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PPOL
Division of Public Policy
公共政策學部



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HEAD'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the first 2025 edition of our biannual Division of Public Policy newsletter! It is with great pleasure that I present this window into our work—capturing the strides we made in the final quarter of 2024 and looking ahead to a dynamic Year of the Snake. This publication reaches not only our dedicated faculty, researchers, staff, and students but also our colleagues across HKUST and valued stakeholders beyond our campus.

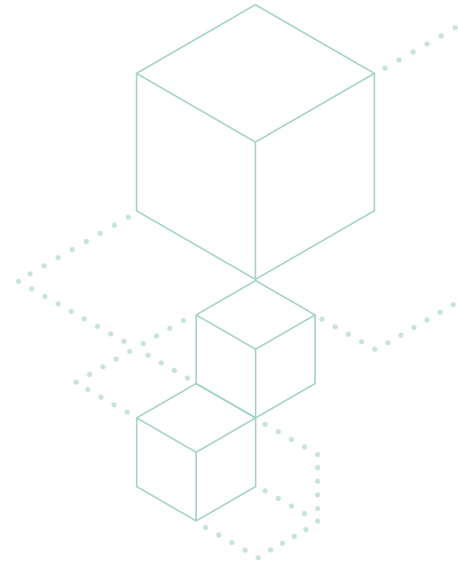
These pages highlight the impressive efforts of our PPOL community—faculty, researchers, and students alike—whose work continues to drive innovation and impact. You'll find accounts of recent projects, events, and achievements that reflect our shared pursuit of excellence, often in partnership with other academic units and external collaborators. These efforts underscore our role within HKUST and in the broader policy landscape.

As we turn to the future, I invite your engagement. Whether you're within HKUST or among our external partners, your ideas—on new collaborations, research directions, or ways to address pressing societal challenges—are warmly welcomed. Together, we can forge fresh paths and extend our reach across disciplines and communities.

My thanks go to all of you—within our Division, across the university, and in the wider network—for your support and involvement. Please share your thoughts as we embark on this next chapter. Here's to a year of bold exploration and meaningful outcomes!



Professor Naubahar SHARIF
Division of Public Policy, HKUST



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.

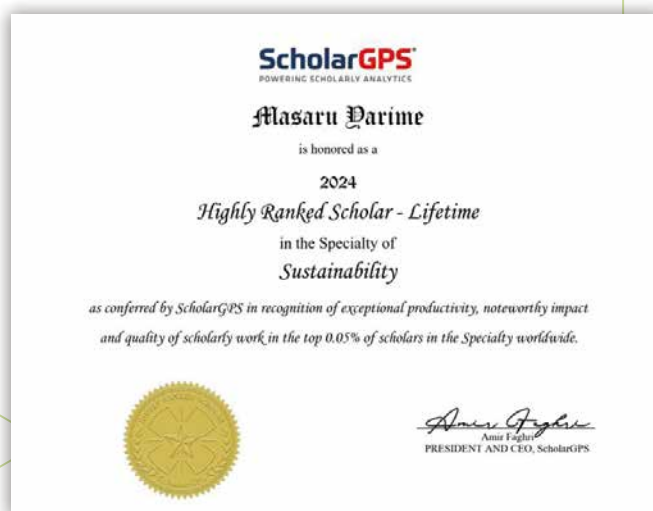
ScholarGPS is a leading platform that powers scholarly analytics, providing comprehensive evaluations of researchers and their work. It identifies and recognizes high-impact scholars across various disciplines based on their productivity, influence, and contributions to their fields. By analyzing a wide 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.



ONGOING PROJECTS

Leading Faculty	Funding Agency	Project
 Prof. Naubahar Sharif	Chief Executive's Project List 2023- Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust	Enhancing the Mental Health of Hong Kong's Non-Chinese Youth Aged 15-24 (2024 – Now)
	HKUST, HKUST (GZ), and Guangdong Science and Technology Department	Mental Well-Being in the Greater Bay Area (GBA): An Interdisciplinary Approach to Awareness, Assessment, and Intervention (2024 – Now)
	Beat Drugs Fund Association, Narcotics Division, Security Bureau	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 (2024 – Now)
	Mental Health Initiatives Funding Scheme, Advisory Committee on Mental Health	Strengthening Family Relationships for Hong Kong's Ethnic Minority Communities in the Aftermath of the Covid-19 Pandemic (2023 – Now)
	Mental Health Initiatives Funding Scheme, Advisory Committee on Mental Health	Supporting Ethnic Minority Elderly with Mental Health Needs (2023 – Now)
 Prof. Kira Matus	Center for Aging Science, HKUST	Towards a More Inclusive Hong Kong: Covid-19, Mental Well-being, and Mitigation Strategies for a Multicultural Elderly Community (2022 – Now)
	RGC - General Research Fund	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 (2025 – Now)
	RGC - General Research Fund	Towards 1.5C Lifestyles: What motivates sustainable consumption choices in Hong Kong? (2022 – Now)
 Prof. Raul Lejano	30 for 30 Research Initiative Scheme	Carbon Neutral Hong Kong 2020: A Pilot Superdisciplinary Analysis Framework (2023 – Now)
	HKUST Faculty Start-up Funding	Determinants of Pro-Environmental Behavior (2024 – Now)

Leading Faculty	Funding Agency	Project
	RGC – Research Fellow Scheme	Regional Science and Complex Systems: A Five-year Research Plan on Transportation, Land Use, Labor, and Innovation Systems (2024 – Now)
Prof. Pengyu Zhu		
	RGC - General Research Fund	Local Government Innovation under Political Recentralization in Contemporary China: A Two-stage Sequential Study (2024 – Now)
	RGC - General Research Fund	Technocrats and Mid-Level Policy Entrepreneurship in China: Explaining Local Policy Innovations in the Social Welfare Arena (2023 – Now)
Prof. Alex Jingwei He		
	Social Science Research Council (SSRC), United States	Data Governance for Innovation for Sustainable Smart Cities: A Comparative Analysis of Japan, the United States, and China (2024 – Now)
	UKinSPIRE Award, University of Kentucky, United States	How the Governance of Standards and Geopolitics Shape Competition in the Global Economy (2024 – Now)
Prof. Masaru Yarime		
	Global Engagement Funds, University College London	Public Perspectives on Personal Data Use for Personalized Covid-19 Advice (2022 – Now)
	Institute for Emerging Market Studies, HKUST	The Smart City as a Field of Innovation: Effects of Public-Private Data Collaboration on Innovation in the Guangdong Province and Implications for the Greater Bay Area (2022 – Now)
	Academy of Interdisciplinary Studies, HKUST	Using Machine Learning with Gamma Spectrometry to Verify Subcritical Tests
Prof. Julien de Troullioud de Lanversin		

Project Highlight

Learning from the Past and Acting for the Future of Hong Kong's Ethnic Minorities

This three-year project, *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*, funded by the Beat Drugs Fund, HKSARG, officially commenced on September 15, 2024.

This initiative seeks to address the rising prevalence of drug use within Hong Kong's Ethnic Minority communities, with a particular emphasis on South Asians, including Nepalese, Indians, and Pakistanis.

Our mission is to leverage insights from past research and conduct new, comprehensive studies to develop culturally sensitive anti-drug policies and prevention strategies while engaging directly with affected communities.

Project Rationale

The increasing incidence of drug use among EM groups in Hong Kong highlights the urgent need for targeted, culturally aware interventions. These communities face distinct challenges, including language barriers, cultural stigmas, and limited access to services, which make traditional anti-drug approaches less effective.

