



香港中文大學
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

MSSc in Public Policy 10th Anniversary Newsletter

Happy

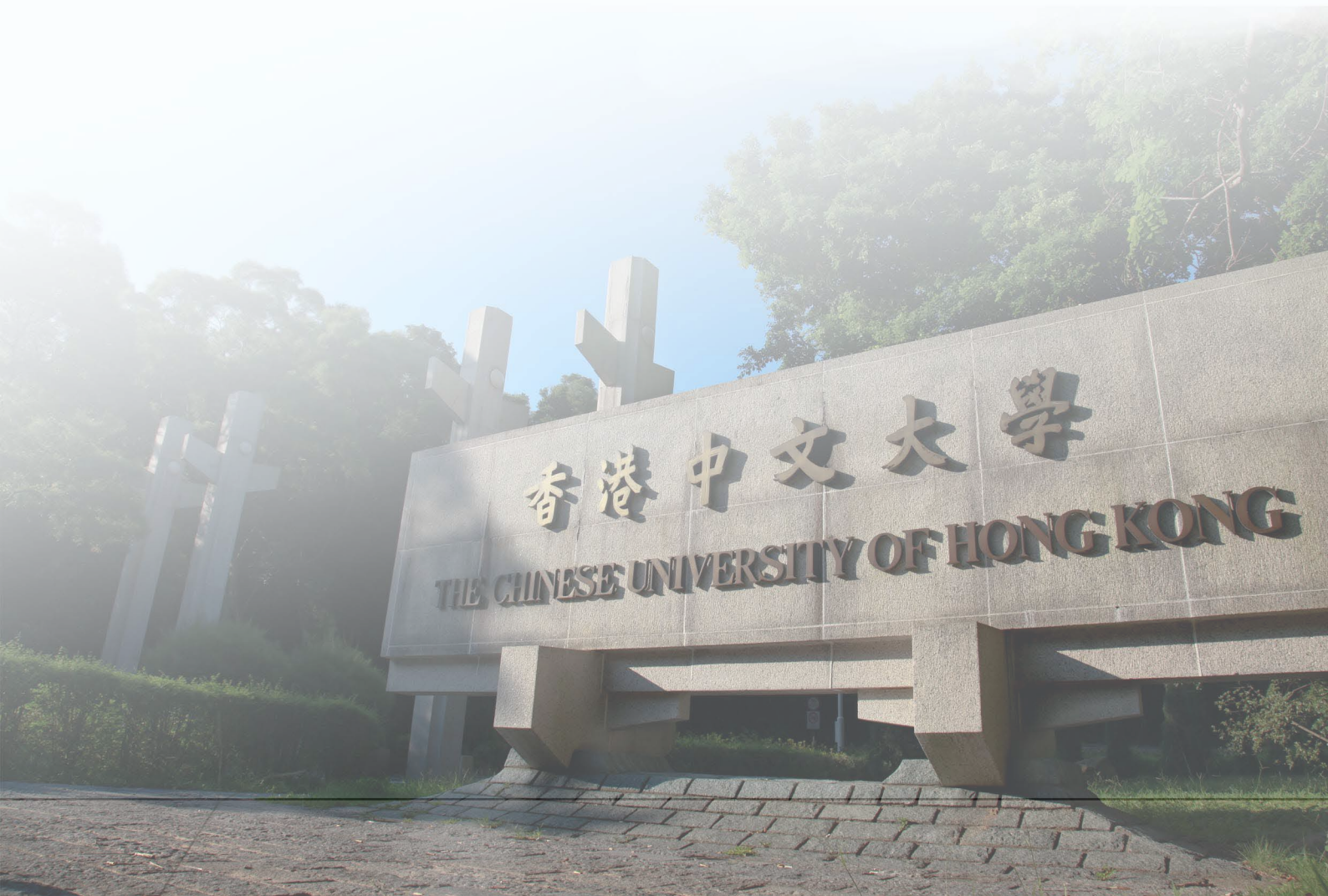
New

Year



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Prof. Carlos Lo



This is an incredibly wonderful time to start the 2021-22 academic year as it coincides with the special 10th Year Anniversary of our MPUP programme! I was especially overjoyed in being able to celebrate this milestone, in person with both teachers and students alike in the recent MPUP orientation session! This special occasion feels particularly joyous, especially after spending the whole of 2020-21 with all our students conducting classes in the online mode of interactions and communication.

