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Viewpoints

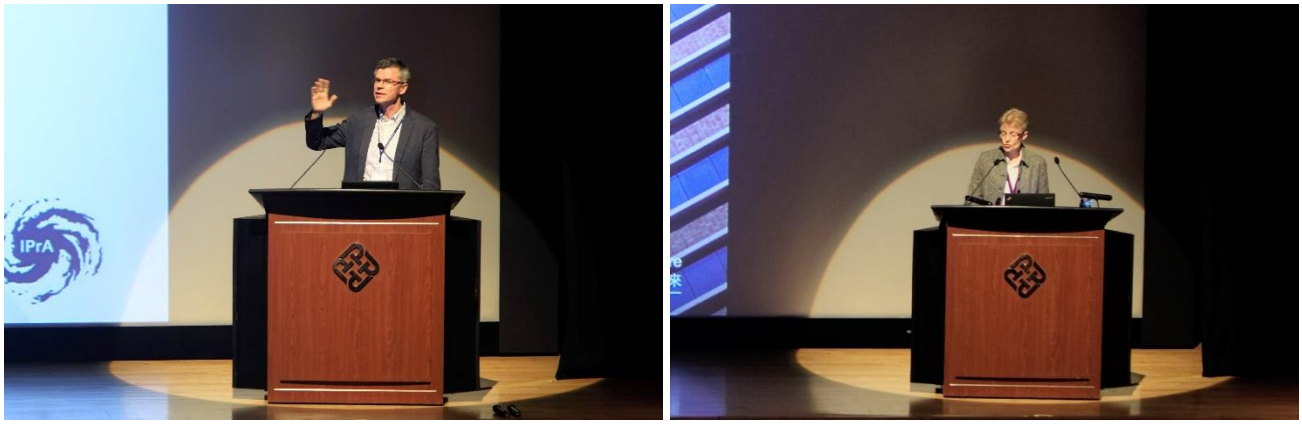
Pragmatics of the Margins – the 16th International Pragmatics Conference

The 16th International Pragmatics Conference (IPrA 2019) was organised by the International Pragmatics Association (IPrA) and hosted by the Department of English at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University on 9-14 June 2019, with sponsorship from the Research Centre for Professional Communication in English (RCPCE), the Hong Kong Academy of the Humanities (HKAH), and John Benjamins Publishing Company. This year's theme – Pragmatics of the Margins – reflected Hong Kong's unique position as a place where post-coloniality, marginalisation and entanglement inform public discourse. The conference is an important networking platform for interdisciplinary scholarly exchange and collaboration in the field of linguistics. It also provides scholars with a snapshot of current trends and developments in the academic fields of inquiry and teaching. This conference was attended by over 950 scholars from 55 countries and regions.

Plenary lectures were given by Prof. Eric Anchimbe (Universität Bayreuth), Prof. Jonathan Culpeper (Lancaster University), Prof. Louise Cummings (The Hong Kong Polytechnic University), Prof. Gu Yueguo (The Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing), Prof. Meredith Marra (Victory University of Wellington) and Prof. Marina Terkourafi (Universiteit Leiden). Videos of several of the plenaries are available for viewing at the YouTube channel of Department of English: https://www.youtube.com/user/englpolyu/videos.

Over 800 conference papers explored topics on the themes of margins and entanglements, including quotation in political discourse; the pragmatics of 'global centres' and 'peripheries' in healthcare communication research; gender, employment, language, regionality and class transition; emancipatory pragmatics: probing language usage in diverse contexts; language and legal practice; workplace discourse and intercultural pragmatics, to name a few. A special highlight of the IPrA conference was the poster session, which was held on the penultimate day of the conference and provided conference participants with opportunities to meet up and discuss the posters with the presenters. Other highlights included the presentation of the John J. Gumperz Life-time Achievement Award 2019 to Prof. Elizabeth C. Traugott at the opening ceremony, and presentations for the Best Student Paper Award and Best Student Poster Award at the closing ceremony.

Over 950 scholars participated in the conference and Prof. Eric Anchimbe (Universität Bayreuth) (photo on right) is one of the plenary lecture speakers.



ENGL Head Prof. Hans Ladegaard and Prof. Louise Cummings(ENGL) at the IPrA2019.

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Viewpoints

Trends in the Testing of English Language at University Level in Hong Kong and Greater China

Dr Alan Urmston from the English Language Centre, whose main publications and research interests are in language assessment and sociolinguistics, was invited by the Newsletter Editorial Board to talk about trends in the testing of English language at university level in Hong Kong and Greater China.

Testing or assessment exists both within and as a crucial part of the teaching and learning of English language at universities and colleges of higher education, and as an endeavour separated from the other two legs of the three-legged stool that it comprises. That languages are regarded as subjects of study and as skills or proficiencies required of learners and, crucially, of graduates, has led to the testing of languages, and in particular, English, becoming hugely important in both Hong Kong and, increasingly, in Greater China.

In China, the teaching and testing of English at university-level is formalised within the College English curriculum leading to the College English Test (CET), which all non-English major students need to take at Band 4 (during their undergraduate programme) or Band 6 (at the end of their programme, assuming they have already passed Band 4). With English major students taking another test, the Test for English Majors (TEM), which also has two bands (TEM-4 and TEM-8), it has become clear for some time that a common scale or framework was needed so that the results from these tests (and from other tests in China such as the National Matriculation English Test (NMET) or *Gaokao* (高考) could be compared or equated. A large team of curriculum and testing experts from across the country has been working on such a scale since 2014 and it was formally launched in June 2018 as China's Standards of English Ability (CSE). It consists of nine levels and links all English tests in use in China to a single framework (see figure). In addition, recent work has been completed to link international English tests, such as IELTS, to the CSE, thereby providing Chinese tests of English, such as CET, with international currency.

Levels	Target Groups
1	Primary School Grade 3
2	Primary School Grade 6
3	Middle School Grade 9
4	High School Grade 12
5	University Undergraduate Year 2; Vocational College students Year 3
6	University Undergraduate Year 4; English Majors Year 2
7	English-Major Undergraduate Year 4
8	Proficient level
9	Mastery level

Framework of China's Standards of English Language Ability

In Hong Kong, universities tend to tie their English language testing practices to their own curricula and they adopt differing policies and practices to suit their own needs. Most could be said to adopt an assessment for learning (AfL) approach as part of their English language provision and recent work by the Hong Kong Continuing Professional Development Hub (HKCPD Hub) for University English Teachers (https://hkcpdhub.hku.hk) has facilitated the sharing of ideas in this area. In addition, some local universities also adopt Post Entry Language Assessments (PELAs) for diagnostic, tracking, placement and graduation requirement purposes. At present, there is not a common scale of English language proficiency in use in Hong Kong, though education authorities are looking at the feasibility of using the CSE in this regard. We shall have to watch this space to see if this comes to fruition.

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Highlights

Generous Donation in Support of Chinese Humanities Education

The Sin Wai Kin Foundation has generously donated to PolyU in support of the development of Chinese humanities education. “The Hong Kong Polytechnic University Sin Wai Kin Chinese Humanities Development Fund” (理大冼為堅中國人文學發展基金) will be set up to promote the learning and research of Chinese culture, literature, language, history and philosophy.

