

STUDENT RESEARCH SHOWCASE 2019

20th September 2019



Li Dak Sum Yip Yio Chin Academic Building

G412

Opening Ceremony

12-12:45 PM

The Atrium

Poster Presentations

1-6 PM



Chan Feng Men-ling Chan Shuk-ling
English Language Centre
City University of Hong Kong

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Organizing Committee

Ms. Tiffany Pang [Chair], Instructor, ELC

Ms. Fiona Williams, Former Head, ELC

Ms. Christy Chan, Manager, ELC

Mr. Tim Birkett, Manager, ELC

Ms. Noel Chiu, Research Assistant, ELC



Chan Feng Men-ling Chan Shuk-lin English Language Centre



The Chan Feng Men-ling Chan Shuk-lin English Language Centre (ELC) strives to develop our students' communicative competence in English language. We have been organizing a wide spectrum of extracurricular learning activities, which do not only transform our students into active language learners, but also create numerous opportunities for them to internalize and consolidate the knowledge they acquire in English lessons through hands-on experience. Through creating a student-centered teaching and learning environment both inside and outside the classroom, we awaken our students' curiosity in English language, and allow them to identify their strengths in English language learning.



In the coming years, we will uphold our vision and mission in cultivating successful English language learners and users through persistent efforts, dedication and commitment.



Welcoming message



Hi everyone

I am very pleased to welcome you to our Student Research Showcase. The Showcase is

organized to maximize our students' potential in research presentation by providing them with an opportunity to present and illustrate their research findings to various faculty, staff and students of CityU. The scholarly event does not only allow our students to demonstrate their achievements in academic research to heterogeneous audience beyond the walls of classroom, but also visualizes the knowledge that our students have acquired in ELC courses.

The event will showcase a wide range of undergraduate student research from diversified disciplines across our campus, and display our students' innovative endeavors in the form of academic posters. The undergraduate presenters have been spending months on

investigating diversified research topics which are closely related to students' life in CityU, ranging from the use of electronic devices in classroom to absenteeism in lectures, the hall culture in CityU to the catering services on campus, the undergraduates' participation in various society committees to their relationship with different group-mates in projects, and beyond. I, as an instructor of most of the presenters in the Showcase, feel particularly heartwarming to see the students being able to make step-by-step progress in their research, and successfully transform themselves into competent academic researchers.

Please do take the opportunity to come to the Showcase and have extensive discussions with the student presenters on multivarious research topics. I am sure you will have a wonderful time in the event.

Tiffany Pang

Organizing Committee (Chair)

Chan Feng Men-ling Chan Shuk-lin English Language Centre

Keynote Speakers



Prof. Diane PECORARI

Head, Department of English
Acting Head, ELC

Diane Pecorari works within the area of English Applied Linguistics. Her research has investigated aspects of English for academic purposes and second-language writing, (including source use and plagiarism), and the widespread and growing phenomenon of English medium instruction. She has taught courses in linguistics, academic writing and professional communication. In addition, she has designed and taught professional skills development courses for university teacher who want to work pedagogically with questions such as how to work against plagiarism, how to promote students' writing skills and how to teach effectively in the English-medium classroom.

Keynote Speakers



Mr. Stephen Bolton

Programme Leader, English for
Academic Purposes (EL0200)

Stephen has been at CityU since January 2001, and has also taught in Seoul, Prague, London, Bath and Buenos Aires. His main areas of interest in English teaching are methodology, materials/syllabus development, pedagogical grammar, learner strategies and teacher training. He has led several series of teacher training workshops for his ELC colleagues and Hong Kong secondary school teachers. He was a finalist for the CityU Teaching Excellence Award in 2010.

Abstracts



The importance of tertiary education to career success

CHAU Martin

Department of Mathematics



This study aims to find out the opinions of university students when it comes to the meaning of a successful career, and explore whether tertiary education is significant to career success in

the eyes of the students. 48 participants were invited to fill in a questionnaire and 9 participants were interviewed individually. The results show that most of the respondents thought they could apply knowledge and skills learnt in university in their job. They preferred staying in Hong Kong to find a job and they believed that studying in university helps their career. It is also found that the meaning of success in the eyes of students was about earning more money and having a better living, while the vital factors in career success were income and education aspiration. These findings allow university teachers to understand the driving force behind students' learning both inside and outside the classroom.