MPUP is a programme that has its own strong and unique characteristics. MPUP is a unique Master's programme in Public Policy that admits students with diverse educational backgrounds. The programme is inter-

disciplinary in its design, with courses from various interdisciplinary underpinnings. The MPUP programme is also hybrid in its programme organization. This allows students to undertake their studies in full-time or part-time mode. Furthermore, the programme is also internationally positioned and is opened to students from across the world. Most significantly, MPUP is an academic based programme with strong problem-solving skills that reflects in the course design alongside the composition of the teaching team.

I would like to say a massive special thank you to both the design thinking and strategic efforts from all former programme directors, particularly Prof. Wilson Wong. The MPUP programme has already established itself as



Prof. Lo met new students at the MPUP 2021-22 academic orientation



one of the most reputable public policy programmes both locally and internationally, being a member of the globally prestigious NASPAA (Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration).

In addition, as a Master's programme in Public Policy conscientiously designed to build a strong knowledge capacity with practical orientation for its students, our graduates are well-equipped to pursue their careers with a board range of career choices and options. As a relatively young programme, we are also very pleased to see many of our graduates prospering tremendously in their promising career progressions.

Looking forward to the near future, we as-

pire to make our MPUP programme stay internationally competitive and practically relevant by seeking continuous improvement of programme design, course content, teaching capability, alongside learning facilities and career support. At the same time, we endeavor to cultivate a close connection with MPUP alumni, with a long-term vision to expand the alumni network for the benefit of both our students and graduates alike in the future.

In the meantime, please join me to celebrate MPUP's 10th Year Anniversary by recollecting your memorable teaching and learning stories as well as savoring your joyful campus life moments!

Dr. Mark Michelson



“The Room Where It Happens”, the signature song from the Broadway musical Hamilton, refers to the place where decisions are made. In 2011, I was in the room where the MSSc Programme in Public Policy (MPUP) was created - as part of an advisory committee led by Prof. Paul S.N. Lee, then CUHK’s Dean of the Faculty of Social Science. This initiative followed the successful launch of the MSSc in Global Political Economy (MGPE) two years earlier. Like MGPE, MPUP was designed to provide another opportunity for CUHK graduate students to develop theoretical perspectives, knowledge and analytical skills to understand and navigate diverse challenges – whether in the public or private sector. During our discussion in that room, I suggested that the new programme include a

course on Government and the Economy, identifying and examining goals and policies developed and pursued by primarily Asian governments in managing their economies. Prof Lee quickly responded, “Good idea. Why don’t you teach the course?” That’s how I fortunately ended up teaching courses in both the MPUP and MGPE programmes for the past 10 years.

My MPUP experience has been unfailingly illuminating and rewarding. My students and I have identified and assessed key economic policies and how they work - and don’t work - for countries, companies and other organizations in Asia. We have explored a wide range of topics and ideas, including:

- High tech, infrastructure, housing and

the sharing and green economy in Hong Kong;

- The Greater Bay Area and partnerships between Hong Kong and its neighbors;
- Various aspects of China's economic policy related to common prosperity, resolving the local government debt challenge, ministry reform, poverty alleviation, the live-streaming economy and theme parks (on the Mainland and in Hong Kong); and
- Medical tourism in Asia, Singapore's SOEs, outsourcing in India and even Nordic governments and the economy – and many more.

