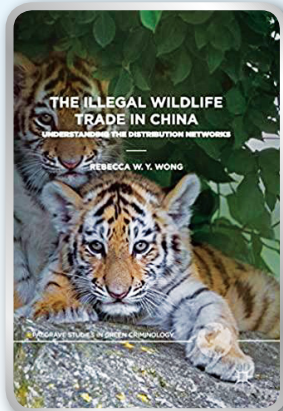


An Interview with the 2020 Asian Criminological Society Distinguished Book Award Winner

Dr. Rebecca Wong has been awarded the 2020 ACS Distinguished Book Award for her work “The Illegal Wildlife Trade in China: Understanding the Distribution Networks”, Palgrave (2019). Dr. Wong completed her PhD studies at the Department of Sociology, University of Oxford. She joined CityU in 2016. Her research focuses on green criminology, environmental crime, the illegal endangered wildlife trade, criminal networks and issues of trust in the underworld.



1. Your book “Illegal Wildlife Trade: Understanding the Distribution Networks (2019)” has been awarded the Distinguished Book Award by the Asian Criminological Society. Can you tell us what your book is about?

My book is about the organization of criminal networks involved in the unlawful trading of protected species across mainland China and Hong Kong. I studied networks involved in tiger parts, ivory and other various wildlife and identified how they operate, avoid arrests and attract customers.

2. What motivated you to write this book in the first place?

The bottom line is I love animals, I want to do something to help them. I want to contribute in whatever way I can to help protect them. I hope my research and teachings can speak to this cause.

3. Your book contributes to a field called green criminology. What exactly is green criminology?

Green criminology is the study of crime and harmful actions against non-human beings and the environment.

4. Are there anything the general public can do to help fight harms and crimes against the environment?

One thing we can all do is to lower our consumption of animal products. For example, we can use fewer products that are tested on animals and learn about various plant-based diets to lower our consumption of meat. Every small step will help protect the environment. We also need to reflect on our consumption habits, do we really need to buy another piece of clothing? What is the environmental cost of fast fashion?

5. Is there anything the lawmakers can do to help fight crimes against the environment?

Having tougher and more consistent enforcement will certainly help but it is also down to behavioral change. Everyone in the society needs to work together to protect the environment. The responsibility is not on any single country or institution but the entire human race.

Mentor-and-Mentee Scheme 19/20 Launched Online

Student mentors are important collaborators with the SS department, and they have connected and led SS students to learn, reflect and grow mutually. Every year, the department puts much resources and effort in providing training workshops to student mentors. After a series of training sessions, student mentors have equipped themselves with a better understanding on interpersonal skills, deeper learning on organizing events specifically and enhancing their leadership skills. This year, given the challenge of COVID-19, student mentors have to adapt to training conducted online rather than in person. After the first meeting in “Mentor Orientation Day”, all training sessions were held in online mode during semester B 2020.

Orientation and Training Days

Every summer, teams of student mentors organize Training and Orientation programmes for Bachelor of Social Sciences – First Year (BDSS students) and newcomers as a warm welcome to their joining the SS Family as well as offering them a taste of learning in the related subjects in an interesting way.



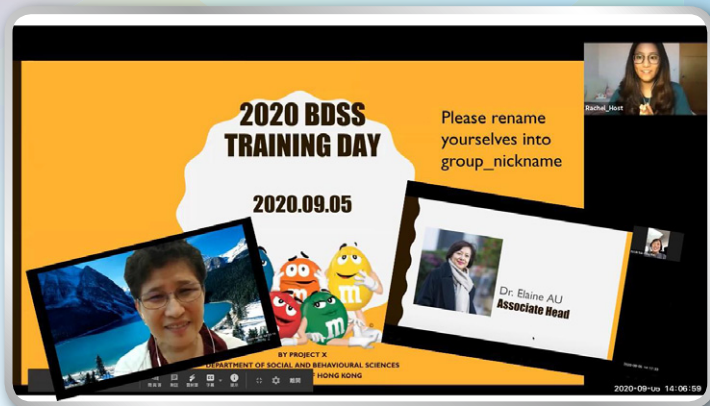
▲ *Mentor-and-mentee (MnM) Scheme 19/20, Mentor Orientation Day on January 17, 2020*

This year, student mentors have taken up a great challenge on organizing the student activities via an online platform, with not only information sharing but also preserving the interactive and team-building elements. Under a collaborative support of 17 student mentors, 3 senior mentors and 11 alumni, five training days were held, for BDSS students and each major’s freshmen with their own theme, and joined by 238 newcomers.

