

GPA BIANNUAL NEWSLETTER

April 2020 Issue no. 4

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Message of Head of Graduate Division	2
Updates of GPA 50th Anniversary in 2020	3 - 4
Recent Event Highlight: Professor Vogel's Meeting	5 - 6
Star Researchers	7-8
Grant Updates	9
Teaching Corner: Interactive teaching	10 - 11
GPAD in the News	12 - 13
Postgraduate Updates	14
GPA Master Programmes: MPUP and GPGC	15 - 18
GPA Internship Programme (2019 summer) Co-intelligence	19 - 20
Admission of 2019 Entry: Welcome to the Family of GPA!	21 - 24
Stay connected	25

MESSAGE OF HEAD OF GRADUATE DIVISION



Professor Chen Xi
Associate Professor,
Head of Graduate Division,
Department Of Government
and Public Administration,
CUHK

I am honored to have the opportunity to introduce the new edition of our Biannual Newsletter under the current exceptional circumstances. Events in the past few months, especially the present once-in-a-century global pandemic, have certainly tested all of us. By reaching out to everyone in our GPA community and strengthening the bonds between us, this newsletter can certainly help us endure all the difficulties and uncertainties in our times.

As the head of the Graduate Division, I am happy to report that our graduate programs have been adapting well. Although inevitably there were some cancellations and postponements, modern technologies such as Zoom, have helped us carry out most of our research and teaching with little disruption. Bracing themselves for the unprecedented challenges, our research graduate students have maintained active research agendas and a number of journal articles and conference papers are in the pipeline. To our surprise and delight, the admission processes of all our graduate programs this year have not been seriously affected by the difficult situation in Hong Kong. Our PhD program, for example, received a large number of strong applications. We had to make an unusually long waiting list since so many excellent students exceeded our admission criteria.

This year will be our fiftieth anniversary. Our department has not only grown into an academic stronghold with an international reputation, but also built a remarkably large and strong network of alumni. This newsletter will give a glimpse into the teaching and research activities of our faculty and students, as well as the achievements of our alumni. Neither political tensions nor a public health crisis can diminish our optimism or dampen our spirit to celebrate.

UPDATES OF GPA 50TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2020

MESSAGE FROM OUR GPAD ALUMNI

Professor Ngai Ngan Pun

Vanishing Memories of nearly Half a Century Ago!

The hot summer of 1971 was especially meaningful for the ten of our classmates who graduated in 1974. Because it was on August 1 of that year, we successfully transferred from different departments to major in Government & Public Administration (GPA), and officially became the first batch of GPA undergraduate students. We are also the first group of students to have classes at T.C. Cheng Building of today's United College campus. In the first year, the new college campus was covered with yellow soil. There were sand and stones everywhere, not many trees and flowers, and no green lawn, waterfall, bird singing, and fragrance of the flowers. Fortunately, there were blue skies and white clouds during the day, and the sound of insects accompanied by the night, and the laughter of student residents in the Adam Schall Residence which is the first established student dormitory of United College, made the seemingly barren and quiet campus lively.

As far as I remember when the Department was founded, there were only two professors, who are Prof. Hsueh Shou-sheng and Prof. Wong Wang-fat Andrew, and in the next year or two, three more professors, including Prof. Byron Weng, Prof. Kuan Hsin-chi, and Prof. Wong Kui-hung joined the Department. They are all excellent scholars and are amiable and friendly to others. Their rigorous academic and self-cultivation have left a profound impression on us. Due to their extensive educational background and international linkage, it had facilitated the development of the Department's international academic exchange activities. Starting in 1972-73, our Department had visiting professors coming from overseas to deliver courses for us, for example Prof. Dai Shen-yu, have exchange students from American universities attending classes with us, and provides us with the opportunity to visit universities abroad, such as visiting Nanyang University in 1973. We have therefore expanded our international horizons.

In the first several years, our Department only had five professors and the total number of students was only about 50. The interpersonal relationship was close and genuine among students. There was frequent contact and interaction between professors and students, and we were invited by individual professors as guests in their homes, and they often had lunch or coffee with us in the student canteen, and chatted about Hong Kong's political and social affairs, discussed major issues in the world, especially the Cold War, the development of Chinese society and the People's Republic of China. Gradually, it became a culture of informal teacher-student exchange and interaction, and sharing of different perspectives among students in the early years. It also shaped our knowledge-seeking tradition with interest in public policies debate and exploration of the truth of things, thereby cultivating our caring outlook towards society and mankind. It also indirectly encouraged some of our students to actively participate in student union activities as well as social activities.

In 1972, we also established the GPA Student Society, and Mr. David Kam became the first president. Thus, a series of activities were organized, such as orientation program for new students. The extra-curricular activities enriched our campus life, and promoted the friendships among our classmates.

The above-mentioned faint memories tell about our footprints in the budding period of the Department. Reminiscing the past and looking at the present, our Department is striving forward. The achievements are exciting! The future must be prosperous!



Professor Ngai Ngan Pun

1974 Graduate, Department of Government and Public Administration, CUHK

**Adjunct Professor (Honorary), Department of Social Work;
Senior College Tutor, Shaw College, CUHK**

UPDATES OF GPA 50TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2020



We are now looking for GPA alumni to serve as class representative of their graduating classes to be the contact points and also help coordinating with the friends of their graduating classes.

We are going to organize our 50th Anniversary Dinner Banquet which will be held on the 11th October 2020 (Sunday) at the Hyatt Regency Hong Kong, Shatin. We would like to invite our alumni, colleagues and students from GPA Department to join us on that day. We would like to seek the help of our class representatives for coordinating the dinner banquet also.

Below is the tentative list of class representatives of different graduating classes. Thank you very much for all class representatives' support. If there is no representative of your graduating year and you are interested to join us, please contact us via GPA50@cuhk.edu.hk

We look forward to celebrating the GPA 50th anniversary with you!

List of class representatives of graduating class

Graduation Year	Class Representative	Class Representative
UG: 1974	Prof. Ngai Ngan Pun	
UG: 1980	Dr. Peter Lai Pak Sang	
UG: 1983	Dr. Jimmy Lau Fu Shing	
UG: 1984	Mr. Lawrence Ng Kong Fat	
UG: 1985	Mr. Raymond Ng Ngai Man	
UG: 1986	Ms. Louise Chan Chin Ha	
UG: 1988	Mr. Yun Tai Ho	Ms. Cherry Cheung Mei Kuen
UG: 1990	Ms. Jacqueline Ng Kwok Sheung	
UG: 1999	Ms. Lilian Chow Yim Yan	
UG: 2002	Mr. Chan Chi Yuen	
UG: 2003	Ms. Hindy Kai Wai Hang	
UG: 2005	Mr. Simon Luk Man Chun	Mr. Charles Chow Tsz Lit
UG: 2006	Mr. Kenneth Ng King Tsun	Ms. Karina Wong Pui Sze
UG: 2007	Mr. Frederick Chu Thanakom	
UG: 2008	Mr. Chan Chi Lap	
UG: 2009	Mr. Kenneth Lau King Hei	
UG: 2010	Mr. Terry Wong Tat Chi	
UG: 2011	Mr. Choi Kam Fung	Ms. Angel Wong Sze Wun
UG: 2012	Mr. Iester Yang Chun Yin	
UG: 2013	Mr. Edward Lui Tsz Kin	
UG: 2014	Mr. Gary Fong Chi Shun	Mr. Lam Lok Son
UG: 2015	Ms. Wong Lai Wing	
UG: 2018	Mr. Thomas Chu Sai Yeung	
UG: 2019	Mr. Thomas Lui Lok Heam	
Mphil: 1996	Ms. Susan Blumberg Kason	
Mphil: 2014	Ms. Zhang Shiyu	
GPGC: 2015-16	Ms. Cai Yu	
GPGC: 2018-19	Ms. Meng Yujia	

RECENT EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:

Meeting with Professor Ezra Vogel, 23 January 2020 (Thursday)

Professor Ezra Vogel

Henry Ford II Professor of the Social Sciences Emeritus, Harvard University

Research interests: modern Japan; Japanese industrialization; rise of Japanese communist society in China; Deng Xiaoping; United States relations with Asia; reform era China; the second Sino-Japanese War.

