

Learning via Exploration – World Congress on Undergraduate Research & British Conference of Undergraduate Research 2023 (WorldCUR–BCUR 2023)



Students shared their research projects with an international audience at WorldCUR–BCUR 2023.

The Department of Social and Behavioural Sciences (SS) promotes out-of-classroom, discovery-based learning experiences with international exposure. Founded in 2010, the British Conference of Undergraduate Research (BCUR) provides SS students with exactly such an opportunity to learn through and about research and inquiry in the global context. In 2023, BCUR was jointly held with the World Congress on Undergraduate Research (WorldCUR) at the University of Warwick, UK.

After a successful and rewarding trip for BCUR before the pandemic in 2019, SS continued to organise a

study tour in early April 2023 for 13 final-year undergraduate students to present their research at WorldCUR–BCUR 2023. Participants came from all three disciplines, with students majoring in Criminology and Sociology, Psychology and Social Work. The international conference attracted over 600 undergraduates from more than 30 countries across the world.

WorldCUR–BCUR 2023 was a prominent and inspiring experience in academic and personal development for the students, who had their first ever opportunity to present their research at a

conference. Through training, preparation and participation as presenters and audience members, students enriched their research-related and presentation skills as well as their connections with different professionals and researchers in interdisciplinary fields. All sessions at the conference, including the presentation sessions, social activities and keynote speeches, were enjoyable and fruitful, allowing students to step out of their comfort zones and make friends with people from diverse backgrounds. The trip was rated as a significant academic event in the participants' university learning.

SS Students Presenting at WorldCUR–BCUR 2023

Name of Student (Major)	Presentation Title	Supervisor
CHEUNG Hiu Man (Psychology)	The relationship of mindfulness-based apps, and emotional competence and anxiety of the primary school students: the moderator of the parental practices of emotion coaching	Prof. HUI Na Na Anna
CHOY Hiu Yin (Psychology)	The association between religiosity and subjective well-being: The mediation effect of self-efficacy and resilience	Prof. YU Xiaonan Nancy
LAI Yi Ching (Psychology)	To take notes on a computer or not: Cognitive offloading expectation on word concreteness effect	Prof. TSE Chun Yu
LAU King Leung (Criminology and Sociology)	Perceiving voter apathy and political apathy: To explore the political disengagement myths behind youths in Hong Kong	Prof. HO Wing Chung
LEUNG Ho Ching (Criminology and Sociology)	The experience in the stigmatisation of 'depression' in the personal growth of Hong Kong university students with mental health problems	Prof. LU Shiyu Tracy
LEUNG Tsz Ue Michelle (Psychology)	A comparative study on romantic jealousy between individuals who have and have not experienced infidelity: Do gender differences exist between infidelity types and rival attractiveness?	Prof. LAI Chuk Ling Julian
LUI Wan In (Social Work)	Examine the effectiveness of applying creative art in improving the mental well-being of older adults in an elderly centre in HK	Mrs. LUI LEUNG Wai Hing Frances
MAN Chun Wa (Social Work)	Mindfulness in women group setting: A Hong Kong local case study	Mrs. LUI LEUNG Wai Hing Frances
NG Tin Hang (Psychology)	The impact of heart rate fragmentation on high-frequency heart rate variability in predicting health outcomes among elderly	Prof. TSE Chun Yu
PARK Ji In (Psychology)	Third culture kids readjusting to home culture during military service: The interaction effect of acculturation strategy and social connectedness	Prof. CHEN Hui Fang
WONG Nga Tung (Psychology)	Trait mindfulness and creativity: Social skills as moderator and mediator	Prof. HUI Na Na Anna
WONG Wai Yin (Psychology)	Perceived sexual orientation microaggression and depressive symptoms in LGBTQIA+ youth in Asia: The mediating role of resilience and the moderating effect of interpersonal relationship	Prof. YU Xiaonan Nancy
YAM Hoi Yan (Psychology)	Thinking style as the mediator between perceived parenting style and creativity: A sample of Hong Kong young adults	Prof. CHEN Hui Fang



Students exchanged ideas during group preparation.