This project aims to address these gaps by building on lessons learned from previous Beat Drugs Fund research while incorporating new, evidence-based insights into the development of community-centered solutions.

A Vision for the Future

This project represents more than research and policy recommendations — it is a commitment to empowering historically underserved communities. By fostering collaboration between researchers, policymakers, and Ethnic Minority communities, we hope to create a healthier, safer society where every individual has the resources and support needed to thrive.



SCHOLARLY SHOWCASE



Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy



He, Alex Jingwei, Zhuoni Zhang, Prithish Anand, and Sean McMinn. “Embracing generative artificial intelligence tools in higher education: A survey study at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.” *Journal of Asian Public Policy* 18, no. 1 (2025).

Focus of Study

This study investigates the use of ChatGPT among students at The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), focusing on its impact on learning and career development. A survey of 680 students revealed high engagement with ChatGPT, with most intending to continue its use. Demographic factors such as age, gender, and field of study significantly influenced perceptions and usage patterns. Notably, research postgraduate students demonstrated greater reliance on ChatGPT, while male students perceived a stronger impact on their learning outcomes. The findings underscore the importance of AI literacy in enhancing the benefits of generative AI tools in education.

Policy Recommendations

Higher education institutions should implement mandatory AI literacy courses to equip all students with essential skills for leveraging tools like ChatGPT effectively. Additionally, policies should be tailored to address demographic differences in AI tool usage, ensuring equitable access and maximizing the educational benefits of generative AI technologies.



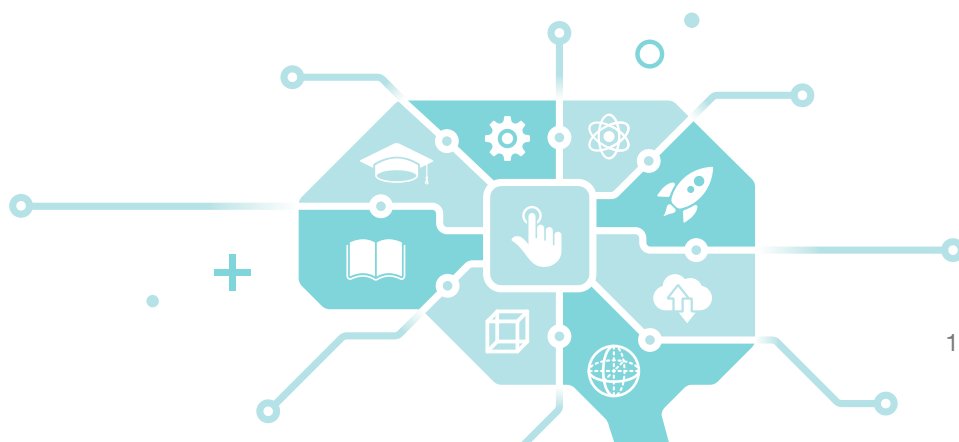
Luo, Gloria Wenting, Viktória Döme, Weronika Cycak, and **Kira JM Matus**. “Innovation policy for sustainability transitions in small economies: Energy technology innovation in Hong Kong.” *Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions* 51 (2024): 100841.

Focus of Study

The article analyzes Hong Kong’s innovation policy for sustainable energy transitions, comparing it with 11 other small, high-income economies. It identifies 696 innovation interventions from 2008 to 2020, categorizing them into 42 policy instruments. The findings reveal that Hong Kong’s policy mix relies heavily on overarching strategies and demand-side policies, but lacks sufficient support for domestic clean energy technology R&D. This gap hinders the city’s capacity to overcome the “valley of death” in innovation, contrasting with more proactive peers that provide targeted R&D funding and business support.

Policy Recommendations

To enhance its energy innovation capabilities, Hong Kong should develop a strategic research and innovation framework specifically targeting clean energy technologies. This includes increasing R&D funding, fostering public-private partnerships, and implementing clearer policy guidelines to support the commercialization of innovative solutions and effectively bridge the innovation gap.





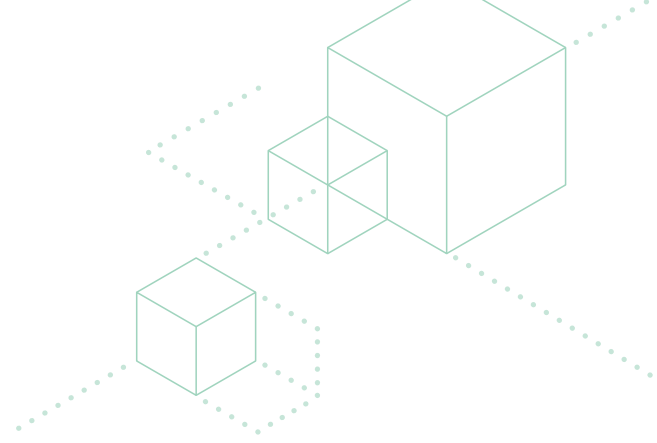
Kobashi, Takuro, Eric Zusman, Makoto Taniguchi, and **Masaru Yarime**, “Facilitating a Carbon Neutral Transition in Kyoto: Initiatives on Rooftop Photovoltaics Integrated with Electric Vehicles,” *Technology in Society*, 80, 102774 (2025).

Focus of Study

The article discusses the urgent need for urban decarbonization as cities face the challenge of accommodating a growing population while achieving carbon neutrality. It explores the potential of integrating rooftop photovoltaics (PVs) with electric vehicles (EVs) in Kyoto, Japan, through the “SolarEV City Concept.” By analyzing the Kyoto Miraimon Project, the study highlights the opportunities and challenges of establishing a community-scale “PV + EV” system. The authors emphasize the importance of collaboration among stakeholders, including government, industry, and academia, to align interests and accelerate technological adoption. The findings suggest that such integrated systems could significantly reduce CO₂ emissions and energy costs, contributing to Kyoto’s decarbonization goals.

Policy Recommendations

To facilitate the adoption of “PV + EV” systems, policymakers should prioritize funding for infrastructure improvements, including EV charging stations and rooftop PV installations. Additionally, creating supportive regulatory frameworks that incentivize public-private partnerships and community engagement is essential for overcoming barriers and promoting sustainable energy transitions.



Chan, Keith Jin Deng, Gleb Papyshev, and **Masaru Yarime**, “Balancing the Tradeoff between Regulation and Innovation for Artificial Intelligence: An Analysis of Top-down Command and Control and Bottom-up Self-Regulatory Approaches,” *Technology in Society*, 79, 102747 (2024).

Focus of Study

The article analyzes the balance between regulation and innovation in artificial intelligence (AI) through a game-theoretic model. It compares top-down regulatory approaches, as seen in the EU and China, with bottom-up self-regulatory strategies in the UK and Russia. The findings suggest that the optimal level of regulatory stringency depends on foreign competition and institutional parameters. When foreign competition is high or low, stringent regulation benefits consumer welfare; however, light regulation may be optimal at intermediate competition levels. The study underscores the need for a nuanced approach to regulation, balancing consumer protection with innovation incentives.

Policy Recommendations

Governments should adopt a flexible regulatory framework for AI, adjusting stringency based on foreign competition levels. This approach should ensure consumer protection while fostering innovation, particularly in dynamic environments where rapid technological advancements occur. Regular assessments of regulatory impact should inform adjustments to maintain this balance.



