

City University of Hong Kong

Department of Public Policy

*Research Student Seminar*

**Colonial Medical Reform under Cold  
War:**

**A Comparative-historical Analysis of the  
cases of Hong Kong and Singapore**

by

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Date:	14 Sep 2018
Time:	11:30 -13:00
Venue:	POL's Multi-purpose Room (B7516), Yeung Kin Man Acad Building City University of Hong Kong
Language:	English

*Abstract:*

With a perception of the exploitative nature of colonialism, hardly is it expected for a colonial government to make a long-term commitment to the colonized people. However, the colonial government of Hong Kong and Singapore introduced medical reforms after the Second World War. The former began a 15-year medical plan in 1957, while the latter launched a 10-year reform in 1948. With the introduction of a state-centered and tax-based medical institution, their long-term developmental path of medical service provision, however, has been different. During the post-colonial years, Hong Kong heavily relies on public hospitals and clinics, while Singapore mainly banks on the private sector. Why did similar reform initiatives end up with contrasting impacts?

Through the lens of the Comparative-historical Approach, this research aims at investigating the origin of post-war colonial medical-institutions in these

two former British colonies and the impact of a rapidly changing political context on colonialism. In particular, by archival research, this research will explicate how the Cold War, as an exogenous factor, affected British colonial governance in medical service provision, which paved different developmental paths in post-colonial Hong Kong and Singapore.

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(Free admission)

*All are welcome!*