Students were excited about the conference gala dinner and ready to build connections with other undergraduates and academic staff at the social event.

WorldCUR–BCUR 2023 remains after its closing as an unforgettable learning experience for all students.



Departmental Student Chapter 2023–2024

The Departmental Student Chapter is a student body consisting of core student leaders in the Department of Social and Behavioural Sciences (SS). Members of the Chapter are dedicated to facilitating personal, interpersonal, academic and professional development of their fellow students through a variety of activities.

In the 2023–2024 academic year, the SS Student Chapter is being restructured to enhance students' involvement and promote a cross-major, cross-year and cross-cultural network. The Chapter now consists of 17 core members from three disciplines and different years, including one international student.



Core Members of SS Student Chapter in 2023–2024

ZHAO Wanying (Miranda)

President, majoring in Psychology

LEUNG Ka Kin (John)

*External Vice President,
majoring in Criminology & Sociology*

LAM Chon Kai (CK)

*Internal Vice President,
majoring in Social Work*

CHAN Kai Man (King)

*External Affairs Secretary,
majoring in Psychology*

LEE Yuet Yi Sophie (Sophie)

*External Affairs Secretary &
Student Representative Leader,
majoring in Psychology*

Afia Ohenewah ADDEI (Afia)

*Internal Affairs Secretary,
majoring in Psychology*

LAM Hui Yu, Carol (Carol)

*Internal Affairs Secretary,
majoring in Psychology*

SHUM Kam Loi (Ken)

*Financial Secretary,
majoring in Social Work*

SUN Lejia (Dave)

*Student Welfare Secretary,
majoring in Psychology*

XU Shitong (Saturn)

*Student Welfare Secretary,
majoring in Psychology*

CHENG Sze Wan (Stephanie)

*Publication and Publicity Secretary,
majoring in Psychology*

CHAN Ching Yi (Joanne)

*Publication and Publicity Secretary,
majoring in Criminology & Sociology*

WONG Alexander (Alex)

*Student Mentoring Team Leader,
majoring in Psychology*

YANG Ziyang (Magnolia)

*Student Mentoring Team Leader,
majoring in Psychology*

MA Ka Wing (Louis)

*Student Mentoring Team Leader,
majoring in Criminology & Sociology*

WONG Sui Ki (Suki)

*Department Ambassador Team Leader,
majoring in Psychology*

MAK Un I (Miki)

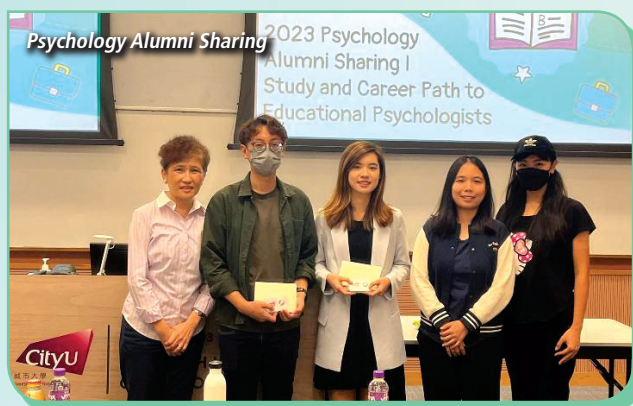
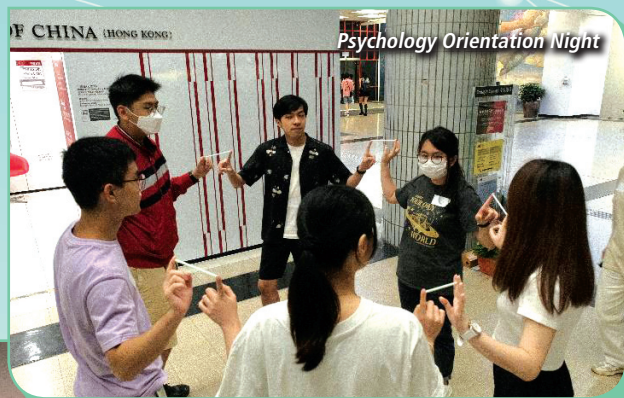
*Department Ambassador Team Leader,
majoring in Psychology*

LEE Pui Lam (Gen)

*Activity Organising Team Leader,
majoring in Social Work*

Orientation Nights

Student Chapter members organised Orientation Nights for 74 newly admitted SS students from different disciplines in August 2023. The orientation activities not only sent a warm welcome to the newcomers but also served to provide them with a glimpse of university life and to establish bonding and a sense of belonging among them.