Environmental Policy and Sustainability



Chen, Xiaodong, Zhuang Miao, Ge Wu, and **Pengyu Zhu**. “City-level green growth accounting: Evidence from China’s thirteen urban agglomerations.” *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews* 203 (2024): 114776.

Focus of Study

This article investigates the industrial sector’s role in achieving carbon neutrality in China’s thirteen urban agglomerations (TUAs) from 2006 to 2016. Utilizing a novel Malmquist productivity index framework, the study evaluates how efficiency changes and technological advancements contribute to environmental productivity growth. Findings reveal an average annual productivity gain of 2.6%, primarily driven by energy use and pollutant management, with industrial sulfur dioxide emissions being notably impactful. However, a negative ‘catch-up effect’ (–0.2%) indicates that less advanced areas struggle to match the productivity of more developed regions. The research emphasizes the necessity of technology transfer and capital investment to improve environmental performance. Overall, the study provides crucial insights for policymakers aiming to enhance sustainable development by addressing the complexities of industrial activities and their environmental consequences.

Policy Recommendations

To enhance environmental performance in China’s TUAs, policymakers should prioritize technology transfers from advanced regions and increase investments in renewable energy. Implementing tailored regulatory measures for industrial emissions, especially sulfur dioxide, will foster sustainable development and mitigate the negative environmental impacts associated with industrial growth.



Yang, Lin, **Yatang Lin**, Jin Wang, and Fangyuan Peng. “Achieving Air Pollution Control Targets with Technology-Aided Monitoring: Better Enforcement or Localized Efforts?.” *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy* 16, no. 4 (2024): 280-315..

Focus of Study

This paper investigates the impact of automated monitoring systems on air pollution control in China, particularly in the context of the country’s efforts to combat pollution. The study leverages a staggered rollout of monitoring technology and remote-sensing data to assess local government responses. Findings reveal that local authorities strategically target pollution reduction efforts in areas near automated monitors, achieving a 3.2 percent decrease in pollution levels in those zones compared to areas further away. The research highlights variability in responses among different cities, influenced by preexisting practices of data manipulation and the incentives and public pressures faced by local officials. This suggests that while automated monitoring can enhance accountability, its effectiveness may be contingent upon the local governance context and existing incentives. Overall, the study underscores the need for a nuanced understanding of how technological advancements can be leveraged to improve environmental policy outcomes.

Policy Recommendations

To enhance air quality management, policymakers should invest in automated monitoring systems while ensuring transparency and accountability in local governance. Additionally, aligning incentives for local officials with pollution control objectives can mitigate data manipulation, fostering genuine efforts to reduce pollution and achieve environmental targets across diverse urban contexts.



Social and Urban Policy



Ma, Haoran, Yan Zhang, Pengyuan Liu, Fan Zhang, and **Pengyu Zhu**. “How does spatial structure affect psychological restoration? A method based on graph neural networks and street view imagery.” *Landscape and Urban Planning* 251 (2024): 105171.

Focus of Study

This study explores how urban spatial structure impacts psychological restoration by employing a spatial-dependent graph neural network (GNN) approach. Utilizing sequential street view images, the research constructs street-level and city-level graphs to capture visual relationships and topological structures, integrating various perceptual and socioeconomic features. The findings indicate that the GNN model significantly outperforms traditional methods, achieving an accuracy of 0.742 and an F1 score of 0.740. Results highlight that naturally relevant entities, such as trees, play a more crucial role in enhancing restoration quality than artificial structures like buildings. This research addresses gaps in prior studies that relied on isolated assessments, providing a comprehensive understanding of how spatial structures contribute to psychological restoration in urban environments. The study's innovative approach could inform urban planning strategies aimed at improving mental well-being through enhanced environmental design.

Policy Recommendations

Urban planners should prioritize green infrastructure, such as parks and trees, in city designs to enhance psychological restoration. Implementing spatial structures that promote natural elements can significantly improve urban well-being. Utilizing advanced analytical methods, like graph neural networks, can guide effective urban planning decisions for healthier environments.



Low, Donald. *The Price of Zero : China's Policy Missteps during and after Covid*. Hong Kong: Regal Printing Limited, 2024.

Focus of Study

The book delves into the causes and economic consequences of China's zero-Covid policy. Initially effective in controlling the outbreak, this approach eventually led to significant challenges as the virus became more transmissible and as highly effective vaccines became available. The government's reliance on strict suppression measures, combined with a series of regulatory crackdowns, weakened consumer and investor confidence, and created deflationary pressures. Despite the authorities stepping up efforts to catalyze an economic recovery in last quarter of 2024, underlying structural problems – such as a low consumption share of GDP, over-reliance investment to drive growth, high levels of corporate and local government debt, and a prolonged property slump – are unlikely to go away soon. It is also unclear how the new emphasis on new quality productive forces would end deflation, given concerns over excess supply. The book underlines the importance of adapting policies to (fast-) evolving circumstances, and highlights the perils of hubris, utopian thinking, and overconfidence in policymaking.

Policy Recommendations

Policymakers should prioritize flexible, evidence-based strategies that integrate public health and economic considerations. Transparent communication and regular evaluations of policy effectiveness are crucial. Additionally, fostering public trust through social welfare investments can mitigate fear and enhance resilience, ultimately supporting a balanced approach to crisis management and economic recovery.





Cologna, Viktoria, Niels G. Mede, Sebastian Berger, John Besley, Cameron Brick, Marina Joubert, ... **Michael Tyralla**, ... and Rolf A. Zwaan. "Trust in scientists and their role in society across 68 countries." *Nature Human Behaviour* (2025): 1-18.

Focus of Study

This article examines public trust in scientists across 68 countries through a large-scale survey involving 71,922 respondents. The findings reveal that most people have relatively high trust in scientists (mean trust level = 3.62, on a scale from 1 = very low trust to 5 = very high trust) and believe they should play a more active role in society and policymaking. Variability in trust levels is influenced by demographic factors, political orientation, and country-specific contexts. While the overall trust in scientists is moderate to high, concerns arise from a minority of individuals who exhibit skepticism, particularly those with conservative beliefs or science-related populist attitudes. The study highlights the importance of aligning scientific priorities with public expectations, particularly in critical areas like improving public health, solving energy problems, and reducing poverty. Effective science communication and public engagement are essential for maintaining trust and ensuring evidence-based policymaking.

Policy Recommendations

Policymakers should promote active engagement between scientists and the public by facilitating transparent communication and collaboration on pressing societal issues. By aligning research priorities with community needs, such as improving public health, solving energy problems, and reducing poverty, trust in scientific expertise can be strengthened, supporting effective evidence-based policymaking.



Wu, Sherry Jueyu, Ke Michael Mai, Ming Zhuang, and **Fangxin Yi**. "A large-scale field experiment on participatory decision-making in China." *Nature Human Behaviour* (2024): 1-8.

Focus of Study

This article examines the effects of participatory budgeting in centralized regimes, particularly in China. This approach empowers citizens by granting them a voice in local government spending, fostering civic engagement, and enhancing overall satisfaction with government services.

A study conducted in Chengdu with nearly 8,000 residents revealed that participants in the budgeting process displayed a heightened interest in civic engagement and greater satisfaction with the central government when compared to a control group. Importantly, this engagement did not result in increased cynicism or dissatisfaction with the regime; instead, it fostered a sense of responsiveness and pride among participants. The findings suggest that introducing democratic elements within undemocratic systems can positively influence citizen attitudes and improve evaluations of public policy, thereby bolstering the resilience of centralized governance.

