



**Faculty of
Social Science**

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Globalizing Local Identity: Hong Kong Immigrant Families in Australia

- ✉ TAM Siu Mi Maria
- ☐ 30 November 1998
- ❖ CUHK Student Campus Work Scheme • New Asia Student Campus Work Scheme, CUHK

This project examines the re-construction of identity among post-1989 Hong Kong immigrant families in Sydney, Australia. They manifest an urgency to maintain and/or re-construct an identity of their own, both as newcomers in the host country and within the ethnic Chinese community. This is epitomized by an insistence on the self-ascription of *heunggongyan*, through everyday practice as the Hong Kong lifestyle is reproduced, which contributes to the creation of a greater Cantonese culture with Hong Kong as its center. The study looks at Hong Kong immigrant families as well as the so-called "astronaut family", church groups, community associations, and professional networks that have taken over traditional roles of chambers of commerce and *tongheungwui*. These tangible networks and ideo-socio-affectual linkages, together with frequent travel between the separated households, are part and parcel of a process of (re)creating a Hong Kong identity spurred on by the socio-political realities of the reversion of sovereignty to China in July 1997. Intensive ethnographic fieldwork, comprised mainly of participant observation and in-depth interviews, provided much needed information on this identity crisis, its contributing factors and cultural solutions as practiced by social agents. It shed light on broader issues of increasing global migration, of identity negotiations and manipulations, and of ethnicity in multi-cultural settings. A questionnaire survey and content analysis of popular culture were also carried out. The project forms part of the data base for a larger on-going research on what constitutes Hong Kong culture as *heunggongyan* search for a "Hongkongness" while negotiating with their Chineseness and metropolitaneity. (SS98080)

Coming 'Home'?: Cultural Identity of Former Emigrants Returning to Post-colonial Hong Kong

- ✉ TAM Siu Mi Maria
- ☐ 1 November 1999
- ❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

This research examines the construction and re-construction of identity among former emigrants in post-colonial Hong Kong. Using ethnographic

methods, the study targets specifically at immigrants returning from Australia after 1997, and compares issues of identity construction, first as immigrants living in the host country and then as returned residents in the place of origin. The objectives of this research are to:

- (1) explore the range of circumstances that precipitate the return of emigrants, including economic and career prospects, political concerns, family relationships, expectations for offspring's, and affiliation with Hong Kong and Chinese culture;
- (2) arrive at an understanding of former emigrants' situations after returning to Hong Kong, including economic and socio-political conditions, family relationships and education of offspring's, and connections with former host country; and
- (3) understand the worldviews and subjective perceptions of former emigrants of their identities as *heung gong yahn* (Hong Kong people), Chinese, and foreign citizen. Understanding the movements of people from a grassroots perspective allows an in-depth knowledge of the complexities involved in individual choice, family concerns and how they relate to socio-political and cultural processes that cut across geographical localities.

This empirical study will contribute to the increasingly important field of mobility and migration studies, as global movements of people have become the norm. The data will also inform public administration and management studies, as well as cultural and social research.

(SS99006)

Returned Emigrants: Issues of Adjustment and Identity Among Former Immigrants in Hong Kong

- ✉ TAM Siu Mi Maria
- ☐ 1 December 1999
- ❖ New Asia Student Campus Work Scheme, CUHK

This study looks at former immigrants who returned to Hong Kong after having settled in their host country. It seeks to identify the varied circumstances that precipitate emigrants' return to Hong Kong, the problems they face as they re-settle into Hong Kong society, whether their *heung gong yahn* (Hong Kong person) identity has changed before and after immigration, and the cultural issues that surround the re-creation of such identities. The study highlights the state of a returned emigrant as oxymoron, or the dilemma of a native returning home yet at the same time being a foreign citizen. The experience in two worlds and two worldviews may be complementary, but more often they contest with each other in the

construction of a sense of self, of the state of belonging, and hence of cultural identity. (SS99027)

1994-95 Youth in Hong Kong: Popular Culture, Political Culture (SS94091)
 ㄟ TAM Siu Mi Maria

Please refer to previous issues of this publication for more details of the following ongoing research at the department:

1997-98 Tradition, Change and Identity: A Study of the Minnan People in China and Southeast Asia (CU97216)

ㄟ TAN Chee Beng • WU Yen Ho David# • TAM Siu Mi Maria • CHEUNG Chin Hung Sidney • KUAH Khun Eng*

Edition Title/Investigators

1996-97 Indigenization of Anthropology in East and Southeast Asia (SS96049)

ㄟ Joseph BOSCO • CHEUNG Chin Hung Sidney • TAM Siu Mi Maria • WU Yen Ho David# • TAN Chee Beng • KIM Kwang Ok* • MATHEWS Gordon Clark

1998-99 Doufu: A Study of Beancurd Consumption and Globalization (SS98005)

ㄟ TAN Chee Beng • MINTZ Sidney Wilfred#

1997-98 Hong Kong Cultural Identity in the Wake of the Handover (SS97037)

ㄟ MATHEWS Gordon Clark

RESEARCH OUTPUTS AND PUBLICATIONS

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<P000012> **Tan, Chee-Beng.** "The Religions of The Chinese in Malaysia". *The Chinese in Malaysia* ed. by Lee Kam Hing and Tan Chee-Beng. pp.282-315. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia: Oxford University Press, 2000.

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- <P001410> **Mathews, Gordon.** *Global Culture/Individual Identity: Searching for Home in the Cultural Supermarket*. 228 pgs.. London, UK and New York, USA: Routledge, 2000.03.
- <P001524> **Tam, Siumi Maria.** "Modernization from a Grassroot's Perspective: Women Workers in Shekou Industrial Zone". *China's Regions Politic and Economy: A Study of Spatial Transformation in the Post-Reform Era* ed. by Si-Ming Li and Wing-Shing Tang. pp.371-390. Hong Kong: Chinese University Press, 2000.
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see also <P985095>

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Siting of Schools: Implications for Education Reform

- ✉ CHAN Freeman Kaye • WONG Wai Ho (Dept of Government & Public Administration)
- ☐ 1 March 2000
- ❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

This research is part of the response to the Education Commission's consultation paper on Review of the Education System: Framework for Education Reform (Sep99), by faculty members of the Social Science and Education Research Panel of The Chinese University of Hong Kong.

The project objective is to examine the locational siting of schools in Hong Kong. What is the importance, if any, of the location of schools to education reform? If ignored what are the ramifications? What are the alternatives?

The HKSAR Government's Education Commission consultation paper reform agenda speaks of greater connectedness of schools with the people they serve, but physical proximity is not mentioned as an area of concern and, implicitly, of the need for reform. Is this an oversight? What are the possible ramifications? Government is presently committed to a program of school improvement and new building which will result in schools becoming increasingly estranged from the neighbourhood. This is in apparent contradiction to the reform agenda to delimit learning from classrooms, to collaborate with parents, to provide for continuing education, etc. If continued unabated, these practices of greater centralization could prove to be counterproductive to the overall reform agenda. Education reform needs to take into account the geographic location of schools and where people live. (SS99042)

The Feasibility of "Through-road" Basic Education

- ✉ CHAN Freeman Kaye • WONG Wai Ho (Dept of Government & Public Administration) • LEUNG Wing Chi Louis (School of Journalism and Communication) • LEE Paul Siu Nam (School of Journalism and Communication)
- ☐ 1 April 2000
- ❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

There has been a call for the "through-Road" concept of vertical integration of schooling. Proponents welcome this new idea mainly because it reduces "uncertainty" in school assignment as well as quality assurance in continuity. Critics point out this would

only benefit a small portion of the population, since most (public or subsidized) schools don't have affiliated institutes from above or below. Mergers may be impossible due to difference in religious practices, for example.

The agony most family must go through to secure admission for the child also distracts the parents from work. On the day of exam scores release, many parents will go to different schools to sign up for any openings. The through-road arrangement will reduce this discomfort substantially. Attracting special attentions are primary schools or kindergartens operated under a university's brand name. Students successfully complete their education in these schools are said to have a "better chance" of being admitted into university because of quality continuity in all grades of education. Is this the trend of education for the future? How can stand-alone schools compete if indeed vertically integrated schools do have higher acceptance rates into university? To what extent will this affect family's decision in inter-district migration? Will geographical zoning be redrawn? How can parents participate under this scheme?

It is through this research project that the researchers aim at answering these questions. The result will be part of the Social Science and Education Research Panel's response to the Education Commission's recommendations on reform. (SS99048)

A Matrix of Hong Kong's Urban Planning Histories

- ✉ CODY Jeffrey William • Corinne NACINOVIC
- ☐ 20 February 2000
- ❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

The study will analyze Hong Kong's urban development by creating a matrix in CD-ROM format. The matrix will be generated by first cutting a transect (or section) through Hong Kong from south to north, and then by targeting six points (or geographic areas) along that transect. For each point, a synchronic and diachronic analysis will be done of the area's architectural, planning, social and economic evolution. In so doing, the distinctive nature of Hong Kong's urbanism will be examined and a source of information for better understanding future urban projects will be generated. (SS99043)

Historic Buildings and Historic Landscape Scale Models

- ✉ HO Puay Peng
- ☐ 5 August 1999
- ❖ Home Affairs Bureau

To construct four scale models of historic buildings and historic landscape for the Antiquities and Monuments.
(SS99022)

Experiencing the Built Environment of Hong Kong – Past, Present and Future

- ✍ HO Puay Peng
- ☐ 1 December 1999
- ❖ Provisional Regional Council of Hong Kong

The project is to research into the development of Hong Kong city and its architecture. The research will centre on the life of the people in various context : Loving, religions, recreational and urban. The result of the project will be used to design an exhibition.
(SS99026)

Urban Structure of Old Lhasa

- ✍ HO Puay Peng
- ☐ 1 April 2000
- ❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

The old city of Lhasa was the ancient capital of the kingdom of Tibet since the 7th century AD. And since the 14th century, it is the seat of Dalai Lama where he ruled the kingdom in all aspects of its life. Throughout its history, Lhasa has always been the centre of Tibetan religion, housing its most sacred temples and to which all Tibetan would make pilgrimages. The heart of this city is centered around the Jokhang temple, said to have been founded by Srong-btsan sgam-po in early 7th century. Houses were built close to the temple in concentric pattern. The city still retains much of the medieval street patterns with some houses left from two-three centuries ago. This project aims to study the structure of this old city, the form and construction of its houses, and the socio-economic context of its development to the present time.
(SS99044)

Sustainable Urban Housing Design Strategy Development

- ✍ LIM Wan Fung Bernard • TSOU Jin Yeu • KAN Wai Tak Jeff • LEUNG Man Kit*
- ☐ 1 November 1999
- ❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

The primary objective of this project is two-fold: to develop effective environmental strategy guidelines and also establish parameters for energy efficient and sustainable architecture in the Sub-tropical climate

zones of Southern China, a region that includes Hong Kong SAR.

Architects in China and Hong Kong attempting to pursue sustainable designs face two formidable difficulties. First, there is a lack of data on energy consumption/performance and a prevailing lack of awareness by architects regarding energy efficient designs that achieve sustainability. Second, little work has been done in the areas of significant quantitative analysis relating to issues of sustainable architecture as well as general information on design parameters in China and Hong Kong. In planning and design manuals this absence is most obvious: one finds only brief, prescriptive, general, and often inaccurate climatic strategies. Such deficiencies are now reflected in the design of many recent developments. From Haikou to Hong Kong to Shanghai, environmentally friendly vernacular homes have been replaced with high energy-consuming glass enclosed high-rise buildings and tree-filled courtyards have been replaced by concrete plazas.

By establishing a set of passive environmental strategy and integrated designs, buildings can be designed to be low energy and the environment can be made sustainable. This research will develop integrated climate-responsive design parameters for urban residential developments in the climate zones of Southern China. In the final analysis, this project will aim to successfully combine quantitative studies on precedents drawn from both historical and current contexts with sound environmental science studies based on climatic design principles.
(SS99007)

Developing “Innovative School Design Parameters in Hong Kong for 21st Century”

- ✍ LIM Wan Fung Bernard
- ☐ 1 March 2000
- ❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

The key objective of the proposed project is to develop an interactive document to provide future school design parameters to guide school sponsoring bodies and design consultants in undertaking future public sector school building design, in line with the latest development in education reform, community aspirations and international standards.

With the recent comprehensive review of the overall education system in Hong Kong embarked by the Education Commission, a "School Building Design Committee" has been set up under the Education Department involving representatives of the school councils, educational professionals, academics and practicing architects from the Hong Kong Institute of Architects to explore and advise on the design of future effective and flexible schools for Hong Kong. The proposed project provides further impulses further to the works of the above Committee.

The development of the design parameters contained within the document will adopt an open, interactive, participatory and community process, through design workshops and consultation involving:

- (1) Educational/ curriculum experts;
- (2) Parents;
- (3) Students;
- (4) Building consultants and contractors;
- (5) Social Workers/ psychologists;
- (6) Education administrators/ School principals;
- (7) Teachers;
- (8) Architects from private and public sectors;
- (9) Urban Planners;
- (10) Financial experts;
- (11) Relevant statutory bodies and departments.

The proposed methodology of the project involves (1) research and consultation; (2) surveys; (3) design workshops and seminars; (4) integration and design testings; (5) publicity and exhibition; and is intended to be carried out in collaboration with the Education Department and the Hong Kong Institute of Architects. An essential element of the proposed project is to receive evaluation and feedback from participants for incorporation into the constituents of the "school design parameters". (ED99056)

Quality Education: Intangible Assets with Happy Returns

- ✉ LIM Wan Fung Bernard • LEUNG Ka Yui Charles (Dept of Economics) • ZHANG Junsen (Dept of Economics) • WONG Wai Ho (Dept of Government & Public Administration)
- ☐ 1 April 2000
- ❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

The researchers will investigate the payoff of the quality of education for society in the long term. Today, students have poor problem solving skills, shortsightedness for quick results in their work attitudes, etc. Is curriculum design to be blamed? What about ineffective teaching methods? Reputable schools have a strong history of success, but the rest are unhappy with "experimental" changes imposed by the Education Department.