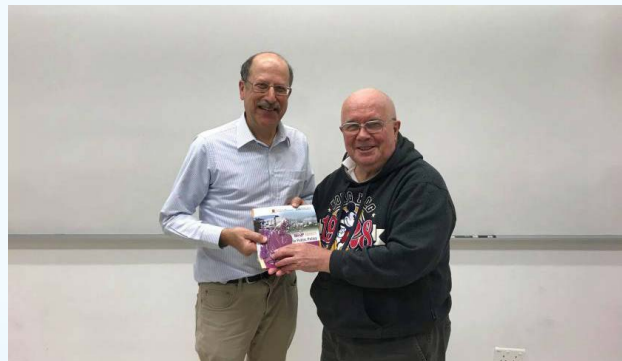
And our learning experience has been enriched by experienced, engaging and often inspiring government officials and advisors who were in 'the room where it happened.'

Many thanks to all the students, faculty, staff and administrators who have contributed so much to MPUP's achievements during the past 10 years – and especially for your dedication, ingenuity, and flexibility during these very challenging times. I look forward to MPUP continuing to move upwards and onwards in the next 10 years and beyond.

Class Activity of MPUP5331, in Term 2, 2020

Thanks to the coordination by Dr Mark Michelson, teacher of MPUP5331 Government and the Economy, Mr. Mike Rowse, former government official and founder of InvestHK, was invited to share about his 30-year public administration career in Hong Kong while witnessing the rapid development of infrastructure in his former positions, during the MPUP5331 class.

Despite the fact that the sharing session was organized in the form of webinar via Zoom due to the COVID-19 outbreak, students enjoyed Mr. Rowse's insightful sharing and grasped the opportunity to exchange ideas with Mr. Rowse during the Q&A session.



Prof. Miron Mushkat



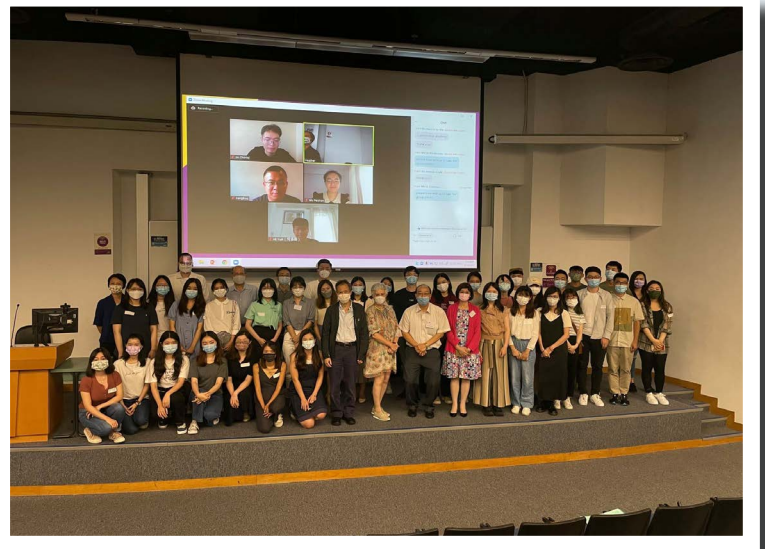
MPUP IS A UNIQUE PROGRAMME IN TERMS OF ITS ACADEMIC BREADTH AND DEPTH, GENUINELY MULTI-DISCIPLINARY AND EVEN INTERDISCIPLINARY ORIENTATION, INTELLECTUAL RIGOUR COUPLED WITH SENSITIVITY TO PRACTICAL CONCERNS, AND SUCCESSFUL RELIANCE ON RESOURCES WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE UNIVERSITY.

It has been my privilege and pleasure to be part of the teaching team of the Master of Public Policy Programme (MPUP) at the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) effectively from its inception ten years ago.