From left: Faculty Dean Prof. Chu Hung-lam, Mr Benedict Sin, Council Chairman Dr Lam Tai-fai, Dr David Sin Wai-kin, Mrs Sin Wai-kin, PolyU Foundation Chairman Dr Katherine Ngan and Executive Vice President Dr Miranda Lou

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Highlights

PolyU-trained Team Excels in 1st Asia Pacific Linguistics Olympiad

The Hong Kong team jointly trained by PolyU Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies (CBS) and Department of English (ENGL) achieved outstanding results in the first Asia Pacific Linguistics Olympiad (APLO) – winning one silver medal, three bronze medals and four honourable mentions.

Modelling after the International Linguistics Olympiad, APLO is a regional Olympiad for secondary school students which aims to escalate attention to language and linguistics in the Asia Pacific region. The inaugural APLO was held simultaneously in ten countries/regions around the world on 5 May 2019. A total of 264 participants competed to solve problems on diverse languages and writing systems. All eight *official participants*[1] from Hong Kong received awards.

Academic and teaching staff as well as PhD students from CBS and ENGL provide training to secondary school students.

Prof. Chu-ren Huang from the Organising Committee of the Hong Kong Linguistics Olympiad (HKLO), also Chair Professor of PolyU's Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies, is pleased about the results, noting that the team has only been trained for half a year and the APLO2019 is their first participation in international linguistics Olympiad events. In the APLO award ceremony, Prof. Louise Cummings and Associate Professor Dr Dennis Tay from ENGL and Assistant Professor Dr Stephen Politzer-Ahles from CBS all recognised students' performance in the competition and encouraged students to continue developing interests in languages and linguistics.

(Left) The Hong Kong team takes part in the first-ever Hong Kong Linguistics Olympiad held earlier in March this year. (Right) Awardees together with Dr Stephen Politzer-Ahles from CBS (back row, 2nd from left), FH Associate Dean Dr Dennis Tay (back row, 3rd from left) and Prof. Louise Cummings from ENGL (back row, middle) at the APLO2019 award ceremony.

Following the *first-ever HKLO*[2] held earlier on 24 March 2019 and the APLO2019, the Hong Kong team will receive further training from PolyU and compete in the 17th International Linguistics Olympiad in Seoul this summer.

[1] Top eight students from each country/region are regarded as official participants. The Hong Kong team has 19 registrants.
[2] The IOL (International Linguistics Olympiad) competition is one of the 13 official International Science Olympiads. HKLO has already been officially accredited by IOL.

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Highlights

The Tale of the 2019 Writing Roundtable

And so it was that on the seventeenth day of the fifth month, the seasoned storytellers of the city of Hong Kong gathered at the fifth Writing Roundtable (WR) to spin their tales of teaching and learning through the use of creative texts and narratives. They held the view that the power of stories had persisted since ancient times and that it was crucial that our students and teachers were not deprived of the beauty of narratives in their writing classrooms.

Events before the Writing Roundtable set the tone for the season. The three Pre-WR events – Readers Theatre, New Media Narratives in Teaching & Learning Workshop and Publication Panel – explored various aspects of the craft of storytelling and publishing and were lauded by those who came.

Masters of the art of writing were invited to breathe an air of magic into the main event on 17 May. Among them, Prof. Icy Lee, Dr Paul Stapleton, Dr Jason S. Polley, Mr James Shea, and Dr Eddie Tay from Hong Kong Baptist University, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, and The Education University of Hong Kong graced the event. Their narratives encompassed stories from staffrooms of secondary schools to creative projects as capstone papers; from poetry driven from street photography to the unconventional Oulipo poetry movement in Hong Kong. The day ended with the secret use of Google Analytics by students. As you can see, the event could not have been more exciting and thought-provoking.

To tie it all together, a story writing competition sponsored by the Hong Kong Writers Circle, was held and three awardees won by popular vote. To know who the winners were, visit our Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/PolyUWritingRoundtable/) or Twitter (https://twitter.com/WritingRoundtab) page.

We thank the English Language Centre, the Association of Hong Kong Language Centres, the Hong Kong Writers Circle, Routledge and Faculty of Humanities for being our sponsors for this event. Special thanks to Prof. Chu, Dean(FH) for gracing our event for inauguration.

Until next time…

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Highlights

CBS & ENGL Launch Revamped BA Programmes

CBS and ENGL have refreshed the curriculum of their BA programmes to address the changing needs of the society. These revamped programmes will be launched from the 2020/21 intake cohort:

BA(Hons) in Linguistics and Translation (BALT) [語言學及翻譯學(榮譽)文學士] JUPAS Code: JS3818

Retitled from BA(Hons) in Chinese and Bilingual Studies, BA(Hons) in Linguistics and Translation consists of two focus areas: 1) linguistics, including speech sciences, and 2) translation, including interpreting and corporate communication. It provides more solid training in both areas and places a much stronger emphasis on the development of information and communication technologies and digital humanities skills for language professionals.
(Remark: The revamped programme is subject to approval.)

BA(Hons) in English Studies for the Professions (BAESP) [專業英語(榮譽)文學士] JUPAS Code: JS3832

The revamped BAESP has three new focal areas, namely *Language Sciences, Global Communicative Competence, and English for the Professions*. These focal areas reflect important trends in evolving language-related professions and they: 1) provide a clearer articulation of ENGL's teaching/research identity and expertise; 2) allow students greater flexibility to customise their learning pathways; and 3) eventually position themselves in more defined ways in the language-related job market.

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Highlights

Institution-Industry Collaboration in Teaching Professional Communication

Making graduate students real-world ready is vital in today's increasingly competitive global market. One way of achieving this is to bridge the gap between academia and industry. The MA in Bilingual Corporate Communication (MABCC) offered by the Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies has engaged adjuncts who are working in the industry to bring real-life experience into the classroom. Not only would the students gain industry knowledge from these seasoned practitioners, they could also learn what it is really like to work in a particular field for a living. In addition, the MABCC programme offers professional servicing opportunity to broaden students' global outlook and enhance their professional communication.

Profile of Adjunct Faculties in MABCC*Listed in alphabetical order

Mr Lambert CHAN
Adjunct Assistant Professor

Mr Lambert Chan is a seasoned business Head with expertise in marketing, sales and customer service with 30 years of proven track record in a number of highly competitive industries including jewelry, telecom, tourism and banking. Prior to joining the Hong Kong Tourism Board, he was the General Manager, Marketing and Sales at the Hong Kong Telecom where he also became the youngest General Manager in the telecom sector in Hong Kong. He is currently appointed as the Chief Executive of UNICEF Hong Kong.

Mr Baniel CHEUNG
Adjunct Assistant Professor

Mr Baniel Cheung is the Founder and Principal Strategist of Integral Consulting Asia Limited. As one of the top strategists in both business and digital areas in the region, he has been providing management consultancy, strategic planning, brand building, executive training and marketing research services to international and local corporations, such as China Light and Power, JETCO, Bank of China Hong Kong, Mass Mutual, New World Group, Vitasoy, TSL Jewelry, Ralph Lauren, Nike, etc.