It is stated in the Education Commission's review that, "... Development of skills/abilities is more important than acquisition of knowledge. The focus of school education should shift from quantity to quality Spoon-feeding must be avoided while the quality and effectiveness of teaching and learning should be enhanced." Is the use of IT the panacea? In the face of restructuring of the local economy toward hi-tech and e-commerce, raising the competitiveness of the workforce entrants cannot do wrong. But is raising their marketability a good reflection of better quality of education? Is too much attention given to "learning to do", and not enough to "learning to live together,

to be, and to learn"? We should not overlook the other intrinsic values.

There are other factors as well. Assessment methods should be updated to reduce the reliance on exam performance. The management of school and the teachers are crucial factors. The actual learning atmosphere is also affected by the design of the school itself. Inputs from our Architecture faculty member will demonstrate how the school environment can affect the learning process. The researchers shall conduct their investigation along these lines. (SS99049)

"Exploring Architecture and Designing the Built Environment Programme" for Primary and Secondary School Students

- ✉ LIM Wan Fung Bernard • Ng Wing Shun Vincent* • Tang Man Bun Stephen*
- ☐ 15 June 2000
- ❖ Quality Education Fund, HKSAR Government

Objectives: The project aims to inspire primary and secondary school students to take a closer look at the people, processes, and materials that create buildings and places in Hong Kong. Participating students will learn to recognize and solve design problems, test engineering principles, weigh environmental issues, and "read" buildings. The built environment becomes the "classrooms" for developing and strengthening skills in critical and creative thinking, problem solving, analysis, evaluation, teamwork, and above all - DESIGNING THEIR ENVIRONMENT.

Targets and expected number of beneficiaries: Over 500 students/ teachers/ parents from the aforesaid sectors, but the outcome of the project will virtually benefit and have impact on much wider spectrum through public exhibition, publicity and publication, and future adoption by schools in conducting such workshops.

Process: The process of the workshop participation is expected to involve the attendance/participation of students, parents and teachers from primary, secondary and special schools with volunteers Architects from private and public sectors, volunteers Professor Architects from universities, volunteers Students of Architecture, volunteers Building consultants - engineers/landscape architects and volunteers Building owners. The proposed project programmes will be a series of creative summerdiscovery and interactive workshops and visits, which complement curriculum in social studies, geography, history, science, art, mathematics and industrial arts.

Implementation Method: Our goal is to be implemented by working with secondary/primary school teachers and parents to help their students appreciate their built environment and architecture,

and understand that they can have a positive impact on their environment through the decisions and design creativity they make.

Products/Deliverables: Subsequently, products including the design ideas, creative solutions, drawings, models, etc. from such workshops would be presented and documented for a public exhibition so as to promote other students' and general public appreciation of the built environment, and published/integrated into a document as "future exploring workshop guidelines" to assist schools and teachers to carry out future similar activities with limited support from the Hong Kong Institute of Architects. (SS99055)

Expanding the Role of Infrastructure: A Study of Pedestrian Bridges in Hong Kong

- ✍ LONNMAN Bruce Eric • Laurent GUTIERREZ
- ☐ 1 March 2000
- ❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

This is a study of existing footbridge design in Hong Kong. This research evaluates pedestrian bridge design as a multi-disciplinary design collaboration involving architecture, engineering, and urban design. A selection of bridges which demonstrate the potential of infrastructure design to extend the boundaries of utility and function are presented as case studies. Each case study provides the basic design and construction data along with specially created drawings which graphically describe the various components of each bridge. An analysis of footbridge design in Hong Kong identifies the potential of bridges to relate to context, provide multi-use opportunities, and create place. A set of guidelines for the design of pedestrian bridges alerts the designer to expanded scope of bridge design in the urban context. (SS99045)

A Pilot Study into the Feasibility of Applying an Integrated and Total Building Performance Method to the Evaluation of School Buildings in Hong Kong

- ✍ NG Yan Yung • LIM Wan Fung Bernard • HO Hin Ming# • CHAN Freeman Kaye • LAM Khee Poh* • LAWSON Bryan*
- ☐ 1 November 1999
- ❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

This multi-disciplinary research project brings together architects, educators, psychologists and environmentalists to investigate the contribution that the architectural environment of school buildings can make to students' well being and education outcomes.

It thus poses a fundamental question that is easy to ask but extremely difficult to answer. Can the school buildings themselves actually help to make learning better, or on the other hand can they hinder their education?

The research attempts to address the question from an Integrated and Total Building Performance approach. It will attempt to develop a method to seek causal relationships of the psychological responses of the users, quantitative environmental measurements, and their implications to spatial design. The method will be put to the test with a pilot study of up to 5 selected schools. Data collection methods used include user surveys, questionnaires, focus groups, expert panels as well as quantitative environmental measurements. (SS99008)

Review of Lighting and Ventilation Requirements of Buildings

- ✍ NG Yan Yung • TSOU Jin Yeu
- ☐ 20 June 2000
- ❖ Anthony Ng Architects Ltd.

The project investigates daylighting performances of high-rise residential buildings in Hong Kong. The built environment in HK is unique in that it consists of very densely packed high-rise buildings. As buildings get higher and closer to each other, they begin to obstruct each other and reduce the availability of sun and daylight to the interiors through the window openings. Although daylight performances of building interiors could be calculated, there has been little available on-site data to validate the results. To address this problem, this project attempts to measure illuminance values of up to 24 residential units in Hong Kong. Daylight measurement is difficult due to rapidly changing sky conditions and global illuminance. The method developed here uses time-synchronized multi-head illuminance meters to measure the ratio between external global horizontal illuminance and internal horizontal task illuminance - the ratio is known as Daylight Factor. Guidelines for Average and Minimum Daylight Factors have been developed. The measured data will be compared with the Guidelines. The data could also be used to validate and, if necessary, to calibrate existing daylight algorithms. The significance of this project is to obtain data to assist in designing better buildings for daylight in Hong Kong. (SS99054)

Design Improvement of Airduct in Residential Building

- ✍ TSOU Jin Yeu • HO Hin Ming#
- ☐ 1 July 1999
- ❖ Research Grants Council (Earmarked Grants)

The objective of this research is to first establish a Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) model for predicting potential problems and then improve the efficiency in airduct design. First the performance of airducts, which include pressure distribution, velocity profile and temperature field in the airducts, will be numerically simulated. By studying the variation of aerodynamic characteristics, the key factors which influence the performance of airducts will be identified. Then a series of geometric parameters of airducts will be explored by considering the variation of the key factors. Finally, using simulation approach, the new airduct designs will be proposed to improve the efficiency of airducts and to ensure disappearance of exhaust gas penetration. Collaborating with researchers from the China Building Technology Development Center (CBTDC), the new airduct design guideline will be suggested to the Ministry of Construction of China for integrating into the current architecture professional practice. The measurements will be carried out to verify the CFD model and the new airduct designs. The second goal of this research is to establish the architecture design guideline to improve the airduct design and installation as well as to develop an architecture design guideline to facilitate the airduct design and help architects implement the airduct in overall building design. Through the implementation of this study, it is expected to improve the overall design and indoor living quality of residential buildings in both the Mainland and Hong Kong. (CU99097)

Testing Bamboo Reciprocal Frames

- ✍ Vito Daniel BERTIN • LONNMAN Bruce Eric
- ☐ 1 March 2000
- ❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

Structures in which the load-bearing members are supported by and support other members at the same time on the same hierarchy level are called reciprocal frames, or mutually supporting structures. Reciprocal frames form a unique type of structure with specific properties and possibilities. Up to now only few people have studied this type of structure, and there are only few built examples. A known historical example is a type of Chinese bridge called rainbow bridge. No such bridge has survived but one has recently been reconstructed near Shanghai. The purpose of this project is to build and test two or three different full-scale reciprocal frame structures made from bamboo poles. Key issues and problems to be addressed are questions of structural morphology, assembly and erection process, and structural behavior. The outcome would mainly be the structures themselves and their documentation, but hopefully also insights and new questions which could lead to further study.

The projects relevance, significance and value can be seen in the development of a new type of bamboo structure which could link an almost forgotten historical structural type (rainbow bridge) with a living structural tradition of Hong Kong (bamboo scaffolding). (EE99039)

Beneath the Champion Trees

- ✍ WOO Pui Leng
- ☐ 1 March 2000
- ❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

The purpose of the study is to examine the role of champion trees (specimen trees) in our urban environment. The study aims to place these trees in context, and to examine their influences on the quality of life around. The objectives of the study are:
(1) to examine the physical-spatial relationship between the trees and the physical environment; and
(2) to examine the social-cultural meaning of these trees. (SS99046)

Please refer to previous issues of this publication for more details of the following ongoing research at the department:

<u>Edition</u>	<u>Title/Investigators</u>
1998-99	Vertical School: A New Urban Building Type (SS98078) ✍ CHAN Freeman Kaye
1998-99	Ritual, Opera and Bamboo Structures (SS98076) ✍ CHANG Ping Hung • LEE Tunney Fee
1998-99	A Chain of Memory: Urban Study Along Queen's Road East (SS98025) ✍ CHANG Ping Hung
1997-98	Advanced Studies on the Technology of Glass as a Structural Material in Architecture (LA97004) ✍ Gladys MARTINEZ-PRADO
1997-98	Industrial Processes in Architecture (EE97024) ✍ Gladys MARTINEZ-PRADO
1998-99	Teaching Industrial Processes in Architecture (SS98026) ✍ Gladys MARTINEZ-PRADO

1997-98	The Meaning of Vernacular Environment: Culture and Architecture in Four Chinese Villages (CU97221) ✍ HO Puay Peng • CHEUNG Chin Hung Sidney (Dept of Anthropology) • ZHU Guangya*	✍ LIM Wan Fung Bernard
1997-98	A Hands-on Approach in Teaching Design and Building Technology in Architecture (ED97002) ✍ LEE Tunney Fee • GU Daqing • Vito Daniel BERTIN • LAO TAM Antonio# • HOSEN Mohamed Iqbal#	1998-99 Development of Models for Teaching Structural Principles in Architecture (ED98031) ✍ LONNMAN Bruce Eric
1996-97	The Rule-based Wood Frame Construction System of the Yingzao fashi (CU96215) ✍ LI Andrew I-kang • TSOU Jin Yeu	1998-99 China Housing Standard Research (SS98010) ✍ LUI Chun Wan Alex • TSOU Jin Yeu
1998-99	Developing Passive Environmental Strategy Guidelines and Design Parameters for Energy Efficient Architecture and Sustainability in Hong Kong – Particular Research and Application to Hong Kong Public Housing and Public Sector Buildings (SS98008) ✍ LIM Wan Fung Bernard • LEUNG Man Kit*	1996-97 Cargo Handling Buildings/Systems in Hong Kong (LA96009) ✍ Stephen Michael HAUGHTON
1998-99	Contract Administration Seminar Series – Professional Practice Education for Architects and Students/Graduate of Architecture (SS98074)	1998-99 Computer Simulation for Architectural Design (SS98059C) ✍ TSOU Jin Yeu • LIM Wan Fung Bernard • LONNMAN Bruce Eric • KAN Wai Tak Jeff • LIAO Zaiy# • CHOW Ka Ming
		1997-98 Integrated Media Design Studio (EE97023) ✍ Vito Daniel BERTIN • GU Daqing • LAO TAM Antonio# • TSOU Jin Yeu • LEE Tunney Fee
		1998-99 The Vernacular Contained, a Study of Hong Kongs Container Architecture (SS98024) ✍ Vito Daniel BERTIN • GU Daqing • WOO Pui Leng

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RESEARCH PROJECTS

The Role of External Sector in the Chinese Economy: Simulations from a Macroeconometric Model of China

✉ CHOU Win Lin

☐ 1 November 1999

❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

China has experienced rapid growth since the introduction of the economic reform policy in 1978, with real Gross Domestic Product increasing at 9.7 percent per annum between 1978 and 1998. Foreign trade has been surging ahead at a remarkable rate, making China one of the largest trading economies. What are the channels by which the reforms have led to this high growth? What are the driving forces that have led China to become one of the largest trading economies? This project aims to explain the key factors that have contributed to the rapid growth of China's foreign trade by developing a macroeconometric model with emphasis on the foreign trade sector of China.

To stress the role of Hong Kong in the development of export-oriented sectors of the Chinese economy, a Hong Kong model will be linked to the model proposed here so as to take into account the feedback effects that Hong Kong can receive from its major trading partner. The foreign trade sector will be the key part of the Hong Kong model. The bilaterally linked model will provide a concrete means for policy simulation analysis. For example, to study the impact of the exchange-rate movements on the growth of China's foreign trade. (SS99009)

A Multivariate Cointegration Analysis of Wagner's Hypothesis

✉ KWAN Cheuk Chiu

☐ 1 March 2000

❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

Over the past few years empirical investigations of the validity of Wagner's hypothesis have taken a new direction. While earlier studies confine their attention to the impact of and causal directions between a country's level of economic development and public spending, recent empirical work has stressed the importance of focusing on the long run relationship between these two macro variables. Investigators such as Rams (1992) and Henrekson (1993) have argued that the national income-government spending link is a long term behavioral relationship that should be tested on the basis of their comovement over time.

