious ranking highlights researchers who have published multiple highly cited papers, assessed through various citation impact metrics derived from Scopus data, which evaluate both career-long and recent single-year performance. The selection process identifies the top 100,000 scientists based on citation scores (c-scores), considering both self-citations and external citations.

This achievement marks the third consecutive year that Professor He has been included in this esteemed ranking, reflecting the significant global impact and relevance of his scholarly contributions. His areas of expertise include comparative social policy, health policy and governance, and policy innovation and entrepreneurship. Professor He's work not only advances academic discourse but also informs practical policy-making, making him a pivotal figure in his field.

This recognition is a testament to Professor He's ongoing commitment to excellence in research and scholarship. It brings great pride to the Division of Public Policy (PPOL) and the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST).

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Professor He on this remarkable accomplishment!

## 3

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## Professor Masaru Yarime Named Highly Ranked Scholar by ScholarGPS

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Prof. Masaru Yarime, Associate Professor in the Division of Public Policy (PPOL), for being recognized as a Highly Ranked Scholar by ScholarGPS!

Prof. Yarime is an expert in numerous research domains, including energy policy and technology development, climate change and global environmental governance, policy design and innovation, the emergence of innovation systems, and big data in social science research. With 94 publications in public policy, his significant contributions have earned him the impressive ranking of #53 in Sustainability, placing him in the top 0.05% of scholars globally. This accolade reflects his substantial impact and notable achievements in the field.

ScholarGPS is a leading scholarly analytics platform that acknowledges Highly Ranked Scholars for their exceptional accomplishments across various disciplines. It evaluates over 30 million scholars affiliated with more than 55,000 academic and non-academic institutions worldwide, ranking them based on their productivity, impact, and the quality of their work.

Once again, congratulations to Prof. Yarime on this well-deserved honor!



Prof. Masaru Yarime  
Associate Professor,  
PPOL





Prof. Alex Jingwei He  
Associate Professor, PPOL  
Acting Director, IPP



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**Professor Alex Jingwei He Won 2023 Best Policy Research Award by the Chinese Policy Scholars Group (CPSG)**

We are proud to announce that Professor Alex Jingwei He, Associate Professor in the Division of Public Policy (PPOL), has been awarded the prestigious 2023 Best Policy Research Award by the Chinese Policy Scholars Group (CPSG). This honor recognizes exceptional contributions to the field of policy research and analysis.

Professor He’s award-winning paper, titled “Unpacking the Black Box of Pilot Sampling in Policy Experimentation: A Qualitative Comparative Analysis of China’s Public Hospital Reform,” explores the methodologies employed by governments in selecting pilot sites for large-scale policy experiments. The study focuses on China’s extensive public hospital reform program, which encompasses 200 cities nationwide. Utilizing a cutting-edge research approach, Professor He and his co-authors integrated Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) with detailed case studies to reveal five distinct strategies employed in site selection. These strategies oscillate between choosing sites with favorable conditions and ensuring geographic and economic diversity.

The significance of this research lies in its profound insights into the complexities of pilot site selection in policy experimentation, particularly within the context of large-scale reforms. It challenges previous assumptions, highlighting that the process is far more nuanced than commonly understood and offering valuable perspectives on how China navigates its extensive policy reform landscape. Moreover, Professor He’s work not only enhances the academic discourse surrounding policy experimentation but also serves as a vital resource for policymakers and researchers worldwide. This award underscores the substantial impact and importance of his contributions to the public policy field.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Professor He on this well-deserved recognition and eagerly anticipate his continued advancements in public policy research.



5

**Strengthening International Collaboration: Dr. Julien de Troullioud de Lanversin’s Impactful Visit to Tsinghua University**

