CONFERENCES AND EVENTS



HKUST PPOL Co-hosts the Inaugural Hong Kong Social Science RPG Poster Conference 2026

The inaugural Hong Kong Social Science RPG Poster Conference 2026, jointly organized by the Division of Public Policy at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) and the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences at City University of Hong Kong (CityUHK), was successfully held at HKUST on June 8, 2026. The conference aimed to bring together Research Postgraduate (RPG) students across Hong Kong working in the social sciences and related fields. It provided participants with an opportunity to spark new friendships, find future collaborators, and build a lasting professional social network.

The conference was conducted in a poster presentation format and featured research across the General Social Sciences, Public Policy, and Public Administration. Its thematic scope was organized into six core tracks: Public Administration & Public Policy; Political Science & Global Governance; Sociology & Demography; Economics & Public Finance; Business Administration & Organizational Behavior; and Interdisciplinary & Emerging Social Sciences, with interdisciplinary research especially encouraged.



During the conference, all 25 selected RPG students from HKUST, CityUHK, EdUHK, and HKBU presented their research and findings through carefully designed academic posters across two structured poster sessions. They also engaged in friendly and meaningful exchanges and in-depth discussions on their respective research topics, sharing academic perspectives while gaining valuable feedback and inspiration from fellow researchers and other attendees.

For the poster presentations, Dr. Nicolo LUDOVICE served as the judge, and a total of eight participants received awards in recognition of their outstanding work. Among the award recipients, three were from HKUST: Alan Kai Yu HO received the Best Poster Award, Zhizhao LI received the Runner-up Award, and Teklebirhan Alemnew GEBEYEHU received the Excellence Award. Finally, the awards were presented by Prof. Kira MATUS during the closing ceremony.





PPOL Prof. Alex Jingwei HE led a team to launch Specialized AI Model for Health Policy Analysis in China

An interdisciplinary team led by Prof Jingwei Alex He of the Division of Public Policy and Prof Sirui Han of the Division of Emerging Interdisciplinary Areas has developed HECO (Health Reform China Observatory), a specialized large language model designed for health policy analysis in China. The model was officially presented at a high-profile conference in Beijing on June 27, 2026, hosted jointly by the China Health Development Center and the School of Public Health at Peking University.







HECO was built to deliver extensive and professional health policy analysis for the Chinese context and beyond. The model has been validated by approximately 30 stakeholder users across the Chinese health system, including local health officials, hospital administrators, clinical leaders, physicians, health policy analysts, and industry practitioners. In blinded evaluation, HECO outperformed leading general-purpose large language models on all critical dimensions, including analytical accuracy, depth of reasoning, clarity of expression, citation of evidence, and experiential fit.

The Beijing conference was attended by senior officials from the National Health Commission, local health authorities, official think tanks, clinical leaders, and peer researchers. HECO had been soft-launched on campus in March 2026 at an event attended by senior scholars from the World Health Organization, the University of Hong Kong, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and local industry practitioners.

The project reflects the team’s commitment to harnessing AI for evidence-informed policymaking and to strengthening health system governance through interdisciplinary collaboration.

Seminar Archive



Prof. Luca Mora
Professor of Urban Innovation
Business School of Edinburgh Napier University, UK

From Science to International Policy Development: Ten Years of Research to Reframe Technology Governance for Smart City Innovation

In this talk, Prof. Luca Mora reflected on the fragmented governance challenges of smart cities and proposed a transition path from traditional government management to multi-stakeholder collaborative governance. It explored how to translate academic research into international policy tools to promote inclusivity and accountability in smart city development.



Dr. Mengying WU
Postdoctoral Fellow,
Salata Institute for Climate and Sustainability,
Harvard University

Policy Interactions and the Cost of Decarbonizing Aviation

In this seminar, Dr. Mengying WU focused on policy synergies in aviation decarbonization, analyzing how interactions between different emission reduction policies (e.g., carbon pricing, technical standards, market mechanisms) impact industry costs. It identified potential conflicts and synergies in policy mixes, providing empirical evidence for designing efficient and cost-effective decarbonization pathways in the aviation sector.



