

# STUDENT HUB

ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

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## ACHIEVEMENT

### Xiaotong Li Joins the University of York

We are happy to share that Xiaotong Li, a 2024 graduate from the Division of Public Policy, has started her new role as a Research Fellow at the University of York in the United Kingdom. Under the supervision of Dr. Masaru Yarime, Xiaotong excelled in her studies and developed a strong foundation in public policy research.



## STUDENT ACTIVITIES

### Study Tour to Singapore

We are thrilled to share the remarkable experiences from our recent Study Tour to Singapore, which took place from July 9 to 14, 2024. This immersive journey offered our students a unique opportunity to explore Singapore's innovative approaches to urban planning, economic development, public housing, and sustainable practices.

Throughout the tour, students engaged in a variety of learning activities designed to enhance their understanding of public policy in a global context. Here are some key highlights:

**Classroom Sessions:** Each day began with insightful 3-hour sessions led by esteemed professors, including Prof. Donald Low from the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy. These discussions set the stage for the day's site visits and encouraged critical reflection on comparative public policy practices.



**Site Visits:** Students had the chance to visit key sites such as:

**Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA):** Gaining insights into Singapore's long-term urban planning strategies.

**Ang Mo Kio New Town:** Exploring a vibrant public housing estate that exemplifies community-focused design.

**One-North Industrial Park:** Observing innovative economic development initiatives.

**Marina Barrage:** Learning about sustainable water management solutions.

**Cultural Exploration:** Evenings were dedicated to experiencing Singapore's rich cultural tapestry, with visits to vibrant ethnic districts like Little India and the bustling Marina Bay financial district.

**Independent Exploration:** On the final afternoon, students were encouraged to explore the city on their own, allowing them to reflect on their experiences and apply their learning in real-world settings.

### REFLECTIONS AND INSIGHTS

The tour not only expanded students' knowledge of public policy but also fostered discussions about the applicability of Singapore's best practices in different contexts. Participants returned with fresh perspectives and a deeper appreciation for the complexities of urban development and sustainable policymaking.



## Student Lunch with Faculty

The students of Master's Degree Programs recently had the opportunity to join their faculty members for an engaging lunch event. This informal gathering provided a valuable platform for meaningful interactions and fostering stronger connections between the students and their mentors.

During the lunch, the students were able to engage in open and candid discussions with the faculty, sharing their thoughts, concerns, and aspirations regarding their academic and professional pursuits. The relaxed setting allowed for a free flow of ideas, enabling the students to gain valuable insights and perspectives from the experienced faculty members.

The event served as an excellent avenue for the students to deepen their understanding of the program and to seek guidance on navigating the challenges and opportunities that come with their studies. Faculty members, in turn, gained a better appreciation of the students' perspectives and were able to offer personalized advice and support tailored to the individual needs of the participants.



## HKUST Inter-University Public Policy Case Competition 2024



The Public Policy case competition, gathered 42 teams from various universities, fostering a collaborative environment focused on addressing critical policy issues. Among the participants, HKUST stood out with 30 teams, including 14 undergraduate groups and 16 postgraduate teams, specifically 10 Master of Public Policy (MPP) teams. Non-HKUST institutions also made significant contributions, with teams from City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong University, Lingnan University, Education University Hong Kong and Hong Kong Metropolitan University.

The competition progressed through multiple rounds, with 12 teams shortlisted for Round 2. This group included 8 teams from HKUST (4 undergraduate and 4 postgraduate) and 4 teams from non-HKUST institutions (including HKBU, LingU, and EdUHK). The diversity of participants was impressive, representing a wide range of disciplines such as European Studies, Global China Studies, Quantitative Social Analysis, Environmental Science, Business Management, Computer Science and Engineering, Quantitative Finance, Journalism, and Public Policy/Administration. This interdisciplinary approach enriched the discussions and solutions proposed during the competition.

The event concluded with an exciting showcase of talent, where the winners were announced:

### Champion: Visionarius

(HKUST Undergraduate: EVMT, QFIN, GBUS, GCS)

### First Runner-Up: Justanother Team

(HKUST Undergraduate: SENG)

### Second Runner-Up: Foggy Dihards

(HKUST Postgraduate: MPP, ENVR)

### Third Runner-Up: Pizza Hut

(HKUST Postgraduate: MPP, MPM)

The competition not only highlighted the exceptional skills of the participants but also emphasized the collaborative spirit that defined the event. Each team's unique perspective contributed to a rich dialogue on pressing policy challenges, reinforcing the value of diverse academic backgrounds in crafting effective solutions. This year's competition served as a testament to the capabilities and creativity of emerging leaders in policy-making.