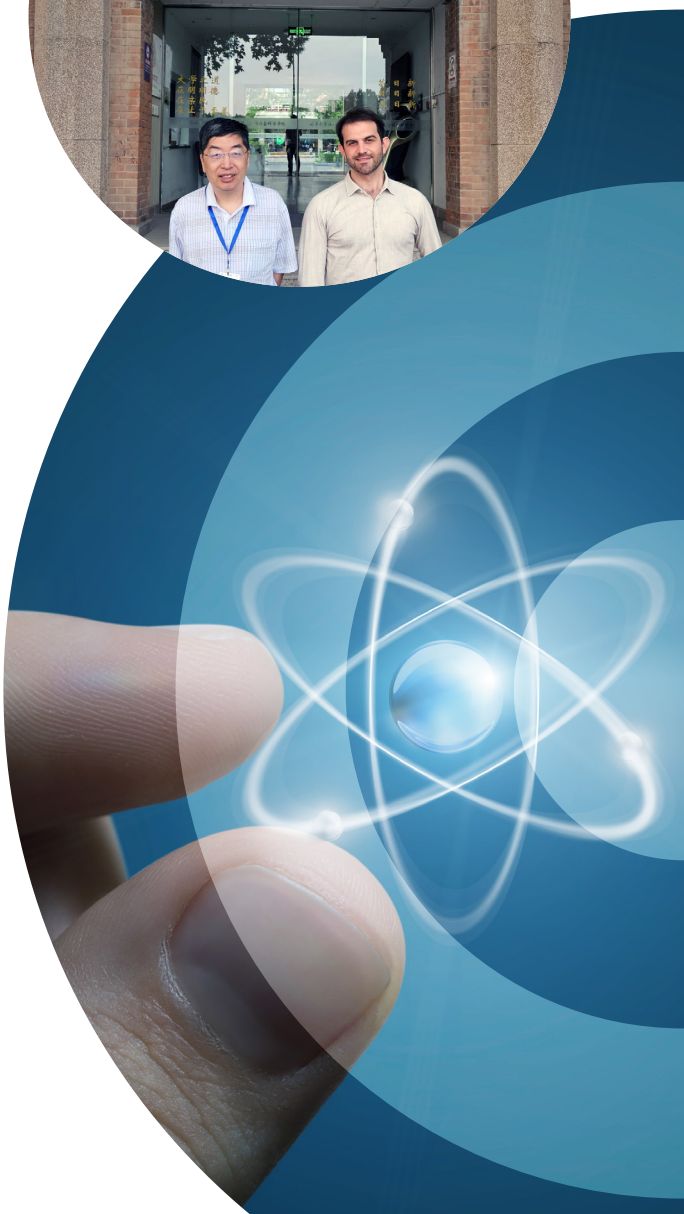
The Division of Public Policy is delighted to highlight the remarkable achievements of our esteemed colleague, Dr. Julien de Troullioud de Lanversin, following his recent academic visit to Tsinghua University in Beijing.

Sponsored by the prestigious AUA Scholars Award, Dr. de Troullioud de Lanversin spent two weeks engaging with leading scholars in the fields of international relations and nuclear security. During his time at Tsinghua University, he offered insightful lectures to students on the critical intersection of technology and geopolitics, sharing his expertise and research findings.

A highlight of his visit was the opportunity to present his research on nuclear arms control to a distinguished audience of scholars at Tsinghua University, as well as to nuclear scientists from the China Academy of Engineering Physics. Through these engaging discussions, Dr. de Troullioud de Lanversin was able to foster meaningful dialogues and explore ways to reduce misunderstanding between China and the United States in the nuclear realm.

In addition to his academic engagements, Dr. de Troullioud de Lanversin also met with former diplomats from the China Arms Control and Disarmament Association, as well as scholars from Harvard’s Belfer Center. These valuable interactions allowed him to further his understanding of the complex dynamics between the two global powers and identify potential avenues for reigniting cooperation between the US and China expert communities.

The Division of Public Policy takes great pride in Dr. de Troullioud de Lanversin’s achievements and is honored to have him as a member of our esteemed faculty.



## BDF PROJECT

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**PROJECT TITLE:**

**Learning from the Past and Acting for the Future of Hong Kong’s Ethnic Minorities: A Comprehensive Analysis of BDF Research Projects and Culturally Sensitive Anti-drug Studies Among South Asians in Hong Kong**

**FUNDING AGENCY:**

Beat Drugs Fund Association, Narcotics Division, Security Bureau

**AMOUNT AWARDED:**

HK\$2,911,980.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

This three-year project, led by the Mental Health Projects Team at the Division of Public Policy at HKUST and funded by the Beat Drugs Fund, the HKSARG, aims to address the rising prevalence of drug use among Hong Kong’s Ethnic Minorities. The project’s goal is to develop culturally sensitive anti-drug policies and prevention efforts through comprehensive research and community engagement.

The increasing incidence of drug use among Ethnic Minority groups highlights the urgent need for targeted, culturally aware interventions. Historically underserved, these communities—particularly South Asians such as Nepalese, Indians, and Pakistanis—face unique challenges that require a nuanced approach.



**Prof.  
Naubahar Sharif**

Head and Professor,  
PPOL

The project will employ mixed-methods research over the first two years, engaging 330 Ethnic Minority individuals to gather valuable insights through surveys and interviews. In the final year, the project will focus on outreach and education, benefiting 360 participants through educational talks, interactive workshops, and radio broadcasts. By combining rigorous research with practical education and publicity efforts, the project aims to deliver culturally sensitive recommendations that contribute to a healthier, safer society, and enhance the well-being of Ethnic Minority communities in Hong Kong.





**Prof. Kira Matus**

Professor, PPOL

## GRF GRANT

### PROJECT TITLE

**Can We Regulate Our way to a Circular Economy? A Study of the Relationship between Extended Producer Responsibility Regulation and Sustainable Innovation in the Textile Industry**

### FUNDING AGENCY

General Research Fund (GRF), Research Grants Council, Hong Kong SAR (Ref. 16601224)

### AMOUNT AWARDED

HK\$1,099,992.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project aims to explore the potential of extended producer responsibility (EPR) systems in driving sustainability and circularity in globally dispersed value chains. The global textile and fashion industry, one of the largest, most polluting, high growth, globally dispersed industrial sectors, imposes significant environmental impacts including overconsumption of natural resources, water pollution, greenhouse gas emissions and waste into landfills.

