

About Humanities and Social Sciences Prestigious Fellowship Scheme (HSSPFS)

HSSPFS grants funds to support outstanding investigators in the disciplines covered by the Humanities and Social Sciences Panel, enabling them to take time to focus on research and writing. The maximum value of each award is HK\$1 million.

List of funded CUHK researchers and projects

- 1. Professor Susanne Choi Yuk-ping, Professor, Department of Sociology**
Project title: Forbidden Desires, Intersectional Inequalities: Gay and Lesbian Lives in China

Professor Choi's research interests include migration, gender, family and sexuality in Chinese societies. Her project to have received funding focuses on the intersectionality of gender, class and sexuality in the lives of gay men and lesbians in China by analysing 165 of their life stories, collected between 2015 and 2021. The project's findings will benefit sexual minorities by giving them a voice. The anticipated outcome is a monograph titled "Forbidden Desires, Intersecting Inequalities: Life Stories of Gay Men and Lesbians in Post-Reform China".

- 2. Professor John Lai Tsz-pang, Professor, Department of Cultural and Religious Studies**
Project title: The Global *Yijing*: The Cross-Cultural Translation and Transnational Reception of the *Yijing* (Book of Changes) in Western Religion and Literature

Professor Lai received his Doctor of Philosophy in Oriental Studies from the University of Oxford in 2005. His research interests and teaching areas revolve around the interdisciplinary study of religion, literature, and translation. Professor Lai's funded project will investigate different translations of the *Yijing* (or *I Ching*/Book of Changes) to explore its multifarious impacts on Western religion and literature, which will provide a deeper understanding of the global circulation and reception of this seminal Chinese classic.

- 3. Professor Harry Lee Fung, Associate Professor, Faculty of Geography and Resource Management**
Project title: Measuring the Effectiveness of Agricultural Development in Mitigating the Impacts of Floods and Droughts on Human Societies in History

Professor Lee's project aims to quantify the historical information on landmark agricultural development measures in China during the Qing Dynasty (c. 1644-1911) and construct related digital geo-referenced databases in 1-year resolution, covering 267 prefectures in China. These newly constructed databases will then be combined with historical data on floods, droughts, famines, epidemics, wars and populations to analyse the effectiveness of agricultural development measures in

mitigating the impacts of climatic extremes in different spatio-temporal and regional settings. The project will use spatial econometrics, an innovative approach in historical environment-population research that addresses geographic variations in phenomena and captures the spillover social impacts of disaster-induced migration.

4. Professor Tong Yuying, Professor, Department of Sociology

Project title: Understanding the Low Fertility in Rural China: The Perspectives of Livelihood Choices and Gender Equality

Professor Tong's research incorporates social demography, migration and immigration, family and life course, gender, and population health and well-being. Her project will examine how livelihood choices, gender attitudes and gender power structures affect rural women and men's fertility desires and behaviour when it comes to the number of children they have. The research will contribute to the theoretical debate about low fertility in less developed settings. It has important policy implications, as it provides insight into why and the extent to which rural people are becoming less inclined to have multiple children.

*Projects listed in alphabetical order by scholars' family names