



RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES 2020/21 #3

Raising children in Hong Kong: A mixed-methods study of generational shifts in parental beliefs and practices

Date: 11 November 2020 (Wednesday)

Time: 1:00 ~ 2:00 p.m.

Format: Join in-person: A507 / Join on Zoom

Speaker: Professor LAM Ching-man,
Felizberta Lo Padilla Tong School of Social Sciences

**Chairperson: Dr Zeno LEUNG, Associate Professor of Felizberta Lo Padilla Tong School of Social Sciences,
Chairperson of Social Workers Registration Board**

Abstract:

The project examines the historical trends of parenting and generational shifts in parental beliefs and practice in the Hong Kong Chinese context. Although the importance of historical perspective in understanding a phenomenon has been well-recognized, attempt to study generational shifts in parenting is meager and is almost non-existent in Hong Kong. This study seeks to unravel generational shifts in parenthood in Hong Kong, and investigates how the interplay between history, culture and contexts shaped and re-shaped the “ecology of parenthood”.

Employing a mixed study method, the research process started with an archival study of discourses on parenting, then with 120 in-depth interviews with 60 parents (30 mothers and 30 fathers), each interview individually for twice. Following by quantitative questionnaire survey with 5707 parents from five different cohorts. Both qualitative and quantitative data revealed generational shifts and gender disparity in meaning of parenthood, parental responsibility and parental values. Based on the findings, the presentation discusses implications for parenting work and proposes directions for child and parenting services.

About the Speaker

Prof Lam retired from the position of Professor and Vice-chairperson at the Department of Social Work, Chinese University of Hong Kong in July 2020 and now is the Adjunct Professor at CUHK. She is the President of Hong Kong Social Workers Association and President of Hong Kong Association of Schools of Social Work and is representing the Associations to serve on International Federation of Social Work (IFSW) and International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW). She actively involves in community services, currently is the Chairperson of Management Committee at the Boys and Girls Clubs Association and several significant social service agencies (e.g. Harmony House, SAHK), member of government advisory committees (was member of Lotteries Fund Advisory Committee, Women Commission, Social Work Training Fund etc.), and is the Board of Directors of two schools.

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