

## City-Youth Empowerment Project (CYEP) Teaching Excellence, Serving Perseverance

City-Youth Empowerment Project has evolved from its prototype in 2005 to a richer and diverse service-learning project with an accumulated number of 6,660 volunteers, 3500 service recipients and 86654.5 service hours. Dr. Elaine Au founded the City-Youth Empowerment Project with students in halls of residence who were the initial target in 2005. At the project's 10th year, Dr. Elaine Au received the Award for Teaching Excellence from the University Grants Committee (UGC) and the Teaching Excellence Award from City University of Hong Kong in recognition of her outstanding teaching performance and achievements.

Elaine's teaching philosophy is: "Empowering Students; Empowering Community."

"Based on my background as a youth social worker and social work educator, my teaching philosophy is guided by one of social work's core approaches - the Humanistic Approach. I see each student's learning experience as an enriching transformational journey. I respect each student's individuality and uniqueness, and accept the constraints connected to their past. I care deeply about the welfare of young adults and understand how environmental forces such as a fast-growing economy and technological advances can have a marked effect on their upbringing. Both inside and outside of the classroom I emphasize the interconnectedness of the individual and the community, and strive to create opportunities for students to take action in the community through helping, serving, and involving them in social causes they feel strongly about, thus facilitating a process of transformation of past constraints into present strengths. The resulting emerging sense of empowerment leads to a positively rewarding reinforcement cycle, which provides young people with a sense of motivation and confidence to involve themselves more in the community."

Our project could not have succeeded without the avid commitment from our Project Convener, Project Officers, Research Assistant and Volunteers Ambassadors; let's meet our team and get to know more about them.

### Project Officer: So Tsz Fung, Tommy

Usually goes by Fung or Tommy, he is a graduate of the Bachelor of Social Work degree from City University in 2014 and joined CYEP upon graduation. Tommy is a Project Officer as well as a Residence Head Tutor of Hall 1. He deeply believes that people are capable to make positive changes and actualize life goals. He regards CYEP as a platform connecting the student-volunteers and the people in need in the community. The meaningful aspect of his work is to encourage the student-volunteers and the service recipients to improve their life conditions and achieve their dreams and wants in a proper way. He is hopeful that CYEP will keep going forward and rest at the best with the passions and involvements of student-volunteers. His favorite motto is "No pain, no gain".

### Project Officer: Lai Ka Chun, Bob

Bob gained his Bachelor degree from Department of Asian and International Studies at City University of Hong Kong in 2014, he joined CYEP and became a Project Officer upon graduation. He was the Volunteer Ambassador and the highest service hour achiever in CYEP in the academic year 2013-2014 where he had opportunities to serve different underprivileged population in Hong Kong which greatly empowered him to devote himself for the society. He strongly believes that participating in social services is a process of making the world a better place. Thus, he decided to join the team of CYEP and facilitate every individual to contribute to the community. To Bob, huge positive impact starts from every small acts. His favorite motto is "What we have done for ourselves alone, dies with us; what we have done for others and the world, remains and is immortal."

### Project Convener: Dr. Elaine Au

Elaine wears many hats at CityU - apart from being the Project Convener who founded this project and continues to provide direction and leadership; she is also the Associate Professor and Assistant Head in the Department of Applied Social Sciences, as well as the Hall Master of the Student Residence Hall 1. She obtained her PhD degree from the University of Hong Kong. Before her teaching career at CityU, Elaine has years of experience being a school social worker, who also took up the role of a youth counselor and then became a social work team supervisor. Elaine finds the opportunity to work with, meet, and even live with (through being a Residence Master) young people equally important and rewarding as teaching them. Outside of her work, Elaine is a culinary enthusiast who enjoys cooking, baking and making jam. She also appreciates the natural scenery through hiking and walking. Elaine cares deeply about the welfare of children in our world today especially with the fast-growing economy and technological advancement, which distract people's attention from caring for our children and fundamental values. That's why she advocates for people to devote their time to volunteer because it is a precious time for growth - "volunteers are trusted by those they help. Apart from being regarded as honest, knowledgeable and caring - as volunteers nurture those they are helping, the way the recipients treat their volunteers can also be a nurturing force. This mutual process is very valuable."