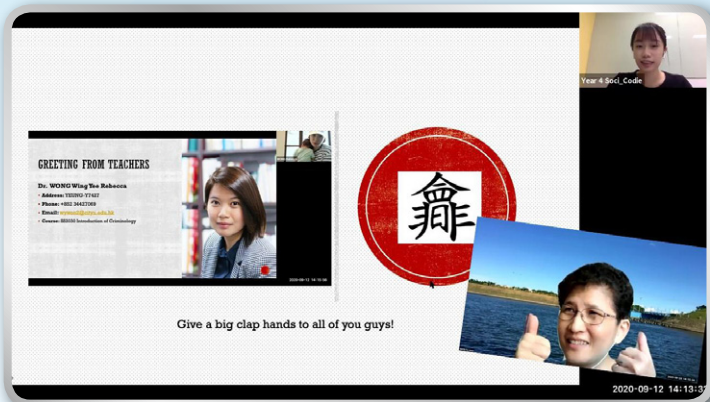


▶ *Prof. LO Tit Wing, Head, was giving an encouraging speech to student mentors.*

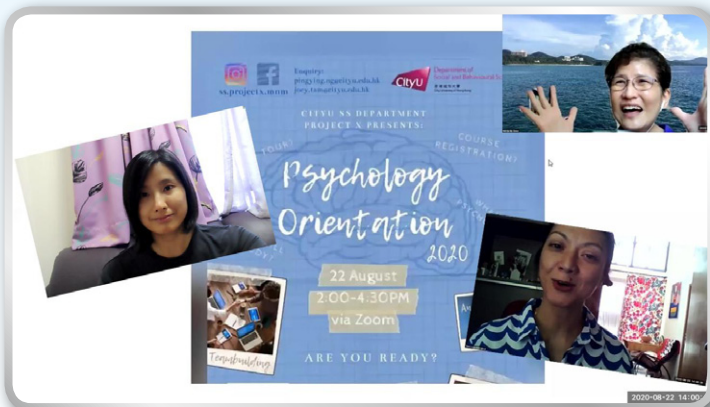
Greeting and Support from Faculty Members



Student mentors felt full of support from teachers. Dr. Elaine AU, Associate Head (Right-bottom corner) and Dr. Anna HUI, First-year-experience coordinator (Left) gave very warm and meaningful welcoming speeches to newcomers.



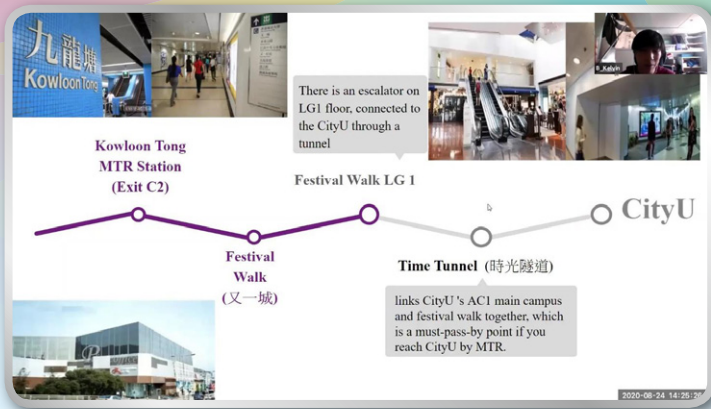
Dr. Rebecca WONG (Left) and Dr. Anna HUI (Right) gave participants so much encouragement when starting a new study chapter in SS on Criminology and Sociology Training Day.



Student mentors and new students felt cheered up that Dr. Tina ROCHELLE, Programme Leader (Right-bottom corner), Dr. Vivien CHAN (Left) and Dr. Anna HUI, Project X Convener (Right-upper corner) have come to share their learning paths in psychology and showed support.



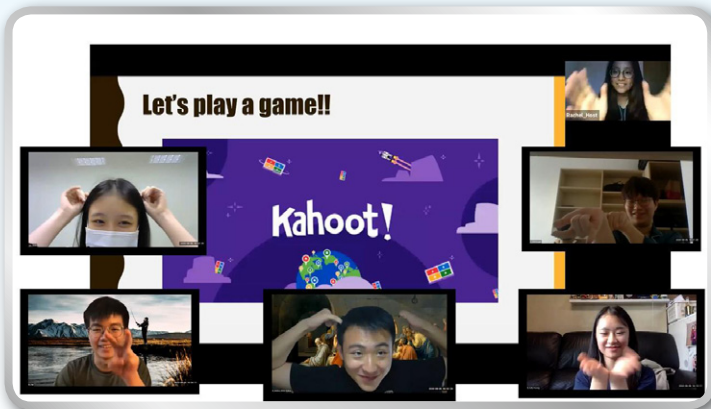
On the Social Work Training Day, Dr. Estella CHAN joined the training after her welcoming speech. Dr. Anna HUI and Dr. Anna HUI have joined us on both Social Work and BDSS Training Days and delivered warm greetings.