Mr CF KWAN
Professor of Practice

Mr Kwan Chuk-fai has over thirty years of experiences in corporate communications, management and executive development. He has served in organisations including Cathay Pacific Airways, New World First Bus Services, NWS Holdings and New World Group. He is now Director, Corporate Communications and Investor Relations of Hang Lung Group. Mr Kwan is a Founding Member of the Hong Kong Public Relations Professionals' Association.

Ms May WONG
Adjunct Assistant Professor

A consummate communications professional of 30 years, May Wong is a veteran television journalist/broadcaster turned corporate communications specialist with particular expertise in strategy development and crisis communications. She has held reporting and editorial positions at HK-TVB, CBC Vancouver and CNBC Asia. She has then headed the communications functions at Hong Kong and Shanghai Hotels Ltd (The Peninsula Group), MTR Corporation and Hsin Chong Group Holdings. She is now the Head of Communications and Corporate Sustainability of Hang Seng Bank.

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Outreaching

ELC2S02 - Fun Day Showcase and Offshore Service

ELC2S02 Serving the Community through Teaching English students who delivered their service at local community centers organised a Fun Day event on 17 March 2019.

The ELC2S02 students designed and delivered English Reading workshops at local community centres for local primary school students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Aside from delivering the workshop content, PolyU students also prepared, together with the students, a performance which could demonstrate the learning outcomes of the workshops. Some groups performed a drama and some even a musical! We could see proud smiles and hear genuine laughter from parents and social workers sitting in the audience. It was one of the best Fun Day Showcases we have ever had. The quality of the performance was very high and the audience could feel the connection between the PolyU students and kids.

Another three groups of ***ELC2S02 Serving the Community through Teaching English*** students will be delivering their service at Taiwan, Cambodia and Mainland China in late May to early June 2019. As in previous years, the PolyU students write their own original story and prepare a complete teaching kit based on their story during the 13-week semester, and then they deliver what they prepared at their service location. Every year, from the moment we embark on this journey in Week 1 to when we reflect on the journey after the service, PolyU students express how they have become more appreciative towards the opportunities and more attentive to the needs of people around them – their groupmates, their service recipients, and their community.

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Outreaching

On-site Interviews by FH for Recruiting International Students

“I was happy and honoured that I was given the opportunity to help with the interview. The candidates reminded me of myself a year ago, when I was still a candidate for admission, feeling excited and anxious for the new chapter I was about to start at PolyU.” Miss Siow Jianya, a current year 1 student from Malaysia recalled.

Jianya joined our on-site interview in Malaysia in early 2019 as a student helper. As an international student, she shared with us after the event, “I met two of my juniors from my alma mater. They were in a dilemma as they were not sure whether coming to Hong Kong was the right decision for them. They also had some concerns about the learning experience and the life in Hong Kong. As a student currently studying at PolyU, I encouraged them to step out from their comfort zone and explore themselves more while they are still young, because PolyU provides students with a lot of international exposures and great learning experiences.”

Associate Dean Dr Li Dechao introduces FH programmes and the growing career opportunities for multi-lingual talents to applicants and their parents at a local high school in Malaysia.

Students who joined the on-site interview held in Malaysia and Taiwan had a chance to talk to our Associate Deans Dr Li Dechao or Dr Dennis Tay in person and obtained first-hand information about our programmes. Many of them did well in their examinations and interviews. We look forward to receiving them in Hong Kong this September!

Dr Li talks about study opportunities at PolyU in an education fair and gets interviewed by local media before the on-site interview sessions in Taiwan.

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Outreaching

Meet & Greet @PolyU

On 2 March 2019, 23 Form 4 and Form 5 students from Mu Kuang English School and 15 Form 3 students from Yu Chun Keung Memorial College N.2 came to PolyU and met with 10 PolyU students from different disciplines.

The goals of the Meet & Greet event organised by the English Language Centre were to promote positive attitudes and stimulate an excitement for learning and using English, to familiarise secondary school students with the campus environment and physical facilities, and to provide advice on future studies.

To achieve the goals, PolyU students designed ice-breaking games, language activities, and a PolyU check-point task. They were also responsible for leading the designed activities as well as reflection and sharing sessions.

In their reflections, PolyU students expressed how much they appreciated the experience and exposure and how they have become more confident in designing and delivering tasks with audience-awareness in mind.

A lot of positive feedback was received from the school teachers and representatives from the Education Bureau and they have already asked us for a re-run and a possible expansion of scale in the coming year.

Most of the student participants have never been to a university and surprisingly many of them have never thought about the possibility of studying in a university. According to the school teachers, many of these kids have very low self-esteem and so coming to PolyU and interacting with university students in English have been both mentally and linguistically challenging for them.

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Outreaching

ENGL Joint Reunion Dinner

The Department of English and the Department of English Alumni Association (DEAA) joined hands to organise a Reunion Dinner. About 60 alumni, final year students of BAESP, and academic staff joined this event and it was a good opportunity for bonding among our alumni, students and teachers. There were three short sharing sessions by alumni and invited guests. The Alumni Affairs and Development Office had also sponsored prizes for the lucky draw which brought additional joy to all participants.

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Research & Scholarly Activities

Conference Keynote, Plenary and Featured Speeches

JAN – JUN 2019

Prof. Kathleen AHRENS, Department of English

A Knowledge-Structure Approach to Source Domain Determination. The 12th International Forum on Cognitive Linguistics. College of International Studies, Southwest University, Research Centre for Modern Linguistics and Foreign Language Education, Editorial office of Cognitive Linguistic Studies, Chongqing, China, 27 April-3 May 2019.

When Metaphors Break the Fourth Wall. The 12th International Forum on Cognitive Linguistics. College of International Studies, Southwest University, Research Centre for Modern Linguistics and Foreign Language Education, Editorial office of Cognitive Linguistic Studies, Chongqing, China, 27 April-3 May 2019.

Dr Julia CHEN, English Language Centre

Higher education development: Where are we and where are we going?. Yunnan Hong Kong Macao & Taiwan Higher Education Cooperation Forum 2019 (港澳臺教育論壇會議). Yunnan Government via Yunnan Provincial Department of Education, Kunming, 10-13 June 2019.

Prof. Louise CUMMINGS, Department of English

The role of pragmatics in dementia diagnosis. 16th International Pragmatics Association Conference. Department of English, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong, 9-14 June 2019.

Prof. HUANG Chu-ren, Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies

From Cognition to Metaphor: Corpus-Driven Studies of Sensory Modality, Synaesthesia and Language. 12th International Forum on Cognitive Linguistics. College of International Studies, Southwest Univeristy, Chongqing, China, 26 April-4 May 2019.

From Concept to Syntax: MARVS as a Corpus-based Theory of Verbal Semantics. 12th International Forum on Cognitive Linguistics. College of International Studies, Southwest Univeristy, Chongqing, China, 26 April-4 May 2019.

