

RGC Ref. No.: <u>UGC/FDS14/H09/14</u> (please insert ref. above)
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**RESEARCH GRANTS COUNCIL
COMPETITIVE RESEARCH FUNDING SCHEMES FOR
THE LOCAL SELF-FINANCING DEGREE SECTOR**

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (FDS)

Completion Report

(for completed projects only)

<p><u>Submission Deadlines:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Auditor's report with unspent balance, if any: within six months of the approved project completion date. 2. Completion report: within 12 months of the approved project completion date.
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Part A: The Project and Investigator(s)

1. Project Title

Early Fatherhood among Returnees in Hong Kong: Spousal Relations, Child-rearing and Work

2. Investigator(s) And Academic Department(s) / Unit(s) Involved

Research Team	Name / Post	Unit / Department / Institution
Principal Investigator	Lucille Lok Sun Ngan / Assistant Professor	Department of Social Science, Hang Seng Management College
Co-Investigator(s)	Anita Kit Wa Chan / Associate Professor	School of Social Sciences The Education University of Hong Kong
Others		

3. Project Duration

	Original	Revised	Date of RGC/ Institution Approval <i>(must be quoted)</i>
Project Start Date	1 March 2015	1 March 2015	
Project Completion Date	28 February 2017	31 August 2017	11 November 2016
Duration <i>(in month)</i>	24 months	30 months	11 November 2016
Deadline for Submission of Completion Report	28 February 2018	31 August 2018	11 November 2016

Part B: The Final Report

5. Project Objectives

5.1 Objectives as per original application

1. Explore how institutional frameworks, traditional and disciplinary norms of Chinese and Western cultures, hybridity and hybridisation, social discourses and migration experiences shape paternal identities and behaviour in HK;
2. Examine fathering attitudes and child-rearing practices and strategies, and their relevance to father–child relationships among returnees in HK;
3. Explore the importance of employment in early fathering and its effect on power relationships between husbands and wives;
4. Examine how childbirth and child-rearing affect spousal dynamics during early fatherhood; and
5. Construct recommendations for policies and procedures which could contribute to positive changes for fatherhood and family dynamics.

5.2 Revised objectives

Date of approval from the RGC: 26 Nov 2015

Objective 1 – Enhance clarity of the focus on cross-cultural shaping of fatherhood. Fathering behaviour is addressed in Objective 2.

Reasons for the change:

Objective 3 – Enhance clarity by focusing on work (which includes paid and unpaid work) and fatherhood. Spousal relations are addressed in Objective 4.

Objective 4 – The scope of the current objective 4 is quite general. The revised objective will have more specificity by exploring spousal relations through earning power in the context of parenting.

1. Explore how traditional and disciplinary norms of Chinese and Western cultures, hybridisation, transnational identity, migration experiences and social discourses shape fatherhood in HK;
3. Explore the significance of work on fatherhood;
4. Explore the relevance of earning power in relation to how couples do parenting through their division of daily childcare activities, decisions they make on child-rearing strategies and etc.; and

5.3 Realisation of the objectives

(Maximum 1 page; please state how and to what extent the project objectives have been achieved; give reasons for under-achievements and outline attempts to overcome

problems, if any)

5.4 Summary of objectives addressed to date

Objectives <i>(as per 5.1/5.2 above)</i>	Addressed <i>(please tick)</i>	Percentage Achieved <i>(please estimate)</i>
1. Explore how traditional and disciplinary norms of Chinese and Western cultures, hybridisation, transnational identity, migration experiences and social discourses shape fatherhood in HK	√	100%
2. Examine fathering attitudes and child-rearing practices and strategies, and their relevance to father-child relationships among returnees in HK	√	100%
3. Explore the significance of work on fatherhood	√	100%
4. Explore the relevance of earning power in relation to how couples do parenting through their division of daily childcare activities, decisions they make on child-rearing strategies and etc.	√	100%
5. Construct recommendations for policies and procedures which could contribute to positive changes for fatherhood and family dynamics.	√	100%

6. Research Outcome

6.1 Major findings and research outcome

(Maximum 1 page; please make reference to Part C where necessary)

Because of limited space, findings and outcomes of two major themes are reported here:

1. *Fathering involvement and migratory trajectories*

Over the past decade, discussions on “new fatherhood” have questioned the reality of middle class men’s active involvement and emotional engagement in their fathering relationships and practices as well as undoing traditional gender roles as they seek to become equal parents (Miller 2011; Shows and Gerstel 2009; Gottzen 2011). Our findings show a similar pattern, although upper middle-class returnee fathers in Hong Kong are committed to their provider role and continue to emphasize differentiation of separate spheres within childcare and housework, all fathers have adjusted their domestic role by adding childcare responsibilities. While making work adjustments in order to be more involved in their children’s lives is a common feature of “new fathers” (Kaufman 2013), due to returnee fathers’ privileged economic conditions and transnational status, some are using their agency to make bolder adjustments by relocating the family to their country of return which is perceived to have a better culture of work life balance. Moreover, returnees’ migratory trajectories provide a unique lens that shows how crucial elements of fathering involvement and gender relations change with the availability of support network and childcare resources at different places of settlement.

