

RGC Ref. No.: UGC/FDS16/H04/19 <hr/> (please insert ref. above)

**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

Food and music: negotiating diasporic culture, identity and integration among South Asians
in Hong Kong

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

Research Team	Name / Post	Unit / Department / Institution
Principal Investigator	Dr. SHUM Chun-tat/ Assistant Professor	Department of Social Sciences/School or Arts and Social Sciences/ Hong Kong Metropolitan University
Co-Investigator(s)	N.A.	N.A.
Others	N.A.	N.A.

3. Project Duration

	Original	Revised	Date of RGC / Institution Approval (must be quoted)
Project Start Date	1 January 2020	N.A.	N.A.
Project Completion Date	31 December 2021	N.A.	N.A.
Duration (in month)	24	NA.	N.A.
Deadline for Submission of Completion Report	31 December 2022	N.A.	N.A.

Part B: The Final Report

5. Project Objectives

5.1 Objectives as per original application

1. It intends to provide a detailed analysis of the cultural life of South Asian migrants in Hong Kong by examining their experiences in practicing traditional food and music culture in the host society. In the context of the marginalisation that exists in Hong Kong, it also intends to uncover the history of South Asian food and music cultures and their role in the integration processes.
2. It aims to examine the dynamics of migrant cultural and artistic production, consumption, and representation in Hong Kong. This objective can be attained by providing ethnographically rich data and analyzes of the cultural expression of food and music practices in different areas of Hong Kong, and analysing how these cultural resources interact with the wider structural context. This demonstrates the intercultural encounters between South Asians and Hong Kong Chinese, which remains an understudied area in Hong Kong migration studies.
3. It intends to contribute to the academic debate of multiculturalism, integration, and diaspora by demonstrating how South Asian migrants actively establish and utilize various social networks in the culturescape for creative survival, identity construction, community building, and integration. It also contributes significantly to the literature and teaching on ethnic minorities, migration, and diasporic culture in the Hong Kong context.
4. It aims to transfer research experiences and new knowledge through teaching social science courses at the principal investigator's (PI) university. This will allow students to understand the most up-to-date migration issues in Hong Kong, which will strengthen students' cultural sensitivity.

5.2 Revised objectives

Date of approval from the RGC: N.A.

Reasons for the change: N.A.

N.A.

1. N.A.

2. N.A.

3. N.A.

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)

All research objectives in the original applications have been successfully achieved. Throughout the research period, the PI and Research Assistant conducted literature review, interviews, participant observations, data analysis, and manuscript writing.

Drawing on in-depth individual interviews with 50 South Asians in Hong Kong, this project examined their experiences in practicing traditional food and music culture and their integration processes in Hong Kong. It found that food and music cultures among Indians, Pakistani, and Nepalese are diverse. The non-local born South Asians have strong emotional attachments to India, Pakistan, or Nepal through food and music whereas the local-born South Asians expressed that eating ethnic food prepared by their parents and listening to traditional music in Hong Kong might trigger their curiosity about their ancestral home. The first-generation are playing the role of cultural ambassadors who evoke curiosity and reinforcing ties to South Asian culture for the second- and third- generations that contribute to the further development of South Asian diasporic community in Hong Kong. (Objective 1).

Through participant observation in restaurants, grocery shops, religious events, cultural events, festivals, and home visits, this project explored their dynamics of cultural and artistic production, consumption, and representation in Hong Kong. It identified transnational South Asian food networks in Hong Kong which demonstrates how different South Asian food and cooking ingredients moved across borders that facilitate the formation of South Asian foodways in Hong Kong. It also examined the commonly used musical instruments among the South Asians during festival and religious celebration. Many of the research participants seldom experienced discrimination in their daily life. However, language difference is a major problem. Nevertheless, the South Asians utilized South Asian food and music culture to initiate meaningful intercultural encounters that facilitate their integration processes in Hong Kong. The research team also interviewed 15 Hong Kong Chinese about their South Asian food and music experiences in Hong Kong. (Objective 2). The ethnographic data was analyzed, presented and discussed in two international conferences and peer-reviewed journal articles (Objective 2).

Conceptual and theoretical discussions relevant to new research findings and policy implications for South Asian food and music cultures in Hong Kong have been made accordingly through international conference presentations and a peer-reviewed journal articles. The PI developed the concepts of “performing culinary diaspora” and “diaspora aesthetics” which contributed to the academic debate of multiculturalism, integration, and diaspora

(Objective 3). In order to allow general public to have better understanding of South Asians and their food and music cultures in Hong Kong, the PI accepted an interview invitation by The Standard with a news article published on 30 March 2022 (Objective 3).

The PI also transferred the research experiences and new knowledge and findings of this project to teaching two undergraduate courses related to 1) ethnicity and multiculturalism, and 2) borders, culture and development; and one postgraduate course related to globalisation (Objective 4). The students were required to complete and submit an individual assessment task regarding South Asian migration to Hong Kong, how they practice their traditional cultures as well as their integration experiences in Hong Kong. A fieldtrip to Chungking Mansions was conducted in November 2022 where the students had to conduct interviews with South Asians and observe the natural happenings in the restaurants and grocery shops. The students were required to give a group presentation after the fieldtrip for assessment (Objective 4).

