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**The Research Grants Council of Hong Kong**  
**Prestigious Fellowship Scheme under the Humanities and Social Sciences Panel**  
**Completion Report**  
*(for completed projects only)*

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**Part A: Project and Award Holder**

**1. Project Title**

Longitudinal Study of Poverty, Youth Development, and Life Opportunity in Rural China:  
The Roles of Individual, Family, School, and Community Factors

**2. Award Holder and Academic Department/Unit Involved**

| Name/Post                       | Unit/Department/Institution              | Contact Information |
|---------------------------------|--|---------------------|
| Albert Park/<br>Chair Professor | Social Science Division (SOSC)/<br>HKUST | albertpark@ust.hk   |

**Part B: The Report**

**5. Workplan**

**5.1 Workplan as per original application**

The fellowship period ideally will begin in January 2015 for a one-year period. The first stage is the development of detailed chapter outlines, including the completion of updated literature reviews and detailed empirical analysis plans, including variable definitions, tables and figures, and regression specifications. This should take 2 months, of which it is hoped all or part can be completed before the fellowship period to allow for more time for the second and third stages.

The second stage is the completion of the empirical analysis, through the writing and repeated revision of STATA command files. Data analysis can be completed immediately for waves 1-3, but analysis of wave 4 data will require waiting until the data is collected in early 2015. As results are finalized, they can be written up in text to be included in the chapter drafts. This stage will take 4 months.

Stage three is the completion of chapter drafts following the chapter outlines, incorporating pieces of completed text, and writing up the results of the empirical analysis. This stage will

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take 6 months. Park will make two 2-week trips to the US to visit Hannum work intensively on stages one and two.

### 5.3 Realisation of the workplan

*(maximum 2 pages; please state how and to what extent the work as stated in the workplan has been achieved; give reasons for under-achievements and outline attempts to overcome problems, if any)*

Dates of the project period were revised due to Park's participation in a faculty exchange program between HKUST and California Institute of Technology during Jan-March 2016. During the fellowship period, substantial progress was made in completing the book manuscript as planned. Albert Park visited coauthor Emily Hannum from Nov. 3-7, 2015, and during May 2-21 and May 29-June 17, 2016 (only one international flight was charged to the project enabling more funds to support subsistence for longer stay than originally budgeted, note: some funds categorized as subsistence in the report actually was for flights). The following tasks were accomplished. First, a detailed outline for the book was agreed upon after reviewing all of the research that had been completed using data from the Gansu Survey of Children and Families, as well as relevant literature. Our tentative title for the book is: *Growing Up Poor in Rural China*. In addition to an introductory chapter, we decided to divide the book into three parts. Part 1 describes the environment in which children grow up, with respect to both family (Chapter 1) and community, including both school and village (Chapter 2). Part 2 describes how poverty impacts the development of the child, including educational attainment and cognitive skills (Chapter 3), noncognitive skills (Chapter 4), and health (Chapter 5). Part 3 covers transitions to adulthood, including migration and work (Chapter 6), and marriage and family (Chapter 7).

In discussing the content of these chapters in depth, we decided that the book would require a substantial amount of new analysis, especially describing the dimensions of poverty experienced in childhood, and conducting rigorous quantitative analysis of how different dimensions of poverty affect development outcomes and early adult outcomes of the sample children; also how early child development outcomes influence schooling attainment and early labor market outcomes. The time required to complete this work to our high standards took considerably more time than originally anticipated, and completing this analysis became the main goal for the fellowship period. This work is now complete. More technical versions of the work have been published or will be submitted as journal articles, but the main findings will form the heart of the key chapters of the book manuscript. Four main analytical components were completed: 1) description of the multiple dimensions of poverty (family economic, family social, school economic, school social, village economic, village social) using a large number of indicators, which will form the basis of chapters 1 and 2; 2) analysis of how different dimensions of deprivation affect child development (which will inform chapters 3-5) and adult outcomes (which will inform chapters 6-7); 3) analysis of the

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impact of cognitive and noncognitive skills on school-to-work transitions, completing work begun earlier for an article published in 2017 in the *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, informing chapters 6 and 7; and 4) analysis of intergenerational mobility—the correlation between parents’ education and income and children’s education and income, which includes a pathways analysis of how parents status influences various child and youth outcomes, and how those development outcomes influence completed education and early labor market earnings. Of these four analyses, three (as well as the introduction) are brand new and one (the 3<sup>rd</sup>) started before the fellowship period but was refined and completed during the fellowship period.

In the submitted draft manuscript, we have included slightly modified versions of the above four pieces of analysis within the structure of the book. Additional work is still required to reorganize the discussion of results to fit the specific chapter outlines, to modify the writing to make it more accessible to a broad audience, and to add additional references to other work using the Gansu data and other data sources in China and elsewhere. But as can be seen from the length and substance of the attached draft, these analyses form the heart of the book project. At the end of the manuscript we also include a bibliography of papers written using the Gansu dataset.

### **6. Dissemination plan**

#### 6.3 Realisation of the dissemination plan

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*(maximum 2 pages; please state how and to what extent the output as stated in the dissemination plan has been achieved; give reasons for under-achievements and outline attempts to overcome problems, if any)*

Park has presented the contents of the analyses in a number of high-profile settings, including the following:

- “Intergenerational Mobility Pathways: Evidence from a Long Panel from Rural China”, International Symposium on Human Capital and Economic Development, Seoul National University, Seoul, Korea, June 22-23, 2016.
- “Is Poverty Destiny in Reform China?: Following the Lives of Rural Children in Gansu”, HKUST 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, Fullerton Hotel, Singapore, January 14, 2017.
- “Is Poverty Destiny: Short- and Long-term Impacts of Multidimensional Childhood Poverty in China”, Asia-Pacific Research Center, Stanford University, Jan. 26, 2017.
- “Is Poverty Destiny: Short- and Long-term Impacts of Multidimensional Childhood Poverty in China”, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, Tokyo, May 10, 2017.
- “Is Poverty Destiny: Short- and Long-term Impacts of Multidimensional Childhood Poverty in China”, Asia Applied Micro-Econometrics Conference, National University of Singapore, July 5-6, 2017.

One of the four analytical pieces has been published and the others will soon be posted as working papers, after final edits (expected December 2017). All have been incorporated into the attached draft book manuscript.

7. **Other impact** (*e.g. award of patents or prizes, collaboration with other research institutions, knowledge transfer, etc.*)

The research strengthened collaboration with my co-authors institution, the University of Pennsylvania. Park’s visit there allowed him to interact with leading scholars with relevant expertise for his project and overall research program, including economists Jere Behrman (an expert on health and education in developing countries) and Hanming Fang (an expert on public finance and the Chinese economy).

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