Many empirical studies have used the bivariate cointegration technique to examine the long run equilibrium relationship between economic development and public spending. Unfortunately, this type of investigation suffers from a potential problem, namely the omission of potentially relevant variables which may alter the underlying relationship between these two macro variables. As a result, we cannot attach too much credence to the existing findings.

The main goal of this research is to formulate and test empirically a model to gauge the long run relationship between national income and public spending. More specifically, there are three objectives:

- (1) to examine the issue of omitted variables in testing the secular validity of Wagner's hypothesis;
- (2) to carry out an empirical investigation for the G-7 countries; and
- (3) to provide practical training to graduate students engaged in applied econometric research.

Any attempt to promote a better understanding of the relationship between a country's level of economic development and public spending is to be welcome. A report by the World Bank (1988) stresses the importance of public finance in both developed and developing economies. The outcome of the research will have valuable contribution to the literature relevant for both social policy and analysis of the public sector. (SS99028)

Increasing Wealth and Increasing Instability

✉ LEUNG Ka Yui Charles

☐ 1 November 1999

❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

It is now widely accepted that well-functioning financial markets are growth enhancing (for instance, see McKinnon, 1973). However, recent events in East Asia (and earlier ones in Latin America) indicate very clearly that international capital flows could also have devastating effects on the borrowing economies. Recent research also shows that when households engage in maximum leverage borrowing, tiny productivity shocks can result in huge fluctuations in output through the induced fluctuations in the values of collateral.

How can we reconcile these two strands of literature? Here is our conjecture. Due to the existence of various forms of cost, countries in the early stage of development are excluded from the international capital market. They cannot borrow from other countries even if the world interest rate is below the domestic user cost of capital. Thus, they are insulated from shocks in the world capital market but grow slowly. Entry to the world capital market takes

place when the country has accumulated sufficient wealth. International leverage borrowing enables the country to achieve faster growth thereafter while in the meantime, it becomes vulnerable to shocks in the world capital market.

This project attempts to build an analytical model to incorporate these ideas and collect data from Asian countries to test the theory. On top of intellectual interests, this project attempts to draw some lessons from these investigations and provide policy recommendations for the government.
(SS99010)

Monetary Policy, Financial Market and Real Economic Activities

✉ LEUNG Ka Yui Charles

☐ 1 March 2000

❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

One of the oldest debates in economics is whether monetary policy can affect the real economic activity. According to the "quantity theory of money," changes in the amount of money stock will have proportional effects on all prices equally and hence no impact on production or employment. Such monetary-real dichotomy has influenced the economic profession and the policy makers for decades. Recently, a few empirical studies (for instance, Barnes, Boyd and Smith, 1999) casts doubt on this position. They find that at least for developing countries, higher inflation rates are associated with lower real equity returns, and since equity returns will affect the investment decisions, there may be some room for monetary policy to influence the real economic activities. This project adopts a new time series technique to re-examine the interactions among the monetary policy, the financial markets, and the real economic activities across different countries. The new technique enables us to decompose any economic time series into short run, medium run and long run components, and hence shed new lights on the interaction among different markets and government policies.

This project will enhance our understanding on the relationship between financial market and real economic activities, and in particular how to balance the cost and benefit of different monetary policies for Hong Kong.
(BS99020)

Education and Economic Growth

✉ LEUNG Ka Yui Charles • ZHANG Junsen

☐ 1 March 2000

❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

It is well-known that educational attainment is important to any society. However, it is less well known how education affects economic growth. In light of the current education review by the Hong Kong government, we plan to conduct a full review of the extensive economic literature on the relation between education (or schooling) and economic growth. We will then evaluate the situation of government expenditure on education in comparison with the expenditure in other developed countries in recent years. How education affects growth and whether our spending on education is adequate are important to the efficient allocation of resources and long-run economic growth in Hong Kong.
(SS99029)

The Positive Political Economy of Intergovernmental Relations and Regional Disparities in China

✉ TSUI Kai Yuen • WANG Youqiang • HU Angang*

☐ 1 September 1999

❖ Research Grants Council (Earmarked Grants)

Since 1978, major tax reforms have been implemented in China and significant changes in the fiscal relations between different levels of government have been introduced. The changes had significant impact on regional economic growth and regional disparities. Our research attempts to develop formal politico-economic models explaining how the strategic interactions between the central and provincial governments within China's political institutions shape economic policy-making, which, in turn, affect the spatial allocation of fiscal resources and regional disparities. We will first provide an overview of China's fiscal system in the reform period of 1978-1997. In particular, a set of stylized facts on the evolution of China's fiscal institutions will be summarized. These stylized facts in turn will serve the purpose of motivating our formal politico-economic models. In addition, empirical tests will be used to find out the extent to which these models provide an accurate description of China's intergovernmental fiscal arrangement and its effect on regional disparities. These tests will then be supplemented by our interviews and surveys, which will furnish both quantitative and qualitative information relevant to the theoretical predictions of our models. Our findings hopefully will cast new light on the design of a new intergovernmental fiscal system by explicitly taking into account the strategic behavior of the different levels of governments. We also hope to clarify the relationship between the Chinese political institutions and regional disparities, thereby shedding light on the effectiveness of different public policies (e.g., centralization of fiscal resources) on regional disparities.
(CU99119)

Economic Growth, Income Inequality, and Development of Financial Markets

- ✉ WANG Yong • LI Hongyi (Dept of Decision Sciences and Managerial Economics)
- 1 September 1999
- ❖ Research Grants Council (Earmarked Grants)

This project intends to investigate, both theoretically and empirically, the relationships and feedback effects among economic growth, income inequality, and development of various financial markets. While these issues have long attracted economists' attention, existing studies have largely been limited to examining separate binary relationships between either growth and income distribution or growth and financial development. This project will fill in the gap by providing a careful and elaborate study on simultaneous determination of those variables along a development path. Such a joint approach would give us new insights on mechanisms through which economic development affects, and is affected by, income inequality and/or financial development. Policy analysis will also be conducted to evaluate their effects on growth and income inequality. Empirically, a new and expanded data set on income distribution and a refined data set on financial market structure will be used to perform various tests on a number of hypotheses. In particular, tests will be designed to reconcile the inconclusive empirical findings on the relationship between income inequality and economic development. In addition, the role of financial markets in growth will be reexamined by using detailed data on different segments of financial markets, such as stock market and banks, crossing different stages of development. (CU99117)

Endogenous Health Care, Life Expectancy, and Economic Growth

- ✉ WANG Yong • LEUNG Chi Ming Michael
- 1 March 2000
- ❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

International studies on health care spending have been one of the most favorite topics among health care policy makers and academics alike. However, the relationship between health care spending and Gross Domestic Product is largely an under-investigated area among health economists and macroeconomists. There are robust evidences suggesting that health care is a luxury good and exogenous rise in life expectancy will have positive effects on growth. The underlying theoretical foundations for these results are based on more or less novelties rather than rigorous theoretical analysis. Therefore, this project is to investigate rigorously the

relationship between health care expenditure and output, answering the question of how health care expenditure affects the accumulation of physical and human capital, and conversely, how the latter affects the spending of health care in an economy. In the analysis, the researchers adopt a narrow view that health care spending is directed toward extending life for individuals in an economy that will be completely exhausted without yielding any consumption or capital accumulation benefits. Under such setting, they hope to insolate various relations between the economy output, consumers' health care spending and saving behavior. Their task is to investigate from a macroeconomic theoretical point of view whether, and the mechanisms through which, that health care is a luxury good and life extension activities are necessarily growth promoting. They wish to study the effect of health care expenditure on economic growth in simulated parametric models, hoping to show that the availability of health care technology will stimulate health care spending, encourage more savings and more physical and human capital formation, and economic growth as a whole. Furthermore, the researchers wish to study how innovative change in health care technology may affect growth in equilibrium. (SS99030)

The Interdependence of Housing Prices and Housing Price Index in Hong Kong -- A Spatial Hedonic Price Approach

- ✉ WONG Ka Fu • MOK Man Kwong Henry (Dept of Decision Sciences and Managerial Economics) • WANG Youqiang
- 1 September 1999
- ❖ Research Grants Council (Earmarked Grants)

This study is the first to investigate the determinants of residential housing prices in Hong Kong using a spatial hedonic price model. The researchers emphasize that the price of a housing unit may depend on the price of other housing units, in addition to its specific structural and neighborhood attributes. Despite the empirical success of some overseas' studies on housing interdependence, no theoretical model has yet been developed. They attempt to construct a game-theoretic model to explain this housing price interdependence phenomenon. The intuition is that in order to realize a transaction and maximize profits, the seller of a housing unit will need to reference his/her competitors' asking prices in setting his/her own price. Hence, housing prices are likely to be interdependent. The presence of interdependence of housing prices, when proven, suggests that policymakers should consider the spillover effect of changes in individual housing sub-markets when formulating housing policies. Thus, they will study empirically the spatial

hedonic price model and test the presence of housing price interdependence.

Although the property market contributes the lion's share to the Hong Kong economy, there is no generally accepted index, analogous to the Consumer Price Index (CPI), tracking the housing price movement. In addition to a spatial hedonic price model of the housing market in Hong Kong, they will construct a Hong Kong Housing Price Index (HPI) to track the economy-wide housing price movement with the individual attributes taken into account. (CU99120)

Does the Fisher Hypothesis Hold in Long Horizons? Evidence from Multiple Countries

✉ WONG Ka Fu

☐ 1 March 2000

❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

In this project, the researcher will test the Fisher hypothesis in both the short and long horizons, using data from a host of countries. Subject to data availability, the researcher plans to use data from the Group of Seven countries and some Asian countries. Fisher hypothesis is an important hypothesis in Economics and Finance. It postulates that nominal rate of stock returns should equal the sum of expected real rate of returns and the expected inflation rate. However, most previous empirical studies, that uses short-horizon data, found that this relation fails miserably - the empirical estimate of the coefficient is negative rather than unity. Recently, Boudoukh and Richardson (1993) investigated the hypothesis using annual United States and the United Kingdom data and found that long-horizon (five-year) returns are positively related to both ex ante (instrumental variables estimation) and ex post (ordinary least squares estimation) long-term inflation. However, there is not any evidence from other countries and using different data sets.

In this research, the researcher will provide such evidence using data from a host of countries. The failure of Fisher's hypothesis in the short run but not in the long run would be a strong piece of evidence that monetary policy, which affects macroeconomic and financial variables in the short run but not in the long run, may be reason of the failure of Fisher. (SS99031)

Computational Complexity, Bounded Rationality, and Computational Economics

✉ WONG Kam Chau

☐ 1 September 1999

❖ Research Grants Council (Earmarked Grants)

Computability has entered economics for at least two reasons:

- (1) Bounded rational economic agents do not have unlimited (perceiving, cognitive, etc.) powers (Simon, 1959), (Binmore, 1987); so economic theorists have developed models in which the agents have computability bounds.
- (2) Computational economists have developed several computable procedures, algorithms for computers, to evaluate economic models and approximate solutions (fixed points, equilibria, etc.) to arbitrary degrees of precision (cf. Scarf, 1967).

Richter and Wong (1996, 1998, forthcoming) develop a new computability framework, introducing computability definitions for basic notions in economic theory: preferences, utility, and demand functions. It has provided computable strengthening of several traditional assertions in general equilibrium theory, e.g., on utility representation, existence of consumer demand functions, the fundamental welfare theorems, and characterization of excess demand functions. It has also found "computable counterexamples" to existence of a competitive equilibrium.

This project carries the work of Richter and Wong further in two ways: (1) It begins the study of degree theory for finer, more realistic computational classifications: practically, it programs the algorithms provided in their papers; theoretically, it replaces the bound of plain computability by finer bounds, such as those that are widely used in computer science. (2) It extends applications to other areas in economic theory, e.g. game theory, and mechanism design. (CU99083)

Protectionism and Financial Crisis: A Policy Analysis on the Barriers on International Capital Flows

✉ YIP Chong Kee • ESPINOSA Marco*

☐ 1 November 1999

❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

In the past two years, the Asian crisis has expanded and spread rapidly among the Southeast Asian countries as well as other emerging markets in the world. Facing the global economic downturn, protectionism once again has become an important issue in the political arena. For instance, the capital control imposed by Malaysia, the prohibition of sales of certain mutual funds in Taiwan, and the intervention in the stock and futures markets in Hong Kong, are incidents of the revival of interest in Protectionism. There is one common characteristic that we should notice - these are all policy restrictions imposed on the financial side of the national economy. However, the analysis of Protectionism in international economics has been solely focused on

the economy's real side. The aim of this research is to begin filling in this chasm between international trade and international finance. Specifically, the researchers develop theoretical dynamic general equilibrium models to investigate interventions in international credit markets. Frictions in financial sectors are introduced and the intersectional spillover within the macroeconomic, as well as the international transmission, of different forms of government intervention are examined. This sheds light into many economic problems created during the Asian crisis. Finally, they will construct a computable dynamic general equilibrium model to simulate the quantitative impact of alternative government policies. This will enhance their understanding in the recent experiences of the Asian economies as well as provide an overview of the financial turmoil for policymakers. (SS99011)

Collection of Twins Data and the Return to Schooling in China

✉ ZHANG Junsen

☐ 1 March 2000

❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

The use of twins data has been proved to be a good way to obtain an unbiased estimate of the return to schooling. The basic advantage of the twins data is that identical twins have the same genetic and environmental factors, and fraternal twins have the same environmental factors. A within-estimate from the identical twins would give us an unbiased estimate of the return to schooling. A comparison of the estimates from identical twins, fraternal twins and non-twins would tell us the importance of genetical and/or environmental factors. However, the conclusions from different twins-based studies are very different from each other. Further research in this area is highly needed, especially with new data sets on twins. This research plans to hold a twins festival in one or more cities in mainland China, and collection of twins data is conducted during and/or after the festival. After basic processing of the data, the researcher will conduct detailed econometric analysis to estimate the economic return to schooling, to test existing hypotheses in the literature, and to explore any unique economic behaviour in mainland China. (SS99032)

