

RGC Reference HKUST602-HSS-12
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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:** The Hong Kong Panel Study of Social Dynamics (HKPSSD)
- 2. Award Holder and Academic Department/Unit Involved**

Name/Post	Unit/Department/Institution	Contact Information
Wu, Xiaogang	Social Science/HKUST	(852)23587827

Part B: The Report

5. Work plan

5.1 Work plan as per original application

I. Jul 2009 – Dec 2010	Preparing work, set up team/center, CAPI system, questionnaire designs, sampling designs, the pilot survey
II. Jan 2011 – Apr 2011	Questionnaire revision, sampling revision
III. May 2011 – Dec 2011	First-wave survey data collection
IV. Jan 2012 – Aug 2012	Data cleaning, coding, preliminary report
V. Sep 2012 – Aug 2013	Data analysis of the first-wave data, preparation for and implementation of the second wave of survey
VI. Sep 2013 – Jun 2014	Data cleaning, coding, integration, Final report, conference papers; preparation for data release

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)

During the fellowship year, I led a team based at HKUST Center for Applied Social and Economic Research (CASER) to continue to work on the data cleaning and technical reports on the first wave, and prepared and implemented the second wave survey.

First, I supervised a team to clean the data and prepared technical reports and codebooks, in both English and Chinese, while actively working on the implementation of the second wave survey. The technical report for first wave is revised and finalized in May, 2014 (attached).

Second, together with my PhD students/mentees, I have conducted some preliminary analyses of the first-wave data and written several short reports (published in local newspapers/magazines). There are some papers/projects we are currently working on (the work is slightly delayed because of the staff turnover and student graduation, as well as the greater-than-expected effort we spent on the second wave survey).

Finally, we have completed the second wave surveys in 2013 (extended to March 2014). Because of the difficulty tracking households and members, we spent extended period of time (almost 10 months), with different fieldwork strategies. In the end, we completed the interviews of 2349 households, including 4642 adults and 682 children. The follow-up/retention rate is over 70 percent among household levels, 71 among individuals, and 85 percent among children. We deem the statistics acceptable for the household face-to-face interviews in a place like Hong Kong, and thus stopped the fieldwork in March. However, after careful thoughts, I decided to add a refreshment sample in the survey (about 800 households) to ensure the comparable sample size to the first wave and also for future follow-ups.

Our team then designed a refreshment sample questionnaires and decided to work with a new fieldwork supplier. The interviewer training and fieldwork were started in mid-May and expected to complete in September, 2014. The cleaning of the wave-2 data is in progress. We are now preparing for the technical report and data cleaning for the second wave of HKPSSD. I also tried to extend the collaborations to continue the HKPSSD (third wave) by sharing the data and applying for research funding together with other colleagues.

The fieldwork was delayed and the follow-up surveys in a city like Hong Kong were proved to be a challenging task. However, we have gained substantial experience working with the fieldwork team. The refreshment sample survey (by a different fieldwork supplier) is expected to complete the interview in early September, 2014. It also distracts my research team's focus on the analysis of the first-wave data and its follow-up.

During the fellowship year of teaching leave, I also completed several working papers, some of which are under review for publications.

6. **Dissemination plan**

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 tasks in the work plan have largely been achieved. Due to the prolonged progress of the fieldwork of the second wave, the dissemination plan is also somewhat delayed.

For point 1, we have also given access to the data to many other researchers who expressed their interests in working on the HKPSSD data. All users in Appendix 1 need to sign the non-disclosure agreement (in Appendix 1). They are actively analyzing the data on a variety of issues, such as education, youth issues, income inequality, immigration, gender and marriage, housing, happiness. A series of analyses in Chinese have been published in a magazine devoted to policy studies in Hong Kong (《紫荆论坛》).

The conference is re-scheduled to early 2015, since HKPSSD completion date for another RGC-SPPR project has been extended to Dec 2014, per the approval from RGC in Appendix 2.

For point 2, the CSR special issue is under-preparation. The papers will be discussed in the research conference and then sent for review. The special issue is scheduled to be published in Spring or Summer issue, 2015.

For point 3, I prepared for Technical Report of HKPSSD (wave 1) and also presented findings and project designs in various settings, including international conferences such as annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, of the Population Association of America, and the International Sociological Association-Research Committee on Social Stratification and Mobility (RC28), in the SOSC Division seminar at HKUST, University of Hong Kong, Shanghai University, and City University of Hong Kong. While the Distinguished Lecture series on Inequality and Poverty did not continue due to the difficulties inviting guest speakers, we have held several small workshops among researchers involved in the projects and regular Quantitative Social Science Seminar at CASER for PhD and MPhil student to promote the awareness of and disseminate the knowledge of inequality and poverty issues in Hong Kong.

In sum, the main reason for the delay of dissemination plan is due to the fieldwork (data collection) progress. Our work plan and dissemination plan will be in aligned with the progress of the HKPSSD wave 2. The revised completion date is 29/12/2014, and the submission of the completion report is 28/9/2015 (see attached confirmation from RGC in Appendix 2). All the work plan and dissemination plans of the Prestigious Fellowship Scheme will be achieved before the submission of the completion report of the HKPSSD project. I will be on sabbatical leave in the coming academic year but will continue to work on the analyses of HKPSSD and dissemination of the findings.

Enclosed:

1. Appendix 1 - List of scholars and students who have already been given access to the HKPSSD data (wave 1).
2. Appendix 2 - Approval letter from RGC on the extension of the SPPR project.
3. Appendix 3 – Technical report for first wave survey

HSSFPS 7

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

I have helped Shanghai University set up and modify the CAPI system for their project use and design a similar study in Shanghai for comparative studies (Shanghai Urban Neighborhood Survey), to be launched in the summer of 2014/2015. I was also approached by National University of Singapore for advice/information for the Singaporean Panel Study of Social Dynamics, to be started in 2014.

I have formed a collaboration with Prof Paul Yip and his research team at Hong Kong University, on the "Study on Determinants of Poverty and Potential Interventions to Alleviate Poverty in Hong Kong", a Chief Executive Community Project, supported by the Jockey-Club Charity Trust from 2014-2017. The teams at HKU and HKUST will work together to analyze the first and second wave of HKPSSD data and design the third wave of HKPSSD with a focus on poverty issues in Hong Kong. The survey is expected to launch in mid-June 2015.

I am also collaborating with the scholars on the following RGC-GRF/Early Career Scheme projects based on the HKPSSD data:

Dr. Chang, Shu-Sen, University of Hong Kong (Medicine, Dentistry & Health Panel), "The impact of the 2008 global economic crisis on suicide in Hong Kong" (I am one of the Co-Is).

Dr. Chen, Juan, Hong Kong Polytechnic University (Professional & Vocational Studies Panel), "Seeking Help for Mental Health Problems in Hong Kong: The Influence of Family." (I am one of the Co-Is).

Dr. Zhang, Zhuoni, City University of Hong Kong (Social Sciences Panel) "Neighborhood Characteristics, Parental Practices and Immigrant Children's Academic Performance and Non-Cognitive Skills in Hong Kong." (I am the research collaborator).

Some of our preliminary results from HKPSSD have been published in 《紫荊論壇》, a local Chinese journal on research in policy issues in Hong Kong. Our work has been mentioned in *South China Morning Post*.