

# Grants, Awards and Projects

## Research and Community Grants



Principal Investigator:

**Prof. Naubahar  
SHARIF**

### PROJECT

Strengthening Family Relationships for Hong Kong's Ethnic Minority Communities in the Aftermath of COVID-19 Pandemic

**Amount Awarded:**

HK \$1,991,346 in January 2023

**Funding Agency:** Mental Health Initiatives Funding Scheme, Advisory Committee on Mental Health

This project aims to identify ethnic minority families to enhance their mental well-being and strengthen their familial relationships, through a collection of views, and stories from individuals regarding their family members, course and interactive group discussions and mindfulness-based activities to minimize emotional distress and improve inter-family harmony and relationships. This project is expected to significantly enhance understanding of conflict management and communication strategies within a familial context. The project will also enhance the ability of ethnic minority families to 'self-tackle' and 'self-restore' harmonious familial relationships through mindfulness-based practices to deal with family-related issues and distress.

### PROJECT

Supporting Ethnic Minority Elderly with Mental Health Needs

**Amount Awarded:**

HK \$1,988,878 in January 2023

**Funding Agency:** Mental Health Initiatives Funding Scheme, Advisory Committee on Mental Health

This project aims to bridge the gap between Hong Kong's ethnic minority elderly and existing mental health support services in Hong Kong. It further aims to promote the proactive, early identification of 'hidden' cases of ethnic-minority elderly with, or at risk of, mental well-being issues, through the implementation of a suite of culturally sensitive, context-appropriate, and relevant programs/incentives for Hong Kong's ethnic minority elderly.

The project is expected to benefit the mental health of ethnic minority elderly who are ethnic Indians, Pakistanis, and Nepalese aged 65 or above. The collection of narratives and other life stories from the elderly participants will be important in enhancing their interpersonal communications, as well as understanding their backgrounds and how these factors, in turn, contribute to the mental health challenges (such as depression and/or anxiety) they are currently facing.

## Research Grants



Principal Investigator:  
**Prof. Pengyu  
ZHU**



Principal Investigator:  
**Prof. Alex  
HE**

### PROJECT

EV Charging Infrastructure Planning Based on an Integrated Model of Optimization Algorithms and Spatial-Temporal Analysis

**Amount Awarded:**  
US\$500,000 in December 2022  
**Funding Agency:** CLP Research Fellowship, CLP Group

This project aims to develop a planning model for an EV charging infrastructure based on trip trajectories and Point of Interest (POI) density, using a combined method of optimization algorithms and spatial econometric models, to develop a year-by-year plan for establishing charging stations (CSs) in Hong Kong in the coming 5 years.

By first predicting the expected growth in EVs number in HK in the next 5 years and making use of the existing survey data, people's travel behaviors and trajectories of EVs and the traffic flows per road will be presented by models and the charging demand will be estimated in detailed spatial and temporal scales. The EV charge waiting time will also be estimated to determine the allocation of CSs to the assigned parking lots. This project will help adjust CSs allocation conditioned by HK's policy regulations by predicting determinants such as the maximum number of charging posts per charging station and the maximum charging power, etc.

### PROJECT

Technocrats and Mid-Level Policy Entrepreneurship in China: Explaining Local Policy Innovations in the Social Welfare Arena\*

中國大陸的技術官僚與中層政策企業家：解釋社會福利領域的地方政策創新\*

**Amount Awarded:**  
HK\$ 527,051 in December 2022  
**Funding Agency:** RGC - General Research Fund

Among the top 2% of the most cited scientists by Stanford University, Prof. He is ranked 823 out of 26,717 in the field of Political Science and Public Administration with a C Score of 2.7 (composite indicator for single-year Impact). The C-score focuses on impact (citations) rather than productivity (number of publications) and it also incorporates information on co-authorship and author positions (single, first, last author). Also, The C-scores are self-citations excluded. URL: <https://elsevier.digitalcommonsdata.com/datasets/btchxktzyw/4>

