Student Achievements
and Events

PhD Thesis Presentation

RedBird PhD and AIS Best Research Award

Tsinghua International Case Analysis Competition 2023

MPP-PAE 2022-23

PPOL 2023-24 PG Orientation

PhD Thesis Presentations

Dr. Gleb Papyshev

Currently Research Assistant Professor in the Division of SOSC, HKUST

Supervisor: Prof. Masaru Yarime

Thesis Title: The Emergence of Institutional Architecture to Govern Artificial Intelligence: Investigating the State's Role in Digital Capitalism

This thesis gains a systematic understanding of the roles the governments are taking, which is lacking in the academic literature. The analysis of regulatory documents and game theoretic modeling shows that some countries prioritize consumer protection through stringent regulation. In contrast, others promote innovation by adopting a more hands-off approach when balancing a trade-off between regulation and innovation. However, minimal regulation is rationalizable only if a government is not prioritizing consumer welfare but tries to maximize innovation, domestic producer surplus, or perceived consumer welfare.

Dr. Marie Noel Loullie Bernal-Garrido

Currently Lecturer in the Division of PPOL, HKUST

Supervisor: Prof. Kira Matus

Thesis Title: Alignment of Society's Mental Models of Chemical Risk Perception with Chemical Regulatory Policies: Legislative Activity in the United States between 2010 and 2020

This thesis studies the chemical regulatory policy and regulatory environment in the U.S. between 2010 and 2020, it fills the research gap of identifying areas or types of regulatory policy that take into consideration citizen's preferences by first analyzing legislative activity at state and federal level as it pertains to toxic and hazardous chemicals, and then examines patterns of behavior related to people's attitudes towards chemicals and towards risk, to finally be able to determine whether or not there is an alignment between people's chemical risk perceptions and the regulatory policies that are instituted to mitigate those risks.

Dr. Lei Shi

Supervisor: Prof. Xun Wu

Thesis Title: When Stronger Policy Capacities Produce Worse Outcomes: A Historical Case Analysis of Crisis Management of Eight Asian Cases

This thesis explores crisis management and policy capacity through case studies of Hong Kong and other countries' crisis episodes. It argues that the traditional event-centered approach to crisis management literature overlooks connected crises contexts. The study applies a processual approach and proposes a novel "crisis-to-crisis frame" incorporating pre- and post-crisis analyses. The policy capacity framework assesses analytical, operational and political capacities for explaining and evaluating crisis management actors' actions during crises. The novel "crisis-to-crisis" framework underpinned by policy capacity analysis generated valid patterns of relationships between areas of policy capacity in crisis contexts that are not dependent on crisis contexts.

PPOL Research Postgraduate Students Received RedBird PhD Award and AIS Best Research Merit Award

In this academic year (2022-23), three PhD students of PPOL have been awarded **RedBird PhD Awards**, in recognition of their outstanding academic achievements and demonstrated research accomplishments; each awardee receives a cash prize of HK$ 20,000:

Dr. Marie Noel Loullie Bernal-Garrido (Doctoral Graduate 2023)

Mr. Alvin Li (Year 3 PhD student)

Miss Xiaotong Li (Year 3 PhD student)

About the RedBird Academic Excellence Award

The Fok Ying Tung Graduate School of HKUST issue the RedBird PhD Academic Excellence Award in recognition of existing PhD students for their outstanding academic performance and research capacity; awardees need to demonstrate academic and research achievements such as journal article publication records, patents filed, research awards, and honors received.

Congratulations to Marie, Alvin, and Xiaotong!