Please refer to previous issues of this publication for more details of the following ongoing research at the department:

Edition Title/Investigators

- 1998-99 TRIMs, TREMs, and Development Strategy: Applications to China's Foreign-Investment Policy (CU98032)
✉ CHAO Chi Chur
- 1998-99 Testing the null hypothesis of ARFIMA processes against the alternative of non-ARFIMA processes (CU98205)
✉ CHONG Tai Leung
- 1998-99 Technological Gains and Trade Liberalization: An Empirical Analysis (SS98027)
✉ KWAN Cheuk Chiu
- 1998-99 Price Volatility of Commercial and Residential Property (SS98028)
✉ LEUNG Ka Yui Charles • KWONG Kai Sun Sunny
- 1998-99 An Equivalent Result Between Competitive Equilibrium and Bertrand Equilibrium (SS98012)
✉ LIU Chun Wah
- 1998-99 The Determinants of Technical Change in Hong Kong and Singapore High-Tech Industries – A Comparative Study (SS98013)
✉ TANG Sammy Hak Kan
- 1997-98 Money and Credit with Private Information (SS97040)
✉ WANG Yong • ZHOU Hanqing*
- 1998-99 Growth Channels of Human Capital: A Cross Country Study (SS98029)
✉ WANG Yong • LI Hongyi (Dept of Decision Sciences and Managerial Economics)
- 1997-98 The Interdependence of Housing Prices in Hong Kong - A Spatial Hedonic Price Model (SS97041)
✉ WONG Ka Fu • MOK Man Kwong Henry (Dept of Decision Sciences and Managerial Economics) • WANG Youqiang
- 1998-99 A Housing Price Index in Hong Kong – A Repeated Sales Approach (SS98030)
✉ WONG Ka Fu
- 1998-99 On Government Credit Programs (SS98014)
✉ YIP Chong Kee • ESPINOSA Marco* • SMITH Bruce*

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|---------|---|---------|---|
| 1997-98 | The Impact of Economic Reform on Gender Wage Differentials in China (SS97008)
✉ ZHANG Junsen | 1998-99 | Labour Market Impact of the "Right of Abode" Issue (SS98054)
✉ ZHANG Junsen • LIU Pak Wai • CHONG Tai Leung • LEUNG Ka Yui Charles |
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RESEARCH PROJECTS

Parks and Open Space in Urban Hong Kong: Pollution Problems and Design Solutions

✉ LAM Kin Che • SIDENER Jack Tyler (Dept of Architecture)#

☐ 1 October 1999

❖ Research Grants Council (Earmarked Grants)

This project will ascertain the environmental quality, particularly noise and air pollution, of parks and open spaces in urban Hong Kong by a hybrid measurement-modelling approach and assess the health risks of these pollutants to the park users. At selected study sites, park users will be surveyed through field observation and interview to determine the frequency of use, duration and stay, activities undertaken and how their satisfaction is undermined by pollution. A variety of mitigation measures that may alleviate noise and air pollution will be examined in the context of Hong Kong with severe space constraints. A manual will be developed to provide guidelines for siting parks and design concepts to enhance user satisfaction and to alleviate environmental problems.
(CU99113)

A Scale-space Filtering Approach to Spatial Data Clustering

✉ LEUNG Yee • ZHANG JIANGSHE*

☐ 1 December 1999

❖ Research Grants Council (Earmarked Grants)

In spatial pattern recognition and image processing, the major application areas of cluster analysis, human eyes seem to possess a singular aptitude to group objects and find important structures in an efficient and effective way. The process of spatial data clustering in general is very similar to form perception of the human eyes. Thus a clustering algorithm mimicking our visual system can solve some basic problems in the clustering of spatial data. From this point of view, we propose a new approach to data clustering based on scale space theory that models the blurring effect of lateral retinal interconnections. In the proposed approach, a data set is considered as an image with each light point located at a datum position. As we blur this image, smaller light blobs (clusters) merge into larger ones until the whole image becomes one light blob at a low enough level of resolution. By identifying each blob with a cluster, the blurring process generates a family of clusterings along the hierarchy.

The advantages of the proposed approach are: (1) It identifies natural clusters and enhances accuracy of spatial classification in practice; (2) The derived algorithms are computationally stable and insensitive

to initialization, and they are totally free from solving difficult global optimization problems; (3) It facilitates the construction of novel checks on cluster validity and provides the final clustering a significant degree of robustness to noise in the data and change in scale; (4) It can detect outliers (small clumps of data points) which are not normal clusters in a data set; (5) The clustering is highly consistent with the perception of human eyes; (6) The new approach provides a unified framework for scale-related clustering algorithms recently derived from many different fields.

The approach can be applied to a large variety of spatial clustering problems ranging from the classification of remotely sensed images to pattern detection in very large spatial and aspatial data sets. In particular, it will improve problems such as environmental monitoring in Hong Kong that involves structure seeking in remotely sensed images and other types of data sets.

(CU99136)

Neural and Evolutionary Computations for Spatial Data Analysis

✉ LEUNG Yee • LEUNG KWONG SAK (Dept of Computer Science and Engineering)

☐ 19 June 2000

❖ The Croucher Advanced Study Institute

The ASI (Advanced Study Institute) deals with the key issues of two fast evolving but related paradigms for the scientific investigation of complexity and non-linear dynamics, particularly in spatial data analysis. The past, present, and future of neural and evolutionary computations will be critically examined in the general context by two internationally renowned scholars of the fields. Similar analyses will be made by leading spatial scientists in the context of spatial data analysis.

Scientific investigations of the ASI will cover in particular the classification of remotely sensed images, explorative spatial data analysis, mining of spatial structures embedded in very large geographical information system, and modelling of spatial processes by neural and evolutionary computations.

The ASI will produce a concrete plan for the dissemination of and further investigation in the development and applications of neural and evolutionary models in spatial data analysis, a promising direction of scientific investigation in this information and knowledge age.

(SS99001)

Development of a Virtual Studio for Designing the Ecological Security Pattern of the Country Park System in Hong Kong

✉ LIN Hui • ZOU Jun (Dept of Mathematics) • CHEN Yongqin David • SUN Hanqiu (Dept of Computer Science and Engineering) • GONG Jianhua • YU Kongjian*

☐ 1 October 1999

❖ Research Grants Council (Earmarked Grants)

The purpose of this joint research project is to develop a virtual studio for designing the ecological security pattern (ESP) of the Country Park System (CPS) in Hong Kong. Geographic information system (GIS) will be used for integrating relevant data such as geomorphic, land use, and geologic and hydrographic data. Spatial models will be developed for identifying those key geographic elements, positions and portions, and their spatial relationships, which compose certain strategic pattern, the ESP. Identifying the ESP will provide a scientific base for balancing different land uses and for the "space trade" between ecosystem protection and land development in Hong Kong. (CU99132)

A Decision Support System for Coastal Environmental Monitoring and Management of Hong Kong

✉ LIN Hui • CHENG Tao • GONG Jianhua • YAN Xiaohai* • LU Guonian*

☐ 1 November 1999

❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

The objective of this project is to develop an integrated planning and management supporting system (DSS) with Hong Kong Government. It will address not only the current environmental and developmental pressures along Hong Kong coastline, but also the long-term restoration, protection, maintenance and sustainability of the natural, cultural and economic coastal resources. (PS99002)

A Tentative Study on a Hong Kong Database of Vegetation Species and Biophysical Parameter Information from Hyperspectral Remote Sensing Data

✉ LIN Hui • ZHANG Liangpei*

☐ 1 January 2000

❖ CUHK Mainline Research Scheme

The rapid urban development in Hong Kong area has a very serious impact to its subtropical environment characterized by a great diversity of flora. Therefore, it is necessary to establish reliable and effective mechanisms for monitoring of vegetation environment in Hong Kong area since the preservation of vegetation resources is very important

for sustainable development of Hong Kong. Quantitative information of vegetation biophysical parameters enable us to understand and evaluate the potential risks to the environment associated with increased concentrations of atmosphere carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases from natural and anthropogenic sources.

Hyperspectral remote sensing has the potential to offer a timely and cost effective method for deriving information of forest species and biophysical parameters over vast vegetation areas. Its applications will provide us with a powerful tool for monitoring of vegetation environment in Hong Kong area. This project is to initiate a tentative study for the full scale of investigation in the near future for whole Hong Kong region, in which a timely monitoring of the vegetation for large area will be done by using satellite and air borne remote sensing. (PS99003)

Service on Providing Information on the Proposed Country Park Extension at North Lantau

✉ NG Sai Leung • FUNG Tung

☐ 15 December 1999

❖ Agriculture, Fisheries & Conservation Dept, HKSAR Government

In the Territorial Development Strategy Review (1993), 14 potential sites were identified for possible designations as country parks or special areas. The Agriculture, Fisheries & Conservation Department (AFCD) calls for services on providing information on these sites in order to assess their suitability. The present service is to provide information on one of these potential sites, namely North Lantau Extension (Study Area). This involves three appraisals of the Study Area covering conservation, landscape and recreation. In other words, these appraisals identify whether these sites are necessary to be conserved in terms of ecology and culture; whether the quality of the scenery is high or low in these sites; whether these sites can accommodate passive outdoor recreation compatible with conservation. Taken together these appraisals determine the suitability of these potential sites for country park designation. (SS99023)

Applications of Magnetic Susceptibility Measurements to the Monitoring of Heavy Metal Contamination in the Marine Sediment of Hong Kong

✉ NG Sai Leung • CHAN Lung Sang*

☐ 1 May 2000

❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

Heavy metal contamination of marine sediments due to industrial and human activities have received much attention in recent years. Conventional approaches heavily rely on the analyses of heavy metal concentration and forms (speciation) and bio-toxic studies, which are often expensive and require laborious work. Since heavy metal concentrations and forms greatly vary with place and time and their toxic impacts vary among different biota, to acquire sufficient data for assessing the state of the heavy metal contamination in Hong Kong waters would be a wearisome assignment, if not an impossible task.

The researchers' previous study of seabed sediments in Hong Kong has revealed a strong correlation between magnetic susceptibility and heavy metal contents. Supplementary experimental studies have shown that the sediments possess stable and consistent magnetic properties suitable to be used for the intended study. These results pose a notion that magnetic properties can be potentially developed as an alternative means of assessing heavy metal contamination in Hong Kong.

This study attempts to develop the technique of using magnetic properties as a heavy metal indicator by detailed study of the magnetic properties, heavy metal concentrations and forms of the sediments, and the relationship between them. The technique so developed, which is rapid, cheaper and non-destructive, is believed to be an effective tool in environmental management and impact assessment. (PS99026)

Urban Economic and Spatial Transformation in Guangzhou and Shenzhen

- ✉ SHEN Jianfa
- ☐ 1 January 2000
- ❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

As the capital of Guangdong province, Guangzhou has been the main political and economic center of Guangdong province for a long time. Much dramatic development has occurred in Shenzhen since the opening of China to the outside world in the later 1970s. After two decades of high-speed development in Shenzhen, it has risen from a tiny town with a few thousands population to a significant metropolis of about 4 million population by 1999.

Shenzhen is the closest mainland city with enormous interactions with Hong Kong. Shenzhen is a source of many opportunities but also a powerful competitor of Hong Kong in the fields of housing and real estate property, tourism and retailing. Studies are needed to understand and analyze urban development in Guangzhou and Shenzhen for effective co-operation and competition.

This project will examine the driving forces and changing spatial and economic structures in Guangzhou and Shenzhen. Main emphasis will be

given to an assessment of the potential of urban economic growth and spatial expansion in these two cities.