Policy Recommendations

To further enhance citizen engagement and satisfaction in centralized regimes, policymakers should implement participatory budgeting processes. This strategy not only empowers citizens but also strengthens their connection to the government, fostering pride and promoting constructive civic involvement without undermining the existing political framework.



Baru, Rama, Ramila Bisht, **Alex Jingwei He**, Madhurima Nundy, Hongsoo Kim, Thresia Cu, Jae Yoon Yi, and Minxing Chen. World Health Organization, Regional Office for the Western Pacific, and Asia Pacific Observatory on Health Systems and Policies. *Public-Private Mix for Continuity of Care for Older Persons: Study of Select Countries in the Asia Pacific Region*. Vol. 7, no. 1. WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific, 2024.

Focus of Study

This study, titled “Public-private Mix for Continuity of Care for Older Persons,” conducted by the Asia-Pacific Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, examines health and social care systems for the elderly in selected Asia-Pacific countries, including Hong Kong, South Korea, India, and China. With Professor Alex Jingwei He as a key member of the multinational interdisciplinary research consortium, this collaborative research highlights the challenges posed by fragmented services and emphasizes the necessity for integrated care models.

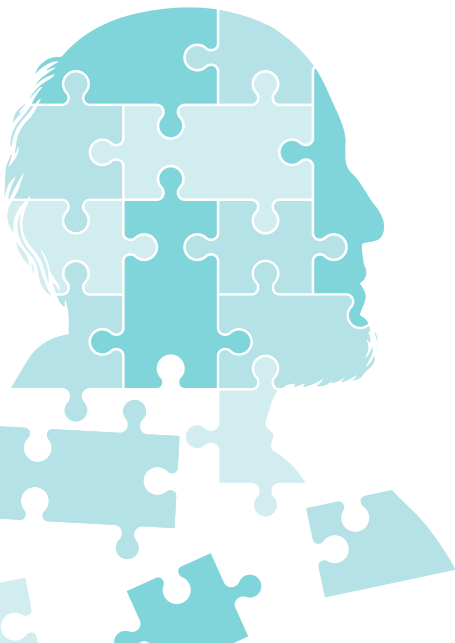
Comparative Country Study



The study reveals that while countries adopt diverse approaches to elder care, effective public-private partnerships (PPPs) can significantly enhance service delivery and ensure continuity of care for older adults. The findings stress the importance of employing needs assessment tools and leveraging digitalization to improve care coordination. Ultimately, the report aims to provide actionable insights for policymakers, helping them to create more effective and sustainable care systems tailored to the needs of the aging population. By addressing the complexities of elder care through a comprehensive analysis of current practices and potential improvements, the study seeks to foster better health outcomes for older persons across the region.

Policy Recommendations

Health policymakers should prioritize the establishment of robust public-private partnerships to enhance care continuity for older persons. Additionally, investing in training for caregivers, implementing needs assessment tools, and leveraging digital solutions are crucial for improving service integration and ensuring high-quality care in the region.





Rai, Arun, yanzhen Chen, and **Yatang Lin**.
 “Exclusion for Public Safety or Inclusion
 for Gig Employment: Managing the
 Tension with a Trilogy of Guardians.” *MIS
 Quarterly* 48, no. 4 (2024).

Focus of Study

This article explores the dual objectives of gig platforms, which aim to provide income opportunities for socially and economically marginalized individuals while addressing safety concerns associated with unregulated drivers on Transportation Network Company (TNC) platforms like Uber and Lyft. It discusses the necessity for background check laws (BCLs) and conceptualizes a trilogy of guardians—government, TNC platforms, and the community—to foster ridesharing safety while minimizing the social costs of excluding marginalized workers. The authors highlight the unintended consequences of BCLs, which can inadvertently shift crime into property-related offenses. They propose that digital safety technologies, such as in-app safety features, can serve as effective alternatives to BCLs. Additionally, community resources can mitigate the

negative impacts of strict BCLs by offering alternative income sources and enhancing the effectiveness of digital deterrents. The study advocates for a holistic approach to social justice, emphasizing the interdependence of various stakeholders in achieving both public safety and inclusivity in gig employment.

Policy Recommendations

Policymakers should prioritize the implementation of digital safety technologies as alternatives to stringent background check laws for TNC drivers. Additionally, fostering community resources can provide marginalized individuals with viable income opportunities while enhancing public safety, ensuring that inclusivity and safety coexist within the gig economy framework.



CONFERENCES AND EVENTS



Public Policy Dialogue Series 2024 – 2025

Is Hong Kong's Population Policy Working? Coping with Demographic Challenges and Attracting Talent

On January 18, 2025, the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Division of Public Policy (HKUST) and the Education University of Hong Kong co-organized a significant event in their Public Policy Dialogue Series titled “Is Hong Kong's Population Policy Working? Coping with Demographic Challenges and Attracting Talent.” The conference brought together experts to discuss the critical demographic issues facing Hong Kong and explore effective policy responses.

The event was moderated by Associate Professor Alex He Jingwei from HKUST, who guided the discussions and facilitated engaging dialogues among the speakers.

Professor Anthony Cheung, a leading figure in public administration and former Secretary for Transport and Housing, opened the conference with a comprehensive overview of the evolution of Hong Kong's population policy. He highlighted the formation of a task force in 2002 and subsequent policy reviews in 2007 and 2012, emphasizing the need for continuous adaptation to changing demographics. The establishment of the Human Resources Planning Commission in 2018 was also noted as a key development aimed at consolidating government and sectoral efforts to support a diversified economy.

A central theme of the conference was the demographic challenges currently facing Hong Kong. The elderly population (aged 65 and over) is projected to rise from 20.5% in 2021 to 36% by 2046, while the total fertility rate has significantly declined. This trend raises concerns about a shrinking workforce and



potential brain drain, as many young, skilled residents seek opportunities abroad.

The discussions also underscored the importance of health and quality of life. Although life expectancy is increasing, disparities in health outcomes, particularly among vulnerable populations, remain a pressing issue. The need for a comprehensive approach to healthcare and social services was emphasized, especially given the increasing dependency ratio.

The conference featured a series of presentations from esteemed speakers, including Professor Paul Yip, Professor Lui Tai-lok, Dr. Wendy Hong Wen, and Professor Tang Heiwai. They introduced strategic initiatives from the current administration (2022-27), such as expanding talent admission schemes, enhancing labor importation programs in essential sectors, and implementing family-friendly measures to foster a supportive environment for childbearing.

The event concluded with a call for public engagement and transparent policymaking to effectively address these complex demographic issues. By integrating diverse perspectives and fostering collaboration, the conference highlighted the urgency of innovative solutions to secure a sustainable future for Hong Kong amidst significant demographic shifts.

Overall, this conference served as a crucial platform for dialogue, focusing on the challenges and opportunities within Hong Kong's population policy framework.



Public Policy Dialogue Series 2024 – 2025

Lessons in Policy Delivery: Waste Disposal Charging, Online Car Hailing, and Mega Events

This session of the Policy Dialogue Series 2024-25 featured a diverse panel of experts discussing key issues in Hong Kong's policy landscape. The event was moderated by Assistant Professor Benjamin Steuer from HKUST, who facilitated the dialogue and ensured a productive exchange of ideas.

Professor Anthony B. L. Cheung opened the discussion by emphasizing the importance of effective policy delivery in enhancing governance capacity and public trust. He addressed the challenges faced by the Hong Kong government, highlighting issues such as legislative gridlock and over-politicization. Cheung stressed that successful governance requires not only strategic planning but also the ability to adapt to changing circumstances and engage various stakeholders.

