

RGC Ref. No.:
UGC/FDS51/H01/20
(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)

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

Identity and Remembrance: Investigating the Poetry of Qing Adherents in Hong Kong
During the Republican Period

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

Research Team	Name / Post	Unit / Department / Institution
Principal Investigator	Dr TSUI Man-hon / Assistant Professor	Faculty of Arts and Humanities, UOW College Hong Kong
Co-Investigator(s)		

3. Project Duration

	Original	Revised	Date of RGC / Institution Approval (must be quoted)
Project Start Date	1 Jan 2021	/	
Project Completion Date	31 Dec 2022	30 Sep 2023	29 Dec 2022 by Institution 3 July 2023 by RGC
Duration (in month)	24	32	
Deadline for Submission of Completion Report	31 Dec 2023	30 Sep 2024	

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

Part B: The Final Report

5. Project Objectives

5.1 Objectives as per original application

1. *To analyse the writing style of the poetry of Qing adherents in Hong Kong*
2. *To examine their poetry's content and the techniques used*
3. *To evaluate the social significance of their poetry in the modern world*

5.2 Revised objectives

Date of approval from the RGC: NA

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)

1. To analyse the writing style of the poetry of Qing adherents in Hong Kong: Qing adherents were nostalgic for the former establishment, so their poems often travel back to the classical epoch for traditional values and sentiments that help construct their identity. They used classical poetry as a ritual instrument to relive the past and seek consolation for their minds. The project successfully identified and documented the distinct writing styles of Qing adherents, highlighting the linguistic features and stylistic elements that differentiate their poetry from other periods with reference to the theory of reminiscence.

2. To examine their poetry's content and the techniques used: Qing adherents wrote many poems to express their views on the changing society and culture amidst the challenges confronting China in its encounter with the West, while simultaneously endeavoring to maintain their own identity as Qing patriots. The analysis provided a comprehensive examination of the themes, allusions, and its hidden meaning employed in the poetry of Qing adherents. This included a detailed annotation of metaphor, symbolism, and other rhetorical devices that characterize their literary work written in Hong Kong.

3. To evaluate the social significance of their poetry in the modern world: Many in academia espouse certain biases towards Qing adherents, who are often described as a group of backward, anti-progress conservatives. The adherents' observance of the classical prosodic forms has resulted in a general neglect of their poetry. Hence, there has always been a lack of systematic and in-depth studies on classical poetry. Despite being suppressed over the past century, classical genres still deserve a place in the literary sphere as they exhibit an everlasting charm. This project also evaluated the significance of Qing adherents' poetry, demonstrating its role in reflecting and shaping social and cultural narratives in modern Hong Kong.

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. To analyse the writing style of the poetry of Qing adherents in Hong Kong	√	100%
2. To examine their poetry's content and the techniques used	√	100%
3. To evaluate the social significance of their poetry in the modern world	√	100%

6. Research Outcome

6.1 Major findings and research outcome

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

This project delved into the poetry of Qing adherents in Hong Kong, uncovering significant insights into their writing style, content, techniques, and social significance. The findings are summarized as follows:

1. **Analysis of Writing Style:** The poetry of Qing adherents is characterized by a nostalgic longing for the former establishment. Their works often revisit the classical epoch, embracing traditional values and sentiments that help construct their identity. Classical poetry served as a ritual instrument for these poets, allowing them to relive the past and seek mental solace. The project successfully identified and documented the distinct writing styles of Qing adherents, highlighting linguistic features and stylistic elements that set their poetry apart from other periods. This analysis was framed within the theory of reminiscence, emphasizing how these poets used classical forms to maintain a connection with their cultural heritage. The results are primarily presented in the article “Examining the Sentiments and Political Stance of Qing Loyalists through Their Poetry in Hong Kong” and the seminar paper “Identity and Remembrance: The Study of the Literary Works of Qing Loyalists in Hong Kong during the Republican Period”.
2. **Examination of Content and Techniques:** Qing adherents’ poetry reflects their views on the rapidly changing society and culture during China’s encounter with the West. Their works endeavor to maintain their identity as Qing patriots while addressing contemporary challenges. The analysis provided a comprehensive examination of the themes, allusions, and hidden meanings in their poetry. Detailed annotations of metaphors, symbolism, and other rhetorical devices were conducted, showcasing the literary richness of their work. This examination revealed how Qing adherents used poetry to navigate and comment on their socio-political environment. The results are primarily presented in the scholarly book, *Memory of Hong Kong: The Selection of Collected Works of Qing Adherents in Hong Kong*, which will be published in October 2024, and the conference paper, “The Lost Generation: The Footprints and Sentiments of Qing Loyalists in Hong Kong”.
3. **Evaluation of Social Significance:** Despite academic biases that often portray Qing adherents as backward and anti-progressive, this project highlighted the enduring charm and relevance of their classical poetry. The adherents’ strict observance of classical prosodic forms has led to a general neglect of their work in modern studies. However, this project demonstrated that classical genres still hold significant value in the literary sphere. The poetry of Qing adherents plays a crucial role in reflecting and shaping social and cultural narratives in modern Hong Kong. By evaluating the social significance of their poetry, the project underscored the importance of preserving and studying these classical forms to understand their impact on contemporary culture. All outputs have fully addressed this point after a detailed analysis of the poetry of Qing adherents.