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. It intends to provide a detailed analysis of the cultural life of South Asian migrants in Hong Kong by examining their experiences in practicing traditional food and music culture in the host society. In the context of the marginalisation that exists in Hong Kong, it also intends to uncover the history of South Asian food and music cultures and their role in the integration processes.	✓	100%
2. It aims to examine the dynamics of migrant cultural and artistic production, consumption, and representation in Hong Kong. This objective can be attained by providing ethnographically rich data and analyzes of the cultural expression of food and music practices in different areas of Hong Kong, and analysing how these cultural resources interact with the wider structural context. This demonstrates the intercultural encounters between South Asians and Hong Kong Chinese, which remains an understudied area in Hong Kong migration studies.	✓	100%
3. It intends to contribute to the academic debate of multiculturalism, integration, and diaspora by demonstrating how South Asian migrants actively establish and utilize various social networks in the culturescape for creative survival, identity construction, community building, and integration. It also contributes significantly to the literature and teaching on ethnic minorities, migration, and diasporic culture in the Hong Kong context.	✓	100%
4. It aims to transfer research experiences and new knowledge through teaching social science courses at the principal investigator's (PI) university. This will allow students to understand the most up-to-date migration issues in Hong Kong, which will strengthen students' cultural sensitivity.	✓	100%

6. Research Outcome

6.1 Major findings and research outcome

Conceptualizing performing diaspora: the case of South Asians in Hong Kong

This project explored how South Asians in Hong Kong perform diasporic identity through food and music cultures in the context of marginalization that exists in Hong Kong, and how these cultural resources facilitate their intercultural encounters with Hong Kong Chinese.

1. South Asians' integration processes in a 'multicultural' society of Hong Kong

South Asians experience structural marginalization and everyday discrimination. (Attachments 1 and 2 Part 8C). To sustain their economic livelihoods, many non-local born South Asians run their own businesses, such as restaurants, grocery shops, and music academy. Many South Asians and Hong Kong Chinese participants expressed that they found it difficult to interact with the other group owing to language barriers. (Attachments 1 and 2. Part 8 C). For the local-born South Asians, language barrier is not their concern during their integration processes as they can effectively master Chinese language. Nevertheless, they found that practicing South Asians food and music cultures is a way for them to know about their roots (Attachment 1 Part 8C). Moreover, food and music cultural practices allow them to initiate meaningful contacts with Hong Kong Chinese that facilitate integration (Attachments 1-2 Part 8C, Attachment 3 Part 9, and Attachment 4 Part 10).

2. Performing diasporic food and music cultures in Hong Kong

South Asian foods became part of spectrum of Hong Kong foods since the 19th century. Nowadays, South Asian food wholesalers order food items from their business partners in India, Pakistan, and Nepal every week, sustaining South Asian foodways in Hong Kong (Attachment 1 Part 8C). South Asian food culture is diverse. In using the words 'we', 'our', 'they', and 'their' repeatedly when explaining food culture, the participants attempted to distinguish their unique food practices (use of ingredients and cooking methods) within the South Asian community from other ethnic groups' food. (Attachment 1 Part 8C). Nevertheless, some food and cooking ingredients are common in Indian, Pakistani, and Nepalese cuisines that construct the collective South Asian identity (Attachment 1 Part 8C). For those who have grown up in Hong Kong, eating ethnic food prepared by their parents in Hong Kong might trigger their curiosity about their ancestral home. (Attachment 1 Part 8 C). Preparing and consuming ethnic food is not only an act of nostalgia but also one of resistance that express their South Asian identity in Hong Kong in a physical and tangible way. Using the term 'authentic' to advertise ethnic food as well as adjusting the spiciness level of the dishes in restaurants (what I call "spice encounter") are tactics used to perform their ethnic identity as well as negotiating their belonging and otherness in Hong Kong. (Attachment 1 Part 8C). South Asian food culture is a powerful mechanism for nurturing the embodied difference of ethnic minorities from Hong Kong Chinese (Attachment 1 Part 8C).

South Asian music is diverse in styles and instruments, but is often intertwined with religion and its related activity such as dance. Festival and religious events are the socio-cultural spaces in which South Asians not only gather together with their country fellows during leisure hours, but also make South Asian diaspora become 'real' and tangible through aesthetic embodied practices of music and dance (Attachment 2 Part 8C). Music is not simply a manifestation of culture or identity, but also assists people to form identity and belonging. In this research, the research participants experienced and narrated two inter-related forms of belonging through music: being Indian/Pakistani/Nepalese, and hybrid belonging. (Attachment 2 Part 8C). Moreover, music is a way of initiating intercultural encounters. By building a culture of inclusion in the music activities, the South Asians skillfully utilize music as a socio-cultural space in which all people acted the same way under music performances. (Attachment 2 Part 8C).