Language, Sense, and Senses: From Modality Exclusivity to the Onto-Cognitive Basis of Linguistic Systems. 2019 Joint Conference of Linguistic Societies in Korea & The 26th Joint Workshop on Linguistics and Language Processing (JWLLP-26). The Linguistic Society of Korea, Korean Society for Language and Information, Korean Association for Corpus Linguistic, Institute for the Study of Language and Information, Kyung Hee University, Seoul, Korea, 10-11 May 2019.

Prof. Hans J. LADEGAARD, Department of English

Intercultural Encounters in the Internationalizing University: Communication, Conflict and Compromise. English Department, Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages, Kaohsiung, Taiwan, 25-28 April 2019.

Prof. David C.S. LI and Prof. CHAN Shui-duen, Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies

Sinitic brushtalk in Early Modern East Asia: Unique contribution to history of human communication. Two-day International Symposium at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University: Cultural and Linguistic Interactions Across Sinographic East Asia. Department of Chinese Culture and Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies (CBS), The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong, 6-7 June 2019.

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Dr Bruce MORRISON, English Language Centre

EAP Instruction in Hong Kong: Bridging the Gap between School and Tertiary English Medium Instruction. International Symposium on the Training Mode of Interdisciplinary English Talents. Wuhan Institute of Technology and China English for Academic Purposes Association, Wuhan Institute of Technology, Wuhan, China, 29-31 March 2019.

Dr PAN Lu, Department of Chinese Culture

Forgetting the unforgettable: monument and the changing spaces of war memory in Greater China. The Annual Michael Fang Lecture. Victoria Gallery & Museum. Liverpool, United Kingdom, 14 May 2019.

Dr Dennis TAY, Department of English

Emotional effects of metaphor in psychotherapy: A skin conductance approach. 12th International Forum on Cognitive Linguistics. College of International Studies, Southwest University, Chongqing, China, 26 April-4 May 2019.

Data analytics for applied cognitive linguistic research. 12th International Forum on Cognitive Linguistics. College of International Studies, Southwest University, Chongqing, China, 26 April-4 May 2019.

Dr Doreen WU, Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies

Emotional Branding by American Brands in Hong Kong and the Chinese Mainland. 2019 Symposium of the Chinese and American Cultural Studies Association. College of Liberal Arts, Shantou University, Shantou, Guangdong, China, 26-28 April 2019.

Facing Social Media: Impression Management by Corporations across Cultures. 2019 International Symposium on Business Language & Communication. School of Foreign Languages for Business, Southwestern University of Finance and Economics, Chengdu, Sichuan, China, 10-12 May 2019.

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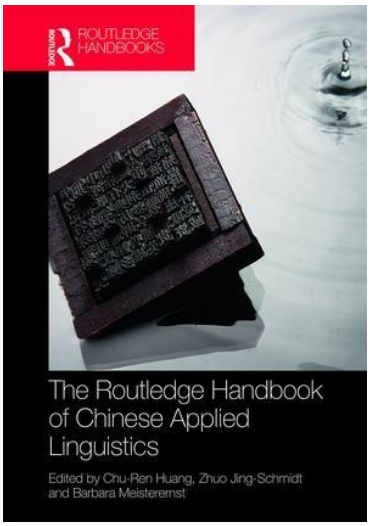
Research & Scholarly Activities

Books Published

JAN– JUN 2019

Book title:	The Routledge Handbook of Chinese Applied Linguistics (Routledge Handbooks)
Author(s)/Editor(s):	HUANG, Chu-Ren, Barbara MEISTERERNST, and ZHUO Jing-Schmidt
Department:	Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies 中文及雙語學系
Publisher:	London: Routledge
Year of Publication:	2019
ISBN:	1138650730



For details, please visit the Publish & Flourish website: http://www.polyu.edu.hk/fh/P&F/.

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Research & Scholarly Activities

External Grants Obtained by FH Staff

JAN – JUN 2019

Innovative Training Networks 2019

Project Title:	Conversational Brains (COBRA)
Principal Investigator:	Prof. HUANG Chu-Ren, CBS; Noël Nguyen LPL-CRNS and Aix-Marseille University (France)
Funding Awarded:	EUR3,993,244.92

Research Grants Council (RGC) – General Research Fund (GRF)

Project Title:	A Comparative Enquiry into Cognitive Processes of Translation and Paraphrasing---Evidence from eye-tracking and keylogging
Principal Investigator:	Dr LI Dechao, CBS
Funding Awarded:	HKD89,000

Project Title:	Diachronic discourse structure and typology with time series models
Principal Investigator:	Dr Dennis TAY, ENGL
Funding Awarded:	HKD424,000

Project Title:	The Establishment of a Model of Performance of Bangzi Opera and its Relationship with the Audio-Visual Media,1911-1937
Principal Investigator:	Dr WU Wan-Yi, CC
Funding Awarded:	HKD380,000

Research Grants Council (RGC) – Early Career Scheme (ECS)

Project Title:	Modulation of primary motor cortex to enhance treatment of dysarthria post-stroke
Principal Investigator:	Dr WONG Min Ney, CBS
Funding Awarded:	HKD1,411,936

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Research & Scholarly Activities

COBRA Receives EU Horizon 2020 Funding

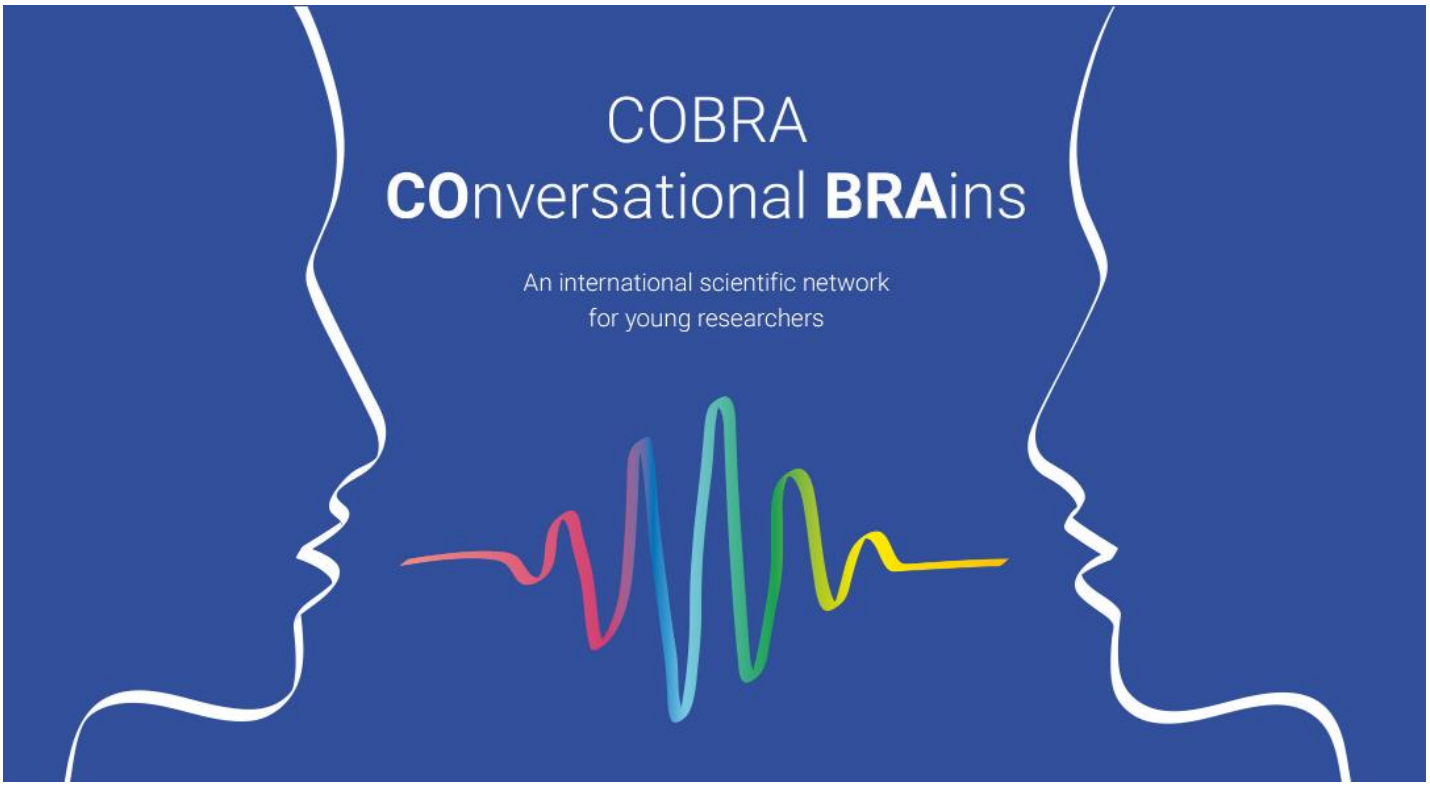
Congratulations to Prof. Huang Chu-ren(CBS) on being one of the two PIs of a research project entitled COBRA (Conversational Brains), funded by Horizon 2020, which is the biggest EU research and innovation programme through the scheme Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions. Apart from Prof. Huang, a number of CBS and ENGL colleagues also serve as Co-Is of the project.

