Research Student Seminar Series 9

Speaker: Mr. PAK Chui Man  
PhD Program  
Department of Applied Social Sciences  
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Date: 27 February 2015 (Friday)  
Time: 10:00 am to 11:30 am  
Venue: GH128

Topic: Surviving as a professional in an era of managerialism: A study of the administrative roles of social worker in elderly services of Hong Kong

Abstract:
Administration is an important part of social work practice. It is a required component of social work curriculum and license. In fact, every social worker has to engage with the administration process and their work nowadays involves more and more administrative duties. However, while there are many studies on management of social services, most are focused on issues dealing with competencies, education and requirements for managerial positions and little is devoted to examine the experiences of social workers in their administrative role.

This exploratory qualitative study proposes to fill this gap by investigating the administrative roles imposed on professional social workers in their work and practice. More specifically, this research asks the following questions: What challenges and demands do they face in administration? How do they struggle with this role? What tactics do they employ to meet the administrative challenges? What are the hopes and dreams they have in professional development in an era of managerialism? In answering these questions, social workers who are working in the elderly services of Hong Kong, whether they are performing as social work educator, responsible for delivering frontline or management duties, will be recruited to share their experiences using focus group technique, in-depth interviews and personal reflection.

Speaker’s brief biography:
Mr. Chui-man Pak is an experienced social worker who has been holding various key positions working with older people for more than 10 years. He is currently teaching ageing and supervising social work students on fieldwork while also completing a PhD degree part-time. His recent joint-authored journal publications include “Social work education in China: The way we were and the way ahead” (2013) and “A profession with dual foci: Is social work losing the balance?” (2012).