3. Performing diaspora

Performing diaspora highlights the dynamic relation between food, music, identity, and cross-cultural formation. It is a diasporic sphere that is materialized through a collective affective experience in practicing food culture (concept of 'performing culinary diaspora' in Attachment 1 Part 8C) and music culture (concept of 'diaspora aesthetic' in Attachment 2 Part 8C) articulated in encounters with the local population in a multicultural society.

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

In this completed project, the PI argues that the South Asians (both local and non-local born) in Hong Kong are subject to structural marginalization and everyday stigmatization. Although the local born South Asians identified themselves as ‘Hong Kong Indian’, ‘Hong Kong Pakistani’, ‘Hong Kong Nepalese’, or ‘Hong Konger’, they are still experiencing racial discrimination when dealing with employment, housing, education, healthcare, social services, and even everyday life. Nevertheless, the local born South Asians have become more assertive in struggling for recognition in Hong Kong through performative cultural and art participation such as making food media channels, and organizing music and dance groups which aim to articulate a unique hybrid South Asian identity in the local society.

By exploring the relationship between identity and belonging of local-born South Asians and their participation in performative arts in this multicultural society, the PI is planning to conduct a FDS research project with a tentative title of “South Asian youth and performative arts: identity and belonging among ethnic minorities in Hong Kong”. This proposed project will have policy implications about the youth development and social harmony in Hong Kong.

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 project examined the role of food and music cultures in the formation of diasporic communities, identity (re)construction, and the integration of South Asians (Indian, Nepalese, and Pakistani) in Hong Kong. An ethnographic account of the cultural lives of South Asians, this project highlighted the potential opportunities and benefits of ethnic minorities’ traditional cultures in facilitating the cross-cultural contacts and integration. By looking in detail at the practices, attitudes, beliefs, and networks related to the production, distribution, and consumption of South Asian food and music in Hong Kong, this project has illustrated how practicing ethnic food and music cultures are not only acts of nostalgia but also one of resistance that expressed their South Asian identity in Hong Kong in a physical and tangible way. Although language barrier hinders most of their interactions with the Hong Kong Chinese, they use home food and music to raise curiosity of the Hong Kong Chinese in places such as restaurants, grocery shops, and cultural events, as tactics used to perform their ethnic identity as well as negotiating their belonging and otherness in Hong Kong. It has offered policy implication to the government who can help to foster social engagement among different ethnic groups.

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)						
2022				Terence Chun Tat Shum	Performing culinary diaspora: Food practices and culinary encounters of South Asians in Hong Kong <i>Journal of Intercultural Studies</i>	No	Yes [Attachment 1]	Yes	Yes
		✓		Terence Chun Tat Shum	Diaspora aesthetics: Music performance and practices of belonging among the South Asian diaspora in Hong Kong <i>Asian and Pacific Migration Journal</i>	No	Yes [Attachment 2]	Yes	Yes

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)
July/2020 Porto Alegre, Brazil [Postponed to February 2021]	Culinary sociality: Food culture, identity and inter-group relations of the South Asians in Hong Kong	IV International Sociological Association Forum of Sociology	Yes [Dec 2021]	No	Yes	Yes
London, The U.K. 6-10 July 2021	Performing diaspora: food, music and social integration among the South Asian diaspora in Hong Kong	The Migration Conference	No	Yes [Attachment 3]	Yes	Yes

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

(Please elaborate)

In the academic year of 2021-22, the PI taught two courses that were related to ethnicity, multiculturalism and globalization at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. The PI successfully transferred research experience and new findings of South Asian migration and diaspora to teaching lecture topics regarding ethnic minorities, globalization, diasporic culture. In the courses, the students were required to complete and submit an individual assessment task regarding the integration experiences of ethnic minorities in Hong Kong.

In the academic year of 2022-23, the PI taught a newly designed course that were related to borders, culture and development at undergraduate level. The PI successfully transferred research experience and new findings of ethnic food and music cultures of South Asians to teaching cultural borders, integration and multiculturalism in Hong Kong. The PI also invited a South Asian musician to give a guest lecture on Zoom about the importance of music in South Asians' life in Hong Kong and how they use music to form ethnic community and to maintain their cultural identity in Hong Kong. In the course, the PI also organised a fieldtrip to

Chungking Mansions where the students were required to interview the South Asians and to observe the natural happenings at different South Asian restaurants and grocery shops. The students were required to give a group presentation after the fieldtrip for assessment.

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

No. of outputs arising directly from this research project	Peer-reviewed Journal Publications	Conference Papers	Scholarly Books, Monographs and Chapters	Patents Awarded	Other Research Outputs (please specify)	
	Type	No.	Type	No.	Type	No.
	1 published 1 under review	2	0	0	Newspaper article [Attachment 4]	1

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.	N.A.