Alumni Sharing

The Student Chapter helped organise an alumni sharing session in October 2023, where the alumni shared their experiences as educational psychologists. The speakers were Mr. Sylvester Wong and Miss Iris Chan. More alumni-sharing sessions will be held in Semester B for students from other majors.

University Information Day

SS was glad to have its Student Chapter members promote the Department on University Information Day in October 2023. Students were keen to introduce their majors and share their learning experiences at SS with the visitors.



Book Recommendation: The Alienist by Caleb Carr – By Prof. Rebecca Wong

Those who know me (or have had the pleasure of visiting my office, albeit unwillingly!) would know that I am an avid reader. Hence, I am pleased to include a book recommendation in the first departmental newsletter of 2024.

I am biased in my selection given that I am a criminologist, so my chosen title is *The Alienist* by Caleb Carr, a crime thriller set in New York City in the 1890s. It is the first book in the Kreizler series. An alienist is an archaic term for a psychiatrist or psychologist. The *Alienist*, narrated by John Moore, a crime reporter for the New York Times, recounts Dr. Kreizler, the Alienist's hunt for the phantom-like murderer that mutilated a young boy and a prostitute. The pace of storytelling is superb, yet at the same time, leaves no ghastly details untouched (this book is not for the faint-hearted!)

The novel is also historical fiction, one of my favourite genres, which I would love to tell you more about in future issues. Carr's writing style and his attention to historical detail combined with psychological and criminological exploration of violent criminals captivated my attention, as I am sure it will capture yours.

The Alienist is available in the CityU library (as of December 2023).

Meet Our SS Inclusion Advocate – Prof. Kwan Chi Kin

Prof. Kwan Chi Kin is an inclusion scholar dedicated to promoting inclusion for people with disabilities. His research focuses on workplace inclusion by recognising the crucial role of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) in creating thriving organisations. Having previously worked as a social worker, he understands that the limitations, rather than the potentials, of people with disabilities are often emphasised.

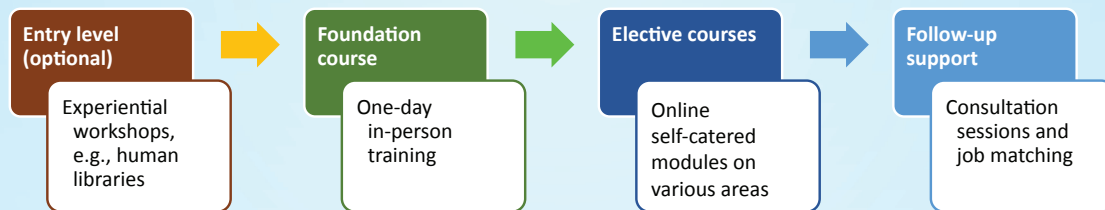
As a researcher—practitioner, he suggests that simply advocating for enterprises to employ individuals with disabilities is not enough. His approach involves providing comprehensive support to both employers and employees to create successful working environments. Currently, he is leading a project that supports managers and frontline employees in private enterprises to effectively work with people with disabilities.



Prof. Kwan and NGO representatives from the eight NGOs supporting the DEI@WORK project.

What is the DEI@WORK Project?

Supported by the Kerry Group, Prof. Kwan is currently spearheading an innovative community project called DEI@WORK. This project aims to foster a culture of inclusion within the territory by collaborating with eight prominent nongovernmental organisations (NGOs). Consultants from the business and welfare sectors, as well as academics, are invited to oversee the project. Together, they work towards promoting inclusion in enterprises and ensuring that individuals from all backgrounds have equal opportunities to thrive in the workplace.



