University: The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Unit of Assessment (UoA): 27 sociology & anthropology
Total number of eligible staff of the university in the UoA: 19

1. Context

This **UoA** consists of two sub-units, one (Department of Anthropology; **ANT**) from the Faculty of Arts and the other (Department of Sociology; **SOC**) from the Faculty of Social Science. **ANT** focuses on a wide range of contemporary Asian issues: (i) globalization, migration and migrant communities, (ii) Hong Kong culture and society, (iii) Chinese cultures and societies, and (iv) archaeology and cultural heritage. Members act as consultants to the HKSAR Government (e.g., the Antiquities Advisory Board; the Leisure and Cultural Services Department), and local and international NGOs (e.g., the WIMLER Foundation; UNESCO; Christian Action), and influence policy formation on ethnic minorities in Hong Kong and raise public awareness of globalization, migration and cultural heritage. **SOC** has a long history of taking the lead in framing local public discourse among pundits, elites, and the public about colonial and post-colonial governance, political culture, conflicts, and civil society in Hong Kong (works by Ambrose KING, S.K. LAU, T.L. LUI, K.M. CHAN). During the assessment period, policy-relevant research mainly focused on crime and deviance, gender and family, and migration issues (labor, health and population). Audiences or beneficiaries of the research results include (i) the HKSAR Government (e.g. the Narcotics Division; the Central Policy Unit, an official government think tank; law enforcement agencies), (ii) NGOs providing social services or human rights advocacy in Hong Kong (e.g. AIDS Concern; SARDA), (iii) stakeholders in secondary and tertiary education in Hong Kong (e.g. the Curriculum Development Council Committee on Liberal Studies, which offers a required subject often taught by sociology graduates for the university entrance exam), and (iv) civic and political groups.

2. Approach to Impact

The **UoA's** impact strategies have been to (i) recruit scholars with a record of impactful research; (ii) empower and incentivize socially relevant research through performance assessment and institutional support; (iii) encourage and support the co-creation of impact with non-academic knowledge partners (e.g., policy advocates, policy makers, and communities); and (iv) promote knowledge dissemination and transfer to draw attention to and attract usage of our research findings.

Staff Recruitment: Enthusiastic and competent researchers are likely to be champions of socially impactful research. The **UoA** strategically recruits colleagues with a proven record of conducting excellent impact research. In 2016, **SOC** recruited Eric FONG, a leading expert in migration. Since 2017, he has received a HK$3,706,000 Strategic Public Policy Research (SPPR) grant from the government and a HK$1,539,000 grant from the private Our Hong Kong Foundation to examine migration policies of the Greater Bay Area. In 2017, **ANT** recruited Andrew KIPNIS, a world-renowned anthropologist of Chinese societies, who has been active in discussing Chinese educational practices and urban planning with a global public audience. In 2018, **SOC** also recruited Chris CHAN, a prolific economic and labor sociologist who has been working closely with local NGOs and the International Labour Organization of the United Nations to address labor issues in Hong Kong and China.

Incentive and Institutional Support: The **UoA** recognizes the social impact of research in its annual appraisal of staff's research performance. In **ANT**, institutional support includes staff assistance for faculty members to obtain knowledge transfer funds (e.g. S.M. TAM with the Knowledge Transfer Project Fund from 2013-19, Sealing CHENG with the Robert H.N. Ho Family Foundation in 2017-18, and Sharon WONG with the Lord Wilson Heritage Trust in 2016). **SOC** also supports colleagues with extended leave or secondment to take up leadership roles in government-appointed positions (e.g. Y.W. CHEUNG was the Convenor of the Research Advisory Group at the Narcotics Division

2009-17; S.K. LAU was the Head of the Central Policy Unit 2002-12; S.Y. WONG was the Director of the Board of Management, Joint University Programmes Admissions System 2017-18), and NGOs (Y.T. SUEN is the Vice Chair of AIDS Concern).

Co-Creation of Impact with Non-Academic Knowledge Partners: Non-academic knowledge partners including educators, civil servants, and NGOs are actively engaged in the co-creation of social impact of research. For example, **SOC's** N.W.T. CHEUNG and Y.W. CHEUNG have provided research advice to and worked closely with the Narcotics Division and drug treatment service providers; S.Y.P. CHOI and Y.T. SUEN have worked with the Equal Opportunities Commission since 2015; S.H. ZHONG provided training for policing in China. In **ANT,** S.M. TAM's project "Multiculturalism in Action" (MIA), distributed more than 400 booklets and pamphlets to more than 30 secondary schools in Hong Kong. Research collaborations with audiences or beneficiaries have had direct impact on policy-making, as documented by the **UoA**'s impact cases.

Active Knowledge Dissemination and Transfer: Knowledge dissemination is sustained via mass media. **ANT** has established a media network nationally and internationally for researchers to share their research findings. It has developed an online platform for researchers to upload open-access resources (e.g. the MIA website with 4000+ hits to date) and update their public engagement activities (e.g. intercultural workshops). Similarly, **SOC** holds press conferences and prepares commissioned research reports for government agencies (e.g. Eric FONG and Y.Y. TONG's research project on migrant domestic helpers on 13 February 2019; Y.Y. TONG and J. SONG's widely covered press conference on 22 August 2018 about their commission report to Hong Kong's Equal Opportunities Commission on family status discrimination in the workplace). It also participates in public debates in the news media and holds academic conferences and meetings with policy makers and NGO representatives (e.g. the 7th Annual Conference of the Asian Criminological Society in June 2015).

3. Strategy and Plans

The research impact strategies described above, which have proven to be effective, will continue. In addition, we have three plans to enrich our impact strategy:

Expanded Engagement: New networks will be formed with current end users and will invite more participants of different kinds (e.g. government officials, NGOs and ethnic community groups) to the network, and organize monthly forums to engage them.

Training on Impact and Knowledge Transfer: Workshops will be organized for our colleagues to learn how to engage with a diverse range of stakeholders. We plan to organize periodic press conferences on our research findings and help our colleagues draft newspaper articles to widely disseminate their research.

New Institutional Support: Dedicated staff support and organizational synergy will be made use of to strengthen the awareness and cultural environment conducive to socially impactful research. For example, **ANT** has hired a full-time post-doctoral fellow to create and monitor an ongoing repository of examples of impact. **SOC** will actively participate in the University's new programme – Data Science and Policy Studies – to strengthen the capability of both faculty members and students to apply the tools of big data analysis to address significant social issues.

4. Relationship to the Case Studies

The **UoA**'s case study illustrates the institutional commitment to facilitate social impactful research. **ANT's** case study, ***Improving the Lives and Increasing the Understanding of Asylum Seekers, Ethnic Minorities and Other Migrants in Hong Kong***, has changed the practices of schools and NGOs on ethnic issues. The Unit's dissemination networks helped to release Gordon MATHEWS' research results to national and international media. The Unit also helped S.M. TAM and Sealing CHENG to apply for impact grants, interact with a large number of end users, and run community projects. **SOC's** case study, ***Enhancing Drug Rehabilitation Policy and Practice through Researching Illicit Drug Abuse Across Generations***, demonstrates the returns from a collective commitment to rigorous policy relevant research, long-term engagement with stakeholders, and the successful translation of scientific results into strong evidence and guidance for policies.