

MSSc Programme in Public Policy (MPUP)

Newsletter 2014-15 Issue No.2

I. Programme

Director's Message – Professor Wilson Wong

The year of 2015 is a very special and exciting year for MPUP as it marks the fifth year anniversary of the Programme. To start the year of 2015, we have invited our new dean, Prof. Chiu Chi-yue, to share his vision of MPUP in this issue of the newsletter. In this special year, we have arranged a series of functions and activities to celebrate. First of all, we would organize a celebration and reunion dinner for all teachers, alumni, students and friends of MPUP. The dinner should be held in this November. We would keep you informed once the date is confirmed. We have also formed an organizing committee for the celebration and its members include our alumni and current students. If you would also like to join our team, please feel free to contact Zita.

In addition to the dinner, we would also organize conferences, talks and seminars. For example, we would have the International Conference of Youth Studies and Public Policy in May. We would also have Prof. Jeff Straussman, our new external examiner, visit our Programme in March. Prof. Straussman has served as the dean of the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy, State University of New York at Albany (2006-2011) and the vice dean (executive education) at Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (2012-13), National University of Singapore. During his visit, he would deliver a talk for us.

Also in March, we would have Ms. Eva Cheng Yu Wah, former Secretary for Transport and Housing of the Hong Kong SAR Government, visiting MPUP for a gathering with our students and alumni.

I am sure that our organizing committee will continue to come up with innovative ideas and organize meaningful functions and events to celebrate this special year of 2015 for MPUP.

I look forward to seeing you in all these functions and events soon! **Happy Chinese New Year!**

Dean's Message – Prof. Chiu Chi-yue

MPUP has come into its fifth-year establishment and it is time to reflect how we can 'grow' the Programme and become a top choice for prospective students interested in the field. First of all, we have to look for our core values to distinguish ourselves from other similar programmes in Hong Kong. We can enhance the interaction among students to create a nurturing learning environment, and diversify our Programme with relating every aspect in public policy. In this 'soul-searching' process, we can realize how distinctive the knowledge we can generate and disseminate to our students and what we can improve and transform the society. These will become the notable features to be promoted to our prospective students. Simply an advertising of our curriculum is not enough to make us stand out. Also, we should not limit ourselves to an isolated taught master programme only, instead of a programme integrating teaching and research activities by connecting and collaborating with other programmes in the Faculty of Social Science. The Programme will be enriched and our societal impact will be extended.

“Interdisciplinary Education in Public Policy:

Contributing knowledge for long-term human development”

Organizing Committee for the Celebration of our 5th Anniversary

We always have supportive and enthusiastic students and alumni. Now five students and alumni have committed to join our Organizing Committee to discuss and advise the organization of activities and events for the celebration of our anniversary. We would like to express our gratitude to our current students Finn Shon and Bowen Chen, and our alumni Sam Chan, Ming Yang and Yorki Ye for their contribution. We already had our first meeting on 7 February 2015.

II. Teachers

New MPUP Lecturer– Dr. Mandy Mao

Our Programme has hired Dr. Mandy Mao as the full-time lecturer, starting from the 2nd term of 2014-15. She obtained her master degree in public administration in Renmin University of China in 2004 and PhD in housing policy and public policy in the University of Hong Kong in 2014. Before her PhD study in the University of Hong Kong in 2009, she was working in the China Institute of Real Estate Appraisers and Agents and had conducted a wide range research in housing policy.

News from Prof. Wilson Wong

Prof. Wong was invited by Rikkyo University of Japan to make a presentation on "Understanding the Umbrella Movement: Structural Roots of the Youth Uprising in the Democratization of Hong Kong" in the International Symposium: Emerging New Asian Order? China 's Rise and its Political Impacts on Neighboring Asia on 24 January 2015.

Prof. Wong is also commissioned by the Hong Kong Fire Services Department to design and conduct a workshop on "Public Policy Making and Management in Hong Kong" for their senior officers to be delivered in May 2015. He and Prof. Lam Wai Man are invited by the Asia-Pacific Institute of Business, CUHK Business School, to deliver lectures and training to officials from Moscow (Russia) on the topics of public management, public finance, civil engagement and public policy in March 2015.

Remarks and Sharing by Dr. Mark Michelson from his course (MPUP5331 Government and the Economy)

This semester, we are discussing the changing roles, demands and reputation/ credibility of governments, especially in this region, more than in past years. In an article entitled "State of the State" published by Foreign Affairs in the July/August 2014 issue, the Economist's John Micklethwait and Adrian Wooldridge pointed out that was widely held view in the last century was that states and their governments would and should have the best ideas, including politics, which would help better understand the state and provide practical measures to improve governance. They would also be in the position to deal with serious issues, such as the persistence of poverty in the midst of plenty.