Outcomes

- Three paper presentations at international conferences in 2016, 2018
- A paper on ‘Involved fathering and migratory trajectories’ is targeted for submission to *Marriage and the Family* in 2019. An earlier draft which was rejected by *Men and Masculinities* is being revised base on the feedback from the reviewers and 2018 ACAS conference.

2. *Transnational experiences and the shaping of fathering and family relations*

While much has been written about the instrumentalism of Hong Kong middle class transnational family strategies of the 1980-90s era (Abelmann, Newendorp and Lee-Chung 2014; Waters 2003; 2005; Ong 1999) and their detrimental impact on parent-child relations (Zhou, 1998; Tse and Waters, 2013; Sun 2014) - insights on the continued effects of transnational separation and the accumulation of transnational capital on second generation as they emerge with transitions in their life course have received scant scholarly attention. Filling in these gaps, our findings indicates that with transition to fatherhood that brings renewed considerations in family priorities, second generation returnee fathers are making new migratory plans to educate their children abroad, most selecting the host society in which they resided and hold citizenship. In contrast to their parents, their evolving migratory goals centers more on the expressive rather than pragmatic aspects are a result of complex negotiations of family relations and education values, influenced by their transnational split family experiences.

Outcomes

- Two paper presentations at international conferences in 2016, 2018.
- A paper on ‘From parachute kids to filial fathers’ is targeted for submission to *Families, Relationships and Societies* in October 2018. We are making final revisions to the paper and incorporating feedback from the 2018 Global Studies Conference.
- A paper on “Transnational family strategies and education goals among second generation returnees fathers in Hong Kong” is targeted for submission to *Family Relations*. We have results from our data analysis and are at the stage of writing up.

6.2 Potential for further development of the research and the proposed course of action (*Maximum half a page*)

The current study examined early fatherhood experiences among upper middle class second-generation returnee fathers with young children in Hong Kong. Given that our findings point to these fathers' intentions to leave Hong Kong for better education and quality of family life, with the majority planning to depart as a whole family when their children reach senior primary school years, examining their family migratory trajectories in relation to their motives, strategies, practices, challenges and outcomes, as they happen, is an important area for further development. The significance of the proposed area of development lies in revealing the scarcely known trajectories of second-generation Hong Kong transnational families *in process*. We believe further exploration into the spheres of employment, family life and children's education that are affecting family migratory projects will enable a more in-depth understanding of family dynamics, gender relations, transnational mobility, motivations for departure and outcomes of transnational migration among second generations. Since our findings indicate that most second generation returnee families will continue their migration in the next stage of their children's schooling, future research should target families with children between 7 to 15 years old in both Hong Kong and the countries of destination. Moreover, future research should focus on local and overseas family case studies as they offer invaluable emergent developmental data. As a continuation of the current project, a proposal titled "Trajectories, strategies, practices of second-generation Hong Kong transnational families" has been submitted to the 2018 Faculty Development Scheme.

7. Layman's Summary

(*Describe in layman's language the nature, significance and value of the research project, in no more than 200 words*)

This qualitative research provided important information about the fathering experience of second generation returnees in Hong Kong, a significant sector of Hong Kong's upper middle class. With transition to fatherhood, returnees have made new family priorities that center around their children. Rather than having a primary focus on economic provision, they are engaging in the emotional aspects of childrearing. Due to their privileged economic condition and transnational status, they are able to make a range of work adjustments from changing jobs with higher autonomy to relocating overseas in order to be more involved in their children's lives. However, the provider role is still entrenched and continues to preserve gender inequalities in childcare and housework. Also, returnee fathers have strong intentions to educate their children abroad, most selecting the country in which they hold citizenship. Variations in the articulation of migratory plans and positioning of family relationships reveal the continued impact of transnational migration on their life course. These timely findings could help policy makers and scholars reflect on areas of weakness and strength of our educational, work and family institutions in Hong Kong thus assisting the development of effective policies attract and also retain highly-skilled transnationals and also their children.

Part C: Research Output**8. Peer-Reviewed Journal Publication(s) Arising Directly From This Research Project**

(Please attach a copy of the publication and/or the letter of acceptance if not yet submitted in the previous progress report(s). All listed publications must acknowledge RGC's funding support by quoting the specific grant reference.)