These findings contribute to a deeper understanding of the literary and cultural heritage of Qing adherents in Hong Kong, offering a nuanced perspective on their poetic contributions and their lasting influence on modern society.

6.2 Potential for further development of the research and the proposed course of action

(Maximum half a page)

Building on the significant findings of this project, there is substantial potential for further development in several areas. Future research could expand the scope of analysis to include a comparative study of Qing adherents' poetry with other contemporary literary movements, both within and outside of China. This would provide a broader context and deeper understanding of the unique characteristics and influences of Qing loyalist poetry.

Additionally, interdisciplinary approaches could be employed to explore the intersection of Qing adherents' poetry with other cultural and historical phenomena, such as the impact of Western colonialism and modernization on traditional Chinese values. This could involve collaborations with historians, sociologists, and cultural studies scholars to enrich the analysis and interpretation of the poetry.

To ensure the preservation and wider appreciation of Qing adherents' literary contributions, it is proposed to develop digital collections of their works. These resources would be invaluable for both academic research and public education, making the poetry more accessible and engaging for a contemporary audience.

By pursuing these avenues, the research can continue to uncover new insights and contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of the cultural and literary heritage of Qing adherents 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 research project explored the poetry written by Qing loyalists in Hong Kong. These poets, who were nostalgic for the past, used classical poetry to express their feelings and maintain their cultural identity. The study identified unique writing styles and themes in their poetry, showing how they used traditional forms to cope with the changes in society and culture during their time.

The project also examined the content and techniques of their poems, revealing how they addressed the challenges of their era while staying true to their identity as Qing patriots. Despite being overlooked by modern scholars, the research highlighted the lasting charm and importance of their poetry in reflecting and shaping social and cultural narratives in Hong Kong.

Overall, this study sheds light on the rich literary heritage of Qing loyalists and underscores the value of preserving and studying their works to better understand their impact on contemporary culture.

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				TSUI Man Hon	The Study of Qing Yimin Cen Guangyue and its He Chan Ji / Journal of Chinese Literary Study	Y	Y	Y	Y
2024	✓ (expected in Oct 2024)			TSUI Man Hon	Memory of Hong Kong: The Selection of Collected Works of Qing Adherent in Hong Kong / Chung Wah Publisher	N	N	Y	Y
2024		✓		TSUI Man Hon	Examining the Sentiments and Political Stance of Qing Loyalists through Their Poetry in Hong Kong	N	N	Y	Y

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)
Oct 2024	Identity and Remembrance: The Study of the Literary Works of Qing Loyalists in Hong Kong during the Republican Period	UOWCHK Brown Bag Seminar	N	N	Y	Y
Dec 2024	The Lost Generation: The Footprints and Sentiments of Qing Loyalists in Hong Kong	風雅傳承：第三屆民初以來舊體文學國際學術研討會	N	N	Y	Y

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

It is reported that some findings of this research project have been incorporated into the teaching of GE course “CGE22412 Understanding Culture and Heritage in Contemporary Hong Kong” and elective course “CHI2102 Hong Kong History and Culture”. which can enhance students’ awareness of the contribution of Qing adherents in the early history of Hong Kong. The research output will also be taught in the bachelor course “CHI4009 Special Topics on Classical Chinese Literature” in 2024-2025.

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. 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	2	2	1	0	Type 0	No. 0

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
/	/