The EU has taken steps towards circularity in the textile industry. In 2018, the EU Waste Framework Directive of 2008 was amended to outline a roadmap with a focus on repair, reuse, a target for member states to establish separate collections of household textile waste by Jan 1, 2025, and a shift of burden towards producers through encouragement of EPR. In response, France (2020), Sweden (2022), Italy (2023) and Netherlands (2023) have introduced binding EPR regulations with targets for clothing recovered for recycling or resale.

The EU's recent proposal for a targeted revision of the Waste Framework Directive, which would require a harmonized EPR program across Europe, with targets for collection, recycling and reuse, policies to prevent 'dumping' of post-consumer textiles, and incentives for developing infrastructures, and innovations that support a more circular apparel value chain. Given the challenges such as the disconnect between the policy goals and the current technologies, infrastructure and business models, the effectiveness of this approach remains to be seen.



## GRF GRANT

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**PROJECT TITLE:**

**Local Government Innovation under Political Recentralization in Contemporary China: A Two-stage Sequential Study**

**FUNDING AGENCY:**

General Research Fund (GRF), Research Grants Council, Hong Kong SAR (Ref. 16600324)

**AMOUNT AWARDED:**

HK\$791,494.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

His proposed study explores the impact of political (re)centralization on local government innovations in China. It seeks to address the scholarly debate on whether the powerful political recentralization since 2013 has led to a decrease in local government innovations, or if the fundamental momentum of local state dynamism remains robust despite the changes in political incentives and opportunity structure.

The study will adopt a two-stage sequential research design. First, it will use text-mining techniques to collect data from a large corpus of official texts to map out the macro landscape of local government innovations from 2008 to 2023, before and after the central leadership transition. This quantitative analysis will help identify the various types of innovations.



**Prof.  
Alex Jingwei He**

Associate Professor, PPOL | Acting Director, IPP

Secondly, the study will conduct comparative case studies in two provinces to provide in-depth qualitative insights. By combining quantitative and qualitative evidence, the research aims to offer a comprehensive understanding of the complex relationship between political (re)centralization and local government innovations in contemporary China.

The findings of this study have important policy implications, as they can inform policymakers and administrators on how to foster an environment conducive to local innovation and good governance, even in the context of political recentralization.





**Prof.  
Masaru Yarime**  
Associate Professor,  
PPOL

## PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

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### PROJECT TITLE

**Data Governance for Innovation for Sustainable Smart Cities: A Comparative Analysis of Japan, the United States, and China**

### FUNDING AGENCY

Abe Fellows Network Collaborative Grants, Social Science Research Council (SSRC), United States

### AMOUNT AWARDED

USD 20,000 (2024-2025).

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project will explore how “smart” cities in Japan, China, and the United States are tackling challenges related to data privacy.

For instance, Japan is working on a concept called “Society 5.0,” which involves building urban data systems through partnerships between public organizations and private companies. This approach aims to balance innovation with the need to protect personal information. In contrast, China takes a more centralized approach, where the government holds significant control over data. This method has its own set of privacy concerns and benefits.

Meanwhile, the United States is developing its own unique system, which combines elements from both Japan and China but faces different challenges and opportunities.

By looking at the experiences of these three countries, we can learn different ways to manage the trade-offs between sharing data to enhance urban life and ensuring that people’s privacy is respected.

## CO-PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

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### PROJECT TITLE

**How the Governance of Standards and Geopolitics Shape Competition in the Global Economy**

### FUNDING AGENCY

UKinSPIRE Award, University of Kentucky, United States

### AMOUNT AWARDED

USD 15,000

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project aims to address the following research question: How do competing digital standards help shape competition between countries and corporations within the global economy? This research project brings together expertise in three different arenas of global standards – digital infrastructure, cross-border finance, and smart city data – that are essential to the global economy. This breadth will allow us to construct a generalized and comprehensive framework for analyzing (1) the governance of digital standards and (2) how geopolitical conflict and corporate competition shape this governance to build economic advantage. This resulting framework is expected to be applied to multiple fields, including international relations, global production networks, critical data studies, and national innovation systems.

## RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP AWARD

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**PROJECT TITLE:**

**Verification methods for nuclear weapon testing activities**

**AWARDING INSTITUTION:**

The Institute on Peace Research and Security Policy (IFSH) at the University of Hamburg

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

This project focuses on advancing research related to the verification of nuclear subcritical tests conducted by states, ensuring compliance with the current moratorium on nuclear testing. The objective is to develop scientific methods that enhance the ability to accurately assess these tests, contributing to the broader field of nuclear non-proliferation and arms control.

The project will also emphasize engagement with key stakeholders, including German parliament members and experts from the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO). Through this engagement, the research aims to facilitate discussions on findings and insights, fostering collaboration between academic research and policy-making to strengthen regulatory frameworks governing nuclear activities.



**Prof. Julien de  
Troullioud de  
Lanversin**

Assistant Professor,  
PPOL

Additionally, the project includes the preparation of grant proposals targeting funding sources such as the German Research Foundation and the Stanton Foundation. These proposals will focus on securing resources to expand research capabilities and support further investigations in the critical area of nuclear verification and compliance.

