

ISSUE NO. 6 | SEPTEMBER 2021

# GPA Biannual Newsletter

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**PROF. WILLIAM SMITH**

"The GPA Department is proud to be a recognized centre of global research excellence in political science and public administration."

### TEACHING CORNER:

**DR. JAMES F. DOWNES**

"GPAD2111B: I am extremely happy to report that despite many GPA Undergraduate students being scared and frightened at the beginning, the course was a resounding success."

### SPECIAL THEME:

**GPA 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

Message from Prof. Vivian Zhan  
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**GPA 50<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary  
Souvenir Sales  
launched in  
May 2021**

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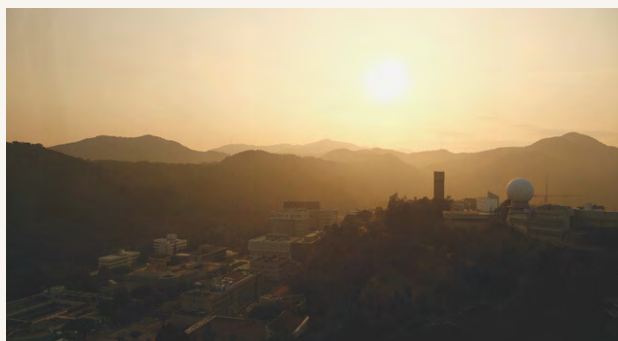
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SPECIAL THEME:

# GPA 50th Anniversary

## MESSAGE FROM



PROF. ZHAN JING VIVIAN

The GPA Department is celebrating its 50th Anniversary! Fifty years is quite a long time for individual persons, long enough to gray our hair, wrinkle our face and numb our feelings about many things. But as a department, we are still young and growing. We have weathered many ups and downs in the past half-century, especially in recent years, but we remain a department of resilience, persistence, and unfailing dedication to excellence.

In terms of teaching, we are adapting well under the COVID-19 pandemic and mixed-mode teaching. As the Programme Director of the MSc in Government & Politics (Greater China), I am particularly proud that our two TPg programmes are growing strongly by attracting increasing numbers of high-quality students.

While sending the 2021 graduates onto thriving careers in academia, civil service, and business etc., we are expecting more than 100 new students to join us this fall—the GPA family is ever-expanding!

In terms of research, our colleagues are producing internationally outstanding and impactful research outputs, as evidenced by the recently released results of the 2020 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE).

As a department, we cherish our long-held values and traditions, but we are also keeping up with the fast-changing world and excelling on multiple fronts. Looking ahead, there will be many more challenges to come, but we will stay tireless, fearless, and hopeful.

# Donations & Souvenirs

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SPECIAL THEME:  
**GPA 50th Anniversary**

## ▼ Donations

Since the founding of our GPA Department, we have proudly assisted many graduates in pursuing successful careers. To continue the Department's great work, we humbly call for donations in support of our two main missions:

- 1) Department development
- 2) Students' academic development and enhancement

Those who donate up to the amounts stipulated below will be regarded as Sponsors.

### **Sponsorship schemes**

Platinum 50  
Gold 50  
Silver 50  
Bronze 50

### **Donations**

HK\$50,000  
HK\$30,000  
HK\$20,000  
HK\$10,000

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## ▼ Contact Us

Should you have any questions regarding the GPA 50th Anniversary Event, please contact us through email at the following address: [GPA50@cuhk.edu.hk](mailto:GPA50@cuhk.edu.hk)

For more information, please visit the GPA 50th Anniversary [Website](#).



# Donations & Souvenirs

SPECIAL THEME:  
**GPA 50th Anniversary**

## ◀ Watch / HK\$ 688 Each



Model A    Model B

### **Models:**

Model A: Rose Gold (Leather Strap)  
Model B: Stainless Steel (Mesh Band)

### **Caseback Engraving:**

*Line 1:* Name

(up to 7 Chinese characters / 18 English characters, including space, symbols and digits)

*Line 2:* Year of Graduation / Appointment / Retirement

(4 digits and up to 4 Chinese characters / 13 English characters, including space and symbols)

*Line 3:* Serial Number

## ▶ Wine / HK\$ 150 Each

**Volume:** 750 ml / bottle

**Brand:** Los Galanes

**Type:** Syrah-Tempranillo 2019

**Label Design:** 2 Options (Label A / B)



Label A

Label B

## ▼ Ceramic Mug / HK\$ 50 Each

**Size (cm):** 8 x 8 x 9.5 (H)



# Alumni Research Seminar Series

SPECIAL THEME:  
**GPA 50th Anniversary**

香港中文大學 The Chinese University of Hong Kong

政治與行政學系 GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

**GPA 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY ALUMNI RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES:**

## Reflections on Research and Teaching in Public Administration: An Informal Discussion

**28 January 2021 (Thu), 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (GMT+8)**

With Mr. Andrew Wong as the moderator, the panelists will reflect on their approaches to research and teaching in public administration, and how these approaches relate to their experience as a student in the GPA Department.

The seminar will be conducted via Zoom.

**SPEAKERS - PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION PANEL (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER):**

- Professor CHAN Hon S**, Professor, Department of Public Policy, City University of Hong Kong
- Professor HO Alfred Tat-Kei**, Professor & Head, Department of Public Policy, City University of Hong Kong
- Professor LAM Wai-Fung**, Professor, Department of Politics and Public Administration, The University of Hong Kong
- Professor LIU Peng**, Professor, School of Public Administration and Policy, Renmin University of China
- CHAIR: Professor William SMITH**, Associate Professor, Department of Government and Public Administration, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
- Professor TANG Shui Yan**, Frances R. and John J. Duggan Professor of Public Administration & Chair, Department of Governance, Management, and the Policy Process, Sal Price School of Public Policy, University of Southern California

**MODERATOR: Professor WONG Wang Fat Andrew**

Enquiries: [GPASO@cuhk.edu.hk](mailto:GPASO@cuhk.edu.hk) (Email)

香港中文大學 The Chinese University of Hong Kong

政治與行政學系 GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

**GPA 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY ALUMNI RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES:**

## Reflections on Research and Teaching in Political Philosophy: An Informal Discussion

**4 March 2021 (Thu), 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM (GMT+8)**

**SPEAKERS - POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY PANEL (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER):**

- Professor CHAN Joseph Cho Wai**, Professor, Department of Politics and Public Administration, The University of Hong Kong
- Dr CHEUNG Chor-yung**, Senior Teaching Fellow, Department of Public Policy, City University of Hong Kong
- Dr IP Kevin Ka-Wai**, Assistant Professor, Department of Government and International Studies, Hong Kong Baptist University

The panelists will reflect on their approaches to research and teaching in political philosophy and how these approaches relate to their experience as a student in the GPA Department.