Mr. Patrick Ho
Head of Sustainable Development,
Swire Properties & Member of Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD)

Beyond Carbon: Why Nature Risk Is Business Risk

In this study, Mr. Patrick Ho used the TNFD framework to explain how biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation translate into operational, reputational, and financial risks for businesses. Drawing on Swire Properties' urban greening initiatives, it demonstrated how Nature-based Solutions (NbS) can create both ecological and commercial value.



Prof. Siddharth Chatterjee
Chief Executive Officer,
Global Neighbours Founding Co-Director,
One Earth Institute Former UN Resident Coordinator in China Visiting Professor,
Tsinghua University

China, the Asia-Pacific, and the New Multilateralism: Leading Through Fragmentation

In this talk, Prof. Siddharth examined the Asia-Pacific's role in advancing new multilateralism, analyzing how China and regional partners can build consensus through innovative cooperation mechanisms amid division, offering an Asia-Pacific perspective on global governance reform.



Prof. Xiangwei WANG
Associate Professor of Practice Department of Journalism Hong Kong Baptist University

China-US Relations – Where Do We Go From Here?

In this seminar, Prof. Xiangwei WANG traced the evolution of China-US relations, examining key differences and potential areas of cooperation in current bilateral interactions. It explored the future trajectory of the relationship amid shifting geopolitical and economic landscapes, offering a multi-dimensional analysis of the complexities of China-US engagement.



Prof. Shenjing He
Lady Edith Kotewall Professor in the Built Environment
Head of the Department of Urban Planning and Design
The University of Hong Kong

Infrastructuring Mobilities in the Greater Bay Area: The Rise of Infrastructural Regionalism at the Conjuncture of Polycrisis

In this talk, Prof. Shenjing He introduced the concept of "infrastructural regionalism,"based the case of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, analyzing how cross-border infrastructures reshape regional governance amid polycrisis. It explored how flows of infrastructure in education, healthcare, and transportation drive regional economic integration and collaborative innovation.



Prof. Józef Hernik
Professor
Department of Land Management and Landscape Architecture
University of Agriculture in Krakow (Poland)

Policy Interactions and the Cost of Decarbonizing Aviation

In this talk, Prof. Józef Hernik explored the balance between cultural heritage protection and urban development, drawing on European and Asian cases to analyze how land management and landscape planning policies can advance regional development while ensuring the sustainable preservation of cultural heritage. It offered practical insights for governance models that reconcile development and heritage conservation.



Prof. Daniel M Kammen
Bloomberg Distinguished Professor
Department of Civil and Systems Engineering,
Johns Hopkins University

Innovation for the Just Energy Transition

In this study, Prof. Daniel M Kammen focused on equity in the energy transition, arguing that technological innovation alone is not a panacea and must be paired with policy design to protect vulnerable groups. It explored how innovative models like distributed energy and community participatory governance can advance an energy transition that delivers both deep decarbonization and social inclusion.



Prof. Vivian Kwang-wen Lin
Honorary Professor, HKU
Adjunct Professor, CUHK; LaTrobe University
Visiting Professor, HKUST

From Evidence to Policy: What Evidence Matters for Health Policy?

In this talk, Prof. Vivian Kwang-wen Lin reflected on the logic of evidence application in health policy-making, arguing that traditional randomized controlled trials are not the sole standard. It proposed a multi-dimensional evidence framework integrating real-world data, social impact assessments, and public participation, exploring how to enhance the scientific rigor, accessibility, and equity of health policies.



Prof. Karen GREPIN
Associate Professor
School of Public Health
The University of Hong Kong

Measuring and Monitoring Financial Protection for Health: From Theory to Practice

In this seminar, Prof. Karen GREPIN focused on the full process of measuring and monitoring health financial protection systems, sorting out the core logic from theoretical framework construction to practical application. It analyzed the methodological limitations and implementation challenges in current health financial protection assessments, and explored how to build a scientific and operable monitoring indicator system combined with global and local practice cases, providing practical references for improving the equity, accessibility and sustainability of health security systems.