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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)

Part A: Project and Award Holder

1. Project Title

Explaining Family Polyvictimization: The Development of a Nested Ecological Theory

2. Award Holder and Academic Department/Unit Involved

Name/Post	Unit/Department/Institution	Contact Information
Prof. Chan Edward Ko Ling	Department of Applied Social Sciences / The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	koling.chan@polyu.edu.hk (852) 2766 5709

Part B: The Report

5. Workplan

5.1 Workplan as per original application

Time: 1st – 4th month

Task:

- Preliminary meta-analysis on the factors associated with different types of family violence at different levels.
- Drafting of the manuscript describing the findings of the above meta-analysis.
- Closely monitor the funded projects.

Time: 5th – 8th month

Task:

- Data analyses of the six individual studies, exploring the prevalence and associated factors of family polyvictimization.
- Integration of the findings of the six studies.
- Development of the nested ecological model explaining family polyvictimization.
- Meta-analysis on the effect size of each risk factor at each level of the model.

Time: 9th – 12th month

Task:

- Writing manuscripts describing the findings.
- Integrating the findings, especially the ecological model, into teaching.

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5.2 Revised workplan

*Fellowship Completion Date extended from 31-Dec-2017 to 30-Jun-2018

Date of approval from the RGC: 08-Jan-2018

Reasons for the change: _____

One of the objectives of this project is to provide reliable estimates of the prevalence of family polyvictimization in the Asian region. The PI was invited by Department of Family Nursing, Graduate School of Medicine, The University of Tokyo, Japan (one of the top universities in Asian region) to visit their school for one month in February 2018 and two weeks in late March to April, 2018. The academic visit was having intensive exchange on research and culture related to family polyvictimization. We also collaborate on research projects and data analysis. It adds great values to this project by including Japanese data. To make full benefit of the academic visits and exchange with the University of Tokyo, the project was extended to 6 months to cover such meaningful investigation into Japanese societies and culture.

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)

The workplan has been fully achieved within the period of the study.

The major work is to conduct a meta-analysis on the existing studies to estimate the prevalence and the effect sizes of associated factors of family polyvictimization. The findings serve as the empirical and theoretical foundation for the development of the nested ecological model explaining family polyvictimization. The work has been successfully completed and a manuscript reporting the findings has been published at the journal *Trauma, Violence and Abuse*, which is ranked the first among the journals in Criminology & Penology, Family Studies, and Social Work.

Paper 1: A journal paper reporting the result of meta-analysis on family polyvictimization

Chan, K.L. Chen, Q.Q., & Chen, M. (2019) Prevalence and Correlates of the Co-occurrence of Family Violence: A Meta-analysis on Family Polyvictimization. *Trauma, Violence & Abuse*. (Online first). DOI: 10.1177/1524838019841601

Abstract:

Objective: The aims of this study are to (a) provide reliable estimates of prevalence rates of family polyvictimization by synthesizing the findings from the existing literature, (b) examine the effect sizes of the impact of one type of family victimization on other types of family victimization, and (c) investigate the correlates of family polyvictimization. **Method:** Databases of literature published on or before April 2018 were searched. A total of 59 publications met the inclusion criteria and were included in the analysis for the combined odds ratios (ORs) to estimate the associations among different types of family victimization; 38 of them (99,956 participants) were used for the calculation of the combined prevalence rates of family polyvictimization. **Findings:** The overall co-occurrence rates of family victimization were 9.7% among the general population and 36.0% among the clinical population. The combined OR of other type(s) of victimization when one was present was 6.01 ($p < .001$). Longitudinal studies show that, when a family reported intimate partner violence, the odds of child abuse and neglect within the same family at a later stage was 3.64 ($p < .001$). Depression and post-traumatic stress disorder were two significant correlates associated with family polyvictimization. **Conclusion:** Family polyvictimization is prevalent across the world. The high co-occurrence rates and strong associations between different types of victimization on different family members warrant the need for the early detection of victims and effective preventions and interventions using a family approach, instead of treating victims from the same family individually.

Apart from the originally planned publication on meta-analysis, the PI has also completed two more manuscripts to further develop the concept of family polyvictimization and the development of the Family Polyvictimization Scale. Here are the details:

Paper 2: A book chapter is accepted and will be published in a SAGE Handbook of Domestic Violence

Chan, K.L. & Chen, Qiqi (2020). Violence against children and family poly-victimization. In Todd K. Shackelford (Ed.), *The SAGE Handbook of Domestic Violence*. SAGE, London.

Abstract:

Violence against children will be examined in the context of family polyvictimization. Little is known about three or more types of violence happened within the same family, a phenomenon that we have defined as *family polyvictimization*. Family polyvictimization is a new concept of

family violence we first suggested and applied in research. It refers to the co-occurrence of various types of family violence (e.g. intimate partner violence (IPV), child maltreatment, elder abuse and neglect, sibling victimization, and in-law conflicts) within a family. When studying the co-occurring victimization within a family, current literature often focuses on individual violence and fails to cover three forms of violence or more in a family. Our current studies fill the research gap by using families, instead of individuals, as units of inquiry and investigating the prevalence and patterns of family polyvictimization.