WELCOME TO CITYU!! ~VIRUTAL TOUR STARTS~

A virtual tour which was tailor-made for freshmen especially for this year. Considering that online learning mode would be implemented when the semester started, student mentors have designed the route with a perspective of a learning journey of a freshman, including the way to reach CityU, location of SS Department, laboratory, other student services, and cafeteria on campus.

Getting to Know More about Each Other



What is communication other than talking?

Establishing social connection is always the main concern to newcomers every year. It is a greater challenge under the pandemic. Student mentors tailor-made some interactive activities through Zoom to foster online communication by showing their faces, talking comfortably to get to know more about one another, and establishing a social support network within SS.



Self-portraits of our talented freshmen. Let's have a guess! Who is who?



A case study on getting clues from interviewing people and having a self-assessment on basic knowledge of their major.

Reflection by Student Mentors

Mak Ying Kwan, Codie (Major in CRSO-ASOC, Year 4)

2020 has really been a tough year because of the COVID-19 pandemic, especially for those new CityU incomers. The training day turned out to be an online session instead of face-to-face one. This is the first time I held the meeting through Zoom and it was not an easy job. Luckily, I got fully support from other mentors. They motivated me to put 200% efforts into every task and the training day is successful. MnM family has given me such joy and I'm grateful to have been a part of something that could bring a little joy to freshmen too this year.



Ho Ka Faat, Faat (Major in CRSO-CRIM, Year 4)

Being a mentor in CRSO, I feel honored. When I was a junior student, I felt puzzled about adjusting to campus life and writing a good academic paper. That being the case, there were a lot of mentors who helped me integrate into university life and gave me useful advice for selecting courses; therefore, I have a wonderful life at CityU. I know the importance of mentors. Hence, I will be a dedicated mentor to help my mentees. I hope they have an unforgettable life at CityU as well.

Leong Wei Jian, Derek (Major in Psychology, Year 4)

I would first like to say I'm grateful to be given this opportunity as a mentor under the MnM Scheme! It has been nothing but a fruitful experience so far since our first orientation at campus last year to the Training Day organized through Zoom. I was very impressed to see how everyone within MnM and Project X had adapted and managed to pull off a successful Training Day despite the pandemic! I'm looking forward to organizing future activities and providing mentees with sufficient information on their university life as well as sharing my experience, especially since this is my final academic year at CityU!

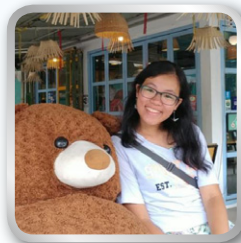


Poon Tsz Hin, Carson (Major in Psychology, Year 3)

Although we are facing many uncertainties due to the pandemic, it did not stop us from holding training days. Organizing an online training day surely is a new thing to all of us, yet we overcame the obstacles through working as a team. The enthusiastic response from freshman had also led us to decide to hold an additional training day, something we did not expect at first. With the support of Jodie, Joey and the senior mentors, I am glad that everything sorted out. I hope all the freshmen enjoyed our activity and have a fruitful semester!

Tang Hoi Ching, Dory (Major in Psychology, Year 3)

The pandemic has brought new-normal to our campus life. Unlike my freshmen year, freshmen of 2020 experience almost everything via online platforms. No more orientation camp which could meet their new classmates face-to-face. As a group of Psychology mentors, we strived to go with the new trend and bring Psychology Training Days to life! It was challenging for us who did not have many experiences in organizing events through video conferencing platforms. Creativity and patience are needed for the trial and error of various alternatives. Thankfully, with the effective exchange of ideas among our team, we successfully reproduced activities which used to be organized in a physical setting, such as Campus Tour and Detective Game. This pandemic certainly teaches us the need of social distancing, yet we are never distanced from learning!



Karina Sarinova (Major in Psychology, Year 3)

The Mentor-and-Mentee scheme of SS has organized several training days for the incoming freshmen and advanced standing students. These sessions were held for all majors by their respective teams. The psychology major team decided to organize its Training Day before the course registration for year 1 students. The event included the teachers' speeches, team building, a detective game, and useful tips on studying and course picking. The possible challenges of inclusion and online conduction were overcome by the collective effort and team work from the Project X staff, mentors, guest speakers, and, most importantly, active participants.