My specific input into this commendable endeavour has been in the form of a course intensively focused on global finance and governance. To the best of my knowledge, no other graduate-level public policy programme offers such a course, with virtually all of them placing a heavy emphasis on domestically centred public finance courses. The Faculty of Social Science at CUHK, and its Government and Public Administration Department (GPA), have had the vision to recognize that—in an era characterized by

rapid, even if not smooth, globalization—the global dimension of finance is so pronounced that it should be accorded the prominence that it enjoys in the “real world.”

This recognition also reflects Hong Kong’s role as a “global metropolis,” or a provider of intermediary—principally, but not exclusively, financial—services to the world in general, and in the Greater China context in particular. Due to this status, Hong Kong and the regional setting in which it is embedded, needs a steady stream of professionals, be it in the public and private sector, who possess the skills necessary to facilitate the flow of goods, services, and capital across borders. As one of the world’s two most open economies—the other one being Singapore—Hong Kong can-



not embrace domestically inspired parochialism and must remain firmly outward-looking. The MPUP curriculum is structured in a way that is in tune with these realities.

I personally derive considerable satisfaction from the fact that a fair number of graduates of the MPUP programme hold positions, in both the public and private sector, that require an intermediate-level and even advanced knowledge of global finance and governance, validating the CUHK vision. Because of their familiarity with the glob-

al economic dynamics and financial governance/regulation, they are often able to assume responsibilities which graduates exposed exclusively to the conceptual and technical intricacies of economics and finance are less equipped to shoulder. Again, this attests to the solid academic and practical foundations of the 10-year-old MPUP programme and its potential to continue to creatively adapt to changes in a highly fluid and fast changing global economic and political environment.

Prof. Annie Tam



Let me extend my warmest congratulations to the GPA Department on the 10th Anniversary of the Master of Social Science Programme in Public Policy (MPUP). I am confident that MPUP will grow from strength to strength and will continue harvesting many fruitful years ahead.

It is my great honour and unique privilege to teach, as part of this flagship programme, a course entitled “Topical Studies in Public Policy”. Leveraging on my previous experience as a career civil servant and my present engagement in voluntary service on the boards of directors of various non-governmental organizations, I have chosen to focus on “Interaction between Government and Society in Public Policy Making”. My objective is to help students acquire and articulate knowledge, and apply it to policy analysis and

other action plans so as to augment their intellectual capacity and social consciousness. In a strenuous effort to marry theories with practice, the course guides students to explore and experiment public policy making through different interactive activities such as case study, class discussion, teamwork, role play, brainstorming and story-telling.

In the past four years, I had a most rewarding experience of pursuing fruitful learning together with a total of 105 students. It is so gratifying to learn from their feedback that the course has achieved my wish of nurturing them to become 3Rs: Respectful policy analysts, Responsible policy makers and Responsive change agents. I am also encouraged that they share my dream of cultivating flowers of kindness in the hearts.

Prof. Xu Yuan



With one decade behind its back, MPUP is now in its adolescence. Standing on a firm foundation, we are looking forward to the teenage years with high expectations, together.

MPUP was designed to reflect the multi-disciplinary nature of public policy. It started a decade ago directly under the Faculty of Social Science and then was transferred to the Department of Government and Public Administration, but this multi-disciplinary coverage remains unchanged as a key feature to distinguish MPUP from similar programmes in other universities in Hong Kong. I have been fortunate to be part of the teaching team and the management committee to witness the welcome of its first cohort a decade ago as well as its transition, persistence and flourish ever since.

Prof. KC Lam and I co-teach MPUP 5422 Environmental Policy Analysis. It is always pleasant to teach MPUP students as they are recruited from a wide mixture of disciplines and backgrounds. Our discussion in class is vibrant and joyful with diversified perspectives and interesting questions. When the class size was small enough, I once taught a lecture on information disclosure as an envi-

ronmental policy instrument in Shatin New Town Plaza, walking through relevant shops and interviewing their salespeople and customers. Prof. Lam took students in boat trips to North Lantau waters for seeing pink Chinese White Dolphins and understanding the efficacy and limitations of environmental impact assessment. We enjoy every class in MPUP.