### OUR JUDGES:

**Prof. Sr Daniel HO** (HKU)

**Dr. Lawrence HO** (EdUHK)

**Mr. Kin-kwok LAI** (Saint Francis University)

**Dr. Kay LAM** (Public Policy Consultant)

**Prof. Mee KANG** (CityU)

**Sr Prof. Bay WONG** (HKU; Former Assistant Director of Housing, HKSARG)

**Prof. Simon YAU** (LingU)



## KINDNESS WALK

### PPOL partners with Impact HK

The Division of Public Policy has partnered with Impact HK to organize a meaningful Kindness Walk, a volunteering activity aimed at serving food and necessities to individuals experiencing homelessness. This initiative reflects a commitment to social justice and community engagement, fostering empathy and understanding within urban environments.

The Kindness Walk is designed as a hands-on experience that allows participants to interact directly with members of the community facing homelessness. Volunteers go out on the streets, distributing essential supplies such as sandwiches, bottled water, hygiene products, and warm clothing. This initiative not only provides immediate relief but also sparks conversations about the broader issues of homelessness and social inequality.

As part of the summer course on Social Justice in Urban Sustainability, this activity highlights the importance of direct action and community

involvement in addressing systemic challenges. Students are encouraged to engage with the community, listen to the stories of those they serve, and reflect on the impact of their actions. This experiential learning opportunity enables a deeper understanding of the complexities surrounding homelessness and the necessity for sustainable solutions. Combined with another 3 fieldtrips, the summer course encouraged students to proactively investigate how to achieve urban sustainability in diverse aspects through practical action.

Impact HK, a local organization dedicated to supporting individuals experiencing homelessness, plays a crucial role in this initiative. Their commitment to compassion and community outreach aligns perfectly with the educational goals of the course. By collaborating with Impact HK, the Division of Public Policy aims to create a lasting impact, not only for those receiving aid but also for the volunteers who gain invaluable insights into the realities of urban life.



## FIELD TRIP TO THE ICAC



On 7 May 2024, PPOLs had an opportunity to visit the headquarters of Hong Kong's world-renowned anticorruption agency – the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC).

Led by Dr. Michael Tyralla, students started the field trip with guided tour of the ICAC's facilities, including the Video Interview Rooms and the Mock Courtroom, followed by a scenario-based, problem-solving case study discussion of corruption with experienced ICAC staff.

The ICAC, established on in 1974, has embraced a three-pronged approach of law enforcement, prevention, and community education to fight corruption since its inception. On 21 February 2024, the Division of Public Policy had signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Hong Kong International Academy Against Corruption (HKIAAC) of the ICAC. As a part of our growing collaboration with the ICAC, the field trip provided our students with a further understanding of ICAC's significant role in reducing corruption in public and private sectors and turning Hong Kong into one of the cleanest jurisdictions in the world.



## FEATURED STUDENT

### Xiao Ai

#### Graduated Student of Master of Public Management Program

Before joining the MPM program, I had three years of work experience—two in auditing and one in business analysis.

Reflecting on my time here, I realize that the MPM program has been an invaluable experience. It has allowed me to rediscover the joy of exploration.

The MPM program has provided a thoughtful environment to consider what career path truly suits me. It's essential to take the time to explore various options and engage with different people before making a decision.

The program's collaborative atmosphere has been particularly impactful. Nearly every course involves group assignments, fostering connections with classmates that often lead to lasting friendships.

The MPM program is a unique opportunity to explore diverse options and engage with individuals from various backgrounds—some with over a decade of experience, others who are successful entrepreneurs, and many with impressive educational qualifications. This diversity enriches our perspectives and fosters a vibrant learning environment

These group experiences have also illuminated areas for my personal improvement, such as developing stronger conviction in my ideas and embracing leadership responsibilities.

To current students aspiring to follow a similar path, it's also important to acknowledge your limitations. Approach your studies with humility and courage, avoiding both arrogance and timidity.

My experiences in the MPM program have made me acutely aware of the complexities in policymaking. I've learned that there are often no clear right or wrong answers, and every proposal has its limitations.

A conversation with a professor inspired me to remember that change, even on a small scale, is possible.



# THESIS PRESENTATION

## PhD thesis presentation

### **Xiaotong LI**

Understanding Physician Behaviors in China:  
Exploring the Impact of Patient Violence, Medical  
Litigation, and Multi-site Practice Legalization

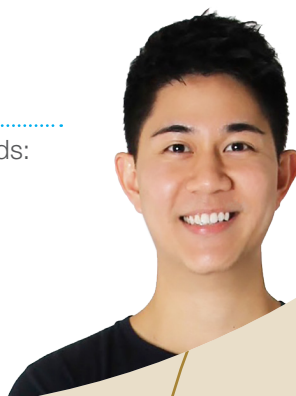


### **Xinying TAN**

Urban Mobility in Transition: Visual and  
Built Environment, Travel Behavior,  
Electric Vehicle Policy, Technology, and  
Charging Planning

### **Alvin LI**

Diets Speak Louder than Words:  
Investigating the Attitude-  
Behaviour Gap in Reducing  
Meat Consumption



## MPhil thesis presentation

### **Li Ying Hillary GIAM**

An Analysis of the Lifecycle of Generative  
Artificial Intelligence in Industrial Settings:  
Implications for Governing Risks and  
Responsibilities among Stakeholders