\*This project is rated 5.0 full score by RGC

The proliferation of complex socioeconomic problems in contemporary societies requires innovative policy solutions. No innovation of significant magnitude is possible without 'champions' who energetically promote its introduction and diffusion. This project investigates how mid-level technocrats—who are traditionally described as mere implementers of dictated policies—drive local social welfare innovations in China. While China's dynamic policy experimentation and local innovations have been widely documented in the literature, there is a paucity of knowledge on the role played by technocrats at the middle and lower echelon of the bureaucracy. Through a compound comparative case studies design, this project intends to elucidate the unique role played by mid-level technocrats in social welfare innovations in China, their motivations, entrepreneurial strategies, processes, and outcomes.

## Research Grants



Principal Investigator:  
**Prof. Masaru  
 YARIME**

### PROJECT

Public-Private Mix for Continuity of Care for Older Persons with a Focus on Hong Kong, Singapore, Indonesia, and Malaysia

**Amount Awarded:**  
 US\$24,900 in December 2022  
**Funding Agency:** World Health Organization

Against the backdrop of rapidly aging populations, there is increasing recognition of the need to integrate various health services for the elderly, not only to provide more coordinated care but also to contain the rapid cost inflation driven primarily by the curative sector. In many Asian societies, there is a presence of mixed financing and provisioning of health services. Multiple public, for-profit, and non-profit agencies are involved in providing preventive, promotive, curative, rehabilitative, and home-based care for older persons. This public-private mix is however inadequately understood by policymakers, practitioners, and researchers in terms of its mechanisms and challenges. This project seeks to inform major stakeholders in the region by mapping the public-private mix for continuity of care that includes health services (including long-term) and social care in urban and rural contexts in select Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, and Indonesia.

### PROJECT

Public Perspectives on Personal Data Use for Personalized COVID-19 Advice

**Amount Awarded:**  
 5,000 GBP in November 2022  
**Funding Agency:** Global Engagement Funds (GEF), University College London

This is a joint research project with Professor Carla-Leanne Washbourne and Ms. Veronica Qin Ting Li at the Department of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Public Policy (STEaPP) of UCL. Survey experiments in several large cities will be conducted, including Hong Kong and London, to understand how perspectives on sharing personal data for personalized COVID-19 advice differ across social, political, and cultural contexts.

This study will explore the broader implications of these attitudes toward personal data use for personalized advice on a wide range of public policy issues, given recent trends toward the broad use of big data analytics and personalized services. In the long term, it is expected to contribute to advising the design and regulation of personalized advice tools on a wide range of policy issues, from health to environment and sustainability.

# Professor Naubahar SHARIF Received the Inaugural Cornell-HKUST Global Strategic Collaboration Award

Professor Naubahar Sharif, Professor of Public Policy and Head of the Division of Public Policy (PPOL) has received the inaugural, 2022 Cornell-HKUST Global Strategic Collaboration Award for his project on “Competing or Complementary Hegemons? An Analysis of the West’s Responses to China’s Belt and Road Initiative”.

Professor Sharif’s research interests include science, technology and innovation (STI) policy in Hong Kong and within the ‘Greater Bay Area’ of Southern China; automation in China; and the ‘Belt and Road’ initiative. In 2011 he completed the Executive Education program in Innovation for Economic Development at Harvard University. Professor Sharif has been nominated for the Michael G. Gale Medal for Distinguished Teaching, also has won the Interdisciplinary Programs Office’s Teaching Excellence Award (in 2020), the School of Humanities and Social Science (SHSS) Best Teacher Award (twice, in 2009 and 2016), and his course was nominated for the Common Core Excellence award. He has been awarded both ‘Public Policy Research’ (PPR) and ‘General Research Fund’ (GRF) grants by Hong Kong’s Research Grants Council (RGC). He has been the co-investigator for two ‘Strategic Public Policy Research’ (SPPR) grants awarded by Hong Kong’s Policy Innovation and Co-ordination Office (PICO) as well as a cross-institutional ‘Collaborative Research Fund’ (CRF) grant also awarded by the RGC. Professor Sharif’s research has had a demonstrable impact on society and his research was one of HKUST’s few ‘impact case study’ submissions (sole-authored) for its 2020 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE).

