

Research Assessment Exercise 2020
Impact Overview Statement

University: City University of Hong Kong |

Unit of Assessment (UoA): 25 political science (incl. public policy & administration & international relations) |

Total number of eligible staff of the university in the UoA: 34 |

(1) Context

The impact of our research is generated through our multi-disciplinary approach to the study of politics: political science and policymaking; the ethical and philosophical foundations of politics and policy; international relations, security, political economy and development studies; public management; and policy (predominantly related to urban issues). These diverse channels enable the UoA to generate impact by faculty participation in government advisory committees, professional organisations, think tanks, and through consultancy and contract research. |

(2) Approach to impact

The UoA's approach to impact is best represented by the three interrelated practices of direct political and community involvement, facilitating networks and synergies and media engagement. First, our researchers work directly with governments, political parties, think tanks and professional and community organisations. During the assessment period, 25 faculty members participated in stakeholder boards and bodies, and 15 faculty engaged in over 30 contract research and consultancy projects. Notably, HM CHAN is Co-Vice Chair of the Clinical Ethics Committee of the Hong Kong Hospital Authority and chairs its Working Group on Advance Directives. LI is a member of the Advisory Committee for the Policy Decision of Shunde District Government (PRC), a member of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Appeal Panel (Housing) and a founding member of Future@HK. YAU is a member of the working group on Social Housing Operation and Services and the Community Housing Movement in the Hong Kong Council of Social Services. YEP is a member of the Communications Authority of the HKSAR, the Standing Committee on Policy Research and Advocacy in the Hong Kong Council of Social Services, and is the Research Director of SynergyNet. YIP is the Chairman of the Asia Pacific Branch of the Chartered Institute of Housing and a member of the Commercial Properties Committee in the Hong Kong Housing Authority. HSIEH advises the Taiwanese Government and the policy circle on civil service reform. TAYLOR has been invited to provide expert opinions to NGOs, foreign governments and international organisations on labour rights issues. THOMPSON and THOMAS serve as experts to the US government. WALKER served as an expert consultant in the United Arab Emirates Government Excellence Programme. WILLIAMS has provided expert views on Japanese foreign and security policy to Japanese officials. Second, the research centres and clusters in the UoA engage with these stakeholders to develop networks and foster impact by nurturing synergies and increasing the visibility of our research. A clear example of this are the seminars and conferences of the Centre for Sustainable Hong Kong (CSHK) held with industry, government and community stakeholders from different sectors and regions, and the networks of informal contacts that are generated through these forums. The Public Policy Fellows Programme also provided extended residences for influential policy practitioners and community leaders to provide a live resource of 'policy in practice' and inspiration for further impactful work. Third, our staff frequently appear in local and international media to offer impartial information for policy debates. For example, commentary was provided to Channel News Asia, The Guardian (CARROLL), South China Morning Post (ROBERTSON, STARRS, THOMAS, THOMPSON, and YIP), and The Financial Times (STARRS). UoA faculty have

been quoted in Bloomberg (STARRS), China Daily (MARKS), Ming Pao (ORTMANN), Nikkei Asian Review (ORTMANN), The Times and The Washington Post (THOMPSON and WILLIAMS). Others were interviewed by CNN (WILLIAMS and LYNCH), New York Times (LYNCH), German and Swiss public radio, Deutschland Funk Kultur and SRF 4 (ORTMANN) and The Japan Times (WILLIAMS). Books designed for a general audience have also been published. For example, YEP edited the book volume, Challenges in Governance in Hong Kong (2017), which discusses issues the HKSAR has faced since reuniting with mainland China. |

(3) Strategy and plans

In its strategic plan, CityU, through its Knowledge Transfer Committee (KTC), states its mission to 'enlarge capacity for knowledge transfer and entrepreneurship' and offers funding to social science researchers through the UGC's Knowledge Transfer Earmarked Fund (KTEF), 4 UoA faculty received 7 grants from the KTEF during the census period [REDACTED]. The College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences issued the first CityU Statement on Knowledge Transfer. The College Research Impact Committee (CRIC) strategically promotes impact through the Excellence in Knowledge Transfer Awards (EKTA) and the Research Impact Awards (RIA). Our faculty have won six EKTA and three RIA. Our planning and support for future impact is best illustrated by WALKER'S PPR funded research project, which recommended the use of experimental research designs for public policy polling. A subsequent KTEF grant resulted in a proof of concept study for the relevant app, and a further grant is providing ongoing support for the launch of My Citizens Panel, which is anticipated to provide the basis for a future impact case study. Building on the UoA's approach to impact and its strategic support structures, we have a clear vision of the need to invest additional resources into translating the cutting-edge research of our faculty members and their research centres and clusters into impact, and thereby reaching a wider audience. For example, plans are in place and practices are emerging to integrate our faculty members' expertise in social science with the extensive bodies of knowledge in science, technology, engineering and medicine to participate in CityU's three strategic inter-disciplinary and team-based research areas: One Health, Smart Cities and Big Data. The UoA has hosted practitioner-academic events on ethics and AI, bioethics and behavioural insights. Critically, these impact plans align with CityU's educational mission of a Discovery Enhanced Curriculum to enable students to engage in discovery and innovative learning and generate real world impacts. |

(4) Relationship to case studies

The case studies reflect our long-standing commitment to research pluralism and interdisciplinary collaboration. The research centres and networks play an essential role in supporting our impact. For example, the CSHK has generated a network of over 1,500 professionals/policy practitioners in Hong Kong, mainland China and overseas, which have facilitated LI's collaborative work and practitioner engagement. CSHK also hosted conferences on the Opportunities and Challenges in the Belt Road Project (Sept 2017) and Connecting Hong Kong Professional Service and the Belt Road Countries (Oct 2017). These conferences further contributed to the impact of LI's research by consolidating her research-practice networks. The colonial governance seminar series, hosted by POL from 2013-16, also provided an ongoing forum for discussing and understanding the tension and differences between the Hong Kong colonial administration and the British government in the handling of the 1967 crisis. This enhanced the impact of YEP's research by offering further opportunities for in-depth discussion and reflection of the relevant issues. Urban Research Group (URC)'s regular internal discussion and extensive networks of its members supported the development of the research ideas and helped in the search for research partners for ZHANG's research on the green building movement. |