Ezra F. Vogel is a student of both modern Japan and China. He received his B.A. at Ohio Wesleyan University in 1950 and his Ph.D. in Sociology at Harvard in 1958. He then spent two years in Japan conducting research. In 1960-61, he was assistant professor at Yale University and from 1961-62 through 1963-64 a post-doctoral fellow at Harvard, studying Chinese language and history. He remained at Harvard, becoming lecturer in 1964 and professor in 1967.

Professor Vogel succeeded John Fairbank as second Director (1972-1977) of Harvard's East Asian Research Center (now the Fairbank Center) and second Chairman of the Council for East Asian Studies (1977-1980). He was Director of the Program on U.S.-Japan Relations at the Center for International Affairs (1980-1987) and, since 1987, Honorary Director. He was director of the Undergraduate Concentration in East Asian Studies from its inception in 1972 until 1989. In 1993 he took a two-year leave of absence, serving as National Intelligence Officer for East Asia at the National Intelligence Council. He returned to Harvard in September 1995 to direct the Fairbank Center until 1999 and was head of the Asia Center from 1997 to 1999. He taught courses on communist Chinese society, Japanese society, and industrial East Asia. The Japanese edition of Professor Vogel's book *Japan as Number One: Lessons for America* (1979) remains the all-time best-seller in Japan of non-fiction by a Western author. He officially retired in 2000 but remains active in research and East Asia related activities.



Standing behind from left to right: Professor Chen Xi, Professor Seanon Wong Si Lon, Professor Vivian Zhan Jing, Professor Carlos Lo Wing Hung (Academic staff of Department of Government and Public Administration); Miss Cai Jingwen, Mr. Felix Wiebrecht, Mr. Zhang Zheng, Miss Wang Luning (Research postgraduate students of Department of Government and Public Administration), Mr. Gao Qi (Staff of Universities Service Center for China Studies)

Sitting in front from left to right: Professor Ezra Vogel, Professor Pierre Landry

Mr. Felix Wiebrecht,

**PhD Year 2 Student, Department of Government
and Public Administration, CUHK**

**Sharing from Felix, one of the participants from
the meeting.**

On January 23, Prof. Ezra Vogel met with postgraduate students and faculty members at USC to talk about the field of China Studies and shared his experiences. In an interesting session, Prof Vogel talked about the history of Chinese Studies as a field in the US that he lived through himself and also the establishment of the Universities Service Centre for China Studies. Questions from the audience centered around the current hostility between China and the US that may make research on China more difficult in the future as well as the future direction of the field as a whole. Prof Vogel is optimistic though that we can continue to do meaningful research related to China and also bridge the current divide between data-driven projects and minor yet safe research questions.

Meeting with Professor Ezra Vogel, 23 January 2020 (Thursday)



Mr. Zhang Zheng

**PhD Year 1 Student, Department of Government
and Public Administration, CUHK**

**Sharing from Zheng, one of the participants
from the meeting.**

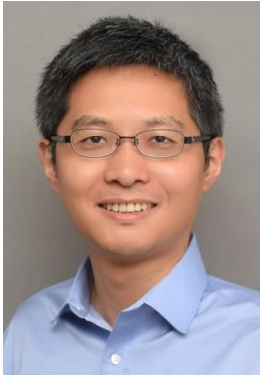
Our meeting with Prof. Ezra Vogel is thought-provoking, inspiring, and motivating. He looked back on his research experiences and introduced the dynamics of China studies. His continuous interests and firm determination heartened me. As a student in political science, I can always sense the tension between the established theory and divergent phenomenon in China. There should be researchers revealing more truths to the world and enhancing people's understanding. We need to persist in engaging in the mainstream discussion and bridging the knowledge gap despite facing decreasing interest in global academia. Utilizing unique geographic advantage and plentiful catalogs of University Service Centre, I will keep on exploring meaningful questions and forging my paths to knowledge.



**Left: Professor Ezra Vogel, Henry Ford II Professor of the
Social Sciences Emeritus, Harvard University**

**Right: Professor Pierre Landry, Professor, Department of
Government and Public Administration; Co-Director,
Universities Service Center for China Studies, CUHK**

STAR RESEARCHERS



Professor Jiang Junyan,
Assistant Professor,
Department of Government
and Public Administration,
CUHK

Jiang, J., (2020), Countering Capture: Elite Networks and Government Responsiveness in China's Land Market Reform, *Journal of Politics*, Vol. 82 (1).

Abstract: Government responsiveness is often viewed as a result of political pressure from the public, but why do politicians facing similar pressure sometimes differ in their responsiveness? This article considers the configurations of elite networks as a key mediating factor. We argue that access to external support networks helps improve politicians' responsiveness to ordinary citizens by reducing their dependence on vested interests, and we test this claim using China's land market reform as a case. Leveraging novel city-level measures of mass grievances and political networks, we demonstrate that the intensity of land-related grievances is on average positively associated with reform occurrence, but this association is only salient among a subset of city leaders who enjoy informal connections to the higher-level authority. We also show that connected leaders tend to implement policies less congruent with local bureaucratic and business interests. These findings underscore the importance of intra-elite dynamics in shaping mass-elite interactions.

Li, L., (2019), The Cadre Resignation Tide in the Wake of the 18th Party Congress, *China: An International Journal*, Vol. 17(3), pp.188-199.

Abstract: This article analyses distinctive features and contextual causes of the resignation en masse of Chinese government officials in the wake of the 18th Party Congress. Typically, officials who resigned were neither being "ceilinged" nor considered laggards. Instead, they were front runners with proven records, and had stronger achievement orientations and risk-taking personalities. However, three contextual changes triggered the exodus—the heightened risk of pursuing a political career attributed to the unexpectedly relentless momentum of the anti-corruption campaign; intensified work stress due to the reimposed orthodox ideological straightjacket and reinstated Maoist morals; and demoralisation and disillusionment as a result of aggravated nepotism and the condoned practice of anonymous informing.



Professor Li Lianjiang,
Professor,
Department of Government and
Public Administration, CUHK



Professor William Smith,
Associate Professor,
Department of Government
and Public Administration,
CUHK

Smith, W., Deliberative citizenship: a critical reappraisal, *Citizenship Studies*, Vol. 23(8), pp. 815-830

Abstract: The study of citizenship as a political or moral ideal involves identifying core commitments and capabilities, the cultivation and exercise of which is often presented as a condition of being a 'good' citizen. Deliberative democracy was, at least until recently, associated with a conception of citizenship that endorses those qualities that equip us for a certain kind of respectful and reflective dialogue. This article reappraises this conception in light of the so-called 'systemic turn' within deliberative theory. It shows how systems thinking has displaced the traditional conception of deliberative citizenship, but that theorists have so far not elaborated a satisfactory replacement. A pluralist model is thus proposed, which casts light on the diverse qualities that a range of actors in a deliberative system might require. The resulting argument is not merely of interest to deliberative theorists, but to all who are concerned with the ethics of citizenship. The main reason is that it displaces the entrenched notion of a 'good citizen', in favour of the more heterogenous ideal of a 'good citizenry'.

