

**Research Assessment Exercise 2020**  
**Impact Overview Statement**

**University: Lingnan University**

**Unit of Assessment (UoA): 35 - Area Studies (e.g. Japanese studies, European studies, etc.),  
Cultural Studies and other Arts/Humanities**

**Total number of eligible staff of the university in the UoA: 8**

**(1) Context**

Research conducted in the UoA seeks to (a) impact policy and practice in a range of cultural fields and in creative industries, and (b) to increase public awareness about components of cultural citizenship in Hong Kong and the region. Its impact focus is threefold: on cultural policy in relation to gender, race and ethnicity, and the arts; on transforming social and cultural practices in these areas; and on awareness-raising on these topics through sustained public engagement.

It is supported in this by the resources of Lingnan University, in particular Lingnan's emphasis on liberal arts education and community engagement through rigorous knowledge transfer (KT) and service learning schemes. The UoA benefits from various external and internal funding sources to support their short-term pilot research, research training workshops, and research sharing events such as conferences and colloquia. In the current RAE period, the UoA received \$28,140,745 from various external and internal funding sources including RGC, HK government, private foundations, and individual philanthropy. Faculty research grants awarded on projects include topics on digital intimacy, civil society, job seeking practices of South Asian youth in Hong Kong, farming practices in greater China, diasporic imaginations among Africans in China, social media and cultural politics in Hong Kong and Guangzhou. Significant grants have been awarded for community-based research and knowledge transfer projects. Most notably, a documentary theatre project on first generation South Asian settlers in Hong Kong has obtained a 2018/19 Knowledge Transfer Excellence Award. Other KT projects include experimental conversations on musical practice and improvisation, Cantonese Opera documentation and analysis, Hong Kong studies and the subject of liberal studies, sustainable farming practices in China, building inclusive workplaces for lesbians and bisexual women in financial services. UoA research impact has been experienced by audiences, artists, arts sector decision makers, and policymakers in China, India and across Asia.

As the impact case study indicates, UoA's research has enabled new forms of collaboration between Chinese and Indian performers and influenced decision makers to introduce new kinds of programming that move away from a Eurocentric cultural focus. The dissemination activities of the unit's researchers has promoted India-China artistic collaborations to audiences across Asia, making them more aware and appreciative of intercultural artistic production.

**(2) Approach to impact**

The UoA approaches impact by (a) establishing research agendas based on its community engagements in the thematic areas of gender, race, ethnicity, and the performative arts; and (b) developing the specific impact pathways as well as the impact measurement parameters while creating the research plan. The key non-academic partners include policy groups (government and non-government) and arts organisations, primarily in Hong Kong but also in other parts of Asia. Forms of impact sought to be achieved include (a) policy changes, (b) building community capacity, and (c) increasing awareness about the thematic concerns mentioned above.

UoA benefits from both university and public resources to support its research training. Staff and resources drawn from the Kwan Fong Cultural Research and Development Programme are also dedicated to organising the public activities for impact.

Impact is measured through assessing the degree of participation of the beneficiaries (policymakers, arts sector decision makers, artists and cultural workers in the art and music scene) in public engagement activities (symposia, public concerts, performance training, demonstration workshops, social media platforms, media appearances, art installations, and screening documentary films). UoA also solicits expert comments and responses to new knowledge production from beyond academia: from policymakers, artists, cultural workers (including decision makers and art space programmers), and the public (including journalists, concert audience, and workshop participants). Societal impact (such as tracking attendance at public concerts, screenings, talks, and workshops), web-based impact metrics, and citational indices have been used to measure impact during the assessment period as appropriate.

For research impact-based collaborations, the UoA has established new partnerships with arts organisations like Asia Art Archive, Para Site Gallery, Hanart TZ Gallery, Hong Kong Arts Centre, Tai Kwun Contemporary, City Contemporary Dance Company, Centre for Heritage and Textiles (CHAT), and Y-Space, to share research findings through public engagements in the form of talks, lectures, workshops, exhibitions and screenings. In the meantime, older partnerships with Initium, V-artist, HK In-media (media), St. James Settlement, Tai O Sustainable Development Education (social work), Paints Theatre Production, Hong Kong Arts Festival Society, FM Theatre Power, and Zuni Icosahedron (performing arts) continue to be strengthened.

### **(3) Strategy and plans**

All UoA staff are involved in incubating new research impact projects, and will fundraise for them through the research centre to be established in 2020. The centre's focus will be on cultures of performance, mobility, and sustainability. Throughout every dissemination activity, the UoA will carefully monitor the flows of the viewers and visitors (in the case of social media and online materials) as well as events such as public concerts, performance demonstration workshops, and exhibitions. Assessment methods to support and corroborate impact will include surveys, testimonials, online comments (as well as other online activities such as "likes," "retweets," and "shares"). In addition, UoA will use corroboration from relevant external sources in the field including journalists, decision makers, and performers. To that end, individual impact projects will promote and disseminate their research through "deliverable" platforms online (websites, newsletters, social and electronic media appearances, web discussions on partner organization sites) and offline (posters, banners, public speaking engagements, and write-ups on media, for example) among their partners, relevant institutions, and broader community of scholars, artists, and culturally engaged members of the public. Off campus, the UoA researchers conduct research, host talks, workshops, and international conferences, and curate performances, screenings, and moving image installations in public arts facilities including the Asia Art Archive's A-Space and Ha Bik Chuen Archive, the Tai Kwun Centre for Heritage and Arts, Hong Kong Arts Centre, the Fringe Club, Para Site gallery, Centre for Heritage and Textiles (CHAT), and Hanart TZ Gallery.

### **(4) Relationship to case studies**

The submitted case study's approach to impact perfectly aligns with the unit's approach to impact. "Impact of India-China Musical Collaboration on Artists, Decision makers, and the Public" has tracked the nature and extent of public engagement: the degree of participation by readers, visitors, and viewers of the events or online materials it produces; the degree of advancement of musical composition, instrumental adaptation, and further artistic collaborations produced by artists and cultural workers whose work will benefit from this project; the degree of enhancement of cultural practices such as curatorship and performance programming in art and culture spaces; and the degree of change in public opinion through educational events related to cultural practice.