The main contributions of this research are: (1) To achieve a full understanding of urban dynamics in south China; (2) Results of the empirical research will provide useful insights for Hong Kong in various cross-border activities and regional and urban planning. (SS99012)

Please refer to previous issues of this publication for more details of the following ongoing research at the department:

<u>Edition</u>	<u>Title/Investigators</u>
1998-99	Impacts of Global Climate Change and Regional Land-Use Alteration on Water Resources in the Dongjiang (East River) Basin (CU98188) ✉ CHEN Yongqin David • FUNG Tung • LAM Kin Che • LEUNG Yee • CHEN Junhe* • XIA Jun*
1996-97	Hyperspectral Measurement of Typical Surface Covers in Hong Kong (CU96223) ✉ FUNG Tung • GONG Peng* • LIN Hui
1998-99	Integration of Landsat TM and Census Data for Assessing Environmental Quality (SS98033) ✉ FUNG Tung
1997-98	A Multimedia Decision Support System for Traffic Noise Planning (CU97228) ✉ LAM Kin Che • LIN Hui • TSOU Jin Yeu (Dept of Architecture)
1997-98	Noise in Hyper-Dense Cities: Problems, Adaptation and Solutions (SS97044) ✉ LAM Kin Che • CHAN Ying Keung (Dept of Sociology) • SIDENER Jack Tyler (Dept of Architecture)# • TSOU Jin Yeu (Dept of Architecture) • NGAI Ngan Pun (Dept of Social Work)
1998-99	Critical Analysis of the Model "Eco-Village" Scheme of the Three Gorges Project: A Pilot Study (SS98034) ✉ LAM Kin Che
1994-95	A Multi-Project Strategic Research Program on Spatial-Temporal Decision Support System for Dynamic Monitoring and Management of the Environment (SS95001)

- LEUNG Yee • CHAU Kwai Cheong
 • FUNG Tung • LAM Kin Che •
 LIN Hui • NELLER Ronald James#
- 1996-97 Variable Programming - A Paradigm for Solving Dynamic Spatial Decision Making Problems with Variable Objectives and Constraints (CU96217)
 LEUNG Yee • XU Zongben*
- 1997-98 Spatial-temporal Decision Support System for Dynamic Monitoring and Analysis of Air Quality in the South China - Hong Kong Region (CU97229)
 LEUNG Yee • LAM Kin Che •
 FUNG Tung • ANH Vo Van*
- 1993-94 Development of a Multi-Window System for Exploratory Spatial/Temporal Data Analysis (SS94005)
 LIN Hui
- 1993-94 Design of a Multimedia-based Investment Environment Information System for the Nanchang-Jiujiang Industrial Corridor of the Beijing-Kowloon Railway (SS94006)
 LIN Hui • SU Yafang*
- 1997-98 Radar Remote Sensing: Advanced Earth Observatory System for the 21st Century (PS97027)
 LIN Hui • HE Changchui* • GUO Huadong*
- 1998-99 Geographic Information Acquisition, Analysis & Application (PS98001)
 LIN Hui • AU Yuk Fai Kevin (Dept of Management) • CHEN Yongqin David • LAM Chi Chung (Dept of Curriculum & Instruction) • LEE Yiu Bun (Dept of Information Engineering) • LI Duan (Dept of Systems Engineering & Engin. Management) • LIEW Soung Chang (Dept of Information Engineering) • LU Qin (Dept of Computer Science and Engineering)# • SHEN Jianfa • TONG Fuk Kay Franklin (Dept of Information Engineering) • TSOU Jin Yeu (Dept of Architecture) • TUAN Chyau (Dept of Decision Sciences and Managerial Economics) • XU Yangsheng (Dept of Auto. & Computer-Aided Engin.) • ZOU Jun (Dept of Mathematics)
- 1998-99 A Joint Experiment on the LSAR All-Weather Remote Sensing System for Landslide Monitoring in Hong Kong Region (CU98334)
 LIN Hui • GUO Huadong* • SHAO Yun* • CHEN Yongqin David • WANG Changling*
- 1998-99 Airborne Remote Sensing for Developing Hong Kong Spatial Data Infrastructure (EE98050C)
 LIN Hui • GUO Huadong* • SHAO Yun* • CHEN Yongqin David • SUN Hanqiu (Dept of Computer Science and Engineering) • ZHOU Qiming* • ZHOU Chenghu*
- 1998-99 Service on Providing Information on the Suitability of South Lamma, Tung Lung Chau and Po Toi to be established as Country Park (SS98063)
 NG Sai Leung • AU Pui Sze • CHAN Kit Ying# • LEUNG Hoi Gok • YU Shu Pan# • YUEN Siu Man#
- 1998-99 Urbanization and Development in China: Processes, Problems and Opportunities (SS98035)
 SHEN Jianfa
- 1998-99 Urbanization and Governance in Zhujiang Delta: Analysis and Policy Implications (CU98017)
 WONG Kwan Yiu • CHU David Kim Yee# • SHEN Jianfa
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 YEUNG Yue Man • CHU David Kim Yee#
- 1997-98 Globalization and Urban-Regional Change in Pacific Asia (SS97070)
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 YEUNG Yue Man • Richard Stren* • Charles Becker*

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RESEARCH PROJECTS

Hong Kong's Cyberport: A Case Study in Epistemology and Policy-Making

- ✉ OSTROV Benjamin Charles
- ☐ 1 March 2000
- ❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

This study intends to focus on the decision to embark on the launching of the 'cyberport' in Hong Kong so as to gain an insight in Government policy-makers' methodology for reaching critical long-range decisions and then evaluating this methodology, and the resultant decision. The study will concentrate on policy-maker's understanding of the nature and sources of legitimate knowledge that can be brought to bare on making such a decision.

The expected significance of this study lies in its aims to:

- (1) that the synoptic model of decision-making, as hypothesized by Charles Lindblom in *Politics and Markets: The World's Political Economic Systems* (New York: Basic Books, 1977), is actually a valid description of how government policy-makers conceptualize knowledge in some cases.
- (2) show that contrary to Lindblom's expectations, such a mode of decision-making can exist where the economy is predominantly a free market; and
- (3) explain why in Hong Kong, where is a free market economy, the synoptic model of decision-making occurred here and how it could happen elsewhere.

(SS99033)

The Third Sector in China

- ✉ WANG Shaoguang
- ☐ 1 March 2000
- ❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

The purpose of this exercise is to lay foundations for launching a large-scale research project that studies the "third sector" (also known as "nonprofit sector", NGO, or "civil society") and examines its relations with the government and market in five Chinese societies -- Mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Macao, Singapore. The project itself, however, will only deal with China, the most difficult case among the five.

The study will chart the scope, structure, role, and operations of the nonprofit sector in China, and to do so in a way that not only yields solid and objective information about China, but also make it possible to undertake cross-society comparisons later. In addition to providing detailed information on the

development of the nonprofit sector in China, this study seeks to offer a conceptual analysis of the nonprofit sector within the context of the economic and political transformation that are taking place in China. In particular, this study will investigate how the economic transition transformed the relations between the state and NPOs in China. It will also highlight the challenges that may be generated by these new state-NPO relations.
(SS99034)

Civic Education and Life-long Learning: A Comparative Study

- ✉ WONG Wai Ho • LEUNG Wing Chi Louis (School of Journalism and Communication) • LO Wing Hung Carlos*
- ☐ 1 March 2000
- ❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

This project studies the role of civic education in Hong Kong from the perspective of life-long learning. It is part of the response of the Task Force of the Social Science Faculty to the education reform by the Education Commission of the HKSAR Government. Life-long learning is a concept that is growing in its importance around the globe. As technology is a major driving force of our society, people are constantly finding the needs to upgrade their skills and knowledge. However, the scope adopted by the Education Commission in interpreting life-long learning is a narrow one. It mainly focuses on the job skills that can enhance the economic value of the individual in the market place. However, the other roles of the individual, particularly the role as a citizen, are totally neglected.

Citizenship is "a relationship between the individual and the state in which the two are bound by reciprocal rights and duties." It is one of the major forces that bond people together for achieving the public interest. Researches showed that citizenship was critical for the proper functioning of many systems in society. A good sense of citizenship is particularly important for Hong Kong as it enters the new century with the "One Country, Two Systems". By adopting a comparative approach of study and using a series of surveys, this project will examine the existing status of civic education in Hong Kong and propose appropriate measures to enhance the development of citizenship in Hong Kong.
(SS99035)

Please refer to previous issues of this publication for more details of the following ongoing research at the department:

Edition Title/Investigators

1995-96	Constitutionalism and Human Rights in Asia (SS94092) ✉ DAVIS Michael Curtis	✉ LEE Wing Yee Eliza
1997-98	The Legislative Council Elections in 1998 (CU97202) ✉ KUAN Hsin Chi • LAU Siu Kai (Dept of Sociology)	1996-97 The Role of the State in Economic Transformation: A Comparative Study of the Politics of Privatizations in China and Russia (SS96041) ✉ MA Shu Yun
1997-98	Between Family and State: Social Capital and Social Change in Three Chinese Societies (SS97060) ✉ KUAN Hsin Chi • CHAN Kin Man (Dept of Sociology)	1998-99 The Politics of Listing Chinese State Enterprises on Hong Kong (SS98036) ✉ MA Shu Yun
1998-99	Colonialism and the Evolution of Public Administration systems: Comparing Hong Kong and Singapore (SS98015)	1998-99 Reinventing Government in Asia: Do We Need It? What Can We Learn From the West? (SS98016) ✉ WONG Wai Ho

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RESEARCH PROJECTS

New Communication Technologies & Local Cultural Development: A Study in Cultural Ecology

- ✉ LEE Paul Siu Nam
- ☐ 1 September 1999
- ❖ Asian Media Information Communication Centre

It is a study on the implications of new communication technologies for the development and sustenance of local/national cultural industries in Asia. The research is undertaken in Hong Kong, China and India at the same time. It is part of a cross-cultural project coordinated by the Asian Media Information and Communication Centre. (SS99051)

A Study of Media's Role in Life-long Learning

- ✉ LEE Paul Siu Nam • LEUNG Wing Chi Louis
- ☐ 1 May 2000
- ❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

The study aims to examine the role of the media in people's lifelong learning process through an understanding of the youth's media habits, consumption of contents and the needs and gratifications served by the media. It provides some baseline data for designing school curriculum to advance media literacy in formal education. (SS99036)

Predicting Use of New Media Technologies for Social Identity and Life Stress Reduction

- ✉ LEUNG Wing Chi Louis
- ☐ 1 November 1999
- ❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

People seek out new products as a means of establishing and communicating social differentiation and identity. The product people buy and use is a marker of their lifestyle. The adoption of such consumption objects implicitly reflects the interdependent roles of *lifestyles* and the *consumption objects* to classify. The purposes of this project is to link consumers' lifestyle orientations to the adoption of new media technologies and its relationship with social identity. In addition, recent socio-political, cultural, and technological changes in Hong Kong are significantly changing the way people work and play, and communication between and among people. The broad societal trends in Hong Kong can be characterized as having a sense of feeling rushed out-

of-time, information overloaded, and a hectic or stressful lifestyle. These trends primarily affect the amount of time people have to engage in family-oriented communication, leisure activities, the degree of social interaction, community participation, and subsequently the life stress level. Research show that music listening and TV watching are popular means to relax for many people. How then can new media technologies from a wide range of *choices* and diverse *content* such as DVD/VCD, interactive and cable television, walkman/discman, karaoke stereos, the Internet, mobile phones, and the like contribute to the reduction of life stresses? Grounded in diffusion of innovation and uses and gratification's theoretical frameworks, this study will examine the relationship between broad societal trends, people's use of new media technology products, its implications on social identity, and its effects on life stresses in a mobile society like Hong Kong. (SS99013)

Expectations on Competencies and Skills in Career Preparation: Comparisons Between Employers and University Educators

- ✉ LEUNG Wing Chi Louis • WONG Wai Ho (Dept of Government & Public Administration)
- ☐ 1 March 2000
- ❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

The growing dissatisfaction in the lowering competencies and skills of university graduates in Hong Kong has made employers cast doubt on the effectiveness of our tertiary institutions in preparing students for the labor market. Faced with the intense globalization of world markets and great demand in high-skill workers, many industrialized nations are reviewing and reforming their education and training provisions. The engine driving these reforms stems from the economic necessity, particularly in the age of the digital revolution when literacy in information technology is an important requirement for an increasingly sophisticated and interconnected world. In Hong Kong, problem in recruiting qualified university graduates in their first entry job is still a major concern. Such a phenomenon seems to suggest that there are discrepancies on employers' and university educators' perceptions of appropriate curriculum design and career preparation of our university graduates. To provide another perspective in the comprehensive review of the tertiary education proposed by the Education Commission for the 21st Century, this study will examine the differences and similarities regarding the competencies and skills perceived by employers and university educators. Are we producing the type of university students the society wants that will serve the needs of the labor market? What do employers of various businesses want university educators to teach? A probability

random sample of 800 employers and educators will be interviewed, so as to collect data in five important areas:

- (1) university admission criteria;
- (2) knowledge of the field;
- (3) job skills and competencies;
- (4) interpersonal skills; and
- (5) students' personal characteristics.

The results of this study will have great implications on the directions of reforms for tertiary education in Hong Kong.
(SS99037)

Submission, Resistance and Circumvention: The Changing Journalistic Practices and Culture in Chinese Media

✉ PAN Zhongdang • CHAN Joseph Man • CHEN Huailin# • LEE Chin Chuan*

☐ 1 September 1999

❖ Research Grants Council (Earmarked Grants)

The study is designed to address two research questions: How do political controls and market forces together facilitate or constrain choices of media outlets? How does the organizational culture of a media outlet influence its journalists' newsmaking practices? The study involves newsroom observations and in-depth interviews in 17 media organizations from Beijing, Shanghai, and Guangzhou, gathering data on (1) journalists' and media organization's daily routines, (2) media organization's internal structure, change, and financial activities, (3) procedures of producing a routine story, a breaking story, an investigative story, or a special story, (4) journalists' interactions with their professional "significant others," (5) media organization's financial and political relationships with other social organizations, and (6) journalists' own perceptions of their roles, work, and journalism reforms. The ultimate goal of this project is to account for the institutional changes that constitute China's journalism reforms.
(CU99121)

Who Still are the Mobile Phone Have-nots? An Over-time Study of a Neglected Group

✉ WEI Ran

☐ 1 January 2000

❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

The objective of this study is to examine the phenomenon of continuing media deprivation in Hong Kong by analyzing over time changes in the socio-economic and psychological characteristics of

mobile phone have-nots. Built on the findings of a previous study the researcher took part in May 1998 on information gap in new media adoption, the purpose is to analyze changes in those mobile phone have-nots, further assess influences on non-adoption, and discuss profound social political, and regulatory consequences of media deprivation.
(SS99014)

Please refer to previous issues of this publication for more details of the following ongoing research at the department:

<u>Edition</u>	<u>Title/Investigators</u>
1997-98	Managing Tensions between Political Control and Marketization (SS97047) ✉ CHAN Joseph Man • PAN Zhongdang • CHEN Huailin# • LEE Chin Chuan# • WANG Jian# • WU Guoguang (Dept of Government & Public Administration)
1998-99	Cinematic Analysis of the Representation of Women in Chinese Films Through Gendered Perspectives (SS98038) ✉ KENNY James Francis
1997-98	The Images of Asia-Pacific in Hong Kong: How Close are Hong Kong People to Others? (CU97209) ✉ LEE Paul Siu Nam
1997-98	Critical Survey of Libel Litigations in Hong Kong: Implications for Press Freedom and Responsibility (SS97049) ✉ LEUNG Wai Yin Kenneth
1998-99	Consuming New Communication Technologies: Information Behavior and Quality of Life in Hong Kong (SS98017) ✉ LEUNG Wing Chi Louis • WEI Ran
1997-98	Advertising the Hong Kong Identity (CU97238) ✉ MA Kit Wai • CHEUNG Chin Hung Sidney (Dept of Anthropology)
1997-98	Mass Media and Social Integration During China's Reforms (SS97051) ✉ PAN Zhongdang • CHAN Joseph Man • KENNY James Francis • McINTYRE Bryce Telfer • WEI Ran • WU Guoguang (Dept of Government & Public Administration)

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see also <P993849>

RESEARCH PROJECTS

A Systematic Investigation of the Response Scale Effect on Group Decision Making

- ✉ AU Wing Tung
- ☐ 1 October 1999
- ❖ Research Grants Council (Earmarked Grants)

Groups, often rather than individuals, are entrusted to make important decisions which rely on the diverse perspectives and expertise possessed by different group members. In order to enhance effectiveness and efficiency, groups employ various mechanisms like agenda setting, voting, and straw polling. Of particular interest is the effect of the response scale as a procedural mechanism.