STAR RESEARCHERS



Professor Ma Ngok,
Associate Professor,
Department of Government
and Public Administration,
CUHK

Ma, N. and Cheng, E. W., (Co-eds), (2019), The Umbrella Movement: Civil Resistance and Contentious Space in Hong Kong, *Amsterdam University Press*

This volume examines the most spectacular struggle for democracy in post-handover Hong Kong. Bringing together scholars with different disciplinary focuses and comparative perspectives from mainland China, Taiwan and Macau, one common thread that stitches the chapters is the use of first-hand data collected through on-site fieldwork. This study unearths how trajectories can create favourable conditions for the spontaneous civil resistance despite the absence of political opportunities and surveys the dynamics through which the protestors, the regime and the wider public responses differently to the prolonged contentious space. The Umbrella Movement: Civil Resistance and Contentious Space in Hong Kong offers an informed analysis of the political future of Hong Kong and its relations with the authoritarian sovereignty as well as sheds light on the methodological challenges and promises in studying modern-day protests.

蔡子強，《百年修得同船渡》，進一步出版社，2019

《百年修得同船渡》，是一本非一般的「蔡子強著作」。

蔡子強近年開始認真思考退休的問題，《百年修得同船渡》是作者向他人人生路上二十二良師益友的一份致意，亦是一次自我盤點，審視過去所走過的路，影響他走哪一條路的人和事。

蔡子強感謝的二十二人中，首三人是「佔中三子」陳健民、朱耀明及戴耀廷。蔡子強從與之並肩爭取民主，到看著三名戰友面對審訊，其中兩人入獄，感觸良多。第四個感謝的人是黃浩銘，一個讓蔡子強重新認識年輕抗爭者的朋友。第五個感謝的人是陳錦康，一個默默為工人付出一生，絕非「君王」的「小人物」。

人生之中，總有一些你不認識的人曾經為你打氣。假如世上沒有胡國雄，沒有足球，蔡子強或許在中學階段便會自困愁城，成為所謂「孤獨精」。假如巴治奧在1994年世界盃決賽互射十二碼把皮球送入網窩，也沒有後來重新振作的故事，作者在人生中經歷挫折的階段，或許便沒有及時的鼓舞。

人與人之間的相遇或偶然，或許就會改變你的一生，改變你對事物的看法。假如蔡子強沒有遇上關信基教授，大學的學習生涯以至今日的學術生涯肯定截然不同；沒有楊鳴章神父的一瓶星星，蔡子強或許就無法走出低谷；假如不曾經歷過高錕出任中大校長，以及參與學聯的經歷，蔡子強亦未必會有對沈祖堯的感慨。

一些讀過的書、聽過的歌，當刻或許沒有太多感受，多年後回想，才會驚覺這些事物對人生影響之深，對蔡子強而言，黃霑的詞、金庸的《天龍八部》、馬克思、梵高及蘇格拉底均在此列。

讀過本書後，你都會希望靜靜坐下來，回想人生中要感謝的人。

蔡子強

百年修得同船渡

我的人生路上二十二位良師益友
感謝他們 - they made me a better person

Mr. Ivan Choy Chi Keung
Senior Lecturer,
Department Government
and Public Administration,
CUHK

Research Impact Fund 2019-20:

Congratulations to our Department Head, Professor Carlos Lo Wing Hung, for receiving the Research Impact Fund 2019-20 from the University Grants Committee.

Lo, C.W.H. Yiu, D.W.Y. and Egri, C. 2020. Corporate Sustainability Engagement and Corporate Performance: An Examination of Listed Companies in the Greater China Region. April 2020 – March 2023. Research Impact Fund



Professor Carlos Lo Wing Hung
Professor, Department Head,
Department Of Government
and Public Administration,
CUHK

Corporate Sustainability Engagement and Corporate Performance: An Examination of Listed Companies in the Greater China Region

This project builds on the team's existing work on business sustainability indexes commenced in 2011 to engage listed companies in Hong Kong in business sustainability through the compilation of the Hong Kong Business Sustainability Index (HKBSI). Since its launch in 2015, the credibility of the HKBSI has been established through four rounds of compilation and announcements. The HKBSI will serve as a benchmark for introducing a CSR rating and certification scheme for the Greater China region. This knowledge transfer mechanism will provide listed companies with timely and regular assessments of their ESG (environmental, social and governance) and sustainability achievements. To provide a sound empirical basis for establishing and promoting this CSR rating and certification scheme, the project will conduct an in-depth and comprehensive study of listed companies' ESG and sustainability reports with a specific focus on the effect of CSR activities and performance on corporate performance.

企業可持續發展的參與與企業績效：對大中華地區上市公司的研究

本項目建基於由 2011 年開始的企業可持續發展指數工作，旨在通過編制「香港商業可持續性指數」(HKBSI) 以鼓勵香港上市公司投入企業可持續發展。自 2015 年推出以來，HKBSI 已發布四屆並確立其認受性。HKBSI 將作為基準，引入大中華地區企業社會責任評級和認證計劃。這個知識轉移機制將為上市公司的 ESG (環境，社會和治理) 和可持續性績效提供及時和定期的評估。為建立和推廣此企業社會責任(CSR)評級和認證計劃提供良好的經驗基礎，本項目將對上市公司的 ESG 和可持續性報告進行深入而全面的研究，重點關注 CSR 活動和績效對公司的業務影響。

TEACHING CORNER: INTERACTIVE TEACHING

Dr. James Downes,

Lecturer, Head of Admissions and Publicity Panel

Department of Government and Public Administration, CUHK

We have been using Online (Synchronous) Teaching Methodologies in GPA since the end of January 2020 due to the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19).

Students have been extremely enthusiastic about this software and Zoom has enabled me to try out a diverse range of teaching methodologies in an online classroom setting. At the same time, Zoom has a lot of cool and interactive features that can enhance student learning online and provides a more interactive online platform, compared to alternative softwares such as Panopto.

I have been using this for my new course "The Rise of Populism in Europe" (GPAD 3161) in GPA this semester. Key Features include: (a) Zoom Break-Out Chat, (b) the Share Screen Function for Documentaries & PPT Slides, alongside (c) Online Group Project/Conference presentations conducted in "real" time and (d) Zoom Live Messenger Chat. Students have also been actively researching the 'rise' of populism in a number of European countries each week, ranging from Germany, France and the United Kingdom in Western Europe, to countries such as Hungary and Poland in Central-Eastern Europe. Furthermore, the myriad of features offered by Zoom provides an excellent way for students to learn each week's materials and provide a range of "flipped and blended" classroom methodologies in an interactive setting.