Professor Lui Tai-lok focused on the implications of organizing mega events in Hong Kong. He acknowledged the government's efforts to rejuvenate the city's image post-COVID-19 through such events but questioned their long-term effectiveness. Tai-lok argued that while it is essential to attract visitors, the quality and distinctiveness of these events should be prioritized to ensure they contribute meaningfully to the city's reputation and economic recovery.

Dr. Kay Lam Chi-yan discussed the critical role of policy review in the current governance environment. She highlighted the importance of learning from past policy mistakes and emphasized the need for a structured approach to evaluation. Lam proposed the establishment of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to measure the effectiveness of policies, advocating for a system that encourages continuous improvement and accountability.



Professor Christine Loh tackled the issue of waste disposal charging, emphasizing the “polluters pay” principle. She pointed out the necessity of public understanding and consensus for successful implementation. Loh warned that community opposition and legislative controversies could hinder progress, stressing the importance of transparent communication and stakeholder engagement to build support for waste management initiatives.

Mr. Bernard Chan addressed the regulatory challenges surrounding online car-hailing services like Uber. He discussed the tension between traditional taxi services and new entrants in the sharing economy. Chan advocated for a balanced regulatory framework that encourages innovation while ensuring fair competition, highlighting the need for policies that adapt to technological advancements and changing consumer expectations.

Throughout the dialogue, the speakers collectively emphasized the importance of governance and policy delivery in addressing contemporary challenges in Hong Kong. They underscored the need for transparency, accountability, and effective communication in building public trust.

The event provided a platform for exchanging insights and best practices in policy delivery. The discussions highlighted the significance of active stakeholder engagement and collaboration in achieving successful policy outcomes. The dialogue concluded with a shared commitment to fostering a more inclusive and responsive governance framework that can effectively address the community's needs while promoting sustainable development in Hong Kong.



Managing Disruptive Technologies and Platform Economy: Labor Market and Social Policy Implications

On February 14, 2025, the Division of Public Policy (PPOL), in collaboration with the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), the Institute for Emerging Market Studies (IEMS), the Institute for Public Policy (IPP), and EY, organized a pivotal conference titled “Managing Disruptive Technologies and Platform Economy: Labor Market and Social Policy Implications.” This event brought together a diverse group of policymakers, practitioners, and scholars to examine the profound effects of emerging technologies on labor markets and social policies.

The conference commenced with an inspiring opening ceremony featuring distinguished speakers. Dr. Alex Jingwei He, Acting Director of the Institute for Public Policy and Associate Professor at PPOL, welcomed attendees and emphasized the necessity of interdisciplinary collaboration in addressing the challenges posed by disruptive technologies.

The first panel session, moderated by Professor Bert Shi, showcased influential voices in the field. The panelists included Professor Albert Park, Chief Economist at the Asian Development Bank, Dr. Hon Wendy Wen Hong, a member of the Legislative Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Professor Yike Guo, Provost and Chair Professor of Computer Science and Engineering at HKUST, and Mr. Chris Leung, Partner in Financial Services Technology Consulting at Ernst & Young Advisory Services Limited. They discussed the implications of technological advancements on labor dynamics and the urgent need for adaptive regulatory frameworks.

As the conference progressed, Professor Naubahar Sharif, Head of the Division of Public Policy, led a captivating session on the landscape of labor markets in the context of new technologies. His expertise guided discussions on migration and labor



adjustments, encouraging participants to consider innovative solutions for the challenges ahead. Professor Donald Low, Director of Leadership and Public Policy Executive Education Programs, moderated a session focused on regulatory and policy responses. His insights were instrumental in addressing the complexities faced by platform workers and the necessity for effective policy interventions.

In the final session, Dr. Alex Jingwei He returned to facilitate discussions on welfare policy and social protection, highlighting the critical role of gender considerations in labor market policies. Participants engaged in meaningful conversations about creating inclusive policies that address the unique challenges faced by women in the platform economy.

This conference was a significant step in advancing the conversation around technology and public policy, showcasing the Division of Public Policy’s commitment to fostering these essential dialogues. As we move forward, PPOL will continue to collaborate with experts across various fields to shape effective policies for a rapidly changing future.



Forum: The Belt and Road Initiative: Multi-disciplinary Perspectives from Academia and Government

On November 28, 2024, the Policy Forum on The Belt and Road Initiative: Multi-disciplinary Perspectives from Academia and Government took place at Wynn Palace, commemorating the 25th Anniversary of Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST). Co-organized by the Division of Public Policy at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, the event attracted over 200 participants, including esteemed government officials and academic leaders.

Professor Naubahar Sharif, Head of the Division of Public Policy, expertly moderated a roundtable discussion that featured notable speakers such as Chair Professor Zhiwu Chen, Chair Professor James Z. Lee, and Chair Professor Francis T. Lui. The forum provided a platform for discussing the diverse impacts of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) on global and regional development. Topics included the economic significance of the BRI, opportunities for technological advancements, and the role of education in fostering international collaboration.

The forum kicked off with a keynote address from Mr. Liu Xianfa, the Commissioner of the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He emphasized the BRI's evolution from concept to action, highlighting its role as a catalyst for international cooperation and shared benefits among participating countries.

Discussions also delved into specific challenges and opportunities presented by the BRI. For instance, the potential for leveraging the initiative for technological upgrading and development opportunities for countries like Pakistan was explored. The speakers provided insights into how Macau, as a unique bridge between China and Portuguese-speaking nations, can capitalize on its strategic advantages to enhance its role within the BRI framework.

The event concluded with remarks from Professor of Practice Tong Ka Lok, who summarized the key takeaways and expressed hope for the continued development of the BRI with a focus on quality and sustainability. This forum marks a significant step toward fostering collaboration between academia and government in navigating the complexities of the BRI.



“One Hour for Young Talents” Winter 2024 Workshop at HKUST

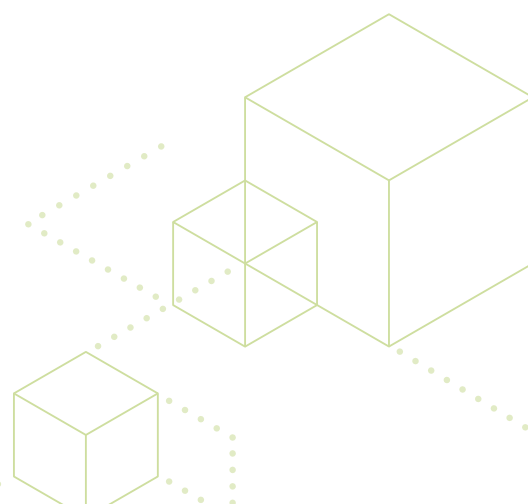


The “One Hour for Young Talents” Winter 2024 Workshop, jointly organized by the China Public Administration Review (C-PAR), the Division of Public Policy (PPOL) and the Institute for Public Policy (IPP) at HKUST, was successfully held on December 20-21, 2024 on the HKUST Clear Water Bay campus.

The “One Hour for Young Talents” Workshop is a prominent series within the Chinese public policy research community. It provides young scholars with a distinguished platform for in-depth discussion on their paper with senior scholars.

The Workshop commenced with welcome remarks delivered by Prof SHARIF Naubahar, Head of PPOL at HKUST, and Prof HE Alex Jingwei, Acting Director of IPP at HKUST. Prof MEI Ciqi, Associate and Managing Editor of C-PAR and Associate Professor of the School of Public Policy and Management at Tsinghua University, gave opening remarks, followed by immersive discussion sessions for papers from Tsinghua University, Renmin University of China, HKUST, HKUST (GZ), and several other leading universities, which were selected out of over 150 submitted papers.