The seminar will be conducted in Cantonese via Zoom.

**MODERATOR: Professor KUAN Hsin-chi**

**CHAIR: Professor CHOW Po-chung**, Associate Professor, Department of Government and Public Administration, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Enquiries: [GPASO@cuhk.edu.hk](mailto:GPASO@cuhk.edu.hk) (Email)

香港中文大學 The Chinese University of Hong Kong

政治與行政學系 GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

**GPA 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY ALUMNI RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES:**

## Reflections on Research and Teaching in Comparative Politics (China): An Informal Discussion

**26 MARCH 2021 (FRI), 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (GMT+8)**

**SPEAKERS - COMPARATIVE POLITICS (CHINA) PANEL (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER):**

- Dr CHAN Roger C.K.**, Associate Professor, Department of Urban Planning and Design, The University of Hong Kong
- Dr CHAN Ka Lok Kenneth**, Associate Professor, Department of Government and International Studies, Hong Kong Baptist University
- Professor CHEUNG Tsan Yin Peter**, Professor, Department of Social Sciences, The Education University of Hong Kong
- Dr LEE Shing-yau**, Associate Professor, Department of Asian and Policy Studies, The Education University of Hong Kong
- Professor William SMITH**, Associate Professor, Department of Government and Public Administration, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

The panelists will reflect on their approaches to research and teaching in Comparative Politics/China Studies and how these approaches relate to their experience as a student in the GPA Department.

The seminar will be conducted in English via Zoom.

**MODERATOR: Professor CHANG Chak Yan**

**CHAIR: Professor CHOW Po-chung**, Associate Professor, Department of Government and Public Administration, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Enquiries: [GPASO@cuhk.edu.hk](mailto:GPASO@cuhk.edu.hk) (Email)

**JAN 28 PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

With Mr. Andrew Wong as the moderator, the panelists reflected on their approaches to research and teaching in Public Administration, and how these approaches are related to their experience as a student in the GPA Department.

**MAR 26 COMPARATIVE POLITICS (CHINA)**

With Prof. Chang Chak Yan as the moderator, the panelists reflected on their approaches to research and teaching in Comparative Politics and China Studies and how these approaches are related to their experience as a student in the GPA Department.

**MAR 4 POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY**

With Prof. Kuan Hsin-chi as the moderator, the panelists reflected on their approaches to research and teaching in Political Philosophy and how these approaches are related to their experience as a student in the GPA Department.

# STAR RESEARCHERS



**Professor William Smith**  
Associate Professor

## Message from Prof. William Smith

Head of Research Panel

The GPA Department is delighted to acknowledge the results of the 2020 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE). The RAE evaluates research activity in academic departments along three dimensions: scholarly outputs, societal impact, and research environment.

The evaluation panel has ranked 75% of our activities across these dimensions at either 4\* or 3\*. In layman's terms, this means that three quarters of our submission to the 2020 RAE has been evaluated as either 'world leading' (4\*) or 'internationally excellent' (3\*). This is a huge increase from our combined ranking of 39% in the previous 2014 RAE.

In terms of the combined ranking of our submission at 4\* or 3\*, we are now the second highest performing politics and public administration department in Hong Kong. By way of comparison, using the same metric, we were only the fourth highest performing politics and public administration department in the 2014 RAE. Our combined figure of 75% at 4\* or 3\* also compares with an average score of 57% across the entire sector covered by the RAE Social Sciences Panel ('sector' refers to all social science departments in Hong Kong assessed by the RAE Social Sciences panel).

This is a wonderful outcome, which reflects the expertise of our research staff and the diligence of our support staff. The department has produced world-leading and internationally excellent research across a range of topics since 2014, including the socio-economic impacts of natural resources in China, the politics of environmental and food safety regulatory frameworks, business sustainability in Hong Kong, and the micro-politics of diplomacy in international relations. Our colleagues collaborate with researchers from across the world, including Europe, North America, Australia and Mainland China. Perhaps most importantly, our research both informs and is informed by our undergraduate and postgraduate teaching programmes. The GPA department is proud to be a recognized centre of global research excellence in political science and public administration.

# STAR RESEARCHERS

## (CONTINUED)



**Professor Carlos Lo**  
Department Head, Professor

1. Wu, R., Lo, C.W.H., & Liu, N. (2020). **Legal Professionalism and the Ethical Challenge for Legal Education: Insights from a Comparative Study of Future Lawyers in Greater China.** *The China Quarterly*, 244, 1118-1139.

**Abstract:** This article uses data gathered from a survey that probed the career orientations and values of more than 1,000 law students in Beijing, Hong Kong and Taipei to examine the legal professionalism of future lawyers being trained under different legal education systems in Greater China. Our findings suggest that these future lawyers have a “materialistic” career orientation, although those studying in a system whose legal education goal is to train professional lawyers are more inclined to pursue professional legal ideals, and those trained in a system that emphasizes legal ethics are more likely to pursue public interest issues. On the basis of the findings, we argue that legal education systems in Greater China, while different in their traditions, share the same need to strengthen legal professionalism by according greater emphasis to legal ethics in their respective law school curricula.

2. Liu, N., Tang, S.Y., Lo, C.W.H., & Zhan, X. (Forthcoming). **Enforcement Officials' Coping Strategies in a Changing Regulatory Environment.** *Public Administration: An International Quarterly*, 99(2), 1- 19.

**Abstract:** Enforcement officials' coping strategies evolve with changes in job attitudes, work situations, and institutional support. As the institutional context becomes more challenging with stronger performance management and transparency pressures, enforcement officials are less likely to move toward regulatees. Besides, in a more challenging context, officials with higher pay satisfaction and societal support are more likely to move toward regulatees. Yet officials are consistently less likely to move toward regulatees if they receive fewer resources or more government support. These correlations are supported by results from two rounds of surveys with environmental regulatory enforcement officials in China. Our interviews and archival documents helped unearth changes in institutional contexts and enforcement activities between and after our two surveys. This study advances a dynamic view of coping among street-level bureaucrats by showing how changes in institutional contexts may reshape the motivational bases of coping strategies.



