

**Research Assessment Exercise 2020**  
**Impact Case Study**

**University:** The Chinese University of Hong Kong  
**Unit of Assessment (UoA):** 30

**Title of case study:** Promoting Public Awareness and Respect in Hong Kong Literature through the Endowment of Prof Lo Wai Luen (Xiao Si)

**(1) Summary of the impact** (indicative maximum 100 words)

Prof Lo Wai Luen's research has been instrumental in **establishing and re-evaluating the literary legacy of Hong Kong literature**. Lo's editorial scholarship and investigative research on early works and writers, including the breakthrough discovery of 'literary landscapes', has provided new perspectives on the cultural mobility of one of the most vibrant cosmopolitans in the world. Via Lo's new, definitive editions, biographical and oral historical publications, online archives and public lectures, Hong Kong literature has **reached new global audiences** and through the reconfigured insights have **enhanced public awareness and respect in one's own culture**.

**(2) Underpinning research** (indicative maximum 500 words)

- Prof Lo's research on Hong Kong literature spans her entire period of employment at CUHK (1979-2002; emeritus 2002-present) and covers two main areas: (i) the scholarly editing of early literary works and documents; (ii) investigations of the literary field of Hong Kong, including the restoration of previously unknown or missing texts. Lo was the first scholar to give Hong Kong's often fragmented literary productions the level of attention they deserve and to consolidate its importance as one of the seminal intellectual forces of twentieth century culture. The significance of Hong Kong literature reaches well beyond the literary sphere into questions of political and social organisation, national identity and the role of the intellectual, and Lo's work highlights the importance of Hong Kong literature in each of these spheres.
- Lo's early research examined the literary activities and writings of writers who migrated to Hong Kong from the mainland. Later on, Lo has moved on to working on the historicity and subjectivity of Hong Kong literature. In the process, she has collected a wealth of rare literary documents, and has been entertaining the thought of a general literary history of Hong Kong. Her early interest helped bring out a series of anthologies of the Japanese occupied period of Hong Kong literature (2017) [1]; and her recent research has generated articles, books, online databases (2003-present) [2] and archives (2005-present) [3]. Her mission, vision and passion are being continued by colleagues in the Department of Chinese Language and Literature.
- Lo's research and writings have shed lights on a number of important issues surrounding Hong Kong literature, which include: the interrelationship between Hong Kong and mainland China's literary traditions, the origin and subjectivity of Hong Kong literature, and the open, complex and nuanced nature of it. Her work *Hong Kong Story* (2002) [4] has been widely referenced and indispensable to related research, helping thousands of readers to understand the reception and resonance of Hong Kong literature.
- Lo has been working on oral history projects and interviewing literati and writers, who were active in the 1950s-70s, in two influential youth magazines, *The Chinese Student Weekly* and *Youth's Garden* sponsored by the political "right wing" and "left wing" respectively. The two volumes of published transcripts *Polyphonic Hong Kong Culture I & II* (2014, 2017) [5] attempt at a new narrative account of Hong Kong literature and social organization.
- Creatively, Lo played a crucial role in establishing the Hong Kong Literature Database and the Lo Wai Luen's Archive, which were co-founded by her, the Hong Kong Literature Research

Centre (founded by Lo in 2001) and the CUHK Library (with the generous donation of Lo's private collection of Hong Kong literature materials). Lo is interested in Geo-humanities and has explored the interaction between place, experience and creative writing in Hong Kong literature in her collection of *Hong Kong Literary Walks* (2005, 2009, 2012, 2015, 2019) [6], contributing to the 'literary landscapes' of Hong Kong as well as its connection to Chinese cultural origins.

### (3) References to the research (indicative maximum of six references)

[1] 盧瑋鑾、鄭樹森主編：《淪陷時期香港文學資料選：一九四一至一九四五》(Literary Documents in the Period of Japanese Occupation of Hong Kong :1941-1945)，香港：天地，2017。347 頁。

[2] 香港文學研究中心、香港中文大學圖書館：香港文學資料庫 (Hong Kong Literature Database) (2003) <http://hklitpub.lib.cuhk.edu.hk/>。

[3] 香港文學研究中心、香港中文大學圖書館：盧瑋鑾教授所藏香港文學檔案 (Lo Wai Luen's Archive) (2005) <http://hklitpub.lib.cuhk.edu.hk/lovf/>。

[4] 小思：《香港故事》(Hong Kong Story)，香港：牛津，2002 年。142 頁。Siu Si (aka Lo Wai Luen).