There exists no general rule specifying whether a decision should be determined as a selection among discrete alternatives (a categorical response scale), or an estimation of a quantitative value (a continuous response scale). For example, a finance committee may decide on a monetary budget (a naturally continuous scale decision) through successive voting (using a categorical decision scale). And personnel selection decisions (naturally yes/no categorical decisions) can be made by rating candidates on some numerical scale of merit (using a continuous decision scale).

The major focus of the project is to empirically and systematically test a hypothesis suggested by results of computer simulations that groups make more extreme decisions using a categorical than a continuous response scale. In a series of laboratory experiments using university students as research participants, this project also examines how this response scale effect may be affected by other procedural mechanisms, like the stringency of a decision criterion, and the number of decision alternatives. In general, this project addresses whether and how a response scale may affect group decision outcomes and processes systematically -- an important empirical question which has a significant impact on practitioners of group decision making in all applied settings, e.g., organizational, educational, and governmental, to name just a few. (CU99104)

Developing an Integrity Assessment Inventory

- ✉ AU Wing Tung
- ☐ 1 March 2000
- ❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

Counter-productive behaviors include behaviors as common and "minor" as time theft, e.g., coming late for work, taking long lunch hours, taking company resources for personal use, e.g., making personal

photocopies at work, or behaviors as infrequent but more serious as taking bribes. We all have heard of, seen, or even guilty of some of these behaviors ourselves, yet a systematic study of the frequencies and seriousness of counter-productive behaviors is lacking in Hong Kong. One purpose of this research project is to examine and document the prevalence of counter-productive behaviors at the workplace in Hong Kong.

Counterproductive behavior had cost organizations millions of dollars annually in the United States. Taylor (1986) reported that employee theft accounted for some 70 per cent of the business losses and 30 per cent of the business failures in United States annually. Losses attributed to such activities have been estimated at around US\$40 billion per year (Lippman, & McGraw, 1988; Steiner, 1990). These losses were not due to mechanical accidents, social or economic reasons, or by taxation, but due to employees' theft. Employees might steal company stocks, assets, time or money from their employers; some might take drugs or alcohol which affect their working performance; some might be uncooperative, unruly, or irresponsible toward their co-workers; some might be negligent on the job that leads to increases in company insurance expenses through their claims. Prevention is always better than cure. The major purpose of this study is to develop an integrity assessment inventory as a pre-employment screening tool that can potentially identify job candidates who are prone to frequent and/or serious counter-productive behaviors. (SS99038)

A Multi-cultural Study of Social Beliefs

- ✉ BOND Michael Harris • LEUNG Kwok*
- ☐ 1 November 1999
- ❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

One of the landmark advances in recent social science has been the work of the Hofstede (1980, 1983) which located 53 countries on four dimensions of values. This mapping of nations enabled social scientists to develop and test hypotheses about behavioral differences characterizing people from these various nations. Recent work by Bond, Leung, and Schwartz (1992), however, suggests that beliefs rather than values may be more powerful in explaining cross-cultural differences in behavior. Leung and Bond (1998) thus developed an extensive measure of social beliefs, drawing from the psychological literature, from Chinese literary productions, and from interviews with Hong Kong Chinese. This questionnaire was administered to a cross-section of Hong Kong citizens to assess its factorial structure and demographic characteristics. Colleagues in Venezuela, Japan, and Germany have similarly enlarged the belief scale by incorporating

beliefs from their cultural traditions and measured beliefs with comparable populations. An 82-item short form of the belief scale has now been developed from this work in four cultures.

What is now needed is to assess social beliefs in a wide variety of countries. This extension of sample will enable us to map the world for social beliefs, just as Hofstede did for values. These results will be intrinsically interesting, for they will locate a large number of societies with respect to fundamental conceptions of reality, e.g., a belief in reward for application; they will also enable social scientists to link these belief systems to important aspects of societal practice, e.g., economic performance, human rights observance, managerial practices, and interpersonal violence, to name only a few. (SS99015)

Evaluation of "Support for Self-reliance (SFS)" Scheme

- ✉ CHAN Kwan Shing Darius • CHAN Wai
- ☐ 1 July 1999
- ❖ Social Welfare Department, HKSAR Government

This study attempts to evaluate the effectiveness of the "Support for Self Reliance" Scheme for job seekers under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme administered by the Government. The study will focus on performance indicators that are psychological in nature. A longitudinal design will be employed, with data collected from participants of the scheme in five time points. Hierarchical linear modeling, causal modeling, and regression will be employed to identify factors that are related to job seeking effort, psychological adjustment, and successful re-employment. (SS99002C)

Neuropsychological Sequelae of Radiation-induced Brain-damage and its Risk Factors

- ✉ CHAN Sui Yin Agnes • LAW Stephen* • TSE Kin Chuen Vincent*
- ☐ 1 December 1999
- ❖ Research Grants Council (Earmarked Grants)

Temporal lobe necrosis due to radiotherapy for nasopharyngeal carcinoma (NPC) has been reported, however, very little is known about the effect of this radiation-induced brain-damage on the cognitive function (i.e., memory, language, thinking and attention) of the patients. Thus, one purpose of the proposed study is to investigate the relationship between the types (i.e., edema and cysts) and nature (i.e., volume and sites) of the brain lesions due to radiotherapy and the cognitive functions of NPC patients. Given that only some, but not all, NPC

patients demonstrated temporal lobe abnormalities after radiotherapy, another purpose of the present study is to identify the demographic (e.g., age and gender) and treatment characteristics (e.g., doses and doses fractionation of the radiation) that may be risk factors for the neuropathological and cognitive deficits in NPC patients. These findings will be important information for improving the therapeutic benefit of radiotherapy, and for providing better psychosocial and cognitive intervention for those patients. (CU99110)

The Invariant of Force Pattern for the Haptic Perception of an Occluded Hand-held Rod

- ✉ CHAN Tin Cheung
- ☐ 1 April 2000
- ❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

Two sets of experiments will be conducted to falsify the claim by Turvey and his colleagues that the length of a visually occluded rod can be perceived by detecting two mechanical variables: the inertia tensor and the attitude spinor. In fact, inertia tensor is a property of the rod with respect to a pivot point, and the spinors are used in classical mechanics to compute the actual coordinates of an object with respect to a space-fixed coordinate system. They cannot be the information for perception. In the first set of experiments, the researcher hopes to show that perceived length is not related to inertia tensor and attitude spinor, but is a function of force: static torque and inertial torque. This is achieved by dissociating the inertia tensor and the attitude spinor from the static and inertial torques which determine the perceived length. In the second set of experiments, the researcher will find out the invariant of force or torque that specifies the grip position and rod length. It is speculated that humans sample the torque at a certain time of the rhythmic period. Moreover, the force/torque exerted at different places of the hand form ratios, which stay invariant. The sampled magnitudes and the force ratio are adequate for humans to perceive length properties of the rod (whole or partial). This effort is compatible with Gibson's original concept of informational invariant. Results of this project are important for clarifying the confusion in the theory of perception. Results may also contribute to robotics. (SS99039)

The Analysis of Dose-Response Data: An Exact Unconditional Approach

- ✉ CHAN Wai • TANG Man Lai (Dept of Statistics) • CHAN Ping Shing Ben (Dept of Statistics)
- ☐ 1 September 1999
- ❖ Research Grants Council (Earmarked Grants)

A dose-response study is usually conducted in an attempt to delineate in more quantitative terms the shape of the dose-response curve for a chemical. The process involves an exposure of groups of subjects to a series of increasing dose levels. This kind of experimental design is commonly employed in different areas of bioscience such as trials of anti-ulcer medications, animal carcinogenicity bioassays, and occupational studies of exposure to some toxicants. An important task in dose-response analysis is to test for a linear trend in proportions. Typically, the asymptotic p-value based on the Cochran-Armitage trend test statistic is usually reported for such purpose. The objectives of this project include:

- (1) developing a general procedure for an exact unconditional p-value calculation for situations with unbalanced sample sizes across dose levels, sparse data, or small group sizes in which the usual large sample approximation is suspect;
- (2) developing an efficient method for exact unconditional power determination which is a critical component of designing experiments and testing results;
- (3) and providing applied statisticians with a non-commercial user-friendly computer program which implements the proposed methods. The proposed procedure is applicable to any type of monotone twice-differentiable link function including logistic, probit, arcsine, extreme value and one hit.

(CU99170)

Behavioral Correlates of Interpersonal Relatedness and Openness in Chinese Culture

- ✉ CHEUNG Fanny Mui Ching
- ☐ 1 January 2000
- ❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

The behavioral correlates of two personality factors, *Interpersonal Relatedness* and *Openness*, will be examined in the context of the Chinese culture. In this preliminary study, psychological literature on these personality dimensions will be reviewed. Focus group discussions will be conducted in Hong Kong and China to explore the perception of a person characterizing these personality traits, and the behavioral manifestations of these traits in daily life. Existing measures assessing the key constructs identified in the literature and the focus group discussions will be reviewed. A short paper-and-pencil test measuring these behavioral aspects of personality will be constructed. The psychometric properties of the measure will be tested using samples of students in China and Hong Kong. This short measure will be used as an external validation indicator for the Chinese Personality Assessment Inventory (CPAI).

(SS99016)

Predicting Job Performance with the Chinese Personality Assessment Inventory

- ✉ CHEUNG Fanny Mui Ching
- ☐ 1 April 2000
- ❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

This project will examine the validity of the Chinese Personality Assessment Inventory (CPAI) in predicting occupational performance in Chinese organizational contexts. It involves the analyses of the personality profiles of 1700 job applicants collected in various local occupational settings as well as 400 incumbent employees from a hotel group. The CPAI profiles of successful job applicants will be contrasted with those of the unsuccessful candidates. The incumbent employees' profiles will be used to predict their performance appraisal, organizational commitment and job satisfaction. These relationships will be analyzed in the context of the job categories and job level. The validation of the CPAI in occupational settings will have long-term research and practical implications in the understanding of the non-cognitive predictors of person-environment fit in the Chinese cultural context.

(SS99040)

Motivational Dispositions, Subjective Experience, and Performance of College Students: An Extension of the College Experience Study

- ✉ Giovanni Battista MONETA • BOND Michael Harris • Gladys MARTINEZ-PRADO (Dept of Architecture)
- ☐ 1 March 2000
- ❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

There is widespread consensus that a fundamental objective of the forthcoming reform of the educational system is to promote and foster students' self-motivation. The goals of this research project are to examine: (1) how different types of self-motivations affect college students' daily subjective experience while they are engaged in academic activities, and (2) how self-motivations and experience conjointly predict academic achievement. Funding is sought to exploit data from the ongoing College Experience Study (CES) that have just been collected on 97 college students at The Chinese University of Hong Kong, and to expand the study to additional 200 participants under the same study protocol in the second term 1999/2000 and in both terms of 2000/2001. Variables to be measured include:

- (1) several types of motivational dispositions (e.g., achievement, intrinsic/extrinsic);
- (2) subjective experience in daily activities (e.g., self-reported levels of concentration, involvement, and enjoyment); and
- (3) academic performance (GPA and course-specific performance).

Results will provide an answer as to whether in current academic and social settings self-motivations are beneficial to both academic involvement/enjoyment and performance. A positive finding would indicate that the fostering of self-motivations should indeed become a major goal of educational reform starting from primary school. A negative finding would indicate the need of a more prudent posture and of a diagnostic analysis of why today's university environment does not reward and promote students' self-motivation. (ED99051)

Review on the Aims of Education: The First Step Toward Reform

✉ Giovanni Battista MONETA • BOND Michael Harris • CHANG Lei (Dept of Educational Psychology) • Gladys MARTINEZ-PRADO (Dept of Architecture)

☐ 1 April 2000

❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

This project undertaken by the Task Group on Aims of Education of the Social Science and Education Research Panel is part of the response to the Education Commission's reform proposal. Our main focus is the aims of education. Before sweeping reform is in place, it is imperative that we first have well-defined and executable goals. Although the Education Commission (EC) in its revised draft proposal on the aims on education (22 September, 1999) pointed out five areas as follows:

"... ethics, the intellect, the physique, social skills and aesthetics, or alternatively, three domains: knowledge, skills/abilities and attitudes/values. Each aim is interdependent and mutually reinforcing. Schools should enable students to have an all-round and appropriate development."

(<http://www.e-c.edu.hk/eng/aims/aims.htm1#2>).