The purpose of the COBRA project is to train the next generation of researchers to accurately characterise and model the linguistic, cognitive and brain mechanisms that allow conversation to unfold in both human-human and human-machine interactions. The network includes world-level academic research centres on language, cognition and the human brain as well as four non-academic partners that include fast-developing SMEs and one world-level company. The partners' both unique combined expertise and high complementarity will allow COBRA to offer Early-Stage Researchers an excellent training programme as well as very strong exposure to the non-academic sector.

This network consists of 15 PhD projects in EU and one in PolyU, each with clearly spelled out research and synergetic research goals. The students will receive integrated training from leading experts in the COBRA network and learn to work together to lay foundation for this emerging highly interdisciplinary research field: conversational brains. As the only non-EU member, PolyU enriches linguistic and theoretical perspectives of the project; especially the roles of tonal and semantic signals in alignment, and ontological and linguistic models for representation and verification of alignment involving emotion events. PolyU will also host the final Winter School and co-host a PhD project. The PolyU team will build capacity as well as network to position ourselves as world leaders in Chinese language conversational brains study.

This ITN (innovative training network) project consists of a consortium of 17 members (nine formal members and eight partner organisations, with PolyU being the only non-EU member). The partners include:

Academic Institutions: Aix-Marseille University, University of Edinburgh, Catholic University of Louvain, Free University-Berlin, Helsinki University, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Humboldt University, Istituto Italiano di Tecnologia (Italian Institute of Technology), MaxPlank Institute – Psycholinguistics, Università degli Studi di Ferrara, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Slovak University of Technology in Brastislava, and KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm
Industry: (mostly tech companies) DAVI, Furhat, Orange, ReadSpeak



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Research & Scholarly Activities

World Premiere of Dr Pan Lu's Film *Many Undulating Things*

The new film from Dr Pan Lu(CC) and artist Wang Bo, *Many Undulating Things* (湧浪之間), was premiered at the 50th Visions du Réel International Documentary Film Festival held in Nyon, Switzerland, from 5 to 13 April 2019.

Many Undulating Things forms the final part of Dr Pan's long-term artistic research on the history of Hong Kong landscape and urban space, preceded by *Traces of an Invisible City: Three Notes on Hong Kong* (2016) and *Miasma, Plants, Export Paintings* (2017). The film offers a complex reflection on the relationships between landscape, nature, urbanisation and society. Spanish Filmmaker and critic Elena López Riera acclaimed *Many Undulating Things* as a "political poem" which questions the function of cities in the development of the capitalist system.

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Research & Scholarly Activities

Joint Postgraduate Student Symposium 2019

On April 26 2019, the Joint Postgraduate Student Symposium (JPSS 2019) on Language, Culture, and Cognition was held by the Department of Chinese Culture, at AG710 of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

This year, we received more than 70 abstracts from within and outside Hong Kong. Only 18 remarkable papers were selected due to the time limit. Among the presenters, four were from PolyU, nine from other universities in Hong Kong, three from the Chinese mainland and two from Taiwan.

Prof. Han Xiaorong (Head of CC) and Dr Mark Meulenbeld (Associate Professor, CC) gave a wonderful welcoming speech and opening remark respectively. During the Q&A session, both presenters and audience engaged in active discussion. Mr Tai Kwun Ho's paper on "人格救國：余日章的救國思想" and Mr Zhang Zhen's paper on "'按勞分配'與'人心'：從《人類創造力的大發揮大表現》思考 1950 年代後期的梁漱溟", won the best paper awards.

(Left) Dr Zhang Yu (Assistant Professor from CC) and best paper award recipient Mr Tai Kwun Ho.
(Right) Dr Zhang Yu and best paper award recipient Mr Zhang Zhen.

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Research & Scholarly Activities

ENGL PhD Graduate Wins LSHK Outstanding Thesis Award

Dr Leo Liu, 2018 PhD graduate of ENGL, won the Outstanding Thesis Award presented by the Linguistics Society of Hong Kong (LSHK) for excellence on his thesis titled Examining syntactic complexity in EFL academic writing.

Dr Liu's winning thesis investigates syntactic complexity (SC) of advanced L2 writing, with SC understood as the sophistication and variety of meaning-making linguistic devices available in the grammar of EAP. It aims to identify areas of syntactic complexity where EFL student writers lag greatly behind expert writers, which can be pedagogically taken up in EAP instruction.

(Left) Prof. Kathleen Ahrens(ENGL) and Dr Leo Liu, winner of the LSHK Outstanding Thesis Award.
(Right) Dr Leo Liu gives a presentation on his thesis research at the LSHK 2018 Annual Research Forum.

Findings of the study have theoretical contributions to make for L2 syntactic complexity research and practical implications for EAP pedagogy in EFL contexts.

Dr Liu is very thankful to his supervisors during his PhD study, including the late Prof. Stephen Evans, Dr Yap Foong Ha, and Prof. Kathleen Ahrens.

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Events

Featured Talks Hosted by ELC in Collaboration with AHKLC

Dates of the event: 14 December 2018 and 11 January 2019
Organised by: English Language Centre

ELC recently organised two featured talks in collaboration with the Association of Hong Kong Language Centres (AHKLC), which aims to advocate for the interests of the members of the Association, encourage scholarship, facilitate international contacts, promote the status of language centres and their staff, and facilitate cross-centre initiatives.