### Project Officer: Fung Yuen Yee, Aster

Aster graduated from Bachelor of Policy Studies and Administration at City University of Hong Kong in 2012 and joined CYEP upon graduation. She was also a devoted volunteer of CYEP before becoming a staff. She has been greatly empowered by the project through participating and organizing different volunteer services. She believes CYEP is an important platform for CityU students to learn more about themselves and the community. Thus, she decided to become a Project Officer of CYEP in order to give back to the project as well as to empower the students. The meaningful aspect of her work is that the positive energy can be spread to the community through volunteer work. She enjoys volunteering and drawing. Her favorite motto is "Life influences life"

### Project Officer: Law Man Yin, Man

Man graduated from the Bachelor of Business Economics at City University of Hong Kong in 2011. Upon her graduation, she became a Project Executive in a Public Relations Marketing company. She used to organize commercial events, plan advertisements and executive promotional campaigns. After one year of working in a commercial environment, she realized that she is more interested in doing human services rather than working in the business sector. She started working for CYEP in 2012. She is happy to see the improvement of the volunteers. She enjoys singing during her free time and her day is not complete without singing out loud at least once. Man encourages university students to fully utilize their time. Her favorite motto is "Nothing Stumped You."

### Research Assistant: Liu Ka Kei, Jacky

Jacky graduated with a Bachelor of Social Science in Psychology from City University of Hong Kong in 2013. While he was still a student, he had been a mentor and a volunteer in various community services in the Department of Applied Social Sciences. He also enjoys conducting research and hence, he has become a Research Assistant in the CYEP staff team upon his graduation. He believes in making the world a better place through transferring global awareness and service-learning to the volunteers and the service recipients. He also dreams to make a difference by sharing his research with the community on environmental and social knowledge. He thinks that CYEP is a good platform to spread this idea as it involves students across different majors in the University; and in this big family, he can also express his care and love to the people-in-need in the community. He enjoys doing exercise and singing. His favorite motto is "you should give up... trying to make me give up."

### Volunteer Ambassadors of CYEP 2014-2015

<b>Chan Carmen</b> Social Work (Year 4) Life is yours, always strive your best to lead a meaningful life of yours.	<b>Al-Abbasi Ali Mustafa Hamid</b> Civil and Structural Engineering (Year 2) When the going gets tough, the tough gets going.	<b>Cho Ka Man</b> Accountancy (Year 3) Always do your best. What you plant now, you will harvest later.	<b>Kwan Ka Wing</b> Social Work (Year 3) Aim High, Serve Low!
<b>Sadia Bi bi</b> Social Work (Year 2) As we light a path for others, we naturally light our own way. - Mary Anne Radmacher.	<b>Riaz Rubina</b> Asian and International Studies (Year 2) My dream is not to live forever but it is to do something that will.	<b>Lee Kar Hooi</b> Accountancy (Year 2) If passion drives you, let reason hold the reins.	<b>Chung Hei Ting</b> Social Work (Year 3) Live by the Truth in Love.
<b>Chan See Yu</b> Information System Development (Year 2) Let nature take its course.	<b>HyeBin You</b> Asian International Studies (Year 2) Yesterday is History. Tomorrow is Mystery and today is the gift.	<b>Ng Hoi Yan</b> Business Operation Management (Year 2) Keep Empowering Yourself Success.	<b>Ho Yi Yin Oriana</b> Law (Year 4) Work hard. Dream Big.
<b>Lam Kin Wai</b> Applied Physics (Year 3) Nothing is impossible.	<b>SHE Heep Ching Minnie</b> Psychology (Year 2) It requires hard work to give off an appearance of effortless.	<b>Yeung Tsz Ching</b> Accountancy (Year 2) When there is a shadow, you must find the light. - Jimmy Spa	<b>Shih Yao Lun</b> Finance (Year 2) Live in the moment