[5] 盧瑋鑾、熊志琴：《香港文化眾聲道 I》(Polyphonic Hong Kong Culture I)，香港：三聯，2014 年。288 頁。

[6] 小思：《香港文學散步》(Hong Kong Literary Walks)，(第三次修訂本)，香港：商務印書館，2019 年。315 頁。Available on request.

--：《香港文學散步》(最新修訂版)，香港：商務印書館，2012 年。216 頁。

--：《香港文學散步》(簡體字版)，上海：上海譯文，2015 年。258 頁。

--：岩佐昌暲，間ふさ子訳：《香港文学散步》，福岡市：九州大学大学院比較社会文化学府国際言語文化講座，2005 年。224 頁。

*Hong Kong Literary Walk* has witnessed five different editions since its debut in 1991, including both traditional and simplified Chinese versions, an annotated version, and a Japanese translation.

### (4) Details of the impact (indicative maximum 750 words)

Hong Kong has been ridiculed as a "cultural desert" now and then. Lo's works, intended to address this unfairness, have educational, cultural and commercial impacts, felt already in schools and scholarly communities in Hong Kong, Taiwan and China. Lo has also worked closely with educators and schools and has led and inspired many literary and cultural projects. Above all, she founded the Hong Kong Literature Research Centre in 2001, commissioning and overseeing new research projects and initiating new publications of every variety.

Improving the quality of Hong Kong literary learning and increasing the accessibility of literary documents

Hong Kong literature exists in literary works in books, newspaper supplements and magazines. Anthologies painstakingly compiled by Prof Lo have been on the reading list of this subject for literature-lovers, students, scholars and literary historians. The Hong Kong Literature Database she founded now houses over a hundred titles of full-text literary magazines and newspaper supplements for free browsing, and it attracts 4.5 million hit rates per year by users from the top three areas of mainland China, the States and Hong Kong respectively. [1]

Implemented Hong Kong literature as one of the key elective modules of the curricula  
As a veteran teacher and researcher on Hong Kong literature, Lo provides guidance which significantly influences the Curriculum Development Institute to the structure and contents of the subjects of Chinese Language and Chinese in public exams (HKDSE) which have implemented Hong Kong literature as one of the key elective modules of the curricula. [2] She is also a significant consultant of a series of Chinese Language textbooks published by the Oxford University Press (China) with the market dominance and her expertise in addressing new social challenges with old textbooks is well recognised. [3]

Worldwide access to Hong Kong Literature through the media

The impact of Lo's research extends far beyond academia. As a renowned writer, Lo's collection of essays like *Stories of Apprenticeship* 承教小記 has been constantly reprinted. Lo's books have inspired the Television Broadcast Ltd (TVB) and the Radio Hong Kong (RTHK) to produce several programs, including the recent Outstanding Chinese Writers Series 華人作家系列 (2014). It received wide acclaim which one of them came from the documentary director Wei Shi-yu 魏時煜, appreciating the devotion of Lo as to regain the past faces of Hong Kong writers for the younger generations. [4]

Enabling the teaching of Hong Kong literature, history and culture

As a consultant of Chinese Language textbooks, Lo has helped spreading the knowledge of Hong Kong literature to high school students. The Hong Kong Literature Research Centre founded by Lo in 2001 is a hub for research and education. There have been over 150 talks, literary walks, and workshops have been given by the members since 2013 which have attracted a total audience of over 5,000—school and university students, writers, scholars, as well as the general public [5].

Public Perceptions of “Hong Kong Literary Walks”

The idea of “literary walks” inspired Government organizations such as the SCOLAR and Education Bureau, and public organizations such as RTHK and Hong Kong Libraries, to co-organize activities with the HKLRC. With SCOLAR, the Centre carried out the project “Language Enhancement Fun Walk” 輕鬆散步學中文 [6]. And the project “Walking into the Landscape of Hong Kong Literature” 走進香港文學風景 [7] was jointly supported by Knowledge Transfer Funding of CUHK and the Curriculum Development Institute. Both projects are open to 300,000 secondary students in Hong Kong, of which over 600 of them are benefited each year.

