

Research Assessment Exercise 2020

Impact Overview Statement

University: Hong Kong Baptist University

Unit of Assessment (UoA): 30 Chinese Language & Literature

Total number of eligible staff of the university in the UoA: 12

a. Context

The research agenda of Chinese Language and Literature (CHI) explores Chinese culture and literature; and its roots lie in the Chinese community. Our research has impact in the areas of local curriculum reform, teacher development, the promotion of literacy, literature, reading, and creative writing. With our well-established partner networks, we have been continuously exerting significant influence on the community through providing knowledge transfer courses and workshops. Such networks include:

1. Language/Literature and HK Education: Prof. Lo Ming Tung works closely with the Hong Kong Education Bureau (EDB), including the Curriculum Development Council Committee and one Committee on Chinese Language Education, the HK Examinations and Assessment Authority on Chinese Language Education, the Steering Committee of the Chief Executive's Award for Teaching Excellence, the Task Quality Assurance Committee at Primary Level and the Chinese Language and Chinese Literature Textbook Review Panel for Secondary School.

2. Culture and HK Society: Prof. Lo and Prof. Chen Zhi work with schools and public broadcasting, including the Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) and Asia Television, to promote literature reading and ritual practice.

3. Creative Writing and HK Secondary Schools: CHI's long and distinguished tradition of creative writing programmes has provided training to Hong Kong citizens for 18 years.

Through working with these agencies and institutions, we have the following impacts:

(i) Improved Chinese language/literature education

- By playing a major role in the Curriculum Development Council, Prof. Lo has been consulted to pilot a new curriculum for the teaching of Chinese Language. This includes recommending a set of 12 compulsory classical texts and the evaluation criteria of Chinese Language in the public examination, which have now been implemented since 2015/2016.

- Our research is helping to improve the teaching and learning of classical texts: Prof. Lo has been invited by EDB to offer courses on Chinese culture (30 classes) to 1084 school teachers since 2014; 120 students of Tuen Mun St. Simon's Lui Ming-choi Secondary School joined Dr. Chan Hon Man's Literature Reading Workshop - the 12 Compulsory Texts (offered 720 service hours, funded by HKBUC Centre for Innovative Service-Learning 2018). The beneficiaries are EDB officials, teachers and students.

(ii) Enhanced public engagement with Chinese culture

- Dr. Chan HM, Dr. Ge and Dr. Chung Ching Hong have been organising a monthly writing workshop in classical-style poetry (30+ participants each month), Classical-style Poetry Chant Activities 有風傳雅韻 (500+ participants in 2015 and 2016) and an annual Writing Workshop in Prose (over 160 secondary schools, involving 2,000 students, took part in the workshops in the assessment period), again benefiting the general public who are interested in creative writing.

- Prof. Lo was appointed by the Civil Service Bureau and is helping to advance the proficiency of Chinese language among civil servants (administrative and executive officers). Three training workshops on Chinese Rhetoric and Chinese Culture have been held on May 17, 24, and 31, 2019 (offering 9 service hours, involving 180+ civil servants).

b. Approach to Impact

Our approach to impact includes the following means:

(i) Serving as consultants to agencies and social organizations

Prof. Lo holds an ongoing role as Chairman, Vice-Chairman and member of different committees

under the EDB, Dr. Lim Chin Chown is the deputy director of HK Writers' Association whose purpose is to promote local writing activities and HK literature.

(ii) Long-term cooperation with public broadcasting and HK secondary schools

Prof. Chen was invited to be the consultant and guest speaker of a TV program "The Analects of Confucius" which was broadcast on Asia Television in 2015 (12 episodes; <https://bit.ly/2Kt9rb2>). DVD and books under the same title will be published for public interest in late 2019. Adopting the train-the-trainer approach, CHI annually employs 70 undergraduates, who are trained under our guidance and work as student ambassadors for public workshop teaching.

(iii) CHI and Centre for Chinese Cultural Heritage (CCH) organise our own public cultural events.

Examples include: *2016 Guqin Enters the Campus: Guqin and the literati Life and Performance of the Ancient Rhyme's Clear Autumn* (300+ attendees) funded by external (Ministry of Culture, China) and internal (Madam Tsar Teh-yun Endowment Fund) funds.

(iv) All staff members actively engage in public cultural activities.

During 2013-19, the Department has held 160+ public lectures (e.g. held at HK Book Fair, Central Library), 180+ radio and tv contributions (e.g. RTHK, TVB), and been covered by the media over 170 times. Our E-platform for Teaching Chinese in the Community (<http://www.hkbuchi-eteaching.com/>) aims at disseminating our latest research and impact to non-academic user groups. CHI supports these means through an annual staff appraisal exercise which takes community service and impact into account for promotion. HKBU promotes interdisciplinary knowledge transfer projects (KTP), with Dr. Chan HM securing HKD\$3,982,770 (workshops on traditional Chinese culture and environmental studies for students of science discipline) from the UGC Teaching and Learning Grants provision(2015-2018).

c. Strategy and Plans

Our overall strategy is to continue to work closely with CCH to deliver our research and its impact in the following ways: (i) Improving CHI's visibility via an E-teaching platform (for education purposes), (ii) Hiring post-doctoral researchers at CCH (for public cultural programme initiatives), (iii) Expanding and deepening our links with agencies, art organisations, and secondary schools (e.g. the underprivileged Tuen Mun, Tin Shui Wai areas), (iv) Sharing good practices of KTPs at department/faculty meetings, inter-university based service learning workshops, and (v) Continuing to secure funds to embed our public engagement into our research. For **Language/Literature and HK Education**, Prof. Lo will continue working with EDB and other agencies, providing consultancy for formulating secondary school language policies and enhancing local cultural development. For **Culture and HK Society**, Dr. Chan HM will continue to run the annual Literature Reading Workshop for secondary students (November in each year), and Language & Culture Workshop for Non-Chinese Speaking Secondary Students (the latter was held on April 13, 2019 at HKBU, 12 schools joined, involving 41 junior students of minority ethnic groups). Both service-learning oriented workshops will continue to employ CHI undergraduates (70+ students) to work as student ambassadors who are responsible for teaching. For **Creative Writing and HK Secondary Schools**, Dr. Ge will maximise the impact of the annual Writing Workshop in Prose by (i) establishing awards for Excellence in Prose Composition, (ii) deepening ongoing links with secondary schools (160+ schools joined the workshops during the assessment period) and identifying new networks (working with art/literary magazines) under the support of CHI's Madam Tsar Teh-yun Endowment Fund.

d. Relationship to Case Study *Enhancing the Teaching and Learning of Chinese Culture in Secondary Chinese Language Curriculum* shows how, through providing consultancy for the EDB, delivering public lectures and building sustained networks with stakeholders, Prof. Lo's research and leadership has had a significant impact on the formulation of education policy and course development in secondary schools, benefiting government officials, school teachers, students, and the public at large.