One PPOL MPhil student has been awarded the AIS Best Research Merit Award 2022-23 (MPhil category) to honour her policy research on using company and government contract data to examine the relationship between the innovation performance of small and medium-sized companies in China and the Chinese government smart city projects, the awardee receives a cash prize of HK$5,000:

Miss Xiaohui Jiang (2022 MPhil graduate)

About the IPO Best Research Award

The IPO Best Research Award was established in 2011 with the support of the Provost's Office to recognize outstanding achievements by research postgraduate students who made the most original and influential research achievements from their study, which was carried out mainly at HKUST. The key objective of the Best Research Award is to foster the overall quality of research education in the University. The Award has the PhD and the MPhil categories.

Congratulations to Xiaohui!

MPM Students Won the Second Prize in Tsinghua International Case Analysis Competition of Public Policy on SDGs 2023

Congratulations to our MPM students (Tim Man Him Lo, Koby Lok Yin Wong, Bryant Wui Kwan Chan, and Moni Lixia Deng, Tim and Koby are acknowledged as the two best team members) who won the second prize in 2023's Tsinghua International Case Analysis Competition of Public Policy on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), organized by China Case Center for Public Policy and Management, the School of Public Policy & Management and the Institute for Sustainable Development Goals of Tsinghua University. The award-winning project of this year, "Harnessing the Power of Open Data to Advance the Planning Effort in Local Communities—A Hong Kong Perspective" was supervised by Professor Xun WU, who guided the team in the project's strategic direction and writing the case study. This project showcased Hong Kong's effort to apply open data to community planning, based on the assumption that open data would be one of the solutions to understanding Hong Kong's progress in meeting SDG 11.

Our students have won the prize for the second consecutive year. Last year's winning project was

"Salient Altar of Saline Alkali Land: Lessons from the Development of Agricultural Technology in Saline Alkali Land in the Yellow River Delta".

About Tsinghua International Case Analysis Competition of Public Policy on SDGs

The Competition organized by Tsinghua University invites participants to focus on one of the 17 United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) based on their research interests and experience. Participants will work in teams to investigate local community cases and find innovative public policy solutions for achieving SDGs.

Master of Public Policy - Policy Analysis Exercise 2022-23:
Emerging Innovations for a Sustainable Future

The Policy Analysis Exercise (PAE) is an eight-month capstone project of the two-year Master of Public Policy (MPP) program offered by PPOL, HKUST. The PAE 2022/23 was conducted under the theme of "Emerging Innovations for a Sustainable Future", final year MPP students presented the findings of their projects in four hours in two lecture halls simultaneously.

Prof. Naubahar Sharif, Acting Head and Professor of PPOL delivered the welcome speech introducing PAE's background and thanked the project supervisors, client advisors, and students for their effort and contribution towards the successful completion of the PAE projects. Prof. Masaru

Yarime, program co-director of MPP encouraged the students during the PAE to extract from what they learned from PAE in a turbulent world. Prof. Pengyu Zhu, program co-director of MPP said that although the MPP students could not travel abroad for their PAE projects due to the Covid-19 pandemic, he appreciated students' participation online, and Prof. Zhu encouraged MPP students to make good use of summer and to initiate connecting with clients.

For this academic year's PAE, we have Prof. Naubahar Sharif, Prof. Kira Matus, Prof. Xun Wu, Prof. Donald Low, Prof. Masaru Yarime, Prof. Pengyu Zhu, Prof. Alex He, Prof. James Wong, Prof. Magdalena Klemun, Prof. Xiaofan Zhao

served as academic supervisors, together with 14 clients served as industry/ government advisors for our MPP students' group projects to look at how government, industry, and society would be affected by emerging and increasingly disruptive technologies, what opportunities and challenges we would face in a wide range of sustainability challenges, and how various sectors would be able to design and implement appropriate policies and strategies for the future. The PAE conference also allowed the MPP students to apply what they learned in the 2-year program to real-world scenarios, gain industry exposure, and establish connections with potential future employers and industrial partners.

