

MSSc Programme in Public Policy (MPUP)

Newsletter 2015-16 Issue No.1

I. Programme

Director's Message – Professor Wilson Wong

The past few months have seen some major and exciting changes in the institutional development of MPUP. Instead of being housed under the Faculty of Social Science, it is confirmed that MPUP would be transferred to the Department of Government and Public Administration (GPA) starting from July 2016. Despite this change, our Dean Professor Chiu Chi-yue has assured us that MPUP would continue to maintain its autonomy and interdisciplinary identity after the transfer. As a result, I feel confident that MPUP would only gain more strength and resources after the change. In fact, as you should notice from this newsletter, MPUP is already becoming more active and extending its frontier to executive education and academic research.

As all of you are key stakeholders of MPUP, we always appreciate your opinions and suggestions on the future management structure and measures of assurance of our autonomy and identity after our transfer to GPA. In this October, we are going to organize a series of consultation meetings with teachers, students and alumni on this issue. If you would also like to join the meetings or have suggestions on our transfer, please feel free to let me or Zita know.

At the same time, as a very significant amount of our time, energy, and brain power has been invested in making sure the above institutional change of MPUP would be smooth and seamless, we decide to postpone the celebration and reunion dinner of our fifth anniversary to the academic year of 2016-17, after our transfer to GPA. We would announce the details of the dinner in due course.

II. Teachers

New Teachers of our Programme

Prof. Travis Ng, Prof. Kaman Lee and Dr. Bill Chou joined our teaching team in September 2015.



Prof. Travis Ng, Associate Professor in Department of Economics in CUHK, obtained his PhD and MA degrees in Economics in the University of Toronto. His research interests are Industrial Organization and Applied Economic Theory. Prof. Ng received CUHK Vice-Chancellor's Exemplary Teaching Award and Faculty of Social Science Exemplary Teaching Award in 2010 to recognize his contributions in the area of teaching. He will teach MPUP5142 Economic Analysis of Public Policy in the first term this year.

Prof. Kaman Lee is the Associate Professor in School of Journalism and Communication in CUHK. She obtained her BA and MA degrees in University of Western Ontario, Canada and her PhD degree in Hong Kong Baptist University. Prof. Lee was awarded CUHK Vice-Chancellor's Exemplary Teaching Award and Faculty of Social Science Exemplary Teaching Award in 2011 to recognize her commitment to quality teaching. Her research interests include Corporate Communication, Crisis Management, Leadership Branding, Government Public Relations and Gender issues in workplace. Prof. Lee will teach MPUP5412 Crisis Management and Public Governance in the first term this year.



Dr. Bill Chou is now the Guest Lecturer in CUHK, City University of Hong Kong and Hong Kong Institute of Education. He received his MPhil in City University of Hong Kong and PhD in University of Hong Kong. His research interests are Citizenship, Local identity, and state building in post-colonial Singapore, Hong Kong and Macao; policies of public sector reform, education, gambling, economic integration, and cultural heritage; China's policies to its borderlands and their international implication. Dr. Chou will teach MPUP5132 Social Policy in the second term this year.

News from Prof. Wilson Wong

Prof. Wong has been appointed as the Regional Editor (East Asia) of the Asian Journal of Political Science. It is a journal co-organized by the Department of Political Science of National University of Singapore and the Graduate School of Public Administration of Seoul National University (South Korea). MPUP would provide support for the regional office of this journal and promote the research networks of public policy and administration in this region.



Prof. Wong and Prof. Chu May, his colleague in Department of Government and Public Administration, organized a policy workshop for the Fire Services Department, HKSAR Government, in May 2015. The workshop was very successful and they have been already invited to have a second workshop in October 2015.

III. Alumni and Students

Academic Distinction Award 2015

In graduation class of 2015, Mercy Kwok, Jennifer Chin, Corinne Lam, Oliver Leong and Agnes Wong are awarded "Academic Distinction Award" with their excellent academic performance in our Programme. Congratulations and wish them every success in the future.

Admission Statistics 2015

We have admitted 35 full-time and 16 part-time students this year. For students from mainland China, all are from Project 211/985 and universities directly administered by the Chinese Ministry of Education. For students in full-time employment, they are working in different fields, such as government, disciplinary forces, public organization, NGO and think tank. We wish all new students have a happy learning life in our Programme.

Admission Scholarship 2015

For the Admission Scholarship for the 2015 entry, four newly-admitted students are awarded: Cheng Hei Man Maisie, Lee Tat Cheong, Li Xing and Wong Wai Chi. All of them achieved remarkable academic results. For recipients in full-time employment, they are also contributing to the society with their work relating to the community.

IV. Past Events

Seminar by Prof. Jeffrey Straussman – 18 March 2015

Prof. Straussman, our external examiner of 2014-15, delivered a seminar with the topic of “The Virtues of Executive Education Programmes for Schools and Departments of Public Administration and Policy: Reflections from the United States and Singapore” on 18 March 2015. He is Professor in the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy, University of Albany and Fellow in the National Academy of Public Administration. Prof. Straussman shared his experiences of executive education from Maxwell School, Syracuse University and Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore.



International Conference on Youth Studies and Public Policy– 30 May 2015

This Conference was co-organized with Hong Kong Institute of Asia Pacific Studies (HKIAPS) and Department of Government and Public Administration. Four international scholars, Prof. Howard Williamson, Prof. David Buckingham, Prof. Tom ter Bgot and Prof. Maurice Devlin and academics from local institutions were invited to have presentations on youth development and public policy in HK and China at an international comparative perspective. Youth as agency, their transition, citizenship, media and consumption were discussed in the Conference. A book project based on the conference papers and presentations are being organized.



Social Gathering with Ms. Eva Cheng – 14 March 2015

We invited Ms. Eva Cheng, the former Secretary for Transport and Housing, to our social gathering on 14 March 2015 (Sat). She shared her experience in working in the government and dealing with different parties when formulating policies.



MSSc in

MPUP+HKU Seminar Series by Prof. Eric Welch – 24 & 25 September 2015

This was the first time that MPUP and Department of Politics and Public Administration of HKU joined together to invited Prof. Eric Welch to give seminars on Science and Technology Policy, a research field seldom studied in HK. Prof. Welch is Professor of Public Administration and Policy and Director of Center for Science, Technology and Environmental Policy (C-STEPS) in School of Public Affairs of Arizona State University. He first had a seminar with our students on 24 September with topic on “The Making of Science and Technology Policy: Contested Inputs for Scientific Research and the Case of Access to Biological Materials”. Then Prof. Welch further discussed Science and Technology Policy with case study in biogenetic research in HKU on 25 September.



III. Coming Events

International Scholars Visiting our Programme

Prof. Shamsul Haque from National University of Singapore and Prof. Martin Lodge from London School of Economics and Political Science will visit our Programme in April 2016. Stay tuned for more details.

Admission Exercise 2016

The admission exercise for 2016 entry will start in November 2015 and end on 11 March 2016. Should you have any friends and colleagues interested in our Programme, please welcome them to apply.

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.

Interdisciplinary Education in Public Policy:
Contributing knowledge for long-term human development”