MPUP is a vibrant community. The enthusiastic teaching team and collegial management team are comfortable and effective to work with. The first director, Prof. Wilson Wong, and the current director, Prof. Carlos Lo, have contributed excellent leadership and efforts. Numerous visitors around the world instilled dynamic topics in seminar talks and other academic activities to enrich our students' educational experiences. Our students have also actively embraced a global vision, for example, to attend the NASPAA Simulation Competition overseas.

Teaching Corner

Prof. Peter Fong

course teacher of MPUP5121 Values and Ethics in Public Policy



More than 50 students enrolled in this course and they formed 8 groups to study and present their results on topics related to the values and ethics in public policy. The topics include “Why do some governments introduce mandatory face mask laws while others don’t during the COVID-19 pandemic? What are the values and rationales for their policies?”. One group is innovative in their presentation. They put each presenter’s name in the first page of their presentation slides so that all participants will know who present that part. After the group’s presentation, each member of another group takes turn to ask specific question to the one who presents that part so he or she will answer the ques-

tion. This arrangement was adopted for other remaining groups in their presentations.

In order to enhance student cooperation and understanding, each group was encouraged to select or elect a leader to work with other group to organize a class gathering. Eventually, a dinner was arranged by the students at the Chung College Staff Club before the last session on 10 December 2021. Around thirty students and the teacher participated in the dinner which was subsidized by the department. All participants enjoyed it a lot. Attached are some photos taken at the dinner gathering.

Prof. Maria Francesch

course teacher of MPUP5111 Public Policy Process

I joined the MPUP faculty in 2019 to contribute to courses on public policy and governance. Despite the challenging circumstances we all have had in the past 3 years, I have been delighted to meet dedicated faculty and very bright and committed students.

We have debated, questioned, agreed to disagreed and laughed a lot too. I am grateful to experience the spirit and traditions of CUHK and of GPAD and I wish the MPUP another decade and more of committed public policy education.



Ms Jacqueline Hui Nga Ting

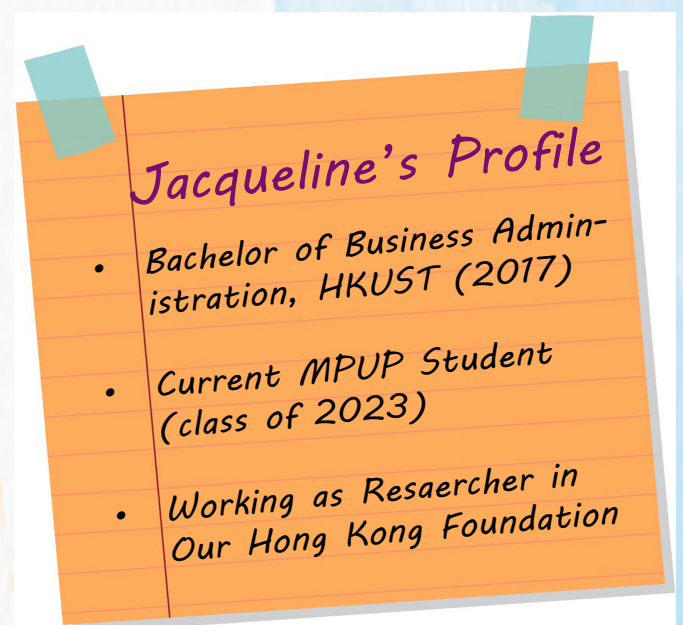


Coming from a business background, I often get asked why I have switched to a career in public policy. For me, problem-solving is not confined to the corporate world. It is common in a society that people form institutions to preserve their shared interests, but when multiple parties' interests are at stake, policymakers have to navigate through the heterogeneous concerns. This is particularly acute in a dynamic metropolis such as Hong Kong, which has been stricken with the housing crisis, a unitary industrial structure, and political discord, to name a few. It has always been my desire to explore the root causes of many challenges facing human societies. And there is no better arena than public policy to solve real issues hands-on and make a difference through research.