Our studies show that there is strong association between various types of family violence. One type of family violence (for instance IPV) is associated with another type (e.g. child maltreatment or elder abuse). Viewing family as a whole for violence prevention and intervention would be effective, as it is very likely for the family members to share common experiences and exposures from their immediate settings (World Health Organization, 2005). Identifying the common factors underlying the occurrence of multiple forms of family violence and developing a systematic theoretical model to study family polyvictimization would then be greatly important to help deeper understanding of the problem and early detection of victimized families.

Paper 3: A manuscript has been submitted to international peer-review journal and is now under review

Chan, KL, Chen, Qiqi, Chen, Mengtong, Lo, Camilla, & Yu, Lu. Screening for Multiple Types of Family Violence: Development and Validation of The Family Polyvictimization Screen. [Under review]

Abstract:

Different types of violence tend to co-occur within a family where the members often share common background and environment: a situation described as family polyvictimization. In response to the lack of a validated screening, this study developed and validated The Family Polyvictimization Screen (FPS), the first integrated screening tool applicable to all members within the same family with up to 3 generations. The FPS was designed to screen family polyvictimization by assessing and capturing different types of violence including CAN, IPV, and elder abuse. It was suitable for use as self-reports for individual family members for specific violence, or as proxy reports for an adult family member to serve as informant.

The validated FPS is comprehensive, precise, and concise, and it has demonstrated its potential utility as a holistic tool for screening family polyvictimization in clinical settings with substantial agreement and satisfactory accuracy for screening various types of family victimization in the Chinese population.

Academic exchange

The work plan has been revised to extend the period of the study from 12 months to 18 months. During the extended period, the PI was invited by Department of Family Nursing, Graduate School of Medicine, The University of Tokyo, Japan (one of the top universities in Asian region) to visit their school for one month in February 2018 and two weeks in late March to April, 2018. The academic visit had intensive exchange on research and culture related to family polyvictimization. We also collaborate on research projects and data analysis. It adds great values to this project by including Japanese studies and the understanding of Japanese societies and culture.

The PI was invited by the School of Social Work, University of British Columbia, Canada, as Visiting Professor during July and August, 2017. He was also nominated by the School of Social Welfare, Yonsei University, Seoul, South Korea during the whole period of the study (2017 – 2018) as Honorary Professor. The academic exchange strengthens the development of the new concept of family polyvictimization in the Asian region and internationally.

6. Dissemination plan

6.1 Dissemination plan as per original application

At the end of the Fellowship, a new theoretical model explaining family polyvictimization, an innovative concept in the field of violence, will be developed. As the first in the field to develop, explore, and examine the concept, the applicant plans to work on several tasks to disseminate the findings:

(i) The first and the most important task is to publish the findings in high-impact international journals. Scholarly publications would be the most effective means to share the knowledge with professionals, researchers, and other stakeholders around the globe. The findings, including the ecological model, and the findings of the six individual studies and the meta-analytic studies, will provide significant insights on how future research could be conducted and how relevant policies and effective interventions could be developed.

(ii) Sharing new concepts and knowledge with students, the professionals-to-be, will be another excellent way to disseminate the findings. The applicant will integrate the new findings about family polyvictimization into his courses on violence at the host university. Keeping students updated with new ideas and theories of the subject is of great importance in education. Thus teaching the concept and ecological model of family polyvictimization is believed to be a valuable means to give out the project outputs to a wide range of individuals.

(iii) Other effective ways to disseminate findings may include presentations at international research conferences and seminars. The applicant is experienced to give out presentations on research findings as invited speaker and keynote speaker. The successful experiences on the past presentations will greatly facilitate the dissemination of the findings of the proposed project to scholars as well as the exchange of knowledge in the field with different professionals, policymakers, and organizations.

6.2 Revised dissemination plan

***No revision**

Date of approval from the RGC: _____

Reasons for the change: _____

- 1.
- 2.
3.

6.3 Realisation of the dissemination plan

(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)

The dissemination plan has been fully achieved as planned. The deliverables are listed as follow:

1. Training of PhD student

A PhD student (Chen, Qiqi), under the PI's supervision, has been working on research project named "Polyvictimization and Mental Health among Adolescents: From Family to Cyberspace". Chen has been awarded the Fulbright-RGC Hong Kong Visiting Student Scholar and will pursue her placement at the University of Chicago in the academic year of 2019/20. Her proposed project is "Cyberbullying and family poly-victimization". Chen is co-author of all the publication outputs arisen from this project.

2. Scholarly publications –

- a. A paper reporting the meta-analytic study has been published online first at the journal *Trauma, Violence & Abuse*.

Deliverable:

Chan, K.L.* Chen, Q.Q., & Chen, M. (2019) Prevalence and Correlates of the Co-occurrence of Family Violence: A Meta-analysis on Family Polyvictimization. *Trauma, Violence & Abuse*. (Online first). DOI: 10.1177/1524838019841601

(Impact Factor=4.329; CiteScore=4.03) [*Corresponding author]

Ranking of journal: 1/61 in Criminology & Penology | 1/46 in Family Studies | 1/42 in Social Work

- b. A book chapter is accepted and will be published in a SAGE Handbook of Domestic Violence

Deliverable:

Chan, K.L. & Chen, Qiqi (2020). Violence against children and family poly-victimization. In Todd K. Shackelford (Ed.), *The SAGE Handbook of Domestic Violence*. SAGE, London.