In addition, Zoom allows students to stay connected with other students and peers during this difficult time for everyone in Hong Kong. I have also recently applied for an Online Teaching Grant from CUHK which, if successful, would allow me to invite international guest speakers ("virtually") from Europe, for GPAD 3161. The prospective project title is: "Teaching European Politics in Hong Kong: Fostering an Interactive Online Teaching Methodology." These speakers are experts in their fields, ranging from public opinion & polling (Kantar Public, Brussels) to the finance industry (UBS) and will speak on important issues relating to populism, the future of liberal democracy in Europe and future careers relating to comparative European Politics.

The Virtual Background is a pretty cool feature in Zoom, and I play a game at the beginning of each class every week with the students, called "Where's James?" As our GPAD 3161 Course is a "comparative" one, each week I will set my Virtual Background to a specific Parliament/Legislative Chamber in Europe (see below if you can guess the three locations where I am at?). This provides a gentle and humorous way in which to start each week's classes via the Zoom software.

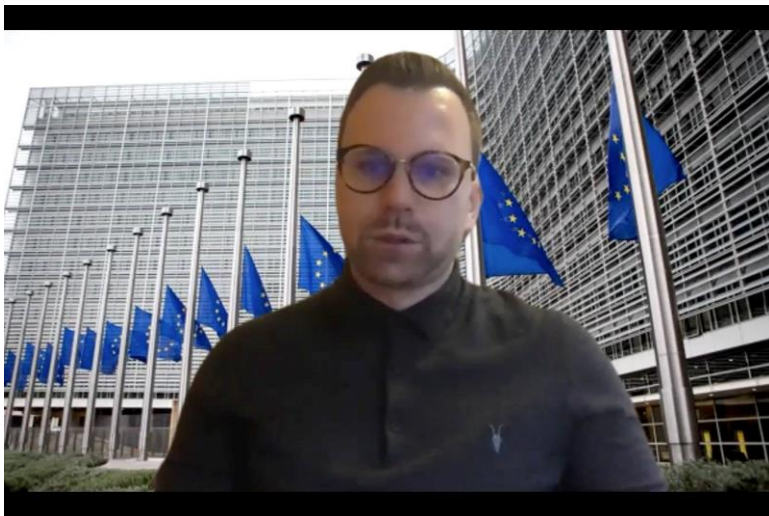
Interactive and applied teaching is my primary teaching philosophy, particularly in courses that I teach related to Comparative Politics (GPAD 3160, GPAD 2395 & GPAD 2145) and Research Methods (GPAD 2111 & GPGC 5005). I published a teaching piece back in 2018 for the British International Studies Association and the UK Higher Education Academy on my teaching philosophy. The related article can be found [here](#). Teaching is an important passion of mine and I recently received a Teaching Certificate from the Centre for Enhancement & Learning at CUHK for "Excellent" Teaching. In addition, I am also an Associate Fellow of the UK Higher Education Academy and this membership reminds me to always strive in further improving my teaching and most importantly developing passionate students who can contribute and go on to do great things for society in both Hong Kong and overseas.

TEACHING CORNER: INTERACTIVE TEACHING

PARLIAMENT GAME: WHERE'S JAMES?

There are three different locations and three marks overall. 1 Point is awarded for each correct answer!
Hint: They are all in Europe! Best of luck to Alumni & current students alike! 😊

Where is James?



Picture 2



Picture 1



Picture 3

Answers:
Picture 1: The Spanish Parliament (The Cortes Generales/General Courts)
Picture 2: The European Union (Outside the European Parliament)
Picture 3: The German Parliament (The Bundestag)

GPAD IN THE NEWS

Professor Carlos Lo Wing Hung

Professor, Department Head, Department of Government and Public Administration, CUHK



專訪：「[中小企實踐 CSR 真的做對了嗎？](#)」，《香港經濟日報》，2019 年 12 月 20 日

Dr. James Downes

Articles and Recent Interviews by Dr. Downes:

[The case of Fratelli d'Italia: How radical-right populists in Italy and beyond are building global networks.](#) CARR. 2020-3-5

[Populist parties and the double-edged sword of voter mobilization.](#) Social Europe. 2020-2-26

['Syncretic' Populism in Contemporary 21st Century European Politics.](#) CARR. 2020-2-19

[What Drives the Center Right's Electoral Success?.](#) Fair Observer. 2020-1-20

[Upcoming EU summit won't solve Brexit, academic says.](#) CNBC TV Interview. 2019-10-15

Selected Interviews: (Political Analyst for CNN & CNBC)

[The EU is facing a serious crisis. It's funding the same people who wish to wreck it.](#) CNN. 2020-2-15

[Post-Brexit Trade-Offs Will Be Impacted Not by Economics of the Situation, But by Politics.](#) Sputnik International. 2020-2-1

Dr. Downes was also recently made an Honorary Research Fellow at the Global Europe Centre, at the University of Kent (UK)/Brussels School of International Studies (Belgium).



Dr. James Downes,

Lecturer

**Head of Admissions and Publicity Panel
Department of Government and
Public Administration, CUHK**

Mr. Ivan Choy Chi Keung

Senior Lecturer, Department of Government and Public Administration, CUHK

- 「「高危」活動」，《頭條日報》，2020年3月16日
- 「泛民立法會過半可以如何攻堅」，《明報》，2020年3月4日
- 「武漢乃東奧剋星？」，《頭條日報》，2020年3月2日
- 「黑死病的源頭：強國入侵」，《東周刊》，2020年2月28日
- 「瘟疫面前人渺小 他們就是忘了該謙虛」，《明報》，2020年2月26日
- 「世代公義」的背後」，《頭條日報》，2020年1月20日
- 「台灣大選裏的世代之爭」，《明報》，2020年1月15日
- 「能否解決受限兩岸關係」，《明報》，2020年12月23日
- 「中途島戰役勝負在於陰差陽錯」，《明報》，2020年12月18日
- 「史上航母第一戰」，《東周刊》，2020年12月13日
- 「歷史發生第一次是悲劇，第二次就是鬧劇了」，《明報》，2020年12月13日

Dr. Nelson Lee Ka Kiu

Lecturer, Department of Government and Public Administration, CUHK

- 「世界城市與國家領土性——香港，面對著怎樣的中國？」，《端傳媒》，2019年12月2日
- 專訪：「專訪香港學者李家翹、蔡俊威：超越『世界的香港』，回到『香港的香港』」，《端傳媒》，2019年11月8日
- 「意識形態問題 意識形態解決」，《明報》，2019年9月26日

Prof. Ma Ngok

Associate Professor, Department of Government and Public Administration, CUHK

- 「切爾諾貝爾與失敗國家——被推動挺身而出的凡人」，《明報》，2020年2月16日
- 專訪：「地區政績仍具影響力」，《香港01》，2019年12月15日
- 「「警察城市」比23條更可怕！」，《信報財經月刊》，2019年12月12日
- 「區選三問」，《明報》，2019年12月12日
- 「這個夏天：實踐的共同體」，《明報》，2019年9月15日
- 「香港的悲哀」，《明報》，2019年8月18日

POSTGRADUATE UPDATES: STAR POSTGRADUATE RESEARCHER

Miss Zheng Ruoting

Journal Article:

Zheng, R. and Hu, J. (2019), Mediating state-society disputes in China: Outsourced lawyers and their selective responses, *China Information*.