# STAR RESEARCHERS

(CONTINUED)



**Professor Carlos Lo**  
Department Head, Professor

3. Lo, C.W.H., & Liu, N. (Ed.). (2021). Special Issue: Regulatory Governance in a Globalizing World. *Public Administration and Policy: An Asia-Pacific Journal*, 24(1), 4-6.

Abstract: There has been growing complexity in the study of environmental regulatory governance. In terms of regulatory approaches, the focus of national styles has gradually shifted to the local level, down to street-level regulators. As for compliance strategies, regulated entities, particularly enterprises, have moved their strategies from the evasion-compliance dichotomy to more progressive ones that are beyond compliance. As environmental watchdogs on behalf of civil society, ENGOs, particularly those in developing and non-democratic political settings, have increasingly found more space for strategizing their active efforts to monitor enforcement agencies and polluting enterprises in the regulatory process. The spilling of regulatory regimes into developing countries has led to an urgent need for regulatory studies in such nations, with a call for new theoretical formulations that are capable of explaining regulatory governance in those countries.

**Wong, S. (Forthcoming). Who Blinked? Performing Resolve (or Lack thereof) in Face-to-face Diplomacy, Security Studies**

Abstract: Leaders often emerge from a face-to-face interaction with an implicit understanding on who is expected to stand firm, and conversely, to back down, on a disputed issue. How is that possible? In this article, I develop a theory of resolve performance. I argue that expressions of resolve are speech acts. To establish resolve, leaders must perform them competently, there and then, verbally and behaviorally. A successful (or “felicitous”) performance would also depend on the reaction of one’s counterpart. By virtue of the intersubjective belief they share about their respective performances – who has carried the day and who has “blinked” – a “focal point” often arises on how they are expected to proceed on the disputed issue. I elaborate on several types of speech acts that leaders use to perform resolve (threats, implicatures, assertions, and challenges), and illustrate my theory with an in-depth case study on the two days of meetings between Kennedy and Khrushchev in Vienna in June 1961. The leaders left the summit with the “focal point” that Kennedy was irresolute and Khrushchev emboldened to make a move on Berlin. I discuss how such “focal point” led to the escalation of tensions between the two superpowers, and what can be learned about the causal significance of face-to-face diplomacy in international politics.



**Professor Seanon Wong**  
Assistant Professor

# STAR RESEARCHERS

## (CONTINUED)



**Professor Li Lianjiang**  
Professor

1. Lianjiang Li. (in press). **Decoding Political Trust in China: A Machine Learning Analysis**, *China Quarterly*.

2. 李連江（編）（2021）。《**哲學與師道**》。北京：當代世界出版社，256頁

**摘要：**哲學的本意是愛智慧，師道的真諦是愛學生，以為國育才為靈魂，以正面鼓勵為主體，以智慧點撥為精髓。本書為文集，由南開大學的車銘洲教授和他部分學生所撰寫，編者李連江教授亦是他其中一名學生。車教授的學生在不同的事業領域各有所成，工作崗位也大有不同，但都得益於車教授的熱誠鼓勵、睿智指導與具體建議，他們的文章從不同的角度闡釋了車教授的為師之道。



Dr. James F. Downes has recently published a co-authored article (lead author) in the prestigious political science journal *JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies* (**Impact Factor:** 2.543. **Political Science Journals:** 7/161 (Google Scholar). **International Relations:** 13/95).

This *JCMS* publication is part of a long-term research collaboration on Right-Wing Populism in Europe with his former PhD Supervisor, Prof. Matthew Loveless (University of Bologna, Italy). This long-term research collaboration (lead author) will also result in a forthcoming book project with Manchester University Press to be published by 2023 (Global Studies of the Far-Right Series), titled: “Right-Wing Party Competition in Europe: The Electoral Strategies of the Centre Right and Far Right during Crises.”

Dr. Downes also has a forthcoming co-authored book project (lead author) titled “The Rise of the Radical Right in Italy.” The book will be published in late 2022 with Columbia University Press in North America and will also be published with ibidem Press in Europe.

Dr. Downes has recently been awarded funding from the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) to present two papers relating to European Populism at the forthcoming 2021 ECPR General Conference. This is a further recognition of Dr. Downes’s ongoing research relating to Populism and Right-Wing Party Competition in European Politics.



**Dr. James F. Downes**  
Lecturer & Head of  
Undergraduate Admissions  
Panel

# STAR RESEARCHERS

(CONTINUED)



**Dr. James F. Downes**  
Lecturer & Head of  
Undergraduate Admissions  
Panel

**1. Downes, J.F., M. Loveless, & A. Lam. (2021). The Looming Refugee Crisis in the EU: Right-Wing Party Competition and Strategic Positioning. JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies.**

**Abstract:** Despite a rise in the number of competitive far right parties leading up to the European refugee crisis, some centre right parties achieved or maintained electoral success. We argue that some centre right parties recognize the electoral opportunity for radical right parties to exploit the refugee crisis for electoral gains and strategically adopt hard-line positions on immigration to maintain and even increase their electoral success. We test our theory of strategic positioning using data on party competition in national parliamentary elections across 28 EU member states at the start of the refugee crisis. Strategic positioning appears to be a particularly successful choice for centre right parties. The quantitative analysis is supported by case studies in Western Europe of Austria and The Netherlands. Whilst strategic positioning may produce short-term electoral success, it also mainstreams radical immigration positions in contemporary European politics, with negative implications for liberal democracy in Europe.

**2. Downes, J.F., Bruno, V.A., & A. Scopelliti (2022). The Rise of the Radical Right in Italy. Columbia University Press/ibidem Press (Forthcoming).**

**Abstract:** This book examines the recent rise of the radical right in Italian politics (2018-2021). The book sets the rise of the radical right within the context of electoral volatility and fragmentation that has underpinned post-1945 Italian politics. The book examines right-wing party competition between the two main radical right parties, Lega and Fratelli d'Italia, alongside the important shifts that have transformed the traditional center-right coalition (coalizione di centro-destra) in Italian politics. The book concludes with implications for the global trajectory of the rise of different (a) populist and (b) radical right parties across Europe and the European Union, with many of these radical right parties now becoming significant political players across the world.