"40 Years of the NMET - Its Impact and Implications" on 14 December 2018 by Prof. Gu Xiandong
Prof. Gu Xiandong is Director of the Research Centre of Language, Cognition, and Language Application, Chongqing University, China. The National Matriculation English Test (NMET) is one of the most high-stakes English tests for university students in the Chinese mainland, and hence it has an impact on which students are selected from the Chinese mainland into universities in Hong Kong. In her talk, Prof. Gu shared her experiences studying for the NMET and later in dealing with developments of the NMET across the Chinese mainland. Actual examples from students taking the NMET were featured and discussed. The talk and discussion led to a greater and deeper understanding of how the NMET factors into teaching and learning across the country.

(Left) Dr Nigel Huckstep, Associate Director of the Center for Language Education, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, asks Prof. Gu some questions about the NMET.
(Right) Dr Linda Lin, PolyU English Language Centre, discusses some issues related to Hong Kong and the NMET.

"The challenges and dilemmas of teaching EAL students across the disciplines in English-medium higher education. Is there a role for plurilingual pedagogical approaches?" on 11 January 2019 by Dr Steve Marshall
Dr Steve Marshall is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Education at Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Canada. In his talk, Professor Marshall discussed how the internationalisation of tertiary education in Canada, along with friendly immigration policies, has attracted hundreds of thousands of international students, the majority from Asia. Dr Marshall then went on to share how he and other educators use plurilingual teaching approaches, allowing students' dominant languages to become an asset – i.e. "tools for learning" – in discussing content and understanding concepts. In turn, the controversial nature of allowing a multitude of languages to be used in the learning environment was discussed, in particular how it has had an impact on social groups, stakeholders and assessments. The talk helped to shed light on similar challenges facing Hong Kong in the context of bilingualism and second language learning.

(*Left) Dr Julia Chen, Director of the PolyU Education Development Centre introduces Dr Steve Marshall.*
(Middle) Participants discuss issues regarding plurilingual learners.
(Right) Dr Marshall further discusses the issues with participants.

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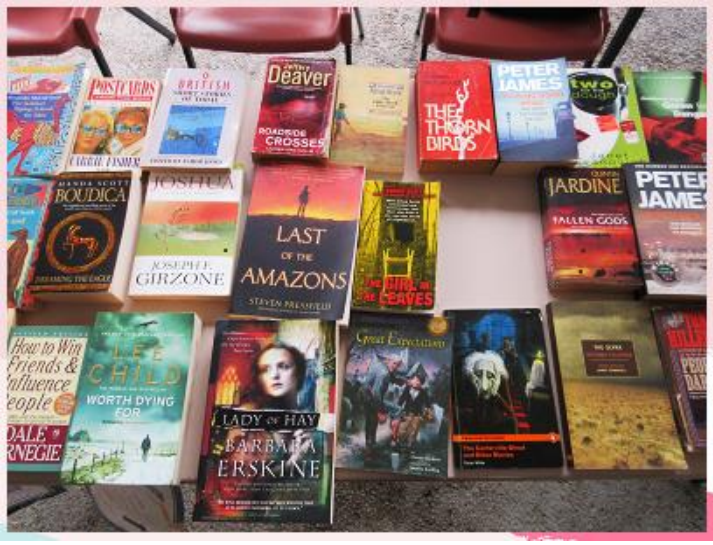
Events

ELC Reading Club's Second Book Exchange

Dates of the event: 18 – 20 February 2019
Organised by: English Language Centre

ELC's Second Book Exchange was held on 18 – 20 February on the DE Podium. Having a slow start on a stormy day, the pace finally picked up from the second day, and in the end around 130 books were exchanged. Thanks to the participants bringing their books and donations from ELC staff, the event was well-received by both staff and students from different faculties and departments, and various books, both fiction and non-fiction, were exchanged. Many participants expressed their interest in the future book exchange opportunity, so we believe that ELC Reading Club will surely organise the event again. Please join us next time.



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Events

European Film Festival 2019

Dates of the event: 19 February – 2 April 2019
Organised by: Department of English

The Minor in European Studies of the Department of English hosted the 3rd PolyU European Film Festival from 19 February to 2 April 2019. This year, the Department had the support of seven European consulates and cultural institutions as well as the European Union Office, including Sweden, Germany, Spain, France, Italy, Switzerland and Hungary. Mr Markus Imhoof, director of the Swiss film “Eldorado”, also made virtual presence and shared with the audience his views on the European migration crisis, the topic of his film.

The objective of the European Film Festival is to give the PolyU community a taste of European cultures and social issues through films, and thus promote cultural diversity.

The Minor programme has a Facebook Page with regular updates of different related activities and current issues: https://www.facebook.com/PolyU.MinorEuropeanStudies/

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Events

Communication and Safety in Healthcare Symposium & Workshop

Dates of the event: 22 – 23 February 2019
Organised by: International Research Centre for the Advancement of Health Communication, Department of English

The work of the International Research Centre for the Advancement of Health Communication (IRCAHC) involves networking and sharing new research with colleagues from academia and health care services. To work towards this goal, IRCAHC hosted its' second annual symposium on 22 February 2019 which was called Communication and safety in health care and featured contributions from international scholars and practitioners.

Prof. Phillip Della and Dr Fiona Geddes from Curtin University (Perth, Australia) discussed their research into patient safety in Australia and Singapore. Prof. Shouzhen Cheng, Director of Nursing Department of the First Affiliated Hospital of Sun Yat-Sen University, introduced attendees to work within her hospital that has improved patient safety. Dr Alice Yau and Dr Margo Turnbull also provided an informative update on research IRCAHC has been doing to extend Discursis software communication for the analysis of Cantonese data sets.

From left: Dr Fiona Geddes (Curtin University), Prof. Phillip Della (Curtin University), Prof. Shouzhen Cheng (Sun Yat-Sen University), Prof. Hans Ladergaard (Head of ENGL) and Prof. Bernadette Watson (Director of IRCAHC).

The symposium was followed by a workshop on 23 February, facilitated by Dr Geddes, which focused on "increasing resilience of health care workers". Resilience and the ability to cope with the stress and unpredictability of working in health care is an international issue that affects worker retention and patient safety. Researchers and practitioners attended both days and feedback was positive.

Future activities will be listed on the IRCAHC website:
https://www.polyu.edu.hk/engl/ircahc/

IRCAHC
Connecting Communities 廣結社群

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Events

Study Tour on Chinese Culture Heritage in Hong Kong

Date of the event: 9 March 2019
Organised by: The Confucius Institute of Hong Kong

Organised by CIHK, the study tour “Travelling Hong Kong with Chinese Characters and Printing Workshop” (逍遙字在—與漢字同遊) went through the time corridor of the evolution of Chinese characters. 20 participants formed by PolyU staff, current students, alumni and their family and friends explored the history and story of Chinese characters and found a hundred possibilities that Chinese characters might bring them in Jao Tsung-I Academy. After the Tour, participants visited Kwong Wah Littlepress Printing. Meeting Mr Yam Wai Sang, the second-generation owner, participants understood the vicissitudes of movable-type painting in Hong Kong. Each participant was given a memorable gift at the end of the event.