Students' habits on the use of electronic devices and views on their learning goals

CHEUNG Bik Ching, Bella

School of Energy and Environment

Based on Bloom's Taxonomy, this study focuses on how students use electronic devices in class, and the influence of using electronic devices on students' academic results. According to the



research findings, students used electronic devices mainly for academic research and leisure. While some students admitted that electronic devices may distract them from focusing on the lectures, what really affected their concentration in class was the atmosphere of lectures. From the perspective of students, the teaching styles of lecturers affected students' use of electronic devices in class, and they should help students focus on the lessons with different interactive activities. This study allows CityU teachers to get a deeper understanding regarding students' use of electronic devices in classroom, and gives the teachers new insights about their teaching styles.

Choosing groupmates in university

CHOI Wai Kit, Tom

Department of Mechanical Engineering



This study provides university students some insights about the impact of different groupmates on academic results. It also explored the characteristics of uncooperative groupmates, as

well as the solutions to work with them. A questionnaire was designed and 45 students were invited to complete it. 9 students were also interviewed. The results reflected that our peers welcomed active members the most and free-riders the least. Not only the uncooperative groupmates undermined the working atmosphere within groups, but also discouraged team members from working hard. Other types of groupmates included deadline fighters who risked the grade of the group projects and control freaks who aimed to control the working progress of the whole group. Solutions to handle these types of groupmates are discussed at the end of the research project.

The effect of participation in school societies on university life

CHOW Lai Him, Ken

Department of Mathematics

Although previous studies have shown that students have diverse opinions on whether participation in school societies is beneficial to university students, no research has examined how school societies influence the university life of undergraduates and how students think about the promotion methods of the school societies. In hopes of finding the answers to these questions, a questionnaire was distributed to 46 undergraduates and 9 students were invited to a face-to-face interview. A majority of the respondents believed that school societies were beneficial to their development and social network. 25% of the respondents considered school societies to be the second most significant part in university life. Respondents also had different diverse views about the promotion strategies of school societies. Some of them negatively commented about the noise produced during the beat demonstration. This study let our society committees know more about the way to attract students to join them, and to reflect on their promotional activities.



Management of finance among university students

CHOW Wai Yi, Aries

Department of Accountancy



It is important to manage our own assets wisely, especially when it comes to university students who just begin their adulthood and start to make a living. Interviews and online

questionnaires were carried out and distributed to identify and analyze the financial management of the university students with reference to their background and financial conditions. Based on the findings, 80% of the participants saved money regularly. But investment was not common among students, in that 90% of the non-local participants and around 50% of the local participants did not spend any on investment owing to their insufficient knowledge about investment. Most of the participants spent money on short-term entertainment such as travelling. This research highlighted that more financial trainings should be provided to our peers in order to improve their financial knowledge.

Shaping of hall culture

HE Hui, Emi

Department of Economics and Finance

More than 18,000 students are staying in the student residence currently.

There is much news about different hall culture in universities in Hong Kong. Yet, previous research about



student residence cannot reflect how hall culture is shaped. The purpose of this study is to study the relationship between hall culture and students' non-academic performance and investigate what has been affecting the hall culture the most. Data was collected through quantitative questionnaires and interviews. The weighted average score in the data analysis showed the undergraduates' expectation and perception about their residence experience. Students had higher expectation and lower tolerance regarding the activities held by the hall association than those of the Student Resident Office. Living in halls was a negative experience to some of them. Thus some students tended to live outside campus. The findings imply that the hall associations and the Student Residence Office should bear the responsibility of shaping the hall culture.

Financial management among the students in the City University of Hong Kong

HON Lai Fan, Fanny

Department of Accountancy



Nowadays, many university students know little about the way to manage their assets appropriately. This research particularly aims to compare the financial behavior of Hong Kong

students and foreign students. 48 local and non-local undergraduates completed a questionnaire while 9 undergraduates completed an interview individually. It is revealed that both Hong Kong and foreign students saved money for entertainment and traveling. Most of the respondents had the habit of saving but they were generally conservative about investments. Half of the Hong Kong students and one third of non-local students overspent previously. It is suggested that the students can download apps to keep a good record of their financial condition. The government should also work harder in promoting financial investment to students.