# ONLINE RESEARCH SEMINAR

## Revolutionaries for Railways: Political Legacies and Implicit Lobbying in China's Local Development

10 March 2021 (Wed)  
3:00 PM – 4:30 PM (GMT+8)  
Webinar via Zoom

**Abstract:** China's high-speed railway network is one of the largest government-initiated infrastructure programs in human history. What explains the significant geographical and temporal variations in the program's rollout? Conventional wisdom posits uneven distribution of infrastructural benefits as a result of technocratic planning or patronage exchange between politicians and their constituents.

We argue that such variations can also be explained by whether localities have exclusive channels to influence central decision-making. Influential figures with local ties can act as lobbyists to facilitate localities' quests for preferential policy decisions. To test this argument, we build a biographical dataset of 1614 People's Liberation Army generals who fought in wars leading to the founding of the People's Republic of China. We find that these generals' home countries have received systematic priority in high-speed railway station assignments. The effect is more pronounced among those counties that were home to generals who were subordinates of Deng Xiaoping before 1949 and those who survived the Cultural Revolution. This association is also robust after accounting for a wide range of alternative explanations, including the sizes of counties' population and economy, distance to provincial capitals, geographical ruggedness, whether the counties are included in the conventional railway networks, and whether counties' party secretaries are connected with their superiors. Instrumental variable analysis that uses each county's distance to the Chinese Communist Party's early revolutionary sites suggests that the association is likely causal. Further analyses of general's biographies also reject the patronage hypothesis: most generals never worked in state bureaucracies that have direct jurisdictions over railway construction. Qualitative case studies help illustrate different ways in which localities use generals as lobbyists to secure preferential treatment in infrastructure projects.

Our findings highlight the existence of implicit lobbying in distributive politics under authoritarianism and also the important roles of revolutionary legacies in China's development.



**Professor Xiao Ma**  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Political Science  
Peking University

# CBS CONFERENCE

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Sustainability Conference and Business Sustainability Indices Recognition Ceremony 2021

24 – 25 June 2021



**Prof. Carlos Lo**  
**Department Head**  
**Director of Centre of Business Sustainability (CBS)**

Building on the success of the inaugural Business Sustainability Conference held in 2019, this year the Centre for Business Sustainability (CBS) of the CUHK Business School collaborated with the Consumer Council, the School of Hotel and Tourism Management at CUHK alongside the SME Sustainability Society to co-organize the Sustainability event series to extend the advocacy of sustainable business practices to a wider horizon. The event series included a Conference held on the morning of the 24th of June alongside a full-day workshop on the 25th of June that focused on CSR and Sustainability knowledge. A recognition ceremony was also held on the afternoon of the 24th of June to highlight the growing importance of ESG reporting and to recognize index companies which had the highest and very top CSR performance overall.

# CBS CONFERENCE (CONTINUED)

The conference, Business Sustainability Indices (BSI) Recognition Ceremony and the workshop not only continued CBS's primary objective of facilitating the exchange of ideas between academic, business communities and social leaders, but also recognizes the top-performing companies in the region. The theme of this year's event series was "Driving Sustainability: Responsible Modelling and Effective Communication" and covered extensive facets of sustainable consumption and CSR communications.



## Conference Officiating Guests

Officiated by The Honourable Bernard Charnwut Chan, Convenor of the Non-Official Members of the Executive Council, Professor Rocky S. Tuan, Vice-Chancellor and President of CUHK and Mr. Paul Lam Ting-kwok, Chairman of the Consumer Council, the Conference attracted over 120 participants from all walks of life. Professor Tuan remarked: "In our new 5-year strategic plan, CUHK has defined its institutional goals under the overarching theme 'Excellence with Purpose and Responsibility'. We seek to serve the community and the world by generating actionable knowledge and training the next generation of global citizens for the welfare and sustainability of the world. I appreciate the effort of the Centre for Business Sustainability at CUHK Business School in promoting policy-oriented research and responsible business practices, as well as its collaboration with the Consumer Council in driving sustainable consumption."

# CBS CONFERENCE

## (CONTINUED)

The first session covered ideas and experiences around sustainable consumption shared by Prof. Nora Tam, Mr. Lam Chiu-ying, and Mr. Francis Ngai. In the second session, Prof. Carolyn Egri, Prof. Carlos Lo, Prof. Richard Welford and Dr. Rose Pang presented their latest research and inspiring ideas on effective sustainability communications. The research presentation themes ranged from stakeholder engagement strategies, CSR disclosure to external validation. Rounding up the conference, top BSI companies, alongside experts from the Hotel industry and the Consumer Council, together with Prof. Andrew Chan exchanged their thoughts at the panel discussion on “Communicating to Drive Changes”.

During the recognition ceremony on the afternoon of the 24th of June, the results of 5 BSIs, ranging from SMEs to listed companies in Hong Kong, Taiwan, Shanghai and Shenzhen were announced. Over 70 companies were acknowledged for their outstanding efforts in practising social responsibility.

Speaking as the Guest-of-Honour, Mr. Christopher Hui Ching-yu, JP, the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury addressed the ceremony as follows:

“

***Sustainability goes beyond greening our environment and would require companies to devote resources and think out of the box for the greater good of our society.***



**Mr. Christopher Hui**

Mr. Hui also shared with the participants the latest updates on green finance, covering global market situations and various initiatives of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government and our regulators to promote further development.

# CBS CONFERENCE

## (CONTINUED)

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The workshop on the 25th of June was tailored for sustainability professionals working as corporate CSR leaders and consultants. Prof. Carlos Lo, Prof. Carolyn Egri, Prof. Richard Welford, Dr. Wu Chia and Dr. Thomas Tang guided fruitful discussions on communication strategies to design thinking in CSR initiatives.

For more information about the event and BSIs, please visit the CBS website at the below link: <https://cbs.bschool.cuhk.edu.hk/>

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## GRANTS UPDATES

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### **Prof. MA Ngok**

Project Title: "Local Councils as Center of Resistance: the Hong Kong District Councils and the Anti-Extradition Movement"

Amount: HKD 844, 277

General Research Fund, Hong Kong Research Grants Council



# GRANTS UPDATES

## (CONTINUED)

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**Prof. WONG Si Lon Seanon**

Project Title: "'Ah Q Spirit' at Work? Understanding How Leaders Avoid Audience Costs in the Wake of Retreating from a Threat in International Politics"

Amount: HKD 510,852

General Research Fund, Hong Kong Research Grants Council

**Prof. Pierre Landry**

Project Title: "Redistricting for better governance?"