We have yet seen how to secure success in the implementation of these aims. Pragmatism under budget constraints and the lack of visions often confine the course of curriculum development and resources allocation, resulting in programs that move sideways instead of forward. We must first determine the future aims not only because of its social consequences but also because of reprioritization of programs due to budget shortfalls. Although heterogeneous views may not all be accommodated, there is little disagreement on the over-emphasis on public examination scores, while

overlooking the personal qualities that higher education should foster in human development, e.g., communication skills, open-mindedness, etc. We believe that a comprehensive overview of the aims of education in Hong Kong is necessary, our non-partisan academic approach will serve this purpose. (SS99050)

Studying Automatic Processes in Human Object Recognition

✉ HAYWARD William Gordon

☐ 1 November 1999

❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

When we recognize objects in the world around us, we receive a lot of quite different information about each object that is of interest to us. For example, we are sensitive to colour, texture, shape, illumination, and a host of other factors. How do we integrate this information together, to perceive a single object? Some recent studies have examined this issue by looking at whether visual information is processed consciously or unconsciously. If information affects our behaviour, but does so unconsciously, it must be processed automatically (i.e., not under conscious control). In this project, the researcher manipulates visual information in two different ways, to examine how these changes affect automatic visual processes. One type of manipulation is a rotation of an object; does this reduce the effectiveness of automatic recognition processes. The second change involves deleting either part information or spatial frequency (fineness or coarseness) information, again to examine whether this affects automatic processing. The results will allow us to integrate automatic visual processes with more widely studied, conscious visual processes. (SS99017)

Understanding the Role of Silhouette Information in Human Object Recognition

✉ HAYWARD William Gordon • BRANKA Spehar*

☐ 1 January 2000

❖ Australian Research Council

Current models of human object recognition suffer from a fundamental flaw; they do not specify the visual features that are used to recognise objects. In this project, we investigate shape changes in the silhouette as one candidate set of image features. We propose initially to determine the conditions under which recognition of silhouettes is as good as recognition of normal objects, and then to examine the manner in which the silhouette is broken into constituent shape features. The project will allow

modelers of object recognition to develop a set of image features with which to properly test their models.
(SS99024)

Predictors of Adjustment to Secondary School: A Short-term Longitudinal Study of Hong Kong Youth

- ✉ MCBRIDE Catherine Alexandra
- 2 November 1999
- ❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

The present study seeks to investigate the extent to which young Hong Kong adolescents experience adjustment problems in their transition from primary school (P6) to Form 1 (F1) by comparing a cross-section of P6 and F1 students on psychosocial and cognitive adjustment measures. This study also explores factors that affect adjustment to school in F1 students at the beginning and end of the school year. The researcher hypothesizes that, (1) relative to P6 students, F1 students will rate themselves as lower on ratings of competence, life satisfaction, and self esteem, and higher on depression, (2) F1 students with English as the medium of instruction in their schools will adjust more slowly than will F1 students whose medium of instruction is Cantonese, (3) Band 1 students will adjust more quickly to F1 than will Band 5 students, and (4) rate of puberty maturation, quality of peer and family relationships, and school achievement will predict adjustment to F1 by the end of the school year.
(SS99018)

What's in a Letter? What Letter Knowledge Contributes to Reading in Chinese and English

- ✉ MCBRIDE Catherine Alexandra • TREIMAN Rebecca*
- 20 February 2000
- ❖ CUHK Mainline Research Scheme

This study of 70 monolingual Chinese beginning and pre-readers and 70 monolingual English beginning and pre-readers will test the extent to which children in the beginning stages of print awareness make use of letter-name and letter-sound knowledge in learning to associate English names with three letter stimulus conditions, which capitalize, respectively, on letter name knowledge, letter sound knowledge, and visual sensitivity. These three conditions will be presented in short tutorials individually administered to students. Visual sensitivity is anticipated to correlate strongly with Chinese character recognition only, letter sound knowledge is expected to be associated with English word recognition only, and letter name knowledge is expected to be correlated strongly with both word and

character recognition. Such results will underscore the importance of letter sound sensitivity in reading English for both native speakers and second language learners of English. They will also further the argument that visual processing is important for reading Chinese and that letter name knowledge predicts reading in English and Chinese for different reasons. Results will be of theoretical importance for researchers interested in bilingualism, reading, and children's development. These results will also have immediate practical instructional implications for those learning to read English as a second language.
(ED99028)

Theories of Mind and Body in Two Cultures

- ✉ TARDIF Twila • LEUNG Yiu Kin Freedom • WELLMAN Henry M.*
- 1 August 1999
- ❖ Research Grants Council (Earmarked Grants)

This research project involves an integrated series of studies that focus on naive theories of mind and body (naive psychology and biology) in preschool-aged children and adults from Hong Kong, Mainland China, and the US. A theory of mind refers to our tendency to think about persons in terms of inner psychological or mental states such as beliefs, hopes, and desires. This contrasts with thinking about people in terms of their bodies and biological properties such as their blood, bones, temperature, and organs. In this project, we will look at the development of children's theories of mind and how they are distinguished from theories about biological domains, and how both familial and cultural factors play into the socialization and transmission of these theories.

Over 400 preschool-aged children (3-, 4-, and 5-year-olds) and over 700 adults in these 3 cultures will be examined in a series of studies that aims to investigate: (1) children's theories of mind and body; (2) parents' understandings of children's minds; and (3) adults' theories of mind and body. The studies involve the coding of naturalistic observations, in-depth interviews, experimental tasks, responses to and explanations of carefully constructed scenarios, and psychometric tests. Thus, it is a multi-faceted approach to examining several interrelated aspects of early mental and biological understandings and how these understandings may differ or appear universally across cultures. Such implicit theories of mind can have strong implications for children's development, the parental fostering of development, and in the clinical treatment of somatic vs. psychologically focused clients.
(CU99116)

Value of Children to Mothers and Grandmothers Under the One-child Policy in China

- ✉ TARDIF Twila
- ☐ 1 March 2000
- ❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

The present investigation will examine the "value of children" to 100 mothers and grandmothers of 2- to 5-year-old children in mainland China. This study is part of a preliminary cross-national replication and modification of an earlier 8 nation study that examined the value of children and the impact that this psychological construct had in helping to determine and explain patterns in fertility rates and child-rearing practices across nations (Hoffman & Hoffman, 1973). It goes beyond the initial study, however, in that the present study will involve mainland China, which has instituted the "one-child" policy for over 20 years, and thus imposes very clear limits on the number of children a couple might desire, as well as potentially influences the values that parents and grandparents may place on having and raising children. In addition, it will examine the effects of the value of children on further psychological and child-rearing issues such as child-bearing desires, parenting practices, understandings of child development, and opportunities that parents provide for their children. Results from this study will be used both for initial publications on the value of children to mothers and grandmothers in mainland China, and also for the development of the VOC instrument so that further data may be collected in mainland China and compared to the 5 other nations participating in a large scale cross-national study. (SS99041)

Please refer to previous issues of this publication for more details of the following ongoing research at the department:

<u>Edition</u>	<u>Title/Investigators</u>
1998-99	Group Size Uncertainty in Social Dilemmas (SS98037) ✉ AU Wing Tung
1989-90	Mutual Perceptions Around the Pacific Rim (AB88005) ✉ BOND Michael Harris
1995-96	Personality of Influencer, Behavioral Pattern of Target and Choice of Influence Tactics: A Research in China and Hong Kong (SS95056) ✉ BOND Michael Harris
1997-98	Memory Loss after Radiotherapy for Nasopharyngeal Carcinoma (SS97052) ✉ CHAN Sui Yin Agnes

1997-98	Cognitive Profile of Nasopharyngeal Carcinoma Patients with Brian Damage (SS97063) ✉ CHAN Sui Yin Agnes • TSE Vincent* • LAW Stephen* • CHAN John*
1998-99	The Effect of Musical Training on the Cognitive Function of Children (SS98039) ✉ CHAN Sui Yin Agnes
1997-98	Inertial Property of a Rigid Body Used in the Perception of Length and Direction: A Reexamination in Dynamic Touch (CU97225) ✉ CHAN Tin Cheung
1998-99	Critical Phase Shift of Bimanual Movement: A Study of Self-Organization with Motor Coordination (SS98040) ✉ CHAN Tin Cheung
1996-97	Auditory Word Recognition in Chinese (CU96203) ✉ CHEN Hsuan Chih
1995-96	Clinical Validation of the CPAI (SS95057) ✉ CHEUNG Fanny Mui Ching
1998-99	Prospective Memory in Patients with Schizophrenia (SS98018) ✉ LEUNG Jin Pang John • UNGVARI Gabor Sandor (Dept of Psychiatry)
1997-98	The Psychosocial and Cognitive Aspects of Insulin-Dependent Diabetes Mellitus (IDDM) (SS97054) ✉ LEUNG Wing Leung Patrick
1998-99	A Test on the Psychometric Properties of CBCL/YSR and DISC-4P/Y in a Community Sample: A Pilot Study on a Two-stage Approach to the Epidemiology of Adolescent Mental Health (CU98348) ✉ LEUNG Wing Leung Patrick • HO Ting Pong* • HUNG Se Fong* • LEE Chi Chiu (Dept of Psychiatry) • TANG Chun Pan*
1998-99	A Pilot Study on the Genetic Basis of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) in Chinese Children (SS98051) ✉ LEUNG Wing Leung Patrick • SWANSON Jim* • HO T. P.* • HUNG S. F.* • LEE C. C.* • TANG C. P.*

- 1998-99 Psychosocial Adjustment of Adolescents Displaying Borderline Personality Disorder Features: A 2Year Follow-up Study (SS98041)
✍ LEUNG Yiu Kin Freedom
- 1996-97 Models of Word Reading Development in Chinese Children (SS96031)
✍ MCBRIDE Catherine Alexandra
- 1997-98 Visual and Phonological Processing, Speed of Processing, and Reading in Young Children: Cross-Language and Cross-Cultural Associations (SS97003)
✍ MCBRIDE Catherine Alexandra • KAIL Robert*
- 1997-98 Correlates of Parenting Beliefs across Cultures: Children's Academic Achievement, School Attitudes, and Life Satisfaction (SS97019)
✍ MCBRIDE Catherine Alexandra
- 1998-99 The nature and stability of phonological processing and its importance relative to visual processing for reading Chinese and English (CU98207)
✍ MCBRIDE Catherine Alexandra
- 1996-97 Violence Against Women: A Comparative Study in Chinese Societies of Hong Kong, PRC and Taiwan (CU96207)
✍ TANG So Kum Catherine • CHEUNG Fanny Mui Ching
- 1997-98 Teacher Stress, Burnout, and Self-Efficacy (SS97034)
✍ TANG So Kum Catherine • SCHWARZER Ralf* • AU Wing Tung
- 1998-99 Survey on Child Sexual Abuse among University Students in Hong Kong (SS98049)
✍ TANG So Kum Catherine
- 1998-99 A Research Study on the Family Status Discrimination Ordinance (SS98052)
✍ TANG So Kum Catherine • AU Wing Tung • KWONG Kai Sun Sunny (Dept of Economics) • TANG Stephen Lung Wai (Dept of Sociology) • TAM Siu Mi Maria (Dept of Anthropology) • CHEUNG Chin Hung Sidney (Dept of Anthropology) • MA Lai Chong (Dept of Social Work) • NGO Hang Yue (Dept of Management) • SO York Kee Clement (School of Journalism and Communication) • WONG Wai Ho (Dept of Government & Public Administration) • CHAU Kin Lam Kenneth (Dept of Social Work)
- 1997-98 Language Socialization in Urban and Rural China (CU97222)
✍ TARDIF Twila
- 1998-99 Concepts and Theories in Human Development (SS98067)
✍ TARDIF Twila • GELMAN Susan A* • FU Xiaolan*
- 1998-99 Why Do Hong Kong Students Like Gunghai? An Investigation into Identity and Personality Through the Use of Autophotography (SS98042)
✍ TARDIF Twila

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RESEARCH PROJECTS

Need, Welfare Choices and "Welfare Socialization" in Reform China - Beijing

✉ CHAU Kin Lam Kenneth • NGAI Ngan Pun • WONG Chack Kie • PUN Shuk Han (Faculty Office of Education)

☐ 1 November 1999

❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

This research is the fifth in a series of research projects on a Chinese configuration of needs. Having a Chinese framework of need been established by the first project, a RGC-funded project, based on focus-group discussions participated by Hong Kong Chinese from different walks of life, a series of questionnaire surveys have been conducted in Hong Kong, Taiwan and Shanghai to further examine how people in Chinese societies define and interpret needs, and how their priorities on need satisfaction affect their choices for institutional arrangement of social services. Like previous projects, this one aims to (1) determine people's conception of human needs, (2) identify the social, economic and cultural elements that affect such a conception and (3) examine the extent to which the new policy initiative of "welfare socialization" meets their needs and welfare choices in time of social and economic transformation. Given different social, political and economic experiences of different Chinese societies, it is important to identify the elements that are essentially Chinese, i.e., sharing similar cultural heritage, and those that are universal to any modern society in addressing socio-economic changes so as to consolidate the Chinese configuration of needs. Methodologically, focus-group discussions will be conducted to probe and construct the values and concerns of people, in-depth interviews with policy makers and practitioners will be carried out to examine any organizational and social constraints in the implementation of "welfare socialization", and a household questionnaire survey will be conducted to identify and understand views on needs, welfare choices and institutional arrangements of people from Beijing. (SS99020)

Evaluation of Structural Family Therapy for Chinese Anorexia nervosa Patients in Hong Kong

✉ MA Lai Chong • LAI Yee Ching Kelly (Dept of Psychiatry) • LEE Sing (Dept of Psychiatry)