Yiu Tsz Kwan, Lily (Major in Social Work , Year 2)

Organizing the BDSS Training Day was a huge step forward for me. As an introvert, I struggled to socialize and be outgoing, not to mention hosting a whole event! The current pandemic adds to the burden by forcing us onto Zoom, where a lot of uncertainties are present. Despite all the difficulties, I was able to come through with the support my fellow mentors at M&M. I gained more confidence and experience in planning events from scratch. It was a good learning opportunity for me and has contributed much to my personal growth. I am so glad to have made the Training Day a success.

Wong Wing Yi, KT (Major in Social Work , Year 3)

It is a terrible and hard academic year for new students. Unlike other students who entered the University in the past, they do not have many chances to meet their classmates and know much about the campus this year. It's memorable and meaningful to organize a Training Day for them. Just like the theme of our Training Day, I hope that MnM and the Training Day can give them love and support !!

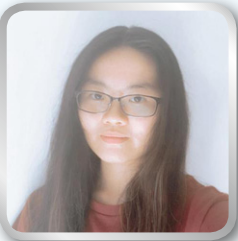


Chau Yan Lam, Nancy (Major in Social Work, Year 3)

It is grateful that I have gotten the opportunity to organize an activity with other mentors. It was all of us who have made the event possible. Also, the support from Jodie and Joey helped a lot during the preparation of the training day. Although the training day were held through Zoom, I really hope that the training day did provide some help for the participants, just like the theme of the training day “凝聚新曦 [solidarity with aurora]”. I hope that everyone has a new start in the new year, regardless of any difficulties.

Liu Sui Wing, Kingston (Major in Social Work, Year 3)

Being a mentor for the juniors is definitely a meaningful and intriguing experience. During the preparation for the orientation day with my classmates, Jodie and Joey, I learned to design interactive activities, formulated a detailed session plan, and practiced social work skills. Most importantly, I was able to share my experience with the freshman and resolve their frustration. Freshmen were able to make new friends especially in the time of pandemic and adapt to the new university life with our support. I am glad to be a mentor who can help my junior classmates and meet with different fellow mentors.



Li Cheuk Wah, Alexis (Major in Social Work, Year 3)

It was such a delightful experience being one of the mentors participating in the training day. The event has given me an opportunity to consider about the needs of classmates in the social work major, and has also allowed me to meet them and spend a joyful afternoon playing icebreaking games with them. I really enjoyed the training day and I hope all of the participants feel welcomed getting into this big family of SS.

Wong Man Ki, Sonia (Major in Social Work, Year 3)

Once again, we are so grateful to have you on our training day! That was a great opportunity for us to meet the new faces! Under the alarming pandemic, we especially hope that social work students can be gathered and united to face the difficulties. The SS department is always warm and supportive!



Chan Kai Yin, John (Major in Social Work, Year 3)

I am one of the mentors this year. MnM is a meaningful programme for me as it provided plenty of opportunities for enhancing personal and collaborative competence, especially in preparation for the Training Day. It was the most significant event in summer which aimed at welcoming new social work students. Although it was a difficult period for us to use Zoom instead of a face-to-face training camp, we still worked together and used our creativity to overcome the challenge. We gained so much pleasure and satisfaction after the successful training day!

Chim Tsin Lian, Malvin (Major in Social Work, Year 3)

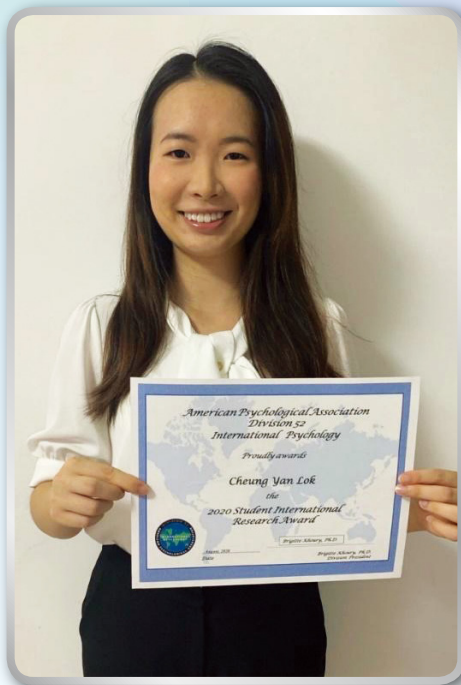
MnM scheme provided me an opportunity to cooperate with other students. MnM scheme not only broadened my social network but also increased my team spirit by working with other students. This year, the orientation was held via Zoom instead of the training camp. There were more limitations. Thanks to the efforts of all mentors and staff, the orientation was completed successfully!

