

# British Conference Of Undergraduate Research 2024



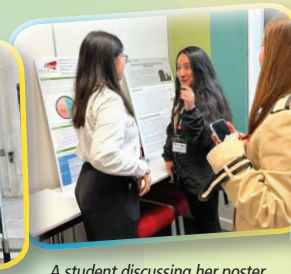
Students who attended BCUR 2024 (from left to right): Leung Cheuk Yiu, Zhao Wanying Miranda, Chan Ching Hung Ada, Venus Yuen Sze Ching, and Chan Ching Lam



Group photo taken with Prof. Bonnie Chow (2nd from left back row) and doctoral students at the Department of Psychology and Language Sciences, University College London



Group photo taken at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)



A student discussing her poster at the BCUR conference



Group photo with Dr Claire Gordon, Director of the LSE Eden Centre (2nd from right), and Prof. Paul Taylor, Co-Chair of the BCUR Executive Group (1st from right)

A group of five Year 4 students from the Department of Social and Behavioural Sciences (SS) attended the British Conference of Undergraduate Research (BCUR) 2024 in London, United Kingdom. They presented their final year projects through oral and poster presentations, along with 350 undergraduates from over 15 countries. The students found the conference experience valuable for their academic learning and personal development. They engaged in pre-trip training and daily debriefings and visited the Division of Psychology & Language Sciences at University College London. After the trip, the students shared their findings by setting up an interactive booth and organizing a student psychology conference. Those who attended were exposed to research culture, interacted with students and professors, and listened to keynote speeches; they also developed an interest in interdisciplinary learning. Overall, the trip was a great success, enhancing the students' academic skills and connections with researchers in diverse fields.

5位來自社會及行為科學系的高年級學生參加了2024年在英國倫敦舉行的英國大學本科生研究會議 (British Conference of Undergraduate Research [BCUR])。他們與來自15個以上國家的350名本科生一同參與會議，透過口頭報告和海報展示方式呈現了他們的畢業專題。學生們認為這次會議的經驗對他們的學術和個人發展非常有幫助。他們參與了前期培訓、每日檢討會議，並訪問了倫敦大學學院 (University College London) 的心理與語言科學部 (Department of Psychology & Language Sciences)。旅程結束後，學生們通過設立互動展覽和組織心理學學生會議來分享他們的學習成果。學生們接觸到了研究文化，與其他學生和教授進行了交流，並參加了主題演講。他們對跨科學習也產生了濃厚的興趣。這次旅程提升了學生的學術能力，並與不同領域的研究人員建立了緊密聯繫。

## SS Students Presenting at BCUR 2024

Student and Major	Presentation Title	Supervisor
<b>Chan Ching Hung Ada</b> (Psychology)	The relationship between creative identity and musical education performance in university students	Prof. Anna HUI
<b>Chan Ching Lam</b> (Psychology)	Cultural intelligence and job performance: The mediating role of occupational self-efficacy	Prof. Maggie JIANG
<b>Leung Cheuk Yiu</b> (Social work)	Exploring the effectiveness and limitations of experiential learning in facilitating social skills training among children in group settings: A study of kindergarten and primary school students	Mrs. Frances LUI
<b>Venus Yuen Sze Ching</b> (Psychology)	Does the relationship between sleep quality and life satisfaction in young Hong Kong adults differ according to stress levels, mediated by psychological resilience?	Prof. Nancy YU
<b>Zhao Wanying Miranda</b> (Psychology)	Examining the moderating effects of grit in social cognitive theory for promoting long-term physical activity: A survey with a one-week follow-up	Prof. Ben LI

# What is the SALSA Scheme?

The Student–Athlete Learning Support and Admission (SALSA) Scheme was launched in 2018 by the University Grants Committee (UGC) to offer university education opportunities to elite athletes in Hong Kong as they pursue their dual careers in sport and academia. Under the SALSA Scheme, universities directly admit outstanding full-time and student athletes, to whom they provide centralised and individual support in their academic learning, personal well-being, and career development.

## The SS's involvement in the SALSA Scheme

The SS has participated in the SALSA Scheme since its inception. To date, the department has admitted 10 student–athletes, supporting them with alternative assessment arrangements and personalized academic advising. Many SS student–athletes have shown interest in the social sciences, particularly criminology and sociology, psychology, and social work. The SS is committed to supporting elite athletes admitted under the SALSA Scheme in achieving their dual goal of achieving educational and sporting excellence.