Amount: HKD 911, 421

General Research Fund, Hong Kong Research Grants Council



**Dr. James F. Downes**

Project I: "Right-Wing Party Competition in Europe: The Electoral Strategies of the Far-Right During Crises" (with Prof. Matthew Loveless, University of Bologna, Italy)

Project II: Disunity within the Ranks? Party Expulsions in the European Radical Right: 2000-2020 (with Mr. Felix Wiebrecht, CUHK)

Amount: HKD 4,000

European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) General Conference Grant



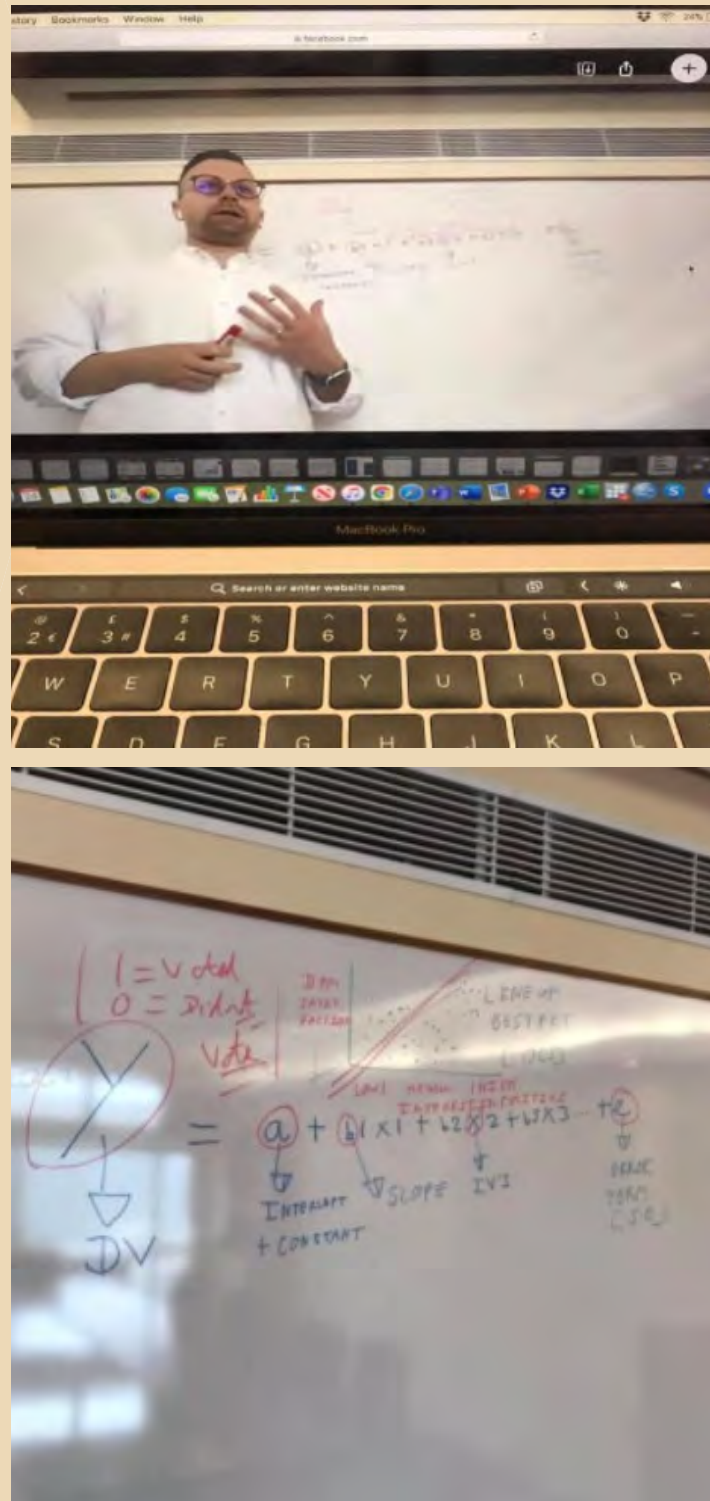
# TEACHING CORNER

Dr. James F. Downes  
Lecturer & Head of Undergraduate  
Admissions Panel

For many of us (both students and Professors alike) the past 1.5 years of academic studies have taken place primarily online via the ZOOM Platform! Some of us may even be 'Zoomed' out still...

Teaching Research Methods and Statistics online over the last academic semester (January-April) in the GPA Department was extremely eye-opening for me. Despite encountering (occasional) technical issues using the SPSS VPN Remote Server and (sometimes) in conducting live demonstrations via the STATA software for GPAD 2111B (Political Research Methodology) I was extremely impressed with GPA students' ability to learn important methodological techniques for data analysis, including multivariate regression in an online 'lab' setting, alongside some fantastic Survey Analysis Group project presentations on important topics ranging from Public Opinion to Public Policy!

Some screenshots of graphs and tables from my Online ZOOM Research Methods teaching can be found on the sides.



# TEACHING CORNER

## (CONTINUED)

I am extremely happy to report that despite many GPA Undergraduate students being scared and frightened at the beginning of the course about (a) mathematics and (b) whether they would pass the course, that the course was a resounding success. Most importantly, every single student passed on the course and can now design their own surveys in a competent manner. Students can also now both interpret and understand how to apply regression analysis and other statistical methods to answering important contemporary questions in political science.

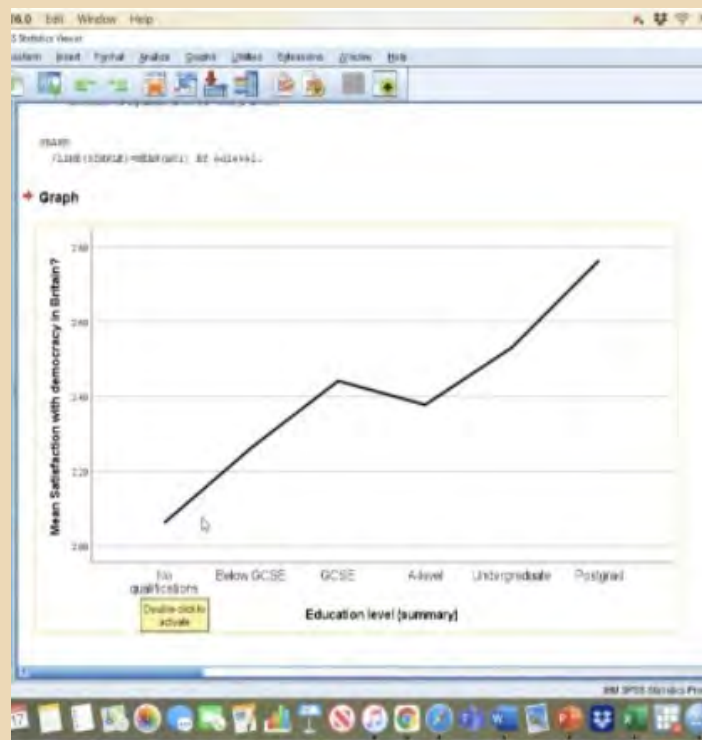
Online teaching is likely to become increasingly used in the future, even after the end of the COVID-19 Pandemic and particularly in the Higher Education sector. However, whilst online teaching provides many unique opportunities and numerous special ‘features’ that can be used (especially when teaching on ZOOM) this is no substitute to being in the classroom face-to-face, learning alongside and coaching students, discussing key readings and debating within the interactive and physical classroom setting.