A Psychology Undergraduate Student Received Student International Research Award

I am a psychology undergraduate student who just graduated from CityU and have been awarded the 2020 Student International Research Award by the Division of International Psychology (Division 52) of the American Psychological Association (APA). APA is the leading scientific and professional organization representing psychology in the United States, with more than 121,000 researchers, educators, clinicians, consultants and students as its members.

The research project that won the award was my final year project. It is titled “Cultural differences in psychological well-being: The sequential mediating effects of cultural values, experiential avoidance, and self-compassion”. My study investigated how values and emotion regulation strategies could have an effect on Hong Kong Chinese and American’s psychological well-being.

Before attending CityU, I have received my high school education alongside students from over 150 different countries. Through this intercultural experience and collaborative living with classmates from different cultural backgrounds, I have developed an interest in understanding and promoting cultural diversity. I also have observed that students from Western countries regulate their emotions when encountering life adversities differently when compared to local students in Hong Kong. I felt like my classmates from foreign countries are more likely to accept and embrace themselves even when life was very stressful. With this personal experience, I started to wonder



why people from different cultural backgrounds deal with life adversities differently. Hence, I am interested in cross-cultural psychology.

In my research, I administered structured questionnaire on 81 Americans and 80 Hong Kong Chinese participants ranging from 18-30 years of age. My study found that Americans showed a higher level of psychological well-being when compared to Hong Kong Chinese. Hong Kong Chinese emphasized conformity to a greater extent than Americans, which increased the use of experiential avoidance, consequently resulting in lower psychological well-being. In contrast, Americans emphasized universalism-tolerance to a greater extent, which increased their use of self-compassion to regulate

their emotions, consequently resulting in higher psychological well-being. The study’s results suggest that the difference in the level of psychological well-being between Americans and Hong Kong Chinese is due to the emphasis of different cultural values and the adoption of different emotion regulation strategies.

Looking back on my final year of university, it is a year full of personal growth and self-discovery. If I might offer a word of advice to students who are going to write or writing their final year project, I would say – Please be **CURIOS** and **PATIENT**. Be **CURIOS** about what you are passionate and be **PATIENT** even though it is not happening as you expected. I am so glad that I chose a topic that I am so passionate about, which is cross-cultural and emotion regulation. My passion has driven my curiosity from the beginning to the end of the research. Also, when the results were not what you expected, it is very easy to feel disheartened. This is when I developed my patience and tried different methods until I found the solution.

Last but not least, I would like to once again express my gratitude to my supervisor Dr. Dannii Yeung. I would like to thank her more particularly for her guidance, motivation and patience throughout the research. This challenging yet fruitful journey is only made possible with her guidance.

By **Cheung Yan Lok, Janet**
2020 Undergraduate Psychology student

The New “Hybrid” Undergraduate Admission Model

Amid the challenges we are facing during the COVID-19 pandemic, we were excited to admit the first cohort of undergraduate students via our new admission model in 2020-21. Over the past decade, our undergraduate (UG) admission model was continuously reviewed and revised to fit the needs of our students and the changes in the undergraduate education structure. Below are the milestones of the development.

<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Admission Model</i>
Before 2012	3-year UG curriculum, programme-based admission
2012-2015	4-year UG curriculum, college-based admission
2016-2019	4-year UG curriculum, department-based admission
Since 2020	4-year UG curriculum, major-based + department-based admission

The new UG admission model aims to cater for the needs of different prospective students. Some are more determined about their careers, while some are still exploring and developing their interest. While exploring their interest in the first year in the university, some students were worried that they could not get in their desired majors because of the quota restrictions on the majors. In the new model, we aim to match the different needs of our prospective students, and provide a worry-free environment with proper guidance for our students to learn and explore.

In the current UG admission model, there are two admission routes including the major-based admission and the department-based admission. The major-based admission is designed for those applicants who are certain about their interest. They can choose one of our three majors including criminology and sociology, psychology, or social work. The department-based admission is designed for those applicants who are generally interested in these areas but are unsure about which one fits them the best. They may choose the department-based admission, learn more about the majors in the first year, and declare one of the three majors at the end of the year. There are no quota restrictions for the majors. These students can freely declare one of the three majors so long as they fulfill the minimum requirements.

We are continuously receiving feedback from our students and other stakeholders about our education. By working together, we strive to further enhance our professional education to fit the needs of our students and our society.



Dr. Ben Li

Associate Head

Department of Social and Behavioural Sciences