Speaker: Mr Ng Chi Kit Jacky  
MPhil Program  
Department of Applied Social Sciences  
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Date: 28 May 2013 (Tuesday)  
Time: 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm  
Venue: GH405

Topic: How does social cynicism affect psychological functioning? The mediating role of negativity bias in attention and memory

Abstract:
Upon the development of pan-cultural social axioms measures, the role of cognition on psychological well-being have been widely investigated. Of these social beliefs, social cynicism has been consistently found to predict various well-being indicators at both individual and culture levels. Yet, empirical studies examining the underlying process between cynical world-view and psychological functioning are scarce. In the light of social schema theory and heightened attention hypothesis, a negativity bias in basic cognitive processes is thought to explain how one's cynical world-view influences psychological functioning. Hence, the main goal of this study is to propose and test a model with negativity bias in attention and memory as mechanisms underlying relationship between social cynicism and psychological functioning. It is hypothesized that people with high social cynicism will show poor psychological functioning through the elevated attention to negative aspects and the increased recall of negative memories. Three studies with a multi-method approach will be conducted, adopting cross-sectional, experimental, and diary design to administer self-reported, behavioral and real-life measures.

Speaker’s brief biography:
Ng Chi Kit Jacky is currently a full-time MPhil student in the Department of Applied Social Sciences. He obtained a Bachelor’s Degree in Applied Psychology at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University. During his undergraduate studies, he developed his interest in cultural psychology while working with Dr. Sylvia Chen on his undergraduate thesis. His research interests include social beliefs and cross-cultural psychology.