PPOL and IPP are proud to co-host the workshop with C-PAR and will continue to foster and nurture the new generation of scholars.



Fiscal Decentralization, Political Regimes, and Land Development

The Division of Public Policy at The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, together with the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at The Chinese University of Hong Kong (Shenzhen) and the School of Architecture at Harbin Institute of Technology (Shenzhen), successfully organized an academic seminar titled “Fiscal Decentralization, Political Regimes, and Land Development” on December 13, 2024. This event aimed to explore the pivotal role of fiscal decentralization in the realms of regional development, social welfare, public service delivery, land development, and public debt management, particularly within the context of the Greater Bay Area.

The seminar featured prominent speakers, including Prof. Christine Wong from the National University of Singapore. In her keynote address, “Reaching the Tipping Point: Public Finance in China Thirty Years after the Tax-Sharing System Reform,” she examined the intricate dynamics of fiscal decentralization over the past three decades, highlighting its implications for land development and institutional frameworks. Prof. Jieming Zhu from Tongji University provided insights into the speculative property bubble in Shanghai, discussing the shifts in state regimes and their impact on real estate markets.

Additionally, Prof. Ran Tao analyzed the “China Model of Growth,” emphasizing its significance for policy formulation and regional strategies. Prof. Qiang Ren explored the historical evolution of intergovernmental fiscal relationships in China, while Prof. Weiwen Zhang addressed the role of land financialization in reshaping central-local dynamics.

The afternoon sessions showcased emerging scholars who presented innovative research on urban development and regional inequality, employing advanced technologies such as machine learning to propose effective policy solutions. Key topics discussed included the impact of fiscal decentralization on economic growth, government debt risks, innovative revenue structures during land development, urban debt risk management, and sustainable tax policies.

The event not only fostered robust academic exchanges but also encouraged collaborative research, with attendees expressing interest in contributing to the Asian Public Policy journal. Concluding remarks highlighted the seminar’s success in creating a unique platform for interdisciplinary dialogue, offering valuable insights into the complex relationships among fiscal decentralization, institutional mechanisms, and land development in contemporary contexts.



PPOL Career Talk-The Career Playbook: Tips and Insights from Policy Professionals

We recently hosted an engaging career talk titled “The Career Playbook: Tips and Insights from Policy Professionals,” featuring three dynamic mid-career policy professionals from leading think tanks and major corporations. Attendees had a unique opportunity to connect with industry leaders right here at the Clear Water Bay campus and gain invaluable insights into the world of public policy.

During the inspiring session, our esteemed speakers shared their personal journeys, offering practical tips on effectively balancing study and work, honing internship skills, navigating the job-hunting landscape, and strategically planning career development. They delved into their experiences conducting real-world policy analysis, providing a behind-the-scenes look at the challenges and triumphs faced in the field.

Participants left equipped with knowledge and skills essential for excelling in their future careers. The talk was both informative and motivating, enhancing professional journeys and fostering valuable networking opportunities.



About the Speakers

Ms. Suki Han

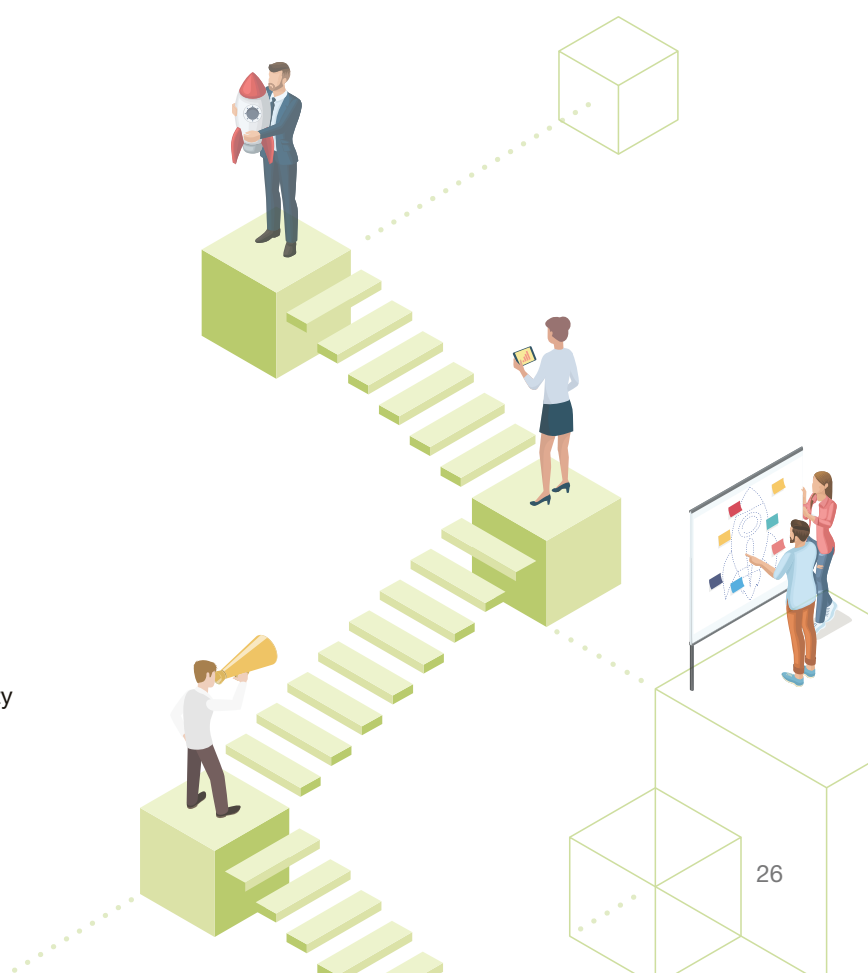
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Duke University
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Business

Mr. Dicky Chow




Head of Healthcare and Social Innovation,
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Bachelor in Law and Business Administration,
The University of Hong Kong
Master in Psychology, The Chinese University of
Hong Kong

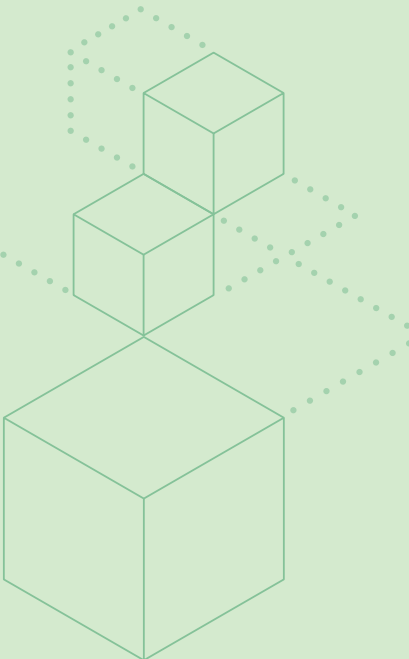
Mr. Hui Zeng




Director of Policy and Strategy Research,
Autonomous Delivery Department, Meituan
Master of Public Management, Tsinghua University
EMBA, City University of Hong Kong