All participants take a group picture in Jao Tsung-I Academy.

Participants look for their names from the movable printing moulds to make their personalised book.

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Events

The 6th "Talking Across the World" Symposium - Communication Skills in Hong Kong and Regional Contact Centres

Date of the event: 16 May 2019
Organised by: Department of English

The Department of English and the Research Centre for Professional Communication in English (RCPCE) hosted the "Talking Across the World" Symposium - Communication Skills in Hong Kong and Regional Contact Centres at PolyU on 16 May 2019. RCPCE Associate Director Dr Jane Lockwood and ten invited speakers from Call Centres in Hong Kong including American Express, AXA General Insurance, and HKT Limited and experts in communication shared their insight in Call Centre services to the 40 participants. The support from the Hong Kong Call Centre Association and Future Perfect also contributed to the success of the Symposium.

A group photo of the participants in the Symposium.

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Events

“Critical Terms for Chinese Religious Studies” International Conference

Dates of the event: 20 – 22 June 2019
Organised by: Department of Chinese Culture

As a discipline of academic inquiry, the field of Chinese Religious Studies has grown out of the ethnology of 19th century missionaries and developed more concretely within twentieth century academic discourses. The aim of this Conference is to define “Critical Terms” for Chinese Religious Studies, focusing on the specificity of indigenous Chinese discourses and challenging the hegemony of analytical categories currently used in academic research. The conference focuses on a limited range of seminal Chinese terms, such as *jiao* (教), *shen* (神), *fa* (法), *ji* (祭), and so on, with each panel debating one such term.

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Events

CIHK Lecture Series

Dates of the event: 17 and 18 January, 8, 21 and 28 March 2019
Organised by: Confucius Institute of Hong Kong and Department of Chinese Culture

Co-orgnaised by CIHK and CC, two Specialist Lectures were held in January while three other were held in March. Lectures on aspects of Chinese traditional rituals, history, philosophy and literature were given by Prof. Cao Feng (Renmin University of China), Dr Zhang Yuen (Shantou University), Prof. Ou Mingjun (Fujian Normal University), Prof. Yu Zhiping (Shanghai Jiao Tong University) and Prof. Zhu Shoutong (University of Macau). About 100 attendants participated in these lectures.

(Left) Prof. Cao Feng, speaker of "Reflections of the Writing Mode of Chinese Philosophy in the 20th Century" on 17 January 2019.
(Right) Dr Zhuang Yuen (right), speaker of "On Gao Xingjian's Novels" on 18 January 2019. Prof. Liu Zaifu (2nd from right), a renowned critic and writer, acted as the discussant of the talk.

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Faculty Updates

People

Promotion

We are pleased to announce the promotion of the following staff members in the Faculty with effect from 1 July 2019:

From Assistant Professor to Associate Professor

- Dr William FENG(ENGL)
- Dr Brian TSUI(CC)

From Teaching Fellow to Senior Teaching Fellow

- Dr Ken CHENG(CLC)

Appointment

Dr Ken Cheng(CLC) and Dr Lam On(CLC) have been appointed Director of Chinese Language Centre with effect from 1 July 2019 and Associate Director of Chinese Language Centre with effect from 15 July 2019 respectively.

Retirement

We would like to give our heartiest thanks to Dr Alan Urmston from the English Language Centre who retired this summer for his invaluable contributions to the Faculty. We wish him a happy retirement filled with fun and happiness.

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Faculty Updates

ENGL and Prof. S.D. Chan Honoured at PTeC's Outstanding Professional Services Awards 2018

ENGL was awarded winner of the "Highest Growth Department" at the PTeC's Outstanding Professional Services Awards 2018 in terms of i) absolute growth in total invoiced value and ii) percentage of growth compared to the previous financial year. ENGL was also the department with the fourth highest aggregate invoiced value during the financial year for consultancy projects undertaken via PTeC.

Prof. Hans Ladegaard, Head of ENGL, receives the "Highest Growth Department" award from the PolyU Interim President Prof. Philip Chan.

In the individual category, Prof. Chan Shui-duen from CBS was awarded winner of the "Highest Growth Consultant", who is the highest ranked individual in terms of the i) absolute growth in income earned and ii) percentage of growth compared to the previous financial year.

Prof. Chan Shui-duen(CBS) receives the "Highest Growth Individual" award from Prof. Philip Chan.

PolyU Technology and Consultancy Company Limited (PTeC) is the strategic professional service arm of the University. It provides consultancy and technology transfer services to business sectors, government institutions and non-profit making organisations.

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Faculty Updates

Chinese Language Centre Separates from CBS

The Chinese Language Centre (CLC) was approved by Senate to separate from the Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies (CBS) as an independent academic unit under the Faculty of Humanities with effect from 1 July 2019. CLC will focus on the academic discipline of Chinese Language Education and continue to be responsible for delivering Chinese language proficiency subjects to all PolyU students.

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Faculty Updates

26th FHSA

The 26th Faculty of Humanities Students' Association (FHSA) was formed through election earlier in January and February. Members of the cabinet, *Manighten*, are as follows:

- Fan On Yi Amber (External Vice President)
- Cheung Tak Yi Christy (Internal Vice President)
- Cheung Yuen Han Andrea (Financial Secretary)
- Leung Sze Kei Suki (General Secretary)
- Ma Wun Ki Wenky (Promotion Secretary)
- Ma Yan Tung Roni (Public Relation Secretary)
- Lau Chi Shun Samuel (Student Affair Secretary)
- Shih Hon Chuen Eric (Welfare Secretary)

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Student Corner

Outstanding Student Awards 2018 – Sharing by FH Recipients

Congratulations to FH recipients of the Outstanding Student Awards 2018! Miss Chiu Lok Yi, Lois from ENGL was honoured with the “2018 Outstanding Student Award of Faculty”. Miss Tung Ching Yee, Jenny from CBS and Mr Lai Tsz Hong, Neil from CC were awarded the “2018 Outstanding Student Award of Department”. Lois, Jenny and Neil are glad to share with us their thoughts on receiving the award and their learning experience at PolyU.

Miss Chiu Lok Yi, Lois (Department of English)

Being chosen as the Outstanding Student of the Faculty of Humanities this year, I feel deeply honoured and extremely thankful. This award is not only a recognition of my past academic performances and non-academic achievements but also an encouragement which motivates me to strive for excellence. Reflecting on my four-year undergraduate studies at FH, I am always amazed by how language can evolve and interact with our everyday life, our society and the larger world. Apart from acquiring professional English knowledge and effective communication strategies, I also have the chance to step out of my comfort zone and explore the world with the lenses of language and culture by joining an overseas exchange programme. All these precious and exciting learning experiences have provoked my interests in further studying and realising my passion in English Language and Literature after graduation. Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the inspiring and caring teachers and my lifelong friends for making my university life exceptionally rewarding and unforgettable.

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Miss Tung Ching Yee, Jenny (Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies)

The honour of receiving the Outstanding Student Award of the Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies 2018 should be attributed to PolyU. High-standard academic resources such as language laboratories and work-integrated programmes are precious resources for undergraduates. I have expanded my horizon and could have hands-on experience to integrate knowledge learnt in classes into the real world.