“Hong Kong Literary Walk,” a signature invention of Lo, has been used for various educational and communal purposes. It has inspired the innovative writing project of literary landscapes in virtual reality (VR) for secondary students 觸境生情：虛擬實境語文教學計劃 [8], and the South District Council to design a “Literary Trail in the Southern District” 南區文學徑. The Chairman of the Southern District Council stated that the idea of Literary Trail directly comes from Lo's “Hong Kong Literary Walk” [9], and ‘by retracing the footsteps of five notable contemporary literary figures, the Council has built their commemorative landmarks at the respective locations to form the Literary Trail in the district, bringing a new perspective for the public to appreciate literature.’ [10]

**(5) Sources to corroborate the impact** (indicative maximum of 10 references)

[1] ‘Giving Advice during Award Acceptance: Xiao Si dedicates herself to literature preservation’ 趙僖：〈領獎不忘諫言 小思誓為港歷史存照〉，《文匯報》，2016年4月30日，版 B07。 Press reports on Xiao Si's contribution in preserving literary documents by digitization in which a 4.5M hits per year of the database is mentioned.

<http://paper.wenweipo.com/2016/04/30/OT1604300017.htm>

- [2] ‘Chinese Literature. Curriculum and Assessment Guide (Secondary 4-6)’ 《中國文學 課程及評估指引》（香港：課程發展議會與香港考試及評核局聯合編訂，2015 更新版），頁 83-84。Lo’s Hong Kong Literary Walk and the two online database and archive by Lo were referenced. [http://www.edb.gov.hk/attachment/tc/curriculum-development/kla/chi-edu/Chi%20Lit%20CA%20Guide\\_2015.pdf](http://www.edb.gov.hk/attachment/tc/curriculum-development/kla/chi-edu/Chi%20Lit%20CA%20Guide_2015.pdf)
- [3] ‘Old Textbooks, New Challenges’ 鄧小樺：〈舊課本新困難〉，《明報》，2015 年 8 月 10 日。Reports by cultural critic Tang Siu-wah on Lo’s collection of vintage textbooks and their effects on national identity and social reflections. <https://www.pentoy.hk/?p=39291>
- [4] ‘With those new faces in the past: Aura of Hong Kong writers Regained’ 〈那些舊時代的新臉孔 在光影中尋回一代作家〉，《明報》，2015 年 6 月 16 日。Compliments from the documentary director Wei Shi-yu 魏時煜 published in *Ming Pao* about the RTHK program *Outstanding Chinese Writers Series*.
- [5] A complete list of activities and number of participants could be provided upon request. Recent literary talks, camps and activities could be found at the website of the Hong Kong Literature Research Centre (HKLRC) <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/chi/hklrc/>.
- [6] ‘Learning Chinese Literature from Literary Fieldtrips: Teaching Materials and Creative Works by Students’ 樊善標、馬輝洪主編：《輕鬆散步學中文：文學景點考察資料及創作集》，香港：香港中文大學香港文學研究中心，2015 年。A collection of literary works contributed by the participants of the knowledge transfer projects inspired by the “Hong Kong Literary Walk”, which has been generously supported the government and private donations with a total sum of approximately \$3M over the years. <http://hklitpub.lib.cuhk.edu.hk/topics/fun/>
- [7] ‘Walking into the Landscape of Hong Kong Literature v.1’ 香港中文大學香港文學研究中心、教育局課程發展處中國語文教育組、香港中文大學大學圖書館系統合編：《走進香港文學風景 卷一》，香港：香港中文大學香港文學研究中心，2014 年。A collection of works published by the HKLRC on literary landscapes of Hong Kong generated from the project which could be enjoyed by over 300,000 secondary school students per year.
- [8] ‘VR Project for Enhancing Chinese Language Literacy’ 觸境生情：虛擬實境語文教學計劃（2018）<https://www.jc-vr-chinese.hk/> An innovative project co-organized by the HKLRC, with Prof Lo served as one of the honorary advisors. The project was generously funded by the Hong Kong Jockey Club with a total amount of \$30M.
- [9] ‘Literary Trail in the Southern District: Revisit the Sentiments of the Literati’ 〈南區文學徑 重溫文人墨客香港情〉，《文匯報》，2015 年 6 月 29 日。  
<http://paper.wenweipo.com/2015/06/29/BK1506290001.htm> Press report about the launching of “Literary Trail in the Southern District”, in which the chairman of the Southern District Office stated how the idea was come from the book “Hong Kong Literary Walk” by Prof Lo Wai-luen.
- [10] Quoted from the homepage of the official website “Literary Trail in the Southern District” 香港南區遊 <http://www.travelsouth.hk/en/history-monuments/sdliteratureroute>