Seminar Archive

Topic		Speakers	Summary of talk
From the Minister's Desk to the Lecture Hall: Reflections on Social and Health Policy Making in South Korea and Hong Kong		<p>Professor Sophia Siu-chee Chan (陳肇始 教授)</p> <p>Professor Sophia Siu-chee Chan (陳肇始 教授) served as the Secretary for Food and Health for the Hong Kong SAR Government from 2017 to 2022, becoming the first nurse in Hong Kong to be appointed to this ministerial position.</p>	In a recent seminar, two distinguished female scholars shared their experiences navigating academia and government, having held ministerial positions in South Korea and Hong Kong SAR. They engaged in a discussion on critical social and health policy issues impacting these Asian tiger economies, allowing ample time for questions and dialogue.
		<p>Professor Sophia Seung-yoon Lee (李承潤 教授)</p> <p>Professor Sophia Seung-yoon Lee (李承潤 教授) is a former Vice Chairperson of the Presidential Committee on Youth Policy Coordination (a ministerial appointment) in the Prime Minister's Office of the Republic of Korea.</p>	
Global Health		<p>Professor Mark Jit</p> <p>Professor and Chair of the Department of Global and Environmental Health at New York University. He also holds honorary appointments at London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), the University of Hong Kong (HKU), and the National University of Singapore (NUS)</p>	Prof. Mark Jit briefly discussed the current state of the field of global health in today's changing and uncertain world. He also talked about some of the challenges and opportunities facing an academic global health department, using NYU's recently established department as an example.



Topic	Speakers	Summary of talk
Reaching the Tipping Point: Public Finance in China Thirty Years After the Tax-sharing System Reform	 <p>Professor Christine Wong Visiting Research Professor at the East Asian Institute at the National University of Singapore and the Bank of America Merrill Lynch Visiting Chair Professor in International Finance for the Schwarzman Scholars Program at Tsinghua University</p>	In this talk, the speaker addressed the severe strain on local government finances due to collapsing land revenues, a looming debt crisis, and declining fiscal positions. Emphasizing that these issues are structural, she advocates for systemic reforms in public finance rather than merely adjusting local government behaviors.
Unveiling Money Illusion: Insights from Experimental Economics	 <p>Professor Helena Chytilova Associate Professor at Prague University of Economics and Business, Czech Republic</p>	In the seminar, she discussed how the concept of money illusion, once dismissed, has gained attention in behavioral economics. It impacts various markets and decision-making, despite central banks' efforts to enhance economic literacy. Her research explores whether economic education can mitigate money illusion's effects on coordination failures and market equilibrium.
Policy Implications of Skill Changes under Digital Automation: A Processual Approach	 <p>Mr. Jack XING PhD Candidate in Sociology (Graduate Certificate in Public Policy), Georgia Institute of Technology</p>	He discussed a processual approach to understanding skill changes driven by Industry 4.0 and 5.0. It emphasized the need for policy interventions to support frontline workers, highlighting the importance of establishing new skill standards, enhancing algorithm transparency, and promoting recognition of emotional and digital skills in service work.
Leadership and Public Policy Seminar - Asian Economies: History, Institutions and Structure	 <p>Professor Jamus Lim Economist at ESSEC Business School (Singapore campus)</p>	The seminar, led by Professor Jamus Lim, explored the histories, institutions, and structures of Asian economies, focusing on contrasts between China, India, and Japan. It addressed the region's rise, challenges post-COVID-19, and future prospects within the political economy landscape.
Authoritarian Markets: The Boom and Busts of China's Local State Banks	 <p>Dr. Adam LIU Assistant Professor, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy National University of Singapore</p>	In this talk, Dr. Adam Liu discussed his book project, "Authoritarian Markets: The Boom and Busts of China's Local State Banks." He argues that elite bargaining and bureaucratic mobilizations, rather than "limited government" or "good governance," underpin China's markets, explaining both past prosperity and current economic challenges.

Topic	Speakers	Summary of talk
Leadership and Public Policy Seminar - Anxiety Culture: The New Global State of Human Affairs	 Professor John Allegrante Professor of Health Behavior and Education at Columbia University	The seminar explored anxiety as a pervasive cultural phenomenon in the 21st century, addressing issues like climate change, extremism, and technological advancements. He highlighted how these anxieties shape societal behaviors and influence policymaking globally.
Editor's Wisdom: Advice for PhD Students and Young Researchers	 Professor Ben Martin University of Sussex	The seminar provided insights into recent trends in publishing within innovation studies. It covered the peer review process for PhD students and the advantages of co-authoring with senior academics. Discussions included manuscript submissions from various regions, the influence of AI on publishing, and emerging themes relevant to early researchers.



STUDENT HUB



Student Achievement

PhD Student Chunyan RAN Won Outstanding Paper Award

We are happy to share that our PhD student, Miss Chunyan RAN, has won the Outstanding Paper Award at the 9th Young Scholars Forum of Journal of Public Administration (《公共行政评论》). Her award-winning paper, titled “Exploring Varieties of Bureaucratic Formalism under the Pressure of Political Re-centralization: A Comparative Analysis in China”, based on her dissertation work, showcases her exceptional research.



Pilot Launch of Summer Internship Program: MPP Program and Leading Organizations

The Master of Public Policy (MPP) Program proudly launched a paid summer internship program in collaboration with the South China Morning Post (SCMP) and several esteemed organizations, including HSBC, IEMS, FemTech Future, Equal Justice, the Business Environment Council, the Center for Industrial Development and Environmental Governance (CIDE), Civic Exchange, The Nature Conservancy, and Votee AI. This exciting initiative aimed to elevate the student experience by providing invaluable insights into the dynamics of diverse workplaces.

Interns had the incredible opportunity to work at the SCMP's Causeway Bay office for 2-3 days per week over an engaging 8-week period.

Eligible candidates, currently enrolled in the MPP Program, were selected based on their academic achievements and relevant experience. This internship program not only equipped students with essential skills but also fostered vital connections between academia and industry. The application process drew significant interest, with students invited to submit their CVs and cover letters. This collaboration marked a significant step in enriching our students' education and preparing them for future success.



Student Activities

MPM and MPP Study Trip to Tokyo

The Master of Public Management program and the Master of Public Policy programs at the Division of Public Policy, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, recently organized an enriching study trip to Tokyo. Led by Professor Donald Low, the trip was designed to provide students with firsthand experiences of Japan's public policy landscape.

Kicking off with a welcome dinner at Wakikuni Yansandon Ueno, the group then visited prestigious institutions such as Tokyo University Graduate School of Public Policy and the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies. Engaging discussions with experts like Professor Nami Aoki explored Japan's ongoing challenges, including its demographic shifts and economic strategies. Students enjoyed a walking tour of Ueno, led by Professor Inoue, which highlighted local governance in action. The trip also featured visits to the Asian Development Bank and a session on Japan's health system, led by Professor Naito. Overall, the study trip fostered valuable insights and strengthened the bond among students, enhancing their understanding of global public management practices.



Student Activities

Homecoming and Student-faculty Dinner Events

The Division of Public Policy recently enjoyed several homecoming dinners and faculty-student gatherings, organized by our various programs: the Master of Public Policy, Master of Public Management, and our MPhil and PhD programs. These events were nights filled with interaction, excitement, and community spirit.

Attendees had the opportunity to connect, share experiences, and engage in meaningful discussions in a relaxed atmosphere. These informal settings allowed students and faculty to build stronger relationships, fostering a sense of belonging within our diverse academic community. The homecoming dinners

celebrated the achievements of our students while welcoming new members into the fold. Faculty members shared insights and advice, enriching the conversations and providing guidance for future endeavors.