I very much look forward to resuming face-to-face teaching (COVID-19 Pandemic permitting of course) in the GPA Department this coming September!

See you all soon around the GPA Department!

an regimes with legislatures, 1946-2010

	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4
		0.2093*** (0.0432)	0.1760*** (0.0414)
-0.0218 (0.0187)	-0.0474* (0.0193)		
-0.2283** (0.0697)	-0.2046** (0.0697)	-0.2478*** (0.0709)	
0.0272 (0.0174)	0.0256 (0.0174)	0.0333+ (0.0172)	
		0.1520** (0.0582)	
0.0274*** (0.0055)	0.0246*** (0.0055)	0.0158*** (0.0044)	
0.1431** (0.0522)	0.1260* (0.0522)	0.0796 (0.0525)	
-0.0258 (0.0476)	-0.0346 (0.0475)	-0.0292 (0.0473)	
-0.0003 (0.0495)	-0.0001 (0.0493)	-0.0051 (0.0493)	
2.16e <sup>-6</sup> (0.000011)	3.46e <sup>-6</sup> (0.000011)	8.89e <sup>-6</sup> (0.000011)	
0.9106*** (0.0081)	0.9089*** (0.0081)	0.9036*** (0.0083)	



# UNDERGRADUATE DISSERTATION AWARD

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Mr. Jeremy Lok  
CUHK Graduate, 2020 &  
Programme Executive,  
The D. H. Chen Foundation

Many congratulations to Mr. Jeremy Lok (GPA Graduate 2020) who has won the prestigious Professor Kuan Hsin Chi Best Thesis Award (2019/2020) and a prize award of \$6,000 HKD.

Jeremy's Undergraduate Dissertation Thesis was titled "Explaining Electoral Support for the Far-Right Sweden Democrats (2016-2017)" and was supervised by Dr. James F. Downes.

Jeremy not only conducted advanced statistical analysis (via a Binary Logistic Regression Analysis) but also translated parts of the Survey Questionnaire (Swedish Welfare State Surveys & SOM Database) from Swedish into English that formed the foundations of his Dissertation Thesis.

Jeremy Lok and Dr. James F. Downes also published a related version of the Dissertation Thesis at The Centre for Analysis of the Radical Right (CARR) at the link here.

Title: "Explaining Electoral Support for the Far-Right Sweden Democrats (2016-2017)"

## Abstract

Drawing on public opinion data from 2016-2017, Dr James F. Downes and Jeremy Lok examine the 'rise' in support for the radical right Sweden Democrats, Party in the context of the refugee crisis and find that three key explanatory factors for their success. These include (a) negative attitudes towards immigrants in Sweden, (b) dissatisfaction of voters towards the left-wing government (Löfven I Cabinet), and (c) 'hard' Euroscepticism that makes voters more likely to support the radical right Sweden Democrats Party.

# GPAD IN THE NEWS



Dr. James F. Downes  
Lecturer  
Head of Undergraduate  
Admissions Panel

Dr. James F. Downes Co-Host: The CARR Right Rising Podcast

The Centre for Analysis of the Radical Right (CARR) Right Rising Podcast was established in the summer of 2020). Sponsored by CARR and available on Spotify and Apple Podcasts alongside iTunes, the Podcast has hit over 10,000+ unique downloads across the world in just under a year. Dr. James F. Downes (CUHK) is one of the co-hosts alongside his colleague Augusta Dell’Omo (University of Texas at Austin/Harvard University). Dr. Downes has interviewed international experts on the Radical Right in numerous European countries. He has hosted episodes on the impact of Populism in countries such as Italy, Germany, Hungary alongside the Scandinavian political context (with a focus on the countries of Norway and Sweden).

Episode 20: Understanding the Radical Right in Hungary

Guest Dr. Katherine Kondor (Loughborough University) joins Right Rising to give us a deep dive into the growth of the Radical Right in Hungary. Along with host, Dr. James F. Downes (CUHK), Katherine also discusses the recent ideological transformation of the governing party Fidesz alongside the uniqueness of the political landscape in Hungary and the turn towards 'illiberal' democracy.

Katherine draws on her unique academic research relating to radicalization, political activism, and the radical right, in discussing the ongoing ideological transformation of the opposition radical right party Jobbik and the 'new' radical right Our Homeland Movement Party (Mi Hazánk Mozgalom) in Hungary.

# GPAD IN THE NEWS (CONTINUED)



Dr. James F. Downes  
Lecturer  
Head of Undergraduate  
Admissions Panel

Episode 25: The Radical Right in Scandinavia: Before, During & After the Pandemic

In this special episode hosted by the CARR Right Rising Populism Research Unit, Dr. Mette Wiggen (University of Leeds) and Dr. Maureen Eger (Umeå University) join Host Dr. James F. Downes in providing an introduction to the Radical Right in Scandinavia. This episode explores the rise of the radical right in Sweden and Norway alongside the importance of the Scandinavian political context in Europe.

The episode also breaks down support for the radical right before, during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. The episode discusses the main ideological features of the radical right in Scandinavia alongside the evolution of the immigration issue and how radical right parties are adopting different strategies on the immigration issue, primarily as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Dr. Downes has continued his regular media commentary and political analysis for CNBC. Dr. Downes recently conducted a TV Interview relating to the May 6th, 2021, Scottish National Parliamentary Elections.

Dr. Downes has published a co-authored piece with ECPR The Loop (ECPR's Political Science Blog) in June 2021 titled: "Why centre-right parties adopt hardline positions on immigration at their peril."

