

International Seminar

Topic: Alternative Social Projects in the Context of the European Crisis and the Hong Kong Transformation

29/November/2013

9:30 am - 5:00 pm

GH803, HKPU

Since the mid-1980s there have been considerable debates over the future of social policies in open economies. The current difficulty in the United States of launching the so-called "Obamacare" healthcare programme is a perfect indicator of the state of the conflict between conservatives who seek to block the implementation of the scheme and liberals who want to implement it. In Europe, the Maastricht Treaty of 1992 was a response to this challenge of increasing the weight of market mechanisms in the EU's internal coordination. In 2000, the Euro, became the official currency of 17 EU member states but the 2008 global financial crisis complicated this context of major changes and uncertainties. Hong Kong however offers a very different perspective. For a long time, its policy was mainly characterized by "non-positive intervention". Yet in recent years and in view of the government's large budget surplus, increasing demands have been made by the population and a burgeoning civil society to develop Hong Kong with a "social model". This seminar aims to present the current state of the debate in Europe and in Hong Kong in transforming their social systems to meet the aspirations of their citizens.

9:30 - 10:15	Opening Ceremony
10:15 - 11:45	Session 1. Europe in Crisis and the Reinvention of its Social Model
13:30 - 16:00	Session 2. Hong Kong Perspectives
16:00 - 17:00	Round Table Discussion

Speakers:

Prof. Jose-Luis de Sales Marques

President of the European Studies Institute in Macao

Ms Cyd Ho Sau-Lan

Member of the Legislative Council of Hong Kong, founding member of the Labour Party

Associate Prof. David Ip

Associate Head, Department of Applied Social Sciences, Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Assistant Prof. Anita Koo

Department of Applied Social Sciences, Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Ms. Doris Law

Journalist, Hong Kong Cable TV

Prof. Pascal Petit

University of Paris Nord, leading French economist and founder of the School of Regulation and coordinator of the European research project, AUGUR (Europe's place in the world in 2030)

Mr. Vincent Piket

Head of Office, European Union Office in Hong Kong and Macau

Prof. Philippe Pochet

Director of ETUI, the European Trade Unions Institute, invited Lecturer at the Catholic University of Louvain (Belgium) and currently Visiting Scholar at the University of California at Berkeley

Prof. Edward Yiu Yim Chung

Associate Professor at the Urban Studies Programme, Department of Geography and Resource Management, the Chinese University of Hong Kong