Dr. Elaine Au was awarded the Teaching Excellence Award by our University in 2014 and her outstanding teaching performance and achievements also earned her the 2014 Award for Teaching Excellence from the University Grants Committee (UGC), making her one of three recipients of this prestigious award from the eight UGC-funded universities in Hong Kong. Elaine's teaching philosophy is guided by the Humanistic Approach. She sees each student's learning experience as an enriching transformational journey. She respects each student's individuality and uniqueness, and accepts the constraints connected to students' past. She cares deeply about the welfare of young adults and understands how the fast-growing changes in the society can have significant impacts on students. Both inside and outside of the classroom she emphasizes the interconnectedness of the individual and the community, and strives to create opportunities for students to take action in the community through helping, serving, and involving them in social causes they feel strongly about, thus facilitating a process of transformation of students' past constraints into present strengths. This is the second year running that a SS faculty member has won this UGC teaching award. The previous winner was Dr Alice Chong.

With such high quality teaching in SS, we are equally pleased with our recent performance in research. We have successfully awarded 13 research projects by the highly competitive General Research Fund. In addition, Oliver Chan received the honorary Early Career Award. Sylvia Kwok was awarded \$1,000,000 by the UGC Teaching & Learning Fund for leading the project 'A Collaborative Forum for the Enhancement of Social Work Practicum Education in Hong Kong'. Wing Lo and his research team were awarded a 2-year research grant of \$3,848,763 for the development of social service in Macau.

The trend of globalisation has generated strong demand for university graduates with multi social and cultural exposure. In view of this trend, SS has planned to launch two joint degree programmes, in Psychology and Applied Sociology respectively, with Columbia University at New York in the next academic year (2015-2016). Candidates will be selected from existing students of the BSS Psychology and BSS Applied Sociology programmes. Normally, students will spend Year 1 & Year 2 in Hong Kong and Year 3 & Year 4 in New York for their undergraduate studies. At the completion of 4 years of study, students will receive two certificates, one from CityU and another from Columbia University. Psychology and Applied Sociology of Columbia University now rank 17th and 9th respectively in the world according to the 2014 QS Top University Ranking list. The joint degree programmes will

enable students in both disciplines to broaden their international perspectives and professional knowledge.

In 2012, the University decided to discontinue all self-financed undergraduate programmes from 2014/15 onwards. Recently, SS has been approved to retain the BA Social Work (BASW) programme, with an annual intake quota of 60. The BASW programme is a part-time programme for holders of a Diploma or Associate Degree in Social Work. On graduation, students will be eligible for employment in Hong Kong as Assistant Social Work Officers and Registered Social Workers. In the daytime BSS Social Work programme, students will benefit from a donation from HSBC which set up 10 scholarships of \$25,000 each, v.e.f. this academic year.

A Character and Career Development project has been launched since September 2013, with an objective of assessing the learning experiences and whole-person development of our undergraduate students in their 3 years of major study. This project adopts a longitudinal approach with 4 waves of data collection, including the beginning and the end of Year 2, the end of Year 3, and before graduation. By October 2014, over 600 students from the four majors completed the first wave of data collection. Each participating student received an individual report to inform his/her scores on five dimensions, namely, personality characteristics, career preparation, motivation to enhance English proficiency, social support, and participation in community and volunteering activities. The individual report, together with the student advising sessions organized by Project X, provided insights to students for making academic and career plans. The results of this project will also provide recommendations to the department for designing student life and learning activities.

Lastly, a new departmental advisory committee chaired by Professor Nelson Chow has been formed to guide the future development of SS. We trust that the committee will lead SS to a new height. We also appreciate the excellent efforts paid by the outgoing advisory committee members who have helped to consolidate the achievements of SS in the last six years.

**Prof Wing Lo**  
Head, Department of Applied Social Sciences



Department of Applied Social Sciences



## Political Participation and Identity of Hong Kong Residents

"Since late September 2014, the "umbrella revolution", morphed from the Occupy Central movement, has brought Hong Kong into the spotlight around the world. Tens of thousands of protesters, including ordinary citizens and students on class boycott, have taken to the streets to air their grievances about the Chinese central government's electoral reform proposal, their dissatisfaction with the economy dominated by the territory's wealthy tycoons, and their resentment at the increasing influence of the mainland over Hong Kong. As the longest series of political protests since the 1997 handover, the umbrella movement so far hasn't seen any sign of compromise between protesters and China, unlike the protests against the proposed 23 anti-subversion laws in 2003, and the student sit-in against patriotic national education reforms in 2012."