## Student–athletes in the SS

Name	Cohort	Sport Speciality
LAW Sin Yi	2017 (graduated June 2024)	Taekwondo
WONG Cho Wai Gabriel	2021	Wushu
PAU Yik Man	2022	Table Tennis
LO Sum Man	2022	Karate
HO Kwan Kit	2022	Table Tennis
GLASS Sean	2022	Fencing
LEUNG Sze Lok	2022	Badminton
CHIU Kan Shan	2023	Table Tennis
LI Chi Wing Elli	2023	Fencing
WONG Cheuk Long Javon	2023	Fencing



Sin Yi's graduation, June 2024



SALSA students sharing their learning experiences at City University of Hong Kong



SALSA students and CityUHK staff gather to review the support provided by the school



A group shot of SALSA students and CityUHK staff

## LEUNG Sze Lok:

- I am interested in working for the immigration department, so I chose to study the social sciences, criminology particularly. My experience of the SS was very positive. The teachers were helpful and approachable; they cared greatly about us. In turn, I tried my best to complete assignments as soon as they were assigned and balance my academic and sporting commitments.

## WONG Cheuk Long Javon:

- What I enjoyed most about studying at the SS was the opportunity to engage in group work and discussions with my classmates. I was particularly impressed with the approachability of the teachers; they were always willing to offer help whenever I struggled with assignments or lessons.

# Joint University Programmes Admissions System (JUPAS) Consultation Day, May 18, 2024

The JUPAS Consultation Day took place in May 2024, when prospective students and their parents were invited to CityUHK. The SS held a consultation seminar and sharing session with the visitors and current faculty members at a dedicated booth.

The visitors were able to participate in a demonstration of a psychological experiment and talk to students who had attended BCUR 2024. Academic staff from all disciplines, administrative staff, and student helpers were on hand to answer the visitors' queries.

During the consultation seminar, Head of Department Prof. Matthew Manning gave a speech, and, together with the Associate Head of Department Prof. Andus Wong and programme leaders, introduced the curriculum and the entry requirements. The visitors, who showed a keen interest, were invited to ask questions..



Prof. Manning warmly welcomes the participants and introduces the SS team



An interaction between a current and a prospective student



Visitors and current students from various disciplines who helped promote our programmes



Hands-on experience of a psychological experiment for prospective students

# Criminological and Sociology Major Students Broaden Horizons on Study Tour to the United Kingdom

In May 2024, 20 criminology and sociology major students from the SS had the opportunity to participate in an enlightening six-day study tour visit to the United Kingdom. Led by Major Leader Prof. Ho Wing Chung, the “Criminological and Sociology Major Students Tour 2024: Professional Knowledge, Career Skills, and Job Prospects” was designed to provide participants with an invaluable learning experience and insights into the criminal justice system, social issues, and career prospects in the United Kingdom.



The principal objective of the tour was to expose students to diverse perspectives and real-world applications of the knowledge and skills they had acquired in their studies. Through a range of activities, including visits to non-governmental organizations (NGOs), interviews, cultural excursions, and exchange sessions with professors, the students gained a more comprehensive understanding of criminological and sociological practice.

The tour began with a visit to the vibrant and fashionable neighbourhood of Camden Town, where the students observed local youth culture, providing a context for their subsequent academic activities.



Another highlight of the tour was a visit to the Criminal Justice Alliance (an NGO). Students were moved by the organization’s vision of “a fair and effective criminal justice system that leads to a more equitable society.” Through insightful discussions with the staff, they learnt about critical issues such as the abuse of police power and the stigmatization faced by previously incarcerated individuals. This hands-on exposure to real-world challenges was an eye-opening experience.



Similarly impactful was the series of talks given by professors from Manchester Metropolitan University and the subsequent discussions. Reader in Community Justice Prof. Kevin Wong shared his insights into the complexities and rewards of working with people with criminal convictions. This caused our students to think critically about the rehabilitative aspects of the criminal justice system and its long-term implications for individuals and society.



Senior Lecturer in Sociology Prof. Benedicte Brahic delivered a thought-provoking presentation on the rise, role, and impact of uncertainty in migratory contexts. By exploring the relationship between migration and security in the United Kingdom, she helped our students develop a nuanced understanding of the sociopolitical dynamics surrounding this pressing global issue.



Later, Prof. Shane Johnson MBE, Chair of the Dawes Centre for Future Crime, spoke about how future crime risks in AI and the metaverse were being anticipated and mitigated.