During the PAE Conference, students presented their joint effort in groups, covering interesting and thought-provoking topics addressing the current policy challenges, ranging from climate change, social welfare, and environmental policy to innovation policy. Some examples of these topics are: "Imperfect Maternity Leave Policy for Pregnant Foreign Domestic Helpers in Hong Kong", "Policy Analysis on China's Property Debt Crisis", "Community Healthcare System for Chronic Disease Management among Middle-aged People in Hong Kong", "Flying High from a Global Aviation Hub: Promoting the Development of Aviation Technology in Hong Kong", etc. Clients and academic advisors gave their comments to the MPP students and suggested how the projects could be improved and developed.

This academic year's fourteen client advisors are taking senior management roles, deputy heads, or senior executives in diverse sectors from Hong Kong and other countries and regions. The fourteen clients include Alaya Consulting; Arthur D. Little Asia Pacific Limited; Carbon World Limited; Centennial Asia Advisor; the Center for Green Finance Research; Development and Reform Bureau in Haizhu District, Guangzhou; HKUST-Jiangmen Laboratory of Carbon Science and Technology; Huawei Technological Co. Ltd.; Netherlands Innovation Network; PathFinders Hong Kong; PayPal Hong Kong; PwC HK; RAND Corporation; and Research for Social Advancement.

HKUST Division of Public Policy 2023-24 Postgraduate Student Orientation

Welcome to HKUST to all our postgraduates of the 2023-24 intake! The Postgraduate Student Orientation of the Division of Public Policy was held on 18th August 2023 at HKUST.

Welcome by Acting Head of PPOL Professor Naubahar Sharif, PPOL Faculty and Professor Huamin Qu, Dean of the Academy of Interdisciplinary Studies

Professor Naubahar Sharif, Acting Head and Professor of PPOL, warmly welcomed all new MPP, MPM, and RPG students, congratulated them for entering HKUST for their continuing degree pursuit and admitted to the competitive programs. Prof. Sharif gave a brief introduction to the Division of Public Policy and the postgraduate programs, then introduced the faculty and teaching staff of the Division to the students.

Professor Naubahar Sharif (Left) and Professor Huamin Qu (Right) welcomed PPOL students to HKUST

PPOL faculty Prof. King Chow, Acting Dean of Students and Director of the Center for the Development of the Gifted and Talented, Prof. Kira Matus, Associate Dean of the Academy of Interdisciplinary Studies (AIS), Associate Head and Director of MPM program, Co-directors of MPP, Prof. Masaru Yarime and Prof. Pengyu Zhu, Prof. Alex Jingwei He, Prof. Xiaofan Zhao, Prof. Magdalena Klemun, Prof. Julien de Troullioud de Lanversin, Prof. James Wong, Dr. Francine Yi, Prof. Michael Chen, and Prof. Kam Wing Siu welcomed the students and introduced about their research specialties and their teaching areas to the new postgraduate students. Prof. Naubahar Sharif emphasized the interdisciplinary nature of the programs, as the Division's mandate is under the AIS to provide interdisciplinary education.

Prof. Huamin Qu, Dean of AIS and Head of the Division of Emerging Interdisciplinary Areas delivered his welcome speech and introduced AIS to the postgraduate students.

Professor Naubahar Sharif on Intercultural Awareness and Professor Kira Matus on Academic Integrity

Our students come from various cultural backgrounds, Professor Sharif gave his heartfelt advice to the students on cultural sensitivity, difference adjustment, and toleration, and awareness of expectations due to cultural differences to be conducive to learning.

Professor Naubahar Sharif (Left) and Professor Kira Matus (Right) gave students advice on intercultural awareness and academic integrity

Prof. Matus reiterated the definition of academic integrity and emphasized its cruciality in academia, warned against plagiarism and stressed the importance of giving necessary credit to the source of data and ideas to grow to become real thinkers.

Our program directors briefed the three cohorts of students separately about the program structures and expectations, grading system, internship and career strategy. Our year-two students also shared their experiences and gave the new students hands-on and take-home tips to facilitate their study and learning experience in HKUST.