

Seminar: Navigating Childcare Services in the United States and Hong Kong

Session 1 (2:30pm to 3:45pm)

Topic: Public investments in child care and early education: Financing mechanisms to support parental employment, children's development, and the wellbeing of the childcare workforce

Speaker:

Julia R. Henly, MSW, PhD

Samuel Deutsch Professor and Deputy Dean for Research and Faculty Development
Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice at the University of Chicago

Biography:

Professor Julia R. Henly directs the Policy Levers for Equitable Employment and Child Care Research Collaborative at the University of Chicago. Henly's research focuses on the economic and caregiving strategies of low-income families to improve the design and effectiveness of work-family policies and public benefits, especially employment and childcare policies. Henly is a Fellow of the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare and the Society for Social Work and Research, and past President and Board Member of the Group for the Advancement of Doctoral Education in Social Work.

Abstract:

There is a vexing policy conundrum in the childcare and early education field: How do we create an equitable, affordable, high-quality childcare system that serves the needs of working parents, their children, and the childcare workforce? In the United States, where the childcare market is largely private, providers must charge prices that are too high for most working parents, but too low to sustain quality programming for children and good jobs for childcare providers. Public investment is crucial to resolving this paradox, but the allocation of funds – how, to whom, and for what purposes – also requires careful consideration. In this talk, Henly will discuss alternative financing mechanisms – especially demand side vouchers and supply side grants to programs – and share some of her past and ongoing research that examines the benefits and challenges of both approaches for improving childcare access, children's development, and the wellbeing of the childcare workforce.

Session 2 (3:45pm to 4:15pm)

Topic: Examining the relationship between foreign domestic helpers and parenting correlates and children's externalizing behaviour in Hong Kong

Speaker:

Sylvia Kwok, M Soc Sci, PhD

Professor, Department of Social and Behavioural Sciences,
Associate Dean, Chow Yei Ching School of Graduate Studies,
City University of Hong Kong.

Biography:

Professor Sylvia Kwok's research mainly focuses on the family ecological and positive psychological factors that are related to anxiety, depression, suicide, and wellbeing of

children and adolescents. As the convenor of the Positive Education Laboratory, Sylvia has collaborated with over 300 local schools, social welfare agencies, and corporates to promote positive education for the students, teachers, parents, employees, and the community. According to metrics compiled by Stanford University, she is listed among the top 2% of the most highly cited scientists in Social Work in the world in 2022 and 2023. She is Fellow of the Hong Kong Academy of Social Work.

Abstract:

Approximately one third of Hong Kong households with children aged 12 and below employed live-in foreign domestic helpers (FDHs). However, research is scarce on examining the relationships between this FDHs-involved childcare and children's externalizing behaviour. In this talk, Sylvia will share findings on how children's attachment towards FDHs, paternal and maternal parenting practices (including warmth, control, and guan) correlate to children's externalizing behaviour, as well as discuss the implications of these findings on childcare services in Hong Kong.

Date : 10 April, 2025 (Thursday)

Time : 2:30pm to 4:30pm

Venue: B5211, 5/F, Yeung Kin Man Building, City University of Hong Kong.

Organised by : Department of Social and Behavioural Sciences,
City University of Hong Kong.