Management of finance among university students

HUI Lai Ching, Ginnie

Department of Accountancy

This study explored how local and non-local university students in Hong Kong manage their finance. Although there is much research studying the financial behaviors of university students in Europe,



there is no such research in Hong Kong. So we set out to investigate the financial behaviors of both local and non-local students by using a mixed method approach. Questionnaires were distributed to 57 students and 9 students were interviewed. The results of the research suggested that local students saved more money than non-local students. Short-term goals, like travelling and entertainment, were found to be the most common reasons for saving. Only half of the students had credit cards. Generally, both local and non-local students paid with credit cards carefully and did not invest in anything. To improve their financial knowledge, the students may use applications in electronic devices. Schools should also organize educational programs to educate students about financial management.

Absenteeism in university

LEE King Him, Rosso

Department of Systems Engineering and Engineering Management



During lectures, it is common to see some empty seats in lecture halls as some students prefer self-studying. The purpose of this research is to study 3 aspects, including (a) the importance of attending lectures, (b)

the purposes of skipping classes, and (c) the reasons why students believe lectures are not necessary. 59 students were involved in this study. 50 of them completed a questionnaire and 9 of them were interviewed. The results reflected that the students skipped lessons owing to 3 reasons, including the flexibility of self-studying, their poor attention in the morning and lack of interaction with professors during lectures. Half of the respondents also believed that they could study on their own by doing exercises and using online materials. This study allows university teachers to have a more comprehensive understanding of students' attitudes towards lectures, and gives the teachers some insight about the way to engage students in lessons.

The use of credit cards among university students

MAK Wai Chiu, Riven

Department of Electrical Engineering

The use of credit cards is becoming more popular among university students. Yet, credit cards may pose a threat to university students since they may be in debt after spending a lot with credit cards. This study



focuses on the negative consequences brought by the use of credit cards. The results indicated that a majority of students applied for at least one credit card in order to receive the attractive welcoming offers, like shopping discounts, cash dollars and free gifts. It also indicated that some students overspent after applying for credit cards for unlimited cash rebates. These rebates indirectly encouraged them to spend more than before as the respondents believed that the rebates can cover their overspendings. It is believed that the research findings can be used to increase students' awareness on their use of credit cards.

The shaping of hall culture

NI Xinyi, Sheila

Department of Economics and Finance



Hall life is regarded as one of the most important components in university life. The universities in Hong Kong have a wide range of different characteristics and hall cultures. This study aims to illustrate the undergraduates'

attitudes towards different hall cultures by using both quantitative and qualitative data. 46 undergraduates living in the student residence at CityU were invited to complete a questionnaire. 6 of them were then invited to be interviewed. There was a significant discrepancy between students' expectation towards residence life and their actual residence experience. It is found that students participated in hall activities just in order to increase the chance of living in student residence again in the coming years. This study increases our understanding of hall cultures and the reasons why hall activities fail to attract students' participation.

Students' attitudes towards e-learning at CityU

Sharon SIU Sum Wun

Department of Electrical Engineering

Do all university students find e-learning useful? To answer this question, this research aims to investigate students' attitudes towards e-learning and the difficulties in implementing it at CityU. The study included an online



questionnaire and an interview. Respondents were randomly selected from Engineering, Business and other schools at CityU. There was a significant relationship between students' background and their preference for e-learning, for example, e-learning was found to be more accepted by students with a business background. Portable devices were commonly used by students, especially when they studied at home. Besides, there was a lack of hardware support for e-learning on campus. This study highlighted the importance of further studies in the relationship between the use of electronic devices and students' learning style.

Studying at university = successful in career?

TANG Chin Pang, Alan

Department of Mathematics

This study was designed to evaluate the effect of university education on students' career achievement. There were 2 data collection methods, including the use of questionnaires and interviews.



The results of this study suggested that the greatest motivation for study was career achievement. From the students' point of view, an undergraduate degree enhanced students' competitiveness. However, the definition of success was not just about having a job with high salary and promising prospects, but also about living a joyful life and applying the knowledge acquired in university. This study provides some guidance for university teachers when it comes to future curriculum development.

Grouping in university

WONG Ho Fung, Wilson

Department of Information Systems



This study focuses on group projects in university. As group projects are used to assess students' understanding in universities and good grades affect one's academic performance, choosing teammates has become a common concern among the undergraduates. Thus, this study aims to study the relationship among groupmates, students' criteria in choosing groupmates and the practical methods to handle situations created by groupmates who contributed nothing to the group. We adopted a mixed method approach for data collection by inviting 45 CityU students to complete a questionnaire, and 9 students to participate in an interview. The results revealed that students generally disliked group projects since working in groups may lead to conflicts. Communication was deemed important when the students were having an argument. Students with better academic results tended to be invited to join a group as they may help the group get a better grade. This research acts as a reference for university educators to reconsider the way to evaluate students' contribution in group projects, and to promote a more positive learning atmosphere.