Each grant requires at least one principal investigator from HKUST and one from Cornell, the PI from Cornell is Dr. Ding Fei, senior research associate and lecturer in the Department of Global Development at Cornell University.

### About Cornell University- HKUST Global Strategic Collaboration Award

Cornell University and HKUST have identified each other as strategic partners to foster deep collaborations in research and education, as part of Cornell’s Global Hubs initiative, which connects Cornell University with strong international peer institutions based in strategic locations worldwide.

The Cornell-HKUST Global Strategic Collaboration Awards (GSCA) have been established to bring faculty from partner institutions together to develop joint projects that will strengthen the two universities’ strategic priorities and develop cutting-edge multidisciplinary research to create academic and societal impact. Only up to five proposals each year are funded under Cornell’s Global Hubs initiative. Each successful proposal may receive up to the equivalent of USD \$5,000 from each university for a total of US\$ 10,000.



**Prof. Naubahar  
SHARIF**

## New Appointments



### Prof. Alex HE

Joined the Division of Public Policy as an Associate Professor in December 2022.



### Prof. Julien de TROULLIQUOUD de LANVERVIN

Joined the Division of Public Policy as an Assistant Professor in October 2022.

## On-going Research Projects

Leading Faculty	Funding Agency	Project
Prof. Naubahar SHARIF 白立邦 教授	Mental Health Initiatives Funding Scheme (Phase 1)	Preparing and Deploying Ethnic Minority Lay Leaders to Promote Mental Well-Being Among Hong Kong's Major Ethnic Minority Communities (2022- Now)
	Center for Aging Science, The HKUST	Towards a More Inclusive Hong Kong: COVID-19, Mental Well-Being, and Mitigation Strategies For a Multicultural Elderly Community (2022- Now)
	Institute for Emerging Market Studies, Center for Economic Policy, HKUST	Influence of an Interplay Between Culture and Chinese Outward FDI into Southeast Asia (2022- Now)
Prof. Kira MATUS 穆綺蘭 教授	RGC - General Research Fund	Towards 1.5C Lifestyles: What Motivates Sustainable Consumption Choices in Hong Kong? 邁向 1.5C 生活模式：是什麼推動香港的可持續消費選擇？ (2022-Now)
Prof. Ye QI 齊曄 教授	RGC - Strategic Public Policy Research Funding Scheme Institute for Emerging Market Studies	Developing a Green Finance Centre in Hong Kong in the Context of Green Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area: Institutional Analysis and Policy Design 粵港澳大灣區背景下香港綠色金融中心建設的制度分析與政策設計 (2020- Now)
Prof. Masaru YARIME 鎗目雅 副教授	Institute for Emerging Market Studies	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)
Prof. Pengyu ZHU 朱鵬宇 副教授	RGC - Public Policy Research Funding Scheme	The Persistence of Behavioral Changes in Post-Pandemic Hong Kong: Implications for Transportation, Housing and Economic Development Policies 後疫情時代香港社會行為轉變的持續性研究：對於交通政策、住房政策以及經濟發展政策的指導意義 (2022-Now)
	Innovation and Technology Fund, Other Income (Non-Profit)	Strategic Planning for Transforming Hong Kong into a Leading Global Aviation and Innovation Hub 香港轉型成為世界航空與創新中心之策略規劃 (2021- Now)
Prof. Xiaofan ZHAO 趙小凡 助理教授	National Natural Science Foundation of China	Explaining Business Compliance: Evidence from Energy-Saving Regulation in China 中國企業服從節能減排規制的動因及其作用機制 (2022-Now)