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SS<sup>2</sup> on-line : <http://www.cityu.edu.hk/ss/newsletter>

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## Political Participation and Identity of Hong Kong Residents

The Occupy Central movement is a typical reflection of Hong Kong citizen's political consciousness and political participation aiming to voice out their dream for democracy, which has long been forbidden in mainland cities. According to a survey from the Hong Kong Panel Study of Social Dynamics (HKPSSD), around a half of the population aged 18 and above were registered voters for the 2012 Legislative Council election, among whom 90 percent voted in the election, and a similar pattern was found for the 2011 District Council election. HKPSSD is the first large-scale household panel study in Hong Kong to track social and economic changes and their effects on individuals' lives. The data used here are from a refreshment sample in 2013, which consists of 1960 respondents in 1007 households representative of Hong Kong ethnic Chinese families. As shown by the same dataset, six out of one hundred adult permanent residents participated at least once in the June 4th memorials and eight out of one hundred participated at least once in July 1st demonstrations during the past five years.

Under the "One Country Two Systems" model, as one third of Hong Kong's ethnic Chinese population emigrated from mainland China in the past decades, significant differences can be seen between Hong Kong natives and Chinese immigrants in terms of political participation and political orientation. Among current permanent residents aged 18 and above, as shown by the HKPSSD data, only one third of those born in the mainland were registered voters in the 2012 Legislative Council election while over 60 percent of those born in Hong Kong were so. Similarly, around 28 percent Chinese immigrants registered as voters for the 2011 District Council election while the number is nearly doubled for Hong Kong natives. As for political orientation, only 10 percent Chinese immigrants reported as pro-democracy while the number is 22 percent for Hong Kong natives, and 18 percent Chinese immigrants were pro-establishment while the number is only 6 percent among Hong Kong natives. Differences between the two groups can also be seen in terms of political demonstrations. Around 9 percent and 12 percent of Hong Kong natives participated at least once in the June 4th memorials and the July 1st demonstrations respectively during the past five years, while the corresponding numbers are only 1.5 percent and less than 1 percent for mainland Chinese immigrants.

The umbrella movement is also a reflection of an identity crisis for Hong Kong residents, in particular for younger generations. With a composite identity, Hong Kong residents are still strongly influenced by western cultures while at the same time increasingly facing irresistible impact from the mainland. As the relationship between Hong Kong residents and mainlanders worsens in recent years, Hong Kong residents' anti-Beijing sentiment in politics is often conflated with their anti-mainland sentiment in social life, which in turn probably affects their identity. As the HKPSSD data show, overall half of Hong Kong adults identified themselves as "Hongkonger", around 28 percent considered themselves as both Chinese and "Hongkonger", and 22 percent viewed themselves as Chinese. The percentage of people without Chinese identification is up to 63 percent among the post-80s generations, and only 15 percent of them reported both Chinese and "Hongkonger". No matter how the umbrella movement is going to end, the identity crisis and the Hong Kong-mainland conflicts in political, social, and cultural aspects will very likely affect Hong Kong residents for long.

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Prepared By  
**Dr. Zhang Zhuoni,**  
Assistant Professor



## Our New Colleague Prof Eric Chui

Ever since I completed my undergraduate studies in social work, my career in academia has led me down a long winding path laden with rich experiences. Right after graduating, I served as a practicing youth social worker for a few years before going back to studying for my Master's degree. I then worked as a full-time fieldwork supervisor here at this very university before heading off to Cambridge to obtain my PhD in criminology. Since then I have travelled around and taught in institutions all over the world, including universities in England and Australia, as well as CityU's own Law School – even serving as a founding Residence Master of Hall 6. When I finished my position at CityU back then, I kept in close touch with all my ex-colleagues and friends from all the different departments. Now, at this stage in my career, I am so pleased to finally be back here – for the third time! – as a full-time teaching academic staff member of the Department of Applied Social Sciences, the inter-disciplinary nature of which really suits me. It truly is a godsend for me to be here.