The students also had the opportunity to engage with Hong Kong migrants, gaining first-hand insights into their difficulties and career prospects. Listening to the personal experiences of these new arrivals, our students developed a deeper appreciation for the challenges of job-seeking and integration in a foreign country.



One of the most important takeaways for our students was the chance to compare the career prospects and aspirations of crime science students in the United Kingdom with their experiences as criminology and sociology majors in Hong Kong. They were inspired by the career opportunities in a country where criminological and sociological knowledge is highly valued and applied in various sectors.



The tour culminated with a visit to University College London (UCL), where our students were exposed to cutting-edge research and innovative approaches to the field of crime science. Prof. Kate Bowers, Head of the Department of Security and Crime Science, gave an overview of the department's work, emphasising its far-reaching impact. Professor Shane D. Johnson, Director of the prestigious Dawes Centre for Future Crime, further expanded their horizons by sharing insights into the scope and implications of emerging criminal threats.



In sum, the tour was a transformative experience for the participants; it undoubtedly broadened their horizons and equipped them with invaluable knowledge and insights with which to navigate their careers with confidence.

# Meeting Our New Faculty Members

## Prof. AKARTUNA Eray Arda



Prof. Akartuna

Arda AKARTUNA joined CityUHK as an assistant professor of crime science in January 2024 after completing his PhD in anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing at UCL. A graduate and funding recipient of UCL's prestigious Dawes Centre for Future Crime, Arda's research focuses mainly on identifying and preventing criminal use of crypto assets such as Bitcoin and ,non-fungible tokens (NFTs) for nefarious purposes.

Prof. Akartuna previously worked (and continues to do so) at blockchain analytics company Elliptic as a senior crypto threat researcher. This gives him access to global practitioners and enables him to make his research as responsive to operational demands as possible. Prof. Akartuna's work at Elliptic and UCL includes dark web research, identifying and tracing scams, and investigating high-profile crypto hacks and thefts.

## Why crypto and future crime?

All too often, technologies such as blockchain, artificial intelligence (AI), and metaverse/VR gaming develop rapidly without considering the inadvertent crime risks and harm they can bring to society.

Take deepfakes for example – already, AI-generated explicit images are circulating on social media and are being sold on the dark web. Deepfakes are used to scam people out of millions of dollars. Deception in Hong Kong made up 44% of all police cases in 2023 – more than any other type of crime.

We need to find a way of ensuring that the developers of these technologies consider these issues during the development phase so that criminals do not hinder sustainable innovation or the user experience. For that, we need to ensure that we have appropriate frameworks and solutions in place and devise effective and pre-emptive prevention methods. After all, **prevention is the best cure.**



## Tips on avoiding scams in crypto and beyond

Avoid, **at all costs:**

- "wrong number" messages;
- videos of celebrities (with somewhat distorted voices) promoting high-investment crypto platforms – these are Deepfakes;
- messages enquiring about employment opportunities. These are advance fee frauds, or worse, labour trafficking attempts;
- investment sites that promise high-yield investments and have flashy user interfaces with articles of incorporation – these are easy to obtain, even for scammers;
- phone calls threatening you with arrest, or claiming to be a relative in distress asking for money (even if it sounds like them – AI voice-changers are widespread);
- any "crypto investment groups" on social media

# Meeting Our New Faculty Members

## Prof. Young Kim Wan Daniel



Prof. Young

Prof. Young has a PhD from Bristol University, majoring in social work. He is a registered social worker (RSW) and approved supervisor and certified counsellor with the Hong Kong Professional Counselling Association (HKPCA). He is currently an associate professor at the SS. Previously, Prof. Young worked for 11 years as an associate/assistant professor at Hong Kong Baptist University. He has expertise in teaching and research work on mental health counselling, cognitive behavioral therapy, mindfulness-based intervention, and dementia care. He teaches courses on the Master of Social Work, Master of Social Science in Counselling, and Bachelor of Social Work programmes. Prof. Young is also an experienced social worker and has experience in supervising social workers and counsellors in their casework and counselling skills. He worked for community-based mental health services in Hong Kong for more than 10 years, providing care for people with severe mental health problems, as well as providing staff training and supervision for social workers.