The Latest Status of Publications				Author(s) (denote the corresponding author with an asterisk*)	Title and Journal / Book (with the volume, pages and other necessary publishing details specified)	Submitted to RGC (indicate the year ending of the relevant progress report)	Attached to this Report (Yes or No)	Acknowledged the Support of RGC (Yes or No)	Accessible from the institutional repository (Yes or No)
Year of Publication	Year of Acceptance (For paper accepted but not yet published)	Under Review	Under Preparation (optional)						
2018/2019			Yes	Ngan, L L. S. and Chan, A. K. W	From parachute kids to filial fathers: Negotiations of fathering and family relations in the migratory plans of second generation returnee fathers in Hong Kong <i>Families, Relationships and Societies</i>	2018	No	Yes	No
2018/19			Yes	Ngan, L L S. and Chan, A. K. W	Involved fathering and migratory trajectories: Upper middle-class returnees fathers in Hong Kong <i>Marriage and the Family</i>	2018	No	Yes	No
2018/19			Yes	Ngan, L L S. and Chan, A. K. W	Transnational family strategies and education goals among second generation returnees fathers in Hong Kong <i>Family Relations</i>	2018	No	Yes	No

9. Recognized International Conference(s) In Which Paper(s) Related To This Research Project Was / Were Delivered

(Please attach a copy of each conference abstract)

Month / Year / Place	Title	Conference Name	Submitted to RGC <i>(indicate the year ending of the relevant progress report)</i>	Attached to this Report <i>(Yes or No)</i>	Acknowledged the Support of RGC <i>(Yes or No)</i>	Accessible from the institutional repository <i>(Yes or No)</i>
July 2018 University of Granada, Spain	Understanding the impact of transnational families through filial relations and fathering: Second-generation return migrant fathers in Hong Kong	11 th Global Studies Conference	August 2018	Yes	Yes	Yes
June 2018 Art Center of Kobe, Kobe, Japan	Changing Fatherhood and Reconfiguring Masculinities: Upper-Middle Class Fathers in Hong Kong	The Asian Conference on Asian Studies 2018	August 2018	Yes	Yes	Yes
December 2016 University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia	Cat Dads? Negotiations of fatherhood among Hong Kong returnee fathers	Crossroads in cultural studies conference	Dec 2016	Yes	Yes	Yes
June 2016 Art Center of Kobe, Kobe, Japan	Exploring fathering goals among Hong Kong return migrants	The Asian Conference on Cultural Studies	Dec 2016	Yes	Yes	Yes

November 2015	Exploring transnationalism and childrearing strategies among Chinese returnee fathers in Hong Kong	International Conference: Asian migration and rooted-transnationalism	Dec 2016	Yes	Yes	Yes
Monash Asia Institute, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia						

10. Whether Research Experience And New Knowledge Has Been Transferred / Has Contributed To Teaching And Learning

(Please elaborate)

- Student Training - 4 undergraduate students were trained through their employment as transcribers/translators for this project.
- Knowledge sharing –
 - “Changing Fatherhood and Reconfiguring Masculinities: Upper-Middle Class Fathers in Hong Kong” presented at the Department of Social Science Departmental Retreat, held by Hang Sang Management College on 13 June 2018.
 - “Understanding the impact of transnational families through filial relations and fathering: Second-generation return migrant fathers in Hong Kong” p presented at the Department of Social Science Departmental Retreat, held by Hang Sang Management College on 13 June 2018.
 - “Exploring fathering goals among Hong Kong return migrants” presented at the Department of Social Science Research Seminar, held by Hang Sang Management College on 23rd June 2016.
 - “Exploring fatherhood among second-generation returnee in HK” was presented at at the Department of Social Science Colloquium, held by Hang Sang Management College on 5th November 2015.

11. Student(s) Trained

(Please attach a copy of the title page of the thesis)

Name	Degree Registered for	Date of Registration	Date of Thesis Submission / Graduation
NA			

12. Other Impact

(e.g. award of patents or prizes, collaboration with other research institutions, technology transfer, teaching enhancement, etc.)

NA

13. Public Access Of Completion Report

(Please specify the information, if any, that cannot be provided for public access and give the reasons.)

Information that Cannot Be Provided for Public Access	Reasons
NA	

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FACULTY DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (FDS)

Completion Report - Attachment

(for completed projects only)

RGC Ref. No.: UGC/FDS14/H09/14

Principal Investigator: Lucille Lok Sun Ngan

Project Title: Early Fatherhood among Returnees in Hong Kong: Spousal Relations, Child-rearing and Work

Statistics on Research Outputs

	Peer-reviewed Journal Publications	Conference Papers	Scholarly Books, Monographs and Chapters	Patents Awarded	Other Research Outputs (Please specify)
No. of outputs arising directly from this research project [or conference]	3 (under preparation)	5	0	0	0