Aside from teaching, research has always been, and continues to be a huge part of my life. My research interests are mainly focused around youth justice, social work with juvenile offenders, and the Chinese criminal justice system. Throughout the years I have been involved in numerous research projects, which have given me a great deal of valuable insights debunking some of the myths of criminality. For instance, the sentiment "once a criminal, forever a criminal" is wrong – there are always turning points that can be made in life! By fostering healthy qualities in juvenile offenders such as good self-control and strong social bonds to informal and formal institutions, these young people can be empowered to realize their aspirations and search for their meaning in life. When it comes to the justice system, the system is certainly not a perfect one, but people should always be encouraged to challenge its boundaries in pursuit of its improvement. As researchers, we are always looking to challenge the boundaries of conventional thought to strive for progress.

Ever since I started working in CityU this August, it has kept making positive impressions on me. Despite the campus being compact and cosy, it is very dynamic and full of vitality. At the heart of the Discovery-Enriched Curriculum is the belief in our students' ability to achieve and discover things on a personal and

collective level – it is this personal connection that continues to inspire individuals long after their education has been completed. And I have certainly been impressed by our students. I was once approached by a student wanting to do a PhD, even though she was still in year 1! In another case, a student told me she felt that her 4 years of training were insufficient, and she would like to pursue a further degree overseas to improve on her knowledge and understanding of the world. As a teacher, it is always a delight to see such passion in my students!

I would like to offer some personal advice to students: keep asking yourself who you are, what you want in life, and what motivates you to succeed – it is only then you will realize your full potential. Always look for ways to make a positive difference in society. Always ask yourself what and where you would like to be in 5 years' time, and aim towards it! You might just find yourself there.

Prepared By  
**Eric Wing Hong Chui,**  
Professor



## Activities Highlights of Project X: Learning Excellence

In this academic year (14-15), the Project X team continues to offer various kinds of co-curricular activities for around 680 SS students. Ten learning activities will be organized in order to enhance whole personal development of the sophomores in four interrelated areas, including: (1) psychological, (2) academic, (3) social and (4) cultural. During the recent summer break, four Training Camps and X-Gala were held, serving as pioneer platforms for sophomores and senior entrants to engage with our SS mentors and academic staff.

### Major-specified Training Camps

Building up a strong network among mentors, teachers and newly admitted students as well as developing social bonding and cohesion among cohorts of each major are the specific goals for organizing Major-based Training Camps each summer. Around 40 mentors across four majors (Psychology, Social Work, Applied Sociology and Criminology) spent around 4 months receiving training from Project X and becoming mentors. They learned and developed skills about programme planning, group leading, briefing, debriefing and also conflict management. After all, they formed organizing committees responsible to prepare budget proposals, arrange recruitment and promotion, and ultimately, lead the camp. A total of 110 sophomores and senior-year entry students participated into four training camps which were based on their majors. Each of the four camps had its unique training elements depending on the feature messages that mentors would like to deliver. For social work training camp, there were agency visits and soci-game to bring out discussions on social values. Psychology mentors designed a detective game for the psychology training camp to demonstrate how knowledge could be put into practice, instead of learning how to conduct research independently, which is highly emphasized in their curriculum. Beyond studying different types of social models and theories, mentors from Criminology launched a simulation criminal case. Through the community walk and mini-sharing by SS professors, this allowed applied sociology students to taste a bit on how to observe dynamics within the community. Overall, most of our new SS students found that the learning environment in the department is full of opportunities which signifies our way of nurturing and caring for individuals with the concept of whole person development.