Dr. Downes has also recently co-organized an Online International Conference with The Centre for Analysis of the Radical Right (CARR) where he is a Senior Fellow & Head of the CARR Populism Research Unit, titled: "Populism & Ideologies in Times of Crisis."

## STAR POSTGRADUATE RESEARCHERS



### Mr Felix Wiebrecht PhD Year 3 Student

#### Publication:

Wiebrecht, F. (2021). Between elites and opposition: legislatures' strength in authoritarian regimes, Democratization.

#### Abstract

Virtually all authoritarian regimes have legislatures, and their role in bolstering regimes has been highlighted in recent research. Yet, the strength of authoritarian legislatures has received relatively little attention, although it can differ remarkably across regimes. This study utilizes an index of legislative strength to analyse parliaments in authoritarian regimes from 1946 to 2010. The empirical findings highlight that three factors are particularly important in predicting legislative strength, namely the level of personalism and the existence of an opposition and elections. However, beyond these factors, it appears that stronger legislatures are not generally associated with less authoritarian control over legislative and electoral processes. Yet, the findings also illustrate significant differences between de facto and de jure powers and across time periods. More competitive electoral and legislative procedures are linked to more de facto powers and stronger legislatures particularly after 1990. The findings contribute to our understanding of the institutional landscape in authoritarian regimes and provide a basis for future research on the effects of legislative strength.

#### Blog Publication:

Wiebrecht, F. (2021). Parliaments' Power in Authoritarian Regimes, PSA Parliaments Blog.

#### Conference Participation:

Wiebrecht, F. (2021). Explaining Activity in Authoritarian Assemblies: Evidence from China. Presented at 2021 MPSA Annual Conference & 2021 EPSA Annual Conference

Wiebrecht, F. (2021). Loyalty or Expertise? Responsiveness in Authoritarian Institutions. Presented at 2021 EPSA Annual Conference.

# MASTERS PROGRAMME UPDATES

M P U P & G P G C

## JRE Workshop (Oct 2020)

We always value career support to achieve the mission to nurture future competent policy professionals and leaders. With the acclaim gained over the past years, we have once again invited Ms. Wong Ming Lok, a professional and experienced trainer who conducts series of AO/EO trainings, to deliver a workshop on the HKSAR Government Joint Recruitment Examination (JRE) exclusively for postgraduate students of the Department of GPA during late October to mid-November this year.

At the first session, Ms. Wong introduced basic knowledge including strategies and skills for taking the examination to participants, so that they would have a clearer picture of the examination to set a focus for their self-preparation. A mock test was then arranged for participants, followed by an in-depth feedback session on their performance. Participants were given hands-on feedback from a former practitioner's perspective to further enhance themselves for the coming examination.





# MASTERS PROGRAMME UPDATES

M P U P & G P G C

## AO, EO Sharing Session (Feb 2021)

MPUP co-organized the HKSAR Government Administrative Officer (AO) and Executive Officer (EO) Alumni Experience Sharing Sessions with the Career Planning and Development Centre of the Office of Student Affairs, CUHK on 5 February 2021 (Fri) and 18 February 2021 (Thu) in the form of webinar via Zoom for students, to equip them with the job nature of the two positions and strategic approaches throughout the recruitment process.

We are pleased to have invited three guest speakers who are serving AOs, namely Mr. Percy Leung, Mr. Nick Chung (GPAD alumnus) and Mr. Samuel Lai (MPUP alumnus) for the AO Alumni Experience Sharing Session, and two guest speakers who are serving EOs, namely Ms. Cordelia Hau (MPUP current student) and Mr. Michael Pang (MPUP current student) for the EO Alumni Experience Sharing Session, to share about their work experience in various government units and to give tips and insights about the preparation for the upcoming interviews.

Through the speakers' experience sharing, participants grasped a better idea of the job nature, possible challenges and career satisfaction of an AO/EO. They were also reminded of the pitfalls to avoid in the interviews and had the opportunity to interact with the speakers during the Q&A sessions.

Thanks to the speakers again for their invaluable sharing to our students.

**HKSAR Administrative Officer (AO) & Executive Officer (EO) Recruitment Exercise**

## Alumni Experience Sharing Sessions

**Speakers:**  
CUHK Alumni (Current/Former AOs/EOs)

- **Administrative Officer (AO) Alumni Experience Sharing Session**  
Date: 5 February 2021 (Fri)  
Time: 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm  
Format: Webinar via Zoom\*  
Registration Deadline: 9:00am, 5 Feb 2021
- **Executive Officer (EO) Alumni Experience Sharing Session**  
Date: 18 February 2021 (Thu)  
Time: 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm  
Format: Webinar via Zoom\*  
Registration Deadline: 9:00am, 18 Feb 2021

\*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 the event day. (Download Zoom: <https://cuhk.zoom.us/>)

**Enquiry:**  
3943-1726,  
Miss Lai (OSA) or  
3943-9719,  
Miss Tang (MPUP)

**Career Planning and Development Centre**  
OFFICE OF STUDENT AFFAIRS, THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

**MSSc Programme in Public Policy (MPUP) of**  
**政治與行政學系**  
GOVERNMENT AND  
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

# MASTERS PROGRAMME UPDATES

M P U P & G P G C

## GPGC & MPUP Alumni Day (Mar 6, 2021)

Committed to fostering the career development of students upon graduation, MPUP co-organized the GPGC & MPUP Alumni Day & Career Development Talk with the MSc Programme in Government and Politics (Greater China) (GPGC) of the Department of Government and Public Administration in the form of webinar via Zoom on 6 March 2021 (Sat).

Six alumni from the two programmes, including Mr. Luyao LIN (GPGC), Ms. Xinchun WU (GPGC), Mr. Haowen YAN (GPGC), Mr. Dachuan YANG (GPGC), Ms. Yawen YANG (GPGC) and Ms. Emma KUANG (MPUP), were invited to share about their career planning on the Alumni Day. As the alumni are currently working in different fields, ranging from the Internet, Finance, Consumer Goods & Retail, Media, Think Tank to the Government, each of them had shed light on their unique job search experience along with practical tips on preparation for the recruitment process respectively.

In addition to understanding the career prospects in a wide range of sectors, students benefited a great deal from the predecessors' advice on a growth mindset and attitude which are key qualities to successful career development.