- c. A manuscript has been submitted to international peer-review journal and is now under review.

Chan, KL, Chen, Qiqi, Chen, Mengtong, Lo, Camilla, & Yu, Lu. Screening for Multiple Types of Family Violence: Development and Validation of The Family Polyvictimization Screen. [Under review]

3. Teaching courses on violence at the host university

A full course on Family Violence (course code: APSS515) was taught in the 2017/18 to 70 students from social sciences. The concepts and knowledge of family polyvictimization was shared with students, the professionals-to-be. The PI has integrated the new findings about family polyvictimization into the courses on violence at the host university. Keeping students updated with new ideas and theories of the subject is of great importance in education. Thus teaching the concept and ecological model of family polyvictimization is a valuable means to give out the project outputs to a wide range of individuals.

4. Plenary Presentations at International, Regional and Local Conferences:

The PI has been actively presenting the concepts and findings of family polyvictimization studies to academic communities, at international and regional research conferences. All the presentations were invited by organizing institutions and the PI was serving as plenary speaker. The findings of the project was systematically disseminated to scholars as well as the exchange of knowledge in the field with different professionals, policymakers, and public organizations. The deliverables are listed as follow:

China/Hong Kong

- I1. **Chan, K.L.** (2019, May). *Innovations in Child Protection*. Plenary speaker at the 2nd International Conference on Social Work and Social Policy for Children, organized by the East China University of Science and Technology, Shanghai, China, 23-24 May, 2019.
(No. of participants: 250)
- I2. **Chan, K.L.** (2018, September). *The nexus between cyberbullying and family polyvictimization*. Invited symposium speaker at the Tackling Cyberbullying: A Comparative and Interdisciplinary Symposium, organized by the Faculty of Law, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong.
(No. of participants: 100)
- I3. **Chan, K.L.** (2018, June). *Multi-disciplinary collaboration for upstream child protection*. Invited speaker at the Pujiang Forum of Pediatrics, organized by National Children's Medical Center, Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine, Shanghai Children's Medical Center and Project HOPE Foundation, Shanghai, China, 1-2 June 2018.
(No. of participants: 500)
- I4. **Chan, K.L., Elaine Loo (Singapore), Jeong-Hee Ryu (South Korea), Sachiko Kita (Japan)**(2017, December). Panel Discussion on Asian Strategies in Violence Prevention. Plenary speaker at the Global Scientific Summit organized by Academy on Violence and Abuse, Hong Kong, 7th – 8th December 2017.
(No. of participants: 200)
- I5. **Chan, K.L.** (2017, October). *Child and family polyvictimization in China - Asian perspective in violence prevention*. Invited symposium speaker at the 13th Congress of the Asian Society for Pediatric Research (ASPR), organized by the Hong Kong College of Paediatricians, Hong Kong.
(No. of participants: 100)
- I6. **Chan, K.L.** (2017, June). *Child and family polyvictimization – Informing child protection policy in China*. Plenary speaker at the International Symposium on Medical Social Work organized by Shanghai Children's Medical Center, Shanghai, China, 16-17 June 2017.
(No. of participants: 100)

Japan

- I7. **Chan, K.L.** (2018, February). *Preventing Family Violence: Child and family polyvictimization*. Plenary speaker at the symposium organized by the Global Nursing Research Center, The University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan, 12 February 2018.
(No. of participants: 200)

USA/Canada

- I8. **Chan, K.L.** (2017, July). *Child and family polyvictimization: Informing violence prevention policy and services*. Invited speaker at the symposium co-organized by School of Social Work, University of British Columbia and MOSAIC, Vancouver, Canada, 28th July 2017.
(No. of participants: 50)
- I9. **Chan, K.L.** (2017, April). *Child and family polyvictimization in China - Chinese perspective in violence prevention*. Plenary speaker at the conference Challenges to Children's Welfare in Contemporary China, organized by the Penn's Center for the Study of Contemporary China, Philadelphia, USA, 25th – 26th April 2017.
(No. of participants: 100)

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

The PI has been invited by top universities in Japan, South Korea and Canada during the period of the study. Here is the list:

Feb. – April, 2018	Visiting Professor, Global Nursing Research Center, The University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan.
July – August, 2017	Visiting Professor, School of Social Work, University of British Columbia, Canada.
2017 – 2018	Honorary Professor, School of Social Welfare, Yonsei University, Seoul, South Korea

I and the above Schools will continue the research collaboration and develop new projects to further inquire the family polyvictimization.

A PhD student (Chen, Qiqi), under the PI's supervision, has been awarded the Fulbright-RGC Hong Kong Visiting Student Scholar and will pursue her placement at the University of Chicago in the academic year of 2019/20. Chen's work is related to the project supported by this Prestigious Fellowship Scheme. The project title is named "Polyvictimization and Mental Health among Adolescents: From Family to Cyberspace".