A Career in Policy Research

My passion for policy research and formulation has inspired me to pursue a career in Our Hong Kong Foundation (OHKF), the most prominent think tank in Hong Kong. I am responsible for producing qualitative and

quantitative research on land and housing policies to seek out solutions to Hong Kong's chronic land shortage problem. Having been with the OHKF so far, I have contributed to several thematic studies focusing on the city's housing supply, brownfield sites, and the urbanization of the New Territories. I am gratified to see our research and advocacy works being adopted by the government and valued by various stakeholders of the field.





Attended media interview by Mr. Gary



Giving a school talk on land development

My Work Outside of Policy Research

Policy research only marks the beginning of the long journey of policymaking. Continuous advocacy efforts are needed to get the issues to enter the public agenda and convince the policymakers to take the right actions. Apart from writing research reports, I often meet different stakeholders and industry practitioners to communicate the findings and advocate our recommendations. I am also an active commentator of the subject in the media. Moreover, I frequently participate in community engagement to convey our research to the general public. Besides giving talks in schools and universities, it is not unusual to spot me in Youtube videos commenting on issues related to land and housing.

Studying in MPUP

Working with other seasoned policymakers on multiple disciplines has made me realize how important it is to develop an interdisciplinary mindset and be ready to evaluate an issue under multiple lenses anytime. This, in turn, motivated me to apply for the MPUP. The programme enables me to be cognizant and conversant with the theories and empirical data behind policymaking processes. Moreover, the intellectual exchanges with various scholars, practitioners, and other MPUP students of diverse backgrounds are invaluable in my learning journey and career development. It is also that MPUP equips me with sharpened analytical skills, such that I can forge ahead in the highly complicated and multi-dimensional field of public policy.



Mr. James Cai
MPUP Student, Year 1

What is your recent accomplishment?

I have the offer to work as a tax consultant at one of the Big Four accounting firms mainly due to my diversified knowledge in education, ability to analyze current policies and business, and teamwork spirit. These three aspects are all improved in my MPUP study in CUHK!

What is your future aspiration?

After graduation, I will passionately work in the tax consulting industry and desire to become a tax professional in the near future by dedicating myself to cutting-edge research in theoretical and practical knowledge, assisting clients in constructing an optimal business with tax compliance and planning strategies.

Why Study MPUP?

The reason I chose MPUP is that I hope to contribute myself to this increasingly international global village and balance the interests of sectors of society. MPUP is fully committed to educating and grooming future leaders in the region and the world who can better serve the society and enhance policy-making, which is exactly what I need.

Your favorite spot to study on CUHK campus and why??

My favorite spot to study on CUHK campus is Learning Commons(WMY). There is nothing more enjoyable than studying in the ocean view library. The opening hours is 24/7, you can study there as long as you want. When you are hungry, go up to the Canteen of S.H. Ho College, where there are many delicious siu mei; Down the road is 330 Cafe, where you can have some coffee and salad.



Ms Candice Nie
MPUP Student, Year 1

Public Policy Dialogue with Ms. Regina Ip

MPUP5111 Public Policy Process Class Activity



The MSSc in Public Policy regularly invites policy makers to have interaction and exchange views with students. This time, Ms. Regina Ip, a member of the Executive Council (ExCo) and Legislative Council of Hong Kong (LegCo), as well as the founder and current chairperson of the New People's Party, was invited to share her experience with us. The dialogue was organized as part of the course exercise of MPUP5111 Public Policy Process taught by Prof. Maria Francesch and centered around the theme of Leadership and Trust in Public Policy Makers.

During the dialogue, Ms Ip shared the difference between working as a civil servant and a politician, and highlighted the ele-

ments contributing to good policy making process. Apart from the insightful sharing by the speakers, MPUP students benefited greatly from further discussing some of the social issues during the Q&A session.