I enrolled in several programmes that allow me to utilise knowledge in helping children in a real-world setting. For example, through the service-learning programme in Hangzhou, I provided service to immigrant children; serving as a Language Ambassador, I taught South-Asian primary students in Hong Kong local schools. All these were precious chances for me to serve the society with my professional knowledge learnt. In the future, I will continue to contribute my knowledge to the needed and learn from different people through extra-curricular activities as well as from academic professionals.

Mr Lai Tsz Hong, Neil (Department of Chinese Culture)

It is my honour to be awarded the Outstanding Student of the Department of Chinese Culture. During my two-year study at PolyU, I have gained a tremendous amount of solid and useful knowledge.

I used to think Chinese culture is boring. After studying at CC, I find that Chinese culture is adorable. CC provides lots of quality courses for us to have a comprehensive understanding of Chinese culture. The culture, encompassing performing arts, architecture, food, religions and festivals, is both attractive and fascinating.

I would like to thank my professors for sharing their experiences and knowledge with me, as well as excited my curiosity about studying Chinese culture. I am also grateful to PolyU and my department. Without their support, it would not have been possible.

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Student Corner

English Drama Club 2019 Annual Performance

A simple reason for the students of the English Drama Club to insist on producing a large-scale annual performance every single year is because of their passion for drama, and through the year-long preparation, they are able to develop and enhance their English communication skills and interpersonal skills.

To be able to put on a performance of this scale three nights in a row at Chiang Chen Studio Theater, all members of the English Drama Club are expected to be dedicated, passionate and creative. Through the days and nights spent on polishing every last detail of every task, tailoring every costume to the best fit, rehearsing every line to perfection, adjusting every light and sound cue to precision, we see a group of students become project managers and we witness how the cast and crew unleash their talents and creativity onto a blank canvas.

Yang Xiaoyu
President and Producer
English Drama Club 17th Committee

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Student Corner

ENGL PhD Student's Erasmus+ Exchange in Germany

My name is Winnie Zeng Huiheng, a second-year PhD student in the Department of English, PolyU. On 1 March this year, I started a five-month exchange study at Freie University Berlin (FUB) in Germany, funded by the Erasmus+ Student Exchange Programme. I'm deeply grateful to PolyU Faculty of Humanities for the opportunity. The three-month study life at FUB has been the most unforgettable experience in my life. I improved my academic skills by auditing interesting courses, e.g. Construction Grammar and Corpus Linguistics. I also regularly attended the colloquia held by my host supervisor Prof. Anatol Stefanowitsch, where I had many chances to exchange ideas with his other PhD students. I've received valuable comments from Prof. Stefanowitsch and his research team which are of great help for the writing of my PhD thesis.

In addition to making friends with members from the research team, I also met other Erasmus exchange students worldwide. By communicating with people from different countries with different backgrounds, I found myself immersed in cultural diversity.

Another benefit of this exchange study is that it provides more convenient ways to travel to other European countries for studying or attending academic conferences. On 15 May, I went to University of Liège in Belgium to attend the 7th RaAM Specialised Seminar. I presented a study with my PolyU supervisors (Prof. Kathleen Ahrens and Dr Dennis Tay) and also met many European scholars in the same field in the seminar.

I feel truly honoured to have this chance to go on exchange in Germany during my three-year PhD life. I'm really thankful to PolyU Faculty of Humanities and the Erasmus+ program. Having an international exchange experience is definitely rewarding for students who can explore the world, broaden visions and expand their knowledge at both intellectual and interpersonal levels.

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Student Corner

Scholarships Received by FH Students

Choy Lee Chiu Man Memorial Scholarship

YANG Zihang, BA(Hons) in Chinese and Bilingual Studies (BACBS)

CMB Wing Lung Bank Scholarship

WONG Sin Yan, BA(Hons) in Bilingual Interdisciplinary Chinese Studies (BABICS)

Commercial Radio 50th Anniversary Scholarship

LUNG Nok Yee, BA(Hons) in Language and Speech Sciences (BALSS)
TSANG Tsz Shun, BA(Hons) in Chinese and Bilingual Studies (BACBS)
WONG Pui Ki, BA(Hons) in Chinese and Bilingual Studies (BACBS)

Dr Samson Sun Scholarship

KWOK Hiu Ching, BA(Hons) in English Studies for the Professions (BAESP)

Dr Y.K. Ching Memorial Scholarship

CHAN Hiu Laam, BA(Hons) in Chinese and Bilingual Studies (BACBS)
LIU Jiayan, Broad Discipline of Language, Culture and Communication (BDLCC)
SIOW Jian Ya, Broad Discipline of Language, Culture and Communication (BDLCC)
SO Chun Hin, BA(Hons) in Chinese and Bilingual Studies (BACBS)
ZHANG Heming, Broad Discipline of Language, Culture and Communication (BDLCC)

HSBC Hong Kong Scholarship

CHIU Lok Yi, BA(Hons) in English Studies for the Professions (BAESP)
HO Hiu Man, Broad Discipline of Language, Culture and Communication (BDLCC)
TUNG Ching Yee, BA(Hons) in Language and Speech Sciences (BALSS)

Kai Chong Tong Scholarship

CHEUK Wing Tung, BA(Hons) in English Studies for the Professions (BAESP)

Scholarship for Prospective English Teachers

CHUNG Tsz Shan Christie, BA(Hons) in English Studies for the Professions (BAESP)
LI Nga Ting, BA(Hons) in English Studies for the Professions (BAESP)

HKCC Scholarship for PolyU Articulation

CHUNG Lai Sze, BA(Hons) in Language and Speech Sciences (BALSS)
LI Wing Lok, BA(Hons) in Language and Speech Sciences (BALSS)

PolyU - University Fellows Association Scholarship for Outstanding PolyU Student Athletes

KWOK Ting Him, BA(Hons) in English Studies for the Professions (BAESP)
LO Ying Chiu, BA(Hons) in Chinese and Bilingual Studies (BACBS)

PolyU Community Service Fund Service-Learning Scholarship

CHAN Saowapha, BA(Hons) in English Studies for the Professions (BAESP)

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The Hong Kong Polytechnic University Scholarship

KWOK Hiu Ching, BA(Hons) in English Studies for the Professions (BAESP)

Humanities Doctoral Scholarship

CHAN Ka Wai, Doctor of Applied Language Sciences (DALS)
CHAN Shou San Susan, Doctor of Applied Language Sciences (DALS)
WEI Ran, Doctor of Applied Language Sciences (DALS)
WONG Shuk Han Alicia, Doctor of Applied Language Sciences (DALS)

Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies Scholarship for Hall Residents

CHAN Hiu Laam, BA(Hons) in Chinese and Bilingual Studies (BACBS)
LIU Linlin, BA(Hons) in Chinese and Bilingual Studies (BACBS)

Department of Chinese Culture Scholarship for Hall Residents

KWOK Wai Ki, BA(Hons) in Bilingual Interdisciplinary Chinese Studies (BABICS)

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