Supports available for enterprises under the project.

The project encompasses a range of workshops, training sessions and support programmes tailored for company managers and employees. Entry-level workshops are available to cater to companies that may have limited familiarity with disability issues. Enterprises seeking to equip their employees with the essential knowledge and skills to effectively work with people with disabilities can engage in a training course that includes a one-day foundation module and online electives. Additionally, companies expressing an interest in recruiting individuals with disabilities will receive consultation sessions focused on establishing inclusive workspaces and facilitating job matching.

The DEI Vision

Through the DEI@WORK project, Prof. Kwan and his team actively engage with enterprises, equipping them with the knowledge and skills needed to effectively work with people with disabilities. The project is estimated to benefit 3,500 participants. Ultimately, Prof. Kwan envisions a future in which diversity is celebrated, and every individual, regardless of their background, can thrive and succeed in the workplace. By embracing acceptance and maintaining a positive attitude when interacting with individuals with special needs, we can all contribute to making this vision a reality.

Meet Our New Faculty – Prof. LIN Shen, Lamson

Prof. Lin Shen (Lamson) joined the City University of Hong Kong's Department of Social and Behavioural Sciences (SS) as an assistant professor (tenure track) of social work in 2022, right after completing his doctoral education in Canada (2017–2022). Prof. Lamson Lin earned his Ph.D. degree from the University of Toronto's (UofT's) Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work (FIFSW). Before joining CityU, he was a course instructor teaching Social Work Practice in Health at FIFSW. At the SS department, he has been the course leader for three UG courses (GE1226/SS1012: Youth in a Changing Society; GE2226: Ageing Society: HK and Beyond; SS3285: Human Behaviour & Social Environment) and one TPG course (SS5212: Human Behaviour & Diversity). He now serves as a mentor for the CityU's HKTech 300 and a guest editor for Humanities and Social Sciences Communications.



*Prof. Lamson LIN and
Prof. Michael M YANG
(Senior Vice-President) at
HKTech300, Nov 28, 2023*

What is your research about?

As a gerontologist and social work scholar, my research aims to advance 'healthy ageing' and 'health equity' via statistical and machine learning techniques to examine how social and structural determinants (e.g., race/ethnicity, migration, disadvantaged socioeconomic status and poverty) influence disparities in health care access/utilisation (e.g., mental health consultations, unmet care needs, long-term care services) and disease prevalence (e.g., multimorbidity, chronic illness, functional disability, depression) among older adults.

Additionally, my scholarship investigates risk and protective factors through which the COVID-19 pandemic affects individuals' psychosocial wellbeing, such as anxiety disorders, loneliness, stigma and vaccine hesitancy. This scholarship has been informed by my interdisciplinary academic training in social work (FIFSW), gerontology (Institute for Life Course & Aging), and population health (Dalla Lana School of Public Health) at the University of Toronto.

Why are you passionate about healthy aging?

One simple answer is that we are situated in a hyper-aged society! One in five people in HK is an older adult: The proportion of persons aged 65 and over in the total population rose from 13% in 2011 to 20% in 2021, and by 2064, one-third of the population in HK will be age 65 or above. This is a public health success story, resulting from the advancement of society, better hygiene and medical technology, and we should all celebrate human longevity!

Longer lives are beneficial to society in various ways, including socio-economically and inter-generationally, because older adults possess skills, knowledge and wisdom that benefit the whole population. There are ample opportunities to leverage this increased longevity as a vital resource, whilst challenging ageism and the negative stereotype that retirement is about 'dependency'.

At the centre of my research agenda is the investigation of these two questions: 'How can we extend both our life span and our health span?' and 'How could we as human beings adjust to age-related functional losses in later life while maintaining our intrinsic capacity to live a flourishing life?' I would say that social conditions, including the social and built environments (e.g., access to equitable health care services for everyone), play a fundamental role here. As such, gerontological social work is a specialised discipline to create positive changes to enhance the level of age friendliness in our social environments that are responsive to the dynamics of older adults' bio-psycho-social needs.