Ms Regina Ip Lau Suk-yea GBM GBS JP is currently a member of the Executive Council (ExCo) and Legislative Council of Hong Kong (LegCo), as well as the founder and current chairperson of the New People's Party.

New Student Orientation

On 28 August 2021, the MPUP programme organized the academic orientation to welcome our new students.

The orientation was kick-started with a welcoming speech by Prof. Carlos Lo, the MPUP Programme Directory, followed by greeting and self-introduction of MPUP teachers. Then, Dr. Brenda Liu, the new Programme Manager, gave advice on important academic matters and resources provided by the University. Last but not least, teachers and students were assigned into small group to mingle and get to know each other before the start of the academic year.



JRE Workshop

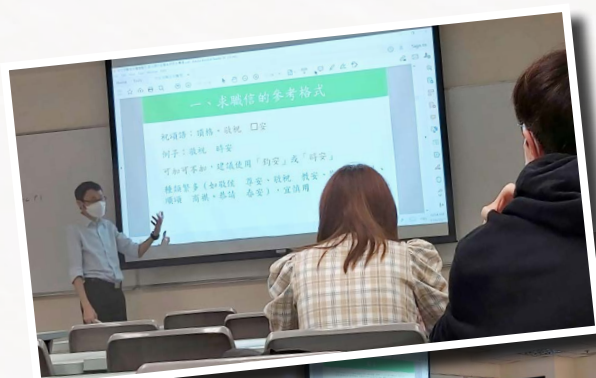
by Ms Wong Ming Lok

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 students of the Department of GPA in October 2021.



CV Writing Workshop

co-host with Independence Learning Centre



With the mission to nurture future competent policy professionals and leaders, the TPg Programme Office of the Department of Government and Public Administration (GPA) organized two sessions of CV and Cover Letter Writing Workshop exclusively for MPUP and GPGC students on 6 November 2021 (Sat) and 20 November 2021 (Sat), to equip them with essential job search skills.

Public Lecture by Prof. Gunter Schubert

On 3 December 2021, Prof Schubert gave an open lecture on the topic “Squeezed between Scylla and Charybdis? The European Union's Quest of Strategic Autonomy in Times of U.S.-China Showdown Politics”.

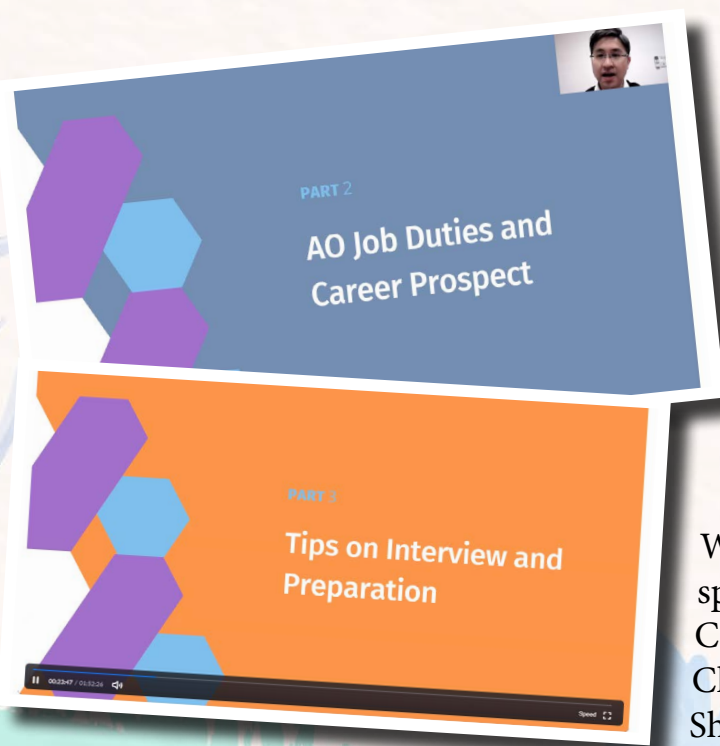
He reported some of his observations concerning the EU's internal strife to find common ground for a consistent foreign policy and invited the audience to discuss about the impact of a dramatically changing geopolitical environment on regional order in East Asia. Students and guests enjoyed Prof. Schubert's insightful sharing and grasped the opportunity to exchange ideas with him and other participants during the Q&A session.