☐ 1 December 1999

❖ Research Grants Council (Earmarked Grants)

Anorexia nervosa (AN), once considered "culture-bound" to western societies, is increasing among

adolescents and young adult women in Hong Kong and in other modern Chinese communities. This interdisciplinary study by a clinical social worker with expertise in family therapy, an adult psychiatrist and a child psychiatrist, aims to design, develop and evaluate a standardized family treatment protocol for Chinese AN patients at different ages locally. It is a multi-method outcome study conducted in two stages. The first stage is a pilot study that has already been started this year, in which a family treatment manual will be developed based on the Minuchin's model (1978) and the Maudsley's model (Dare and Eisler, 1995), intensive cross-case study of families which have completed the family treatment, intensive family interviews and the review of experts. The second stage is the main study to be funded, in which a before-after two-group design will be employed to evaluate the effectiveness of the family treatment. Patients will be divided into two age groups: adolescents and adults. Each age group will be further randomly assigned into the control group (CG) and the experimental group (EG). The CG group will receive conventional treatment; the EG group will additionally receive family treatment. Symptomatology and general functioning will be assessed by patients' and families' self-reports, as well as independent ratings by psychiatrists pre-treatment, post-treatment, at 6-month and 12-month follow-ups, using standardized instruments. In addition, intensive qualitative pre-and-post interviews will identify family expectations toward treatment, their subjective experience in the treatment process and their perception of the therapist's roles and functions. The results of this study will inform mental health professionals in both Chinese and western cultural contexts on: (1) significant family treatment principles and strategies for Chinese AN patients, and (2) the differential treatment outcome of a culturally relevant interdisciplinary family treatment protocol for the Chinese adolescent and adult AN patients. This study may further shed light on the theoretical conceptualization of female adolescent development in a modern Chinese society characterized by tension between traditional Chinese values (e.g., family loyalty, submissiveness) and western values (e.g., personal autonomy and feminism). (CU99090)

Growing up Poor: Why Adolescents Experiencing Economic Disadvantage Succeed or Fail

✉ SHEK Tan Lei Daniel • LAM Mong Chow Amy • TSOI Kcon Wah • LAM Ching Man • HO Tsang Kit-man*

☐ 30 December 1999

❖ Research Grants Council (Earmarked Grants)

Although studies have been conducted to examine the impact of poverty on child and adolescent

development, they are plagued with conceptual as well as methodological limitations and no systematic studies have been conducted in the Chinese culture. This study attempts to examine:

- (1) the personal coping resources and stresses faced by poor adolescents;
- (2) the family environment of adolescents living in poverty, including parental characteristics, qualities of relationships and family functioning;
- (3) the extra-familial environment of adolescents experiencing economic hardship;
- (4) the psychosocial adjustment of poor adolescents; and
- (5) the influences of stresses, personal coping resources, family and extra-family environmental factors on the psychosocial adjustment of adolescents in poverty.

A longitudinal research design, in which data will be collected from 200 adolescents and their parents from families experiencing economic hardship, will be employed to achieve the above objectives. It is expected that the data arising from this study will:

- (a) enhance our understanding of economically disadvantaged Chinese adolescents and their families;
- (b) clarify the theoretical issues underlying the relationship between the psychosocial environment and adjustment of poor adolescents and enable us to formulate theoretical models on factors influencing the psychosocial adjustment of poor adolescents; and
- (c) inform service providers and policy-makers the service needs of Chinese adolescents living in poverty.

(CU99087)

A Pioneering Longitudinal Study of the Development and Validation of a Drug Prevention Program in Hong Kong

- ✉ SHEK Tan Lei Daniel
- ☐ 1 April 2000
- ❖ Beat Drugs Fund Association

This project involves the development of a pioneering drug prevention program in Hong Kong. An indigenous program will be developed. A validation study using a pretest-posttest control groups design with multiple posttests will be carried out to examine the effectiveness of the program. Sixty-six groups of youth sampled from three drug high-risk areas (Tun Mun, Kwun Tong, Tai Po) by school social workers, outreaching social workers and youth workers will be randomized into the treatment (attending programs) and control (not attending programs) conditions. Participants will progress from one level of the program to the next in a two-year period. Repeated multiple outcome measures will be taken at 6-monthly intervals.

Parents and community leaders will also be trained and get involved in program delivery. (SS99052)

Charting Hong Kong People Perception of Social Welfare – A Continued Study

- ✉ WONG Chack Kie • WONG Ka Ying Timothy (Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies)
- ☐ 1 October 1999
- ❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

This study employs James Midgley's conceptual framework of social welfare to systematically examine Hong Kong people attitudes toward the condition of social welfare in Hong Kong by means of telephone survey. Three similar studies were respectively undertaken in October 1997 and April & October 1998. This is a continued study to chart the changes since then. The study is significant in both theoretical and policy terms. Theoretically, it operationalizes an old concept by using Midgley's new conceptual framework, extending the concept to include the control of social problems, the fulfillment of social needs, and the maximization of social opportunities. In policy terms, it provides periodical subjective social indicators for the public and the government policy makers to assess the state of social welfare in Hong Kong overtime. (SS99021)

Please refer to previous issues of this publication for more details of the following ongoing research at the department:

<u>Edition</u>	<u>Title/Investigators</u>
1998-99	Needs, Welfare Choices and Welfare Socialization in Reform China (CU98204) ✉ CHAU Kin Lam Kenneth • WONG Chack Kie • NGAI Ngan Pun • PUN Shuk Han (Faculty Office of Education)
1998-99	A Study of the "Right of Abode" Issue After the "NPC Reinterpretation" Controversy (SS98061) ✉ CHAU Kin Lam Kenneth • CHAN Joseph Man (School of Journalism and Communication) • WONG Wai Ho (Dept of Government & Public Administration) • TSOI Kcon Wah
1998-99	Service Needs of Children of Divorcing Families (SS98047) ✉ CHUNG CHAN Lai Foon Miranda
1997-98	Decommodification to Recommodification of Labor - Labor

- Insurance and Policy Packages in China from 1949 to 1995 (SS95076)
✍ FUNG Ho Lup
- ✍ MOK Bong Ho • CHAU Kin Lam Kenneth • FUNG Ho Lup • NGAI Ngan Pun
- 1998-99 Experience of Well-Adjusted Young Immigrants From Mainland China – A Narrative Analysis (SS98022)
✍ LAM Mong Chow Amy • TSOI Kcon Wah • FONG SOONG Tong Kou#
- 1998-99 An Exploratory Study of the Decision-Making Process of Hong Kong Chinese Families Seeking Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Consultation (SS98046)
✍ MA Lai Chong • LAI Yee Ching Kelly (Dept of Psychiatry) • PUN Shuk Han (Faculty Office of Education)
- 1998-99 An Evaluation Study on Job-Skill Training Project for Rehabilitated Drug Abusers (SS98065)
✍ MOK Bong Ho
- 1998-99 Prevalence, Role and Functions of Self-help Groups in Hong Kong (CU98060)
- 1998-99 Perceived Benefits of Cancer Self-help Groups: A Study of the Shanghai Cancer Rehabilitation Club Members (SS98066)
✍ MOK Bong Ho
- 1997-98 A Comparative Study on Adolescent Delinquent Behavior in Hong Kong, Guangzhou and Shanghai (SS97059)
✍ NGAI Ngan Pun • CHEUNG Chau Kiu* • XIE Xialing* • LU Chun*
- 1997-98 The Politics of Identity Constitution among Outreach Workers in Hong Kong (SS97026)
✍ NGAI Sek Yum
- 1997-98 Perception of Family Functioning amongst Adolescents in Hong Kong (CU97203)
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see also <P002187>, <P992877>

RESEARCH PROJECTS

A Longitudinal Study of Chronic Drug Abusers in Hong Kong

- ✉ CHEUNG Yuet Wah • TANG So Kum Catherine (Dept of Psychology) • Ch'ien James* • PI Peter*
- ☐ 3 January 2000
- ❖ Action Committee Against Narcotics

The objectives of the study are: (1) to examine the social, subcultural, demographic and psychological factors that are associated with the initiation, progression, and consequences of chronic drug abuse in Hong Kong, and (2) to describe the patterns of drug addiction and treatment seeking behaviours of chronic drug abusers, and (3) to make recommendations on possible improvements of treatment and rehabilitation services for drug addicts in Hong Kong. Three methods of data collection will be employed. A panel survey will be conducted at three time points spaced at twelve-month intervals. Several rounds of focus groups sessions will be organized for in-depth qualitative data. An ethnographic study of several cases of chronic drug abusers over a period of two years will also be carried out. It is expected that findings of the study will make academic contributions to the sociological and psychological study of drug abuse, and will have important local service implications. (SS99025)

Oral History of Miao's Female in Guizhou Province of China – Searching Alternative Development from Below

- ✉ KU Hok Bun
- ☐ 1 October 1999
- ❖ CUHK Research Committee Funding (Direct Grants)

The proposal requests for money for a continuous research for studying the life course of the Miao's female in Lei-shan County of Guizhou province. The project is an attempt to understand the life experience of the social disadvantage group (females) in the Miao minority community. The method of cohort-specific studies will enable me to identify the similarity and difference of life experience between the female of difference generations. Of course, the life strategy of these females will be also explored in this research. (SS99019)

A Comparative Study of Social Networks and Mental Health in Hong Kong and Beijing

- ✉ LEE Pui Leung Rance • CHAN Ying Keung • PENG Yusheng • LAI Wan Foon Gina*
- ☐ 1 November 1999
- ❖ Research Grants Council (Earmarked Grants)

This is a large-scale survey of the roles of ego-centered social networks in the mental health process in Hong Kong and Beijing. The study aims to address two major issues: (1) How would the structures and processes of social networks interplay in affecting mental health status? (2) How would social networks and related mental health outcomes be shaped and constrained by micro socioeconomic factors (e.g., gender, age, and social class) and macro social and economic contexts (e.g., cultural traditions, organization of work and communities). Data will be collected from 1,000 urban residents in each research site by face-to-face interviews. Results will not only enhance our understanding of the mechanisms through which social relationships affect mental health, but also bear significant practical implications for mental health practitioners, social workers, community organizers, and public policy makers. This project would be the first systematic comparative study on social networks and mental health between Hong Kong and Beijing. Findings would serve as reference to which future studies in other Chinese societies and Western societies may be compared, thus contributing to comparative social research on social networks and social etiology of mental health. (CU99135)

An Empirical Investigation of Local State Corporatism in Chinese Cities

- ✉ PENG Yusheng
- ☐ 1 June 2000
- ❖ South China Programme, CUHK

"Local state coporatism" has proven a useful conceptual framework for the study of township and village enterprises, but how useful is it for the study of urban state owned enterprises (SOEs)? The objective of this research is to explore the form and structure of Chinese cities as industrial corporations and their impacts, if any, on the performance of SOEs. Existing literature has emphasized administrative levels, the scale and scope of local industrial base, access to soft bank loans, and policy burdens as important contextual factors for the performance of public enterprises. The researchers propose to employ both quantitative and qualitative methods to investigate these theories empirically. Comprehensive enterprises data from the third national industrial census (1995) will allow a systematic contextual analysis of SOEs in over 600 cities. In-depth interviews will help to reveal the actual institutional arrangement and organizational

form of local state corporatism and its evolution over time.
(SS99985)

✍ LAU Chong Chor • PENG Yusheng

1989-90 Subjective Social Indicators Research Programme (AB85008)

✍ LAU Siu Kai

Please refer to previous issues of this publication for more details of the following ongoing research at the department:

1995-96 Legal Culture of Hong Kong (AB89092)

✍ LAU Siu Kai

Edition Title/Investigators

1998-99 Dynamics of Civil Organizations in China (SS98069)
✍ CHAN Kin Man • QIU Haixiong*

1995-96 Political Culture and Political Participation in China, Taiwan and Hong Kong (AB92030)

✍ LAU Siu Kai • KUAN Hsin Chi (Dept of Government & Public Administration)

1997-98 Combating Spatial Constraints: Strategies and Limitations (SS97057)
✍ CHAN Ying Keung • LEE Pui Leung Rance • SIDENER Jack Tyler (Dept of Architecture)# • NGAI Ngan Pun (Dept of Social Work)

1998-99 Social Issues and Social Problems in the Early Years of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR): Indicators of Social Development 1999 (SS98048)

✍ LAU Siu Kai • LEE Ming Kwan* • WONG Siu Lun*

1998-99 Support Programme for Secondary School Social Subjects (ED98039)
✍ CHIU Wing Kai Stephen

1998-99 China's New Managerial Elite (SS98044)
✍ LEE Ching Kwan

1998-99 Hong Kong: From Industrial Colony to Global City (SS98021)
✍ CHIU Wing Kai Stephen • LUI Tai Lok

1998-99 The Emerging Middle Class in Shanghai (SS98045)
✍ LUI Tai Lok

1998-99 From State Workers to Xiagang (Off-Duty) Worker – Life Strategies of Chinese Working Class in Post-Reform's Shantou of Guangdong Province (SS98043)
✍ KU Hok Bun

1989-90 Urbanization in China (AB84002)
✍ MAN Jic Leung Peter

1989-90 Youth Life Satisfaction in Hong Kong (AB85012)
✍ MAN Jic Leung Peter

1990-91 The Organizational Culture of Chinese Factories (AB91005)
✍ LAU Chong Chor • QIU Hai Xiong*

1993-94 Leisure and Social Change in Hong Kong (SS93018)
✍ NG Pedro Pak Tao

1998-99 Family Ties and Rural Industrialization in China: An Empirical Study on the Social Roots of Economic Development (SS98003)

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