Abstract: Where popular contention in China is concerned, third parties are not merely supporters of protesters but also allies of the state. Through quantitative and qualitative methods, this article uses an actor-centred perspective to explore the dual role of Chinese lawyers in state dispute resolution projects. When providing legal counselling services to the public, lawyers adopt selective strategies and channel non-political cases into legal channels while keeping political cases within the political arena. When handling social disputes for the government, however, they apply professional diagnoses and legal persuasion, and intervene through mediation and negotiation. Three factors constrain the effectiveness of Chinese lawyers during dispute resolution. These are the limited access to cases, the dilemmas inherent in acting simultaneously both as a third party and as a state agent, and the restricted influence of lawyers over the final resolution of social disputes. This article argues that the selective responses of Chinese lawyers during legal counselling and strategic defence of state power in dispute resolution make them a governance tool for stability maintenance. Their participation contributes more to legal repression than to legal development in contemporary China.

Conference Participation:

October 2019, Hong Kong Political Science Association Annual Conference, Hong Kong
December 2019, Local Government and Regional Governance Conference, Guangzhou



Miss Zheng Ruoting
PhD Year 3 Student,
Department of Government
and Public Administration,
CUHK

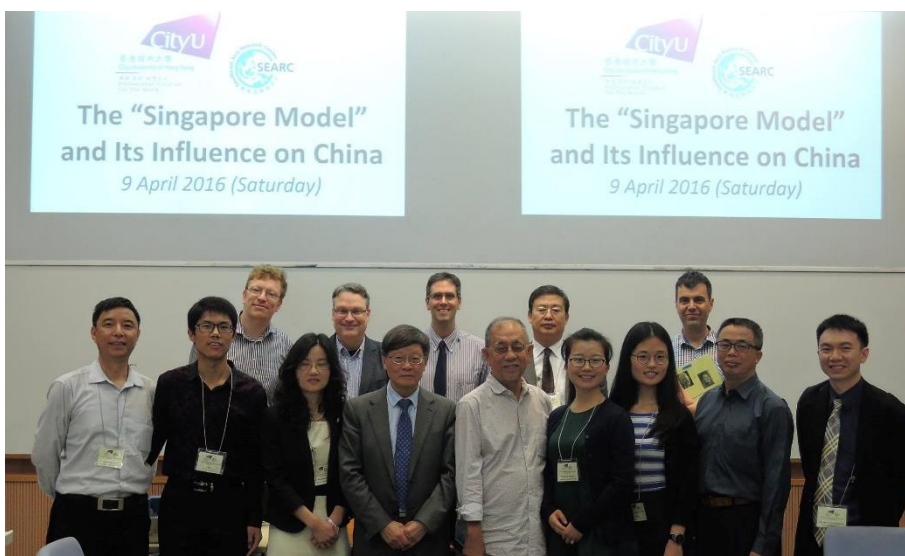
Mr. Yang Kai

Mr. Yang has two co-authored pieces in the below forthcoming book.

Thompson, M. R., Ortmann, S. (Eds), (Forthcoming), China's 'Singapore Model' and Authoritarian Learning. Routledge

Chapter 1: Ortmann, S. and Yang, K. "The Origins of the Singapore Fever in China: 1978-1992"

Conclusion: Thompson, M. R., Ortmann, S. and Yang, K. "Conclusion: The Fall of the Singapore Model"



Mr. Yang Kai (second from the left)
PhD Year 1 Student,
Department of Government and Public Administration, CUHK

GPA MASTER PROGRAMME:

香港中文大學
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

政治與行政學系
GOVERNMENT AND
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

MPUP
MSSc Programme in
Public Policy

GPGC
MSSc Programme in
Government and Politics
(Greater China)

2020/21 Admissions

Highlights of MSSc in GPGC and MSSc in MPUP and Admissions 2020

The two taught postgraduate programmes, MSSc Programme in Government and Politics (Greater China) (GPGC) and the MSSc Programme in Public Policy (MPUP) of the Department have been accepting applications for 2020 entry since September 2019 and until 30 April 2020 and 13 March 2020 respectively.

Both GPGC and MPUP offer the 1-year full-time and the 2-year part-time study mode with the following programme features:

MSSc Programme in Government and Politics (Greater China) (GPGC)

Launched in 2012, GPGC aims to train creative and methodologically rigorous analysts of government and politics in Greater China. The programme offers advanced learning for students who aspire to work in fields such as civil service, media, education, business management, third-sector as well as academic research.

GPGC emphasizes on social science perspective and research methodology, and its courses are delivered by faculty of the GPA Department and renowned scholars from Greater China and overseas in both English and Putonghua. It enrolled 52 students in the current academic year. Most applicants come from first-tier Mainland and Hong Kong universities, and the others are from overseas universities such as University of Sussex, University of Melbourne, University of Toronto and University of British Columbia.

Graduates of GPGC have started their careers as think-tank researchers, journalists, civil servants, financial analysts, college teachers, and practitioners of renowned NGOs. A number of them are currently pursuing doctorate degrees at local and overseas universities. Past graduates have advanced as analysts, government officials, and executives in business corporations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Given our strong academic training, some students also pursue further studies locally as well as abroad.

Application for Admission in 2020/21

Applications for GPGC 2020/21 are accepted from now till **April. 30, 2020**. Please find more information from our website:

<http://www.gpa.cuhk.edu.hk/en-gb/programmes/postgraduate-programmes/mssc-in-gpgc>



MSSc Programme in Public Policy (MPUP)

MPUP was launched in 2011 to meet the needs of leaders and professionals who have the aspiration to make a difference in government, NGOs, and all related sectors, to balance the diverse interests and concerns of the society and to achieve an optimal policy outcome in a society challenged by globalization and rapid changes in social and economic development.

MPUP is an interdisciplinary programme entirely taught in English by a distinctive team of scholars and practitioners, with the aims to equip students with integrative knowledge and essential professional skills, emphasize knowledge in policy-making and provides unique insights into major policy areas. Last year, the programme admitted around 50 students who graduated from top-tier mainland, Hong Kong and overseas institutions, such as Tsinghua University, Zhejiang University, and The University of British Columbia, and/or demonstrated impressive work experience in the public or private sectors.

MPUP graduates should be able to understand political institutions, processes and strategies for public policy making; acquire both quantitative and qualitative analytic skills for public policy research; possess a broad perspective in assessing alternatives by applying different models and theories; develop strategies for successful formation and implementation of public policies; and apply knowledge, ideas, and frameworks to deal with global and local policy changes effectively. Most of the past MPUP graduates continued to advance their career or joined various positions in the public and private organizations such as the HKSAR Government, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Deloitte Consulting (Shanghai) Co. Ltd and the United Nations.

Alumni Updates

Updates from GPGC alumna Zhang Ye

ZHANG Ye (GPGC 2014/15) was recently accepted by the world-leading Ph.D. programme in Political Science of MIT- Massachusetts Institute of Technology and will relocate from New York to Boston this fall. Congratulations!

“If you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem,” this is what ZHANG Ye believes. She describes political science as a discipline providing students with holistic education academically and practically. GPGC developed her critical thinking abilities, a spirit of service, and brought her new academic inspiration and linkages, which have had a significant impact on her academic achievements.



**Ms. Zhang Ye, Alumna,
MSSc in Government and Politics (Greater China),
Department of Government and Public Administration, CUHK**



**Ms. Jiang Shuyi, Alumna,
MSSc in Public Policy,
Department of Government and
Public Administration, CUHK**

Update from MPUP alumna Jiang Shuyi

Shuyi (MPUP 2018/19) has recently joined the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Paris as an Assistant. Her work focuses on assisting the coordination of the Education Sector's Programme Cycle Management, ranging from strategic planning, monitoring, evaluating to reporting. Before joining UNESCO, Shuyi has worked for the International Telecommunication Union, United Nations as a Telecoms Operations Assistant upon graduation from MPUP.