Over the years, Prof. Young has developed a research interest and expertise in mental health counselling and dementia care (see: Research ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6136-7389>). He has published 50 articles in international journals, four Chinese scientific textbooks, and 20 conference papers; received and completed two General Research Fund (GRF) projects on psychosocial interventions for older adults with cognitive impairment (GRF 2018/19 Allocation [HKBU 12600119] and GRF 2015/2016 Allocation [Ref. No. HKBU 12606815]); and served on the editorial boards of prestigious international journals (e.g., *Research on Social Work Practice* and *Frontiers in Public Health*) and as a reviewer for international journals (e.g., *Journal of Mental Health and Addiction*, *Social Work in Mental Health*, and *BMC Health Services Research*).

## Upcoming research projects and student involvement

Recently, Prof. Young has become interested in developing online interventions, including online cognitive behavioral therapy (iCBT) and an online mindfulness-based intervention (iMBI) for people in emotional distress. Prof. Young received research funding and enlisted the help of an international expert in online interventions, Prof. Carlbring of the Department of Psychology at Stockholm University, as his co-investigator. Students who are interested in these research projects are welcome to email him with their contact information.



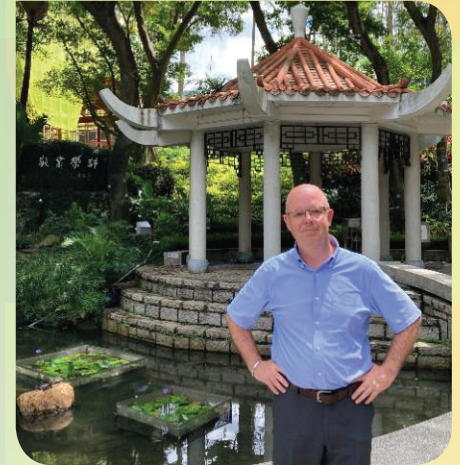
# Message from the Department Head

## For the benefit of society: Knowledge transfer and research impact in the SS

Knowledge transfer and research impact are two key objectives of the SS. The strategies we employ include establishing sustainable tripartite relationships between the government and funders, different sectors in the local and international community, and the wider academic community. The SS strives to conduct cutting-edge research that offers significant returns to the community while offering innovative solutions to contemporary issues. In the Research Assessment Exercise, impacts are defined as:

*The demonstrable contributions, beneficial effects, valuable changes, or advantages that research qualitatively brings to the economy, society, culture, public policy or services, health, the environment, or quality of life beyond academia.*

It gives me great delight to present recent examples where SS staff have used their skills and expertise to give back to society and show how our work leads to innovation with measurable economic and social returns:



**Prof. MANNING Matthew Garnet**  
Head  
Department of Social and Behavioural Sciences



Prof. Sylvia Kwok

1. **Prof. Sylvia Kwok:** City University of Hong Kong's Positive Education Laboratory is collaborating with the WEMP Foundation with the purpose of promoting positive education for teachers and parents through courses and activities between 2024 and 2026 and enhancing student well-being and mental health.

<https://www.cityu.edu.hk/media/news/2024/07/03/cityuhk-collaborates-wemp-foundation-promote-positive-education>

2. **Prof. Ricky Kwan:** The SS collaborates with the Kerry Group to offer an inclusive training programme and placement network for people with disabilities in eight social welfare organizations.

[http://www.hkcd.com.hk/content\\_app/2024-06/28/content\\_8644804.html](http://www.hkcd.com.hk/content_app/2024-06/28/content_8644804.html)

The SS has also been recognized for its excellence in knowledge transfer:

1. **Prof. Chan Siu Ming:** Excellence in knowledge transfer award. The contribution of CityUHK to helping low-income households break the cycle of poverty.

<https://www.cityu.edu.hk/media/news/2024/06/04/cityuhk-contributes-helping-low-income-households-break-cycle-poverty>

2. **Prof. Danni Yung and Prof. Ben Li:** Excellence in knowledge transfer award. Caregiver needs and a resources assessment tool for identifying and matching the needs and resources of family caregivers and older adults.

[https://www.cityu.edu.hk/class/media\\_events/news\\_item.aspx?ref=500](https://www.cityu.edu.hk/class/media_events/news_item.aspx?ref=500)



The above examples represent only a small fraction of the knowledge transfer and research impact created in the SS. With the wonderful support of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences and the City University of Hong Kong, the SS will continue to strive for excellence - always ensuring that what the SS do brings about demonstrable contributions that benefit the economy, society, culture, the environment, public policy and the health and wellbeing of global citizens.