These gatherings are essential in promoting collaboration and networking among students and faculty, creating an environment conducive to learning and growth. We are grateful for everyone who participated, making these events a success. As we look to the future, we anticipate more opportunities for connection and community-building within the Division of Public Policy. Thank you to all who contributed to these memorable evenings!



MPP Homecoming Dinner



MPM Home-coming Dinner



MPhil & PhD End-of-Semester Dinner



Student Activities

Walking Tour in Hong Kong

The Master of Public Management program recently hosted an engaging urban hiking experience titled “The Ultimate Urban Hike: From Manufacturing to Services—Hong Kong’s Economic Development.” Held on December 12, 2024, the walking tour attracted enthusiastic participants eager to explore the city’s economic transformation.

Led by Prof. Donald Low, the walk began at Kwun Tong, then at Wan Chai, where students gathered to delve into the intricacies of Hong Kong’s shift from manufacturing to a service-driven economy. As they traversed vibrant neighborhoods, participants gained firsthand insights into local industries and the impact of recent policy changes.

The journey concluded in Central, providing a unique perspective on Hong Kong’s evolving landscape. This event not only enriched students’ understanding of public policy but also fostered a strong sense of community among participants. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us for this informative and inspiring walk through our dynamic city!



MPhil and PhD Brown Bag Series

The Division of Public Policy at Hong Kong University of Science and Technology recently hosted a successful Brown Bag Seminar titled “Publishing for RPs.” Held on October 25, 2024 and 22nd November 2024, these engaging events was designed for MPhil and PhD students eager to enhance their publishing skills.

Speakers Prof Naubahar Sharif, Prof Kira Matus, Prof Xiaodong Chen, Prof Raul Lejano shared



valuable insights into the publishing process, covering essential elements of submitting peer-reviewed journal articles. The seminar provided a platform for participants to ask questions and discuss common challenges faced in academic publishing.



Following the speaker presentations, attendees engaged in a lively Q&A session, fostering an interactive dialogue that encouraged the sharing of experiences and strategies. The event concluded with a discussion on future brown bag meetings, emphasizing the importance of continuous learning and collaboration within the academic community. Thank you to everyone who participated in making this seminar a success!

PhD Thesis Presentation

Regulatory Adaptation in the Era of Disruptive Innovations – A Comparative Case Study of Regulatory Response to Disruption in the Financial Services Industry in UK and US

Ms. SINHA, Kirti Bhasin



NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS



Faculty Insight

Forget 'night vibes', Hong Kong needs tourism lessons from Singapore, Tokyo, and Seoul —Prof Donald Low's view

Professor Donald Low, an academic, and two Master of Public Policy students, Elisha M. Sonthra and David Yu Chak-wa from the Division of Public Policy at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, joined the discussion on the South China Morning Post regarding Hong Kong's tourism recovery. They emphasized the need for the city to prioritize authenticity over quick fixes in its tourism strategy. Despite a global rebound in tourism, Hong Kong has lagged, heavily relying on mainland Chinese visitors, whose spending power is declining due to economic challenges in China.

The authors advocated for enhancing walkability and improving green spaces to create a more attractive urban environment. They also suggested that Hong Kong should learn from the successful tourism strategies of regional rivals like Singapore, Tokyo, and Seoul, which have effectively diversified their tourist bases and focused on sustainable practices. Their recommendations aim to foster a more resilient and vibrant tourism sector in Hong Kong.

Hong Kong tourism This Week in Asia / Opinion



Elisha M. Sonthra, David Yu Chak-wai and Donald Low

Opinion | Forget 'night vibes', Hong Kong needs tourism lessons from Singapore, Tokyo and Seoul

The city should prioritise authenticity over quick fixes, enhancing walkability, improving green spaces – and learning from regional rivals

Reading Time: 4 minutes

Why you can trust SCMP



Elisha M. Sonthra, David Yu Chak-wai and Donald Low

Published: 9:00am, 15 Dec 2024

Faculty Insight

Professor Xiaofan Zhao Served as a Jury at the 6th “ESG Leading Enterprises 2024” Award Ceremony



We are proud to highlight that Professor Xiaofan Zhao, an Assistant Professor at the Division of Public Policy at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, recently attended the prestigious award ceremony for the 6th “ESG Leading Enterprises 2024,” co-organized by Bloomberg Businessweek and Deloitte.

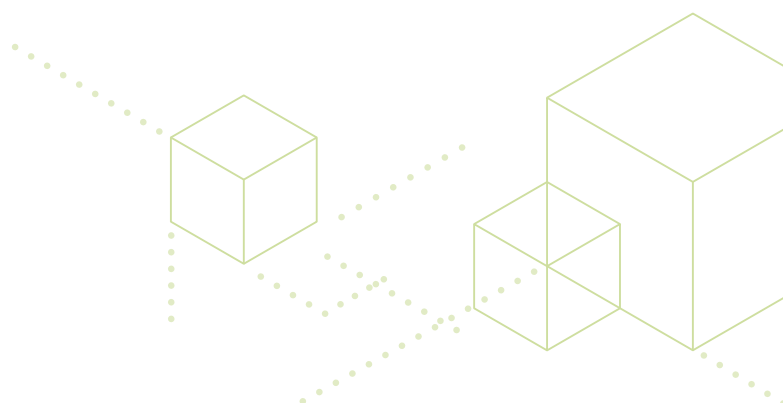
Professor Zhao had the honor of serving on the judging panel, where she contributed her expertise in evaluating the outstanding enterprises and projects leading the way in Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) practices in Hong Kong. Her role in presenting the awards underscores her commitment to promoting sustainable development and responsible business practices within the region.



Professor Masaru Yarime Discusses Data-Driven Innovation in Recent Interview

We are excited to announce that Professor Masaru Yarime from the Division of Public Policy at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology was featured in an insightful interview with the Data & Policy journal published by Cambridge University Press on September 18, 2024.

In this interview, Professor Yarime delves into the evolving landscape of data-driven innovation and its implications for policy formulation. He explores how cutting-edge research can be leveraged to tackle pressing policy challenges, emphasizing the importance of integrating data analytics into decision-making processes. Professor Yarime's expertise in this field highlights the critical role that innovative approaches play in addressing complex societal issues. His insights serve as a valuable resource for policymakers and researchers alike, guiding them in navigating the challenges and opportunities presented by the data revolution.



Soon-to-come Public Policy Dialogue Series

Date and Time	Topic	Registration
26 April 2025 (Saturday) 10:00 am – 12:00 noon	Think Asia, Think GBA: Hong Kong's regional strategy and positioning	

Program Admissions

Date and Time	Topic	Registration
MPhil/PhD in Public Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In addition to the University admission requirements, applicants must possess a bachelor's degree in any field with strong academic performance, especially in analytical courses. Applicants are highly recommended to have a satisfactory GMAT/GRE score. 	<p>For applicants from outside Hong Kong: 31st May 2025</p> <p>For applicants from Hong Kong: 30th June 2025</p>
Master of Public Management (MPM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A bachelor's degree with second class honors. At least 3 years of full-time working experience. Fulfilled English Language requirements set by the University. 	<p>For applicants from outside Hong Kong: 31st May 2025</p> <p>For applicants from Hong Kong: 30th June 2025</p>
Master of Public Policy (MPP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A bachelor's degree with second class honors or above from a recognized institution, or an approved equivalent qualification. Fulfilled English Language requirements set by the University. 	<p>For applicants from outside Hong Kong: 31st May 2025</p> <p>For applicants from Hong Kong: 31st May 2025</p>

All applicants should submit their application documents through <https://pg.ust.hk/applynow>



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