She considered the most inspiring ideas learned from MPUP teachers and classmates were to find something to feel passionate about in life and not only to achieve success or compare herself to others, but to be a responsible and hardworking person devoting herself to self-improvement.

GPA MASTER PROGRAMME:

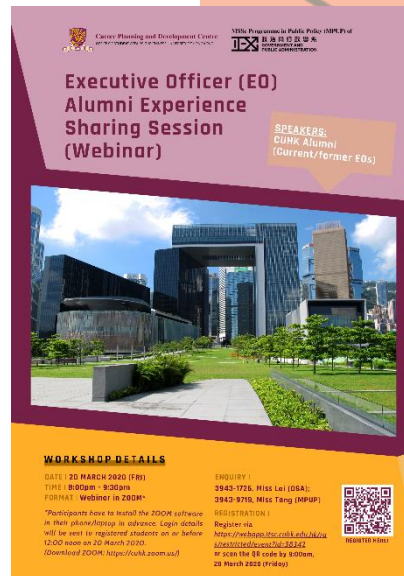
Highlights of Programme Activities

AO/EO Sharing Sessions – Webinars

(Co-organized by MPUP and CPDC)

As of previous year, MPUP co-organized two Alumni Experience Sharing Sessions on the recruitment exercise of the HKSAR Government Administrative Officer (AO) and the Executive Officer (EO) grades with the CUHK Career Planning and Development Centre (CPDC) for CUHK students to have a comprehensive understanding of the job nature of the two posts and to help students gain insights into preparation for the recruitment interviews. This year, as affected by the novel coronavirus outbreak, both sessions have been conducted in form of webinar via ZOOM in March 2020.

Three serving/former AOs, including Ms. Suzanna Leung (CUHK alumna), Mr. Cyrus Chow (CUHK alumnus) and Mr. Samuel Lai (MPUP current student) and two serving EOs, Ms. Jelly Cheung (MPUP alumna) and Ms. Cordelia Hau (MPUP current student) introduced to and shared with the participants the career path, mission, core values of the AO/EO grades and also their interview experience and tips.



Executive Officer (EO) Alumni Experience Sharing Session (Webinar)

SPEAKERS:
CUHK Alumni
(Current/former EOs)


WORKSHOP DETAILS

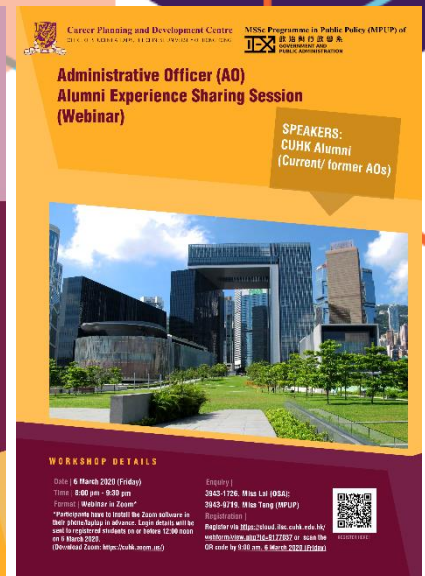
DATE | 20 MARCH 2020 (FRIDAY)
TIME | 8:00pm - 8:30pm
FORMAT | Webinar in ZOOM*

*Participants have to install the ZOOM software in their phone/laptop in advance. Login details will be sent to registered students on or before 12:00 noon on 20 March 2020.
(Download ZOOM: <https://cuhk.zoom.us/j>)

ENQUIRY | 3943-9726, Miss Lai (OS&Z), 3943-9700, Miss Tang (MPUP)

REGISTRATION | Register via: <https://cuhk.zoom.us/join/joinMeetingUrl> or scan the QR code by 8:00pm, 20 March 2020 (Friday)

REGISTER HERE | 



Administrative Officer (AO) Alumni Experience Sharing Session (Webinar)

SPEAKERS:
CUHK Alumni
(Current/former AOs)


WORKSHOP DETAILS

Date | 6 March 2020 (Friday)
Time | 8:00 pm - 8:30 pm
Format | Webinar in Zoom*

*Participants have to install the Zoom software in their phone/laptop in advance. Login details will be sent to registered students on or before 12:00 noon on 6 March 2020.
(Download Zoom: <https://cuhk.zoom.us/j>)

Enquiry | 3943-1726, Miss Lai (OS&Z), 3943-9700, Miss Tang (MPUP)

Registration | Register via <https://cuhk.zoom.us/join/joinMeetingUrl> or scan the QR code by 1:00 pm, 6 March 2020 (Friday)

REGISTER HERE | 

MPUP: Class of 2019 Photo-taking, 8 November 2019 (Friday)

The MPUP Class of 2019 Representatives organized a class photo-taking session on 8 November 2019 (Friday), the day of their master's degree graduation ceremony to share and capture the joy of the graduation with their fellow teachers and classmates.



MPUP: CV Writing & Interview Skills Workshop

Being a programme with the mission to nurture future competent policy professionals and leaders, MPUP has organized with the CUHK Independent Learning Centre (ILC) two career workshops, one on CV and Cover Letter Writing and another one on Interview Skills exclusively for students of the Department via ZOOM in March 2020.

Dr. Karl Holm, an experienced instructor from ILC, has been invited to deliver the workshops, equipping students with essential job search and interview skills and offering students feedback on how to polish a professionally-written CV and cover letter.

GPA MASTER PROGRAMME:

Highlights of Programme Activities

 **學術講座** **身份認同是如何形成的？**
中國崛起下台灣個案的變遷

日期：2019年10月3日，星期四
時間：7:00pm - 9:00pm
地點：香港中文大學 潤昌堂 103
(校園本部邵逸夫堂旁)
講者：林泉忠教授
主持：葉國豪博士

林泉忠教授，現任武漢大學國際問題研究院教授、日本研究中心執行主任、香港《明報》《壹周刊》主筆，已出版專著《中日國方部長與東亞秩序重構》、《「邊陲東亞」之認同政治：沖繩、台灣、香港》、《誰是中國人？——透視台灣人與香港人的身份認同》等學術論文四十餘篇。

葉國豪博士，香港中文大學政治與行政學系「大中華地區的政府與政治」碩士課程榮譽講師，講授「比較視野下的台灣」課程。

查詢：
3943-7530 或
greaterchina@cuhk.edu.hk

舉辦單位：
政治與行政學系「大中華地區的政府與政治」碩士課程





香港講者可以收獲嗎？
陳志華 啟

GPGC: Public Lecture

Dr. John Lim Chuan-Tiong, 3 October 2019 (Thursday)

Dr. John Lim Chuan-Tiong is a researcher in Japan Research Institute in Taiwan and Chief of Japan Research Center, Wuhan University. Invited by GPGC, Dr. Lim delivered a lecture on The Evolution of Taiwanese Identity for the CUHK community on October 3rd 2019.