### X-Gala 2014 "The SUM of choices" cum Programme-based Mentor-mentee gathering

The event was initiated by our student mentors. It not only helped to consolidate students' learning experience in a wide range of non-academic student activities in SS, but also aimed at inspiring new students of SS to make conscientious efforts on their whole person development. The theme of X-gala 2014 was "The Sum of Choices". Around 160 SS new students, mentors, teachers and alumni gathered in the lecture hall on 20th August. We were honoured to invite Dr Elaine Au, Associate Head (Student Life and Learning, and Community Outreach) of SS, to give a welcoming speech and Dr Raymond Chan, Dean of Student, as officiating guest to share his views on student development. Several senior students served as role models to present their university learning journey in SS. Adopting the framework of positive psychology, the theory of happiness in particular, they illustrated how university life can be cultivated into three stages: (1) Be pleasant, (2) Be good and (3) Be meaningful. One of our recent graduates, Mr. Patrick Tang (Cohort 2011, BSocSc Psychology) shared his personal growth after joining a series of out-of-classroom activities, for example, student mentor training, exchange, and internship. He also encouraged new students to make better choices for creating their own life in pursuit of happiness and fulfilling their learning goals in SS and CityU. By the end of the event, 40 mentors received certificates from Project X coordinator, Dr Alice Chong, as recognition of their contribution over the past academic year. Light refreshment was served afterwards where new students could enjoy reading the exhibition boards and know more about student life in SS. Here are four selected sharing articles from different majors of students.

### Introducing Project X Team Members (Right to Left)

Mr. Remus Kwok, Ms. Vivian Leung, Dr. Alice Chong, Ms. Stephanie Lai and Ms. Ali Cheung



### Lei Sa Sa

Bachelor of Social Sciences in Applied Sociology (Cohort 2013)

This is my first year to come Hong Kong. At first, I did not have a clear mind of what I should do for my university life and which way I should go after I left Macau to come Hong Kong alone. Suddenly, I received an email asking me to join the Applied Sociology training camp 2013. Then, I joined. Unexpectedly, the camp inspired me about what sociology is about and what sociology can do for the society. Because of the inspiring experience in the camp, I decided to join the SS Peer Network Scheme, in hope of being one of them to organize the meaningful camp. Being a good mentor is not an easy task. It involves leadership, caring and – the most important element – effective communication. The experience of being a mentor made me believe that 'one hand can't clap', especially when organizing an activity. I learnt to communicate and exchange ideas with others and also to accept challenges by participating in different team positions. This scheme strengthened my determination to utilize these skills to help others, not only to my friends or mentees, but also in a macro way: to serve the society!



### Tse Kit Ying Beverly

Bachelor of Social Sciences in Criminology (Cohort 2012)

If you are students in the Department of Applied Social Sciences, I can guarantee that you will have a fruitful university life and it is not necessary to be worried about your career path because our department provides more than enough help for us. In order to help us make a better career plan, our professors had organized several career talks which invited alumni to share their experiences with us. For instance, some former students who were currently working in different fields, such as disciplinary forces, barrister, social worker, shared their key of success with us. Apart from that, our department had also invited speakers from a head-hunter company to share some important skills for job interviews. Hence, it is unnecessary to worry about your future as you will be able to receive sufficient instruction and assistance. Our professors, mentors and staff are always helpful. Hope you enjoy your university life in City University of Hong Kong.

### Wong Siu Man

Bachelor of Social Sciences in Social Work (Cohort 2012)

I feel pleasure to have a chance to organize the training camp

for social work freshmen. In these two years, I became aware of my limitations and strengths through cooperating with other mentors and getting along with mentees. For me, the camp is not a platform to show my good performance, but the place to face my weaknesses so that I can have a chance to grow up. All these learning experiences were useful for my placement and the work in the future also. I enjoy working with all Project X staff and mentors very much since everyone appreciates my efforts and supports my work that I could try what I want to do without any pressure.



### Chan Hiu Tung

Bachelor of Social Sciences in Psychology (Cohort 2012)

It was an unforgettable experience to visit residents living in squatter areas in Tuen Mun. We worked as a group of five people and followed by a social worker from Yan Oi Tong. We were asked to use the camera to record the story of the family. We went to the squatter areas with the host, Miss Chan, who was a friendly woman having an 11 year-old daughter. The squat was far smaller than I expected. I did feel 'crowded' when we were sitting together chatting. In fact, the limited space made us feel close. Though it was the first time we met, Miss Chan did not hide her feeling and she cried in front of the camera. She showed us the picture drawn by her daughter which pictured her dream house. Miss Chan said she wants to live in public housing, with kitchen, toilet and two bedrooms. Given the unaffordable property price, we always complain about housing. However, we forget to stay thankful that we at least have a place to live. There is indeed someone who smiles because of merely satisfying his or her basic needs. Stay thankful. Being happy is not difficult. The camera could not capture every precious moment which, however, stays in my heart forever.

