RESEARCH GRANTS COUNCIL
COMPETITIVE RESEARCH FUNDING SCHEMES FOR
THE LOCAL SELF-FINANCING DEGREE SECTOR

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (FDS)

Completion Report
(for completed projects only)

Submission Deadlines:	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.*

Part A: The Project and Investigator(s)

1.   Project Title

A Temporal Relationship Theory for the Justification of Love

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

Research Team	Name / Post	Unit / Department / Institution
Principal Investigator	Dr Wong Muk Yan / Associate Professor	Department of Social Science/ The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong
Co-Investigator(s)	N/A	
Others		

3.   Project Duration

	Original	Revised	Date of RGC / Institution Approval *(must be quoted)*
Project Start Date	1/1/2021	N/A	
Project Completion Date	31/12/2022	N/A	
Duration *(in month)*	24	N/A	

Deadline for Submission of Completion Report	31/12/2023	N/A	

The underspending in conference expenses is due to the COVID-19.

4.4   Please attach photo(s) of acknowledgement of RGC-funded facilities / equipment.
N/A

Part B: The Final Report

5.   Project Objectives

5.1   Objectives as per original application

I.   To articulate the strengths and weaknesses of quality theory, person theory and relationship theory in relation to the justification of love.
II.   To establish a philosophical argument for a revised conception of temporality in light of the traditional linear view of time in a relationship.
III.   To develop a temporal relationship theory to explain the constancy and selectivity of the justification of love.
IV.   To investigate the implications of the temporal relationship theory in our understanding of the nature of love.

5.2   Revised objectives

Date of approval from the RGC: N/A

Reasons for the change:

1.

2.

3. ....

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)

The four objectives are achieved by the academic paper I wrote. In the paper, I critically review quality theory and person theory and argue that neither can explain both phenomena. In light of Kolodny (2003) and Bagley (2015), I propose a temporal relationship theory (TRT) and argue that love between two people is justified if they are in a relationship for which a similar interpretation of the history, understanding of the present, and anticipation of the future of some identify-shaping ends of the relationship is shared. TRT can explain both the constancy and selectivity of love and the role of the beloved's qualities and identity in the justification of love.

5.4   Summary of objectives addressed to date

Objectives *(as per 5.1/5.2 above)*	Addressed *(please tick)*	Percentage Achieved *(please estimate)*
1. To articulate the strengths and weaknesses of quality theory, person theory and relationship theory in relation to the justification of love.	✓	100%
2. To establish a philosophical argument for a revised conception of temporality in light of the traditional linear view of time in a relationship.	✓	100%
3. To develop a temporal relationship theory to explain the constancy and selectivity of the justification of love.	✓	100%
4. To investigate the implications of the temporal relationship theory in our understanding of the nature of love.	✓	100%

6. Research Outcome

6.1 Major findings and research outcome
(Maximum 1 page; please make reference to Part C where necessary)

This academic paper provides a comprehensive analysis of existing love theories, namely quality theory and person theory, highlighting their limitations in explaining the full spectrum of love's nature. The paper underscores that while quality theory focuses on the beloved's personal attributes and person theory on their identity, neither can fully account for love's constancy, selectivity, and the role of the beloved's qualities and identity in love's justification.

Addressing these shortcomings, this paper introduces the Temporal Relationship Theory (TRT). This novel theory posits that love's justification lies in a shared interpretation of the past, present, and future regarding identity-shaping ends in a relationship.

The central finding of the paper hinges on TRT's ability to provide a more holistic understanding of love. It integrates elements from the existing theories while introducing the critical dimension of shared temporal perspective. Thus, TRT offers an innovative and comprehensive framework for understanding the justification of love, emphasizing the importance of shared interpretations and expectations within a relationship's temporal continuum.

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

Potential areas for further development of this paper could include empirical testing of the Temporal Relationship Theory (TRT). This could involve designing experiments or surveys to investigate whether shared interpretations of a relationship's history and anticipated future indeed correlate with feelings of love and relationship satisfaction.

Another avenue could be to apply TRT to different types of relationships beyond romantic ones, such as familial relationships, friendships, or even professional relationships, to explore its universality.

The paper could also benefit from a deeper examination of how individual and cultural differences might impact the perception of "identity-shaping ends" and the shared interpretation of a relationship's timeline.

7. Layman's Summary
(Describe <u>in layman's language</u> the nature, significance and value of the research project, in no more than 200 words)

This study dives deep into how we understand love, particularly what makes us love someone and keep loving them over time. It takes a critical look at existing theories about love. One theory says love is due to the qualities of the person we love, like their kindness or intelligence. Another theory suggests it's more about the identity of the person, who they fundamentally are, that makes us love them.

However, this paper points out that both theories have their limitations and don't fully explain why love can be both selective (why we love certain people and not others) and constant (why we continue to love the same person over time).

To fill this gap, the paper introduces a new theory, the Temporal Relationship Theory (TRT). TRT suggests that love between two people is justified when they have a shared understanding of their relationship's past, present, and future.

This paper is important because it offers a fresh perspective on understanding love. It combines the best bits from the existing theories and adds a new dimension, the shared timeline, making it a more comprehensive explanation. This could help us better understand our own relationships and what keeps love strong over time.

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)*						
	2021			Dr Wong Muk Yan	A Temporal Relationship Theory for the Justification of Love / Organon F	2023	Yes Appendix I	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 *(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)*
N/A						

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

The theory I developed in the paper has been used and taught in the course PPE4005 Political Emotions that I taught in the semester 1 of 2023/24

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
N/A			

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

N/A

13. 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	1				Type	No.

arising directly from this research project					

14. 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
N/A	