*Prof. Lamson LIN
at UofT*

Message from the Associate Head

You crown the year with Your goodness (Psalm 65:11)

I am truly grateful for the opportunity I have had to work, serve and grow in the SS family over the past 10 years. I would like to express my gratitude for all the support and guidance that has been given to me. Without it, my academic career would never have been the same. There are many valuable memories I have of my time in SS. I would like to share some of them with you.

Years ago, shortly after I joined the SS Department, there was a call from the University requesting each AU to offer new GE courses to meet the rising demand. The call was urgent, so an ad-hoc meeting was arranged within our department. I was asked to sit in the meeting on behalf of a colleague who couldn't attend it. During the meeting, various ideas were raised, and one member suggested offering a new course related to movies and psychology, a topic that could potentially attract students from other departments. Members of the meeting agreed with the idea, and I was assigned to be the course leader for this new Gateway Education ('GE') course. It was at first a challenge for me since I had no previous (learning or research) experience in this topic. Doubts and hesitations aside, I tried to see it as an opportunity to step outside my comfort zone and learn something new.

I started preparing the course from scratch, delving into the field of media psychology. It wasn't easy at first, but the more time I invested, the more I appreciated the topic. I began to see the significance and meaning of preparing and delivering this new GE course. Over the years, I have been fortunate to witness the course's growth in terms of class size and receive positive feedback from students. One of the course assessments required students to reflect on the relationship between movies and their personal growth, encouraging personal reflection and self-discovery alongside academic psychological analyses. I was glad to see that students not only gained

psychological knowledge outside their discipline but also recognised how movies enriched their personal development.

The past three years were not easy for everyone, as we are all aware. Among many other things, the pandemic forced me to re-evaluate my research methodology and the need to be more adaptive. As an experimental psychologist, my work primarily relies on lab-based research. However, due to the nature of lab-based psychological research, our psychology labs had to be closed for a significant period during the pandemic, significantly hindering my work. Around the same time, I unexpectedly received additional funding from the TED Office (which I hadn't requested) to hire research assistants and conduct activities to enhance the delivery of the course GE1137 Movies and Psychology.

Faced with the difficulty of collecting lab-based data during the pandemic and the opportunity brought by the unexpected funding, I asked myself if there was any research that I could conduct related to my teaching that did not rely on the physical labs. After teaching the course GE1137 for several years, I witnessed an abundance of anecdotal evidence regarding the potential positive impact of movies on students. With this in mind, I began exploring the cross talk between positive psychology and media psychology. I noticed that it was a relatively new area of research, with limited empirical and systematic studies. This led me to the idea of asking the movie audience to rate the portrayal of positive traits by the movie characters using established psychometric scales from the field of positive psychology, intent on the examination of the impact of 'perceived' positive traits on the audience. Our findings suggested that regardless of the audience's intrinsic personality traits, the degree of perceived human virtues demonstrated by the movie's protagonist was positively associated with the meaningful affective response (elevation)



Prof. WONG, Wing Kuen Andus

Associate Head

Department of Social and Behavioural Sciences
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experienced by the audience. Furthermore, this response predicted a heightened motivation for prosocial behaviours, indicating that meaningful movies could have positive impacts on the audience. We recently published these results in an article titled 'The impacts of cinematic portrayal of human virtues' in the APA journal *Psychology of Popular Media*. Additionally, a Teaching Development Grant was awarded for this project (in collaboration with Prof. Samuel Ho) to cultivate human virtues among our students using movie materials.

Looking back, I feel that my experience in SS has been filled with blessings. If I hadn't attended that ad hoc meeting years ago, I wouldn't have had the opportunity to take up the course *Movies and Psychology*. If I hadn't prepared and taught this course, I wouldn't have been able to learn and appreciate the positive impact it has on our students. If I hadn't faced the challenges posed by the pandemic, I wouldn't have had the determination to step beyond my research comfort zone and explore a new and promising area of study. For all these experiences, I am truly grateful. And I eagerly look forward to counting more and more grateful experiences in the days to come.