香港中文大學  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

政治與行政學系  
GOVERNMENT AND  
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## GPGC & MPUP

ALUMNI DAY & CAREER DEVELOPMENT TALK

**“**

**DETAILS:**

**DATE | 6 March 2021 (Sat)**

**TIME | 10:00am - 12:00nn**

**FORMAT | Webinar via Zoom\***

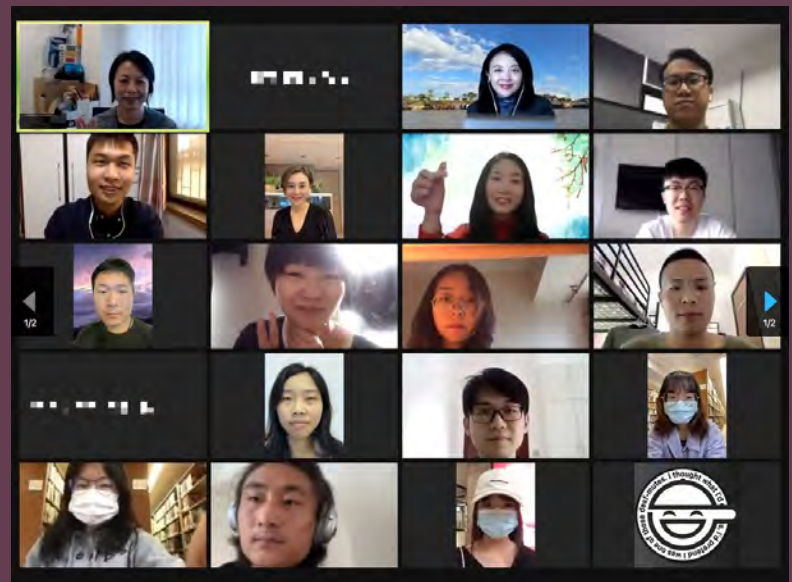
**SPEAKERS | GPGC & MPUP Alumni**

\* Participants have to install the Zoom software in their phone/laptop in advance.  
(Download Zoom: <https://cuhk.zoom.us/>)

SCAN TO REGISTER

by 4 March 2021 (Thu) and login details will be sent to registered students by 5 March 2021 (Fri).

For enquiry, please contact us at [greaterchina@cuhk.edu.hk](mailto:greaterchina@cuhk.edu.hk) or 3943-7484.



## Programme Taster Fair

The GPA Department organized online live sessions during the CUHK Programme Taster Fair 2021 to help JUPAS applicants and Form 4 alongside Form 5 students to have a better understanding of our undergraduate programme.

The first session by Dr. James F. Downes on an “Introduction to the GPA Programme” was much more than a usual introduction to a programme. Dr. Downes explained the importance of studying Government and Public Administration by analysing current issues with fun quizzes throughout the session, to give the participants a taste of the interactive teacher - student relationship at the GPA Department.



The second session delivered by Prof. Chow Po Chung on the “Educational Philosophy of CUHK” not only introduced the history and characteristics of CUHK, but also painted a unique and precious picture of university life at CUHK. The talk was then followed by a free and interactive discussion, whereby participants were able to exchange views and thoughts on their expectations of studying Government and Public Administration at CUHK.



## Programme Exploration Day

The GPA Department took part in the CUHK Programme Exploration Days for JUPAS Applicants. The event aims to provide JUPAS applicants, as well as Form 4 & Form 5 students with the latest admission information before they finalize their JUPAS programme choices.

### Why CU GPA?

- Department based
- Emphasize independent & critical thinking
- Diverse, comprehensive and flexible curriculum
- Interactive Tutorials discussions



Q:

A: Social Science/CUHK

**TEX** 政治與行政學系  
GOVERNMENT AND  
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Prof. Ma Ngok gave a live session on an “Introduction to the GPA Programme” in Cantonese, which thoroughly explained the GPA Department’s Admissions requirements alongside the free and flexible curriculum, as well as the student life and career prospect as a GPA student. In addition, additional exciting programmes including exchange opportunities, scholarships and internship programmes were also discussed by Prof. Ma.

Students were also able to explore the CUHK campus via a virtual 360° tour, and to access an online communication platform with a real-time function to chat with student ambassadors during the live event.

## 給中學生的導修課和校園導賞



每年夏天，我們都會為報讀政政系的中六學生辦一場活動，讓他們對政政和中大有所認識。今年較為特別，我們先是將參加的同學分為三組，然後由馬嶽、周保松和李家翹三位老師在鄭棟材樓的小課室，和他們做一場導修課，真實體驗一下政政的上課滋味。每位老師討論的主題和方式都不一樣，例如周老師就用一個思想實驗來探討分配正義，同學爭相發言，提出各種方案來說服大家，討論相當精彩。



一小時導修課結束後，去到活動第二部份，三位老師擔任校園導賞員，帶同學從聯合書院走到新亞書院，然後再到本部的百萬大道和烽火台，沿途介紹中大的自然風景及建築物風格，讓同學對中大歷史及其教育理念有所認識。當天天氣不佳，有風有雨，同學卻興緻不減，結伴前行。他們對於未來的大學生活，有許多想像和期待。



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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We are delighted to officially welcome Ms. Vera CHAN (Executive Officer) and Ms. Katherine SHA (Project Co-Ordinator) to the GPA Department. We would also like to warmly welcome Ms. Heather Hoi-ying TANG (PCII) and Ms. Emily Ka Yan TSANG (GCII) to the GPA Department.

We would like to take this chance to say a massive thank you to our IT Technician Mr. Keye LAI who has recently retired from the GPA Department. We thank Keye for his incredibly years of service to the GPA Department and we wish Keye all the best for a happy, healthy and prosperous retirement! Thank you very much Keye and we wish you all the best!

We would also like to pay a special thanks to Ms. Bertha CHUNG and Ting TANG who have recently left the GPA Department. We thank both Tina and Bertha for their tremendous service, particularly to the MPUP Programme in the GPA Department and we wish both Tina and Bertha all the best for the future!

GPA Alumni Information Update:

To change your contact details, please fill in the form below.

<https://cloud.itsc.cuhk.edu.hk/webform/view.php?id=5086636>



政治與行政學系  
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Department of Government and Public Administration

Chief Editor: Dr. James F. DOWNES

Secretary: Miss Katherine SHA

Newsletter Design: Ms. Tina TANG

GPA Editor: Mr. Billy TANG

GPA Student Reporters: Mr. Matthias CHAN, Mr. TSANG Ling Kai



## 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 [katherinesha@cuhk.edu.hk](mailto:katherinesha@cuhk.edu.hk).

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