The financial behaviour of university students in HK?

WONG Ho Yee, Katie

Department of Mechanical Engineering

In our culture, money is seen as an important element for daily life. Thanks to the advanced technology, cash is no longer the only payment method. Credit cards have revolutionized our ways of living and financial concepts. With the advantages of credit cards, people can now afford to buy more goods than before. However, this may not be the whole picture. In our research, we investigated the financial management of the university students in Hong Kong and the impact of business-related knowledge on their financial management. A questionnaire and a follow-up interview were designed to collect useful data. Students were divided into 2 groups. One group of students had studied business subjects and the other had not. In the results, it is found that business-related knowledge was not a significant factor in students' financial behaviour. Most students did not learn much about financial management in high school. As the financial burdens get heavier, students' mental health also gets worse. Since the financial problems faced by teenagers are snowballing nowadays, it is suggested that appropriate measures should be taken to prevent any tragedies.



The accommodation of students in CityU

WU Yanlin, Cici

Department of Electrical Engineering



There are many international students who would like to start their academic journeys in Hong Kong. However, many students find it hard to adapt to their residence life. The objective of this study is to examine the

difficulties faced by the students living in hall residence in order to explore the ways to help them adapt more easily to their residence life. We invited 45 students to finish a questionnaire about their living conditions and 9 students to attend an interview about their preference for hall residence. We found that students were attracted by the low cost of living in hall residence, and that non-local students highly valued the residence near the campus, which provided them with more personal space. We also learnt that student might not want to join the returning activities, although the activities were compulsory. From the findings of this study, implications and recommendations can be drawn, for example, the duration of students' residence should be extended, and subsidy should be provided for students living outside campus.

The gap between local and mainland students in Hong Kong

YAN Xueyuan, Genji

Department of Mathematics

Considering the widening gap between Hong Kong students and mainland students, this study aims to investigate how these two groups of students communicate with each other. There are three focuses in this research: (1) how these two groups of students communicate in daily life; (2) how these two groups of students think of each other; and (3) how the respondents who can communicate well with both Hong Kong and mainland students think about the widening gap between these two groups. First, we invited 20 local and 40 mainland students to complete a questionnaire. Then, we interviewed 6 students who could communicate well with both local and non-local students. The results indicated that Hong Kong students may not want to make friends with non-local students, and vice versa. Cultural difference was found to be the culprit of weak connection between these two groups. Students were reluctant to meet friends from a different background and origin. The students who can communicate with local and non-local students well may act as a bridge to connect the two groups so as to remediate the situation.



Using sports facilities in CityU

YANG Hao, Frank

Department of Electrical Engineering



Many people love exercising since it is a way to relax, gain energy and stay healthy. There are a wide range of sports facilities and equipment at CityU. Do you think that students know very well about

them? This research aims to explore the use of sports facilities at CityU. A mixed-method approach was adopted to collect data. We invited 30 students to do a questionnaire and 6 students to be interviewed. The results showed that our peers rarely exercised on campus. They would rather study or enjoy other kinds of entertainment for leisure. Meanwhile, students generally knew little about the different sports facilities and equipment on campus. There was also a big gender difference when it comes to the frequency of exercising as female students were more reluctant to exercise in comparison to male students. To promote the use of sports facilities at CityU, the school should open more sports courses to all students and design more sports courses that attract female students.

Bistro in CityU

YEUNG Yuen Ching, Iris

School of Creative Media

The university canteens play an important role in students' university life. It offers a place for students to get some rest and energy. This study focuses on our students' opinions about



the food provided by the Bistro in AC3. Most importantly, it is hoped that this work can offer suggestions to improve the overall food experience of the students. To collect students' opinions, 30 students were invited to complete a questionnaire and 6 students were invited to participate in an interview about the taste of food in Bistro. It is surprising that salty food with strong flavours was most welcomed by the respondents. Our respondents also thought that the price of food provided by Bistro was relatively more expensive than other canteens on campus. In future, to upgrade the quality and nutritional value of meals, the Bistro should incorporate more vegetables into its food choices.

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