GPGC: Public Lecture

Professor Qin Hui, 31 October 2019 (Thursday)

Prof. QIN Hui is one of the leading historian and public intellectuals in China and is Adjunct Professor of GPA department in 2019/20. Prof. Qin started from writing on Ming and Qing agriculture, and since has expanded to contemporary issues ranging from politics to economics and philosophy. He has published numerous scholarly books, which include among others 《走出帝制：從晚清到民國的歷史回望》、《農民社會與農民文化研究》、《田園詩與狂想曲：關中模式與前近代社會的再認識》、《經濟轉軌與社會公正》、《傳統十論：本土社會的制度、文化及其變革》(all in Chinese).

He delivered a lecture titled The Alienation of Enlightenment: Reflections on the May Fourth Movement on October 31, 2019 for the CUHK community.



 香港中文大學
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

31/10
2019 [香港中文大學學術講座]

啟蒙的異化： 五四百年祭

講者：秦暉 教授
時間：2019年10月31日 (星期四) 7:00pm - 9:00pm
地點：香港中文大學康本國際學術園LT6 (近港鐵大學站)
主持：香港中文大學文化研究所 鄭會欣教授
語言：普通話


秦暉，歷史學家，原清華大學人文社科學院歷史系教授、博士生導師。2015年創辦清華大學社會創新及現當代史研究中心任主任及學術委員會主席，2017年從清華退休。目前任香港中文大學政治與行政學系客座教授。

其主要著作包括《走出帝制：從晚清到民國的歷史回望》、《農民社會與農民文化研究》、《田園詩與狂想曲：關中模式與前近代社會的再認識》、《經濟轉軌與社會公正》、《農民中國：歷史反思與現實選擇》、《傳統十論：本土社會的制度、文化及其變革》、《十年浩劫：東歐諸國的經濟社會轉軌與思想變遷》(與余英時合著)。

香港中文大學政治與行政學系「大中華地區的政府與政治」碩士課程
MSc in Government and Politics (Greater China)

中國研究服務中心
University Service Centre
For China Studies

公開講座 歡迎參加
查詢：(852)3943-7530 或 greaterchina@cuhk.edu.hk



GPA INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME (2019 SUMMER) CO-INTELLIGENCE

The Department started the GPA Internship Programme Co-Intelligence in 2019 summer. Four students, Miss Alexis Cheng, Mr. Cheng Kai Chi Matthew, Miss FANG Kwan Wa Karen and Mr. Ng Ho Tin Aaron, were selected for internships at Radio Free Asia and Brunswick Group respectively.

Miss FANG Kwan Wa Karen, Undergraduate Year 4 Student

Being a typical politics student, I, of course, did not possess any knowledge on the business field, which worried me at the beginning. Luckily, the company provided the interns with training on research, analysis, usage of frequently used software e.g. Bloomberg, Tatum, Factiva etc. – which is basically everything you need to know, to make sure we feel comfortable with our hands-on work later. Besides, Brunswick was generous enough to arrange coffee chats with colleagues at different positions for us. I've obtained a thorough understanding about the company culture and the operations of different teams.

The experience at Brunswick has definitely brushed up my analytical and research skills. I was responsible for daily media monitoring and in-depth media analysis for various tycoons and had to prepare business packs and industry research reports for further handling. After working in a fast-paced and demanding environment, I am now more capable to accommodate ad-hoc changes and requests.

What makes the internship so unforgettable is the fact that it coincided with the heat of the ongoing anti-extradition protests, which makes my work more interesting yet intense than before.

Despite continuing with my daily routine of work, Aaron and I had to closely monitor and conduct real-time updates on Hong Kong issues including online and offline responses of the public, business sector and government officials. I've never thought of reading LIHKG forum and telegram during work being a MUST, instead of a sin.

On the other hand, our clients - banks, tycoons and major companies - were also concerned to know how public sentiments have developed, especially on the series of boycotting events. My job was to analyze the angle and tonality that media used plus the respective responses on social media platforms and to write up a report for further handling. It is inspiring to see how local, international, and mainland outlets reported differently on the same issues as this reflects how various beliefs and values interact.

The dynamic also played out in our office, which equally comprises of locals, foreigners and mainland Chinese. By talking to and observing the interactions between colleagues of different backgrounds, I've gained better understanding towards their points of view and expanded my thoughts further. No matter how we think differently, I genuinely believe that being open-minded and prepared to talk is essential as this provides us with new approaches to problems, especially at such critical moments in Hong Kong.

It has been my pleasure to work at Brunswick. This place has truly broadened my horizons, challenged my limits and deepened my understanding of the industry. The chance to learn at Brunswick will surely be a unique experience that serves me in every coming step of my life.



GPA INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME (2019 SUMMER) CO-INTELLIGENCE

Mr. Cheng Kai Chi Matthew, Undergraduate Year 3 Student

It is precious to have my internship in Radio Free Asia (RFA), which offered me a valuable opportunity to learn about the news industry. RFA is a news media funded by the US Congress and its target audience are Chinese around the world. In the RFA Hong Kong office, reporters are separated into two teams: Cantonese and Mandarin. As an intern, I worked for both teams each for one month respectively.

During my internship, I was responsible for news editing in office, and frontline reporting work. RFA Hong Kong mainly focuses on political news. In the beginning of my internship, I was sent to Legco and various press conferences for daily news reporting. Since RFA is a small news organization, reporters are responsible for reporting, editing and recording VO on their own. Usually after finishing an assignment, I had to rush back to the office and finish my script, followed by recording the VO.

News writing is not easy as we see, every time I had to choose the best news angle for the news story, followed by using precise and simple words to convey the message. It was fulfilling when I saw my improvement, in the beginning my boss often made a lot of amendments to my script, while by the end of my internship, he praised my writing was well done.

What made my internship remarkable, is definitely the “Anti-Extradition Law Amendment Bill Movement”. Starting from June, I was sent to various protests for news reporting, witnessed the evolution of the movement during the summer.

On the frontline, sometimes I was a camera man, while sometimes a reporter. It was vital for me to stay sensitive and being alert to what happened around me. How to catch the best footage? Where to find the best angle? What is the role of reporters in protests and clashes? These points are what I learnt from my experience in the frontline.

Undoubtedly, reporters play an indispensable role during the movement. As we called the “fourth estate”, the reporters have to monitor the police brutality closely and check whether their use of force is appropriate. Police officers often criticize us on only reporting their violence but not the protestors’. However, the police is legitimate to use their force, only the journalists can monitor them when they abuse their power.

In the past few months, the use of force by police and protestors both escalated, clashes were getting more severe. The work for reporters has become more difficult and dangerous, however this is our duty to record the history and to report the truth. After this internship, I genuinely respect the hard work and passion of journalists, they are willing to pay efforts in defending the “fourth power”. Being able to be one of them is a truly invaluable experience.



ADMISSION OF 2019 ENTRY: WELCOME TO THE FAMILY OF GPA!

We are delighted to have over 50 new admitted students from different admission channels in this academic year. They joined the Academic Counselling Day on 9 Aug and our teachers, colleagues and senior students shared the views on adaption into the university life.

Over 30 freshmen joined the 2019 GPAD Orientation Camp and some teachers participated in the opening ceremony also. We wish the freshmen will enjoy the coming 4-year study at CUHK and GPAD.



Sharing From GPA Freshman of 2019 Entry

Mr. Leung Ho Lun, Undergraduate Year 1 Student

The first feeling that I had about GPA was that it was a small but warm family. I met some seniors and freshmen in the orientation camp and they all wished me adapt to university life well the coming year after I shared my experience with them. At night, we talked about why we wanted to study GPA as well as our goals and ambitions in the journey ahead. I hope we can achieve them all.

