

ACHIEVEMENTS AND GRANTS



Achievements

Recognition of Professor Masaru Yarime as a Highly Ranked Scholar in Sustainability

The Division of Public Policy at The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology is proud to announce that Professor Masaru Yarime has been honored as a 2024 Highly Ranked Scholar - Lifetime in the specialty of Sustainability by ScholarGPS. This prestigious recognition highlights Professor Yarime's exceptional productivity and significant impact in the field, placing him among the top 0.05% of scholars worldwide.

Professor Yarime is an Associate Professor in the Division of Public Policy, where he specializes in sustainability, innovation, and environmental governance. His research contributions have advanced academic understanding and informed public policy discussions and practices in Hong Kong and beyond.

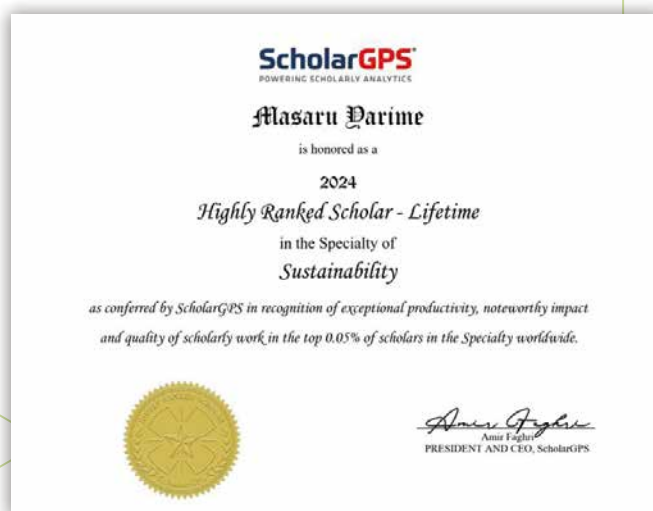
ScholarGPS is a leading platform that powers scholarly analytics, providing comprehensive evaluations of researchers and their work. It identifies and recognizes high-impact scholars across various disciplines based on their productivity, influence, and contributions to their fields. By analyzing a wide range of metrics, ScholarGPS helps to highlight exceptional researchers, fostering a deeper understanding of their impact on academia and society.

This accolade reflects Professor Yarime's dedication to fostering sustainable development and his commitment to addressing complex societal challenges through interdisciplinary collaboration. The Division of Public Policy celebrates this remarkable achievement and looks forward to Professor Yarime's continued contributions to both academia and the broader community.

Congratulations, Professor Yarime, on this well-deserved recognition!



Professor Masaru Yarime
Associate Professor, PPOL



Achievements



Professor Alex Jingwei He

Associate Professor, PPOL
Acting Director, IPP

Prof. Alex Jingwei He Reappointed to Hong Kong Research Grants Council Assessment Panel

We are thrilled to announce that Prof. He, Associate Professor of the Division of Public Policy and Acting Director of the Institute for Public Policy, has been reappointed as a Member of the Assessment Panel for Competitive Research Funding Schemes for the Local Self-financing Degree Sector of the Hong Kong Research Grants Council.

His continued service from March 1, 2025, to February 28, 2027, reflects his dedication and expertise as a policy scientist overseeing the H-panel for humanities and social sciences. Since beginning his RGC service in 2020, Prof. He has become one of the longest-serving members of the APSF.

Congratulations, Prof. He, on this well-deserved recognition! Your contributions are invaluable to our division and the field of public policy.



Dr. Marie N. Bernal Receives the Academy of Education Excellence (AEE) Fellowship Award

The Division of Public Policy is proud to announce that Dr. Marie N. Bernal, Lecturer and Co-Director of the Master of Public Policy Program, has been awarded the title of Junior Fellow by the Academy of Education Excellence (AEE).

The AEE, facilitated by the Center for Education Innovation (CEI), recognizes faculty members at HKUST who exhibit a strong commitment to enhancing their teaching skills and contributing to effective teaching practices. As a Junior Fellow, Dr. Bernal will embark on a three-year fellowship commencing on January 24, 2025, and concluding on January 23, 2028. During this period, she will engage in various initiatives aimed at improving educational practices, including hosting workshops, participating in seminars, and contributing articles to newsletters.

This prestigious recognition highlights Dr. Bernal's dedication to professional growth and her commitment to fostering academic excellence within our division. Her contributions will not only benefit her professional development but also enhance the learning experiences of our students and the broader academic community.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Bernal and look forward to her impactful contributions as she embarks on this exciting journey with the AEE.



Dr. Marie N. Bernal

Program Co-Director,
Master of Public Policy



Grants

Leading Faculty : Alex Jingwei HE

Project Title : **Thriving Online Health Services in China: Regulatory Challenges and Market Opportunities**

Funding Agency : **Institute for Emerging Market Studies, HKUST**

Amount Awarded : **HK\$80,000**

Project Description

The aim of the project is to explore the burgeoning landscape of online health services in China, driven by the proliferation of digital technologies, rising consumerism in healthcare, and an increasing burden of chronic diseases. These factors have collectively contributed to an unprecedented growth in online health services globally, with Asian economies leading the charge. This is largely due to a higher consumer acceptance of alternative medicine and a greater willingness to share personal health information in the region.

Even prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, China's online healthcare market was projected to exceed 59 million users by the end of 2020, with expectations to grow over twentyfold by 2026, reaching a market size of approximately US\$26 billion. The pandemic has further accelerated this growth, revitalizing momentum in online healthcare services. While the market appears lucrative, uncertainties surrounding market prospects and policy environments persist.

Given the high stakes involved, policymakers face the challenge of designing a regulatory framework that balances essential safety and ethical standards with the need for innovation and entrepreneurialism. This project aims to map the market landscape of online health services in China, review current regulatory arrangements, identify potential weaknesses, and provide new insights into the future prospects of this emerging sector.