However, these days, more students have been talking about what they see as widespread demands and cynicism toward government, and a popular view, including in Hong Kong, that nothing substantial is likely to change

This view would perhaps have only a limited impact if people did not want very much from the state; but they continue to want a lot and even more from their governments. This leads to what Micklethwait and Wooldridge call a "toxic mix" of dependency – that forces governments to over-expand and –over-burden

themselves – and disdain – that weakens legitimacy and turns almost every setback into a crisis. China and Singapore, with their comparatively strong government, planning and implementation and “meritocracy” of leading officials are cited by students as providing a path to more successful public policy and governance in these times of dependency and disdain. I expect that these issues will be a subject of presentations and papers later in my course (MPUP5331 Government and the Economy).

Research Monograph Series Published by HKIAPS



Prof. Wilson Wong and Prof. Terence Chong have contributed articles to the book “Tolo Dialogues: Compendium of Current Commentaries 2014” published by Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies (HKIAPS), CUHK. Prof. Wong has written “消滅香港：清洗香港人的歷史、身份和價值” and “What is a Good Life? 用更高層次思考香港”, and Prof. Chong has written “港元配人幣抗邊緣化” and “佔中個人成本與效益分析” in the book. If you are interested in buying the book, please refer to the HKIAPS website: <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/hkiaps/publications/rm/15.html>.

III. Past Events

Talk by Dr. Richard Bush – 24 October 2014

We organized a talk on "US Foreign Policy and Hong Kong" by Dr. Richard Bush on 24 October 2014. Dr. Bush is a senior fellow and the Director of Center for East Asia Policy Studies in the Brookings Institution, a very prestigious think tank in the US. He also has very rich experience in working in the US Government, particularly on the policy areas of US-China, and China-Taiwan relations.

In the talk, he shared his views on the role of the US in the Hong Kong-China relations and current local events like the Occupy Central Movement and the Umbrella Movement.



Social Gathering with Mrs. Anson Chan – 25 October 2014



We invited Mrs. Anson Chan to our social gathering on 25 October 2014. She is the former head of the civil service of HK government before and after the handover of Hong Kong, and now the convener of Hong Kong 2020. She shared her experience in working in the government and her opinions on the current local political development.

III. Coming Events

Admission Exercise 2015 – Deadline on 13 March 2015

The admission exercise for 2015 entry has already started and the deadline for application is on 13 March 2015. We have set up Admission Scholarships with amount up to our full tuition fee are available on a competitive and merit basis. Should you have any friends and colleagues interested in our Programme, please encourage them to apply.

Career Workshop on Administrative Officer (AO), HKSAR Government – 2 March 2015

Professor Wilson Wong (GPA/MPUP) and Professor May Chu (GPA) would host a career workshop on Administrative Officer (AO) at 7:00 pm on March 2 (Mon), 2015. The workshop is organized by the Career Planning and Development Center of the CUHK and all students, including our MPUP students, who are interested in developing a career in the Administrative Service are welcome to join. More information can be obtained at: <http://cpdc.osa.cuhk.edu.hk/event/detail/q150302a>.

Social Gathering with Ms. Cheng Yu Wah Eva – 14 March 2015

We have invited Ms. Eva Cheng to meet our students and alumni in the afternoon on 14 March 2015, to sharing her working experience in the Hong Kong government. Venue will be announced later.

Ms. Eva Cheng joined as a civil servant in 1983 and has served in various bureaux and departments in the government. She was also the Secretary for Transport and Housing and the chairman of the Hong Kong Housing Authority from 2007-12.

Professor Jeffrey Straussman's Visit – 17 March to 19 March 2015

Prof. Straussman is appointed as the external examiner of our Programme in 2014-15 and 2015-16. He is now the Professor in Department of Public Administration and Policy, Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy, University at Albany. His specialization is Public Management and Political Economy.

He will meet our teachers, alumni and students, and also deliver a talk "A Comparative Perspective of Executive Education for Policy Makers: US and Singapore" on 18 March 2015 (Wed), at 4:30pm, in Room 422 of Sino Building. Please email to zitalui@cuhk.edu.hk if you are interested in the talk.

2015 Youth Studies and Public Policy Conference – 23 May to 25 May 2015

The Conference is co-organized with Hong Kong Institute of Asia Pacific Studies (HKIAPS) and Department of Government of Government and Public Administration. It aims to conduct a comprehensive study of youth development and public policy in HK and China from an international comparative perspective. Youth as agency, their transition, citizenship, media and consumption will be discussed in the conference. Detailed conference schedule will be posted in April.

Keep in touch with us. Let us know any updates of your contact information (e.g., email address and phone number) by emailing to zitalui@cuhk.edu.hk.