I am taking 2 GPA courses this semester. One of it is GPAD1020 Fundamentals of Government in which I learnt basic concepts related to politics. I believe the concepts are quite easy to grasp if one has done the readings. When I don't understand, I go to the tutor for assistance and he is always willing to help. Another course I am taking is GPAD1050 Government of Hong Kong. The professor doesn't simply read out the Powerpoint slides; he shared with us some interesting and attractive stories of colonial-era Hong Kong instead.

One feature of GPA that I must mention is the tutorials. Everyone is very talkative in them and vigorous, thought-provoking discussions are held. In my opinion, tutorials provide opportunities for students for training to formulating persuasive arguments, presenting them confidently and then debating with groupmates rationally.

I am looking forward to experiencing a fruitful university life here in the GPA family.



ADMISSION OF 2019 ENTRY:

Sharing From GPA Freshman of 2019 Entry

Miss Cheng Yee Wan, Undergraduate Year 1 Student

The day when I knew that I was admitted to Government and Public Administration of CUHK was the day of the general strike in Hong Kong, August 5, 2019. When I received my admission offer, I was delighted as I could finally study this subject at this prestigious university. Yet, I was also worried because I had learnt that politics is complicated and terrible during this summer. However, what I have experienced in the past few months is out of my expectation.

In August, I joined the orientation camp held by the GPAD. Despite the controversies about university orientation camps, the orientation camp of GPAD is worth participating in. The games in the camp reflected the current situation in Hong Kong, which are really educational and also memorable for me.

Luckily, when the semester has officially started, the atmosphere during lessons is better than what I have expected. There are both local and international students in classes, teachers and students also express their opinions freely during classes and tutorials. I have learnt a lot during the discussions in tutorials and I am glad that I have the opportunity to exchange ideas on politics and public administration with my classmates from GPAD.



Miss Chan Wing Sze, Undergraduate Year 1 Student

Department of Government and Public Administration is another family for me. As a newbie of university, I feel very nervous when I get the offer. Worrying about the new program, worrying about the new teachers and new classmates, worrying about everything. Luckily, everyone in the GPAD is nice and friendly. Especially the senior leader of the o-camp is very caring, they always remind me how to tackle the problem about choosing subject, writing essays or even making new friends. Their guidelines are very useful for me to choose a good course and help me to fit in with the new circumstances of the university. They are the most precious deposits in my life.

Apart from the friendly people of the department, the courses of GPAD are inspiring and interesting. In my first year, I take the basic course of government and the government of Hong Kong. The courses in GPAD help me to realize the world we are living in and solve the misconception of several concepts like democracy, nation, and administrative system of Hong Kong political system. They are useful for me to analyse the situation and problems of Hong Kong. Through the course of GPAD, I learn how to think critically and logically. The most cherished and valuable is the professionalism and the honorable spirit of the professors who are my role models in my university life or even my future career.

Miss Anna Bülow Fuglsang, Undergraduate Year 1 Student

Anna Bülow Fuglsang (李昀恩): From the planes of Southern Denmark to the Northern Mountains of Hong Kong

One might wonder, why a student from Southern Denmark decides to study Government and Public Administration at CUHK. It is a story that begins before I was born and has brought me here, to the GPA Department.

Growing up in the German-Danish border region as part of the German Minority in Denmark I was used to a mix of cultures. However, my family have not only mixed our Danish and German roots but also kept a close relation to China. It started with my grandfather moving to Hong Kong in the 1950s on a three-year job contract while my grandmother waited for him at home. The second time my grandfather was sent to Shanghai in the 1960s and my grandmother joined him. In the 1990s my mother's university studies brought her to Beijing University and my father's job to the same city where they met. Since then it seems that our family has never really left China behind. Chinese calligraphy and paintings decorating the walls of my grandparent's house and my mother teaching me to eat with small children's chopsticks were normal to me. I have thus lived in not only Southern Denmark but also Beijing, Taipei and now Hong Kong.

My family's interest in politics is almost as old as our connection to China. My family has been a member of the German Minority Umbrella Organization (BDN) for generations, and especially my grandmother has engaged in the rights of our cultural and educational institutions. During my high school years, I became engaged in German Minority Rights also, thus my interest in politics naturally arose. I began to understand that politics is much more than decisions made by political top leaders of the world. Politics is a part of every aspect of our life; from the infrastructure in our hometown, the history taught in different schools, the ability to get a visa to another country and the rights we enjoy as citizens of a given country. I saw that the way our lives are formed is dependent on the structures of our societies, and I decided that I wanted to explore the field of political science further.

It was my brother and the principal of my former high school who introduced CUHK to me. I had graduated already but with the help of my brother (a year three student at the time) my principal sent an application letter from CUHK to me. The amount of paperwork for the application was overwhelming and I had already been admitted to the University of Copenhagen. But something inside of me made me apply shortly before the deadline. The longer I had to wait for the answer, the more I realized how much I wanted to return to China again.

When I could finally tell my grandfather that I had been accepted to study at CUHK the first thing he said was: "oh, isn't it in the northern mountains of Hong Kong on the MTR Line in the direction of Shenzhen? I used to go hiking there in the '50s." Now, nearly 70 years after my grandfather left Hong Kong it is my turn to explore the city!



Although I am well into my second semester at CUHK studying at the GPA Department, my actual time spent in Hong Kong has been limited to approximately one semester. My first year has not been an average university freshman year. I have been witnessing two very serious situations, and even though I wish that I could just have had a normal beginning at university, but complaining does not change anything. Therefore, I have decided to see it from a different perspective; these events have become a part of my educational journey. Of course, classroom lectures and tutorials with professors are necessary, and the best form of education. However, experiencing firsthand what impact a social movement and a virus do to society makes what we have been taught understandable. Suddenly, theories and discussions in all kind of subjects are not just written on a blackboard and in student's notebooks but have become the reality that makes us understand the world. All those pages of reading material and theories from scholars' books and journals that we have studied suddenly have come alive and showed us what they mean. Of course, a stable society in which we don't have to worry about our health and security is favoured by all of us, but when these issues occur, we might just try to get the best out of it and learn from it for the future.

Despite my limited time on campus, I already feel a connection to CUHK, GPAD and life as a university student. At CUHK I have met the world in different aspects. First of all, the great number of international students and professors link their background to CUHK and thus enrich the campus. Secondly, the number of courses by GPAD with a different focus on topics such as China Politics, European Union and so on, allows me to learn about the whole political world. Additionally, the number of free electives and undergraduate general education programs enables me to explore, for example, the world of languages, science, philosophy etc. It enriches my knowledge in more aspects than my major and thus makes me understand the diversity of the world.

At CUHK and GPAD, I have been able to explore the variety of political science and other subjects to an extent that I did not have the capacity to imagine earlier. Actually, it has made me reflect on the fact that there is a lot of knowledge I haven't learned yet, and I am not sure how I will ever manage to learn it in a lifetime. But I have also understood that it is just about getting started, staying engaged, asking all the questions you want and challenging all sorts of thoughts to get those interesting discussions started that make you grow as a person.

Despite my tumultuous first year I have already grown and I am looking forward to what the next couple of years as an undergraduate will bring.



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Stay Connected

If you have any news, comments, or anything we can include in the next issue of newsletter, please contact us by sending an email to jasmineyip@cuhk.edu.hk

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