AO & EO Experience Sharing

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 19 January 2022 (Wed) and 27 January 2022 (Thu), to equip them with the job nature of the two positions and strategic approaches throughout the recruitment process.

We are delighted to have invited three guest speakers who are serving AOs, namely Ms Carol Chan, Mr Emmanuel Lam and Ms Cherry Sum for the AO Alumni Experience Sharing Session, and three guest speakers who are serving EOs, namely Ms Jelly Cheung, Ms Tina Ma and Mr Michael Pang 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.



Ms Tina Ma and Mr Michael Pang for

Admissions Scholarships

4 students with remarkable academic achievements and/or impressive working experience are awarded, they are Jacqueline Hui, Michelle Leung, Wu Peishan and Chan Ka Ho.



MPUP Activities





Ms Candy Li
Officer, Hong Kong Housing Society

During this two-year journey, I have learned to analyze government policies with policy-making models and explore practical skills in policy research. It enables me to incorporate knowledge acquired in my Political Science Degree with real-world policy issues. MPUP gives me professional insights into policy analysis which are beneficial for my career development. For those who aspire to help society address pressing public policy challenges, being MPUP students would be a stepping-stone.



Ms Ivy Huang

One-year experience in MPUP programme is undoubtedly fruitful for me, in which I not only learn integrative knowledge and professional skills, but also cultivate critical thinking ability and innovative mindset. Because of personal reason, I am not able to go to campus, however, kind teachers in MPUP provides us with full teaching support and warm care, making the dual-track teaching mode run smoothly. Thanks to this unforgettable journey in MPUP, I am better prepared to pursue my future career goal.



Ms Pinky Wong
Executive Officer, CUHK

The MPUP programme is a truly interdisciplinary programme which teaches a wide range of subjects/knowledge including economics, political science, philosophy, global studies, urban studies, social science research and so on. Studying MPUP is an eye-opening journey which trains me to be a thoughtful policymaker who always have a holistic view in all areas and seek the best solution to balance the interests of different stakeholders in the society. I will recommend people who are interested in public policy to study this esteemed programme.



Ms Katie Wong
Management Services Officer, HKSARG

Joining the MPUP programme brings me much more than theories and skills. Courses of MPUP provide a great deal of experience sharing opportunities among students across diverse industries and with various cultural backgrounds. By discussing social issues and hot political topics, I am enriched to look at policies and policy-making in a broader and multidimensional perspective. Graduating from MPUP is probably the best moment of mine in this challenging year!



Mr. Cyrus Cheung
Listed Company

The year studying in the MPUP programme had been a rewarding journey for me. The programme allowed me to learn different things in different courses with specialized teachers from various policy fields. After the MPUP journey, I am able to master some practical frameworks and methods in analyzing public policy, which is very helpful for my life-long learning. By the way, the programme had a good mix of local and non-local students, and I quite enjoyed the learning experience in classes that students had diverse views and teachers were open-minded.



Mr. Leung Ho Yiu
Teaching Assistant,
CUHK

MPUP is an interdisciplinary programme, providing me with a comprehensive learning experience and equipping me with practical knowledge in analyzing public policies. It covers a wide range of economic policies, environmental policies, policy research, and crisis management. After working in the media field for nearly a decade, I find the MPUP programme particularly impressive in nurturing thinkers and leaders to address the contemporary social issues and future challenges of this increasingly complex world.

GPA Alumni Information Updates:

To change your contact details, please fill in the form below.
<https://cloud.itsc.cuhk.edu.hk/webform/view.php?id=5086636>





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